

**WCC Bear Committee
December 5, 2008
Stevens Point, WI**

Meeting began at 7:05 pm

Members Present: RICHARD KIRCHMEYER, JO ANN KUHARSKA, WRIGHT ALLEN, RICHARD ALVIN, ANTHONY DALLMAN, DALE DETAMPEL, ALLAN FLANNERY, RICK FRUIT, RUSSELL HITZ, DENNIS JONES, ROBERT KAMINSKIS, ROBERT KNORR, KENNETH KOCHEAVER, DAVE LOIS, GARY MABIE, JAMES W MORNING, EUGENE MUENCH, MICHAEL MURPHY, LARRY OSEGARD, SCOTT PLOCAR, BRUCE PRENTICE, WILLIAM SCHOMMER, DANIEL SEIPEL, SCOTT STROOK.

DNR Liaisons Tim Ebert and Keith Warnke were present as well as WCC Liaison Kurt Thiede.

Excused Absence: Al Lobner

Guests Present: Dave McFarland (UW Bear Researcher), Ed Harvey (WCC Chairman), Cassie Chandler, Mark Oswald, Mark Maradec, Marlin Split, Mike Arrowold, and Dave VanGorder

Mission Statement:

Mike Murphy questioned "other methods" that were mentioned in the Mission Statement approved at last year's meeting. Kirchmeyer responded, "Other methods were described as sitting under a tree, walking along, anything other than a bait pile or dogs."

Mike Murphy made the motion to accept, Richard Aldin made the second. All were in favor.

MISSION STATEMENT

BEAR COMMITTEE OF CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The Bear Committee of the Conservation Congress mission is to ensure that we maintain a population of black bear in WI that allows the citizens the ability to harvest a percentage of that population each year but leave an ample amount of mature bears to continue the breeding process.

We also want to promote all legal methods for hunting the black bear which include;

- 1) Training season for hounds
- 2) Hunting with aid of hounds
- 3) Use of hounds and bait
- 4) Ability to use bait
- 5) Other methods

The charge of the committee is to help make it possible that everyone that hunts the black bear has a chance to have an enjoyable and maybe a successful hunt and that the future of the black bear in WI remains a noble and well sought after animal

Tetracycline Study

Dave McFarland UW Madison speaker on "Mark recapture estimate of Wisconsin's pre-hunt Black Bear population"

Formula: (bears marked with tetra x ribs analyzed from harvested bears)/ tetra positive ribs

N_1 =PRE-HUNT population

Baits are .25kg of bacon packed with tetracycline. Bait put in boxes to reduce loss to non-target species 500 volunteers put out the baits.

The basic results of this study show that the bear population suggests that there are 3 times as many bears as previously thought.

See handout A.

Dave then discussed the other nearby states and compared our data to theirs. **See Handout B.**

Dave admits that bears do walk “off the map” (travel out of the study area) and we have bears walking “onto the map” (travel into the study area). We know that the data is not perfect. This is true of most studies. In the future, we would like to do the tetracycline study at the same time as other states (MN and MI), same baiting density. This way we would have more accurate data. The marks in the bone show up like rings in a tree with the calcium in the bone. It does stay in the teeth better than the bone. We use bone because it lays down in the bone 100% of the time and only 90% of the time in the teeth.

The total cost of this project is \$150,000.00—with grant money. This includes grant money. There are many donations of bait, boxes, and volunteer time. A big chunk of the budget was from out of state analysis of our data. This does not include other invested monies; this is just the grant money total.

Zone C does not have a defined boundary, so they don't feel as comfortable with the accuracy of their data in Zone C.

Potential problems with this study: bait density, sows with cubs unavailable for harvest, hunter's preference for harvesting larger bears. This could result in an increase in the estimate. They recommend using the mid to lower numbers for population estimation to error on the side of caution. Dave's study recommends that the strengths and weaknesses of the two models (tetracycline research model and DNR's current model) should be considered before management decisions are made.

Dave entertained some questions about his study. Keith was then questioned about the differences between bait box data and bait station information (traditional method of collecting deer population trend data that is conducted by the DNR).

Handout C is from Keith Warnke—DNR Bear Ecologist.

Page 1 is the long-term harvest history, by zone. These numbers do not include any tribal harvest and damage, no car kills either.

Page 2 Data shows harvest data from 1960 to present, followed by information by zone.

Page 3 Data shows the hunter success rate.

Page 4 Data shows the bait station trends. This is an index that helps show trends. This shows trends over time. Zone C is difficult because the population is expanding into new areas that do not have data coming in from this area yet.

Page 5 Bear Harvest permit success rate. This helps us determine the quota. Formerly you could cross data from A and A1 that is why D is now it is own zone. Better management.

Handout D Proposed Bear Kill Quota and Permit Levels for 2009

We are only allowed to harvest 18% of the harvestable bear population according to the state statutes. Keep that in mind.

Zone A is getting 1200 more than last year, because of the agricultural damage, nuisance complaints. Proposed permits for 2009 are 2580 for an estimated population of 10,600.

Mike Murphy Question: What is the population goal you would like to have. Keith would like to have a goal of 4600 bears. We know there have been more bears than that for quite awhile. This year we are trying to move that goal down, but not too drastically.

Jim Morning Question: What is the chance of an over harvest? Keith responded that is why we are going with the middle number and not the maximum number.

Mike thinks it's too much too fast, and Jim thinks it is about time, and it is not high enough. Keith states they are trying to reach a balance in the middle.

Bill Schommer—too many bears, permits should be higher.

Motion to accept numbers for zone A: Jim Morning
Motion 2nd by Russ Hintz

All in favor except Mike Murphy and Bill Schommer.

Zone B

The proposed harvest tags would increase by 200 permits.

Tony Dallman Question—What part of Zone B is the population low in? Keith does not think that any area is weak. He thinks we will see a steady rise in the population.

Question Scott Strook—I think the numbers from B are way low. We hunted over acorns for deer, all we saw is bear. We have friends who could not hunt over deer bait, because all they see are bear. Keith said he does not disagree with Scott, but they don't want to take too aggressive of an approach. They have been steadily increasing the permits.

Question Ken Kocheaver—Why not go as far as other zones with changes? Warnke responded that Zone B has the highest rate of female bear harvest. Some people feel that we may have been harvesting too much of the female population in the last few years in that zone.

Are there as many nuisance complaints? There was a change in nuisance complaint levels, but not as great of a change in Zone B.

Question Alan Flannery—Stated that if you are sitting at bait pile for deer, you will see several different bear at bait over the course of one day. He feels that people are not really respecting the department's position on management. He feels groups are going to take legal action if permits don't increase.

Question Bill Schommer—Bill said you could have a 100% success rate if people harvest everything, rather than waiting for a trophy as many hunters do. He suggested the DNR shouldn't drag their feet and increase permit levels. Keith stated he has been gradually increasing permits for 4 years. He will take our concerns back to the department. Keith showed the committee that the DNR had combined estimates from the DNR model and tetracycline study when coming up with the DNR's proposal. He reported that they decided to stay at the bottom end of the projections to be on the safe side.

Rob Kaminskis- He baited for 11 weeks, based on his observations he believes the numbers are much higher.

Point of order: Stay on the discussion of Zone B

Scott Strook would like to have Keith recommend 1300 permits recommend to the DNR. Scott made the motion to increase the permits to 1300 proposed permits and seconded by Tony Dallman.

Tony Dallman made comment that perhaps the fact that the sow harvest in B is due to research that indicates, when a population of bears is high, the boars are the first to leave. Wouldn't it make sense if the female population is high, the harvest would be high and it is because the boars do leave the area? Keith indicated that it may be a possibility.

Larry Oscar states that delegates and bear hunters should volunteer their trail cameras to take pictures of the DNR bait stations to see how many bears are actually hitting the baits. Keith said Jeremy Holtz, the biologist in Mr. Oscar's area would be happy to work with him on that.

Al Flannery: Our kill ratio is always higher, because we have more bears, because we are not killing enough bears. Our success ratio is because we have more than other areas.

Keith indicated that if the committee wanted higher permit levels they should come up with a number and a defense for the number.

Motion: To increase the number of permits for Zone B by 200 (1,300, DNR had proposed 1,100) as a result of observations and reports from hunters that the population of bear in Zone B is higher than the DNR estimate of 4,500.

All those in favor: All in favor and 1 abstention.

Zone D: DNR proposes a 71% increase in permits to 1230 in 2009. This is the first year A and D have been separate. We started at 800. Local biologist said 850 is low. They wanted to see 1000.

Question Robb Kaminskis—The permits have decreased in the last 4 years. Why can't they go up more? Keith stated that we have to take more conservative action in this single new area. This is a balancing act, and we do not want to make a drastic change in a negative way. Rob states that this is a trophy area for bears, and people are passing up smaller bears to get a big one. Rich stated that A1 permits were higher in the past because of the nuisance complaints. Keith said that he has been trying to raise the numbers. He gives his word that he will react to the data. Rich stated that we have been moving permits up in Zone D in the past years.

Bill Schommer states that people may just quit complaining about bear damage or with no increase in permits and that, people may just shoot the bear instead. Instead of selling a tag to kill the bear, people just kill the bear.

Jim Morning, asked if the DNR gets the reports from APHIS ? APHIS typically says take down the feeder. Jim wanted to know if Keith gets that info. Jim states that people may just shoot the bear if they don't get resolution to their complaint. Wright Allen states that they had 6 bears this year and all of them had bird shot in them, even in the face.

Motion to accept the numbers from Zone D by Russ Hintz, seconded by Dennis Jones. All accepted except Mike Murphy who voted nay.

Zone C— DNR recommended a 24% increase in permits for 2009.

Motion by Mike Murphy to accept the motion. Seconded by Russ Hitz.

Jim Morning—You have to remember the zone is large and includes whole bottom half of the state. The permits for this area are low. If you take the road kill, just Chippewa County had 58 bear killed on the road, below Hwy 64. I recommend that you would vote this down, because we need higher permit numbers.

Russ Hintz—You would have to look at the population of the people living there. Russ stated that people are now farming corn, which is feeding the bear. Farmers would have to let hunters on their land to kill the bear. Some people like to see the bear. Russ feels the public needs to be educated on the effects of high bear populations near urban areas or people will not let hunters on their land to harvest the bears. Keith states that Zone C it is a difficult area to manage.

Pepin County—Don Seipel – shot the first bear in Pepin County this year; unfortunately, it was full of birdshot. Ag tags being issued for nuisance bears. He recommends a 50% increase in tags.

Larry Oscar—feels we should open the season earlier in this zone, and the hunter success rate will be higher. Rich reminded him that with a higher the success rate, the lower the number of tags available...and a longer wait for a tag. Rich told him to write a resolution and bring it to the spring hearings if he wanted to recommend a change to the bear season.

Kaminskis— Suggested that if you were to move the season later the bears will hit the bait and the fur will be better.

Call the question. All in favor of the motion in favor to accept the motion made by the Department--8, those opposed—13; motion fails.

Jim Morning makes a motion to increase the permits to 2420 with a harvest goal of 950. Daniel Siepel seconded.

Discussion: Al Flannery thinks this would be a decent proposal because we use hunting to manage our bear population. If we take too many we could back off next year. There has been a consistent harvest in Zone C.

Tom Minch states that people are successful in Zone C in some of the counties, but not on the border between Zone C and Zones A and B to the north.

Rich Kirchmeyer wanted the committee to be aware of potential “border battles” along the northern Zone C border that could be likely if permits are increased.

Seipel talked about baiting and how many bears are present in Zone C and that Zone C is huge. People can hunt all the way down to the Illinois border.

Russ Hintz—there is not enough information out there about where you can hunt for bear. We need to let the public know about what the goals are.

Motion All those in favor of increasing the Zone C quota to 950 and the Zone C permits to 2420: 15 in favor, opposed 6. Motion carried.

Handout E APHIS DATA

Last year about 1400 complaints 1200 were nuisance complaints. 2007, 1200 total complaints. Keith reviewed the rest of the packet for us as well.

New for 2009, for nuisance complaints, the first bear trapped is no cost to the landowner, the DNR is responsible for the total cost. The second bear trapped will cost the landowner \$175, the DNR will cover the remaining \$175.

Handout F Road kills information.

Mike Murphy wanted to know if there are any months that are higher in bear salvage tags. Keith responded that there are not too many in the winter.

Tim Ebert. Youth Bear Hunt Update. Handout H

This is now run out of Madison. Madison teams up the hunters and role models, with a local warden.

Where do you find the information? On the website.

Is there going to be more advertising? Yes, we plan on having more advertising this so people have time to apply.

Is it true there were two days of training? No, only 4 hours. Mentors on Friday meet with their youth a specific mentorship site

Deadline dates: April 1 to May 30. Mentors apply anytime. Hunt is Aug 29 and 30. Drawing is June 10.

Law Enforcement Updates.

No major problems.

Federal forests are very displeased with people bringing in rotor tillers, who are tilling up the area to get tracks instead of bringing up sand. They did not mind sand, but roto-tilling forest roads are very problematic. Every bear bait should be registered in the national forest.

Guest Michael Arrowood Resolution 200508 Handout G

The resolution states that people should be responsible to pick up the garbage from the bear baits.

Mike Murphy makes a motion to reject. Mike suggests finding out who the bait is from and taking it up with them. Jim Morning seconds the motion. Jim states the warden should be staking out these sites and ticketing the individuals baiting.

Arrowood says that this is the law in Minnesota. Al Flannery says you are punishing everyone, and that does not mean that this is the person who damaged the bait. You could end up with people sabotaging other people’s baits.

Wright Allen—these guys probably bait the same area every year. I sympathize with you, but I couldn’t go along with it.

Arrowood does not feel it would be an imposition to put up a sign with this information.

Motion to reject accepted by all except Richard Alvin.

Resolution 370108 Training of Bear Dogs in Zone C

Mike Murphy made a motion to reject. Dallman seconded.

This person would like to see dog training banned in this area.

Kurt Thiede reported that the Hunting with Dogs Committee rejected this resolution.

All those in favor to reject; Unanimous rejection.

Resolution 350307

This resolution was tabled in 2007.

Resolution remained tabled due to lack of a motion to bring it back for discussion.

Application for learn to hunt. Handout I.

Rich distributed a DRAFT application and reported that the WCC will get a tag in 2009 to give to a novice hunter.

Kurt Thiede indicated that some of the questions the Exec. Committee would like the Bear Committee to address are:

Should the WCC accept the tag?

Who is going to be doing the selection?

What the deadline should be?

The congress needs the confirmed winner by May 15

Mike Murphy makes a motion to request a learn to hunt permit for bear for the Conservation Committee. Seconded by Robb Kaminskis

Carries Unanimously

Committee: Mike Murphy, Ken Kochevar, Rich Kirchmeyer, and 1 hunting with dogs committee member, and 1 outdoor heritage committee member will make up the committee choosing the winner of the WCC bear tag.

Tony Dallman is making the motion that the committee is composed of the abovementioned committee. Jo Ann Kuharske seconded the motion.

Motion was approved unanimously.

Wright Allen moves that we adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm.

Wisconsin Black Bear Population Project Summary

Project overview:

The goal of this project was to produce an independent estimate of Wisconsin's black bear population for comparison with the model used by the DNR. A tetracycline based mark-recapture technique was employed. This technique is used to estimate bear populations in Minnesota and Michigan. Bears were "marked" using tetracycline laced baits placed in the summer of 2006. Baits were placed by volunteers from the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. Bears were "recaptured" in the harvests of 2006 and 2007. Ribs were submitted by hunters from harvested bears and analyzed for the presence of tetracycline. The ratio of marked to unmarked individuals in the "recapture" was used to calculate the total number of individuals in the population.

Summary Statistics:

Baits placed: 2,235
Baits hit by bears: 971

Ribs collected in 2006: 2,587
Tetracycline positive ribs: 69

Ribs collected in 2007: 2,378
Tetracycline positive ribs: 44

Population Estimates

	State	A	B	D	ABD	C
Population	36,833	9,200	5,597	9,661	25,336	11,453
Upper 95%	43,106	11,904	7,600	12,560	30,038	16,389
Lower 95%	30,560	6,497	3,594	6,762	20,634	6,516
Density/sq mile		1.497	0.976	1.519	1.389	

Future work:

The results of this research have been incorporated into Wisconsin's bear management plan. The bear management committee recommended 2009 quota levels be increased 50%. The DNR has committed to repeating this study in 2011 to validate the results and monitor the impact of higher harvest on the population. This study has raised considerable questions about the states bear population. The disparity between this estimate and previous estimates is yet to be resolved. Further research is required to identify techniques for effective long term monitoring of Wisconsin's black bear population.

Comparison of bear population and harvest estimates in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin

Handcut B.

Minnesota

Bear Range sq. mi 33,000

Population estimates- range (tetracycline mark-recapture) Density 0.61 0.76

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average	Density	Average % of population harvested
Hunters	13,500	12,800	12,400	12,400	11,200	12,460	0.38	
Harvest	3,598	3,391	3,340	3,290	3,172	3,358	0.10	13%
Success	27%	26%	27%	27%	28%	27%		17%

Michigan

Upper Peninsula

Bear Range sq. mi 16,200

Population estimates- range (tetracycline mark-recapture) Density 0.5 0.7

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average	Density	Average % of population harvested
Hunters	6,939	7,062	7,305	7,310	7,221	7,167	0.44	
Harvest	1,944	1,819	1,722	2,075	1,775	1,867	0.12	17%
Success	28%	26%	24%	28%	25%	26%		21%

Lower Peninsula

Bear Range sq. mi 14,680

Population estimates (DNA mark-recapture) Density 0.1 0.1

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average	Density	Average % of population harvested
Hunters	1695	1653	1567	1608	1653	1635.2	0.11	
Harvest	423	383	255	401	352	362.8	0.02	22%
Success	25%	23%	16%	25%	21%	22%		19%

Wisconsin

Zones ABD

Bear Range sq. mi 18,987
 (sq. mi land area)
 Population estimates
 (tetracycline mark-recapture)
 Density 1.3

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average	Density
Hunters	3930	3496	2975	2819	2845	3,213	0.17
Harvest	2530	2559	2156	2425	2,232	2,380	0.13
Success	64%	73%	72%	86%	78%	75%	

Zone C

Bear Range sq. mi 12,896
 (sq. mi land area)
 Population estimates
 (tetracycline)
 Density 0.9

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average	Density
Hunters	780	1222	1515	1458	1560	1,307	0.10
Harvest	371	492	488	636	516	501	0.04
Success	48%	40%	32%	44%	33%	39%	

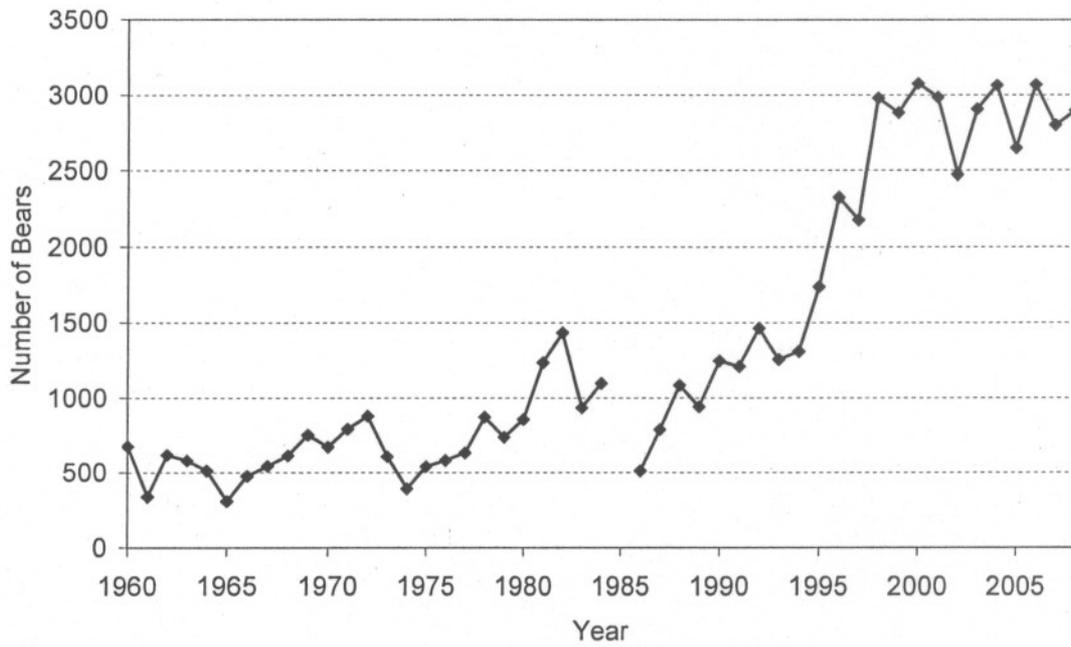
Handout C

Wisconsin Black Bear Harvest by Zone

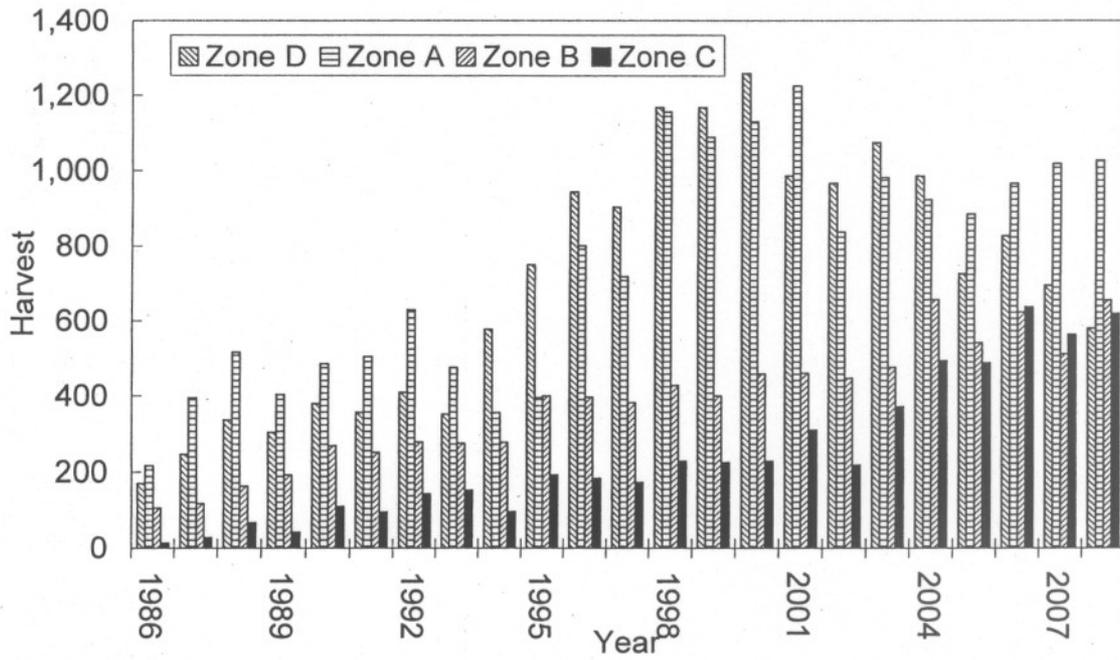
Year	Zone A	Zone D	Zone B	Zone C	Total
1986	217	171	107	14	509
1987	394	246	119	28	787
1988	516	336	164	68	1,084
1989	403	304	192	42	941
1990	485	379	269	111	1,244
1991	504	356	252	96	1,208
1992	630	409	279	144	1,462
1993	475	351	275	153	1,254
1994	355	578	278	97	1,308
1995	395	750	399	193	1,737
1996	801	944	396	184	2,325
1997	719	904	382	173	2,178
1998	1,156	1,167	427	228	2,978
1999	1,089	1,167	400	225	2,881
2000	1,130	1,259	458	228	3,075
2001	1,226	987	460	310	2,983
2002	839	968	446	218	2,471
2003	983	1,075	476	371	2,905
2004	924	987	658	494	3,063
2005	887	727	543	488	2,645
2006	968	829	626	639	3,068
2007	1020	697	513	565	2,797
2008 Prelim	1029	582	657	621	2,893
2008 Goal	1100	550	700	600	2,950

Harvest pretty stable 95-08

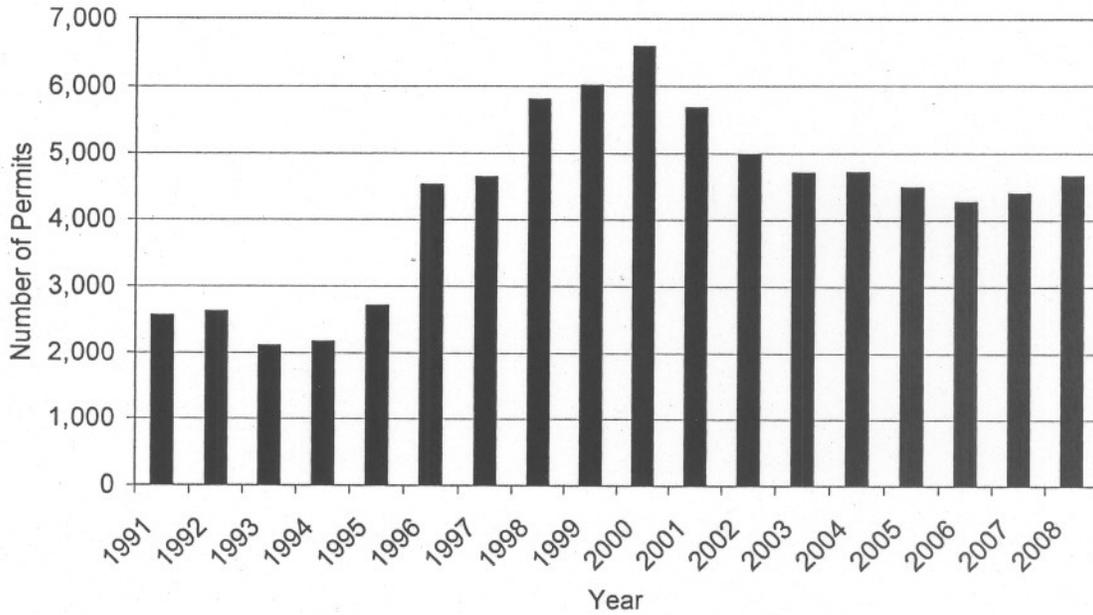
Total Black Bear Harvest in Wisconsin, 1960-2008



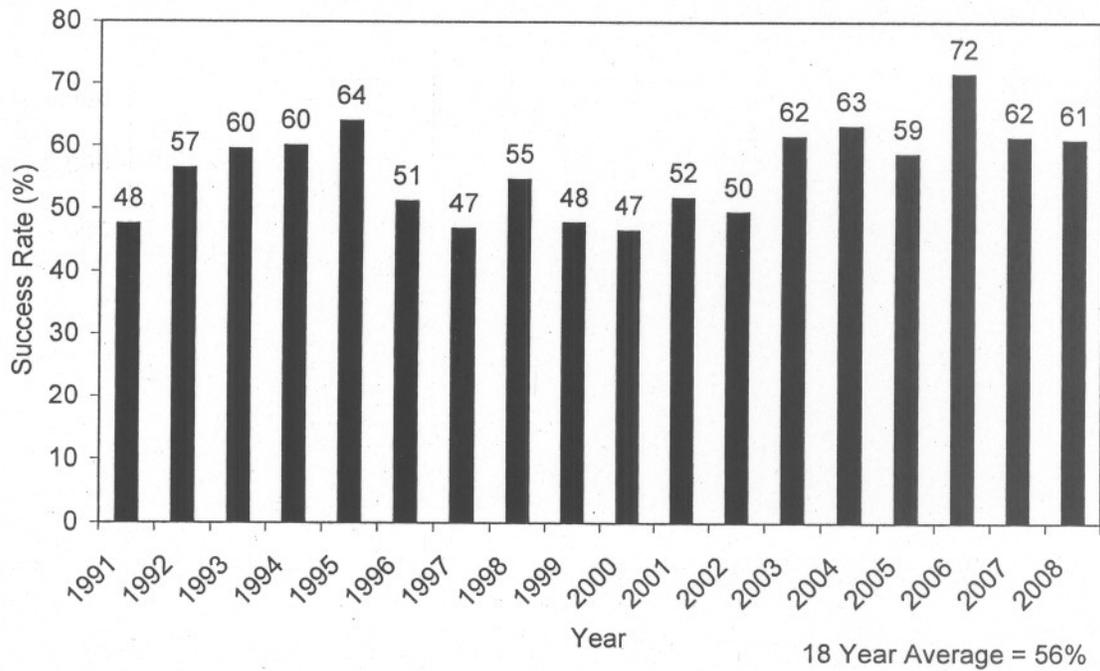
Total Black Bear Harvest by Zone 1986-2008



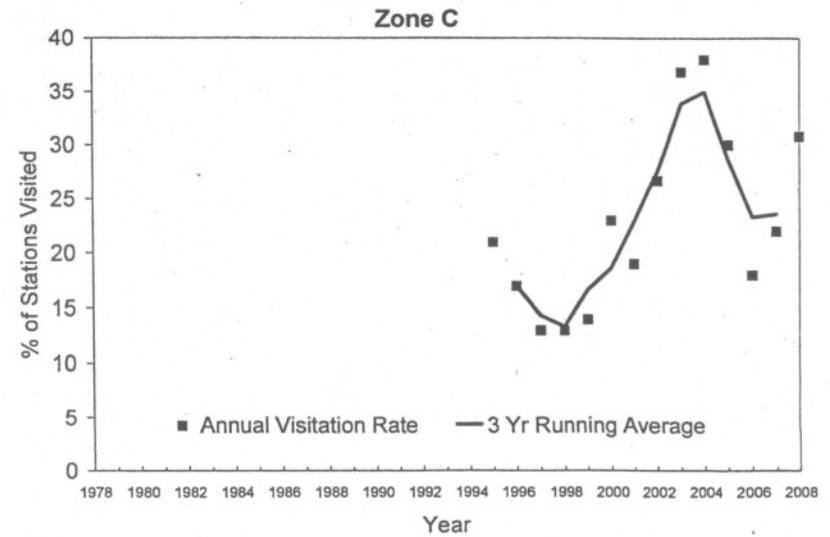
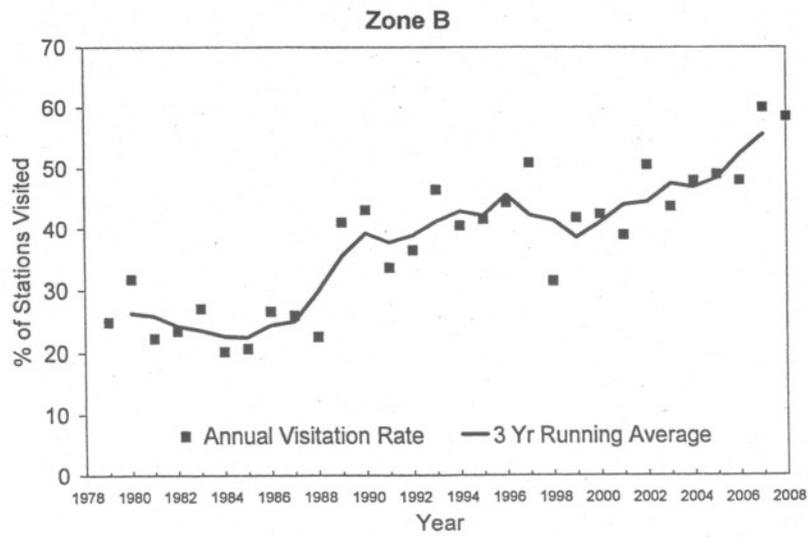
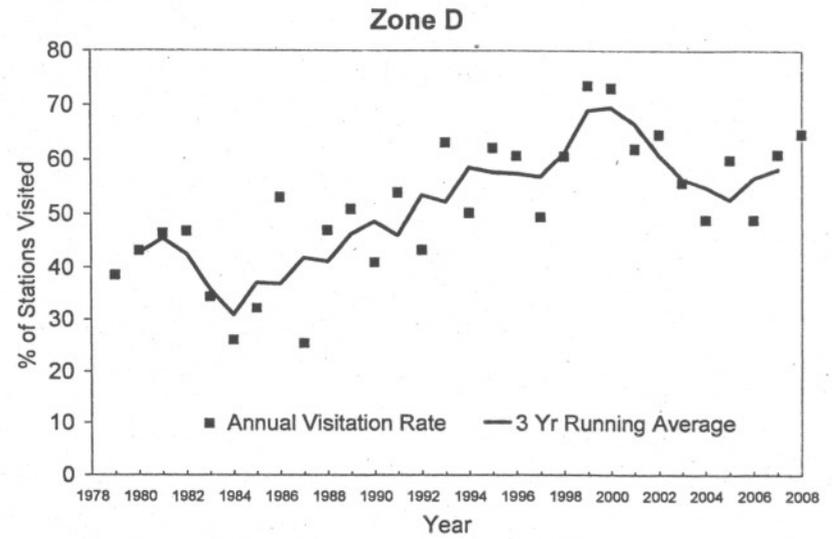
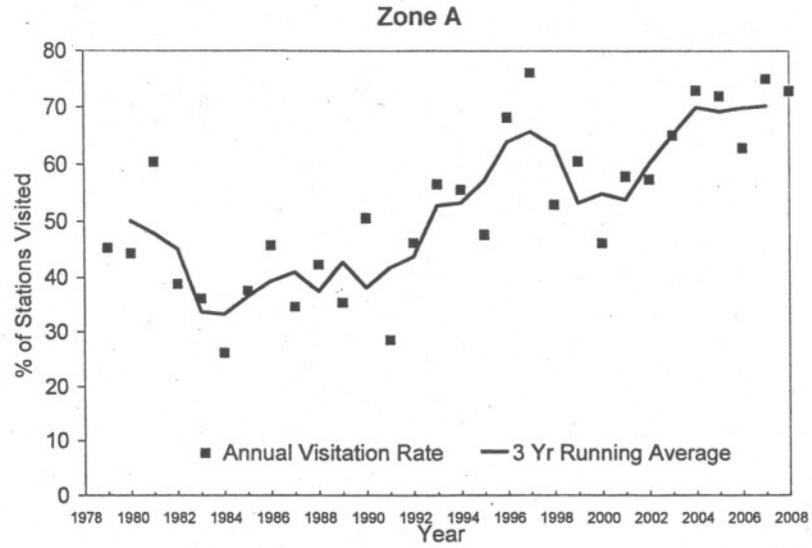
Black Bear Harvest Permits Issued in Wisconsin, 1991-2008



Statewide Bear Harvest Success Rates, 1991-2008



Bear Bait-Station Visitation Trends, 1979-2008



Bear Harvest Permit Success Rates, 2005-2008

Zone	Year	Permits Issued	Harvest	% Success	Bears kill in A1 on zone A Permits		
A	2005	1,525	887	58.2%			adj suc.
	2006	1,450	968	66.8%	201	1,169	81%
	2007	1,680	1,003	59.7%	122	1,125	67%
	2008P	1,440	1,026	71.3%			
	3-yr average			65.9%			
				(500	2276		
A1	2005	741	727	98.1%			adj suc.
	2006	673	829	123.2%	201	628	93%
	2007	550	655	119.1%	122	533	97%
	2008P	720	548	76.1%			
	3-yr average			106.1%			
A+A1/D	2005	2,266	1,614	71.2%			
	2006	2,123	1,797	84.6%			
	2007	2,230	1,658	74.3%			
	2008P	2,160	1,574	72.9%			
	3-yr average			77.3%			
B	2005	709	543	76.6%			
	2006	696	629	90.4%			
	2007	615	488	79.3%			
	2008P	850	652	76.7%			
	3-yr average			82.1%			
C	2005	1,515	488	32.2%			
	2006	1,458	639	43.8%			
	2007	1,560	565	36.2%			
	2008P	1,650	621	37.6%			
	3-yr average			39.2%			

Proposed bear kill quota and permit levels – 2009

Zone A

Adjusted the starting population by adding 25 bears. The resulting modeled population estimate is 10,060.

Proposed harvest quota: 1,700

Average success rate: 0.659

Proposed permits 2009: 2,580

Increase over 2008: 79%

Zone B

Adjusted the starting population by adding 5 bears. The resulting modeled population estimate is 4,500.

Proposed harvest quota: 900

Average success rate: 0.821

Proposed permits 2009: 1,100

Increase over 2008: 29%

Zone C

Adjusted the starting population by adding 5 bears. The resulting modeled population estimate is 2,780.

Proposed harvest quota: 800 → 950 Average success rate: 0.392

Proposed permits 2009: 2,040 → 2420

Increase over 2008: 24%

Zone D

Adjusted the starting population by adding 10 bears. The resulting modeled population estimate is 4,880.

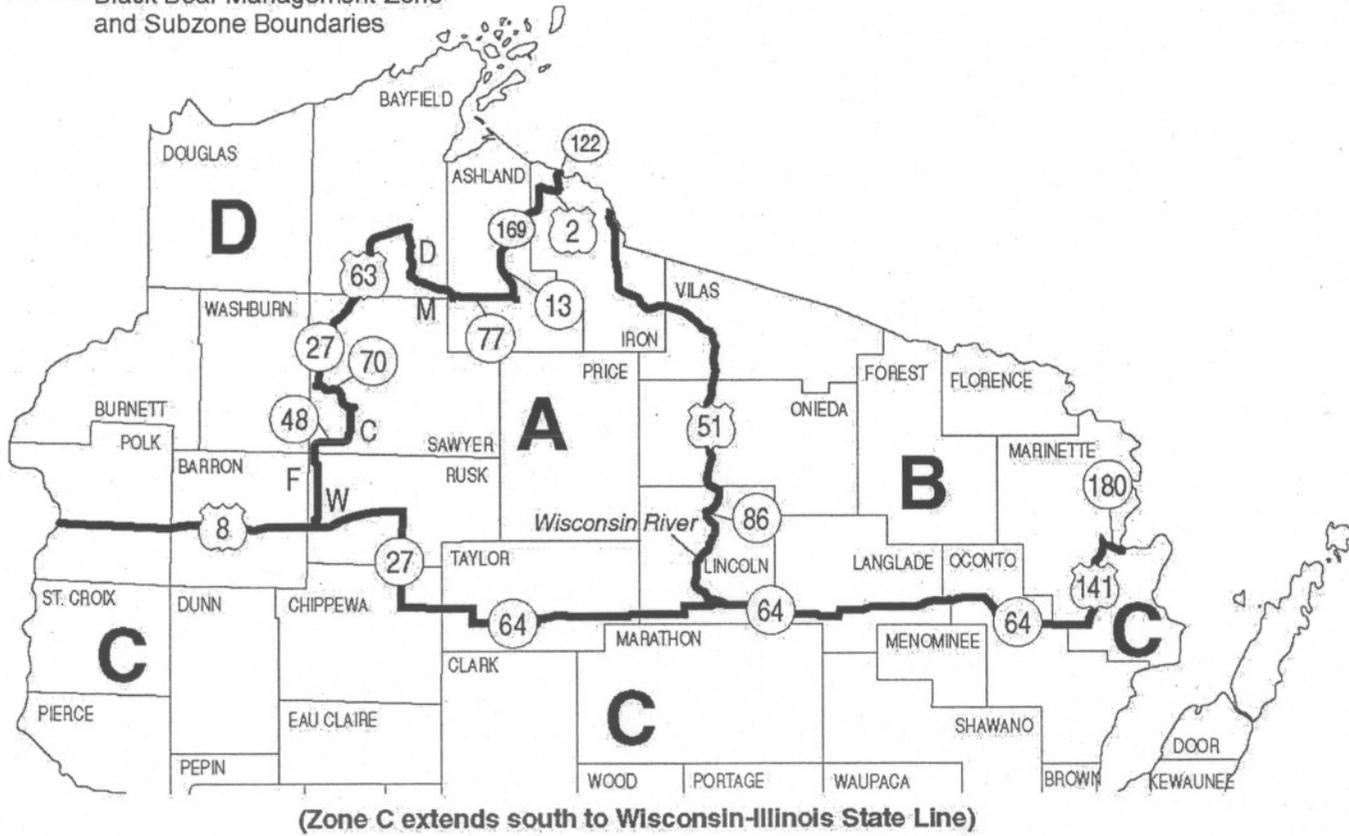
Proposed harvest quota: 950

Average success rate: 0.773

Proposed permits 2009: 1230

Increase over 2008: 71%

— Black Bear Management Zone and Subzone Boundaries



Handout E

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES WISCONSIN



BEAR COMPLAINT SUMMARY

2008

For comments or questions regarding this report please contact:
Bob Willging, District Supervisor (715)369-5221 ext. 11
Picture courtesy of Michele Woodford, WDNR

TABLE 2. BEAR COMPLAINTS BY DISTRICT AND COMPLAINT TYPE
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
JANUARY 1, 2008 - NOVEMBER 12, 2008

Complaint Type	% Complaints	# Bears Relocated
Apriary	24	16 (67%)
Crops	18	8 (33%)
Livestock	18	18 (67%)
Nuisance (HHS)	18	18 (67%)
Property	18	18 (67%)
Total	100	24

BMU	APRIARY	CROPS	LIVESTOCK	NUISANCE (PROPERTY)	TOTAL
A	3 (12%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	6 (25%)
B	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	5 (21%)
C	12 (50%)	12 (50%)	12 (50%)	12 (50%)	48 (200%)
D	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	4 (17%)
Total	24 (100%)	24 (100%)	24 (100%)	24 (100%)	96 (400%)

Technical assistance (TA) includes all complaints which were resolved with education, advice and repair installation.
District control (DC) includes all complaints where a trap was set.

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND BEARS RELOCATED BY RESOURCE
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
 JANUARY 1, 2008 – NOVEMBER 12, 2008

Complaint Type	# Complaints	Handled TA ¹	Handled DC ²	Bears Relocated
Apiary	24	16 (67%)	8 (33%)	6
Crops	121	34 (28%)	87 (72%)	332
Livestock	45	23 (51%)	22 (49%)	21
Nuisance (HHS)	1,101	777 (71%)	324 (29%)	320
Property	92	51 (55%)	41 (45%)	49
Totals	1,383	901 (65%)	482 (35%)	728

TABLE 2. BEAR COMPLAINTS BY BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT AND TYPE
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
 JANUARY 1, 2008 – NOVEMBER 12, 2008

BMU	APIARY	CROPS	LIVESTOCK	NUISANCE	PROPERTY	TOTAL
A	3 (1%)	48 (14%)	11 (3%)	267 (78%)	13 (4%)	342
B	2 (1%)	19 (5%)	3 (1%)	321 (88%)	18 (5%)	363
C	18 (8%)	18 (8%)	19 (8%)	164 (70%)	16 (6%)	233
D	1 (0%)	36 (8%)	12 (3%)	349 (78%)	47 (11%)	445
Totals	24 (2%)	121 (9%)	45 (3%)	1101 (80%)	92 (6%)	1383

¹ Technical assistance (TA) includes all complaints which were resolved with education, advice and recommendations.

² Direct control (DC) includes all complaints where a trap was set.

TABLE 3. BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
 BY COUNTY AND RESOURCE
 JANUARY 1, 2008 – NOVEMBER 12, 2008

COUNTY	AGRICULTURE	NUISANCE	PROPERTY	TOTAL
Adams	2	1	1	4
Ashland	5	42	2	49
Barron	18	43	1	62
Bayfield	9	111	13	133
Brown	0	6	2	8
Buffalo	0	0	1	1
Burnett	8	35	10	53
Chippewa	7	16	0	23
Clark	5	2	0	7
Crawford	0	1	0	1
Douglas	2	65	14	81
Dunn	3	7	1	11
Eau Claire	4	14	2	20
Florence	5	8	0	13
Forest	3	18	3	24
Grant	0	1	0	1
Iron	0	21	1	22
Jackson	1	5	3	9
Juneau	0	3	0	3
LaCrosse	1	15	0	16
Langlade	14	62	3	79
Lincoln	4	31	0	35
Marathon	4	34	2	40
Marinette	0	32	0	32
Monroe	1	3	0	4
Oconto	2	24	2	28
Oneida	0	118	8	126
Outagamie	7	0	0	7
Pepin	1	1	0	2
Pierce	2	1	0	3
Polk	8	14	0	22
Price	12	56	4	72
Richland	0	3	0	3
Rusk	18	39	0	57
Sauk	0	3	0	3
Sawyer	19	133	6	158
Shawano	1	5	0	6
St Croix	1	29	0	30
Taylor	9	13	0	22
Trempealeau	2	0	0	2
Vernon	0	0	1	1
Vilas	0	37	4	41
Washburn	5	49	8	62
Waupaca	2	0	0	2
Waushara	2	0	0	2
Winnebago	1	0	0	1
Wood	2	0	0	2
Totals	190	1101	92	1383

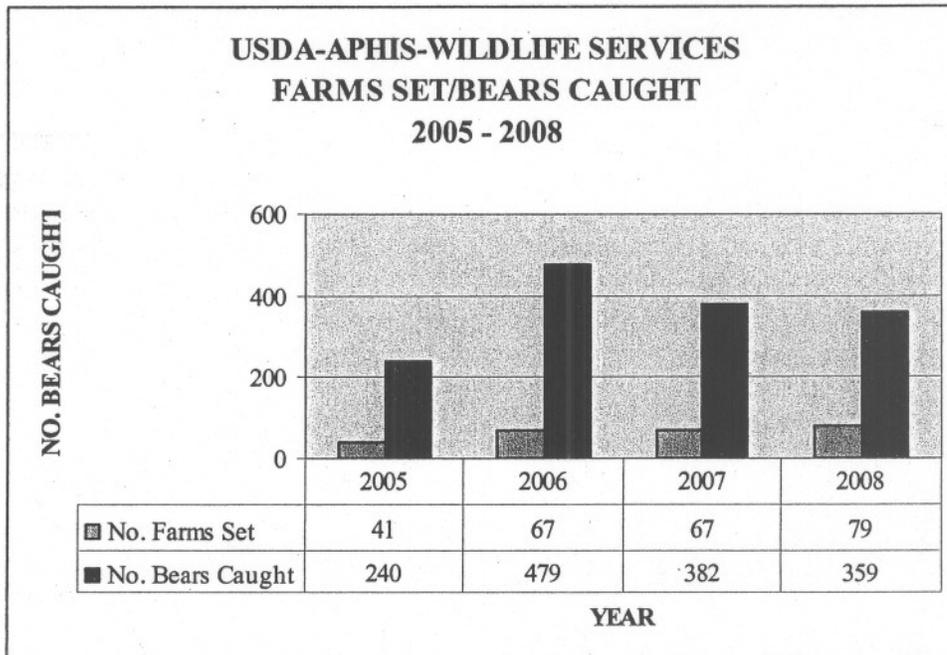
TABLE 4. BEARS RELOCATED BY USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
 BY COUNTY AND RESOURCE
 JANUARY 1, 2008 – NOVEMBER 12, 2008

COUNTY	AGRICULTURE	NUISANCE	PROPERTY	TOTAL
Ashland	23	8	3	34
Barron	15	13	1	29
Bayfield	29	41	6	76
Burnett	13	9	6	28
Chippewa	0	1	0	1
Douglas	10	32	13	55
Dunn	0	1	0	1
Eau Claire	1	0	0	1
Florence	20	1	0	21
Forest	17	18	0	35
Iron	0	6	0	6
Juneau	0	1	0	1
Langlade	29	7	4	40
Lincoln	35	8	0	43
Marathon	1	1	0	2
Marinette	0	19	0	19
Oconto	0	11	0	11
Oneida	0	17	2	19
Polk	5	0	0	5
Price	13	24	2	39
Rusk	55	9	1	65
Sawyer	75	68	10	153
Taylor	7	1	0	8
Vilas	1	10	0	11
Washburn	8	14	1	23
Waupaca	1	0	0	1
Wood	1	0	0	1
Totals	359	320	49	728

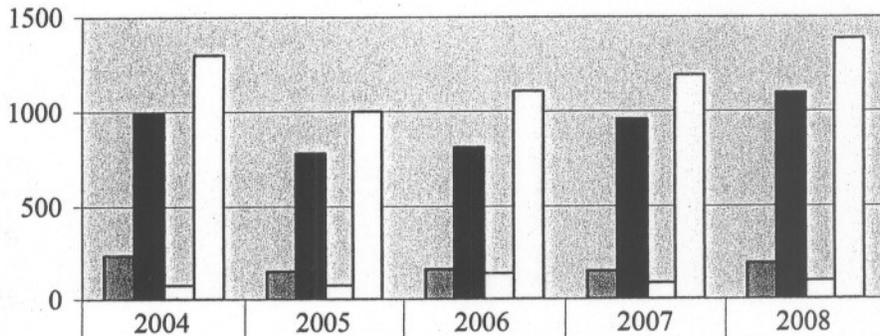
1990-2008				
Year	Total Complaints	Bears Trapped	Agriculture Only	%
1990	990	381	159	41%
1991	546	330	147	45%
1992	1347	499	261	52%
1993	1263	490	241	49%
1994	1353	691	405	59%
1995	1439	607	341	56%
1996	1124	492	227	46%
1997	1197	480	283	59%
1998	751	316	201	64%
1999	1065	470	291	64%
2000	1282	336	180	54%
2001	922	322	214	66%
2002	1296	399	220	55%
2003	1339	546	256	47%
2004	1296	592	276	47%
2005	1003	482	240	50%
2006	1107	729	479	66%
2007	1193	763	382	50%
2008	1383	728	359	49%

TABLE 5. AGRICULTURE - NUMBER OF FARMS SET/BEARS TRAPPED, BY COUNTY
 JANUARY 1, 2008 – NOVEMBER 12, 2008

COUNTY	NUMBER OF FARMS SET	NUMBER OF BEARS CAUGHT	AVERAGE/FARM
Ashland	4	23	6
Barron	4	15	4
Bayfield	6	29	5
Burnett	8	13	2
Douglas	1	10	10
Eau Claire	1	1	1
Florence	4	20	5
Forest	3	17	6
Langlade	7	29	4
Lincoln	2	35	18
Marathon	1	1	1
Polk	4	5	1
Price	6	13	2
Rusk	7	55	8
Sawyer	14	75	5
Taylor	1	7	7
Vilas	1	1	1
Washburn	3	8	3
Waupaca	1	1	1
Wood	1	1	1
Totals	79	359	5

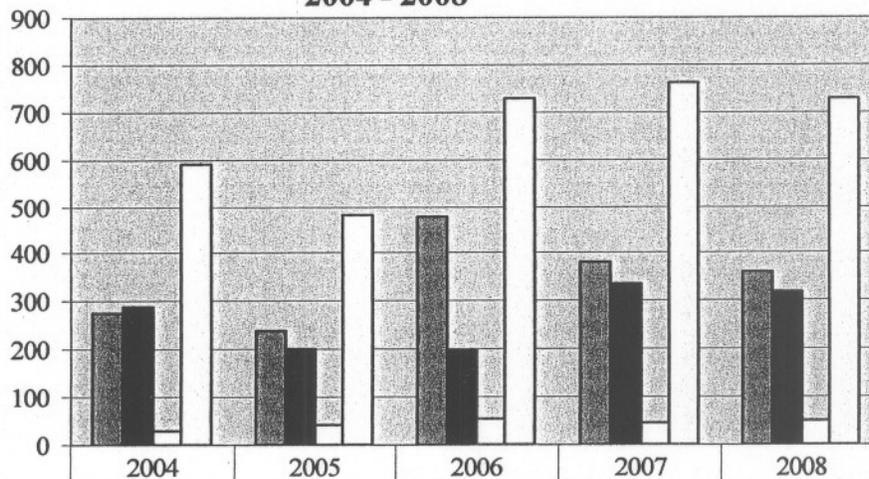


**USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED
2004 - 2008**



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
■ Agriculture	233	146	162	146	190
■ Nuisance	989	784	810	961	1101
□ Property	74	73	135	86	92
□ Total	1296	1003	1107	1193	1383

**USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
BEARS CAPTURED
2004 - 2008**

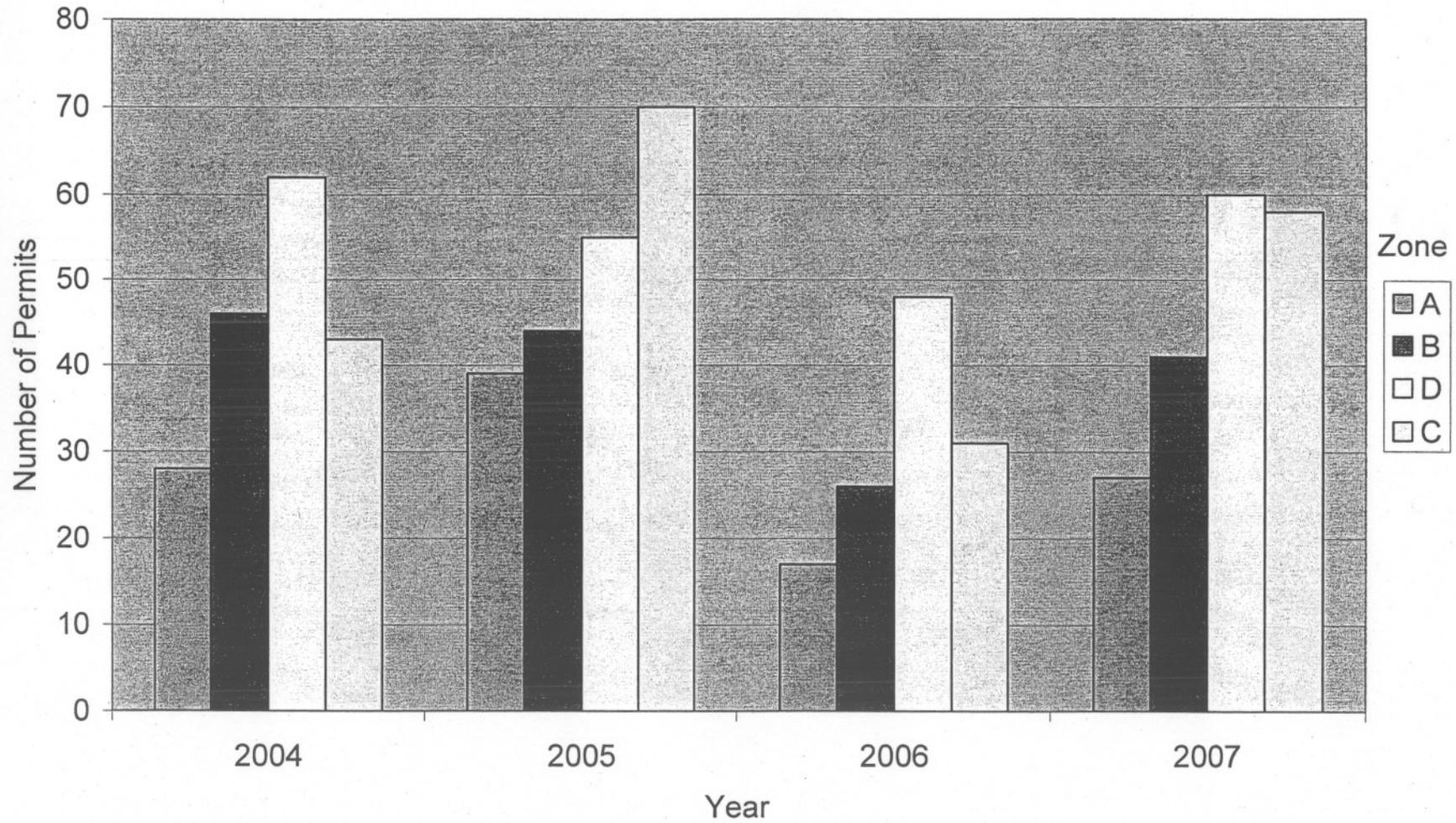


	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
■ Agriculture	276	240	479	382	359
■ Nuisance	287	201	196	336	320
□ Property	29	41	54	45	49
□ Total	592	482	729	763	728

Number of permits issued for possession of vehicle-killed bears, 2004-07

COUNTY	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average
ASHLAND	4	4	1	3	3
BARRON	11	7	8	13	10
BAYFIELD	7	9	3	9	7
BROWN				1	0
BURNETT	10	5	8	5	7
CHIPPEWA	7	16	2	9	9
CLARK	2	5	4	5	4
DOUGLAS	7	9	6	8	8
DUNN	1	9	3	2	4
EAU CLAIRE		2	1	4	2
FLORENCE	2	5		1	2
FOREST	2	8	5	7	6
IRON	1				0
JACKSON	2	3	6	5	4
JUNEAU		1		1	1
LANGLADE	5	3	8	4	5
LINCOLN	9	6	5	11	8
MARATHON	7	8	6	6	7
MARINETTE	19	8	5	13	11
MARQUETTE				1	0
MONROE	1	2		1	1
OCONTO	8	7	1	7	6
ONEIDA	9	12	3	2	7
OUTAGAMIE	2				1
PIERCE			1		0
POLK	9	10	7	8	9
PORTAGE	1	2	3	2	2
PRICE	5	4	1	5	4
RUSK	12	8	4	14	10
SAUK				1	0
SAWYER	6	20	10	4	10
SHAWANO	4	7	2	3	4
ST CROIX	3	5	1	7	4
TAYLOR		3	1	1	1
TREMPELEAU	3	3		1	2
VILAS		2		3	1
WASHBURN	18	15	16	17	17
WASHINGTON			1		0
WAUPACA	2				1
WOOD				2	1
Total	179	208	122	186	174

Number of Permits Issued for Possession of Vehicle-killed Bears by Bear Management Zone, 2004-07



April 14, 2008

200508

The problem is that some bear hunters leave significant amounts of trash around their bait sites on public lands. There is currently no way of identifying the individual operating the bait site.

Whereas baiting bears on public land is a privilege, not a right

Whereas it would be a small imposition to require identification of the bait operator

Be it resolved that bear bait operators be required to place a sign with their DNR customer number in letters no less than 1" in size for the purpose of operator identification

Michael Arrowood
W7859 E CLARK RD
Oakfield, WI 53065
Fond du Lac County
920-922-0905

3

350307

Black Bear Management Zones

Problem: Black Bear Management Zones are too large to effectively manage black bear population in agricultural areas in Northern Wisconsin.

The current system of bear relocation and crop damage kill tags has created hostility between farmland owners and hunters who have waited numerous years to receive a kill tag.

Unit B has an approximate wait time of 9 years, or more, to receive a kill tag, which to some people makes it a once in a lifetime opportunity. (Animal Rights Activist who purchase kill tags that go unused do not help matters.)

The current four Bear Management Zones do not address problem areas determined by USDA crop damage specialists.

The USDA spends thousands of dollars annually in live trapping and relocating problem bears as well as crop damage claims.

Due to the recent increase in the State and National values of corn and soybeans for alternative fuels and small grains for domestic animal feed, farmers are becoming more aware and defensive of the black bear population.

There has also been a significant increase in the amount of bear verses vehicle collisions in the past few years.

Therefore the DNR should consider micro-managing high population bear habitat areas with the help of the USDA Crop Damage Specialists on a county by county level or by Deer Management Units.


Marty Sosnovske
W415 R & H Road
Gleason, WI 54435
715-873-4090
Lincoln County

Yes - micro-manage high population areas

No - leave as is

Yes 64

No 5

DATE: November, 13, 2008

TO: Todd Schaller - Section Chief
Recreational Safety and Education Section

FROM: Brenda Von Rueden

SUBJECT: Report on 2008 Learn to Bear Hunt

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

The goals of the Learn to Beat Hunt program are:

1. To provide a bear hunting experience to novice hunters who would not otherwise get that chance to hunt bear other than through the Learn to Hunt Program.
2. To provide a safe and memorable first-time introductory bear hunting experience to novice hunters through experienced and qualified mentors.
3. To teach novice hunters about the habits of bear, how to read bear sign, check baits, track and handle hounds, use proper shooting techniques and safely handle firearms.
4. To provide an opportunity for experienced bear hunters to contribute to overall conservation efforts by giving something back to the hunting heritage through recruiting the next generation of safe, legal, ethical and responsible hunters to carry on the bear hunting tradition.

MODIFICATIONS BASED ON WORK IN 2008

In the spring of 2008, based on several years of experience with the Learn to Bear Hunt Program, the Department staff and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association worked together to make modifications in procedures used in the implementation of the Learn to Hunt Program.

Those modifications were captured on the DNR website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/bear/guidelines.pdf>

RESULTS OF 2008 LEARN TO HUNT PROGRAM

The Learn to Bear Hunt drawing took place in Madison on July 15th, 2008. Present for the drawing were Rich Kirchmeyer, Kurt Thiede, Randy Stark, Jon King, Ben Mott (via conference call) and Brenda Von Rueden.

We had 171 participant applications. There were a total of 40 participants drawn at random knowing that only 27 would be able to participate. Our reason for drawing 40 was to ensure and secure spots if some of the top 27 were not able to participate.

The Learn to Bear Hunt Program hunt was held August 22nd, 23rd and 24th 2008. A variety of bait sitting and hound hunts took place in Bayfield, Chippewa, Douglas, Marinette, and Oconto counties. There were a total of 27 participants and 19 bear harvested.

Below are the results received from the Conservation Wardens who took part in the hunts:

Bayfield and Douglas Counties: Conservation Warden Jill Schartner, Patrick Quaintance, and Brad Biser.
(1 bait/3 hound hunts per Pat Q)
12 Participants 10 Bear Harvested

Chippewa County: Scott Bowe (4 bait sitter hunts per Jon King)
7 Participants 4 Bear Harvested

Marinette and Oconto Counties: Conservation Warden Matthew Meade and Joseph Paul (3 bait sitters/2 hound hunts per Joe Paul)
7 Participants 5 Bear Harvested

One participant hunted in Price County. No results were given for this participant.

Out of the 27 participants we had one cancellation. We were able to work with Jill Schartner of Bayfield County who had a local kid that was able to fill the vacancy.

There were approximately 140 mentors who applied and unfortunately we had more mentors than available hunts. 55 of the 140 mentors were paired with their desired locations to help with the hunts.

AFTER EVENT REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of the new process this year we held a conference call after the Learn to Hunt events to gather input from the wardens involved in the hunts, as well as Keith Warnke (Wildlife Management), Randy Stark, Jon King, Ben Mott, Kurt Thiede (Conservation Congress Liaison), David Argall (Customer Service) Rich Kirchmeyer, Scott Meyer and Brenda Von Rueden.

Based on the information provided on the conference call, the following recommendations were made for next years Learn to Bear Hunt.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009

Dates and Deadlines

Hunt: August 28-30, 2009

Participant Applications: April 1, 2009- May 30, 2009

Drawing by June 10, 2009

Mentor Applications: accepted anytime

Proposed Drawing Process

Applications will be made available April 1st, 2009 and due May 30, 2009 (providing additional time compared to 2008)

Drawing held by June 10. Backgrounds completed and successful participants will be moved to the next round.

Select 60 possible participants (Assuming 20-25 tags) during the drawing. After the backgrounds the leftover applicants will then have an essay evaluated by a team led by LTH Coordinator, looking at content similar as previous years.

Participants who make it through that portion of the process will be handled in one of two ways.

1. A number reflective of tags allotted plus alternates ranked by central office provided to Wardens for contact. (Contact could be done by CO).
2. A number reflective of tags allotted plus alternates provided to Wardens for selection and ranking. Warden will contact participants advising on standing.

Discussed Problems and Resolution

1. Statewide Organization Hunts: Provide 3-4 tags (NWTF, WBH, CC and WWF). Tags will be placed on the top of list. Drawing from these groups must be done and turned in by May 15, 2009. Organizations can participate in the field day nearest them or have their own event upon approval of Local Warden and LTH Coordinator. Organization must participate in 2009 to be offered future tags.
2. Tags will have blank information and look like the current tags but in a blaze orange color. Warden will complete name/address with marker. Tags will be numbered and logged as to who they are distributed to. Similar type tag could be used for LTH turkey/deer programs (Wildlife approval)
3. Number of mentors, dog handlers and helpers for the event will remain under the control of the Warden. Background checks will be conducted on all members who participate, even if they have a minor role in the program.
4. Communication plan established for announcing LTH program and April 1, 2009 application process. Provides a chance for Wardens to advertize locally and may cause a growth in participant pool.
5. Add 2 additional pages to participant application:
 - Page 3 - Explaining the need to participate in baiting and scouting ahead of the event. Allowing for a more complete LTH event, get it away from the killing only portion of event.
 - Page 4 - Essay section "In 600 words please explain why you are interested in the LTH event and what it will mean to you if you are selected."
6. Letter sent to all approved mentors providing LTH dates and instructions to contact their local warden to express interest in the program. If they helped with past event, to contact that warden for interest in helping again. If they want to bring someone new into the mentor program an application must be submitted and background check conducted.

7. When application is received in the mail the applications should be reviewed and processed weekly. Place applicant information onto a post card and get them ready for the drawing on June 10, 2009.

