

Citizen Resolution # 680122

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Adjust the Time Period Bear Baiting Is Allowed

The Wisconsin DNR estimates more than 4 million gallons of bear bait are placed each year, mostly high-calorie human junk food, including fryer grease, cake icing, caramel, syrup, and even chocolate. Black bears are hunted in 30 states, including 12 that allow baiting, on average 23 days prior to hunting season. In Wisconsin, baiting is allowed for 145 days before hunting season, from mid-April through early October, virtually the entire active period for bears. One study estimated that bait now makes up 40% of the diet of Wisconsin black bear. * Researchers worry this amount of high-calorie food could boost the region's bear population above its natural carrying capacity, harm their nutrition, shorten their denning periods, make them dependent on food subsidies and increase the chance of conflicts with humans if the bait is removed. Bears are becoming much more common in the lower two-thirds of the state than ever before. This could inevitably lead to more bear/human conflict. As the feeding of wild animals is prohibited for the general public, this excessive time and amount of baiting bear seems to defy conventional wisdom. Trail cameras reveal that there are other fur-bearing animals that frequent bait piles, most importantly wolves. ** Wolves protecting these sites leads to increased conflicts with bear hounds that are let loose near the bait sites to train and track bear

Would you support the WCC work with the DNR to develop a plan to safely and gradually decrease the number of days that bear bait may be placed, to reach a goal of 24 days?

Additional Information provided by author:

Sources: Journal of Wildlife Management Study 2017 * <https://wildlife.org/jwm-study-bait-is-major-food-source-for-northern-wisconsin-bears/> <https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21304> ** <https://www.minnesotawildlife.org/2020/08/is-it-legal-to-feed-wild-wolves-human.html>

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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.