



Photo courtesy of David Hall

2016 VERMONT WILDLIFE HARVEST REPORT – BLACK BEAR



FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

(802) 828-1000 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com



Most of the programs described in this report are funded through the *Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program*. This program was initiated in 1937 as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Act and created a system whereby taxes are paid on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment by the public who hunts. Today this excise tax generates over a hundred million dollars each year that are dedicated to state wildlife restoration and management projects across the United States. The State of Vermont uses these monies for acquiring land, and for restoring and managing wildlife. These excise tax dollars, coupled with state hunting license fees, have been the predominant source of money funding the successful restoration and management of Vermont’s wildlife resources.

2016 Vermont Black Bear Harvest Report

Contents

Public Education and Outreach	1
Vermont’s Black Bear Population and Habitat	1
2016 Harvest Summary	1
Hunter Effort Surveys.....	2
Total Bear Harvest for Hunting Seasons 1965-2016.....	3
Harvest Distribution.....	4
Timing of Harvest.....	4
Harvest by Hunting Opportunity.....	13
Heaviest Bears.....	14
Non-hunting Mortalities and Damage Complaints	14
Looking to the Future	16
APPENDIX: Ages of Black Bears Harvested in 2016.....	17



The MISSION of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3702
(802) 828-1000 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com

2016 Black Bear Report

Vermont's Black Bear Population and Habitat

The bear population in Vermont is currently estimated to be 5400 bears, well within the population objective of 4,500 to 6,000 bears as called for in the *Big Game Management Plan, 2010-2020*. The bear population is strong throughout the state, and abundant hunting opportunities exist in most areas. There are currently over 800,000 acres of public land open to hunting under state or federal management including 135,000 acres on 91 Wildlife Management Areas. To view or download maps of these public lands, go to the Department's web pages: vtfishandwildlife.com.

The Department expends considerable effort in protecting black bear habitat. To support Vermont's bear population, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department protects wildlife habitat by reviewing and making habitat development recommendations on projects that require federal, state, or local permits for potential impacts to fish, wildlife, and related habitats. Since 1995, there have been over 30,000 acres of significant bear habitat protected in Vermont through the environmental permitting process. Recently, Department biologists have reviewed plans for several large industrial wind projects that had been proposed for remote areas of the state that could potentially impact large areas of significant bear habitats. Due to the general lack of data on the potential impacts of wind generation projects on black bears, the Department has implemented a long-term study on this issue in southern Vermont that is associated with the Deerfield Wind Project. To date, 32 bears have been collared and monitored as part of this study that is expected to continue through 2021.

2016 Harvest Summary

Bear hunters in Vermont had a safe and successful hunting season in 2016. Licensed hunters harvested 697 black bears (405 male, 292 females) in Vermont during the combined 2016 seasons (Table 1) yielding a harvest sex ratio of 1.4 males per female. This reflects the third highest bear harvest on record. Nearly 200,000 meals of nutritious wild game meat were provided by the bear harvest. The harvest represents an increase of 32 bears from the 2015 harvest of



Black Bear

Public Education and Outreach

Biologists and game wardens gave 12 bear presentations to communities, organizations, and schools as requested. The bear project biologist also gave project updates at several Vermont Bear Hound Association meetings as well as "*Living with Vermont Black Bear*" presentations in several towns that were concerned with increased numbers of bear sightings in residential areas. WCAX hosted two television interviews addressing bear-human conflicts, and nine different newspapers or magazines contacted Department staff regarding the status of bear management in the state. The public also filed 291 bear conflict reports on the Department website while game wardens responded to 465 complaints of black bears involved in automobile collisions, causing property damage or potentially threatening public safety in 2016. In the interest of promoting the hunting of bears, the Department hosted two black bear hunting seminars for hunters desiring to learn more about hunting the species.

665 bears, and was 192 bears above the preceding decade average harvest (505 bears; Figure 1). A total of 547 bears were harvested during the early bear hunting season and 150 during the late season that overlaps with the November deer season (Table 2). Table 3 provides the 2016 Bear harvest by sex and town.

Annual surveys of both soft and hard mast were conducted by Department biologists in September and October to evaluate the relative abundance of the most important fall foods. Soft mast includes soft juicy berries, wild cherries, and apples while hard mast includes beechnuts, acorns, and hazelnuts. Biologists have long recognized the influence that the availability and distribution of these important food items has on black bears in Vermont. Vermont biologists go afield every year to assess mast availability as they recognize that food availability in general affects bear reproductive success, seasonal movements, and timing of hibernation. Mast availability also influences the distribution and timing of the bear harvest, road kills, and property damage.

Results from statewide mast surveys conducted in 2016 indicate that apple, beechnut, and oak mast production were all less than normal. Surveys done on soft mast species indicated that apple production, following the excellent production in 2015, was fair to good, but noticeably less than that of the previous year. Berry production was generally good throughout the state, but anecdotal reports were that that large quantities of mast did not persist very late into the fall. Fifteen beech stands and seven oak stands were sampled by Department biologists. Acorn production was slightly higher than for 2015, but quite variable throughout the state. Ratings of individual surveyed stands ranged from excellent to poor with an overall average that earned it only a “fair” rating. Following a good beechnut production year in 2015, beechnut

surveys all showed fewer nuts in 2016. All but four sites received a “poor” rating with most stands sampled in the Northeast Kingdom having a complete lack of viable nuts. Counts were higher for beechnuts in southern regions of the state. Overall, the availability of all mast, both soft and hard, was lower than for most years, probably resulting in bears and most other wildlife having to search harder for the available fall foods.

Historically, the bear harvest during the period of overlap with the November rifle deer season is higher in years with available beechnuts. This is especially true if there is not deep snow cover through the end of the bear season. Bears take advantage of the abundant nuts and delay hibernation making them vulnerable to the opportunistic deer hunter. This was the case in 2015 where the combination of a plentiful mast crop and no snow cover resulted in a high harvest during the overlap with the November deer season. In 2016, however, the reduced availability of beechnuts resulted in many fewer bears being taken (150 vs. 346 in 2015) in the late season.

Hunter Effort Surveys

Hunter effort surveys combined with other harvest information is useful for modeling population size, harvest rates, and for estimating population characteristics. Black bear hunter effort surveys were sent out to a sample of 2,000 hunters who purchased the Early Season bear permit in 2015 and 2016. Information for the 2016 Late Season was obtained through sightings of black bears reported in the annual Deer Hunter Effort Survey that was sent out to 10,000 hunters who purchased a general Vermont hunting license. This was the first year where the Deer Hunter Effort Survey included hunter sighting information for black bear by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU).

Hunters returned 489 valid surveys for the Early Seasons (12% return rate) and 1,321 surveys for the Late Season (for a 13% return rate). A large proportion of hunters (33% of the Early Season respondents and 12% of the Late Season respondents) indicated that they did not hunt. Respondents observed a total of 345 bears during the 2015 and 2016 Early Seasons and 79 bears during the 2016 November Deer Season. Bears seen per 100 hours of hunting were 2.94 for the 2015 Early Season, 4.21 for the 2016 Early Season, and 0.19 for the November 2016 Deer Season. The higher observation rate for the 2016 Early Season was also reflected in the 2016 Early Season bear harvest being substantially higher than the 2015 Early Season harvest (547 bears harvested vs. 346).

Due to the relatively low survey response rates to date, multiple years of survey information must be pooled in order to have the sample sizes required to make meaningful population comparisons among WMUs or various regions of Vermont.

During 2016 bear management activities continued to generate the information required to ensure that the population is managed at a sustainable level consistent with public desires. The current management program is based primarily on biological data collected from the mandatory bear harvest registration, through population and habitat indexes, as well as from occasional surveys of public desires derived through a detailed public input process undertaken every ten years.

Data on the age of harvested bears is critical to improving our understanding of bear population levels and trends. Hunters who voluntarily submit a tooth can also learn the age of the bear they harvested. After the Department receives the teeth, they are sent to a lab in Montana where the root is stained, sectioned, and the cementum lines counted to obtain the age of the bear at the time it was killed. The lab is able to obtain the age of most

bears, but every year some teeth are damaged during removal and an age can't be determined. The names of some hunters also can't be identified every year due to recording errors from tooth envelopes. Hunters will receive the ages of their bears by way of a postcard in April or May and individual bear ages will also be posted on the Department's website at that time.

Total Bear Harvest for Hunting Seasons 1965-2016

Total bear harvest is the combined harvest by still- and hound-hunters. The number of bears taken fluctuates fairly widely from year to year as illustrated in Figure 1. The current trend, however, is that the annual bear harvest has increased notably during the past two decades. Periodic fluctuations in harvest generally occur due to differences in food availability (especially beechnuts) and weather conditions. The highest bear harvests in the past 50 years have been achieved in the past two decades, with the 2016 harvest being above the past ten-year average and is the third highest recorded in Vermont. These historic high harvests reflect a strong bear population that is also larger than previous decades and represents a general increase in occupied range in the state. What is currently unknown is if it also indicates a possible increase in the number of hunters hunting specifically for bears. Early season licenses have averaged 11,479 for the past four years. The Department will continue to track early season license sales in the coming years to determine the trend in bear hunter numbers.



Kevin Lamere with 2013 large bear.

Harvest Distribution

Bears were harvested in all WMUs with the exception of WMU A (Figure 2). The largest numbers of bears were taken in WMUs D1 (65), J2 (63) and I (54) (Table 1). During 2016, bears were harvested in 193 towns compared to 189 towns in the previous year. Towns with the highest reported harvests were Rochester with 14, Guildhall, Shaftsbury and Starksboro each with 12 (Figure 2 and Table 3). Counties reporting the highest harvests were the southern counties of Windham with 79 bears harvested, Windsor with 76, and Rutland with 74. Bears were harvested statewide except for most of the Champlain Valley (Figure 3).

Timing of Harvest

During the early season 547 bears (79%) were taken, while 150 (21%) were harvested during the late season. The majority of bears were harvested in September and October (74%), unlike 2015 when only 45 percent of the harvest occurred during those two months. Twenty-one percent of the harvest occurred during the seven-day overlap with the November deer season (Table 2) compared to 48 percent of the harvest during this period in 2015.



TABLE 2. TIMING OF HARVEST

Season	Month	Bear Harvest	Percent of Harvest
Early Season Bear (Sept. 1 – Nov. 11)	September	291	42%
	October	224	32%
	November 1-11	32	5%
	Total	547	79%
Late Bear Season (Nov. 12-20)	November 12-20	150	21%

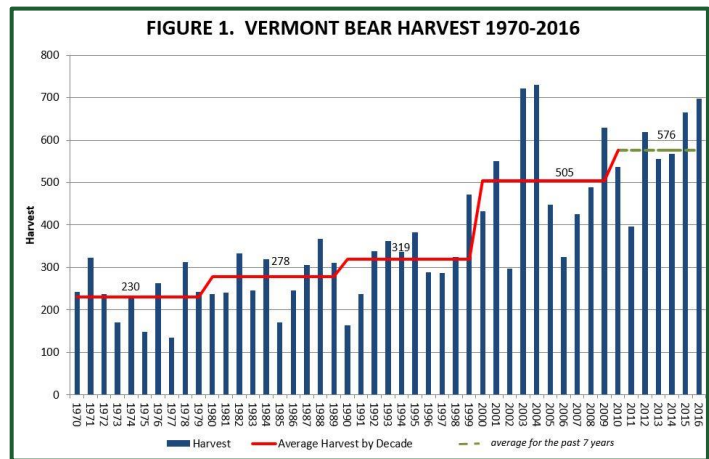


TABLE 1. 2016 BEAR HARVEST BY SEX AND WMU

WMU	Total Harvested	Percent of Harvest	Female	Male
B	20	2.87%	9	11
C	35	5.02%	17	18
D1	65	9.33%	26	39
D2	41	5.88%	20	21
E1	15	2.15%	4	11
E2	25	3.59%	9	16
F1	1	0.14%	0	1
F2	24	3.44%	9	15
G	37	5.31%	19	18
H	36	5.16%	20	16
I	54	7.75%	27	27
J1	42	6.03%	20	22
J2	63	9.04%	18	45
K	31	4.45%	5	26
L	24	3.44%	7	17
M	26	3.73%	13	13
N	40	5.74%	17	23
O	49	7.03%	21	28
P	39	5.60%	14	25
Q	30	4.30%	17	13
Total	697	100.00%	292	405

FIGURE 2. 2016 BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND WMU

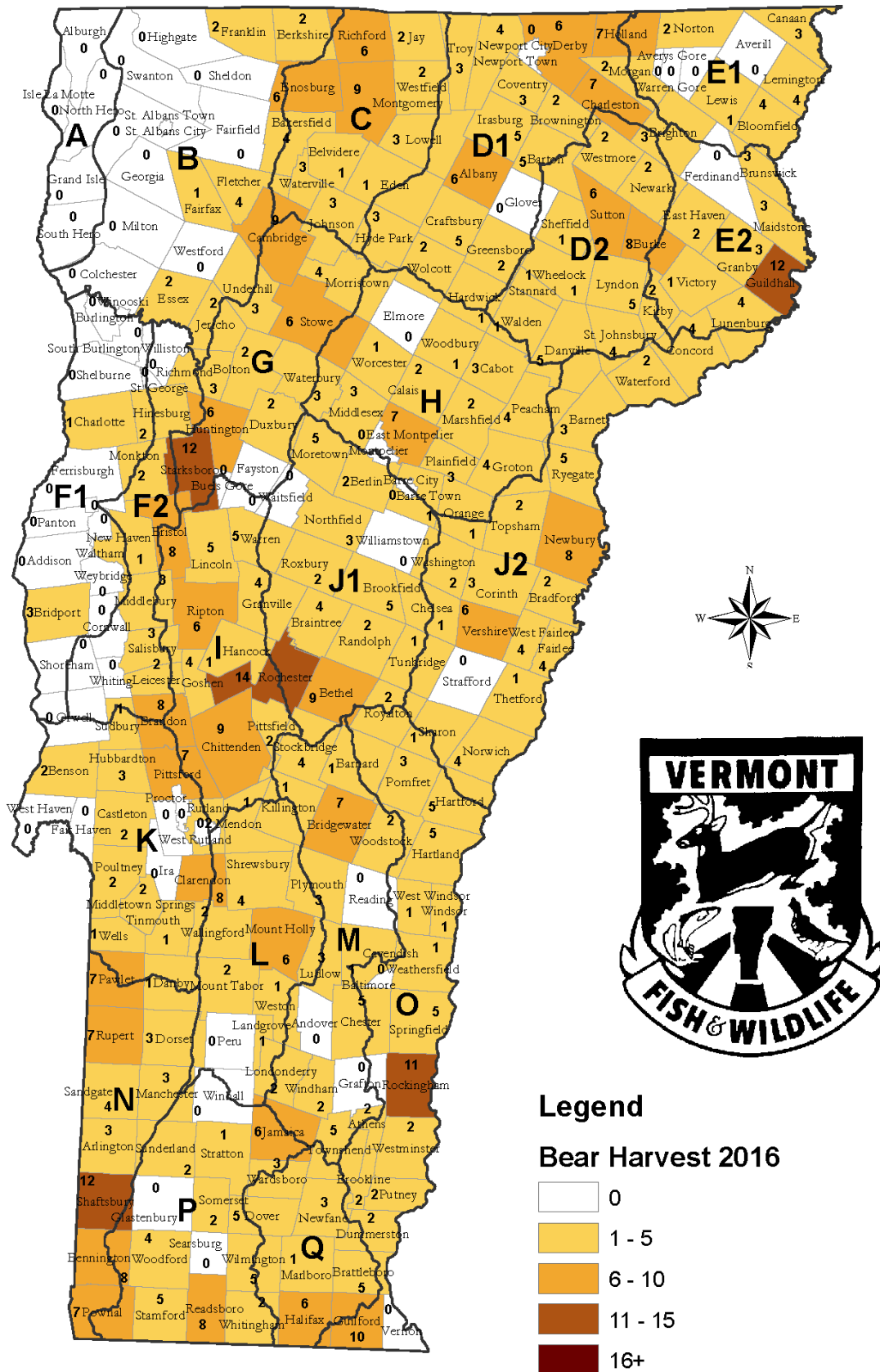
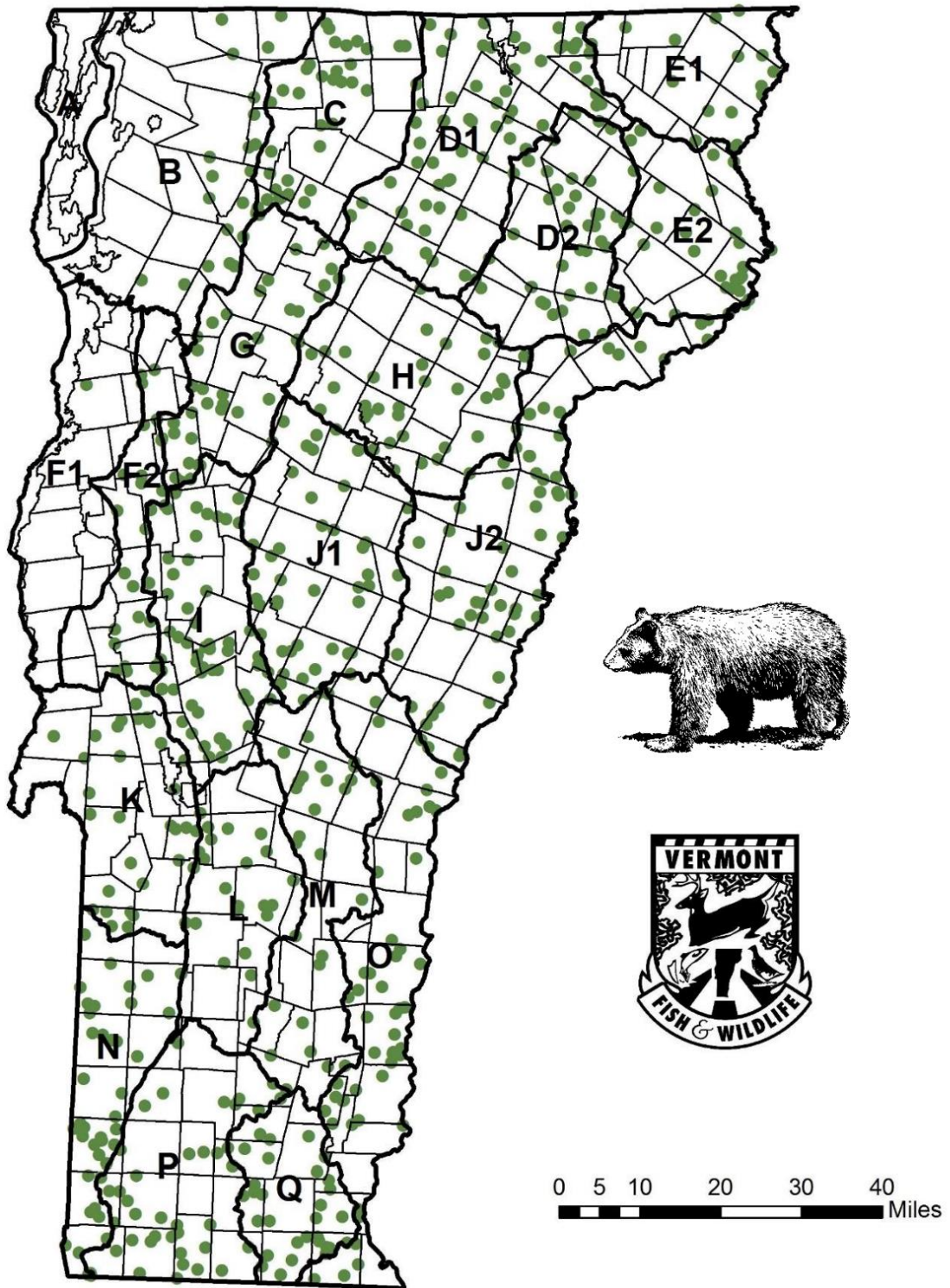


FIGURE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF VERMONT'S 2016 BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND WMU



Each dot represents a single black bear harvested in a particular town and wildlife management unit. Dots do not show the actual location of harvest, and some dots may not be visible on the map.

TABLE 3. 2016 VERMONT BLACK BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND COUNTY OF KILL

COUNTY	Town	Total Harvested	Females	Males
ADDISON	Addison	0	0	0
	Bristol	8	3	5
	Cornwall	0	0	0
	Ferrisburgh	0	0	0
	Goshen	4	2	2
	Granville	4	3	1
	Hancock	1	1	0
	Leicester	2	2	0
	Lincoln	5	2	3
	Middlebury	3	1	2
	Monkton	2	1	1
	New Haven	1	1	0
	Orwell	0	0	0
	Panton	0	0	0
	Ripton	6	4	2
	Salisbury	3	1	2
	Shoreham	0	0	0
	Starksboro	12	3	9
	Weybridge	0	0	0
	Whiting	0	0	0
	Total	51	24	27
BENNINGTON	Arlington	3	2	1
	Bennington	8	2	6
	Dorset	3	3	0
	Glastenbury	0	0	0
	Landgrove	1	0	1
	Manchester	2	0	2
	Peru	0	0	0
	Pownal	7	4	3
	Readsboro	8	3	5
	Rupert	7	2	5
	Sandgate	4	3	1
	Searsburg	0	0	0
	Shaftsbury	12	3	9
	Stamford	5	3	2
	Sunderland	2	2	0
	Winhall	0	0	0
	Woodford	4	0	4
	Total	66	27	39

TABLE 3. 2016 VERMONT BLACK BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND COUNTY OF KILL

COUNTY	Town	Total Harvested	Females	Males
CALEDONIA	Barnet	3	0	3
	Burke	8	4	4
	Danville	5	2	3
	Groton	4	2	2
	Hardwick	4	2	2
	Kirby	2	2	0
	Lyndon	5	3	2
	Newark	2	1	1
	Peacham	4	1	3
	Ryegate	5	2	3
	St. Johnsbury	4	2	2
	Sheffield	1	0	1
	Stannard	1	1	0
	Sutton	6	1	5
	Walden	1	1	0
	Waterford	2	0	2
	Wheelock	1	1	0
		Total	58	25
CHITTENDEN	Bolton	2	0	2
	Buels Gore	0	0	0
	Burlington	0	0	0
	Charlotte	1	0	1
	Essex	2	0	2
	Hinesburg	2	1	1
	Huntington	6	3	3
	Jericho	2	1	1
	Milton	0	0	0
	Richmond	3	2	1
	Shelburne	0	0	0
	South Burlington	0	0	0
	Underhill	3	2	1
	Williston	0	0	0
	Westford	0	0	0
	Total	21	9	12
ESSEX	Averill	0	0	0
	Averys Gore	0	0	0
	Bloomfield	4	1	3
	Brighton	3	3	0
	Brunswick	3	1	2
	Canaan	3	1	2

TABLE 3. 2016 VERMONT BLACK BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND COUNTY OF KILL

COUNTY	Town	Total Harvested	Females	Males	
ESSEX (CONT.)	Concord	4	3	1	
	East Haven	2	1	1	
	Ferdinand	0	0	0	
	Granby	3	2	1	
	Guildhall	12	1	11	
	Lemington	4	0	4	
	Lewis	1	0	1	
	Lunenburg	4	0	4	
	Maidstone	3	1	2	
	Norton	2	1	1	
	Victory	1	1	0	
	Warrens Gore	0	0	0	
	Total		49	16	33
	FRANKLIN	Bakersfield	4	0	4
Berkshire		2	1	1	
Enosburg		6	4	2	
Fairfax		1	1	0	
Fairfield		0	0	0	
Fletcher		4	2	2	
Franklin		2	0	2	
Georgia		0	0	0	
Highgate		0	0	0	
Montgomery		9	6	3	
Richford		6	0	6	
Sheldon		0	0	0	
St. Albans		0	0	0	
Swanton		0	0	0	
Total		34	14	20	
GRAND ISLE	Alburgh	0	0	0	
	Grand Isle	0	0	0	
	Isle La Motte	0	0	0	
	North Hero	0	0	0	
	South Hero	0	0	0	
Total		0	0	0	
LAMOILLE	Belvidere	1	0	1	
	Cambridge	9	6	3	
	Eden	1	1	0	
	Elmore	0	0	0	
	Hyde Park	3	3	0	
	Johnson	3	2	1	

TABLE 3. 2016 VERMONT BLACK BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND COUNTY OF KILL

COUNTY	Town	Total Harvested	Females	Males
LAMOILLE (CONT.)	Morristown	4	3	1
	Stowe	6	3	3
	Waterville	3	3	0
	Wolcott	2	2	0
	Total	32	23	9
ORANGE	Bradford	2	1	1
	Braintree	4	2	2
	Brookfield	5	1	4
	Chelsea	1	1	0
	Corinth	3	1	2
	Fairlee	4	2	2
	Newbury	8	1	7
	Orange	1	1	0
	Randolph	2	2	0
	Strafford	0	0	0
	Thetford	1	0	1
	Topsham	2	1	1
	Tunbridge	1	0	1
	Vershire	6	1	5
	Washington	2	2	0
	West Fairlee	4	0	4
	Williamstown	0	0	0
	Total	46	16	30
ORLEANS	Albany	6	3	3
	Barton	5	4	1
	Brownington	2	1	1
	Charleston	7	2	5
	Coventry	3	2	1
	Craftsbury	5	1	4
	Derby	6	2	4
	Glover	0	0	0
	Greensboro	2	1	1
	Holland	7	3	4
	Irasburg	5	1	4
	Jay	2	1	1
	Lowell	3	0	3
	Morgan	2	1	1
	Newport	4	0	4

TABLE 3. 2016 VERMONT BLACK BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND COUNTY OF KILL

COUNTY	Town	Total Harvested	Females	Males
ORLEANS (CONT.)	Newport City	0	0	0
	Troy	3	0	3
	Westfield	2	0	2
	Westmore	2	1	1
	Total	66	23	43
RUTLAND	Benson	2	1	1
	Brandon	8	4	4
	Castleton	2	0	2
	Chittenden	9	5	4
	Clarendon	8	2	6
	Danby	1	0	1
	Fair Haven	0	0	0
	Hubbardton	3	1	2
	Ira	0	0	0
	Killington	1	0	1
	Mendon	1	1	0
	Middletown Springs	2	1	1
	Mount Holly	6	1	5
	Mount Tabor	2	0	2
	Pawlet	7	0	7
	Pittsfield	2	0	2
	Pittsford	7	2	5
	Poultney	2	0	2
	Proctor	0	0	0
	Rutland City	0	0	0
	Rutland Town	2	1	1
	Shrewsbury	4	1	3
	Sudbury	1	0	1
	Tinmouth	1	0	1
	Wallingford	2	0	2
	Wells	1	0	1
	West Haven	0	0	0
West Rutland	0	0	0	
Total	74	20	54	
WASHINGTON	Barre	1	1	0
	Berlin	2	0	2
	Cabot	3	3	0
	Calais	2	2	0

TABLE 3. 2016 VERMONT BLACK BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND COUNTY OF KILL

COUNTY	Town	Total Harvested	Females	Males	
WASHINGTON (CONT.)	Duxbury	2	1	1	
	East Montpelier	7	5	2	
	Fayston	0	0	0	
	Marshfield	2	1	1	
	Middlesex	3	1	2	
	Moretown	5	1	4	
	Northfield	3	2	1	
	Plainfield	3	2	1	
	Roxbury	2	1	1	
	Waitsfield	0	0	0	
	Warren	5	3	2	
	Waterbury	3	2	1	
	Woodbury	1	0	1	
	Worcester	1	0	1	
	Total		45	25	20
	WINDHAM	Athens	2	1	1
Brattleboro		5	2	3	
Brookline		2	2	0	
Dover		5	4	1	
Dummerston		2	0	2	
Grafton		0	0	0	
Guilford		10	8	2	
Halifax		6	2	4	
Jamaica		6	3	3	
Londonderry		2	1	1	
Marlboro		1	1	0	
Newfane		3	2	1	
Putney		2	0	2	
Rockingham		11	3	8	
Somerset		2	0	2	
Stratton		1	1	0	
Townshend		5	2	3	
Wardsboro		3	1	2	
Westminster		2	0	2	
Whitingham		2	0	2	
Wilmington	5	4	1		
Windham	2	1	1		
Total		79	38	41	

TABLE 3. 2016 VERMONT BLACK BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN AND COUNTY OF KILL

COUNTY	Town	Total Harvested	Females	Males
WINDSOR	Andover	0	0	0
	Barnard	1	0	1
	Bethel	9	3	6
	Bridgewater	7	3	4
	Cavendish	1	0	1
	Chester	5	3	2
	Hartford	5	0	5
	Hartland	5	3	2
	Ludlow	1	1	0
	Norwich	4	3	1
	Plymouth	3	3	0
	Pomfret	3	2	1
	Reading	0	0	0
	Rochester	14	6	8
	Royalton	2	0	2
	Sharon	1	1	0
	Springfield	5	0	5
	Stockbridge	4	2	2
	Weathersfield	1	0	1
	West Windsor	1	1	0
	Weston	1	1	0
	Windsor	1	0	1
	Woodstock	2	0	2
	Total	76	32	44
STATE TOTAL		697	292	405

Harvest by Hunting Opportunity

Bears in Vermont can be taken by hunters hunting with the use of hounds, with firearms, and by archers. Snaring, trapping, and hunting with the use of bait is prohibited. All licensed hunters are potential bear hunters during the late bear hunting season as a Late Season bear tag is provided with every general hunting license sold. The actual number of deer hunters that would take a bear, if given the opportunity, is unknown. The total number of bear hunters in the state is similarly unknown although early season license sales numbers indicate that 11,317 hunters potentially could

have hunted for bears prior to the beginning of the November deer season yielding a success rate of 4.8 percent. In 2015, when fewer bears were harvested during the early season, the success rate was only 3.0 percent.

During the 2016 season, 70 percent of the harvest was taken by hunters specifically targeting bears (Table 4) and 29 percent by opportunistic deer hunters (versus 47 percent by deer hunters in 2015). This decrease in harvest of bear by deer hunters is characteristic of years when beechnut production is low and when snowfall occurs during the November deer season. There were 97 bear hound permits

TABLE 4. 2016 BEAR HARVEST BY HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Principal Species Hunter was Seeking	Number Harvested	Percent of Harvest
Bear	490	70%
• <i>Harvest with dog</i>	85	12%
• <i>Harvest with no dog</i>	405	58%
Deer	199	29%
• <i>During Early Season</i>	79	12%
• <i>During Late Season</i>	120	17%
Other/Unknown	8	1%

issued (two fewer than 2015), with 10 percent of them going to non-residents. Seventeen percent of the harvest by hunters specifically targeting bear was by hunters using hounds. Houndsmen accounted for 12 percent of the total harvest for an overall average of 0.88 bears taken per permit. Archers took 111 bears making up 16 percent of the total harvest with crossbows being used to harvest 24 of those.

Heaviest Bears

A total of 19 bears weighing 300 pounds or more (scaled/dressed weight) were taken during the 2016 season (Table 5). At least seven weighed 400 pounds or more. The heaviest field-dressed bear weighed 449 pounds and was taken in the town of Shrewsbury. The harvest of large bears was well distributed throughout the state with these heaviest being taken in 12 different WMUs. Although large bears were taken throughout the state, three of the five heaviest were taken from WMU D2 in the Northeast Kingdom. Many of the heaviest bears were taken with the use of dogs and probably reflects hunters using hounds being more selective in the bears that they choose to harvest. Several additional large bears were reported that were not fully field-dressed when brought into the check station for weighing and so are not included in this report.

Despite many large bears being taken, the average weight for all bears in the 2016 harvest was 147 pounds, 8 pounds lighter than in 2015. For more information on large bears harvested in Vermont, visit the Vermont Big Game Trophy Club website at vermontbiggametrophyclub.com.

Non-hunting Mortalities and Damage Complaints

In addition to the 697 bears taken legally during the regulated hunting seasons, there were 202 reported non-hunting (or incidental) mortalities during 2016. Of these bears that were not taken by hunters, 158 were killed in motor vehicle collisions and at least 33 more were dispatched as the result of bear-human conflicts (Table 6). These mortalities represent a 58 percent increase from 2015 and are the highest number of incidental mortalities ever recorded in Vermont. The reason for this increase is unknown, but the “open” winter of 2015-2016 may have played a role in bears being more active. Department law enforcement personnel also received a total of 263 property damage complaints in 2016. In all, wardens responded to 465 calls regarding non-hunting mortality and/or bear damage complaints.

TABLE 5. HEAVIEST BEARS HARVESTED IN VERMONT

Town Harvested	WMU	Weight	Date of Kill	Sex	Target Species	Using Dogs
Burke	D2	479*	9/18/2016	M	Bear	No
Shrewsbury	L	449	10/1/2016	M	Bear	No
Granby	E2	443	10/2/2016	M	Bear	No
Charleston	D2	430*	9/28/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Burke	D2	418	9/21/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Warren	I	417	9/3/2016	M	Bear	No
Craftsbury	D1	415	9/2/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Bloomfield	E1	411*	9/5/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Holland	D1	401*	10/5/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Lowell	D1	400	10/18/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Braintree	J1	395	9/27/2016	M	Bear	No
Manchester	P	372	9/5/2016	M	Bear	No
Newbury	J2	346	10/13/2016	M	Bear	No
Lemington	E1	340	10/8/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Craftsbury	D1	334	9/23/2016	M	Bear	Yes
Moretown	G	323	10/8/2016	M	Bear	No
Guilford	Q	320	9/3/2016	M	Bear	No
Ripton	I	310	11/6/2016	M	Bear	No
Rockingham	O	310	10/28/2016	M	Bear	No

*Indicates bears that weigh over 300 lbs. but were not cleaned out when weighed.

TABLE 6. NON-HUNTING MORTALITIES AND DAMAGE COMPLAINTS FOR 2015 AND 2016.

Mortality Type	2015 Number	2016 Number
Vehicle Collision	98	158
Management/Damage	18	33
Illegal	6	7
Other or Unknown Cause	6	4
Total	128	202
Bear Damage Complaints	132	263

Looking to the Future

The bear population in Vermont is healthy and is currently estimated to be within the statewide population objective of 4,500 to 6,000 bears established in the *Big Game Management Plan*. In recent years, however, conflicts between bears and humans have greatly increased. To improve our management of the species, information generated by bear hunters will be used for estimating the number of bears and other population characteristics in different regions of the state. Surveys will continue to be distributed to a sample of bear hunters to gain better information on hunter effort and hunter success. Additionally, beginning in 2017, hunters will be required to submit a premolar tooth from every bear that they harvest. This will allow the Department to more accurately estimate the size of the population and monitor population trends. This increased information will also be essential for assessing and managing regional differences in Vermont's bear population.

The Department is also concerned over the rapid rise in the number of bears killed by non-hunting causes. More than 200 bears were killed in collisions with automobiles or in incidents involving livestock or other property damage. The number of bears involved with bear-human conflicts has also risen in recent years. The Department will increase efforts to understand the causes of these conflicts and will work to develop specific strategies to reduce them.

In 2017, the Department will also begin the process of developing a new 10-Year Big Game Management Plan for Vermont's four big game species including for black bear. Data gained from bear harvests including age information from bear teeth and hunter effort information from surveys will be used to help assess the status of the bear population. There will be opportunities for public involvement during the development of the plan that identifies the major management issues and establishes goals and guides management actions for the next decade.

APPENDIX: Ages of Black Bears Harvested in 2016

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
DAVID ABEL	FEMALE	5.75
LOREN ACKLEY	MALE	2.75
ANDREW ADAMS	MALE	6.75
JOHN ANDERSON	FEMALE	6.75
TANNER ANDRADE	FEMALE	8.75
CHRISTOPHER ARMSTRONG	FEMALE	12.75
GEORGE AUSTIN	FEMALE	9.75
HUNTER BAHARA	FEMALE	2.75
BYRON BAILEY	FEMALE	3.75
SCOT BALDWIN	MALE	6.75
ROBERT BARNES	MALE	1.75
CRAIG BARTOSEWCZ	MALE	4.75
RAY BARUP	FEMALE	1.75
NICHOLAS BASHAW	MALE	2.75
BENJAMIN BAYE	MALE	12.75
DUSTIN BEAUREGARD	MALE	2.75
PAUL BECKER	MALE	1.75
JOHN BELISLE	MALE	2.75
WALTER BELL	FEMALE	4.75
ARNOLD BERNARD	FEMALE	1.75
ERIC BERRY	FEMALE	9.75
RYAN BESSETTE	MALE	1.75
DAVID BIAS	MALE	1.75
DOUGLAS BILLINGS	FEMALE	8.75
AMANDA BILLS	FEMALE	1.75
WILLIAM BIRCH	MALE	7.75
LEE BISHOP	MALE	1.75
SHAWN BLEAU	MALE	2.75
DEREK BLOW	FEMALE	9.75
JASON BOISSONEAULT	FEMALE	1.75
COLE BOISVERT	MALE	2.75
JOSEPH BOISVERT	MALE	1.75
GEORGE BOLCH	FEMALE	2.75
CAMERON BOOK	MALE	3.75
DAVID BOOMER	MALE	4.75
JARED BOUCHARD	FEMALE	2.75
RICK BOUCHER	MALE	5.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
HUNTER BOYD	FEMALE	19.75
CHARLES BRADSHAW	MALE	6.75
TRAVIS BRASSOR	FEMALE	0.75
SCOTTY BRATTON	FEMALE	8.75
JOEL BRISSETTE	FEMALE	2.75
GREGORY BROWN	FEMALE	3.75
JODY BROWN	MALE	3.75
SHANE BROWNELL	MALE	8.75
CHARLES BRULEIGH	FEMALE	5.75
CHARLES BULLOCK	MALE	1.75
ROBERT BURDICK	MALE	10.75
JEFFREY BURKERT	MALE	2.75
TRAVIS BURROUGHS	MALE	2.75
THOMAS BUSH	MALE	5.75
NATHAN BUSHEE	FEMALE	2.75
JOSHUA BUSHEY	FEMALE	1.75
BENJAMIN BUTLER	MALE	2.75
DEBORAH BUXTON	MALE	3.75
JOSHUA BYRNE	MALE	3.75
WILLIAM CAMPANELLI	MALE	4.75
CHRIS CAMPBELL	MALE	2.75
DAVID CANTIN	MALE	4.75
JOHN CARACCILO	FEMALE	2.75
STEVEN CAREY	MALE	2.75
STEVEN CARPENTIER	MALE	2.75
TIMOTHY CARTER	FEMALE	23.75
DEVIN CASSAN	FEMALE	3.75
DEREK CASTONGUAY	MALE	2.75
MATHEW CAYER	FEMALE	7.75
DONALD CHAMBERS	MALE	2.75
LAURA CHAMPAGNE	FEMALE	7.75
PATRICK CHICKERING	MALE	5.75
ANDY COCHRAN	MALE	1.75
SYLVIA CODERRE	MALE	3.75
AARON COLLETTE	FEMALE	7.75
JONATHAN COLPRON	MALE	2.75
ERIC COLUMBIA	MALE	2.75
DANIEL COMEAU	MALE	1.75
MAURICE CONNARY	MALE	7.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
ROBERT CONNOLLY	FEMALE	5.75
RAYMOND COOK	MALE	2.75
HEZEKIAH COTE	MALE	2.75
JESSE COUILLARD	FEMALE	1.75
CORY COVEY	MALE	2.75
NICHOLAS CRAFTS	FEMALE	3.75
ANDREW CROSSMAN	FEMALE	4.75
BRIAN CROSSMAN	MALE	1.75
MICHAEL CURRIE	MALE	2.75
CORY CURTIS	MALE	8.75
MARK CURTISS	FEMALE	6.75
NATHAN CUTLER	FEMALE	4.75
PAUL DAIGNEAULT	FEMALE	2.75
JASON DAVIGNON	MALE	4.75
PAUL DEAN	MALE	2.75
DANIEL DECKER	MALE	4.75
ISAAC DECKER	MALE	1.75
QUINCY DECKER	FEMALE	2.75
PHIL DEGREENIA	FEMALE	9.75
TIMOTHY DELONG	FEMALE	2.75
ROBERT DENCE	FEMALE	2.75
DAVID DESPAULT	FEMALE	2.75
SCOTT DOMINA	FEMALE	4.75
GREGORY DONAHUE	FEMALE	7.75
JONATHAN DOWNING	MALE	5.75
HARVEY DOWNS	FEMALE	12.75
MARK DRISCOLL	MALE	2.75
KENNETH DUEL	MALE	4.75
DERRICK DUPUIS	FEMALE	5.75
ANDREW DUSSAULT	FEMALE	1.75
JUSTIN ELLERBEE	MALE	5.75
FREDERICK EMERSON	MALE	1.75
NEIL ENGELMANN	MALE	0.75
JAI FARRINGTON	MALE	6.75
DANIEL FARROW	MALE	0.75
MARC FARROW	FEMALE	0.75
BRYAN FERGUSON	MALE	2.75
CHARLES FERRIS	MALE	1.75
PETER FILION	MALE	1.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
CHRISTOPHER FIORENTINO	MALE	4.75
MATTHEW FITZPATRICK	MALE	0.75
MICHAEL FITZPATRICK	FEMALE	7.75
NATHIAN FOSTER	MALE	6.75
KARL FREDERICK	MALE	4.75
BRUCE GABAREE	MALE	2.75
MATTHEW GAGNE	FEMALE	23.75
WILLIAM GAIOTTI	MALE	1.75
MICHAEL GARBER	MALE	2.75
GORDON GARRETT	FEMALE	8.75
VINTON GAUDETTE	MALE	2.75
GERALD GENIER	MALE	2.75
MARC GEOFFROY	MALE	2.75
ROBERT GEORGE	MALE	1.75
CLARENCE GEORGE	MALE	3.75
SKYLER GERMAIN	FEMALE	4.75
STEVE GILLIS	FEMALE	3.75
RAYMOND GILMAN	MALE	1.75
RONALD GLEASON	MALE	2.75
REGINALD GOCHIE	MALE	8.75
WAYNE GOFF	MALE	3.75
BOBBIE GONYAW	MALE	2.75
JAN GONYAW	MALE	2.75
LEVI GOODNOW	FEMALE	1.75
SHAWN GOODWIN	FEMALE	3.75
WAYNE GOOLEY	MALE	1.75
ROBERT GRACE	MALE	2.75
SCOTT GRAHAM	MALE	1.75
KEVIN GREENE	MALE	1.75
LOUIS GREENIA	FEMALE	1.75
CODY GRIFFIN	FEMALE	7.75
SCOTT GROVER	MALE	4.75
DAVID GUILLETTE	MALE	0.75
DANIEL GUIN	FEMALE	3.75
LISSA GUYETTE	FEMALE	3.75
SEAN GUYETTE	MALE	0.75
BRODY HAAS	FEMALE	10.75
DONALD HALE	FEMALE	1.75
TRAVIS HALL	FEMALE	10.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
ERIK HAMMOND	MALE	2.75
STEVEN HAWLEY	FEMALE	4.75
BRADLEY HEINEMANN	FEMALE	2.75
NORMAN HERZIG JR	MALE	2.75
RICHARD HILL	FEMALE	3.75
ROGER HILL	MALE	9.75
JOHN HLUBINA	MALE	2.75
COLE HOLCOMB	MALE	2.75
JEANNE HOLMES	MALE	2.75
JAMES HOMER	MALE	2.75
TORY HORNER	FEMALE	7.75
SCOTT HUBNER	MALE	1.75
JAMES HULL	FEMALE	1.75
WILLIAM HULL	FEMALE	2.75
TODD JACKSON	MALE	2.75
ROBERT JARRY	MALE	2.75
EMILY JENNINGS	FEMALE	6.75
GEORGE JENNINGS	MALE	1.75
SCOTT JENNINGS	FEMALE	1.75
RANDY JEWETT	FEMALE	12.75
RANDY JOHNSON	MALE	6.75
JEREMY JOHNSON	MALE	3.75
CODY JONES	FEMALE	1.75
OLIVIA JONES	FEMALE	11.75
KATLYN JORDAN	FEMALE	2.75
DAVID JOSEPH	FEMALE	2.75
MICHAEL JUDD	MALE	0.75
CLARENCE JUDKINS	MALE	7.75
DANIELLE JUDKINS	FEMALE	6.75
RONALD JURNAK	FEMALE	1.75
DIMITRIOS KAPOUKRANIDIS	MALE	3.75
TIMOTHY KEHOE	FEMALE	10.75
SEAN KEOWN	MALE	1.75
TRAVIS KEYS	MALE	2.75
MICHAEL KNOX	FEMALE	7.75
MATTHEW KRAWCZYK	MALE	2.75
STANLEY KRAWCZYK	FEMALE	3.75
JOSHUA KRUGER	MALE	4.75
YURY LABEIKA	MALE	2.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
EDWARD LAFAYETTE	MALE	2.75
JAMES LAFOUNTAIN	FEMALE	2.75
BRENT LAFRENIERE	FEMALE	1.75
CHRIS LAGERSTEDT	MALE	2.75
ALAN LAKIN	FEMALE	3.75
CHARLES LAMBERT	MALE	1.75
ANDREW LANDMAN	MALE	2.75
SCOTT LANDRY	FEMALE	3.75
TY LANGTANGE	MALE	8.75
BRANDON LARRABEE	MALE	1.75
JACQUES LAURENDEAU	MALE	2.75
KRISTOFER LEACH	MALE	5.75
MICHELLE LEBLANC	MALE	2.75
RICKY LEBLANC	MALE	4.75
GERALD LEIGH	MALE	2.75
JOSEPH LEMIRE	MALE	1.75
RONNIE LEPENVEN	MALE	5.75
MICHAEL LETTRE	MALE	2.75
TOBY LIZOTTE	MALE	3.75
JACOB LOBER	MALE	1.75
RONALD LOKATYS	MALE	1.75
JEFFREY LUMBRA	FEMALE	5.75
THOMAS LUND	MALE	2.75
MICHAEL LUNN	FEMALE	1.75
DANIEL MAGOON	MALE	3.75
EDWARD MALEADY	FEMALE	8.75
JORDAN MALENFANT	MALE	3.75
TUCKER MALLETT	FEMALE	4.75
ERIC MALLORY	MALE	2.75
JUSTIN MALZAC	FEMALE	6.75
NICHOLAS MANDIROLA	MALE	2.75
ERNEST MARTELLE	MALE	2.75
PAUL MARTOCCI II	FEMALE	11.75
ILLIAM MASINO	FEMALE	1.75
KEITH MASON	MALE	2.75
KALEB MATTESON	MALE	6.75
WILFRED MCALLISTER	FEMALE	7.75
SETH MCCLURE	MALE	2.75
JEREMY MCDONALD	MALE	14.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
PATRICK MCGINLEY	MALE	1.75
KENNETH MCMURRAY	MALE	8.75
MATTHEW MESERVEY	MALE	4.75
CARLTON MINER	MALE	4.75
STEPHEN MISHKIT	FEMALE	2.75
WILLIAM MONCZKA	FEMALE	1.75
CALEB MOORE	FEMALE	3.75
DENNIS MOORE	MALE	2.75
DAVID MOREY	MALE	1.75
DOUGLAS MORRISON	MALE	7.75
DONALD MULREADY	FEMALE	16.75
CHARLES NEEDHAM	MALE	4.75
WADE NELSON	MALE	1.75
PETER NOACK	MALE	3.75
ALEX OSMER	MALE	4.75
WALTER OSTRANDER	MALE	1.75
CORY PAQUIN	MALE	4.75
SHELBY PAQUIN	MALE	2.75
CARTER PARKER	FEMALE	4.75
CHESTER PARKER	MALE	5.75
MARVIN PARKER	FEMALE	2.75
JODY PARKS	FEMALE	1.75
JOSEPH PARKS	FEMALE	2.75
WILLIAM PARKS	MALE	1.75
ROBERT PARTINGTON	MALE	1.75
DYLAN PARTLOW	FEMALE	2.75
BROOKE PEARCE	MALE	2.75
STERLING PELSUE	MALE	2.75
BRANDON PERKINS	MALE	2.75
KYLE PERRY	FEMALE	1.75
LINCOLN PETELL	FEMALE	2.75
DAVID PETERS	MALE	9.75
ROBERT PETIT	FEMALE	5.75
MORGAN PETTINGELL	MALE	3.75
HOWARD PHELPS	FEMALE	5.75
WILLIAM PICKENS	FEMALE	3.75
ZACHARY POPKE	FEMALE	12.75
VINCENT PORRAZZO	FEMALE	2.75
ALISON PORTER	MALE	3.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
VICTOR POULIN	FEMALE	2.75
JORDAN POUTRE	MALE	10.75
DYLAN PRATT	MALE	6.75
STEVEN PRATT	MALE	2.75
SUSAN FREEDOM	FEMALE	8.75
CHANDLER PRESCOTT	MALE	3.75
MARCEL PROULX	FEMALE	11.75
MICHAEL PROVENCHER	MALE	2.75
ANDREW RANSOM	MALE	1.75
GEORGE REED	MALE	9.75
OWEN REILLY	MALE	9.75
ZACCARIAH RHOADES	MALE	2.75
KYLE RICHARDSON	FEMALE	6.75
LEONARD RIVERS	MALE	2.75
THEODORE ROBINSON	FEMALE	1.75
AARON ROBTOY	FEMALE	1.75
TYLER ROBTOY	MALE	2.75
ZACHARY ROSE	MALE	1.75
JEFFREY ROUNDS	MALE	1.75
GARY ROUX	FEMALE	2.75
JOSHUA ROY	MALE	1.75
SAMUEL RUSSO	FEMALE	15.75
JAMES SAATHOFF	FEMALE	3.75
HOLDEN SALLS	MALE	3.75
JARED SALLS	MALE	1.75
MICHAEL SANDQUIST	MALE	1.75
SUZANNE SARA	MALE	1.75
DENNIS SCHOFIELD	MALE	6.75
GLEN SCHREITER	FEMALE	3.75
BRYAN SCHULTZ	MALE	3.75
STACIA SENEAL	FEMALE	9.75
JANE SENNA	FEMALE	5.75
CHRISTOPHER SEVERANCE	FEMALE	5.75
LOGAN SHEDD	FEMALE	5.75
SCOTT SIMONDS	MALE	3.75
BENJAMIN SIROIS	FEMALE	2.75
MICHAEL SKEWES	MALE	1.75
DANA SMITH	FEMALE	5.75
NICHOLAS SMITH	FEMALE	6.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
RAYMOND SMITH	MALE	2.75
WILLIAM SOUTHGATE	MALE	4.75
JASON SOUTHWORTH	MALE	1.75
ELLSWORTH SPEAR	MALE	5.75
CRAIG SPRINGER	FEMALE	9.75
SAMUEL STARK	MALE	1.75
JESSICA STASKOWSKI	MALE	5.75
PAUL STONE	MALE	2.75
PAUL STRATTON	MALE	2.75
EMMA STROHMAIER	MALE	3.75
JOSEPH STROHMAIER	FEMALE	11.75
JOSEPH STROHMAIER	MALE	4.75
ANTHONY STUART	MALE	4.75
MATTHEW SWANSON	MALE	0.75
KENNETH SZMYT	FEMALE	0.75
EVAN TATRO	FEMALE	2.75
MICHAEL TATRO	MALE	1.75
BRANDON THERRIEN	MALE	1.75
NICOLE THERRIEN	MALE	2.75
PAUL THIBEAULT	MALE	0.75
CHRISTOPHER THOMAS	MALE	7.75
TYLER THOMAS	MALE	5.75
RILEY THURBER	MALE	1.75
JAMES TIRABOSCHI	MALE	3.75
KAYLA TOWNSEND	FEMALE	14.75
JONATHAN TRACY	MALE	1.75
EMILY TRAHAN	FEMALE	0.75
ROBERT TRUCOTT	FEMALE	12.75
KAYLEIGH TUTTLE	MALE	1.75
STEVEN TWITCHELL	MALE	2.75
KAYLA TYLER	MALE	1.75
ARTHUR TYRRELL	MALE	2.75
ADAM VANDERMINDEN	MALE	2.75
JAY VANHOUE	MALE	3.75
TIMOTHY VENTRY	FEMALE	5.75
JESSE WALKER	FEMALE	4.75
MARTIN WALL	FEMALE	7.75
CAYLE WARING	MALE	2.75
NIGEL WARING	FEMALE	3.75

HUNTER NAME	SEX OF BEAR	CORRESPONDING AGE
PAUL WARSHANY	MALE	3.75
CHRISTOPHER WATSON	FEMALE	0.75
LYLE WEBB	MALE	7.75
COREY WEBSTER	FEMALE	4.75
GUY WELCH	FEMALE	3.75
DAVID WELLS	MALE	1.75
ETHAN WENER	FEMALE	2.75
GREGORY WHEELER	MALE	5.75
RICHARD WHEELER	FEMALE	4.75
DEREK WHITCOMB	MALE	2.75
JESSICA WHITE	MALE	8.75
PAMELA WHITNEY	FEMALE	2.75
RICHARD WILBUR	MALE	2.75
RICHARD WILCOX	FEMALE	6.75
MARK WINSLOW	MALE	2.75
DAVID WOOD	MALE	6.75
DAVID WOOD	FEMALE	8.75
MARK WOOD	MALE	2.75
STOCKTON WOODRUFF	FEMALE	6.75
WALTER YAROSEVICH	MALE	1.75
NICHOLAS YOUNG	MALE	1.75
PAUL YOUNGSON	MALE	4.75
JOSEPH YU	MALE	1.75
MEGAN ZINNGER	MALE	3.75