

Citizen Resolution # 040321

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Bear Baiting Rules Change

Wisconsin's lengthy, liberal bear baiting rules allow 5.5 months of baiting an unlimited number of bait stations. In sharp contrast, Minnesota and Michigan limit bear baiting to 3 tended bait stations per registered hunter for 2 months. Stations may be moved upon submission of a relocation form to the DNR.

Problem: Wisconsin has NO baiting registration requirements. Our wardens admit they cannot devote time or manpower needed to investigate the number of baiting violations submitted to the DNR hotline. The long baiting season increases the chances of disease transmission among the myriad wildlife feeding at these stations all summer long, bear-hound-wolf conflicts, and bear habituation to foods found among humans at campgrounds and homes. States that mandate fixed identification of bear bait stations include a combination of the following: GPS coordinates, name, address, driver's license or DNR hunting license number, township section and range, and signage.

All of the above is easily done online. Required identification results in more hunter accountability and allows wardens to swiftly identify violations. A shorter baiting season decreases the number of conflicts around these stations, spreading of disease, and encourages bears to eat a natural diet readily available in the woods where they belong.

Resolution: Be it resolved on April 12, 2021, that the Conservation Congress in Bayfield County work with the Wisconsin DNR to amend Wisconsin's black bear baiting regulations through the introduction of rule changes to require that bear bait sites be identified and to limit baiting to no earlier than thirty days prior to bear hunting season.

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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.