National Wildlife Research Center
Black Bear Study
Objectives

1. Develop models to predict when, where, and how much bear damage will occur based on a suite of biotic and abiotic variables at multiple scales.

2. Test the null hypothesis that black bear damage to trees does not differ by bear sex, age class, forest stand age class, or time period.

3. Test the null hypothesis that black bear den site selection does not differ between public and private industrial ownership.
Capture Planning for Spring 2016

- Washington Sites
  - 40 available, targeted ~20

- Oregon Sites
  - 47 available, targeted ~21

- Coordinated with approximately 25 landowners
  - Almost double when considering separate tree farms
Capture Results for Spring 2016

27 Bears Across Study Area

- Washington (14)
  - 8 Female: 6 Male
  - 7 Coastal: 7 Cascades

- Oregon (13)
  - 3 Female: 10 Male
  - 5 Coastal: 8 Cascades
Capture Results for Spring 2016

- Average weight 171 lbs.
  - 125 lbs. Female
  - 215 lbs. Male

- Ages
  - 12% Sub-Adult (2-3)
  - 66% Adult (4-7)
  - 22% Middle Aged Adult (8-15)
Tracking to Date

150,000+ GPS points collected May-September 2016
Future Direction

- Continue damage/habitat surveys this fall
- Build home ranges for 2016 “peeling season”
- Deploy remaining 9 collars (and refurbished collars) in spring 2017
  - Washington (1 Coastal: 3 Cascades)
  - Oregon (5 Coastal: 0 Cascades)
Questions