

VI. Figures

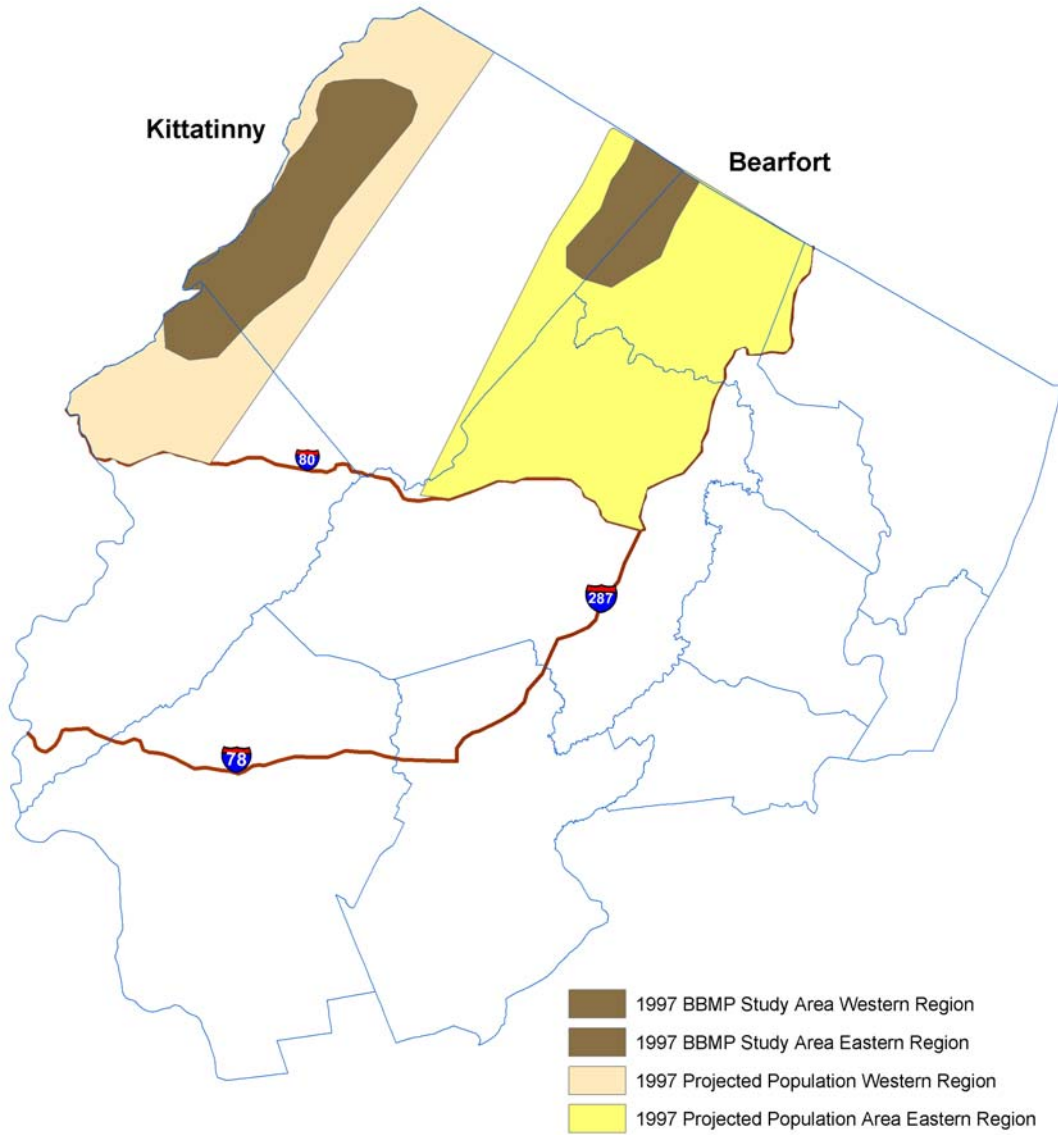


Figure 1. 1988 - 1992 Study Areas

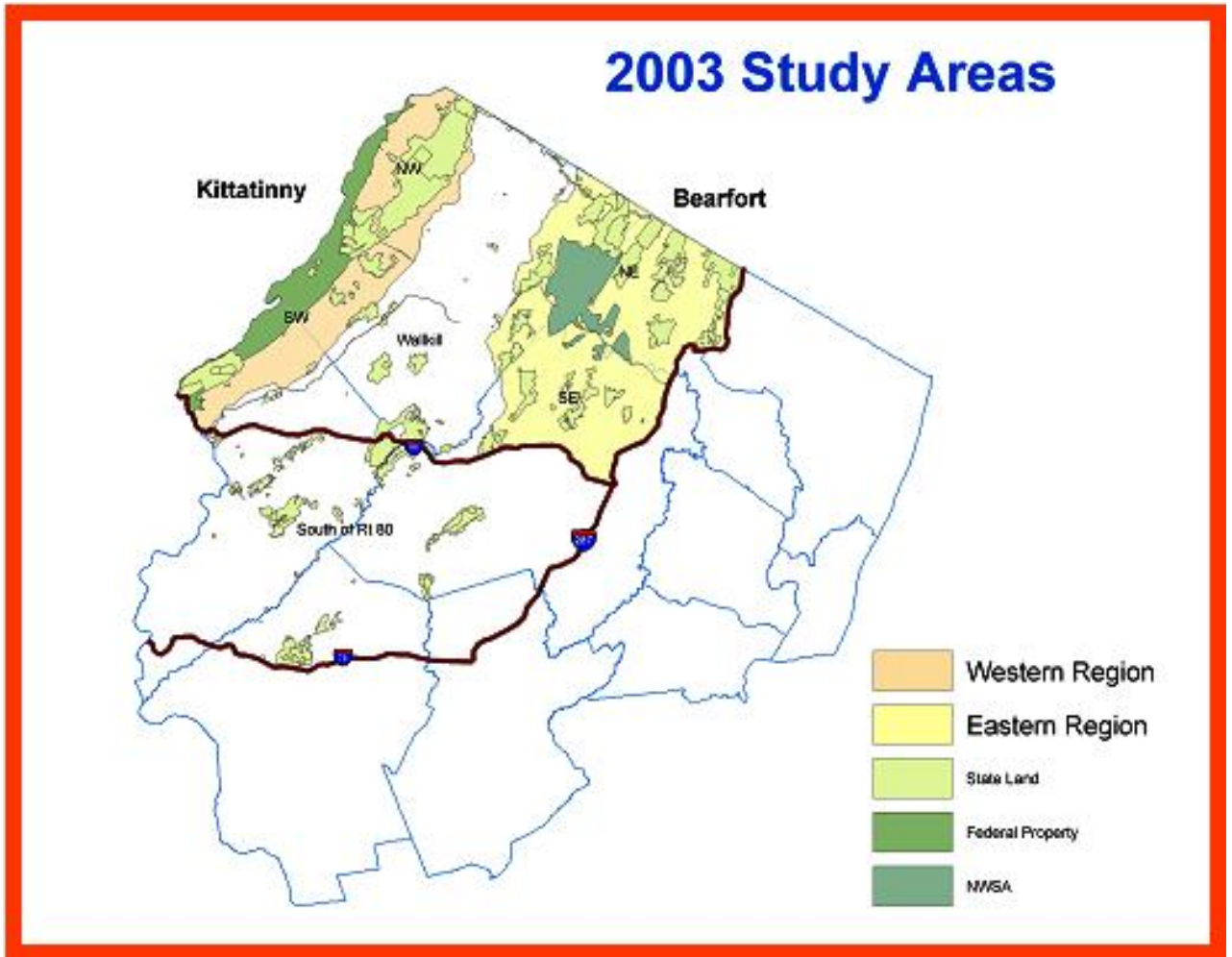


Figure 2. 2003 Study Areas

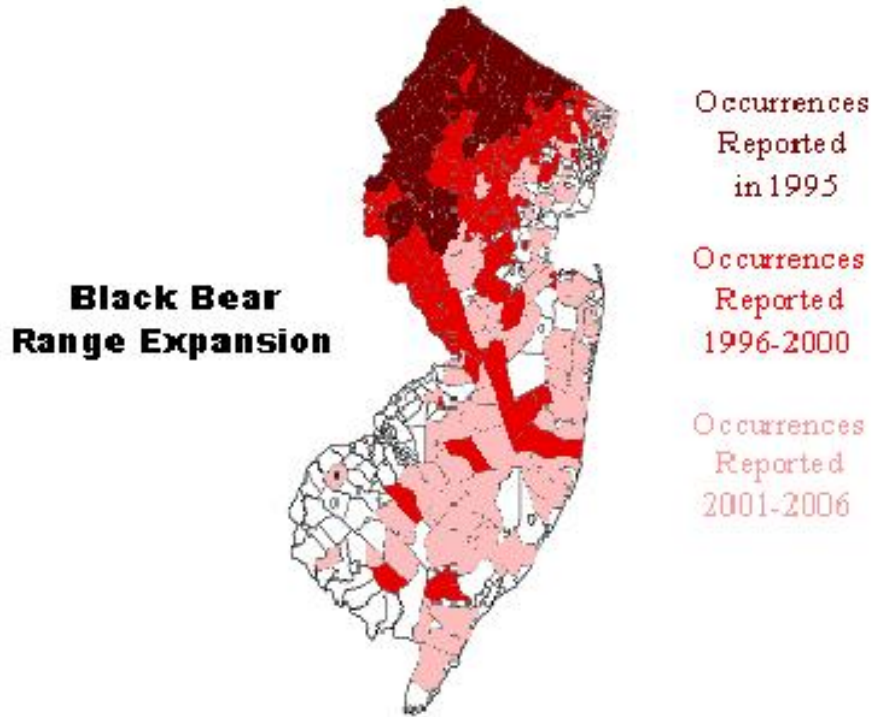
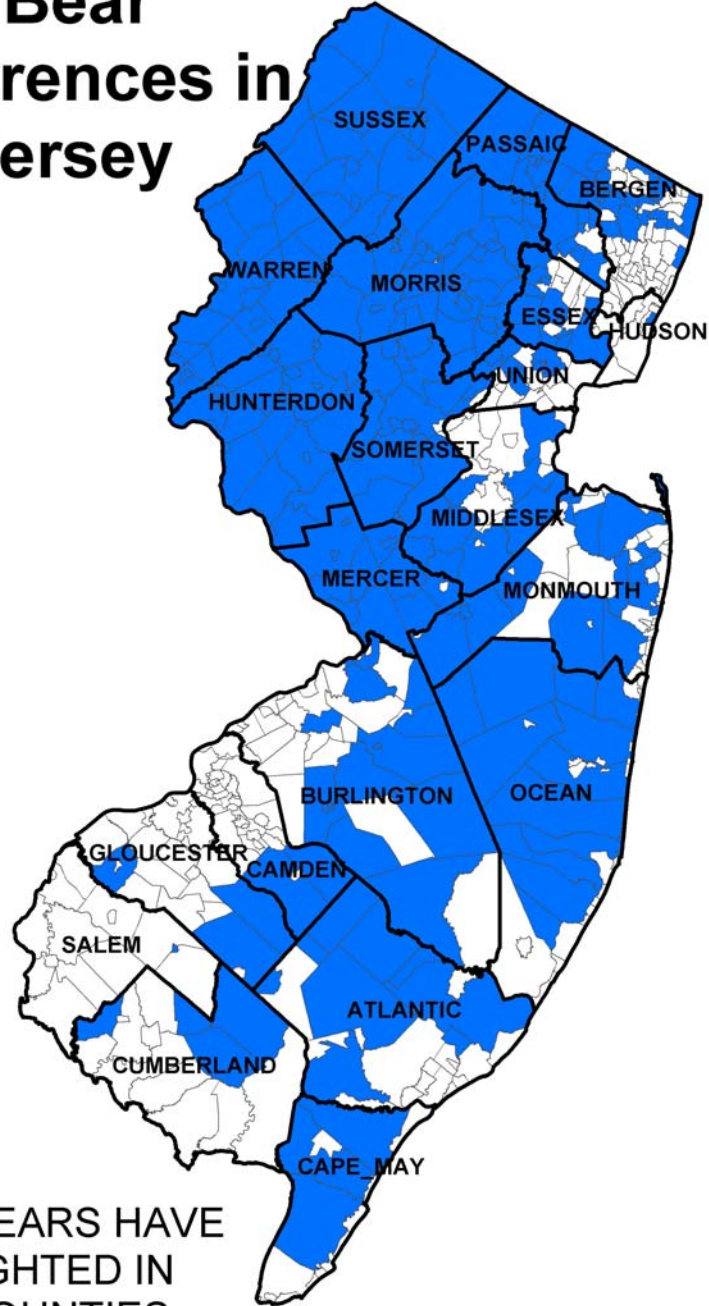


Figure 3. Black Bear Range Expansion in NJ

Black Bear Occurrences in New Jersey



BLACK BEARS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN ALL 21 COUNTIES

DATA AS OF 4/05/07

Figure 4. Current Range Map 2007

**Bear Habitat Ranking Based on
2002 Land Use Land Cover**

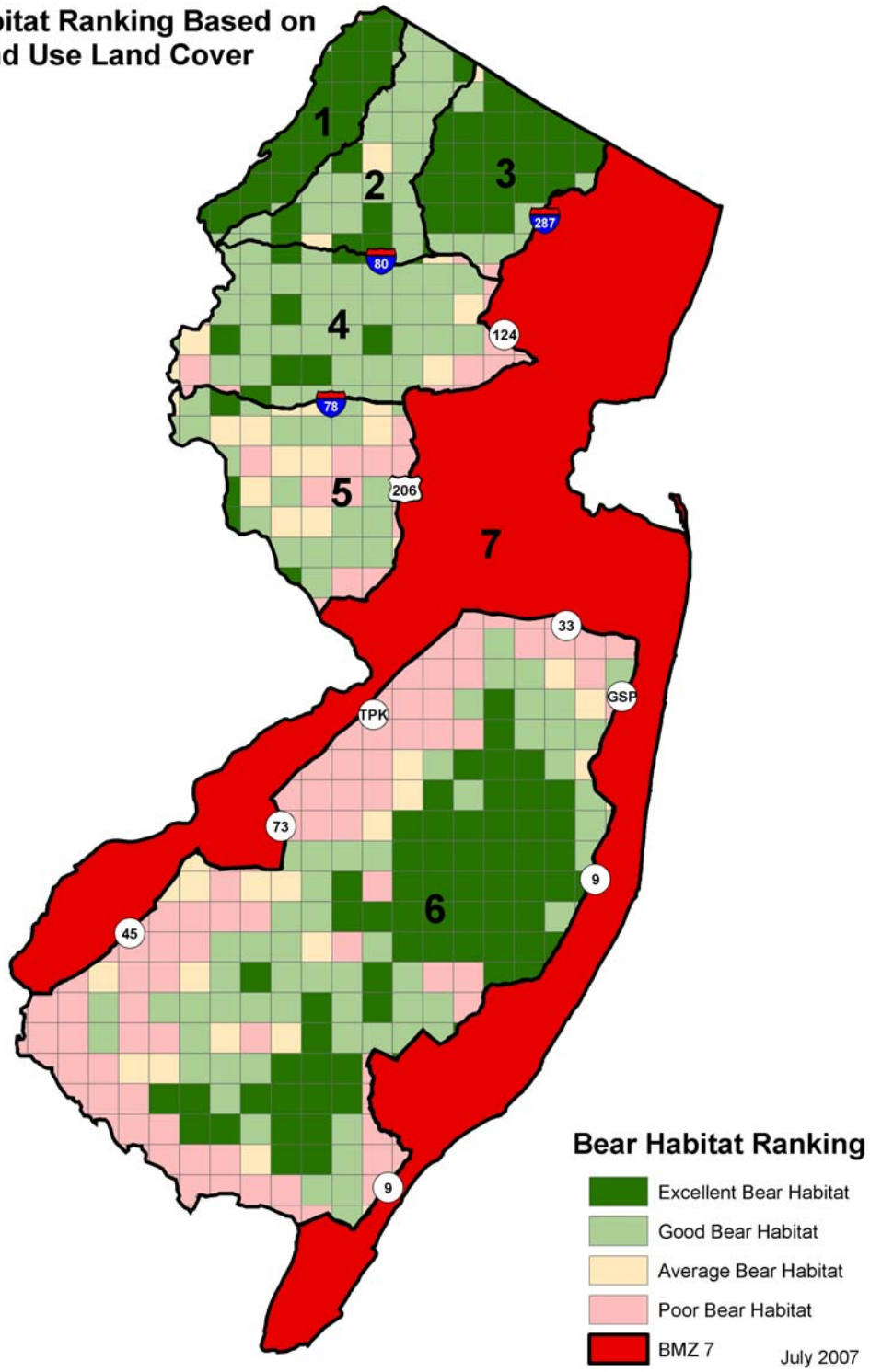


Figure 5. Bear Habitat Ranking

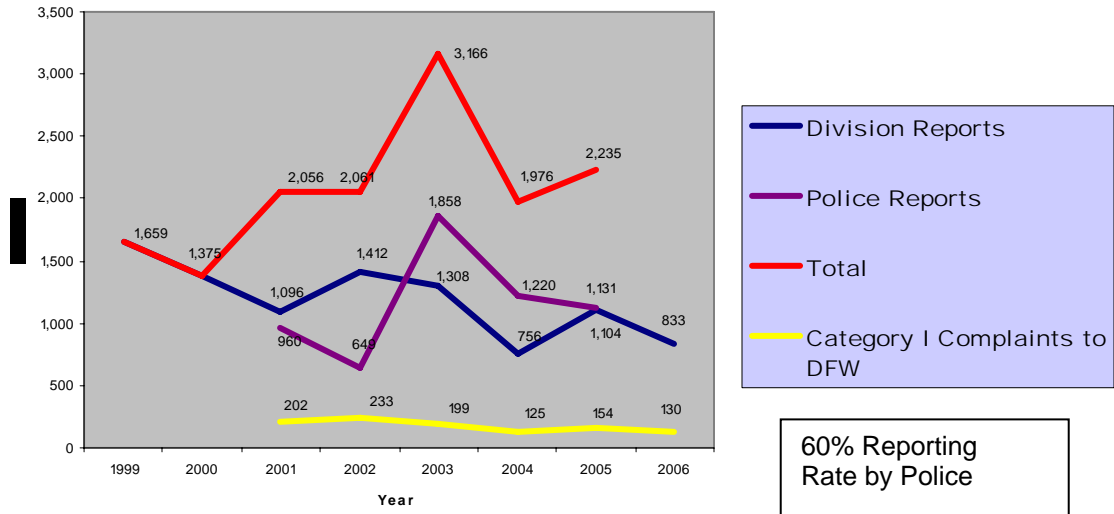


Figure 6. Bear Complaints (negative human-bear interactions over time). Does not include sightings

BEAR MANAGEMENT ZONES

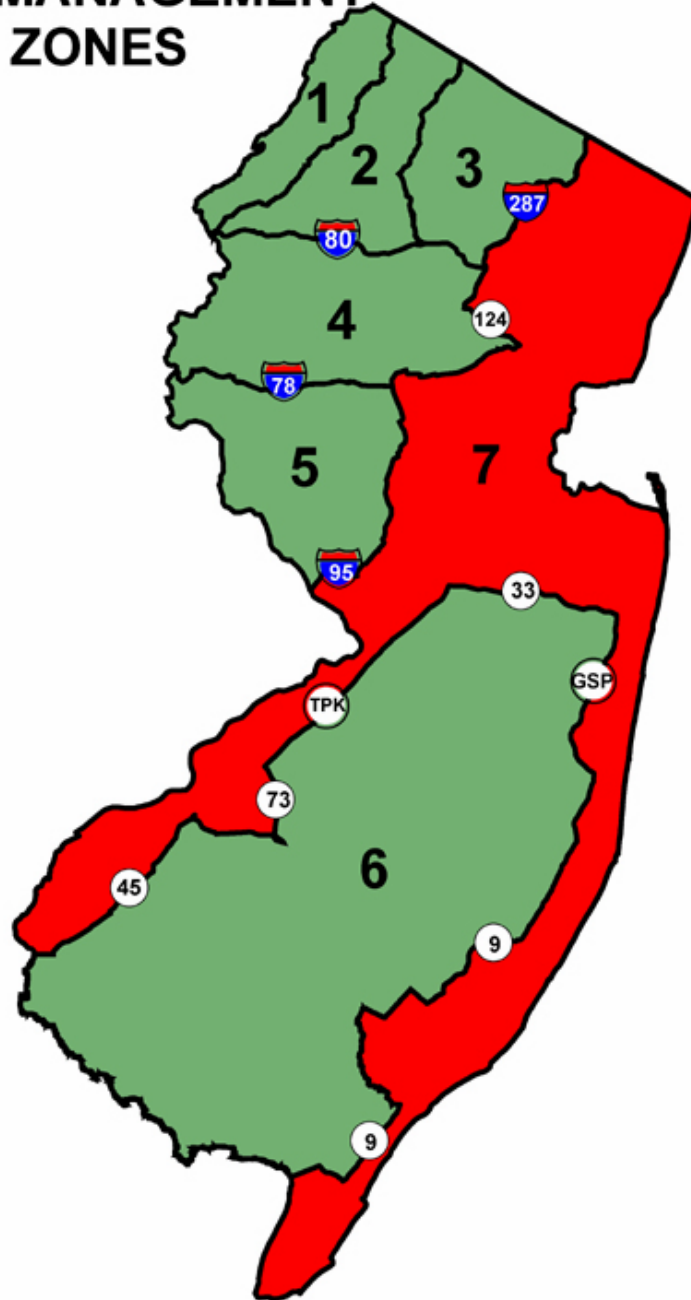
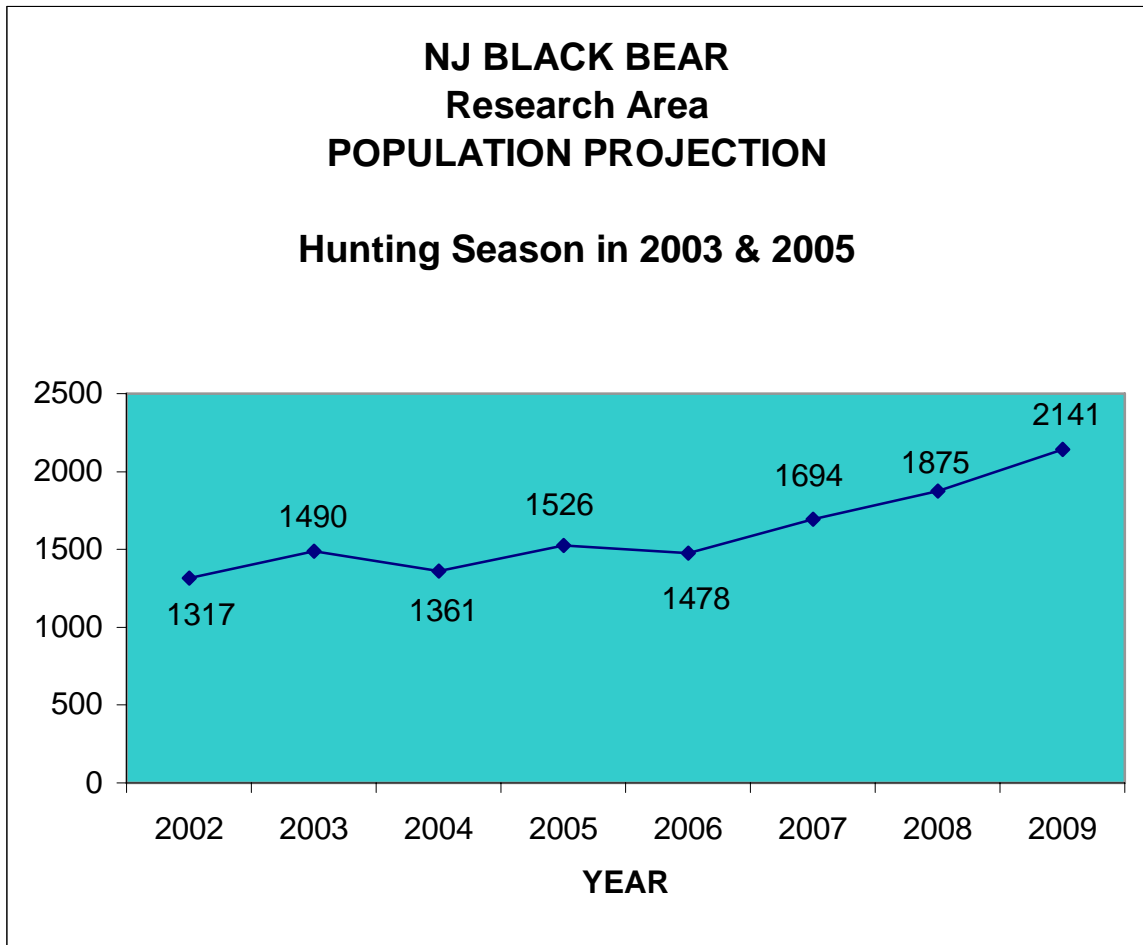
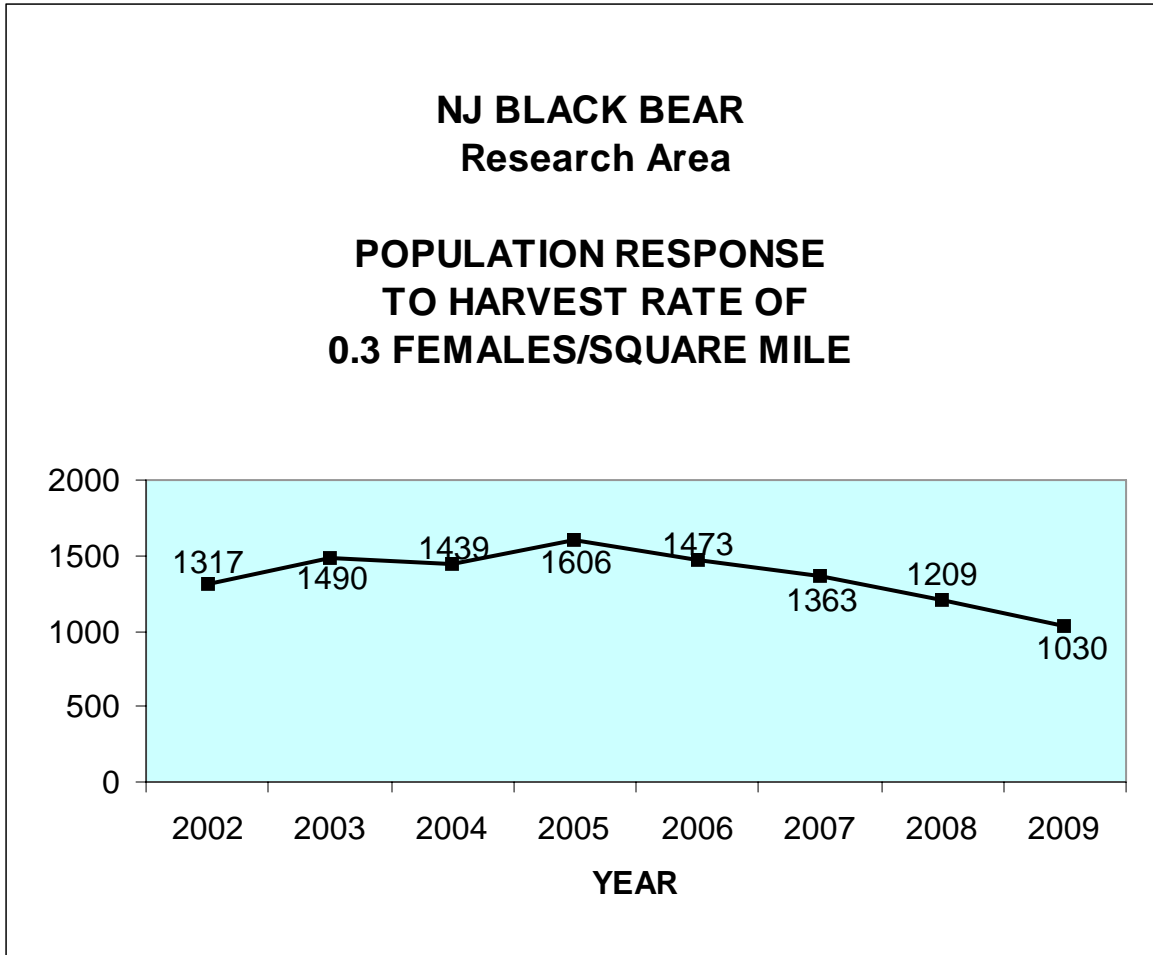


Figure 7. Bear Management Zones



Population estimate on December 1 in Research Study Area

Figure 8. Projected Black Bear Population in Research Study Area with no further hunting seasons other than the 2003 and 2005 Black Bear Hunting Seasons.



Population estimate on December 1 in Research Study Area

Figure 9. Projected Black Bear Population in Research Study Area with an annual harvest rate of 0.3 females/square mile during Black Bear Hunting Seasons.

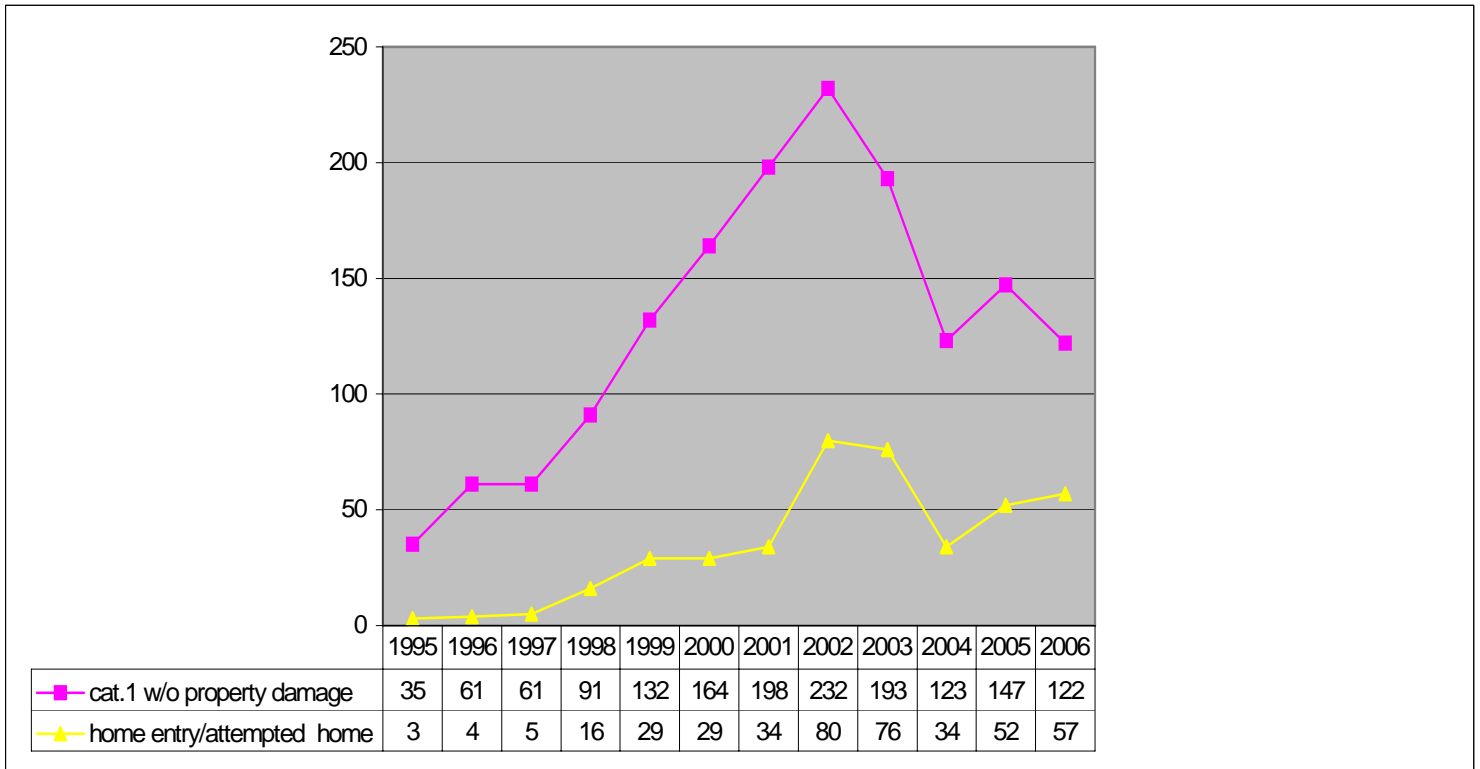


Figure 10. Serious Bear Incidents. Category I Data does not include property damage.

VII. TABLES

**Number of Black Bear Complaints 1999-2006
Reported to DFW Wildlife Control Unit
Only calls received by DFW are represented in this table**

INCIDENT TYPE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
NUISANCE	468	483	357	525	357	229	387	271
GARBAGE	496	290	269	379	503	282	358	288
BIRDFEEDER	274	202	137	137	89	59	87	71
PROTECTED HIVE	4	7	0	2	3	5	2	6
UNPROTECTED HIVE	19	16	13	24	9	5	9	10
LIVESTOCK KILL	25	22	36	27	17	24	24	13
RABBIT KILL	28	38	57	34	38	27	15	7
UNPROVOKED DOG ATTACK	12	17	6	15	11	5	8	2
PROVOKED DOG ATTACK	***	***	***	***	22	4	4	3
HOME ENTRY	29	29	29	55	53	24	29	40
AGGRESSIVE	34	51	37	28	19	7	21	13
CAMPSITE / PARK	28	22	5	10	1	3	0	2
URBAN REMOVAL	10	7	12	19	11	12	38	15
PROPERTY DAMAGE	232	191	123	111	132	44	83	61
HUMAN ATTACK	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1
ATTEMPTED HOME ENTRY	*	*	5	25	23	10	23	17
AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE	*	*	5	9	5	10	8	9
TENT ENTRY	*	*	2	5	4	2	3	0
VEHICLE ENTRY	*	*	2	6	9	3	4	4
Total	1,659	1,375	1,096**	1,412**	1,308**	756**	1104**	833**

* Separate Incident Type beginning in 2001

** Does not include calls handled by police departments.

*** New Incident Type for 2003

Police training in increased involvement began in 2001. **These years are signified in red.**

TABLE 1. Number of Black Bear Complaints 1999-2006

VIII. APPENDICES

Appendix A. Results of NJ’s Black Bear Hunting Seasons

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
 Bear Hunting Season results

	2003	2005
Hunter Success Rate	6.0%	6.5%
Harvest	328	298
Harvest Rate	22.2%	19.8%

2003 SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST

Age	Male	Female	Total (%)
Young of year	47	38	85 (26%)
Yearling	36	43	79 (24%)
Adult	36	128	164 (50%)
Total (%)	119 (36%)	209 (64%)	328

Age Verified by Tooth

2005 SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST

Age	Male	Female	Total (%)
Young of year	23	23	46 (15%)
Yearling	42	66	108 (36%)
Adult	59	85	144 (48%)
Total (%)	124 (42%)	174 (58%)	298

Age Verified by Tooth

Appendix A. Results of NJ's Black Bear Hunting Seasons
(continued)

2003 BY COUNTY

County	Total Harvest	Percentage of Harvest	Area mi ²	Percentage of Hunt Area	Harvest/mi ²
Sussex	233	71 %	537	34 %	0.43 / mi ²
Warren	48	15 %	363	23 %	0.13 / mi ²
Passaic	26	8 %	126	8 %	0.21 / mi ²
Morris	20	6 %	429	28 %	0.05 / mi ²
Bergen	1	0.3 %	35	2 %	0.03 / mi ²
Hunterdon	0	0	219	13 %	0 / mi ²
Somerset	0	0	74	4 %	0 / mi ²
Total	328		1558		0.21 / mi ²

2005 BY COUNTY

County	Total Harvest	Percentage of Harvest	Area mi ²	Percentage of Hunt Area	Harvest/mi ²
Sussex	196	66 %	537	34 %	0.36 / mi ²
Warren	43	14 %	363	23 %	0.12 / mi ²
Passaic	32	11 %	126	8 %	0.25 / mi ²
Morris	26	9 %	429	28 %	0.06 / mi ²
Bergen	1	0.3 %	35	2 %	0.03 / mi ²
Hunterdon	0	0	219	13 %	0 / mi ²
Somerset	0	0	74	4 %	0 / mi ²
Total	298		1558		0.19 / mi ²

Note: Area of individual counties does not add up to Total area due to rounding of municipality data

2005 BY ZONE

Zone	Total Harvest	Permits Issued	Hunter Success Rate (%)
1	129	1574	8.2%
2	58	1246	4.7%
3	103	1166	8.8%
4	8	607	1.3%
Total	298	4593	6.5%

NOTE: Permits were not issued by zone in 2003, so hunter success by zone is undetermined.

Appendix A. Results of NJ's Black Bear Hunting Seasons
(continued)

	2003	2005
Harvest Total	328	298
Hunter Success Rate (based on permits)	6.0% 5450 permits (no youths)	6.5% 4593 permits
Current year tagged bears recovered	53	49
Current year tagged harvested (%age based on available)	22.2% (239 available)	19.8% (247 available)
Total tagged from all years	100 of 328 harvested 7 of 10 bears in harvest are untagged	93 of 298 harvested 7 of 10 bears in harvest are untagged
Bears tagged at nuisance sites	17	18
Urban bears	3	1
Research bears	74	74
Unknown (previously handled but tags ripped out)	6	

Appendix B. Recommended Bear Management Budget

Bear Education	\$ 250,000
Bear Research, Response & Control	750,000
Community Grants	250,000
Total	\$ 1,250,000

Appendix C. Letters in Support of a Bear Hunting Season



OFFICE OF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
717-787-3633

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Game Commission

2001 ELMERTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

July 6, 2004

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

PERSONNEL 717-787-7836
ADMINISTRATION 717-787-5670
AUTOMOTIVE AND
PROCUREMENT DIVISION 717-787-6594
LICENSE DIVISION 717-787-2084
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT 717-787-5529
INFORMATION & EDUCATION 717-787-6286
LAW ENFORCEMENT 717-787-5740
LAND MANAGEMENT 717-787-6818
REAL ESTATE DIVISION 717-787-6568
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
SYSTEMS 717-787-4076

www.pgc.state.pa.us

Mr. Martin McHugh
Director
New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Mr. McHugh,

The Pennsylvania Game Commission supports a regulated hunting season for black bears in New Jersey. Once considered to be at low population levels, black bears are now abundant throughout most of their eastern U.S. range. Population estimates have almost quadrupled since 1980 in Pennsylvania alone. The recovery of bear populations is a great wildlife success story. However, because human-bear conflicts have also increased, the need to manage bear populations is becoming increasingly obvious. We believe that hunting is an effective and responsible way to manage bear numbers.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey share the same bear population, and natural movement of bears between the two states is well documented. Thus, how bears are managed in either jurisdiction may potentially impact the other. Human-bear conflicts have become a concern for us in eastern Pennsylvania, and we support a management program in New Jersey that would help stabilize the local bear population.

I commend your agency for the successful implementation of a black bear hunting season last year that contained no hunting accidents and allowed important biological information to be collected while working toward the goal of stabilizing the regional bear population. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and please feel free to contact me if our agency can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Vernon R. Ross
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Game Commission

2001 ELMERTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

July 21, 2005

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner
N. J. Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, N. J. 08625-0402

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

PERSONNEL	717-787-7836
ADMINISTRATION	717-787-5670
AUTOMOTIVE AND	
PROCUREMENT DIVISION	717-787-6594
LICENSE DIVISION	717-787-2084
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	717-787-5529
INFORMATION & EDUCATION	717-787-6296
LAW ENFORCEMENT	717-787-5740
LAND MANAGEMENT	717-787-6818
REAL ESTATE DIVISION	717-787-6568
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION	
SYSTEMS	717-787-4076

www.pgc.state.pa.us

Dear Mr. Campbell:

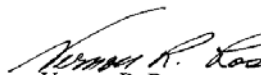
The Pennsylvania Game Commission urges your department to implement an annual regulated hunting season for black bears in New Jersey. Although once considered to be an imperiled species, black bears are now abundant throughout most of their eastern U.S. range. The recovery of bear populations is a great wildlife success story; however, because human-bear conflicts have also increased, the need to manage bear populations is increasingly important. It is our experience that hunting is the most cost effective and responsible method for managing bears numbers, and an important component of an integrated, adaptive management program.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey share the same bear population, and natural movement of bears between the two states is well documented. Thus, how bears are managed in either jurisdiction may potentially impact the other. Human-bear conflicts have become a concern for us in eastern Pennsylvania, and we support a management program in New Jersey that would help stabilize the regional bear population.

While certainly controversial, you demonstrated in 2003 that bears could be hunted safely in your state. Hunting is not a panacea, but it is an important tool in the management of this resource and the conflicts experienced by landowners and communities. The season also was important because it allowed your staff to collect important biological information to be collected while working toward the goal of stabilizing the regional bear population.

Again, we encourage you to reinstitute bear hunting in New Jersey in 2005. Please feel free to contact me if our agency can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Vernon R. Ross
Executive Director

RECEIVED
JUL 27 2005

Div. of Fish & Wildlife
Director's Office

GE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

ERIN M. CROTTY
COMMISSIONER

JUL 01 2003

Mr. Martin McHugh
Director
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 400
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400

Dear Mr. McHugh:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation supports the implementation of a managed bear hunting opportunity in New Jersey. Studies conducted in New York and New Jersey have documented that black bears move freely between our two states. Therefore, the long term success of bear population management in this region requires close collaboration between our agencies. Despite annual hunting seasons conducted in southeastern New York, the number of bears and the frequency and severity of human/bear conflicts have increased markedly during recent years, culminating in the tragic death of an infant last summer. Our staffs attribute these increases, in part, to recent increases in bear numbers in New Jersey.

An annual regulated hunting season for bears is currently the best mechanism for regulating bear numbers. Managed successful hunting seasons in both New York and New Jersey, coupled with educational programs and nuisance abatement protocols, are the keys to the sound management of this magnificent resource. Citizens of both New York and New Jersey can thereby enjoy the benefits derived from our shared black bear resource, while allowing people to be relatively free from the negative impacts of high bear populations.

I lend my support for the implementation of a managed bear hunting opportunity in New Jersey. I also look forward to the continued cooperation of our staffs and the successful management of the black bear resource for the people of our States.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin M. Crotty".

Erin M. Crotty

cc: Commissioner Bradley Campbell



GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

*Campbell
McHugh
Brennan*
DENISE M. SHEEHAN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

JUL 14 2005



Honorable Bradley M. Campbell
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
7th Floor, East Wing
PO Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

Dear Commissioner Campbell:

I am writing on behalf of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) to express support for a resumption of the black bear hunting season that you reinstated in New Jersey in 2003. As you are aware, studies conducted in New York and New Jersey have documented that black bears move freely between our two States. Therefore, the long term successful management of our shared bear population in this region requires close and continued collaboration between our agencies.

The Department's wildlife staff believe that an annual regulated hunting season for bear is currently the best mechanism for regulating bear populations. Moreover, the Department also believes that managed successful hunting seasons in both New York and New Jersey, coupled with educational programs and nuisance abatement protocols, are the keys to the sound management of this magnificent resource. Citizens of both New York and New Jersey can thereby enjoy the benefits derived from our shared black bear resource, while remaining relatively free from the negative impacts of high bear populations.

I look forward to the continued cooperation of our agencies and the successful management of the black bear resource for the people of our States.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Sheehan