

**Black Bear Management Plan**  
**Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting (Region 1)**  
Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 10:00 am-4:00 pm  
Lake Anna State Park  
**Meeting Summary: Finalized Values and Draft Goals**

**Meeting Attendees**

Mary Arginteanu, Audubon, Richmond

[mary.arginteanu@gmail.com](mailto:mary.arginteanu@gmail.com), [maryarg@aol.com](mailto:maryarg@aol.com)

Dave Burpee, Virginia Bowhunters Association, Fairfax

[burpeed@verizon.net](mailto:burpeed@verizon.net)

Herb Distefano, Virginia Association for Parks, Spotsylvania County

[herbd911@comcast.net](mailto:herbd911@comcast.net)

Brian Gallagher, Central Virginia Beekeepers Association, Albemarle County

[brian.j.gallagher@comcast.net](mailto:brian.j.gallagher@comcast.net)

Doug Graham, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Spotsylvania County

[douglas.graham@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:douglas.graham@dcr.virginia.gov)

Fred Kallmeyer, Bull Run Mountain Civic Association, Prince William County

[fredkall@aol.com](mailto:fredkall@aol.com)

Tim Kidwell, Powhatan County

[CountryCarpetC@aol.com](mailto:CountryCarpetC@aol.com)

Adele Maclean, Sierra Club/Falls of the James, Southside

[amaclean94@gmail.com](mailto:amaclean94@gmail.com)

Dave McCarthy, Virginia Master Naturalist, Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve Chapter, Loudoun County

[dmmail07@earthlink.net](mailto:dmmail07@earthlink.net)

Ken and Dale Pickin, Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association, Williamsburg

[kpickin@bealenet.com](mailto:kpickin@bealenet.com)

Lt. Shawn Sears, Henrico Police Animal Protection Unit, Henrico County

[sea21@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:sea21@co.henrico.va.us)

Sheryl Winkler, Spotsylvania County

[sherylwinkler@comcast.net](mailto:sherylwinkler@comcast.net)

Kim Winter, Piedmont Environmental Council, Fauquier County

[kwinter@pecva.org](mailto:kwinter@pecva.org)

Tom Wood, Piedmont Environmental Council and George Mason University

[twood@gmu.edu](mailto:twood@gmu.edu)

**Feedback on Technical Draft**

There were no additional comments on the technical chapters of the draft plan. The draft technical chapters can be accessed at

[http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/VABear/DRAFT\\_BearMgmtPlan\\_2011\\_2020\\_TechnicalPortion.pdf](http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/VABear/DRAFT_BearMgmtPlan_2011_2020_TechnicalPortion.pdf). As you continue to review the technical draft of the 2011-2020 plan,

please submit additional feedback and comments to [andrea@responsivemanagement.com](mailto:andrea@responsivemanagement.com).

**Key for Values**

✓ Final Identified and Accepted Value, including edits discussed at meeting

~~Strikethrough Font~~ = deleted value or deleted text based on edits discussed at meeting

Blue Font = added text based on edits discussed at meeting

Please note the listed values also include values originally identified by other regions that this group accepted.

Finalized values and draft goal statements begin on the following page.

## Bear Population

### Final Bear Population Values Identified by Region 1:

- ✓ Ensure the long-term viability of bear populations in all areas [management regions](#)
- ✓ Base management decisions on scientific research, monitoring, education, and protection programs
- ✓ Maintain bear populations at levels compatible with cultural carrying capacity (CCC)
- ✓ Even if CCC is exceeded [in a management region](#), population viability is more important
  - Group Note: if CCC and viability are contradictory, viability “wins”
- ✓ Bear populations levels / goals should adapt to changing CCC
- ✓ Maintain bear population in some areas at biological carrying capacity (BCC)
  - Group Notes:
    - value is a scientific one
    - in some areas have BCC to be able to study / understand bears
    - there is value in an “unmanaged” population for study
    - question: does VDGIF have resources to study such a population?
- ✓ “Manage” CCC to meet current and projected bear population goals
- ✓ Hunting is an effective management tool for bear populations
- ~~➤ Increase hunting opportunities in appropriate areas~~
  - accepted but moved to Bear-Related Recreation Values
- ✓ Bear populations are an important component of the ecosystem
- ✓ Bear population management should be site-specific
  - Group Note: suggest using different word than “site,” perhaps “local” or “area”
  - General Group Comment: concerned about confusion of use of “site” vs. “area” vs. “region” in values; would like to see them defined and used consistently in plan
- ~~➤ Population objectives should reflect habitat availability (rather than having to improve habitat to attain population objectives)~~

### Bear Population Goals Drafted by Region 1:

- Ensure the long-term population viability of black bear in all management regions through comprehensive research, monitoring, management, education, and protection programs.

- Manage current and projected bear populations at levels adaptable to a changing CCC, with population viability as a priority.
- Bear populations are an important component of the ecosystem. Using hunting as a management tool, bear populations can be managed on a site-specific basis with some areas maintained at BCC.

## Bear Habitat

### **Final Bear Habitat Values Identified by Region 1:**

- ✓ Conserve black bear habitat consistent with [bear management objectives as well as](#) overall stewardship objectives
- ✓ Habitat conservation should emphasize areas of special significance (e.g., areas with source populations and habitat linkages)
- ✓ Habitat conservation may consist of habitat management or protection
- ~~➤ Protect and restore riparian corridors~~
  - Group Note: will be done as it relates to bear management
- ✓ Manage bear habitat for the benefit of multiple species, including bear
- ~~➤ Increase amount of habitat~~
  - Group Note: will be done as it relates to bear management
- ✓ Involve local landowners in stewardship efforts
- ~~➤ Promote mast management, education, conservation easements; identify critical habitat areas; improve habitat quality, reduce fragmentation~~
- ✓ Habitat management and planning should consider long-term needs (potential habitat changes and potential human-bear interactions)

### **Bear Habitat Goal Drafted by Region 1:**

- Manage black bear habitat in Virginia consistent with bear population and other species objectives, with emphasis on source populations, habitat linkages and changes, landowner stewardship, and human-bear interactions.

## Human-Bear Interactions

### Final Human-Bear Interaction Values Identified by Region 1:

- ✓ Promote human safety
- ✓ ~~Protect~~ Mitigate loss of personal income
  - Group Note: would like to “soften” wording as suggested in the edits above; “protect” too strong
- ✓ ~~Protect~~ Mitigate loss of and damage to ~~personal~~ private property
  - Group Notes:
    - would like to “soften” wording as suggested in the edits above; “protect” too strong
    - think “private” property is more appropriate / accurate than “personal”
- ✓ Should still attain population and recreation objectives while ~~protecting~~ promoting people human safety, mitigating the loss of personal income, and mitigating the loss of and damage to private property
  - Group Notes:
    - would like to add property and income back in (were previously removed to modify original 2001 value)
    - would like to “soften” wording as suggested in the edits above; “protecting” too strong
  - VDGIF Note: based on above group notes, edited wording to reflect language used in preceding three accepted values shown above
- ✓ Shared agency / citizen responsibility for bear problems
- ✓ Private responsibility for a public resource
  - Group Note: this value is the same as value immediately above
- ✓ Keep bears wild by preventing dependency on humans
- ✓ Response to bear issues should be coordinated and consistent
- ✓ Promote human safety by encouraging / enforcing good bear-safe practice
  - Group Note: related to value above about keeping bears wild and preventing bear dependency on humans
- ✓ Hunting is preferred over kill permits to manage problem bears
- ~~➤ Keep farmers’ ability to produce profitable crops (priority should be given to protecting livelihoods)~~
- ✓ Management should be proactive rather than reactive

### **Human-Bear Interaction Goals Drafted by Region 1:**

- Promote human safety and recreational opportunities while reasonably mitigating loss of personal property and income.
- Encourage private as well as government responsibility by providing collaborative and consistent conflict resolution.
- Ensure the long-term viability of bear populations by fostering sound, proactive management practices that reinforce free-range behavior.
- Use hunting as a preferred method to manage problem bears.

## Bear-Related Recreation Values

### Final Bear-Related Recreation Values Identified by Region 1:

- ✓ Provide a diversity of hunting opportunities
- ✓ Hunting is a management tool
- ✓ Hunting as a recreational experience
- ✓ Discourage or prohibit activities that prevent attainment of population objectives
- ✓ Hunting methods (~~chase and take included~~) are fair and sportsmanlike
  - Group Notes:
    - this value is all-inclusive of legal hunting methods
    - this region DOES consider “chase and take” to be fair and sportsmanlike and to be included in this value
    - “chase and take included” was NOT deleted because it is not considered fair and sportsmanlike but because it seemed that by naming only that hunting method in the value it was being singled out as if indeed it may not be considered fair and sportsmanlike
- ✓ Hunting activities respect the rights of private property owners
- ✓ Hunting activities respect the rights of other Virginia citizens
- ✓ Provide opportunities for non-hunting recreation
- ✓ ~~Non-hunting~~ Bear-related recreation should minimize negative human-bear interactions and promote keeping bears wild (i.e., preventing dependency on humans)
- ~~➔ Non-hunting recreation should focus on information and education~~
- ✓ Promote humane hunting methods
- ~~➔ Bear hunting is a tradition~~
  - Group Note: this region does not dispute that bear hunting is a tradition but does not view this as being stated as a value nor as a necessary statement to include in the bear management plan
- ✓ Promote safe hunting practices
- ✓ Harvested bears should be utilized
- ✓ Increase hunting opportunities in appropriate areas
  - moved from Bear Population values and accepted



- ✓ Promote educated and informed bear-related recreation
- ✓ Promote bear welfare in hunting seasons
- ✓ Hunting methods are ethical and legal
- ~~➤ Public land is an important component of all bear-related recreation~~

**Overall Region 1 Group Comments:**

- Should VDGIF management efforts be funded only by hunting activities?
  - this region wanted to note that it values diverse funding of management agencies

**Bear-Related Recreation Goals Drafted by Region 1:**

- Provide opportunities for recreation and education associated with black bears in Virginia designed to promote positive values and to be linked with outdoor activities.
- Provide a diversity of black bear hunting opportunities in Virginia as a management tool and a recreational experience, while discouraging or prohibiting activities that prevent attainment of black bear population objectives.
- Ensure that black bear hunting methods in Virginia are fair, safe, sportsmanlike, humane, ethical, and legal. Harvested bears should be utilized.
- Ensure that bear hunting activities are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners and other Virginia citizens.