

Citizen Resolution # 670216

(For Hearing Officer completion)

Bear Hunting Season Split Start



THE PROBLEM

Current bear hunting regulations have a split start to the season. In alternating years hound hunters or bait sitters start the season a week before and end a week before the other. Many bait sitters will defer accepting a kill tag in years when hound hunters go first. In some of Wisconsin's bear management zones it can take nine years of applying to receive a kill tag.

Hunters invest a lot of money and time on bait, gas, licenses, guides, vacation days and more. Hound hunters usually have multiple bait sites compared to a bait sitter with one or two. Conflict can arise, when at no fault of their own, hounds run a bear trail to or thru a bait sitter site. This can cause a site to go cold.

Eliminating the alternating season start and making permanent that bait sitters start and end the bear season one week before hound hunters would give sitters a week without possible conflict. A hunter with a kill tag could sit over bait the first week and if unsuccessful could hunt with hounds the rest of the season.

Bernard Newman
1504 Meridian Ave.
West Bend, WI. 53095
262 306 1815

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