

Citizen Resolution # 130320

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Bear Baiting Rule Change

The State of Wisconsin allows 10 gallons of bear bait per bait station at an unlimited number of unregistered bait sites April 15-mid October.

All wildlife including deer have been documented feeding at bait sites increasing the risk of disease including CWD which is spreading in the deer herd. Ingestion of CWD positive deer carries the risk of prion transmission to humans. The bait itself may include toxic chocolate which has been proven fatal to bears and other wildlife.

Hunting animals over bait is supported by only 27 % of Americans due to fair chase issues. Bears baiting may begin shortly after bears emerge from hibernation for the purpose of habituating bears to bait sites. Packs of up to six hound dogs are released at bait stations to train the hound dogs to pursue and tree the bears in preparation for the September/October bear hunting season.

Wildlife are forced to flee the hounds in the heat of summer with vulnerable young animals including wolf pups out and about. Wolves will maim or kill hounds who are threatening their pups at bear bait stations which serve as rendezvous sites for wolves and their pups. Sometimes subsequent hatred toward wolves result in wolves being targeted for poaching including threats of "gut shooting" wolves or poisoning.

Bear baiting needs to be curtailed to mitigate the above issues. Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress and the DNR not allow bear baiting prior to August 31st through the introduction of a rule change.

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.