



**COOPERATIVE BEAR DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
**USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES & WDNR**  
**PRELIMINARY BLACK BEAR NUISANCE & DAMAGE REPORT**

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



Photo Credits: (above) WDNR Warden Joe McMahon – River Falls, WI, June 2025. (Below) local resident - Cable, WI, August 2025.



## PURPOSE

### BEAR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – WISCONSIN

Black bears are perhaps the single wildlife species most emblematic of Wisconsin's Northwoods, and they have distinct cultural, social, and economic value. Bears are of high cultural significance to Wisconsin's Native American tribes, are an integral component of northern Wisconsin's ecosystems, support strong and vibrant hunting traditions, and are popular among wildlife photographers, tourists, and residents who enjoy viewing wildlife. However, bears also cause damage to agricultural crops, property, and occasionally pose a threat to human health and safety. The complex relationship between people and bears in Wisconsin has fostered a diverse array of public values and opinions regarding black bears.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (USDA-Wildlife Services) co-manages bear damage/nuisance abatement and responses to bear complaints with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) since 1990. The USDA-Wildlife Services program is administered from a State Office in Madison and District Offices in Rhinelander and Waupun. The Rhinelander District covers roughly the northern half of the state, while the Waupun Office covers the southern half.

Since 2021, Wisconsin has been a BearWise® state. BearWise is an education and outreach program of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies with the mission of helping people live responsibly with bears. BearWise materials are developed and managed by a team of North American bear biologists and communications professionals and focus on ways to prevent conflicts, resources to solve problems, and encouraging communities to keep bears wild. USDA-Wildlife Services and WDNR partner to implement BearWise in Wisconsin.

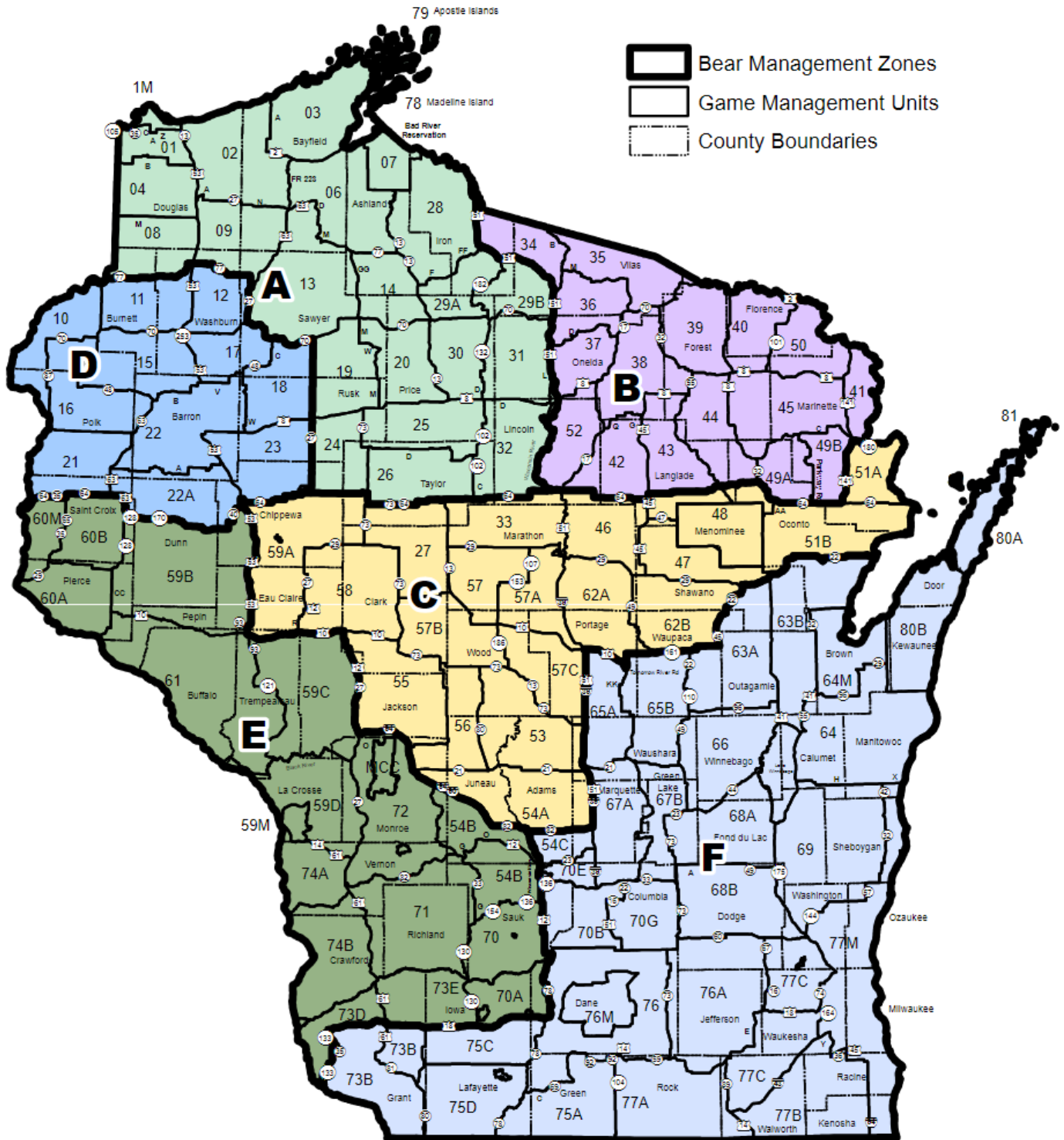
Conflict management is an important component of bear management in Wisconsin. While bear-human conflicts on a statewide level may not be significant, impacts to individuals can be significant and serious. Bear range expansion, human development, changes in agriculture production and crop prices, natural food availability, and other factors can greatly influence human tolerance toward bears and the number and severity of bear complaints that wildlife professionals respond to each year. Bear complaints received by USDA-Wildlife Services District Offices on the toll-free lines are screened 7-days a week to determine the type and severity of the complaint. Conflicts are placed in two categories: 1) Technical Assistance and 2) Direct Control.

- 1) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Includes recommendations, information on bear biology, removal of attractants, literature, instructions, and materials provided to others for use in managing bear conflicts.
- 1) **DIRECT CONTROL ASSISTANCE:** Includes field activities/investigations conducted by USDA-Wildlife Services personnel. Is implemented when it has been determined that a problem cannot be resolved with technical assistance. USDA-Wildlife Services personnel may set a culvert/cage trap in an attempt to trap and relocate the bear if appropriate.

In Wisconsin, human-bear conflicts are separated into three categories: 1) Agriculture Damage, 2) Nuisance, and 3) Property Damage.

- 2) **AGRICULTURE DAMAGE:** Includes bear damage to agricultural crops, apiaries (beehive), stored livestock feed, and livestock depredation. Bear commonly damage corn, especially when corn is in the "milk" stage. Bear depredation to livestock is a rare event in Wisconsin.
- 3) **NUISANCE:** Includes bear causing problems to bird feeders, garbage cans, dumpsters, campgrounds or similar situations that generally involve attractants.
- 4) **PROPERTY DAMAGE:** Includes bear damage to structures (non-residential or residential), vehicles, pets/hobby animals, and sap collection equipment valued greater than \$100.00.

# Black Bear Management Zones and Game Management Units



\*State Park Boundaries and Metro Sub-units are not labeled

**TABLE 1**  
**NUMBER OF BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND BEARS CAPTURED BY RESOURCE**

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

<b>COMPLAINT TYPE</b>	<b>NO. OF COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>HANDLED TA*</b>	<b>HANDLED DC**</b>	<b>BEARS CAPTURED</b>
APIARY	16	11	5	11
CROPS	85	13	72	498
LIVESTOCK	11	5	6	3
NUISANCE	633	539	94	125***
PROPERTY	102	40	62	44****
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>681</b>

\* Technical assistance (TA) includes all complaints which were resolved with education, advice, recommendations.

\*\* Direct control (DC) includes all complaints where a trap was set.

\*\*\* 1 bear captured related to incidental catch

\*\*\*\*9 bears captured related to research projects

**TABLE 2**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS BY BEAR MANAGEMENT ZONE AND RESOURCE**

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

<b>BMZ</b>	<b>APIARY</b>	<b>CROPS</b>	<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	<b>NUISANCE</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
A	6	34	0	241	55	336
B	1	4	1	73	9	88
C	4	6	0	96	15	121
D	2	37	3	141	12	195
E	0	4	6	54	11	75
F	3	0	1	28	0	32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>847</b>

**TABLE 3**  
**BEAR CAPTURES BY BEAR MANAGEMENT ZONE AND RESOURCE**

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

<b>BMZ</b>	<b>APIARY</b>	<b>CROPS</b>	<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	<b>NUISANCE</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
A	4	315	0	74**	36*	429
B	0	3	2	4	2	11
C	4	0	1	5	3	13
D	3	180	0	37	2	222
E	0	0	0	4	1	5
F	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>681***</b>

\*9 bears captured related to research projects in BMZ A

\*\*1 bear captured related to incidental catch in BMZ A

\*\*\* Total: 9 bears captured related to research projects and 1 bear captured related to incidental catch

**TABLE 4**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES BY COUNTY AND RESOURCE**

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

COUNTY	AGRICULTURE	NUISANCE	PROPERTY	TOTALS
ADAMS	0	1	0	1
ASHLAND	4	14	3	21
BARRON	6	36	4	46
BAYFIELD	5	49	9	63
BROWN	0	1	0	1
BUFFALO	1	1	1	3
BURNETT	8	26	2	36
CHIPPEWA	5	23	2	30
CLARK	1	3	1	5
DANE	0	2	0	2
DODGE	0	1	0	1
DOUGLAS	3	84	20	107
DUNN	1	1	2	4
EAU CLAIRE	1	4	1	6
FLORENCE	0	1	3	4
FOND DU LAC	0	6	0	6
FOREST	1	3	2	6
IRON	1	8	0	9
JACKSON	2	0	0	2
JUNEAU	0	9	0	9
LA CROSSE	0	5	0	5
LANGLADE	2	5	0	7
LINCOLN	0	18	1	19
MARATHON	3	16	6	25
MARINETTE	2	14	1	17
MARQUETTE	0	2	0	2
MONROE	0	1	0	1
OCONTO	3	14	1	18
ONEIDA	2	38	2	42
OUTAGAMIE	0	3	0	3
PEPIN	0	1	0	1
PIERCE	0	10	4	14
POLK	3	23	1	27
PORTAGE	1	12	3	16
PRICE	7	16	4	27
RUSK	17	17	3	37
SAINT CROIX	2	34	4	40
SAUK	0	5	0	5
SAWYER	13	57	16	86
SHAWANO	1	14	0	15
TAYLOR	2	4	1	7
TREMPEALEAU	5	4	0	9
VILAS	0	7	2	9
WASHBURN	9	27	3	39
WAUPACA	0	2	0	2
WAUSHARA	0	2	0	2
WINNEBAGO	0	1	0	1
WOOD	1	8	0	9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>847</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**BEAR CAPTURES BY USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES BY COUNTY AND RESOURCE**

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>NUISANCE</u>	<u>PROPERTY</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
ASHLAND	8	5	6*	19
BARRON	17	8	0	25
BAYFIELD	38	14	3	55
BURNETT	22	12	0	34
CLARK	1	0	0	1
DANE	0	1	0	1
DOUGLAS	10	21	8	39
DUNN	0	0	1	1
EAU CLAIRE	0	0	1	1
FLORENCE	0	0	1	1
IRON	30	3	0	33
LANGLADE	2	0	0	2
LINCOLN	0	2	0	2
MARATHON	4	1	0	5
MARINETTE	2	3	3	8
OCONTO	0	1	0	1
ONEIDA	2	1	1	4
PIERCE	0	2	0	2
POLK	18	9	0	27
PORTAGE	0	1	0	1
PRICE	6	2	3	11
RUSK	133	5	2	140
SAINT CROIX	0	2	0	2
SAWYER	170	25**	15***	210
TAYLOR	15	0	0	15
WASHBURN	34	6	0	40
WOOD	0	1	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>681****</b>

\*6 bears captured related to research projects

\*\*1 bear captured related to incidental catch

\*\*\*3 bears captured related to research projects

\*\*\*\*Total: 9 bears captured related to research projects, 1 bear captured related to incidental catch

**TABLE 6**  
**EUTHANIZED BEARS**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

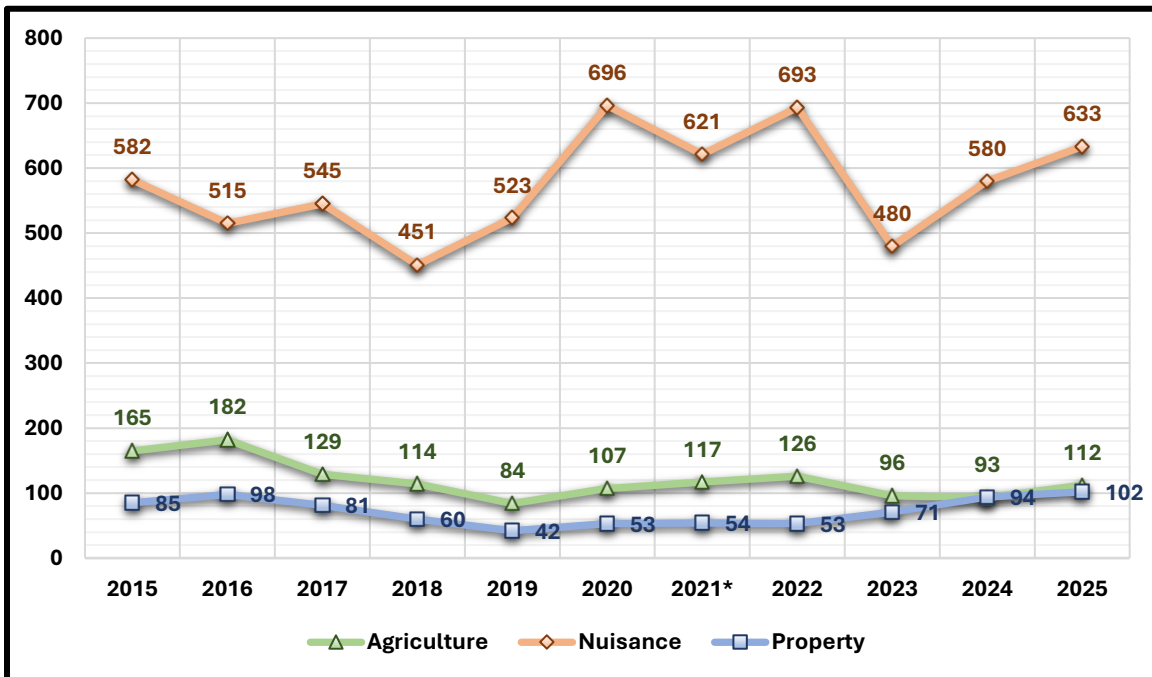
1 = RHINELANDER DISTRICT: WI      3 = WAUPUN DISTRICT: WI							
DISTRICT	DATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE TYPE	RESOURCE NAME	QUANTITY	FATE	PROJECT
1	27-JAN-25	LINCOLN	HEALTH AND SAFETY	HLTH/SFTY, HUMAN Z-(GENERAL)	1	KILLED	BMU A
1	24-MAY-25	LANGLADE	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (BEEF)	1	KILLED	BMU B
3	22-MAY-25	CLARK	AGRICULTURE	GOATS, Z- (OTHER ADULTS)	1	KILLED	BMU C
1	25-JUN-25	SAWYER	PROPERTY	BUILDINGS, RESIDENTIAL	1	KILLED	BMU A
1	14-JUL-25	ONEIDA	AGRICULTURE	FEED, LIVESTOCK	2	KILLED	BMU A
1	8-SEP-25	SAWYER	HEALTH AND SAFETY	HLTH/SFTY, HUMAN Z-(GENERAL)	1	KILLED	BMU A

**TABLE 7**  
**VERIFIED DEPREDACTIONS**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

DATE	COUNTY	RESOURCE TYPE	RESOURCE NAME	QUANTITY	DAMAGE	LOSS (EACH)	PROJECT
30-APRIL-25	CHIPPEWA	PROPERTY	PETS (COMPANION/HOBBY ANIMALS)	1	PREDATION	\$400	BMU C
1-MAY-25	LANGLADE	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (BEEF)	1	PREDATION	\$1,000	BMU B
10-JUN-25	JACKSON	AGRICULTURE	SHEEP (ADULT)	1	PREDATION	\$300	BMU E
13-JUN-25	CHIPPEWA	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (DAIRY)	1	PREDATION	\$3,360	BMU D
18-JUN-25	JACKSON	AGRICULTURE	GOATS, MEAT (ADULTS)	3	PREDATION	\$1,800	BMU E
10-SEP-25	ST CROIX	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (BEEF)	1	PREDATION	\$2,500	BMU E

**CHART 1**  
**STATEWIDE BEAR COMPLAINTS BY RESOURCE**

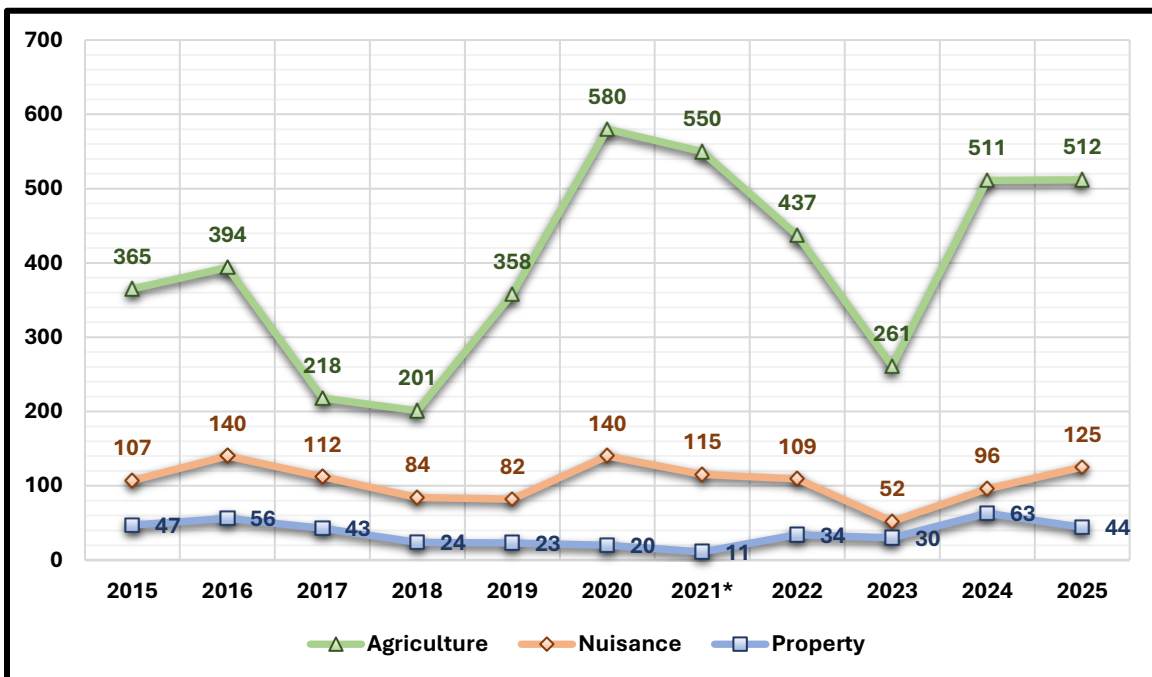
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 2**  
**STATEWIDE BEAR CAPTURES BY RESOURCE**

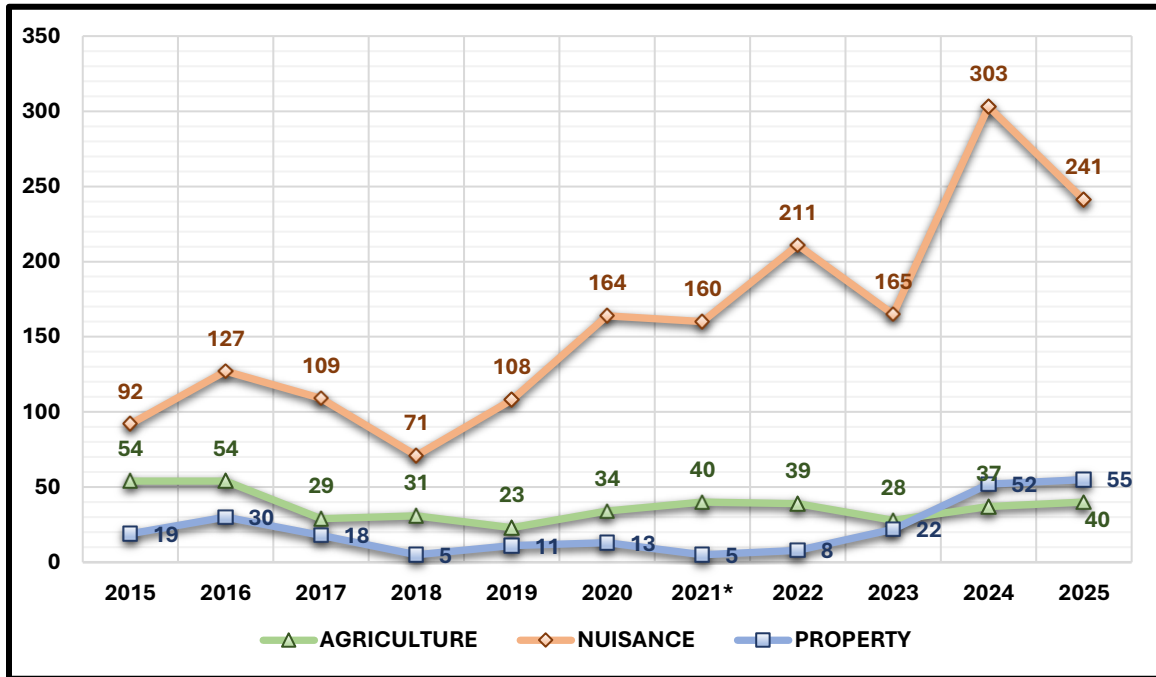
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

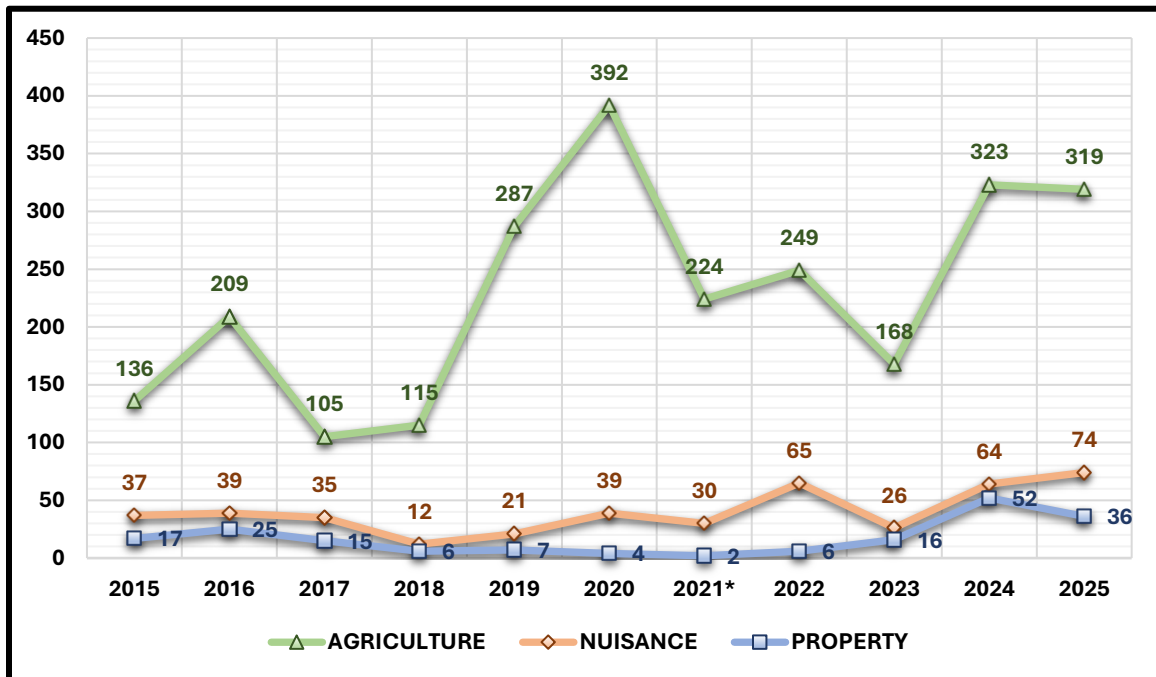


**CHART 3A**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ A**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



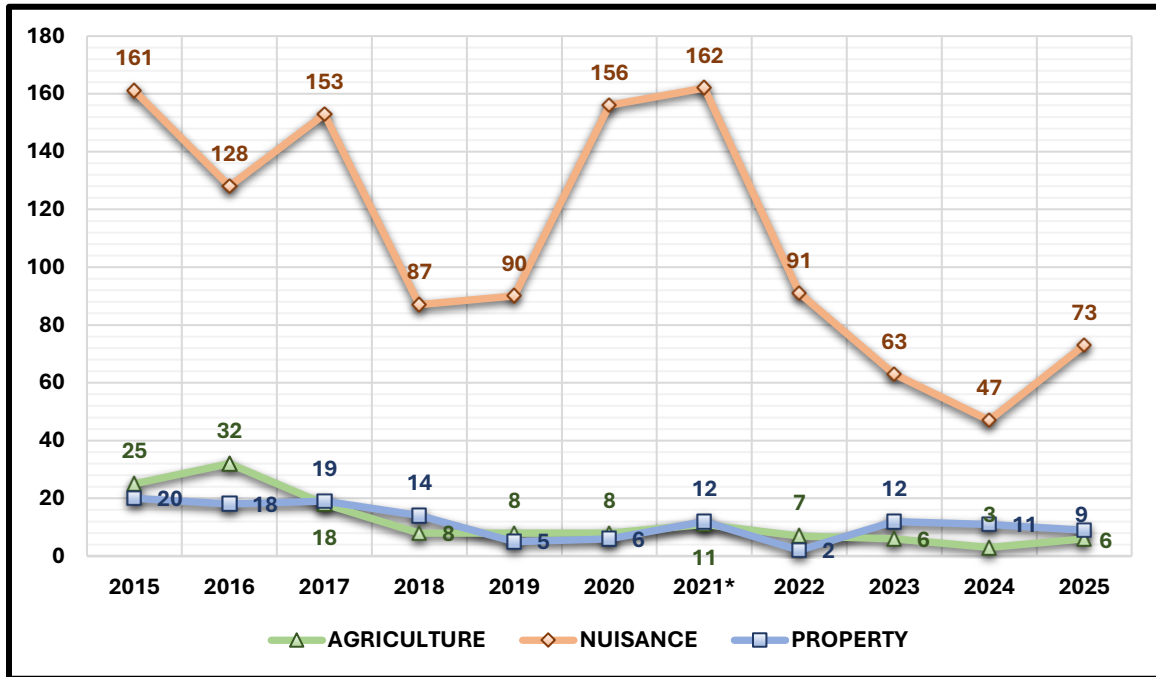
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 3B**  
**BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ A**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



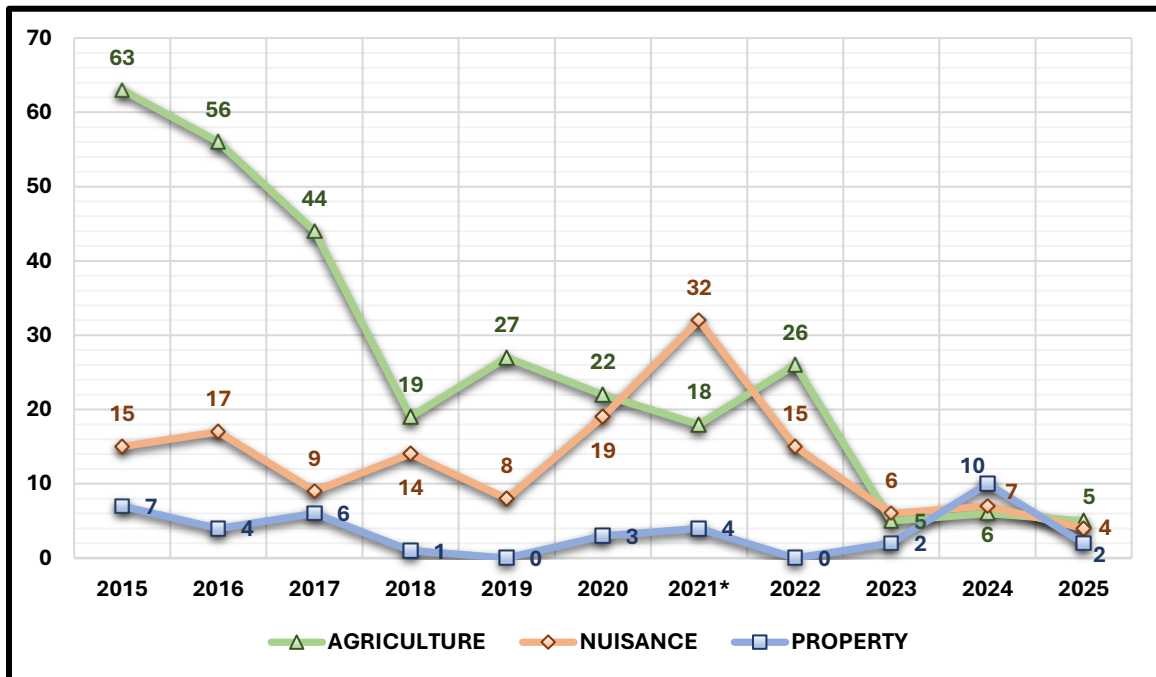
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 4A**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ B**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



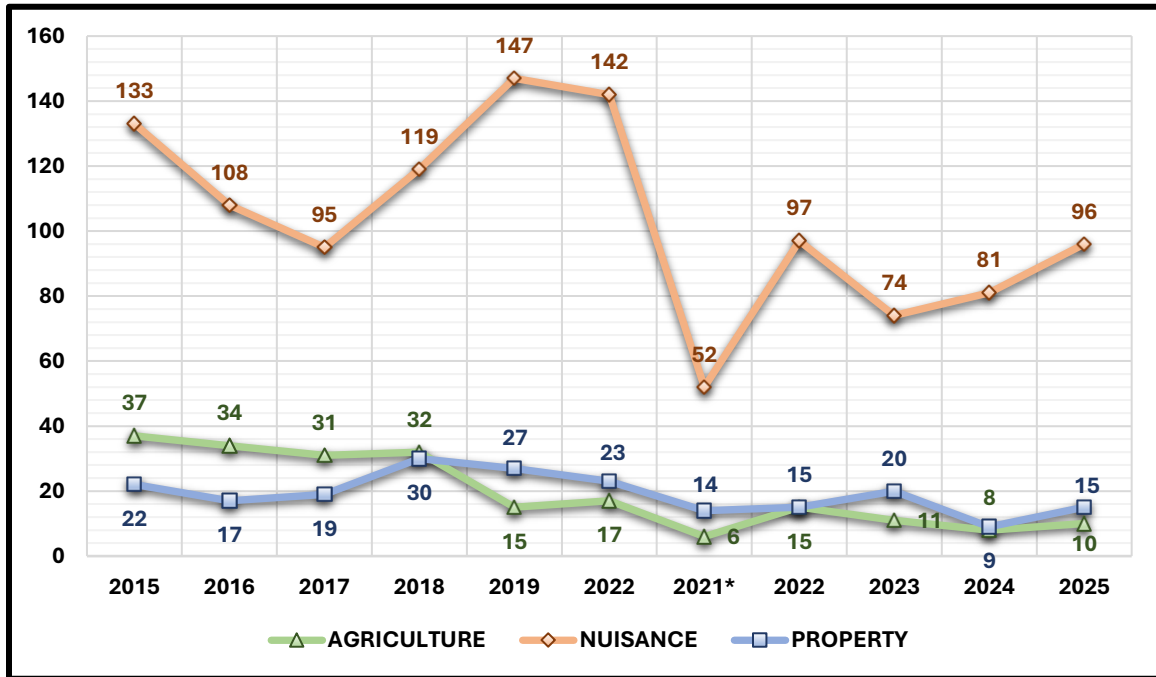
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 4B**  
**BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ B**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



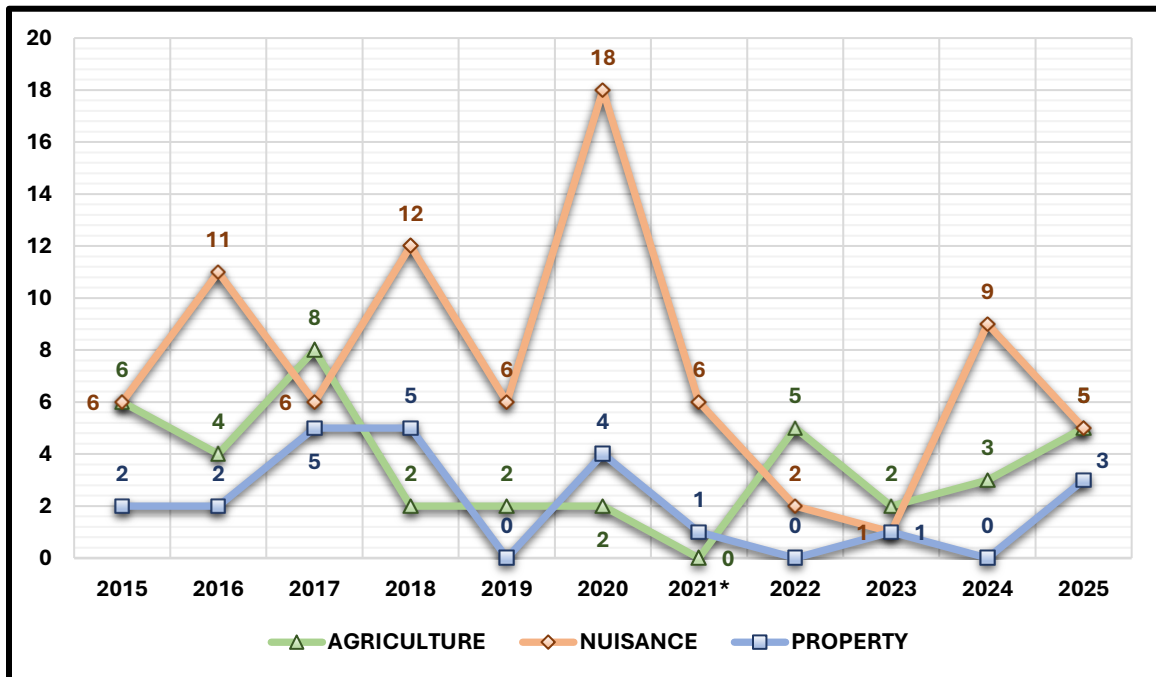
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 5A**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ C**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



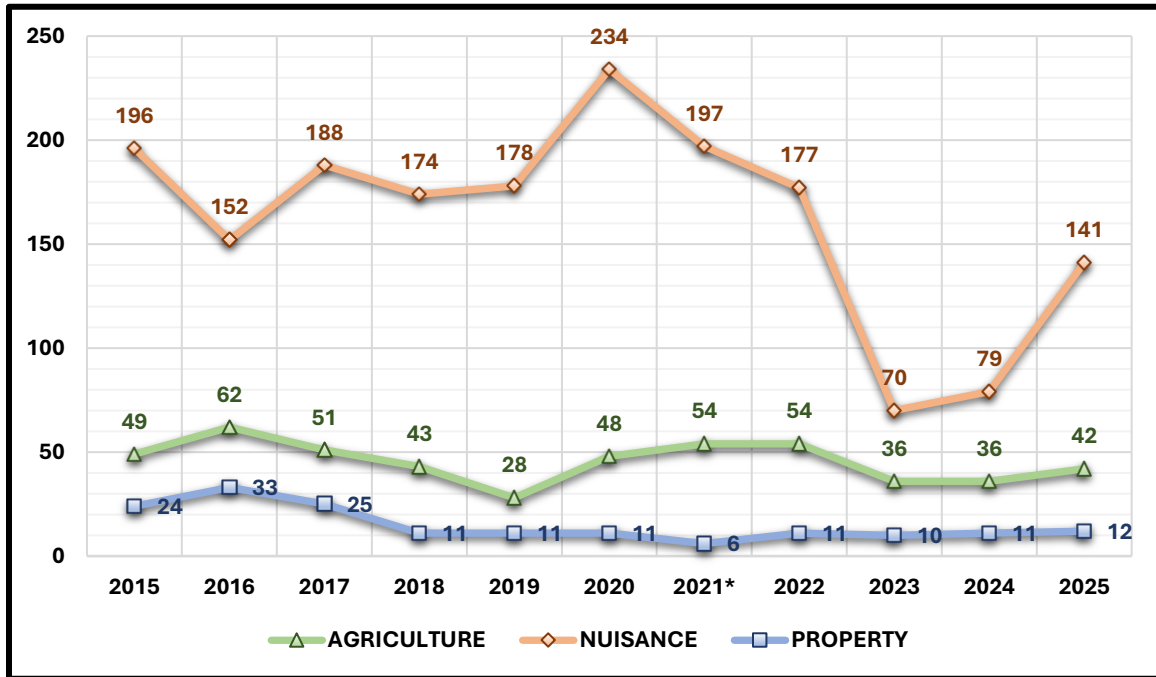
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 5B**  
**BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ C**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



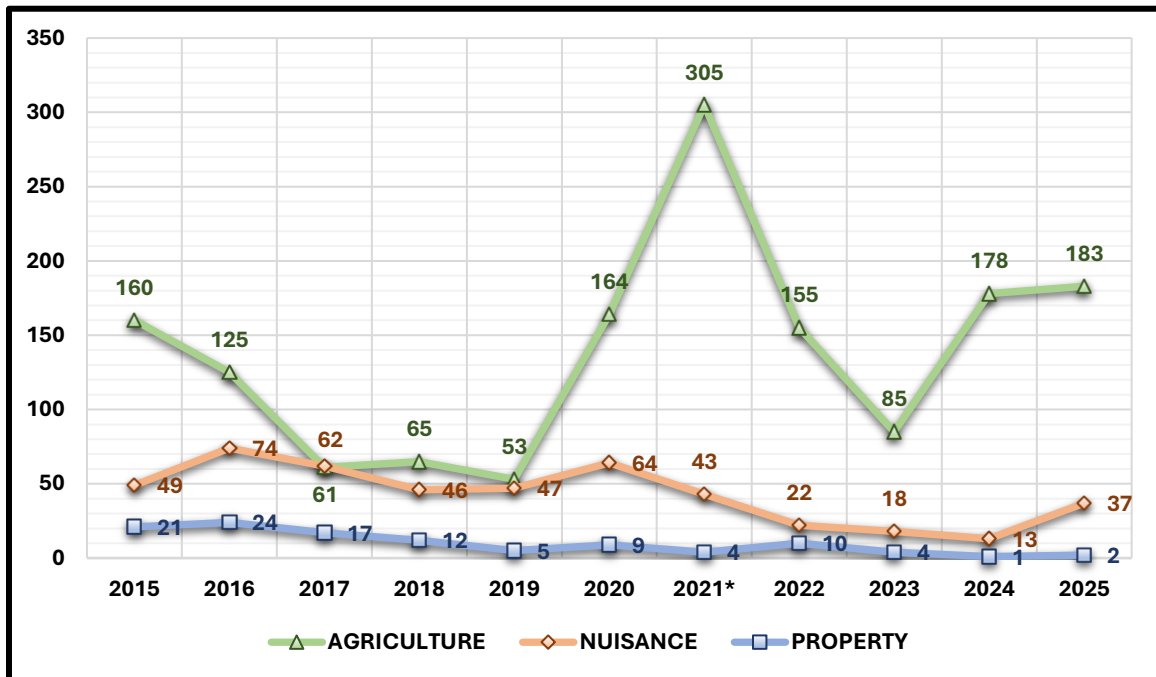
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 6A**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ D**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



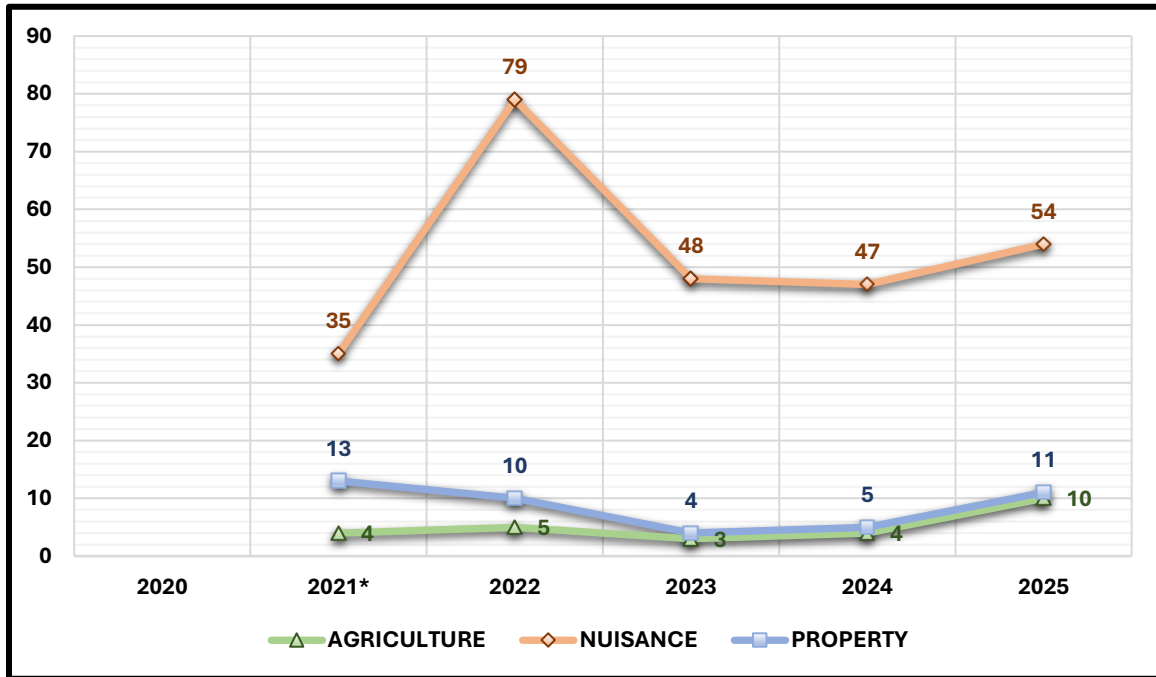
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 6B**  
**BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ D**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



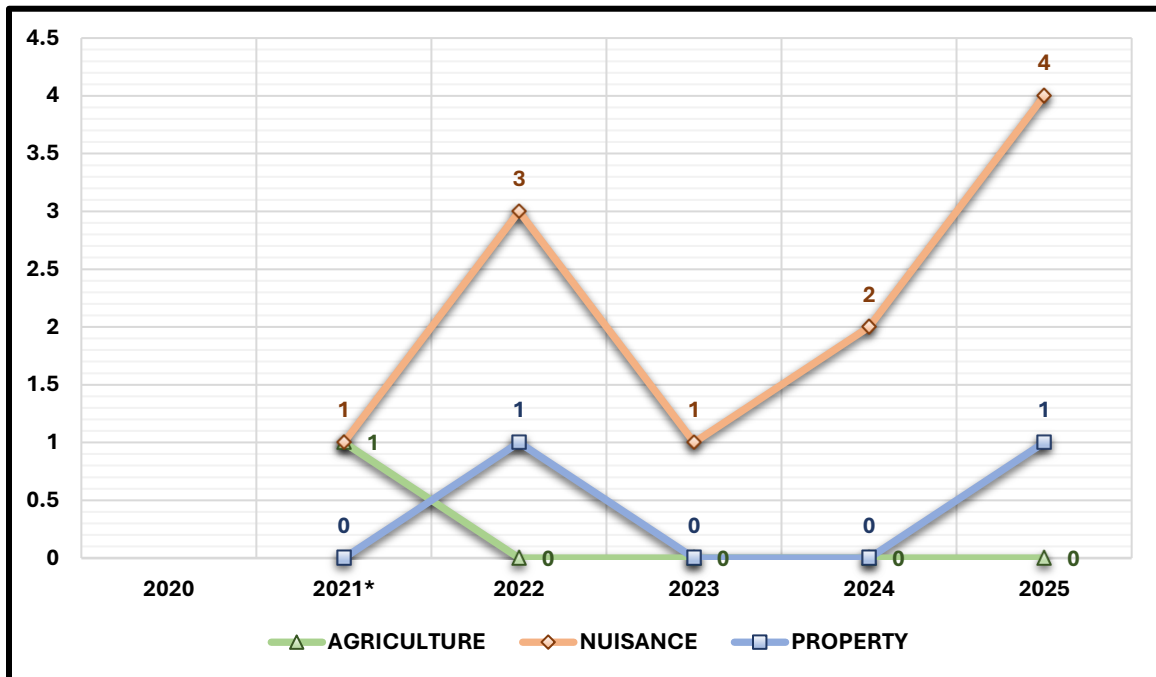
\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**CHART 7A**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ E**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

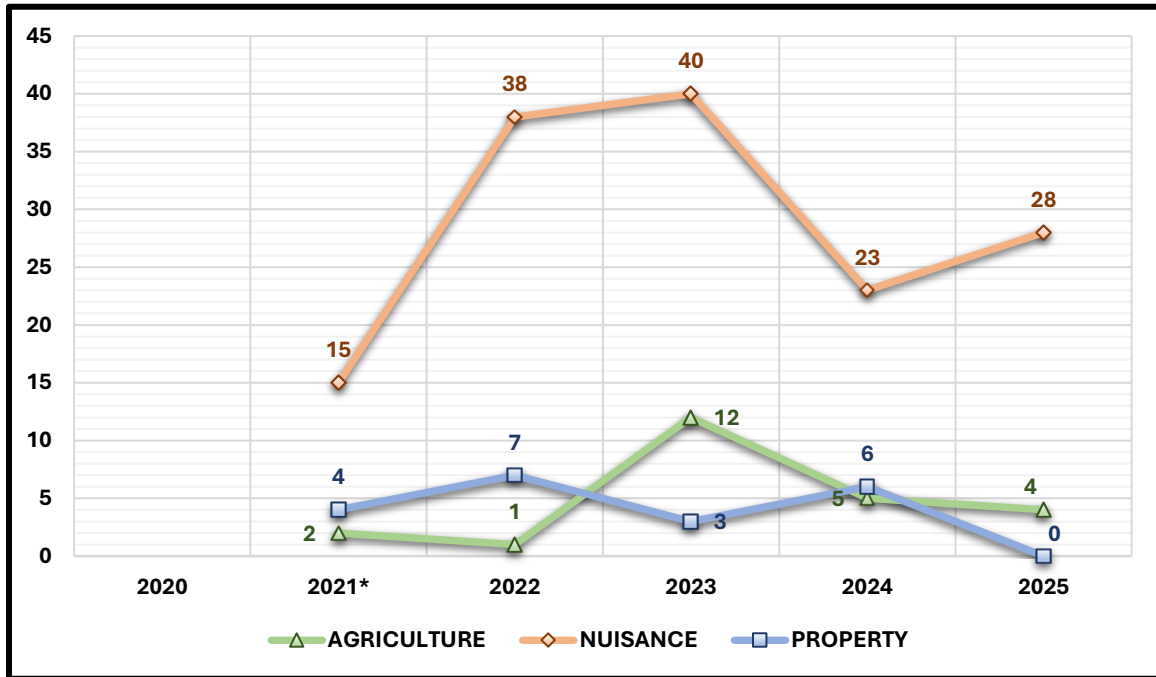
**CHART 7B**  
**BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ E**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

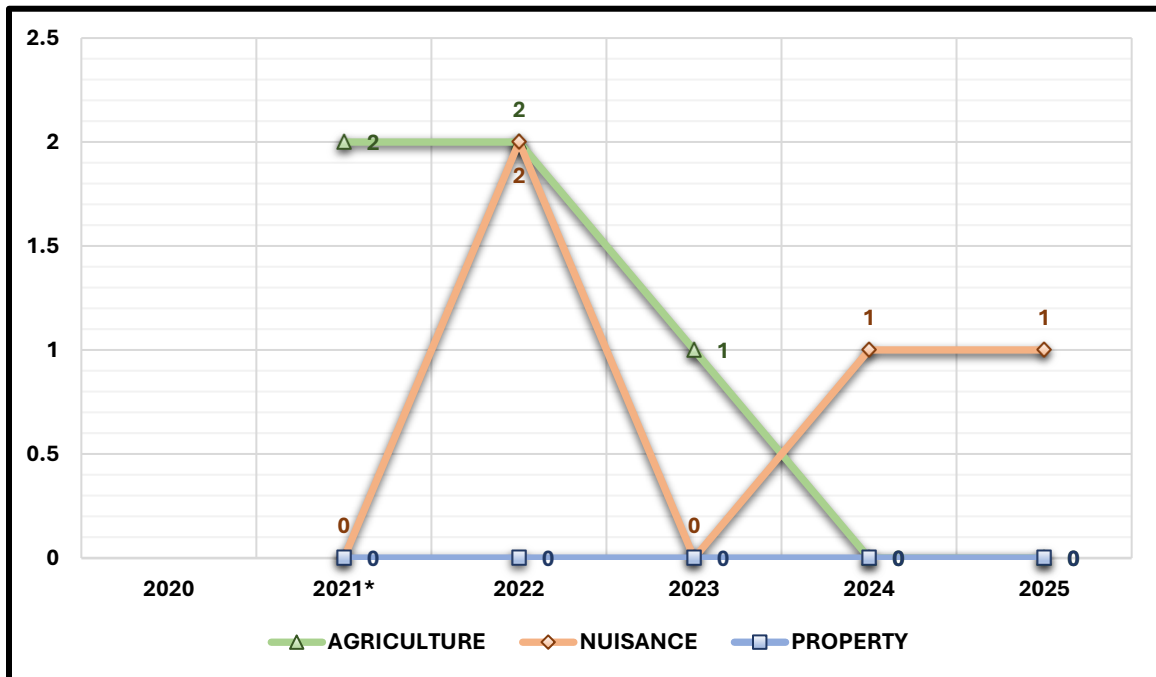


**CHART 8A**  
**BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ F**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

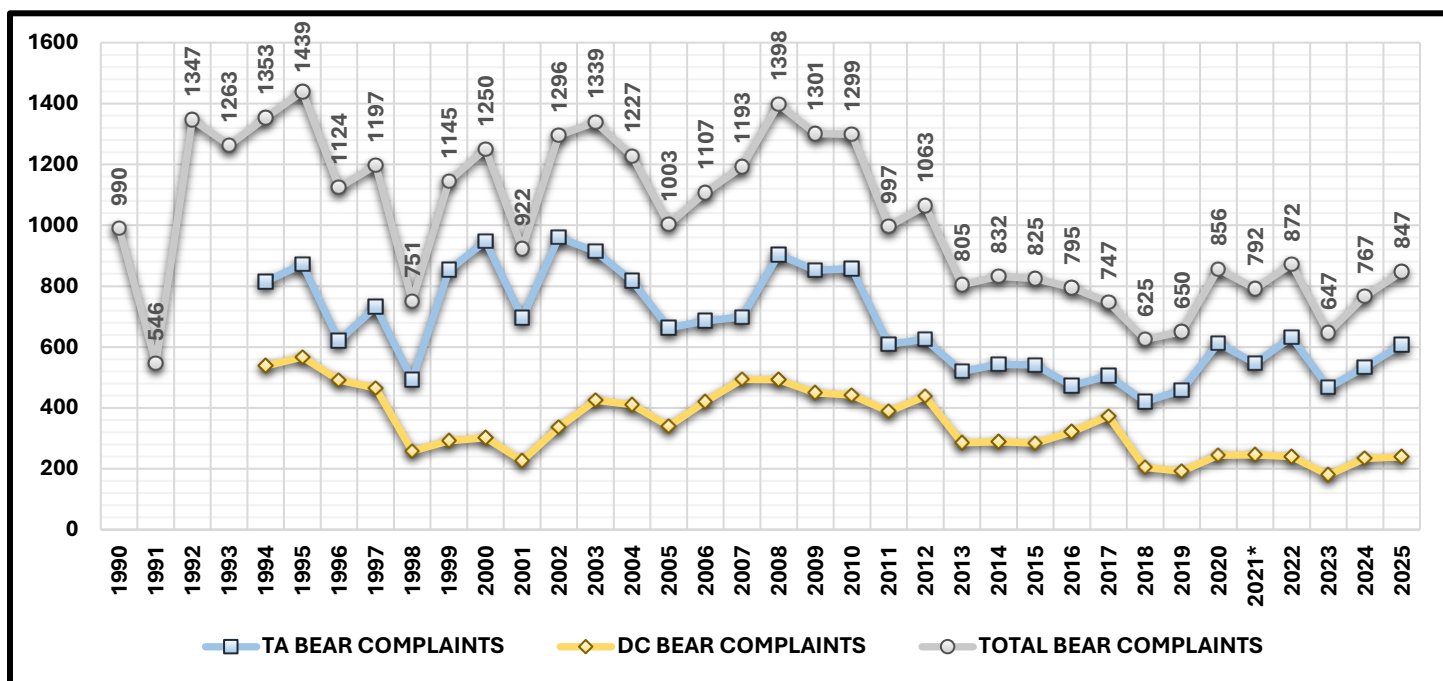
**CHART 8B**  
**BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ F**  
 USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**FIGURE 1**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF BLACK BEAR COMPLAINTS, COMPLAINTS HANDLED WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA), AND COMPLAINTS REQUIRING DIRECT CONTROL (DC)**

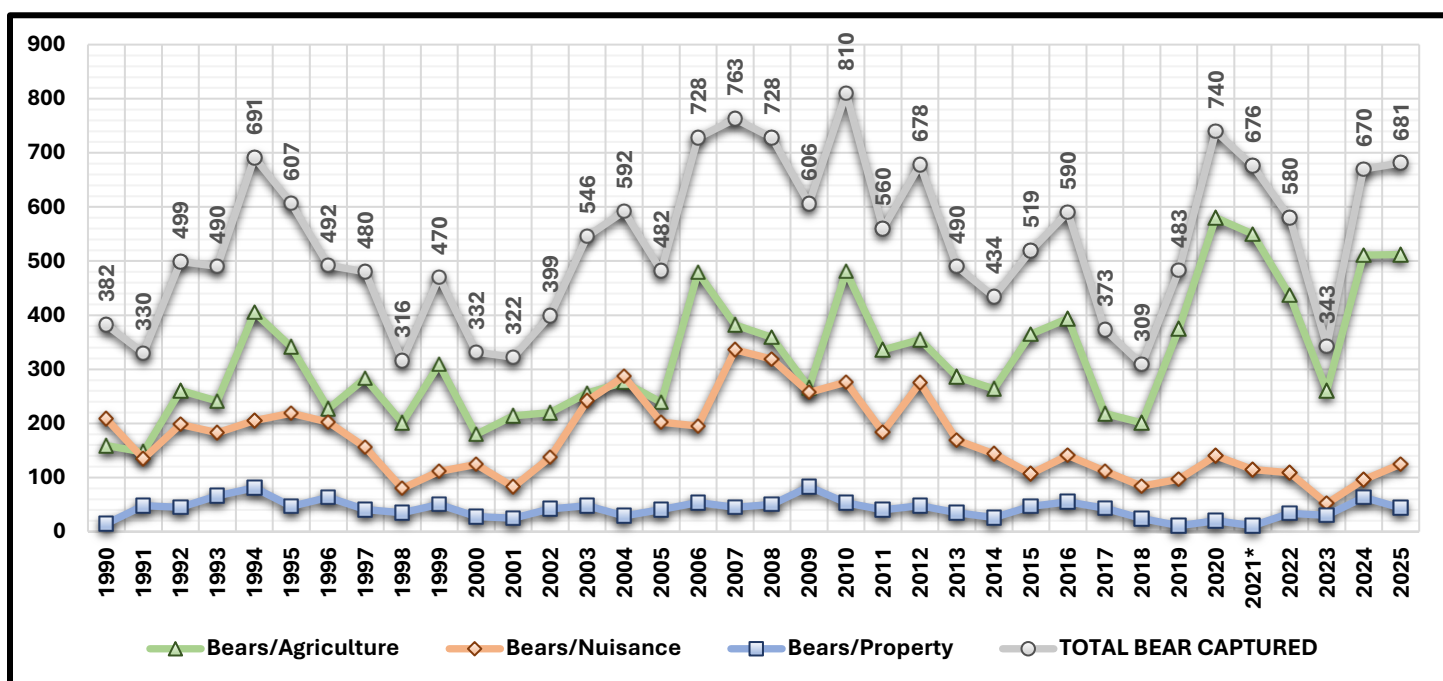
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)

**FIGURE 2**  
**TOTAL NUMBER BLACK BEAR CAPTURES BY WILDLIFE SERVICES BY TYPE OF COMPLAINT**

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES  
 January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



\*2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)