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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Chad Wilson, Game Mammals Coordinator

DATE: November 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Black bear recommendations and season summary

The following is a summary of black bear recommendations for the 2026 season:

- Create the Dolores Triangle unit by separating it from the La Sal Mountain unit to match other big game unit boundaries.
- Keep the La Sal Mountains permit numbers the same.
- Add 10 permits to the Dolores Triangle unit.
 - 2 spring permits
 - 6 summer permits
 - 2 fall permits

The first year of the three-year recommendation cycle has just been completed. The remainder of this memo is for informational purposes only, highlighting recent data. For a more in-depth history of population trends and harvest, see our annual report.

Population – This represents minimums and should be used to look at the trend more than anything else.

Year	Pop est	Low pop est	High pop est	Lambda
2016	2155	1967	2457	0.97
2017	2152	1989	2442	1.00
2018	2207	2077	2427	1.03
2019	2098	1974	2337	0.95
2020	1912	1785	2135	0.91
2021	1884	1780	2077	0.99
2022	1883	1780	2081	1.00



Harvest

Year	Hunter harvest	Percent females
2019	369	36
2020	467	34
2021	432	40
2022	423	44
2023	342	42
2024	407	32
2025	466	39

CW

