



## Contact Us

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## Learn More :

### About the research:

<http://www.iseemammals.org>



<http://www.catsun.squarespace.com>

### NYSDEC and black bears:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html>

### Cornell Department of Natural Resources:

<http://www.dnr.cornell.edu>

### New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit:

[http://www.coopunits.org/New\\_York/](http://www.coopunits.org/New_York/)

# Black Bear Research in New York



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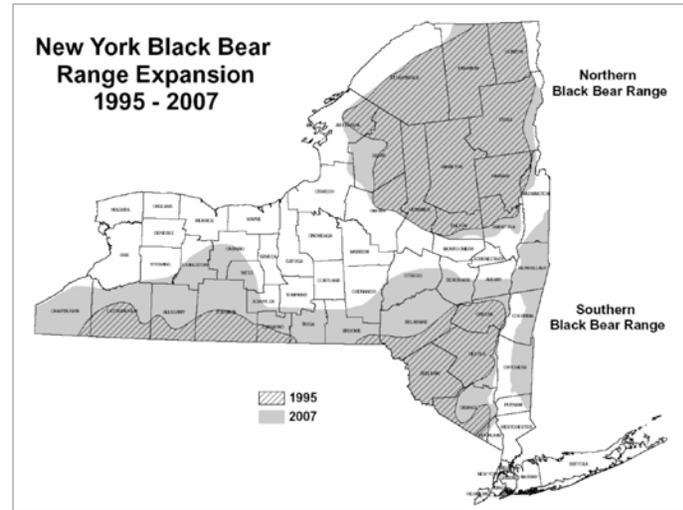
Cornell University



# Black Bears in New York

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation estimates 6,000-8,000 bears currently in New York. Since the 1950s, and especially since the 1990s, black bears have been rebounding from loss of forest habitat and unregulated hunting.

New York historically had 3 distinct bear ranges: Adirondacks, Catskills, and the Allegany Ranges. Today, the increasing bear population has caused the ranges to expand. The Catskills and Allegany Ranges have merged into a single Southern Black Bear Range (see map to right). As bears expand into new areas, bear-human interactions are becoming more common.



## Research informs management

To understand how the growing bear population is changing, the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit is conducting research across upstate New York.

**In 2010-2013:** We studied the bear population in a ~40 mi x 40 mi study area in Steuben, Allegany, and Livingston Counties, in the Southern Tier. We worked with 155 private landowners and set up 200+ research sites to collect bear hair for DNA analysis. Using genetics and population models, we estimated and found:

 Average density of 1 bear/3 mi<sup>2</sup> (13.7 bears/100 km<sup>2</sup>)

 Fewer bears with increasing latitude

 No association between bear density and amounts of forest, agriculture, or developed lands

**In 2015-2019:** We have expanded the research and are studying the bear population across the Southern Black Bear Range. Summer research sites, again working with many landowners, consist of a trail camera (to collect data on the presence and absence of bears) and barbed wire (to snag hair for DNA analysis to identify individual bears). In combination with harvest data, GPS radiocollared bears, and citizen science, the research will estimate:

 Population size, density, and distribution

 Population growth, survival, and reproductive rates

 Patterns associated with different landcover types

## Join the research!

Many research sites need to be on private property in order to reflect the landscape of upstate New York. Since 2010, we have worked with hundreds of landowners. This research would not be possible without their collaboration.

Also, working with private landowners and the public helps researchers study a larger area than they can cover themselves, and involves citizens in their local and state-level wildlife management.

***Become a citizen scientist with iSeeMammals!***



iSeeMammals is a new citizen science project that collects information about the presence and absence of bears by enlisting the help of the public. Use our website and free smartphone app to submit:

- 1) Observations of bears and bear signs (tracks, scat, hair, markings)
- 2) Record a hike and submit photos of bear/signs
- 3) Set up and monitor trail cameras for bears and other wildlife.

Visit [iseemammals.org](http://iseemammals.org) to learn more and join!