

2011 WHIP PRIORITY

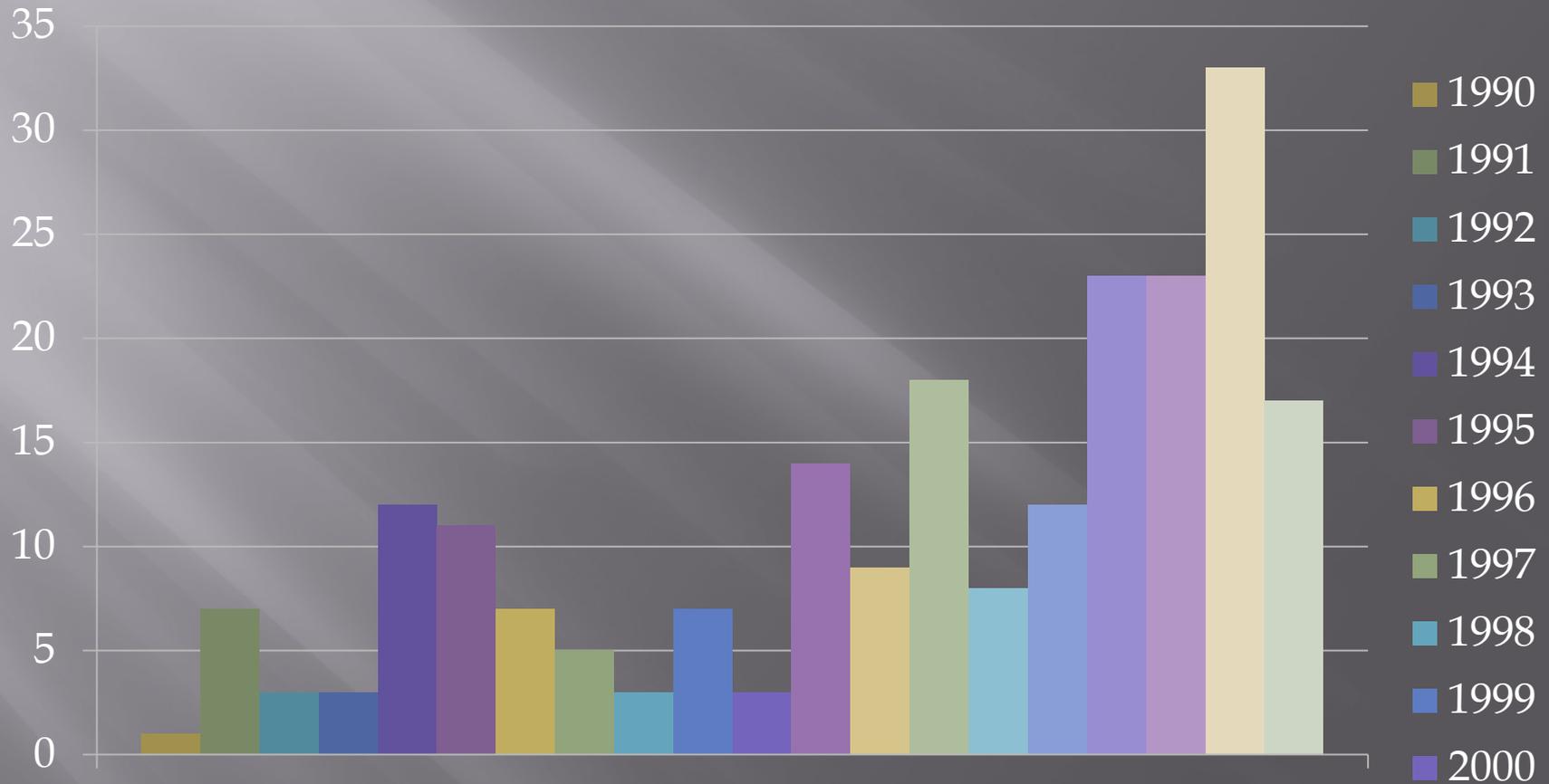
KENAI PENINSULA BROWN
BEAR INITIATIVE

Kenai Peninsula Brown Bears

- In November 1998, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) identified the Kenai Peninsula population of brown bears as a **Species of Special Concern**. The department took this action because the population “is vulnerable to a significant decline due to low numbers, restricted distribution, dependence on limited **habitat** resources, or sensitivity to environmental disturbance (source, Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Conservation Strategy, 2000).
- Bears are **keystone** species in the ecological health of landscapes and watersheds.



Defense Of Life and Property



DLP Killing's of KPBB 1990-2009

2011 Alaska State WHIP Plan

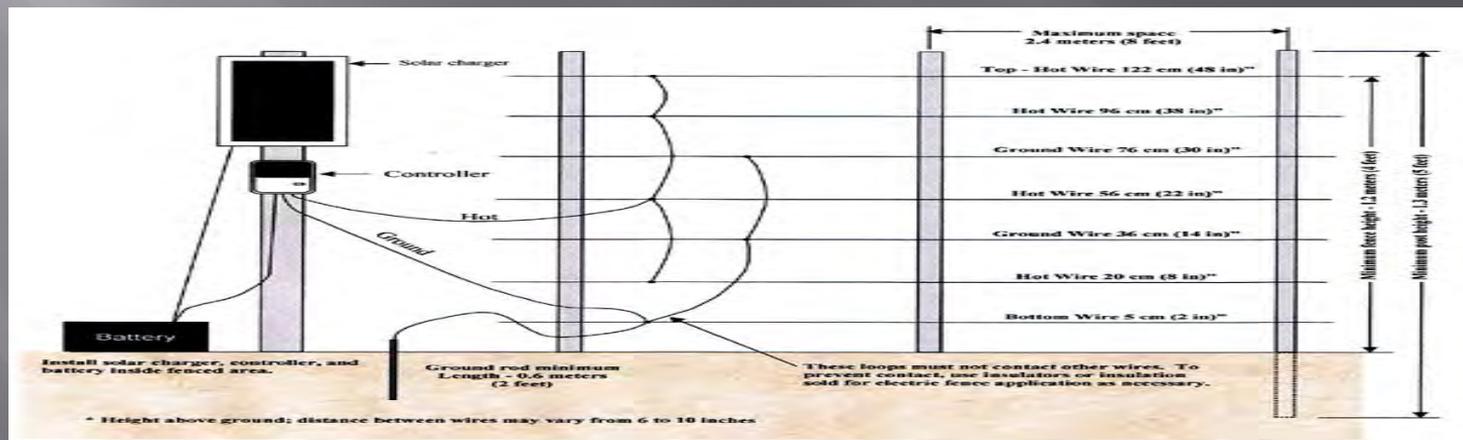
- ▣ WHIP Priority #4
Reduce the incidence of defense-of-life-and-property killings of Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear (KPBB, an Alaska designated Species of Concern) through the establishment of permanent electric fences and management plans at sites of human-controlled attracting conditions or uses. Sites require specific evaluations for funding considerations.

WHIP Priority #4

This program priority is restricted in implementation to the Kenai Peninsula as defined by the northern boundary of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, (ADF&G) Game Management Units 7 and 15. The priority's implementation is designed to address fragmented habitat conditions and the KPBB's population numbers, health and sustainability due to its officially designated status as a State of Alaska Species of Concern. The program is solely intended for KPBB enhancement as its primary concern. Kenai Peninsula Brown Bears are defined as a game animal by Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) which also codifies requirements and prohibitions regarding bears and human activities including potential penalties (in part, 5AAC92.230). In addition, because of the bear's status as an at-risk species and the continuing potential for human-bear interactions, site management plans will incorporate requirements to control and/ or reduce the attracting conditions of the site. Evaluations of site eligibility for funding potential will be conducted using the SITE (Site Inventory Technical Evaluation) Questionnaire. NRCS retains the sole discretion to determine site eligibility.

The Technology in Brief

- Electric fences are proven technologies which have been discouraging bear access to human-induced site conditions, attractants and activities for more than 25 years.
- Only in the last 5-7 years has the sophistication and portable application made it possible to employ the technology on a broad and mobile scale. Since then, its effectiveness in remote as well as power-accessible locations has encouraged more consideration for use in Alaska.



Some Initiative Elements

- ▣ Development of specifications for the materials and installation of permanent electric bear fences.
- ▣ Establishment of maximum project area sizes available for cost-share (.057-1.0 acres).
- ▣ Establishment of payment schedules and allowances for project materials, installation and maintenance.
- ▣ Development of pre-application eligibility SITE Questionnaire.
- ▣ Development of guidance for eligible and ineligible sites, and policy granting NRCS sole discretion in site selection.
- ▣ Requirement for site management plans and consequences of noncompliance with plan parameters.

The Way Forward

- ▣ NRCS will be working in close association with ADF&G, Kenai Brown Bear Committee, the Wildlife Conservation Community Project (WCCP), the Kenai Peninsula Borough as well as other local NGO and government groups to inform and educate Peninsula residents regarding the benefits and opportunity to deploy a permanent electric fence and site management strategy to address the habitat conditions and the potential conflicts between people and the Alaska State Species of Concern, KPBB's.

- ▣ **Some ways to gauge success:**
- ▣ _ a trend toward a decrease in the presence and/ or access of non-native foods and site conditions available to bears,
- ▣ _ **a decrease in the number of human-bear conflicts reported to ADF&G, AK Troopers**
- ▣ _ a decrease in the number of bears destroyed
- ▣ _ **a decrease in the number of bears translocated,**
- ▣ _ a decrease in property damage
- ▣ _ **a decrease in resources expended in dealing with human-bear conflicts, and**
- ▣ _ a continuing and/or increasing annual program participation for this priority.

KPBB's need to use their own free-range habitat and lose their interest in human-induced attractants.



Bear Attractant Checklist

Now that you are an official Alaska Junior Wildlife Ranger, it's time to do your first project. You will need to walk around the outside of your house in your yard to answer these questions. Have your parents help you. Be honest with your answers. Check either YES or NO to mark your answers. Bring your completed checklist back to your teacher.

GARBAGE

Are there any garbage stored outside your house that might attract bears or other wild animals? This includes food waste and containers or wrappers that still smell of food.

Is any outside garbage stored in bear-resistant containers or a bear-resistant shed? YES NO

Can you smell or see any garbage in your yard that might attract bears? YES NO

BIRD SEED

- Are there any bird feeders outside your house right now? YES NO
- Is there any leftover bird seed on the ground? YES NO

PETS & PET FOOD (for cats, dogs, rabbits, etc.)

- Are pet food bowls stored outside overnight? YES NO
- Is pet food stored outside in bowls, bags, or other feeders where a bear could get into it? YES NO

LIVESTOCK (includes horses, chickens, goats, sheep, cows, pigs, and beehives)

- Is there any livestock on your property? (If NO skip to the back side.) YES NO
- If YES, is there an electric fence that surrounds their area or pen? YES NO
- Is livestock food stored outside where a bear could get into it? YES NO

Go to back _____