

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-9

PROJECT NO.

PERIOD: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Black Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

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

Region 1

Regionwide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial management report.

This was accomplished.

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 666 hunter killed black bears 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 the Juneau Police Department, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and local refuse collection, as well as other municipalities such as Haines, Skagway, and Gustavus 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 Petersburg and Ketchikan, the area staff worked with the local police department and Department of Public Safety Troopers to coordinate responses to nuisance bear complaints within the community.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1C

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

Biologists continue to work with the Juneau Police Department, Juneau city leaders, and the local refuse company to keep garbage unavailable to bears.

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 1 black bear and fitted them with GPS radio collars during this report period. Two collars were retrieved after releasing from bears. Collared urban bears are the focus of a black bear educational outreach program. 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.

Hair snaring efforts were initiated in the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area in September and October 2010; four hair samples were collected. These samples have been submitted for DNA analysis, and will be compared to existing Juneau urban black bear DNA data.

Unit 2

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

Data analysis for this portion of the study is just being completed.

Unit 3

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Kuiu Island nonresident harvest.

During the report period nonresident hunters harvested a total of 73 Kuiu Island black bears, including 13 during fall 2010 and 60 during spring 2011.

Submitted by: Neil L. Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

Region II

Regionwide:

In 2009 the Board of Game approved the use of a new harvest reporting system (harvest tickets) for Region II. Over 1,700 hunters reported hunting black bear in Region II.

Activities by Unit:

Unit 6

ACTIVITY 1: Submitted a Black Bear Management Report.

ACTIVITY 2: Sealed 306 male and 114 female bears for a total of 420 harvested.

ACTIVITY 3: In Unit 6D, collected teeth from approximately 250 black bears harvested. The majority will be sent to a laboratory for aging.

Units 7 & 15

ACTIVITY : Monitor the black bear harvest through field observations, black bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters. Collect data and determine the sex of black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

The **preliminary** 2010/11 harvest was:

Males = 339 Females = 207 Unknown = 0 Total = 546

Unit 14C

ACTIVITY 1: Prepared a triennial black bear management report

ACTIVITY 2: Black bear harvest was monitored through field observations, sealing reports and interviews with successful hunters.

ACTIVITY 3: Sex of black bears harvested were determined through sealing records.

Number of females harvested: 14

Number of males harvested: 27

ACTIVITY 4: Worked with local residents of Anchorage to reduce bear attractants within the municipality. Worked with local garbage collection agencies to provide bear-resistant tipper carts for garbage in areas where human-bear conflicts are common

Number of bears shot in defense of life and property or agency kills:

Females: 5

Males: 6

Cubs of Year: 8

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate

Date: 2 September 2011

Region III

Regionwide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor black bear harvest through field observations, sealing reports, community harvest reports and interviews with successful hunters and analyze harvest data.

Black Bears S&I
FY11 Annual Performance Report

Monitored preliminary harvest of 203 black bears through field observations, sealing reports, community harvest reports and interviews with successful hunters and analyzed harvest data.

ACTIVITY 2: Collect harvest information and extract a tooth for aging from black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Collected preliminary data, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from 177 black bears presented for sealing by hunters.

ACTIVITY 3: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Obtained estimates of ages from approximately 223 black bears.

ACTIVITY 4: Monitor and analyze black bear bait station permit distribution.

Monitored and analyzed preliminary distribution of permits for 109 bait stations.

ACTIVITY 5: 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.

ACTIVITY 6: Prepare black bear management reports.

Prepared black bear management reports.

Activities by Unit

Unit 25D

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor movements of radiocollared bears

Radiotracked all collared black bears in Unit 25D (n=48) to determine locations and the proportion that died or had slipped their collar.

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

Region IV

Project Location: Game Management Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17

Regionwide:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare a triennial black bear management report.

The Region IV black bear management reports were drafted during this reporting period.

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

All bears harvested were sealed during this regulatory year.

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

	Males	Females	Total
<i>Unit 9</i>	3	3	6
<i>Unit 11:</i>	14	6	20

Black Bears S&I
FY11 Annual Performance Report

<i>Unit 13:</i>	113	59	172
<i>Unit 14A:</i>	52	34	86
<i>Unit 14B:</i>	24	11	35
<i>Unit 16</i>	266	182	448
<i>Unit 17</i>	5	2	7

ACTIVITY 4: Evaluate the new harvest ticket reporting system.

The new harvest ticket system is considered accurate enough for management of black bears in Game Management Units 11, 13, and 14C. Future black bear harvest monitoring will utilize the harvest ticket system and sealing will no longer be required in these Units.

Activities by Unit:

Unit 14

ACTIVITY 1: Work with local home and recreational cabin owners and other agencies to reduce bear attractants and defense of life or property kills (DLP).

Bear safety courses designed and scheduled. The goal of the course is to educate cabin owners on proper handling of food and garbage and on the use of electric fences to deter bears

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Management Coordinator