



Lake Trout Harvest and Regulations in Northern Lake Huron

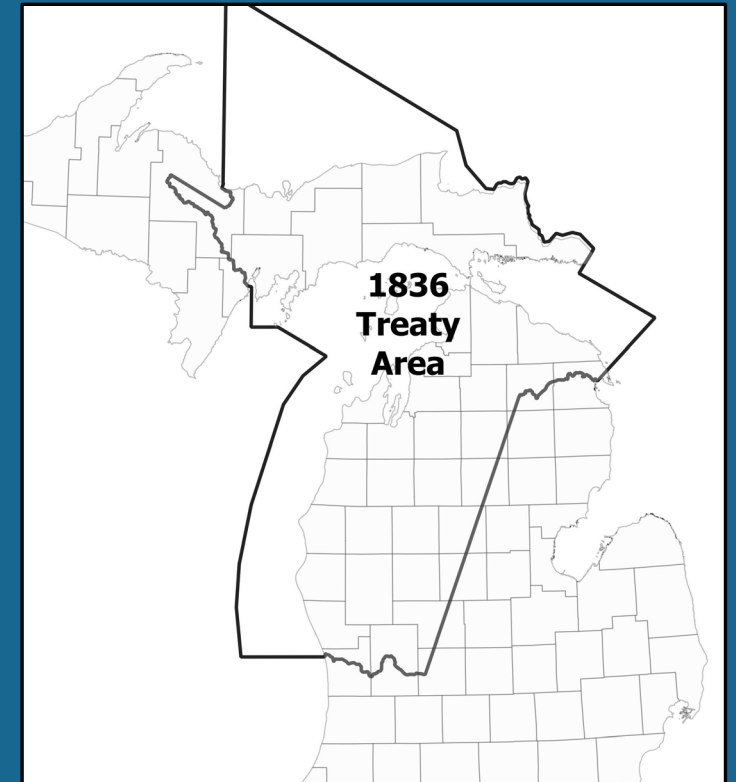
Seth Herbst, Ph.D.
ASRA Unit Manager
March 10, 2022



2000 Consent Decree

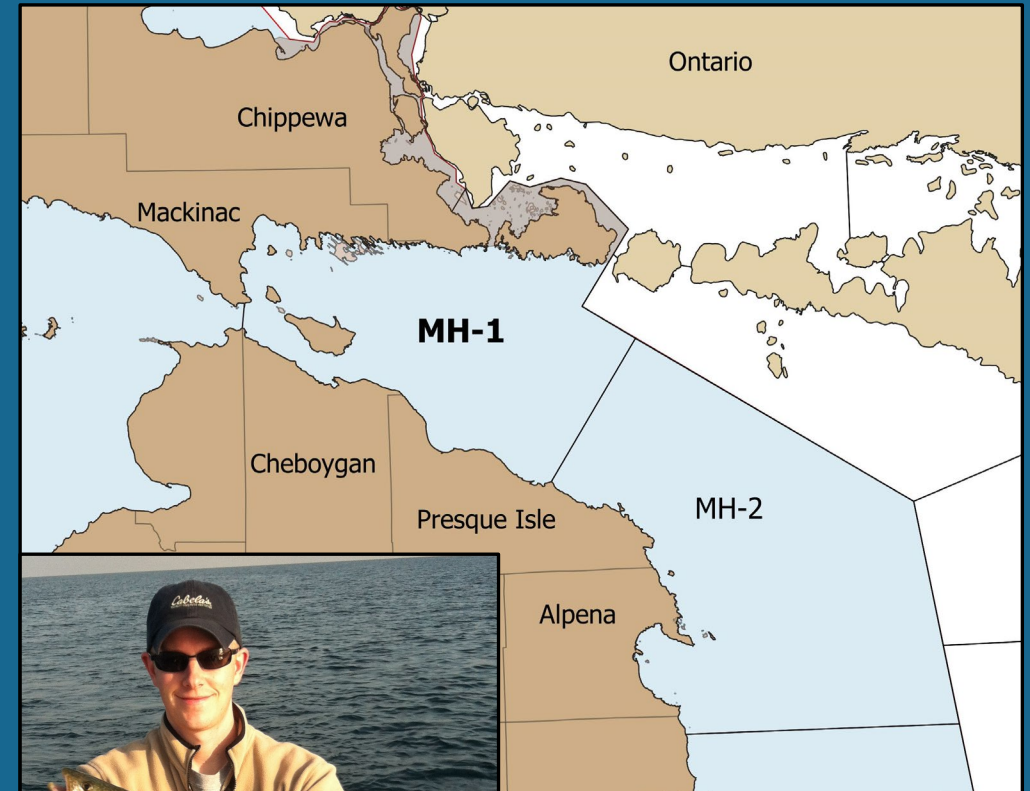


- Remains in effect through at least June 30, 2022.
- Across the 1836 Treaty Area, annual harvest limits are set for Lake Trout and then allocated to the State and the Tribes.
- The Lake Trout regulations established by the NRC are meant to keep harvest within the allowed limits.
- If either the State or the Tribes exceed their annual harvest limit by more than 15%:
 - The amount of the overage is deducted from the next year's harvest limit, *AND*
 - The party “shall take management action” to ensure its harvest stays within the next year's limit.



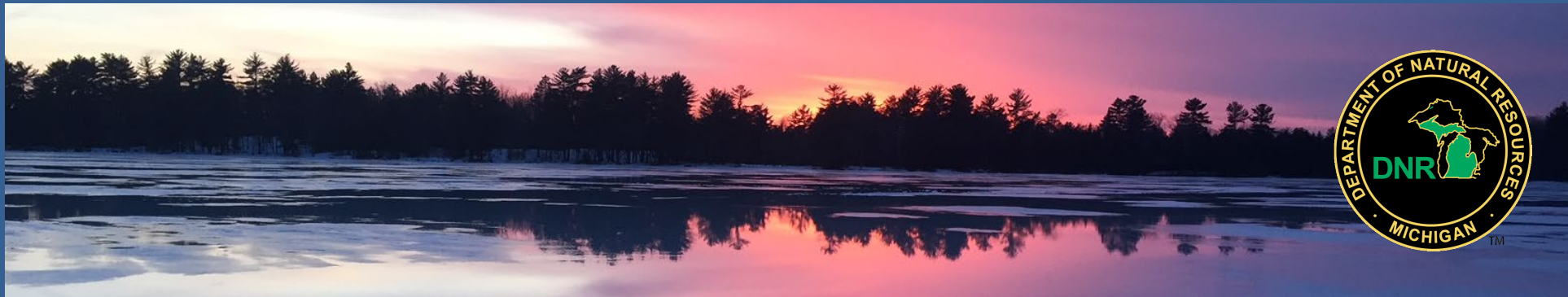
MH-1 Lake Trout Harvest

- The State exceeded its harvest limit by 20% in MH-1 during the 2021 fishing season.
- The DNR is working with stakeholders to prepare regulation options that will fulfill the Consent Decree requirements.



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



Furbearer Regulations

Recommendation Modification

- UP recommendation was changed to move trapping to begin October 25
 - Same season length
 - 63 days: last day December 26
 - Trappers in UP have expressed support for earlier 2-month season
 - No significant impacts to harvest expected



2022-23 Elk Regulations



Chad Stewart, Deer and Elk Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
March 10, 2022

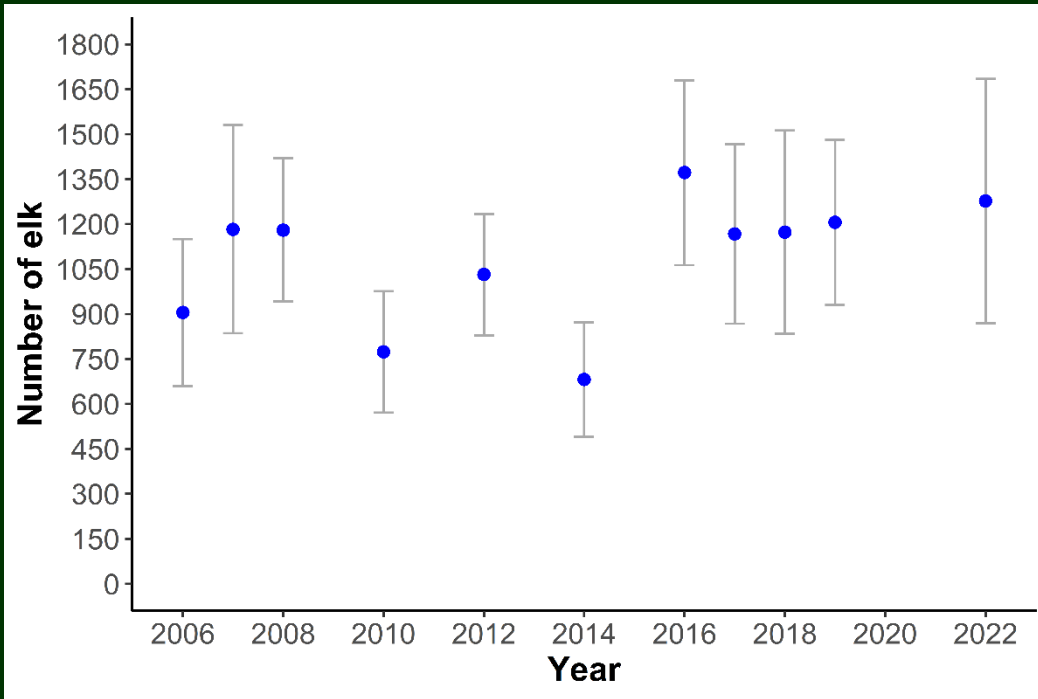


Elk Program Goals

- 500-900 Elk
- 2022 Elk survey
 - 1,277 estimated animals (95% CI: 870-1,684)
 - 1,206 estimated in 2019
 - 1,173 estimated in 2018
 - 1,167 estimated in 2017

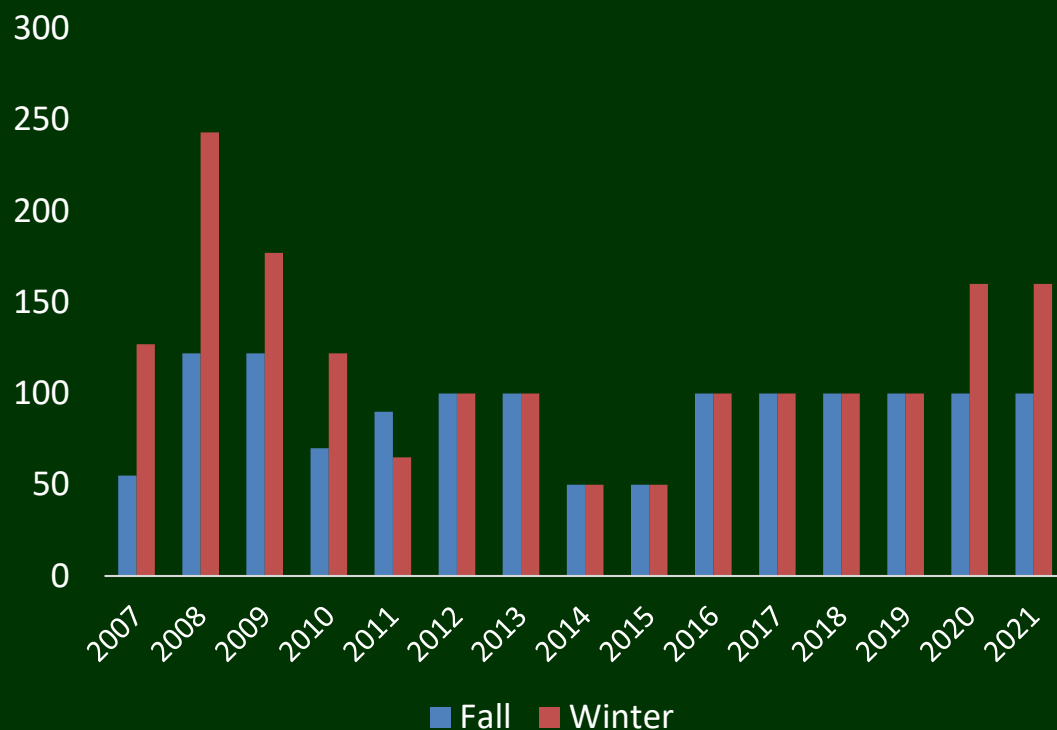


Elk Program Goals



Historic Quotas and Demand

- 2021
 - ~49,100 applicants
 - +7,396 applicants for chance only
 - Odds to draw
 - Any elk tag: 0.19%
 - Antlerless elk tag: 0.97%



2022 & 2023 Proposed License Quotas

- Maintain quota structure from 2020-21
- 260 state drawn licenses
 - 100 licenses in September/October
 - 70 antlerless
 - 30 either sex
 - 160 licenses in December
 - 110 antlerless
 - 50 either sex



Season Dates and License Quotas

Hunt Period 1

Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2022 Aug. 29- Sept. 1, 2023

Sept. 16-9, 2022 Sept. 15-18, 2023

Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2022 Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2023

Unit	Any Elk	Antlerless
X	30	70



Hunt Period 2

Dec. 10-18, 2022 Dec. 9-17, 2023

Unit	Any Elk	Antlerless
H	20	40
I	30	70
Total	50	110



Tribal Licenses

- The 2007 Inland Consent Decree authorizes the five 1836 Treaty Tribes to issue licenses equal to 10% of state issued elk licenses, rounded up.
 - Issuance of 26 tribal licenses associated with proposed quotas
 - Issuance of 1 tribal license associated with 3 Pure Michigan Hunt winners



Elimination of January Hunt Dates

- Used historically “as needed” to address elk groups detected late within or after the hunting season, or if weather impacts harvest
- Not used since 2008
- Leaves little preparation time for approval and hunter notification
- Quotas can be adjusted for following year if necessary



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/elk



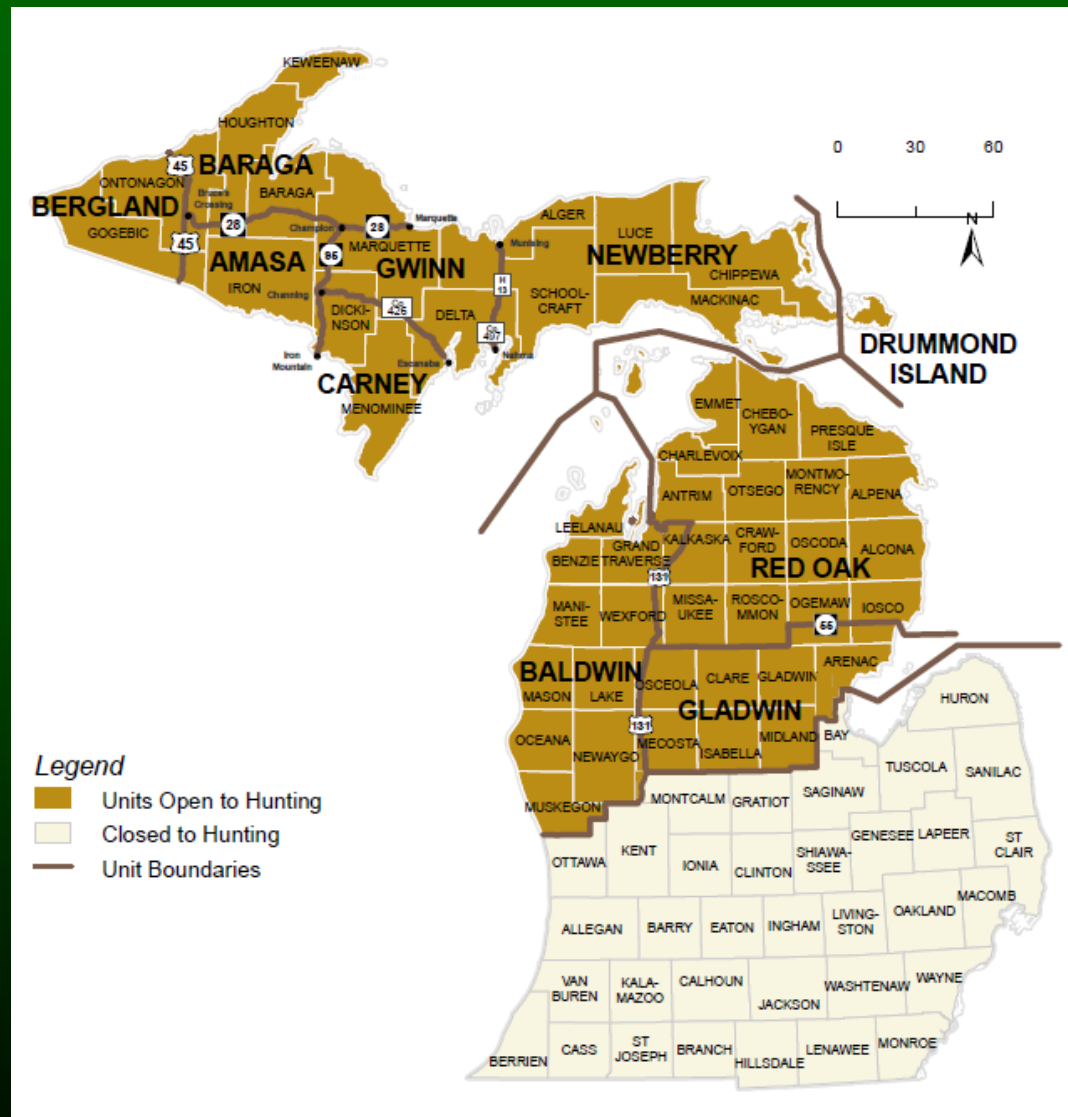
2022 Bear Population Trend Analysis



Cody Norton
Wildlife Division
March 10, 2022



Bear Management Units



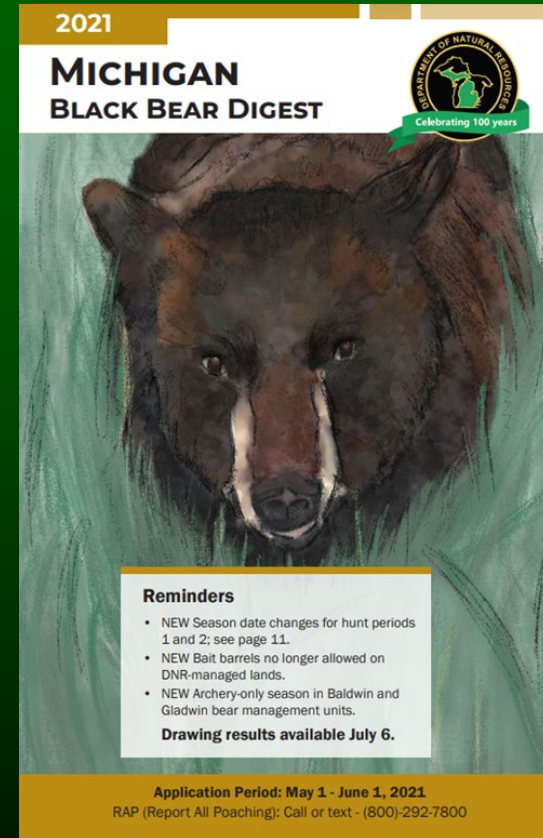
License Quotas & Regulations

- The Process
 - WLD field staff
 - LED staff
 - Internal Bear Workgroup
 - Tribal governments
 - Bear Forum
 - Natural Resources Commission & Director



2023-24 Regulations Cycle

- Bear Forum
 - August 2022
- Natural Resources Commission & Director
 - For Information: February 2023
 - For Action: March 2023



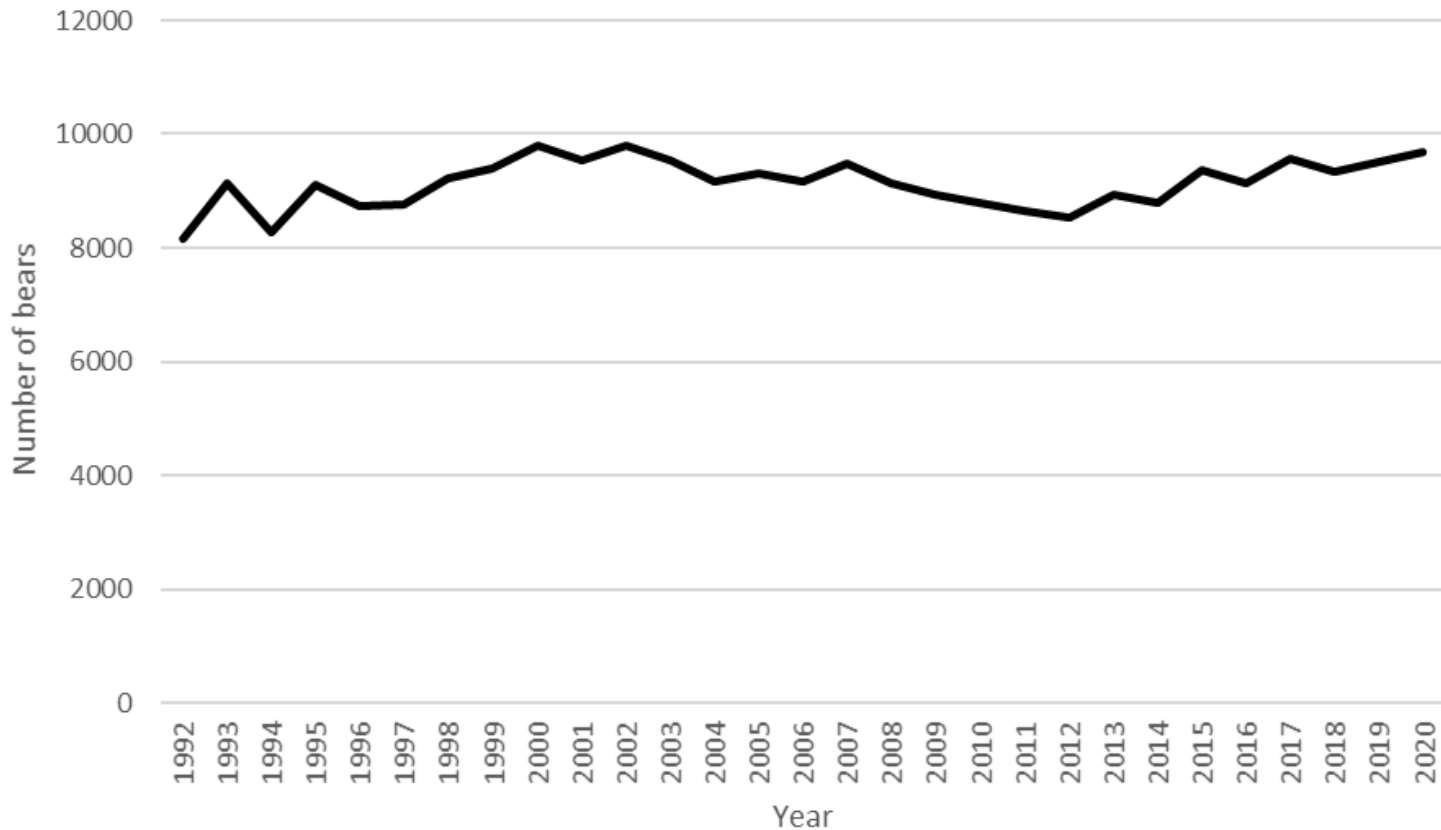


Upper Peninsula Population Trajectory Goal

- To continue to increase the bear population, but at a slower rate, by increasing harvest slightly



Upper Peninsula



9,673 bears in 2020. Up 13% since 2012



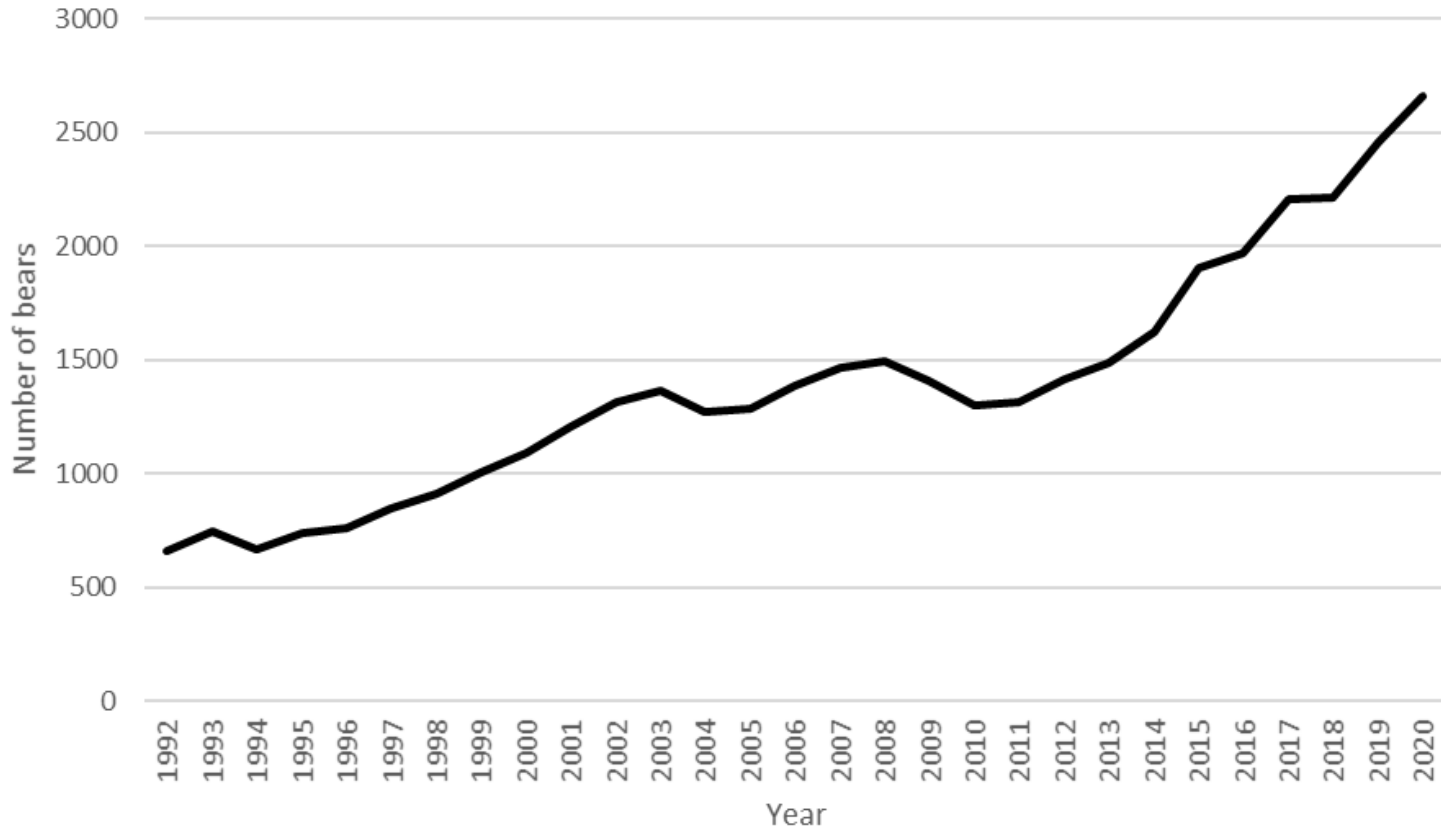


Northern Lower Peninsula Population Trajectory Goal

- To slow the population growth to eventually achieve a stable population



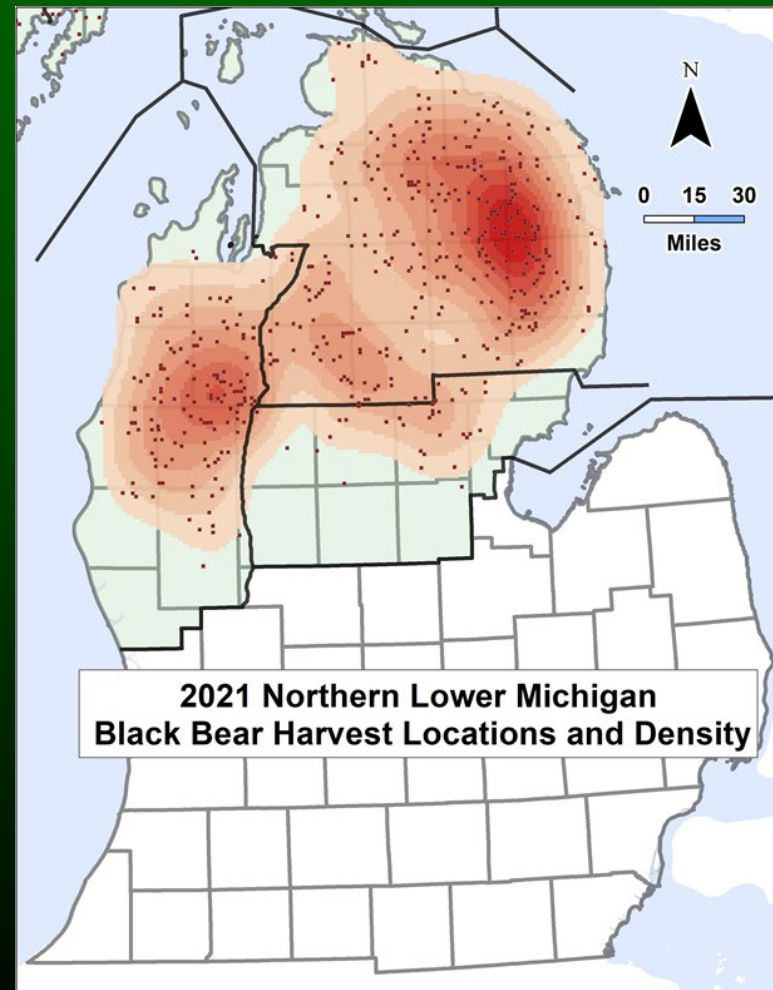
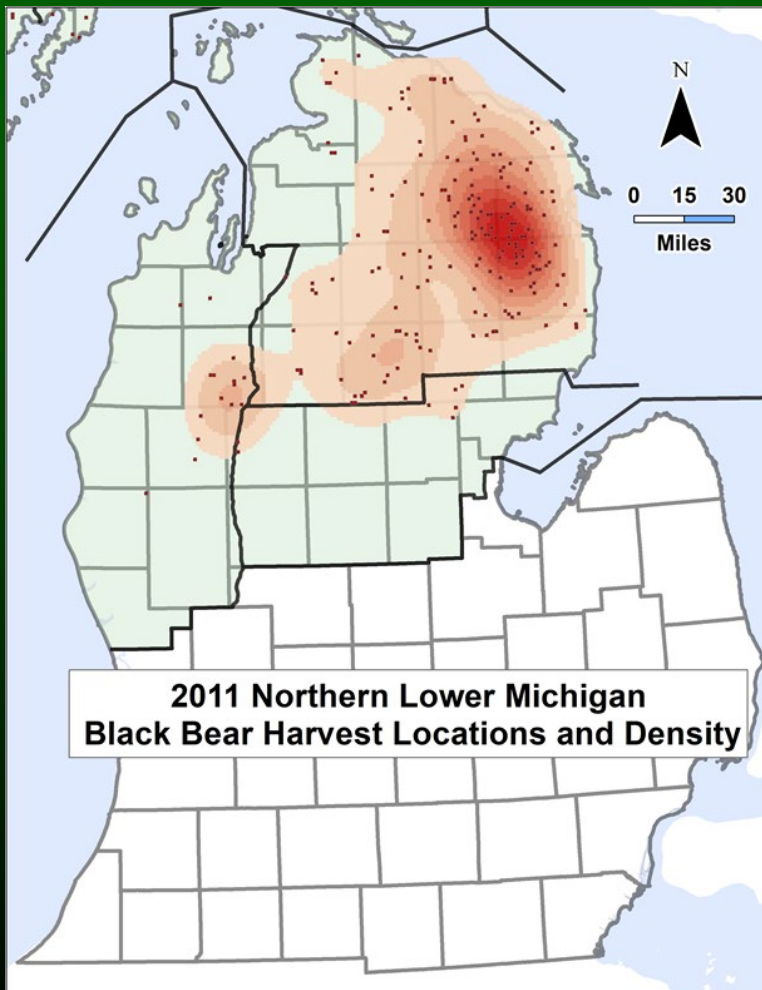
Northern Lower Peninsula



2,663 bears in 2020. Up 88% since 2012



Lower Peninsula Distribution





Other Indices Used

- Hunter opinion
- Hunter effort
- Hunter success rates
- Square miles/bear harvested
- Nuisance bear complaints
- Habitat and mast



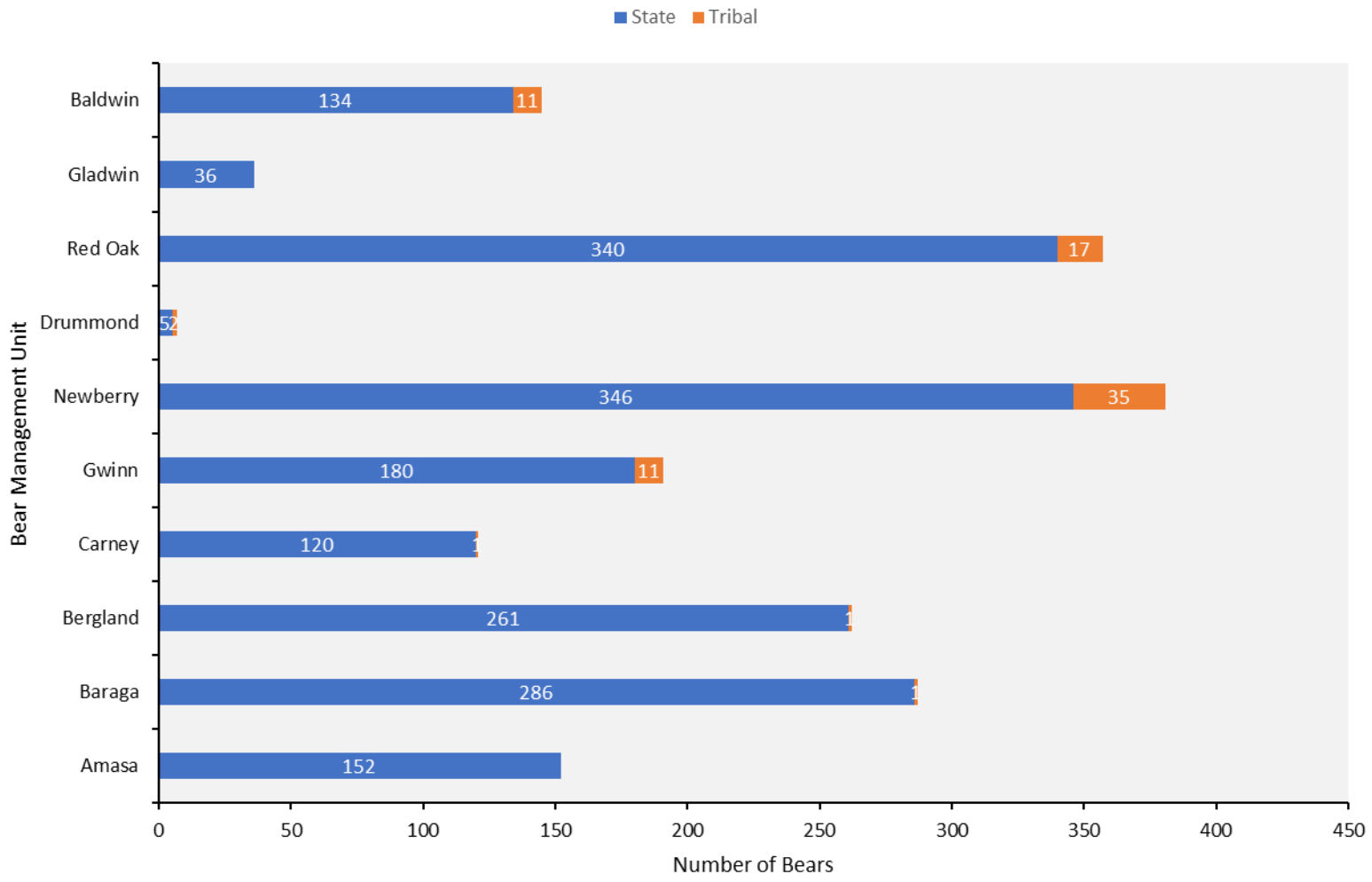
2021 Statewide Harvest (State Licensed Hunters)

- 1,863 bears harvested statewide
- Up 4% from 2020 (1,800)
- 11% above the 10-year average
- Very good success rates in many UP and NLP BMU's



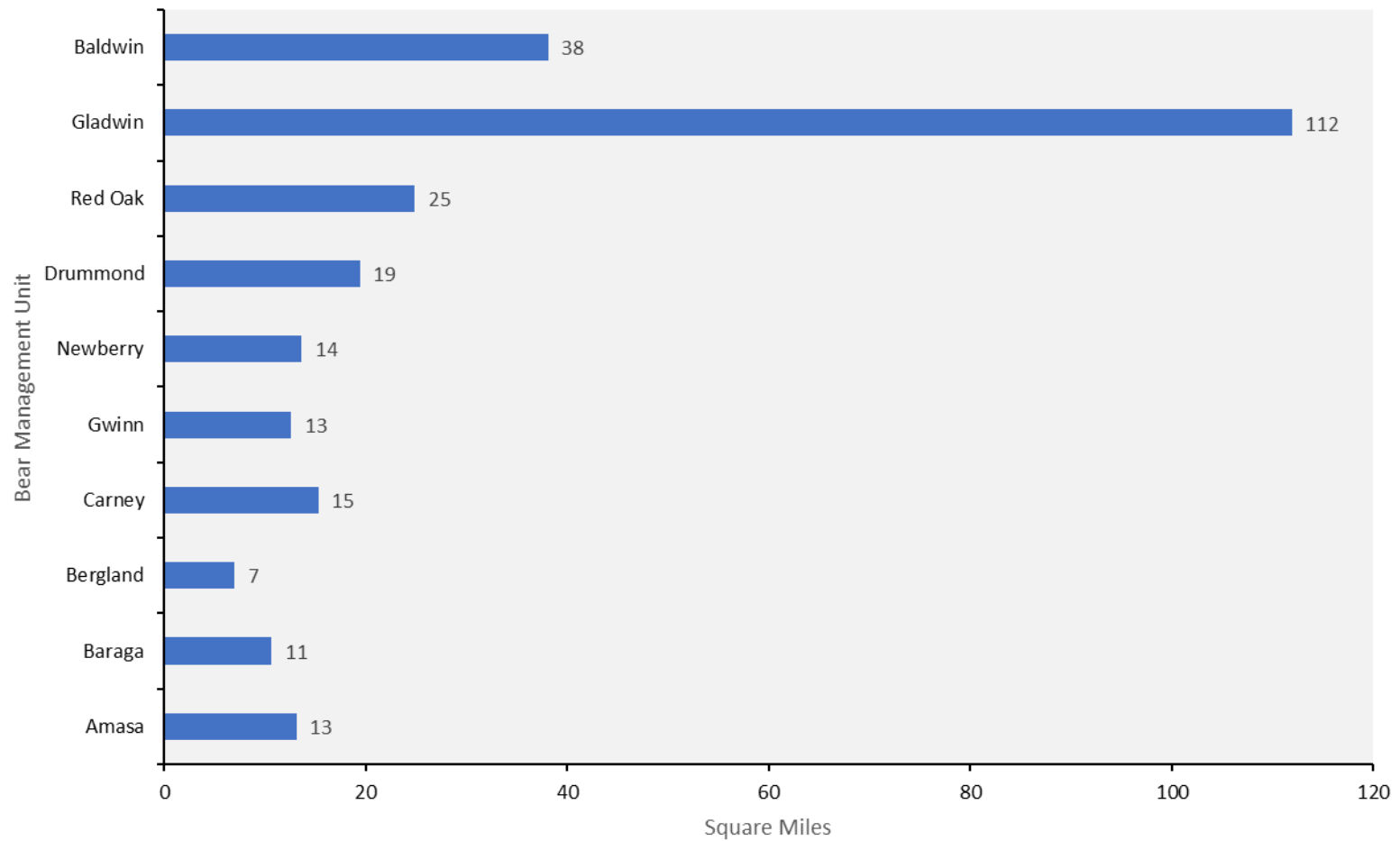


2021 Registered Harvest





2021 Square miles / harvested bear State and Tribal



2020 Bear Hunter Survey

- Most hunters (86%) relied primarily on bait only
- 12% relied primarily on dogs alone or a combination of baiting (strike) and dogs
- 79% of harvested bear were taken over bait
- Bait-only hunters had a 33% success rate, dog hunters had a 59% success rate



2020 Bear Hunter Survey

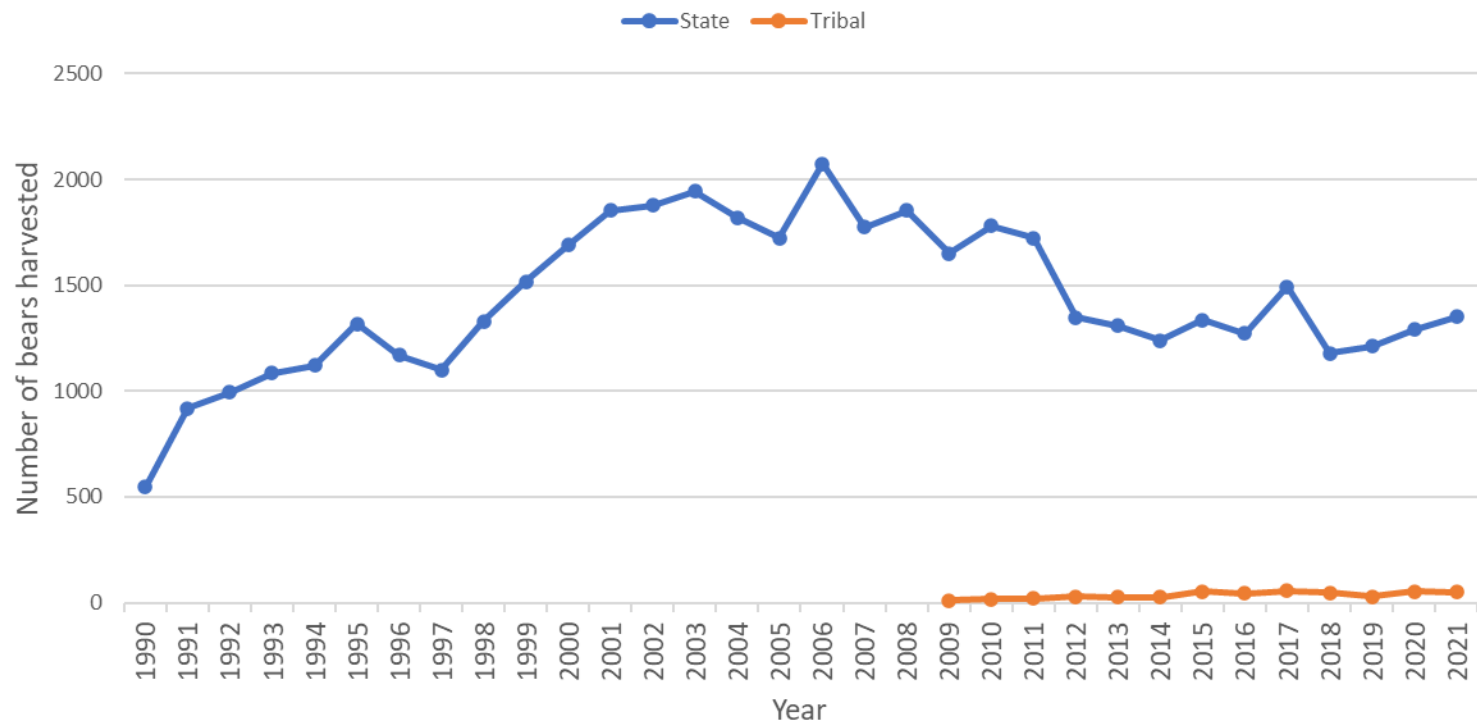
- The success rate of hunters that used a guide was 51%
- Approximately 725 hunters (14%) hired a guide
- 5,824 people bought a bear license, which is a decrease of 35% since 2010 (8,976)





UP Bear Harvest

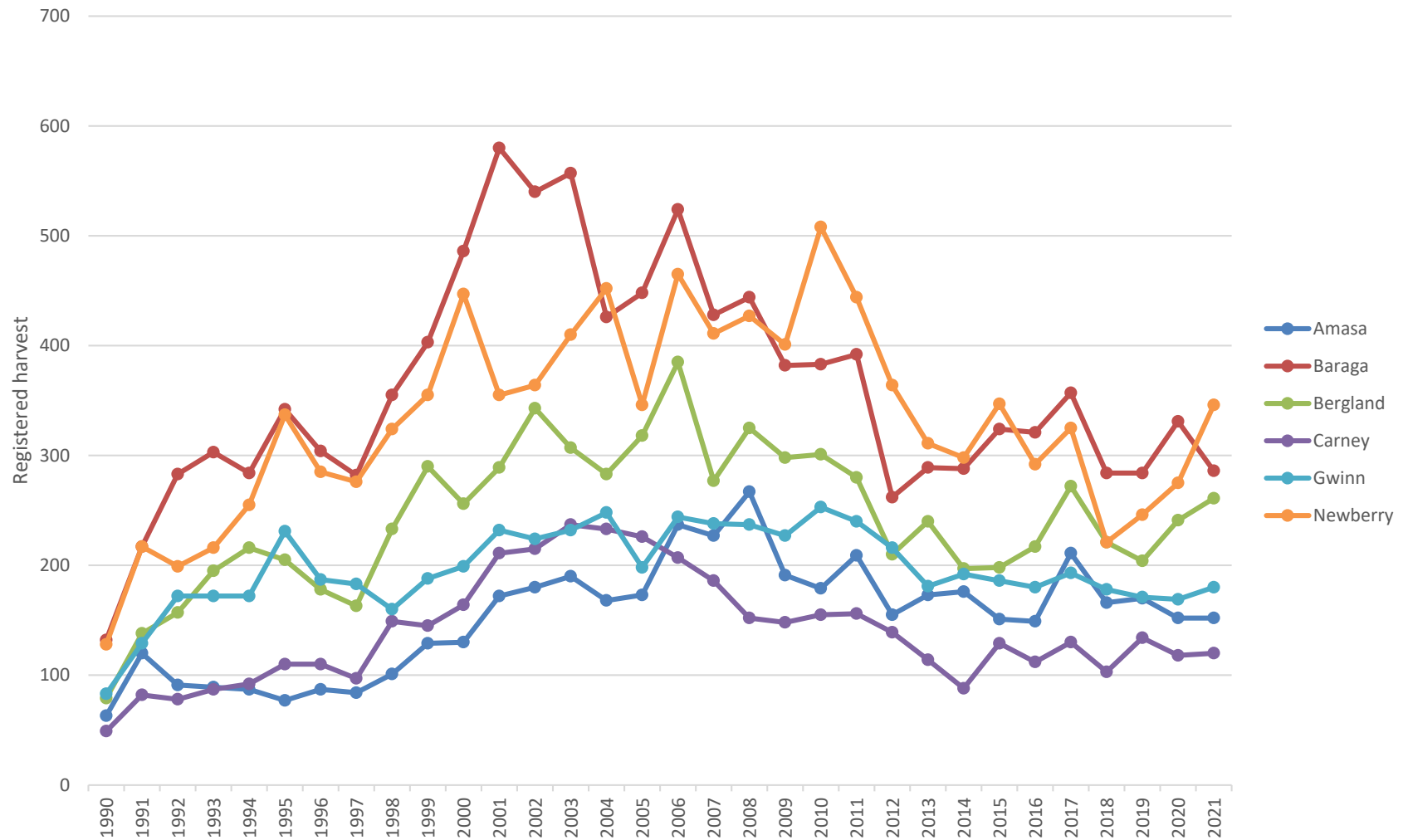
State long-term average: 1,434



1,350



UP: Number of bears registered by BMU
(State-licensed hunters)

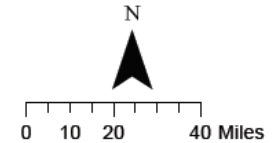


2021 Bear Harvest Locations - UP

SLM 12/13/21

2021 Upper Peninsula Bear Harvest Locations

Note: This map shows only registered bears taken by hunting through state-issued licenses. 75 registered bears (statewide) had missing or incomplete location information and are not displayed.

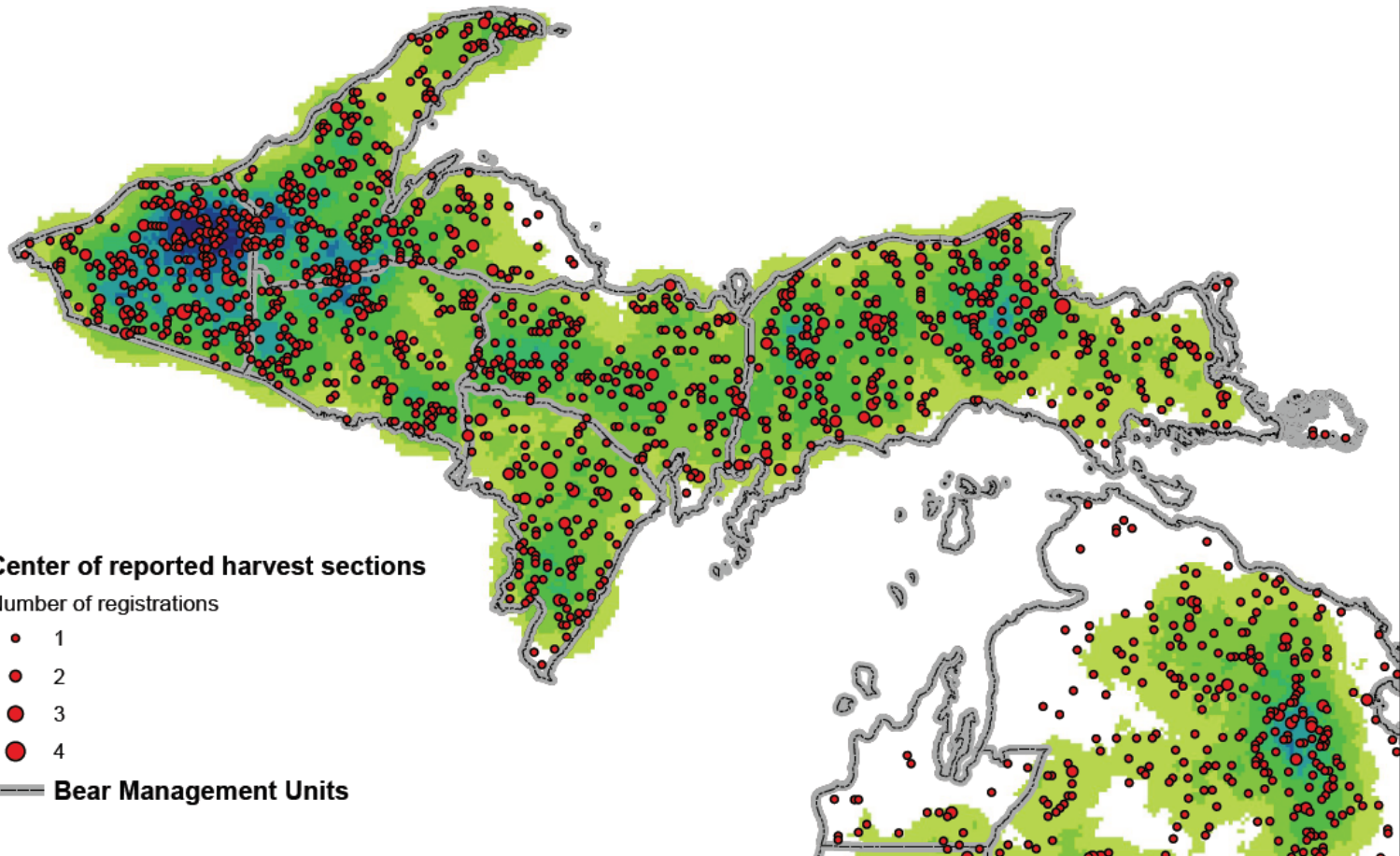


Center of reported harvest sections

Number of registrations



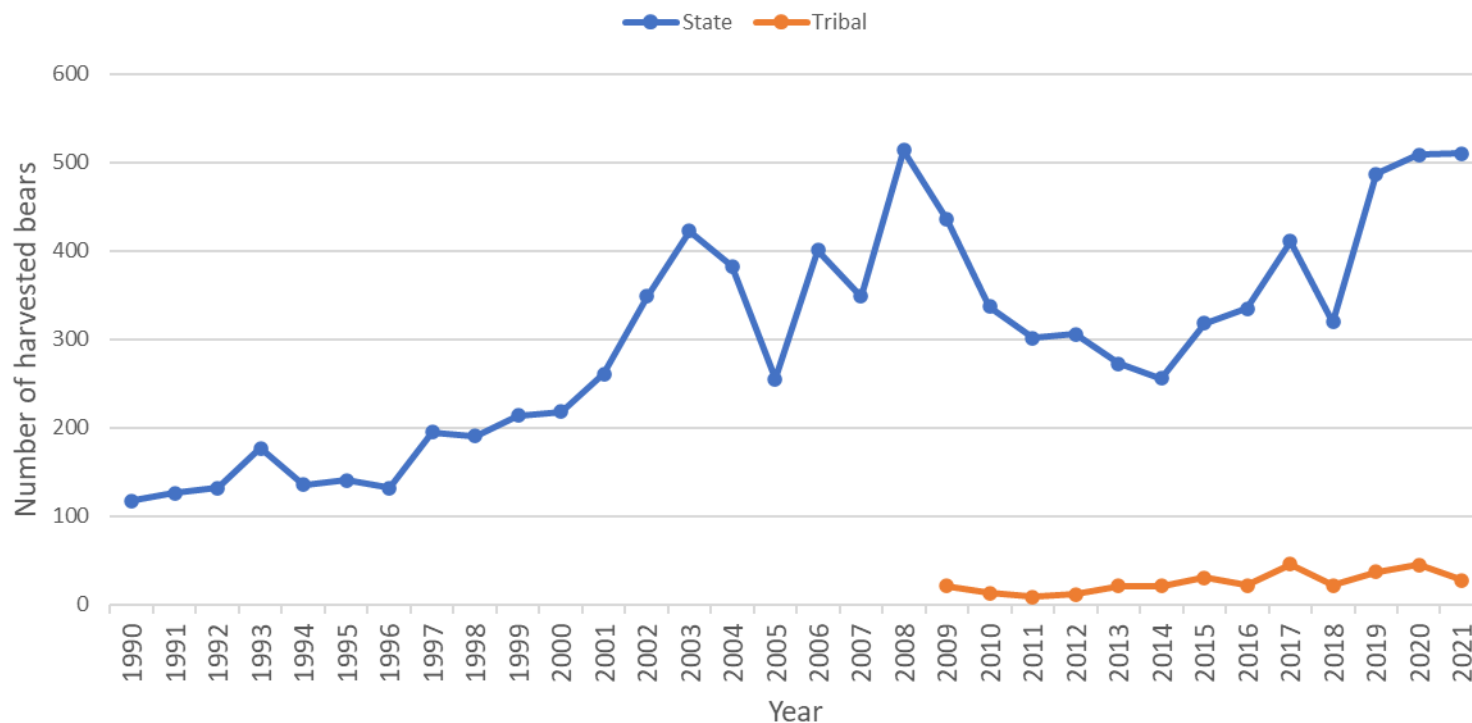
Bear Management Units





NLP Bear Harvest

State long-term average: 297

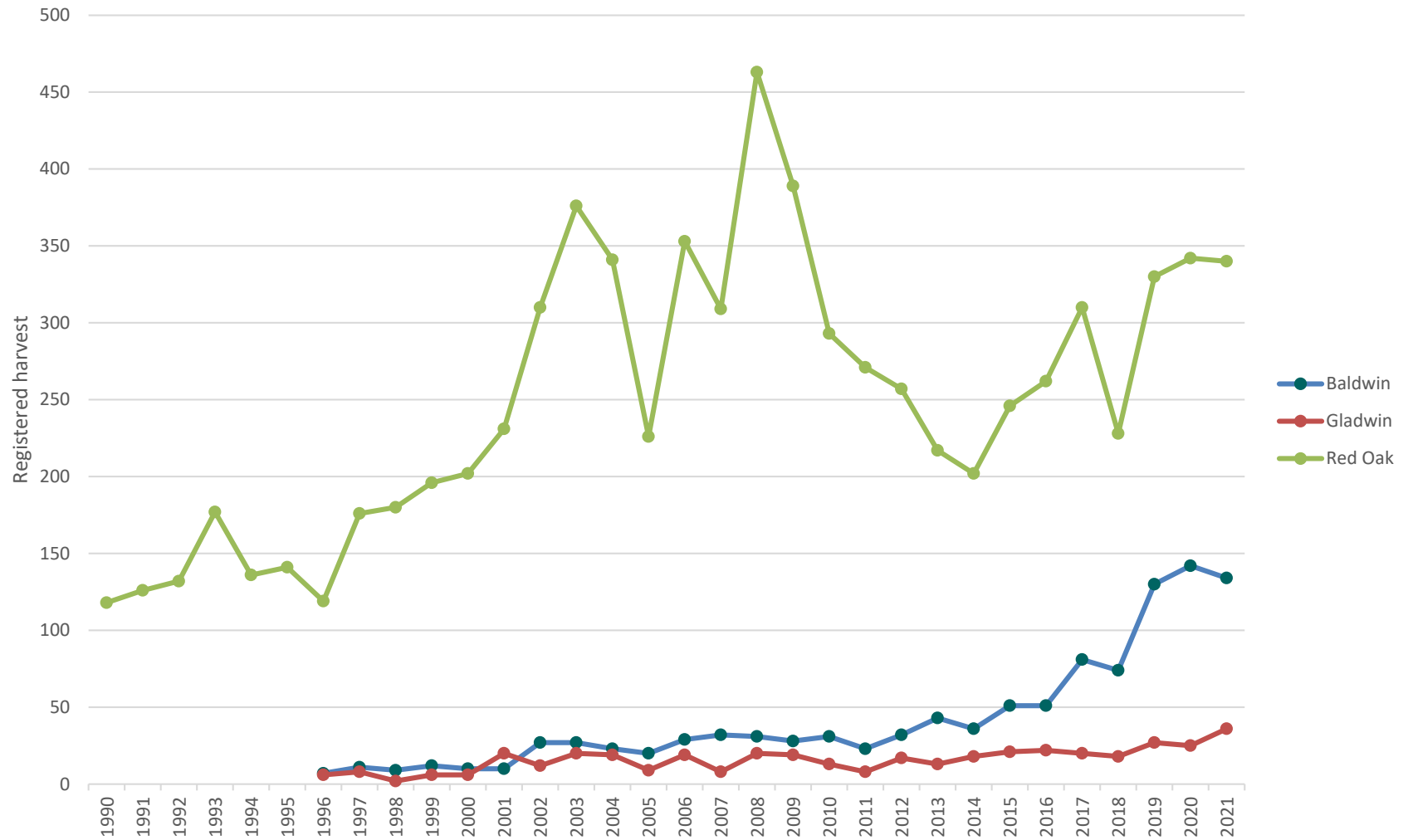


510

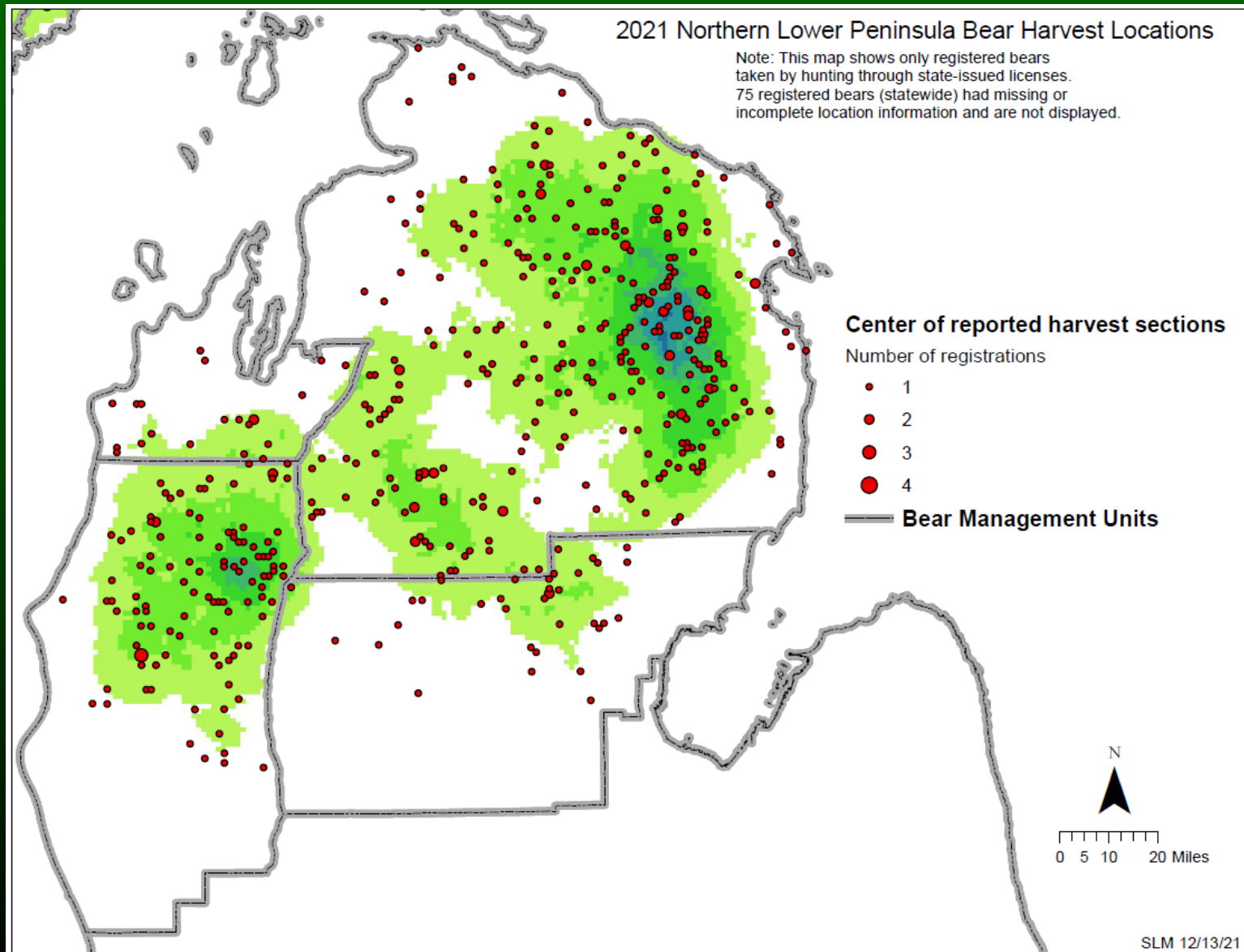




NLP: Number of bears registered by BMU (State-licensed hunters)

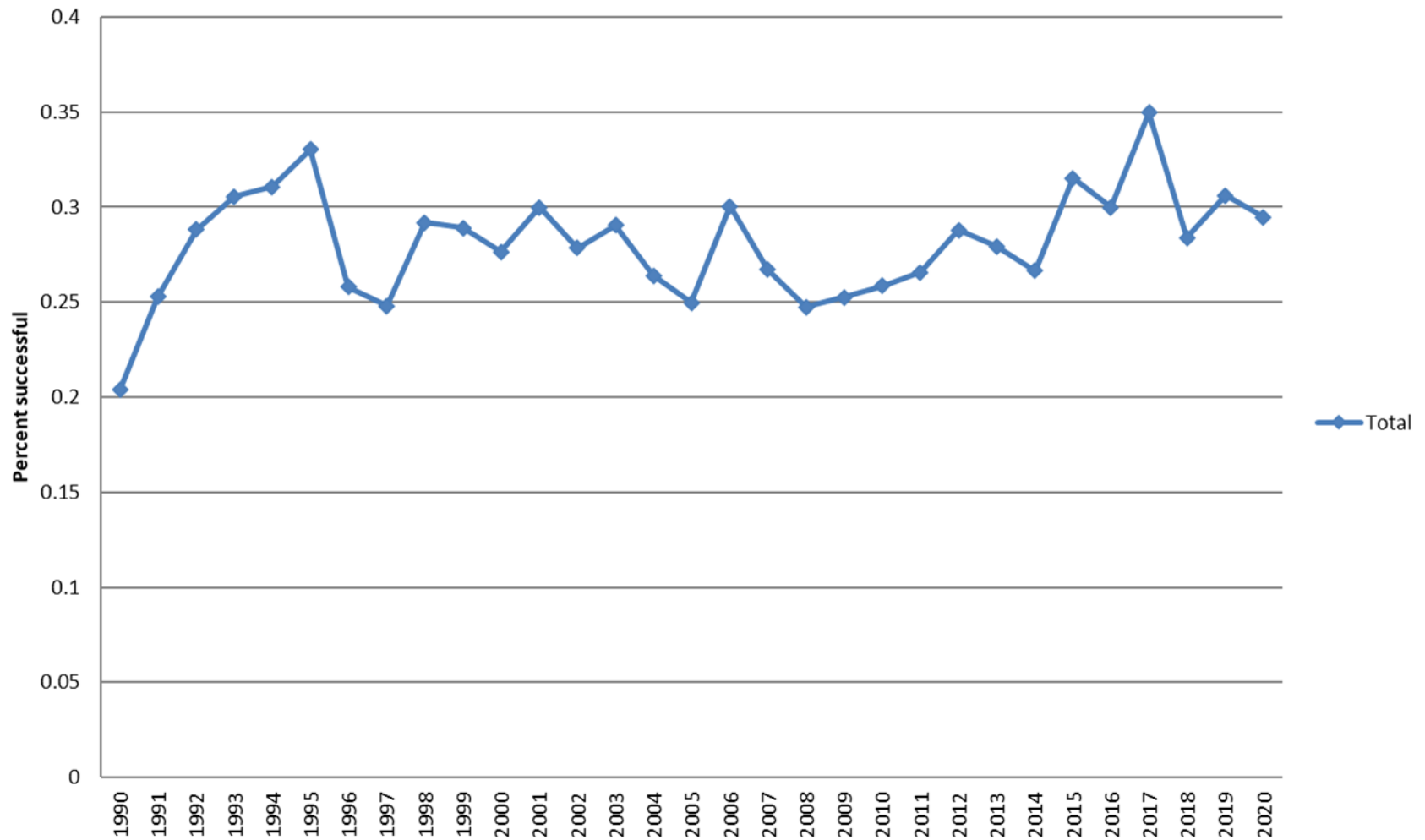


2021 Bear Harvest Locations - NLP



UP Region

Estimated percentage of successful hunters by year

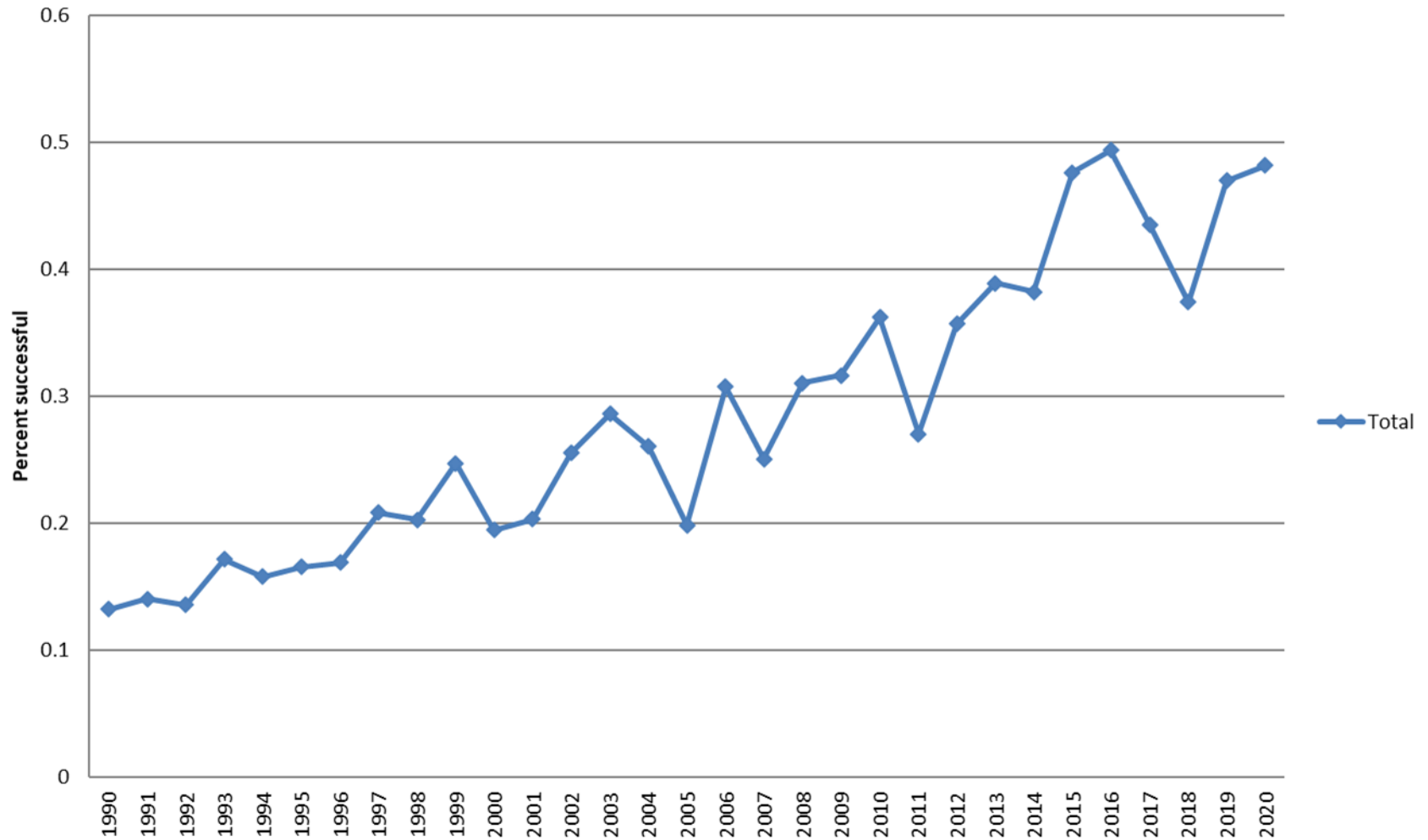


Year ▼



NLP Region

Estimated percentage of successful hunters by year

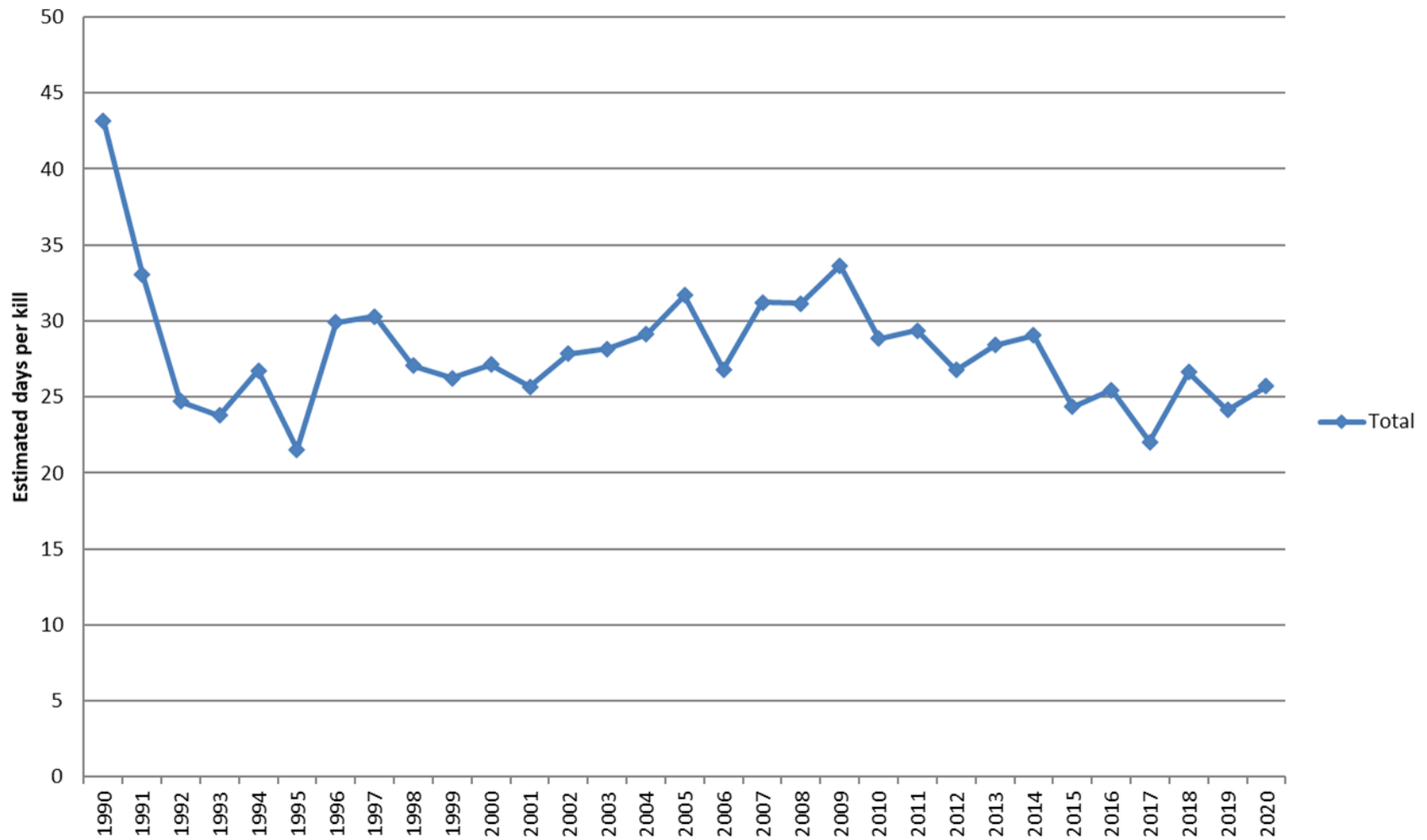


Year ▼



UP Region

Estimated effort per bear

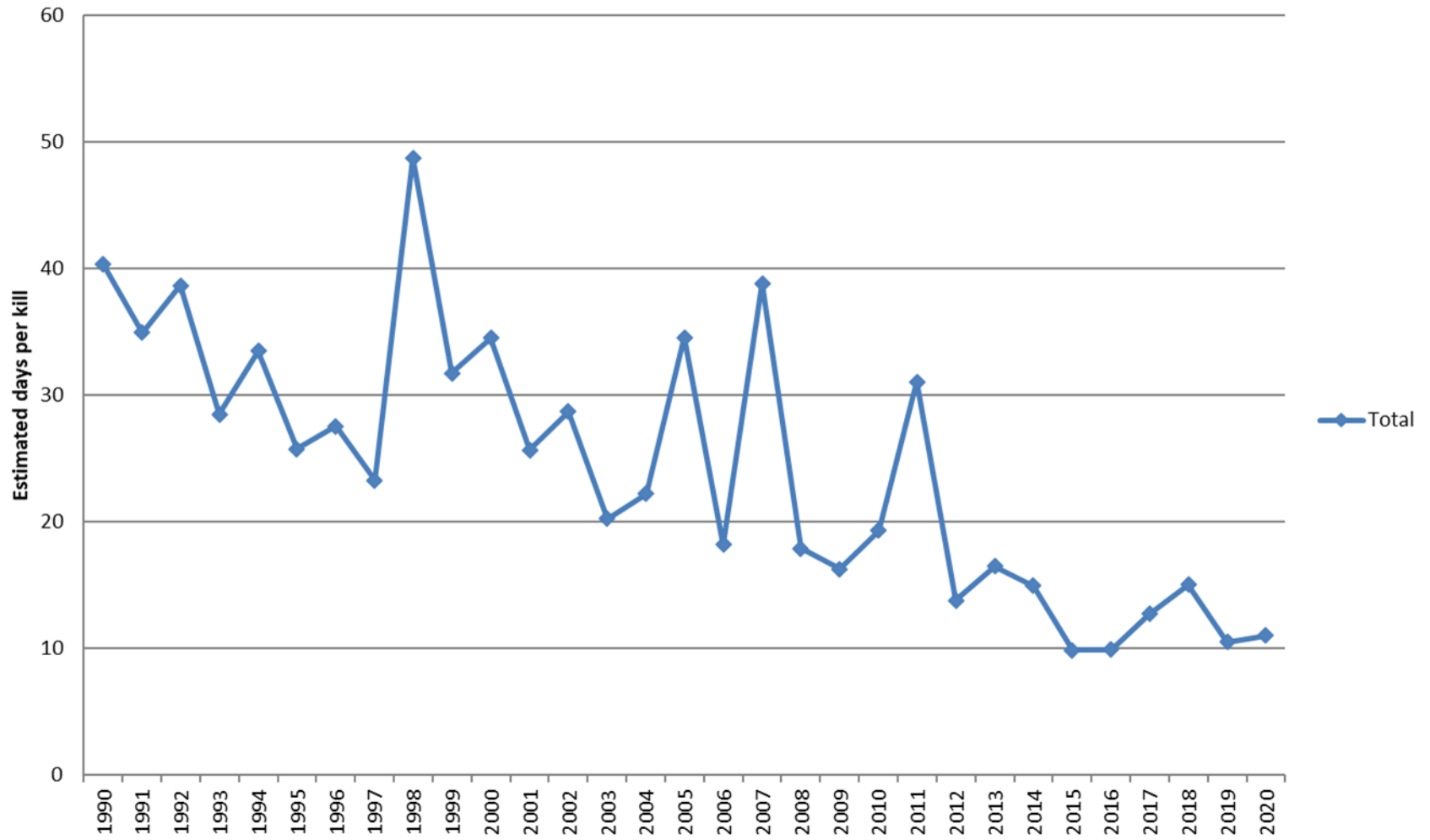


Year ▼



NLP Region

Estimated effort per bear



Year ▼



Nuisance Issues

2021 Bear Activity Reports

Note: 10 activity reports had missing or incomplete location information and are not mapped. Current as of 12/09/21.

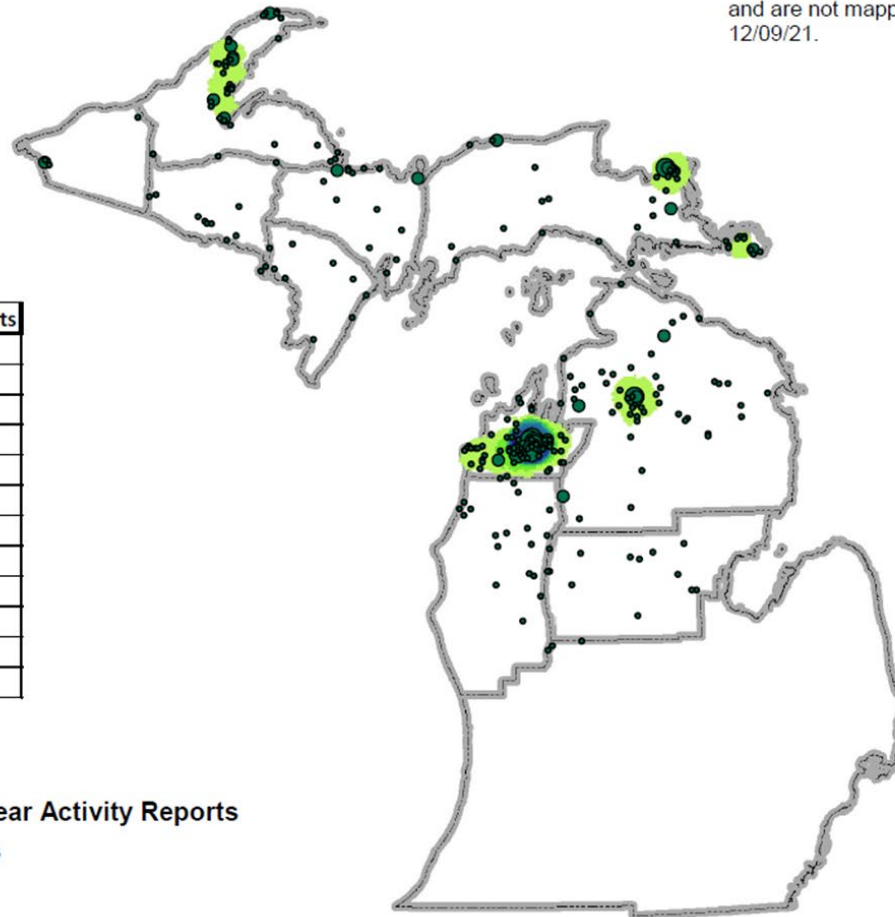
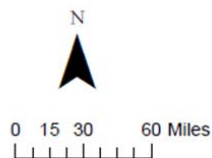
Month	# of Reports
January	0
February	0
March	10
April	39
May	70
June	77
July	51
August	45
September	48
October	15
November	2
December	1

2021 Bear Activity Reports

Reports

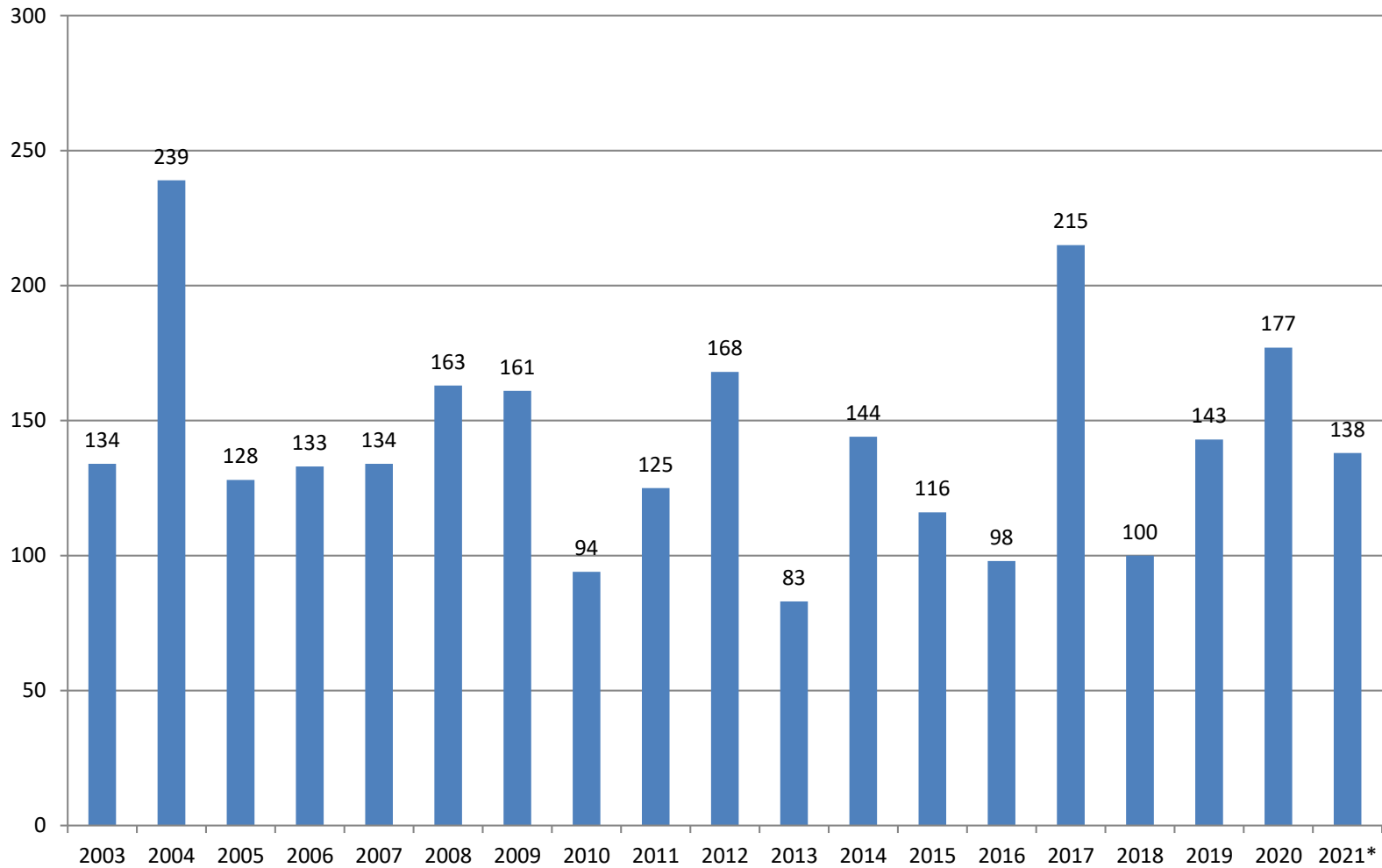
- 1
- 2
- 3+

— Bear Management Unit Boundaries



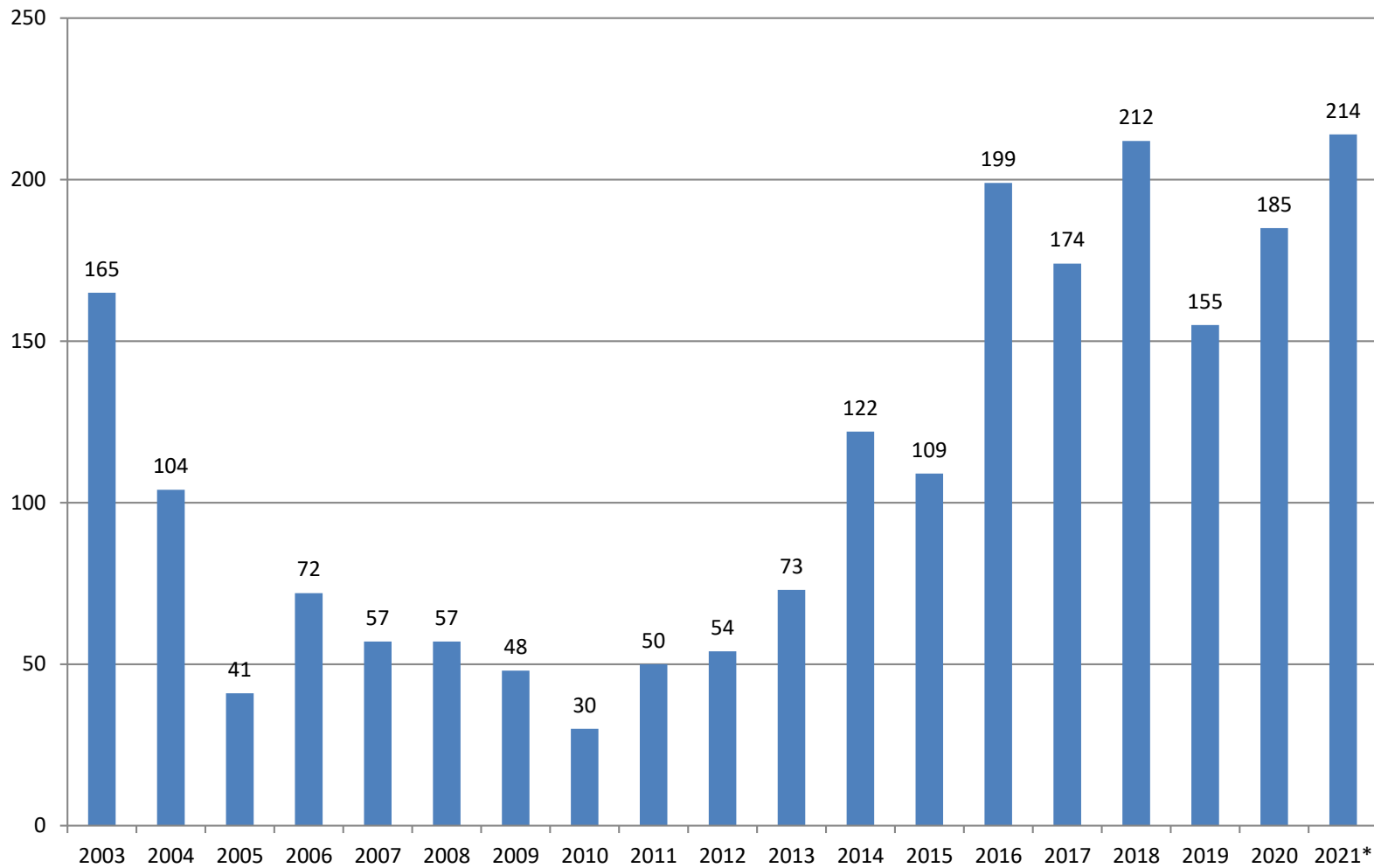


UP Region Nuisance Complaints

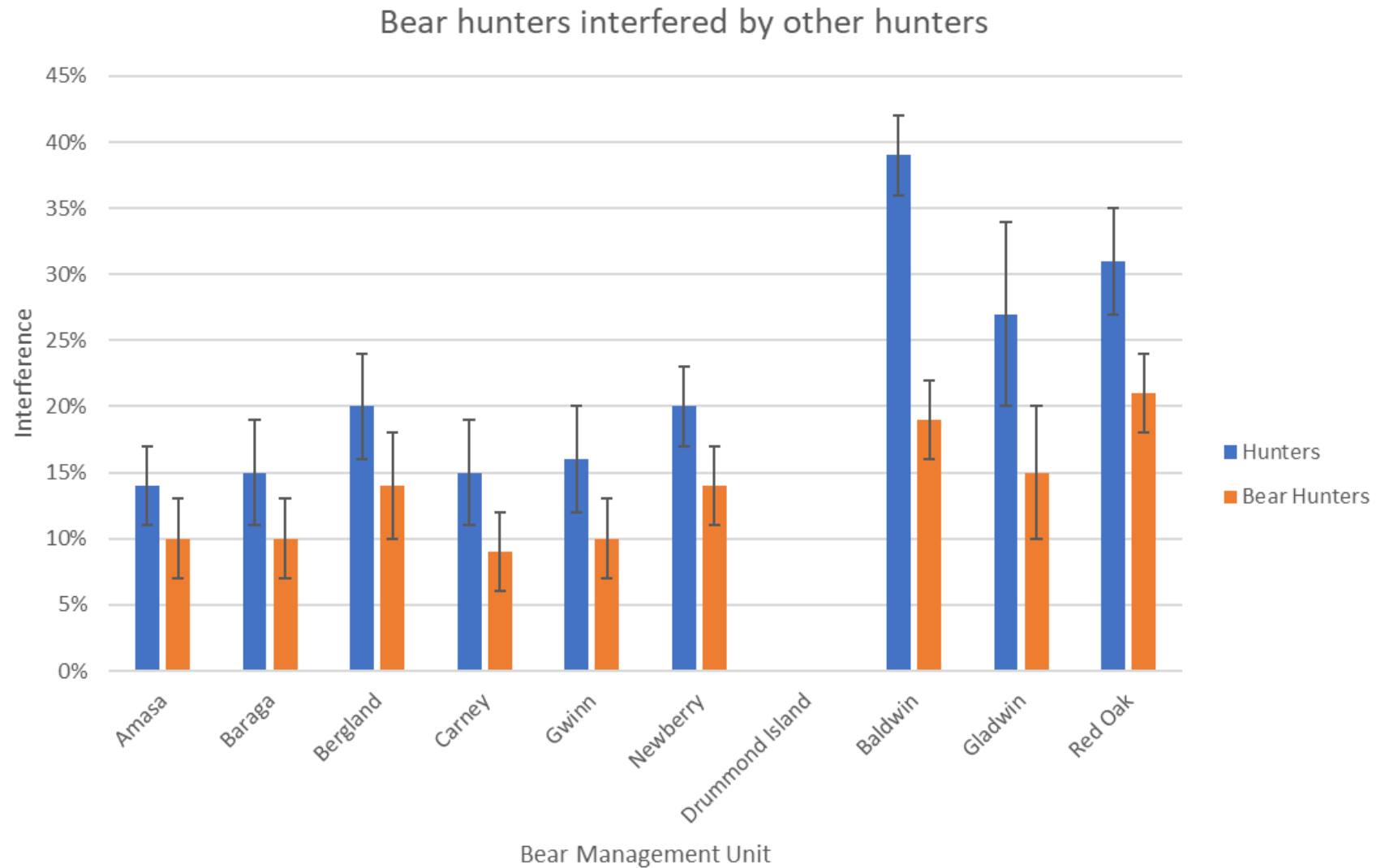




NLP Region Nuisance Complaints



Hunter Conflict



New question for 2021

6. Did other hunters interfere with your bear hunting?

¹ ☐ Yes

² ☐ No (*Skip to question 19.*)

7. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, was the interference caused by other bear hunters?

¹ ☐ Yes

² ☐ No

³ ☐ Not sure

8. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, what were these bear hunters doing that caused the interference? (*Please select all that apply.*)

¹ ☐ Pursuing bears with dogs.

² ☐ Hunting bears over bait.

³ ☐ Not sure.

⁴ ☐ Other (*Please describe* _____)





Bear Management Goals

1. Maintain a sustainable population within biological carrying capacity
2. Facilitate bear-related benefits
3. Minimize bear-related conflicts
4. Conduct science-based and socially acceptable management



Thank You

