

**BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
FOR
BEAR DAU B-2
GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS
50, 500, 501, 511, 512, 58, 581, 59 & 591**

Prepared for:
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Southeast Region

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SPORT HARVEST OBJECTIVE: Sport harvest should not exceed 35 bears per year on a 3-year average.

PRESCRIPTIONS: If sport harvest exceeds the goal: Re-evaluate the harvest goals and population estimates to ensure the goal is correct, adjust the number of September limited licenses and redirect hunting pressure to other areas.

DAMAGE OBJECTIVE: Damage caused by bears should not exceed \$10,000 per year on a 3-year average.

PRESCRIPTIONS: If damage caused by bears exceeds the objective: Focus control on individual bears causing damage. Utilize game damage investigator and insurance adjustors. Increase public information efforts towards prevention of problems.

HUMAN/BEAR CONFLICT OBJECTIVE: Human/bear conflicts have averaged 75 complaints per year. The objective is to have fewer than 100 complaints per year.

PRESCRIPTIONS: If human/bear conflicts exceed 100 per year:

- Increase public information efforts.
- Request additional temporary employee or technician time to work with landowners dealing with bears. Conduct additional workshops for the public, land use agencies and law enforcement personal about bears and how to respond and prevent conflicts. Increase efforts to cooperate with land use agencies with campground presentations to visitors.
- Work with county planners to avoid building in areas where there is high potential for bear/human conflicts.

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- Work with trash companies to provide bear-proof trash containers to problem areas.

SUMMARY: As B-2 is developed and an increasing number of people are living and recreating in bear habitat, bear conflicts and damage to personal property are likely to increase. Education and information programs have kept conflicts and damage to a minimum and these efforts will continue. Bear hunting opportunities will decrease as developments occur in bear habitat.

Currently, data indicate that black bears are not a major factor in regulating deer or elk populations. Elk populations in this bear DAU are stable or increasing and deer populations in some areas are declining while other areas have an increasing number of deer. Sport hunting will be utilized to harvest bears at a level that will allow maximum hunter opportunity and maintain a healthy bear population. Individual animals that cause excessive damage to livestock, personal property or pose a threat to human health or welfare will be removed as necessary. Control activity, other than sport harvest, is not anticipated to benefit deer or elk populations.