72-01-12

Title – Earlier Bear Hunt in Zone C

The Problem:

The current bear population is steadily increasing with more bears moving south to find suitable living space. The bear to people interactions are ever increasing in Zone C, with more bear and fewer large tracts of land for suitable habitat. The predation on the deer herd is ever increasing with the larger number of various predators of deer, including bears.

The hunter success in Zone C has fluctuated much in the past years. We all know that the acorn crop in a particular year has a major impact on the use of bait stations by the bear. A hunter drawing a tag in a year with heavy and early acorn drop will have a greatly diminished chance of harvesting a bear.

According to bear biologists, an earlier season in Zone C would not have a negative biological effect on the bear population. We believe an earlier season will give a hunter a higher chance of harvesting a bear and lead to more consistent harvest numbers.

These numbers would give the bear management better control of the bear numbers in Zone C where more private land is prevalent.

Therefore be it resolved that the Conservation Congress of Wood County, this April 9, 2012, does support an early opening statewide for bear training on June 16 ending in Zone C on August 16. This would allow for a two week earlier opener in Zone C for bait sitting for bear. Harvest season closure for Zone C would be consistent with other closures statewide as in the past.

Submitted by:

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