

## **Goal Writing**

Goal: A broad statement of general direction based on values and principles.

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Writing something as a group can be difficult. To facilitate the process of drafting goals for the Bear Management Plan, we will use the following process:

1. Each subcommittee group will address their assigned goal area (Populations, Habitat, Human-Bear Interactions, Recreation,).
2. As a group, briefly discuss how the values can be consolidated into some common direction.
3. Each individual in the group should write a draft goal statement (or statements) incorporating the major values that have been identified.
4. Each member of the group should then read and comment on the draft statements made by the other group members.
5. The group then works together to reach consensus on the goal statement(s). Statements should be written on a sheet of flip chart paper.
6. The group presents its draft goal statement(s) to the whole committee, including a brief overview of the thought process followed to produce the statement.
7. Comments from the whole committee are incorporated into the goal statement until we reach consensus (as nearly as possible) on a goal statement.

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As examples/guide, please take a look at the goal statements from the first bear plan and deer plan on the following pages.

## **BEAR GOALS (2001-2010)**

### **BEAR POPULATIONS**

**Goal 1 - Population Viability:** Ensure the long-term viability of the northern Allegheny, southern Allegheny, northern Blue Ridge, southern Blue Ridge, southern Piedmont, and southeastern Tidewater black bear populations in Virginia through a comprehensive research, monitoring, management, education, and protection program.

**Goal 2 - Desirable Population Levels:** Maintain black bear populations throughout Virginia at levels compatible with land use, property concerns, and recreational opportunities; i.e., at cultural carrying capacity. The goal of maintaining or achieving long-term population viability in the northern Alleghenies, southern Alleghenies, northern Blue Ridge, southern Blue Ridge, southern Piedmont, and southeastern Tidewater should be of higher priority even when cultural carrying capacity is exceeded.

### **BEAR HABITAT**

**Goal 3 - Habitat Conservation and Management:** Conserve black bear habitat in Virginia, consistent with bear population objectives and with emphasis on areas of special significance (e.g., areas with source populations and habitat linkages). Conservation may consist of habitat management or protection.

### **BEAR-RELATED RECREATION**

**Goal 4 - Hunting Seasons And Demands:** Provide a diversity of black bear hunting opportunities in Virginia as a management tool and recreational experience, while discouraging or prohibiting activities that prevent attainment of black bear population objectives.

**Goal 5 - Ethics of Bear Hunting Methods:** Ensure that black bear hunting methods in Virginia, including chase and take, are fair and sportsmanlike.

**Goal 6 - Landowner and Citizen Conflicts with Bear Hunting:** Ensure that bear hunting activities are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners and other Virginia citizens.

**Goal 7 - Non-Hunting Recreation:** Provide opportunities for non-hunting recreation associated with black bears in Virginia with a focus on information and education designed to minimize negative human-bear interactions.

### **HUMAN-BEAR PROBLEMS**

**Goal 8 - Human-Bear Problems:** Promote human safety and protect personal income and property in attaining black bear population and recreation objectives in Virginia.

## DEER GOALS (2006-2015)

### DEER POPULATIONS

Goal 1: Manage local deer populations as a public resource using innovative, flexible, publicly accepted, and technically sound practices that balance:

- the varied needs and expectations of a diverse community (cultural carrying capacity)
- the requirements of a biologically diverse ecosystem
- the anticipated future social/ecosystem demands.

### DEER HABITAT

Goal 2: While working within the constraints of diverse land ownerships, use sound science to manage deer habitat compatible with deer population, recreation, and damage goals.

### DEER DAMAGE

Goal 3: Proactively manage deer impacts on a local basis consistent with deer population objectives and acceptable levels of damage. Manage agricultural, urban, ecosystem, vehicular, forestry, animal health, human health and safety, and other impacts caused by deer. Deer damage management should use diverse approaches and promote personal and community responsibility.

### DEER RECREATION

Goal 4: Provide opportunities for all citizens to safely and ethically enjoy diverse deer-related recreational experiences and traditions (including observation and hunting) consistent with deer population and damage goals.