Black Bear Depredation Permits

Presented by
Ralf Schreiner, WDFW
Master hunters have the skills to assist WDFW with requests from landowners under a depredation permit issued by the department to hunt black bear causing damage to timber.

The nature of this program and authorization from the director makes this a high profile topic and often results in public disclosure requests.
Program History

- Originated within WDFW Enforcement to deal with timber damage
- Not part of the Spring Bear Hunt program.
  - Small forest land owners property size may not qualify for the Spring Bear Hunt program

- Over the years, Master Hunter participation has been minimal
- Is currently an objective in the WDFW Game Management Plan
Bear Timber Damage season is from mid April to end of June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black Bear</th>
<th>Total Permits Issued</th>
<th>Total Bear Harvest</th>
<th>Region 4</th>
<th>Region 5</th>
<th>Region 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Permits</td>
<td>Harvest</td>
<td>Permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permits for Master Hunters are valid for 30 days.
Most of the harvest occurs during the first 15 days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest 2015</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Permits</td>
<td>2 Bears in first 15 days</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 permits</td>
<td>1 Bear in first 15 days</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Permits</td>
<td>2 Bears in first 30 days</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Permits</td>
<td>1 Bear in first 30 days</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Permits</td>
<td>1 Bear in 45+ days</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 Total Permits</td>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WDFW Depredation Permit

- April – June Season
- Licenses and tags are required for all hunters
- Authorized for 2 bears
- Must report activity to WDFW
- Bears carcass and all parts must be disposed of as per the permit

PERMIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Area</th>
<th>Permit Expires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Removal of Animal

This permit constitutes a limited appointment of authority to hunt, harass, and kill black bear that are damaging crops. This permit also authorizes the use of hunting dogs or hazing as a method of hunting as specified within the affidavit and permit. This limited appointment does not include the ability to bind the state to contracts or other obligations, and permits shall be denied an independent contractor who shall be solely liable for any and all damage arising out of any activity connected with this permit. Compensation shall be the sole responsibility of the land owner or other person having the permittee to remove black bear. Authority for this permit is granted under RCW 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.241, 77.35.030, and WACs 232-15-142, 232-15-025.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reserves the right to modify damage via interview at any time. Prior notification will be made to applicants. Permits are subject to revocation if damage is unverified.

The activity granted by this permit applies only to the property owner, tenants of the property described on the permit, and the permission listed. Any person exercising the privileges granted by this permit must have the permit in his/her immediate possession.

This permit is valid only for the dates specified below. Permits must report the results of their hunt, whether or not any animals are killed, to the WDFW Wildlife Conflict Section within five (5) business days of the permit’s expiration.
Requesting a Permit

Verification of Damage
- Forester
- Conflict Specialist
- Agency Staff

Applications submitted to WDFW
- GPS coordinates & certification letter

Screened by WDFW
- Agency unique # assigned
- Tooth envelopes & tags assigned

Permits emailed/mailed to landowner
Tags/Envelopes mailed out
Cooperative Goals

Verifying damage (foresters/ WDFW staff responsibility)

All participants must work to:

• Ensure hunters purchase necessary tags/licenses
• Coordinate to obtain reports of bears taken
• Ensure hunters turn in all unused tags and envelopes.
WDFW values Master Hunters as a viable and quality option for small timber producers based on their ability to provide accuracy in removing specific offending bears. (Scalpel vs. Sword)

- Provide the opportunity for Master Hunters to participate
- Have the support of the Small Forest Land Owners

Need to define:
1. Who coordinates selection of MH’s within regions?
2. Are there lists of qualified and reliable MH’s for timber owners to select from?
3. Not Agents of the State, just very qualified hunters.
4. MH’s must be from corresponding damage region/GMU.
Benefits

- Consideration and credit for participation
  - May count toward hours of service
  - Coordinate and work cooperatively with Hunter Education Division

- Consideration for retention of animal

- Promotes the Master Hunter program

- Questions?
The End

Ralf Schreiner
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Conflict Program
ralf.schreiner@dfw.wa.gov
360-902-2490