

**CONTINUOUS OBSERVATION REVEALS HABITAT USE, DIET, ACTIVITY PATTERNS, AND  
COMMUNICATION METHODS OF BLACK BEARS IN NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA**

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**ABSTRACT.** Habituated, radio-collared, wild black bears (Ursus americanus) were observed weekly for continuous 48-hour periods to determine details of habitat use, activity patterns, diet, foraging strategy, food consumption, passage rate, digestibility, communication methods, and responses to insects, weather, predators, and potential prey. The habituated bears showed movement and activity patterns similar to those of 103 other bears that were radio-tracked remotely in the same study area. This paper describes methods of habituating black bears, methods of recording data by field computer, and highlights of the findings. A computer program developed to quickly analyze the data, will be available to other researchers.