**Black Bear Facts**

- The Louisiana black bear is a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.
- Breeding bear populations are located in the Tensas and Atchafalaya river basins.
- Male bears weigh 150 to over 350 lbs and females weigh 120 to 250 lbs.
- Male home ranges average 20,000 acres while females average 5,000 acres.

Denning starts in December and continues into April.

- Bears prefer to den in large, hollow trees, but will also den in brushpiles and thickets.
- Denning bears go into a deep sleep, but can be aroused if disturbed.
- Females mature at 3-5 years of age and have 1-5 cubs every other year.
- Cubs are born in the den weighing 8 oz and come out of the den weighing 4 lbs.
- Cubs stay with their mother for one and a half years.
- Bears are opportunistic feeders and will eat almost anything available.
- A bear's diet consists of 90 percent vegetables, nuts, fruits and berries.
- Most protein in a bear's diet comes from colonial insects like termites and ants.
- Prime bear habitat includes escape cover, dispersal corridors, diverse foods and dens.

**It's the Law**

- It is a violation of federal and state laws to kill a Louisiana black bear, with penalties of up to $100,000, loss of hunting privileges worldwide and/or jail time.
- Cash rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest of anyone killing a black bear.
- Hog hunters BEWARE, hogs and bears can look very similar. Know your target!

**If You Encounter a Bear**

- **NEVER APPROACH A BEAR!**
- Bears are normally shy and not aggressive towards humans.
- If a bear regularly visits your deer stand, scare it with rocks, a sling shot, or air horn.
- If you encounter a bear at close range, talk in a calm manner while backing away slowly, do not make eye contact.
- **DO NOT RUN!** This can trigger a bear's chase instinct.
- If a bear approaches you, stand your ground, raise your arms to appear larger, yell at the bear, and make eye contact to scare it off.
- If attacked, fight back aggressively with anything available.
- **DO NOT PLAY DEAD!**

For more information on the Louisiana black bear, contact:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
(225)765-2385
www.wlf.louisiana.gov

Black Bear Conservation Committee
(225)763-5425
www.bbcc.org

TO REPORT A BEAR CONFLICT, CALL: 1-800-442-2511
(24 hours/7 days a week)
Prevent Bear Conflicts

- Keep camps clean to prevent odors that will attract bears.
- Discard gut piles away from camp.
- Placing deer corn in piles or in open feeders will attract bears.
- Using an automated feeder hung out of reach of bears will decrease bear visitation.
- Switching bait types from corn to soybeans will reduce bear activity.

Feeder should be hung at least 8 ft high and 4 ft from the attachment point.

Electric fencing will deter bears while allowing deer access to feeders.

Planting food plots is the best way to attract deer and avoid bear visits!