

# 2020 Wisconsin Bear Season Review

Conservation Congress Bear Committee

Randy Johnson

DNR Large Carnivore Specialist

## 2020 Wisconsin Bear Permit Drawing Summary

Individual winners were chosen based on their number of preference points.

Permit Issuance by Zone				
Zone	Minimum # Points Needed	# of Permit Applicants	# of Permit Winners	% of Applicants with minimum points that drew a permit
A	9	8,267	1,410	75.3%
B	11	6,051	1,255	28.7%
C	1	9,577	6,570	24.0%
D	5	6,472	2,300	49.1%

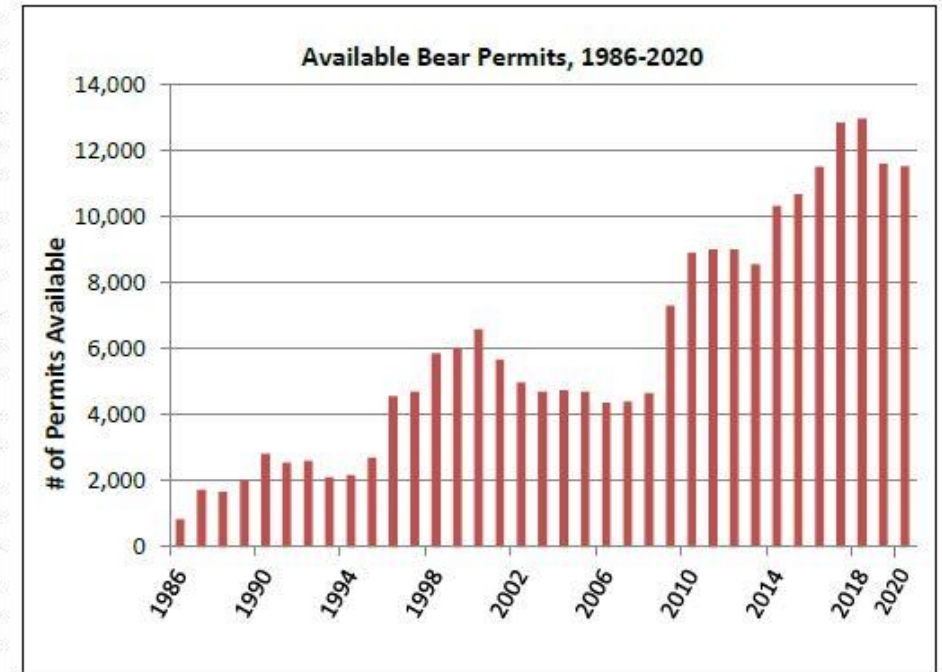
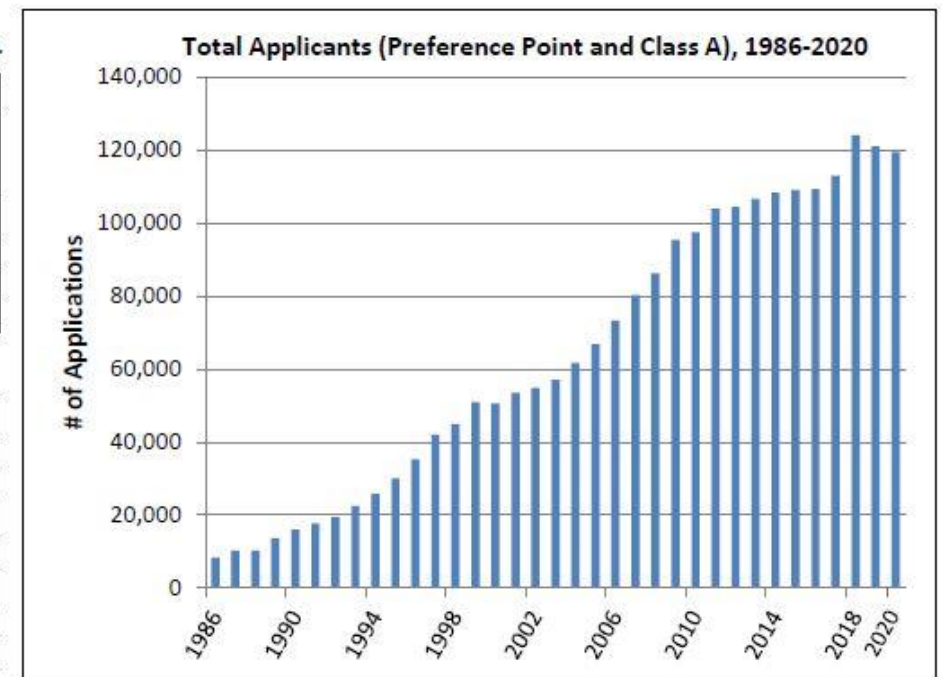
\* An additional 89,069 people applied for a preference point only.

2020 Winners by Preference Point Status					
Preference Points	Zone				Total
	A	B	C	D	
1	0	0	941	0	941
2	0	0	3,621	0	3,621
3	0	0	893	0	893
4	0	0	407	0	407
5	0	0	241	537	778
6	0	0	142	612	754
7	0	0	94	411	505
8	0	0	77	275	352
9	760	0	52	153	965
10	297	0	42	122	461
11	141	304	14	69	528
12	83	522	12	44	661
13	40	261	9	28	338
14	33	80	8	17	138
15	24	37	10	7	78
16	17	26	3	12	58
17	7	12	3	7	29
18	3	5	1	1	10
19	3	3	0	1	7
20	0	1	0	1	2
21	0	1	0	1	2
22	1	1	0	1	3
23	0	2	0	1	3
24	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	1,410	1,255	6,570	2,300	11,535

A: 9  
B: 11  
C: 1  
D: 5

30,367 permit apps  
89,069 pref. point

11,535 permits avail.

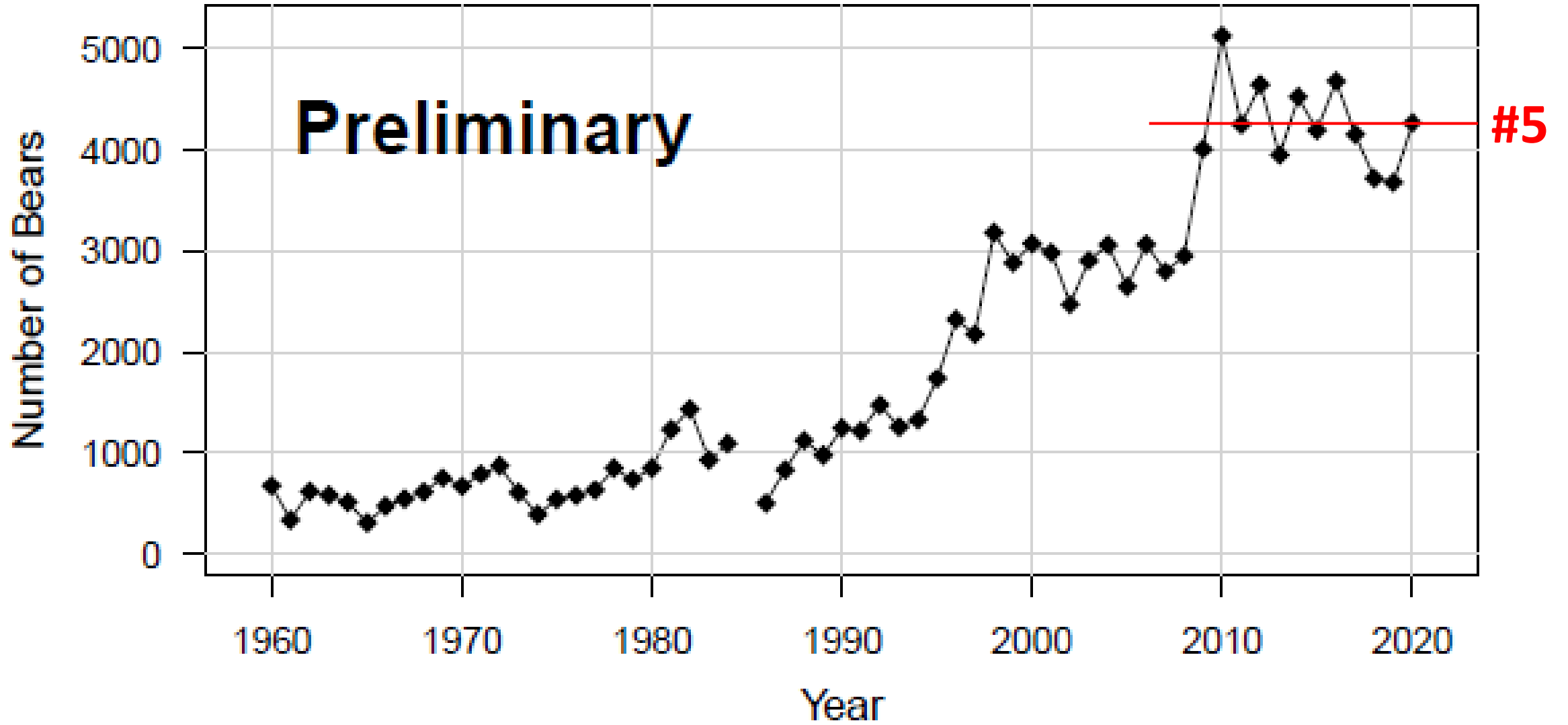


# 2020 Black Bear Harvest Quota and Harvest by Bear Zone

Includes LTH, Damage and Tribal Harvest

Zone	2020 Quota	2020 Harvest	% of Quota
A	800	954	119.3%
B	750	766	102.1%
C	900	1,052	116.9%
D	1,200	1,534	127.8%
Unknown			0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>4,306</b>	<b>121.3%</b>

# Total Black Bear Harvest in Wisconsin, 1960–2020



# 2020 Black Bear Permit Success by Bear Zone

Does not include Tribal, Damage, or LTH bear harvest

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Permits Issued</b>	<b>Reported Harvest</b>	<b>Permit Success</b>	<b>2016-2019 4 yr. ave.</b>
<b>A</b>	1,410	893	63.3%	57.4%
<b>B</b>	1,255	755	60.2%	60.0%
<b>C</b>	6,570	1,051	16.0%	13.7%
<b>D</b>	2,300	1,439	62.6%	52.0%
<b>U</b>	0			
<b>Total</b>	11,535	4,138	35.9%	

# Damage/nuisance shooting permits harvest data

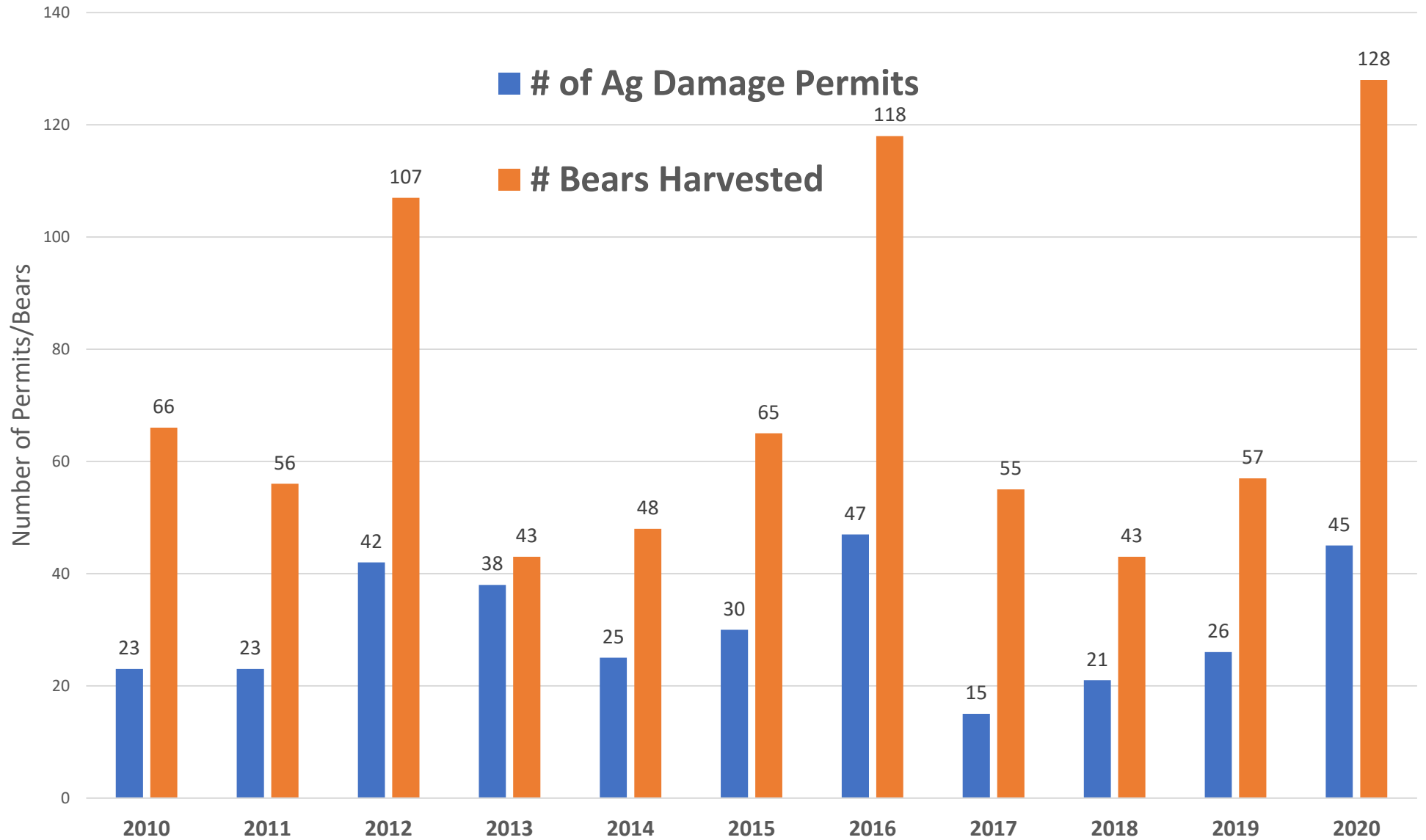
(credit: Brad Koele, DNR wildlife damage specialist)

- Increased activity in 2020 compared to the last couple years.
- Corn entered the milk stage earlier, mid-August, when other natural foods were limited.
- Agriculture Damage Program enrollments in 2020 totaled 264.
- Looking specifically at enrollments for corn damage, there were 17 more crop damage enrollments in 2020; 146 in 2020 vs 129 in 2019



**Table 3. 2020 Agriculture Damage Bear Shooting Permit Harvest by BMZ**

Zone	# Bear Registered 2020
Zone A	57
Zone B	7
Zone C	1
Zone D	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>



# APHIS-2020 Human-Bear Conflict Update

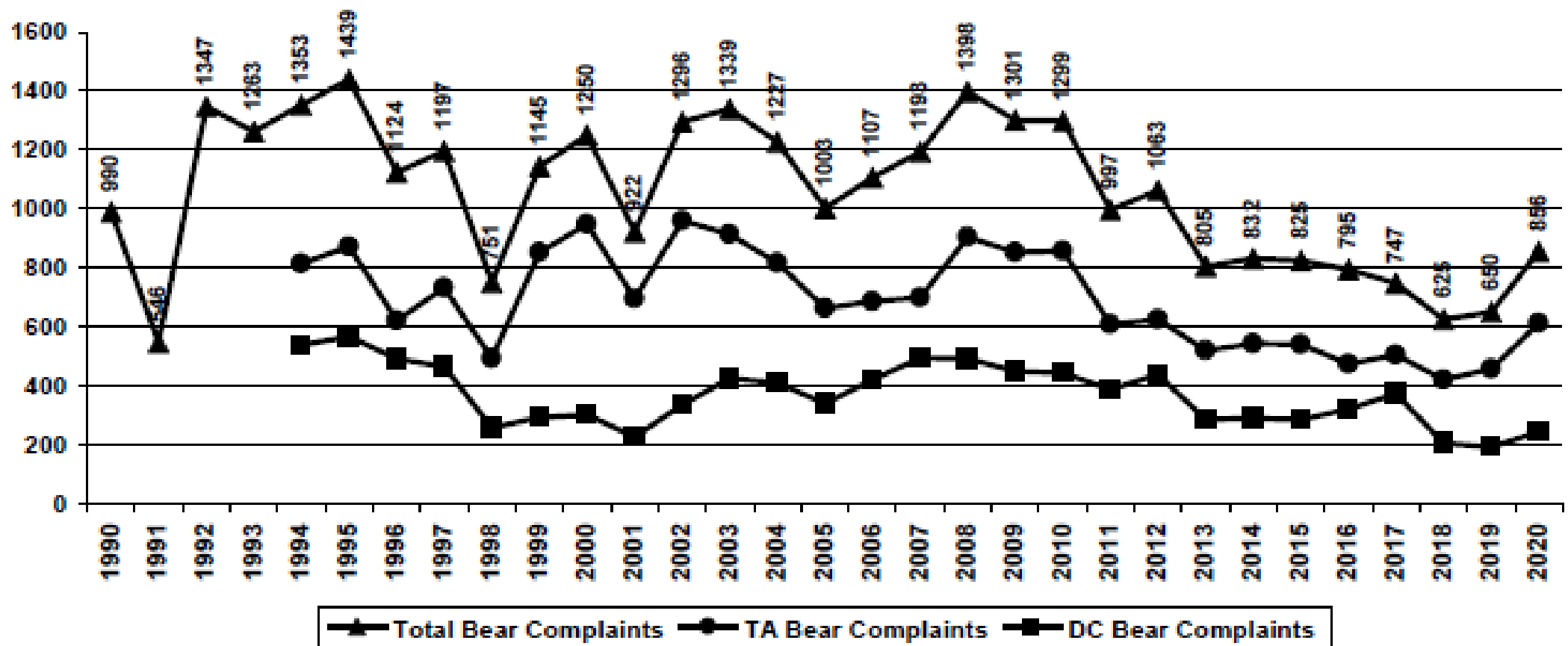
(Credit: Dave Ruid, USDA Wildlife Services)

This is raw data and has not been validated by WS Headquarters

**TABLE 1. NUMBER OF BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND BEARS RELOCATED BY RESOURCE  
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES, JANUARY 1—NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>#Complaints</b>	<b>Handled TA<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Handled DC<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Bears Relocated</b>
<b>Apiary</b>	7	4	3	2
<b>Crops</b>	79	13	66	568
<b>Livestock</b>	21	12	9	10
<b>Nuisance</b>	696	557	139	140
<b>Property</b>	53	26	27	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>612 (71%)</b>	<b>244 (29%)</b>	<b>740</b>

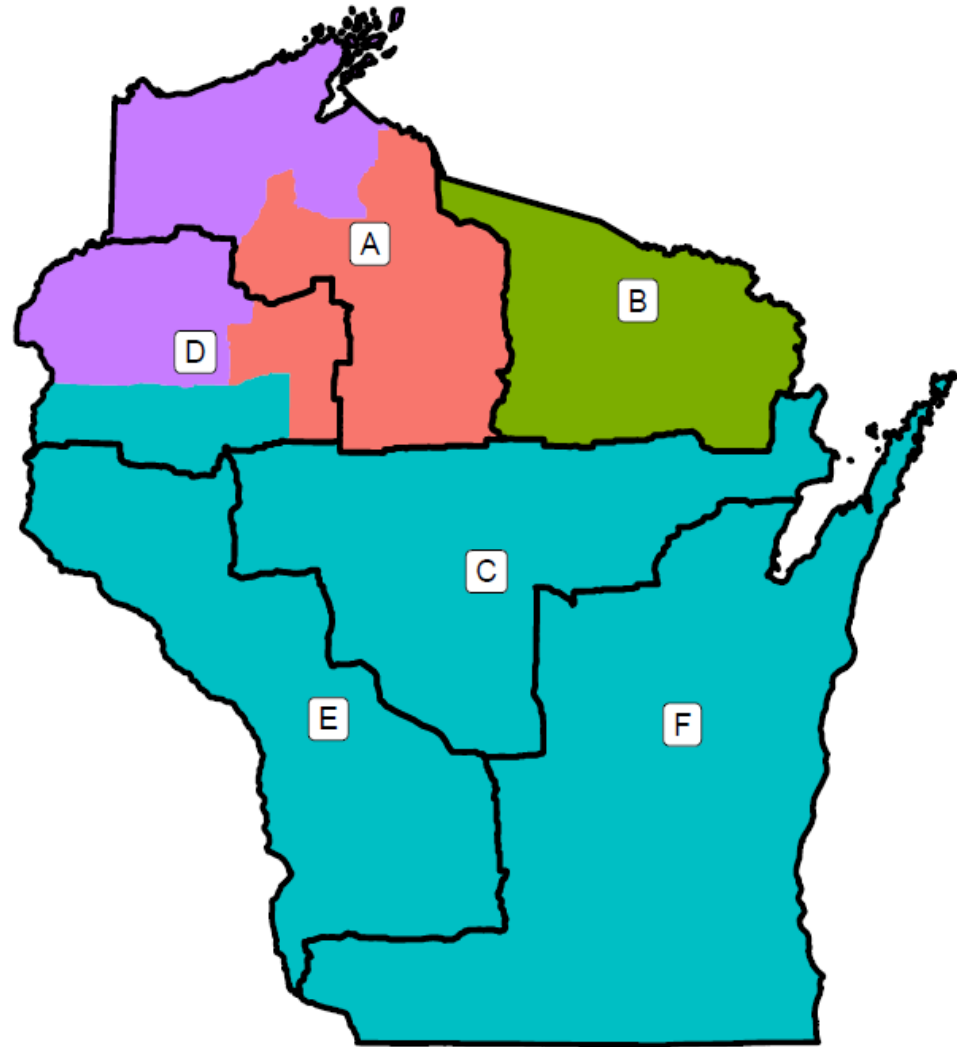




Total black bear complaints, black bear complaints handled with technical assistance (TA) and black bear complaints equiring direct control (DC), 1990-2020

# Proposed 2021 harvest quotas/permits

- Transitioning to new bear management zones
- Better address agricultural issues and manage expanding southern populations



# DNR Bear Advisory Committee

- Reviewed and discussed six criteria identified in the Bear Management Plan to help determine zone-specific population objectives.
  - bear nuisance complaints
  - agricultural damage
  - hunter satisfaction
  - hunter crowding/conflict
  - hunter success rates
  - data on bear health
- Once an objective is defined, population model projections resulting from various quotas are discussed to best achieve those objectives.



## DNR Bear Advisory Committee 2021 recommendations

Zone	2020 quota	2020 permits	2020 Total Harvest	2020 % Success	2021 quota recommendation	2021 est. permits*
<b>A</b>	800	1,410	893	63.3	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,925</b>
<b>B</b>	750	1,255	755	60.2	<b>650</b>	<b>1,130</b>
<b>C</b>	900	6,570	1,051	16.0	<b>600</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>D</b>	1,200	2,300	1,439	62.6	<b>1,350</b>	<b>2,585</b>
<b>E</b>					<b>160</b>	<b>1600</b>
<b>F</b>					<b>30</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>11,535</b>	<b>4,138</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>3,890</b>	<b>10,540</b>

*\*Zones A, B, and D success rates based on 4-year average success rates from the historical zones, respectively. Zones C, E, and F success rates were estimated from the best available information.*