



BLACK BEAR CONSERVATION PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

May 21, 2024

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**Big Game & Science Support Units,
Wildlife Branch**



Meeting Format

- Purpose of this meeting is informational
- Overview of Black Bear Conservation Plan
 - Purpose
 - Content
- Comment process explained (public comment April 19th – June 14th)
- Questions/Answers



Plan Purpose

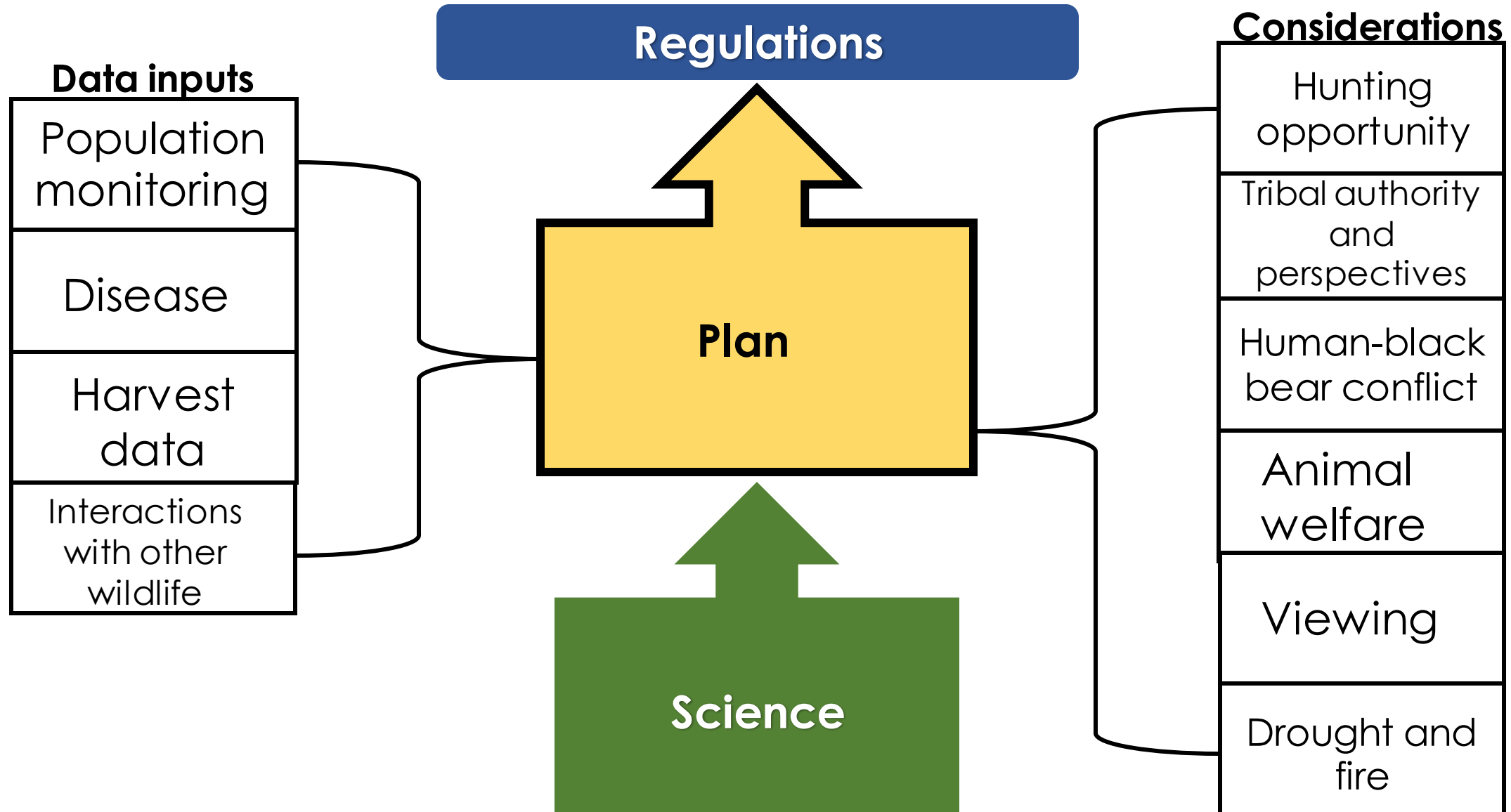
- For all Californians
- Balances hunting, human-black bear conflict, impacts of climate change, fire, and drought
- Conservation Framework: Lays out roadmap for how we intend to use science to inform regulatory change proposals and other conservation planning actions



Ryan Leahy



Plan Provides a Foundation for Regulations

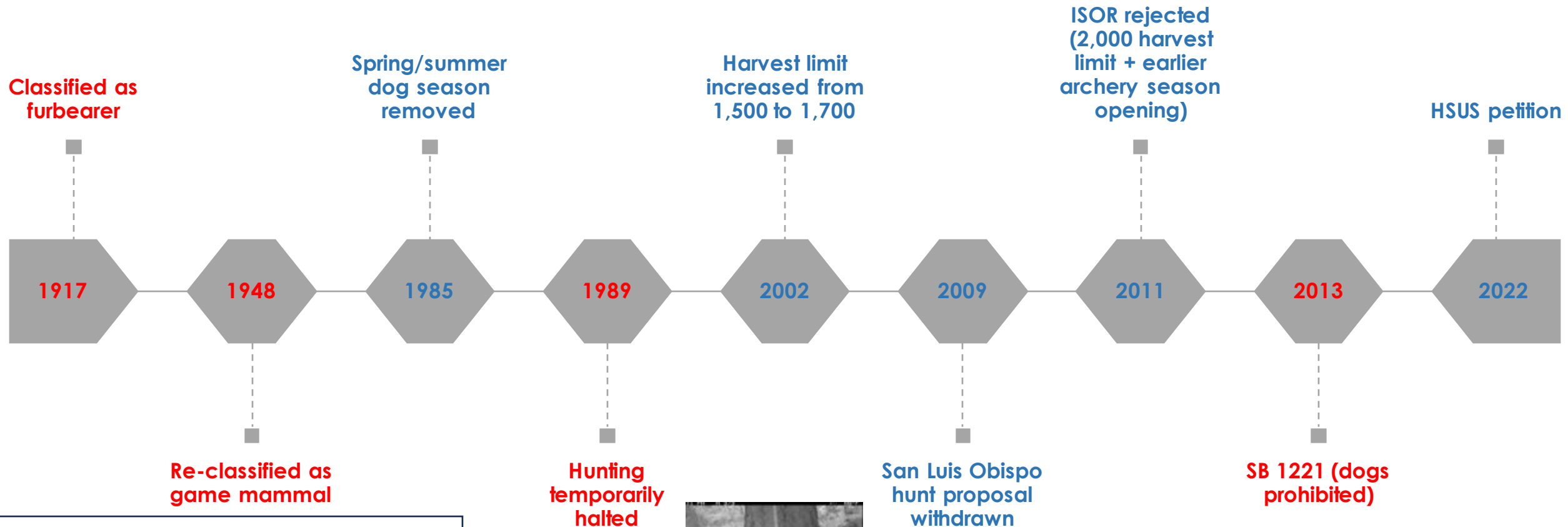


Regulatory Process and CDFW's Role in it



Action	Government Authority	Timeframe
Regulatory Change Proposal	CDFW	Ongoing
Initial scoping	Fish and Game Commission	May, year 1
Recommendation to proceed	Fish and Game Commission	September, year 1
Notice hearing	Fish and Game Commission	December, year 1
Public discussion	Fish and Game Commission	February, year 2
Adoption vote	Fish and Game Commission	April, year 2
Implementation	CDFW	Ongoing

History of Statute Law Versus Regulations for Bear Hunting



Legend

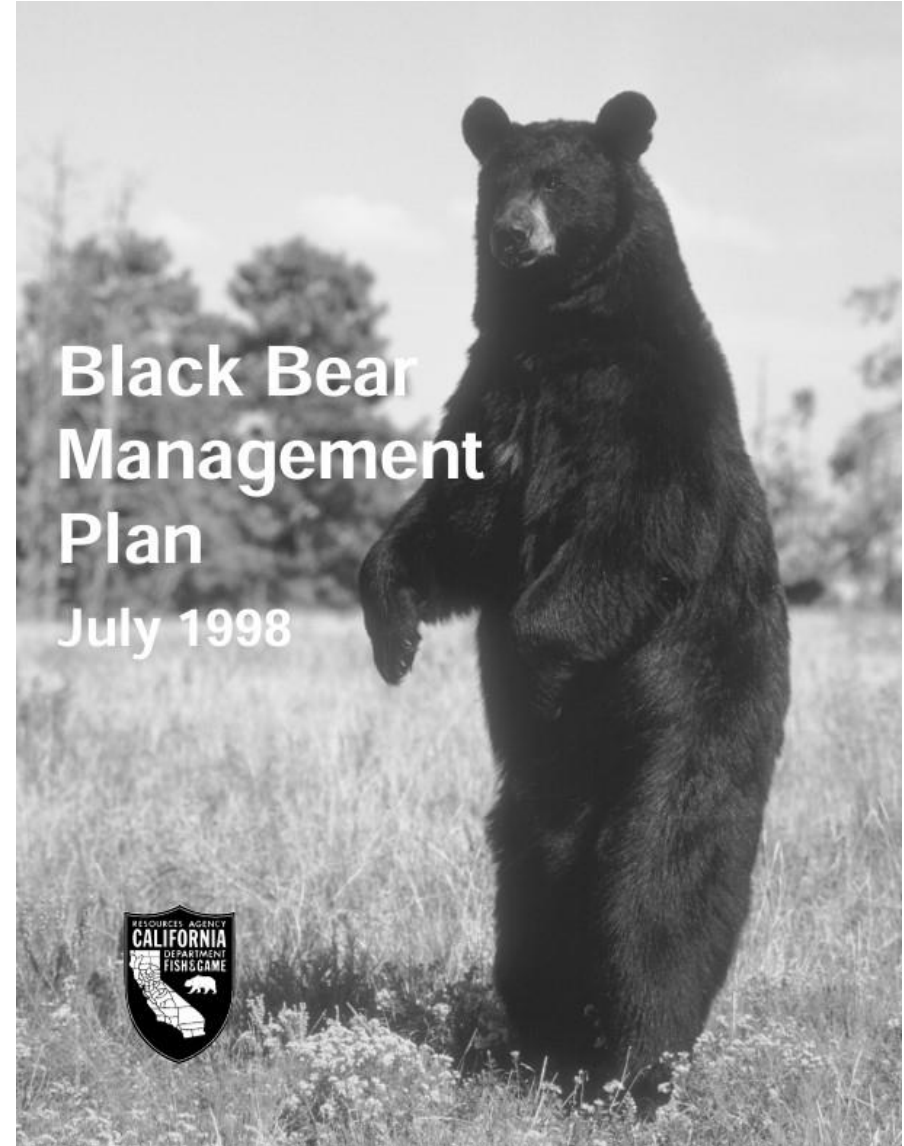
Statute law (Legislature)

Regulation (Fish and Game Commission)



Background

- **Most recent Management Plan was from 1998**
- **New Plan includes an integrated population model (IPM)**



How was the Plan Developed and Reviewed?

- CDFW Technical Advisory Group (ecology, genetics, modeling, etc.) provided input
- Regular public updates and discussion at Fish and Game Commission meetings
- CDFW executive level review of content
- External peer review of the draft plan
- Tribal outreach, consultation, listening sessions, and comment period
- Public comment period April 19th through June 14th
- Goal is to finalize Plan by end of 2024



Black Bear Conservation Goals

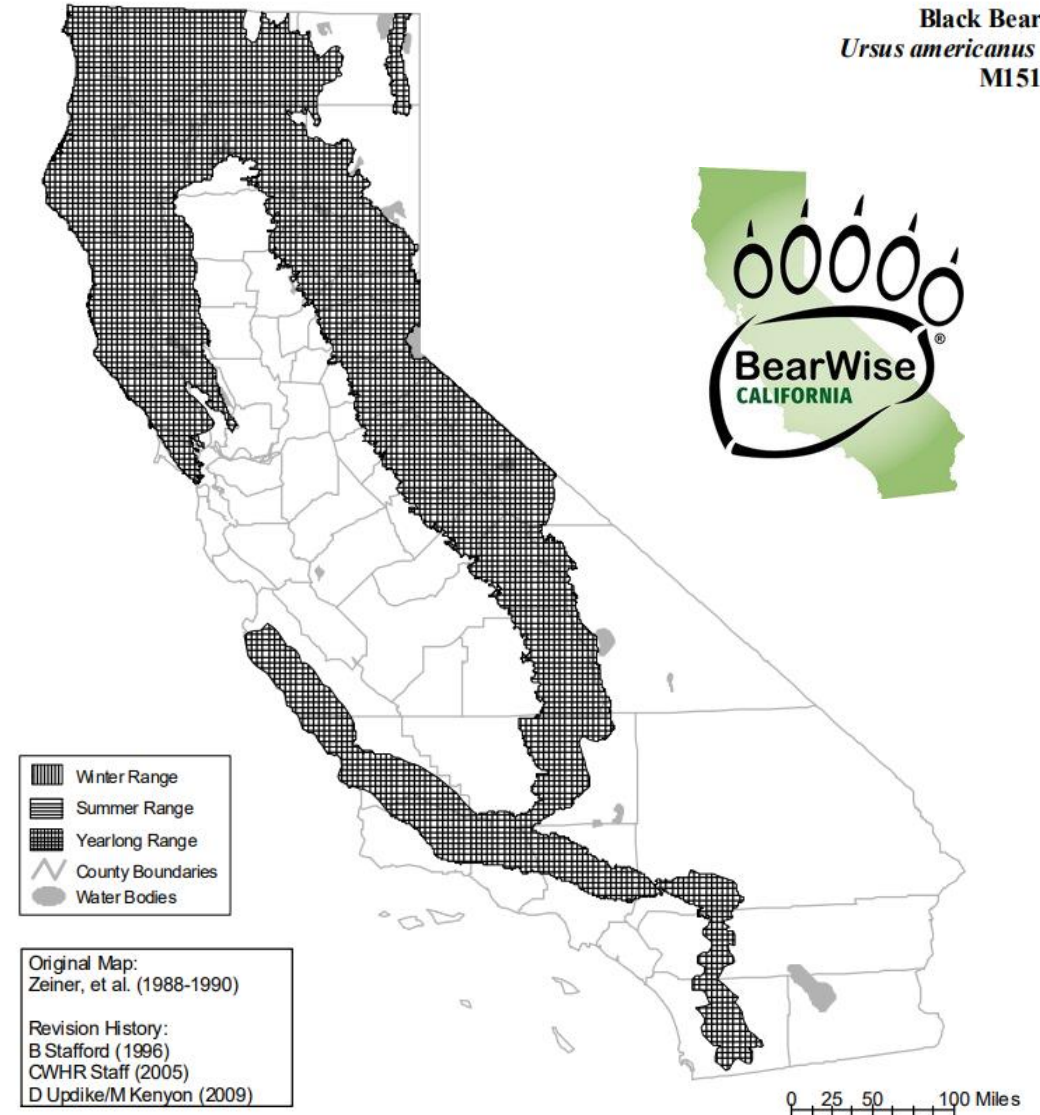
- 1. Conserve black bear populations that are abundant, disease-resilient, genetically diverse statewide and regionally, and conserve and enhance their habitats**
- 2. Provide opportunities for black bear hunting, viewing, and public education; minimize human-black bear conflict; consider animal welfare in black bear conservation; and be inclusive of all Californians in black bear conservation decisions**



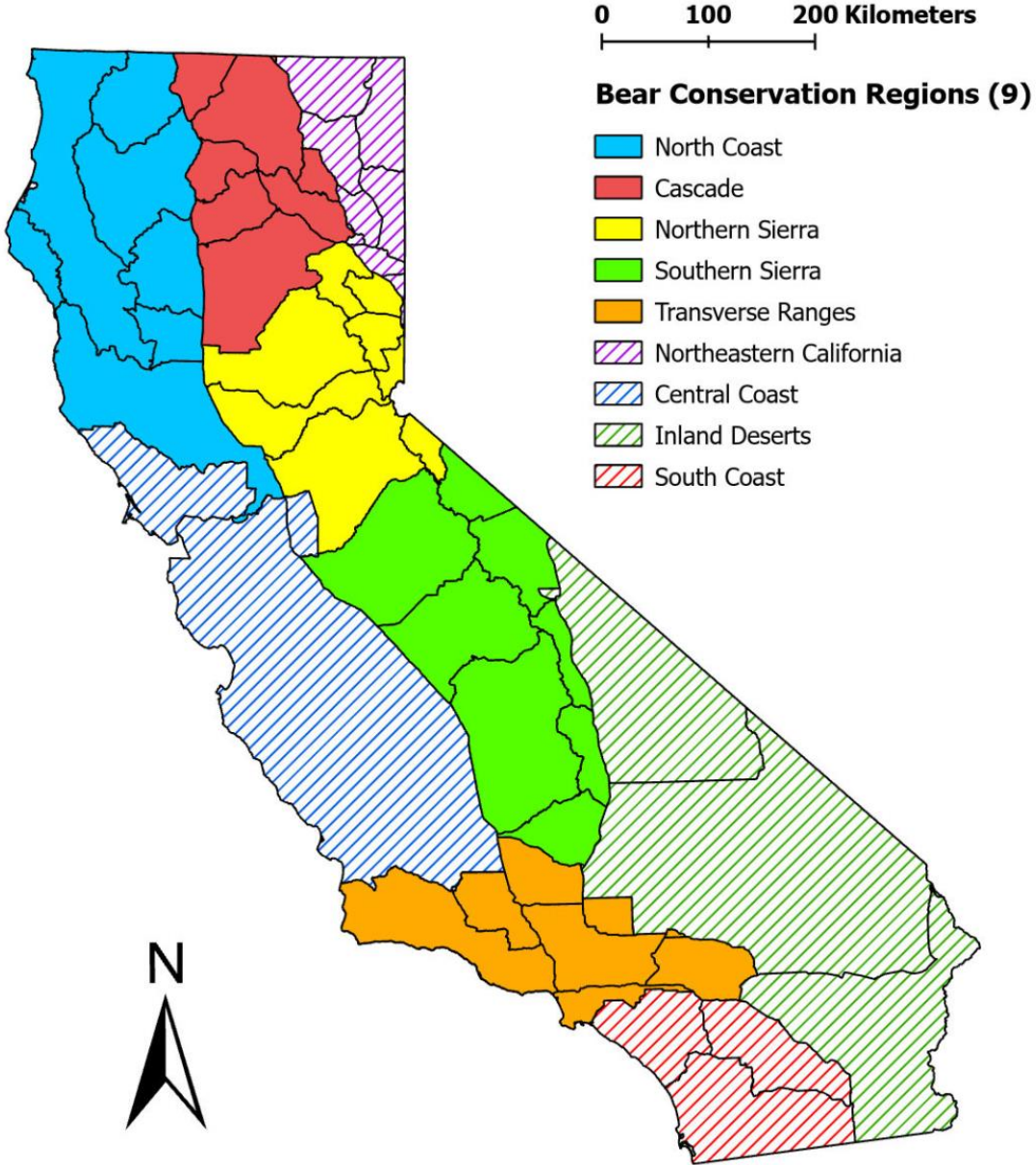
Conservation Framework

- Population abundance and habitat
- Genetic diversity
- Disease
- Animal welfare
- Hunting
- Viewing
- Human-black bear conflict
- Interactions with other wildlife
- Climate change, wildlife, drought, and land use
- Tribal authority and perspectives

Black Bear
Ursus americanus
M151



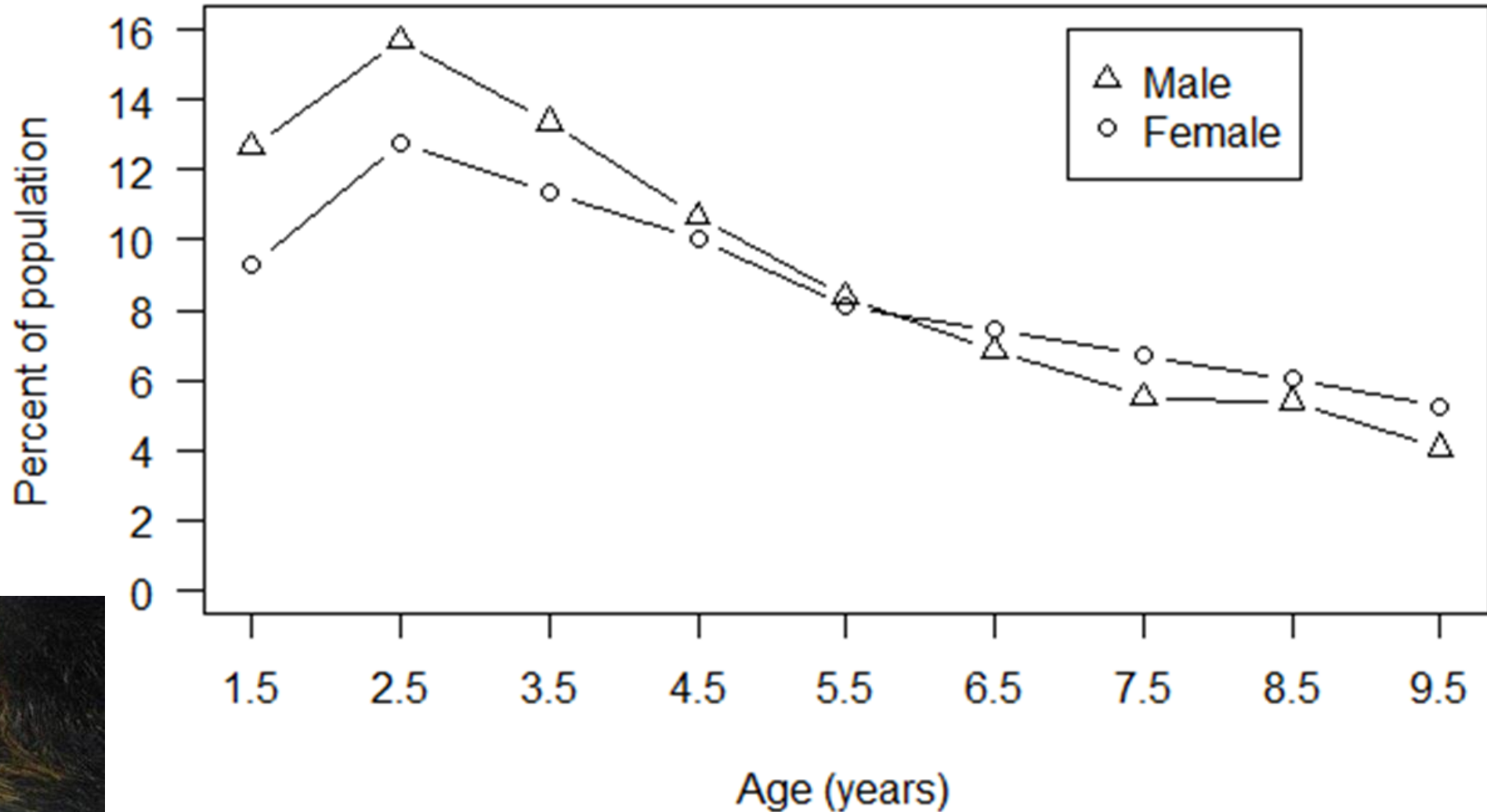
Bears will be Monitored Regionally and Statewide



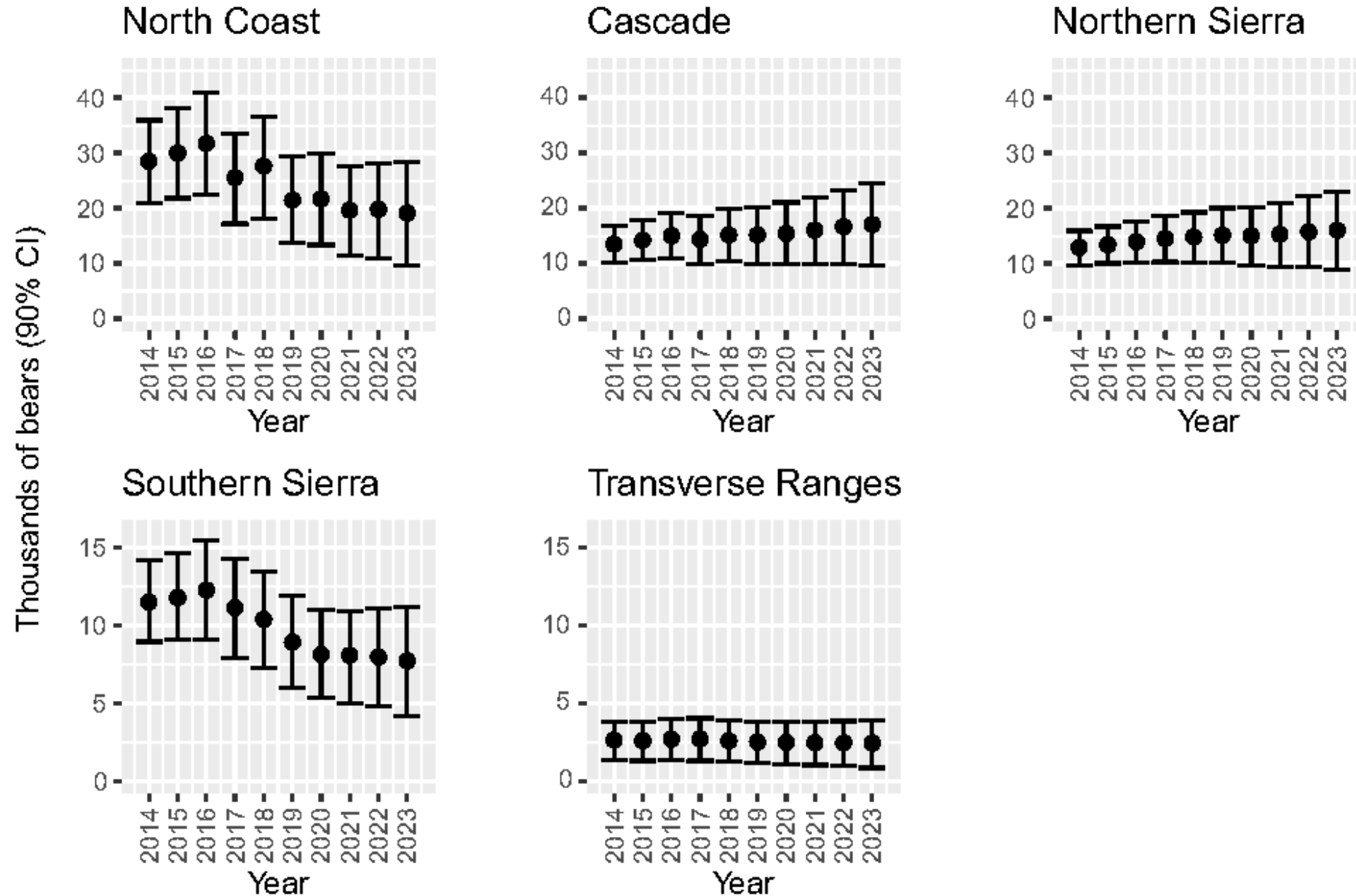
Michael Wifall



Bear Teeth Help us Monitor Populations



Bear Populations are Stable Throughout California



Bears are Abundant and Harvest is Conservative

Bear Conservation Region	Population estimate (90% CI)	Hunter harvest	Harvest rate
Hunt:			
North Coast	20,335 (12,221–28,627)	447	1.6%–3.7%
Cascade	16,059 (9,897–22,031)	217	1.0%–2.2%
Northern Sierra	15,420 (9,473–21,038)	279	1.3%–2.9%
Southern Sierra	8,173 (5,116–11,115)	259	2.3%–5.1%
Transverse Ranges	2,473 (1,024–3,793)	61	1.6%–6.0%
No-hunt:			
Northeastern California	1,308 (802–1,812)		
Central Coast	942 (501–1,373)		
Inland Deserts	143 (83–201)		
South Coast	551 (218–885)		
Statewide	65,405 (49,549–80,935)	1,262	1.6%–2.5%

Other Data for Informing Conservation

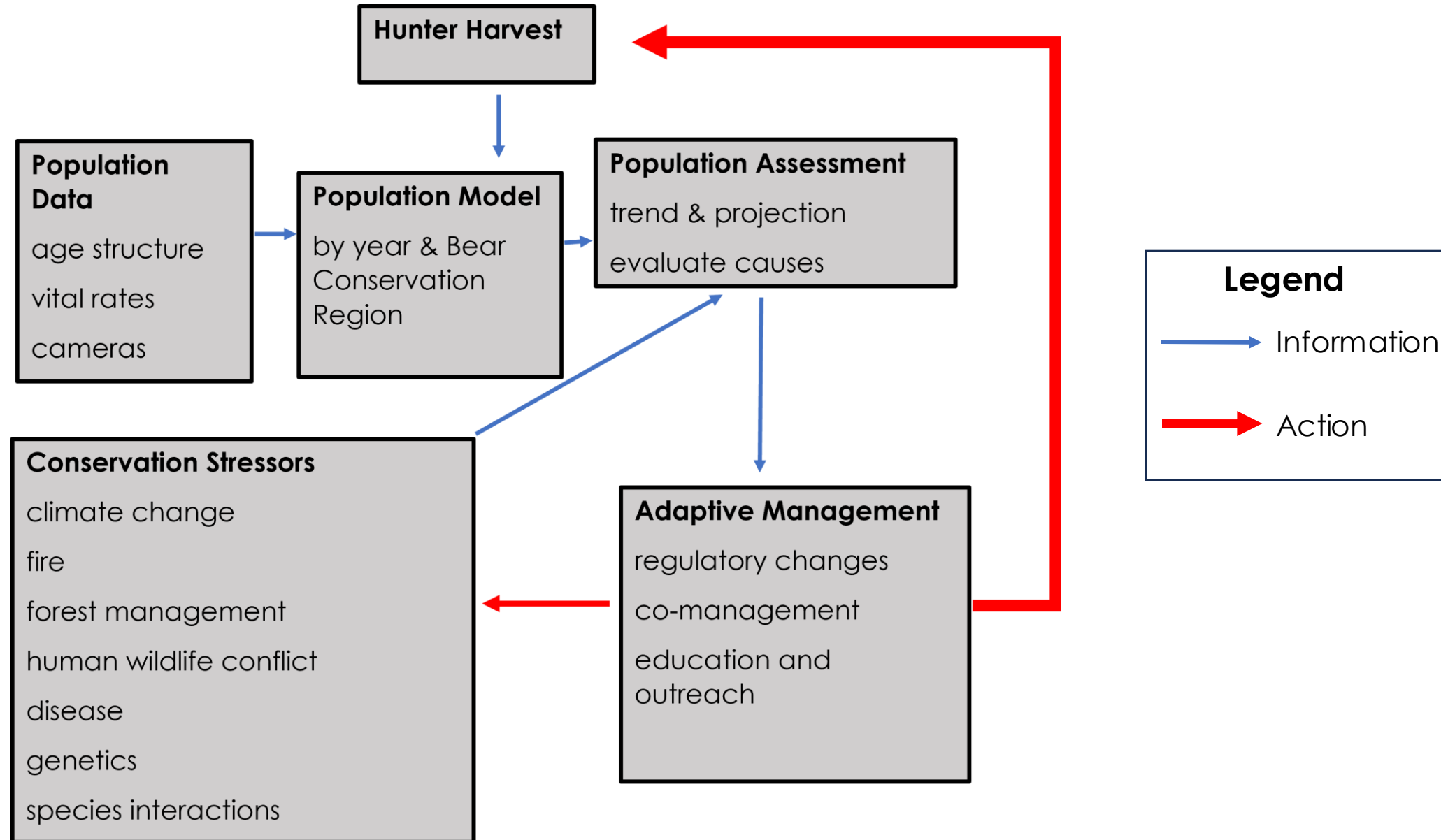
- Genetic diversity
- Movement ecology and connectivity
- Disease incidence
- Human bear conflict incidents



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Adaptive Management Framework



Next Steps for Implementing a Finalized Plan

- Incorporate public comments into the Plan to be finalized by end of 2024
- Scale up monitoring and analysis activities
- Assess potential regulatory change proposals beginning in 2025
- Expand partnerships, with Tribes, agencies and NGOs
- Update Plan every 10 years, or as needed



Questions | Contact



**Big Game Unit, Wildlife Branch
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916-557-3444

Public Comments through June 14:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Black-Bear>

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