

Bear Management Plan Values and Goals From Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Region 3 (10/19/10)

SAC VALUES	DRAFT SAC GOAL STATEMENTS
Population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure the long-term viability of bear populations in all areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group Note: would like to see more specific or better defined term than “areas” used here ✓ Comprehensive research, monitoring, management, education, and protection programs ✓ Maintain bear populations at levels compatible with land use, property concerns, and recreational opportunities; i.e., at cultural carrying capacity (CCC) ✓ Even if CCC is exceeded, population viability is more important ✓ Bear population management should be local (site-specific) ✓ Bear populations are an important component of the ecosystem ✓ Managing for a balance in bear, deer, and other wildlife populations ✓ Black bear populations have economic implications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ moved from Bear-Related Recreation values, edited, and accepted ✓ Bear population levels / goals should adapt to changing CCC ✓ “Manage” CCC to meet current and projected bear population goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group Note: effort to make CCC = bear population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure the long-term viability of black bear populations in Virginia through a comprehensive research, monitoring, management, education, and protection program. Management should be site-specific and should balance needs of other wildlife populations. ➤ Maintain black bear populations throughout Virginia at levels compatible with land use, property concerns, and recreational opportunities while recognizing economic and ecological considerations. ➤ The goal of maintaining or achieving long-term population viability should be of higher priority even when CCC is exceeded. When necessary, both CCC and bear populations can be managed to meet objectives.
Habitat:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conserve black bear large-scale habitats consistent with bear population objectives by providing incentives and assistance to landowners (TNC, etc.) ✓ Habitat management / conservation should emphasize areas of special significance and sanctuaries to meet bear population objectives ✓ Habitat management, conservation, planning, and acquisition should consider long-term needs, goals, potential habitat changes, and potential human-bear interactions ✓ Manage bear habitat for the benefit of multiple species (overall stewardship), including bear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conserve and manage black bear large-scale habitats consistent with bear population objectives by providing incentives and assistance to landowners. ➤ Habitat conservation and management should emphasize areas of special significance and sanctuaries to meet population objectives. Habitat conservation / management planning and acquisition should consider long-term needs, goals, potential habitat changes, and potential human-bear interactions. ➤ Manage and conserve bear habitat for the benefit of multiple species.

Recreation:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide a diversity of hunting opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group Note: diversity does not just refer to diversity of hunting methods but also of experiences, activities (e.g., a wilderness experience, etc.) ✓ Hunting is a primary management tool ✓ Hunting is valued as a recreational experience ✓ Discourage or prohibit activities that prevent attainment of population objectives ✓ Hunting methods are fair and sportsmanlike <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • “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 ✓ Promote educated and informed bear-related recreation ✓ Hunting methods are humane, ethical, and legal ✓ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group Note: please explain in plan by including data on hunter use of bear meat, point out programs that take the meat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hunting Seasons and Demands: Provide a diversity and parity of black bear hunting opportunities in Virginia as a primary management tool and valued recreational experience, while discouraging or prohibiting activities that prevent attainment of black bear population objectives. ➤ Ethics of Bear Hunting Methods: Ensure that black bear hunting methods in Virginia are safe, legal, humane, and ethical. ➤ 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. ➤ Bear-Related Recreation: Provide opportunities for recreation associated with black bears in Virginia with a focus on information and education to minimize negative human-bear interactions and promote keeping bears wild. |
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Human-Bear Problems:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Promote human safety✓ Reasonably protect personal income✓ Reasonably protect personal property✓ Should still attain population and recreation objectives while protecting people✓ Keep bears wild<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Group Note: “wild” refers to natural behavior, avoiding habituation; may want to reword✓ Proactive rather than reactive management✓ Hunting is preferred over kill permits to manage problem bears✓ Shared agency / citizen responsibility for bear problems✓ Response to bear issues should be coordinated and consistent | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ When necessary, both CCC and bear populations can be managed to meet bear population objectives. |
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