

Citizen resolution # 270215

Problems Associated with this practice:

1. WI allows bear baiting 141 days of the year (127 days more than Minnesota)
2. Bear baiting alters normal bear behavior as human scent becomes associated with food. Bait stations become rendezvous sites for wolves thereby also becoming the area where bear hunters release hounds for bear training. In 2013 16 of the 23 hounds killed by wolves were @ bait sites from July 1st through August as wolves protect pups. WI is the only state who reimburses hounders for dogs killed by wolves
3. WI is out of step with other states. Bear baiting is illegal in 40 states. 3 states do not allow baiting before bear season. Idaho & Wyoming allow baiting 7 days before. Michigan & Maine 11-31 days before. Minnesota 14 days prior.

Wisconsin's bear baiting policies present ethical & fair chase issues. The practice sets the stage for bloody encounters between wolves & dogs. Monetary incentives encourage hounders to engage in risky behavior with their bear dogs.

Wisconsin needs to reduce the number of days bear baiting is allowed to reduce the multifaceted issues 4 ½ months of bear baiting cause.

Rural & urban residents are experiencing an increase in bear encounters as bear's associate humans with food. The combination of moving bear dog training up to July 1st & 141 days of baiting has caused increases in bear hound deaths as wolves protect their pups.

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress @ its annual meeting held in Jackson County on April 13th, 2015 recommend that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to correct this situation by introducing rule change to reduce bear baiting to 14 days prior the bear hunt (as in Minnesota)

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