

## **WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO BLACK BEARS IN THE LAKES STATES?**

Lynn L. Rogers, Gregory A. Wilker, and Sally S. Scott

Abstract: Black bear habitat studies in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan incorporated close observation of wild, researcher-habituated black bears in Minnesota and analysis of >500 droppings from throughout the region. Important habitat components include; mature oak stands (acorns), mature black cherry stands (cherries), forest openings (other wild fruits, legumes), ash and alder swamps (bluejoint grass, jewelweed), marshes (wild calla), rotting logs (ant pupae), and large white pine or hemlock trees (refuges, especially for spring cubs). Heavily used forest openings occur in overmature aspen stands that are breaking up. These stands provide numerous non-sodded openings containing wild fruits, legumes, and ant colonies.

Rogers, L. L., G. A. Wilker, and S. S. Scott. 1989. What is important to black bears in the Lakes States? Proc. Aspen Symp. '89. July 25-27, 1989. Duluth, Minnesota. (Abstract)