



Citizen Resolution # 130120

(For Hearing Officer completion)

BAN BAITS CONSISTING OF THEOBROMINE ON WISCONSIN PUBLIC LAND

Problem: There is NO regulation of baits consisting of **theobromine** on WISCONSIN PUBLIC LAND! Bait accounts for 40% or more of black bear diets in northern Wisconsin.

THE WISCONSIN BEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN STATES:

1. Currently, it is legal to bait black bears with chocolate in Wisconsin. Chocolate contains theobromine, a compound KNOWN TO BE TOXIC to a wide diversity of wildlife species, including black bears. Chocolate consumed at bait sites has caused the deaths of one black bear cub in Michigan and two cubs, one subadult female, and one adult female in New Hampshire. Theobromine toxicity was also the presumptive cause of death for one cub (Bayfield County), and the probable cause of death for two other cubs (Washburn County), submitted for necropsy in Wisconsin in 2011. In response to concerns about theobromine toxicity, Wisconsin has included a warning about the toxic effects of chocolate in the Bear Hunting Regulations since 2013, and no mortalities due to theobromine toxicosis have been verified since. However, UNDETECTED MORTALITY MAY BE OCCURING.

2. There is ample evidence to suggest that bears are susceptible to the TOXIC EFFECTS of chemicals found in chocolate. Michigan, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire have all identified theobromine in DEAD BEAR CUBS at levels CONSISTENT with those known to be TOXIC TO DOGS.

Allowing known toxins to be intentionally placed on PUBLIC LAND runs contrary to the DNR's mission statement which aims to protect and enhance wildlife.

Resolution: Ban the use of baits that consist of theobromine on Wisconsin public land.

Jean Voss
2769 Spring Hill Drive
Stoughton, WI 53589
608-695-7692
jcvshd@sbcglobal.net
Dane

Signature