

2024 MNRF Black Bear Population Monitoring Barbed Wire Hair Trap Survey (BWHT)

Since 2017, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has been conducting barbed wire hair trap (BWHT) surveys to monitor black bear populations in Ontario Wildlife Management Units (WMU) that have active recreational bear hunts. This monitoring work is planned to continue in 2024 from **May 14 to June 21** in the following WMUs within the AOO Settlement Area: 51, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, and 63A (see map below).

MNRF staff will set up BWHT sampling stations with a perimeter of barbed wire and canned sardines to attract bears inside. Several stations are set up along a survey line. The beginning and end of survey lines will be marked with large signs, as well as a smaller sign at each sampling station. MNRF staff will be wearing brightly coloured safety clothing while working in the area.

When a bear approaches a sampling station, they brush past the barbed wire, which captures a small hair sample. The bear is not injured during this process. MNRF staff return to each station to collect the hair samples once a week for five weeks. The hair samples are submitted for DNA analysis to determine the sex and to identify individual bears, and how many bears are visiting the site. This data is used to estimate the density of bears for the WMU.

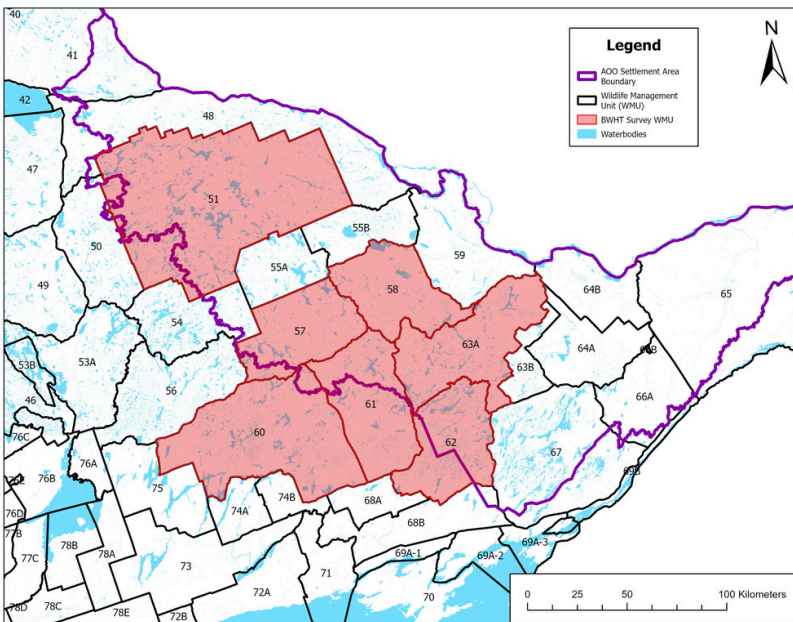
You Can
Help!



To support the analysis of BWHT survey data, MNRF asks that, if a member of your community harvests a bear, they consider submitting two of the bear's premolar teeth to MNRF. These teeth are used for aging and genetic identification purposes.

Teeth are aged by taking a thin section of the tooth, staining it to see the rings, and counting the rings like the rings of a tree.

Please see the attached information sheet for instructions on how to extract teeth and submit them to MNRF for analysis.



Questions?

Please contact Krystal Mitchell, the AOO's Fisheries and Wildlife Management Advisor at: kmitchell@tanakiwin.com or 613-401-2678

