Wisconsin Conservation Congress BEAR Committee MEETING MINUTES



ORDER OF BUSINESS	Dec. 4, 2021	9 AM	Zoom
-------------------	--------------	------	------

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman Mike Rogers at 9:02

b. Roll Call

ATTENDEES	Pat Quaintance, Dave Mabie, Gary Mabie, Dennis Jones, David Lois, Bryan Haydin, Hunter Denison, Connie Polzin, Ralph Fritsch, Daniel Hayden, Perry Hurlburt, Joe Stuchlach, Jeff Johnson, Al Lobner, Scott Strook, Bob Knorr, Chris Wegner, Mike Murphy, Mike Rogers, Randy Johnson, Jennifer Price-Tack, Kelly Crotty	
EXCUSED	Curt Loew, Jim Young, Jeff Klatt	
UNEXCUSED	Cody Gadow, Jeff Thums, Arlen Heistad, Wayne Klett, Scott Plocar, Chuck Dreher	
GUESTS	Jean Voss, Cynthia Samels, Laurie Groskoph, Amy Mueller, Diane Cain, Ryan Dulon, Bridget Dulon, Lucas Withrow	

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion to approve agenda by Mike Murphy 2nd by Jeff Johnson. Motion carried

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Mike Rogers read the Mission Statement. There was a discussion on whether we should change the word ample to stable	
ACTION	Motion to change ample to stable by Mike Murphy 2nd by Connie Polzin. Motion withdrawn.	

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Laurie Groskoph spoke on training season and the use of chocolate. Steve Beining spoke on the problem of trespass in his area. Lucas Withrow spoke with regard to the resolutions presented at the meeting today.
ACTION	none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. BAN CHOCOLATE BEAR BAIT RES 131221, 320921

JEAN VOSS

	<u> </u>		
DISCUSSION	Mike Rogers read the resolution. Jean Voss felt the sweetness of the bait is what attracts bears to chocolate. She also spoke about how other states were regulating its use.		
ACTION	Motion to reject by Mike Murphy and 2nd by Brian Haydin. Roll call vote carried unanimously.		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE	

B. BEAR BAITING RULE CHANGE RES 580521, 040321

CYNTHIA SAMELS

DISCUSSION	Mike Rogers read the resolution. Cynthia stated that she does not get return calls from the department with her concerns. She also feels the controversies are between hunters.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Mike Murphy 2nd by Pat Quaintance. Roll call vote carried unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. BLACK BEAR BAITIING REGS RES 131021, 320321

MARGARET WEBSTER

DISCUSSION	Mike Rogers read the resolution. Margaret Webster commented on her resolution and gave the numbers of those that supported this resolution.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Mike Murphy 2nd by Joe Stuchlak. Roll call vote carried unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. FATAL IRRESPONSIBLE FEEDING

ROSLYN NELSON

DISCUSSION	Mike Rogers read the resolution as the author was not present.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Chris Wegner 2nd by Connie Polzin. Roll call vote carried unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE		

E. REDUCE HOUND BEAR TRAINING

LOIS LEHMAN

DISCUSSION	Mike Rogers read the resolution. Lois Lehman explained her resolution and beliefs to the committee. She feels hunting with hounds is dangerous for the hounds and game as well. Kelly Crotty explained some of the regs. and the results of them regarding bear hunters.	
ACTION	Motion to reject by Mike Murphy 2nd by Chris Murphy. Roll call vote carried unanimously.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

F. DEPARTMENT INFO

RANDY JOHNSON, JENNIFER PRICE TACK, KELLY CROTTY

DISCUSSION	Jennifer began the portion of the meeting for department info. She stated that she did not get enough hair snare samples for some surveys. Tooth samples have been submitted to the lab for mark-capture study. She thanked the hunters for their help getting hair samples. Covid has also been a problem for moving some surveys forward. If anyone knows any bear den locations she would like that info so she can collar some bears. Randy Johnson delivered the harvest survey next. He also gave us the numbers regarding wait times and success ratios. This includes LTH, Tribal, and nuisance tags. Zones A&B harvest were very good while other zones were somewhat lower but no major concerns. Certainly these zones will need some fine tuning. Ag damage in 4 counties have been responsible for half of the damage to farmers crops and those areas continue to be on the department hot list. Sawyer, Burnett, Rusk and Washburn were the counties with the most problems. Kelly Crotty gave a short comment regarding the new LE Academy which right now is at 13. They will be scattered across the state. Kelly also reported a group of hunters allegedly poached a bear next to a daycare center.	
Motion was made by Mike Murphy and 2nd by Dennis Jones to approve the 2022 Harvest quota for Zone A at 1075. Motion carried. A motion by Pat Quaintance and 2nd to approve the Zone B Harvest quota at 800. Motion to approve Zone C Harvest quota of 600 by Ralph Fritsch 2nd by Jeff Johnson. Motion carried. A motion to approve the Zone D Harvest quota of 1800 was made by Mike Murphy and 2nd by Pat Quaintance. Motion carried. The Zone E Harvest quota for 200 was made by Scott Strook 2nd by Chris Wegner. Motion carried. The proposed Zone F harvest quota of 25 was made by Dave Lois and 2nd by Dennis Jones. Motion carried.		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Mike Murphy thanked the chairman for having roll call votes. Comments were made by Scott Strook regarding the projects the departments is doing and thanking them for all of their work. Dave Lois commented he was looking forward to an in person meeting next year. Al Lobner asked if the Wisconsin Sporting Dog Association had a member on the DNR Bear committee. Randy will look into it to see if it would possible to get a member on the Committee. There was a question regarding the Learn to Bear Hunt program and if there were any changes for the future. At this point no one heard anything. Law Enforcement has not heard of anything on the horizon.
ACTION	none

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn by Mike Murphy 2nd by Dennis Jones meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.
SUBMITTED BY	AL LOBNER (Sec)
DATE	12-4-21

Age-at-harvest model and 2021 Estimates

Glenn Stauffer

Overview of AAH population model

Data

- Total harvest (sex- and zone-specific)
- Aged harvest (submitted teeth)
 - One year lag
 - Assumed current year harvest has 3-year average age structure
- Starting population values
 - Based on 2011 tetracycline study (Old zones)
 - Periodic calibration (hair snare surveys)
 - Age structure assumed from average historical harvest age structure

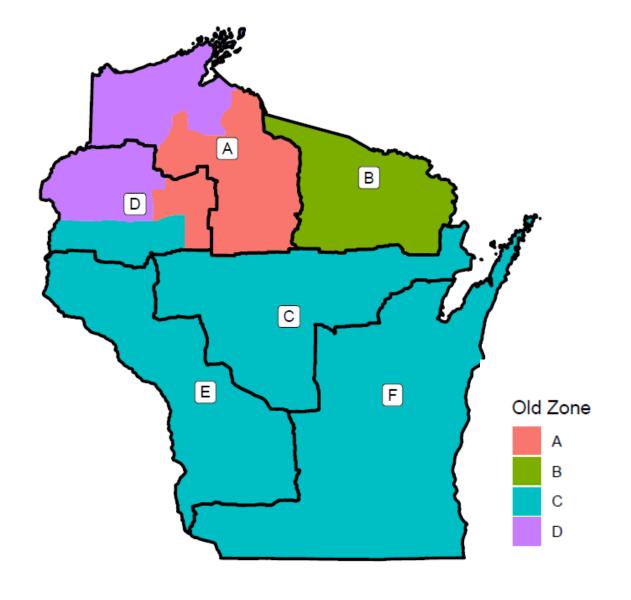
Overview of AAH population model

Parameters (most informed by informative priors)

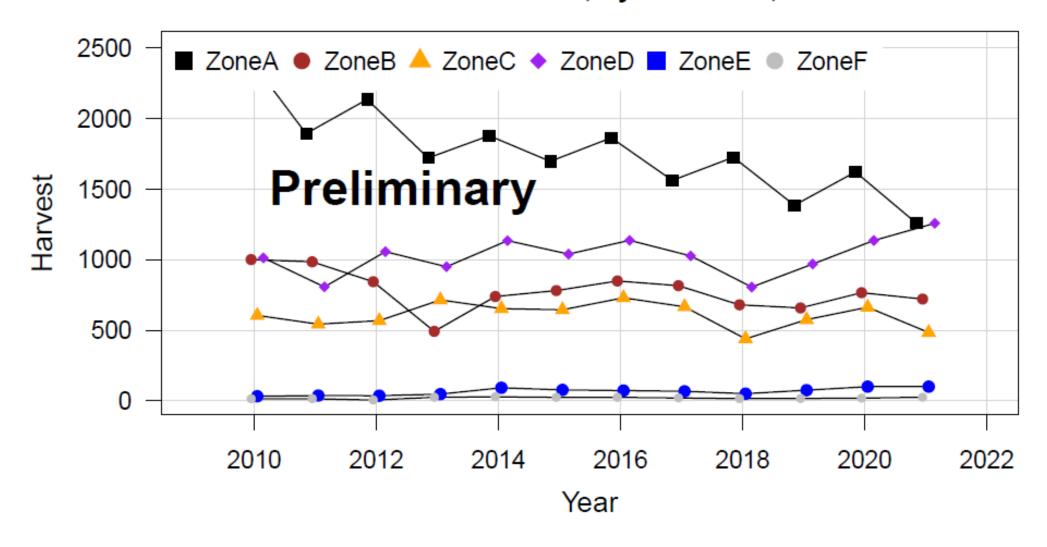
- Harvest season and non-harvest season survival probability
- Cub survival probability (cub harvest illegal)
- Pregnancy rates and litter sizes
- Harvest reporting rate
 - Proportion of harvest season mortality attributed to harvest

Transitioning to the new BMZs

- Reassigned previous harvest records to new zones
- Starting values assumption
- Harvest success rates are uncertain for the new zones

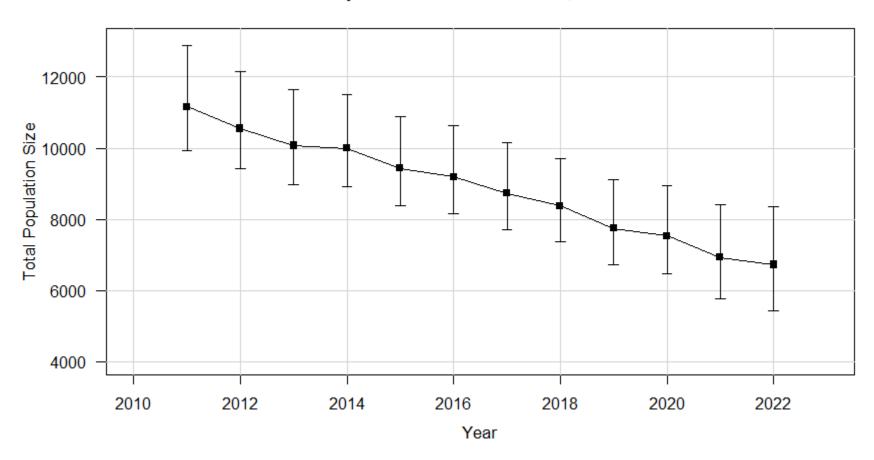


Total Black Bear Harvest, by New BMZ, 2010-2021



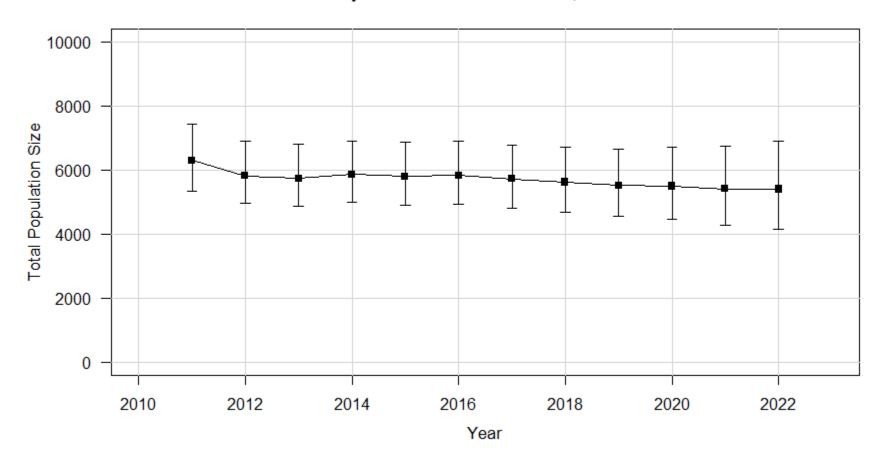
Zone A Population Estimates

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone A



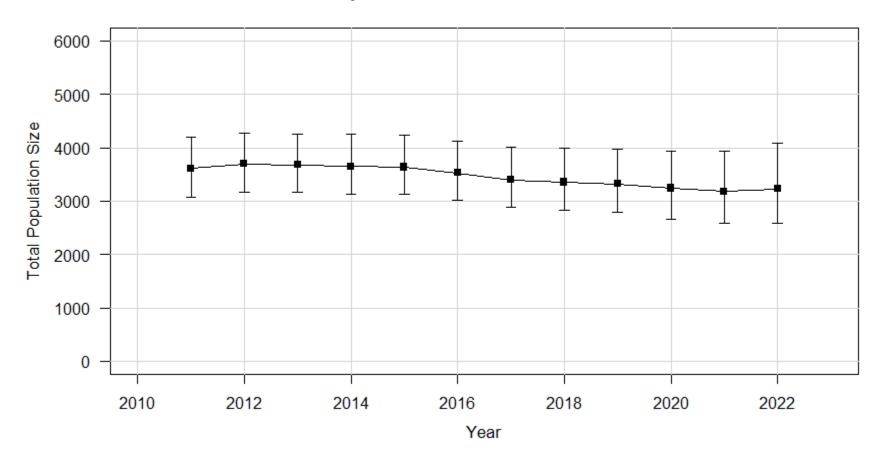
Zone B Population Estimates

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone B



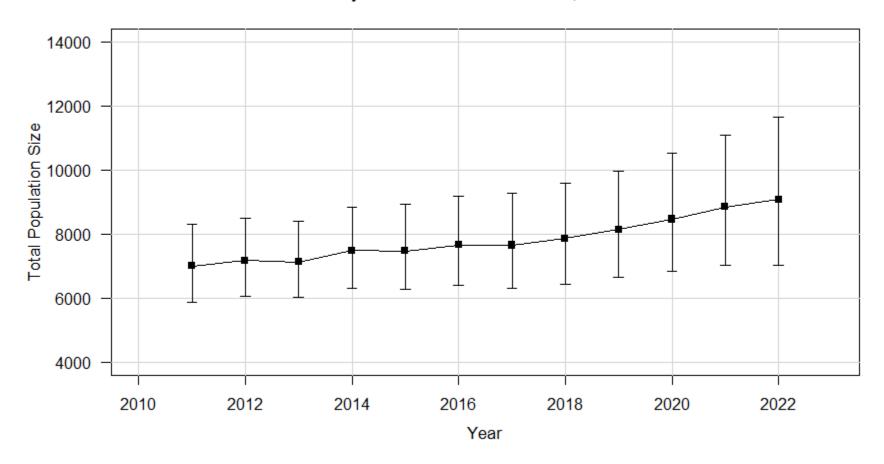
Zone C Population Estimates

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone C

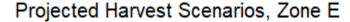


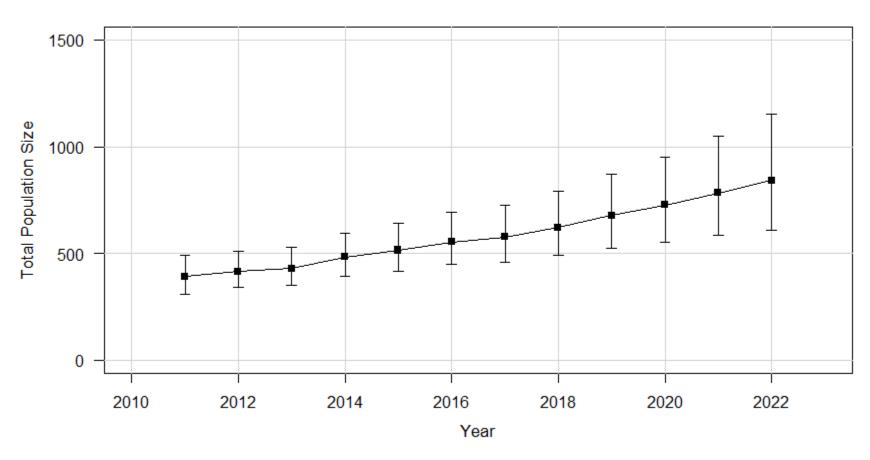
Zone D Population Estimates

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone D

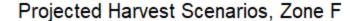


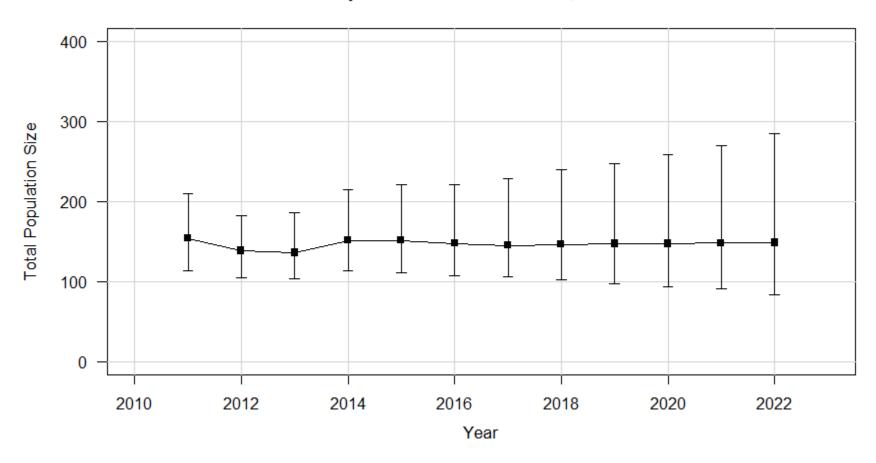
Zone E Population Estimates





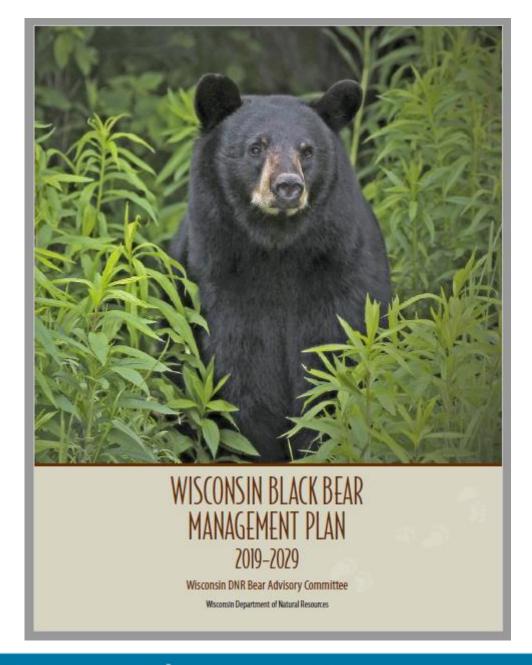
Zone F Population Estimates





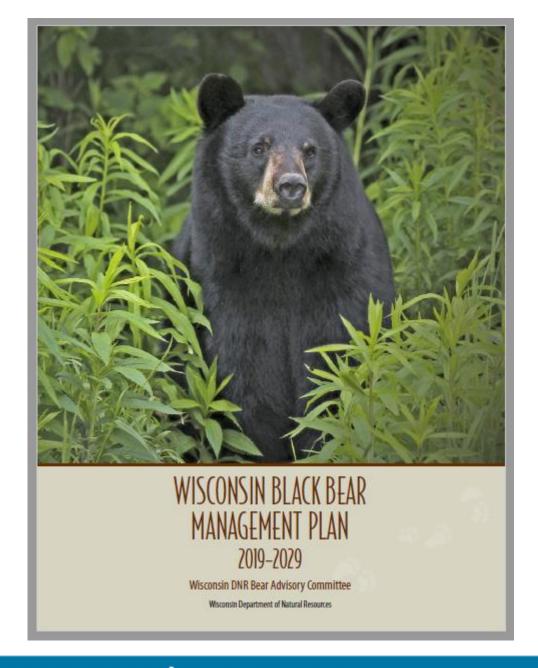
Harvest discussion 2021

Jennifer Price Tack Glenn Stauffer Randy Johnson



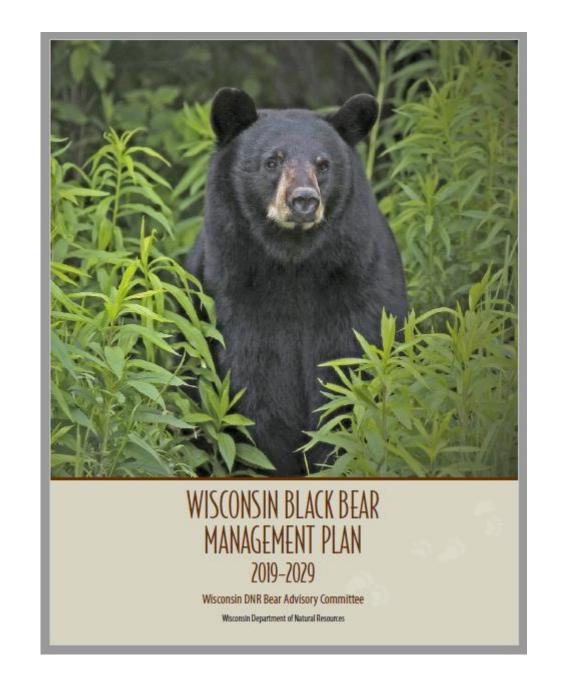
Permit setting steps

- 1. Zone summary
 - Criteria from BMP



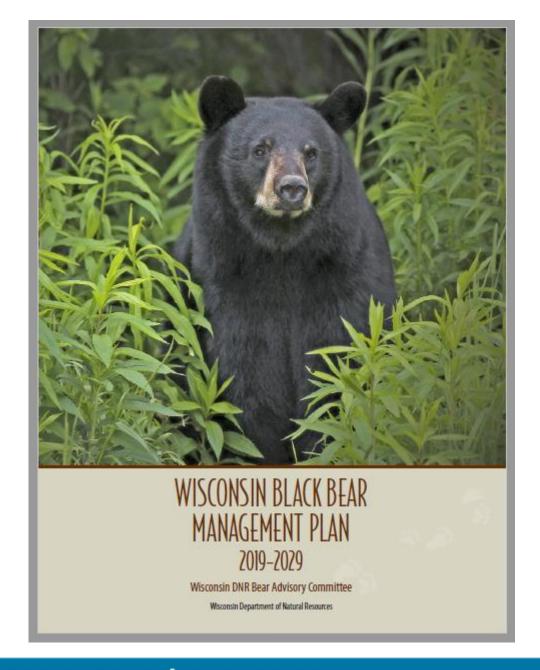
Bear Management Criteria from Plan

- 1. Hunter success rate
- 2. Hunter satisfaction
 - Min. preference points needed
 - 2020 Hunter survey data
- 3. Hunter crowding or conflict
 - 2020 Hunter Survey
- 4. Agricultural damage
- 5. Nuisance complaints
- 6. Bear health

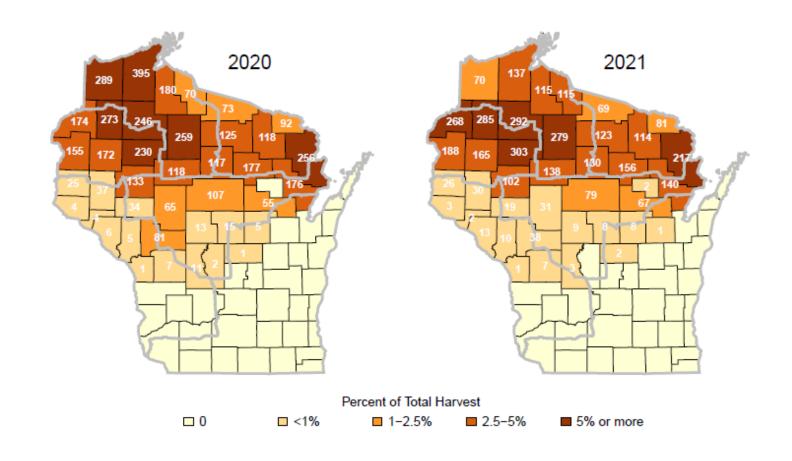


Permit setting steps

- 1. Zone summary
- 2. Zone objectives
- 3. Harvest projections
- 4. Permit allocation

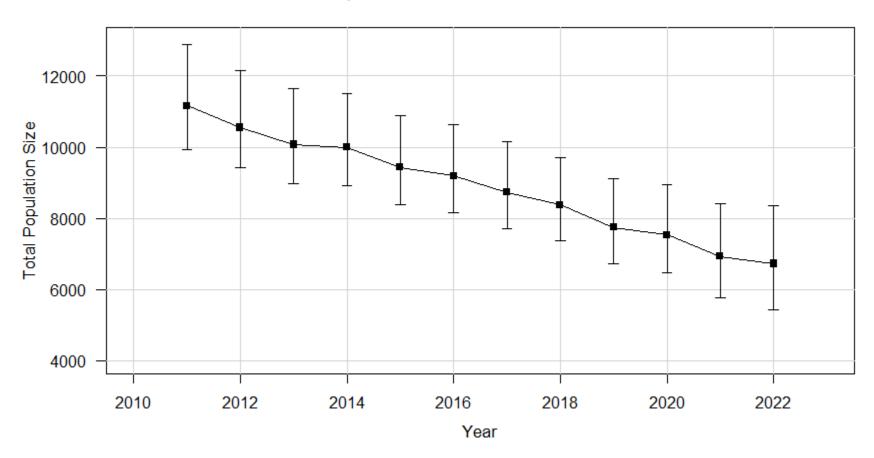


Black Bear Harvest By Zone



Zone A Population Estimates





Summary: Zone A

2021 Population Objective: Maintain

Bear management criteria:	Status	4-year trend	Notes
Success rates	59.5	Stable	Old A: 57.7%
Min preference points needed	8	-	2020: 9 points, down 1 year
Hunter satisfaction w/quality of season*	2020: (Old A) >61% / (Old D) >60% *Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"	Increasing	2017: (Old A) >46% / (Old D) >41% *Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"
Level of hunter crowding/conflict	Low	Stable	2020: (Old A) - >80% rated 1-3 (Old D) - 81% rated 1-3 *Feel crowded by other bear hunters? (scale of 1-9; 1=not at all)
Level of agricultural damage (crops, livestock, and apiary)	39	Stable	Down from 2020, more in line with 2019 Old A: 34, Old D: 41
Number of nuisance and property complaints	165	Stable	Old A: >160; +60% from 2019) Old D: >230 (+37%)
Bear health (incl. disease)	Good	Stable	

Population Objective: Maintain

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone A

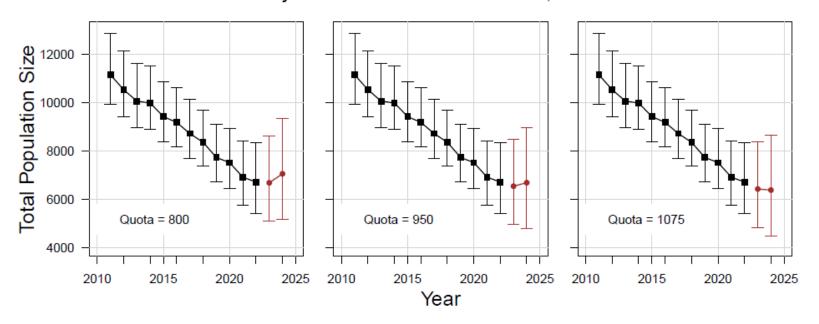


Table 5: Example projected population sizes for (New) Zone A (9,379 mi²). Harvest goal for 2021 was 1,100, and preliminary harvest was 1,258. Given range is the 95% credible interval.

		Proposed Future Harvest	
Year	800	950	1075
2022	6,724 (5433-8362)	6,724 (5433-8362)	6,724 (5433-8362)
2023	6,692 (5097-8634)	6,552 (4953-8494)	6,435 (4835-8376)
2024	7,064 (5160-9358)	6,696 (4790-8979)	6,390 (4485-8664)

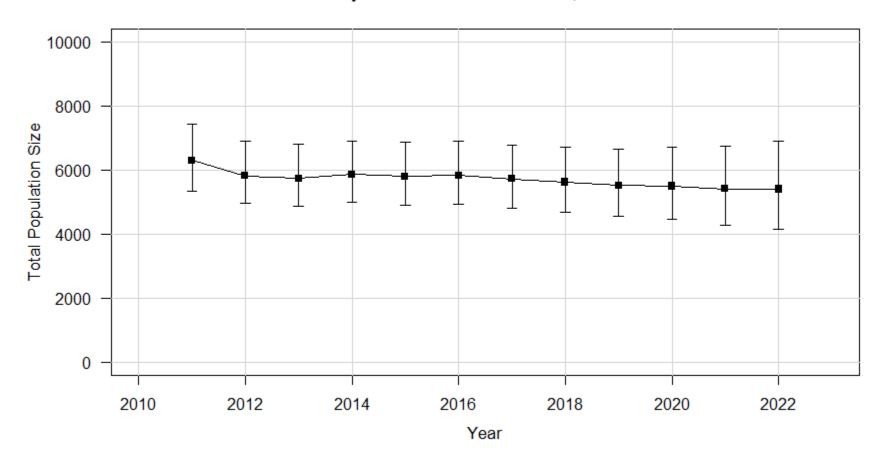
Permit allocation

Table 11: Proposed harvest goals and consequent proposed permit allocations for 2022, for new zones A, B, and D, compared to the harvest goals and allocations for 2021 in old zones. Note that the success rates are 4-year averages based on old zones prior to 2021, and new zones henceforth.

Zone	Year	Quota	4-yr Success Rate	Permit Allocation
A	2021	1100		1925
	2022	800	59.5	1,343
	2022	950	59.5	1,595
	2022	1,075	59.5	1,805
В	2021	750		1255
	2022	675	56.0	1,205
	2022	800	56.0	1,428
	2022	925	56.0	1,651
D	2021	1800		3450
	2022	1,400	48.9	2,862
	2022	1,650	48.9	3,374
	2022	1,900	48.9	3,885

Zone B Population Estimates

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone B



Summary: Zone B

Population Objective: Maintain

Bear management criteria:	Status	4-year trend	Notes
Success rates	56%	Stable	4-year average
Min preference points needed	11	1-pt increase	4-year average 29% of applicants with 11 pts got a permit
Hunter satisfaction w/quality of season	2020: >50% *Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"	Stable to slight decrease	2017: >56% *Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"
Level of hunter crowding/conflict	Moderately Low	Stable	2020: >67% rated 1-3 *Feel crowded by other bear hunters? (scale of 1-9; 1=not at all)
Level of agricultural damage (crops, livestock, and apiary)	15	Decreasing	
Number of nuisance and property complaints	170	Stable	90 complaints in 2019 >160 in 2020
Bear health (incl. disease)	Good	Stable	

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone B

Population Objective: Maintain

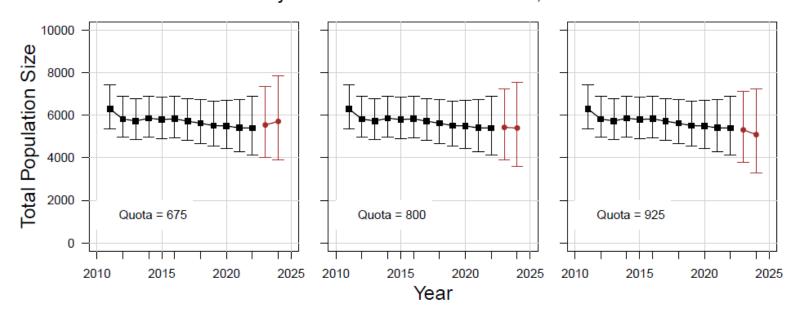


Table 6: Example projected population sizes for Zone B (5,351 mi²). Harvest goal for 2021 was 750, and preliminary harvest was 721. Given range is the 95% credible interval.

	Proposed Future Harvest			
Year	675	800	925	
2022	5,404 (4148-6889)	5,404 (4148-6889)	5,404 (4148-6889)	
2023	5,547 (4027-7360)	5,431 (3911-7244)	5,316 (3797-7128)	
2024	5,713 (3911-7862)	5,402 (3607-7544)	5,091 (3299-7223)	

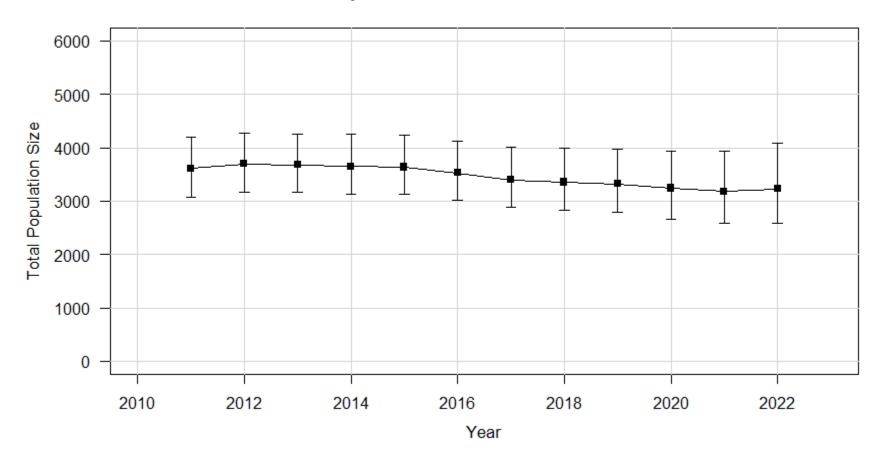
Permit allocation

Table 11: Proposed harvest goals and consequent proposed permit allocations for 2022, for new zones A, B, and D, compared to the harvest goals and allocations for 2021 in old zones. Note that the success rates are 4-year averages based on old zones prior to 2021, and new zones henceforth.

Zone	Year	Quota	4-yr Success Rate	Permit Allocation
A	2021	1100		1925
	2022	800	59.5	1,343
	2022	950	59.5	1,595
	2022	1,075	59.5	1,805
В	2021	750		1255
	2022	675	56.0	1,205
	2022	800	56.0	1,428
	2022	925	56.0	1,651
D	2021	1800		3450
	2022	1,400	48.9	2,862
	2022	1,650	48.9	3,374
	2022	1,900	48.9	3,885

Zone C Population Estimates

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone C



Summary: Zone C

Population Objective: Maintain

Bear management criteria:	Status	4-year trend	Notes
Success rates	16.1% in 2021	-	Old Zone C: 13.4% 4-year average
Min preference points needed	2 in 2021	-	Old C: 1; 4-year trend
Hunter satisfaction w/quality of season	2020: (Old C) 23% *Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"	Stable	2017: (Old C) 22% *Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"
Level of hunter crowding/conflict	Old C: Low	Variable	2020: (Old C) >73% rated 1-3 *Feel crowded by other bear hunters? (scale of 1-9; 1=not at all)
Level of agricultural damage (crops, livestock, and apiary)	12	Stable to declining	Old C: 17
Number of nuisance and property complaints	60	Stable	Old C: >140
Bear health (disease)	Good	Stable	

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone C

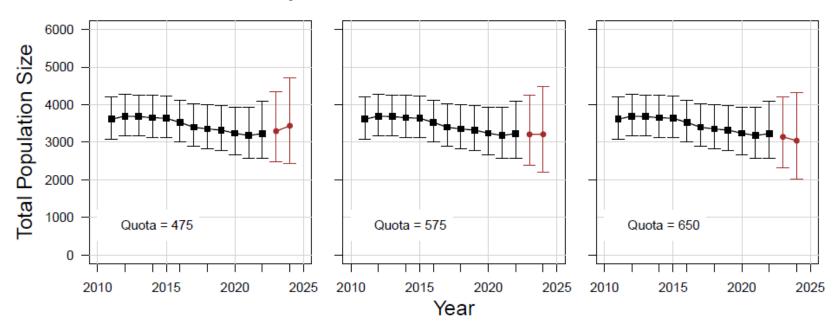


Table 7: Example projected population sizes for Zone C (9,682 mi²). Harvest goal for 2021 was 600, and preliminary harvest was 484. Given range is the 95% credible interval.

		Proposed Future Harvest	
Year	475	575	650
2022	3,230 (2578-4082)	3,230 (2578-4082)	3,230 (2578-4082)
2023 2024	3,294 (2469-4347) $3,437 (2422-4720)$	3,207 (2383-4263) 3,210 (2193-4488)	3,142 (2319-4198) 3,040 (2022-4316)

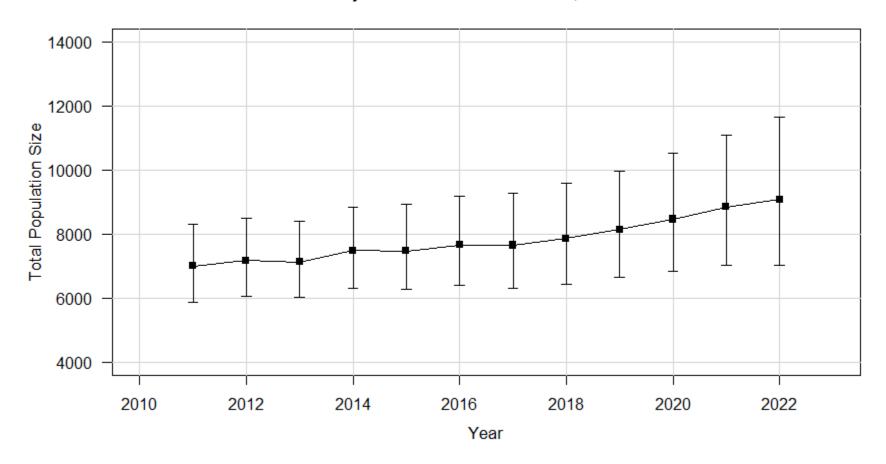
Permit allocation

Table 12: Proposed harvest goals and consequent proposed permit allocations for 2022, for zones C, E, and F. Success rates in 2021 for Zones C, E, and F, respectively, were 16.1%, 6.2%, and 8.3%.

			Permit Allocation		
Zone	Year	Quota	Success = 10%	Success = 20%	2021 rate
С	2021	600			
	2022	475	4,750	2,375	2,950
	2022	575	5,750	2,875	3,571
	2022	6 50	6,500	3,250	4,037
E	2021	160			
	2022	150	1,500	750	2,400
	2022	200	2,000	1,000	3,200
	2022	225	2,250	1,125	3,600
\mathbf{F}	2021	30			
	2022	15	150	75	180
	2022	25	250	125	300
	2022	40	400	200	480

Zone D Population Estimates

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone D



Summary: Zone D

Population Objective: Decrease

Bear management criteria:	Status	4-year trend	Notes
Success rates	48.9% in 2021	-	Old Zone D: 52.2% stable 4-year average
Min preference points needed	2 in 2021	-	Old D: 5 in 2020
Hunter satisfaction w/quality of season	2020: (Old D) >60% / (Old A) >61% Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"	Increasing	2017: (Old D) >41% / (Old A) >46% Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"
Level of hunter crowding/conflict	Low	Stable	2020: (Old D) - 81% rated 1-3 (Old A) - >80% rated 1-3 *Feel crowded by other bear hunters? (scale of 1-9; 1=not at all)
Level of agricultural damage (crops, livestock, and apiary)	54	Stable	Old A: 34 Old D: 41
Number of nuisance and property complaints	201	Increasing	Old A: >160; +60% from 2019) Old D: >230 (+37%)
Level of bear health (disease)	Good	Stable	

Population Objective: Decrease

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone D

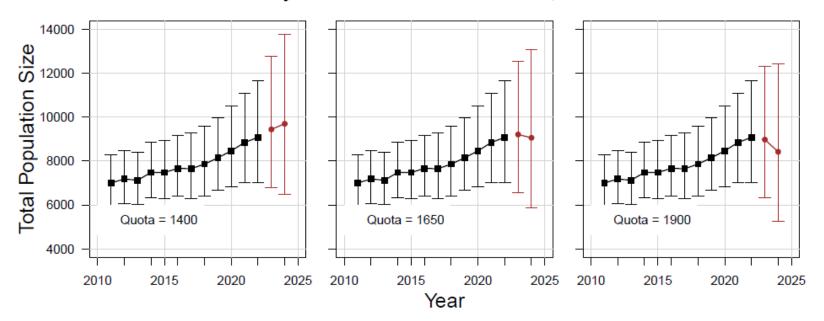


Table 8: Example projected population sizes for Zone D (4,872 mi²). Harvest goal for 2021 was 1,800, and preliminary harvest was 1,258. Given range is the 95% credible interval.

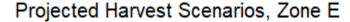
		Proposed Future Harvest	
Year	1400	1650	1900
2022	9,080 (7014-11657)	9,080 (7014-11657)	9,080 (7014-11657)
2023	9,445 (6786-12771)	9,212 (6547-12537)	8,979 (6317-12302)
2024	9,701 (6489-13760)	9,061 (5862-13084)	8,421 (5238-12426)

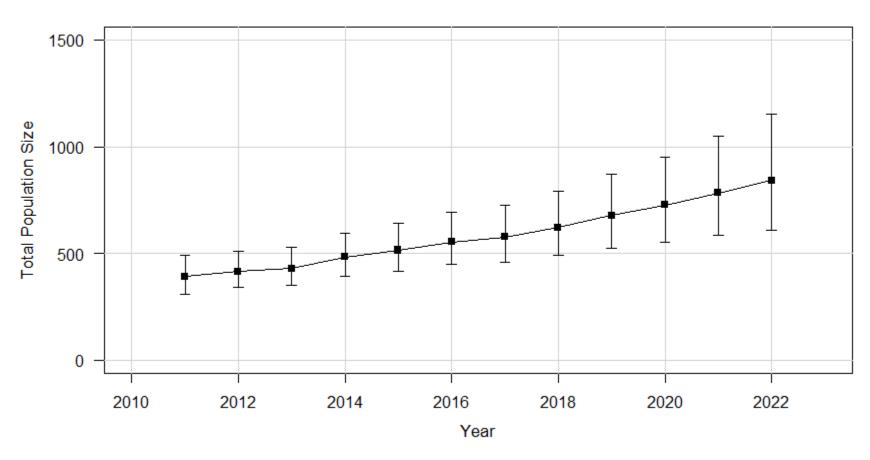
Permit allocation

Table 11: Proposed harvest goals and consequent proposed permit allocations for 2022, for new zones A, B, and D, compared to the harvest goals and allocations for 2021 in old zones. Note that the success rates are 4-year averages based on old zones prior to 2021, and new zones henceforth.

Zone	Year	Quota	4-yr Success Rate	Permit Allocation
A	2021	1100		1925
	2022	800	59.5	1,343
	2022	950	59.5	1,595
	2022	1,075	59.5	1,805
В	2021	750		1255
	2022	675	56.0	1,205
	2022	800	56.0	1,428
	2022	925	56.0	1,651
D	2021	1800		3450
	2022	1,400	48.9	2,862
	2022	1,650	48.9	3,374
	2022	1,900	48.9	3,885

Zone E Population Estimates





Summary: Zone E

Population Objective: Maintain

Bear management criteria:	Status	4-year trend	Notes – all uncertain
Success rates	6.2% in 2021	-	Old zone C: 13.4% 4-year average
Min preference points needed	1 in 2021	-	Previous C: 1 4-year trend
Hunter satisfaction w/quality of season	2020: (Old C) 23% Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"	Stable	2017: (Old C) 22% Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"
Level of hunter crowding/conflict	Old C: Low	Variable	2020: (Old C) >73% rated 1-3 *Feel crowded by other bear hunters? (scale of 1-9; 1=not at all)
Level of agricultural damage (crops, livestock, and apiary)	5	Stable	Old C: 17
Number of nuisance and property complaints	47	Stable	>140
Level of bear health (disease)	Good	Stable	

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone E

Population Objective: Maintain

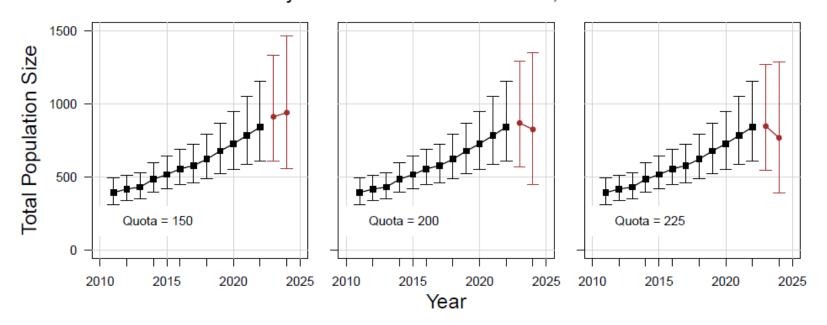


Table 9: Example projected population sizes for Zone E (9,497 mi²). Harvest goal for 2021 was 160, and preliminary harvest was 100. Given range is the 95% credible interval.

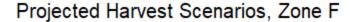
	Proposed Future Harvest				
Year	150	200	225		
2022	842 (611-1152)	842 (611-1152)	842 (611-1152)		
2023	912 (611-1335)	869 (568-1293)	847 (545-1270)		
2024	940 (558-1467)	825 (447-1349)	768 (391-1290)		

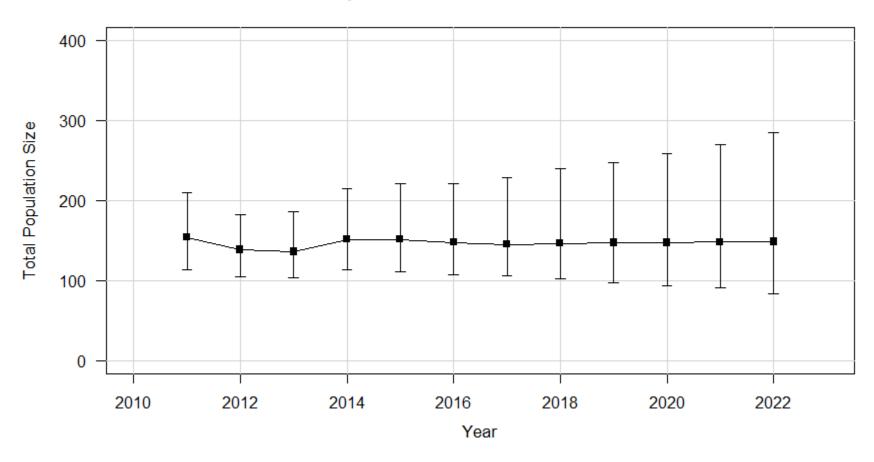
Permit allocation

Table 12: Proposed harvest goals and consequent proposed permit allocations for 2022, for zones C, E, and F. Success rates in 2021 for Zones C, E, and F, respectively, were 16.1%, 6.2%, and 8.3%.

			Permit Allocation		
Zone	Year	Quota	Success = 10%	Success = 20%	2021 rate
C	2021	600			
	2022	475	4,750	2,375	2,950
	2022	575	5,750	2,875	3,571
	2022	650	6,500	3,250	4,037
E	2021	160			
	2022	150	1,500	750	2,400
	2022	200	2,000	1,000	3,200
	2022	225	2,250	1,125	3,600
F	2021	30			
	2022	15	150	75	180
	2022	25	250	125	300
	2022	40	400	200	480

Zone F Population Estimates





Summary: Zone F

Population Objective: Minimize Presence of Bears From bear plan: "Allow local control over bear population"

Bear management criteria:	Status	4-year trend	Notes
Success rates	8.3% in 2021		Old C: 13.4% 4-year average
Min preference points needed	1 in 2021	-	Previous C: 1 4-year trend
Hunter satisfaction w/quality of season	2020: (Old C) 23% Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"	Stable	2017: (Old C) 22% Rated hunt "fairly high" or "very high"
Level of hunter crowding/conflict	Old C: Low	Variable	2020: (Old C) >73% rated 1-3 *Feel crowded by other bear hunters? (scale of 1-9; 1=not at all)
Level of agricultural damage (crops, livestock, and apiary)	2	Limited	Old C: 17
Number of nuisance and property complaints	20	Stable	>140
Level of bear health (disease)	Good	Stable	

Projected Harvest Scenarios, Zone F

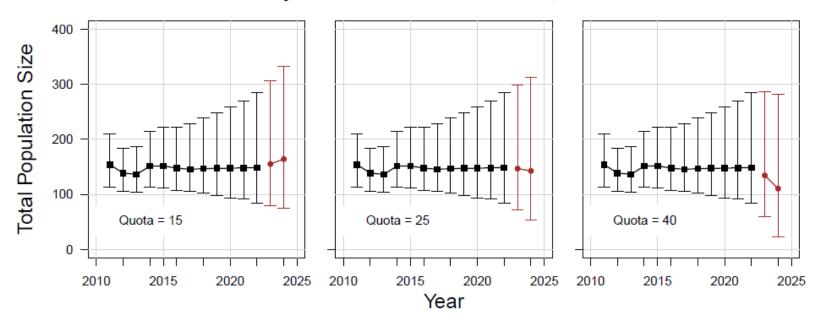


Table 10: Example projected population sizes for Zone F (16,908 mi²). Harvest goal for 2021 was 30, and preliminary harvest was 25. Given range is the 95% credible interval.

	Proposed Future Harvest			
Year	15	25	40	
2022	149 (84-285)	149 (84-285)	149 (84-285)	
2023	155 (80-306)	147 (71-298)	134 (59-286)	
2024	164 (74-333)	143 (54-312)	110 (23-281)	

Permit allocation

Table 12: Proposed harvest goals and consequent proposed permit allocations for 2022, for zones C, E, and F. Success rates in 2021 for Zones C, E, and F, respectively, were 16.1%, 6.2%, and 8.3%.

			Permit Allocation		
Zone	Year	Quota	Success = 10%	Success = 20%	2021 rate
C	2021	600			
	2022	475	4,750	2,375	2,950
	2022	575	5,750	2,875	3,571
	2022	650	6,500	3,250	4,037
\mathbf{E}	2021	160			
	2022	150	1,500	750	2,400
	2022	200	2,000	1,000	3,200
	2022	225	2,250	1,125	3,600
\mathbf{F}	2021	30			
	2022	15	150	75	180
	2022	25	250	125	300
	2022	40	400	200	480

CONNECT WITH US



Jennifer.pricetack@wisconsin.gov (715) 499-1097













Below are the zone-specific population objectives, quotas, and license levels developed and proposed by the DNR Bear Advisory Committee on 12/1/2021. These will be presented to the Department's Wildlife Leadership Team for their consideration in the decision-making process. The Department's 2022 bear season recommendations will be presented to the Natural Resources Board in January 2022.

Bear Zone	Population Objective	Proposed 2022 Quota	Proposed 2022 Licenses
Α	Maintain	1,075	1,805
В	Maintain	800	1,430
С	Maintain	600	3,000
D	Decrease	1,800	3,680
E	Maintain	200	2,000
F	Allow local control	25	250
Total		4,500	12,165

Drafted by Randy Johnson, DNR Large Carnivore Specialist

12/2/2021