

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**BLACK BEAR
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-6

PROJECT NO. 17.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes Black Bear survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

**The Status of Black Bear
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial management report.

Black bear management reports were written and submitted for each unit and sub-unit within the region where black bear occur. These reports provide updated harvest and management information through FY 2007.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

ADF&G Wildlife Conservation staff as well as Fish and Wildlife Protection Troopers and designated sealing agents sealed black bears harvested in the region. Area biologists and other staff tracked harvest trends and collected biological samples whenever possible. Where appropriate, harvest was monitored to keep it within the guideline levels established by the Board.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data related to sex, age, body condition, and harvest location from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Black bear skulls were measured and the sex determined as bears were sealed. Except in cases where the hunter damaged the skull or external sex identifiers were removed, this data was collected on every bear presented for sealing. Approximately 871 black bears that were harvested by hunters were sealed in Region I during the period.

ACTIVITY 4: Coordinate with community decision makers on local bear issues.

In Juneau, biologists communicate almost daily with Arrow Refuse and the Juneau Police Department staff, as well as other municipalities such as Haines and Skagway, in

identifying areas of bear activity and determining what types of structures are most effective in thwarting foraging bears. Biologists continue to work with the city-appointed bear committee to provide radio and TV news releases about urban bears and refuse management.

In Ketchikan, biologists work closely with the Ketchikan Police Department to monitor and address black bear concerns.

In Petersburg, the area staff worked with the local police department to coordinate responses to nuisance bear complaints within the community.

Unit 1C

ACTIVITY 1: Reduce the number of nuisance bear problems and possible DLP kills resulting from improper refuse handling and disposal.

Department biologists continue to work with the Juneau Police Department and members of the public to strive for better refuse management through education as well as enforcement.

ACTIVITY 2: Capture one or two black bears opportunistically and monitor their movements using GPS radio collars to identify problem areas and to assist educational efforts towards better refuse management.

Biologists captured 2 black bears and fitted them with GPS radio collars during this report period. These bears are the focus of a cooperative black bear educational outreach program by ADF&G, USFS, and the city of Juneau. School kids participated in the fitting of the collars and later the download of radio-telemetry locations thereby learning about the movement patterns and habitat use of these bears. The goal of this program is to provide department staff, students and members of the community of Juneau with a better understanding of where, when, how and why bears use certain areas in the community. With a better understanding of these questions, we can learn things that can help us the community to minimize conflicts with black bears in this urban setting. Also, we hope this program will generate a greater appreciation of black bears that will prompt residents to accept greater responsibility in keeping bears from becoming human food conditioned.

ACTIVITY 3: Establish hair-snare transects and conduct snaring operations in high density bear locations within the City and Borough of Juneau to enumerate urban black bears through DNA mark-recapture techniques.

Although we did work with the USFS to establish a few hair snaring stations at the Mendenhall Lake Recreation Area, we were not able to accomplish our objective of hair snaring in a 3-4 other locales in the Juneau area.

Unit 2:

ACTIVITY 1: Collect genetic samples from Unit 2 black bears as part of a mark recapture effort using break away hair snares.

Biologists established 140 hair snare sites on Prince of Wales Island, and collected 42 samples for DNA analysis.

Unit 3:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest.

During the report period nonresident hunters harvested a total of 105 Kuiu Island black bears.

Submitted by: Neil Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

The Status of Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare a triennial black bear management report.

Management reports were produced and completed for all units with black bear.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

	Males	Females	Total
<i>Unit 6:</i>	385	182	
<i>Unit 7 & 15:</i>	319	124	443
<i>Unit 11:</i>	13 (72%)	5 (28%)	18
<i>Unit 13:</i>	86 (62%)	52 (38%)	139

Unit 17: Five black bears were presented by hunters to be sealed.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data and determine the sex of black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Data for all black bear presented for sealing were entered onto sealing forms and data entered into a statewide database.

Unit 6: Collected data and determined the sex of 575 black bears presented for sealing by hunters. Extracted teeth from approximately 250 black bears harvested in *GMU 6D*. From these we will randomly select a sample of 25% for aging.

Unit 17: One (1) female and four (4) male black bears were presented by hunters for sealing.

Unit 6D:

ACTIVITY 1: Extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Extracted teeth from approximately 250 black bears harvested. From these we will randomly select a sample of 25% for aging.

Submitted by: Bruce Bartley

The Status of Black Bear and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare black bear management reports.

Prepared black bear management reports for Units 12, 19D, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20D, 20E, and 20F.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored harvest of 302 black bears through field observation, sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters and analyzed this data.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect data, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected data, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from 302 black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

ACTIVITY 4: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Obtained estimates of ages from approximately 200 black bears.

ACTIVITY 5: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored and analyzed distribution of permits for 75 bait stations.

ACTIVITY 6: Provide black bear management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.

Provided information to 11 state advisory committees, 2 federal regional councils, and the state Board of Game concerning black bear management.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator