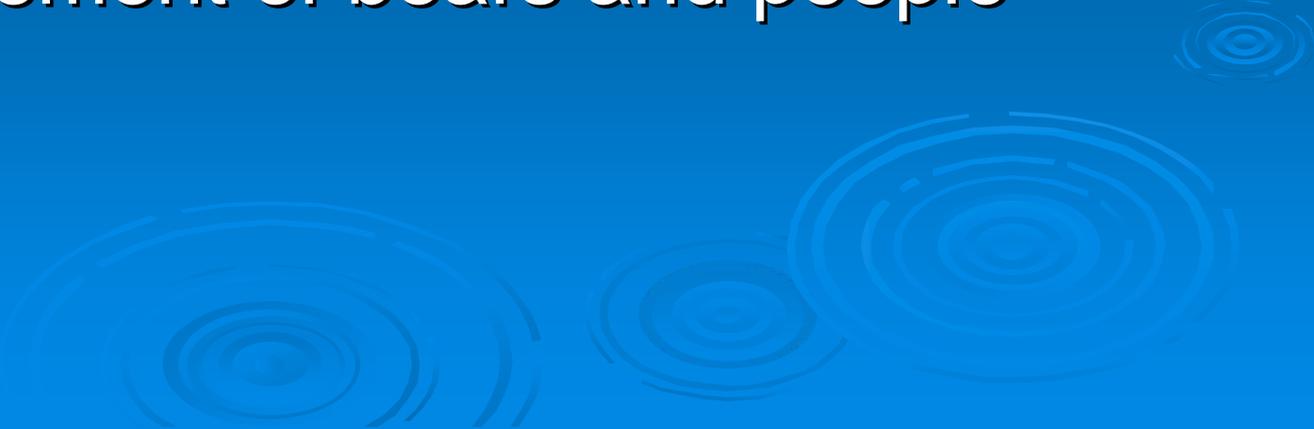


The Tahoe Basin Bears

The evolving changes to
management of bears and people

The background of the slide features several concentric, light blue circular ripples that resemble water droplets hitting a surface. These ripples are positioned in the lower half of the slide, with one large ripple on the right and two smaller ones on the left.

Why is Tahoe so different?



Types of Homes

➤ Typical Bear Country Home



➤ Typical Lake Tahoe Home



People in the Community

- Typical Tahoe residents
 - Affluent
 - City backgrounds
 - More apt to want to protect and have the bear moved!
- Typical other bear country residents
 - Some of these residents decisions are driven by the above community ideals.



Two Entities Dealing with CA Bears in the Basin

➤ CA Dept of Fish and Game



➤ Bear League



DFG Presence in the Basin

Total DFG Personnel assigned to Tahoe

- Pre 2007= 3 total DFG staff
 - Today 5 Wildlife Management personnel (2 person Bear Team) and 2 area biologist and a supervisor.
 - 4-5 Law Enforcement assigned to the area.
- DFG Bear team last year received about 2,000 calls during the vacation season in the Tahoe Basin

Bear League Presence in the Basin

- Anne Bryant
- Formed in 1998
- Approximately 300 members
- Part of the Community
- Service Provided to the community
- “Rocky” relationship with DFG



Two Bear Management Issues Facing DFG

- **Lack of good population study in the Basin**
 - DFG Estimate of 300 bears is only a guess
 - Proposed study in the works for a solid capture release study to get a solid number
- **Lack of Aversion Study on Tahoe Bear**
 - Mixed views on effectiveness of Aversion
 - Proposal in the works to mark 40-60 bears in the next 2-3 years and test aversion techniques

Proposed Aversion Study

- 2-3 Year Proposal
- Satellite Collar 10-15 Bear in first year and track movement
- 10-20 additional bears in year 2 and 3
- Random trap and collar in neighborhoods **before** they are depredation bears
- Evaluate Effects of Aversion Techniques and track movement of bear to evaluate habitat and behavior.

Types of Aversion

- Karelian Bear Dogs
- Shotgun Rubber Bullets and bean bags
- Paint Ball guns
- Tazer?
- Control (trap/ collar/ release without aversion)



Proposed Population Study

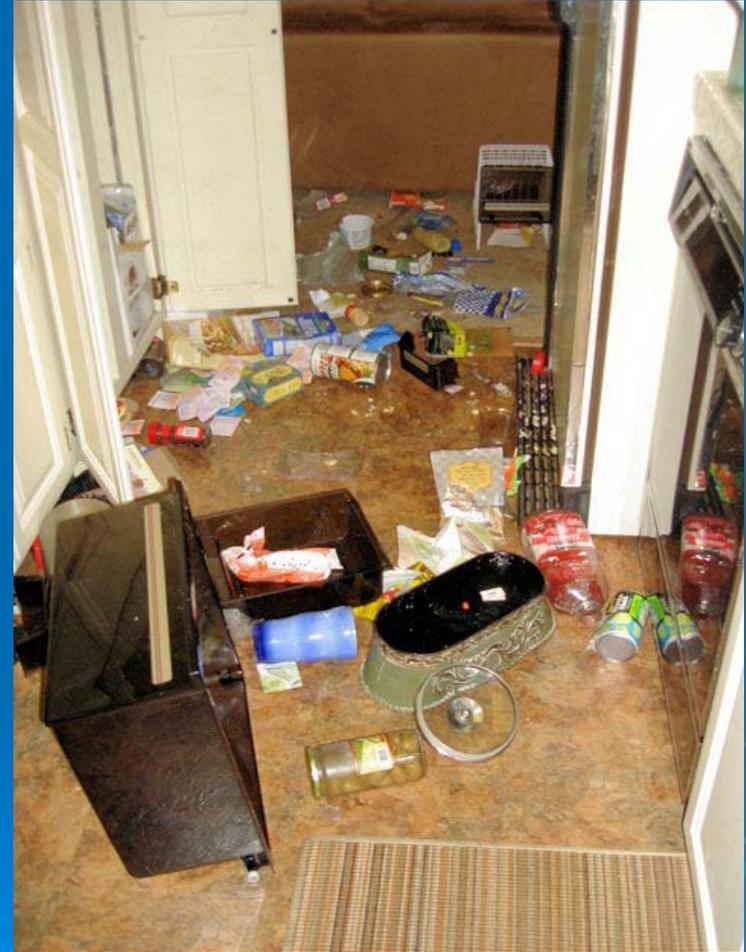
- 2011-2012 Fiscal Year
- Mark and re-capture study
- Culvert Traps/ Pit Tag
- Evaluate year round bear movement: part time “wild” and part time “trash” bears?



CA DFG Types of Bear Responses

- Category 1: No Harm- No Foul (corrective measures/ aversion or relocation)
- Category 2: Habituated/ Nuisance Bear (corrective measures /aversion/ euthanized/ or placed)
- Category 3: Depredation Bear (corrective measures/depredation permit)
- Public Safety (if confirmed / Euthanized)

Depredation Bears



Depredation Bears

- Current belief that the Trash Can Program may actually be moving bears into houses!



Depredation Bears cont

- Placer County requires home owner to be home to set up a trap... issues with Bear League Tampering with traps and accusations of DFG taking the “Wrong” bear.



Public Safety Incidents

- Type A: (Green) Sighting
 - Perceived by public as a threat/ no threat to public
- Type B: (Yellow): Threat
 - Department or LE Officer perceives presence as an imminent threat (Likelihood of human injury based on totality of circumstances)
- Type C: (Red) : Attack
 - Attack resulting in physical contact, injury, or death.

Public Safety Incidents up 2010

- Average has been 2 per year!
- Last year there were 10!
- More incidents of wildlife found in buildings/ structures and making contact on their attempt to leave the structure.
 - In cabins
 - In Resort Kitchen

Bear League

- Can't live with them...
 - Hands-On bear interactions
 - Firearms in community
 - Release of bears from traps
 - Poor press for DFG
- Can't live without them!?!?
 - Take thousands of public calls
 - Respond quickly to community calls
 - DFG could not handle the volume of calls for service



DFG Goals for the Bear League

- Work Together in approach to the problem
- Public Education and advice to community
- Assist DFG with Public Calls
- Not Hands-On bear interaction!



Goals for DFG

- Increased Knowledge of Bear Population and Movement
- Proper analysis of Aversion techniques
- Provide sufficient personnel to handle the bear issues adequately to provide public safety and property protection
- Increased Public Education

Wildlife “Management” Today

- Can not be based solely on population management of wildlife
- Public Perception must be an integral part of management activities
- Must find a way to work with groups who have been seen as “radical fringe” in the past
- Must be willing to adapt to changing society views while maintaining a wildlife management perspective