

Black Bears

- 1) Is any part of the proposed project within, or within a 15 mile radius of the Eglin, Big Bend, Osceola, Chassahowitzka and/or Glades/Highlands black bear population primary or secondary range boundaries (Bear_Range_2008)? If Yes, then the likelihood that a sensitive black bear population will be impacted is high. Select one or more strategies to implement in each of the 8 categories from the Remedial Action List (RAL) below and submit RAL checklist with the project plans to FWC's Office of Policy and Stakeholder Coordination (OPSC) for review by subject matter experts. If No, see question 2.*
- 2) Is any part of the proposed project within, or within a 15 mile radius of, the Apalachicola, Ocala/St. Johns, or Big Cypress black bear population primary or secondary range boundaries (Bear_Range_2008)? If any part of the proposed project will alter 2,000 or more acres of land, then please select one or more strategies to implement in each of the 8 categories from the Remedial Action List (RAL) below and submit RAL checklist with the project plans to FWC's Office of Policy and Stakeholder Coordination (OPSC) for review by subject matter experts.

If the proposed project does not exceed 2000 acres, determine whether the proposed project falls within the primary or secondary range (or both) of any of the identified black bear populations mentioned; OR whether the proposed project area has in excess of 100 Bear Calls originating within a 15 mile radius within the last 3 years, OR whether in the last three years the proposed project area has had an occurrence of more than 1 bear road-kill per square mile, OR whether the proposed project area is within 15 miles of an identified principal roadkill area. If Yes, to any of the above implement one or more strategy in each category from the Remedial Action List (RAL) below. If No to all, proceed to question 3.

- 3) Use the FWC databases listed in the table below to identify potential presence of bears not previously mentioned within the proposed project location and surrounding 15 mile radius. If bear presence is detected, implement one or more strategy in each category from the Remedial Action List (RAL) below. If the development will alter 2000 acres or have a cumulative impact of 2000 or more acres, coordinate with FWC to have a bear presence site survey conducted on the proposed project location. If Not, it appears the population(s) may not be directly impacted by the proposed project, however cumulative effects of development in the region should still be considered with respect to wildlife habitat and potential corridors connecting habitats. Check with local permitting agencies for any other on-going or proposed projects within the vicinity of the current proposed project, and if possible implement the strategies in the RAL's to decrease the risk of future problems.
- 4) For new roadways, road widening projects and bridge replacement projects only:
Is any part of the proposed project within, or within a 15 mile radius of, any Black bear population primary or secondary range boundaries? If yes, please consult FDOT's Wildlife Crossing Guidelines.

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT REMEDIAL ACTION LIST (RAL)

Select one or more strategies to implement in each of the following categories to reduce likely impacts to humans and local wildlife. Submit RAL with plans and or applications:

1) Land Use Solutions for Bear Range and Habitat

- Plan buffer zones surrounding new development that is a diameter of acreage equal to the total impacting development acreage, and provide a 50 foot easement around streams, rivers and wetlands.
- Establish conservation agreement for adjacent acreage equal to development footprint to mitigate for the impacted areas.
- Establish conservation agreement for non-adjacent acreage equal to development footprint that is connective between primary and secondary bear ranges.
- Establish conservation agreement for non-adjacent acreage equal to development footprint considered to be 'high quality' habitat or within the primary bear range.
- Donate funds to not-for-profit habitat acquisition or restoration initiatives, on a 1 to 1 basis for the acreage and level of quality of habitat being removed from bear range by proposed development.

2) Roadway Hazard and Road kill reduction measures within developments

- Speed reduction measures (including lower posted/enforced speeds, speed reducing road designs, and active speed impediments)
- Increased lighting (including extra signals, flashing lights in high risk areas, roadway street lights)
- Roadway signage (including billboards with road specific wildlife warnings, street level bear crossing and bear warning signs, etc.)
- Proactive road design and improvements to existing roadway to account for increased wildlife movement (for example, extending bridges over drainages and wetlands and incorporating a dry shelf passage, underpasses, overpasses, and fencing to funnel wildlife into each) as outlined in FDOT Wildlife Crossing Guidelines.

3) Public Awareness and Seasonal Information about Bears

- Post signage for seasonal and permanent residents (such as don't feed the bears, only put your trash out on morning of pickup, litter attracts bears, clean your grill, put up your pet food, take down your birdfeeders, etc.)
- Post recreation signage on sidewalks, trails and green spaces indicating bear habitat and bear awareness tips
- Post billboards about bears in the area (wildlife zone, 'welcome to bear country', 'bear your responsibility', etc.)
- Donate compensatory funds to an area not-for-profit organization for annual/seasonal bear information campaigns to inform the public.

4) Ongoing Information Provision about Bears

- Distribute seasonal pamphlets, fliers, newspaper articles or ads to residents
- Include bear smart tips to renters and new home owners, post signs to visitors explaining proper wildlife resistant container use, etc.
- Host annual wildlife festival with regional groups and agencies
- Sponsor an annual wildlife event in the area hosted by an organization or school group.

5) Bear Attractant Prevention

- Homeowners association must supply or require wildlife-resistant refuse disposal for each residential unit
- Establish a bear liaison group of local volunteers to pass out flyers and educate residents about living adjacent to bear habitat.
- Convert all commercial and residential dumpsters to wildlife-resistant design
- Prohibit birdfeeders, exposed barbeque grills and outdoor pet feeding
- Donate adequate funds to a Wildlife Resistant Container Program to supply bear-resistant containers to the HOA, businesses or residences in the development area.

6) Bear-Resistant and Wildlife Smart Storage Solutions

- Provide enclosures for residents that prevent access by bears to attractants (pet food, trash, barbeque grills and meat smokers)
- Provide electric fencing around attractants (feed storage, livestock and poultry pens, etc.)
- Provide wildlife-resistant storage or caddies for each residential unit
- Supply an area group or business with materials to build on-site caddies, enclosures or install electric fencing around attractants.

7) Wildlife Smart Policies and Compliance

- Include a compliance clause and corresponding penalties for violating wildlife-safe practices such as using wildlife resistant containers or garbage canister placement on the morning of pick-up in all rental agreements, homeowners association standards and employee/contractor arrangements
- Initiate a proposal at the city or county level to establish municipal codes to require the utilization of wildlife resistant containers and dumpsters by residents and waste service providers.
- Allocate funds to an area organization or on-site management to enforce covenants and policies designed to protect wildlife.

8) Construction Policies and Practices to Protect Bears

- Prohibit clearing, blasting and burning of forested habitat during the December-March denning season for bears (in primary habitat) and coordinate with other species management plans.
- Require clean construction sites with wildlife-resistant containers for workers to use for food related and other wildlife attractant refuse; require frequent trash removal, and the use of proper food storage and removal on work sites. Adjust trucking activities and material delivery schedule to mandate slower speed in wooded zones, at dawn and dusk, and during the June and July breeding season for bears.
- Conduct frequent and unannounced site inspections and financially reward site managers that keep a bear-smart worksite.
- Incorporate preferential purchasing policies and bid selection guidelines to select consultant, contractor, sub-contractor and material suppliers with progressive ecological policies, conservation strategies, and use of materials appropriate for wildlife habitat

*Table X. Reference documents and GIS layers to estimate bear range and occurrence.

<u>Name of GIS layer</u>	<u>purpose</u>
Bear_Range_2008.shp	Bear populations labeled as primary or secondary range.
Bear_Presence.shp	Grid of bear presence labeled as general bears, females, or reproduction.
Bear_Roadkill_1976-2008.shp	Documented and geo-referenced bear roadkills
Principal_roadkill_2001-2008.shp	Layers or list of roads
Bear_Calls_1980-2008.shp	Documented and geo-referenced bear calls
Bear_Habitat.shp	2004 ranked bear habitat
Target_Habitat.shp	Priority Conservation Areas (identified in Management plan)

Also, please see FDOT's Wildlife Crossing Guidelines.