

Alaska plans bear kill

by UPI

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Alaska plans an anything-goes bear hunt this year to increase the number of moose in one area near Anchorage.

The state Department of Fish and Game hopes that 900 to 1,400 black bears will be killed in the designated area, the agency's Suzanne Bowen told the Anchorage Daily News. That means all hunters with permits can kill as many as they can get, including sows and cubs, with any weapons.

Hunters will also be allowed to spot bears by plane, land and shoot as long as they get 300 feet away from the plane before opening fire.

The department believes that there are 2,000 bears in what is known as Game Unit 16, an 11,000-square-mile area northwest of Anchorage across Cook Inlet. The area, in spite of excellent moose browse, has very few moose, possibly because bears eat so many of the calves.

"I'm certain there will be some public concern, but doggone it, how else do you get this balance back?" said Cliff Judkins, head of the Game Board. "To do it, we have to reduce the bear population."

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