

**Bear Management Plan Values and Goals From Stakeholder Advisory Committee**  
**Region 1 (10/12/10)**

SAC VALUES	DRAFT SAC GOAL STATEMENTS
<b>Population</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ensure the long-term viability of bear populations in all management regions</li> <li>✓ Base management decisions on scientific research, monitoring, education, and protection programs</li> <li>✓ Maintain bear populations at levels compatible with cultural carrying capacity (CCC)</li> <li>✓ Even if CCC is exceeded in a management region, population viability is more important               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Note: if CCC and viability are contradictory, viability “wins”</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Bear populations levels / goals should adapt to changing CCC</li> <li>✓ Maintain bear population in some areas at biological carrying capacity (BCC)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Notes:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• value is a scientific one</li> <li>• in some areas have BCC to be able to study / understand bears</li> <li>• there is value in an “unmanaged” population for study</li> <li>• question: does VDGIF have resources to study such a population?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ “Manage” CCC to meet current and projected bear population goals</li> <li>✓ Hunting is an effective management tool for bear populations</li> <li>✓ Bear populations are an important component of the ecosystem</li> <li>✓ Bear population management should be site-specific               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Note: suggest using different word than “site,” perhaps “local” or “area”</li> <li>○ 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure the long-term population viability of black bear in all management regions through comprehensive research, monitoring, management, education, and protection programs.</li> <li>➤ Manage current and projected bear populations at levels adaptable to a changing CCC, with population viability as a priority.</li> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Habitat</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conserve black bear habitat consistent with bear management objectives as well as overall stewardship objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Manage black bear habitat in Virginia consistent with bear population and other species objectives, with emphasis on source populations, habitat</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Habitat conservation should emphasize areas of special significance (e.g., areas with source populations and habitat linkages)</li> <li>✓ Habitat conservation may consist of habitat management or protection</li> <li>✓ Manage bear habitat for the benefit of multiple species, including bear</li> <li>✓ Involve local landowners in stewardship efforts</li> <li>✓ Habitat management and planning should consider long-term needs (potential habitat changes and potential human-bear interactions)</li> </ul>	<p>linkages and changes, landowner stewardship, and human-bear interactions.</p>
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### Human-Bear Interaction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Promote human safety</li> <li>✓ Mitigate loss of personal income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Note: would like to “soften” wording as suggested in the edits above; “protect” too strong</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Mitigate loss of and damage to private property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• would like to “soften” wording as suggested in the edits above; “protect” too strong</li> <li>• think “private” property is more appropriate / accurate than “personal”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Should still attain population and recreation objectives while promoting human safety, mitigating the loss of personal income, and mitigating the loss of and damage to private property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• would like to add property and income back in (were previously removed to modify original 2001 value)</li> <li>• would like to “soften” wording as suggested in the edits above; “protecting” too strong</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ VDGIF Note: based on above group notes, edited wording to reflect language used in preceding three accepted values shown above</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Shared agency / citizen responsibility for bear problems</li> <li>✓ Private responsibility for a public resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Note: this value is the same as value immediately above</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Keep bears wild by preventing dependency on humans</li> <li>✓ Response to bear issues should be coordinated and consistent</li> <li>✓ Promote human safety by encouraging / enforcing good bear-safe practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Note: related to value above about keeping</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promote human safety and recreational opportunities while reasonably mitigating loss of personal property and income.</li> <li>➤ Encourage private as well as government responsibility by providing collaborative and consistent conflict resolution.</li> <li>➤ Ensure the long-term viability of bear populations by fostering sound, proactive management practices that reinforce free-range behavior.</li> <li>➤ Use hunting as a preferred method to manage problem bears.</li> </ul>
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<p>bears wild and preventing bear dependency on humans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hunting is preferred over kill permits to manage problem bears</li> <li>✓ Management should be proactive rather than reactive</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Recreation</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide a diversity of hunting opportunities</li> <li>✓ Hunting is a management tool</li> <li>✓ Hunting as a recreational experience</li> <li>✓ Discourage or prohibit activities that prevent attainment of population objectives</li> <li>✓ Hunting methods are fair and sportsmanlike <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this value is all-inclusive of legal hunting methods</li> <li>• this region DOES consider “chase and take” to be fair and sportsmanlike and to be included in this value</li> <li>• “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</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Hunting activities respect the rights of private property owners</li> <li>✓ Hunting activities respect the rights of other Virginia citizens</li> <li>✓ Provide opportunities for non-hunting recreation</li> <li>✓ Bear-related recreation should minimize negative human-bear interactions and promote keeping bears wild (i.e., preventing dependency on humans)</li> <li>✓ Promote humane hunting methods</li> <li>✓ Promote safe hunting practices</li> <li>✓ Harvested bears should be utilized</li> <li>✓ Increase hunting opportunities in appropriate areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ moved from Bear Population values and accepted</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Promote educated and informed bear-related recreation</li> <li>✓ Promote bear welfare in hunting seasons</li> <li>✓ Hunting methods are ethical and legal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide opportunities for recreation and education associated with black bears in Virginia designed to promote positive values and to be linked with outdoor activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>:</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ Ensure that black bear hunting methods in Virginia are fair, safe, sportsmanlike, humane, ethical, and legal. Harvested bears should be utilized.</li> <li>➤ Ensure that bear hunting activities are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners and other Virginia citizens.</li> </ul>