

Your Comments Wanted:

Draft Virginia Black Bear Management Plan

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is seeking public input on the *Draft Virginia Black Bear Management Plan* through August 1, 2012. The *Virginia Black Bear Management Plan*, first developed in 2001, is being revised through the involvement of public stakeholders and bear managers. Because VDGIF's mission is "to serve the needs of the Commonwealth," it is important that the process used to develop and revise the Bear Plan incorporates both public values (e.g., economic, sociological, and political) and biological considerations.



The *Virginia Black Bear Management Plan* will guide bear management across the Commonwealth through 2021. This plan describes the history of black bear management, current status (supply and demand) of the bear resource and management programs, and the future of the bear management program in Virginia. The plan identifies a framework of what needs to be done, how it should be done, and when it should be done.

Guided by the VDGIF mission, the *Virginia Black Bear Management Plan* includes four goals that specify general directions for: (1) bear populations, (2) bear habitat, (3) bear-related recreation, and (4) human-bear problems. Specific objectives help guide the attainment of each goal. Potential strategies then clarify how each objective could be achieved, but without delving into the operational details. By clarifying directions for bear management, this plan will assist the VDGIF Board of Directors, VDGIF administrators and staff, and the public in addressing bear issues.

Public input is important! Beginning June 11, 2012, the draft plan will be available at www.dgif.virginia.gov/comment. You will be able to review and submit your comments online. Comments may also be sent to Jaime Sajecki BBMP, VDGIF, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230. Comments are due August 1, 2012.

