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Recovered and Delisted



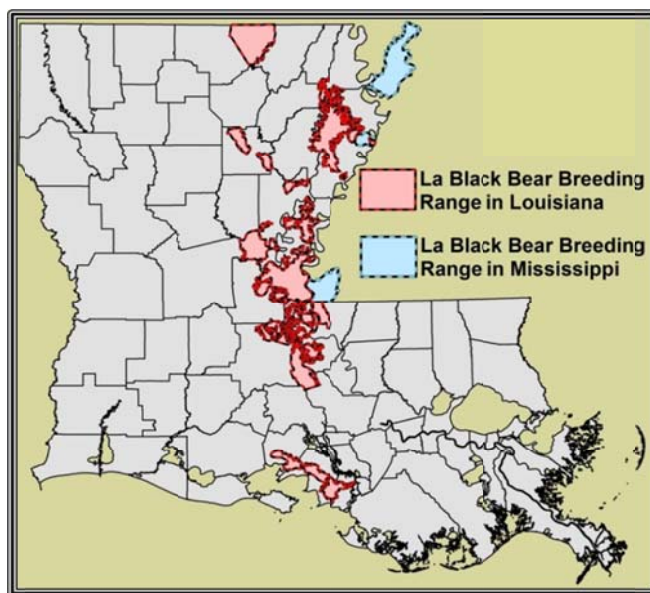
Post-Delisting Conservation Considerations

The Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) was listed as a threatened subspecies in 1992. Due to recovery, it was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on March 11, 2016 (effective April 11, 2016); critical habitat designation for this subspecies has also been withdrawn. Because the Louisiana black bear is no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), *consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is not required for this subspecies*. However, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) prohibits the taking of Louisiana black bears (i.e., killing or harming them) and continues to actively manage this subspecies. The Service and LDWF have developed a plan to extensively monitor the status of the Louisiana black bear for 7 years following its delisting (until year 2022). That monitoring will be undertaken to detect any potential population decreases or threat increases that may warrant the implementation of measures to ensure that the Louisiana black bear remains secure from risk of extinction.

In the interest of conserving the Louisiana black bear, the Service encourages permit applicants to consider incorporating conservation measures into their project designs that would avoid negative impacts to that subspecies and its habitat. Such designs need only be considered for projects occurring within the breeding range of that subspecies.

A current Louisiana black bear breeding range map is located at:

https://www.fws.gov/Lafayette/pdf/LA_Black_Bear_Breeding_Habitat_Map.pdf



Potential conservation measures for the Louisiana black bear include:

- reducing the footprint of proposed actions to the maximum extent feasible
- avoiding impacts to potential den trees that are 36 inches or more in diameter at breast height
- implementing programs to prevent the habituation of bears to human-associated food sources (e.g., use of “bear-proof” waste disposal containers or daily removal of food and garbage)
- avoiding vegetative clearing during the black bear denning season (i.e., December 1 through April 30).

(Please note that these are not legally required via the ESA, nor are they conditions of any Department of the Army permit that you may be granted. These are voluntary measures that, if implemented, would further the conservation of the Louisiana black bear.)

For additional information regarding the Louisiana black bear and any project-specific conservation measures that may be required by the LDWF, please contact Maria Davidson (Large Carnivore Program Manager) at (337) 262-2080 or mdavidson@wlf.la.gov.