

**PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
PROJECT ANNUAL JOB REPORT**

PROJECT CODE NO.: 06230

TITLE: Black Bear Research and Management

JOB CODE NO.: 23001

TITLE: Black Bear Harvest and Population Monitoring

PERIOD COVERED: 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

COOPERATING AGENCIES: No cooperating agencies

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PREPARED BY: Brandon Snively

DATE: 30 June 2026

ABSTRACT In 2025, the statewide black bear population was estimated to be 19,347 bears with a 95% confidence interval of 16,753 to 22,456 bears, which was greater than the 2024 population estimate (19,211). Hunters purchased 199,108 bear licenses, which resulted in the harvest of 2,890 bears: 9 during the early season, 474 during the archery season, 717 during the Muzzleloader and Special Firearms seasons, 1,209 during the general season, and 481 during the extended season. The 2025 harvest was a 9.4% increase from the 2024 harvest and ranked twenty-third in recorded harvests. The general firearms season had moderate precipitation with cold nights and moderate daytime temperatures. The opening weekend of the extended season had very little precipitation and seasonable temperatures. The opening weekend of the statewide archery season had very little precipitation and some warmer temperatures. The muzzleloader and special firearms seasons had moderate precipitation in the northwest and seasonal temperatures. Nine hundred seventy-eight bears were captured and tagged statewide during 2025, and 960 of them were available for harvest. Harvest rate for tagged bears was 3.8% during the archery season, 3.7% during the muzzleloader and special firearms seasons, and 6.5% during the general season (14.8% harvest rate across all seasons statewide). In the area open to extended hunting, mean harvest rate across included Wildlife Management Units (WMU) was 16.7%. Four WMUs had harvest rates in the 20 to 25% range, which is considered sufficient for stabilizing growth in black bear populations; 0 exceeded 25%, which suggests harvest pressure is great enough to reduce black bear populations, and 10 were below 20%, which is typically insufficient to stop population growth. The regular firearms season experienced a greater number of bears being harvested in 2025 than in 2024, which may be attributed to reducing the archery season to 1 week. For the 2026 hunting seasons, it is recommended that all seasons should remain in an identical format as 2025. Sunday hunting will be fully integrated into bear hunting seasons in 2026 which may cause a slight increase in harvest

during affected seasons. Bear hunting seasons should be managed to be sustainable in the long term, so, future bear hunting seasons can be adjusted if the addition of Sunday hunting has too great of an impact on the bear population. The continued monitoring of annual bear harvest and the bear population is recommended.

OBJECTIVE

Document bear harvest and population trends, and to make bear management recommendations based on these trends.

METHODS

We captured bears using culvert traps, barrel traps, or foot snares set in conflict and non-conflict situations during April–October, and by visiting winter dens in February and March. Each captured bear was marked with a uniquely numbered metal ear tag in each ear, and a first premolar tooth was extracted for age determination from bears over 12 months old. Some bears also were weighed, tattooed on the inside upper lip, or fitted with a radio-transmitting or Global Positioning System (GPS) collar. Capture and handling of bears was conducted by biologists, game wardens, land management staff, and wildlife technicians employed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Tagging was encouraged throughout the primary bear range by assigning capture objectives to 55 counties. Capture objectives mirrored harvest distribution and summed to 700. We asked personnel responsible for tagging bears to use their local county objective as a trapping goal.

Bear hunting occurred during 5 seasons: an early archery season in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 2B, 5B, 5C, and 5D (20 September – 28 November for units 2B, 5C, 5D, 4 October – 21 November for unit 5B); a statewide archery bear season during 18 October – 25 October; a statewide muzzleloader season from 23 October – 25 October that is concurrent with the special firearms season (23 October – 25 October); a statewide regular firearms (general) bear season during 22 November – 25 November; and an extended bear season in select WMUs during the general firearms deer season. Length of the extended season varied based on location, and occurred during 29 November – 6 December in WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, 4E, and 5A, and 29 November – 13 December in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C, 5D.

Hunters were required to purchase a bear license in addition to a general hunting license before participating in a bear season. Bear licenses could be purchased at any license-issuing location and were unlimited. The annual bag limit was 1 bear per licensed hunter in all seasons combined.

Successful hunters were required to present their bear to the Game Commission within 24 hours of harvest. While checking bears, we recorded sex, age (cub or adult), harvest location, time of death, and marking (ear tag or tattoo) information. We collected a premolar tooth for aging, weighed the bear, and interviewed the hunter to obtain name, address, and biographical data. Cause of death, location, sex, age, and tag information also was collected from any dead bear reported to

the Pennsylvania Game Commission outside the hunting season (e.g., vehicle collisions, damage or conflict removals, loss due to disease, and poaching incidents).

We maintained a database of all reported captures, harvests, and non-harvest mortalities. We used bears captured in the 10 months before the statewide archery and muzzleloader hunting seasons as marked animals and bears killed during the hunting season as a recapture sample to estimate population size using the unbiased Lincoln-Petersen equation (Seber 1982). Bears with ear tags from previous years were treated as unmarked unless recaptured in 2025 to reduce the effects of tag loss (Alt et al. 1985), dispersal (Alt 1978), and undetected mortality. Marked bears that were known to die prior to the hunting season (recapture period) were excluded from population estimate calculations.

Population estimates were calculated for individual WMUs and the entire state. When estimating population size for the entire state, we were consistent with estimation procedures used in 2024, and we used all tagged bears harvested during the statewide archery, statewide muzzleloader/special firearms, regular firearms, and extended seasons. The historical method (that is no longer used) limited the recapture period to the general hunting season because that was either the only bear hunting season and/or where most bears were harvested when archery and extended seasons opened. When estimating population size for individual WMUs, we pooled all bear hunting seasons (early, archery, muzzleloader, general, and extended) into a single recapture period. Population estimates were not calculated for WMUs that had 10 or fewer marked bears or lacked recaptures during 2025.

We calculated harvest rate (percent of the population removed by hunting) as the proportion of tagged bears that were harvested, regardless of where they were harvested or in which season. Harvest rates were calculated for the entire state and individual WMUs with >10 bears marked and not recovered dead prior to the hunting season. These WMUs were also required to have recaptures during 2025 hunting seasons.

RESULTS

Captures and Tagging

Nine hundred and seventy-eight bears were captured 1,066 times between 15 December 2024 and 17 October 2025. This is an increase from 744 bears and 794 captures in 2024. Thirty percent of the bears handled in 2025 were captured during conflict situations (34% in 2024).

Capture objectives were met or exceeded in 30 of 54 counties, while 1 county outside of the primary bear range that has no assigned capture quota also tagged bears (Table 1). The number of counties meeting at least 75% or more of their assigned tagging objective increased from the previous year (37 versus 35 counties in 2024).

Eighteen tagged bears (~1.8%) died prior to the fall hunting season; one tagged bear died during the early hunting seasons (~0.1%), leaving a sample of 959 bears for computing the statewide population estimate during the bear hunting seasons. The most common cause of death prior to hunting season was vehicle collisions (16 of 18, 88%).

Population Estimates

Statewide Population.--The 2025 statewide black bear population was estimated to be 19,347 bears with a 95% confidence interval of 16,753 to 22,456 bears, which was a slightly greater point estimate than in 2024 (Table 2). Although having slightly fewer or greater point estimates in recent years, the statewide population estimate has remained statistically stable.

Individual WMUs.--Sufficient data were available to estimate population size in 14 WMUs (Table 3). Estimates were not calculated for Units 1A, 2A, 2B, 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C or 5D because of insufficient tagging or no harvest.

Wildlife Management Unit 2G had the largest population estimate and WMU 1B had the smallest estimate. One WMU had over 1 bear per square mile (3C). Two WMUs had <0.25 bear per square mile (1B, 2E). The mean density across all WMUs was 0.60 bear per square mile (Table 3).

Harvest

Bear License Sales.--Hunters purchased 199,108 bear licenses during 2025, which was a 1.1% decrease from the previous year (201,280 licenses). Bear license sales were the seventh greatest amount sold all-time. However, 2025 was the first time since 2018 where bear licenses were below 200,000.

Although the large quantity of bear license sales has not led to a statewide population decline, hunter participation should be closely monitored. During the 1970s when a bear license was not required, an estimated 250,000 hunters pursued bears and populations declined (Lindzey et al. 1983). At present levels, licensed bear hunters outnumber bears approximately 10 to 1.

Harvest Size and Location.--Hunters killed 2,890 bears during 2025, which included 9 during the Early season, 474 during the Archery season, 717 during the Muzzleloader and Special Firearms seasons, 1,209 during the Regular Firearms (General) season, and 481 during the Extended season. (Table 4). The 2025 harvest was a 9.4% increase from the 2024 harvest and ranked twenty-third in recorded harvests.

Bears were taken in 59 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. The top 10 counties in 2025 were Tioga (181), Pike (147), Lycoming (146), Clinton (136), Bradford (134), Luzerne (125), Potter (120), Monroe (111), Sullivan (95), and Wayne (82).

Bears were harvested in 22 of 22 WMUs. Harvest decreased from the previous year in 7 WMUs, remained approximately the same in 10, and increased in 5 (Table 5). Two WMUs saw a greater than 50% change in harvest numbers from 2024. Specifically, WMU 2A had a greater than 50% decline in harvest when compared to 2024 while WMU 2B had a greater than 50% increase in harvest when compared to 2024 (4 and 4 bears, respectively).

Harvest Rate.--Of the 959 tagged bears assumed to be alive at the start of the statewide archery season, 36 were harvested yielding a harvest rate of 3.8%, which was less than 2024 (4.1%; Table 4). Of the 923 bears available for the statewide muzzleloader/special firearms season, 34 were harvested yielding a harvest rate of 3.7%, which was also a decrease from 2024 (4.7%; Table

4). The harvest rate during the general season was 6.5% (Table 4), which was below the 5-year mean, but greater than last year's general season harvest rate (2020-2024 mean = 6.9%; 2024 = 6.52). The general season experienced the largest number of harvested bears (1,209) since 2021 (1,314). The continued decrease of the general season harvest rate in comparison to the 5-year average is most likely due to hunting opportunities that distribute the total harvest more evenly across all major seasons (i.e., Archery, Muzzleloader/Special Firearms, General, and Extended seasons). Total harvest rate for the area open to extending hunting was 16.7% and the mean rate across affected WMUs with population estimates (excluding 2B, 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D because of low tagging numbers) was 14.8% (Table 4).

Four WMUs had harvest rates in the 20 to 25% range, which is considered sufficient for stabilizing growth in black bear populations; 0 exceeded 25%, which can reduce populations if repeated, and 10 were below 20%, which is typically insufficient to stop population growth. Harvest rate could not be calculated for WMUs 1A, 2A, 2B, 4A, 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D because of insufficient tagging or no tagged bears were returned in the harvest; 3 of those WMUs had moderate harvests and 5 were open to extended hunting (WMUs 1A, 4A, and 5C, and WMUs 2B, 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D, respectively; Table 5).

Sex and Age Composition.--Fifteen percent of the harvest was cubs-of-the-year, which was greater than the 2024 harvest (13%). Among bears determined to be 1 year old or older, the sex ratio was 48% female, and across WMUs ranged from 0% (WMU 2B) to 100% (WMU 2A). Among cubs, the sex ratio was 47% female, and across WMUs ranged from 0% (WMUs 2B) to 100% (WMU 2A).

Hunter Success Rate.--Approximately 1.5% or 1 in 69 hunters who purchased a bear license were successful in 2025 (Table 4). This value was identical to the 5-yr mean, but slightly below 10-yr mean, which are 1.5% and 1.7%, respectively.

Weights of Harvested Bears.--Measured weights using a scale were obtained for 1,971 bears, which was 68.2% of the harvest. Seventy-eight percent of the bears not weighed occurred in the early, archery, and muzzleloader/special firearms seasons where bears are typically checked in the field by State Game Wardens.

Sixty-nine (2.4% of the harvest) bears weighed 400 pounds or more, 30 (1.0%) bears weighed over 500 pounds or more, 6 (0.2%) bears weighed 600 pounds or more, and 1 (0.1%) bears weighed over 700 pounds calculated live-weight. These percentages were similar to those observed in 2024 when 61 (2.4% of the harvest) weighed 400 pounds or more and 30 (1.2%) weighed over 500 pounds calculated live-weight. The largest bear had a live weight of 717 pounds and was harvested in WMU 1A, Butler County during the regular firearms season.

The average live-weight of all bears harvested during 2025 was 173 pounds (183 pounds in 2024). The average weight of bears taken during the muzzleloader/special firearms season and extended season (same value) was slightly lower than the average weight of bears taken during either the archery and regular firearms seasons (169 pounds vs. 191 pounds and 173 pounds, respectively).

Non-Hunting Mortalities

Four hundred ninety-seven bear mortalities were documented outside of the hunting season during 2025. They included 403 vehicle collisions, 17 illegal shootings, 22 damage removals, and 55 other miscellaneous causes of death (Table 6).

Fifty-five percent of the bears examined in the *Other* category had symptoms of mange, which was higher than to 2024 (43%); the 5-year mean is 51%. Reports of bears with mange have increased in number and distribution during the past 20 years (Sommerer 2014), but the reasons for an increase and an estimate of prevalence in the population are unknown although research into these questions has occurred (Brown and Terner 2018).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue monitoring hunter participation during 2026 by requiring purchase of a bear license and listing all bear hunting seasons on the annual Game Take Survey.
2. Accurately measure tag-returns (in order to estimate population size and harvest rate) by operating check stations during the opening weekend of the general season and select days of the extended season. When check stations are not being operated, require harvested bears to be field-checked by agency staff. Mandatory checking of all harvested bears, whether at established check stations or in the field, should continue.
3. Tag a minimum of 700 bears during 2026, including bears recaptured from previous years. Make tagging of bears in WMUs with extended seasons a priority.
4. Monitor the changes to hunting opportunities to avoid over-harvesting of the black bear population.

LITERATURE CITED

- Alt, G.L. 1978. Dispersal patterns of black bears in northeastern Pennsylvania-a preliminary report. *Proceedings of Eastern Workshop on Black Bear Research and Management* 4:186-199.
- Alt, G.L., C.R. McLaughlin, & K.H. Pollock. 1985. Ear tag loss by black bears in Pennsylvania. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 49:316-320.
- Brown, J., & M. Terner. 2018. Mange in Pennsylvania black bears: identifying diagnostic approaches and defining the epidemiology. *Job Progress Annual Report No. 30001*, Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management, Harrisburg, USA.
- Lindzey, J.S., G.L. Alt, C.R. McLaughlin, & W.S. Kordek. 1983. Population response of Pennsylvania black bears to hunting. *Proceedings of International Conference on Bear Research and Management* 5:34-39.

- Seber, G.A.F. 1982. The estimation of animal abundance and related parameters. Second edition. Griffin, London, England.
- Sommerer, A. 2014. A spatial analysis of the relationship between the occurrence of mange in Pennsylvania's black bear population and impervious land cover. Thesis, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, USA.

Table 1. Number of bears captured by county and region, tagging objectives, and percent each objective was filled during 2025.

Region	County	No. Bears Captured	Tagging Objective	% Filled	County	No. Bears Captured	Tagging Objective	% Filled
North- West	Butler	4	6	67	Jefferson	25	10	250
	Clarion	8	8	100	Lawrence	0	0	-
	Crawford	6	6	100	Mercer	3	4	75
	Erie	1	3	33	Venango	15	9	167
	Forest	15	10	150	Warren	20	11	182
	Entire Region	97	67	145				
South- West	Allegheny	0	2	0	Greene	0	0	-
	Armstrong	24	9	267	Indiana	10	14	71
	Beaver	0	0	-	Somerset	21	23	91
	Cambria	19	19	100	Washington	0	0	-
	Fayette	10	14	71	Westmoreland	34	25	136
	Entire Region	118	106	111				
North- Central	Cameron	13	12	108	Lycoming	8	32	25
	Centre	18	29	62	McKean	38	21	181
	Clearfield	85	24	354	Potter	9	22	41
	Clinton	21	31	68	Tioga	78	26	300
	Elk	27	19	142	Union	2	15	13
	Entire Region	299	231	129				
South- Central	Adams	0	0	-	Huntingdon	29	18	161
	Bedford	22	12	183	Juniata	13	7	186
	Blair	18	9	200	Mifflin	21	11	191
	Cumberland	0	0	-	Perry	10	4	250
	Franklin	3	4	75	Snyder	6	4	150
	Fulton	1	6	17	York	0	0	-
	Entire Region	123	75	164				
North- East	Bradford	22	16	138	Northumberland	0	4	0
	Carbon	11	14	79	Pike	25	31	81
	Columbia	6	7	86	Sullivan	37	14	264
	Lackawanna	14	14	100	Susquehanna	21	9	233
	Luzerne	20	21	95	Wayne	29	19	153
	Monroe	38	26	146	Wyoming	75	10	750
	Montour	0	1	0				
	Entire Region	298	186	160				
South- East	Berks	4	7	14	Lebanon	3	3	-
	Bucks	2	0	-	Lehigh	1	3	67
	Chester	0	0	-	Montgomery	0	0	-
	Dauphin	12	5	280	Northampton	2	3	67
	Delaware	0	0	-	Schuylkill	19	14	164
	Lancaster	0	0	-				
	Entire Region	43	35	123				
Statewide		978	700	140				

Table 2. Lincoln-Petersen mark-recapture population estimates for black bears in Pennsylvania, 1992-2025.

Year	Number of tagged bears available for recapture ^a	Population estimate	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower	Upper
1992	301	8,252	6,726	10,618
1993	356	8,880	7,370	11,062
1994	386	8,525	6,945	10,870
1995	439	9,269	7,957	11,055
1996	420	8,596	7,266	10,454
1997	566	10,057	8,213	11,204
1998	441	9,902	8,588	11,666
1999	404	11,957	9,659	15,394
2000	388	15,340	12,796	18,963
2001	428	15,387	12,989	18,721
2002	564	15,104	12,753	18,341
2003	586	16,064	13,609	19,105
2004	551	13,810	11,636	16,525
2005	506	15,901	13,550	18,810
2006	558	15,121	12,705	18,142
2007	566	13,363	11,112	16,202
2008	592	17,504	14,762	20,911
2009	806	17,852	15,449	20,749
2010	702	18,375	15,572	21,824
2011	753	17,831	15,405	20,763
2012	695	16,255	13,868	19,179
2013	748	18,518	15,592	22,134
2014	844	18,320	15,558	21,698
2015	864	20,503	17,428	24,256
2016	900	19,382	16,549	22,823
2017	790	18,790	15,374	23,118
2018	690	18,843	15,345	23,303
2019	853	20,144	17,924	22,754
2020	874	16,768	14,876	18,998
2021	596	15,453	13,476	17,848
2022	649	15,178	12,967	17,390
2023	616	18,292	15,355	21,951
2024	727	19,211	16,146	23,005
2025	959	19,347	16,753	22,456

^a Bears that were tagged in the current year and not discovered dead prior to the general hunting season (i.e., recapture period). See Table 1 for total number of captures in 2025.

Table 3. Lincoln-Petersen mark-recapture black bear population estimates by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) from 2025.

WMU	Area (mi ²)	Population estimate	Est. number of bears/mi ²	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
1A	1,847	a	a	a	a
1B	2,117	241	0.11	138	520
2A	1,811	a	a	a	a
2B	1,363	a	a	a	a
2C	3,100	1,082	0.35	631	1,986
2D	2,487	1,935	0.78	926	4,375
2E	1,262	277	0.22	159	568
2F	2,411	1,007	0.42	727	1,469
2G	4,114	3,741	0.91	2,649	5,426
3A	1,508	1,203	0.80	766	2,020
3B	2,218	1,914	0.86	1,366	2,779
3C	2,191	3,484	1.59	1,493	8,672
3D	2,103	1,667	0.79	1,217	2,393
4A	1,736	b	b	b	b
4B	1,591	714	0.45	326	1,755
4C	1,717	854	0.50	547	1,453
4D	2,743	744	0.27	513	1,151
4E	1,736	545	0.31	241	1,502
5A	1,301	a	a	a	a
5B	2,640	a	a	a	a
5C	2,473	a	a	a	a
5D	835	a	a	a	a
Pooled	45,302	19,408	0.62	11,697	36,068
Mean	2,059	1,386	0.60	835	2,576

^a Insufficient number of tagged bears to estimate population size^b Insufficient number of tagged bears were harvested in bear hunting seasons

Table 4. Statewide black bear hunting season and harvest statistics, 2019-2025.

Year	Season length (days)	Season dates	Harvest				Harvest rate (%)	Number of licenses sold	Hunter success (%)	Hunters /bear
			First day	Second day	Third day	Total				
2019	57 ^a	21 Sep-16 Nov	0	0	0	8	--			
2019	12 ^b	28 Oct-9 Nov	59	51	52	562	4.4			
2019	7 ^c	19 Oct-26 Oct	380	153	58	1,335	9.1			
2019	4	23, 25-27 Nov	1060	335	143	1,633	7.3	202,043	2.3	43
2019	13 ^d	30 Nov-14 Dec	518	95	69	1,119	22.5 ^e			
2020	60 ^a	19 Sep-27 Nov	1	0	1	13	--			
2020	19 ^b	17 Oct-7 Nov	224	57	39	955	6.6			
2020	7 ^c	17 Oct-24 Oct	353	94	87	1,041	6.4			
2020	4	21 Nov-24 Nov	750	175	155	1,177	7.1	220,471	1.6	61
2020	12 ^d	30 Nov-12 Dec	34	63	55	435	30.1 ^e			
2021	62 ^a	18 Sep-26 Nov	1	0	0	10	--			
2021	19 ^b	16 Oct-6 Nov	61	46	35	672	5.5			
2021	7 ^c	16 Oct-23 Oct	91	85	52	536	4.5			
2021	4	20 Nov-23 Nov	800	266	141	1,314	8.2	215,219	1.7	59
2021	14 ^d	27 Nov-11 Dec	384	150	156	1,127	15.4 ^e			
2022	62 ^a	17 Sep-25 Nov	3	0	0	8	--			
2022	19 ^b	15 Oct-5 Nov	121	39	22	738	5.2			
2022	7 ^c	15 Oct-22 Oct	212	79	62	712	4.9			
2022	4	19 Nov-22 Nov	658	197	118	1,051	7.2	213,639	1.5	67
2022	14 ^d	26 Nov-3 Dec	297	77	82	666	26.0 ^e			
2023	62 ^a	16 Sep-24 Nov	0	1	0	7	--			
2023	19 ^b	14 Oct-4 Nov	24	32	37	695	3.3			
2023	7 ^c	14 Oct-21 Oct	61	70	74	541	3.0			
2023	4	18 Nov-21 Nov	699	236	121	1086	8.5	206,124	1.4	71
2023	14 ^e	25 Nov-9 Dec	263	103	44	591	14.8 ^e			
2024	62 ^a	21 Sep-29 Nov	1	0	0	4	--			
2024	19 ^b	19 Oct-9 Nov	186	39	50	756	4.1			
2024	3 ^c	24 Oct-26 Oct	209	223	202	634	4.7			
2024	4	23 Nov-26 Nov	490	176	102	823	4.1	201,280	1.3	76
2024	14 ^d	30 Nov-14 Dec	155	59	56	425	13.6 ^e			
2025	70 ^a	20 Sep-28 Nov	2	1	0	3	--			
2025	8 ^b	18 Oct-25 Oct	254	57	54	474	3.8			
2025	3 ^c	23 Oct-25 Oct	223	216	278	717	3.7			
2025	4	22 Nov-25 Nov	712	276	141	1,209	6.5	199,108	1.5	69
2025	15 ^d	29 Nov-13 Dec	214	54	57	481	16.7 ^e			

^a Early season.^b Archery season.^c Muzzleloader/Special Firearms season.^d Extended season.^e Mean WMU harvest rate combining all seasons in WMUs open to extended hunting.

Table 5. Black bear harvest statistics by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), 2025.

WMU	Area (mi ²)	Number of bears tagged ^a	Harvest rate	Total harvest	Total harvest/ 10 mi ²	Early season harvest	Archery season harvest	Muzzle-loader/ Special Firearms harvest	General season harvest	Extended season harvest	% Change in total harvest from 2024
1A	1,847	4	^b	33	0.2	0	10	6	17	0	27
1B	2,117	13	0.23	68	0.3	0	5	18	45	0	1
2A	1,811	7	^b	2	0.0	0	0	0	2	0	-67
2B	1,363	1	^b	6	0.0	2	2	0	2	0	200
2C	3,100	80	0.09	106	0.3	0	11	25	70	0	4
2D	2,487	43	0.07	175	0.7	0	51	37	87	0	1
2E	1,262	23	0.17	57	0.5	0	10	12	35	0	8
2F	2,411	87	0.22	228	0.9	0	32	50	146	0	7
2G	4,114	175	0.13	488	1.2	0	68	126	294	0	3
3A	1,508	63	0.16	206	1.4	0	19	58	66	63	1
3B	2,218	139	0.15	300	1.4	0	46	71	89	94	-1
3C	2,191	50	0.04	204	0.9	0	23	38	51	92	41
3D	2,103	87	0.24	416	2.0	0	92	109	98	117	45
4A	1,736	23	^c	73	0.4	0	15	21	37	0	3
4B	1,591	31	0.06	66	0.4	0	8	24	34	0	32
4C	1,717	44	0.20	189	1.1	0	38	47	36	68	-4
4D	2,743	72	0.19	152	0.6	0	17	50	85	0	6
4E	1,736	11	0.09	90	0.5	0	21	20	13	36	-6
5A	1,301	3	^b	9	0.1	0	1	2	1	5	-10
5B	2,640	1	^b	2	0.0	0	0	0	1	1	0
5C	2,473	2	^b	19	0.1	7	4	3	0	5	12
5D	835	1	^b	1	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	^d

^a Excluding bears that were documented dead prior to bear hunting seasons.^b Harvest rate could not be determined because of an insufficient number of tagged bears.^c Harvest rate could not be determined because no tagged bears were harvested.^d Undefined percent change

Table 6. Black bear mortalities documented outside of the legal hunting season in Pennsylvania, January-December, 1995–2025. Category “Other” includes cases of unknown cause of death, malnutrition, disease (e.g., euthanized for mange), predation, non-vehicle accidents (i.e., collisions with trains), unsuccessful cub reintroductions, handling accidents, and self-defense killings.

Year	Property or agriculture damage^a	Vehicle-bear mortalities	Illegal shootings	Other	Total
1995	12	251	21	29	313
1996	3	216	14	25	258
1997	6	277	23	32	338
1998	4	262	24	21	311
1999	3	342	19	22	386
2000	25	305	20	26	376
2001	12	312	13	28	365
2002	11	378	22	42	453
2003	25	444	22	61	552
2004	28	354	18	42	442
2005	12	289	8	28	283
2006	12	382	17	51	462
2007	10	314	22	37	383
2008	21	357	14	60	452
2009	35	404	21	61	521
2010	27	405	16	68	516
2011	37	418	12	97	564
2012	34	408	9	115	566
2013	35	411	14	99	559
2014	31	438	14	112	595
2015	23	383	15	73	494
2016	32	494	9	132	667
2017	27	348	7	74	456
2018	23	413	15	117	568
2019	24	440	28	92	584
2020	35	531	30	134	730
2021	7	346	18	81	452
2022	26	370	28	61	486
2023	20	368	19	52	459
2024	12	402	27	54	495
2025	22	403	17	55	497

^a Includes both agency and landowner removals.