

**Black Bear Management Plan**  
**Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, January 26, 2012, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Maymont in Richmond

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees**

Bob Ellis, VDGIF  
Jaime Sajecki, VDGIF  
Dave Steffen, VDGIF  
Andrea Criscione, Responsive Management  
Alison Lanier, Responsive Management

**SAC Breakout Group 1** (led by Jaime Sajecki, VDGIF)

Mary Arginteanu, Audubon Society  
Ron Circe, Reeks Nature Preserve  
Ken Landgraf, U.S. Forest Service  
Tim Kidwell, landowner  
Buck Kline, hunter  
Miranda Sadar, Wildlife Center of Virginia  
Don Schwab, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
David Steger, Virginia Bear Hunters Association

**SAC Breakout Group 2** (led by Dave Steffen, VDGIF)

Herb DiStefano, Virginia Association for Parks  
Este Fisher, Virginia Bear Hunters Association  
Adele MacLean, Sierra Club / Falls of the James  
Dave McCarthy, VMN Reeks Nature Preserve Chapter  
Lt. Shawn Sears, Henrico Police Animal Protection  
David Shelor, Landowner  
Tom Wood, George Mason University  
Christine Kauffman, George Mason University graduate student (observer only)

**Key**

\*Asterisk(s) denote same issue identified by both SAC breakout groups.

## **Overall Issues**

### **SAC Breakout Group 1**

- Education as a strategy in all goal areas\*
- Have education be its own goal

### **SAC Breakout Group 2**

- Are values expressed strongly enough in the goal statements?
  - will legislature recognize priority values by reading goal statements?
  - enough emphasis of values throughout goals?
- Are there enough resources to address / meet goals?
- Include education across goals, areas (population, habitat, etc.)?\*

### **Overall Discussion and Resolution of Issues**

- Glossary for plan?

## **Population Goals**

(Internal Note: In Doc2 handout, Goal Statement Comparisons 2001 vs. New, Population Goal 1 was switched; the 2001 goal listed is actually the new goal and vice versa.)

### **SAC Breakout Group 1**

#### Goal 1

- Goal about Estimating populations (objective, strategy)\*
  - most accurate way
  - scientific

#### Goal 2

- Define local (county, region)\*\*
  - define by 22 management zones

#### Not in Goals 2/3

- If an area is below CCC but can have more
- Clarify as objective w/in goal
  - If people want more and area can support more then clarify in objectives that can raise population to meet CCC not just the other way around

#### Goal 5

- Last sentence is redundant (remove)  
OR
- Last sentence needs to be expanded\*\*\*

#### Goals Overall

- Viable – undefined

### **SAC Breakout Group 2**

#### Goal 1

- Are monitoring programs accurate?\* (technical question)
- Wording issues (grammar)
- What is a viability region?\*\*\*

#### Goal 2

- What is “local” / “site-specific”?\*\*\*
- Population viability priority vs. local management – seem conflicting
- At what level is CCC applied? (local?, state?, etc.)

#### Goals 2-4

- Population viability as a priority or other issues (e.g., land use, etc.)
- Is the priority clearly reflected?
- Prioritization of goals?

## **Population Goals (continued)**

### Goal 5

- Verify BCC value – shared value?
- Flora as a consideration?\*\*\*

## **Overall Discussion and Resolution of Issues**

### Goal 1

- Add “technically sound”
- Better define scale – glossary? (e.g., region, zone, local, viability)
- Consistency of language (e.g., local, site-specific)

### Goal 3

- Clarify that CCC can be lowered and raised

### Goals 2 & 4

- Clarify that Goal 4 defines CCC (Goal 2)

### Goal 5

- First sentence is statement of fact, not goal (put in text of plan / preamble)
- Last sentence should be expanded (e.g., flora)

### Goals Overall

- Need to further examine BCC

**Habitat Goals**

**SAC Breakout Group 1**

- Good
- Where would education component go in Habitat?

**SAC Breakout Group 2**

- Good (no comments)

**Overall Discussion and Resolution of Issues**

- Good (no comments)

## **Recreation Goals**

### **SAC Breakout Group 1**

#### Goal 1

- Covers welfare w/o saying welfare
- Good

#### Goal 2

- Define fair / equitable in objective

#### Goal 3

- Good

#### Goal 4

- Good

#### Goals Overall

- Take “welfare” out of hunting; put in general recreation
  - welfare covered in population goal
  - **take out welfare altogether**
- Where would education component go in Habitat?

### **SAC Breakout Group 2**

#### Goal 1

- What is meant by “promote positive values” and “linked with outdoor activities”?

#### Goal 2

- Include “parity” in goals?

#### Goals Overall

- Reflect that recreation = hunting
  - other recreation?
- Increase hunting opportunities?
  - missing from goals?

## **Overall Discussion and Resolution of Issues**

#### Goal 1

- Work the concept of positive outdoor values and activities into the goal

#### Goal 2

- Reword? “Fair”?
  - (Note: Not completely resolved.)

#### Goals Overall (particularly Goals 3 & 4)

- Make sure goals reflect / address non-hunting recreation activities

## **Human-Bear Problem Goals**

### **SAC Breakout Group 1**

#### Goal 1

- Education goal
  - rewrite: “Education and promotion for human safety...”
- Strategy / objective
  - how / where get info out there
- What does “reasonably mitigate” mean?
  - include a financial component? (don’t like)
  - OK with education and technical assistance as long as no financial component

#### Goal 3

- Is an education goal
- Get rid of “free-range”; leave “keep bears wild”

#### Goal 4

- Strategy for Goal 3 or 1?
- \*Reword (do not like term “lethal”)
  - *important*: rewrite: when lethal methods are required to deal with a problem, bear hunting is preferred
  - not all hunting methods are lethal (when feasible)!!
  - this might be a strategy
  - strategy: define when lethal is used; define when non-lethal is used

#### Goals Overall

- Kill permit / other killed bears should be utilized
- Recreational value → nuisance

### **SAC Breakout Group 2**

#### Goal 1

- Should human safety be a priority / goal?
  - are bears a threat to humans? (No, but wording suggests they are.)
- Reword? Balance?
- Should income be included?

#### Goal 4

- Hunting → is hunting overused through the goals?
- Further explain?
  - \*when lethal is necessary?

#### Goals Overall

- Education missing from goals?
  - education as a way to address / reduce conflicts
- Increase education opportunities?

## **Human-Bear Problem Goals (continued)**

### **Overall Discussion and Resolution of Issues**

#### Goal 1

- Reword
  - don't start with "human safety"
- Reword
  - should not imply that it means financial compensation
  - means technical assistance, education

#### Goal 3

- Use consistent language
  - Drop "free-range", use "keep bears wild" as done in other goals
- Add "minimize lethal approaches"

#### Goal 4

- Reword
  - to include "when lethal methods are required"
  - add "when feasible"



## **Other Issues**

### **SAC Breakout Group 1**

#### Orphan Cubs

- Strategy under recreation goal?
- Funding for orphan cubs not from state
- Important value: orphan cubs → raising to be wild

#### Fox Pens

- Under Goal 3 in Human-Bear Problems

### **SAC Breakout Group 2**

(Note: Orphan Cubs and Fox Pens not discussed during breakout session by Group 2)

## **Overall Discussion and Resolution of Issues**

#### Orphan Cubs

- Raising them to be wild (releasable)
- Public education value
- \$
- Wrap into human-bear interactions

#### Fox Pens

- Proactive requirements
- Currently placing foxes / dogs ahead of bears
- Shared responsibility