

**Black Bear Management Plan
Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting (Region 2)**

Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Prince Edward County Virginia Cooperative Extension Office Farmville, VA

Meeting Summary: Finalized Values and Draft Goals

Attendees

Curtis Crump, Landowner, Amherst County

crumpmtcottage@pngusa.net

Este Fisher, bluedogs@ntelos.net

David Hayes, Landowner, Henry County

davidhayes@kimbanet.com

Lowie, Chris, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake County

chris_lowie@fws.gov

Ralph Reynolds, Landowner, Appomattox County

(434) 352-7766

Stuart Ward, Charlotte County

stuart.ward@va.usda.gov

Helen Warriner-Burke, Southside SPCA, Amelia County

ballybrack@tds.net

Feedback on Technical Draft

- Clearly define the terms cultural carrying capacity (CCC) and biological carrying capacity (BCC)

- The draft technical chapters can be accessed at 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.

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 2:

- ✓ Comprehensive management includes population management, public education, and protection of bears
- ✓ Management should be based on best, most accurate, comprehensive information
- ✓ Maintain bear populations at levels compatible with cultural carrying capacity (CCC)
- ~~➤ Even if CCC is exceeded, population viability is more important~~
 - Group Note: This value is covered by edits made to the following value.
- ✓ Ensure the long-term viability of bear population statewide [in each region](#)
- ✓ Bear populations are an important component of the ecosystem
- ~~➤ Population objectives should reflect habitat availability (rather than having to acquire/improve habitat to attain population objectives) (from Habitat)~~
- ✓ Bear populations levels / goals should adapt to changing CCC
- ~~➤ Maintain bear population in some areas at biological carrying capacity (BCC)~~
- ✓ “Manage” CCC to meet current and projected bear population goals
 - Note: effort to make CCC = bear population
- ✓ Bear population management should be local (site-specific)
- ✓ Managing for a balance in bear, deer, and other wildlife populations
- ✓ Black bear populations have economic implications
 - Group Note: economic implications can be local

Bear Population Goals Drafted by Region 2:

- Population Viability: Ensure the long-term viability of bears within each region of Virginia through a comprehensive monitoring, management, public education, and protection program.
- Carrying Capacity: Maintain populations at local levels, compatible with CCC.

Bear-Related Recreation Values

Final Bear-Related Recreation Values Identified by Region 2:

- ✓ Provide a diversity of hunting opportunities
 - Group Note: allocation guidance – parity
- ✓ 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 hunting methods that are considered fair and sportsmanlike
 - this region DOES consider “chase and take” to be fair and sportsmanlike and to be included in this value
- ✓ Hunting activities respect the rights of private property owners
- ✓ Hunting activities respect the rights of ~~other Virginia~~ all citizens
- ✓ Provide opportunities for non-hunting recreation
- ~~➤ Non-hunting recreation should minimize negative human-bear interactions~~
- ~~➤ Non-hunting recreation should focus on information and education~~
- ✓ Promote non-hunting recreation opportunities, activities, and participation as a priority (not just information and education)
- ✓ Provide a diversity of bear-related recreation and opportunities (combines two 2001 values)
- ✓ Promote educated and informed bear-related recreation
- ✓ Promote bear welfare in ~~hunting seasons~~ all bear-related recreation
- ✓ Hunting methods are ethical and legal
- ✓ Bears have recreational, non-hunting value to ~~all~~ citizens
- ✓ Increase hunting opportunities in appropriate areas

➤ ~~Hunting methods are humane~~

- Group Note: already covered in another value
- ✓ Bear-related recreation should minimize negative human-bear interactions and promote keeping bears wild (i.e., preventing dependency on humans)
- ✓ Promote safe hunting practices
- ✓ Harvested bears should be utilized, [including bears taken with kill permits](#)

Bear-Related Recreation Goals Drafted by Region 2:

- Provide diversity to all hunters.
- Hunting is a recreational experience that is good for all citizens and to achieve population objectives.
- Hunting methods are ethical and legal (i.e., fair chase)
- All methods of hunting should be the choice of the individual.
- Promote non-hunting recreation for all citizens, including education and information of bear-related issues.
- Harvested bears should be utilized, including kill permits.
- Diversity of hunting opportunities need to be allocated more evenly / equally.

Bear Habitat

Final Bear Habitat Values Identified by Region 2:

- ✓ Conserve black bear habitat consistent with bear population 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
- ~~➤ Provide and protect habitat for all bear life states (e.g., feeding, etc.)~~
 - Group Note: covered in values above
- ~~➤ Bear habitat has value for human population as well~~
- ~~➤ Maintain riparian corridors to meet the needs of bears and other wildlife~~
 - Group Note: covered in values above
- ~~➤ Population objectives should reflect habitat availability (rather than having to acquire/improve habitat to attain population objectives)~~
- ✓ Manage bear habitat for the benefit of multiple species (overall stewardship), including bear
- ✓ Involve local landowners in stewardship efforts
- ~~➤ Conserve black bear large-scale habitats consistent with bear population objectives by providing incentives and assistance to landowners (TNC, etc.)~~
 - Group Note: covered in values above
- ✓ Habitat management, conservation, planning, and acquisition should consider long-term needs, goals, potential habitat changes, and potential human-bear interactions

Bear Habitat Goals Drafted by Region 2:

- Habitat Conservation and Management: Conserve habitat in Virginia, consistent with long-term population objectives.
- Habitat Enhancement: Educate private landowners of stewardship needs, efforts, and opportunities and emphasize areas of special significance.

Human-Bear Interactions

Final Human-Bear Interaction Values Identified by Region 2:

- ✓ Promote human safety
- ✓ ~~Protect~~ Promote protection of personal income
- ✓ ~~Protect~~ Promote protection of personal property
- ✓ Should still attain population and recreation objectives while ~~protecting~~ promoting protection of people, property, and income
- ~~Maintain balance between CCC and bear populations~~
- ✓ Consistent / correct response to bear problems / complaints not only within agencies but between agencies
- ✓ Shared public / agency responsibility for bear problems
- ✓ Hunting is preferred lethal bear management tool (preferred over kill permits, etc.)
- ✓ Keep bears wild (~~including bear welfare, promoting bear welfare~~)
- ✓ Farmers' ability to produce profitable crops
- ~~Reasonably protect (vs. mitigate loss of) personal income~~
- ~~Reasonably protect (vs. mitigate loss of and damage to) personal property~~
- ✓ Proactive rather than reactive management

Human-Bear Interaction Goal Drafted by Region 2:

- Assure shared public / agency responsibility in the promotion of human safety and protection of personal income and property.
 - Note: Hunting preferred tool to attain objectives and profitable crops is an objective under the goal.