

# Bear Project Update

## November 2020

ATTACHMENT A



# 2020 Bear Hunt

- 117 Bears Harvested
  - 83 GA; 23 AL; 8 WA; 3 FR
- Challenges
  - Natural Food Shortages
    - Bears not found in traditional areas
    - Pushed onto private land
  - Weather was challenging
- Private Land Harvest Increased
  - 74% Private (up from 65%)



# Hunt By The Numbers (2014 – 2020)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. Permits	450	500	750	750	800	800	950
No. Applicants	3,631	4,300	5,547	5,453	5,491	5,204	5,716
Bear Harvest	69	95	167	131	135	145	117
GA CO Harvest	57	80	126	104	93	95	83
AL CO Harvest	12	15	30	23	31	31	23
WA CO Harvest	N/A	N/A	8	2	9	11	8
FR CO Harvest	N/A	N/A	3	2	2	8	3
Hunter Success	6.5%	8.1%	9.8%	7.8%	6.5%	7.8%	4.4%

# Agricultural Bear Damage Permit Program

- Farmers experiencing 'severe' bear damage qualify for EITHER a hunting permit valid on their land during bear hunting season OR compensation
- Examples of 'severe' damage include livestock attacks, 2 acres of field corn, 15 wrapped hay bales, etc.
- 18 Permits issued in 2017; 32 in 2018; 24 in 2019; **49 in 2020**
- 7.9% hunter/22.4% permit success on ag permits vs. 4.2% hunter/11.2% permit success via lottery



# Black Bear Management Plan Revision

- 15 Year Management Plan
- Public Input
  - Public Opinion Survey
  - No public meetings
  - WAC review
  - Online comment period
- Completed Fall 2021

