080109

Title: Training of Dogs in Zone C

Problem:
Wisconsin Bear Hunting is broken into two methods, over bait or chasing with dogs. Over bait is allowed state wide, but hunting with dogs is only in zones A, B and D. Training of bear dogs is allowed state wide, but hunting with them is not allowed in Zone C.

Bear dog hunters continue to use a master thesis done by Jack Massopust, in justifying training in Zone C. This Study was done by radio collaring several bears and chasing them during the training period. The study concluded that the bears stayed in the areas that they were chased from.

Hunters & wildlife enthusiasts know that any wild animal chased becomes more cautious and change patterns coming into bait. An area that you can't use dogs to hunt, a bear may not be harvested during a legal hunting hour because it was chased earlier by dogs.

Second issue is that there are not the large tracks of land to chase the bears. Many of the Large Privately owned tracks of land are being divided. Now when the dogs are released they are crossing private property, which in many cases they have no permission to chase or cross. There have been reports in Marathon County of bears chased through residential subdivisions. This can be dangerous for homeowners and bad impression for all bear hunters.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Calumet County on April 13, 2009 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing training of dogs for the use of bear hunting only on zones that allow the use of dogs for hunting.

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