



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

BLACK BEAR MORTALITY SUMMARY

Harvest Years 2023 - 2025



Mark Gocke

**Prepared by the Large Carnivore Section
Wyoming Game and Fish Department**

November 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS ii

LIST OF APPENDICES..... ii

INTRODUCTION1

BLACK BEAR MORTALITY ANALYSIS2

 Black Bear Statewide Mortality2

 License Sales and Harvest6

 Jackson BMU (101).....7

 Greys River BMU (102)11

 Absaroka BMU (201)17

 Bighorns BMU (301).....23

 Sierra Madres BMU (401).....31

 Uinta BMU (402)35

 Laramie Peak BMU (501)37

 Snowy Range BMU (502)43

 Wind River BMU (601).....47

 Statewide Hunt Area 35.....55

INTRODUCTION

This document contains a summary of Wyoming black bear mortality and harvest trends for black bear hunting seasons 2023 through 2025. Harvest data are included through the fall of 2025 with the exception of some areas that remained open when this report was developed. Mortalities are categorized by cause, including: legal and illegal harvest, damage removals, road-kills, and other miscellaneous causes of death (i.e., natural mortalities). Throughout this document the term “total mortalities” refers to a combination of all causes of death while the term “harvest” refers to legal and illegal kills combined.

Since 1994, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has used a female mortality limit system to regulate black bear harvest. Mortality limits and hunting seasons are assigned to either individual or grouped hunt areas (Appendix I). Bear Management Unit (BMU) or hunt area harvest levels are monitored and regulated by requiring all successful black bear hunters to present the skull and pelt of their harvested bear to WGFD personnel within 72 hours of taking the animal. Harvested female bears are counted against the female mortality limit for the hunt area(s) in which they were killed. Upon meeting its seasonal female mortality limit, a hunt area is closed to harvest for the remainder of that season. To more effectively distribute hunting pressure and allocate harvest opportunities among spring and fall seasons, female mortality limits are split into spring and fall components. Harvest in excess of a spring mortality limit is subtracted from the fall mortality limit for the same BMU/hunt area. Conversely, the remainder of unfilled spring mortality limits is transferred to the area’s fall mortality limit. An up-to-date, running tally of harvested female black bears and BMU/hunt area closures is maintained by WGFD and made available to hunters via a telephone hotline or Department website.

The Large Carnivore Section of the WGFD reviews Wyoming’s black bear harvest data and other causes of black bear mortality. Mortality statistics are compiled and compared to past trends and established management criteria based on the Wyoming Black Bear Management Plan (Plan) (WGFD 2007). Hunting seasons and mortality limits are set for 3-year periods to better determine effects of the mortality limit on the black bear population in that area. At the end of the 3-year period, adjustments may be made to more effectively manage local bear populations. Since the Plan was adopted in 2007, changes have been made to WGFD’s black bear management. BMU/hunt area boundaries have been revised and new hunt areas have been created. Additionally, changes have been made to hunting season opening and closing dates, female mortality limits, and total season length. These changes are made through analysis and interpretation of harvest data and the public input process in an adaptive management framework.

Tooth age data for this report are reported through the spring 2025 season. Some harvest data have not been received by the Large Carnivore Section as of this date. However, as much fall 2025 data are included in this report as possible to provide relevant comparisons to previous years. Mortality data for years prior to 2022 may vary from previous reports. These differences reflect mortalities reported too late to be included in the previous 3-year cycle report. The figures in this document supersede those presented in previously published mortality reports.

BLACK BEAR MORTALITY ANALYSIS

2023 - 2025 Statewide Mortality

This report will evaluate the effects of harvest and other mortality sources on Wyoming black bear populations by BMU and grouped hunt areas for the 3-year harvest cycle 2023-2025 (Figure 1). Annual data are presented and compared to past data to provide perspective on longer-term mortality and harvest criteria trends.

Total statewide mortalities for the 2023-2025 cycle once again increased from the previous three years, 2020-2022 (Figure 2). Mean total average annual mortality for 2023-2025 increased 13% to 661 from the 2020-2022 average of 577, although a substantial increase ($N = 59$) in the number of female mortalities was observed in 2025. As is typical, spring mortalities were higher than fall mortalities (Figure 3). Non-harvest mortalities were comparable with previous years (Figure 4).

Due to geographic separation of black bear populations, variations in habitat quality and bear density, and an uneven distribution of hunting pressure, caution is warranted when interpreting statewide harvest statistics. Therefore, more specific harvest criteria are presented by BMU and by groups of hunt areas with shared female mortality limits in each of the following sections of this report. In BMUs or hunt areas with low harvest, interpreting harvest statistics based on subsets of sex, age class, or season can result in extremely variable results that are difficult to interpret primarily due to small sample sizes.

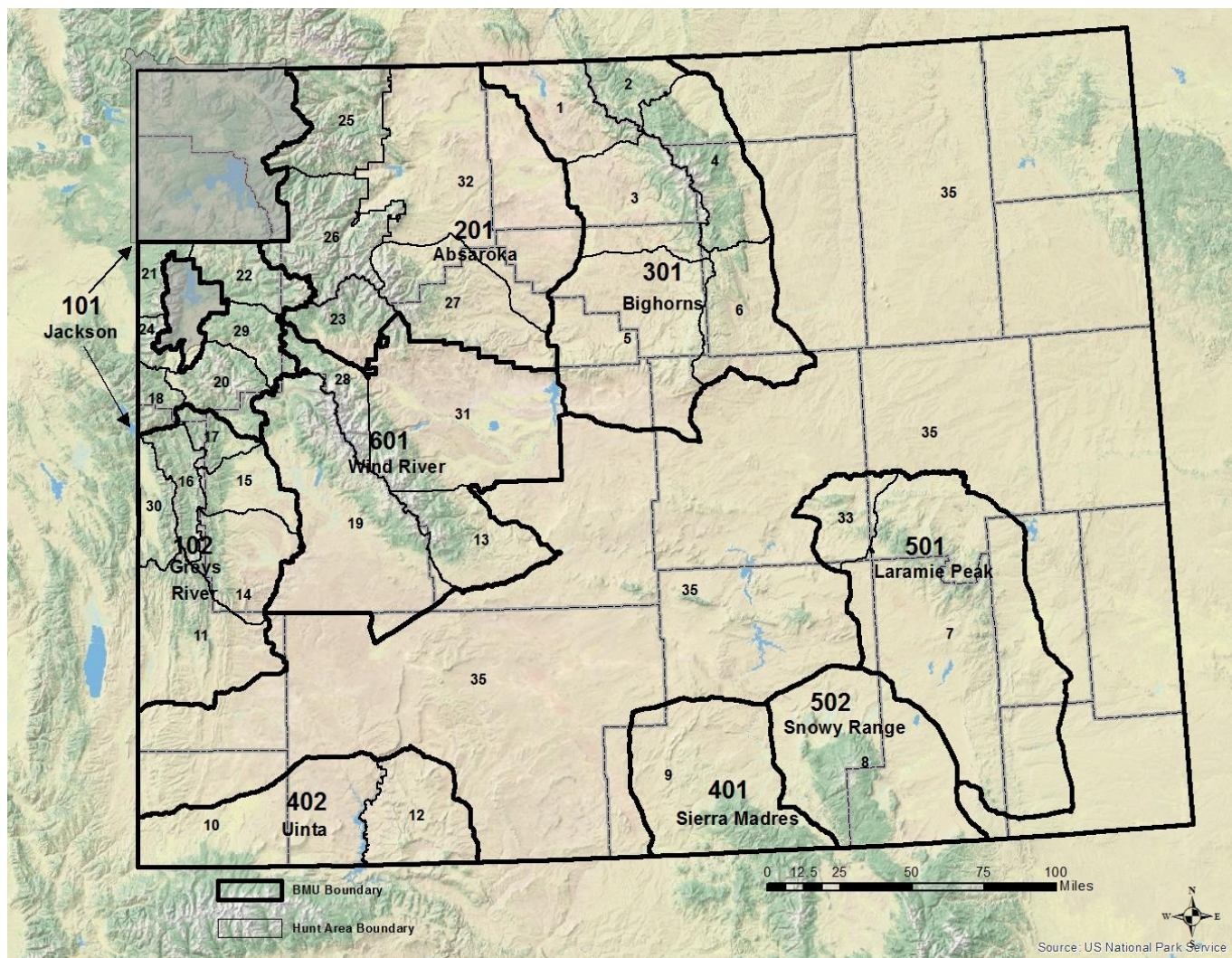
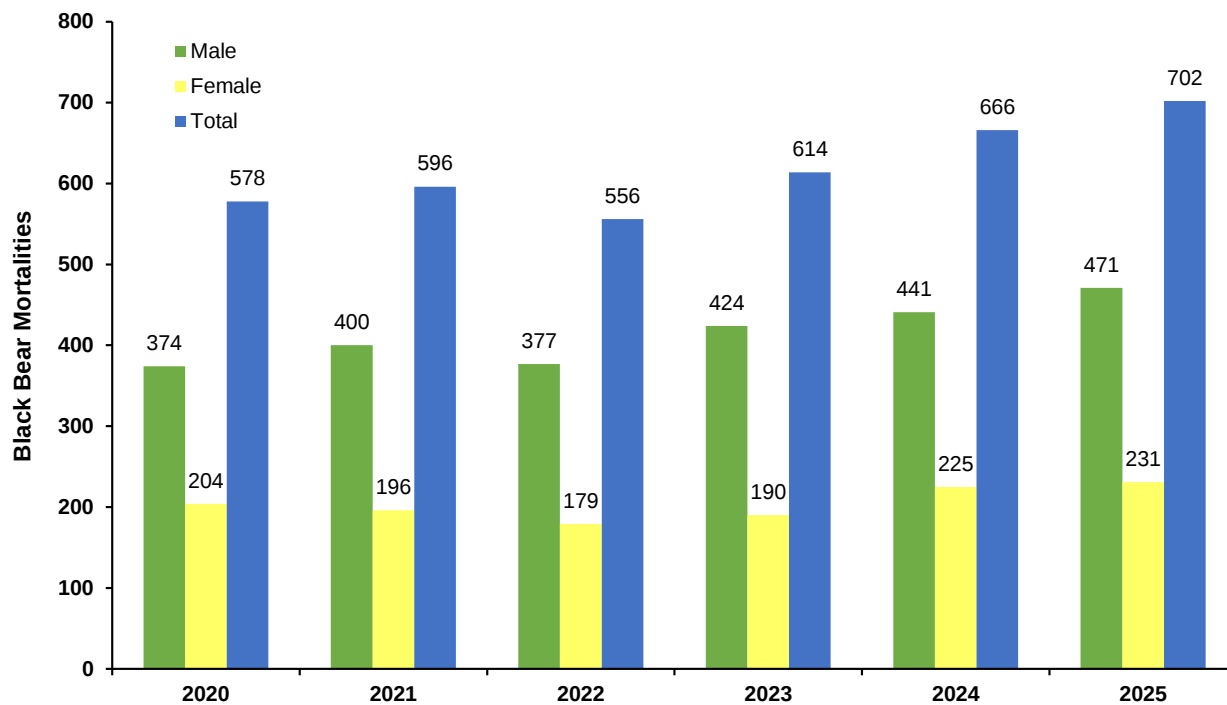


Figure 1. Wyoming black bear management units (BMUs) and hunt areas.



*There was 1 natural mortality of unknown sex in 2021 and 2022; 2 in 2020 and 2025; and 3 in 2024.

Figure 2. Annual statewide black bear mortalities (all causes) by sex, 2020-2025.

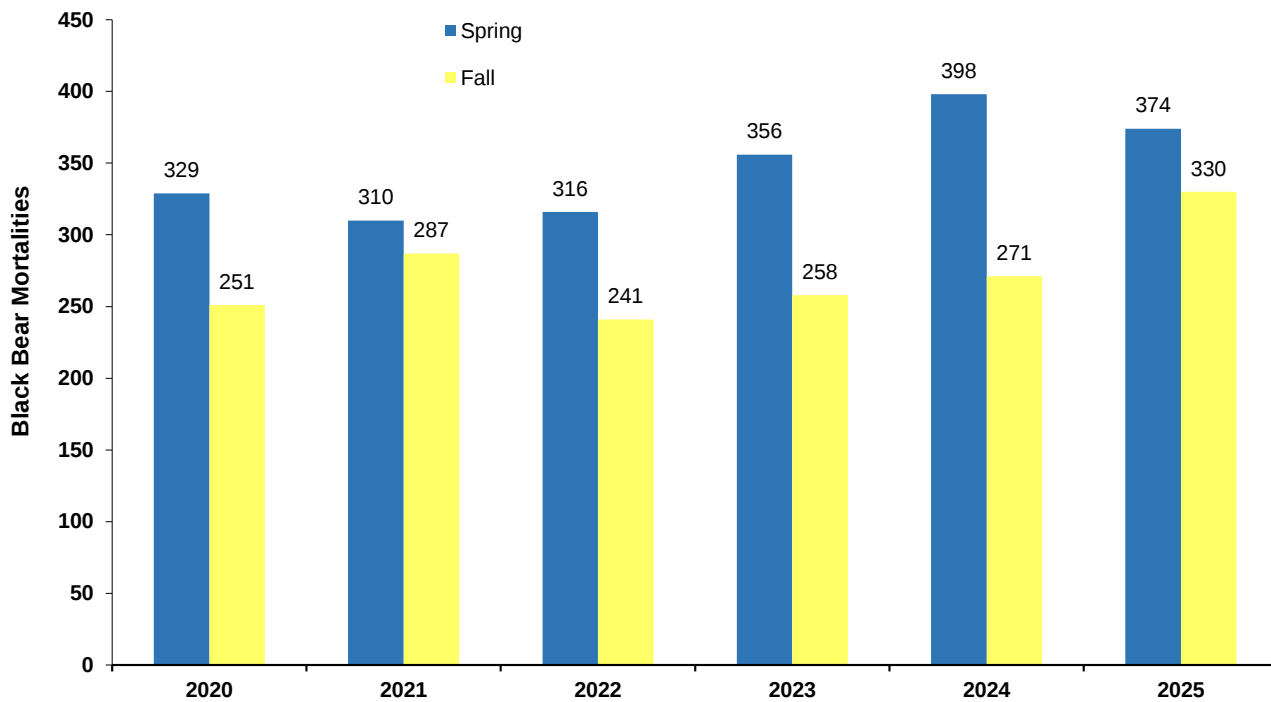


Figure 3. Annual statewide black bear mortalities (all causes) by season, 2020-2025.

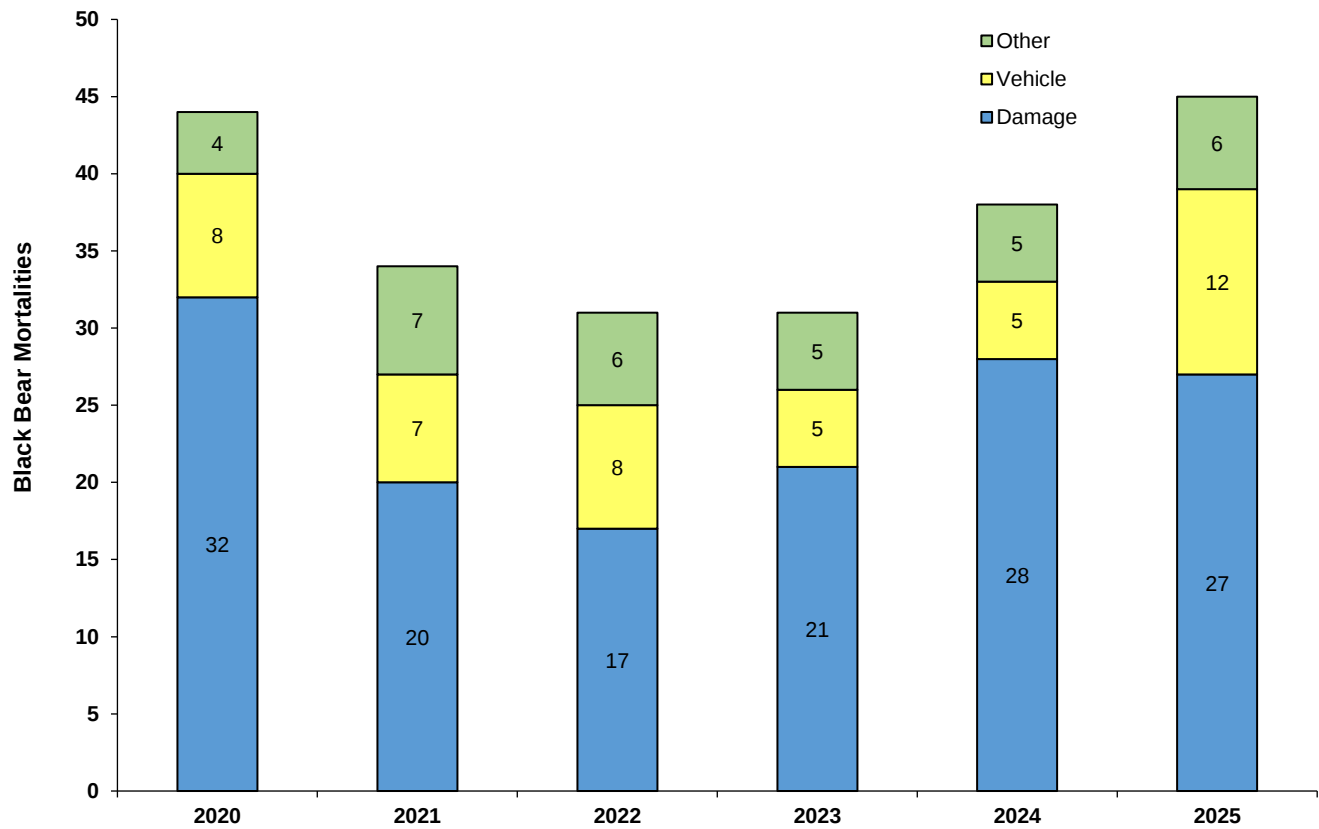


Figure 4. Annual statewide non-harvest black bear mortalities by year, 2023-2025.

License Sale and Harvest

Since the implementation of female mortality limits in the mid-1990's, black bear harvest in Wyoming has increased steadily and has broken record numbers each year in the last cycle (Figure 5). When evaluated with legal hunter harvest, increased license sales are strongly correlated with the increase in hunter harvest ($r^2=0.95$), despite hunter success remaining constant. During this period (Figure 5) the percentage of licensed black bear hunters successfully harvesting a bear averaged 9.8%, ranging from 9% to 13%.

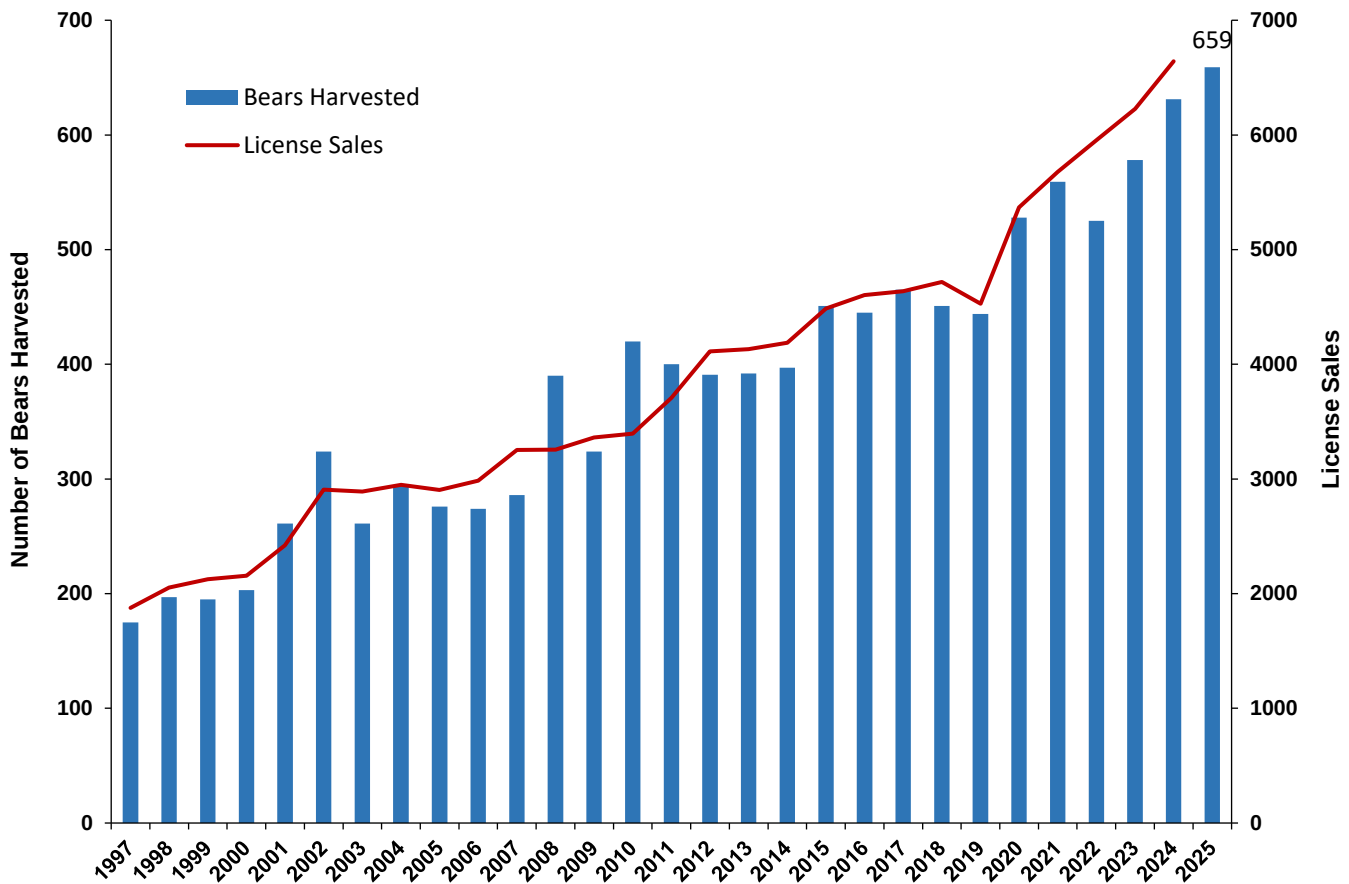


Figure 5. Total legal black bear harvest and license sales in Wyoming, 1997-2025.

JACKSON BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (101)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

Female mortality limits for the Jackson BMU remained unchanged for the 2023 – 2025 season cycle from the previous three years (Table 1). The number of males harvested has increased slightly and still within stable range (Figures 6 and 7). The percent of adult males began to trend down into the stable population range (Figure 8). The percent of females as well as percentage of adult females in the harvest continues to remain relatively stable (Figure 9 and 10). The overall pattern of mortalities and harvest criteria (Table 2) in the Jackson BMU continue to indicate the black bear population in BMU 101 experienced moderate harvest yet remains stable.

Table 1. Jackson BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation upon reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	JACKSON	18, 20, 21, 22, 24 & 29	13	20	30	8	21	14	6/15/22	10/31/22
2023	JACKSON	18, 20, 21, 22, 24 & 29	13	20	30	12	15	13	6/15/23	10/31/23
2024	JACKSON	18, 20, 21, 22, 24 & 29	13	20	30	14	24	10	6/9/24	10/31/24
2025	JACKSON	18, 20, 21, 22, 24 & 29	13	20	25	13	33	12	5/29/25	10/31/25

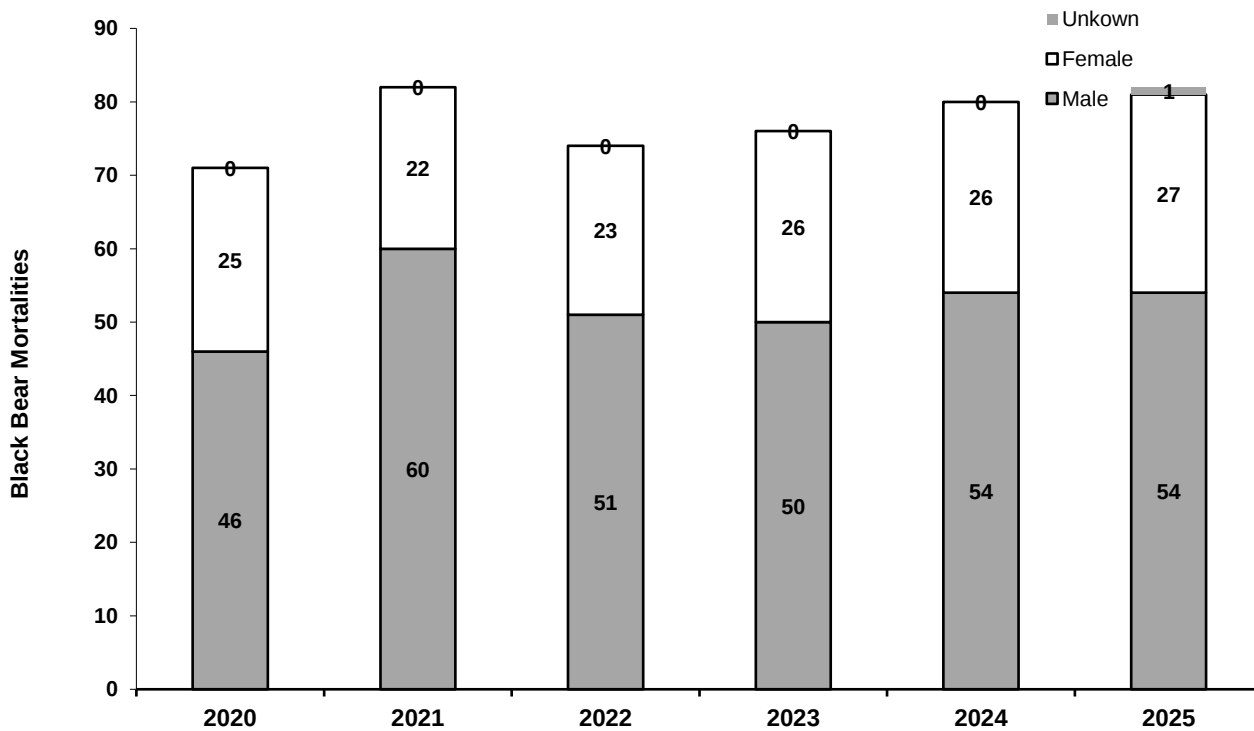


Figure 6. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Jackson BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 2. Harvest criteria for Jackson BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023 through 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023- 2025		29.7	23.0	40.9

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

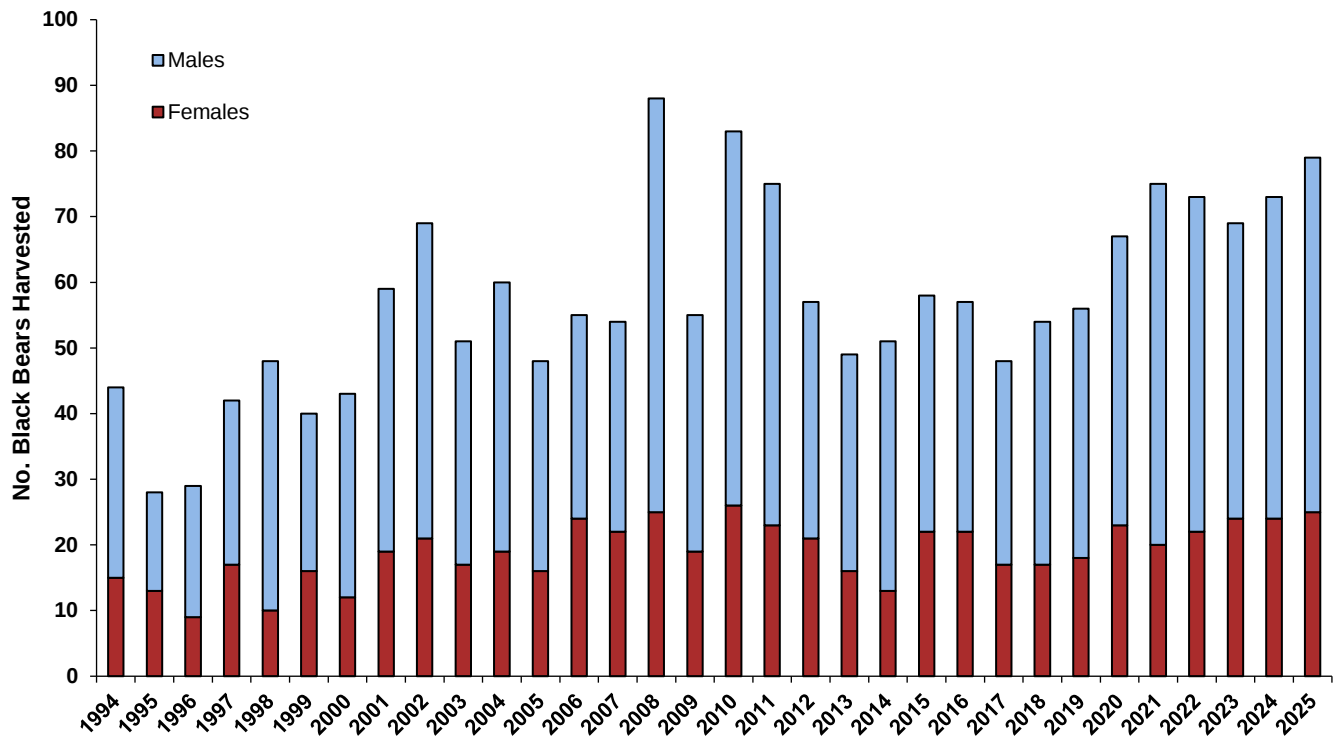


Figure 7. Legal harvest of black bears in Jackson BMU, 1994-2025.

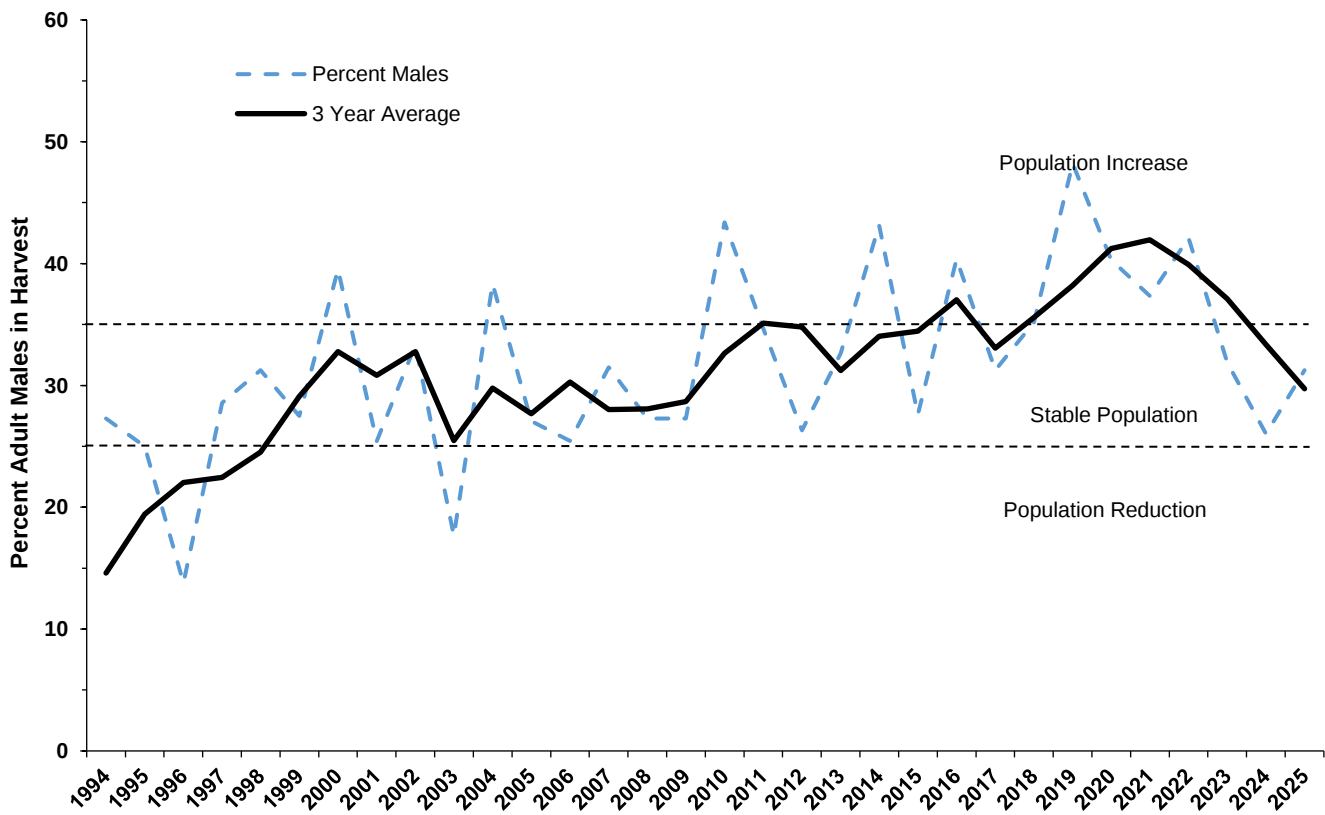


Figure 8. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Jackson BMU, 1994-2025.

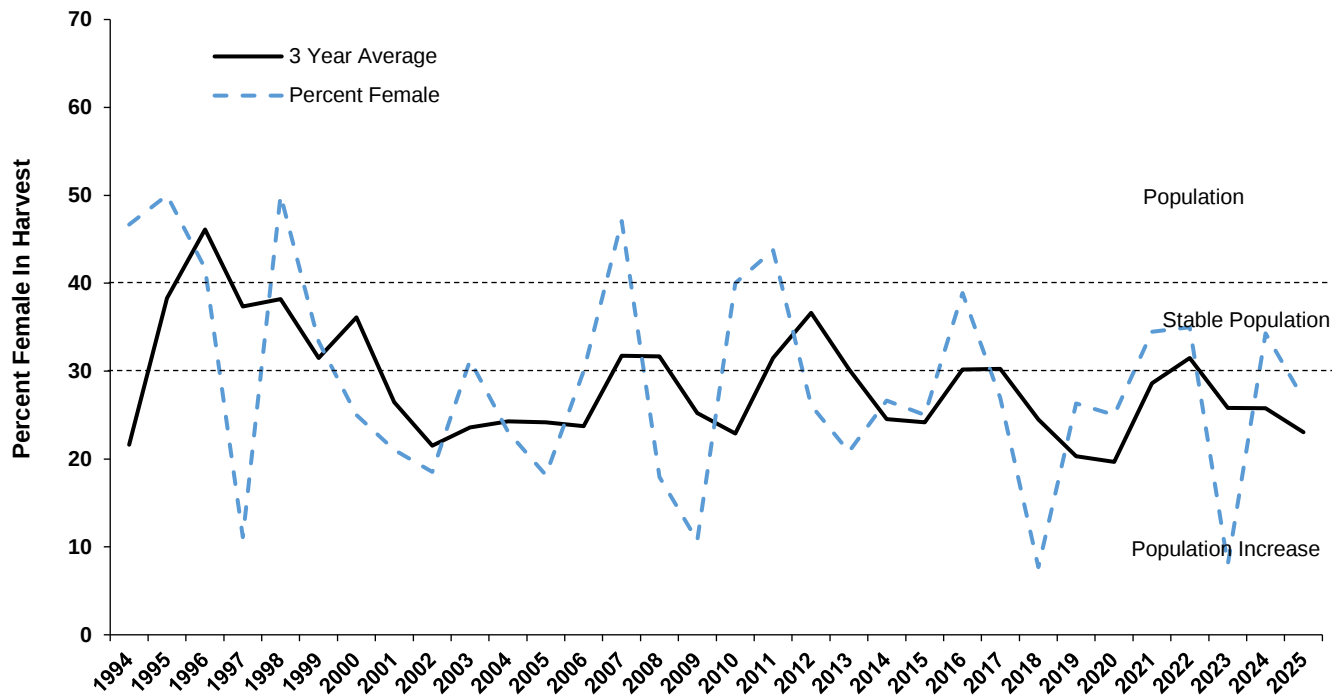


Figure 9. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Jackson BMU, 1994-2025.

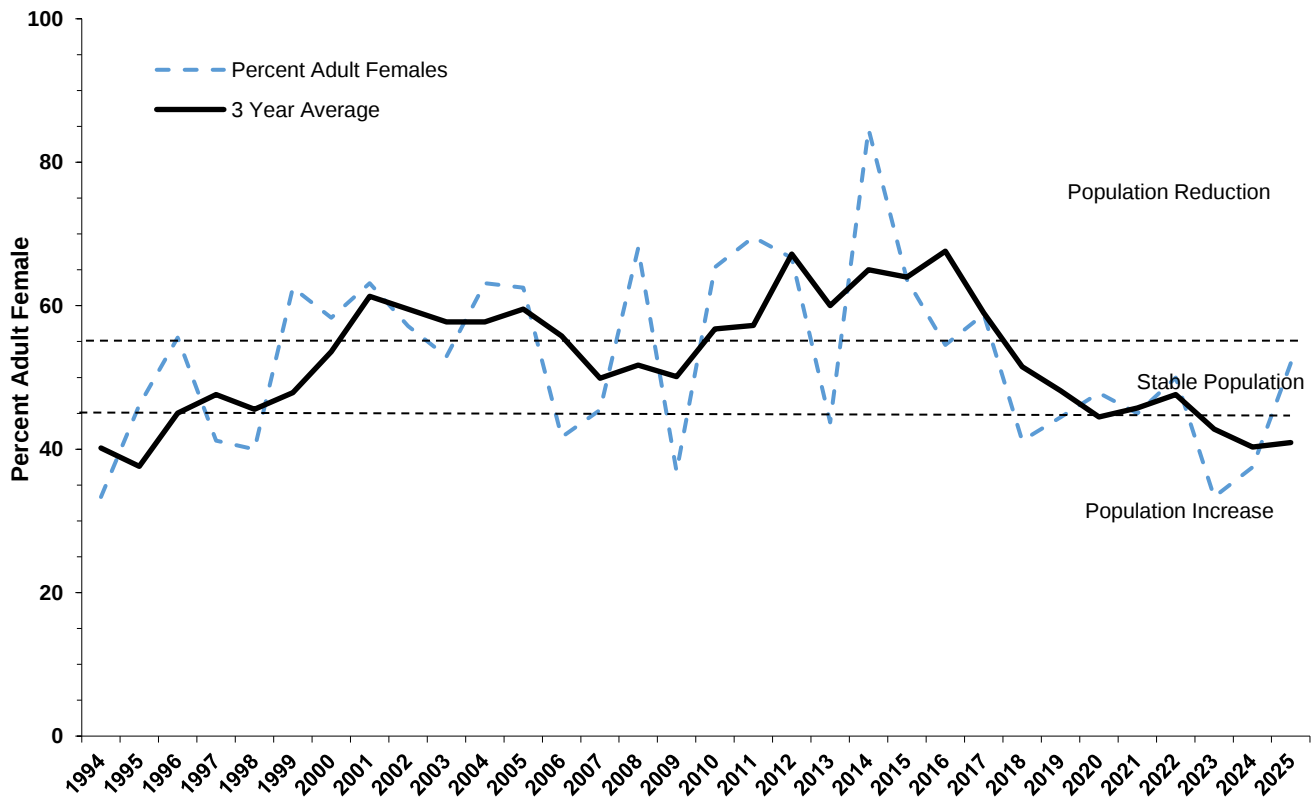


Figure 10. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Jackson BMU, 1994-2025.

GREYS RIVER BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (102)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

Female mortality limits remained status quo in the spring and fall for Hunt Areas 14-17 and 30 for the 2023-2025 season cycle. Additionally, mortality limits for Hunt Area 11 were increased for the spring season by 3, and the fall season dates extended into November for 2023 (Table 3). Total black bear mortalities in BMU 102 remained relatively steady through 2025 (Figure 11), tracking legal harvest (Figures 12 and 16), with a slight drop in 2023. At the BMU level, harvest criteria continue to indicate constraint of the adult male cohort of the black bear population (Figure 13). The percent of females in the harvest remain slightly outside of the stable population indicator trending towards population reduction (Table 4, Figure 14). However, the percentage of adult females in the harvest remains in the population increase range (Figure 15).

Table 3. Greys River BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation after reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	GREYS RIVER	11	5	5	10	5	3	3	6/6/22	10/31/22
		14, 15, 16, 17 & 30	24	18	45	17	26	15	6/15/22	10/31/22
2023	GREYS RIVER	11	8	5	8	6	9	4	6/15/23	11/15/23
		14, 15, 16, 17 & 30	24	18	31	14	17	7	6/15/23	10/31/23
2024	GREYS RIVER	11	8	5	17	7	4	4	6/15/24	11/15/24
		14, 15, 16, 17 & 30	24	18	34	22	26	16	6/15/24	10/31/24
2025	GREYS RIVER	11	8	5	15	6	9	4	6/15/25	11/15/25
		14, 15, 16, 17 & 30	24	18	27	26	20	10	6/6/25	10/31/25

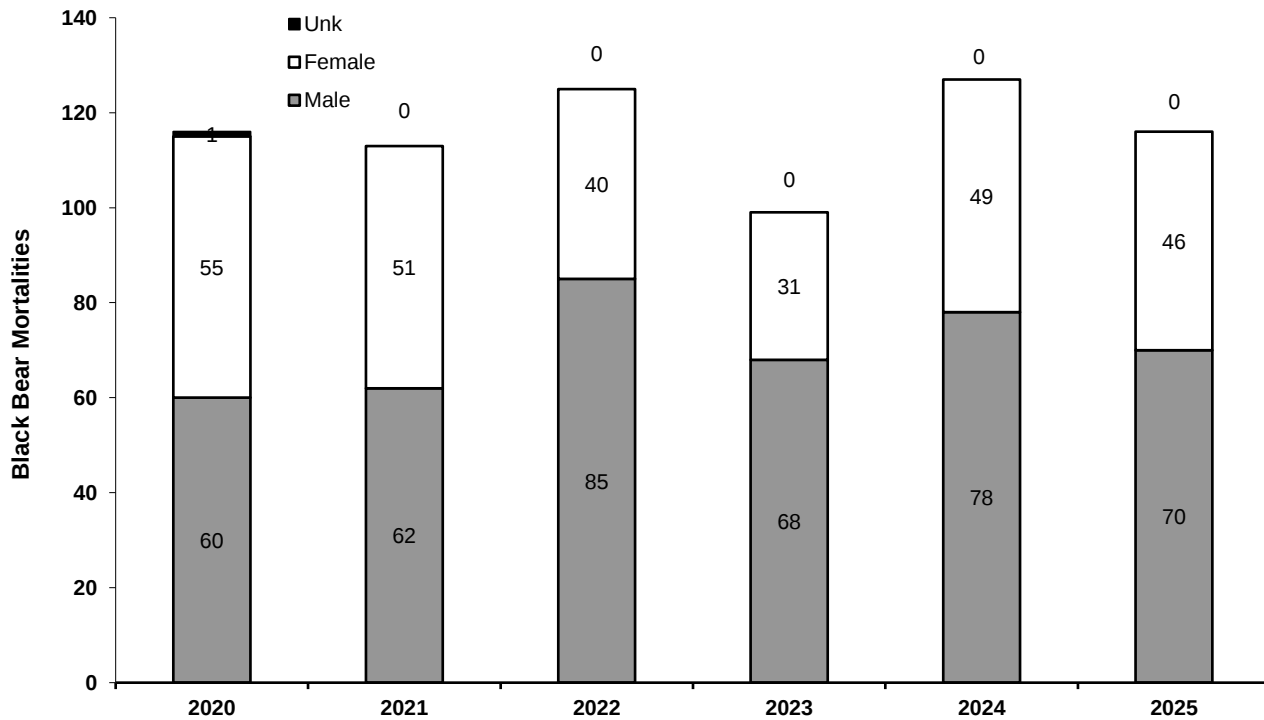


Figure 11. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Greys River BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 4. Harvest criteria for Greys River BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023-spring 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023-spring 2025		13.3	36.3	33.6

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

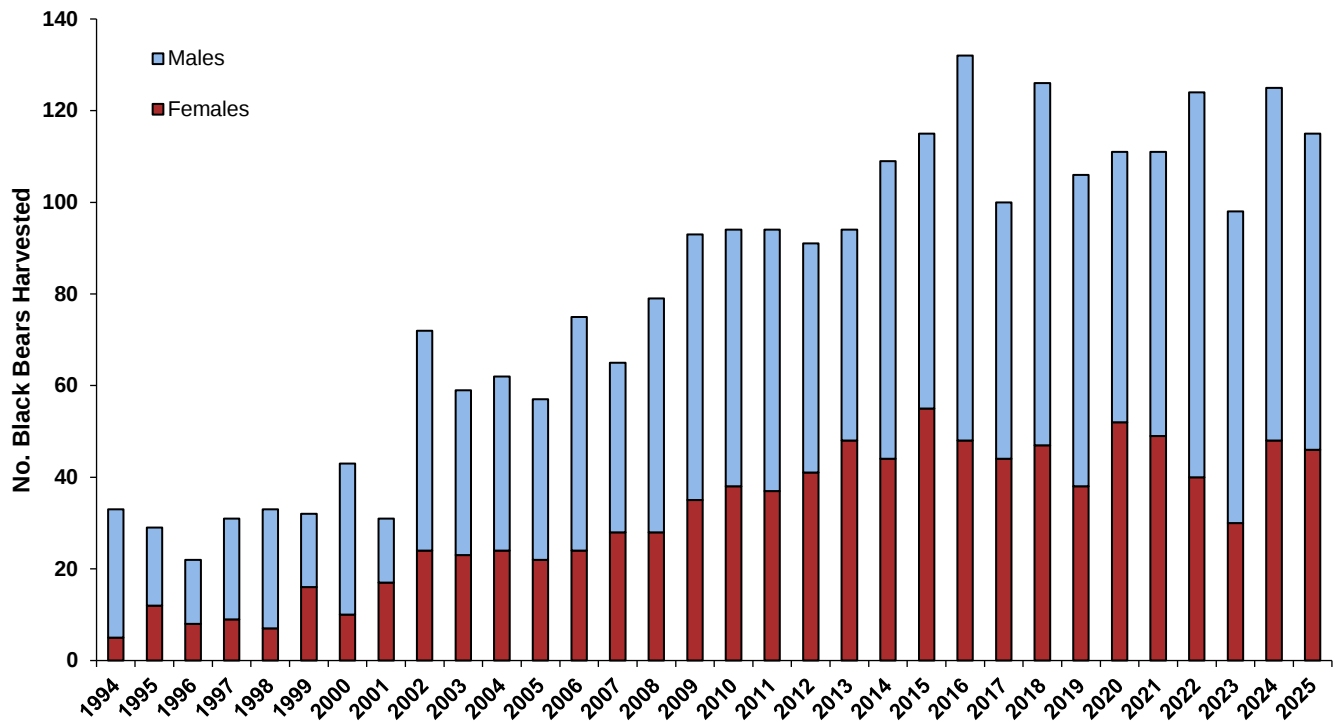


Figure 12. Legal harvest of black bears in Greys River BMU, 1994-2025.

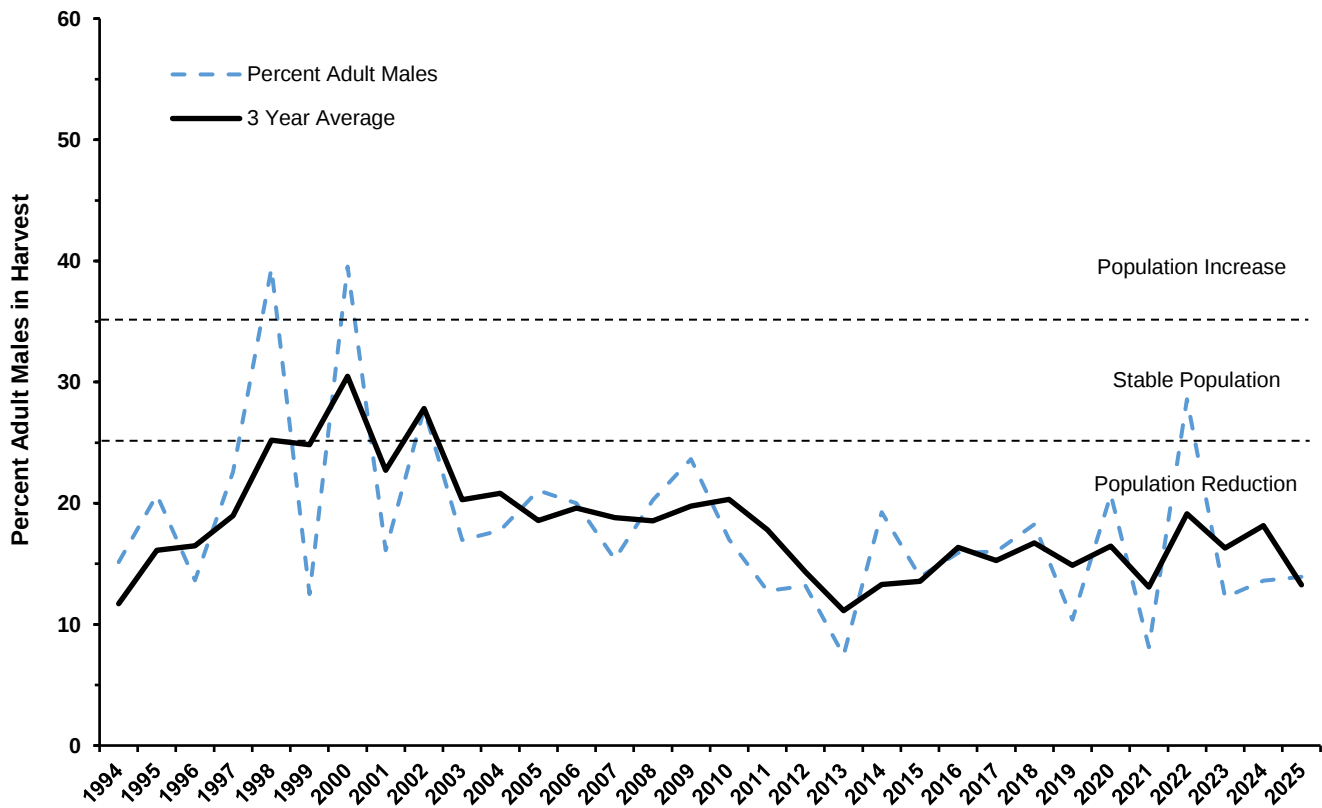


Figure 13. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Greys River BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

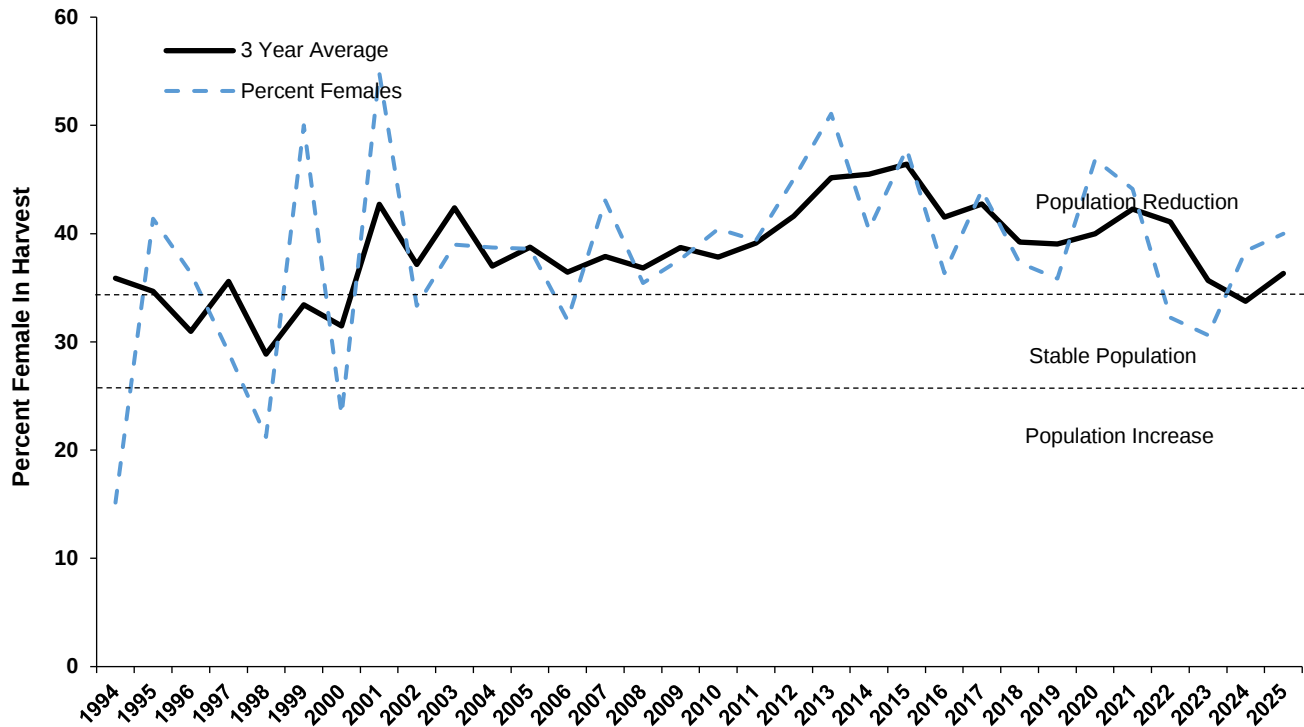


Figure 14. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Greys River BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

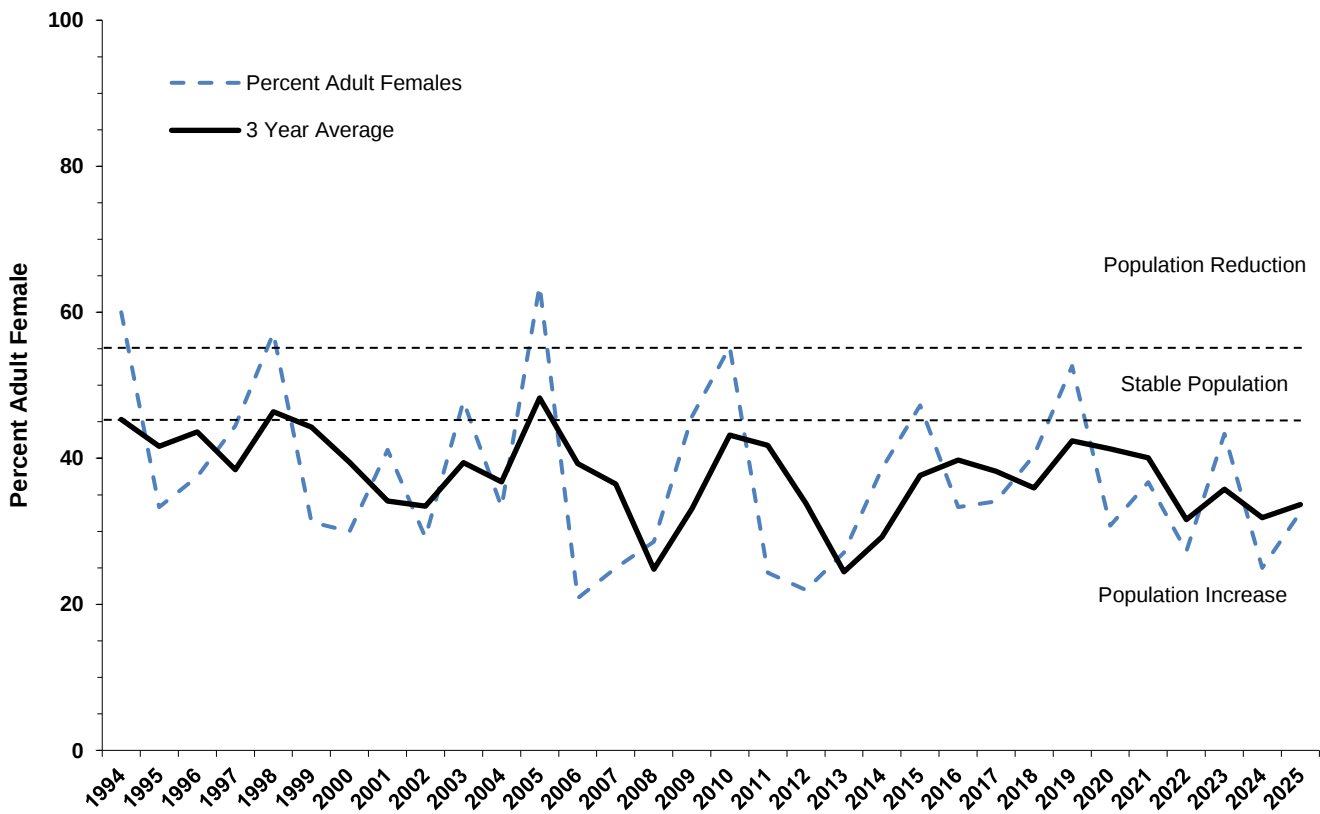


Figure 15. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Greys River BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

Harvest Criteria by Mortality limit – Hunt Areas 14, 15, 16, 17, and 30

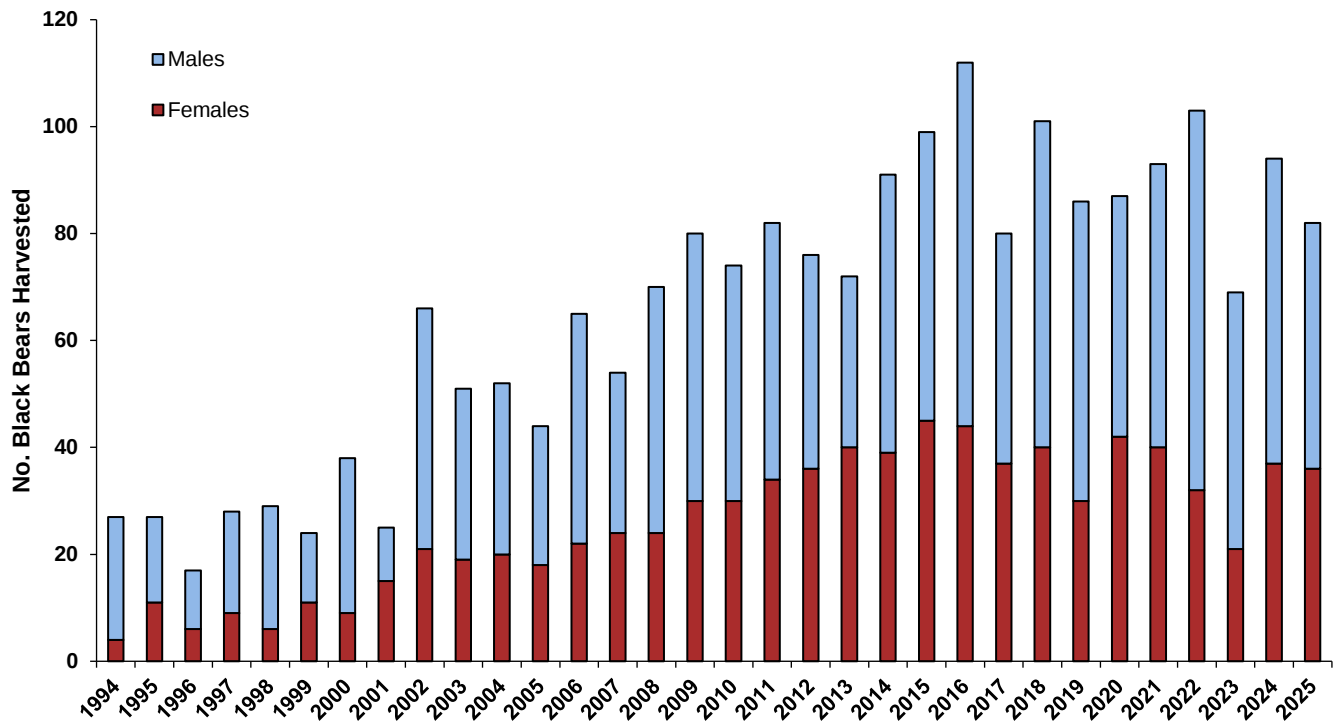


Figure 16. Legal harvest of black bears in Hunt Areas 14, 15, 16, 17, and 30 of Greys River BMU, 1994-2025.

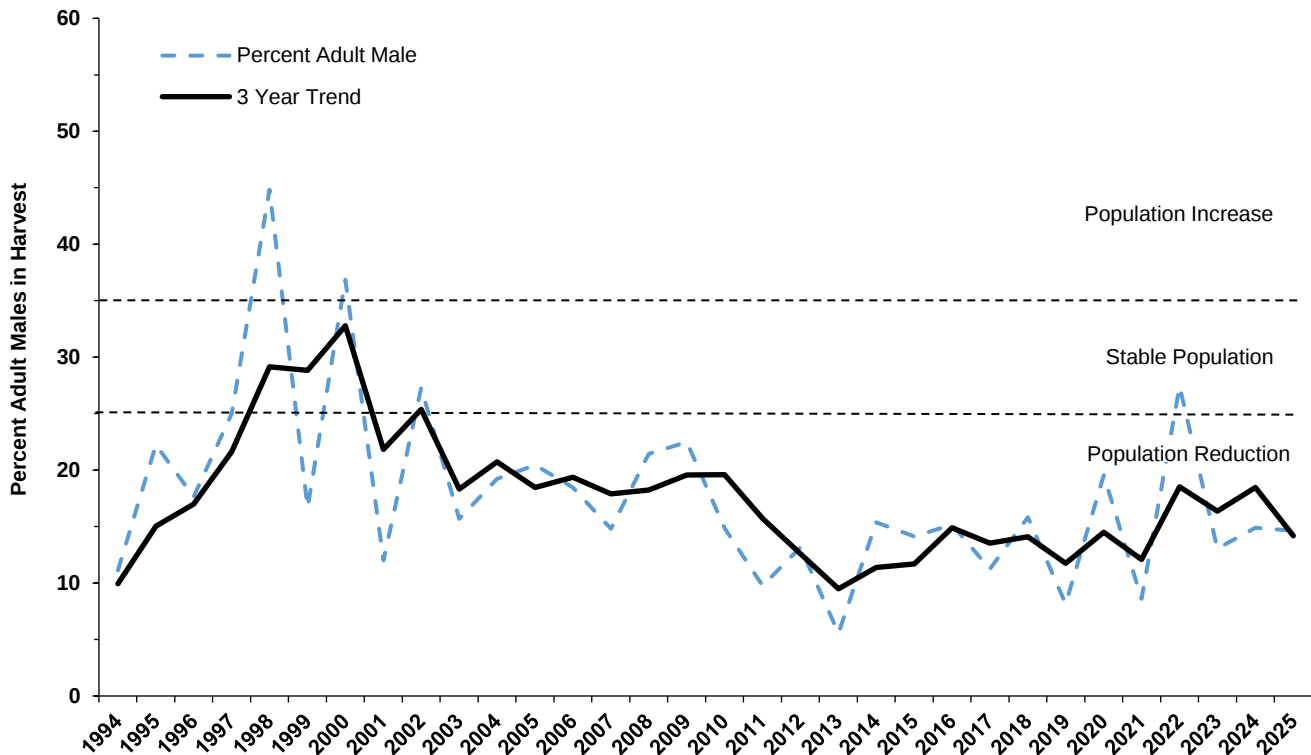


Figure 17. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 14, 15, 16, 17, and 30 of Greys River BMU, 1994-2025.

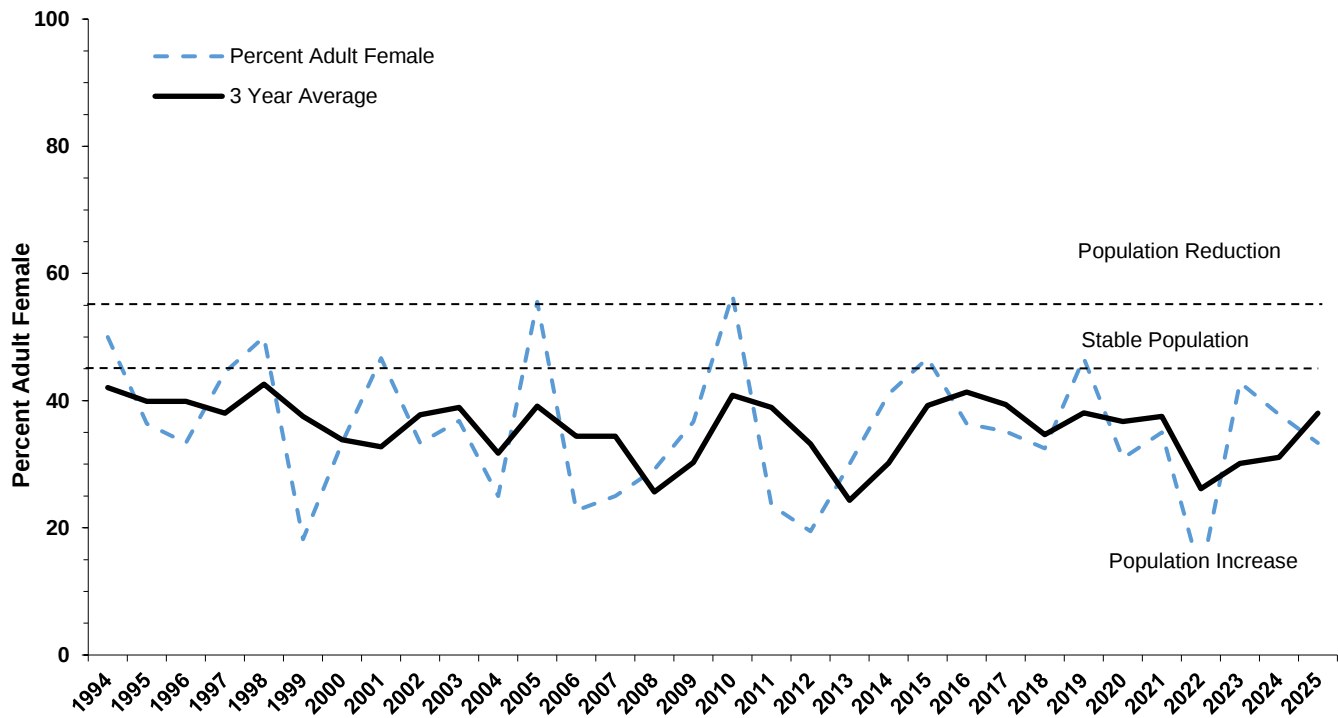


Figure 18. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 14, 15, 16, 17, and 30 of Greys River BMU, 1994-2025.

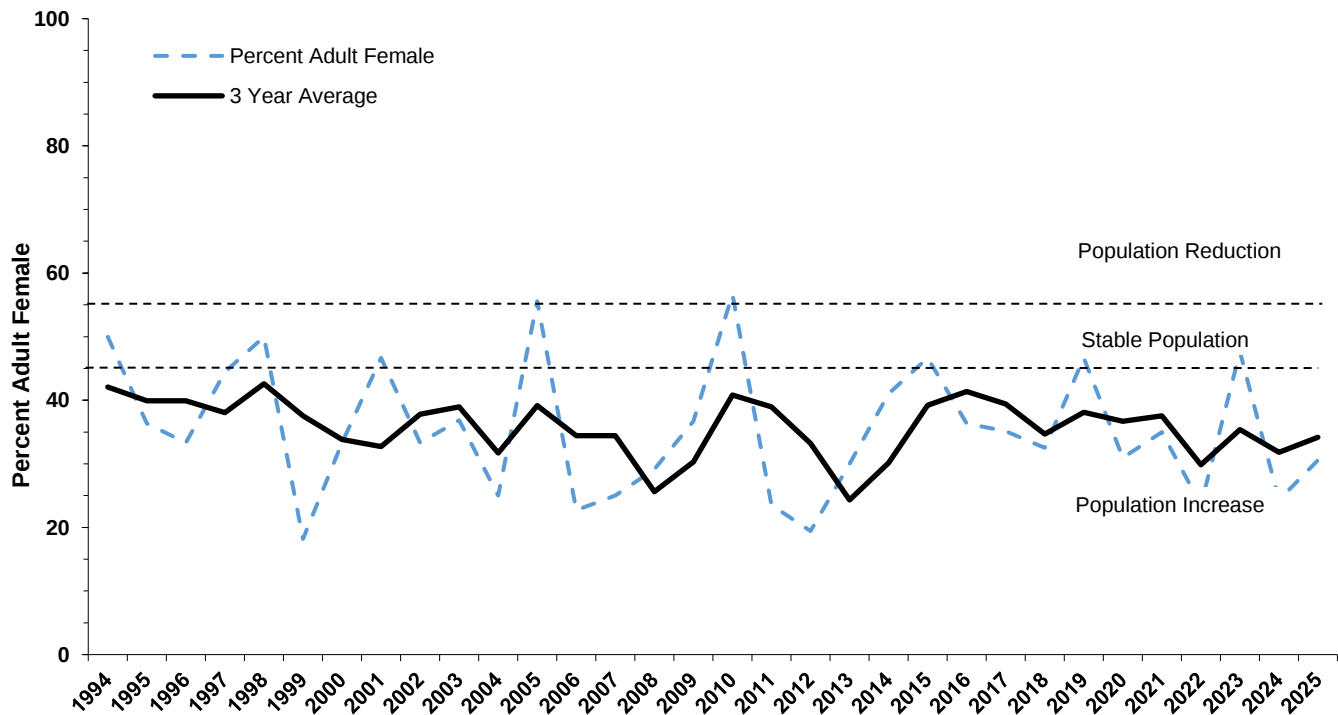


Figure 19. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Hunt Areas 14, 15, 16, 17, and 30 of Greys River BMU, 1994-2025.

ABSAROKA BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (201)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

Female mortality limits for the Absaroka BMU remained unchanged from the 2020-2022 season cycle (Table 5). Overall, mortalities and harvests have remained similar from the previous three years with an increase in 2025 (Figures 21 and 22). The percent of adult males in the harvest remains high and continued to trend upward in recent years, indicating relatively low harvest pressure (Figure 23). Likewise, the percent of females in the harvest has been trending downward towards population increase range (Figure 24). The percent of adults in the female harvest remains fairly high (Table 6 and Figures 22-25), however, similar to the Jackson BMU, the significant amount of refuge habitat surrounding this BMU provides a source population. The prohibition of baiting in a majority of the unit has the potential to impact hunter selectivity, resulting in harvest proportional to availability in the population.. This criterion likely reflects an abundance of older-age females in the standing population of the BMU and not a deficit of males and subadult females. Analyzed separately, Hunt Areas 23, 25, 26, and 27 make up the vast majority of harvest for this BMU and show the same trends (Figures 26-29). Overall, a continued high percent of adult males in the harvest and the relatively low percent of females in the harvest indicate a healthy and stable black bear population experiencing moderate to low harvest pressure.

Table 5. Absaroka BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-2025 black bear hunting seasons. All seasons for this BMU closed on the final date of the season as listed in regulation (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	ABSAROKA	23, 25, 26 & 27	8	12	23	4	11	8	6/15/22	10/31/22
		32	NA	NA	2	0	4	0	6/15/22	11/15/22
2023	ABSAROKA	23, 25, 26 & 27	8	12	18	7	9	6	6/15/23	10/31/23
		32	NA	NA	0	0	3	1	6/15/23	11/15/23
2024	ABSAROKA	23, 25, 26 & 27	8	12	27	4	2	0	6/15/24	10/31/24
		32	NA	NA	3	1	6	2	6/15/24	11/15/24
2025	ABSAROKA	23, 25, 26 & 27	8	12	29	2	19	15	6/15/24	10/31/25
		32	NA	NA	3	0	5	1	6/15/24	11/15/25

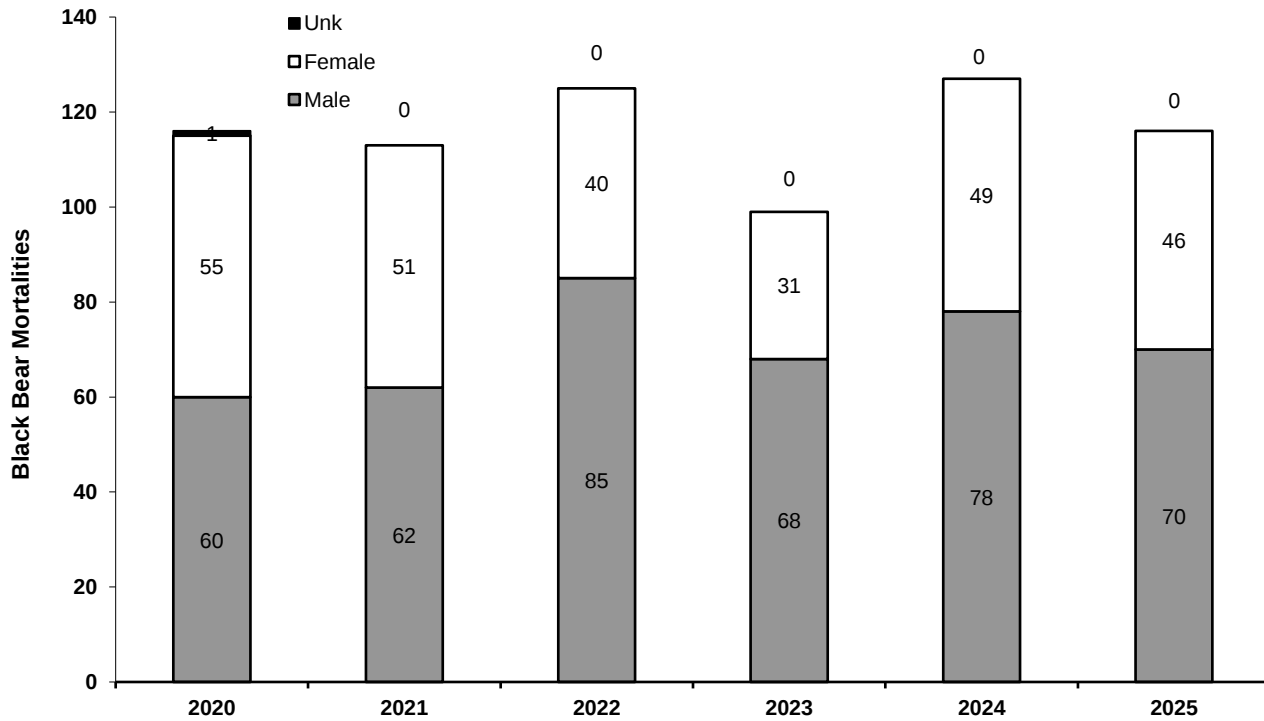


Figure 21. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Absaroka BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 6. Harvest criteria for Absaroka BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023-spring 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023-spring 2025		39.9	25.7	45.2

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

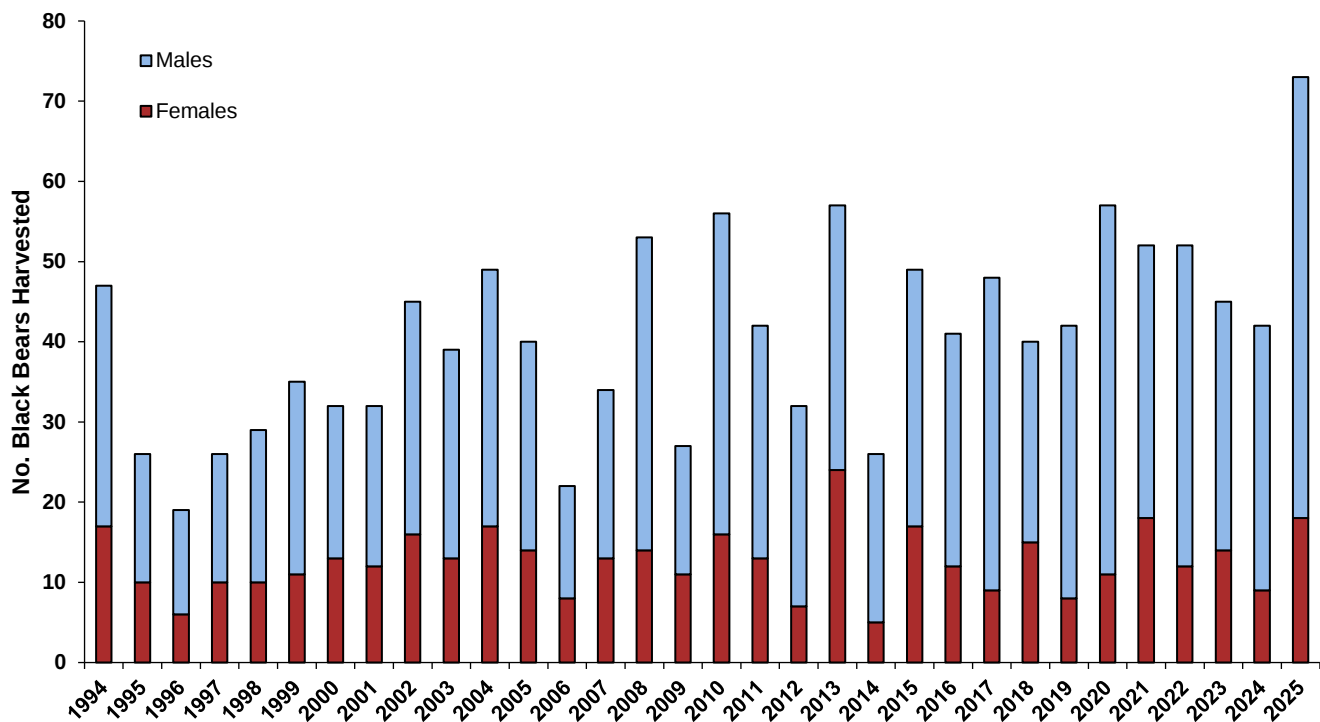


Figure 22. Legal harvest of black bears in Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

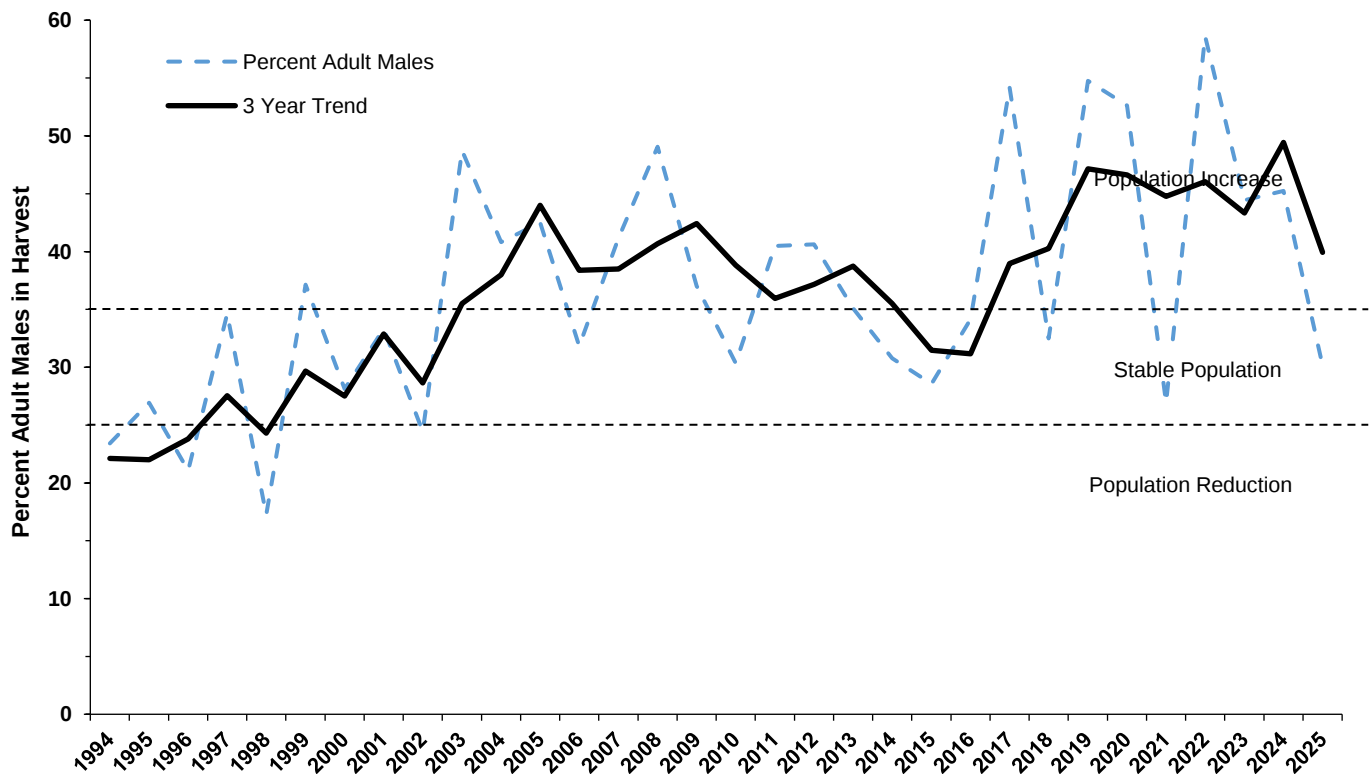


Figure 23. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

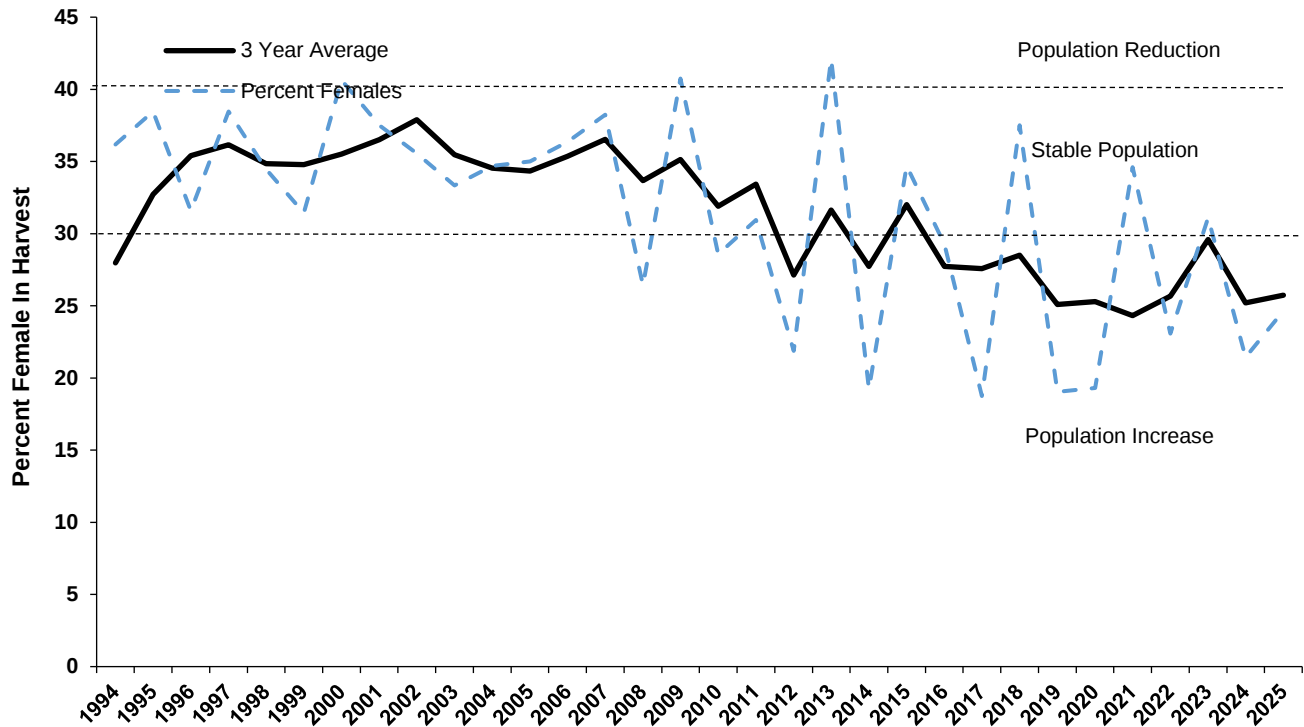


Figure 24. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

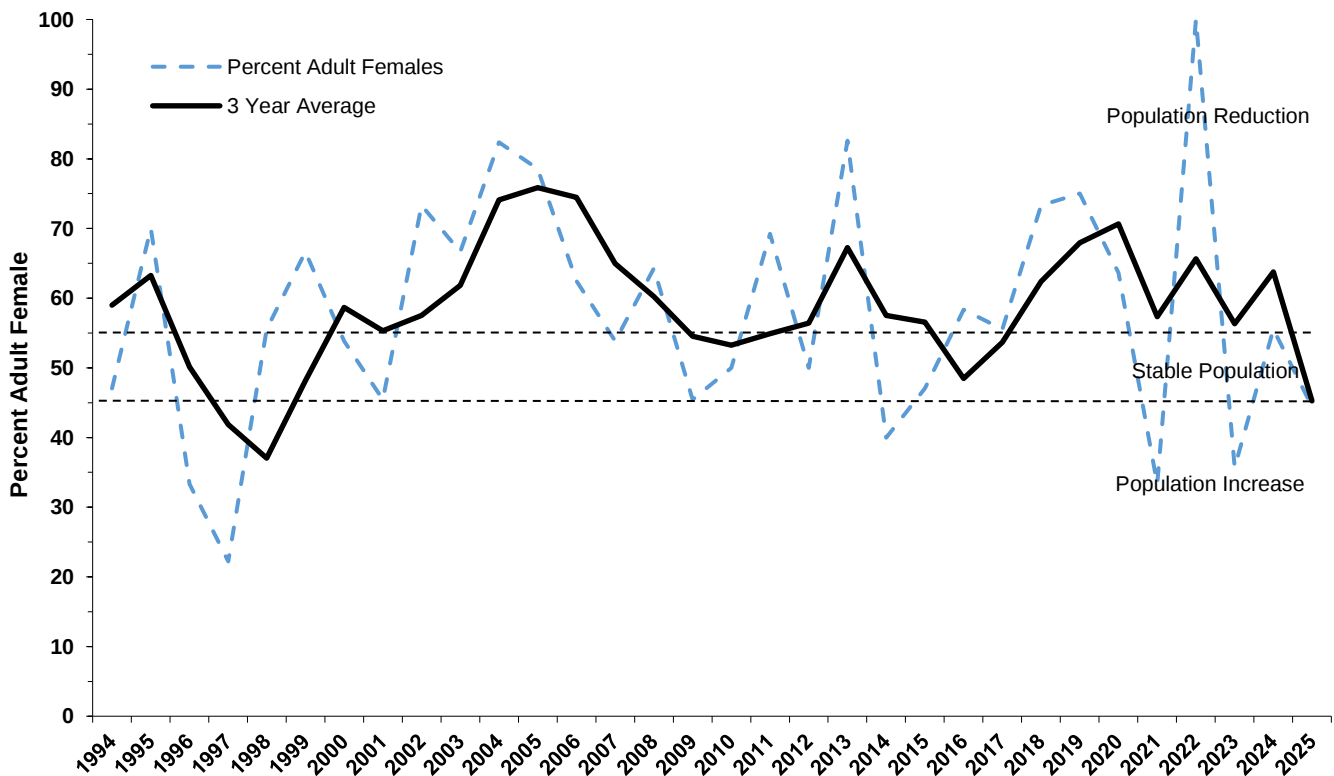


Figure 25. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

Harvest Criteria by Harvest Limit – Hunt Areas 23, 25, 26, and 27

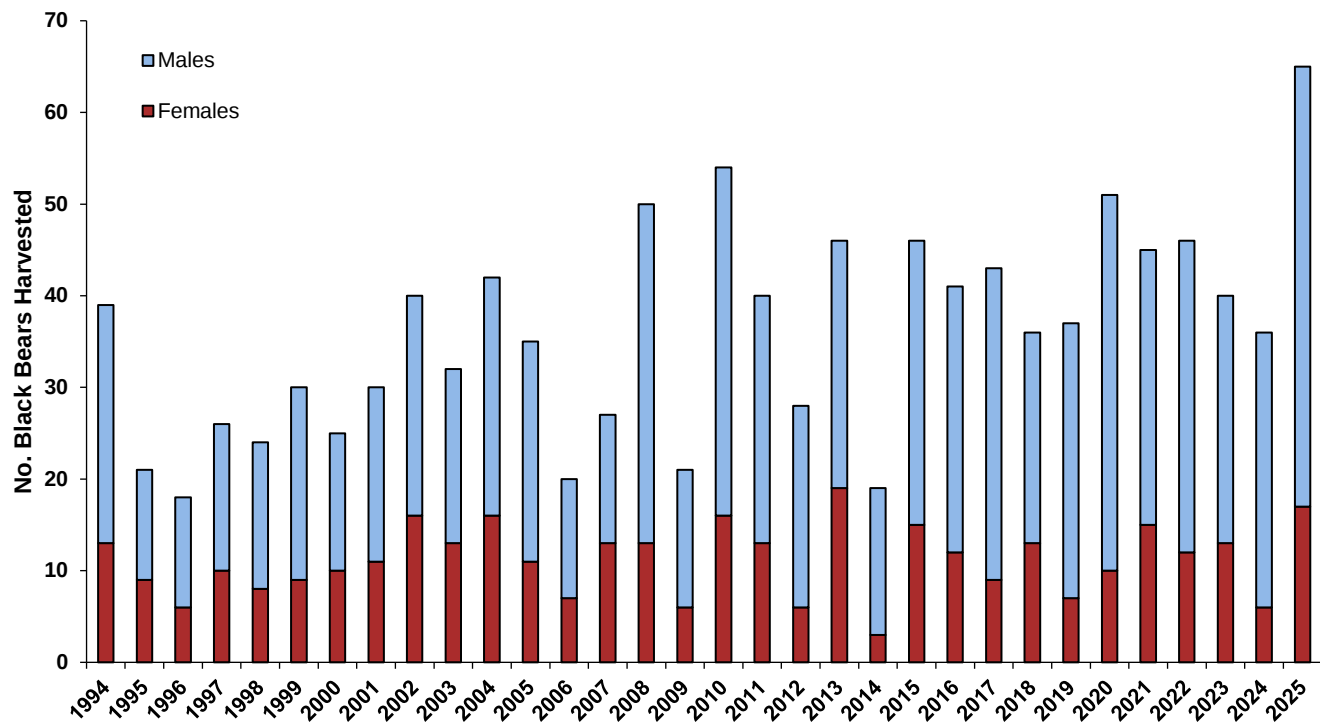


Figure 26. Legal harvest of black bears in Hunt Areas 23, 25, 26, and 27 of Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

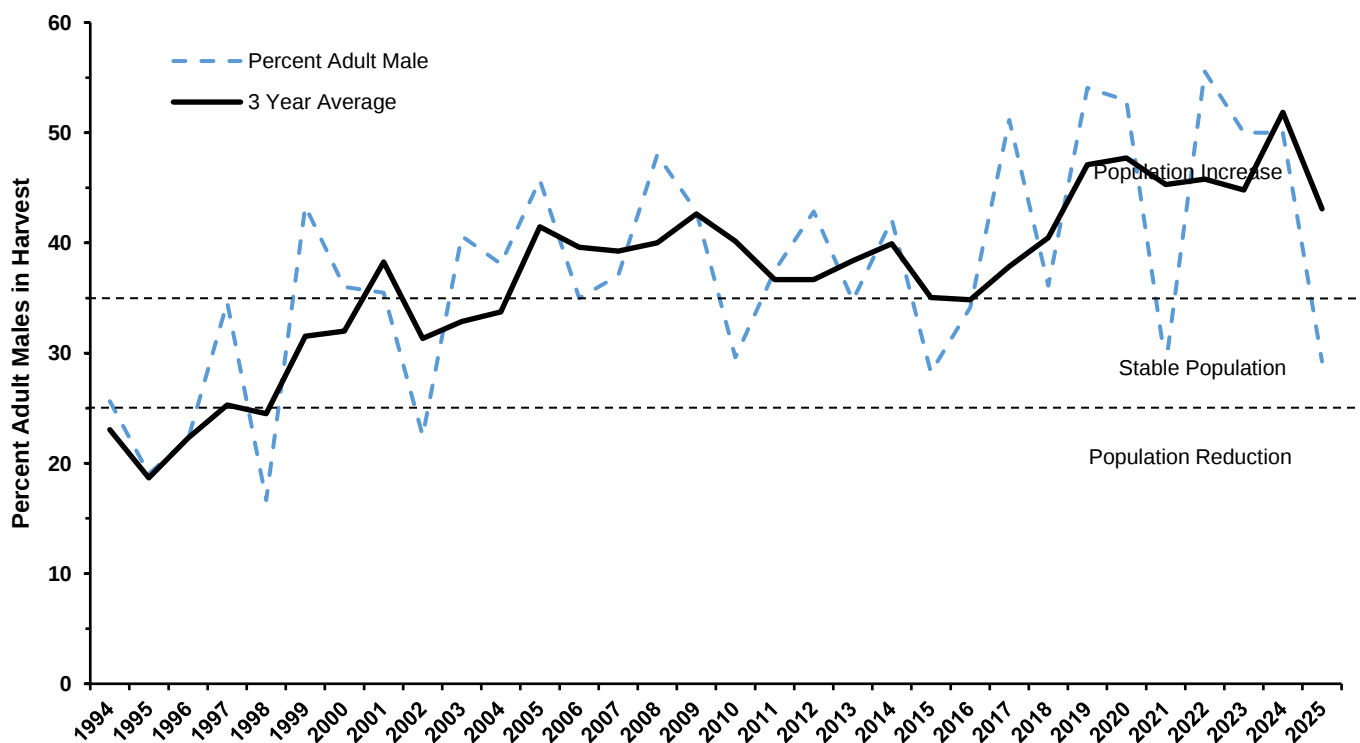


Figure 27. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 23, 25, 26, and 27 of Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

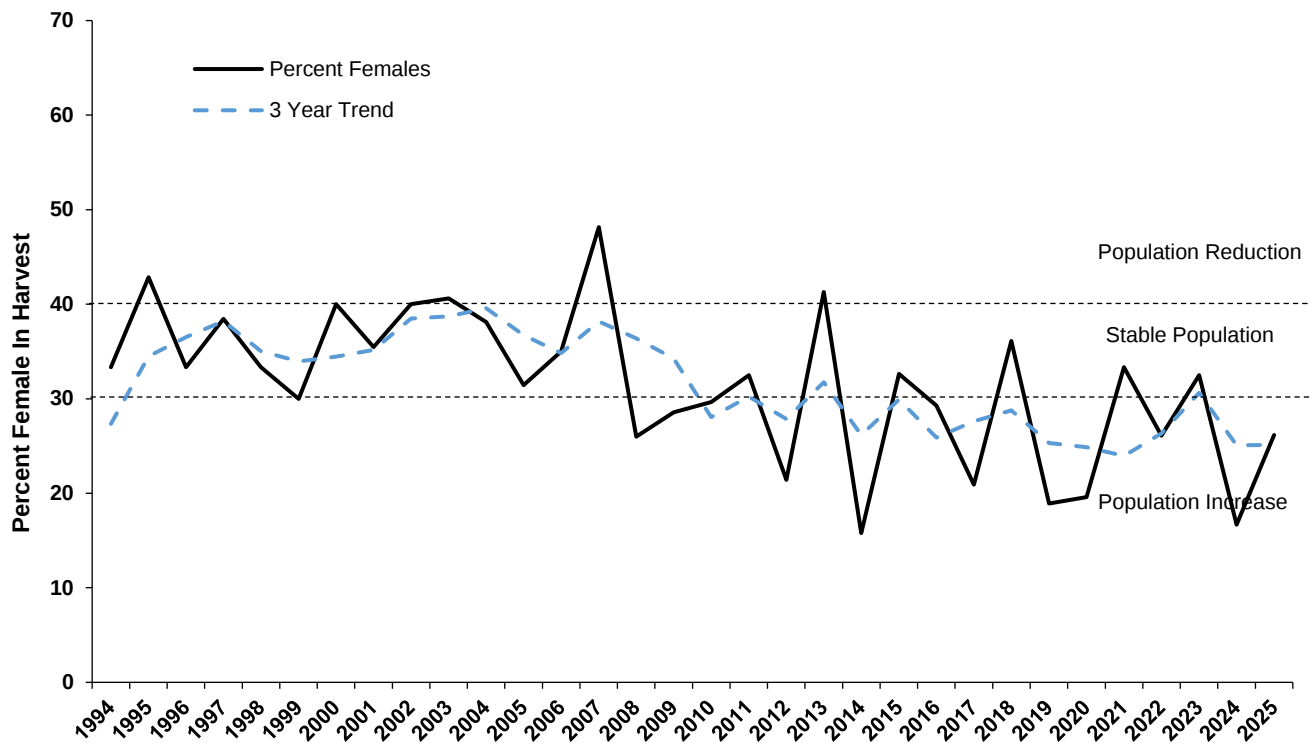


Figure 28. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 23, 25, 26, and 27 of Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

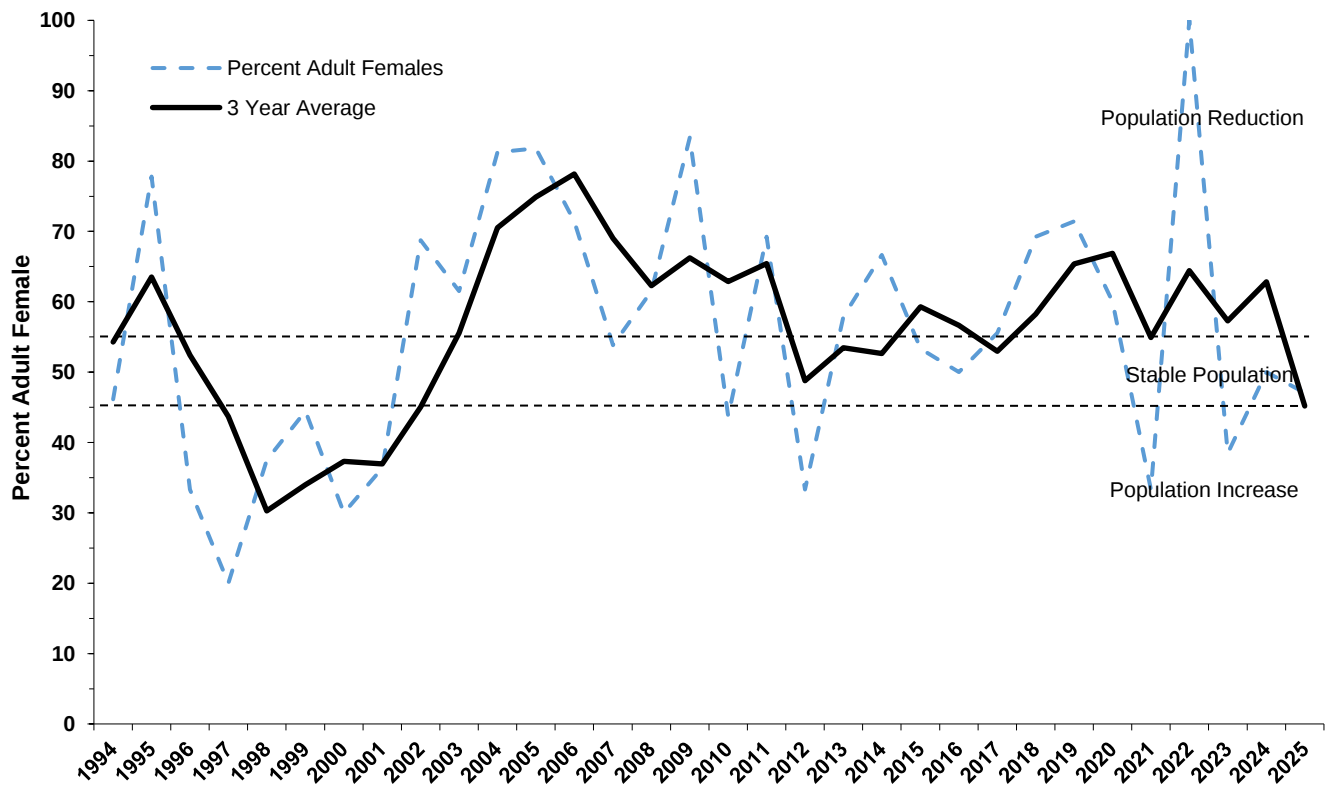


Figure 29. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Hunt Areas 23, 25, 26, and 27 of Absaroka BMU, 1994-2025.

BIGHORNS BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (301)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

Hunt Areas 1-4 were separated in 2023 largely to increase opportunity, primarily due to the differing weather conditions on the east and western regions of the mountains which could impede hunter access (Table 7). Total mortalities and legal black bear harvest in BMU 301 increased as the overall female mortality limits were increased across all hunt areas (Figures 30 and 31). The percentage of adult males in the harvest has decreased from the previous cycle (Figure 32). The percentage of females in the harvest remains in the stable range, with a decrease in the percentage of adult females in the harvest (Table 8, Figures 33 and 34). Grouping hunt areas into northwestern (1 and 3; Figures 35-38) and northeastern (2 and 4; Figures 39-42) fronts shows an emerging trend of fewer adult males in the harvest. The percentage of adults in the female harvest remains stable (Figure 42). Hunt Areas 5 and 6 continue to have low levels of harvest (Table 7).

Table 7. Bighorns BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation upon reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	Spring		Fall		Spring	Fall
2022	BIGHORNS	1, 2	8	8	21	7	16	10	6/15/22	9/14/22
		3, 4	6	4	16	5	4	7	6/15/22	9/6/22
		5, 6	2	2	2	2	2	0	6/9/22	11/15/22
2023	BIGHORNS	1	4	4	9	1	2	6	6/15/23	10/31/23
		2	6	6	13	6	11	6	5/31/23	9/11/23
		3	2	2	1	5	4	0	6/15/23	10/31/23
		4	8	6	17	9	7	5	6/14/23	9/21/23
		5, 6	6	6	2	0	2	1	6/15/23	10/31/23
2024	BIGHORNS	1	4	4	23	2	2	6	6/15/24	10/23/24
		2	6	6	7	6	11	6	5/21/24	9/8/24
		3	2	2	3	1	4	1	6/15/24	10/31/24
		4	8	6	9	8	11	6	5/28/24	9/22/24
		5, 6	6	6	7	2	2	1	6/15/24	11/15/24
2025	BIGHORNS	1	4	4	7	5	4	3	6/2/25	9/14/25
		2	6	6	12	5	6	9	6/15/25	9/4/25
		3	2	2	4	1	6	1	6/15/25	10/31/25
		4	8	6	9	8	14	5	5/31/25	10/31/25
		5, 6	6	6	4	1	2	2	6/15/25	11/15/25

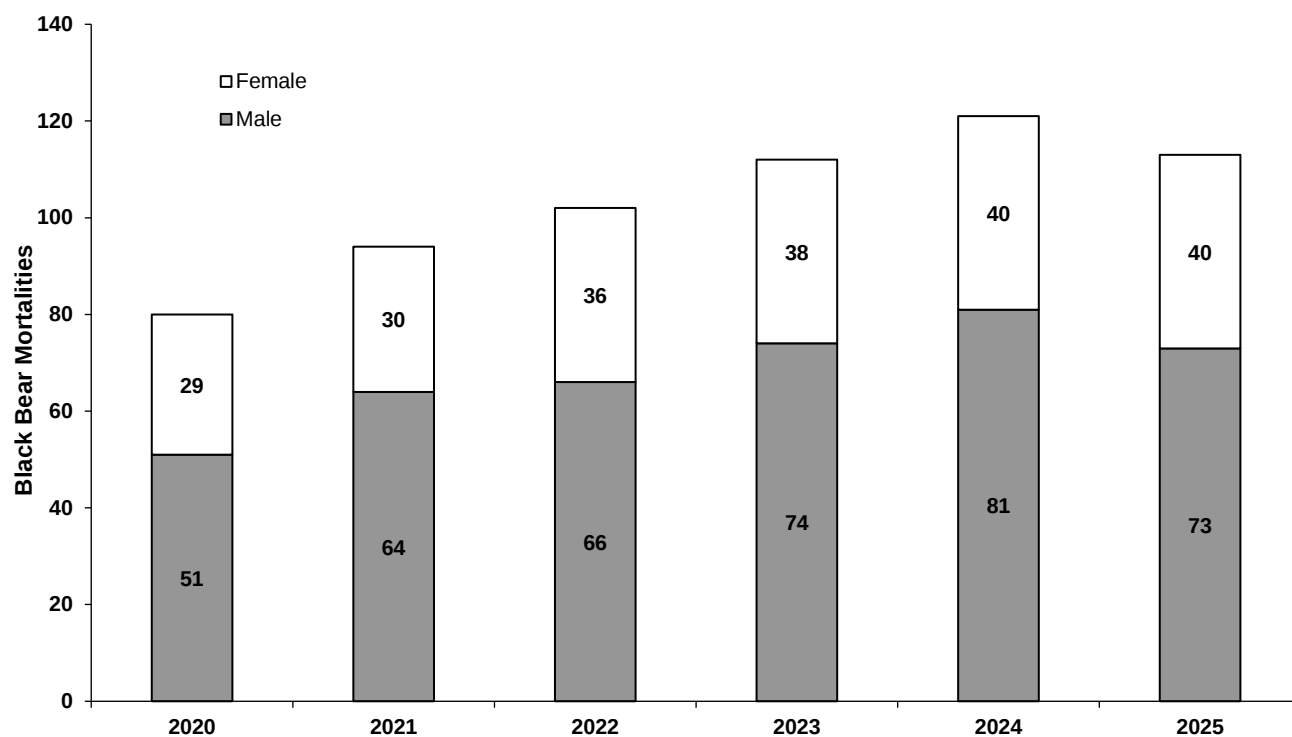


Figure 30. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Bighorns BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 8. Harvest criteria for Bighorns BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023-spring 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023-spring 2025		16.2	35.2	33.3

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

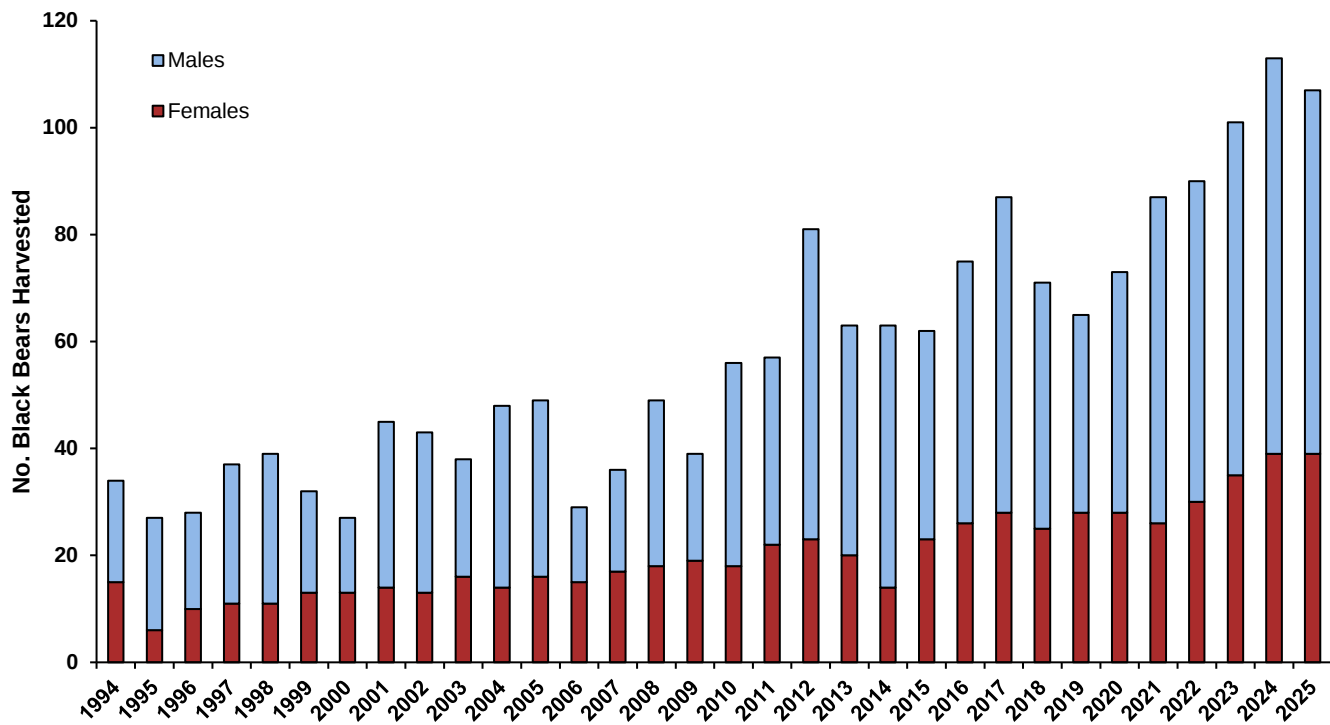


Figure 31. Legal harvest of black bears in Bighorns BMU, 1994-2025.

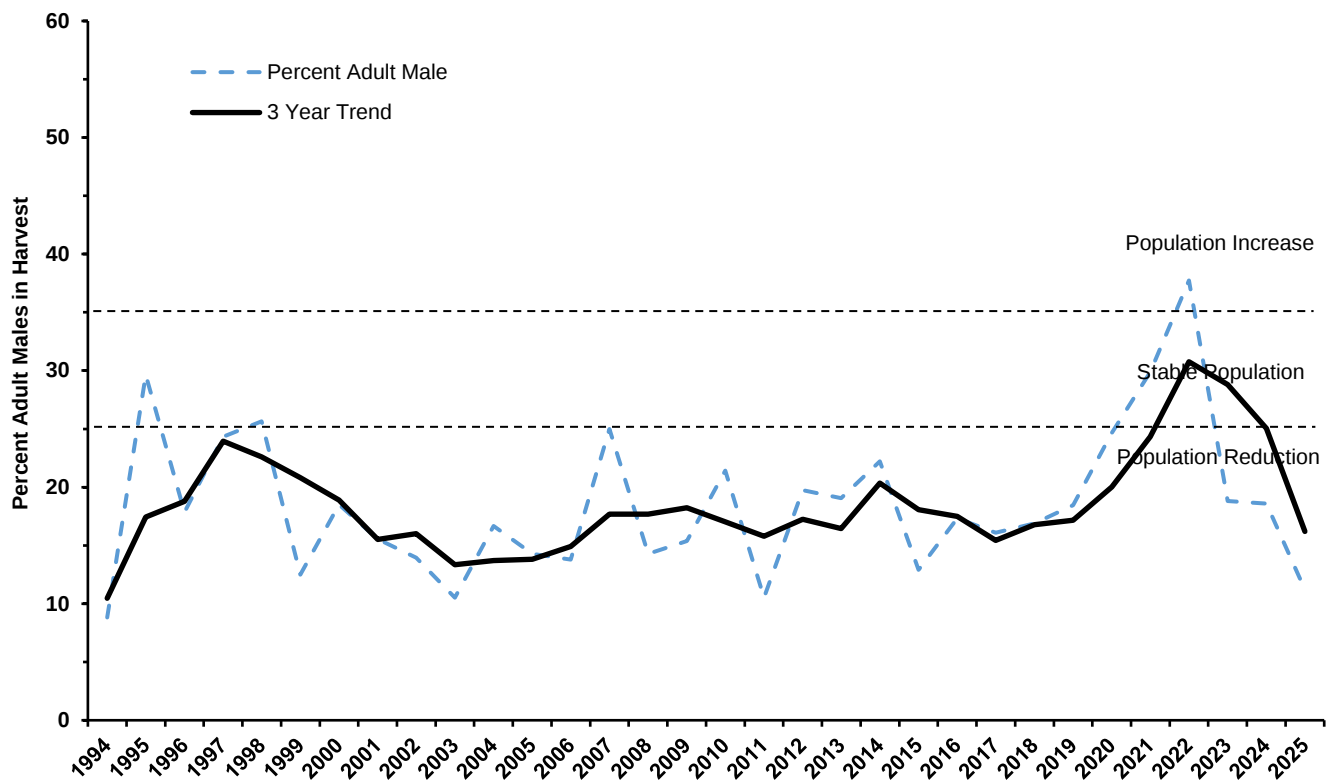


Figure 32. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Bighorns BMU, 1994-2025.

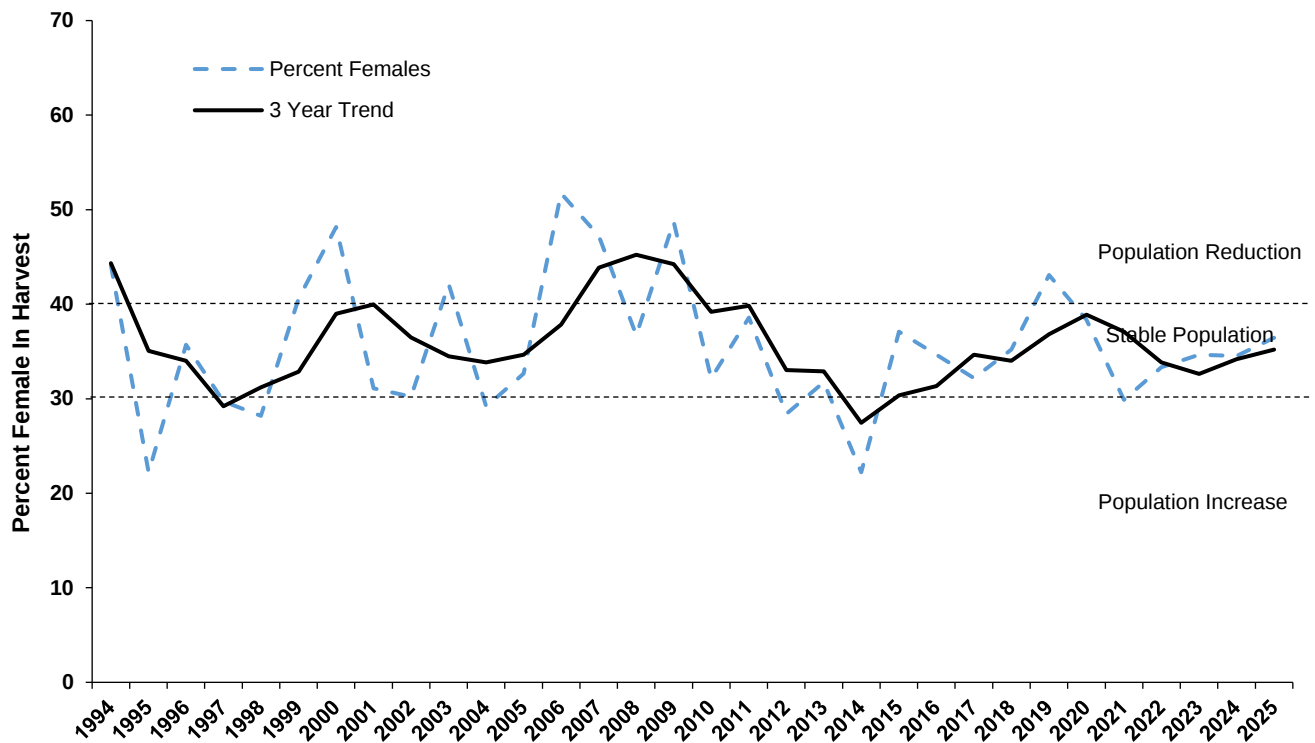


Figure 33. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Bighorns BMU, 1994-2025.

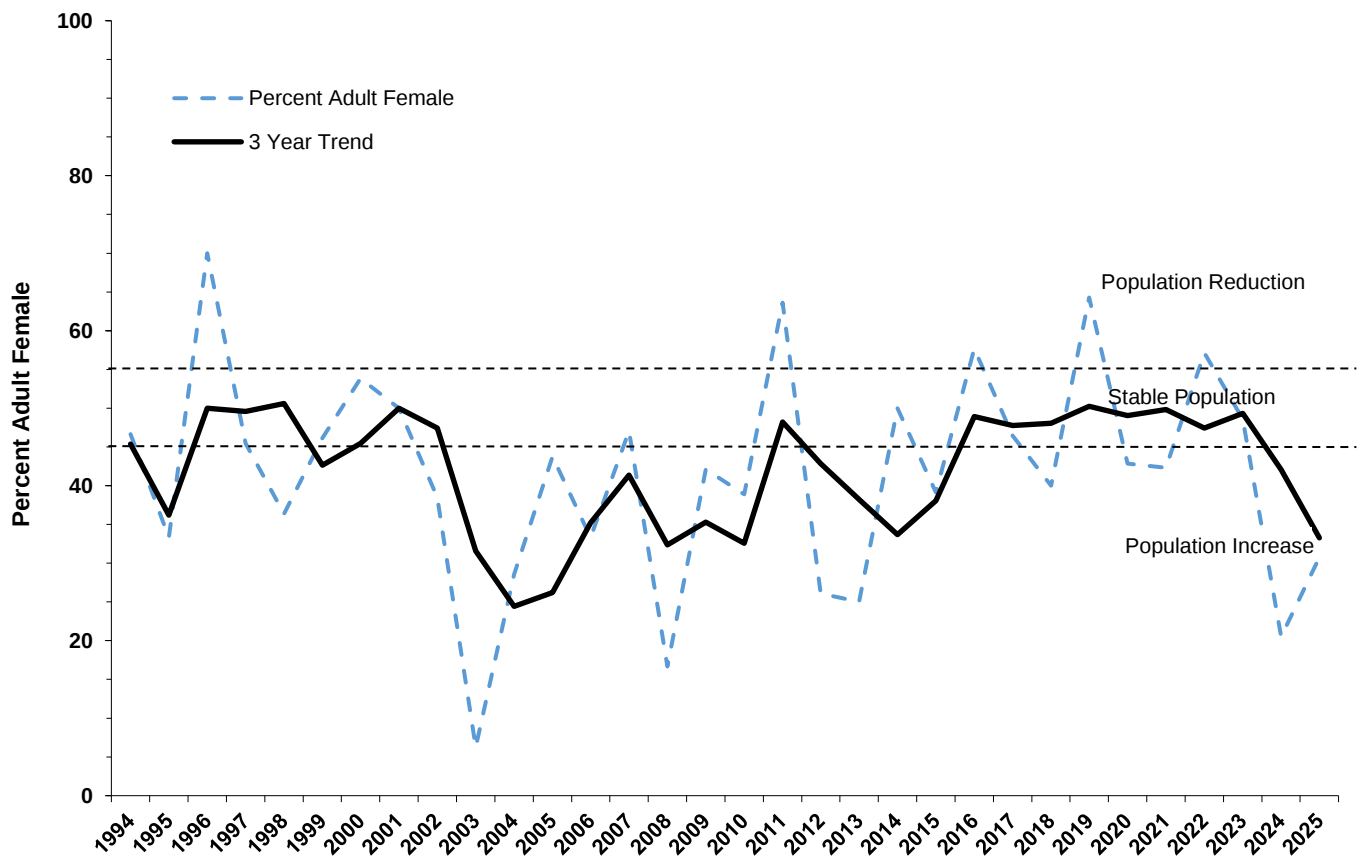


Figure 34. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Bighorns BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

Harvest Criteria by Harvest Limit – Hunt Areas 1 and 3

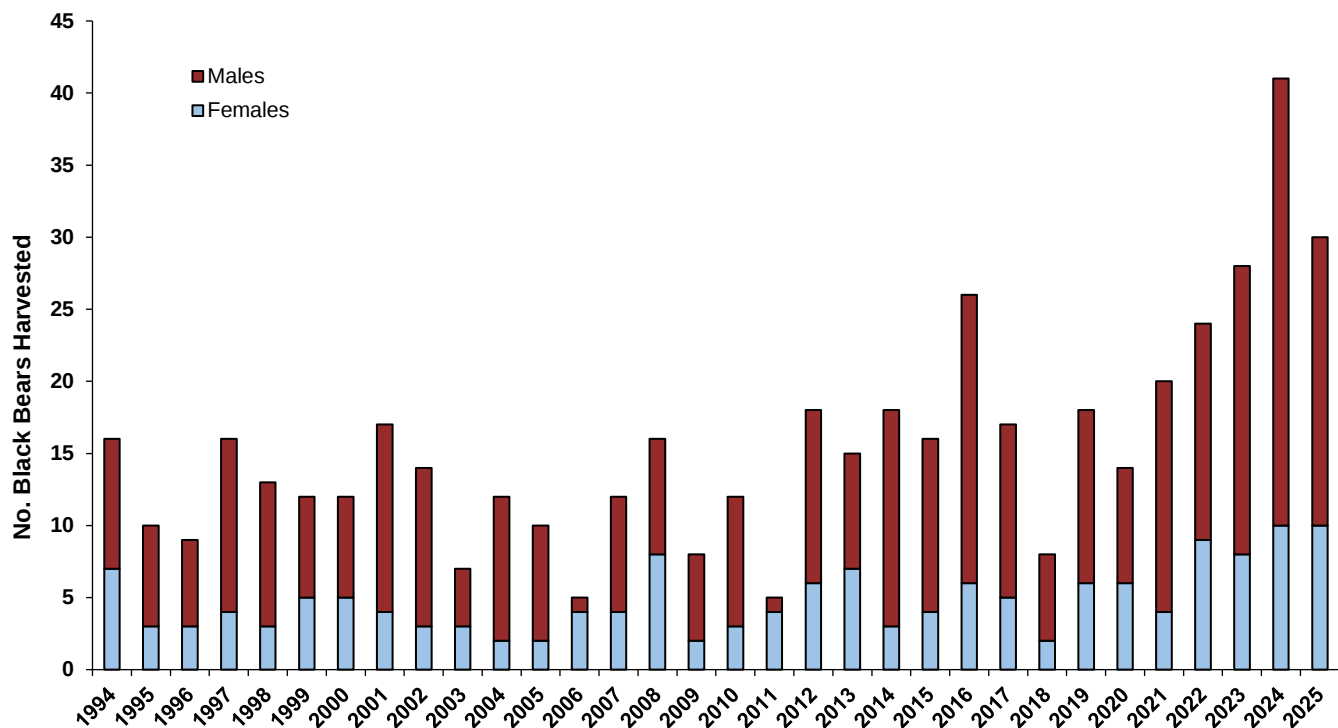


Figure 35. Legal harvest of black bears in Hunt Areas 1 and 3 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-2025.

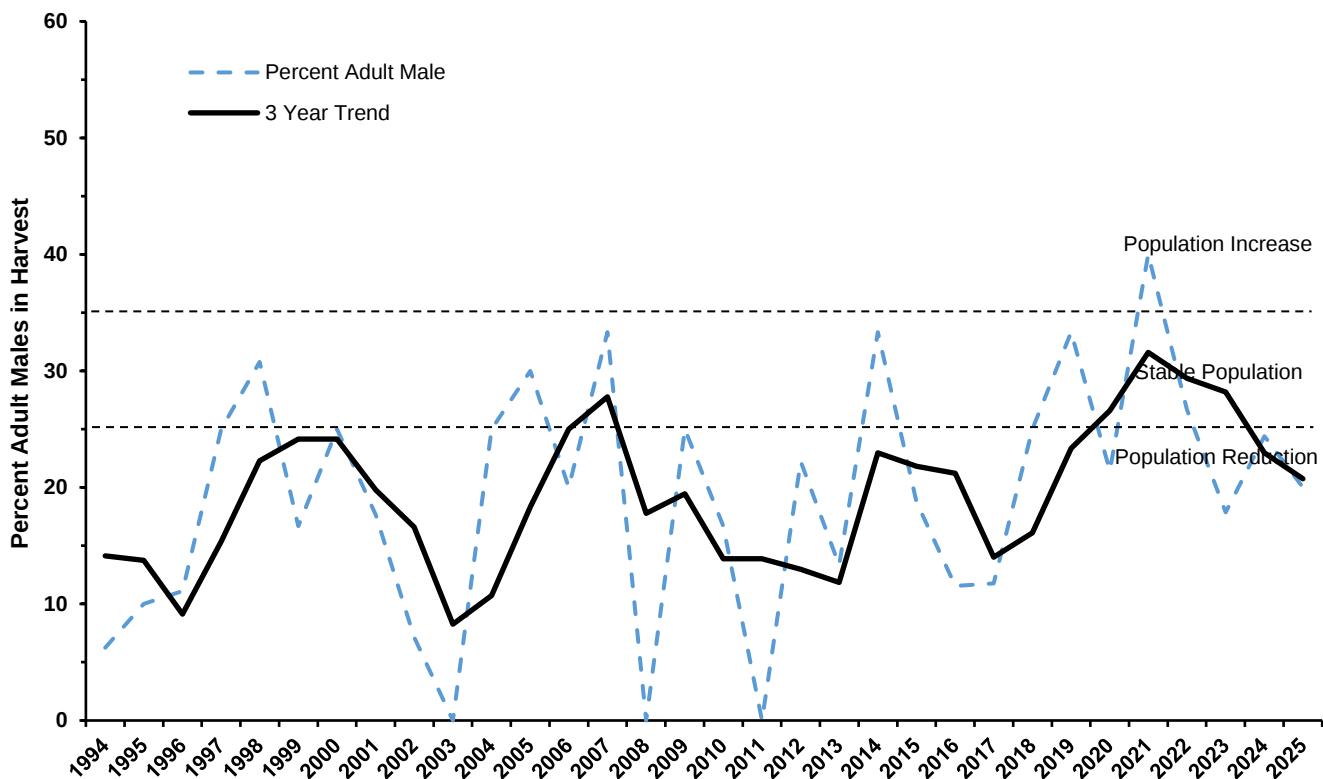


Figure 36. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 1 and 3 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-2025.

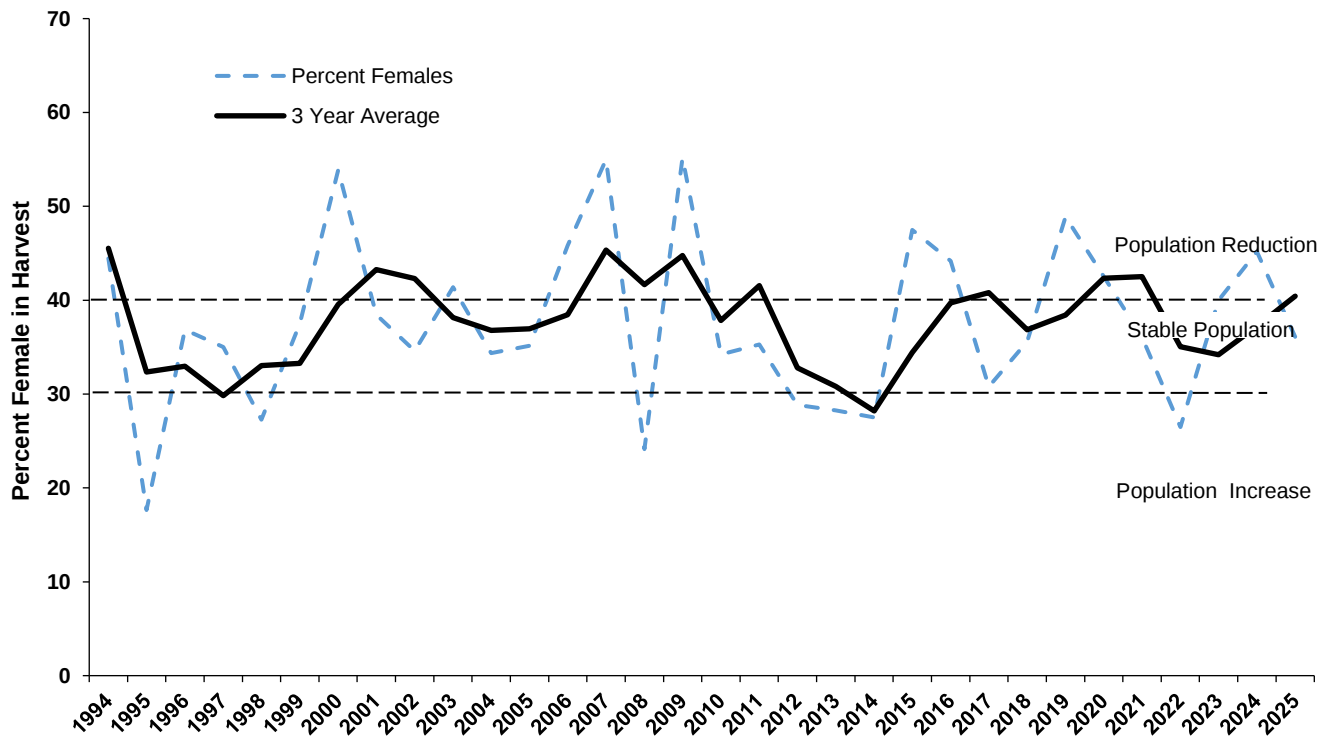


Figure 37. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 1 and 3 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

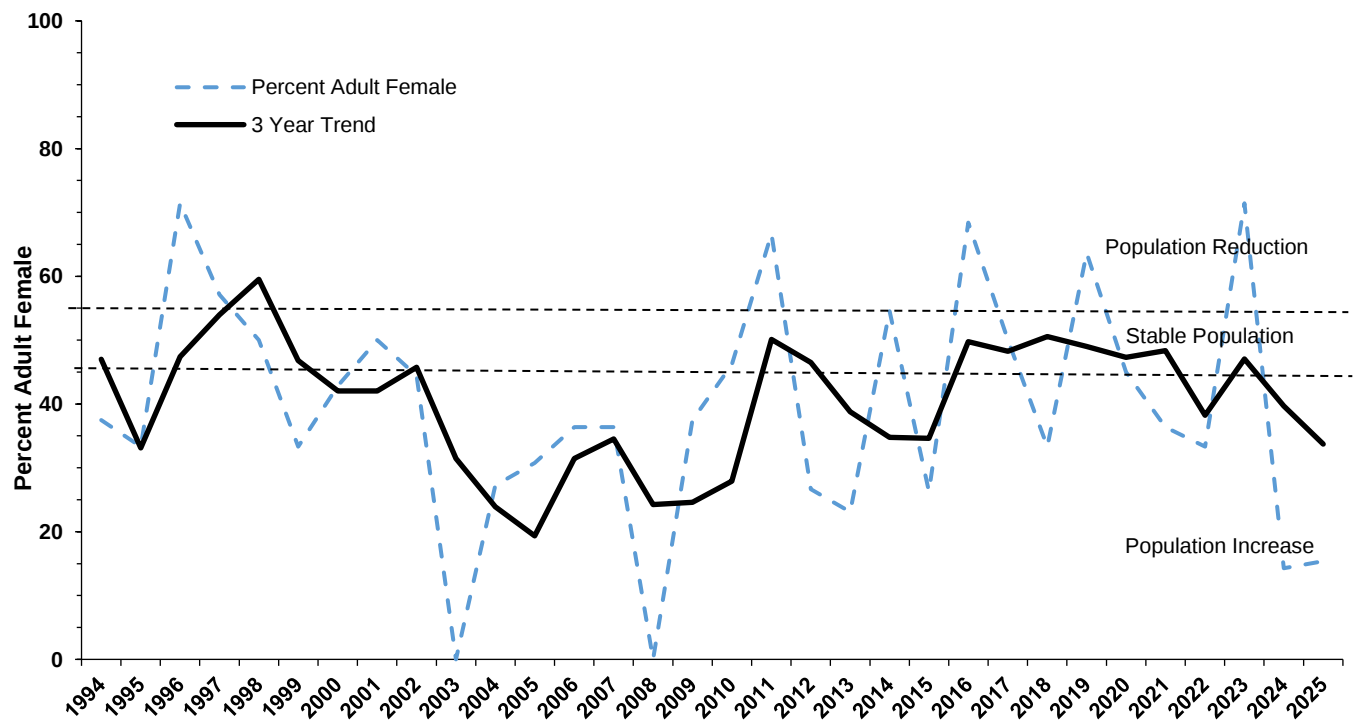


Figure 38. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Hunt Areas 1 and 3 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

Harvest Criteria by Harvest Limit – Hunt Areas 2 and 4

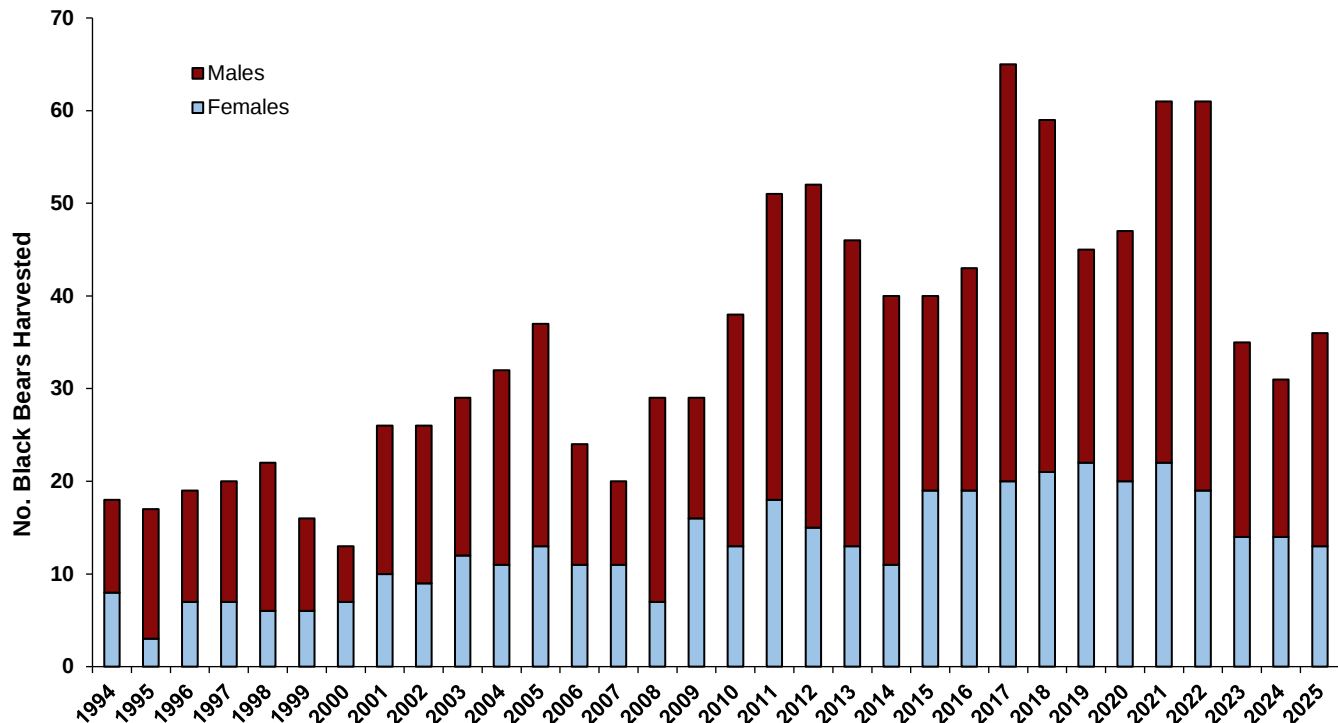


Figure 39. Legal harvest of black bears in Hunt Areas 2 and 4 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-2025.

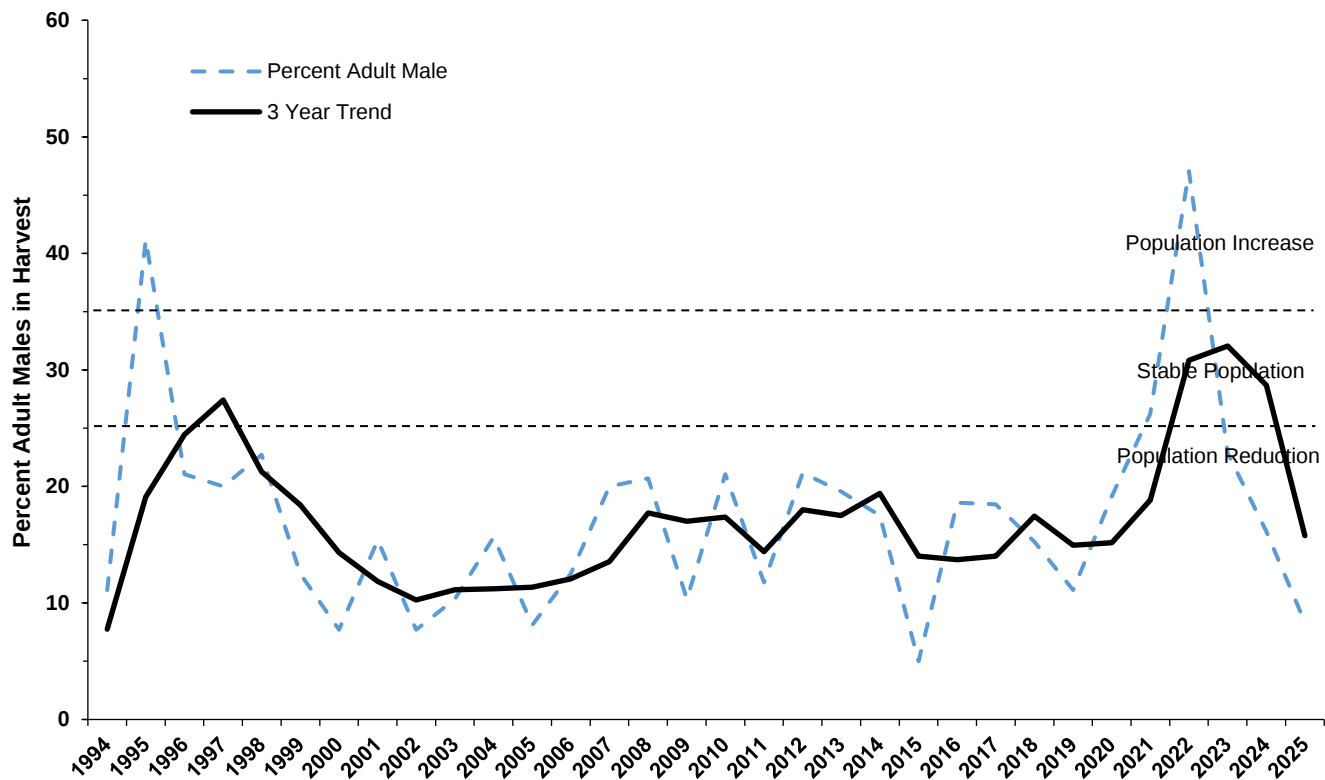


Figure 40. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 2 and 4 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

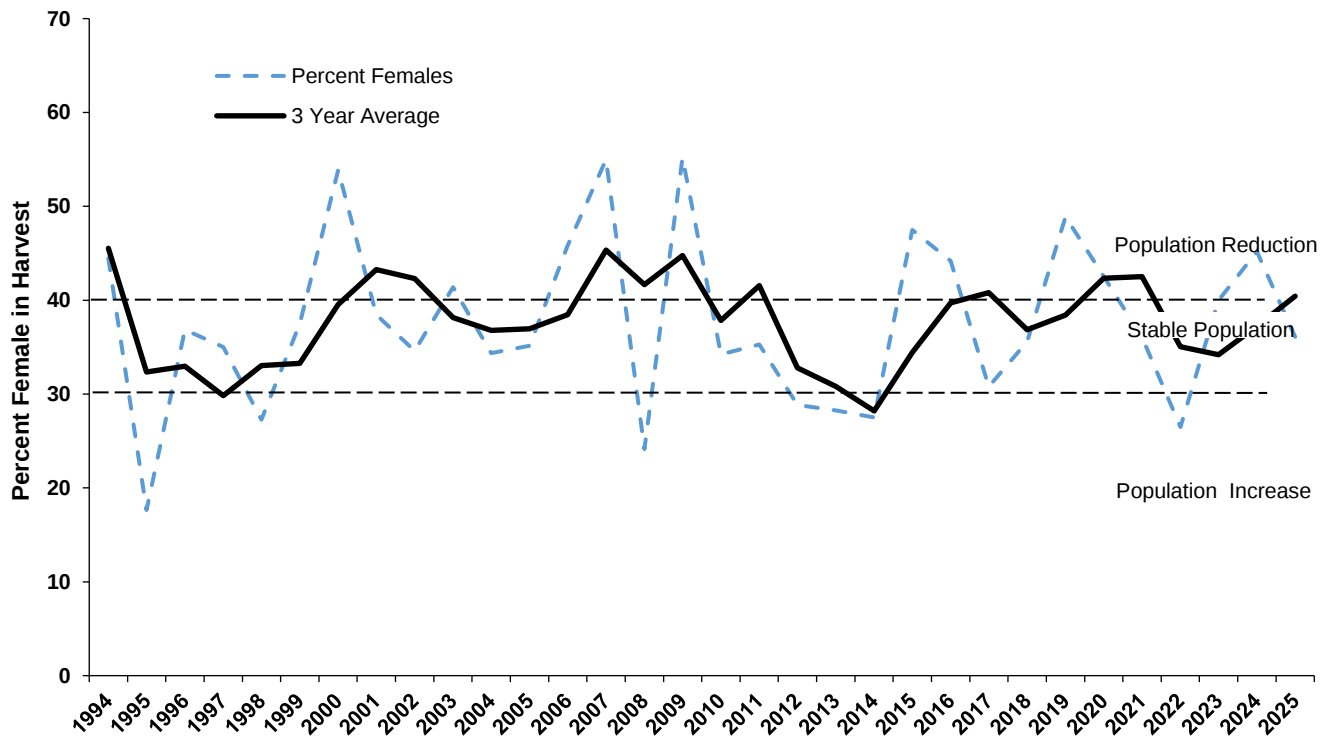


Figure 41. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Areas 2 and 4 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

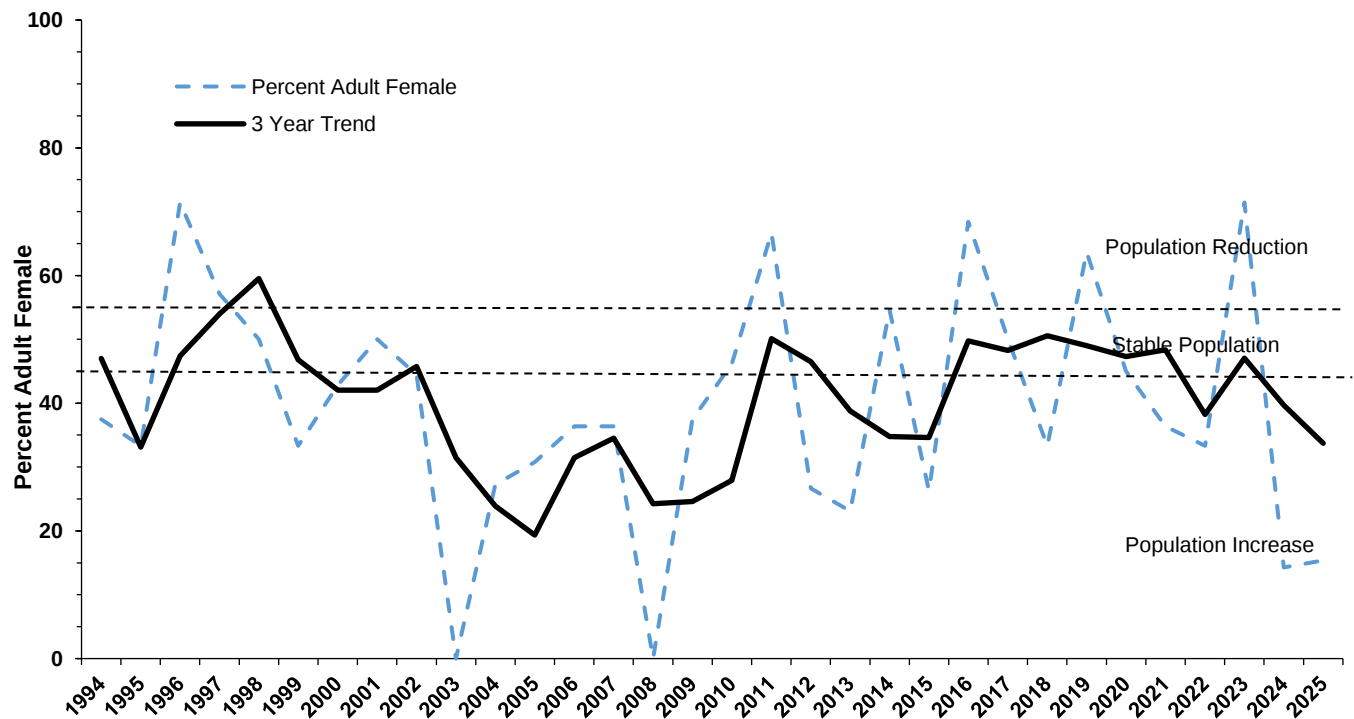


Figure 42. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Hunt Areas 2 and 4 of Bighorns BMU, 1994-spring 2025.

SIERRA MADRES BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (401)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

The female mortality limit for the Sierra Madres BMU increased to 13 in the spring and 11 in the fall for the 2023-2025 harvest cycle (Table 9). The overall mortalities and legal harvest for this cycle increased from the previous cycle with a large spike of males harvested in 2024 (Figures 43 and 44). The percentage of adult males in the harvest remains below stable with a downward spike since 2024 (Figure 45). The percentage of females in the harvest remains stable with the percentage of adults in the female harvest decreasing, indicating population increase (Figure 46 and 47).

Table 9. Sierra Madres BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-spring 2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation after reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	SIERRA MADRES	9	10	9	14	10	17	9	5/31/22	10/9/22
2023	SIERRA MADRES	9	13	11	33	13	21	13	6/10/23	10/13/23
2024	SIERRA MADRES	9	13	11	34	13	35	10	6/2/24	10/31/24
2025	SIERRA MADRES	9	13	11	23	16	14	8	5/27/25	9/11/25

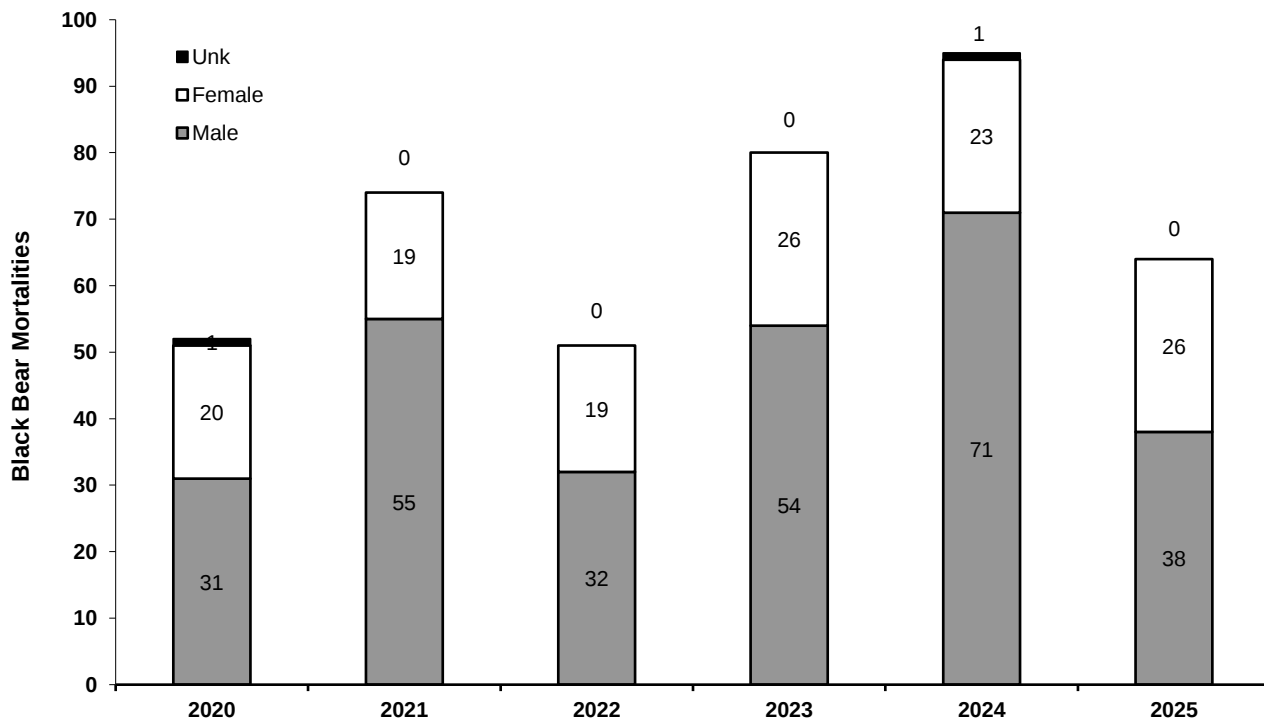


Figure 43. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Sierra Madres BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 10. Harvest criteria for Sierra Madres BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023-spring 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023-spring 2025		16.2	33.7	20.7

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

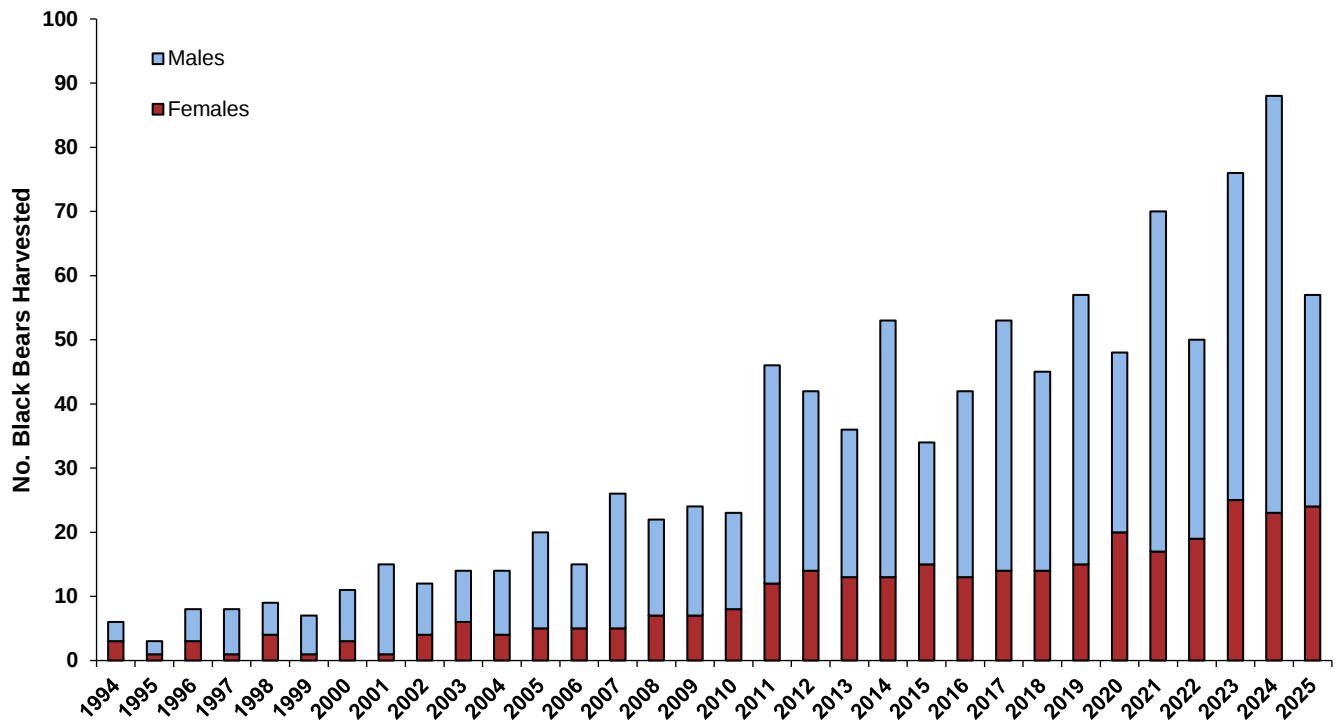


Figure 44. Legal harvest of black bears in Sierra Madres BMU, 1994-2025.

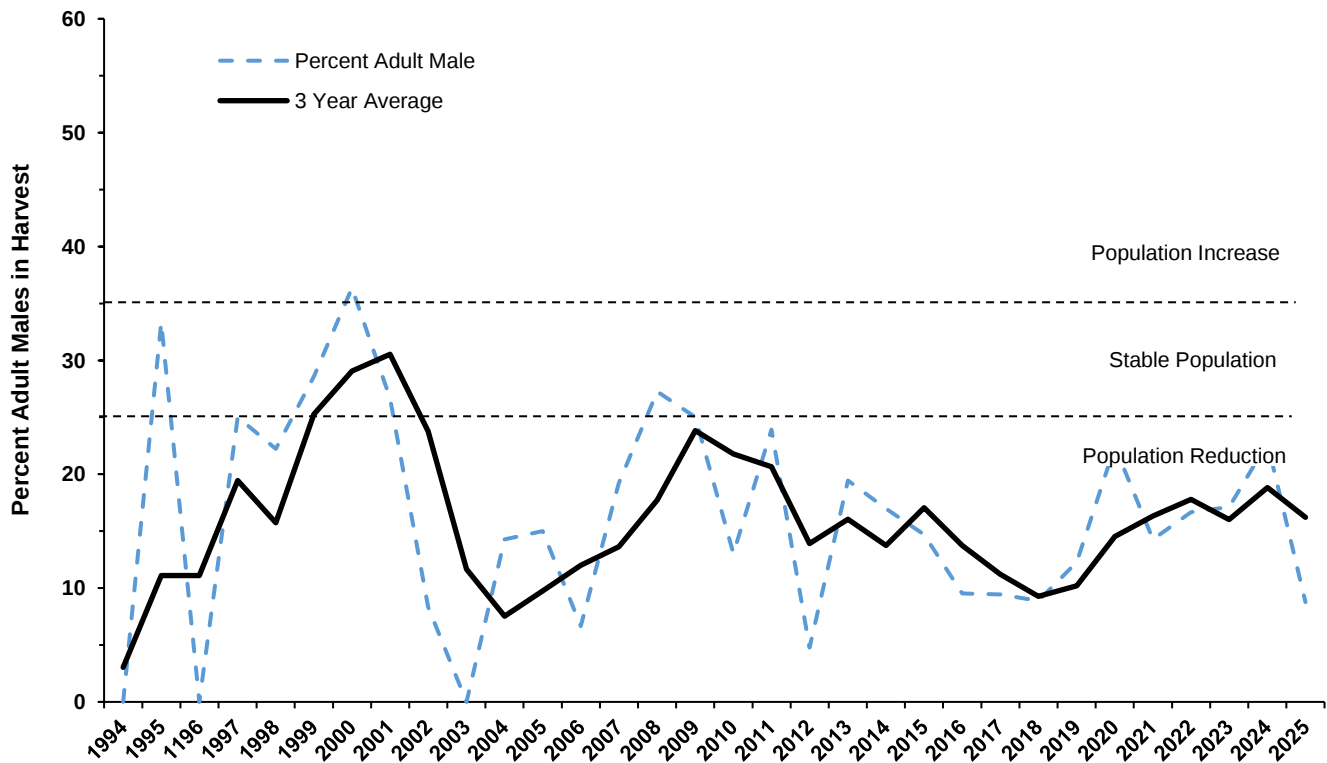


Figure 45. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Sierra Madres BMU, 1994-2025.

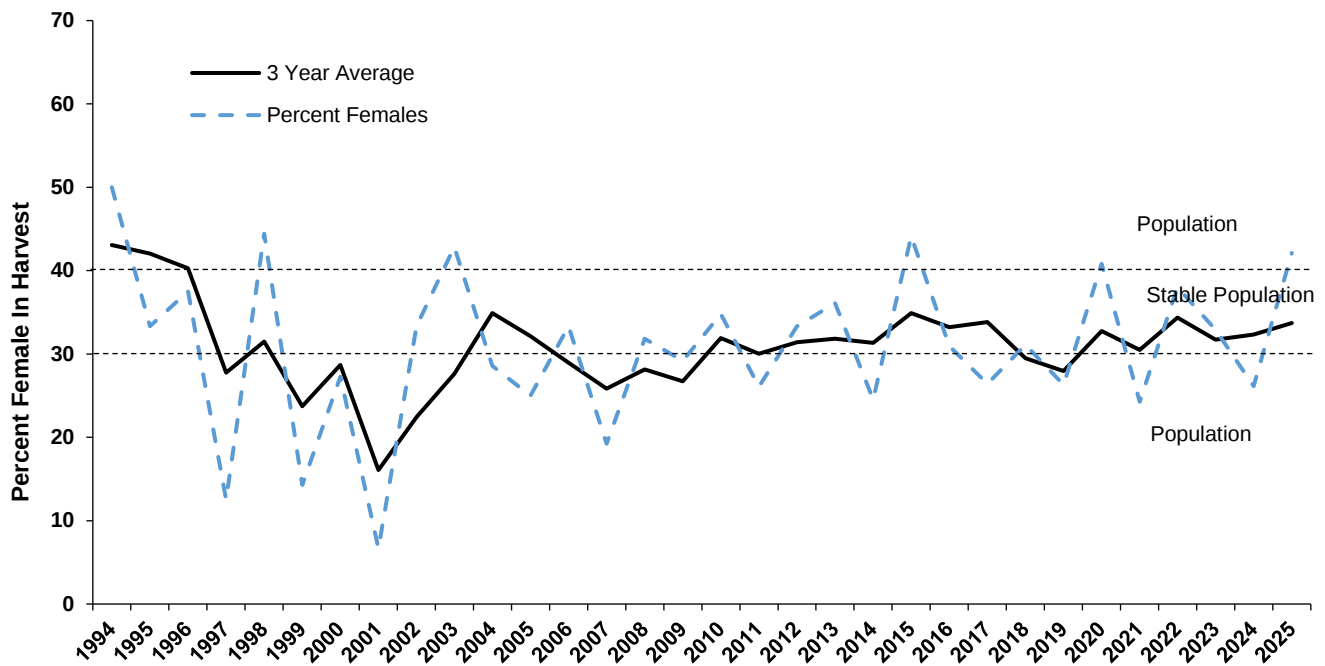


Figure 46. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Sierra Madres BMU, 1994-2025.

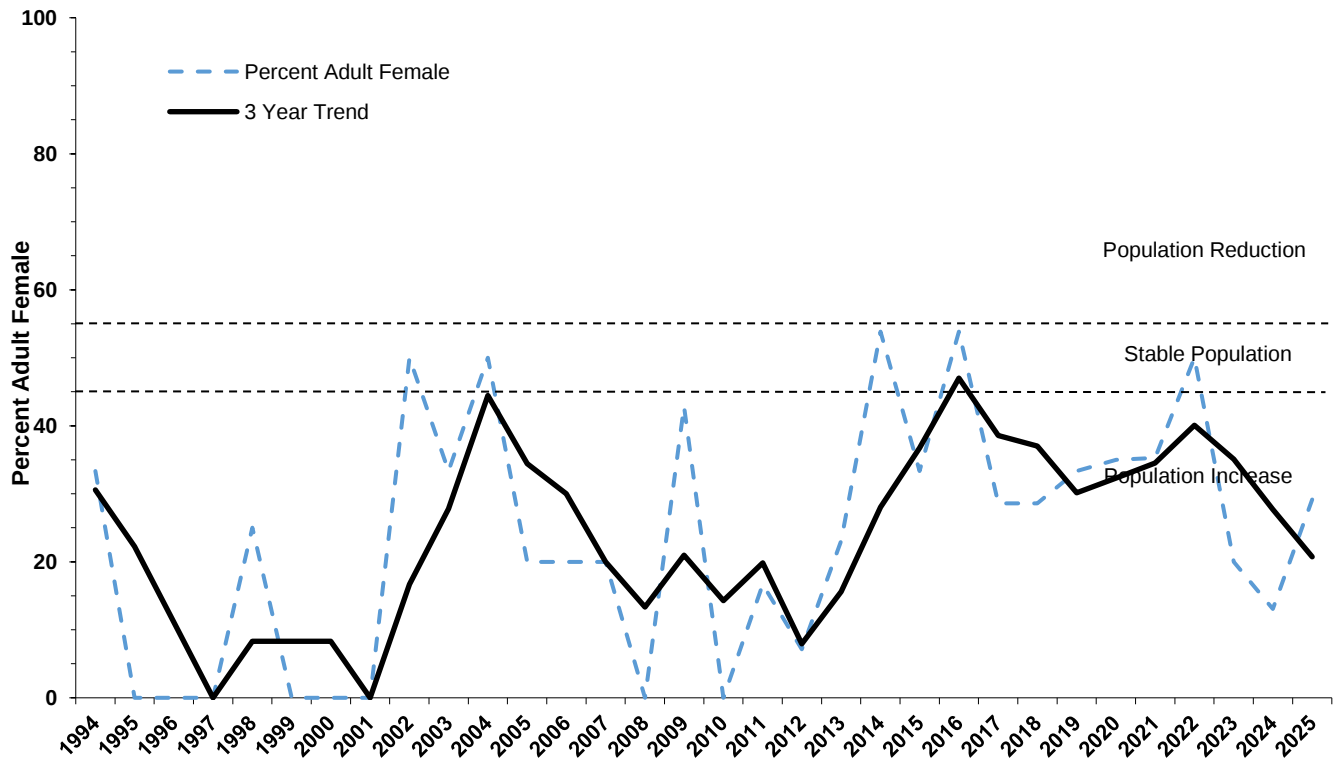


Figure 47. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Sierra Madres BMU, 1994-2025.

UINTA BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (402)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

For the 2014-2016 harvest cycle, a new hunt area (Hunt Area 12) was created from the eastern portion of BMU 402 (Figure 1). A mortality limit of 2 females (1 spring, 1 fall) was allocated to this area. Hunt area boundaries for this BMU remained unchanged for the 2023-2025 cycle. The female mortality limit for the portion of BMU 402 west of Flaming Gorge Reservoir remained at 4 females (2 spring, 2 fall) for the 2023-2025 seasons. Overall mortalities remained stable in the BMU (Table 11, Figure 48). Most harvests for this BMU took place in the spring season and the female mortality limit for Area 10 was reached in early June in 2024 (Table 11). Small sample sizes prevent statistically relevant interpretation of harvest data and their relationship to the harvest criteria for BMU 402.

Table 11. Uinta BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-spring 2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation after reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	UINTA	10	2	2	4	0	1	1	6/15/22	10/31/22
		12	1	1	0	0	1	0	6/15/22	10/31/22
2023	UINTA	10	2	2	3	0	0	0	6/15/23	10/31/23
		12	1	1	1	0	0	0	6/15/23	10/31/23
2024	UINTA	10	2	2	1	0	1	2	6/6/24	10/31/24
		12	1	1	1	0	1	0	6/15/24	10/31/24
2025	UINTA	10	2	2	3	1	1	0	6/15/25	10/31/25
		12	1	1	3	0	0	0	6/15/25	10/31/25

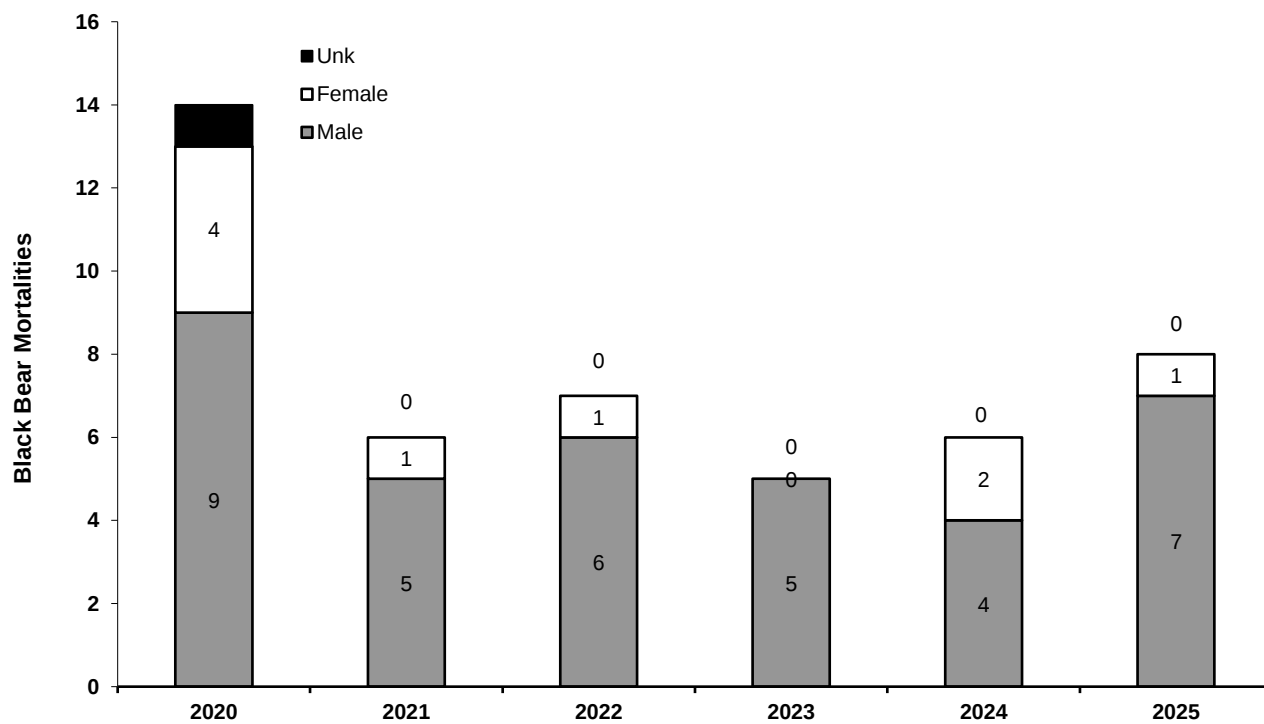


Figure 48. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Uinta BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

LARAMIE PEAK BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (501)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

The spring and fall female mortality limit for Hunt Area 7 was increased by 2 each and the female mortality limits for Hunt Area 33 were also increased by one each for the 2023-2025 cycle (Table 12). The percentage of adult males remains low which indicates a reduction in their numbers (Figure 51). The percentage of females in the harvest continues to remain in the stable range though trending towards population reduction range (Table 13, Figure 52). The percentage of adult females in the harvest remains stable trending towards population increase. Because Hunt Area 7 makes up the majority of harvest for this BMU, separate analysis of Hunt Area 7 shows similar trends (Figures 54-57). Lastly, Area 7 continues to close early each fall regardless of quota increases.

Table 12. Laramie Peak BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-spring 2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation after reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	LARAMIE PEAK	7	5	5	13	6	13	4	5/27/22	9/6/22
		33	3	2	1	0	1	5	5/31/22	9/25/22
2023	LARAMIE PEAK	7	7	7	22	6	8	9	6/15/23	9/9/23
		33	4	4	0	2	7	1	6/15/23	10/31/23
2024	LARAMIE PEAK	7	7	7	12	8	3	7	5/20/24	9/7/24
		33	4	4	1	3	1	4	6/15/24	10/31/24
2025	LARAMIE PEAK	7	7	7	7	8	8	9	5/12/25	9/3/25
		33	4	4	5	0	4	2	6/15/25	10/31/25

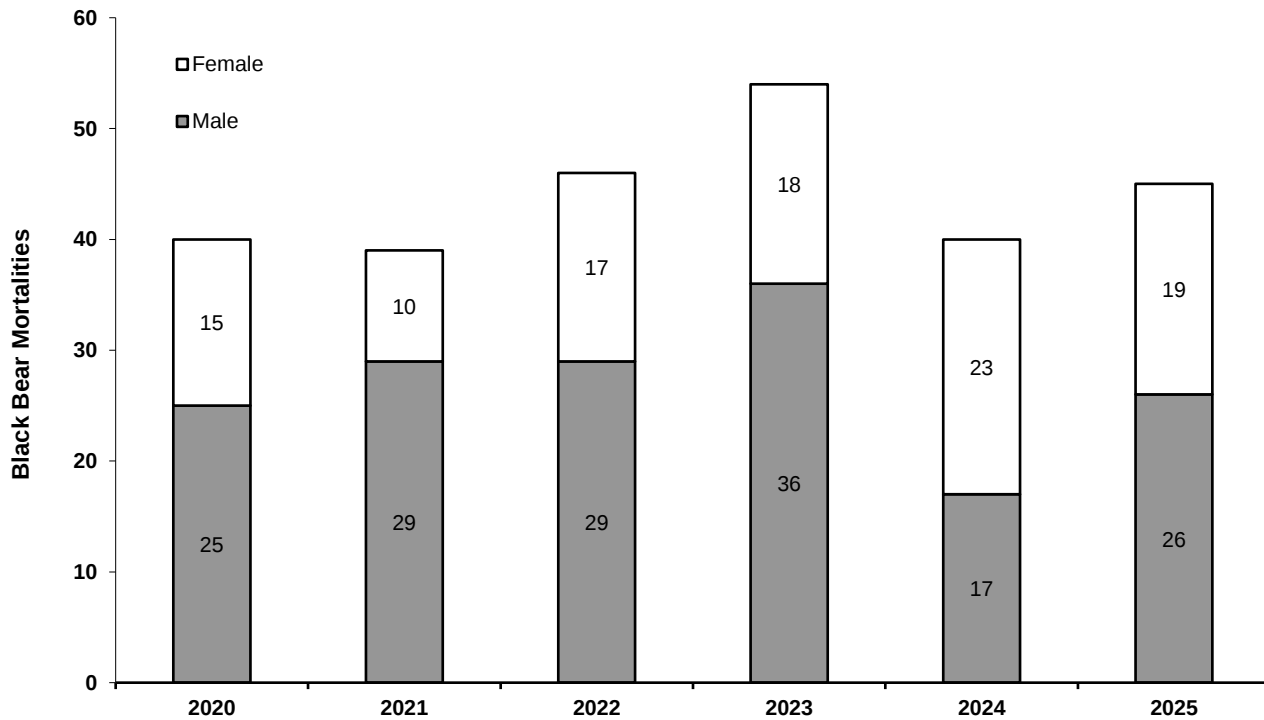


Figure 49. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Laramie Peak BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 13. Harvest criteria for Laramie Peak BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023-spring 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023-spring 2025		14.8	45.7	41.7

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

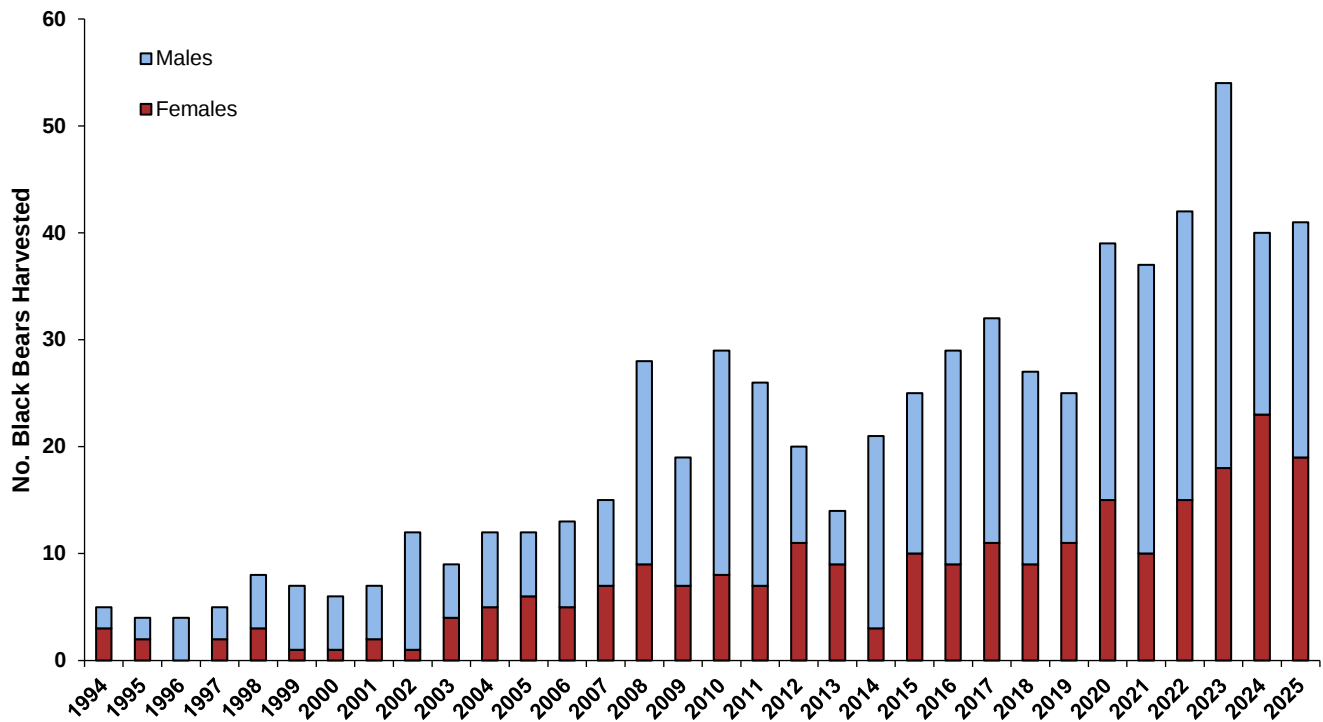


Figure 50. Legal harvest of black bears in Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

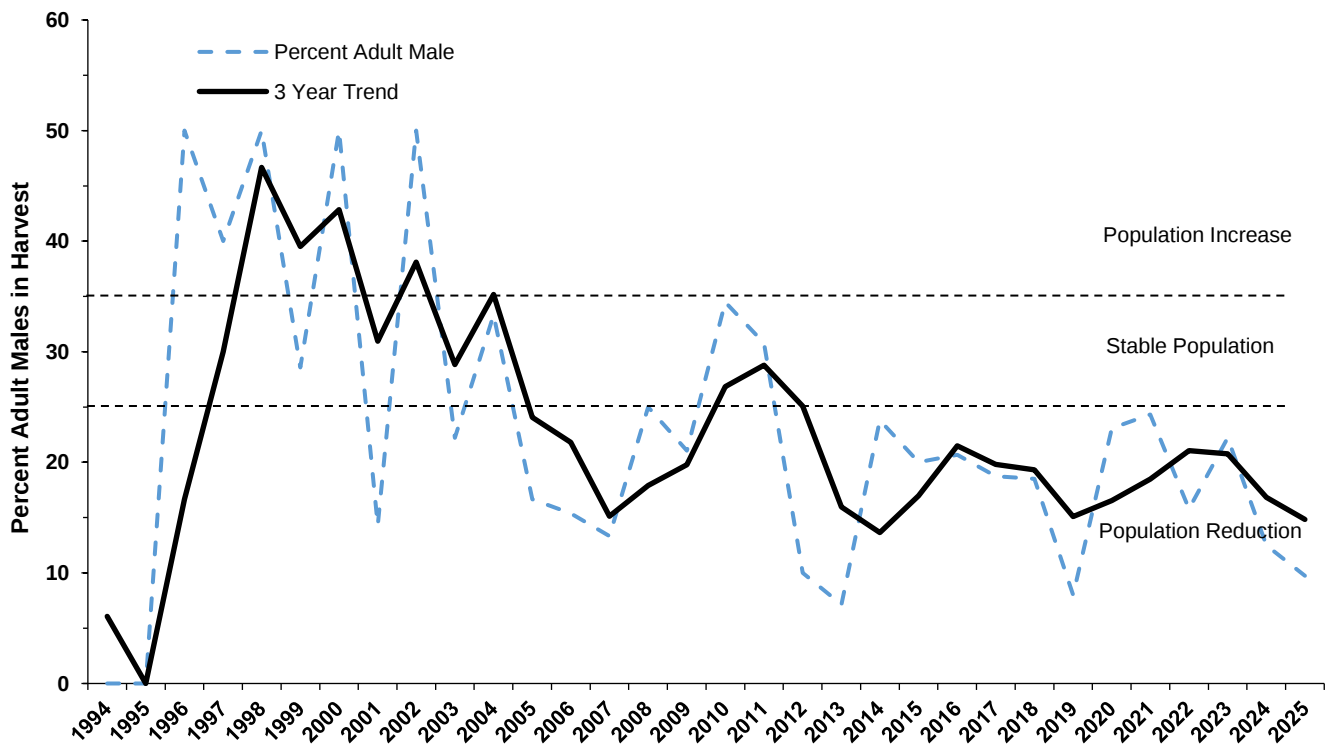


Figure 51. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

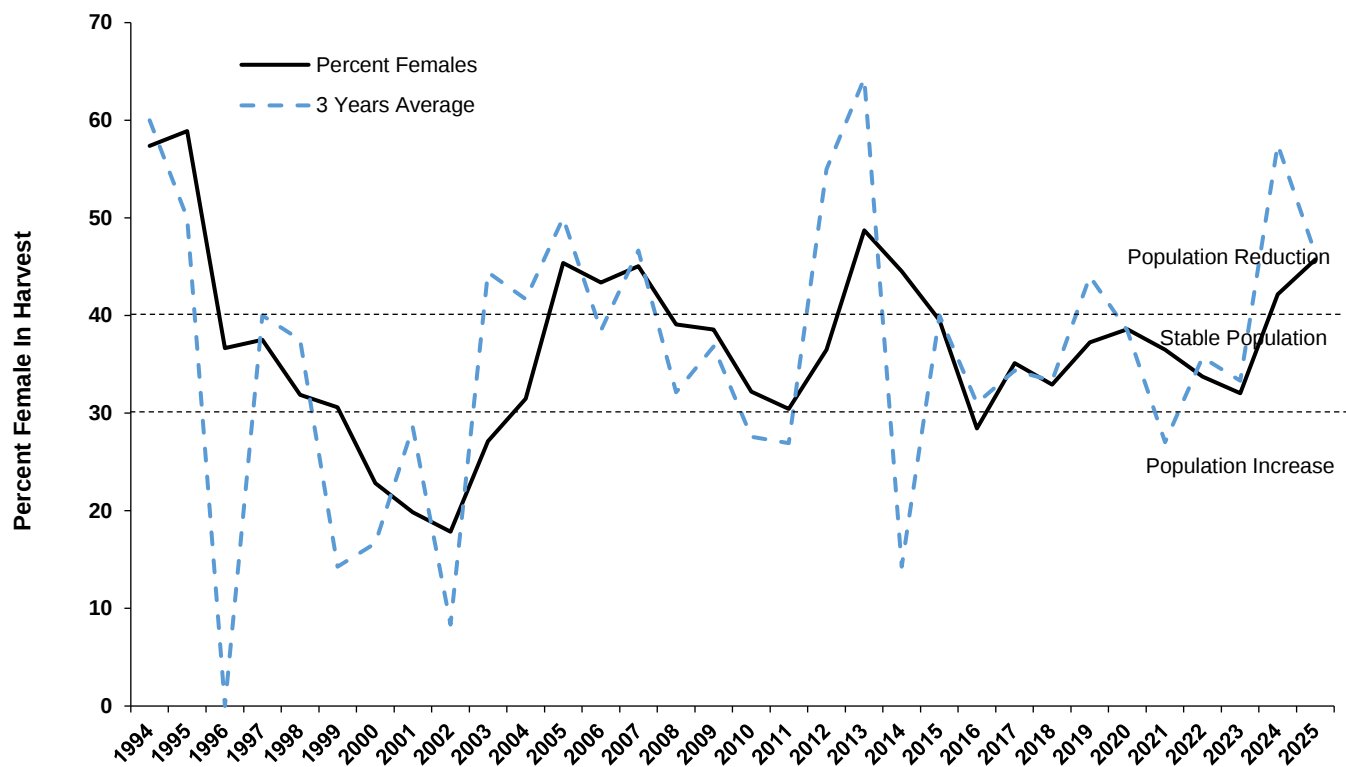


Figure 52. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

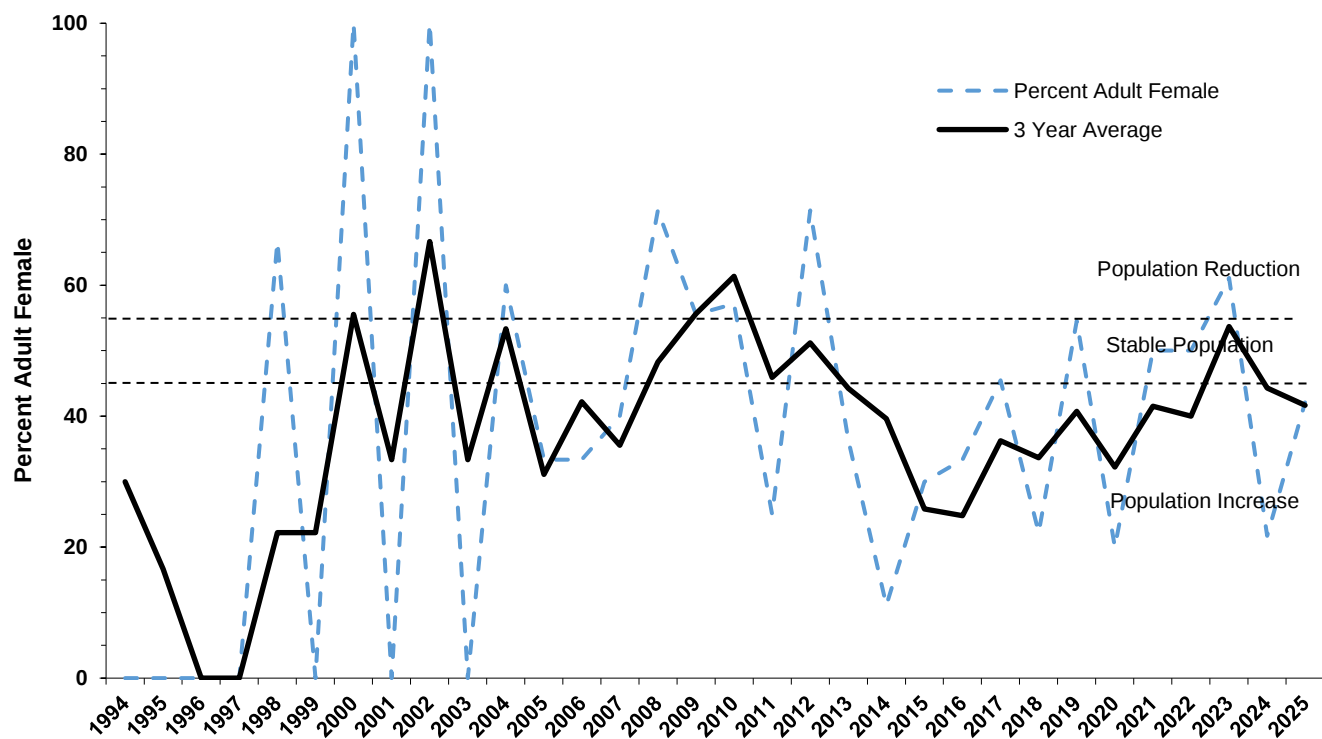


Figure 53. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

Harvest Criteria by Harvest Limit – Hunt Area 7

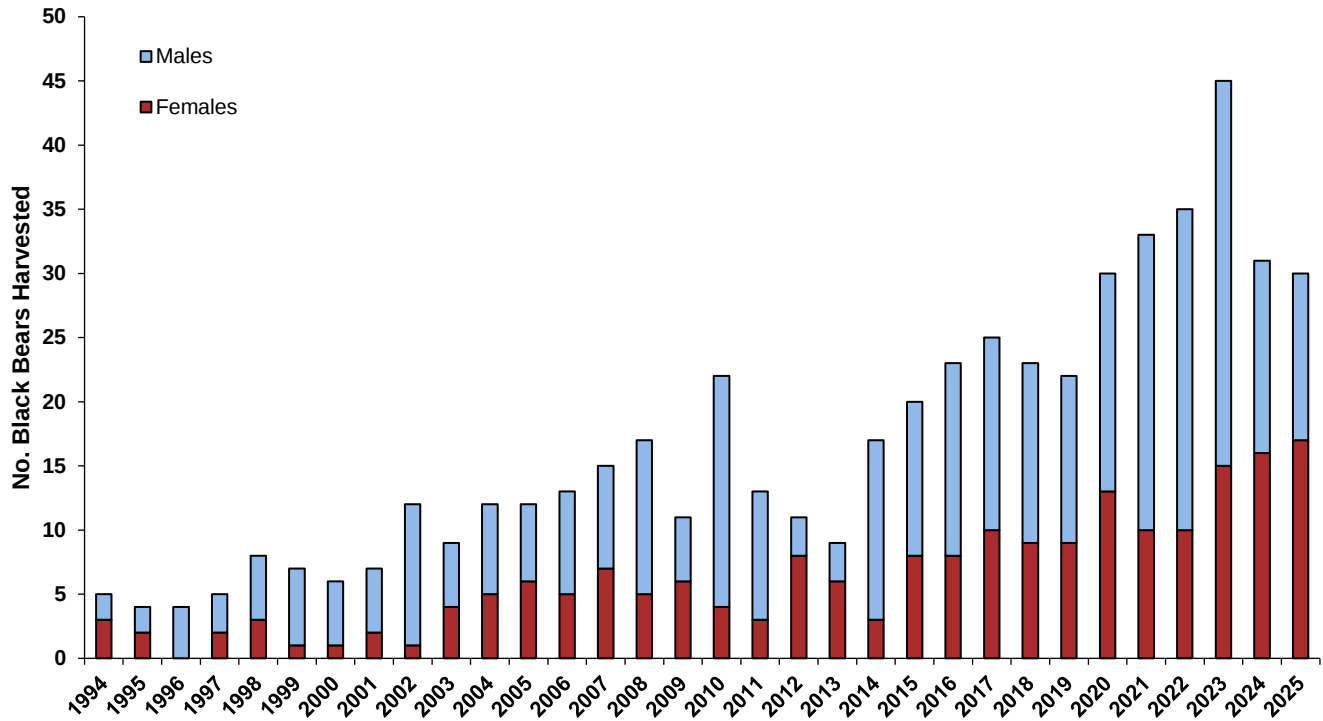


Figure 54. Legal harvest of black bears in Hunt Area 7 of Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

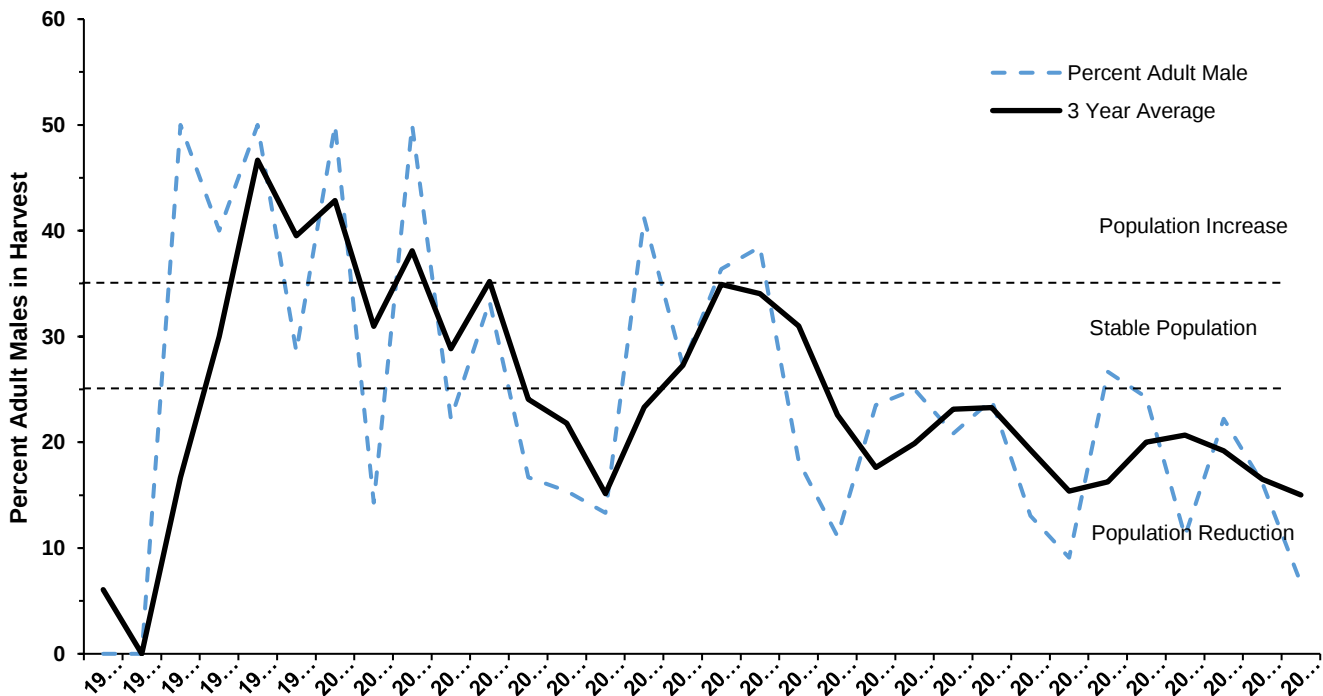


Figure 55. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Area 7 of Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

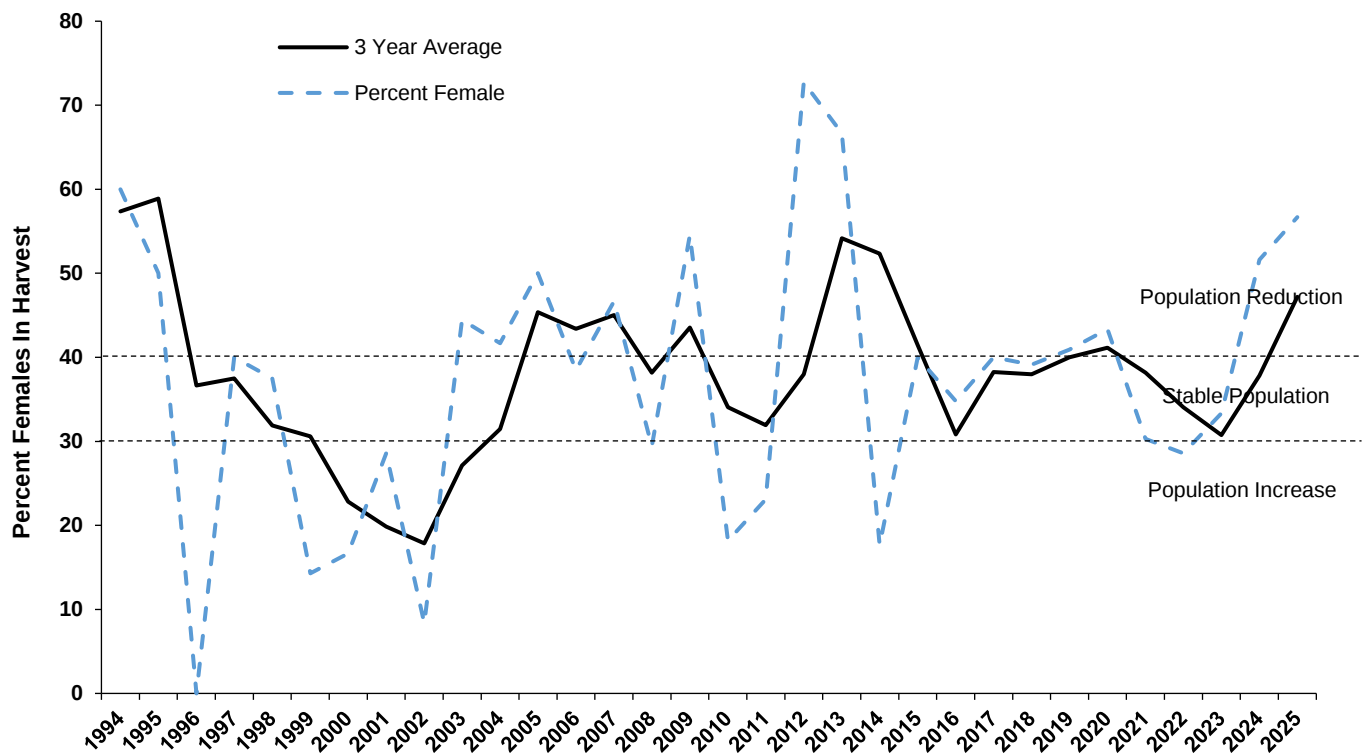


Figure 56. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Area 7 of Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

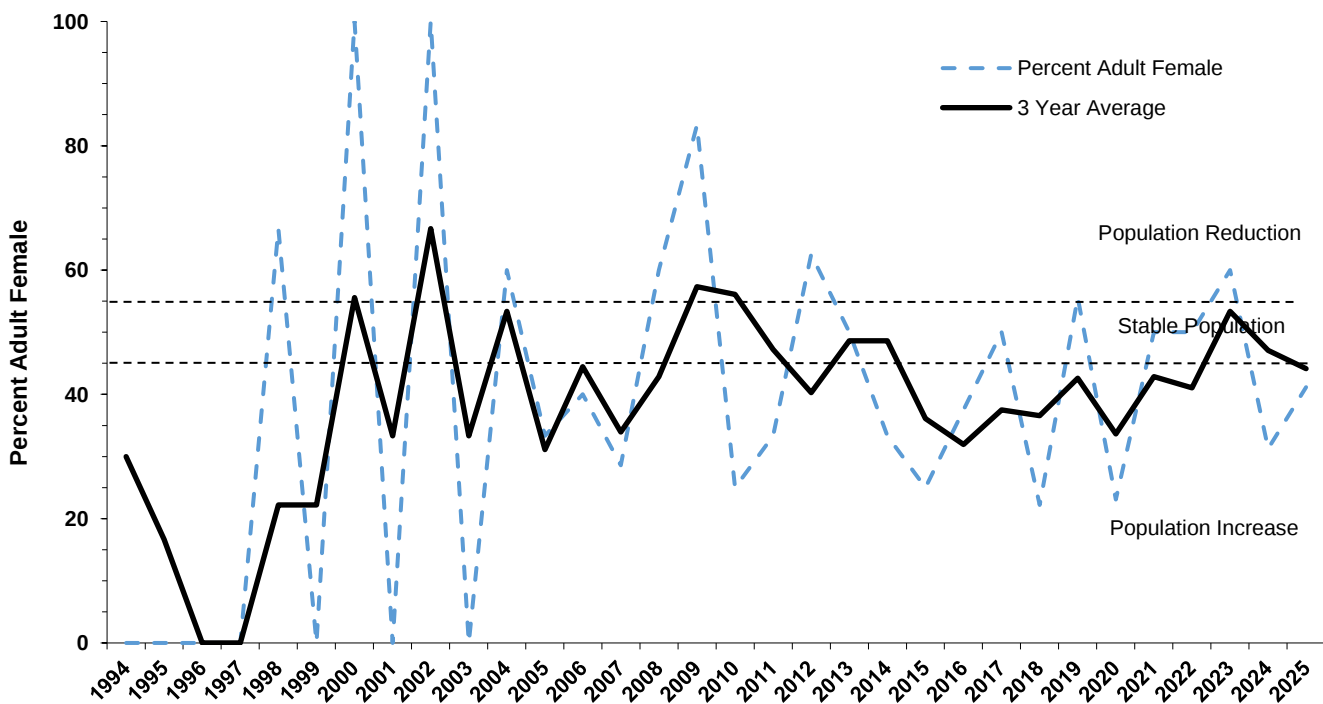


Figure 57. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Hunt Area 7 of Laramie Peak BMU, 1994-2025.

SNOWY RANGE BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (502)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

Female mortality limits for the Snowy Range BMU were kept the same as the previous harvest cycle after an increase in 2019 (Table 14). Harvest has increased from the 2020-2022 cycle (Table 14). The percent of adult males harvested has remained steady in the stable range. Percent female and adult females in the harvest continue to fluctuate around the stable range, increasing harvest pressure due to increased mortality limits for this BMU (Table 15, Figures 60-62). The previous increase to the female harvest limit appears to be a good fit for the population currently as all metrics remain in the stable range.

Table 14. Snowy Range BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-spring 2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation after reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	SNOWY RANGE	8	9	8	14	7	5	7	6/7/22	10/31/22
2023	SNOWY RANGE	8	9	8	23	10	19	8	6/5/23	10/22/23
2024	SNOWY RANGE	8	9	8	25	10	6	7	6/11/24	9/22/24
2025	SNOWY RANGE	8	9	8	27	9	24	5	6/2/25	10/31/25

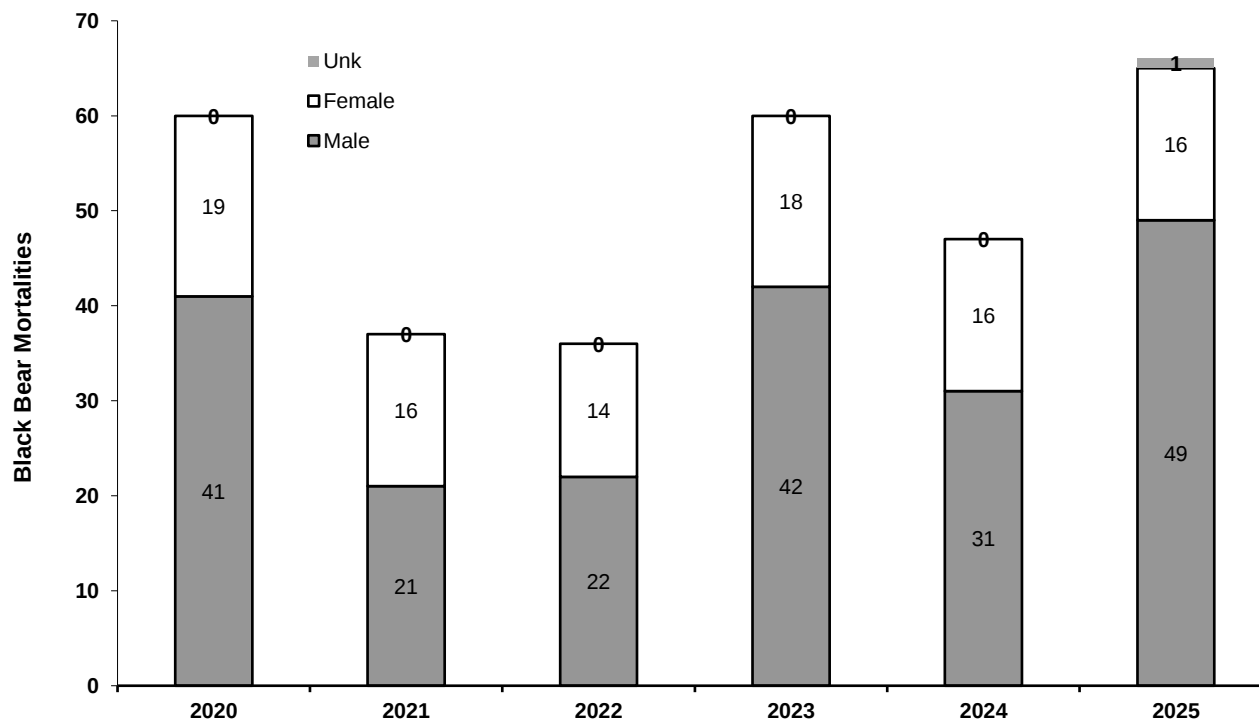


Figure 58. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Snowy Range BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 15. Harvest criteria for Snowy Range BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023-spring 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023-spring 2025		26.4	29.0	38.3

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

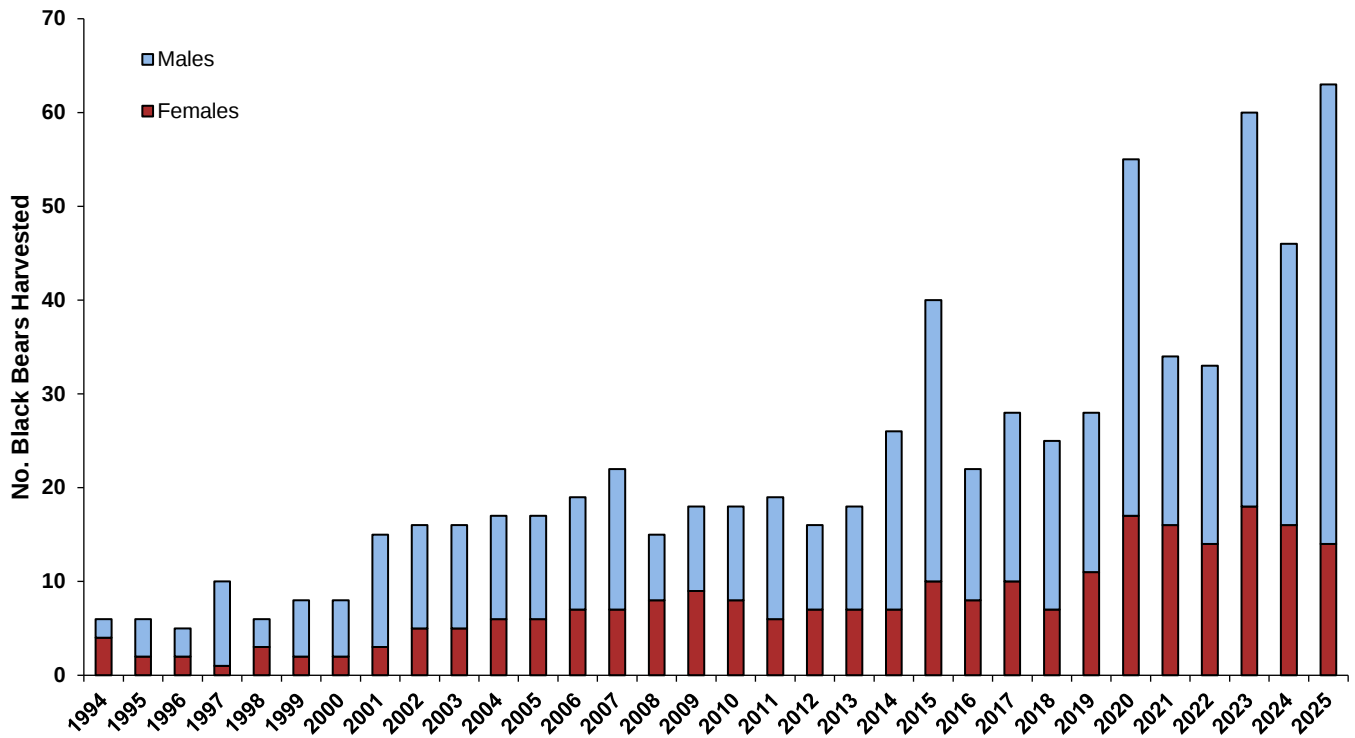


Figure 59. Legal harvest of black bears in Snowy Range BMU, 1994-2025.

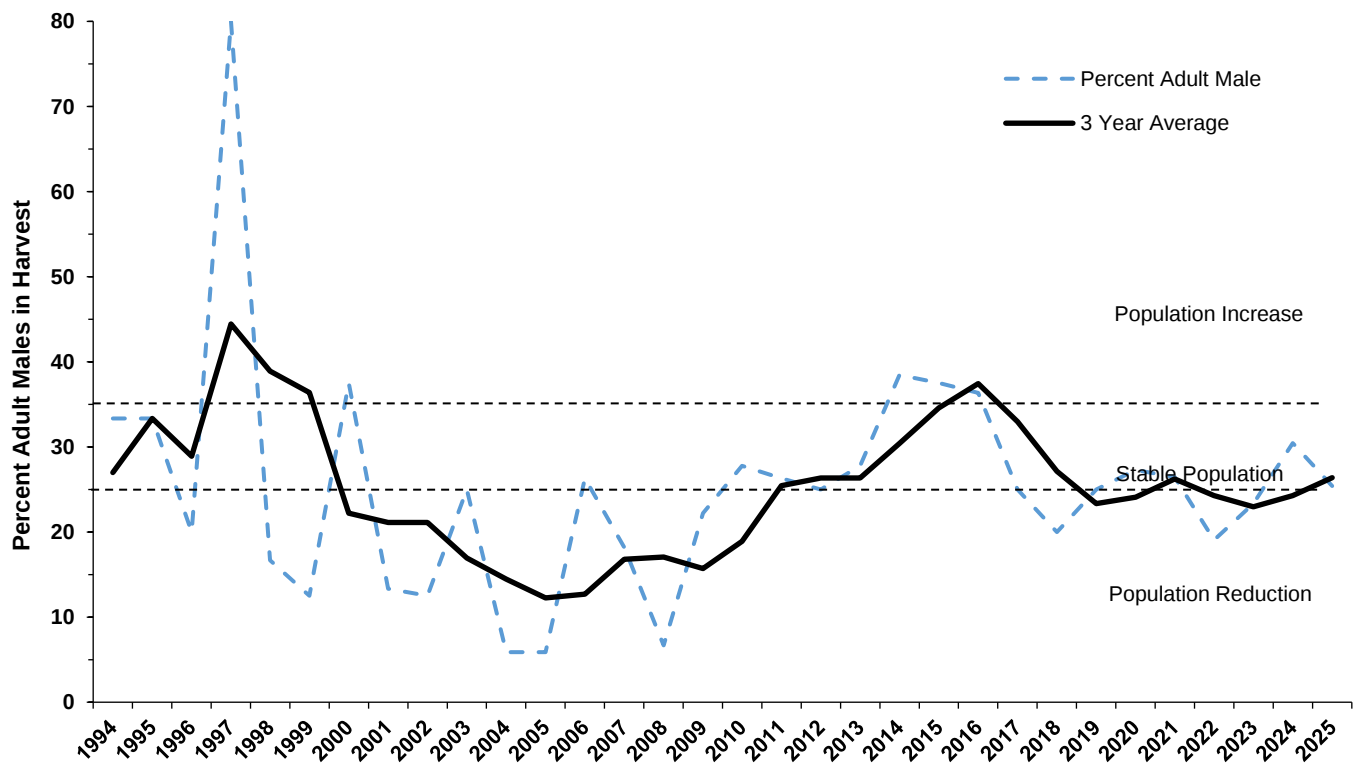


Figure 60. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Snowy Range BMU, 1994-2025.

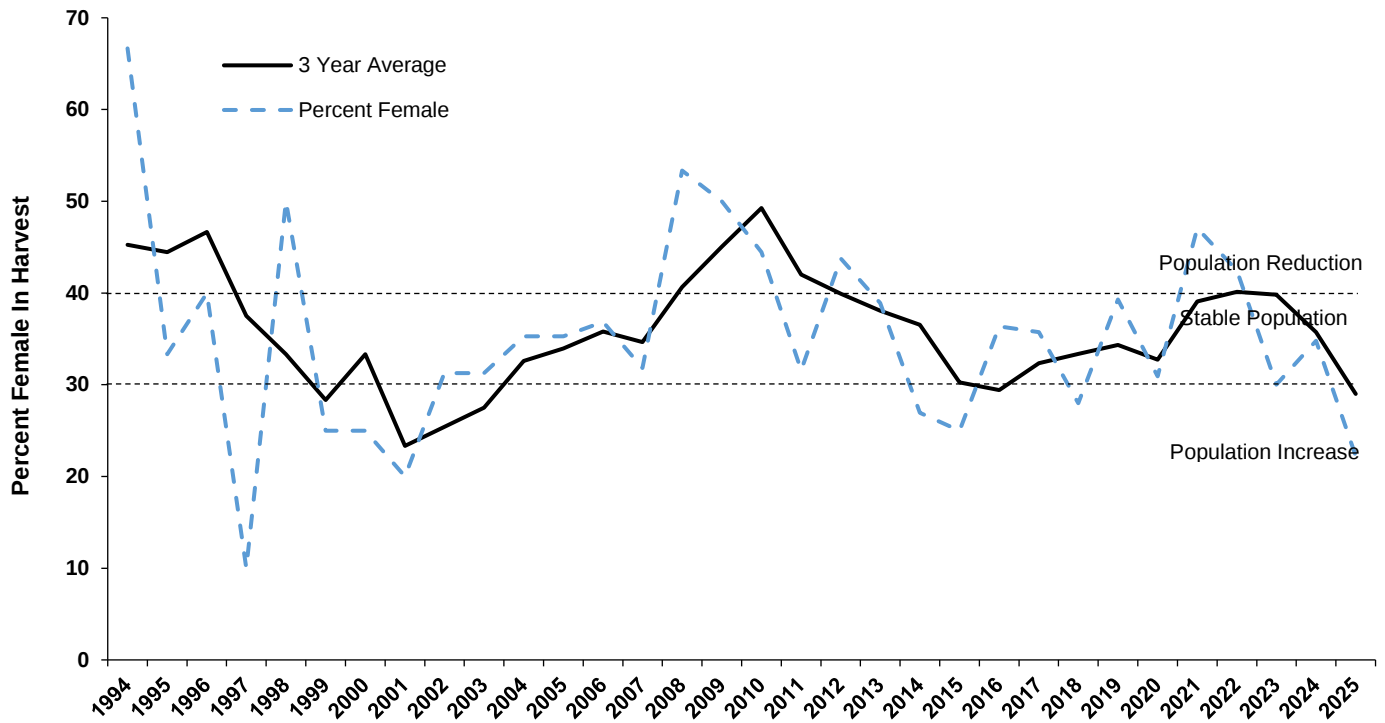


Figure 61. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Snowy Range BMU, 1994-2025.

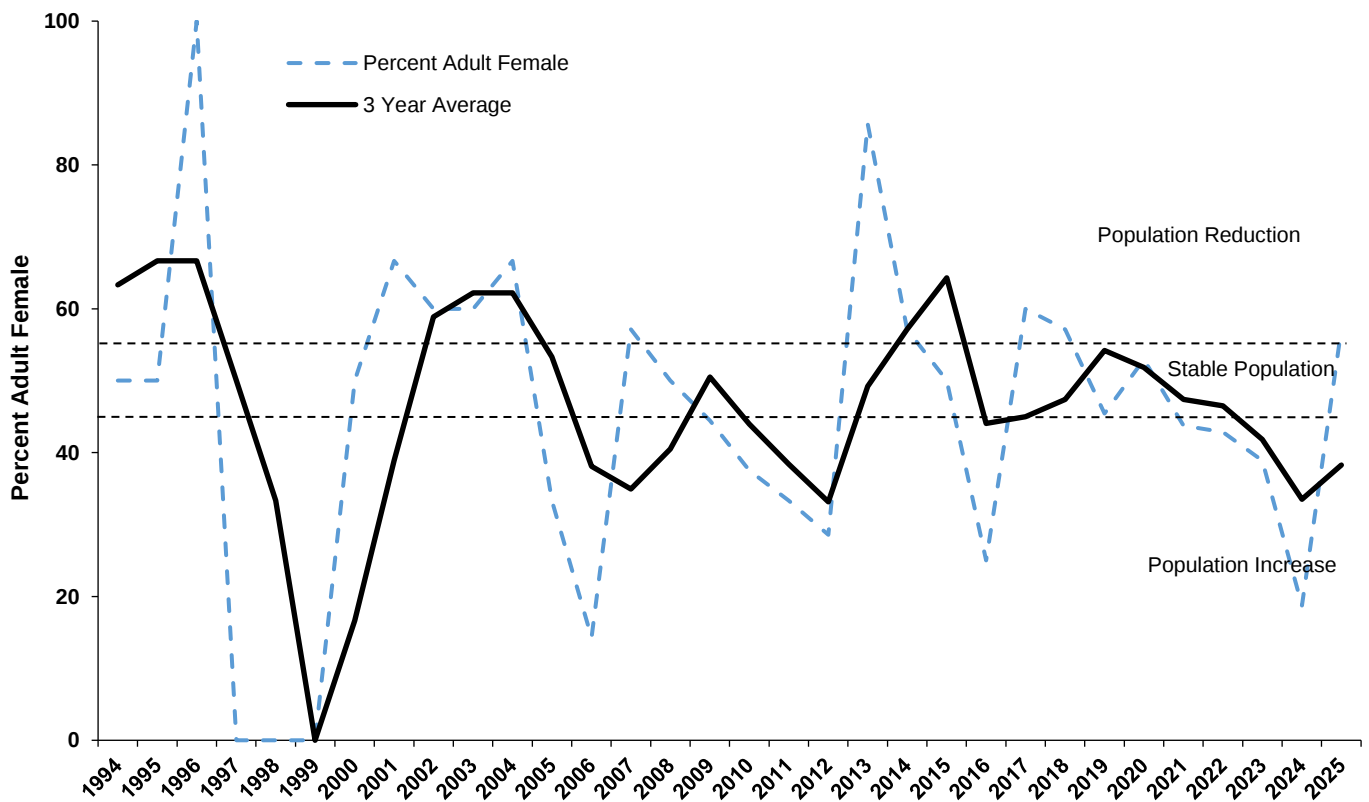


Figure 62. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Snowy Range BMU, 1994-2025.

WIND RIVER RANGE BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT (601)

2023 - 2025 Black Bear Mortality

Female mortality limits were unchanged in the Wind River BMU for the 2023-2025 harvest cycle from the previous cycle (Table 16). Each year saw an increase in total harvest for this cycle (Figures 63 and 64). All three harvest criteria remained in the stable range (Table 17; Figures 65-67). Overall, the black bear population in the Wind River BMU appears to be generally stable and experiencing light to moderate harvest effects (Table 16, Figure 64-67).

Table 16. Wind River BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2023-spring 2025 black bear hunting seasons. Yellow cells indicate season closure prior to the closing date listed in regulation after reaching the female mortality limit (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	WIND RIVER	13	5	5	10	4	2	1	6/15/22	10/31/22
		19	10	8	10	6	3	1	6/15/22	11/15/22
		28	4	4	0	0	0	0	6/15/22	10/31/22
		31	2	2	0	0	0	0	6/15/22	10/31/22
2023	WIND RIVER	13	5	5	6	4	8	3	6/15/23	10/31/23
		19	10	8	18	0	6	2	6/15/23	11/15/23
		28	4	4	0	0	2	0	6/15/23	10/31/23
		31	2	2	0	0	0	1	6/15/23	10/31/23
2024	WIND RIVER	13	5	5	11	5	7	5	5/28/24	9/22/24
		19	10	8	18	9	4	3	6/15/24	11/15/24
		28	4	4	2	2	0	3	6/15/24	10/31/24
		31	2	2	0	0	2	0	6/15/24	10/31/24
2025	WIND RIVER	13	5	5	11	3	17	7	6/15/25	9/21/25
		19	10	8	20	4	12	7	6/15/25	11/15/25
		28	4	4	2	1	8	2	6/15/25	10/31/25
		31	2	2	1	0	3	1	6/15/25	10/31/25

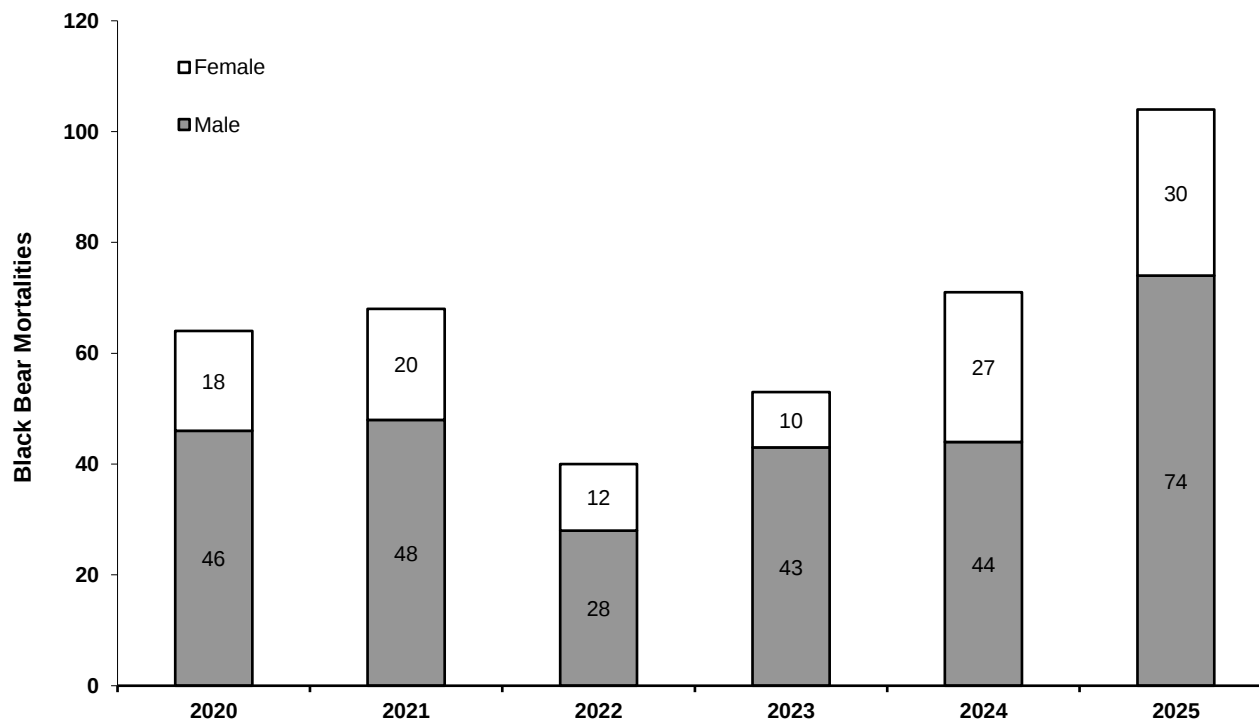


Figure 63. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Wind River BMU by sex, 2020-2025.

Table 17. Harvest criteria for Wind River BMU legal black bear harvest, 2023-spring 2025. Criteria are presented by objective as 3-year averages of percent adult males in the total harvest, percent females in the total harvest, and percent adult females in the female harvest.

Year	Objective	Harvest Criteria		
		% Adult ^a Males in Total Harvest	% Females in Total Harvest	% Adult ^a Females in Female Harvest
	Population Reduction	< 25%	> 40%	> 55%
	Stable Population	25 – 35%	30 – 40%	45 – 55%
	Population Increase	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%
2023-spring 2025		34.3	29.0	35.0

^a Adults classified as males and females ≥ 5 years of age based on tooth cementum annuli.

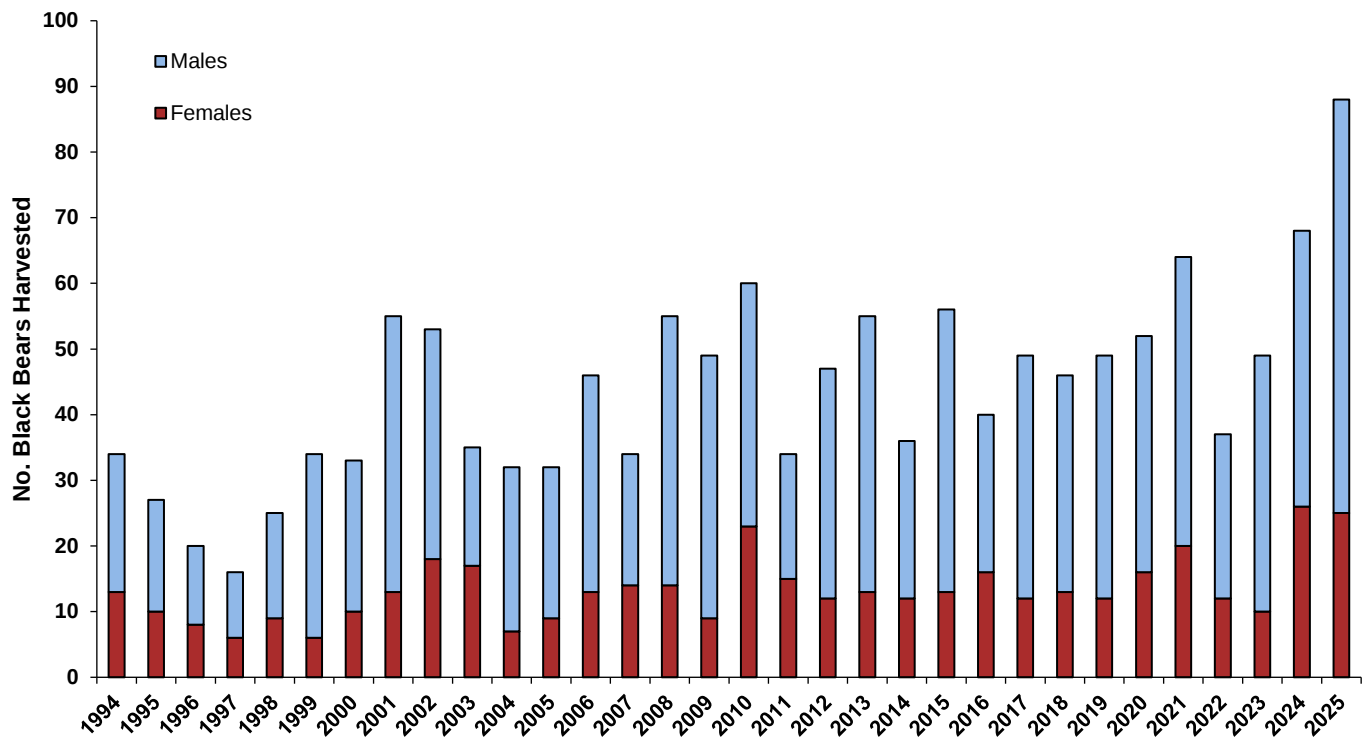


Figure 64. Legal harvest of black bears in Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

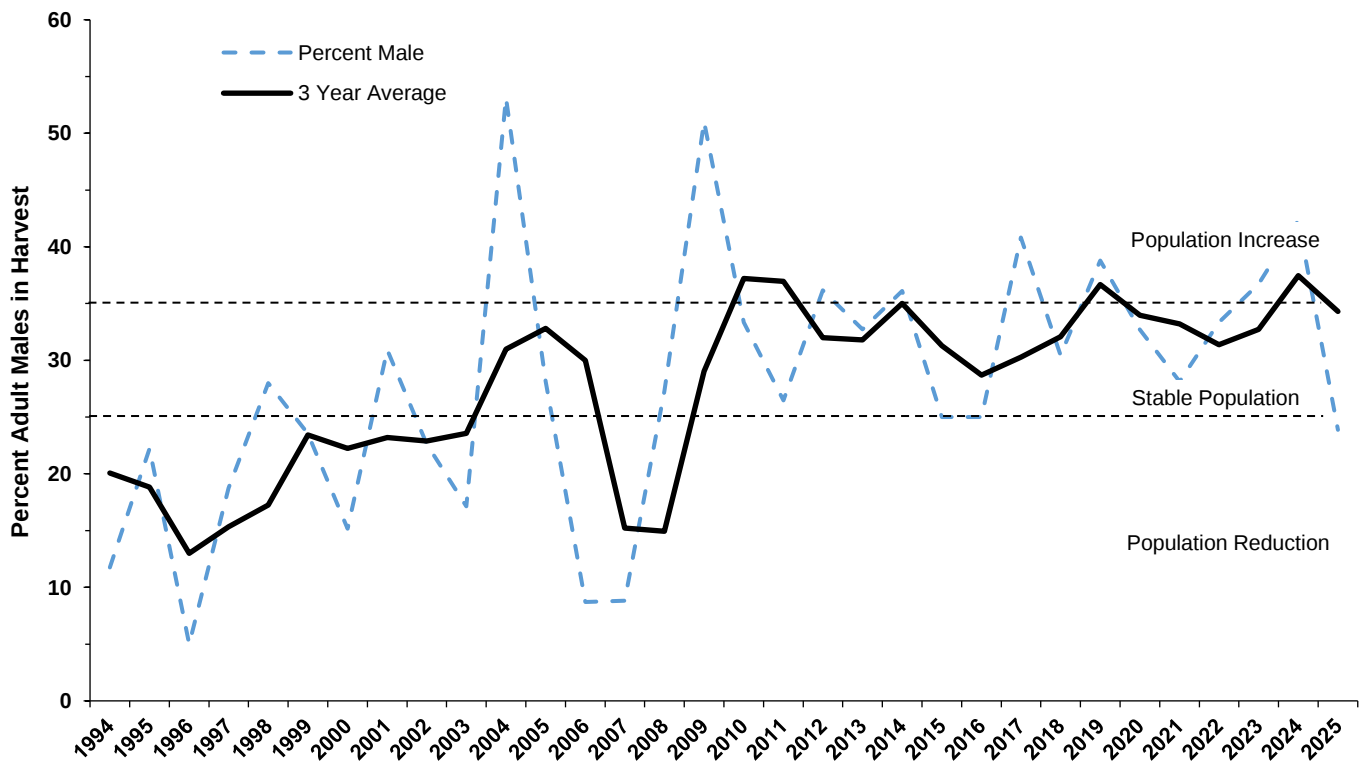


Figure 65. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

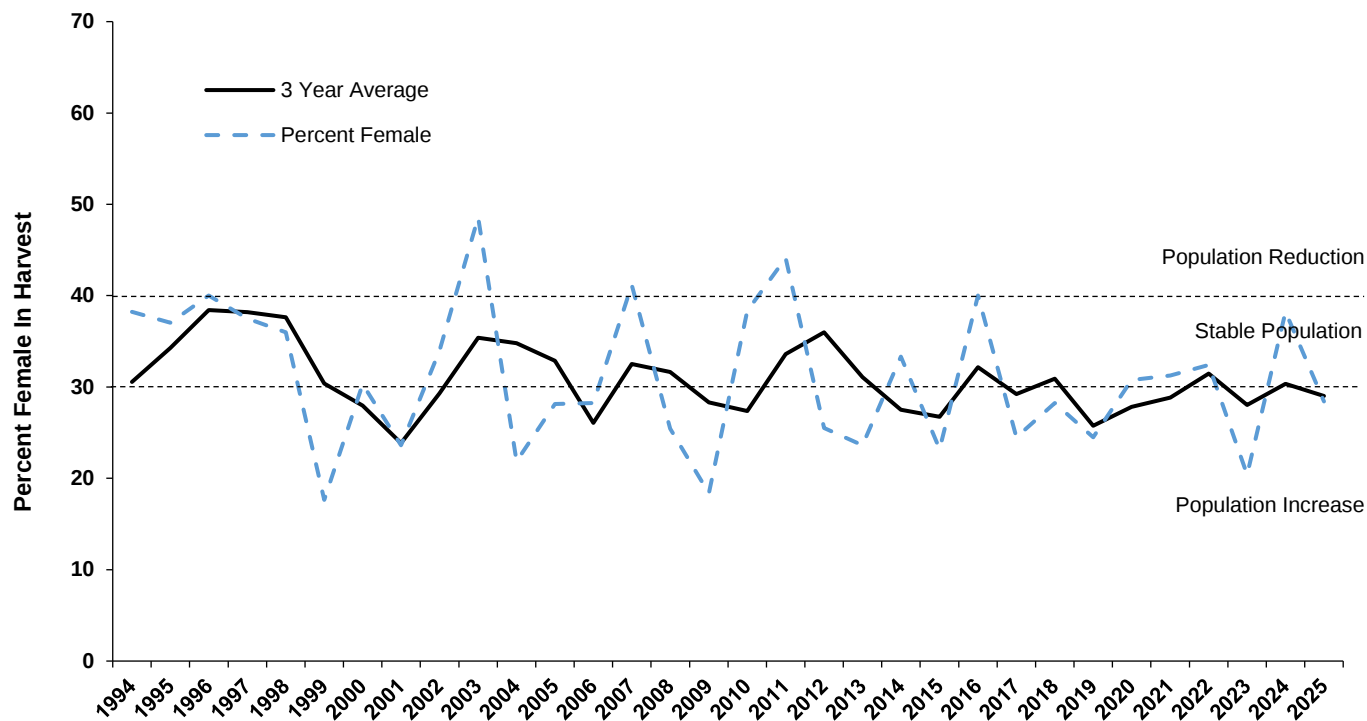


Figure 66. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

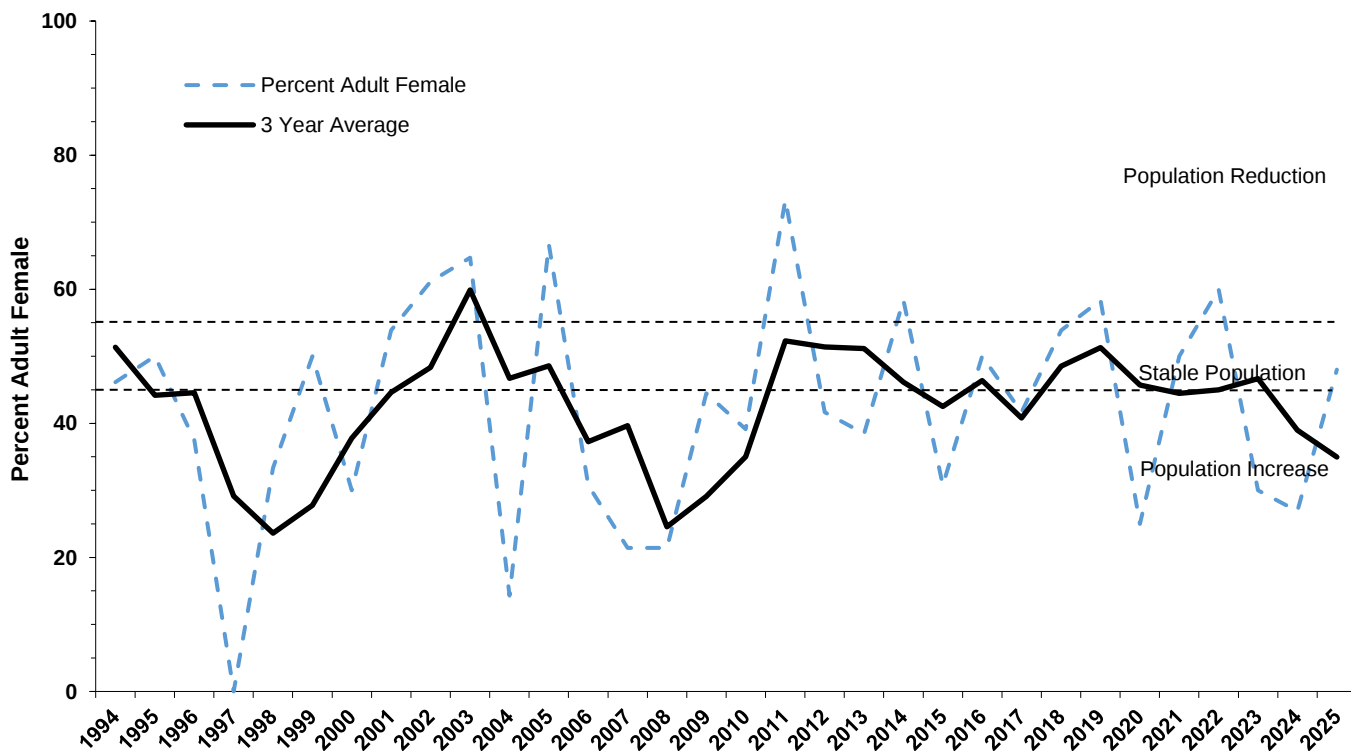


Figure 67. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

Harvest Criteria by Harvest Limit – Hunt Area 13

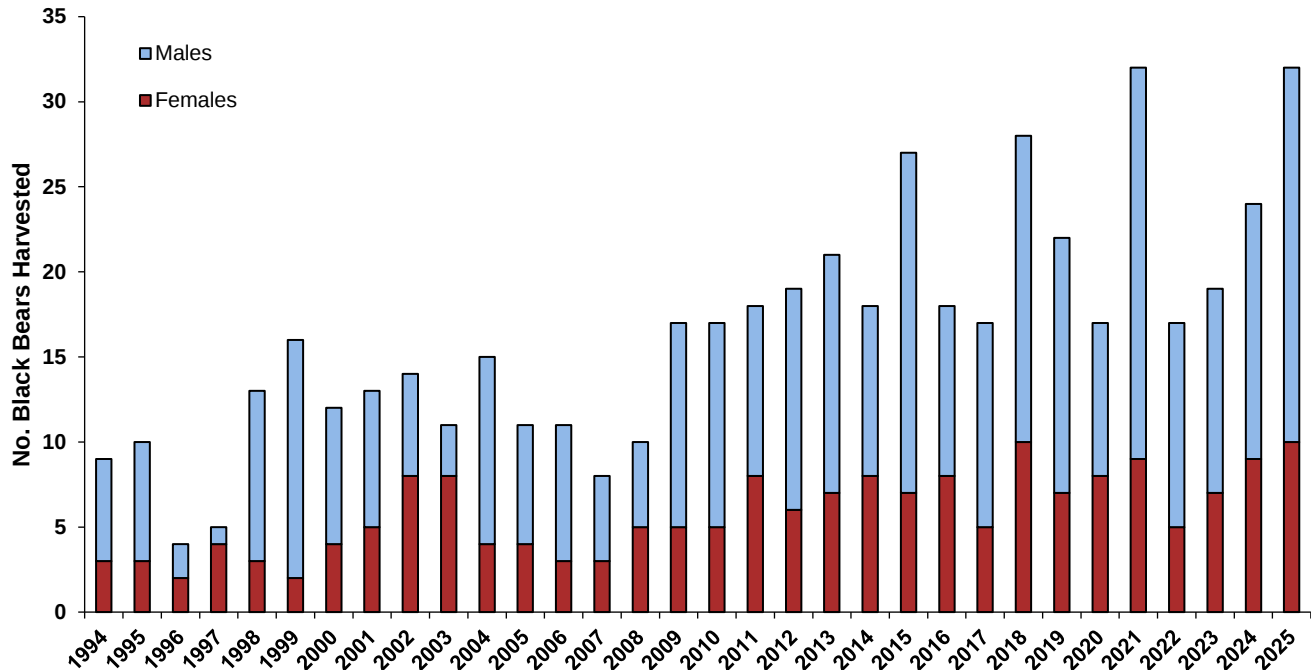


Figure 68. Legal harvest of black bears of Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

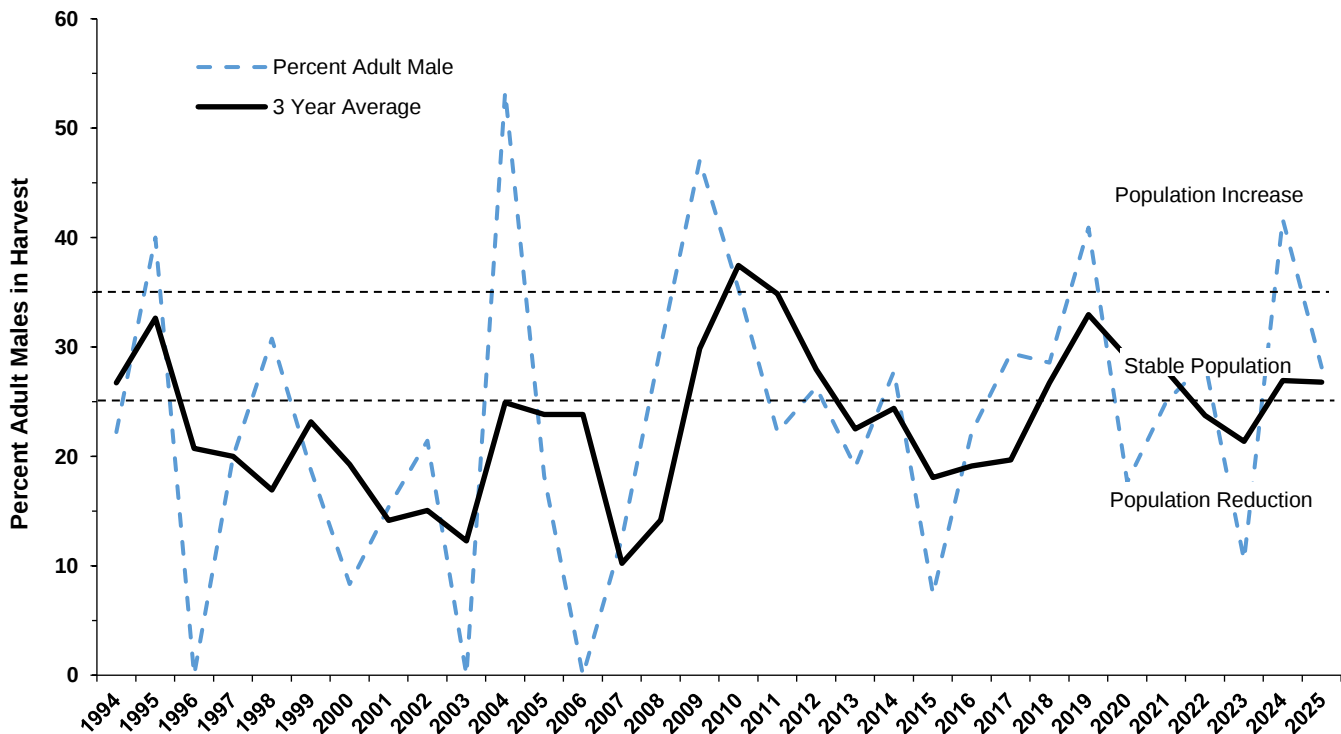


Figure 69. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

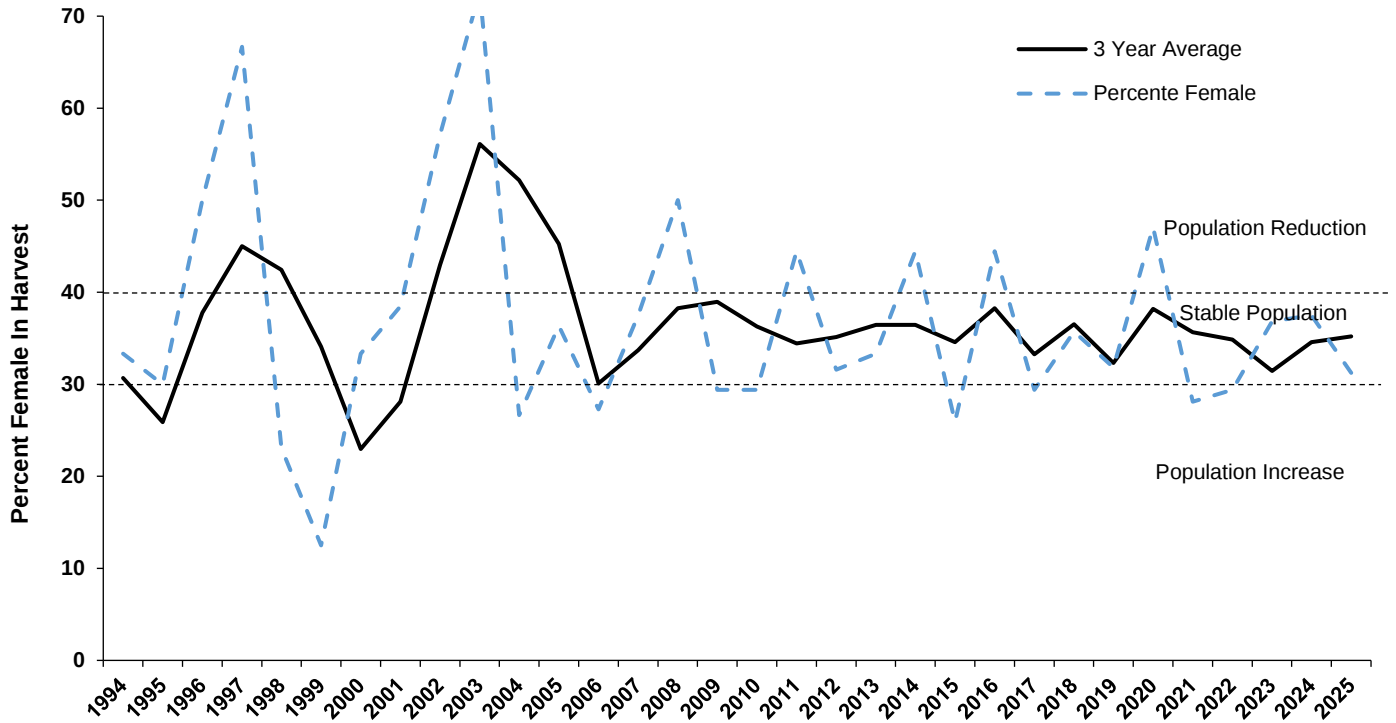


Figure 70. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

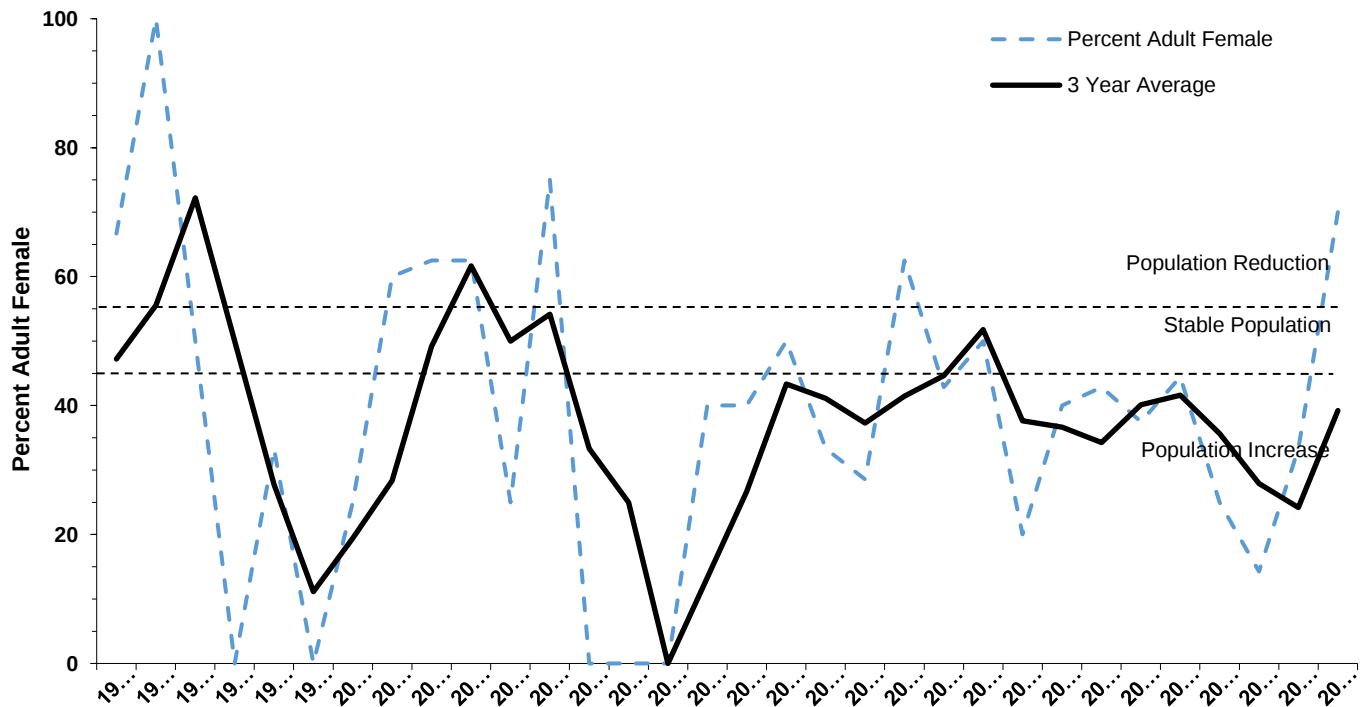


Figure 71. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

Harvest Criteria by Harvest Limit – Hunt Area 19

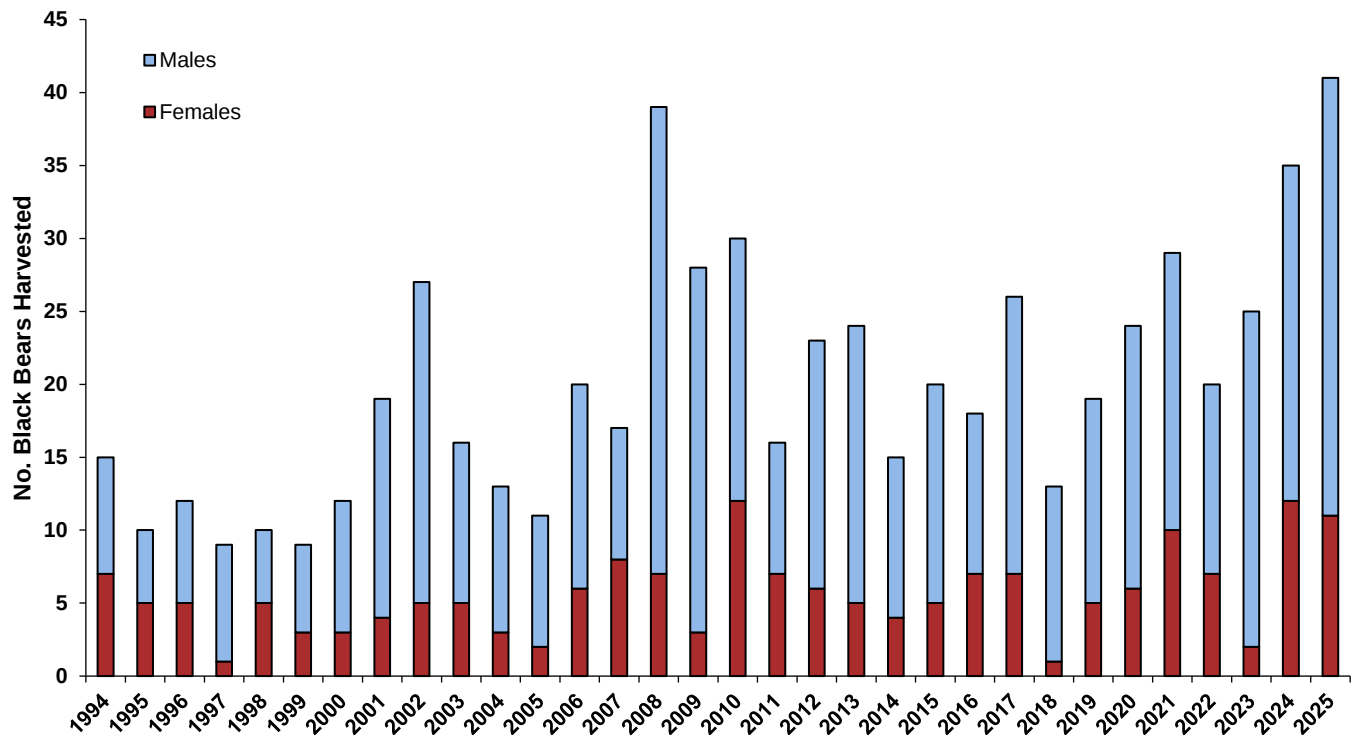


Figure 72. Legal harvest of black bears in Hunt Area 19 of Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

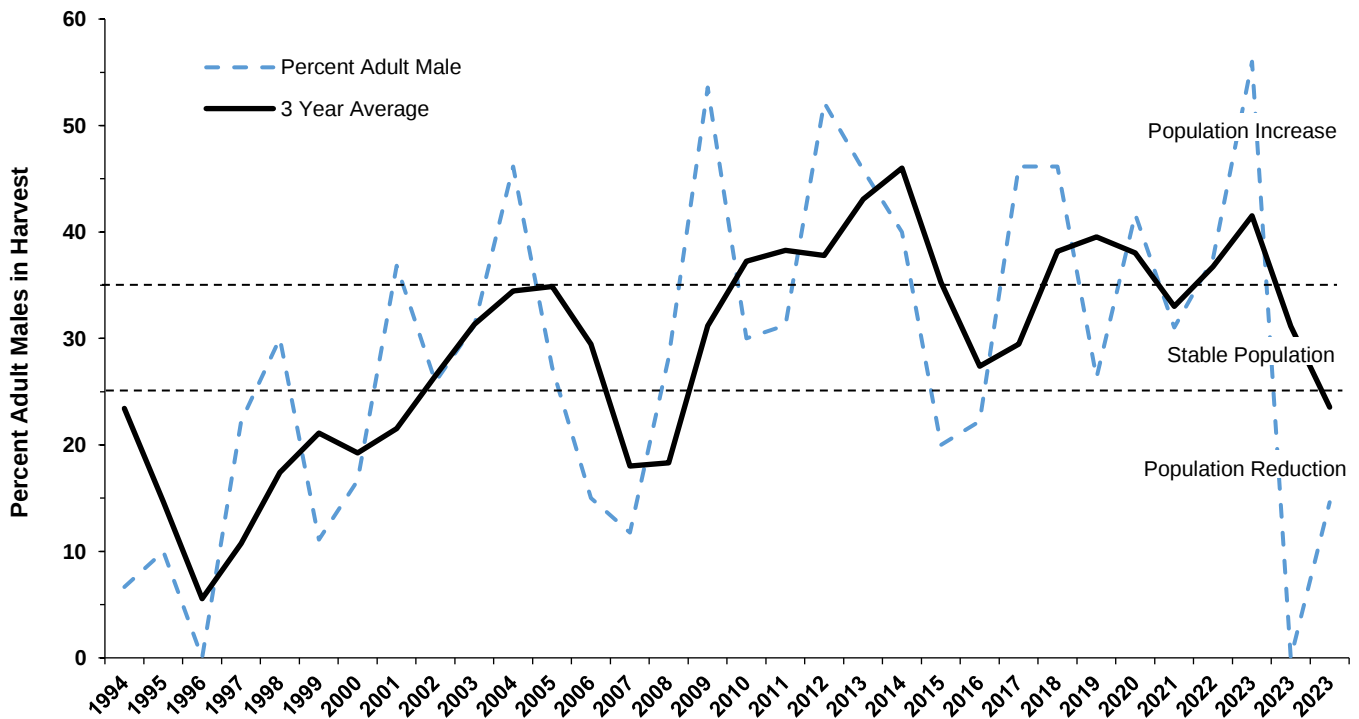


Figure 73. Percent adult males in the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Area 19 of Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

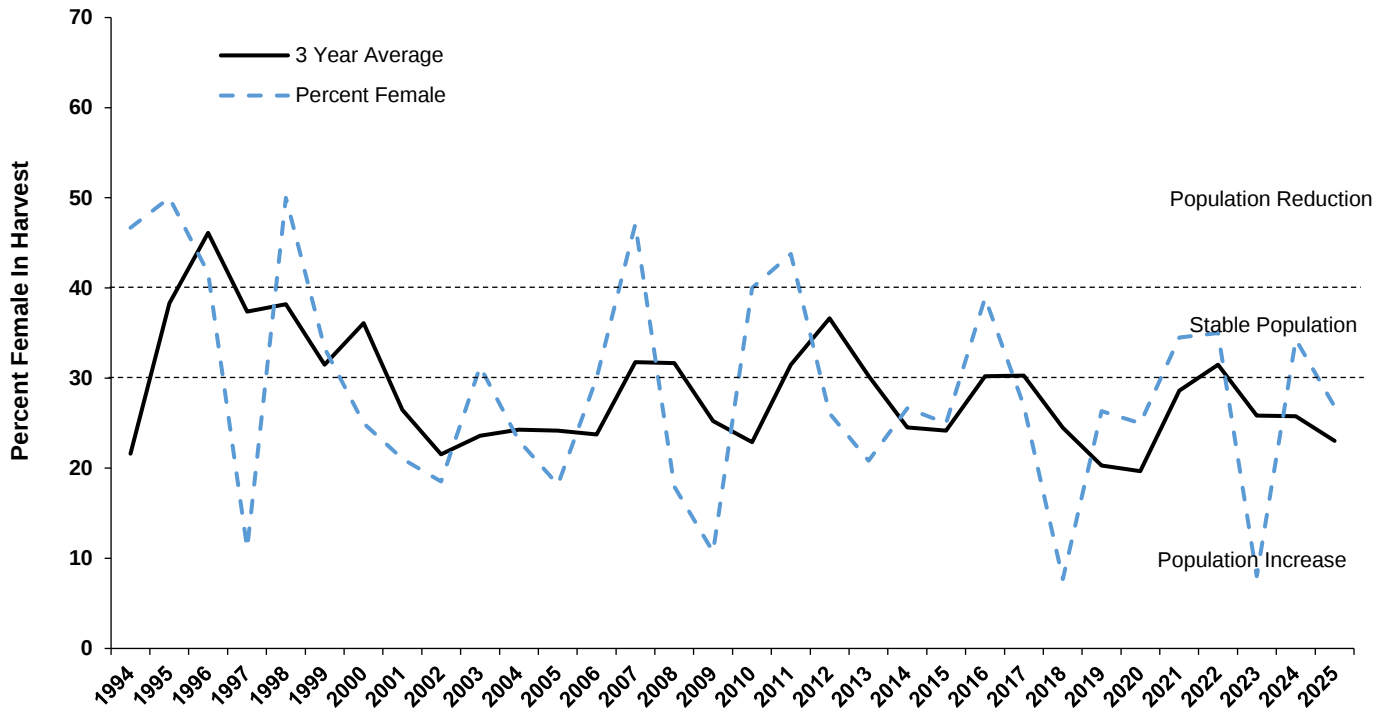


Figure 74. Percent females of the total legal black bear harvest in Hunt Area 19 of Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

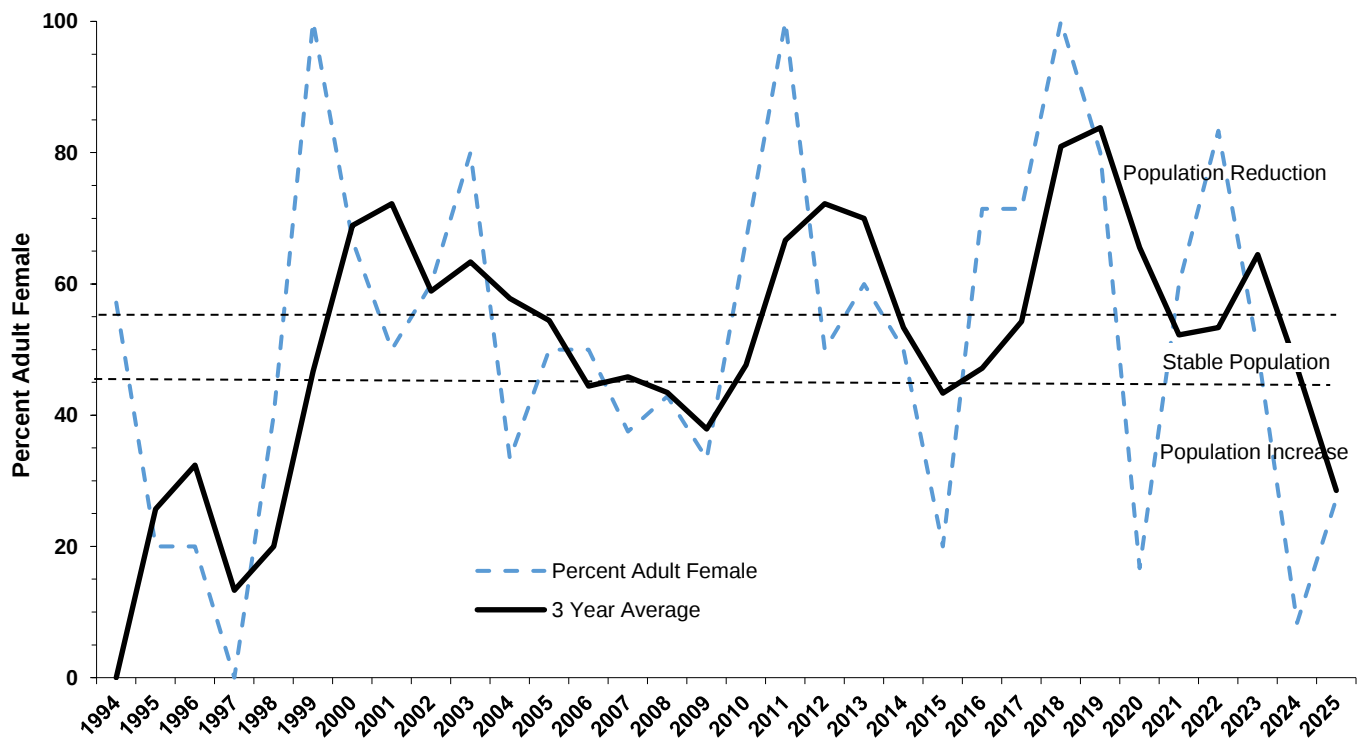


Figure 75. Percent adult females of the total female legal harvest in Hunt Area 19 of Wind River BMU, 1994-2025.

STATEWIDE HUNT AREA 35

During the season-setting process prior to the 2011-2013 cycle, Hunt Area 35 was created to include all areas of Wyoming that previously did not fall within established hunt areas. Although there are pockets of suitable habitat, this area is not considered quality black bear habitat and contains relatively few black bears. However, subadult males dispersing from higher quality habitats may move through and occasionally take up residence in some of the smaller, more isolated mountain ranges and riparian habitats of the state. More than half of bears harvested (57%) in Area 35 were subadults (Figures 76 and 77). Hunt Area 35 was created to provide hunting opportunity for these ranges. This hunt area has no female mortality limit and the seasons run from April 15 to June 15 and August 1 to October 31 (Table 18).

Table 18. Statewide BMU female mortality limits, harvest (legal/illegal harvest) by sex and season, and season closure dates for the 2022-2025 black bear hunting seasons. Because there is no female harvest limit, all seasons for this BMU closed on the final date of the season as listed in regulation (Appendix I).

			Female Mortality Limit		Harvest				Season Closure Dates	
					Spring		Fall			
YEAR	MGMT UNIT	HUNT AREA	Spring	Fall	M	F	M	F	Spring	Fall
2022	STATEWIDE	35	NA	NA	8	1	6	2	6/15/22	10/31/22
2023	STATEWIDE	35	NA	NA	11	4	4	4	6/15/23	10/31/23
2024	STATEWIDE	35	NA	NA	16	3	12	4	6/15/24	10/31/24
2025	STATEWIDE	35	NA	NA	10	2	9	6	6/15/25	10/31/25

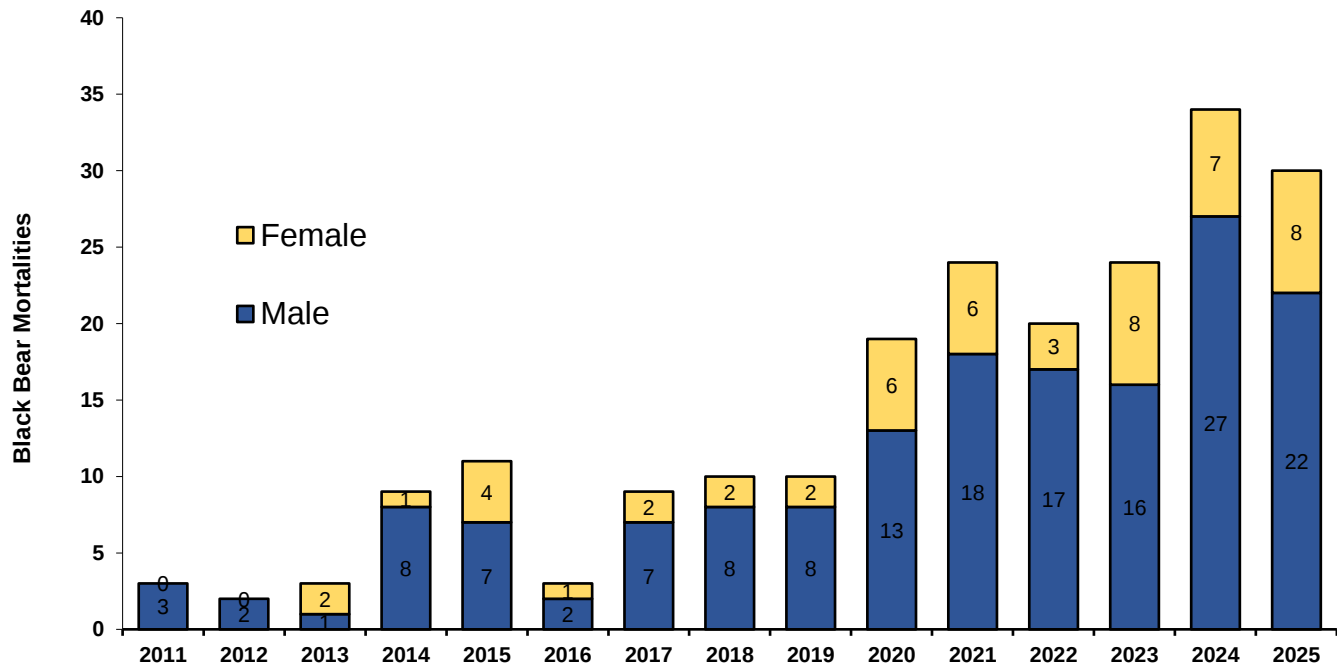


Figure 76. Legal harvest of black bears in Hunt Area 35, 2011-2025.

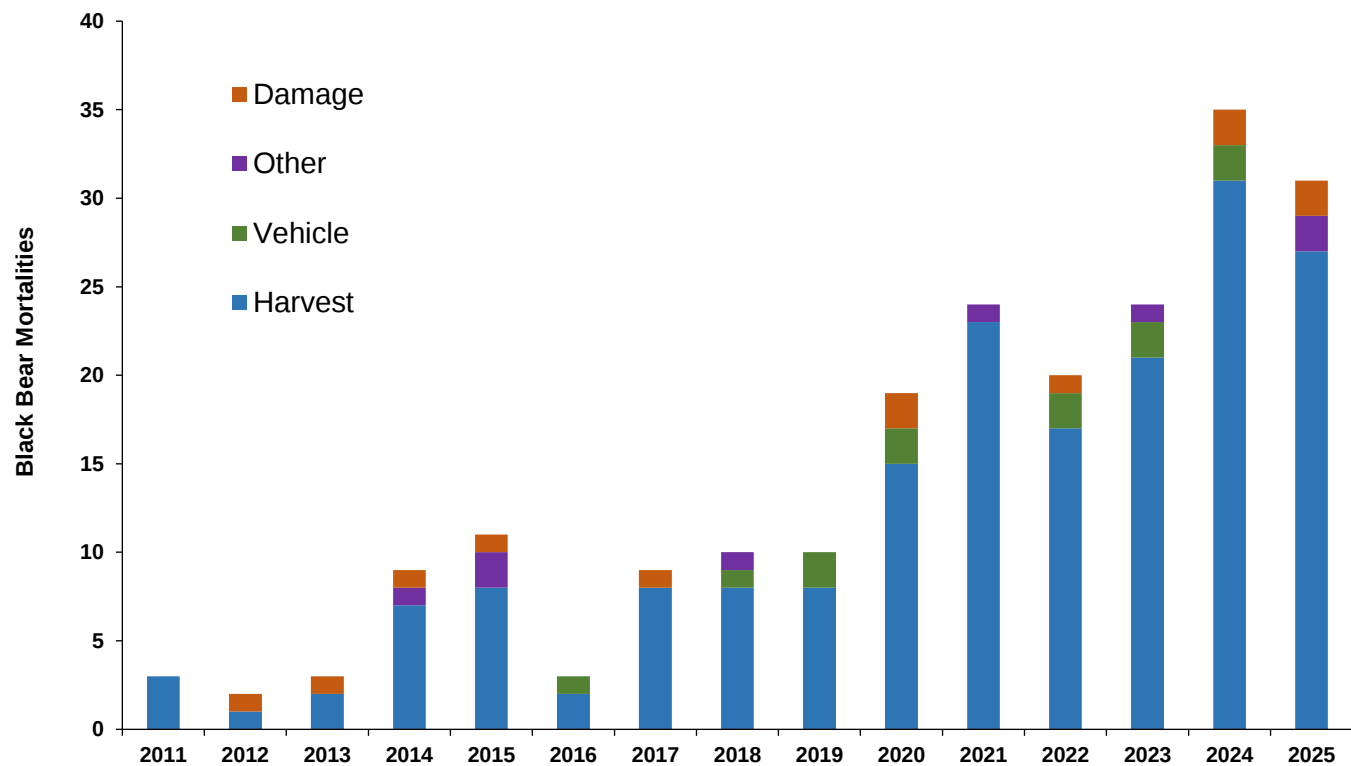


Figure 77. Number of black bear mortalities of all causes in Hunt Area 35, 2011-2025.

Literature Cited

Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2007. Wyoming Black Bear Management Plan. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, WY, USA

Appendix I. Wyoming black bear hunting season dates and seasonal female mortality limits by management unit and hunt area, 2023 – 2025.

Black Bear Management Units	Hunt Areas	Season Dates		Female Mortality Limits
		Archery	General	
Bighorns (301)	1	May 1-14	May 15-June 15 Sept.1-Oct. 31	4 Spring 4 Fall
	2	May 1-14	May 15-June 15 Sept. 1-Oct. 31	6 Spring 6 Fall
	3	May 1-14	May 15-June 15 Sept. 1-Oct. 31	2 Spring 2 Fall
	4	May 1-14	May 15-June 15 Sept. 1-Oct. 31	8 Spring 6 Fall
	5, 6		May 1-June 15 Aug. 15-Nov. 15	6 Spring 6 Fall
Laramie Peak (501)	7		May 1-June 15 Sept. 1-Oct. 31	7 Spring 7 Fall
	33		May 1-June 15 Sept 1-Oct 31	4 Spring 4 Fall
Snowy Range (502)	8	Sept. 1-30	April 15-June 15 Oct. 1-31	9 Spring 8 Fall
Sierra Madres (401)	9	April 15-30 Sept. 1-30	May 1-June 15 Oct. 1-31	13 Spring 11 Fall
Uinta (402)	10	April 15-30 Aug.1-Sept. 30	May 1-June 15 Oct. 1-31	2 Spring 2 Fall
	12	April 15-30 Sept. 1-30	May 1-June 15 Oct. 1-31	1 Spring 1 Fall
Greys River (102)	11	April 15-30 Aug. 15-31	May 1-June 15 Sept. 1- Oct. 31	8 Spring 5 Fall
	14, 15, 16 17, 30	April 15-30 Aug. 15-31	May 1-June 15 Sept. 1-Oct 31	24 Spring 18 Fall
Wind River (601)	13	April 15-30	May 1-June 15 Aug.1-31-valid only in that portion of Hunt Area 13 in the Popo Agie Wilderness Sept. 1-Oct. 31	5 Spring 5 Fall
	19	April 15-30 Aug. 15-31	May 1-June 15 Aug.1-31-valid only in that portion of Hunt Area 13 in the Bridger Wilderness Sept. 1-Nov. 15	10 Spring 8 Fall
	28	April 15-30 Aug. 1-14	May 1-June 15 Aug. 15-Oct. 31	4 Spring 4 Fall
	31	April 15-30 Aug. 1-14	May 1-June 15 Aug. 15-Oct. 31	2 Spring 2 Fall
Jackson (101)	18, 20, 21 22, 24, 29	April 15-30 Aug. 15-31	May 1-June 15 Sept. 1-Oct. 31	13 Spring 20 Fall
Absaroka (201)	23	April 15-30 Aug. 1-14	May 1-June 15 Aug. 15-Oct. 31	8 Spring * 12 Fall *
	25, 26, 27	April 15-30 Aug. 15-31	May 1-June 15 Sept. 1- Oct. 31	
	32	April 15-30	May 1 – June 15 Aug. 1 – Oct. 31	Unlimited
Statewide	35		April 15-June 15 August 1-Oct. 31	Unlimited

*Annual female mortality limit applies to areas 23, 25, 26, and 27 in combination.