

# **Preference for Management of American Black Bears Among Georgia and Florida Homeowners**

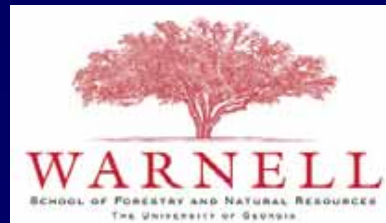
**Craig A. Miller**

**Joshua Agee**

**Kerrie Anne Loyd**

**Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources**

**University of Georgia**

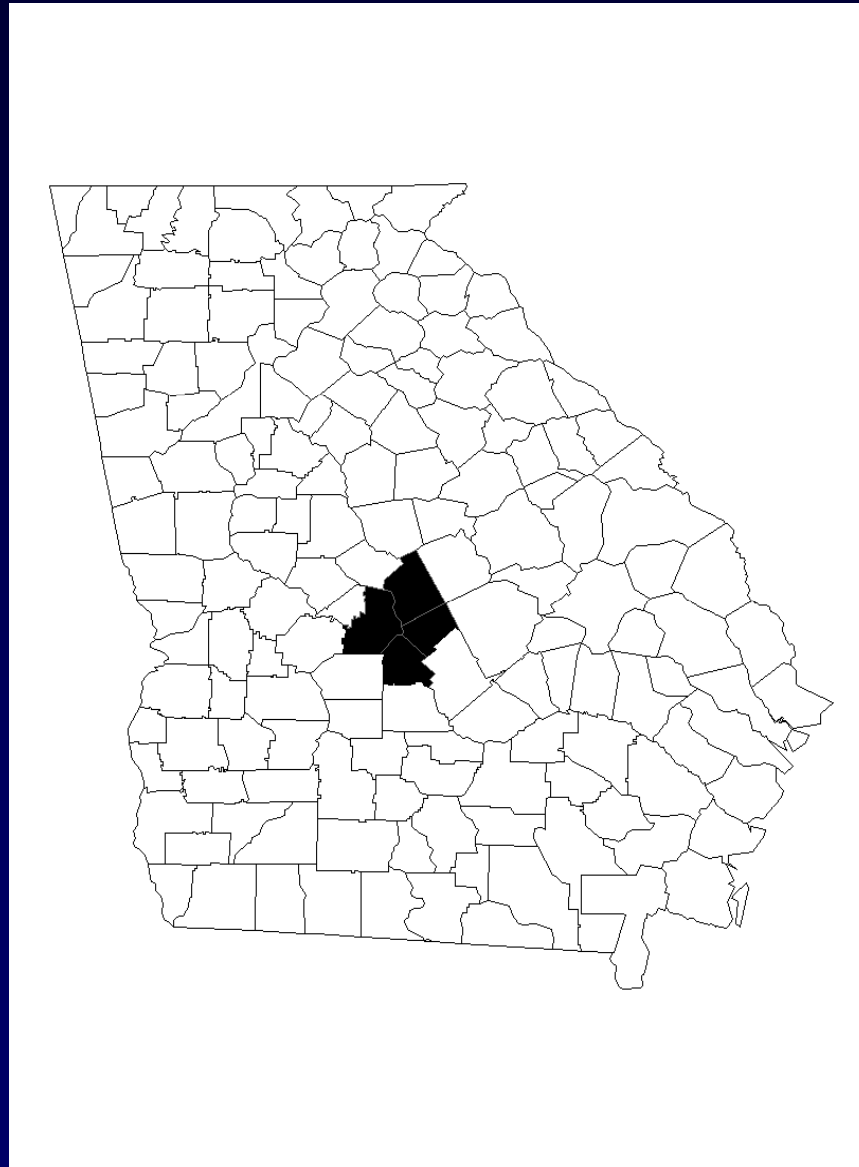


# Introduction

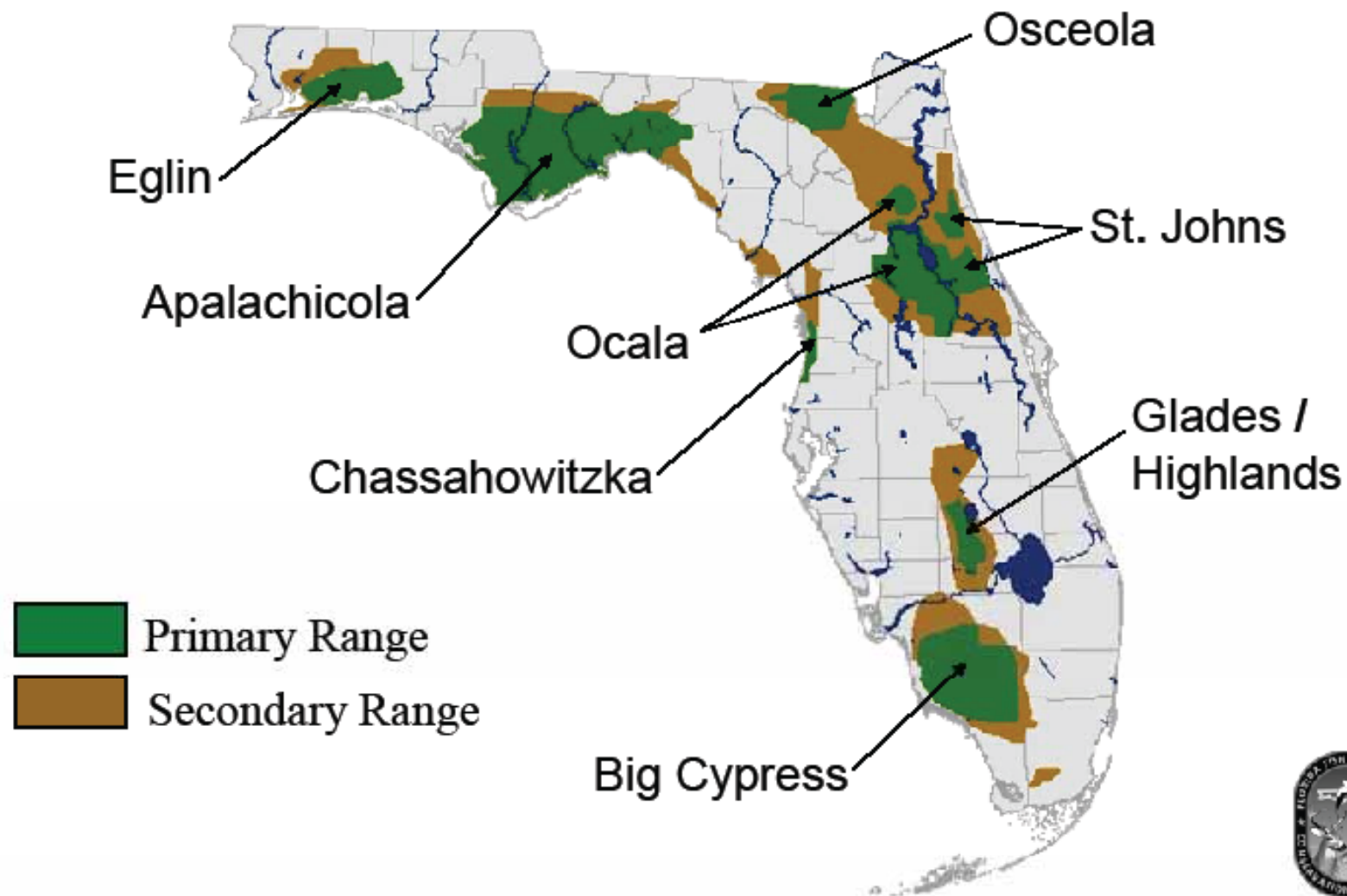
- **Data for this study are combined from 2 separate projects conducted during spring and summer 2008 addressing bear conservation in central Georgia and throughout Florida**



# Central Georgia Black Bear Population Range



# Black Bear Populations in Florida (2004)



# Objectives

- **To gauge homeowner preferences for specific management actions regarding black bears on their property**
- **To determine if seeing black bears results in different preferences**

# Methods

**Data collected via self-administered mail survey**

**Random sample of single-family homeowners:**

**Georgia: 4 counties in middle GA bear population range**

**Florida: all counties within 8 bear ranges**

# Homeowner Preference for Management Action

Please circle the number that matches the action you prefer wildlife managers take in the following situations:

	I would not call manager in this situation	Manager say avoid bear; call back if bear stays >1 hour	Manager traps and relocates bear	Manager euthanizes bear	Not sure
A bear repeatedly threatens pets near your home.	1	2	3	4	5
You repeatedly see a bear near your home.	1	2	3	4	5
A bear damages your property one time.	1	2	3	4	5
A bear chases your pet once.	1	2	3	4	5
You see a bear near your home one time.	1	2	3	4	5
A bear attempts to enter your home.	1	2	3	4	5
A bear repeatedly damages your property.	1	2	3	4	5

# Results

## Responses by State

	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1239</b>
<b>Florida</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1332</b>

# Bear Observations by State

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>n</u>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Florida</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>185</b>

**( $X^2 = 12.30$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $\eta = 0.072$ )**

# Homeowner Preference for Management Action

Please circle the number that matches the action you prefer wildlife managers take in the following situations:

	I would not call manager in this situation		Manager say avoid bear; call back if bear stays >1 hour		Manager traps and relocates bear		Manager euthanizes bear		Not sure	
	GA	FL	GA	FL	GA	FL	GA	FL	GA	FL
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A bear repeatedly threatens pets near your home.	5	9	11	26	75	59	5	3	4	4
You repeatedly see a bear near your home.	24	17	23	18	45	58	2	3	6	5
A bear damages your property one time.	31	28	20	23	39	41	2	2	8	6
A bear chases your pet once.	28	22	22	24	40	46	4	3	7	5
You see a bear near your home one time.	53	46	20	26	20	23	2	2	6	4
A bear attempts to enter your home.	4	3	7	9	68	72	16	12	5	4
A bear repeatedly damages your property.	3	3	3	3	74	77	16	14	4	4

# Bear is seen near the home one time

	Georgia Seen bear		Florida Seen bear	
	No (824)	Yes (221)	No (942)	Yes (165)
<b>Not call manager</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>60.6</b>
<b>Call back if bear stays</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>20.6</b>
<b>Trap and relocate</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>
<b>Euthanize bear</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>34.51 (<math>p &lt; 0.001</math>)</b>		<b>16.91 (<math>p &lt; 0.05</math>)</b>	

# Bear is seen near home repeatedly

	Georgia Seen bear		Florida Seen bear	
	No (827)	Yes (222)	No (942)	Yes (168)
<b>Not call manager</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>
<b>Call back if bear stays</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>21.4</b>
<b>Trap and relocate</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>47.6</b>
<b>Euthanize bear</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>27.08 (p&lt;0.001)</b>		<b>10.94 (p&lt;0.05)</b>	

## Bear damages property one time

	Georgia Seen bear		Florida Seen bear	
	No (819)	Yes (220)	No (941)	Yes (167)
<b>Not call manager</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>34.7</b>
<b>Call back if bear stays</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>28.7</b>
<b>Trap and relocate</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>28.1</b>
<b>Euthanize bear</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>41.45</b> ( $p < 0.001$ )		<b>11.50</b> ( $p < 0.05$ )	

# Bear repeatedly damages property

	Georgia Seen bear		Florida Seen bear	
	No* (828)	Yes** (222)	No* (946)	Yes** (170)
Not call manager	3.0	4.1	3.0	2.9
Call back if bear stays	2.1	5.9	2.3	4.1
Trap and relocate	75.2	72.1	77.5	75.3
Euthanize bear	15.2	16.2	13.7	14.1
Not sure	4.5	1.8	3.5	3.5
Chi-square	12.98 ( $p < 0.05$ )		1.86 ( $p = 0.76$ )	

## Bear threatens pet one time

	Georgia Seen bear		Florida Seen bear	
	No (821)	Yes (220)	No (933)	Yes (168)
<b>Not call manager</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>32.1</b>
<b>Call back if bear stays</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>
<b>Trap and relocate</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>35.1</b>
<b>Euthanize bear</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>24.56 (<math>p &lt; 0.001</math>)</b>		<b>17.22 (<math>p &lt; 0.005</math>)</b>	

## Bear repeatedly threatens pet

	Georgia Seen bear		Florida Seen bear	
	No (828)	Yes (220)	No (945)	Yes (169)
<b>Not call manager</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>13.6</b>
<b>Call back if bear stays</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>30.8</b>
<b>Trap and relocate</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>50.3</b>
<b>Euthanize bear</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>8.56 (p=0.073)</b>		<b>11.33 (p&lt;0.05)</b>	

## Bear attempts to enter home

	Georgia Seen bear		Florida Seen bear	
	No (813)	Yes (218)	No (944)	Yes (172)
<b>Not call manager</b>	4.2	4.6	3.0	4.7
<b>Call back if bear stays</b>	5.8	10.1	8.5	11.6
<b>Trap and relocate</b>	69.9	65.6	73.2	64.0
<b>Euthanize bear</b>	15.7	16.1	11.1	14.0
<b>Not sure</b>	4.7	3.7	4.2	5.8
<b>Chi-square</b>	5.64 ( $p=0.227$ )		6.44 ( $p=0.168$ )	

# Conclusions

**Past Observations of bears suggests higher tolerance**

- **Respondents more likely to not call managers, less favorable of euthanasia or trap-transfer with 1-time event**
- **Exception is slight favor of euthanasia in FL**
- **Exception also when bear tries to enter home**

- **Shifts in preference occurs with repeat events, but pattern is similar than with 1-time event**
  - **Fewer favor not calling, more favor trap and transfer**
  - **Floridians more in favor of trap and transfer than Georgians**
  - **This pattern may be due to years lived in state or present location and comfort with bears (hunting and other factors)**

# **Sponsors**

**Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Division  
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Fund**

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
Commission  
Florida Wildlife Foundation**

# Questions?

