

TITLE: Training of Dogs in Zone C

THE PROBLEM:

Wisconsin has 2 distinct ways of bear hunting, over bait and with the use of dogs. Now bear hunters can train dogs state wide, but can only hunt with them in sections A, A1 (Proposed D), and B. This causes conflicts between bear hunters in Zone C that are spending money and time baiting to bring a bear to a location for harvesting.

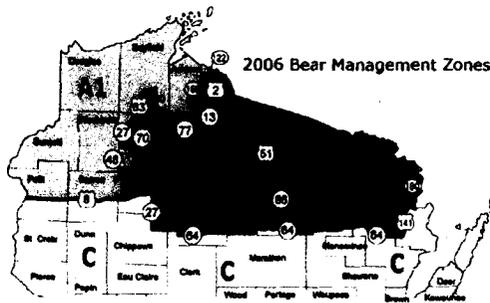
I have witnessed dogs that have been started on baits set for bait hunting and dogs pursuing onto private land that they don't have permission to cross or go onto to retrieve there dogs. This includes subdivisions on the edge of woodlands.

Asking a dog hunter about this, many will say that a dog doesn't know property lines, and that they like being able to train in Zone C because they are not chasing the bears that they will be hunting during the season in the Northern Zones. Some of these trainers don't even have harvest tags for that year but just chase to keep the dogs trained for the following years or just to try and see a bear in the area.

These hunters/trainers are chasing bears that can't be chased during the season, and many times chasing them out of areas that hunters have set bait for hunting that season. The one week when training can't be done and the opening of season is not enough time for a bear that has been chased several times to return to an area comfortably for a bait hunter to have success.

This local resolution was proposed last year and passed locally 103 in favor to 23 not in favor of this resolution # 370706, but was rejected with out comments when sent to the Hunting with Dogs Committee. This Committee rejected any resolution in 2006 that would limit any restriction on Hunting with Dogs.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Marathon County, on April 16, 2007 recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes **allowing bear dog training to be allowed only in zones that bear hunting with the aid of dogs is allowed.**



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For office Use Only:
County MARATHON
Passed or Failed
County Resolution Number: 370407
County Vote: Yes 49 No 8