

Review of Proposed Changes to Bear Plan

Bear Forum Input Meeting 08/28/18

Overview of Meeting

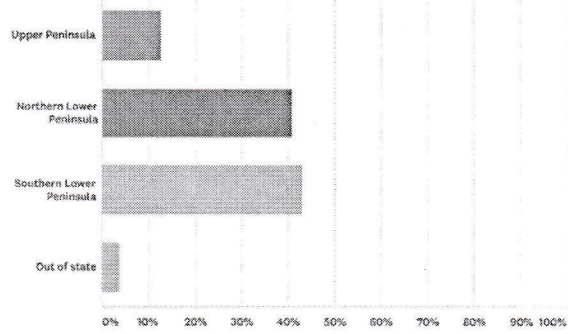
- Review comments from public
- Science-based management
- Review potential changes to DNR bear plan
- Input from you

Who responded to our questionnaire?

- 67% rural
- 26% suburban

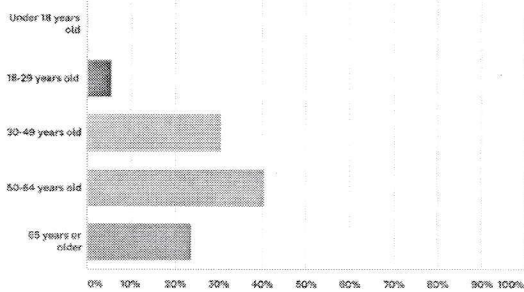
Q9 Where do you currently live for most of the year?

Answered: 2,538 Skipped: 88



Q12 What is your age?

Answered: 2,540 Skipped: 64

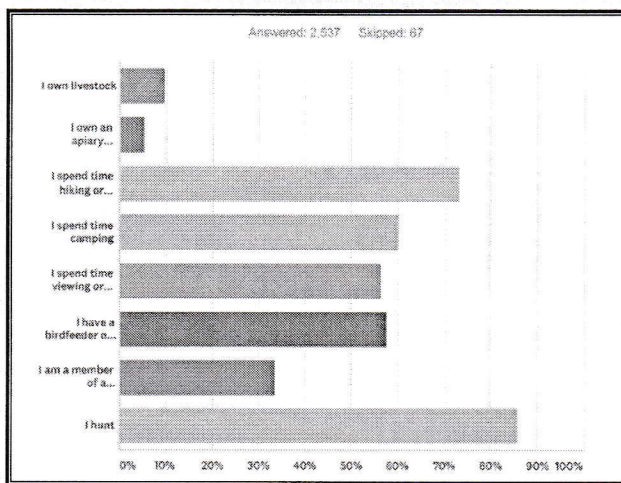


Who responded to our questionnaire?

- 85% male

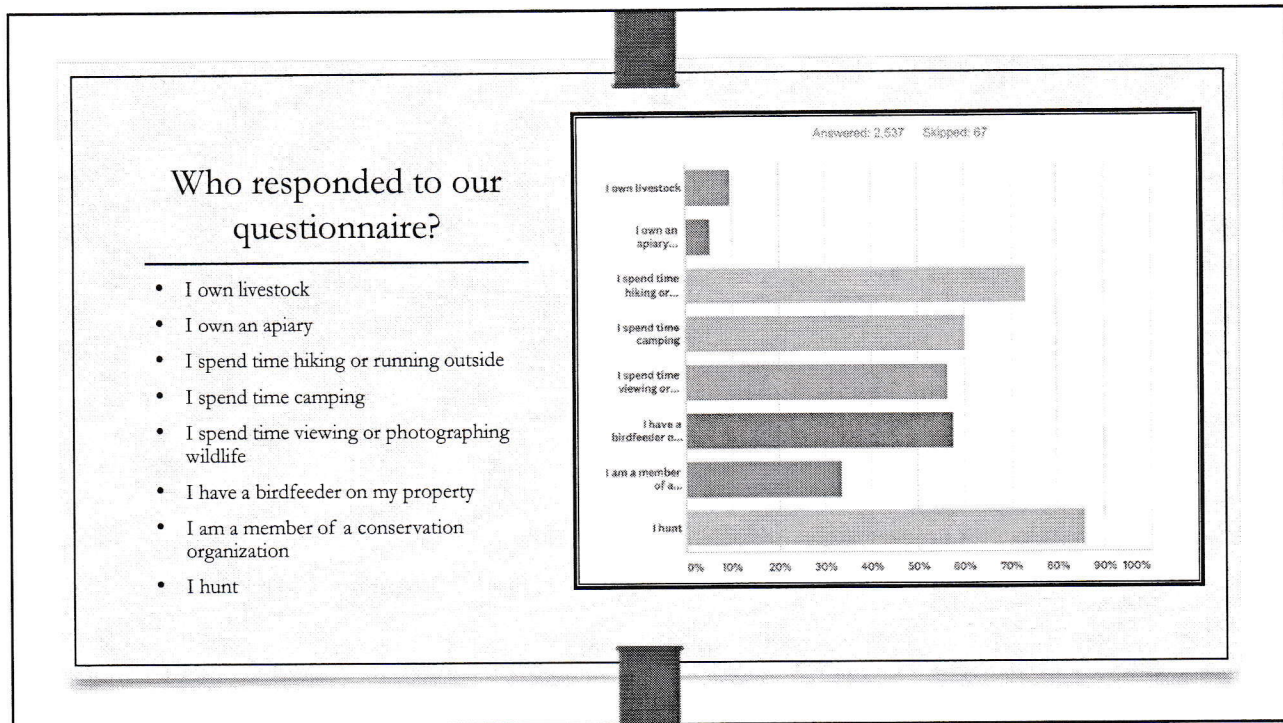
Who responded to our questionnaire?

- I own livestock
- I own an apiary
- I spend time hiking or running outside
- I spend time camping
- I spend time viewing or photographing wildlife
- I have a birdfeeder on my property
- I am a member of a conservation organization
- I hunt



How do people feel about bears?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I enjoy the presence of bears and I do not worry about problems bears may cause	58.89%	1,523
I enjoy the presence of bears, but I worry about problems bears may cause	20.61%	533
I do not enjoy the presence of bears and regard them as a nuisance	8.04%	208
I have no particular feelings about bears	2.67%	69
Not applicable	9.78%	253
TOTAL		2,586



How do people feel about bears?

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Importance of Overall Goals

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
5.1 Maintain a Sustainable Population within Biological Carrying Capacity	2.83% 54	4.09% 78	10.38% 198	38.00% 725	44.71% 853	1,908
5.2 Facilitate Bear-Related Benefits	4.44% 84	6.34% 120	21.98% 416	36.77% 696	30.48% 577	1,893
5.3 Minimize Bear-Related Conflicts	2.70% 51	12.43% 235	27.78% 525	31.75% 600	25.34% 479	1,890
5.4 Conduct Science-Based and Socially Acceptable Management	3.52% 67	7.15% 136	15.88% 302	33.12% 630	40.33% 767	1,902

Importance of Strategic Goals

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.1 Use Hunting as the Primary Tool for Maintaining a Sustainable Bear Population Within Social and Biological Limits	4.13% 76	3.75% 69	7.17% 132	23.02% 424	61.94% 1,141	1,842
6.2 Manage Social Aspects of Bear Recreation to Reduce User-Conflicts and Maintain Recreational Opportunities	4.75% 87	7.81% 143	22.76% 417	36.03% 660	28.66% 525	1,832
6.3 Increase Public Awareness and Understanding of Bears and Bear-Related Issues	2.18% 40	6.21% 114	14.92% 274	32.17% 591	44.53% 818	1,837

Importance of Strategic Goals

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.4 Maintain Active Bear Research and Monitoring Programs	1.64% 30	3.66% 67	13.93% 255	32.93% 603	47.84% 876	1,831
6.5 Maintain Habitat Necessary to Sustain Desired Bear Populations	3.91% 72	4.18% 77	8.37% 154	25.98% 478	57.55% 1,059	1,840
6.6 Achieve Compatibility between Bear Distribution and Abundance and Social Carrying Capacity	3.50% 64	5.57% 102	19.39% 355	36.92% 676	34.63% 634	1,831
6.7 Manage Negative Bear-Human Interactions	2.66% 49	7.88% 145	17.51% 322	32.52% 598	39.42% 725	1,839

Importance of 6.1 Objectives

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.1.1 Encourage agency and public participation in development of harvest strategies and regulations.	3.37% 39	5.01% 58	15.90% 184	37.86% 438	37.86% 438	1,157
6.1.2 Maintain bear populations at desired levels through a tiered management approach that uses eco-regional goals as well as bear management unit objectives	4.08% 47	5.64% 65	17.27% 199	39.93% 460	33.07% 381	1,152
6.1.3 Use bear management units to distribute hunters and bear harvest within eco-regions.	4.50% 52	3.20% 37	13.51% 156	35.24% 407	43.55% 503	1,155
6.1.4 Set license quota to achieve regional harvest.	4.00% 53	3.90% 45	11.62% 134	32.61% 376	47.27% 545	1,153
6.1.5 Allow bear populations to expand naturally into southern Michigan to the extent social acceptance allows.	10.91% 126	6.40% 97	14.81% 171	22.94% 265	42.94% 496	1,155

Questions regarding Strategic Obj. 6.1

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL
Black bear populations should naturally expand into southern Michigan.	9.43% 108	5.24% 60	14.24% 163	23.23% 266	47.86% 548	1,145
The DNR adequately engages the public in the development of bear harvest strategies and regulations.	11.48% 131	10.32% 152	27.26% 311	25.85% 295	22.09% 252	1,141

** Staff weighted stronger towards the right*

Importance of 6.2 Objectives

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.2.1 Season structure and timing changes and evaluation related to recreational conflict.	6.52% 74	7.22% 82	26.61% 302	29.22% 377	26.43% 300	1,135
6.2.2 Reduce trespass conflicts between bear houndsmen and private landowners.	5.52% 63	5.87% 67	14.45% 165	25.39% 290	48.77% 557	1,142
6.2.3 Reduce conflicts relating to bear baiting regulations.	6.85% 78	7.64% 87	18.44% 210	28.45% 324	38.63% 440	1,139
6.2.4 Encourage the retention of hunting opportunities.	5.36% 61	4.13% 47	6.58% 75	16.77% 191	67.18% 765	1,139

Questions regarding Strategic Obj. 6.2

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL
Conflicts between bear user groups have improved over the last couple of years	10.63% 121	8.17% 93	60.64% 689	16.52% 188	4.13% 47	1,138
Conflicts between bear user groups are a major issue	5.09% 58	7.99% 91	48.38% 551	21.60% 246	16.94% 193	1,139
Trespass issues with private landowners have decreased over the last couple of years	15.09% 172	13.07% 149	61.14% 697	7.63% 87	3.07% 35	1,140

Importance of 6.3 Objectives

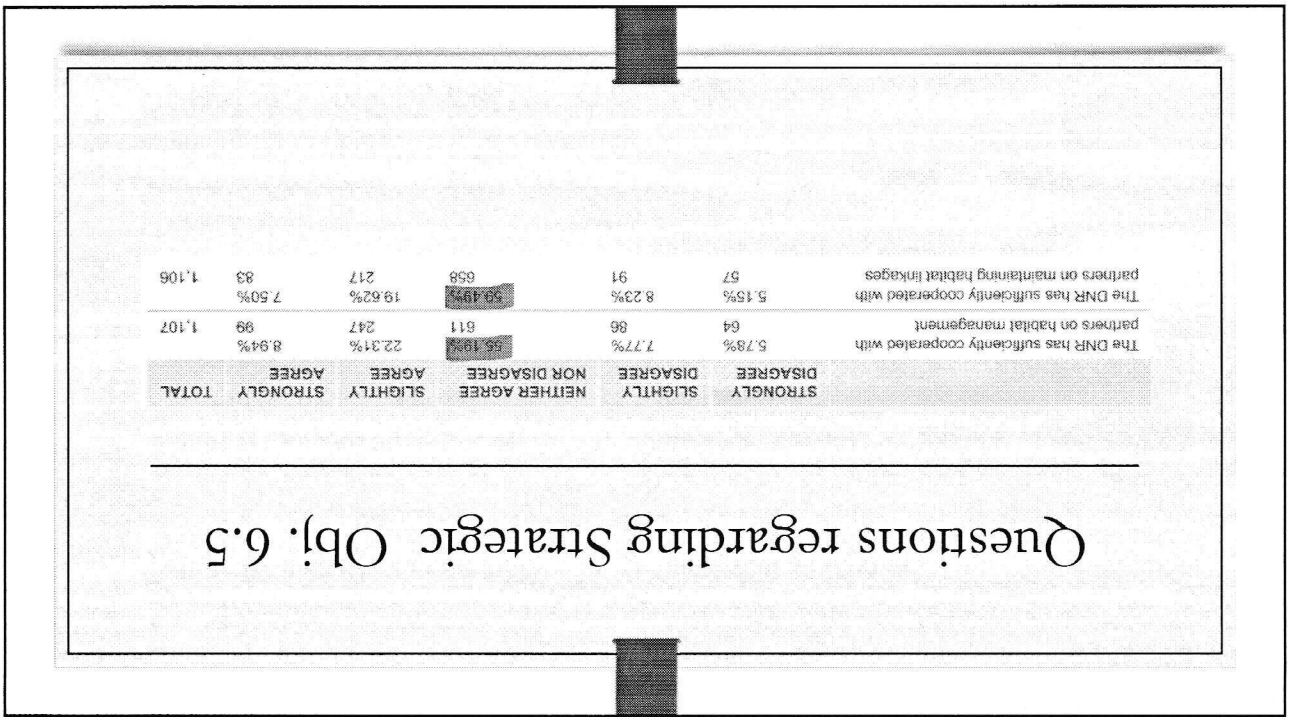
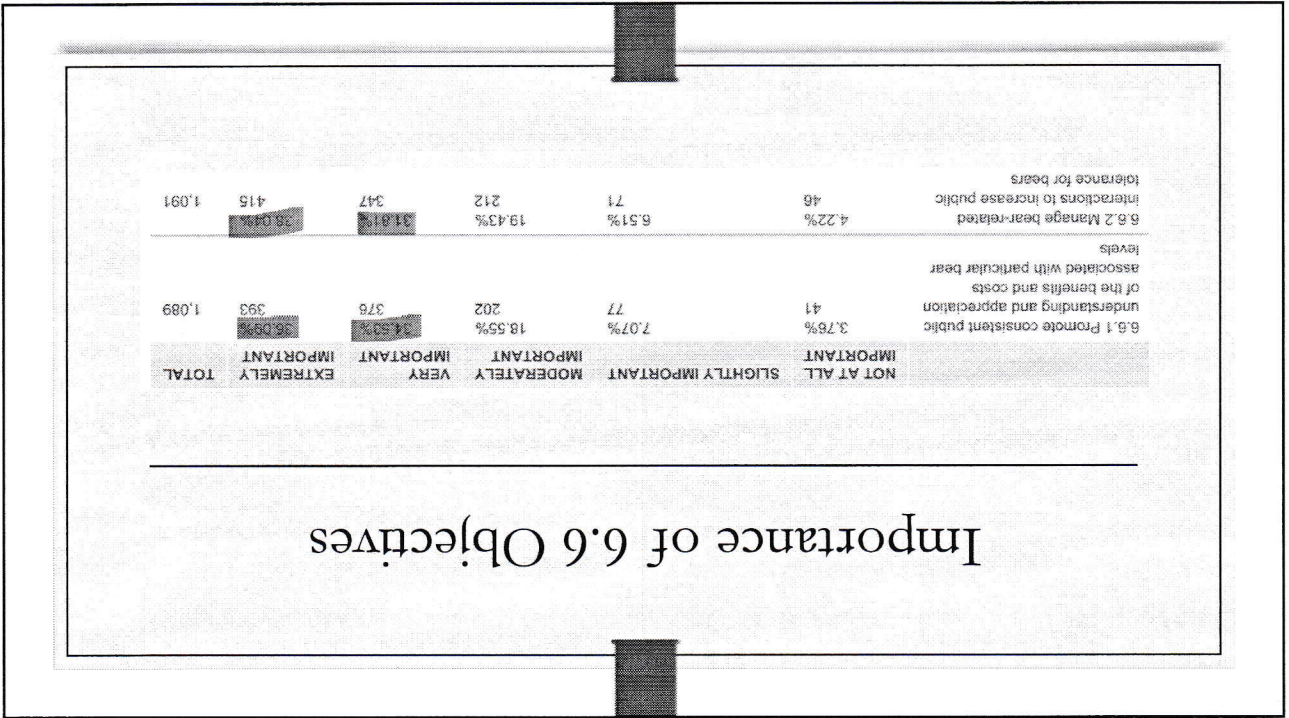
	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.3.1 Coordinate with partners to develop and implement a bear-based information and education program	4.06% 46	9.63% 109	22.44% 254	32.86% 372	31.01% 351	1,132
6.3.2 Support training opportunities for staff and partners involved in the bear-based information and education program	4.33% 49	9.99% 113	21.93% 248	33.78% 382	29.97% 339	1,131
6.3.3 Evaluate the effectiveness of the bear-based information and education program	4.33% 49	8.49% 96	20.51% 232	34.57% 391	32.10% 363	1,131

Importance of 6.5 Objectives

Objective	NOT AT ALL	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.5.1 Promote maintenance of large ownership blocks and contiguous forest areas	45	56	179	313	484	1,107
6.5.2 Maintain habitat linkages to allow bear dispersal	38	59	150	364	497	1,108
6.5.3 Provide direction for local, regional, and statewide habitat planning efforts within the DNR and with other agencies and private landowners on bear habitat requirements	34	71	166	343	497	1,111
	3.06%	6.39%	14.94%	30.87%	44.73%	

Importance of 6.4 Objectives

Objective	NOT AT ALL	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.4.1 Monitor the abundance of bears in Michigan	8	26	96	369	526	1,124
6.4.2 Monitor the health of bears in Michigan	14	36	103	340	632	1,125
6.4.3 Investigate biological and social factors relevant to bear management	29	67	169	365	493	1,123
6.4.4 Coordinate with partners to support a bear research program	39	69	173	363	479	1,122
	3.48%	6.15%	15.42%	32.35%	42.60%	



Importance of 6.7 Objectives

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
6.7.1 Promote accurate public perception of the human-safety risks posed by bears and minimize actual human-safety threats	2.12% 23	6.17% 67	15.93% 173	33.52% 364	42.27% 459	1,086
6.7.2 Provide timely and professional responses to reports of bear damage	1.47% 16	4.79% 52	16.77% 182	37.42% 406	39.54% 429	1,085
6.7.3 Minimize the occurrence of negative human-bear interactions	2.68% 29	7.84% 85	17.99% 195	32.29% 350	39.21% 425	1,084

Themes of Public Comments

- Drawings – “the point system used by the DNR does not work it needs to be fixed”
- Regulations – “would like to see more licenses”; “Red Oak BMU needs to be broken up”
- Range – “Keep bear in UP and extreme North areas only”; “Would love for bears to expand range southward”

Themes of Public Comments

- Baiting – “Baiting is the most effective way to hunt bear.”; “Bear baiting should be eliminated”
- Hunting with dogs – “I wish there was more separation between bait hunting seasons and dog hunting seasons”; “Stop bear hunting with dogs.”; “Dogs should not be allowed to run on private property.”
- Data – “Collecting local information should be a priority”; “Better estimates of bear population is needed.”

Themes of Public Comments

- Education – “Education is the key”
- Nuisance – “A law that makes the intentional feeding of bears illegal would help to protect the public from nuisance habituated bears.”; “The DNR needs to educate the public on black bears.”
- Science-based management – lots of confusion
- Specific suggested changes to plan – a few

Bear Management Principal Goals

NO CHANGES

- 5.1 Maintain a Sustainable Population within Biological Carrying Capacity
- 5.2 Facilitate Bear-Related Benefits - *Existence value, ecological roles, recreational viewing opportunities, recreation hunting*
- 5.3 Minimize Bear-Related Conflicts - *Apiaries, orchards, other crops, domestic animals, anxieties of bears in residential or rec areas, impacts on other game species, bird feeders*
- 5.4 Conduct Science-Based and Socially Acceptable Management

ADDITIONAL OR WHAT DOES THIS DO?

Science-based Management

From the Bear Management Plan:

- Science can identify probable outcomes of particular management approaches,
- Science does not prescribe subjective values to those outcomes.
- Rather, the desirability or acceptability of any outcome depends on the values of affected stakeholders.

How do we make this more easily understood in the plan?

6.1 Use Hunting as the Primary Tool for Maintaining a Sustainable Bear Population Within Social and Biological Limits

Objectives:

- 6.1.1 Encourage agency and public participation in development of harvest strategies and regulations.
- 6.1.2 Maintain bear populations at desired levels through a tiered management approach that is based on eee-regional goals as well as bear management unit objectives.
- 6.1.3 Use bear management units to distribute hunters and bear harvest within eee-regions.
- 6.1.4 Set license quota to achieve regional harvest.
- 6.1.5 Allow bear population to expand naturally into southern Michigan to the extent social acceptance allows.

- 6.1 Use Hunting as the Primary Tool for Maintaining a Sustainable Bear Population Within Social and Biological Limits
- 6.2 Manage Social Aspects of Bear Recreation to Reduce User-Conflicts and Maintain Recreational Opportunities
- 6.3 Increase Public Awareness and Understanding of Bears and Bear-Related Issues.
- 6.4 Maintain Active Bear Research and Monitoring Programs
- 6.5 Maintain Habitat Necessary to Sustain Desired Bear Populations
- 6.6 Achieve Compatibility between Bear Distribution and Abundance and Social Carrying Capacity [consider combining with 6.1]
- 6.7 Manage Negative Bear-Human Interactions

Bear Management Strategies

NO CHANGES

6.2 Manage Social Aspects of Bear Recreation to Reduce User-Conflicts and Maintain Recreational Opportunities.

Objectives:

- 6.2.1 Use and evaluate ~~S~~season structure and timing changes ~~and evaluation to related reduce~~ recreational conflicts.
- 6.2.2 Work cooperatively with partners to ~~R~~reduce trespass conflicts between ^{6V6} ~~bear~~ ~~hound~~ hunters and private landowners.
- 6.2.3 Reduce conflicts relating to bear baiting regulations.
- 6.2.4 Encourage the retention of hunting opportunities.

AN EXPANSION

6.3 Increase Public Awareness and Understanding of Bears and Bear-Related Issues.

Objectives:

- 6.3.1 Coordinate with partners to develop and implement a bear-based information and education program.
- 6.3.2 Support training opportunities for staff and partners involved in the bear-based information and education program.
- 6.3.3 Evaluate the effectiveness of the bear-based information and education program.

NO CHANGES

NO CHANGES

6.4 Maintain Active Bear Research and Monitoring Programs.

Objectives:

- 6.4.1 Monitor the abundance of bears in Michigan.
- 6.4.2 Monitor the health of bears in Michigan.
- 6.4.3 Investigate biological and social factors relevant to bear management.
- 6.4.4 Coordinate with partners to support a bear research program.

*CREAT AN ADVENTURE TO TALK TO KEY PEOPLE W/
TRAIL CAMS*

NO CHANGES

6.5 Maintain Habitat Necessary to Sustain Desired Bear Populations

Objectives:

- 6.5.1 Promote maintenance of large ownership blocks and large contiguous forest areas.
- 6.5.2 Maintain habitat linkages to allow bear dispersal.
- 6.5.3 Provide direction for local, regional, and statewide habitat planning efforts within the DNR and with other agencies and private landowners on bear habitat requirements.

6.5'

NOT

6.6 Achieve Compatibility between Bear Distribution and Abundance and Social Carrying Capacity.

Objectives:

6.6.1 Promote consistent public understanding ~~and appreciation~~ of the benefits and costs associated with particular bear abundance levels

[consider moving under 6.1]

6.6.2 Manage bear-related interactions to increase public tolerance for bears

[consider moving to 6.7 or somewhere else?].

[DA11]Should this be moved under 6.1?

[DA12]Should this be moved to 6.7? or somewhere else? Education?

6.7 Manage Negative Bear-Human Interactions.

Objectives:

6.7.1 Promote accurate public perceptions of the human-safety risks posed by bears and minimize actual human-safety threats.

6.7.2 Provide timely and professional responses to reports of bear damage.

6.7.3 Minimize the occurrence [change to frequency?] of negative human-bear interactions.

* could we add a positive objective here?

Asking for your input

- Break out groups

Next Steps

- Summarize public comments
- Meet with Tribes to discuss potential changes
- Review Bear Forum and Tribal suggestions
- Update plan
- Public review
- Update
- Finalize update