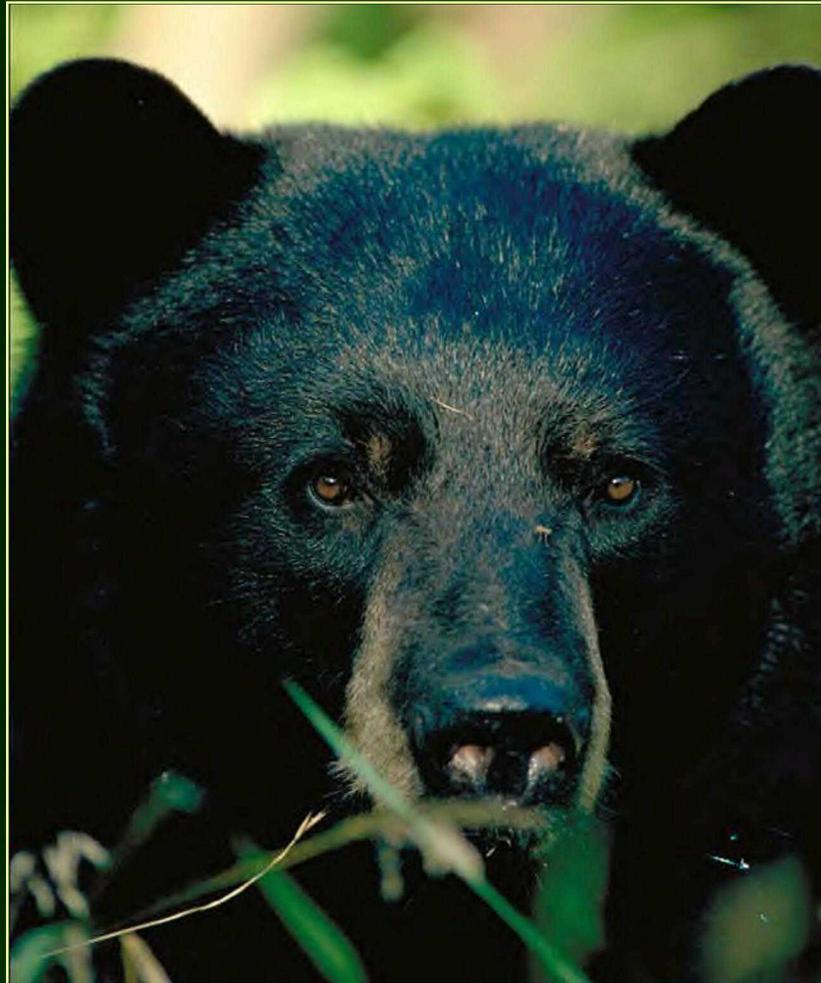


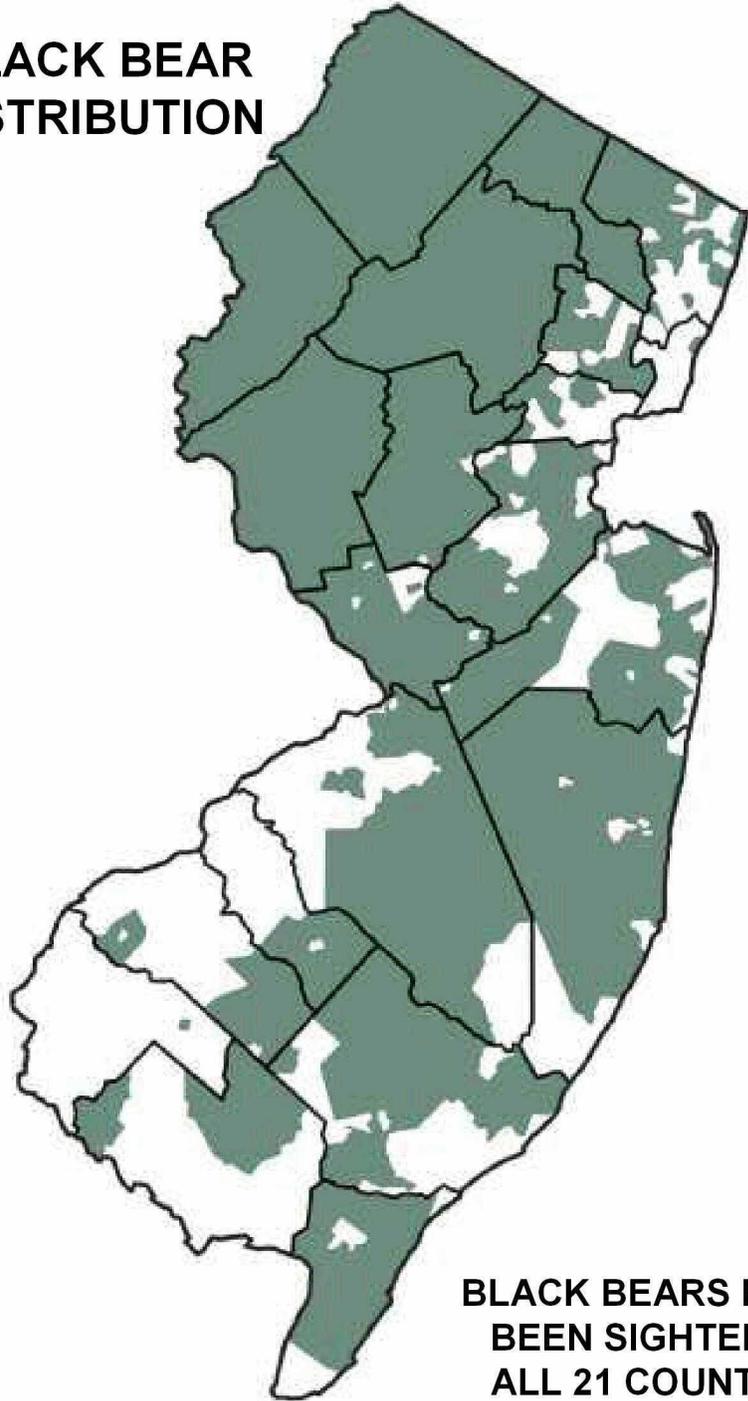
KNOW THE BEAR FACTS



BLACK BEARS IN NEW JERSEY



**BLACK BEAR
DISTRIBUTION**



**BLACK BEARS HAVE
BEEN SIGHTED IN
ALL 21 COUNTIES**

**Black bears are
found primarily in
Sussex, Warren,
Morris and Passaic
Counties**

History in New Jersey

- **Native to New Jersey**
- **Evolution and Historic Range**
- **Live in Forested Regions of the State**
- **Lenni Lenape Native Americans**



European settlers cleared forests for farming, lumber and towns



Habitat loss and indiscriminate killing caused the population to decline

1953: Classified as a Game Animal

1958-1970: Regulated Hunting Seasons



1971: Council Closed Season with <100 Bears in NJ

1980: Research Began by Division Biologists

1980-1990: Population was Manageable

1999: 2068+ Phone Calls Received by Fish & Wildlife

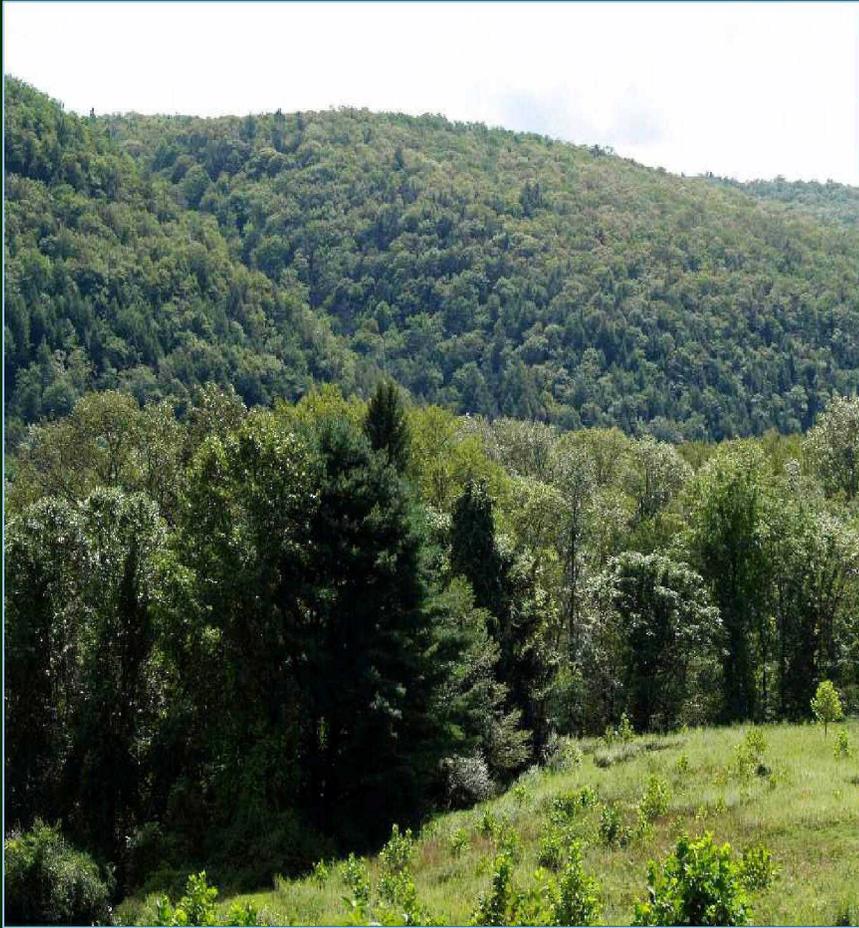
2000: Hunt Stopped 1 Week Before Opening Day

**Spring 2001: Black Bear Management Team Formed
Education Efforts Intensified**

A black bear cub is seen peering out from a hollowed-out tree trunk in a forest. The ground is covered with fallen leaves, and the scene is framed by a dark green border.

Black Bear Biology

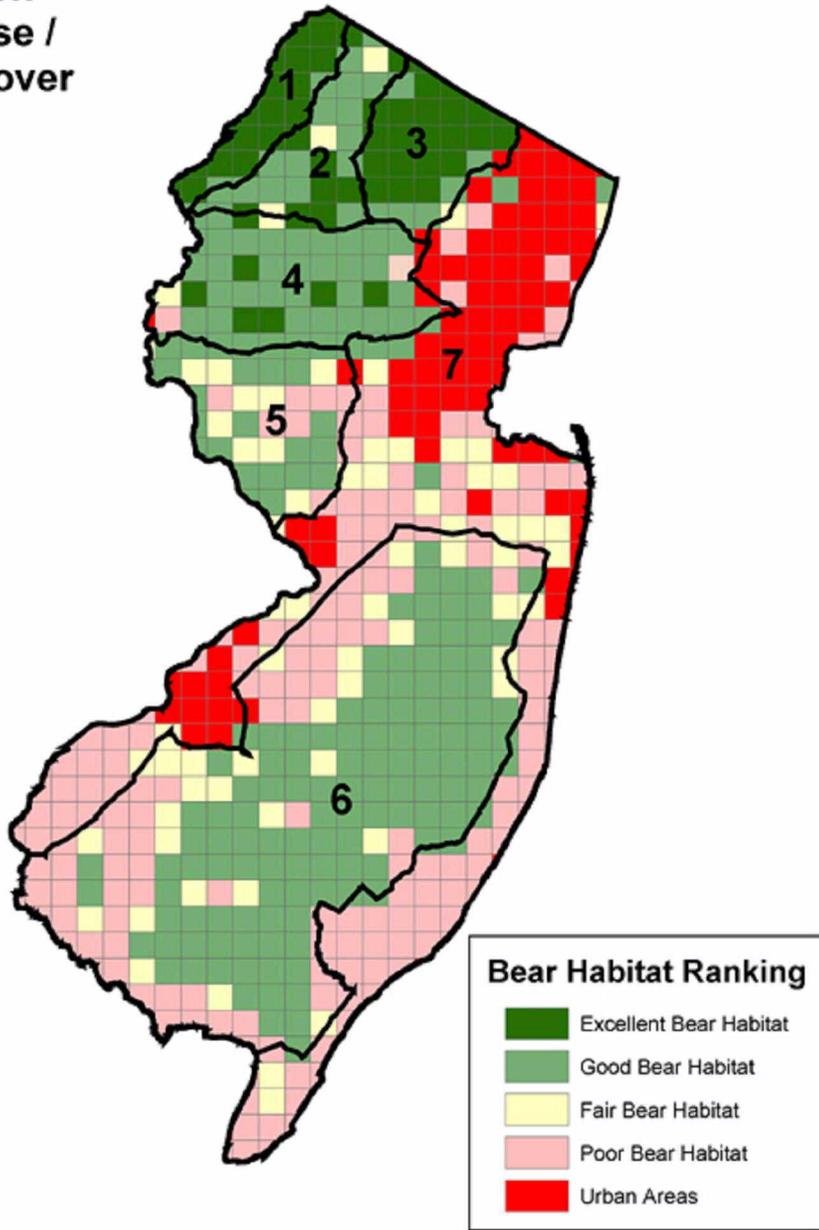
American Black Bear
(Ursus americanus)
New Jersey's largest land mammal



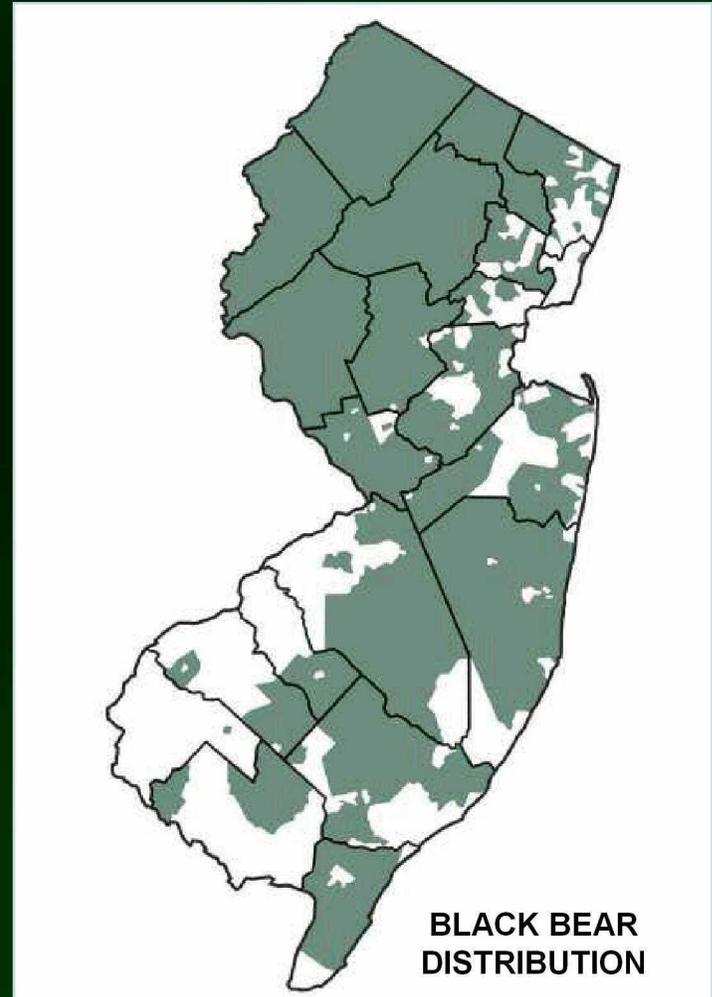
**Bears live in
hardwood forests,
dense swamps and
forested wetlands**

Black Bear Habitat

Based on
Land Use /
Land Cover

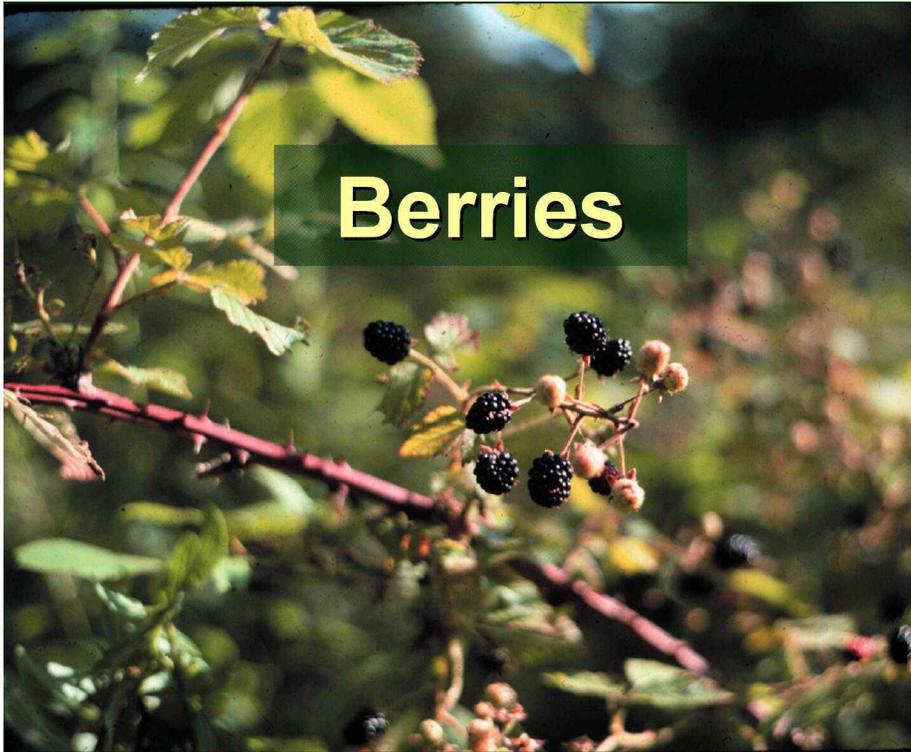


Black Bear Habitat





Black bears naturally eat nuts, berries, fruit, insects, small mammals and carrion



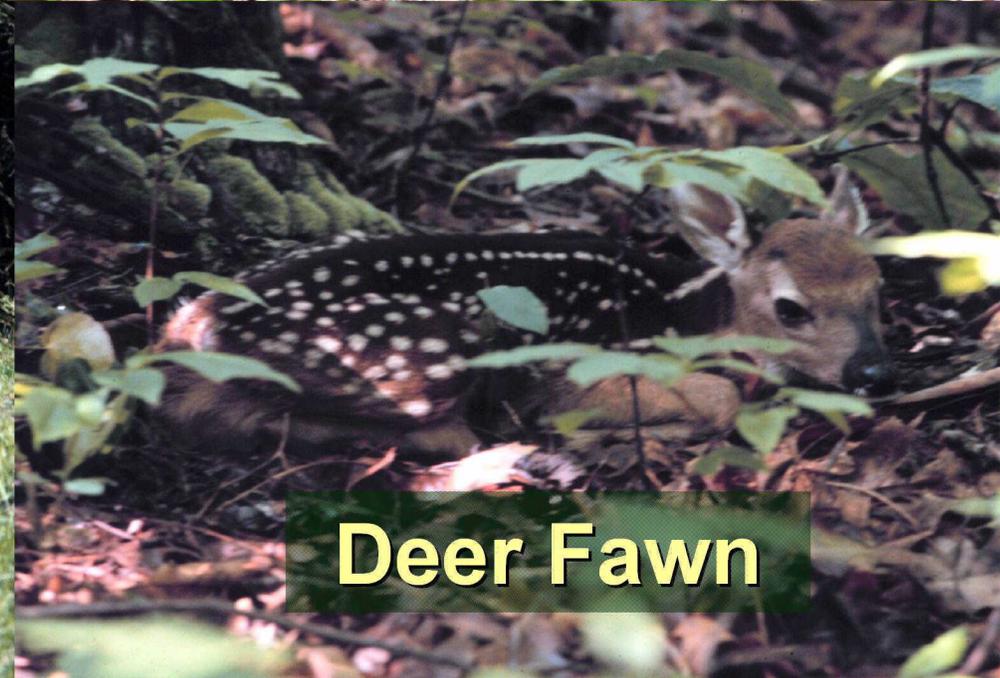
Berries



Skunk Cabbage



Insects



Deer Fawn

ADULT MALES

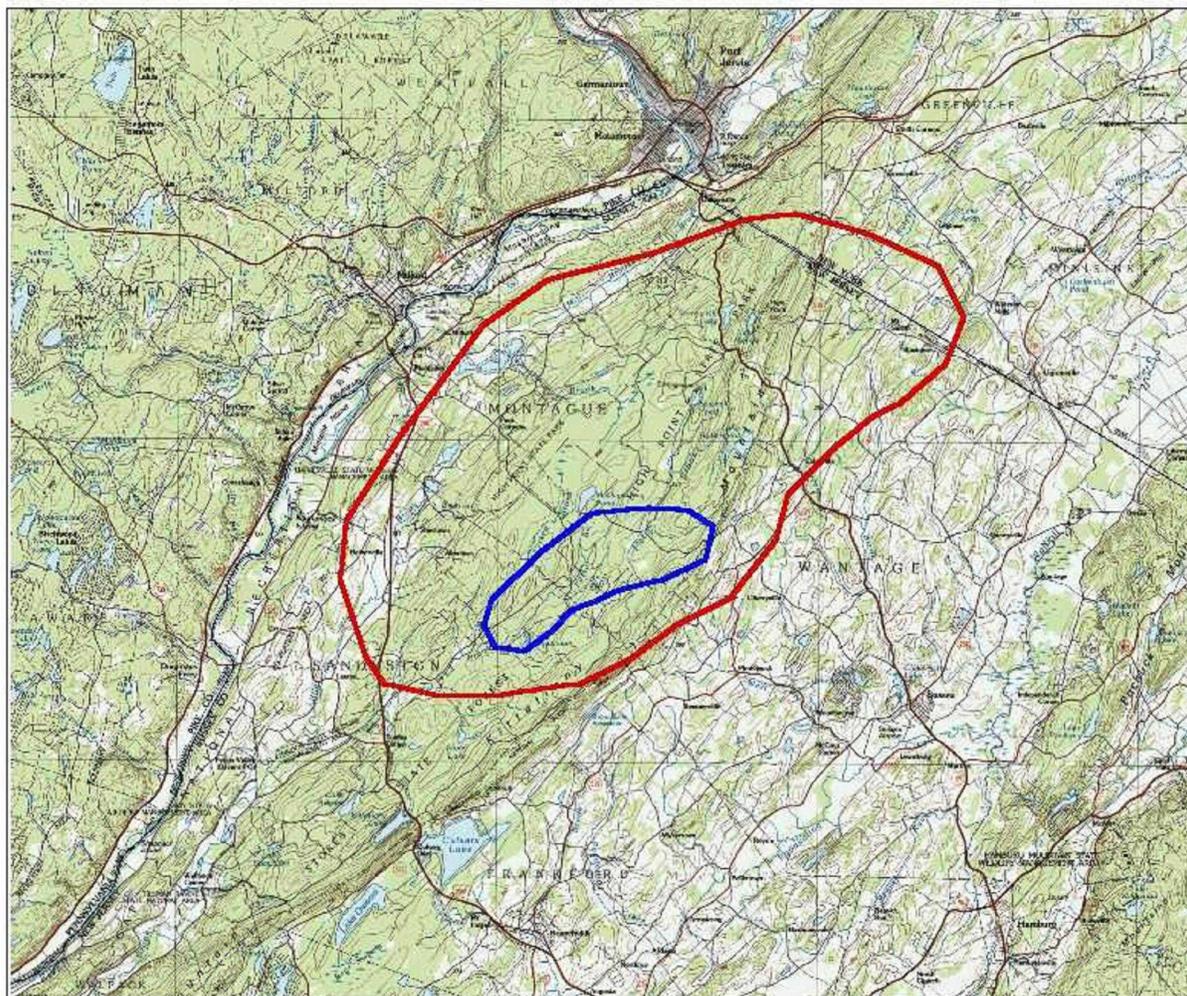
**Boars average weight is 396 pounds
Range is 150 - 700+ lbs**

A black bear is standing in a forest, surrounded by green vegetation and trees. The bear is holding a piece of wood in its mouth. The background shows a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

ADULT FEMALES

**Sows average weight is 175 pounds
Range is 150 - 400+**

Average Home Range of Black Bears in New Jersey



0 7 Miles

Male Home Range Size

Female Home Range Size

**Average adult female
home range is less than 2 square miles**

BLACK BEARS

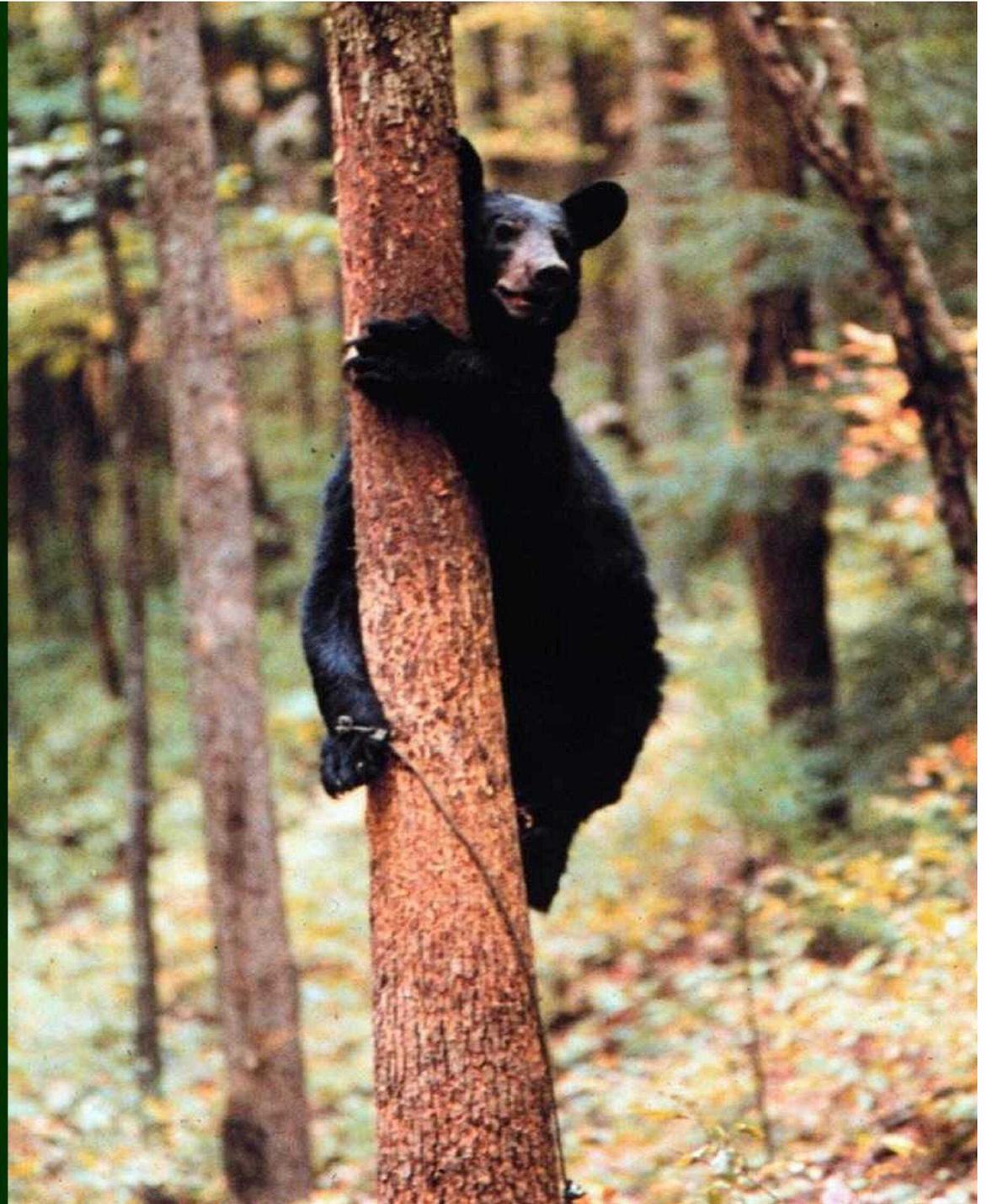
**Excellent senses of
smell and hearing**

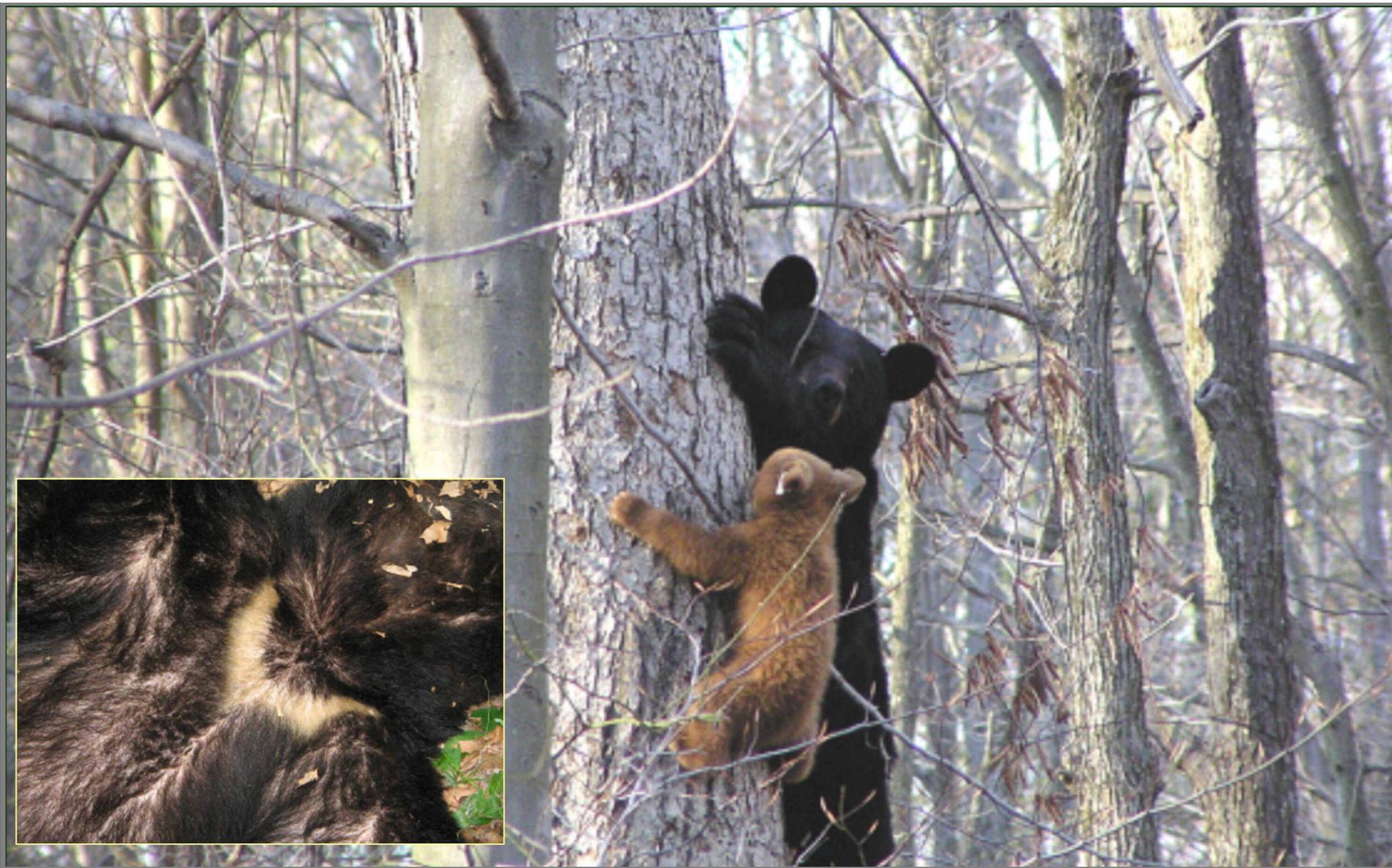
Excellent climbers

Strong swimmers

**Can run up to
35 miles per hour**

Can live for 25 years





**Not all black bears are black
15% of NJ bears have a white chest blaze**



Black Bear Signs





**Breeding
season begins
in late May
and continues
through late
August**

Bears enter dens late October to December



Under Buildings



Black bears are not true hibernators



**Cubs are
born in
January
and weigh
8-16
ounces**



**By March
a cub's
average
weight is
5 pounds**



**The average
litter size is
3.0 Cubs**

**New Jersey's
bears have
1 to 5 cubs per litter
every other year**





In early April, cubs begin exploring their environment



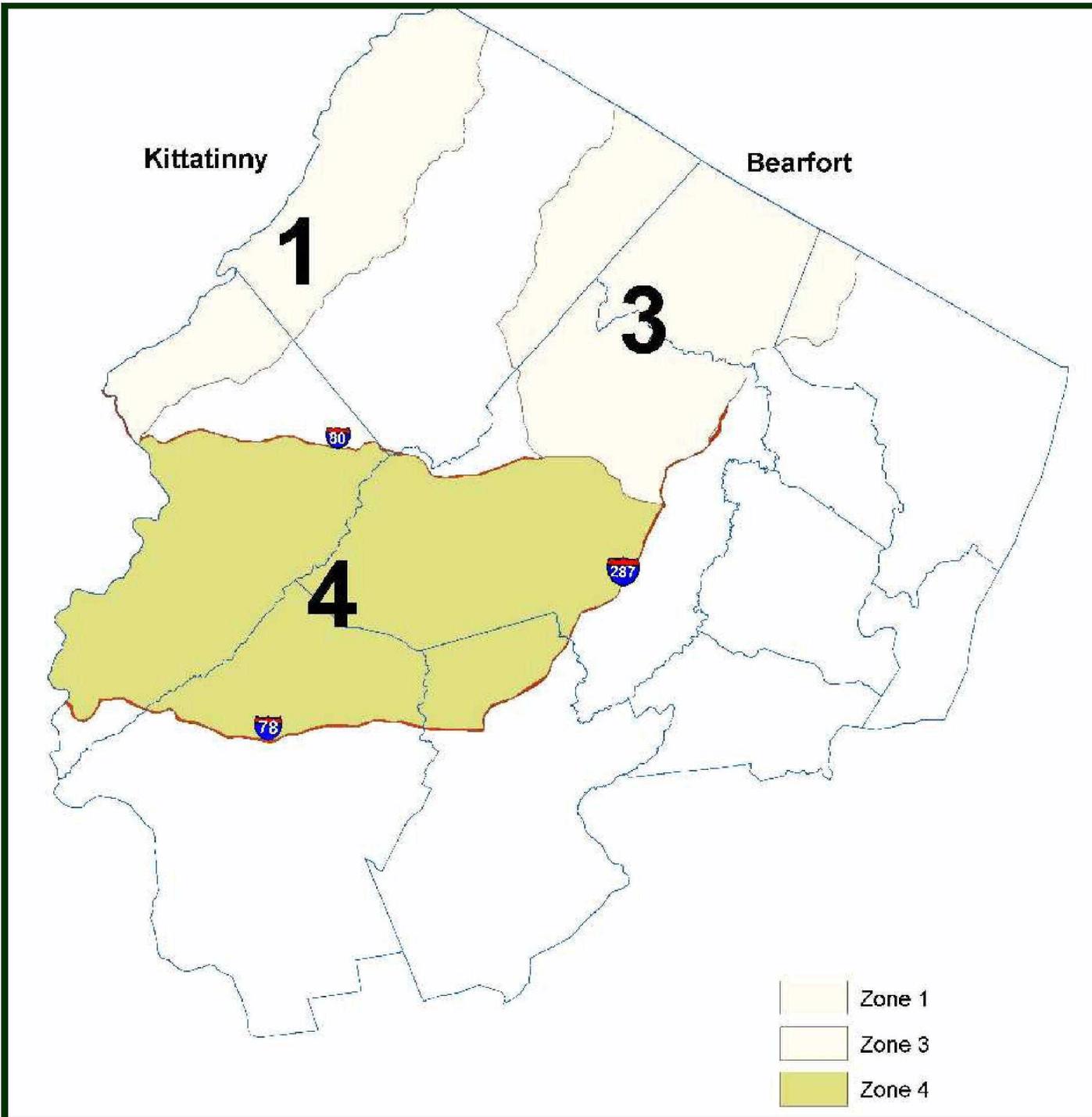


**70% of cubs survive their first year
Cubs remain with their mother for 1.5 years**

NJ Black Bear Research

- Division staff have been studying black bears in New Jersey since 1980
- Earnest Thomas Seton Award (AFWA Excellence Award)
- Research Trapping & Tagging
- Reproduction & Recruitment (Den Work)
- Radio Telemetry (Home-Ranges, Habitat Use)
- Cooperative Research Institutions:
East Stroudsburg, Rutgers, Montclair State University



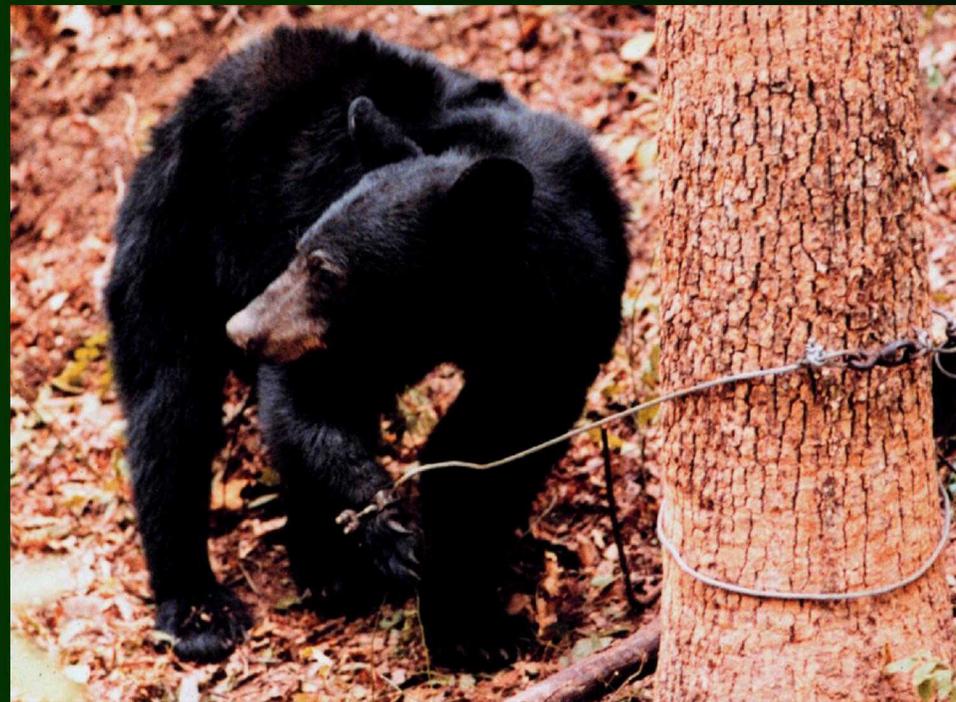


**Research
Study
Areas
(1201 sq miles)**

A black bear is sitting on the forest floor, leaning against a tree trunk. The forest is dense with trees and ferns. The ground is covered in brown leaves and twigs. The bear is looking towards the camera.

Research Trapping

**Population Monitoring
Fall and Spring**



**Snares
and
Culvert Traps
are baited with
bacon and
sweet scents**



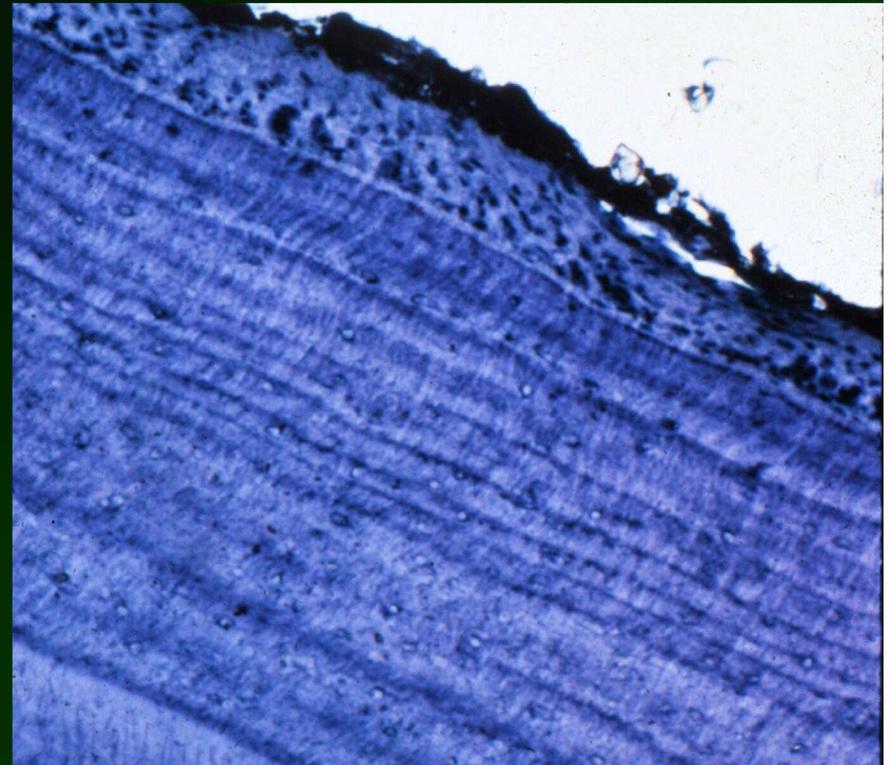
**Bears are tagged
on both ears
and
inside upper lip**





A tooth is pulled to determine the age of a bear

Blood and tissue samples are collected





Bears are also weighed and measured

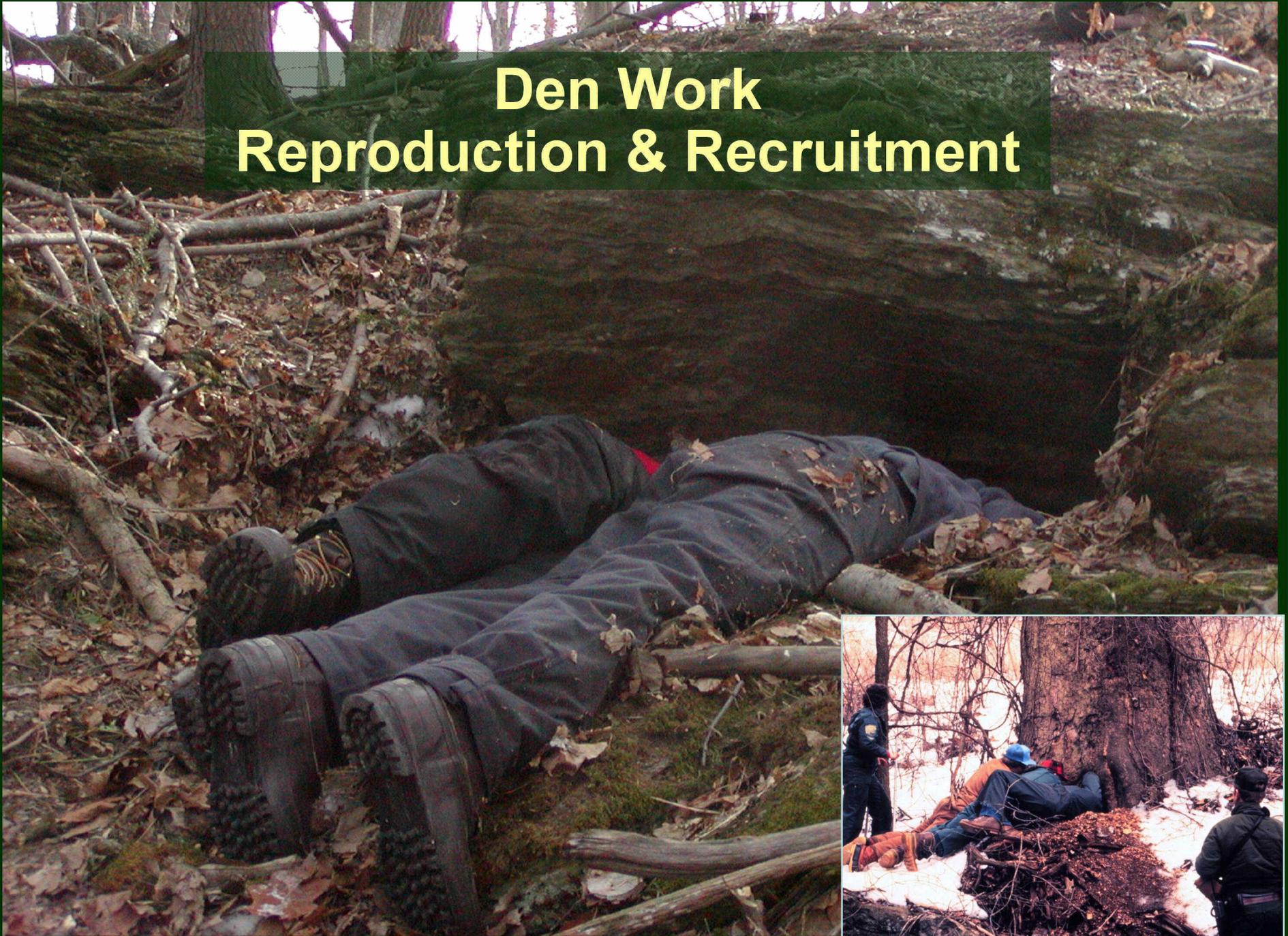
Radio Telemetry



**Sows are
radio-collared
to gather
information on
reproduction,
home range
and habitat use**



Den Work Reproduction & Recruitment

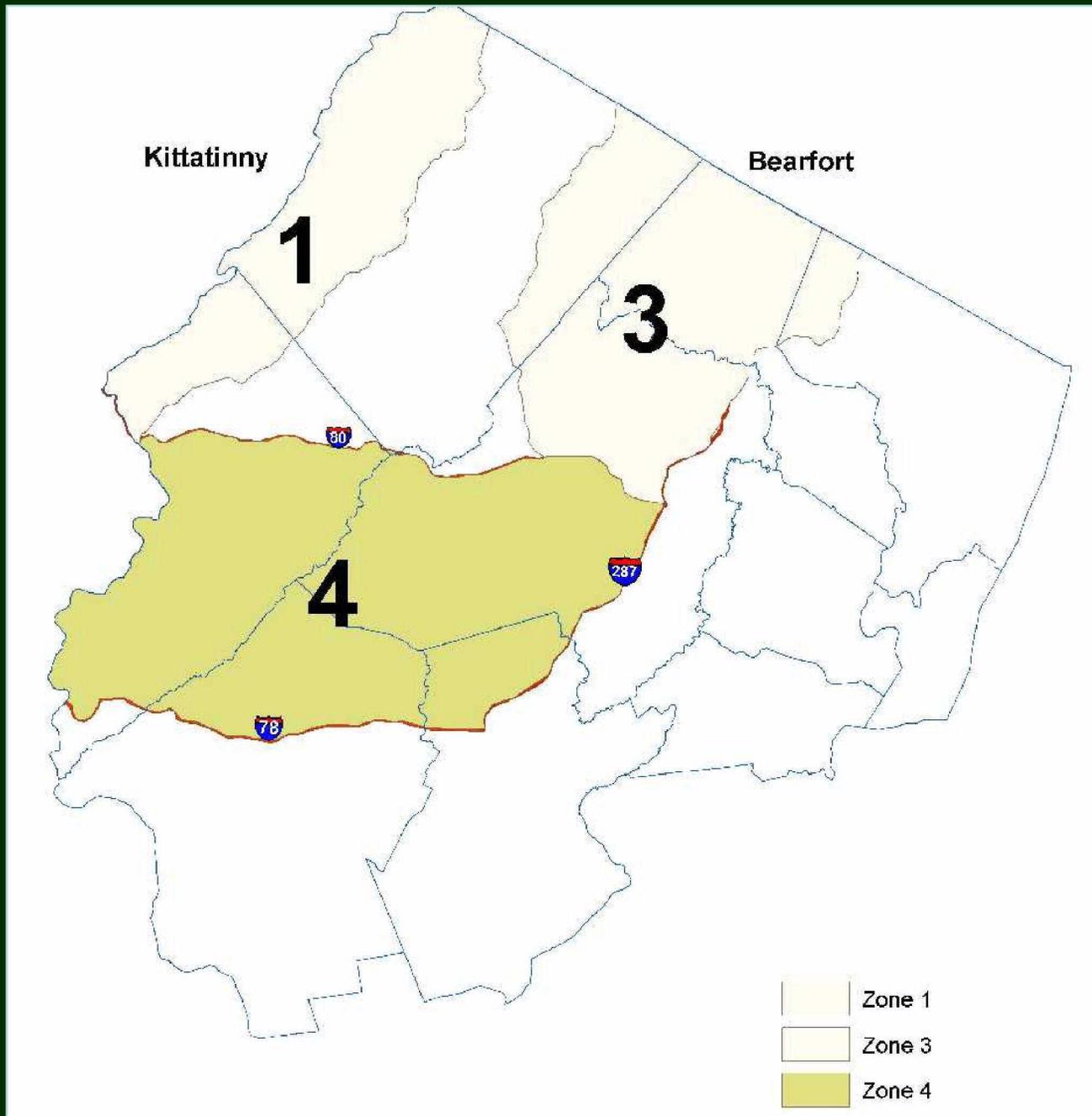




**Cubs are tagged,
weighed and
measured**

**Radio-collars on
sows might be
changed**

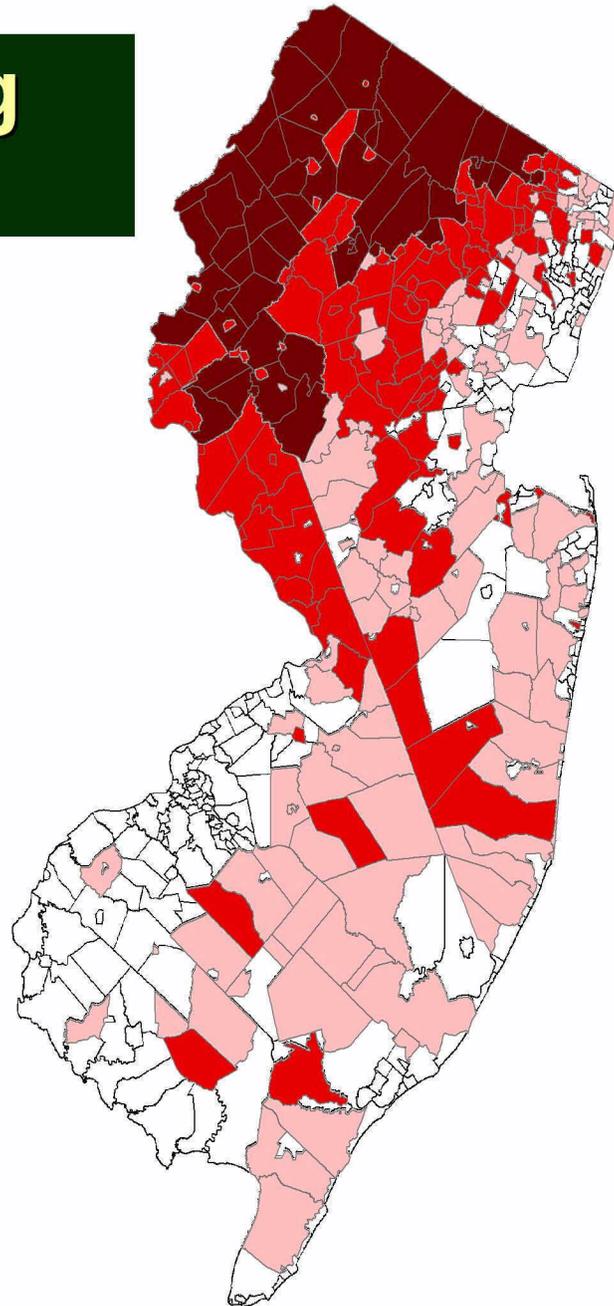




As of 2009

**Black bear
population
in Areas
1, 2 & 3 was
estimated:
3,438 bears**

Expanding Range



Sightings Reported
in 1995

Sightings Reported
1996-2000

Sightings reported
2001-2008

Habituation



Many residents feel the need to feed wildlife



Which Leads To...



Which Leads To:



Habituation





Feeding bears intentionally or unintentionally creates problems and is illegal in New Jersey

Protection and Control Measures

CATEGORY SYSTEM

Category III: Bears exhibit normal behavior and are not a nuisance or threat to public safety.

Category II: Nuisance bears which are not a threat to public safety or property.

Category I: Bears which are a threat to public safety and property.

Category III Black Bears

May include urban or dispersing black bears

BIRD FEEDERS



Category II Black Bears



GARBAGE #1 Problem in Garden State





**Avoid
attracting bears
with
garbage!**







**PROPERTY
DAMAGE
LESS THAN
\$500**



Aversive Conditioning

Category II Response



**Control measures include
rubber buckshot, pyrotechnic charges
and black mouth yellow curs**

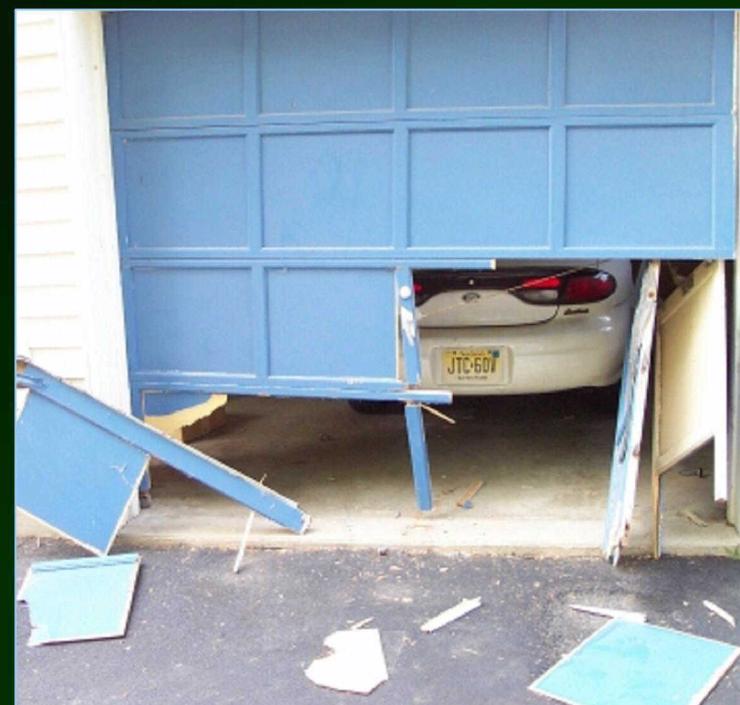
Cyngen, Shawnee Lucy, Copper



Category I Black Bears



HOME ENTRY



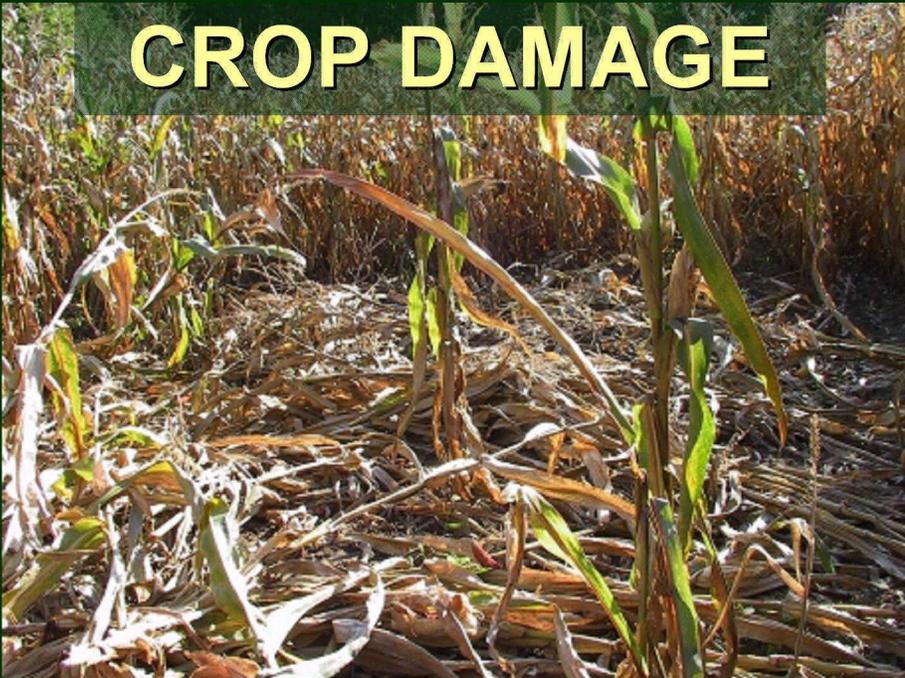


VEHICLE ENTRY

TENT ENTRY



CROP DAMAGE



LIVESTOCK ATTACK



RABBIT ATTACK



DOG ATTACK



BEEHIVE DAMAGE





**SIGNIFICANT
PROPERTY
DAMAGE
OVER \$500**

A photograph of a man in a light-colored t-shirt with significant bloodstains and a tear on the chest. He is looking down with a somber expression. In the background, a black bear is visible near a vehicle. The scene is outdoors with trees and foliage.

HUMAN ATTACK

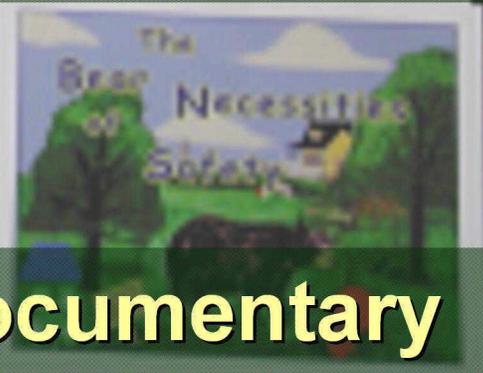
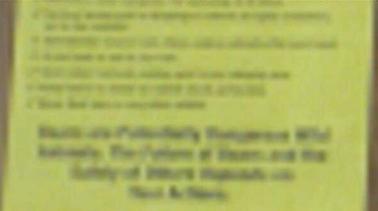
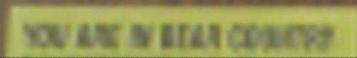
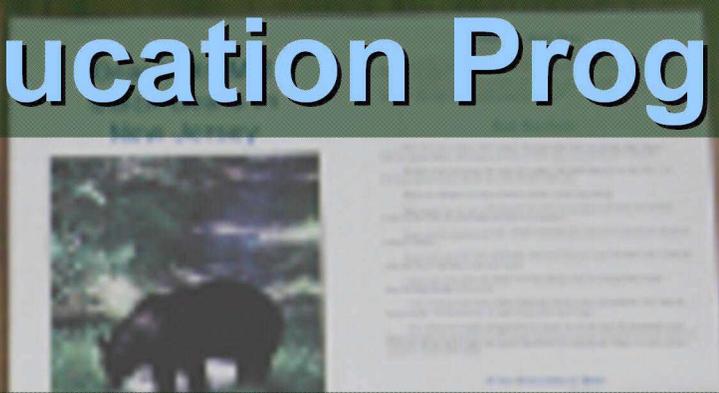
Black Bears are Typically Not Aggressive

Black Bear Education Program

National Recognition for Educational Efforts

Emmy Award Winning Documentary

Telly Award Winning Documentary



Immunocontraception

**There is no FDA approved
contraceptive drug or
sterilization drug available
for black bears**

***NJ Fish & Game Council
remains committed to
advancing the science of
non-lethal population control
measures for the
black bear population***



Bear Damage & Nuisance



Black Bear Complaints Reported to DFW

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESIDENTS





SECURE GARBAGE!

Store garbage in certified bear-resistant containers or dumpsters

Certified Bear-Resistant Containers

Pass a formal testing procedure by:

*The Living with Wildlife Foundation,
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, US Forest Service, and the
Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.*



Captive grizzlies in Montana used to test commercial and residential food and refuse storage containers.

www.lwwf.org



List of Bear-Resistant Container Suppliers

www.njfishandwildlife.com





- Wash containers weekly with disinfectant solution
- Place rags soaked in bleach on trash bags inside container
- Place all trash inside of container



- **Store airtight containers within a secure building or suitable enclosure***

- **Certified containers can be left outdoors**

- **Put garbage and recycling out on collection day, not the night before**

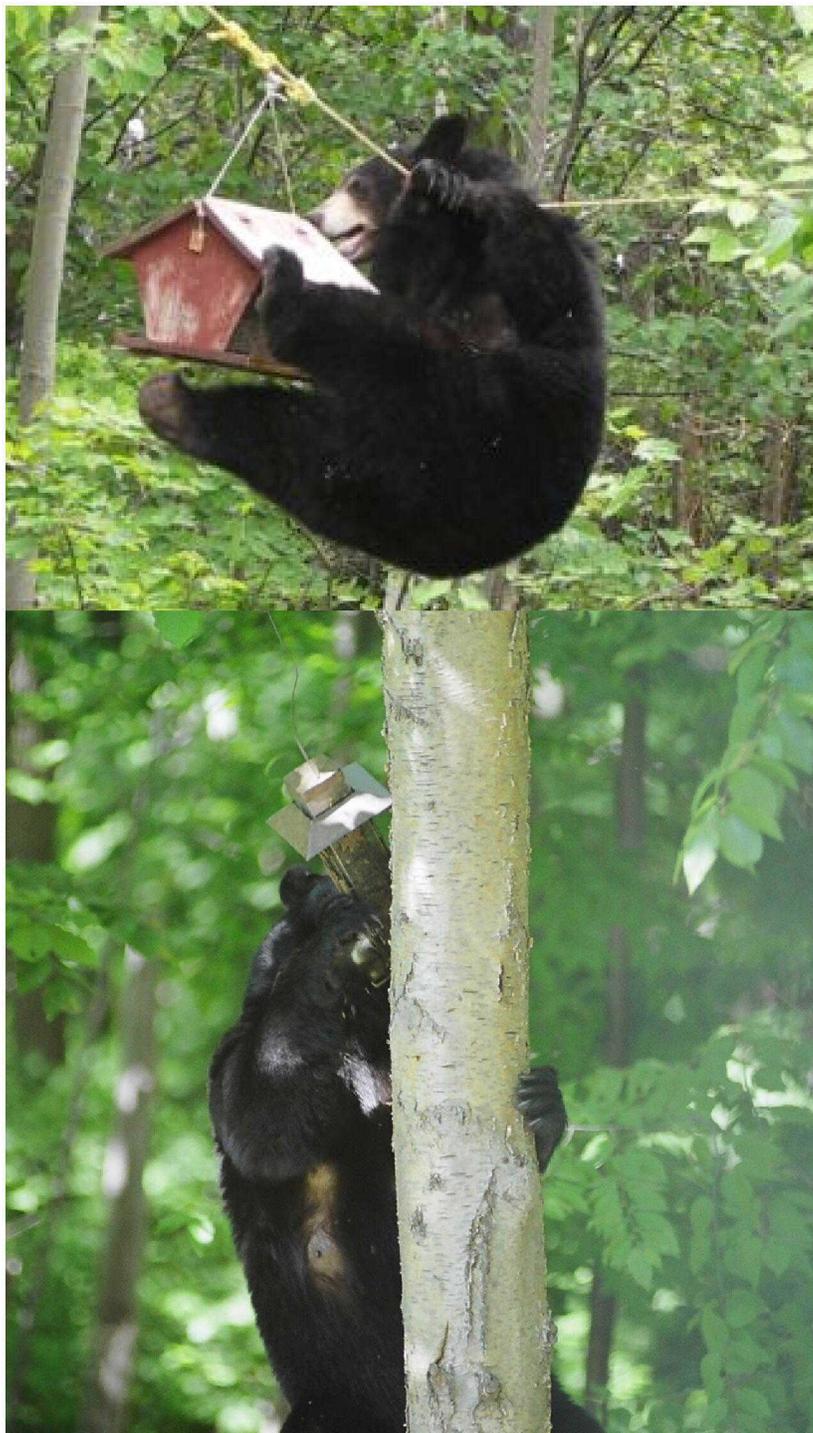


Consider local or community dumpsters

BIRD FEEDERS



Avoid feeding birds



- **Feed birds only from December 1 to April 1**
- **Hang feeders at least 10+ feet off ground and away from limbs & trunk, not off the house**
- **Use spill pans and clean spilled seeds and shells daily**
- **Bring feeders indoors at night**

PETS



**Immediately clean up after pets
Pick up food scraps and bring bowls indoors**

OUTDOOR GRILLS

- **Clean outdoor grills and utensils thoroughly. Grease and food residue attracts bears.**



- **Properly dispose of grill grease. Never dump grease in the yard.**
- **Store grills in a secure shed or garage after each use.**

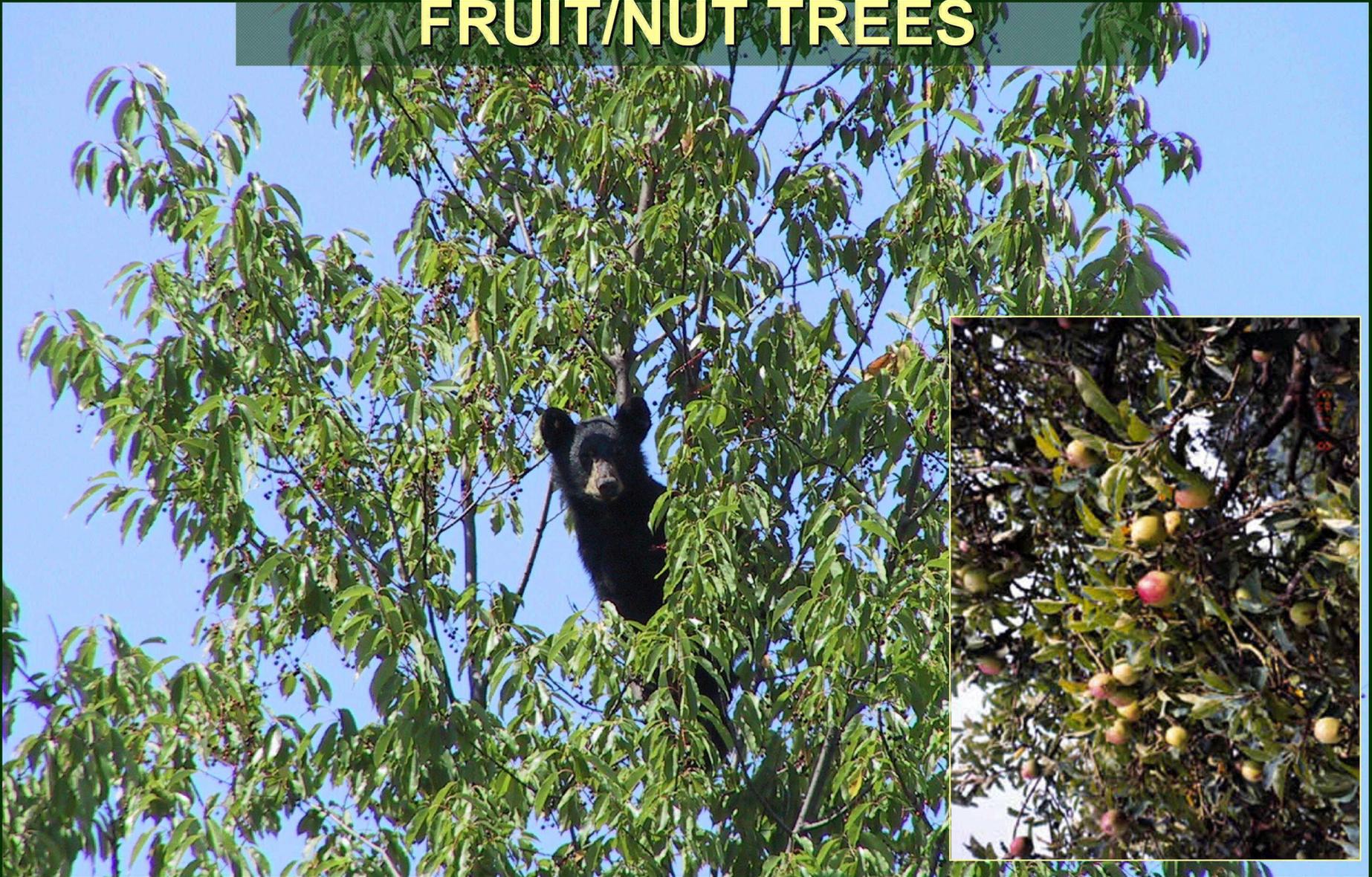
COMPOST PILES/GARDENS

- **Compost vegetable matter only. Meat, dairy and sweet foods attract bears.**
- **Adding lime can reduce odors and help decomposition.**



- **Harvest gardens immediately as vegetables mature.**
- **Keep vegetable gardens free of vegetable wastes.**

FRUIT/NUT TREES



Pick up fruit and nuts that fall daily and discard in bear-resistant containers

BEEHIVES/CROPS/ORCHARDS



- Plant crops as far away as possible from tree lines, wetlands, or other cover for bears.



- Locate beehives, livestock pens, compost piles, gardens and fruit orchards 50+ yards from cover for bears.



**Consider installing
electric fencing
around:**

Beehives

Livestock

Pet enclosures

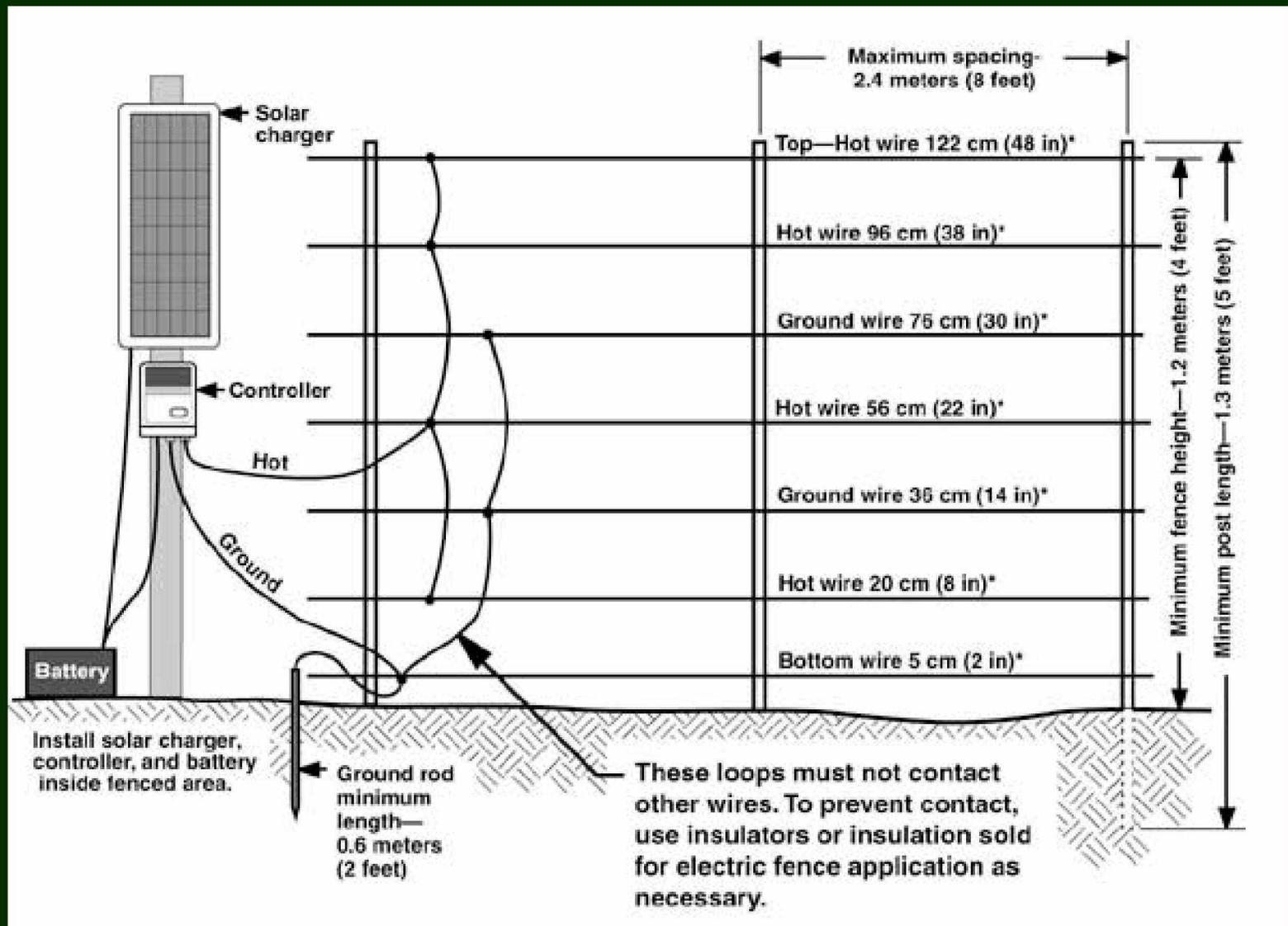
Compost piles

Vegetable gardens

Fruit trees

Orchards





Properly installed and maintained electric fencing is the most effective way to deter bears

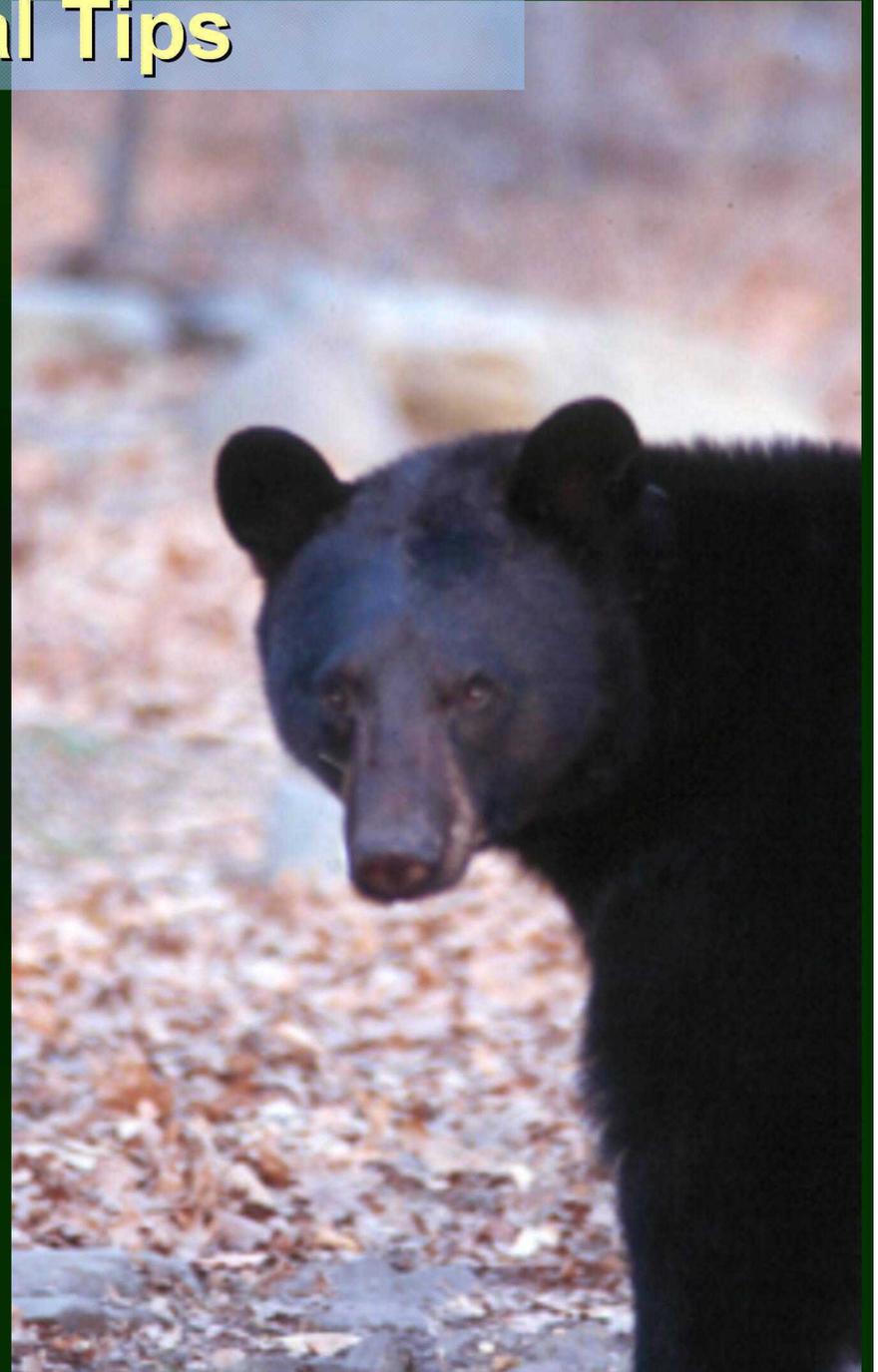
VEHICLES



Secure food in vehicles. Avoid bear collisions.

Additional Tips

- **Try Motion Sensor Lighting or Scare Devices**
- **Have a Bear Plan for Children with Whistles, Air Horns, Escape Routes**
- **Start a Neighborhood Watch**
- **Implement a local garbage management ordinance**



GARBAGE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Unless ALL trash in a residential environment is secured from bear access, bears will become trash-habituated.

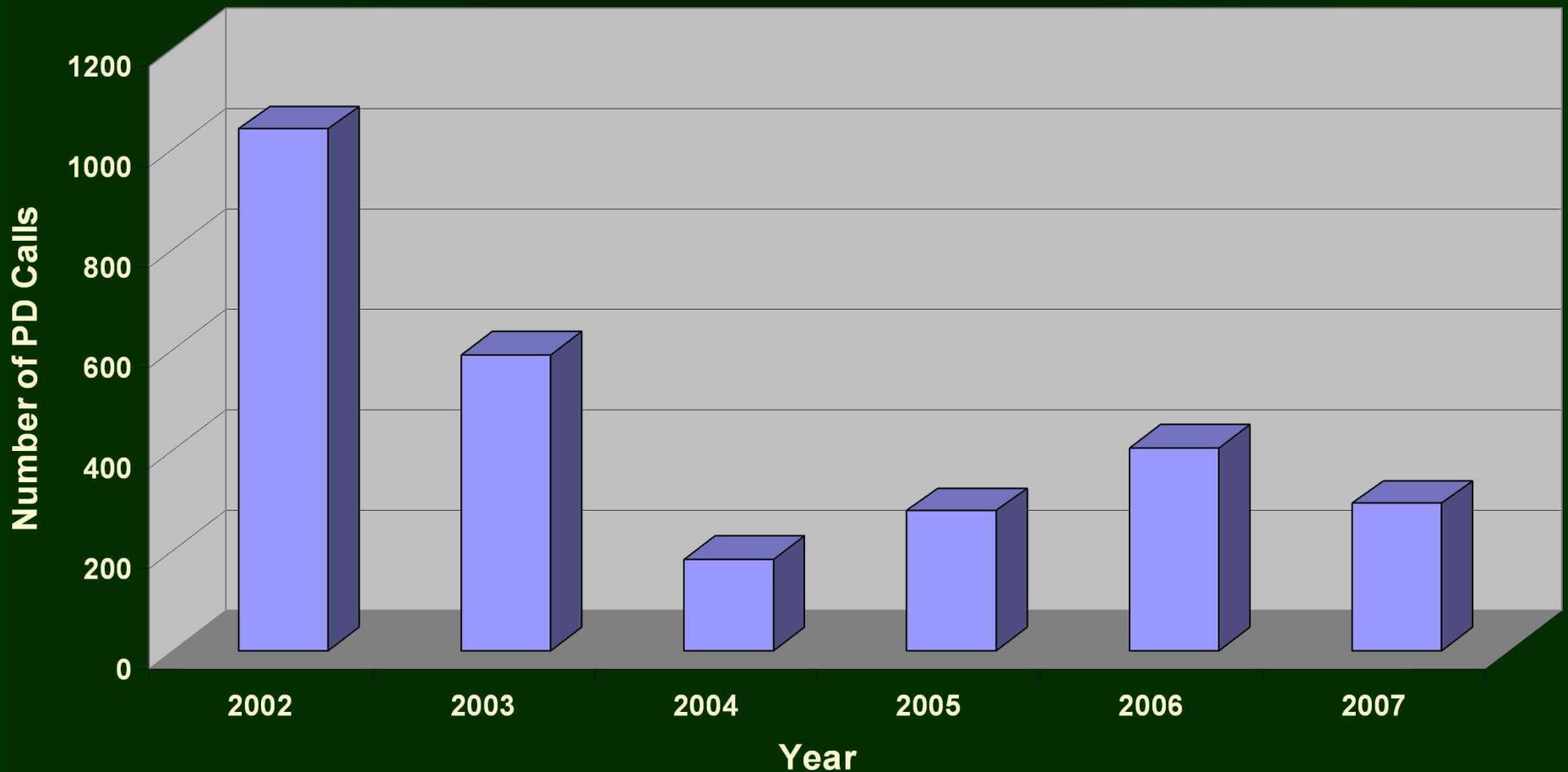
Garbage Management Ordinances address and regulate waste disposal protocols through partnerships.

**Eagle County, Colorado
Durango, Colorado
Juneau, Alaska
State of Alaska**

Province of British Columbia's Wildlife Act

Local ordinances mandate the use & enforcement of certified bear-resistant containers/enclosures throughout a community.

Juneau Ordinance

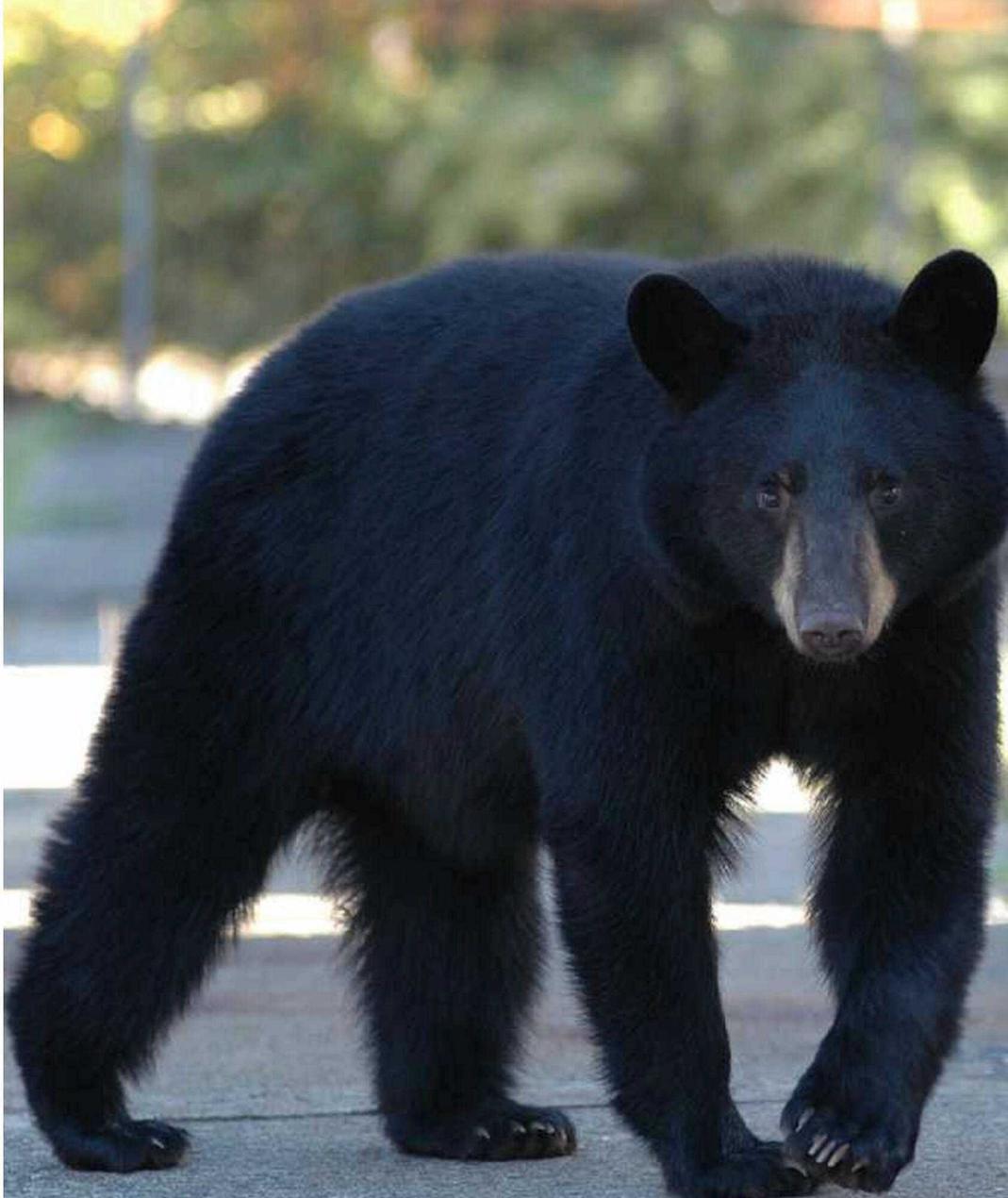


A black bear is walking across a grassy yard in front of a house. The house has a white railing and a white door. The bear is dark brown and is walking towards the right. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

**Report black bear
damage or nuisance behavior
to your local police department
and the
NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife**

**(877) 927-6337
(877) WARNDP**

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR...



Remain calm.

**Leave an escape route
for the bear.**

**Talk and clap your hands
to make it aware of you.**

**Scare it away by making
loud noises.**

**Avoid eye contact.
Back away slowly.**

**If the bear does not leave,
move to a secure area.**

Do not run or play dead.

The Future of Black Bears in New Jersey



THANK YOU!

**For more
information on
black bears in
New Jersey visit:**

www.NJFishandWildlife.com



**Michelle.Ruggiero@dep.state.nj.us
908-637-4125**