Jon Kart 8/24/2026 St. Jay

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   - Short season inhibits opportunities to hunt. When conditions are right it will allow for late season hunting & population control.
   - Allows existing hunters to harvest more bear which helps since there are fewer new hunters
2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   - Add a provision to prohibit ~~hunt~~ shooting bear in a den.
   - It sounds like the goal is to harvest 50% of the population. Is this true?
   - most hunters don't eat bear – is this correct?
3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   - People will pay it, despite grumbling. The $ will help the Dept and it will provide more data.
4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   - Good. do it w/ deer herd too.
   - Put more $ and time into educating the public to reduce conflict.
5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   Absolutely.
   Strongly agree
   Must be a rule, not a recommendation
6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   It will make people feel better
   It is the current law. Its no change
   Why is this here?
7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   * More education to reduce conflict. Hunting is one tool only.
   * If this doesn't work, other tools may be needed.
   * more support/education to reduce conflict w/ livestock rule

St. Jay

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I did not hear any reasons to support the halving of the VT population.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Don't understand this one!?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Support this —

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

Why not educate people re: garbage, bird feeders etc. to reduce neg. bear-human interactions

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Absolutely support this regulation —

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

As I cannot fathom the legality of bear hounding or why any self-respecting hunter would participate, I do not support any bear hounding.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

I believe bears should live in VT with the same security of liberty as humans. Why should humans take such advantage of bears —

ROD CORONADO
1st day

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   I am not opposed based on the recommendation of the Dept's bear biologist.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   Not opposed.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   Support for the purpose of accurate records of harvest.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   Not opposed if based on recommendation of bear biologists.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   Strongly support in lieu of season extension and increased bear hunter recruitment. New hunters should learn that is a rule, not just recommendation.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   hound season should end at beginning of regular deer season to avoid conflicts with deer hunters and to avoid ~~denning~~ bears that have already entered dens.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

St Jay

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Makes Sense to me

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Good Idea

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   As A Past Retailer They'll Pay For it

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Good idea to control Areas of High Conflict w/ People

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Hard to enforce

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Will make Non Hunters feel better

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

St Jay

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   If there's a pressing need, this is a way to prevent population growth.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Makes sense

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Makes sense

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Makes sense in the wildlife management context.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Good idea.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Probably good idea to lessen public anxiety about dogs.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Kevin Lawrence

St Jay

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I support the extension. I see bear tracks every December during muzzleloader season. I am a tracker.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Fine, with two tags.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Fine ✓
nonresident cost ?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

Should be statewide, not wmu-driven.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

OK.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

good.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

If the harvest does not increase, other strategies will be necessary, including baiting.

St. J

08/24/26 **Black Bear Hearing Questions**

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

opposed
- could disrupt denning behavior + separate mothers + cubs
- could lead to more bears killed in dens
- NEK residents, not much bear conflict now,
- disagree with the extension,

- could see extended through end of regular deer season, but not thru december

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
- defer to department if they think this makes more sense
- OK with it

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
- makes sense agree, defer to dept if they think it makes sense
- easier to collect

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
- need to lower population, but b/c there is already a chance to deal with nuisance bears, so opposing second bear tag
- Going by WMU makes sense + is intentional. OK w second tag but not in the later extended season. See these separated

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally + harvest a sow with cubs present? →
- Form it. Should be illegal to do it all, even if accidental, and if it does you should lose your bear tag. Make sure that there are repurcussions.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
- Don't understand how that few hunters actually contribute to bringing the population down + hound hunting is cruel. Any thing to reduce hound hunting. Seconded + Thirded
- oppose hound hunting and at least don't let out of state hound hunters

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations? →

Must have regulation to prohibit killing or harassing bears in their dens, even so the season is, but especially if the season gets extended ↘

4. sequenced. Try one thing first.

- Do not support this. Dont know of evidence to support this. What is the evidence that this population is too large?

6. Hound hunting regs should be updated to be consistent w/ coyote hound regs. Consistency.

Other comments

7. The worst thing is to extend the season into December

F+W also had other recs, such as increasing ability to revoke bear dog permits, and to have reciprocity so they can only do bear hounding here if its also allowed in their home state.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Season is intrusive – don't support it

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Want to minimize pressure on bears in my area

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Obvious

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Prefer not

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Fully support, it should cost hunter big tag

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Hound hunting is cruel, unnecessary + divert dollars to my right "harvest"

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   NO hunting in dens

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I oppose the changes, particularly issuing a 2nd Bear Tag + Extending the Season thrugh Mid DEC.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

This would be ok's.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? I think this is a good idea, to better collect Data.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

VT, already has a Mechanism for dealing w/bears that are Causing damage. Under 10.VSA 4827.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

100% Support.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

I oppose all Bear Hunting with Hounds.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

extending bear Hunting into Dec. can disrupt Denning behavior potentially Seperating Mothers from Cubs

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Do not support – likely lead to more killing of bears in dens.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Sure

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Do not support. No evidence it will reduce conflicts. No evidence existing habitat isn't supporting current population

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Support. Remove "intentionally"

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Would like a much shorter hound season. It's very cruel. Very little benefit in reducing the population of bears since there are so few hounders.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   No hunting in dens

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   I am against this ~~It seems~~

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   I agree with this.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   Good idea,

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   In favor of this

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   I agree with this.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   ~~DK.~~ don't know much about this but it seems negative.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Against proposed. Should not extend into December. Extend to end of deer rifle season.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Good.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Good.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Neutral. Doing it by WMU makes sense.
   Conditional support - only if season ends in Nov.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Absolutely support.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   I oppose hound hunting and think it should be banned. So I oppose this.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   MUST have regulation to prohibit killing or harassing bears in dens.
   Update hounding regs to be consistent w/ coyote (cur)

regs – decrease pack size 6 → 4
- update definition of control to include training/tracking collar w/ recall function
- require logs

Shorten training season - ~~start~~ Aug. 1

Implement other FWD recommendations to revoke bear dog license & reciprocity

* Need rule to prevent harassment + killing bears in den. *

Ellie M

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

- Unsure if changing season will change harvest
- against season extension / harvest of bears in dens

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

- minor change / no issue
- good move w/ better bio data
- balance season length w/ tag purchase

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

- yes, strong support
- but, $5 is cheap

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

- both tags purchase exclusionary? if hunting is aright
- should 2nd tag cost more?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

- very pro, but worried about enforcement
- minor change bc most hunters already do this

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

- prejudiced against hound season
- worried about denning bears

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I am not sure that it will change hunter effort. With warm seasons extending into december this is analagous the old second wk of november

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Better for biological data

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Same 1 tag - 1 season - 1 bear in one season

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

If the population is there that's fine

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

It seems like a law do appease

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

Fine

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

- The law seems fine -

- Worked w/ [illegible]
- Hearing

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

Hunting Season should not
Be during hibernation

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Ok Change

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

OK Change

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

Hard No for me!

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Should be 100% Illegal and Current Proposal not Enough

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

Find

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Too Many to write

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

- Unsure if changing season will change harvest
- against harvest of bears indens

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
I dont like it. Absolutely no extension into hybernatin

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
Its too long. Climate change is unpredictable. One bad good year for bears and its too much pressure.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? They should and I feel $5 is too low. Way too low. Thats the price of an apple.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
Absolutely but worried about those who dont care.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
I do not condone hound hunting at all.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   I am not for it!!

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   ~~I am not~~ for it ~~and~~ A good idea, making everybody buy a tag for each bear.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   All bear hunters should purchase a tag!

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   It should be illigal and enforced with heavy penalties, otherwise hunters will not pay any attention.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   NO extention of hound season.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Do it. This adresses an acknowledged need.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Do it. It is a minor change.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Do it. It's a small fee and reasonable.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Do it. If it doesn't address the issue, we can look at other means.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Do it. This is not a significant change. Common practice is to forgo shooting sows with cubs.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   You mean keeping it the same, why are we creating a season that is predg/duced against those who hunt with canine companions?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   This should be kept on track, and not allowed to be a soap box on people's opinions about hunting with canine companions.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I oppose due to hibernation

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

I don't think we should be making it easier to kill bear. Who are we serving the public or special interests?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

It seems important to keep track of or mine as well not even keep track of those killed.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

NO 2nd bear tag

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Absolutely, its wrong to kill a mammal. What are we going to do to enforce?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

We should not extend hunting season.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

I oppose hunting mother bears w/cubs & hibernating bears

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   I'm concerned about extending bear hunting into hibernation season - will 2nd tag be differentially priced? raise $ cost because its a value.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   - What are WMU's? How are these defined? where are they?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Good.

   How do we know if it's intentional or not hard to prove intentionality.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   General statement - I'm new to VT. I get that it's in the State Constitution but regs seem burdensome on property owners who don't want hunting on their private land.

8/26 St J
Bree Furfey

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

~~bear~~ concern for bear dens - some feel like that is unlikely, bear dens are difficult to find.
~~what if~~ some want that caveat

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

recognition of ↑ bear population + ↑ reproductive output
If we kill more bears, are there less conflicts?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

good - more education, valid use for research, + see an avenue to educate bear hunters
So its a good thing to gain more information.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

concern for WMU because bears traveling from one place to another, not killing problem ~~area~~ bears.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

yes, like it

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

the term "harvest"

Control the population -
Should ~3500 - target number
6.6 mi^2 in Alaska, 3 bears to 1 person
~~What~~ question of what they're doing different?
1 bear to 92 people.

concern of extension - extending it to killing bears in dens

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   NO

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   I guess more information is valid - so yes.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   NO

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Definitely make it illegal to kill Mother bears with cubs.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   End all hound hunting. It is totally cruel.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   I question the true population target for VT. Other regions can carry far more bears in an smaller region.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   - Concern a/b hunting of bears in dens. - No exception or caveat.
   -

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   - In favor of the tag reqt to (a) get more data/research + (b) as a segue to require education.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   - approve it but first want to know how the decision is made.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   (1) - 100% in favor.
   (2) - an important addition is ~~that~~ to add a knowledge requirement. For instances where a hunter knows the ~~cubs were~~ sow has cubs but it is not with her. e.g. game camera ~~pic~~

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   → Good, esp. b/c of bear denning cessation once you enter December.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Brenner

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I don't understand why the Dept. extended the season from one week to one month. No biological imperative to extend.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Yes, it helps determine effort to help w/ population est.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

Bad idea

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

fully support

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

fully support

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   For it Yes

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   Yes

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   Yes

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   No

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   Harvest more bears

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   - Some disagree because of hibernating bears.
   - VT + Alaska only States that allow hunting hibernating bears.
   - bears are hibernating by December
2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   - As long as hunting harvest data is captured with tooth data, you already know when bears are harvested
     - No issue with one season, just don't extend the season.
3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   - Good idea
   - Should be more than $5, Some mentioned $150.
4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   - Social carrying capacity, not biological carrying capacity.
     - more laws regulating human behavior.
   - Bears themselves determine the biological carrying capacity
     - they haven't reached it
5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   - No brainer
   - Guidelines about intent
6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   - Some of the group wanted to end hound hunting.
     - some don't
   - Most hound hunters don't run dogs once regular season begins anyway.
7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   - oral birth control of bears
   - Command board to deny baiting
   - Size recommendation for harvest
     - weight limit

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   No extended season

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   most people harvest is recorded

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Second tag should cost the same as deer tag now Instead of 2 costs.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   only

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   YES!

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Yes

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Rule re: killing bears in Den

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
The Extension will provide the opportunity to bring the bear population ~~under~~ to acceptable managed Level.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season? ~~It~~ will allow the Vt. F+G Dept to better manage the ~~b~~ season etc.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? No problem - Cost is low enough -

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? Will better manage the over-population in designated WMU's

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
Intentional should be illegal - but need to have concrete evidence -

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
Do not end it.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I am opposed to extending the season as I don't think we should hunt denning BEARS

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

THAT ~~SEEMS~~ okay. — to keep the current season.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

I support that.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

~~I support that~~

work more on mitigating human contribution

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

I support that

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

It doesn't make sense to have bear dogs during deer

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

HAS FWD looked IN regulating the bear population through animal birth control

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Adequate

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Fine

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Acceptable

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Let biology work

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   N/A

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Fine

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   If no other way to control the population, then OK

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   makes good sense

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   OK

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Should not allow.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   yes should totally

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   we make not have a bear population problem so much as a people population problem encroaching on bear habitat so much!

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   should not be done during Deer S

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Thats OK

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   OK

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   yes it should be

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Yes it should

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Bear Dogs should be more in control / shoot

ill

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Since the extension will run into the denning/ hibernation it opens up the risk of rogue hunters killing bears in their den.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   One season is okay but it needs to stop early, resp. without the proposed extension

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Absolutely, but $5 is a joke. A bear is worth more than $5, ffs.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Absolutely not

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Yep; should go without saying, BUT there are sickos out there, and this rule is for them.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Absolutely. End it as soon as possible and work on banning it altogether. It's a disgrace VT ought to be ashamed of

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Nice try, but the number of human/bear conflicts does not warrant these sweeping changes + increase in killings. It's just not true

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I think you need a law to prohibit shooting a bear in a den (hibernating)

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Once again if you do this you need a law to prohibit shooting a bear in den (hibernating)

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Fine

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

OK, as long as you do this in areas where there is the most conflict however pass laws for humans to lock their trash birdfeeders etc

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Yes, make it illegal

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

Hounding should ~~be~~ not be allowed period

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

This is just about social ~~capacity~~ capacity not carrying capacity

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

If extending bear hunting season → mid Dec – that would mean shooting hibernating bears –
Disagree ☺ ☹ to hunt (2) bears –

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Late hunting season lasts ~~to~~ too long →
go into hibernating season –
Don't add on 2 more weeks in Dec

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? ✓ Yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

manage their own populations –
Disagree, Bears. If mother bears are not well nourished, embryos will not implant.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Of course

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

Disagree with hunting bears with dogs.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   - why bother if denned up
   - oppose, probably denny
   - No clear prohibition on dens, if there a season
2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   - No real comments
3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   - cost of new tag
   - loss of a tag, appreciate
4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   - Neutral in some areas
   - Depends where it is
   - checked-in first, it have 2nd
5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   - 100%!
   - intent?
6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   - how many are there out in the woods?
   - close for regular deer season
7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   - baiting season → less opportunity to harvest
     - conflicts
     - bill → bear proof dumsters + canisters

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   100% in favor

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   100% in favor

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? 100% against

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   Long over due

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   100% for it

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   100% against it

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   100% for bear baiting
   We need it !!

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I strongly support the prohibition on killing a mother bear accompanied by cubs. I oppose extension of the season or a 2nd bear tag being issued

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, but I have no objection to combining the 2 seasons.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

This makes sense for reporting reasons. And extra revenue is always helpful for the Dept.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

We oppose a 2nd bear tag. However, if a 2nd tag is issued, it should be issued only when the 1st bear is checked in / reported

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

I fully support this common sense regulation

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

I oppose hound hunting for bears generally.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Thank you for the hard work on these rules!

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   I don't agree as this extension overlaps w/ bear denning

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   makes sense to me

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   I'm not sure that's necessary

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Absolutely! A sow should not be killed w/ cubs present

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   I do not agree with hounding at all.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   I agree But Hounds should be allowed The whole season

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   I agree

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   I agree

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   It is Deffitley needed I Just Dont Like Being able to Hold Both at The Same time. Sows with Cubs will Be shot Together

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   I agree

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Hounds should Be used The whole season we can identify males vs. females Better Then most Hunters and most Bears out late will Be males not sows with cubs

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Ok

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   No

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   No

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   which WMU?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   No

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   End on Friday Before Reg Hunting Season Now
   Very Few Run During Hunt Season

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   You Spit the Season Tag So You
   get Better CT. Why Now?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Ignore the questions. I used the space to simply capture comments

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

In favor → (2)

Remain similar seasons
In Favor of charging a fee, but buy the tag separately
√ (basically support the proposal)

Split → (1)

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Not in Favor → (3)

- Do not support extended season. Harassed from June to end of season
- concerned w/ bears that in dens in Dec.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? - hunter in NEK & he just doesn't see that many bears

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

- Don't know anyone who would target a sow w/ cubs. I don't understand why this is proposed.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

-

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

- Dogs should not be used to hunt bears.
- would like to see hounding banned.
- concern w/ shooting denning bears

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   Not for it. In Northeast Kingdom, we don't see too many bears

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season? I like it, other than to extend season for bear hunting

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Fine.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? No problem.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? Yes. About time to do it.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   End hound hunting all together. Starts too early. Too much. I have a very negative experience working a non residents shoot a bear out of a tree

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   May be increase bear-human conflicts in rural state, but not in NEK.
   No need to extend bear season, in my view, in NEK.

We're not all guys — Use "people folks"

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   Bad idea — bears are denning at that point. What ethical hunter would kill a sleeping bear — who may have cubs in there ??
2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   Don't care — except DROP the hounders from joining → that's NOT ethical
3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? $5 ?! Why isn't it $500 to kill our bears??
4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   DROP the word "intentional" — and ENFORCE IT
   If people kill ~~be~~ sows w/ cubs
6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   Hounders should be outlawed → UNFAIR ~~UNFAIR~~ and UNETHICAL
   hunt bears on your own if you're a REAL hunter
7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   Don't extend the season into December —
   and get rid of "dogs hunting bears"

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

Season Should Stay Same

like idea of ~~a~~ ger general Tag

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

make 1 Must buy Tags

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

Assign by WMU's

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

How Can You? if I ~~accidently~~ Don't Yes

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

We don't ~~Hunt~~ Hunt w/ Hounds

during Hunting Season

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Any Rules About Shooting

Hounds

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   wondering if it will have desired effect. will hunters continue to hunt bear or will they transition to deer/archery hunting

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   good idea

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   good idea. better idea if hunters are hunting on purpose of shooting by mistake

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   not sure how many hunters will pursue a second bear

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   I donot believe this happens very much. hunters I know would check to make sure no cubs are present

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Fine w/ me

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   In favor

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   How about Life Time Licenses

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Good

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   ~~OK~~ Not needed

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Let the hounds hunt

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Reduce the herd

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Opposed - Currently bears are being harrassed by hounds from June 1 - Sept. 1 and hounded and hunted until November. an extension would create additional stress and would raise the possibility of bears being killed in their dens

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   It's irrelevant to the bears.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   agree

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Opposed

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   This should've been done years ago.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Bear hounding should be banned.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

2026 Black Bear Hearings

August 24 and 27, 2026

Board Members Present:

Black Bear: *What are your comments on the proposed hunting season dates extension for the black bear season?*

Name	*Town*	*Comment*
Charmaine Vinton		1 Oppose the extension of season- puts hibernating bears at risk
Vanessa kranz	bethel	1 Oppose the extension of season – no evidence that extending season will lower pop
Chando Bahlo	Rutland	1Oppose the extension of season- puts hibernating bears at risk – doesn't allow for hyperfashia
Jack Billings	St J	1Supports extending
Ann	Newfane	1Oppose the extension of season

Black Bear: *What are your comments on the proposed combining of the early and late season?*

Name	*Town*	*Comment*
Vanessa kranz	bethel	2Supports combining early & Late
Chando Bahlo	Rutland	*2 Don't understand the reason for it unless it helps us get more info*

Black Bear: *What are your comments on the proposed requirement of all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?*

Name	*Town*	*Comment*
Chanda Bahlo	Rutland	*Thinks it's a great idea*
Vanessa kranz	bethel	*Thinks it's a great idea*
Charmaine Vinton		*Supports it*
Jack Billings	St J	*Supports it*
Mikaela Bruce	*Essex JCt*	*Supports it*

Black Bear: *What are your comments on the proposed option for a second bear tag?*

Name	*Town*	*Comment*
Vanessa kranz	bethel	Oppose this idea- no evidence that more bear tags will lead to more harvest
Chando Bahlo	Rutland	Oppose this idea-*Back door way to allow hunting of sow and cub*
Charmaine Vinton		Oppose this idea-
Rose Benson		Oppose Has had a hard time with hunting for enjoyment. Seems horrible. Most people in VT aren't hunting.
Jack Billings	St J	Supports it and seems
Mikaela Bruce		Oppose the idea

Black Bear: *What are your comments on the proposed rule to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?*

Name	*Town*	*Comment*
Jack Billings	St J	*Support*
Charmaine Vinton		*Support*
Chando Bahlo	Rutland	*support*
Vanessa kranz	bethel	*support*
ashley		*support*
Mikaela Bruce	*Essex JCt*	

Black Bear: *What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the last day of the regular deer season?*

Name	*Town*	*Comment*

Black Bear: *Any questions you would like to ask?*

Name	*Town*	*Comment*

Jackie's Responses:

(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
(10)
(11)
(12)

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   bears are hibernating in December

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   you already know when bears are harvested

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   yes
   should be more than $5

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   bears can't reproduce if there isn't enough food, so they haven't reached carrying capacity

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   yes

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   no hound season
   limit to certain WMUs

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   consider birth control
   no baiting

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Yes, Also do you see there ever being a Spring Season

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Yes

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   What will the cost be for non-residents

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   I believe having more avaible tags the better

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   I don't agree

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   No
   yes THL

   Good idea - opportunistic - seen them out until Mid-december, there are opportunities
   - Concern about an unscrupulous hunter from poaching from dens - this is a good chunk of time their in season - What about spring season?

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   - should be a bounty
   May lose the opportunistic deer hunters
   - Otherwise not opposed.
   - good for data collection

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   generally the same as above

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   general approval - specifically because its looked at annually

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   - we don't define cub - what constitutes a cub?
   Most hunters are avoiding that - no issue.
   - should have always been illegal

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   - Never seen the hounders in the woods during rifle season. They know not to run dogs during the rifle season.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   - Concern that these measures won't effectively control the population.
   - What about requiring bear-resistant garbage cans and bear boxes (residential).

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   I am against it.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   I don't think I understand the significance of this. Would it be to gather more accurate info about the bear population?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? I think that would greatly improve the ability to gather accurate data. & the fee is small enough.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   It should have always been illegal to harvest a sow.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Year around with a bounty on all Taken

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Year around

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   reward them with Bounty on all Taken

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   give as many as possible

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   No Way

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Let there hunt year long

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   I am a Dog Farmer Try to compete With the Black Bear I also make Magnet YRCP



Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Good

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Good

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   its a must need if above

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Good

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Definitely as previously

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   n/a

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   well presented based on gathered info

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   I agree with the extension.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   It makes sense to go back to one long season

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Like turkey Hunters. some want to hunt them some don't

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? In overly pupulated areas it is needed.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? I agree 100%

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? I agree.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Sounds Solid to me

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Makes perfect sense to get an Idea of Who Realy wants to hunt bears

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Don't mind it but you may loose Some harvest as all will not and Some who would have Shot Just an opertunity want harvest tag

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Great Idea

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Any good hunter would not on purpose

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   most stop before deer Season anyway

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Follow the Science.

6

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   Good first Step.
   Good while they are out
   Don't want to see bears harvested when hibernating x3

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   In favor of it. x4
   Know better who is hunting.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Get better data

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   In favor of it. few will get 2nd bear.
   Positive impact.
   Makes Sence

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   In favor of the change. 5
   Make it illegal

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   they don't hunt during regular Season
   Don't want dogs hunting during regular Season
   opposed to hound hunting.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   Make it illegal to Shoot a bear in the den
   Educate the Public about hunting & biology

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   I'm Concerned about Mother Bears being Shot and abandoning cubs.
2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   Good for record keeping.
3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   Makes Sense.
4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   I don't think thinning the population is as effective as communities having better management of trash, bird feeders etc.
5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   Yes, I agree.
6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   Yes I agree.
7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   It is inhumane to target denning animals.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season? ? ~~It~~ seems to make sense.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   People should be accountable, and $5 is awfully cheap. It helps with record keeping.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   I find it unnecessary, unless there is a reason.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? I absolutely support that!

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? ~~As~~ The hounds should be prohibited. ~~I agree with~~ at the very least, limited.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Think its a good thing. Clearly over population or on our way

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   In favor

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   50/50 – better data

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   yes, very few extra bears

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Very few would do it anyways.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   50/50

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   (1) Educate
   (2) Don't take moral/ethical advice from advocate groups.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

NO Real Concern w/ The extension of the Season

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Makes Good Managment sense

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Sound good to me
I think they will pay $10-

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

Make sense to Target the Areas w/ Higher Bear #

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Should Be The LAW

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

I don't think many are Running In Deer Season Anyway

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   opposed to HARvesting hibernating BEARS —

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   FOR Record Keep
   Agree to Combine but not Extend due to hibernation —

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Keeps better TRACKING of # BEAR hunters — (weigh station)? —

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   (positive) if actually CAN control population in AREAS of Concern —

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Agree w/ NO SOW harvest —

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   opposed to hound hunting of LARGE MAMALS —

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Bear should not be harvested while hibernating — UNSPORTSMAN like ——

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Seems like a good iden if the population needs to be diminished

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Good iden.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Maker sense for data collection.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Maker sense to specify the second tag.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Good iden.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   That works.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   - Support ||
   - support but last day of rifle |
   - Support but wont make enough of an impact ||
   - Against to hibernating ||||
   - against, want more education
2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   - against |
   - too complicated |
   - support |||
3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? support but
   - should be more! |||
   - more expensive would give better data on who actually hunts a bear ||
4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   - wont help problem bears |
   - against
   - increases risks of sow/cubs being taken
   - how do you regulate it? ↳ quota? - same day?
   against - 2nd bear would mostly be from hound hunters
5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   - how would you enforce that?
   - people could still do it
6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   - should end before rifle season ||||, but not seeing houndsmen usually
   - against all houndsing
7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   - against hound hunting
   - Focus on humans not bears ||
     ↳ conflict mitigation
   - spring bear hunt ||
     or baiting |
   - no baiting

What were bear population objectives early on (in 1970s-1980s?)

There is NOT enough time to cover all. Voices are too loud to hear discussion. Its important for pros + cons groups to meet together

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   I am against this extending season because it

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? This is an important way to record the harvest, which you need to decide if the Tag shd be increased.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? wildlife mgmt unit
   against bec. more chance of sows being killed. + cubs.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   important. Hard to enforce. Anyone could say it was unintentional.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   - Bear hounding should be banned completely, or shorten to be in line w/ neighboring states!
   - Commissioner should have authority to revoke bear dog permit!

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   You mentioned that the population objectives of 3500-5500 bears is based partly on public tolerance for these animals + public support to conservation. Seems like the public's not doing more careful in following "bear wise" rules is the problem. Educate public, require correct garbage disposal - fine people. There are ways to stop nuisance bears

We have more balanced VT wildlife agency w/ Non hunters too.

No baiting of bears! Including prohibition on harassment + hunting of habituated bears + dens. Like other states.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

Combine seasons - ok
Extend season - Against
Not extending season - ok
Take 2nd Bear - Against
Prohibit taking of sow w/cubs - ok
> Against - bears may be hibernating

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Better efficiency
$/B a higher cost for Bear tags

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? If it helps F&W to obtain more data - good

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

① Depends on WMU Houndsmen will benefit
② Doesn't help w/"problem" bears which may be in urban settings
③ will sows be targeted, if cubs aren't visible?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Very ethical!
How to enforce?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

I'm against ALL bear hounding.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Humans need to make more effort in preventing conflicts
Against a spring bear hunt
Against Baiting

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   Against

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Why are the tags only $5?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   oppose

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   - Unenforceable
   prohibit killing of all sows
   For + prohibit killing of cubs / yearlings
   prohibit killing of hibernating bears
   prohibit bear baiting

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   Against hounding – cruel + barbaric
   bears should be cherished + protected not slaughtered

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   IF conflict is the impetus for the proposed changes, why do more bears have to be killed because of the negligence of humans. Educate the public. The bears are not at fault – they are trying to survive based on their sense of smell and instinct.

Punish the humans instead of killing the bears

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Great

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Very Good

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Good

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   If needed

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Just before Deer Opened

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Spring Bear Hunt, Bait)

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   - Good idea

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season? Don't think it will make big difference

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? Should work well for over population

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? Hard to Enforce

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? End when regular season starts

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Spring Hunt + Bait by Permit

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   Start sept 1
   End Last day of rifle

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   agree
   A lot of hunters will buy a tag increase they have the opportunity of taking a bear not to actively hunt a bear

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   Unlimited tags?
   Lottery?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   How will this be regulated

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   End it before rifle season starts

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   Hound season start 1 week after ~~reg~~ early season starts

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   OPPOSE TOO late IN THE Season & TOO Dangerous for us who live IN THE FOREST.

   ~~Does not~~ IS NOT supported By SCIENCE/DATA

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   NOT SURE DATA WAS INCONCLUSIVE — SURPRISED AT METHODS — and reasoning.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? YES. They should and the cost should be INCREASED 5.00 for A BEAR!!

   ↳ ~~Bear~~ Would support A Budget for EDUCATION

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   No OPPOSE

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   TO Kill a female Bear w/ cubs & YEARLINGS

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   END IT

   * I GREW UP with an Adv'd Hunter & FISHERMAN — & HUNTED HE OWNED THE GUN SHOP INTOWN — HE TAUGHT HUNTER SAFTEY & HIS Best friend WAS The game Warden. WE RAISED ORPHANS.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   I am APPALLED AT VT HUNTING LAWS There Should be MORE HUNTER SAFETY Classes & REQUIREMENTS & EDUCATION for PEOPLE LIVING W/ Wildlife The VT Wildlife IS WIPED OUT and out of Balance.

   NO BAIT

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   won't work

   Allow Baiting

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   OKAY

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   OK

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   NO

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   I Agree

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Good

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Hibernating bears
   Not for it. Leave as is.
   Not reduce human interaction - in mun./sun lakes.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Simple to keep seperated

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   It's thats it

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   NO - especially increases sows being "unintentionally" targeted - more cubs -

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Has no value

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Hound season interfers w/ deer hunting

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Hounding - excuse ~~not~~ for meat - but they have to feed their dogs
Seeing hunters at meeting - not lacking in food.
Bear hunting does not reduce bear/human interaction

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   SEEMS APPROPRIATE

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   RATIONALE (COUNTING HUNTER INTEREST) MAKES SENSE TO ME

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
   IF IT HELPS THE SCIENCE THEN IM FOR IT

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   MAKES SENSE FOR POP MANAGEMENT

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   I DONT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS BUT IT SEEMS HUMANE.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO HAVE AN OPINION

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   THANKS FOR A CLEAR PRESENTATION.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

? It will mitigate conflicts - not valid reason
killing in dens?

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

Good idea, keep it simple

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Agree

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   No

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   NO

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   No

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   agree

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   No

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   It's a waste of resources

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Keep separate

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Yes

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Not a fan - unnecessary for human-bear conflicts

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   There needs to be a penalty versus an honor system

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   No change

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Thankyou
Nicki Fortin

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   QUESTION LOGIC OF TIMING WITH SOWS W/ CUBS

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   YES IT SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   not needed, have negative ramifications

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   not needed - only extends time to "harvest"

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   agree, and an increase of fee

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   only another opportunity to kill - disagree

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   how would it be monitored? Still should be made illegally, but with fines + loss of license.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   hound hunting simply isn't a "fair practice."

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Consider Empathy

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

I oppose extending the season into mid-Dec. as it puts hibernating bears at risk

The Dept. should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align VT. with

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season? I don't understand the difference

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? I support this but I do not understand why the cost is only $5.00.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? I am opposed

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? I support

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? support

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

I would expect that the dept. would be more representative of non-violent and advocated for prevention of Bear conflicts

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Fine - let them hunt

   - Semantics -

   Needed

   Wanting for awhile - enjoy

   Pregnant sows hibernating early

   in favor especially Late Season Better chance of harvest

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   easier than 2 - 50 Reasonable willing to pay

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   understand concept like better w paired as one season

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   Hounds - Not seeing pop't in mountains. Focus 2nd in valley

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Morally reasonable - generally guidelines on implementation & enforcement.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Close thru Rifle - open during muzzle.

   avoid potential conflicts

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   Issuing Guidance for landowner tags in regards to Conflict Bears.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   V - all good

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   I like it better than having two

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? Makes it easier if the seasons are combined

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
   Im in support

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   Im okay w/ it, however if the goal is to cut the population?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   If its in season, let them run
   why?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   Hunter access - farmers, problem areas

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   I FEEL IT IS NEEDED.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   SEEMS REASONABLE

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? SEEMS TO BE A GOOD VALUE.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? I FEEL IT IS A GOOD IDEA.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? HOW IS IT KNOWN THAT CUBS ARE PRESENT. HARD TO ENFORCE. WHAT IS THE PENALTY MORALITY CAN NOT BE LEGISLATED.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? SEEMS REASONABLE

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations? IS THE STATE STILL UTILIZING HOUNDS TO COLLAR BEARS? CAN A RIFLE BE USED THE ENTIRE SEASON OR IS THERE SPECIFIC BOW ONLY OR PRIMITIVE ONLY.

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
I agree and have been wanting the season extended into Dec for some time!

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
It really doesn't matter how it happens

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? I understand the concept. You need to have real #'s for your Data

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? I like the Idea. There are a lot of hunters that aren't interested in harvesting a bear. I love the Idea of more opportunities

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? I think most hunters would not harvest a sow with obvious cubs

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
No opinion

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Confusion. 84 days

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   N/A

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   Make money for the state? $5
   Buy 2 @ once?
   or 1 then 1

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   ?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   Yay!

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   N/A

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   are we not just counting dead bears?
   does this really represent population
   are there no live bear count/tag system

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   For the most part I agree with proposed Changes.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   I think this a great idea to get a better understanding of hunter intent

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   I agree

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   As A hound hunter in the spine of the greens I don't feel the population has grown As much as the valley.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   I agree with this change

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Close hound Through Rifle season and re open during muzzle/Archery

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   Bears have been on their feet later in the year. Have seen them on camera into January

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   Sounds good

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   It would be great. I wouldn't be afraid to pay more

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   There are higher populations in certain areas. I believe the specific wmu's would be applicable

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   I agree, morally right

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   Most guys do not run hounds after the start of deer season rifle

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   OK

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   No problem

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   No problem

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   OK

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   OK

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   OK

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   NO

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   OK with

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   OK with

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   OK with

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   OK with

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   OK with

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   do not agree with Hound Hunting
   Cubs get Separated From Mothers

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   AOK

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   AOK

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   AOK

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   AOK

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   As a former warden I struggle with the word "intentionally" fully realize there will be no enforcement

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? * Before the end of rifle * My only problem is that dogs will tend to move bear out of early hibernation. Not a problem in SW Vt. The past few years... late hibernation

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   OK. YES

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   YES OK

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? OK YES

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? OK YES

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? ?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? NO. NOT DURNING REG DEER SEASON.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

   BAIT BEARS?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
✓ Good, agree season extension will increase harvest

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
✓ Good, will not impact harvest numbers in my opinion

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
✓ OK, why not & include in general hunting license

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?
✓

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
agree, how is that enforced?

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

   I FEEL THAT IS A GOOD IDEA, THIS WILL GIVE BEAR HUNTERS MORE OF A CHANCE

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

   LESS CONFUSING

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

   I THINK IT SHOULD SAVE THE HUNTERS THAT WANT TO BEAR HUNT.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

   IT SHOULD BE ALLOWED IF THE WMU'S CAN HANDLE IT.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

   GREAT IDEA. WE SHOULDN'T KILL SOWS WITH CUBS.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

   MAYBE IT SHOULD END BEFORE THE REGULAR DEER SEASON.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Black Bear Hearing Questions

Questions

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?
   LIGHT WINTERS IT WOULD BE OK
   AFTER A HARD WINTER (DEEP SNOW + COLDER) SHORTEN SEASON
2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?
   FOR IT IF POPULATION IS UP
3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?
4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? FOR IT
5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?
   ~~NEVER~~ YES ALWAYS
6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?
   LEAVE IT AS IS
7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?
   NO

From: 1organicjones@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brian Jones <1organicjones@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 6:30 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from 1organicjones@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont’s landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brian Jones
Ludlow, VT 05149-9668

7/29/2026 Board Meeting Bear Rule Public Comments

Pam Perry – Plainfield – speak about the extended bear season – it rubs me the wrong way killing a bear in their den, shouldn't be allowed, this hunting season is extended and the bears may be in their dens, they should have a little bit of a break, relax for a week or two, go into their dens and not be killed there, it's an ethical thing, most VTers would feel the same way

Sarah Gorsline, Grand Isle – project coyote in VT, advocate for practical coalition with wild carnivores, thank you for your work on the bear rules recently, look forward to public comment, incorporated some suggestions into the rule, regulations are made for outliers, not intended to criminalize in the past, turn toward the future, hunting in current conditions, increased hunting opportunities there should be consideration of other impacts of this change, common sense regulations to work together with other, if bear season is extended and overlaps with bear denning season, why not implement a regulation killing bears in dens, most hunters are against this practice, what harm would we cause if this regulation was enacted to protect, balanced as a compromise, if two tags if issued at same time may enable hunter to kill two bears in the same family, consider issuing tag after first bear has been taken in

Sophie Bowater, Middlesex – VT Coyote Coalition – regarding the bear rule in consideration – completely changed course from one week to one month, Kevin Lawrence, department made change with zero justification – if the board does not reverse decision, imperative to enact regulation not to kill bears in dens – prohibit this activity outright – clear message

Diane Reynolds, Chittenden County – seems the board is trying to reduce the population of black bears, created a two bag rule, it's a proposal, generally accepted practice for bear population reduction, why don't we see how that plays out before extending season, to avoid a hunter killing a bear in a den, why don't we see what the two bear tag does before extreme measures

8/19/26 Board Meeting Public Comment

Gaelan Chutter-Ames, Randolph – proposed bear rules – separating tags, single tag for a bear tag, worried that might pose a risk for opportunistic harvest, could you make it an opt out, could actively choose no I don't want it, with a question to get the data about who hunts bears, maintain opportunity, get good data on who is harvesting bear

From: Abby Madeiros <abby45@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 8:01 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting

[You don't often get email from abby45@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good Morning,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag.

Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

I would also like the ability to post No Hunting signs that stay in effect.

Thank you for your time
Abby Madeiros
North Bennington VT

Sent from my iPad

From: Addie Gardner <addie.gardner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from addie.gardner@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

Addie Gardner
Corinth, VT

From: Addie Gardner <addie.gardner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose extending the bear hunting season & issuing a second bear tag.

I support prohibiting killing mother bears with cubs & killing hibernating bears.

Thank you for your time,

Addie Gardner
Corinth VT

From: Adria Milewski <adria.milewski@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:33 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: New bear hunting rules!

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Thank you for your consideration,
Adria

From: Adrienne Magida <adriennemagida@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:17 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Bear Hunting rules - comments

You don't often get email from adriennemagida@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern,

The Middlesex Conservation Commission has had a discussion about the FIsh and Wildlife Department's new proposed bear rules. The Commission feels strongly that hunters should be allowed to get two bear tags for **only a trial year** to see if that will control the bear population before the bear hunting season is extended. If allowing hunters two bear tags does decrease the bear population then it will be unnecessary to extend the bear hunting season. The proposed extended dates go into the denning season for bears. The Commission believes strongly that hunting bears who are denning is not acceptable practice for hunting and should never be allowed for any reason. We hope the Fish and Wildlife Department will carefully consider these points as they make final decisions on new rules for bear hunting. Thank you for your time.

The Middlesex Conservation Commission

Adrienne Magida - chair, Larry Becker, Katy Farber, Kimberly Hagen, Ross Lieblappen, Sage Romey, Dave Shepard, Jon Udis

From: alexandra mathis <alexandra.mathis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:06 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from alexandra.mathis@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it concerns at VT Fish and Wildlife:

As a life-long Vermonter, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag.

Please consider taking action to implement actual protections for Vermont's bears. There is simply no responsible justification for killing mother bears with dependent cubs, or for the "hunting" of hibernating bears. Shooting a defenseless animal while it is unconscious does not constitute good sportsmanship, and should therefore not qualify as hunting (or be endorsed as such by your organization).

Vermont can do better than this.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Mathis
Thetford, Vermont

_____

From: Alexia Maizel <lexmaizel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 6:05 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Changes to Vermont's bear rules

You don't often get email from lexmaizel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose issuing a second bear tag and extending the hunting season into December.

I support:
• Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs
• Protecting hibernating/denning bears
• Reconsidering hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound training from June 1 until August 1. Strongly support canceling hounding all together.

I oppose:
• Issuing a second bear tag
• Extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December

From: Alice Roberge <alice.roberge@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 4:51 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from alice.roberge@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. Bears reproduce slowly in fact, they have one of the slowest reproductive rates of any Vermont game species. Females typically don't reproduce until 3-5 years old and have small litters, typically 1-3 cubs, every other year. A 2 bear limit could outpace this slow reproductive rate, risking population decline. Removing more adult females disproportionately affects future population stability, since cub survival depends heavily on experienced mothers.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

Research on human-bear conflict generally points to habitat loss, food attractants, and development pressure -- not raw bear density -- as the primary drivers of conflict. Killing more bears will not reduce conflict, but it does carry real risk to long-term population stability.

I respectfully ask the Department to consider alternative, non-lethal conflict mitigation strategies such as attractant management, public education, and electric fencing support as a first response to human-bear conflict complaints.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Alice Roberge
84 Simpson Brook Road
Waterford, VT 05819

From: Alice Roberge <alice.roberge@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:33 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

You don't often get email from alice.roberge@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife, nearly all of whom are hunters and anglers, have proposed extending the bear hunting season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. There is no data about the carrying capacity of bears; therefore, there is no data that VT has exceeded its carrying capacity. Consequently, extending the bear hunting season is arbitrary and capricious.

Nearly all bear-human "conflicts" are caused by human negligence; for example, leaving garbage and bird feeders out. VT Fish & Wildlife could take a more proactive stance about educating the public, and issuing fines for people who willfully disregard rules. Increasing the bear season will not decrease such "conflicts" as whatever bears there are will still be attracted to garbage and bird seed.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season. At this point, hounds can tree bears from June 1st, when cubs are not more than 10-20 pounds. If they fall from a tree in exhaustion or fright, they could be killed by hounds. Mother bears pursued by hounds are separated from their cubs, can suffer from heat exhaustion and dehydration, and often have to travel miles back to reunite with their cubs. This clearly is cruel. I oppose all hounding of bears, but if this cruel practice has to continue to satisfy some hunters, then it should not start until September at the earliest.
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Sincerely,
Alice Roberge
84 Simpson Brook Road
Waterford, VT 05819

From: Alice Silverman <alicehersheysilverman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:13 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Alice Silverman

From: Alisa Bernat <alisabernat@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 4:05 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Harvest

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for all the work you do to support humane and responsible hunting. I come from a long and proud line of hunters and know that this is one way to let people enjoy nature while also feeding their families (I have some great venison recipes to share!). However, I feel that some of the Vermont rules about hunting are irresponsible, cruel and give all of us hunters a bad name. In particular, the rules around black bear hunting are creating a huge problem and nightmare.

Please, please:
prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs, don't allow second bear tags, don't extend the hunting season.

I appreciate you letting me share my opinions and I look forward to keeping the sport positive rather than pandering to the few bad apples who do the wrong thing.
Regards,
Mrs. Alisa Bernat
138 Brookdale Lane
Stowe, Vermont

From: Amanda Green <aleegreen@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:11 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting season

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

-Amanda Green of South Burlington

From: Amber Alexander <amberalex@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from amberalex@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

I am a native Vermonter, and descend from native Vermonters. Vermont cannot go backward. What’s proposed is cruel and archaic.
Amber Alexander
Middlesex, Vermont

From: amelia.perrin1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Amelia Perrin <amelia.perrin1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 12:26 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from amelia.perrin1@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont’s landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amelia Perrin
Springfield, OR 97477-4164

From: Amy Guala <amy.guala@proton.me>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 1:39 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from amy.guala@proton.me. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Although issuing a second tag may increase revenue for Vermont Fish & Wildlife they have stated they recognize that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts. Yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. It creates orphans that if they survive exacerbate the human interaction problem because they seek and become habituated easy food sources.

Hounding should be eliminated entirely but as that is unlikely to happen I ask that the Department consider the following at minimum:

• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and clarify and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit with clearly stated reasons and violations

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. -Amy Guala

From: Andrea Brito Nuñez <andrea@ositocoffee.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:25 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: On the proposed second permit and new bear hunting rules

You don't often get email from andrea@ositocoffee.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

It is cruel and unnecessary to hunt these beautiful creatures. They were here first, long before settlers came to Vermont. I live deep in the woods of Barnard and see bears almost every day. We cohabit safely. Ban bear hunting.

It's deplorable.

--
Andrea Brito Núñez
North American Sales

she/her

From: andrea pfeuti <andrea.pfeuti@gmx.net>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 11:38 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: strong opposition to Vermont's policy allowing hunters to kill mother black bears while they are accompanied by dependent cubs

You don't often get email from andrea.pfeuti@gmx.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Wildlife Officials and Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my profound concern and strong opposition to Vermont's policy allowing hunters to kill mother black bears while they are accompanied by dependent cubs.

I believe we need to be honest about what is happening. Calling the killing of a wild animal "harvesting" does not change the reality of the act. The word *harvesting* is fundamentally wrong in this context. A living, sentient animal is not a resource to be collected. Language matters because it shapes how we think about our responsibilities toward the natural world.

These bears do not belong to hunters. **They belong to all of us.** They are part of Vermont's natural heritage and part of a shared public trust. Whether someone hunts, photographs wildlife, hikes through the woods, or simply takes comfort in knowing that wild animals still exist, every Vermonter has a legitimate stake in how these animals are treated and protected.

When a mother bear is killed while she has dependent cubs, the consequences do not end with the death of that one animal. Each bear matters in our ecosystem, they can't just simply be replaced.

As humans, we have the ability the responsibility—to evolve. Our understanding of animal intelligence, social bonds, suffering, and our relationship with wildlife has changed dramatically. Laws and wildlife-management practices should evolve with that understanding as well.

Tradition alone is not a sufficient justification for continuing a practice. The fact that something has been permitted in the past does not mean that it should remain acceptable in the future. We should be asking ourselves not merely what we are legally allowed to do, but what we *ought* to do.

I strongly urge Vermont to prohibit the killing of female black bears accompanied by dependent cubs - and bears in general. Such a measure would demonstrate that Vermont values both its wildlife and the ethical responsibility.

Vermont has an opportunity to lead rather than follow—to demonstrate that wildlife management can reflect compassion, scientific understanding, and a willingness to reconsider practices that no longer reflect who we aspire to be.

We have to evolve as human beings. Our treatment of wildlife should be part of that evolution.

These bears are not merely numbers in a population-management plan, and they are not possessions belonging to those who choose to hunt them. They are living members of Vermont's ecosystem, and they are part of a natural world that belongs to all of us.

Ask yourself if you would be ok if someone decides to shoot your dog because they think there are too many of them. If I observe how bears and cougars get hunted - I feel they do it to me as well.

Best,

Andrea Pfeuti

From: Andrea Seek <qb02473@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 10:47 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

You don't often get email from qb02473@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi, I just wanted to write to say that I work halftime in Vermont, in St. Johnsbury and Newport. Live in West Burke/Sutton there. We have bears on our property and are very careful about keeping attractants, etc. out of reach, I can't even get a photo of them because they retreat back into the woods the minute I come out to look. So we have no problems or concerns about them, just recognize the need to be careful. I do think that the hounding of bears is wrong. Thank you, Andrea Seek 273 Rocky Rd., Sutton, VT.

From: andrew chamberlin <chambo32@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 12:19 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comments for changes to VT Bear Season

You don't often get email from chambo32@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I want to share my comments on the proposal for changes to the VT bear season.

I am in favor of all the proposed changes with the exception of the "prohibit the intentional taking of a sow bear accompanied by a cub or cubs".

I do not think this is necessary as the vast majority of hunters will not shoot a sow accompanied by cubs. There is no need for this rule.

Also how do you define cubs? I see 2nd year cubs with sows quite frequently and they will not den with mother, so they will be on their own in the winter. This in most cases would mean you cannot shoot sows. How do you prove a harvested sow had cubs? I also see this as way to blame hunters if cubs are seen abandoned, when the sow could have been hit by a car. More rules that are very subjective will create barriers for new hunters to start hunting them. Anytime a hunter shoots and reports a Sow legally they are going to be worried a game warden will pay them a visit, and that stress/fear will turn people away from hunting.

Most of the people against these changes don't want hunting to exist, so their arguments aren't rooted in science-based rules to manage the population. Bear and coyote restrictions are their starting point in their campaigns to end all hunting.

If you are really concerned about not shooting sows, then allow a spring baiting season. Cubs are very obvious in April and hunters can much more easily identify if a sow has cubs by the nature of them approaching and winding the bait pile and again the vast majority of hunters will not shoot a Sow with cub(s).

Bears are in an adaptation period much like Canada geese did 20 years ago.

Andrew Chamberlin
Richmond, VT

From: Andy Hope <ahope_in_hell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 3:43 PM
To: Smith, Hannah; ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comment on Rule 26P025 – Bear Management Rule

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ahope_in_hell@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Comment on Rule 26P025 – Bear Management Rule

I am writing to oppose the proposed expansion of bear hunting under Rule 26P025, particularly the extension of the hunting season through the end of the regulated deer season and the provision allowing a second bear to be taken in designated Wildlife Management Units.

Expanding hunting opportunity should require a clear biological and management justification, supported by evidence that increased mortality is necessary and that less harmful management measures would not achieve the same objective. I do not believe increased hunting opportunity should itself be treated as a management objective.

I support the proposed prohibition on intentionally taking sows with cubs, but I would urge the Board to ensure that this protection is meaningful and enforceable. I would also ask the Board to prohibit the taking of bears from dens or while denned.

I therefore ask the Board to retain the existing one-bear annual limit and current season restrictions unless it can demonstrate, through robust population and welfare evidence, that these changes are necessary for conservation or public safety rather than simply providing additional hunting opportunity.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sent from Outlook for iOS

From: Andy Phelan <acp5490@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 12:11 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Cc: Batchelder, Jason; Comeau, Jaclyn; Austin, John; Sausville, David
Subject: Re: Phelan June 6 Petition To Be Heard on the pending Female Bear with Cub Harvesting Rule change

You don't often get email from acp5490@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Board Members,

This is just a quick note to thank all of you for considering and acting on the sow/cub rule change petition. Your work on this -- and your vote last night -- is much appreciated by many, many folks, both hunters and non-hunters.

Regards,
Andy Phelan

On Tue, Jun 2, 2026 at 11:12 PM Andy Phelan <acp5490@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Members of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board,
>
> Please find attached my petition to be heard regarding the rule change concerning female bears with cubs.
>
> Please let me know immediately if you have any difficulty opening the Petition attachment and I will correct any issues.
>
> Regards,
> -Andy Phelan
> acp5490@gmail.com
> 617-306-1673
>
> June 2026 Phelan Petition to be Heard/Bear Reg/IntHarvFemCub

From: Andy Phelan <acp5490@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 3:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board Windsor; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Caledonia
Subject: A.Phelan Comments on proposed Bear Rule Changes

You don't often get email from acp5490@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR,
Please consider my comments below. For convenience, I have also attached a pdf/document with the same text as in the email below
--
-Andy Phelan

Phelan/Public Comments -- Proposed Bear Rule Changes -- 9/4/2026

acp5490@gmail.com
Phelan.law5@gmail.com
617-306-1673

1.
2.
3. **Proposed addition of Rule 7.6: Bear Sow/Cubs Rule change: "Except as permitted pursuant to 10 VSA s.4827, no person shall intentionally**
4. **take a sow accompanied by a cub or cubs."**
5.

Comments:

a.
b.
c.
I support this rule change. With it, Vermont will finally join the
vast majority (about 85%) of states and Canadian provinces with black
d. bear hunting that have long outlawed hunters killing sows with cubs.
e.
f.
g.
h.
The ban also should apply to hunters who kill a sow bear knowing
it has cubs - even if it happens not to be accompanied by them at the
i. moment the hunter shoots the mother. This will cover at least two types of such killings.
j.
i.
ii.
iii.One example
occurred in Stowe in September 2025 when a condo unit manager responsible for
condo grounds and other work shot a mother bear
iv. that had 3 cubs. It is unknown (to me) whether the cubs accompanied her at the time he shot her, but he and many

condo residents had seen her with her cubs multiple times over the months before hunting season opened. He brought his gun to work just after hunting
v. season opened and killed her. He knew she had cubs, even if they were not accompanying her the moment he shot her.
vi.
vii.
viii.

ix.A second example relates to the use of technology. Many hunters scout for targets by setting up game cameras that they leave out for days,
x. weeks, months before or during hunting season. This may reveal a sow with cubs, enabling the hunter to go to that location. The happenstance that cubs are not with the sow at the moment of shooting should not exclude the prohibition for such a killing where
xi. the hunter knows the bear has cubs.
xii.

k.
l.
m.
Education.
n. This bear-rule change is not, by itself, enough. DFW needs to ensure better hunter-education. It should require that all hunters do hunter-education and pass a fair education test that includes several questions about hunting bears. States easily do this,
o. for example, with click-through online courses when a hunting tag is applied for. It would cover general hunting safety questions etc., but also bear-specific ones, including that it is unlawful to deliberately shoot a sow accompanied by cubs, reasonable steps
p. to take to determine if cubs accompany her, and that by the fall/winter hunting seasons, bears in a group are usually a sow with cubs (because bears are normally solitary animals).
q.

Data compiled by DFW shows how serious a problem the lack of education presents. In 2025, DFW conducted a survey of bear hunters that yielded the following results, among other:

1% of bear hunters (or 125 hunters out of 12,500) would kill a sow with cubs.
2% (250 bear hunters) said they were unsure
12% (1500 bear hunters) never or only occasionally assess bears in a group before shooting
13% (1625 bear hunters) were unaware of the current DFW recommendation against killing a sow with cubs.
17% (2,125 bear hunters) “typically harvest a bear that is with other bears.”

As DFW bear specialists (and biologists in NH and other states) have said repeatedly, bears are solitary creatures, and bears seen traveling/foraging together in the fall are most likely sows with their cubs. Given this fact, the 2025 statistics above as reported by bear hunters themselves are very troubling. More education is needed.

Further still, the above survey was just of hunters who target bears. DFW automatically (whether requested by the hunter or not) allows hunters hunting deer to “opportunistically” kill a bear if they happen across one. I believe the number of deer tags DFW issues is approximately 40,000 or more per year. One would reasonably assume that deer-focused hunters know less about bears than bear-focused hunters.

Applying the self-reported bear-hunter statistics above to deer

hunters who are automatically "given" bear tags yields very disturbing numbers, where 40,000 hunters are the starting pool, as opposed to 12,500 bear hunters. This means, for example, that 6,800 (17%) of them would "opportunistically" kill a bear that is in a group. It is no understatement from this data to describe as huge this real risk of killing mother bears with cubs by hunters lacking this very basic bear education.

2.
3.
4.
Proposed change: Extend Bear Hunting Season To Mid-December
5.

Comments:

a.
b.
c.
I oppose this rule change because there is a related DFW rule that makes this one reckless and inhumane. Specifically, the fact that DFW
d. continues to allow hunters to disturb, roust, and kill bears in dens. If DFW had also prohibited the killing of bears in dens with this extension, my position could be different. It depends on what DFW changes.
e.
f.
g.
h.
As proposed by DFW and voted on by the Board, this season extension certainly does not promote public support or respect for the DFW and
i. the hunting community. Extending the bear season by about 3 weeks into mid-December makes the permitted practice of killing bears in dens even more shocking because it will happen so many more times with the extended season into the winter. Further still,
j. this problem was raised with DFW during the months leading up to this proposed change and the Board vote, but DFW failed to address it, much less resolve it.
k.

By mid-December, many more bears will have denned down for hibernation due to cold, snow, and/or lack of food on the landscape. Allowing hunting to continue but not, at the same time, prohibiting the harassment and killing of bears in dens is wrong, is not fair chase, and is unethical. It would be akin to shooting a defenseless fish in a barrel or an animal in a cage.

Further, from outside the dens, hunters cannot know if the bear inside is a sow with cubs. And it is the mother who will emerge first to protect her cubs and get shot by the hunters. The orphaned cubs will be discovered too late and will die as a result. Extending the season to mid-December will increase the number of mother bears killed and the resulting cub deaths as well.

3.
4.
5.
Proposed Change: Allowing a second bear tag in certain hunting areas due to "excessive" bear populations.
6. Comments.

7.

Comments:
I generally support this rule change provided that DFW and the Board to ensure that there is a rigorous, data-based reason for allowing this on a case-by-case specific to the clear delineated area within a WMU for which the request is asserted. The second tag allowance should also have a set quota tied to the data and that all other second tags issued should be voided once that quota is met in the specified area. Hunters can call in to the warden or DFW prior to heading out to determine if the second tag is still valid. Other states use this quota method.

Andrew C. Phelan
Phelan.law5@gmail.com
Acp5490@gmail.com
617-306-1673

[ACP/End of Comments]

From: Angela <catchersmom2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:08 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Vermont bear season- please read and respond

[You don't often get email from catchersmom2@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a citizen of Hinesburg Vermont and I am submitting my public comment for record. I am a teacher and citizen that values bears in our ecosystem. They are a valuable species to manage deer population and curb over browsing.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Angela Pollock
Hinesburg, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Angela <catchersmom2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:03 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Time for Vermont to come out of the dark ages! I am a teacher and this cruelty is so hard to explain to our kids. Let's make some reasonable regulations to keep our bear population, alive and healthy.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Angela Pollock
Hinesburg, VT
Teacher at Williston Central School

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ann Doran <admdoran@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:08 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from admdoran@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Ann Keane <akeane07@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:22 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from akeane07@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Ann MacMichael <anniesmac@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:22 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from anniesmac@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Ann Smith <asmithinvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Hound hunting

You don't often get email from asmithinvt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am opposed to hunting bears with hounds. It is cruel, not just the hunting but the training process, which can separate mothers and cubs as well as disrupt hibernation prep. It is not particularly sporting. I am sure there is some skill in training the dog. However, anyone can follow a GPS signal then the 'hunters' shoot an exhausted bear out of a tree. There is just as much sport and more humanity in baiting them and then shooting them.

I don't oppose humting as a management strategy.

Ann Smith
Waterbury

From: Anna Burns <annaburns514@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:51 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from annaburns514@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

For god’s sake, humans are so much worse off because many of us are immoral and insensitive to the rights of other beings. Stop being that kind of human.

From: Anna Houle <athomewithanna1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 12:11 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Oppose Bear Hunting Extensions

You don't often get email from athomewithanna1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to extension to bear hunting season with additional tags. Instead I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit killings mother bears with cubs and ban hunting of hibernating bears. We need to be more responsible with how we coexist with nature so as humans encroaching upon their wild habitats we are not setting them up to fail.
Thank you for putting a compassionate voice in our laws for cubs and their mothers who don't understand or deserve why they are now orphans and being run out of their Green Mountains.

Anna Houle

From: Anne Bergeron <annebergeron124@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 8:45 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Proposed Rule Changes

You don't often get email from annebergeron124@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR,

I am opposed to the following in the proposed rule changes,
and live in close contact with those who hunt with hounds, who train them
all summer long nearby, and those who do not. I live in a place where bears live and
I know how not to attract them close to my house, my farm animals, my gardens, my compost, and my domestic animals. I am a native Vermonter.

I have backpacked in bear country in Alaska, in western Canada, and in national forest lands in Montana and Wyoming, where there are bear populations, including grizzlies. I learned how to carry food, tie it up downwind from my tent, or put it in a bear canister so as not to attract bears. In short, I learned how to coexist in places they have a right to live. We need to teach people in Vermont how to bear proof their trash and their homesites. We do not need to extend the bear season because of human ignorance and the lack of a statewide campaign to educate people as more of the bear habitat becomes the site of human domiciles.

I support hunting and hunters, I do not post my land, and I allow
hunters in all hunting seasons to use it. But the rule changes to reduce the bear population are really about humans who do not know how to live in bear territory without attracting them - and about communities with high numbers of tourists - Stowe and the Mad River Valley - who have the biggest issues with people who are ignorant of the consequences of allowing trash to accumulate in dumpsters to overflowing. I have witnessed this first hand in Stowe in rental properties where bears are literally in the dumpsters sifting through trash bags loaded with bottles, cans, food-laden cardboard, and food (crusts, donuts, fruit, vegetables, meat) and drinks spilling from the bags. The bears are not *a nuisance;* the people who do not know how to deal with trash and compost, and how not to attract bears to their living quarters are, more accurately, a nuisance to the bears.

Educate the humans, please, and do not cull the bear population because humans are ignorant of what they can do to not attract bears. I am opposed to the season extension, opposed to two bear tags, opposed to extended dates for hounding, (and opposed to hounding - training dogs to chase bears up trees so they can easily be shot seems like it should be an embarrassment to those who call themselves hunters), and bear baiting. I do support the rule that prohibits taking a sow with her cubs. I cannot imagine what it would take to kill a mother whose cubs are right there with her and who depend on her for at least a year, and more typically 18 months, sometimes two years.

Thank you for offering this opportunity for public comment on such an important issue.

Anne Bergeron

annebergeronvt.com

Dreams Before Extinction Anthology, 2025

Sublime: Poems For Vanishing Ice, 2026
A beautiful and timely anthology from Caitlin Press
in British Columbia that includes my poetry.

From: Anne Jameson <annejameson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:45 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from annejameson@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I **oppose** extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk, specifically by using their caloric intake for fleeing a hunter, rather than during their hibernation . The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also **oppose** issuing a second bear tag, as this too does not reduce bear/human conflicts.

I fully **support** prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this. Vermont should do this as well.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit and incorporate that option into Departmental rules.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Anne Jameson
Marshfield

From: Anne Jameson <annejameson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:16 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VT Fish & Wildlife Dept:

In a follow-up to my previous comment I would like to add the following:

I strongly **support** a ban on the hunting of hibernating bears! Vermont is one of only a few states that still allow this practice.

I encourage you to vote to include a prohibition on the harassment and hunting of hibernating bears in the new rules being proposed. Bears in hibernation deserve to be left alone to have their cubs as well as be assured of surviving the winter. Vermont should be aligned with the majority of other states in the US which prohibit this kind of hunting.

Thank you for your attention.

Anne Jameson
Marshfield

From: Anne McKinsey <mckinseya@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 11:57 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting ules

You don't often get email from mckinseya@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency of Natural Resources,

I'd like to offer a few points that coincide with current discussion on the bear hunting rules:

1. **The killing of mother bears with cubs should be illegal. Plain and simple.** One argument had been that a hunter could be in legal jeopardy if he unknowingly kills a sow with cubs. The answer is that the hunter needs to know his target and take responsibility. Allowing the killing of sows with cubs is unethical in the extreme and surely the Dept of Fish & Wildlife and hunters alike don't want that stain on their reputation.

2. **Do not extend the bear hunting season into December.** This puts denning bears at risk — highly unethical practice for hunters to do this!

3. **Do not start the bear hounding training period earlier.** This interferes with sows nurturing their cubs — again, highly unethical.

AND, **bear hounding rules must be revisited!** Hound owners do NOT have control of their dogs when out of GPS range. When hound owners reference this practice as tradition, they should actually practice this… toss out their GPS devices and return to running with dogs on leash when tracking bears or coyotes.

Thank you.

Anne McKinsey
614 Village Rd
East Corinth, VT 05040

802-439-6472

(my dog killed by a Conibear trap on December 20, 2022, one mile from my home)

From: Anne McNamee <vintagebijou76@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:05 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from vintagebijou76@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Anne McNamee
Wilmington, Vt.

From: Anne <aliceinvt51@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 6:59 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from aliceinvt51@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,
Alice in Vermont

<https://preview.redd.it/rmyumha78dvb1.png?width=640&crop=smart&auto=webp&s=a8330fcedb241c859eb00cd2d601532c503dbd0b>

From: Annie Somers <asomers83@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 8:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Regarding Bear Laws

You don't often get email from asomers83@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track

and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Thank you,

Annie Somers
10 Stratton Road
Rutland, VT 05701
802-779-6022

Sent from my iPhone

From: ANR - FW Board Lamoille
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:25 AM
To: Batchelder, Jason; Connolly, Abigail; Comeau, Jaclyn
Subject: Fw: Bear rule

FYI

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Brenna <dbgaldenzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 09:12:51
To: ANR - FW Board Lamoille <ANR.FWBoardLamoille@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear rule

You don't often get email from dbgaldenzi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Richard,
Hope you're enjoying the summer!

I'm not sure if you had a chance to read my recent VTDigger op-ed (https://vtdigger.org/2026/06/26/trust-in-vermont-fish-and-wildlife-is-eroding/). I understand that the Board was following the Department's recommendation regarding the bear season extension, but the Department never provided a rationale for changing its initial recommendation. It went from recommending a one-week extension to a one-month extension without explanation.

More importantly, extending the season into mid-December increases the risk of bears being hunted in their dens, which is currently legal in Vermont. If the Board moves forward with the mid-December extension, it should also adopt a rule prohibiting the killing of bears in their dens.

We don't make laws to address what the majority does—we make laws to address the outliers. Without a rule prohibiting the killing of hibernating bears, those unethical hunters will be free to do exactly that.

Will you possibly raise this issue with the Board?

Thanks Richard!
Brenna

Brenna Galdenzi
President
Protect Our Wildlife POW
A Vermont Non Profit Organization
www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org

Only if we understand can we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall they be saved.
~Jane Goodall

From: ANR - FW Information
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 9:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: FW: Bear over population

-----Original Message-----
From: Nancy Hartwell <bnh@pshift.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 9:15 AM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear over population

The bear issue is out of control. I understand why the effort was made to increase the bear population many years ago, but your interference in nature to try offset rural growth has backfired. You need to undo the damage that is being done or start paying for the damage that the over population you artificially created is causing.

I am 67 years old and have lived in my home all but 18 months of my life. This is the first time we have ever had bear problems. The bears have torn apart our out building, gotten into a car in my drive and caused damage, and now feel comfortable walking onto our front porch. I run an Airbnb and you have created an unsafe situation. This is unacceptable.

And before you start your lecture, we have no bird feeders any time of the year. We lock our trash in our garage. We take our compost to the recycling center. We set off our car alarms to scare the bears away. We are retired and cannot afford to fence in our property even with your “free loan” which obviously isn’t free since you have to pay it back. And we shouldn’t need to since you caused this problem.

It is obvious that you have screwed things up and now want the citizens to spend their time and money protecting themselves from your mistake. Stop playing the point fingers/blame game. Stop trying to understate the seriousness of the situation and do undo your damage. Eliminate this extreme over population before someone gets really hurt!

Aggravated in the Northeast Kingdom,
Nancy Hartwell

Sent from my iPad

From: ANR - FW Information
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 12:14 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: FW: Bear season changes

From: Susan Elliot <sbelliot@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 12:07 PM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear season changes

I am not in favor of extending bear season or allowing more bears to be killed per hunter. Please do not kill the bears.

Thank you,

Susan B. Elliot

From: ANR - FW Information
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 1:38 PM
To: flauber@live.com
Cc: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: RE: Webform submission from: Contact

Fay,
Your message is forwarded to the Fish & Wildlife Board.

-

John Hall, Information Specialist
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
Outreach Division
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

From: Fay lauber <no-reply@tylervermont.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 1:27 PM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>
Subject: Webform submission from: Contact

Please don't extend bear hunting season into December. And for Pete's sake don't allow shoot mother bears with cubs. Geez! Sad I even have to write you this request.

Type of Question
Enforcement/Regulation Question

Your Name
Fay lauber

Your Email
flauber@live.com

From: ANR - FW Information
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:45 AM
To: andrea pfeuti
Cc: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: RE: Deep concerns about bear hunt

Andrea,
Thank you for your email expressing concerns about the bear hunting season. It is being forwarded to the Fish & Wildlife Board.

-VERMONT

John Hall, Information Specialist
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
Outreach Division
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

From: andrea pfeuti <andrea.pfeuti@gmx.net>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 1:02 AM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>; HunterEducation <HunterEducation@vermont.gov>; info <info@protectourwildlifevt.org>
Subject: Re: Deep concerns about bear hunt

Dear Vermont Wildlife Officials and Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my profound concern and strong opposition to Vermont's policy allowing hunters to kill mother black bears while they are accompanied by dependent cubs.

I believe we need to be honest about what is happening. Calling the killing of a wild animal "harvesting" does not change the reality of the act. The word *harvesting* is fundamentally wrong in this context. A living, sentient animal is not a resource to be collected. Language matters because it shapes how we think about our responsibilities toward the natural world.

These bears do not belong to hunters. **They belong to all of us.** They are part of Vermont's natural heritage and part of a shared public trust. Whether someone hunts, photographs wildlife, hikes through the woods, or simply takes comfort in knowing that wild animals still exist, every Vermonter has a legitimate stake in how these animals are treated and protected.

When a mother bear is killed while she has dependent cubs, the consequences do not end with the death of that one animal. Each bear matters in our ecosystem, they can't just simply be replaced.

As humans, we have the ability the responsibility—to evolve. Our understanding of animal intelligence, social bonds, suffering, and our relationship with wildlife has changed dramatically. Laws and wildlife-management practices should evolve with that understanding as well.

Tradition alone is not a sufficient justification for continuing a practice. The fact that something has been permitted in the past does not mean that it should remain acceptable in the future. We should be asking ourselves not merely what we are legally allowed to do, but what we *ought* to do.

I strongly urge Vermont to prohibit the killing of female black bears accompanied by dependent cubs - and bears in general. Such a measure would demonstrate that Vermont values both its wildlife and the ethical responsibility.

Vermont has an opportunity to lead rather than follow—to demonstrate that wildlife management can reflect compassion, scientific understanding, and a willingness to reconsider practices that no longer reflect who we aspire

to be.

We have to evolve as human beings. Our treatment of wildlife should be part of that evolution.

These bears are not merely numbers in a population-management plan, and they are not possessions belonging to those who choose to hunt them. They are living members of Vermont's ecosystem, and they are part of a natural world that belongs to all of us.

Ask yourself if you would be ok if someone decides to shoot your dog because they think there are too many of them. If I observe how bears and cougars get hunted - I feel they do it to me as well.

Best,

Andrea Pfeuti

From: ANR - FW Information
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 8:40 AM
To: Miss P
Cc: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: RE: New Bear Hunting Rules

Patricia,
Thank you for your email which is being forwarded to the Fish & Wildlife Board.

-

John Hall, Information Specialist
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
Outreach Division
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

From: Miss P <misspops@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 7:54 AM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>
Subject: New Bear Hunting Rules

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please, please do not let the hunters kill more than one bear. It is a horrible thing to even think that one bear may be killed, just for the "**thrill**", and we all know that. No one is going hungry because they cannot kill a bear. The argument is weak, that the population is getting too large. Let them live, they own the earth as much as the hunters do.

I am not a weird radical, just a Vermont citizen that wants to protect the little wildlife that is still here. I am not alone. It's just the hunters are louder at pleading for more kills, and the folks that don't want it, are not thinking about it, so you won't hear from them.

Thank you for your consideration.
Patricia Warren, Tunbridge

From: ANR - FW Information
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 4:45 PM
To: Susanne Chester
Cc: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: RE: Proposed changes to Black Bear hunting rules

Susanne,
Thank you for your email which is being forwarded to the Fish & Wildlife Board.

John Hall, Information Specialist
Agency of Natural Resources / Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Outreach Division
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

-----Original Message-----
From: Susanne Chester <suschtr@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 3:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>
Subject: Proposed changes to Black Bear hunting rules

As a life long Vermonter, and one who
strives to co-exist with the wildlife we are privileged to share, I cannot agree with the proposed changes to the bear hunting season.
To extend the season, particularly in Northern Vermont, to be able to pursue denning bears, to be able to kill sows with cubs and family groups, is contrary to the life cycles of these animals and can only result in the collateral deaths of young, dependent animals.
More regulations should be applied to the public to reduce human/bear interactions. Garbage, baiting, and lax control over human food sources are a cause of these interactions as well as severe loss of habitat and traditional food sources such as acorns, beech nuts and berries.
We can all do a better job of protecting and managing the Black Bear resources than overtly killing our way through it.
Please eliminate these proposed lethal changes and stop pandering to the hunting community which only seeks to fulfill their hunting “traditions” with no regard to wildlife habitat, life cycles or the climate changes facing them.
Thank you,
Susanne Chester
Lyndon, Vermont
Sent from my iPhone

From: ANR - FW Information
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 3:55 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: FW: Black bears

-----Original Message-----
From: Alice Charkes <alicecharkes@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 3:40 PM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>
Subject: Black bears

[You don't often get email from alicecharkes@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

This is a comment regarding the proposed changes in killing black bears:
Do not kill any black bears. Humans should change their habits, not kill bears. If there are points of conflict between the species, have the humans change their ways.
Bears are endemic to Vermont. Humans are not.
Alice Charkes,
Brattleboro
Envoyé de mon iPhone

From: ANR - FW Licensing
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:15 AM
To: Connolly, Abigail
Subject: FW: Protect Our Bear Population

From: jackielawlor@protonmail.com <jackielawlor@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:47 PM
To: ANR - FW Licensing <ANR.FWLicensing@vermont.gov>
Subject: Protect Our Bear Population

You don't often get email from jackielawlor@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to ask that you please protect mother bears and their cubs especially the hunting of hibernating bears.

I also want to continue to advocate for the elimination of "hounding". Hounding is an outdated, heinous and unforgivable. It doesn't even demonstrate actual skill in hunting. Tormenting a bear for HOURS to "tree" it and then kill it as it's looking for safety? What kind of fun activity is torturing a beautiful animal that calls our state, home.

Please consider your conscious, your logic and the facts.

Protect our bears.

- Jaclyn Lawlor
Burlington, VT
9739608839

Sent from Proton Mail for Android.

From: April Thanhauser <aprilthanhauser@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 9:39 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from aprilthanhauser@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit Respectfully, April Thanhauser Essex, VT

From: Arden Scranton <ardenscranton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 2:52 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from ardenscranton@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog .

Arden Scranton
Dorset, VT

From: ATT-Update <mshields494@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 12:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mshields494@bellsouth.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Barbara Felitti <bfvermont@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:54 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comment on Bear Rule

You don't often get email from bfvermont@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I SUPPORT**:**

- **prohibitions on killing sows with cubs**
- **not allowing the use of bait**.

I DO NOT SUPPORT:

Extension of the bear season to December. There is no science to support this and it poses a grave risk to denning bears. **Why doesn't the season go through the end of deer rifle season as originally recommended by the Department?**

In some areas THE RULE DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH:

- **Why aren't the Department recommendations for authority to revoke a bear dog permit and reciprocity should included in the rule?** These will not impact Vermonters' ability to hunt bear but will provide wardens with other tools to use at their discretion to control unethical hounders.

- **The rule should prohibit the harassment or killing of bears in their dens,** whether or not the season is extended. This will not affect the ability of ethical Vermonters to hunt bears. The Department's website acknowledges that depending on conditions bear can start denning in November. The comment that there are no documented instances of this happening in Vermont misses the point. Not everyone is a murderer but we have laws against it so there are consequences if and when it occurs. As the case with killing a sow with cubs shows, there's needs to be consequences for egregious actions.

- **Why aren't the bear hounding rules updated** to be consistent with the more recent coyote hounding regulations? Why would you have different hounding rules for bear and coyote when both present the similar issues of harassment for property owners and recreational users? Updates should include reducing the pack size from 6 to 4, and updating the definition of control of dogs to include training/tracking collars with recall functions and requirements for maintaining logs. Why can't this be done?

- **Why doesn't the rule include penalties for hunters with hounds who repeatedly violate property rights,** such as losing control of their hounds who then go on private, posted land? Penalties should include loss of license for the season.

- **Why is there such a long training season? The hound training season should be shortened to start Aug 1**. Bears emerge from their dens in mid-March. Starting hound training June 1st provides

only 2 ½ months when bears are free of harassment from hounds training or from being hunted for the next 6 months. Starting in June also interferes with the ability of sows and other wildlife to nurture their young free of harassment from packs of hounds.

Barbara Felitti
Huntington, VT

From: Barbara Felitti <bfvermont@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:37 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Additional Comments on Bear Rule

You don't often get email from bfvermont@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I have additional comments and questions related to the extension of the bear hunting season into December which I do not support.

The Department's initial recommendation was to extend the bear hunting season only seven days. This was changed after receiving petitions from hunters to extend the season into December. What data supports the change? "Increased hunter opportunity" was the only reason offered and this will be minimal as bears will be denning.

At the Fish & Wildlife Board June 17, 2026 meeting, a former FWB board chair stated " You should just have a chance to vote yes or no on things, and hopefully you can vote yes to have an extended bear hunting season and then vote yes also to having two tags. Hope you can get that done. **We were promised that back in February (**7:00 minute mark)."

What conversations took place "promising" hunters an extended season and is this the reason for the change?

Sincerely,
Barbara Felitti
Huntington, VT

From: BarnCatFarm <barncatfarm@hushmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 12:39 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear management

You don't often get email from barncatfarm@hushmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi,
I oppose any 'management that goes against 10,00 years of Abenaki tradition.
No imported Euro-trash wildlife tormenting like hounding, no 2nd bear tags, no killing bears that have cubs,
no killing bears over 'conflict' with imported Euro-American notions of human superiority over nature (getting into trash, or food left in easy to forage places).
-Samantha Nickerson
Topsham, VT

From: Barney Strife <dwvinton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 1:57 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dwvinton@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Doug Vinton
Newark

Sent from my iPhone

From: Batchelder, Jason
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 2:13 PM
To: Connolly, Abigail
Cc: Austin, John
Subject: FW: Bear Management Rule Comments

For the public comment file.

VERMONT
Jason M. Batchelder | Commissioner
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
802-279-4875 mobile
jason.batchelder@vermont.gov
anr.vermont.gov

From: Laura C <lhfroggie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment <ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov>; Laura C <lhfroggie@gmail.com>; LCAR@leg.state.vt.us; Batchelder, Jason <Jason.Batchelder@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear Management Rule Comments

You don't often get email from lhfroggie@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department,

I am writing as a Vermont (275 Bliss Road, Marshfield VT) resident to express my opposition to proposals that would expand opportunities for bear hounding or extend Vermont's black bear hunting season into mid-December.

I support responsible wildlife management and recognize that hunting has a long history in Vermont. However, I believe bear management decisions should place strong emphasis on conservation, animal welfare, **fair-chase principles,** and protection of family groups.

I am particularly concerned about any extension of hounding opportunities. Pursuing bears with packs of dogs can place significant stress on bears and may also disturb other wildlife, private property owners, hikers, and others using Vermont's woods. Extending these activities further into the year would only increase those concerns.

I also oppose extending the general black bear hunting season into mid-December, through the end of deer season. By that time of year, bears are entering or preparing for their winter denning period.

I do, however, strongly support establishing explicit protections for mother bears with cubs. Vermont regulations should clearly prohibit the intentional targeting or killing of a sow when dependent cubs are present. Protecting family groups should be a basic component of responsible bear management, and the regulation should leave no ambiguity about this protection.

I respectfully ask the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Board to:

- Oppose expansion of Vermont's bear **hounding season.**
- Maintain the existing black bear hunting season rather than extending it into mid-December.

- Adopt a clear prohibition against intentionally targeting or killing a sow accompanied by dependent cubs.
- Ensure that any future changes to bear hunting regulations are supported by sound biological data, conservation needs, and meaningful public input.

Vermont's wildlife is a public resource, and decisions affecting black bears should reflect the interests of all Vermonters, including hunters, wildlife watchers, landowners, hikers, and those who simply value having healthy wildlife populations in our state.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Laura Christie

275 Bliss Road

Marshfield, VT 05658

From: Batchelder, Jason
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 2:14 PM
To: Laura C
Cc: Connolly, Abigail
Subject: RE: Bear Management Rule Comments

Hi Laura,

Your email was received and I will add it to the public comment. Thank you for taking the time to write and voice your concerns and comments!

VERMONT
Jason M. Batchelder | Commissioner
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
802-279-4875 mobile
jason.batchelder@vermont.gov
anr.vermont.gov

From: Laura C <lhfroggie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment <ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov>; Laura C <lhfroggie@gmail.com>; LCAR@leg.state.vt.us; Batchelder, Jason <Jason.Batchelder@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear Management Rule Comments

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Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department,

I am writing as a Vermont (275 Bliss Road, Marshfield VT) resident to express my opposition to proposals that would expand opportunities for bear hounding or extend Vermont's black bear hunting season into mid-December.

I support responsible wildlife management and recognize that hunting has a long history in Vermont. However, I believe bear management decisions should place strong emphasis on conservation, animal welfare, **fair-chase principles,** and protection of family groups.

I am particularly concerned about any extension of hounding opportunities. Pursuing bears with packs of dogs can place significant stress on bears and may also disturb other wildlife, private property owners, hikers, and others using Vermont's woods. Extending these activities further into the year would only increase those concerns.

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Vermont's wildlife is a public resource, and decisions affecting black bears should reflect the interests of all Vermonters, including hunters, wildlife watchers, landowners, hikers, and those who simply value having healthy wildlife populations in our state.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Laura Christie

275 Bliss Road

Marshfield, VT 05658

From: Batchelder, Jason
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 6:16 AM
To: Austin, John
Cc: Connolly, Abigail
Subject: FW: Bear hunting

For public comment.

VERMONT
Jason M. Batchelder | Commissioner
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
1 National Life Dr, Davis 2 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
802-279-4875 mobile
jason.batchelder@vermont.gov
anr.vermont.gov

From: Carol Winfield <carol@vtwildlife.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:36 PM
To: Batchelder, Jason <Jason.Batchelder@vermont.gov>
Cc: VTDigger <admin@vtdigger.org>; Carol Winfield <carol@vtwildlife.com>; Governor CSO <GovernorCSO@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Addison <ANR.FWBoardAddison@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear hunting

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carol@vtwildlife.com. Learn why this is important

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I am writing to express my views on several closely related topics, as a Zoologist, Naturalist (specializing in Vt. birds and mammals), Wildlife Educator, and Wildlife Rehabilitator of over 50 years, a native Vermonter, and a member of the human race.

Please DO NOT extend the bear season into the time when these animals are slowing down metabolically, and denning up for the winter! This a horrible idea, and no true sportsman should ever consider allowing such an abhorrent practice as to kill a sleeping animal in its den! How can one even consider this and still use the term "sportsman"!?
Extending the season and killing more and allowing more tags has been scientifically proven to NOT reduce "interactions" with humans (you already have the data, I know).

I have not seen it addressed that some of the reasons for the sharp increase in the numbers of human/bear interactions as is shown on your chart are likely the following:
* Increase in human population, especially in rural areas. And some of this increase is, if you will please excuse the phrase, folks who are not from around here. They get a little more anxious about wildlife than we used to just a few years ago. So they tell everybody, and "warn" everybody.
* Drastic increase in reporting due to social media: when I was a kid, we saw bear and deer and fox, etc. and thought well that's cool, and then went about our day. Now everyone can report to the whole world within seconds everything that happened in their lives, including seeing a bear, or their neighbor's new car, or the soup they made for dinner.
* Also, when I was a kid growing up in rural Vermont, we all knew that wildlife would get into your garbage if you didn't secure it, and so we did secure it. No big deal, nothing newsworthy. And if you got careless and found your

garbage strewed all over the lawn the next morning, you cussed and cleaned it up and were more careful next time. You didn't report it an "incident".

By your own admission in your media releases, you really do not know what the carrying capacity for bears is in our state, and you really don't know how many there actually are, especially considering the above factors. Your algorithm of social sightings is seriously flawed and likely totally inaccurate, as it does not take into account many factors affecting a wild population. So how can you possible assert that there are "too many"? Is increasing the number of animals killed a measure to placate the fears of a very small number of people in the population? Increasing the length of hunting season is not a scientific decision, in fact, actual scientific studies have proven increasing hunting season does not decrease human /wildlife interactions. Please do not claim to use science on one hand, and then ignore true science on the next. This is simply a decision to allow killing more animals because you want to.

Killing a sow with babies should never even be considered for any species ever! How heartless and sadistic can you be to slaughter a mama whose young depend on her for their survival, and leave them motherless, alone and terrified and grieving, to slowly starve to death! I have seen that most true hunters oppose this cruelty, so since the unethical ones are still getting away with it and giving everyone a bad name, maybe you need to police yourselves a little better and take a stand by outlawing the killing of sows with cubs.

Humans have traditionally treated other species abominably. But then, we've also treated others of our own species equally abominably! But over the years, we've evolved somewhat, seen the errors of our ways, to a small extent for sure, but it's progress! The tradition of conquering other races who do not look like us and exterminating them, or raping and torturing them, enslaving them and treating them like insensitive possessions, those things are now frowned upon in most civilized countries, including our own.
Men are no longer encourage to beat their wives and children to keep them in line.
Cock fighting, dog fighting, bull fighting, are all banned in most civilized countries. I needn't elaborate why, you all know why. Even in Great Britain the great and glorious tradition of Fox Hunting with horses and hounds is now discontinued.
Yet Vermont allows hounding and trapping? Only 18 states out 50 allow chasing of bears with hounds. More than 100 other countries have banned steel jaw traps, 7 states in the U.S. have already banned them.
Certainly in America, and specifically now in Vermont, is it not time to evolve and recognize that some of these so called "traditions" being clung to be very few individuals are archaic and cruel and no longer in any way necessary, and ban them as the travesties they truly are?
We know SO much more now about other species of animals! And we have progressed in so many ways! We cannot continue to sit by and allow wanton cruelty to animals to continue for (to be honest, very sick and twisted) "enjoyment" of a few humans who seem to like the term "sportsman" but seem to have no concept of the term.
Honest, ethical hunters, who stalk their game and bring them down in the quickest and most humane way they possibly can, should also protest these abhorrent practices of chasing and tormenting and terrifying a wild creature with vicious dogs just for their own sadistic pleasure. Yet if an house pet dog escapes and chases a deer accidentally it can be shot!
Any decent honest hunter should also condemn the practices of "baiting", and of setting steel traps indiscriminately to catch and torture any creature that has the misfortune to wander by.

"Tradition" is a warm fuzzy word that goes well with family gatherings for holidays. But that word is distorted when used to justify cruel, sadistic, out-dated practices.
Some traditions need to be put to death!

There's a place in this world for each living thing

From: baxterk2@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 12:24 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on Bear Rule 3

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I support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs, and not allowing the use of bait. A prohibition on killing or harassing bears in their dens should also be added.

I do not support extending the bear hunting season into December. It puts denning bears are risk. What is the reason or science behind it other than the fact that hunters want a longer season?

I want to see bear hounding banned. It is a cruel practice both for wildlife being pursued and cornered by packs of hounds, and for the hounds who may be injured. The same issues that impact Vermonters from coyote hounding apply to bear hounding, e.g., trespass on posted land; harassment of individuals, their children, pets and/or livestock.

If not banned outright, at a minimum the rule needs to:

- Shorten the bear hound training season to start Aug 1st. As it exists now, bears have only 21/2 months when they are not harassed by packs of hounds. Why is there such a long training season?
- Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow game wardens to revoke a bear dog permit on the spot.
- Penalties, including financial and loss of license, for repeat offenders who hounds repeatedly trespass on private property and/or harass individuals and their animals.

Sincerely,

Wayne Curley
Huntington, VT

From: bearn1758@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Deborah Goodman <bearn1758@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 6:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

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Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Deborah Goodman
Woodstock, VT 05091-1232

From: behaselton@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear season

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I oppose the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears. It's also beyond time to end hound hunting and trapping in Vermont!

Bonnie Haselton
50 S Henry Ct
S Burlington VT 05403
802.862.3310
802.343.2581

From: Ben Collier <ben.collier3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 7:23 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you for your attention to this.
Sincerely,
Carol B. Collier
Norwich, VT.

From: Ben Gabos <bgabos@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:05 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting season comments
Attachments: J Wildl Manag - 2023 - Northrup - Experimental test of the efficacy of hunting for controlling human wildlife conflict.pdf; ssrn-4951764.pdf; Ben Gabos comments on proposed Bear season changes.docx

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thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Bear hunting season comments->J Wildl Manag - 2023 - Northrup - Experimental test of the efficacy of hunting for controlling human wildlife conflict.pdf
Check for updates

Received: 23 March 2022 | Revised: 23 October 2022 | Accepted: 15 November 2022

DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.22363

RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT | THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Experimental test of the efficacy of hunting for controlling human–wildlife conflict

Joseph M. Northrup[1] | Eric Howe[2] | Jeremy Inglis[3] | Erica Newton[2] | Martyn E. Obbard[1] | Bruce Pond[1] | Derek Potter[2]

[1]Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program, Trent University, 2140 East Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON, Canada K9L 1Z8

[2]Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2140 East Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON, Canada K9L 1Z8

[3]Regional Operations Division, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 31 Riverside Drive, Pembroke, ON, Canada K8A 8R6

Correspondence
Joseph M. Northrup, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2140 East Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON, Canada K9L 1Z8.
Email: joseph.northrup@ontario.ca

Abstract

Human–wildlife conflict can cause major declines in wildlife populations and pose a threat to human safety and livelihoods. Large carnivores are among the most conflict-prone species because they range widely, eat human-associated foods, and can pose a risk to human safety. Legal harvest of carnivores by licensed hunters is an attractive method to attempt to reduce conflict; however, there is mixed evidence for its effectiveness. We leveraged a unique management project in Ontario, Canada in which a new spring American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) hunting season was implemented in selected wildlife management units in addition to the existing fall season. We examined human–bear interactions and incidents before (2012 and 2013) and after (2014 and 2015) this implementation in treatment and control areas. Further, using data from 2004–2019, we examined the longer-term patterns of human–bear interactions and incidents before and after this management project when a spring season was implemented throughout the entire province beginning in 2016. Harvest increased significantly upon the implementation of the spring season in selected units, but there was no concomitant reduction in interactions or incidents, and these were higher in areas with the new spring season relative to control areas. Human–bear interactions, incidents, and harvest were strongly related to the availability of natural foods in all analyses. Regulated, presumably sustainable harvest was ineffective at reducing human–bear interactions and incidents in the near-

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term and might have increased both. Our results support a long history of research showing that natural food availability is a primary driver of human–wildlife conflict. Programs promoting coexistence between people and wildlife, including education, capacity building, and management of unnatural food sources are likely to be the most successful at reducing conflicts between people and bears.

KEYWORDS

American black bear, human–carnivore conflict, human–wildlife conflict, hunting, management, Ontario, *Ursus americanus*, wildlife

Human–wildlife conflict (i.e., encounters between people and wildlife that have negative outcomes) is a major driver of species declines that affects ecosystem processes and human wellbeing (Woodroffe et al. 2005, Barua et al. 2013, Ripple et al. 2014, Nyhus 2016). Large carnivores are at risk of encounters and conflict with humans because of their large ranges and attraction to anthropogenic foods; they prey upon livestock, inflict damage to property, and can pose a potential threat to human safety (Treves and Karanth 2003, Ripple et al. 2014). Further, large carnivores are particularly vulnerable to human-caused population declines and to local extirpation, with conflict being an important influence in some areas (Ripple et al. 2014). Understanding the causes of human–wildlife conflict and the efficacy of measures aimed at their reduction are thus necessary for species conservation and the protection of human safety and livelihoods.

Numerous methods have been developed to attempt to reduce conflicts between people and wildlife, including bears (family Ursidae), and to promote coexistence (Woodroffe et al. 2005, Nyhus 2016, Krofel et al. 2020). These include lethal control (Bradley et al. 2015) often targeting specific individuals (Swan et al. 2017), translocations and relocations (Linnell et al. 1997, Massei et al. 2010), programs focused on financial mechanisms to promote co-existence (Dickman et al. 2011), diversionary feeding (Ziegltrum 2004, Morehouse and Boyce 2017), public education (Gore et al. 2006), and stakeholder engagement efforts (Treves et al. 2006). Harvest of wildlife by licensed hunters offers an attractive method of reducing conflicts because it is inexpensive and could theoretically meet multiple wildlife management goals simultaneously (i.e., provide harvest opportunities while reducing conflict). Further, human tolerance of wildlife is higher for species that provide economic benefits (Lindsey et al. 2013). Thus, hunting could potentially create greater tolerance for conflict-prone species; however, the evidence for the efficacy of legal harvest for reducing conflict is variable and mixed. Several studies have failed to find a strong relationship between legal harvest of carnivores and different measures or proxies of conflict. Treves et al. (2010), working in Wisconsin, USA, reported no relationship between hunter harvest in the previous 1–2 years and conflicts between humans and American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) related to agricultural and property damage or threats to human safety. Further, they reported that property damage complaints slightly increased after years of higher harvest. Likewise, Obbard et al. (2014) reported no correlation between previous harvest and human–black bear interactions (Hopkins et al. 2010) in Ontario, Canada with interactions primarily influenced by natural food availability. Artelle et al. (2016) reported no relationship between grizzly bear (*U. arctos*) attacks on humans and legal harvest or removals due to conflict. Multiple studies of cougar (*Puma concolor*) conflict with humans reported limited effect of legal harvest on rates of conflict (Teichman et al. 2016, Laundré and Papouchis 2020), with Peebles et al. (2013) demonstrating increased livestock depredation and public complaints in years following higher legal harvest, even after controlling for variation in cougar population size.

Despite the lack of strong evidence for the ability to control conflict with legal harvest, some previous studies documented positive relationships between carnivore population size or density and conflict (Treves et al. 2010,

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Peebles et al. 2013). These findings suggest that if harvest can substantially reduce carnivore population size, this can reduce encounters between people and carnivores and subsequent conflicts. Likewise, Herfindal et al. (2005) reported reduced depredation on sheep by Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) when recreational harvest reduced lynx population size. Further, Garshelis et al. (2020) reported that conflicts are strongly influenced by black bear population size and thus legal harvest might be an effective conflict management tool in some cases. Lethal control is most effective at reducing conflicts in the short term for a range of predators, likely because of local reductions in population size (Lennox et al. 2018). Despite the potential for regulated harvest to reduce conflict through direct suppression of carnivore populations, many legal harvest programs aim for sustainable levels of harvest to provide consistent opportunities for hunters and outfitters while maintaining populations at relatively consistent levels, though this is not always the goal of harvest programs. Thus, it is unclear whether legal harvest can be an effective tool for managing human–wildlife conflict, and there is a need for further research on the efficacy of legal, sustainable harvest as a tool for conflict reduction.

The American black bear is the most numerous large carnivore on the planet (Ripple et al. 2014), and individuals regularly encounter and come into conflict with people (Hristienko and McDonald 2007). Across jurisdictions, most reported human–bear conflicts are related to anthropogenic attractants (Spencer et al. 2007). As such, the management of these attractants is expected to be the most effective means of reducing human–bear conflict (Crevier et al. 2021). But legal harvest remains an attractive option for conflict reduction because of the perceived cost effectiveness and economic benefits derived from harvest. Ontario has one of the largest populations of black bears of any jurisdiction with between 85,000 and 105,000 bears across the province (E. Howe, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, unpublished data). In contrast to black bear populations in much of the United States, the bear population in Ontario has been stable over the last century with relatively limited change in bear harvest since the early 2000s (Howe et al. 2013, 2022). Human–black bear conflict is a major management issue in some parts of the province (Poulin et al. 2003, Obbard et al. 2014). Further, bear hunting is a popular activity among Ontario residents, and non-resident hunters provide tourism income to northern communities, with nearly 13,000 licenses sold annually between 2012 and 2019 and > $50 million Canadian dollars spent by licensed hunters in 2017 (Hunt and Rodgers 2018). Harvest rates remain moderate, averaging between 5% and 8% of the estimated provincial population since 2004, despite no limit on the number of residents that can purchase a tag (Howe et al. 2013, 2022; Figure 1). Prior to 1999, Ontario had a spring and fall black bear hunting season. In 1999, the spring season was terminated. Starting in 2014, Ontario implemented a new spring black bear season in selected wildlife management units (WMU), in addition to the existing fall season. We leveraged this management change to test the hypothesis that human-caused mortality through regulated harvest reduces human–black bear interactions and incidents (Hopkins et al. 2010), both of which are measures of conflict. In addition to directly testing this hypothesis, we also examined factors influencing black bear harvest and human–bear interactions and incidents from 2004 to 2019 to assess the longer-term factors influencing these processes in an uncontrolled design.

STUDY AREA

The study took place throughout black bear range within the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence and Boreal Forests (Rowe 1972; Figure 2) of Ontario, Canada. This area represented much of the contemporary range of black bears in Ontario and encompassed nearly 1 million km^2 of land ranging from exurban and urban landscapes to large roadless areas. The Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Forest is characterized by a mix of deciduous and coniferous tree species with a wide range of forage species available to bears. The boreal forest is generally less productive for black bears (Obbard and Howe 2008, Wightman et al. 2022) and is characterized by colder and longer winters. Although covering a large extent, the study area was relatively flat with limited topographic relief. Elevation across the province ranged from near sea level to the highest point of land at approximately 690 m. Precipitation varied widely across the province with a general gradient of higher precipitation in the southeastern portion of the study area and

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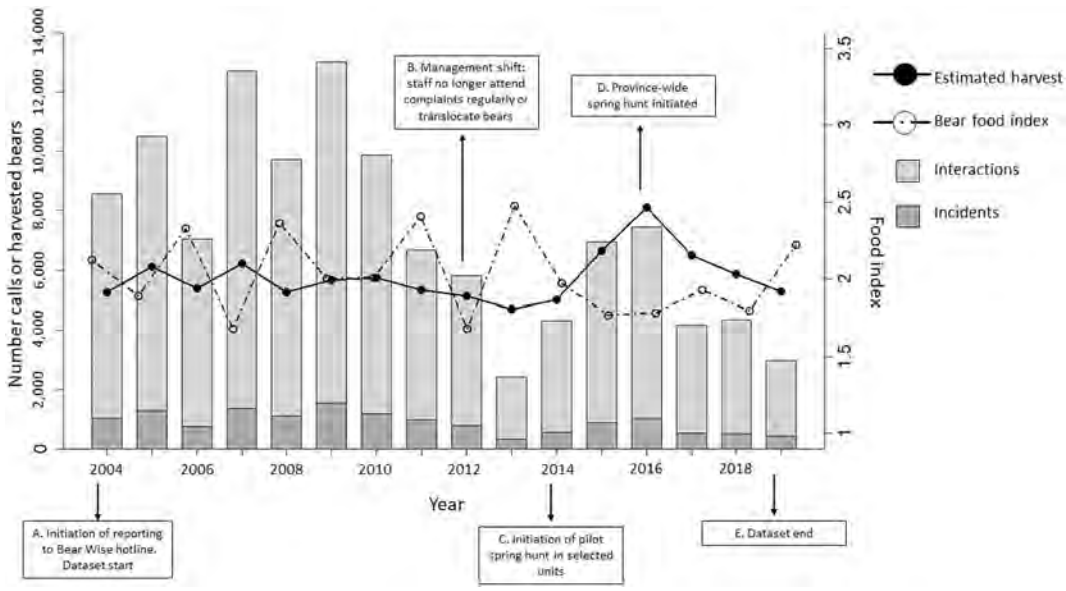


FIGURE 1 Reported human–black bear interactions and bear incidents, black bear food availability index, and estimated black bear harvest in Ontario, Canada between 2004 and 2019 spanning different harvest management regimes.

lower precipitation in the northwest. Other large mammal species present included moose (*Alces alces*) and wolves (*Canis* spp.), both occurring throughout all but the farthest south portion of the study area and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) within the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Forest in the south and northwestern part of the study area. Prior to 1999, bears were hunted in spring and fall seasons throughout Ontario. In 1999, the spring season was canceled. Starting in 2014, a pilot spring season was reinstated in 8 WMUs throughout the province (Figure 2). These WMUs were chosen in part because they had relatively high levels of reported human–bear interactions, perhaps because they contain the largest cities in northern Ontario, which enabled greater encounter rates between people and bears (Figure 2). Starting in 2016, the spring season was reinstated in all WMUs that already had a fall season. In all WMUs and seasons, baiting is allowed.

METHODS

Data sources

Although we define conflict generally throughout this paper as encounters between people and wildlife (bears specifically) that have negative outcomes, throughout the following, we adopt the terminology of Hopkins et al. (2010) when referring to human–bear interactions and bear incidents (they define human–bear conflict differently than how we use the term here). Hopkins et al. (2010:157) define human–bear interaction as "an occurrence when a person and bear are mutually aware of each other." They define bear incidents as interactions between people and bears where a bear killed, or attempted to kill pets or livestock, where a bear was involved in a vehicle collision, encounters that resulted in property damage, a bear obtaining anthropogenic food, or where a bear exhibited behavior that caused a person to take extreme evasive action, contacted a person, displayed predatory behavior, or was harmed or killed intentionally by a person. In this terminology, incidents are a subset of human–bear interactions that are deemed more serious because there was a negative outcome of some sort. We compiled data

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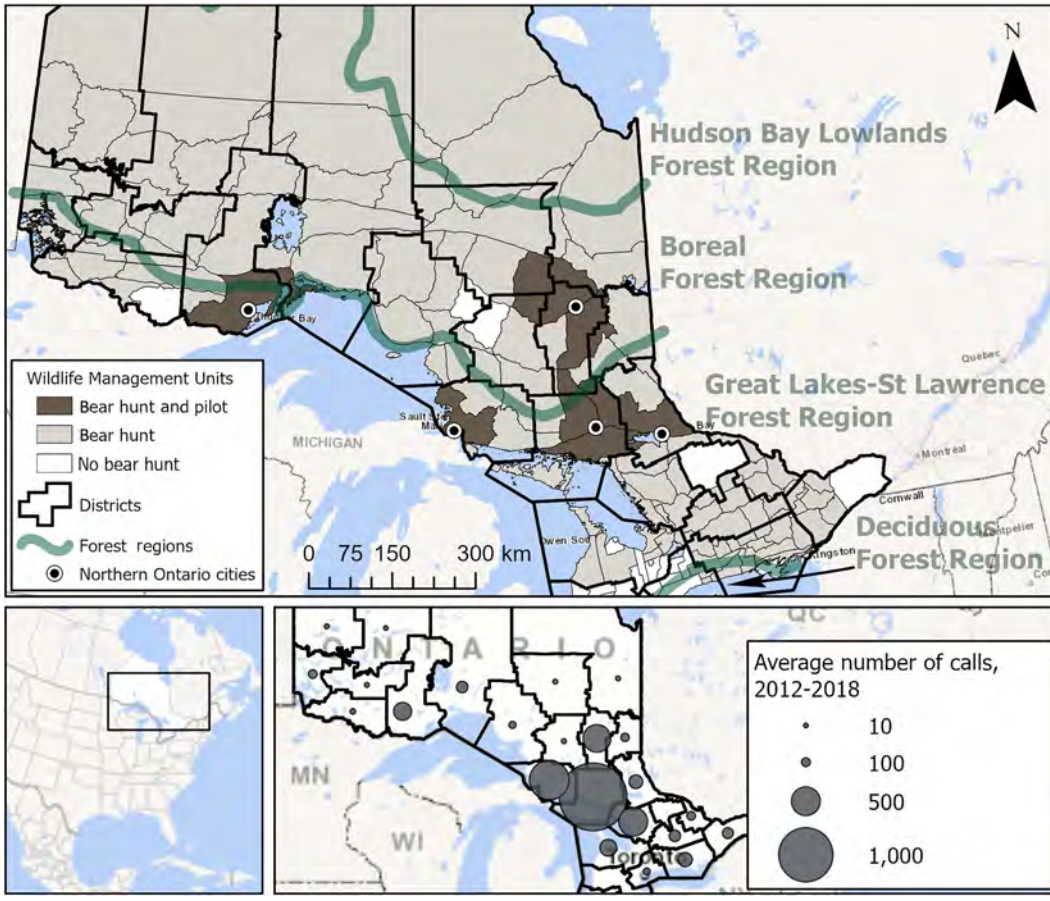


FIGURE 2 Location of study area within North America, management boundaries, forest regions, major cities in northern Ontario, Canada (north of the French River), and average number of calls reporting human–black bear interactions and conflicts to the Bear Wise reporting line between 2012 and 2018.

on human–bear interactions, bear incidents, harvest, and naturally occurring bear foods (Figure 1) for the analyses outlined below. We obtained data from human–bear interactions and bear incidents from the Provincial Bear Incident and Response Tracking Application. Since 2004, Ontario has staffed a Provincial Bear Wise reporting line where interactions involving bears can be reported (Figure 1). Data have been collected and reported in a standardized manner since this time and stored in this application. In 2012, the Ontario government changed the way they responded to calls to the Bear Wise reporting line by reducing the frequency of site visits and bear translocations; this decision potentially led to a decline in the reporting rate of interactions (Obbard et al. 2014; Figure 1). A similar pattern was observed in Minnesota, USA, where recorded complaints of human–bear interactions declined after a similar management change (Garshelis et al. 2020). Data were collected at the district scale, which overlap multiple WMUs (Figure 2). For each district, between 2004 and 2019, we tabulated the annual number of calls to the Bear Wise line to quantify human–bear interactions. In addition, we tabulated the number of calls that we classified as bear incidents. Specifically, we characterized reports as incidents if bears were reported as having acted aggressively (as reported by the caller), inflicted injury to humans, livestock, or pets, caused damage to buildings, vehicles, tents, or beehives, or entered a house, garage, or school yard.

We obtained harvest data from provincial harvest surveys that are mailed to all licensed hunters regarding the outcome of their hunting activity. Although reporting was mandatory, not all hunters reply; thus, we used estimated

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hunter numbers and harvest rates from those individuals that returned their surveys. We developed estimates by extrapolating harvest activity from reporting individuals to those that did not file reports (i.e., estimated harvest). Reporting rates were variable throughout the study (Table S1, available in Supporting Information), but recent research indicates that reporting and non-reporting individuals do not harvest bears at significantly different rates across Ontario (L. Hunt, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, unpublished data). Baiting is allowed in Ontario when hunting bears and is the primary method through which bears are harvested.

We obtained an annual index of bear food availability at the district scale from the Provincial Wildlife Food Survey (Potter and Obbard 2017). This survey was an opportunistic qualitative assessment of the relative availability of a suite of wildlife foods. Reports were collected from government staff based across the province and produce reliable estimates of food availability at broad scales (Howe et al. 2012, Obbard et al. 2014). We chose a suite of foods used by black bears to act as a relative bear food availability index.

General analytical overview

To directly assess the influence of the new spring hunt implemented in selected units in 2014 on human–bear interactions and bear incidents, we conducted 2 sets of regressions, 1 with interactions and the other with incidents as the dependent variables. For these analyses, we examined data collected between 2012 and 2015 only because this provides data during a consistent reporting period before and after the implementation of the spring hunt in selected WMUs, allowing for a before-after-control-impact (BACI) design. We refer to these analyses as the BACI analyses.

Second, we sought to understand the longer-term factors associated with human–bear interactions and incidents in an uncontrolled manner (i.e., not through a BACI design). We conducted 2 sets of regressions, 1 with interactions and the other with incidents as the dependent variables. For these analyses, we examined data collected between 2004 and 2019. We refer to these analyses as the full time series analyses.

Lastly, we sought to understand how estimated harvest of bears was influenced by the implementation of the spring season. We fit a single regression model with estimated bear harvest as the dependent variable. We analyzed data from 2012–2015 and examined how estimated harvest changed with the implementation of the spring hunt in the selected WMUs. We refer to this analysis as the harvest analysis.

STATISTICAL ANALYSES

BACI analyses

In our BACI design, the effect of a treatment (i.e., the implementation of a spring season) can be examined by statistically comparing a process of interest (in this case, interactions, or incidents) before and after implementation in control and treatment areas. We analyzed the data in a BACI design, using hierarchical Poisson regression, with separate models for interactions and incidents. Because interaction and incident data were reported at the district scale, and the spring seasons were implemented at the WMU scale, we could not classify districts as either controls or treatments (Figure 2). Therefore, we calculated the proportion of each district that was overlapped by a WMU with a spring pilot hunt in 2014 and 2015 (mean overlap = 0.11, range = 0–0.71). We used this value in place of a discrete control or treatment effect and termed the covariate proportion treated. In addition, we included a binary covariate for whether the data were collected before or after the initiation of the pilot spring season (after treatment; observations made after initiation coded as 1, prior to the initiation coded as 0) and an interaction term between proportion treated and after treatment. In this approach, the intercept in the regression is the average number of interactions or incidents in districts with no overlap with treatment WMUs prior to the treatment, and

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the proportion treated coefficient provides inference to how interactions and incidents varied with overlap with treatment WMUs prior to the initiation of the spring hunt. The after treatment coefficient indicates whether there was a change in the number of interactions or incidents in districts with no overlap with treatment WMUs after the initiation of the pilot and the interaction term provides inference to additive effects of overlap with treatment WMUs after the treatment. Because past research has shown that measures of human–bear conflict are strongly influenced by natural food availability (Howe et al. 2010, Obbard et al. 2014, Johnson et al. 2015), we included a covariate for each district's annual bear food index. Further, harvest plays a role in measures of human–bear conflict (Garshelis et al. 2020). The direction of this effect is variable across studies, and the period over which harvest can influence bear populations, and thus, presumably, conflicts, is variable. Therefore, we included a covariate for estimated harvest density (estimated bears harvested/km^2) in all models but varied the period over which estimated harvest was quantified in different models to assess different mechanisms underlying potential relationships between estimated harvest and reported interactions or incidents. We fit models with a covariate for estimated harvest density in the same year that interactions or incidents were reported (harvest density), the previous year (harvest density previous year), and averaged over the previous 6 years or approximately 1 black bear generation (harvest density previous 6 years). For these analyses, we used data from 2012–2015. Management responses to reports of human–bear interactions changed substantially starting in 2012, and in 2016, the spring hunt was expanded to the entire province, eliminating our control areas. Therefore, the years 2012–2015 represent consistent hunting and incident reporting conditions for the BACI design.

The above resulted in 6 separate regression analyses for the BACI analyses, 3 each with either interactions or incidents as the dependent variable. All 6 included the covariates proportion treated, after treatment, an interaction between proportion treated and after treatment, and food index. The regressions only varied in which harvest covariate was included. We also conducted 2 additional *post hoc* regression analyses to address potential differences in the relationship between food index and either interactions or incidents in the areas with and without spring hunts. Specifically, 2015 and 2016, the 2 years where the spring hunt was only present in selected units, were 2 of the poorest food years in our time series and appeared worse than the 2 previous years (Figure 1). If the relationship between conflict and food index differed between the control and treatment areas, then this could cloud inference. We thus fit 1 regression model each to the interactions and incidents data, allowing the effect of food index to vary as a function of the proportion overlap with spring hunt WMUs and the after treatment covariate. This entailed adding 3 additional covariates: an interaction between food index and proportion treated, an interaction between food index and after treatment, and a 3-way interaction between food index, after treatment, and proportion treated.

Full time series analysis

We examined the longer time series of human–bear interactions and conflicts since the onset of Ontario's Bear Wise program in 2004 (i.e., 2004–2019). We fit models to the interactions and incidents data from this period. In this analysis, we included the food index and proportion treated covariates described above, with all districts having a value of 1 for proportion treated after the province-wide implementation of the spring season and 0 prior. We also included a covariate to indicate whether the data were collected before or after the management response change in 2012 to control for differences in reporting that might have occurred as a result (pre-2012). As above, we included covariates for estimated harvest density, with 3 models fit to each of the interactions and conflict data for each of the 3 estimated harvest variables describe above (harvest density, harvest density previous year, harvest density previous 6 years).

The above resulted in 6 separate regression analyses for the full time series analyses, 3 each with either interactions or incidents as the dependent variable. All 6 included the covariates proportion treated (implemented in

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either 2014 or 2016), food index, and pre-2012. The regressions only varied in which harvest covariate was included.

Harvest analyses

To assess the influence of the spring season implemented in selected WMUs in 2014 on estimated harvest of black bears, we fit one model with annual estimated black bear harvest as the dependent variable. We included the covariates food index and after treatment outlined above, but because estimated harvest is measured at the WMU, we classified each unit as either a treatment unit or not, using the covariate treat (treatments coded as 1 and controls as 0), as opposed to using the proportion of the area overlapping with a treatment as in the analyses of interactions and incidents, outlined above. As above, we included an interaction between treat and after treatment to assess the additive change to estimated harvest in treatment WMUs after the implementation of the pilot. We considered fitting a model to the longer time series of data, but the BACI design is the most powerful for assessing how estimated harvest changed with a new spring season in treatment units relative to controls. A model fit to the full time series would suffer from the potential for spurious effects, such as, for example, a general increase in harvest over time with increasing hunter interest. Thus, we did not fit such a model.

Analysis details

The interactions, incidents, and harvest data sets outlined above are nested, with data collected annually within a district (interactions and incident data) or WMU (harvest data). Thus, we fit models in a hierarchical framework with coefficients for all covariates, except proportion treated in the BACI analyses and treat in the harvest analysis, varying by district and assumed to arise from normal distributions with means representing the provincial-scale effect of each covariate. Poisson regression assumes that the mean and variance of a distribution are identical. As this was unlikely to be the case, we fit models with a dispersion term that allows for the data to be under- or over-dispersed. Further, because districts and WMUs differed in size, we included an offset for the size of the district (or WMU), which transforms the analysis to one of rates of interactions, incidents, or estimated harvest (per unit area) as opposed to number of interactions, incidents, or estimated bears harvested (Equations S1, available in Supporting Information).

Prior to fitting models, we examined pairwise correlations among covariates and calculated condition numbers following Lazaridis (2007) to assess multicollinearity. We fit all models in a Bayesian framework using JAGS (Plummer 2015) in the R statistical software (version 3.6.0; R Core Team 2020), using the package rjags (Plummer 2020). For all models, we ran 4 independent Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithms, with starting values chosen randomly. We ran algorithms for 1 million iterations, discarding the first 100,000 as burn-in. We assessed model convergence by examining trace plots for each parameter and by calculating the Gelman-Rubin diagnostic, with values <1.1 indicative of model convergence (Gelman and Rubin 1992).

RESULTS

For all analyses, magnitudes of pairwise correlations between covariates were all <0.7, which has been suggested as a threshold for inclusion of covariates in the same model (Dormann et al. 2013) and condition numbers were all <2, indicating limited expectation of issues related to multi-collinearity. Traceplots and Gelman-Rubin diagnostics all indicated that models converged.

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TABLE 1 Covariates, coefficient estimates, and the probability (prob.) of a coefficient being > 0 or < 0 from a hierarchical Poisson regression fit to human–black bear interactions and bear incidents in Ontario, Canada between 2012 and 2015. We measured data at the district scale across a shift in harvest management where certain treatment wildlife management units implemented a pilot spring season in 2014. We fit models with the estimated harvest density covariate representing harvest measured in the same year as the interactions and incidents data.

	Human–bear interactions			Bear incidents		
Covariate	Median coefficient estimate	Prob. < 0	Prob. > 0	Median coefficient estimate	Prob. < 0	Prob. > 0
Intercept	3.413	0	1	1.645	0	1
Food index	−0.255	1	0	−0.304	1	0
After treatment	−0.188	0.934	0.066	−0.186	0.881	0.119
Proportion treated	2.102	0.052	0.948	1.191	0.165	0.835
Proportion treated × after treatment	1.225	0.018	0.982	0.939	0.086	0.914
Harvest density	0.57	0.001	0.999	0.6	0.004	0.996

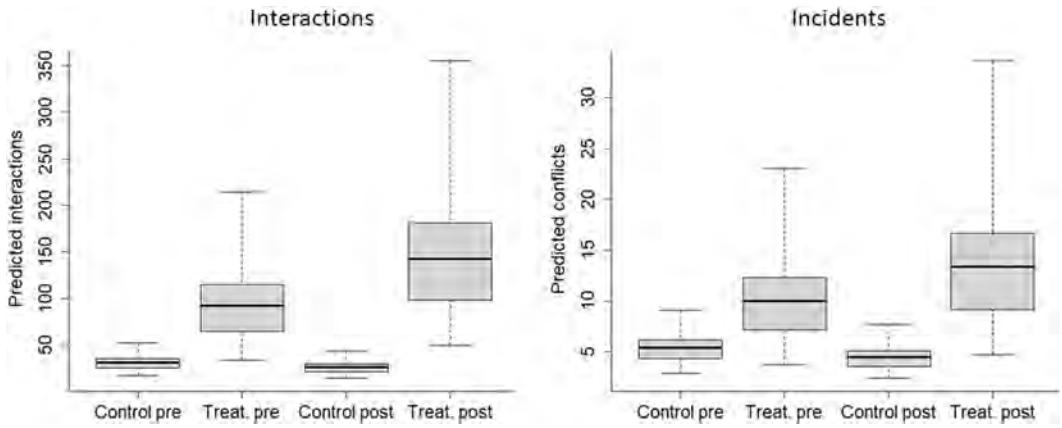


FIGURE 3 Predicted median (black line), interquartile range (box), and 95% credible intervals (whiskers) of human–black bear interactions and bear incidents per year in the average district as a function of time period (pre- or post-initiation of a spring season in selected wildlife management units [WMUs]). Treatment predictions (treat.) are the predicted number for a district with 50% overlap with spring hunt WMUs. We derived predictions from hierarchical Poisson regression fit to data from 2012 through 2015 in Ontario, Canada.

BACI analyses

For the BACI analysis of human–bear interactions, regardless of the harvest covariate included, all models indicated substantially higher number of interactions in districts with a greater overlap with treatment WMUs before the initiation of the spring season. There were nearly 3 times the interactions predicted in a district with 50% of the area overlapping with treatment WMUs than one with no overlap (Table 1; Figure 3; Tables S2, S3, available in Supporting Information). After the initiation of the spring hunt, this relationship was stronger, with >5 times more interactions predicted in a district with 50% of the area overlapping with treatment WMUs than one with no overlap after (Table 1; Figure 3; Tables S2, S3). There were similar patterns for bear incidents, though there was slightly more uncertainty in the coefficients for these models compared to those fit to human–bear interactions. There was less evidence of increased

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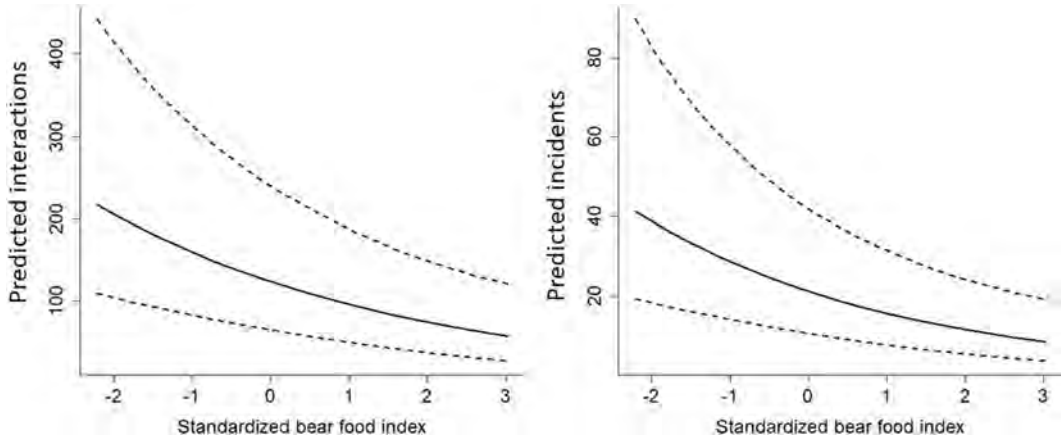


FIGURE 4 Predicted median (solid line) and 95% credible intervals of human–black bear interactions and bear incidents per year in the average control district prior to the implementation of the spring hunt as a function of bear food availability. We derived predictions from hierarchical Poisson regression fit to data from 2012 through 2015 in Ontario, Canada.

incidents in districts with greater overlap with treatment WMUs prior to initiation of the pilot spring season, but as with interactions, there were substantially more incidents in these districts after the initiation of the spring season (1.8 times more incidents in a district with 50% overlap with treatment WMUs prior to the new spring season and nearly 3 times more incidents after the spring season; Table 1; Figure 3; Tables S2, S3).

In addition, interactions and incidents were strongly and negatively related to the food index (Figures 1 and 4; Table 1; Tables S2–S5). Across models, there was a predicted 30% decline in interactions and incidents during years when the food index was 1 standard deviation above average. Further, there were more interactions and incidents when there was greater estimated harvest in the same year, and when there was greater estimated harvest in the preceding year (Table 1; Table S2). In contrast, there was a negative relationship between estimated harvest over the previous bear generation (6 years) and interactions and incidents, though there was substantial uncertainty (probability coefficient <0 = 0.82 for interactions and incidents) in this effect (Table S3).

The *post hoc* analysis examining whether the effect of food on interactions and conflicts varied between areas with a spring hunt and over time showed that the effect of food was relatively consistent (Figures S1 and S2, Table S6, available in Supporting Information). In districts with no overlap with treatment WMUs, a 1 standard deviation increase in the food index led to an approximately 20% decline in interactions and 27% decline in incidents prior to the implementation of the spring hunt. After the implementation of the spring hunt, a 1 standard deviation increase in food index led to an approximately 29% decline in interactions and 37% decline in incidents. In districts with the mean overlap with treatment WMUs, a 1 standard deviation increase in the food index led to an approximately 24% decline in interactions and 24% decline in incidents. After the implementation of the spring hunt, a 1 standard deviation increase in food index led to an approximately 24% decline in interactions and 29% decline in incidents.

Full time series analyses and harvest analysis

For models of the full time series of data, there were more interactions and incidents during years with less available food, when estimated harvest in the current or previous year was higher, and prior to the management change in 2012 (Table 2; Table S4). Estimated harvest over the previous bear generation (6

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TABLE 2 Covariates, coefficient estimates, and the probability (prob.) of a coefficient being > 0 or < 0 from a hierarchical Poisson regression fit human–black bear interactions and bear incidents in Ontario, Canada between 2004 and 2019. We measured data at the district scale across a shift in harvest management where certain treatment wildlife management units implemented a pilot spring season in 2014 that was extended to the entire province in 2016. We included a covariate (pre 2012) to indicate whether the data were collected before or after a management response change in 2012 to control for differences in reporting that might have occurred as a result. We fit models with the estimated harvest density covariate representing harvest measured in the same year as the interactions and incidents data.

	Human–bear interactions			Bear incidents		
Covariate	Median coefficient estimate	Prob. < 0	Prob. > 0	Median coefficient estimate	Prob. < 0	Prob. > 0
Intercept	3.582	0	1	1.624	0	1
Food index	−0.237	0.999	0.001	−0.237	0.999	0.001
Proportion treated	−0.041	0.579	0.421	−0.079	0.654	0.346
Pre 2012	0.976	0	1	0.825	0	1
Harvest density	0.306	0.005	0.995	0.319	0.005	0.995

TABLE 3 Covariates, coefficient estimates, and the probability (prob.) of a coefficient being > 0 or < 0 from a hierarchical Poisson regression fit to estimated black bear harvest data from Ontario, Canada, between 2012 and 2015. We measured data at the wildlife management unit (WMU) scale across a shift in harvest management where certain treatment WMUs implemented a pilot spring season in 2014.

Covariate	Median coefficient estimate	Prob. < 0	Prob. > 0
Intercept	3.931	0	1
Food index	−0.067	0.999	0.001
After treatment	0.084	0.019	0.981
Treatment	0.282	0.021	0.979
Treatment × after treatment	0.764	0.141	0.859

years) was negatively related to interactions and incidents, though there was more uncertainty for this effect (Table S5). The proportion of the unit with a spring season was not predictive of interactions and conflicts in this analysis (Table 2).

For the harvest analysis, estimated harvest per unit area of black bears was more than 2-fold higher in treatment WMUs prior to the initiation of the pilot spring season relative to the control units (Table 3). Estimated harvest increased by approximately 9% in control WMUs after the spring pilot and by 33% in treatment WMUs (Table 3). This increase was influenced primarily by the spring hunt, with nearly all of the numeric increase in estimated harvest coming from spring harvest with relatively stable harvest in the fall (Table 4). Food index was also a strong influence on estimated harvest, with fewer bears estimated to have been harvested in years with more food; there was an approximate 7% decline in the estimated bears harvested during years where the bear food index was 1 standard deviation above the mean (Table 3). At the provincial scale, estimated harvest increased sharply starting with the initiation of the spring hunt, peaked in the first year with a province-wide spring hunt, and then declined, though it remained higher than pre-spring hunt initiation (Figure 1). Again, much of this increase appeared to come from the spring hunt (Table 4).

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TABLE 4 Estimated harvest of black bears from 2004–2019 broken down by hunting season and divided into wildlife management units in which there was a pilot spring hunt in 2014 and 2015 (treatment units) and those for which the spring hunt was not implemented until 2016 (control).

Year	Fall control	Spring control	Fall treatment	Spring treatment
2004	4,295	0	959	0
2005	4,960	0	1,151	0
2006	4,415	0	963	0
2007	4,949	0	1,260	0
2008	4,197	0	1,049	0
2009	4,583	0	1,082	0
2010	4,659	0	1,064	0
2011	4,460	0	872	0
2012	4,152	0	986	0
2013	3,893	0	799	0
2014	3,914	0	700	390
2015	5,245	0	952	441
2016	5,079	1,615	1,062	360
2017	3,774	1,681	686	349
2018	3,353	1,558	598	350
2019	2,899	1,629	437	329

DISCUSSION

Human–wildlife conflict poses a major challenge for the conservation of carnivore species globally while often threatening human safety and livelihoods (Woodroffe et al. 2005, Barua et al. 2013, Ripple et al. 2014, Nyhus 2016, Penteriani et al. 2016). Developing cost-effective methods for reducing conflicts between people and wildlife is thus a major focus of many wildlife conservation and management programs. Our results indicate that bottom-up processes were the primary drivers of human–black bear interactions and bear incidents (i.e., conflicts), despite a major shift in harvest management practices that resulted in a sizeable increase in the number of black bears estimated to have been harvested. The new spring hunt led to an almost 50% increase in the number of bears harvested in the treatment WMUs, with no apparent reduction in the fall harvest. These results indicate that the new spring hunt was not able to reduce human–bear conflicts and suggests that legal harvest in general may not be sufficient, particularly during years when natural foods were unproductive.

There were increases in human–bear conflicts in years in which our index of bear food availability was low. These results corroborate a long history of research findings on conflicts between people and bears (Howe et al. 2010, Baruch-Mordo et al. 2014, Johnson et al. 2015, Artelle et al. 2016, Azad et al. 2017). This research shows that when natural food is available, bears generally avoid humans, leading to reduced conflict; however, when food is scarce, bears seek out any available food source, coming into close contact with humans resulting in increased rates of conflict (Schorger 1946, Rogers 1987, Garshelis and Noyce 2007, Ryan et al. 2007). Variation in the volume of fruit produced by bears' preferred forage species can vary by >2 orders of magnitude (Healy et al. 1999, Romain et al. 2013, Hertel et al. 2018) so it is not surprising that conflicts are similarly affected across a wide range of bear densities and harvest rates.

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Significantly higher rates of our measures of conflict after the initiation of the spring season in districts with greater overlap with treatment WMUs demonstrates that the spring season was not sufficient to reduce conflict in the areas that it was implemented. This result held even after controlling for food index and concluding that the effect of food on conflict was constant across districts and time. Although, one might interpret that the increase in conflict was caused by the spring hunt, our design was not perfect in terms of spatial overlap. Harvest was measured at the WMU scale and conflict at the district scale, with imperfect overlap. Further, the districts that overlapped most with the spring hunt WMUs had high conflict to begin with. Thus, we caution that our results are not definitive, but we discuss some potential mechanisms for how the new spring hunt could have potentially led to increased conflict. Because black bears are primarily hunted over bait in Ontario, it is conceivable that the greater availability of unnatural food sources in the spring led to food conditioning of bears, thus causing greater conflict later in the spring or summer. Baiting is also used in the fall in Ontario, but the spring season would have represented an increase in the amount of anthropogenic food available to bears. Another possible explanation is that the introduction of the spring hunt and the accompanying media coverage increased public interest in bears or altered the public's view of the management agency leading to greater reporting to the Bear Wise line (Howe et al. 2010). Similar dynamics might have been at play following the cancellation of the spring season in 1999 (Howe et al. 2010). This explanation is partially supported by the stronger effect seen in interactions compared to incidents, which we would expect to be less influenced by changes in public perception. In contrast, there was still a strong effect of the spring season on incidents, suggesting that there were indeed greater rates of conflict between bears and people in these WMUs after the initiation of the spring season.

Another possible explanation for the increase in conflicts in districts with greater overlap with treatment units upon initiation of the spring season could be changes in bear social dynamics. Sargeant and Ruff (2001) suggested that greater removals of older, dominant, resident bears resulted in an influx of younger animals, which might be more prone to conflict (but see Czetwertynski et al. 2007 for contrasting evidence). The average age of male bears harvested during the spring season was nearly 1 year older than bears harvested during the previous 2 fall hunting seasons (5.42 yr vs. 4.68 yr; Table S7, available in Supporting Information). Further, bears harvested in the spring season were older than those harvested in the fall in every year since the implementation of the spring hunt except one (Table S7). Statistical models fit to age structure data collected as part of Ontario's bear harvest management (Wightman et al. 2022) indicate that spring harvested bears are significantly older than fall-harvested bears (see Supplemental Age Analysis, available in Supporting Information). During spring or summer, subadult males disperse (Lee and Vaughan 2003); therefore, harvest of older bears could create space for territories for mobile young bears (Rogers 1987). Areas selected for the spring season after 2014 were mostly more productive for bears, and more densely populated by humans (Howe et al. 2013, 2022). Therefore, seasonal movements towards food (e.g., red oak [*Quercus rubra*] stands), and incidentally towards humans, during hyperphagia could contribute to perennially high conflicts in districts overlapping the WMUs selected for the pilot.

There was a strong positive relationship between human–bear conflict and the recent number of bears estimated to have been harvested (either in the same year or in the previous year). Our results also indicated a potential negative relationship between longer term harvest patterns and conflict, though this effect had high uncertainty and thus should be interpreted with caution. The positive short-term relationship could reflect that both processes are driven by higher bear densities, with more bears on the landscape driving more harvest and more conflict. Alternatively, harvest numbers could be reflective of finer-scale variation in food availability that was not captured by our food availability data, which are collected at a relatively coarse scale. In Ontario, bear harvest is influenced by food availability, with high harvest coinciding with years of low food availability (Obbard et al. 2014, this paper) and similar patterns have been shown elsewhere, with harvest, road kills, and conflict all increasing following food shortages in Colorado, USA (Laufenberg et al. 2018). Thus, it is likely that harvest patterns are responding to additional variation in food availability. Strengthening this argument, we saw substantial variation in province-wide fall harvests, which overlaps with hyperphagia when bears should be most responsive to variation in

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food, but remarkably consistent spring harvest. It also is possible that the synchronization of bear reproduction due to food failures could create large cohorts of young bears in years following food failures. Young bears are subordinate and likely to be excluded from prime natural feeding areas; Baruch-Mordo et al. (2014) show that these bears are more likely to overlap with areas of higher human density and are potentially more likely to come into conflict with people or to be harvested. Most bears live-trapped because of incidents with people and those harvested were <4 years old, though without detailed information on population age structure, it is difficult to make direct inference to the implications (Treves et al. 2010). It is possible that large cohorts of young bears, arising from reproductive synchrony induced by food failures (McLaughlin et al. 1994, Obbard and Howe 2008), could influence concordant increases in estimated harvest and conflict. The negative, though uncertain, effect of estimated harvest over the previous bear generation is possibly indicative of the potential for harvest to eventually depress populations enough over the long term to reduce conflict. Indeed, if populations are reduced sufficiently, then conflicts will eventually respond (Garshelis et al. 2020). This effect was uncertain in our analysis, and thus we caution that this result is only suggestive of a potential relationship and the effect reported for Minnesota (Garshelis et al. 2020) may not apply in all jurisdictions.

Our results contrast with recent research by Garshelis et al. (2020) in Minnesota. Despite these 2 jurisdictions sharing a border, there are several differences between the populations of bears in Ontario and those in Minnesota. First, ongoing population monitoring in Ontario indicates that bear populations have been mostly stable since the 2000s (Obbard et al. 2010; Howe et al. 2013, 2022). In Minnesota, increasing conflicts correlated strongly with a near doubling of the bear population, followed by declining conflicts with a strongly declining bear population. Such population dynamics were not at play in Ontario. Like the situation reported for Minnesota, we also saw a strong decline in the number of reports of conflict with changes in the way in which agency staff responded to calls. Garshelis et al. (2020) inferred that this decline was indicative of the community taking ownership over the management of attractants, but our data offer a different view. After the changes in responses to bear management, we saw a net decrease in the number of reported human–bear conflicts, but the patterns relative to food availability and estimated harvest stayed constant, indicating that, in Ontario, this reduction was likely due to the fact that people knew that their report would not be acted upon, rather than a true reduction in encounters with bears or conflicts. It does not appear that there was a lag in the influence of the management shift on response rates, as calls appeared to drop off immediately in 2012 despite one of the worst recorded food years in our time series (Figure 1). Further, if there was a lag that went undetected, this would strengthen our inference because there were more calls after the implementation of the spring hunt, which was further in time from the management shift than the years with no spring hunt.

Although the focus of our analysis was on the influence of the spring hunt on human–bear conflict, numerous other factors have the potential to influence conflict. Specifically, human population density is likely related to conflict because more people equates to greater potential for interaction between people and bears. We did not assess this relationship because the primary focus of our analysis was on the change in conflict over time at the district scale, and human population density is relatively static over the short time period of our analysis (4 yr). In addition, high profile interactions between bears and people, such as human injuries, could lead to increased reporting. Obbard et al. (2014) suggest that such increases did not occur in Ontario following a high-profile fatality. Further, in our data set, there were human injuries reported in every year, so we also may not expect to see such a relationship. But these effects are of course possible and could have been influential in our data.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

As has been repeatedly shown in past research, bottom-up processes drove human–bear conflict in our system. Our results provide further support for strict measures focused on control of attractants and unnatural foods, particularly during years when natural food crops fail (e.g., frost events during flowering, summer droughts), and

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indicate that regulated, sustainable harvests may not control conflict because these harvests are not implemented to reduce population numbers. Management agencies could attempt a controlled population reduction, followed by resumption of sustainable harvest at the lower population size, but this approach would require intensive monitoring to ensure populations are not overharvested and reduced below the desired population size. Such approaches would almost certainly lead to reduced opportunity for hunters and outfitters, as the allowable harvest would be lower at the reduced population levels. Our results suggest that such approaches might even increase conflicts in subsequent years, though more research is needed into the mechanisms that underlie this conclusion. A suite of measures promoting coexistence including attractant management, education, enforcement of regulations on securing attractants, and local capacity building for management of conflicts will help to ensure viable populations of carnivores while limiting the potential negative effects on human safety and livelihoods.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

ETHICS STATEMENT

We obtained all data from existing provincial monitoring programs of harvest and bear occurrences; the study did not entail handling or direct observation of wild animals by researchers, and thus no animal care and use protocols were required.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data are available upon request.

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Bear hunting season comments->ssrn-4951764.pdf

Do Lethal Control Interventions Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict? Evidence from Black Bears in British Columbia

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Abstract

Lethal control is a common intervention in response to human-wildlife conflict, yet its effectiveness in reducing future conflict is unclear. We assemble a novel dataset on all recorded human-black bear (*Ursus americanus*) conflicts in British Columbia, Canada from 2013 until 2021 to both identify the drivers of human-black bear conflict and assess whether the lethal control of black bears reduces human-black bear conflict. The resulting dataset spans approximately 67,000 conflict events leading to more than 3,000 black bears being killed. We show that conditions associated with low environmental food availability, such as cold spring weather, hot/dry fall weather, and low salmon abundance increase human-black bear conflict. Using both panel regressions and local projections controlling for weather, human settlement density, location-specific time-invariant effects such as average bear population density, seasonal effects, and salmon abundance, we find little evidence that lethal control interventions lead to significant long run reductions in future human-black bear conflict. Our results show a small temporary fall in conflict in response to bears being killed (primarily for aggressive conflict), with a rebound to pre-intervention levels of conflict after 8-12 months. These findings are consistent with human-black bear conflict primarily being driven by the conditions that lead to conflict rather than problematic black bears and cast doubt around the use of lethal control interventions to reduce human-wildlife conflict in the long run.

1 Introduction

British Columbia (BC), Canada is home to an estimated 120,000-150,000 black bears (*Ursus americanus*), who from 2013-2021, were involved in roughly 67,000 negative human-black bear interactions (*Wildsafe BC*, 2024; WARP, 2022). In response to those interactions, lethal control interventions led to the deaths of over 3,000 black bears (WARP, 2022). BC's estimated black bear population size, number of human-black bear conflicts, and number of lethal control interventions are the highest across all Canadian provinces and states (Lackey et al., 2018). Human-black bear conflict is also rising across jurisdictions in North America,[1] and given lethal control is a frequent response to human-black bear conflict in these jurisdictions, we expect that lethal control will also increase in the future.

More generally, human-wildlife conflict involving other species is also growing worldwide with lethal control being a common response to these conflicts (Nyhus, 2016). Further, climate change is

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[1]Though human-bear conflict has been roughly stable in BC, albeit with strong seasonality (see Figure 2).

likely exacerbating human-wildlife conflict by increasing resource scarcity, altering wildlife habitat, and shifting human and wildlife populations (Abrahms et al., 2023). At the same time, support is growing for the conservation of charismatic animals with an ever-eroding social license for both hunting and lethal control interventions leading to the death of wildlife (Ripple et al., 2016; Darimont et al., 2021). Despite the widespread use of lethal control interventions, little systematic research evaluates whether it lowers future human-wildlife conflict.

Human-black bear conflict often arises when black bears access garbage and naturally occurring foods in urban environments (Merkle et al., 2013; Lewis et al., 2015). These conflicts can result in property damage, the death of livestock and pets, and rarely, attacks on humans (Miller et al., 2016). Previous research examining the determinants of conflict has found that a lack of natural food sources in wildland areas and food conditioning are common factors leading to conflict (Rogers, 1976; Ryan et al., 2007; Obbard et al., 2014; H. Johnson et al., 2015; Lewis et al., 2015). A lack of precipitation can lead to lower availability of vegetative food sources for black bears, which in turn, leads to the substitution of anthropogenic food for natural food (Parchizadeh et al., 2023). Additionally, salmon abundance has been found to be negatively correlated with human-brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) conflicts (Artelle et al., 2016). Human-black bear conflicts also appear to occur more frequently at the urban-wildlife interface (van Bommel et al., 2020) and increase with human expansion in black bear habitat (Don Carlos et al., 2009). Black bears may leave primary habitat that contain natural foods for areas at the urban-wildlife interface with greater accessibility to unsecured human food and edible garbage, thus resulting in human-black bear conflict.

Most research on the effectiveness of killing black bears to reduce human-black bear conflict focuses on the effect of increases in overall black bear mortality, which includes both hunting and lethal control, and hunting-specific mortality. This research has yielded mixed results to-date. For example, Raithel et al. (2017) and Garshelis et al. (2020) found that increasing black bear mortality in New Jersey and increasing hunting pressure in Minnesota, respectively, were associated with less conflict. In contrast, Obbard et al. (2014) and Treves et al. (2010) found that increased hunting pressure in Ontario and Wisconsin did not reduce future conflict. Parchizadeh et al. (2023) found that larger black bear harvests in the previous year were associated with a higher occurrence of moderate and severe human-black bear conflicts.

Much less research has examined the direct relationship between lethal control interventions and future human-wildlife conflict. In a meta-analysis examining the effectiveness of invasive and non-invasive bear management interventions across species and populations in reducing bear-caused damage, Khorozyan & Waltert (2020) only included two studies that directly assessed the relationship between between lethal control interventions and bear-caused damage and both studies involved brown bears. Sagør et al. (1997) found that the killing of brown bears likely involved in sheep depredation in Norway did not reduce future depredation, while Anderson Jr et al. (2002) found that using invasive management approaches on grizzly bears that likely depredated on cattle in Wyoming, including lethal control, translocation, and aversive conditioning, reduced cattle losses. More recent research by Artelle et al. (2016) did not find a association between lethal control interventions for problem grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) and the number of grizzly bear attacks in BC. For other species, such as wolves (*Canus lupus*), European badgers (*Meles meles*), and various mesopredators, the association between lethal control interventions and future conflict is mixed (Tompa, 1983; Bjorge & Gunson, 1985; Donnelly et al., 2006; McManus et al., 2015; Lazure & Weladji, 2024).

Our objective is to both identify the environmental and socio-economic factors that lead to

human-black bear conflict and assess the relationship between the lethal control of black bears and future conflict. Previous research on the impact of lethal control interventions on future human-wildlife conflict has typically involved small sample sizes, included few control variables, and used methods that only allow for identifying correlations, not causal relationships. In our setting, using classical tools of causal inference is challenging due to endogenous contemporaneous treatment: black bears are killed in response to past and current conflict, which can be correlated with conflict in the future. We also observe multiple and repeated treatment: the lethal control of a single black bear is frequently followed by additional lethal control interventions at the same location. To estimate the causal effect of a lethal control intervention on future conflict. we use two-way fixed effects panel regressions with temporal lags and linear projections (see Jordà 2005, Jordà 2023), which allow us to explicitly modelling the channels of causality.

Using data on all recorded human-black bear conflict events and lethal control interventions from 2013-2021 in BC, we show that cold spring weather and hot/dry fall weather increase human-bear conflict, while increased salmon abundance reduces conflict. We find little evidence that lethal control interventions lead to significant long run reductions in future human-black bear conflict when controlling for weather, human settlement density, seasonal effects, and salmon abundance. Notably, this absence of a reduction in conflict is relative to a counter-factual of not intervening lethally for a similar location with comparable levels of conflict.

We observe a small temporary reduction in conflict primarily for aggressive bear conflict, however, the level of conflict returns to pre-intervention levels approximately 8-12 months after a lethal intervention. Importantly, our analysis provides evidence-based information on the lack of effectiveness of lethal control interventions to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Our findings can be used in the design of strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

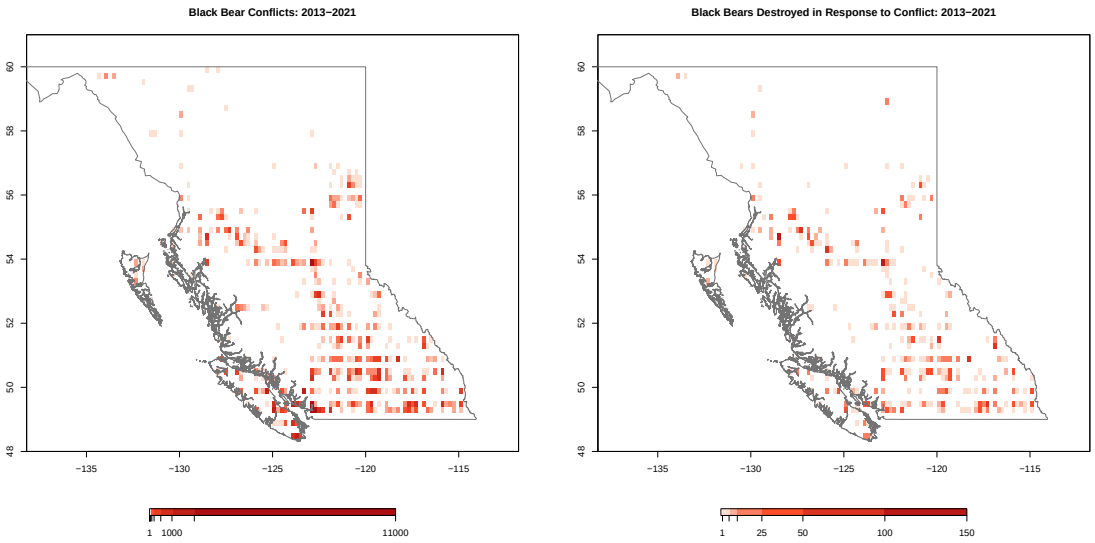
2 Data

We collect all reported human-wildlife conflict events in BC available from the Wildlife Alert Reporting Program from 2013 to 2021 (WARP, 2022).[2] Human-black bear conflict events are classified by type of conflict, ranging from black bears interacting with garbage to attacks on livestock or humans. We create an aggregate measure of conflict as the sum of all reported conflict events (excluding reported sightings and non-conflict interactions such as road kill). Formally we define conflict as the sum of the following events in the WARP data: reported 'aggressive' bears, livestock, pets, or humans injured/killed, food conditioned, damage to property, nuisance events, pet chased/stalked, livestock harassed, or agricultural damage caused. We further subdivide total conflict into aggressive and non-aggressive conflict events where we define aggressive as reported 'aggressive' in the WARP data, or livestock, pets, or humans injured/killed. We define non-aggressive as food conditioned bears, damage to property, nuisance events, pets chased/stalked, livestock harassed, or agricultural damage. We map all conflict data to a 0.2° spatial resolution (approximately 20 by 20 km in BC) by month. We chose this spatial resolution to balance the varying spatial resolutions of control variables and possible measurement error in the reporting of events within urban/suburb regions.[3]

[2] As of 2024, the data collection program by WARP has been discontinued due to funding shortfalls.

[3] Mowat et al. (2002) estimated that there were approximately 270 black bears/1,000 square kilometers in the plateau environment in central eastern British Columbia and 100 black bears/1,000 square kilometers in the mountainous area. With respect to the size of our grid cells, this equates to roughly 40-108 black bears per grid cell.

Figure 1: Human-Black Bear Conflict and Lethally Controlled Black Bears 2013-2021



(a) Recorded Black Bear Conflicts in BC, 2013-2021.

(b) Black Bears Killed by Lethal Control in Response to Conflict, 2013-2021.

Our approach to constructing grid cells results in a balanced panel where each grid-month observation captures the number of human-black bear conflict events and the number of lethally controlled black bears with many grid cells having zero events (Table 1). A total of 66,745 human-black bear conflicts were reported from 2013 to 2021 (Figure 1, left panel), of which we classify 7,244 as aggressive and 59,514 as non-aggressive. We measure lethal control interventions as the number of black bears killed due to conflict by either conservation officers or by others (i.e., members of the public). The recorded conflict events resulted in 3,337 lethally controlled black bears in the sample (Figure 1, right panel), of which 2,859 bears were killed by conservation officers. Most conflicts and lethal interventions took place in the fall in September and October (Figure 2). A second peak occurred in late spring and early summer in May and June.

There are some known concerns with the human-black bear conflict data. First, conflict events were reported by citizens calling a reporting hotline or filing a report when no conservation officer was dispatched. When conservation officers were at a conflict event, the event was documented with conservation officer response. Thus, the data likely underestimates the total number of actual conflicts since not all conflict events are reported by the public. Second, the location can be imprecise because dispatchers often recorded the urban center as the location when the exact conflict location was unknown. For the grid-level panel, we address this by spatial aggregation to 0.2 degree grid cells. This spatial aggregation should alleviate the concerns around spatial measurement error since locations that are mismeasured within a 0.2 degree grid are corrected.[4]

We combine human-black bear conflict observations with daily weather data (monthly-averaged daily maximum and minimum temperature in degrees C and precipitation in mm from NOAA 2022b), proxies for human settlement presence/density (monthly lights at night from Google Earth

[4]For example, if a conflict took place in a suburb but was incorrectly labelled to have taken place in an urban center, then the aggregation within cells would assign the same location as long as the locations are within the same grid cell.

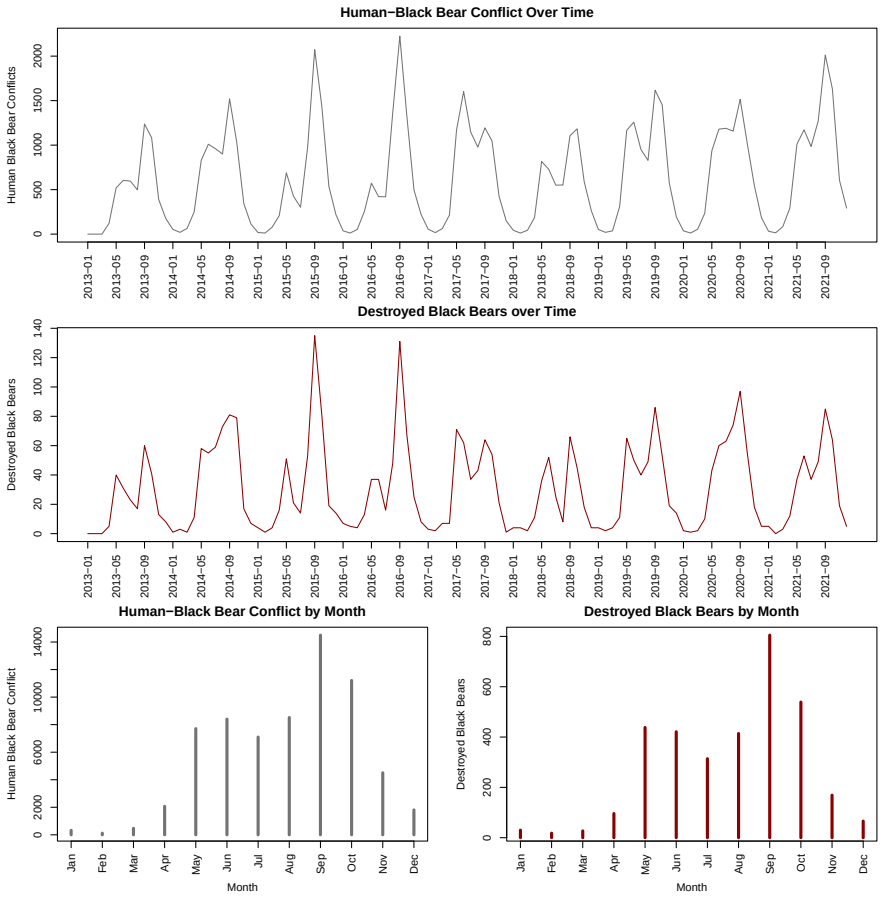
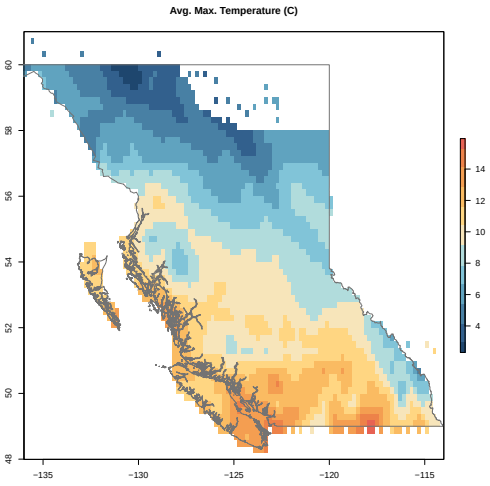
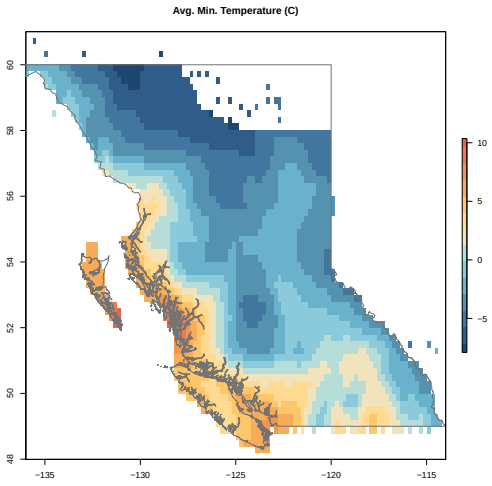


Figure 2: Top panels: Human-black bear conflict in BC (gray) and lethally controlled black bears (red) over time. Bottom panel: Conflict (left) and lethally controlled black bears (right) by month aggregated over all grid-cells 2013-2021.

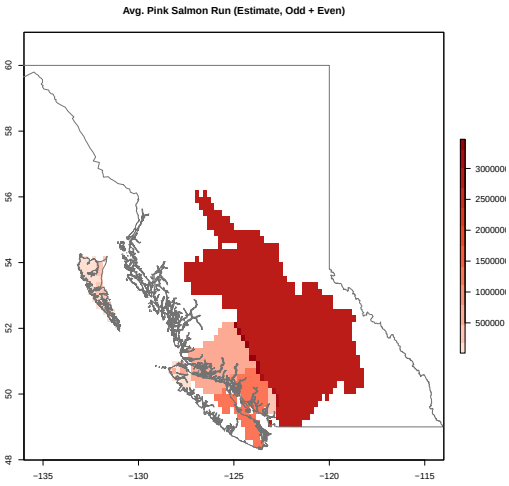
Figure 3: Control Variables



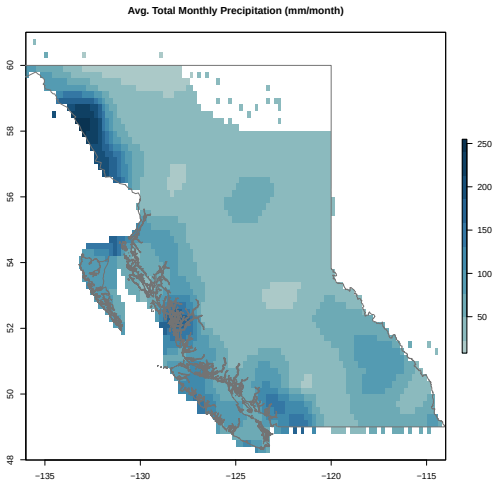
(a) Average maximum temperature.



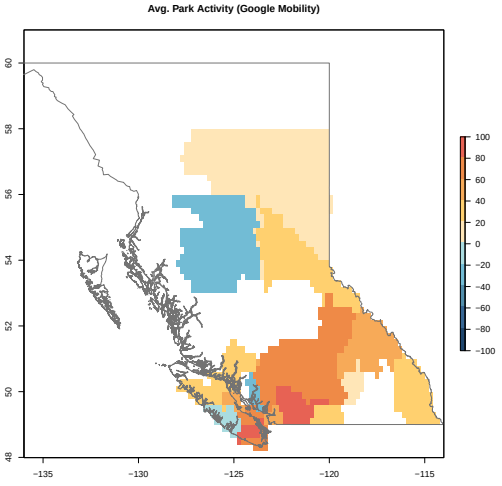
(b) Average minimum temperature.



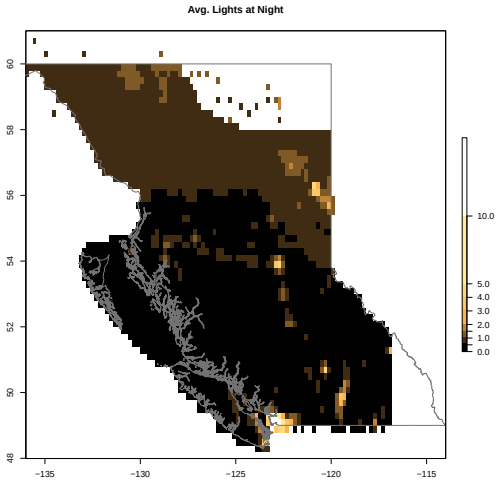
(c) Pink Salmon Return.



(d) Precipitation (total mm per month)



(e) Human Activity in Parks (made available by Google during the COVID 19)



(f) Lights at night (settlement density).

Engine, 2022), and salmon abundance (using pink salmon as a proxy of overall salmon conditions) using data from the Pacific Salmon Foundation.[5] Additionally, we include an index of human activity/visits in parks (i.e., park mobility), which was created and made available by Google during the COVID-19 pandemic for February-December 2020 (Google, 2020). Each variable is re-sampled to 0.2 degree spatial resolution by month and matched to the conflict data. Monthly temperatures reflects each of average daily maximum temperature and average daily minimum temperatures. We control for time-invariant conditions using grid-cell fixed effects, which accounts for all characteristics of conflict locations that do not change over time. Thus, we implicitly control for terrain ruggedness, average bear population density, average levels of conflict, and land cover.

Our data construction results in a set of 354,240 possible grid-month observations capturing the number of human-black bear conflict events and the number of lethally controlled black bears in each of the 3,341 grid cells in BC over 108 months. Summary statistics for conflicts, black bears killed, and the control variables are reported in Table 1. Figure 3 provides a spatial overview of the control variables. Some variables are not available for all months or grid cells, so the actual number of observations varies in each model. Notably, limitations on the number of observations on salmon and park mobility substantially restrict the sample. Therefore, we report estimates with and without controlling for salmon abundance and only include park mobility in a subset of models. Observations for the northeast corner of BC are unavailable due to measurement inconsistencies, so we omit this area from our analysis. However, only a small number of black bear conflicts have occurred in this area (see Figure 1), so excluding this area from our analyses is unlikely to affect our estimates.

Table 1: Summary Statistics

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
Black Bear Conflict	354,240	0.188	3.405	0	548
Black Bears Killed	351,812	0.009	0.152	0	30
Max. Temp. (C)	340,848	8.669	9.750	−23.619	34.772
Min. Temp. (C)	340,848	−1.259	8.582	−33.323	16.973
Precip. (Sum in mm)	351,972	60.106	57.380	0.020	706.475
Light	280,053	0.000	1.000	−0.734	31.264
Pink Salmon	105,948	2,328,785.000	3,315,385.000	0.000	9,361,564.000
Park Mobility	13,430	31.730	53.663	−41.000	245.750

3 Drivers of Human-Black Bear Conflict

To assess the potential environmental and socio-economic drivers of human-black bear conflict, we use simple two-way fixed effects (TWFE) panel models of human-black bear conflict as a function of various environmental and socio-economic variables. Two-way fixed effect panel models control for location-specific time invariant characteristics (such as ruggedness, elevation) and events that vary over time but are common across locations (such as seasons) to isolate the within-location drivers of conflict. We include total monthly precipitation,[6] pink salmon abundance, human settlement presence/density (through satellite-observed lights at night), and park mobility in month t

[5] Data on other salmon species is not available at a high enough frequency and spatial resolution, so we rely on pink salmon as a proxy for overall salmon abundance.

[6] When interacting precipitation with quarterly binary variables none are statistically different from zero. Therefore, we do not report the results with precipitation interaction terms.

and grid cell i as predictors in our models.[7] Additionally, we interact each of average monthly maximum and minimum daily temperatures with binary variables for seasonal Quarter 1 (December, January, February), Quarter 2 (March, April, May), Quarter 3 (June, July, August), and Quarter 4 (September, October, November) to estimate the impact of seasonal weather beyond seasonal effects captured using time fixed effects. In the base model, we specify estimates of standardised conflict $\widetilde{conf}_{i,t}$ as a function of standardised controls $\tilde{x}_{i,t}$ in the two-way fixed effects panel.[8] We standardise the variables for ease of interpretation, such that the coefficients γ yield the expected standard deviation (SD) change in conflict for a one SD change in each independent variable:

$$\widetilde{conf}_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \tilde{x}'_{i,t}\gamma + \epsilon_{i,t} \tag{1}$$

Additionally, we include grid cell fixed effects α_i to control for time-invariant characteristics of conflict, such as elevation, ruggedness, average land cover, average bear population density, average road density, and urban/rural locations. We also include year-month fixed effects λ_t to control for time-varying effects that are common across grid cells, such as seasonal cycles. As a result of the inclusion of these fixed effects, the coefficient estimates for our non-fixed effect predictors identify within-grid cell effects. For example, the effect of average monthly minimum temperatures captures the effect of low temperatures in a particular grid-cell month, relative to the overall seasonal conditions which are captured by the year-month fixed effects, while accounting for the average level of conflict as well as average bear population density (among other time-invariant characteristics) in that grid-cell through the grid-cell fixed effect.

Our estimation results for coefficients γ on possible drivers of human-black bear conflict are shown in Figure 4 and Table 2. The results are very similar across types of conflict (aggregate, aggressive, and non-aggressive). Cold spring temperatures significantly increase conflict. A one standard deviation decrease in average minimum temperature in Quarter 2 leads to an approximate 0.04 SD increase in human-black bear conflict. The SD of conflict is 3.4 events, so a one SD fall in minimum temperatures in Quarter 2 suggests an increase of approximately 14 conflict events for a grid-cell experiencing an average of 100 conflict events per month. Similarly, high fall temperatures (Quarter 4) increase conflict. Conversely, increased precipitation potentially decreases conflict. A one SD increase in precipitation leads to an approximate 0.02 SD decrease in conflict, which corresponds to approximately seven fewer conflict events for a grid cell with an average of 100 monthly conflict events. Higher salmon abundance also significantly decreases conflict.

The effects of human settlement presence/density on human-black bear conflict are nuanced. When controlling for the presence of any (and average level of) human settlementthrough grid fixed effects, , an increase in human density (measured by lights at night) leads to a reduction in conflict. Across models, a one standard deviation increase in light intensity is associated with an approximate reduction of 0.17 to 0.85 conflict events, which equates to a reduction of 17 to 85 events for a grid cell with an average of 100 conflicts per month. However, if we don't control for time-invariant characteristics, such as terrain, roads, and any settlement presence, by omitting grid fixed effects (Model 4 in Table 2), the sign on human settlement density changes from negative to positive. This is intuitive as conflict increases with human presence (i.e., conflict happens where humans are located). Lastly, increased human activity in parks (measured using the Google Mobility Index) is associated with a reduction in conflict.

[7] These variables are subsequently used as controls in our estimates of the effects of lethal control of black bears on future conflict.

[8] Where $\widetilde{conf}_{i,t} = (conf_{i,t} - \overline{conf}_{i,t})/sd(conf_{i,t})$.

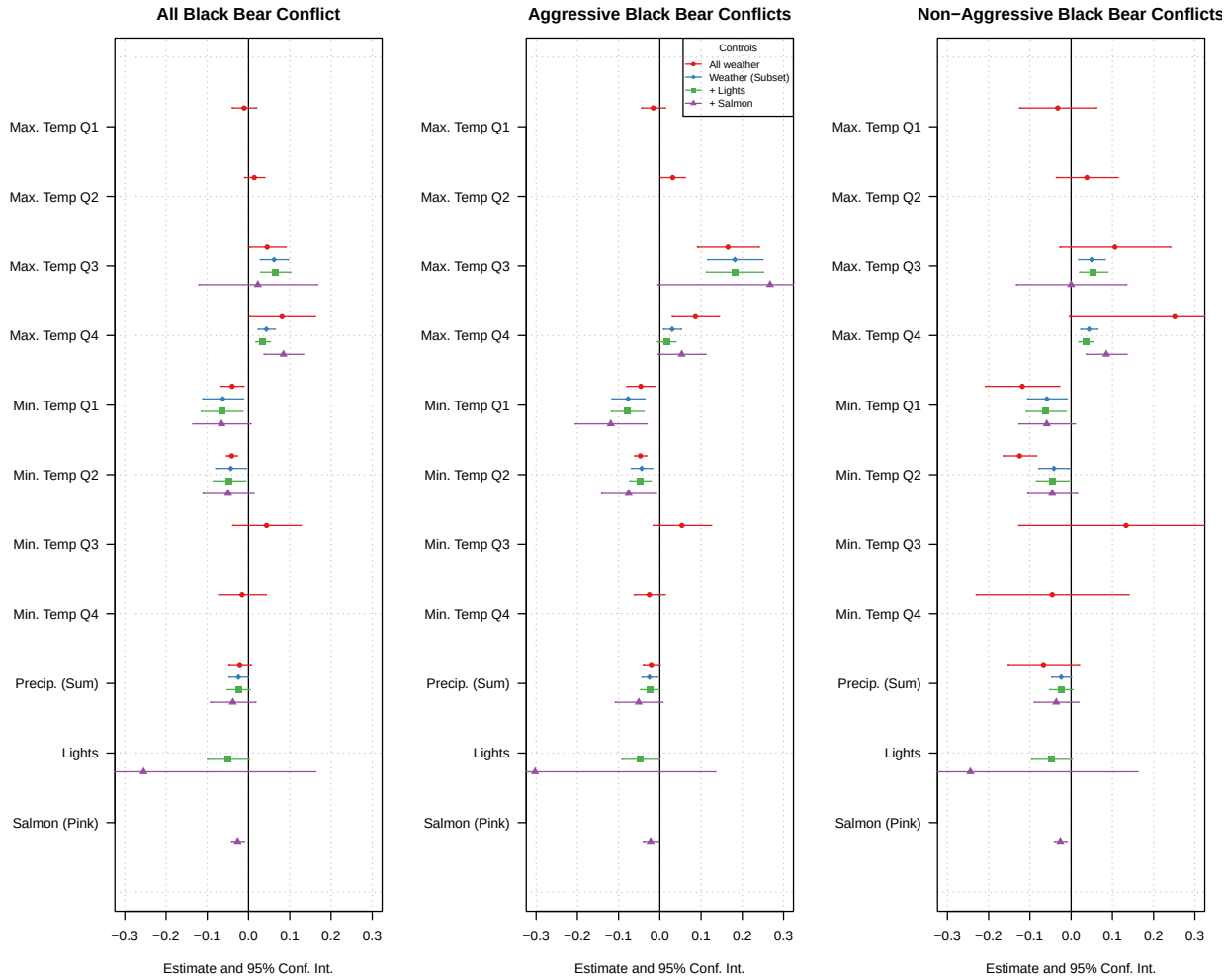


Figure 4: Drivers of human-black-bear conflict: coefficient estimates of standardised environmental drivers on human-black bear conflict (SD) by conflict type (left: all, middle: aggressive, right: non-aggressive). Models are grouped by colour and include varying sets of controls. Red: model includes full set of seasonally-interacted temperatures. Blue: model includes fall maximum temperature interactions and spring minimum temperature interactions only. Green: model includes lights at night (as well as fall and spring temperature interactions). Purple: model includes lights at night and salmon (as well as fall and spring temperature interactions).

Table 2: Environmental and Socio-Economic Drivers of Human-Bear Conflict (all conflict)

	Black Bear Conflict (SD)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Max. Temp Q1	-0.0107					
	(0.0148)					
Max. Temp Q2	0.0138					
	(0.0121)					
Max. Temp Q3	0.0452*	0.0619***	0.0658***	0.3304***	0.0226	0.0599
	(0.0223)	(0.0171)	(0.0181)	(0.1002)	(0.0730)	(0.0876)
Max. Temp Q4	0.0812*	0.0432***	0.0342***	0.2247**	0.0847***	-0.1551*
	(0.0404)	(0.0102)	(0.0085)	(0.0801)	(0.0241)	(0.0690)
Min. Temp Q1	-0.0397**	-0.0624*	-0.0652**	0.0228·	-0.0654·	-0.3014**
	(0.0138)	(0.0248)	(0.0252)	(0.0118)	(0.0356)	(0.1097)
Min. Temp Q2	-0.0407***	-0.0430*	-0.0469*	0.0454*	-0.0495	-0.1735*
	(0.0063)	(0.0186)	(0.0196)	(0.0195)	(0.0311)	(0.0691)
Min. Temp Q3	0.0436					
	(0.0419)					
Min. Temp Q4	-0.0157					
	(0.0290)					
Precip. (Sum)	-0.0213	-0.0245*	-0.0248·	-0.0045	-0.0381	-0.1195·
	(0.0136)	(0.0118)	(0.0138)	(0.0054)	(0.0277)	(0.0634)
Lights			-0.0498·	0.2363	-0.2547	-0.1417·
			(0.0255)	(0.1670)	(0.2121)	(0.0734)
Salmon (Pink)					-0.0265***	
					(0.0076)	
Park Mobility						-0.1374·
						(0.0717)
Within Adjusted R^2	0.00361	0.00339	0.00473	0.05392	0.01125	0.02019
Observations	334,584	334,584	259,869	259,869	84,651	12,493
Grid cell fixed effects	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Year-month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

. $p < 0.1$ * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Standard errors clustered at the grid-cell level.

3.1 Discussion of the Drivers of Human-Black Bear Conflict

Our analysis identifying the determinants of human-black bear conflict reveals that cold spring temperatures and warm fall temperatures are associated with increased conflict. Cold spring temperatures may inhibit or slow vegetative growth (Bhattacharya, 2022), resulting in less natural food available for black bears post-hibernation. Lower availability of natural foods may lead to the substitution of anthropogenic foods for natural foods, which in turn, may lead to more conflict (Baruch-Mordo et al., 2014; Can et al., 2014; H. Johnson et al., 2015; Lewis et al., 2015). During fall, black bears are preparing for hibernation so high fall temperatures may cause black bears to delay hibernation to maximize foraging, including consumption of anthropogenic foods, leading to more conflict (Merkle et al., 2013; H. Johnson et al., 2015; H. E. Johnson et al., 2018). Additionally, high fall temperatures may negatively impact plant productivity and contribute to droughts, thereby reducing the availability of natural foods (Hatfield & Prueger, 2015).

Conversely, we found that increases in precipitation, salmon abundance, human population density, and park usage are associated with less human-black bear conflict. Higher precipitation likely leads to an increase in the supply of vegetative foods, potentially reducing black bears' reliance on anthropogenic foods (Garshelis et al., 2017; Parchizadeh et al., 2023). Additionally, people are likely less active outdoors when there is higher precipitation, thereby limiting opportunities for conflict. Greater salmon abundance also likely reduces reliance on anthropogenic foods because salmon are an important food source for black bears in coastal areas of Vancouver Island and mainland BC (Reimchen, 1998; Davis et al., 2006). With respect to human settlement, an increase in human density is associated with lower human-black bear conflict when controlling for the presence of any human settlement, which is consistent with lower black bear population numbers in areas with relatively high human densities (Kretser et al., 2008; Merkle et al., 2011). Lastly, the negative relationship between human activity in parks and conflict when controlling for any human activity is likely due to black bears avoiding areas of heavy human usage. Similarly, van Bommel et al. (2020) found that the interaction of human density and trail density is associated with decreased human-black bear conflict on Southern Vancouver Island.

4 Lethal Control Interventions and Future Human-Black Bear Conflict

Two main challenges occur when attempting to identify the causal effect of lethal control interventions on human-black bear conflict. First, causality runs contemporaneously from conflict to lethal interventions. Black bears are lethally-controlled because they caused conflict. Second, such lethal control interventions occur repeatedly over time. As a result, there is no clean 'treatment' and 'control' setting which makes it difficult to use conventional causal interference identification approaches. To overcome this challenge, we model the channels of causation over time using both panel regressions and local projections, which allow us to identify the causal effects of lethally controlling black bears on future conflict using temporal lags.

We illustrate the challenges to identification and the potential channels of causality in Figure 5. Contemporaneously, a human-black bear conflict at time $t-1$ can result in the killing of a black bear through lethal intervention in time $t-1$ (left blue arrow in Figure 5). The lethal control intervention may then reduce conflict in the following period (time t) because the bear involved in conflict has been killed (green dashed arrow in Figure 5). We thus expect a positive contemporaneous

relationship between conflict and the number of lethally controlled black bears (blue arrows) and a possible negative relationship between current lethally controlled black bears and future conflict if the lethal intervention is effective, which is the key relationship we are attempting to assess and quantify (green dashed arrow). However, current conflict events may depend on previous conflict events since locations prone to conflict are likely to exhibit repeated conflict, and conflict in the past may be driven by unobserved factors that continue to drive conflict in the present. As a result, conflict likely exhibits positive autocorrelation (top orange arrow in Figure 5), where present conflict is directly linked to past conflict. Similarly, lethal control interventions are likely also positively autocorrelated since lethally controlling black bears in the past makes the lethal control of black bears in the same location more likely in the future (bottom orange arrow in Figure 5).

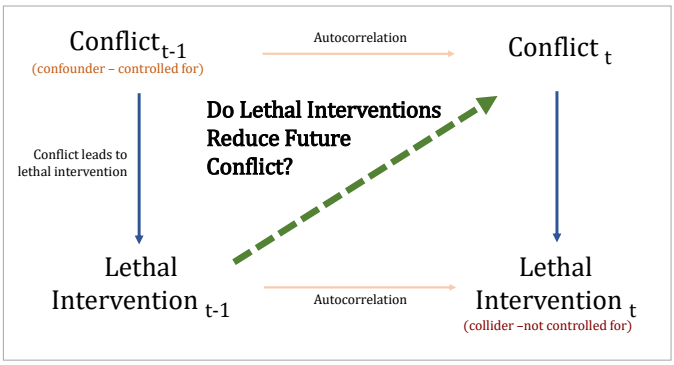


Figure 5: Identification approach and channels of causality. The relationship of interest is given by the green dashed diagonal arrow.

We can represent the channels of causality in Figure 5 in the system of equations given in (2) and (3). We use a single temporal lag for illustration, though our estimated models relax this assumption. Here $conf_{i,t}$ denotes the number of human-black bear conflict events in grid cell i in month t, and $lc_{i,t}$ refers to the number of black bears lethally-controlled in grid cell i in month t:

$$conf_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \beta lc_{i,t-1} + \rho conf_{i,t-1} + x'_{i,t}\gamma + \epsilon_{i,t} \quad (2)$$

$$lc_{i,t} = \psi_i + \nu_t + \delta_1 conf_{i,t} + \delta_2 conf_{i,t-1} + \eta lc_{i,t-1} + e_{i,t} \quad (3)$$

The parameters of interest are both the immediate and long run effects of lethal control interventions on human-black bear conflict. The immediate causal effect of lethal interventions on future conflict is given by β in equation (2). The long-run dynamic effect of lethal interventions on conflict takes into account the autocorrelation of conflict and is defined as the equilibrium effect $\phi = \beta/(1-\rho)$. Coefficients α_i and ψ_i denote individual grid-cell fixed effects, which capture average human-black bear conflict in each grid cell and control for time-invariant factors in each cell. λ_t and ν_t denote time (year-month) fixed effects, which control for time-varying effects common across all grid cells. Variables $x_{i,t}$ denote environmental and socio-economic controls for grid cell i in month t, including average maximum and minimum temperatures, total monthly precipitation, human settlement density (using lights at night), and salmon abundance.

In this setting, human-black bear conflict outcomes are likely positively serially correlated ($\rho > 0$). Lethal control interventions are also likely positive serially correlated ($\eta > 0$), take

place repeatedly, and are endogenously-assigned ($\delta > 0$) in equation (3). Given these dynamics, we consider two approaches to estimate our parameters of interest β and ϕ, which capture the causal impact of the lethal control of black bears on future conflict. First, we estimate a standard linear TWFE panel model allowing for autoregressive distributed lags, as well as a Poisson TWFE distributed lags model given the number of conflict events is count data. Second, we use local projections (see Jordà 2005, Jordà 2023) to directly estimate the response of conflict to the lethal control of black bears.

4.1 Panel Two-Way Fixed Effects Models

We first estimate the immediate and long-run effects of lethal control interventions on human-black bear conflict using ordinary least squares (OLS) regression, taking advantage of the panel structure of our data to include fixed effects for grid cell and month, α_i and λ_t, respectively. This gives us a TWFE estimate of β in equation (2), and we can construct the estimate of the long-run effect ϕ using estimates of β and ρ. We do not need to estimate equation (3) to identify β and ϕ because lethally controlled black bears are pre-determined and enter equation (2) with a lag. However, it is crucial to model the potential autocorrelation in $conf_{i,t}$ because leaving the autocorrelation unmodelled may upward bias estimates of β and ϕ, leading to potentially-spurious conclusions about the effect of the lethal control interventions on future human-black bear conflict. We rely on the absence of correlation with the unobservables to isolate and identify β (Bellemare et al., 2017; Jordà, 2023).

A substantial time lag may occur with respect to the effect of lethally controlled black bears on human-black bear conflict. Since a single one-month lag is unlikely to be sufficient to identify the effects of interest, we estimate the models using varying lag lengths up to a lag of s months and including controls $x_{i,t}$:

$$conf_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \sum_{j=1}^{s} \beta_j lc_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{s} \rho_j conf_{i,t-j} + x'_{i,t}\gamma + \epsilon_{i,t} \tag{4}$$

If the lethal control interventions affect the change in human-black bear conflict events $\Delta conf_{i,t}$ (where $\Delta conf_{i,t} = conf_{i,t} - conf_{i,t-1}$) rather than the level $conf_{i,t}$ of events, we would expect the autoregressive coefficient ρ to be close to 1. In this situation, the equations in 2 and (4) above describe models in which the change in conflict depends on the level of lethal control interventions. Thus, the specifications above allow for estimating the effect of lethal control on conflict in both levels or first differences depending on the parameter estimates of β and ρ.

We report both the marginal effects (the individual coefficient estimates β_j) and the long run effect of lethal control interventions on human-black bear conflicts (ϕ_j), which is the net effect of lethal interventions accounting for autoregressive dynamics and lags. The long run effect in the presence of multiple lags is given by the impulse response j-months after the intervention:

$$\phi_j = \frac{\sum_{l=1}^{j} \beta_l}{1 - \sum_{l=1}^{j} \rho_l} \tag{5}$$

We estimate the models above using the R-package 'fixest' (Berge et al., 2021) and report results using cluster robust standard errors clustered at the grid-cell level, which allows for arbitrary within-cluster error correlation. We rely on the delta-method to construct approximate standard errors for

$\hat{\phi}_j$. As robustness checks, we also report standard errors allowing for spatial correlation by distance in the Appendix (Conley, 1999). Additionally, we test for residual autocorrelation in each model to assess our identifying assumption of no autocorrelation. We report the primary estimation results using OLS in the main text. Full estimation results, including Poisson estimates as a robustness check, are provided in the Appendix.

4.1.1 Panel Two-Way Fixed Effects Results

We first consider the coefficient estimates capturing the partial effects of lethal interventions $\hat{\beta}_j$ (not accounting for the full dynamics of the system) on human-black bear conflict. Subsequently, we consider the estimated dynamic response ϕ_j.

Partial Effects Coefficient estimates of the partial effects β_j in Figure 6 show no significant persistent reduction in human-black bear conflict in response to lethal control interventions. These coefficients estimate the response of conflict following a lethal control intervention relative to the counterfactual of a grid-cell with a comparable level of conflict but without a lethal control intervention. There is some evidence of a small, temporary reduction in conflict approximately 5-7 months after a bear is lethally controlled; however, the effect size is small and reverts to effectively zero around 8-12 months post-lethal intervention. These results are robust to varying type of conflict (aggressive or non-aggressive), time horizon (temporal lag lengths), and whether salmon abundance is included as a control variable, as well as alternative estimation methods (OLS or Poisson) and standard errors adjusted for spatial correlation.

The estimation results in Figure 6 reveal nuanced impacts of model specification and dynamic effects over time. First, the choice of lag length can substantially affect the results and subsequent conclusions. The p-values for the residual AR tests indicate that the model does not adequately account for residual autocorrelation if we use a short lag length (one month) to estimate the effect of lethal control interventions on human-black bear conflict. If we choose a lag length of six months, we observe a reduction of conflict roughly 5-6 months after the lethal control of black bears; however, once we control for lags beyond six months, the reduction in conflict is temporary with conflict levels returning to baseline roughly 8-12 months after the lethal control of black bears. This is not a seasonal effect since seasonality is explicitly controlled for through year-month fixed effects and autoregressive lags. Additionally, there is some evidence of an increase in conflict around 12 months after the lethal control of black bears; however, these estimates are imprecise and are only present in the OLS specification.

Dynamic/Long-Run Effects To capture the full response of human-black bear conflict to lethal control interventions, we need to account for the temporal dynamics of conflict. The Impulse Response Function (IRF) accounts for lagged effects of lethal control interventions while explicitly modelling the autoregressive dynamics. These long-run estimates are shown in Figure 7 plotting the following:

$$\hat{\phi}_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{j} \hat{\beta}_i}{1 - \sum_{i=1}^{j} \hat{\rho}_i}. \tag{6}$$

Accounting for the autocorrelation in conflict, the IRF shows no significant change in conflict events in response to lethal interventions. The temporary reduction in conflict around 5-6 months is no longer statistically significant after modelling the long-run response. These results are robust to

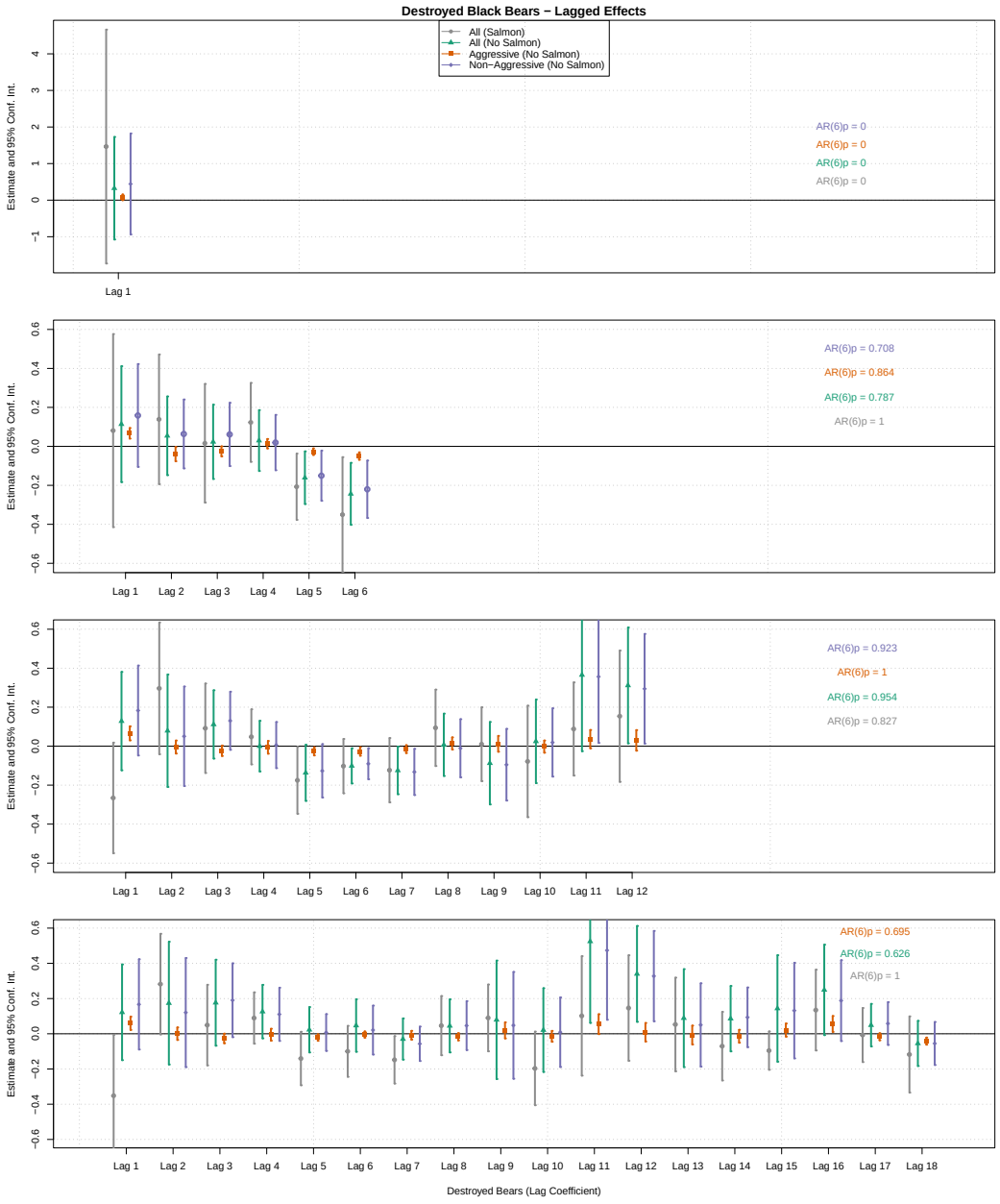


Figure 6: OLS Coefficient estimates $\hat{\beta}_j$ of lagged lethal control on conflict for varying lag lengths, conflict types (aggressive includes attacks on humans and livestock; non-aggressive includes disturbed garbage etc.), and salmon control. All models control for weather and lights at night. Bars denote 95% confidence interval with standard errors clustered at the grid level. AR(6) residual autocorrelation test p-values reported for each model.

varying conflict types and a wide set of model specifications using different lag lengths and control variables.

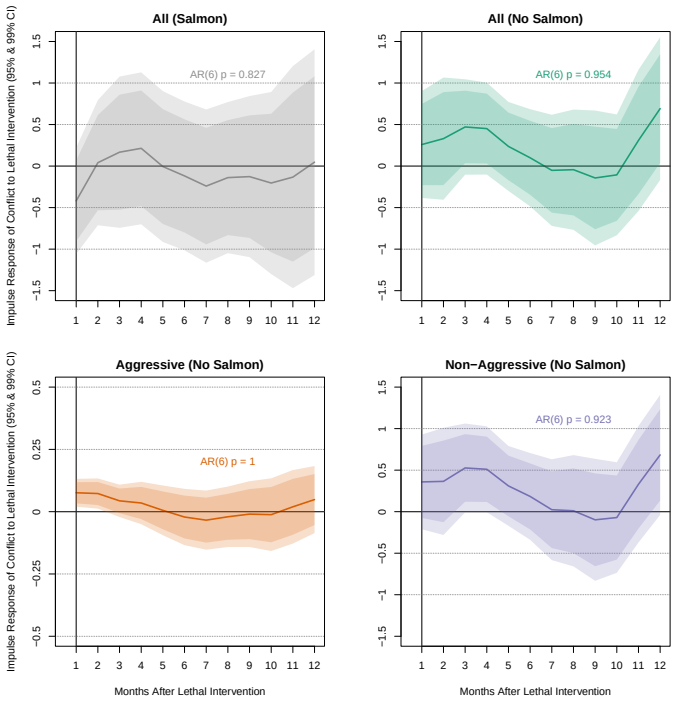


Figure 7: Impulse response ($\hat{\phi}_j$ up to 12 months) of human-bear conflict following a lethal intervention for varying conflict types (aggressive includes attacks on humans and livestock; non-aggressive includes disturbed garbage etc.), and salmon control. All models control for seasonal effects, location effects, weather, and lights at night. Shading denotes 95% and 99% confidence interval with standard errors for the impulse response derived using the delta-method (based on cluster-robust standard errors). AR(6) residual autocorrelation test p-values reported for each model.

4.2 Panel Local Projections

Local projections provide an alternative approach to estimating the response of human-black bear conflict to lethal control interventions without having to model the full dynamic system while also allowing for possible non-linear responses (Jordà 2005). We can estimate the impulse response of conflict to a lethal intervention directly through local projections of $conf_{i,t+h}$ on $lc_{i,t}$ for each time step horizon h (Jordà 2023).

The main challenge to identifying the effect of lethal control interventions on future human-black bear conflict is the endogenous assignment of the lethal intervention (i.e., black bears are lethally controlled because of conflict). In our setting, the endogenous assignment of a lethal intervention likely occurs contemporaneously or potentially with a lag. Local projection allows us to explicitly control for this endogenous assignment by adding the lag of the outcome (human-black bear conflict) to the local projection model while also controlling for black bears that are lethally controlled contemporaneously.

We estimate the local projection of the level of human-black bear conflict relative to the pre-intervention level of conflict $conf_{i,t+h} - conf_{i,t-1}$ on $lc_{i,t-1}$ for $h \geq 0$ and include $conf_{i,t-1}$ contemporaneously with $lc_{i,t-1}$ in the projection model. We include lags of lethally controlled black bears $lc_{i,t-1}$ to account for serial correlation in the lethal intervention since a grid cell that experienced a black bear being lethally controlled in the past likely also has black bears that are lethally controlled in subsequent periods. We estimate the impulse response of conflict to lethal interventions up to h periods after the lethal intervention as the coefficients β_h by estimating h separate TWFE panel regression models in (7):

$$(conf_{i,t+h} - conf_{i,t-1}) = \alpha_{i,h} + \lambda_{t,h} + \beta_h lc_{i,t-1} + \rho_h conf_{i,t-1} + x'_{i,t}\gamma + \epsilon_{h,i,t}, \text{for } h \geq 0 \qquad (7)$$

where the dependent variable is the difference between conflict at time horizon $t+h$ and conflict at time $t-1$. Therefore, the resulting IRF captures the cumulative effect of lethal interventions on conflict.[9] The impulse response is estimated for each time horizon $t+h$.[10] Since the error in local projection tends to follow a moving-average structure, and we have a large number of time periods and cross-sectional units, we follow the Jordà (2023) recommendation to use two-way clustered errors, which allow for arbitrary within cluster and time period error correlation.

To assess the sensitivity of our results, we estimate the following panel local projection with varying lag lengths up to s months for the lethal control intervention and up to l months for the human-black bear conflict outcome:

$$(conf_{i,t+h} - conf_{i,t-1}) = \alpha_{i,h} + \lambda_{t,h} + \beta_h lc_{i,t-1} + \sum_{j=2}^{s} \eta_{h,j} lc_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{l} \rho_{h,j} conf_{i,t-j} + \epsilon_{h,i,t} \text{ for } h = 0, ..., 12 \qquad (8)$$

Our primary results show the impulse response up to one year after the lethal control of a black bear, with six lags of the lethal intervention, and no autoregressive lags ($s = 6$, $l = 0$, $h = 12$).[11]

[9] The difference between the level of conflict and the pre-intervention level $conf_{i,t+h} - conf_{i,t-1}$ can be written as the sum of all previous changes, and thus, constitutes the cumulative response, which is similar to the impulse response from the OLS estimates in section 4.1.

[10] To calculate long-run effects, we can take the scaling by ρ into account as $\rho^h \beta_h$. However, our estimation results show little difference in the IRF estimates when autoregressive lags are included.

[11] Autoregressive lags are unlikely to be required because they will not bias the IRF estimates, but will lead to efficiency gains. Results with varying autoregressive lag lengths are reported in Appendix 6.2 as robustness checks.

Additional results are provided in the Appendix 6.3. We estimate the panel local projections using a linear model rather than a Poisson model following the convention in the local projection literature. Models for each time horizon h are estimated using the 'fixest' R-package (Berge et al. 2021).

4.2.1 Panel Local Projection Results

The local projection impulse responses closely match the estimates from the TWFE linear and Poisson models (Figure 8). There is no significant long-run reduction in human-black bear conflict following lethal control interventions. The IRFs themselves appear noisy and centered around zero, though there may be a small, temporary reduction in conflict approximately 5-6 months after a black bear is lethally controlled, which is then followed by a rebound to pre-lethal intervention levels or higher approximately 12 months after a lethal intervention. These results are robust to varying lag lengths for both the human-black conflict outcome and lethally controlled black bears (see Appendix 6.2).

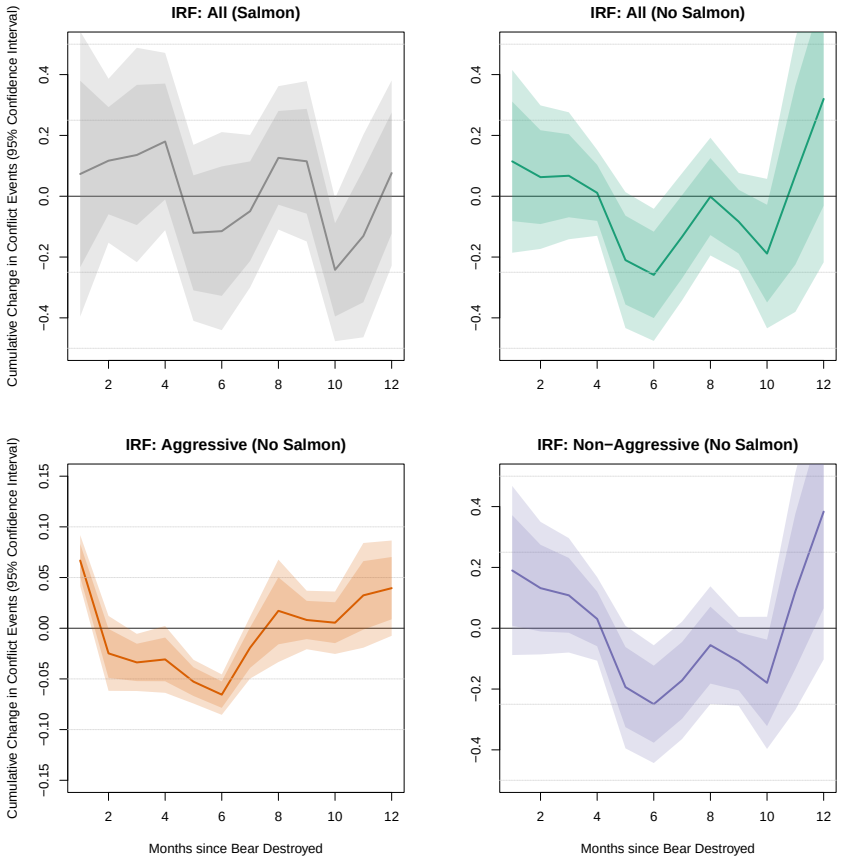


Figure 8: Impulse response of conflict to lethal control estimated using local projection. Figure shows the estimated change in conflict up to 12 months (and approx. 90% and 95% confidence intervals as shaded) after the intervention of a black bear being lethally controlled. Results shown here for a model with 6 lags ($s = 6$) of the intervention (lethal control) and zero autoregressive lags of conflict ($l = 0$). Models with varying lags are shown in the Appendix 6.2.

4.3 Discussion of the Effectiveness of Lethal Control Interventions

Lethal control interventions do not appear to cause persistent or long run reductions in human black-bear conflict. These findings are generally consistent across the various models and specifications. In some models, primarily for aggressive bear conflict, we do observe a temporary reduction in conflict 5-7 months following lethal interventions; however, the effect size is small and not statistically significant in some specifications. The impulse response estimates suggest a transitory reduction of around 0.2 conflict events for a single lethally-controlled bear (or a 18-30% reduction in the Poisson model reported in Appendix 6.3). Nevertheless, this reduction in conflict is followed by a rebound to pre-intervention levels of conflict around 8-12 months after an intervention.

The mechanism for the potential temporary reduction in human-black bear conflict we observe is likely associated with conflict events peaking during the fall. After a black bear is lethally controlled in the fall, conflict is marginally lower 5-7 months later in spring, likely in part, because in many areas in BC, hibernation limits the time horizon for black bears to immediately recolonize the area where a lethal intervention occurred (Gaines, 2003; Immell et al., 2013).[12] Then, by one year after a black bear is lethally controlled, conflict reverts back to pre-intervention levels when a new black bear recolonizes the area (Costello 2010). This dynamic is particularly likely to occur when the conditions that lead to the initial conflict remain (e.g., availability of human food). Overall, our estimates cast doubt on the effectiveness of lethal control interventions to reduce human-black bear conflict.

5 Conclusions

We find significant environmental effects on human-black bear conflicts, where environmental conditions associated with low natural food availability significantly increase conflict. In turn, we find no We find no evidence that lethal control interventions lead to a long run reduction in conflict when controlling for weather, human settlement presence/density, seasonality, salmon abundance, and time-invariant location conditions. There is some evidence of a temporary reduction in aggressive human-black bear conflict following a lethal intervention, however, conflict levels revert to pre-intervention levels after around 8-12 months. Our results are consistent with conflict being driven by the conditions and circumstances that lead to conflict, including the availability of human food sources and a lack of natural food sources, rather than by problem black bears. We further found that cold spring and warm fall temperatures, low salmon abundance, and low precipitation levels are associated with more conflict. In the future, climate change will likely exacerbate these environmental conditions that lead to conflict, which in turn, will result in more conflict. Unless the human drivers of conflict are mitigated, new black bears will likely continue to recolonize areas where lethal control interventions previously occurred, resulting in a continuous cycle of human-black bear conflict.

Conservation and wildlife management agencies are in a challenging position regarding the use of lethal control interventions as a management strategy to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Human safety and the reduction of conflict are critically important goals. As a result, conservation and wildlife management agencies often use lethal control interventions in an attempt to reduce

[12]Gaines (2003) found that black bears in the Cascade Mountains in Washington State entered dens from late October to early November and emerged from dens from early April to early May.

future conflict (Treves & Naughton-Treves, 2005); however, our analysis indicates that lethal control interventions often may not achieve these goals on aggregate in the long run. Conservation and wildlife management agencies may want to shift away from using lethal control interventions or combine these interventions with increasing efforts to alleviate the human-induced and environmental conditions that lead to conflict. With respect to black bears, this includes reducing bear attractants in the urban-wildlife interface (Parchizadeh et al., 2023) and ameliorating conditions that cause natural food shortages, whenever possible.

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6 Appendix

6.1 Additional TWFE Results

Here we provide Tables reporting the full estimation results shown in the Figures in the main text. Tables 3, 4, 5, 6 show OLS estimation results for varying lag lengths. All Tables show results with standard errors clustered at the grid-cell level and with statistical significance indicated by: . $p < 0.1$ * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. We also show additional results in Figures showing the main model estimates with standard errors corrected for potential spatial autocorrelation (Conley standard errors with distance of 30km).

Table 3: OLS Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lag 1)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	1.465	0.3260	$0.0764^{\cdot}$	0.4424
	(1.629)	(0.7148)	(0.0396)	(0.7036)
Confl. t-1	0.5918^{***}	0.6260^{***}	0.3303^{***}	0.6174^{***}
	(0.0183)	(0.0384)	(0.0344)	(0.0447)
Max. Temp.	-7.25×10^{-6}	0.0083^{*}	0.0021^{***}	0.0073^{*}
	(0.0081)	(0.0037)	(0.0006)	(0.0034)
Min. Temp.	$-0.0134^{\cdot}$	-0.0202^{***}	-0.0035^{***}	-0.0181^{***}
	(0.0070)	(0.0033)	(0.0006)	(0.0030)
Precip. (Sum)	-0.0009	-0.0004^{*}	$-5.45 \times 10^{-5**}$	$-0.0003^{\cdot}$
	(0.0007)	(0.0002)	(2.05×10^{-5})	(0.0002)
Light	-0.3634	-0.0512	-0.0062^{**}	-0.0464
	(0.2879)	(0.0329)	(0.0024)	(0.0313)
Salmon (Pink)	$-5.39 \times 10^{-9*}$			
	(2.62×10^{-9})			
Within Adjusted R^2	0.32184	0.33996	0.12837	0.33463
Observations	83,379	257,971	257,971	257,958
AR(6) p=	$NaN \times 10^{-Inf}$	$NaN \times 10^{-Inf}$	$NaN \times 10^{-Inf}$	$NaN \times 10^{-Inf}$
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 4: OLS Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lags 1-6)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	0.0809	0.1139	0.0670^{***}	0.1585
	(0.2523)	(0.1517)	(0.0138)	(0.1346)
Leth. Cont. t-2	0.1388	0.0543	-0.0399^{*}	0.0636
	(0.1695)	(0.1030)	(0.0187)	(0.0901)
Leth. Cont. t-3	0.0159	0.0233	$-0.0257^{\cdot}$	0.0612
	(0.1551)	(0.0972)	(0.0132)	(0.0828)
Leth. Cont. t-4	0.1230	0.0297	0.0136	0.0195
	(0.1031)	(0.0796)	(0.0123)	(0.0724)
Leth. Cont. t-5	-0.2071^{*}	-0.1608^{*}	-0.0272^{**}	-0.1506^{*}
	(0.0866)	(0.0689)	(0.0086)	(0.0656)
Leth. Cont. t-6	-0.3505^{*}	-0.2436^{**}	-0.0498^{***}	-0.2203^{**}
	(0.1503)	(0.0810)	(0.0097)	(0.0751)
Confl. t-1	0.3177^{***}	0.4615^{***}	0.1696^{***}	0.4468^{***}
	(0.0929)	(0.0744)	(0.0255)	(0.0770)
Confl. t-2	-0.0621	-0.1161^{***}	0.0527^{*}	-0.1173^{***}
	(0.0379)	(0.0342)	(0.0220)	(0.0342)
Confl. t-3	0.0004	-0.0206	0.0170	-0.0264
	(0.0243)	(0.0258)	(0.0159)	(0.0250)
Confl. t-4	-0.0656^{*}	-0.0217	-0.0612^{***}	-0.0196
	(0.0290)	(0.0223)	(0.0181)	(0.0229)
Confl. t-5	-0.0618^{***}	-0.0579^{***}	-0.0663^{***}	-0.0508^{**}
	(0.0181)	(0.0153)	(0.0151)	(0.0161)
Confl. t-6	-0.0462	-0.0655^{*}	-0.0879^{***}	-0.0601^{*}
	(0.0516)	(0.0261)	(0.0156)	(0.0273)
Max. Temp.	0.0102^{***}	0.0083^{***}	0.0015^{***}	0.0073^{***}
	(0.0028)	(0.0014)	(0.0003)	(0.0013)
Min. Temp.	-0.0120^{***}	-0.0102^{***}	-0.0017^{***}	-0.0090^{***}
	(0.0028)	(0.0014)	(0.0003)	(0.0013)
Precip. (Sum)	-0.0001	-3.07×10^{-5}	-8.01×10^{-6}	-2.83×10^{-5}
	(0.0001)	(3.28×10^{-5})	(6.58×10^{-6})	(3×10^{-5})
Light	-0.0308	-0.0152^{***}	-0.0022^{*}	-0.0133^{***}
	(0.0268)	(0.0038)	(0.0010)	(0.0032)
Salmon (Pink)	-1.99×10^{-9}			
	(1.38×10^{-9})			
Within Adjusted R^2	0.14933	0.22730	0.08828	0.21382
Observations	80,690	253,828	253,828	253,796
AR(6) p=	1	0.78740	0.86440	0.70850
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 5: OLS Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lags 1-12)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	-0.2657$^{\cdot}$	0.1285	0.0657***	0.1829
	(0.1445)	(0.1288)	(0.0183)	(0.1176)
Leth. Cont. t-2	0.2965$^{\cdot}$	0.0791	-0.0045	0.0506
	(0.1722)	(0.1472)	(0.0170)	(0.1302)
Leth. Cont. t-3	0.0919	0.1115	-0.0237$^{\cdot}$	0.1303$^{\cdot}$
	(0.1169)	(0.0894)	(0.0136)	(0.0760)
Leth. Cont. t-4	0.0478	0.0001	-0.0059	0.0055
	(0.0720)	(0.0663)	(0.0167)	(0.0603)
Leth. Cont. t-5	-0.1753*	-0.1367$^{\cdot}$	-0.0265*	-0.1266$^{\cdot}$
	(0.0875)	(0.0735)	(0.0107)	(0.0698)
Leth. Cont. t-6	-0.1024	-0.1012*	-0.0272*	-0.0903*
	(0.0710)	(0.0460)	(0.0111)	(0.0406)
Leth. Cont. t-7	-0.1234	-0.1246*	-0.0152	-0.1322*
	(0.0841)	(0.0623)	(0.0103)	(0.0604)
Leth. Cont. t-8	0.0941	0.0070	0.0139	-0.0109
	(0.0999)	(0.0815)	(0.0159)	(0.0761)
Leth. Cont. t-9	0.0099	-0.0875	0.0120	-0.0952
	(0.0966)	(0.1079)	(0.0207)	(0.0938)
Leth. Cont. t-10	-0.0783	0.0247	-0.0023	0.0190
	(0.1457)	(0.1094)	(0.0159)	(0.0893)
Leth. Cont. t-11	0.0881	0.3654$^{\cdot}$	0.0359	0.3565*
	(0.1218)	(0.1996)	(0.0240)	(0.1733)
Leth. Cont. t-12	0.1538	0.3116*	0.0297	0.2944*
	(0.1717)	(0.1517)	(0.0269)	(0.1435)
Confl. t-1	0.3657***	0.5043***	0.1346***	0.4892***
	(0.0561)	(0.0780)	(0.0250)	(0.0834)
Confl. t-2	-0.1149***	-0.1323**	0.0244	-0.1291**
	(0.0269)	(0.0441)	(0.0225)	(0.0431)
Confl. t-3	0.0150	-0.0495	-0.0206	-0.0511
	(0.0249)	(0.0317)	(0.0132)	(0.0319)
Confl. t-4	-0.0628*	-0.0296	-0.0444*	-0.0328$^{\cdot}$
	(0.0281)	(0.0190)	(0.0225)	(0.0193)
Confl. t-5	-0.0471**	-0.0642***	-0.0595**	-0.0592***
	(0.0160)	(0.0139)	(0.0206)	(0.0143)
Confl. t-6	-0.0614*	-0.0428**	-0.0628***	-0.0466**
	(0.0294)	(0.0142)	(0.0155)	(0.0152)
Confl. t-7	-0.0511**	-0.0266*	-0.0673***	-0.0172
	(0.0167)	(0.0123)	(0.0134)	(0.0141)
Confl. t-8	-0.0258	0.0030	-0.0466**	0.0073
	(0.0231)	(0.0238)	(0.0159)	(0.0239)
Confl. t-9	-0.0154	-0.0279	-0.0167	-0.0362$^{\cdot}$
	(0.0220)	(0.0190)	(0.0181)	(0.0199)
Confl. t-10	-0.0058	-0.0708*	0.0167	-0.0713*
	(0.0176)	(0.0352)	(0.0245)	(0.0345)
Confl. t-11	0.1253***	0.0747*	0.0069	0.0701$^{\cdot}$
	(0.0306)	(0.0346)	(0.0242)	(0.0365)
Confl. t-12	0.0945*	0.0266	0.0674*	0.0227
	(0.0435)	(0.0549)	(0.0270)	(0.0540)
Max. Temp.	0.0047**	0.0049***	0.0010***	0.0044***
	(0.0015)	(0.0011)	(0.0002)	(0.0010)
Min. Temp.	-0.0041**	-0.0058***	-0.0010***	-0.0052***
	(0.0015)	(0.0011)	(0.0002)	(0.0009)
Precip. (Sum)	-3.66×10^{-5}	-1.91×10^{-5}	-2.87×10^{-6}	-1.97×10^{-5}
	(5.97×10^{-5})	(3.1×10^{-5})	(4.76×10^{-6})	(2.9×10^{-5})
Light	-0.0087	-0.0061***	-0.0009$^{\cdot}$	-0.0054***
	(0.0108)	(0.0018)	(0.0005)	(0.0015)
Salmon (Pink)	-1.66×10^{-10}			
	(8.2×10^{-10})			
Within Adjusted R^2	0.23859	0.30871	0.09513	0.29717
Observations	79,041	251,237	251,237	251,191
AR(6) p=	0.82710	0.95420	0.99970	0.92290
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 6: OLS Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lags 1-18)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	-0.3517*	0.1220	0.0595**	0.1670
	(0.1764)	(0.1386)	(0.0192)	(0.1307)
Leth. Cont. t-2	0.2820·	0.1740	0.0006	0.1206
	(0.1456)	(0.1779)	(0.0181)	(0.1580)
Leth. Cont. t-3	0.0493	0.1764	-0.0266·	0.1904·
	(0.1166)	(0.1245)	(0.0139)	(0.1069)
Leth. Cont. t-4	0.0895	0.1259	-0.0053	0.1106
	(0.0742)	(0.0775)	(0.0172)	(0.0770)
Leth. Cont. t-5	-0.1406·	0.0229	-0.0214*	0.0072
	(0.0773)	(0.0657)	(0.0094)	(0.0533)
Leth. Cont. t-6	-0.0997	0.0468	-0.0044	0.0210
	(0.0737)	(0.0760)	(0.0090)	(0.0709)
Leth. Cont. t-7	-0.1480*	-0.0299	-0.0083	-0.0569
	(0.0686)	(0.0597)	(0.0127)	(0.0498)
Leth. Cont. t-8	0.0462	0.0450	-0.0171	0.0464
	(0.0856)	(0.0769)	(0.0106)	(0.0708)
Leth. Cont. t-9	0.0901	0.0793	0.0192	0.0478
	(0.0966)	(0.1715)	(0.0233)	(0.1547)
Leth. Cont. t-10	-0.1967·	0.0210	-0.0144	0.0089
	(0.1065)	(0.1213)	(0.0157)	(0.1007)
Leth. Cont. t-11	0.1016	0.5246*	0.0546·	0.4737*
	(0.1728)	(0.2360)	(0.0288)	(0.2009)
Leth. Cont. t-12	0.1462	0.3401*	0.0087	0.3274*
	(0.1527)	(0.1388)	(0.0268)	(0.1308)
Leth. Cont. t-13	0.0529	0.0889	-0.0072	0.0501
	(0.1355)	(0.1418)	(0.0273)	(0.1206)
Leth. Cont. t-14	-0.0703	0.0859	-0.0141	0.0934
	(0.0992)	(0.0947)	(0.0187)	(0.0864)
Leth. Cont. t-15	-0.0955·	0.1437	0.0210	0.1318
	(0.0554)	(0.1542)	(0.0190)	(0.1384)
Leth. Cont. t-16	0.1346	0.2492·	0.0558*	0.1883
	(0.1169)	(0.1310)	(0.0230)	(0.1170)
Leth. Cont. t-17	-0.0071	0.0489	-0.0169	0.0582
	(0.0782)	(0.0616)	(0.0103)	(0.0619)
Leth. Cont. t-18	-0.1177	-0.0548	-0.0416***	-0.0551
	(0.1102)	(0.0653)	(0.0102)	(0.0622)
Confl. t-1	0.3506***	0.4842***	0.1116***	0.4671***
	(0.0474)	(0.0534)	(0.0232)	(0.0582)
Confl. t-2	-0.0719**	-0.1436*	0.0279	-0.1405*
	(0.0278)	(0.0587)	(0.0274)	(0.0573)
Confl. t-3	0.0099	-0.1012*	-0.0162	-0.1045*
	(0.0286)	(0.0508)	(0.0144)	(0.0515)
Confl. t-4	-0.0712*	-0.0766**	-0.0493***	-0.0821**
	(0.0288)	(0.0247)	(0.0148)	(0.0280)
Confl. t-5	-0.0440**	-0.0949***	-0.0544***	-0.0963***
	(0.0149)	(0.0250)	(0.0141)	(0.0242)
Confl. t-6	-0.0111	-0.0532*	-0.0622***	-0.0539·
	(0.0265)	(0.0251)	(0.0094)	(0.0278)
Confl. t-7	-0.0346	-0.0676**	-0.0554***	-0.0600**
	(0.0243)	(0.0224)	(0.0108)	(0.0210)
Confl. t-8	-0.0045	-0.0400*	-0.0385***	-0.0416*
	(0.0242)	(0.0193)	(0.0106)	(0.0180)
Confl. t-9	-0.0586**	-0.0690*	-0.0281·	-0.0782*
	(0.0213)	(0.0302)	(0.0169)	(0.0330)
Confl. t-10	0.0228	-0.1138*	0.0071	-0.1113*
	(0.0246)	(0.0569)	(0.0246)	(0.0561)
Confl. t-11	0.0347	-0.0529	-0.0171	-0.0679
	(0.0275)	(0.0528)	(0.0275)	(0.0535)
Confl. t-12	0.1659**	0.0604	0.0363	0.0705·
	(0.0591)	(0.0434)	(0.0267)	(0.0387)
Confl. t-13	-0.0328	-0.1695***	0.0092	-0.1858***
	(0.0453)	(0.0483)	(0.0299)	(0.0528)
Confl. t-14	-0.0302	-0.0696**	-0.0195	-0.0664**
	(0.0346)	(0.0237)	(0.0222)	(0.0252)
Confl. t-15	0.0110	-0.0069	-0.0253	-0.0144
	(0.0296)	(0.0264)	(0.0250)	(0.0267)
Confl. t-16	-0.0446**	-0.0433**	-0.0436**	-0.0343*
	(0.0151)	(0.0153)	(0.0148)	(0.0139)
Confl. t-17	-0.0353·	-0.0949***	-0.0555***	-0.0904**
	(0.0212)	(0.0268)	(0.0158)	(0.0279)
Confl. t-18	-0.0425*	-0.1048**	-0.0607***	-0.1028**
	(0.0175)	(0.0321)	(0.0092)	(0.0338)
Max. Temp.	0.0027*	0.0038***	0.0007***	0.0035***
	(0.0013)	(0.0008)	(0.0002)	(0.0007)
Min. Temp.	-0.0016	-0.0041***	-0.0008***	-0.0037***
	(0.0014)	(0.0008)	(0.0002)	(0.0007)
Precip. (Sum)	-4.38×10^{-6}	-1.9×10^{-5}	-3.8×10^{-6}	-1.4×10^{-5}
	(3.67×10^{-5})	(2.47×10^{-5})	(4.16×10^{-6})	(2.24×10^{-5})
Light	-0.0069	-0.0043**	-0.0007	-0.0040**
	(0.0090)	(0.0013)	(0.0005)	(0.0013)
Salmon (Pink)	-1.01×10^{-10}			
	(7.09×10^{-10})			
Within Adjusted R^2	0.24457	0.36683	0.09392	0.36140
Observations	72,626	232,318	232,318	232,266
AR(6) p=	1	0.62630	0.69490	0.51320
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

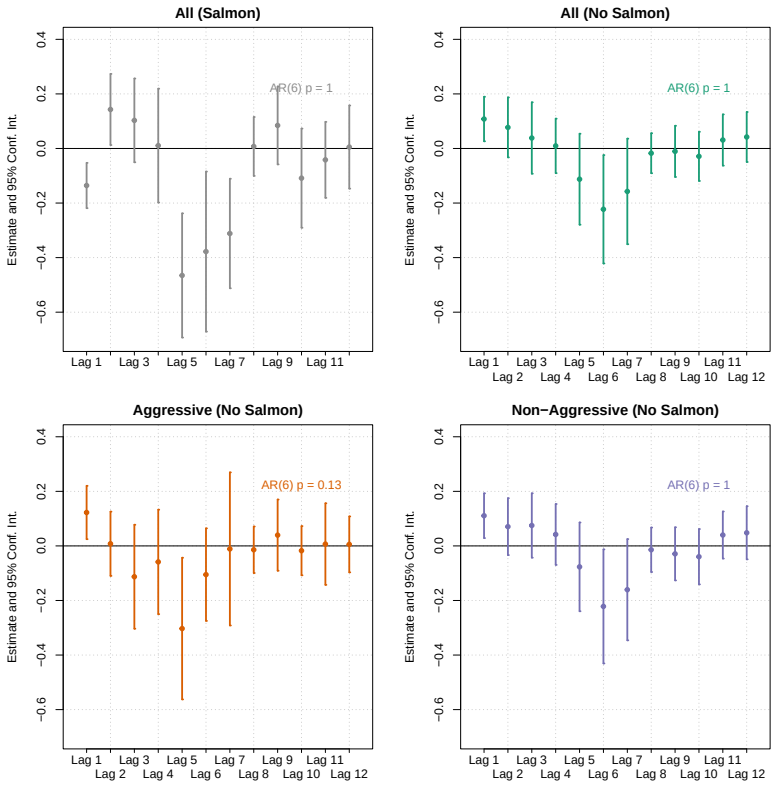


Figure 9: Poisson Coefficient estimates of lagged lethal control on conflict for 1-12 months using Conley standard errors and varying conflict types (aggressive includes attacks on humans and livestock; non-aggressive includes disturbed garbage etc.), and salmon control. All models control for weather and lights at night. Shading denotes 95% confidence interval with standard errors clustered at the grid level.

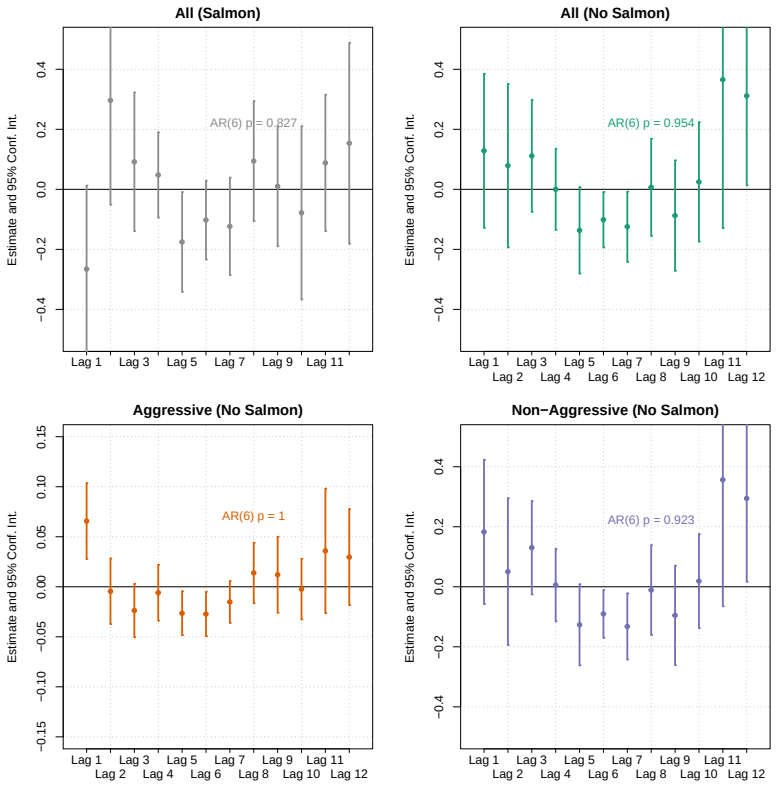


Figure 10: OLS Coefficient estimates of lagged lethal control on conflict for 1-12 months using Conley standard errors and for varying conflict types (aggressive includes attacks on humans and livestock; non-aggressive includes disturbed garbage etc.), and salmon control. All models control for weather and lights at night. Shading denotes 95% confidence interval with standard errors clustered at the grid level. AR(6) residual autocorrelation test p-values reported for each model.

6.2 Local Projection Results

Here we provide the estimated impulse responses of $conf_{i,t+h}$ using local projections for varying lag lengths of lethal control to account for serial correlation in the intervention and varying lag lengths in the outcome to account for potential autocorrelation. Standard errors are clustered by grid-cell and time periods. Figures below show the impulse responses from each Table.

Table 7: Local Projection IRF (Leth. Cont. Lags: 6, Conf. Lags: 0)

	IRF			
	All (Salmon)	All (No Salmon)	Aggr. (No Salmon)	Non-Aggr. (No Salmon)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
h1	0.090 (0.271)	0.141 (0.165)	0.061*** (0.013)	0.215 (0.151)
h2	0.063 (0.130)	0.051 (0.126)	−0.026 (0.015)	0.122 (0.120)
h3	0.201 (0.163)	0.101 (0.107)	−0.034* (0.015)	0.135 (0.098)
h4	0.042 (0.120)	−0.029 (0.050)	−0.037* (0.017)	0.001 (0.048)
h5	−0.188 (0.137)	−0.188* (0.096)	−0.050*** (0.011)	−0.167 (0.085)
h6	−0.158 (0.137)	−0.199* (0.088)	−0.052*** (0.010)	−0.197* (0.078)
h7	−0.011 (0.113)	−0.093 (0.104)	−0.008 (0.016)	−0.139 (0.094)
h8	0.126 (0.123)	−0.025 (0.095)	0.017 (0.026)	−0.074 (0.097)
h9	0.175 (0.151)	−0.062 (0.099)	0.006 (0.015)	−0.083 (0.089)
h10	−0.056 (0.151)	−0.099 (0.127)	0.012 (0.016)	−0.108 (0.113)
h11	0.005 (0.188)	0.143 (0.238)	0.035 (0.027)	0.182 (0.208)
h12	0.039 (0.184)	0.332 (0.283)	0.036 (0.025)	0.385 (0.256)

Note: * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001

Table 8: Local Projection IRF (Leth. Cont. Lags: 6, Conf. Lags: 6)

	IRF			
	All (Salmon)	All (No Salmon)	Aggr. (No Salmon)	Non-Aggr. (No Salmon)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
h1	0.120 (0.270)	0.156 (0.169)	0.061*** (0.012)	0.200 (0.146)
h2	0.097 (0.129)	0.071 (0.121)	−0.018 (0.016)	0.111 (0.111)
h3	0.242 (0.148)	0.120 (0.099)	−0.021 (0.015)	0.142 (0.092)
h4	0.065 (0.123)	−0.029 (0.052)	−0.024 (0.017)	−0.002 (0.048)
h5	−0.148 (0.116)	−0.186* (0.091)	−0.039*** (0.010)	−0.171* (0.084)
h6	−0.149 (0.106)	−0.208** (0.071)	−0.044*** (0.009)	−0.202** (0.065)
h7	−0.082 (0.078)	−0.141 (0.092)	−0.007 (0.015)	−0.173 (0.090)
h8	0.002 (0.108)	−0.105 (0.086)	0.010 (0.026)	−0.138 (0.096)
h9	0.090 (0.137)	−0.080 (0.088)	−0.005 (0.015)	−0.093 (0.082)
h10	−0.061 (0.140)	−0.045 (0.149)	−0.002 (0.015)	−0.055 (0.132)
h11	0.023 (0.185)	0.199 (0.250)	0.022 (0.028)	0.234 (0.218)
h12	0.071 (0.178)	0.359 (0.269)	0.031 (0.026)	0.403 (0.242)

Note: * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001

Table 9: Local Projection IRF (Leth. Cont. Lags: 12, Conf. Lags: 0)

	IRF			
	All (Salmon)	All (No Salmon)	Aggr. (No Salmon)	Non-Aggr. (No Salmon)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
h1	−0.284* (0.140)	0.156 (0.145)	0.064*** (0.017)	0.235 (0.134)
h2	0.211 (0.147)	0.174 (0.156)	0.011 (0.014)	0.199 (0.146)
h3	0.129 (0.126)	0.181** (0.065)	−0.023* (0.010)	0.196** (0.069)
h4	0.150 (0.143)	0.133*** (0.021)	−0.021 (0.021)	0.124*** (0.018)
h5	−0.130 (0.130)	−0.041 (0.065)	−0.047*** (0.012)	−0.035 (0.058)
h6	−0.297 (0.157)	−0.153 (0.080)	−0.034*** (0.008)	−0.165* (0.072)
h7	−0.200 (0.123)	−0.211* (0.103)	−0.031* (0.015)	−0.219* (0.097)
h8	0.081 (0.141)	−0.128 (0.120)	−0.017 (0.019)	−0.128 (0.117)
h9	0.129 (0.127)	−0.089 (0.074)	0.005 (0.022)	−0.103 (0.062)
h10	0.026 (0.140)	−0.073 (0.087)	−0.016 (0.018)	−0.067 (0.079)
h11	0.015 (0.155)	0.071 (0.126)	0.015 (0.017)	0.118 (0.111)
h12	−0.036 (0.146)	0.254 (0.185)	0.048** (0.017)	0.256 (0.170)

Note: * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001

Table 10: Local Projection IRF (Leth. Cont. Lags: 12, Conf. Lags: 12)

	IRF			
	All (Salmon)	All (No Salmon)	Aggr. (No Salmon)	Non-Aggr. (No Salmon)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
h1	−0.220 (0.112)	0.210 (0.136)	0.066*** (0.016)	0.258* (0.118)
h2	0.266 (0.158)	0.223 (0.163)	0.018 (0.017)	0.207 (0.151)
h3	0.133 (0.145)	0.215 (0.125)	−0.012 (0.010)	0.216 (0.113)
h4	0.164 (0.144)	0.193*** (0.049)	−0.009 (0.020)	0.175*** (0.037)
h5	−0.106 (0.117)	0.066 (0.066)	−0.035*** (0.009)	0.056 (0.056)
h6	−0.278* (0.137)	−0.031 (0.094)	−0.024*** (0.006)	−0.063 (0.079)
h7	−0.207 (0.106)	−0.121 (0.075)	−0.024 (0.014)	−0.147* (0.073)
h8	0.045 (0.138)	−0.101 (0.117)	−0.015 (0.019)	−0.113 (0.115)
h9	0.082 (0.111)	−0.048 (0.061)	0.004 (0.021)	−0.071 (0.049)
h10	−0.010 (0.145)	0.012 (0.091)	−0.018 (0.018)	0.006 (0.081)
h11	−0.063 (0.183)	0.114 (0.136)	0.012 (0.020)	0.166 (0.121)
h12	−0.078 (0.132)	0.215 (0.168)	0.044* (0.019)	0.226 (0.157)

Note: * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001

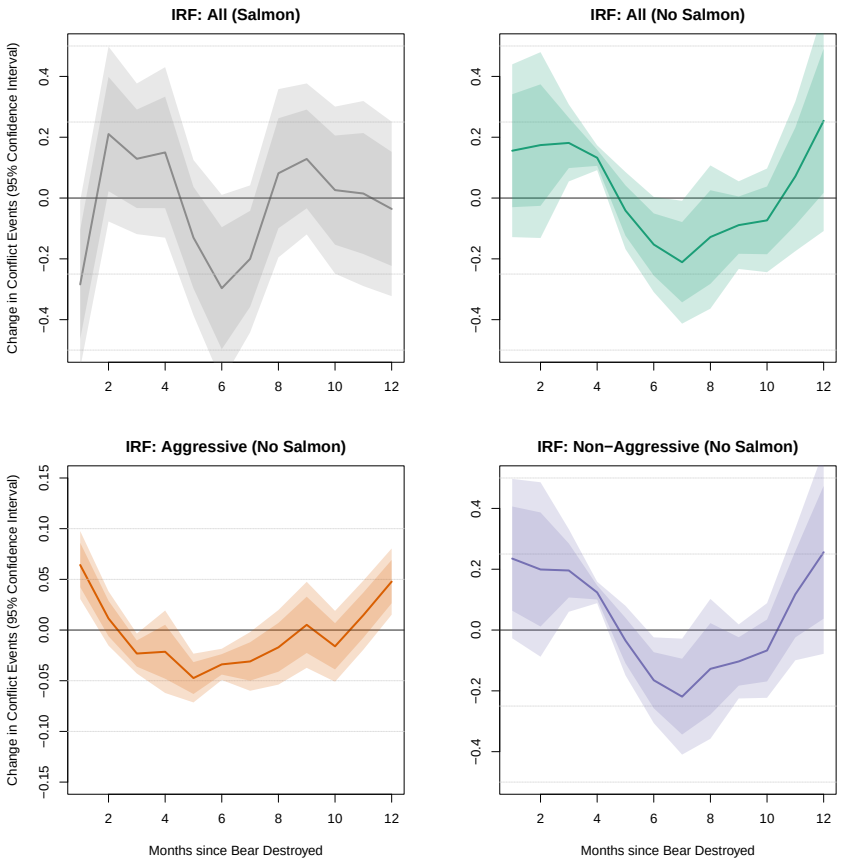


Figure 11: Impulse response of conflict to lethal control estimated using local projection. Figure shows the estimated change in conflict up to 12 months (and approx. 95% confidence interval) after the intervention of a black bear being lethally controlled. Results shown here for a model with 12 lags ($s = 12$) of the intervention (lethally controlled black bears) and no autoregressive lags of conflict ($l = 0$). Models with varying lags are shown in the Appendix.

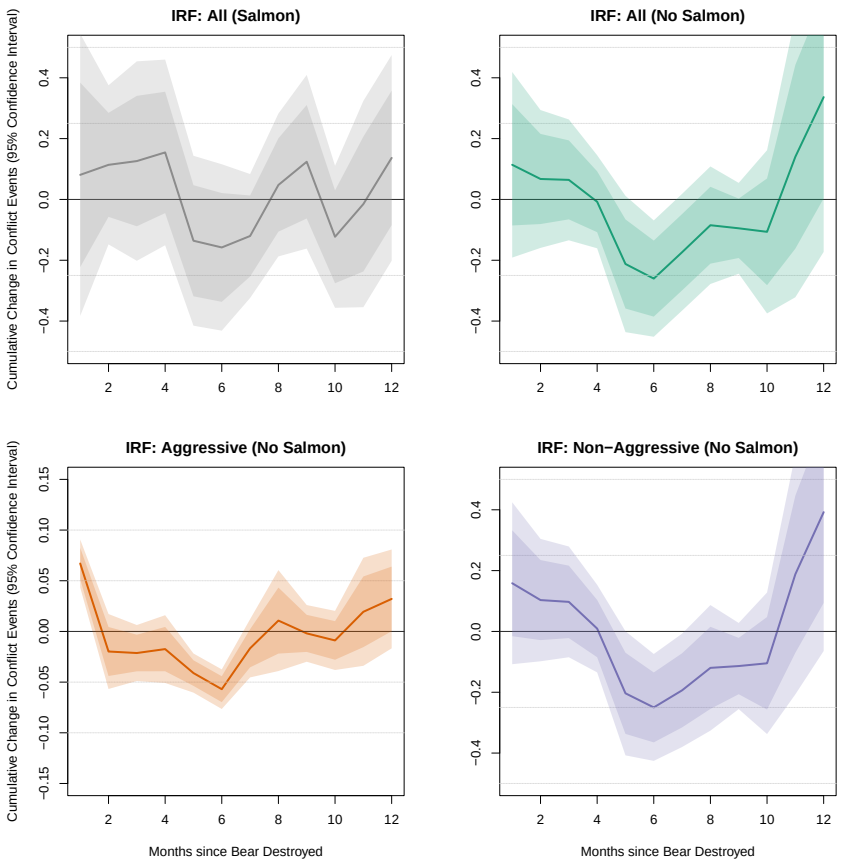


Figure 12: Impulse response of conflict to lethal control estimated using local projection. Figure shows the estimated change in conflict up to 12 months (and approx. 95% confidence interval) after the intervention of a black bear being lethally controlled. Results shown here for a model with 6 lags ($s = 6$) of the intervention (lethally controlled black bears) and 6 autoregressive lags of conflict ($l = 6$). Models with varying lags are shown in the Appendix.

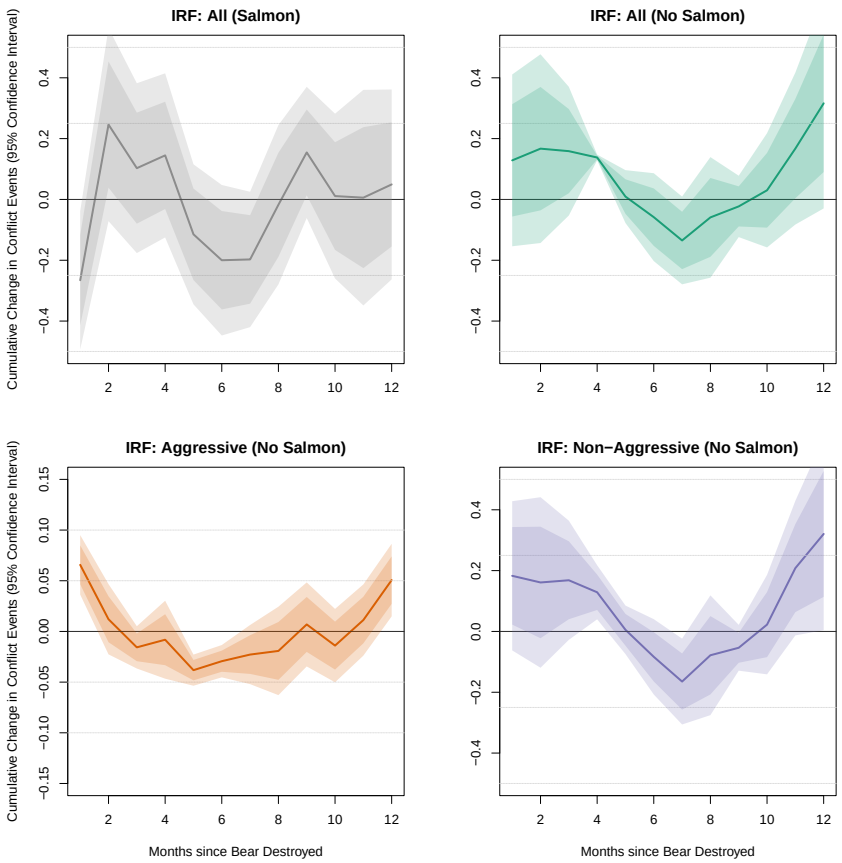


Figure 13: Impulse response of conflict to lethal control estimated using local projection. Figure shows the estimated change in conflict up to 12 months (and approx. 95% confidence interval) after the intervention of a black bear being lethally controlled. Results shown here for a model with 6 lags ($s = 12$) of the intervention (lethally controlled black bears) and 6 autoregressive lags of conflict ($l = 12$). Models with varying lags are shown in the Appendix.

6.3 Poisson Estimates

Conflict events $conf_{i,t}$ denote a count within each grid cell. As a robustness check we therefore also estimate the following Poisson regression model:[13]

$$E[conf_{i,t}] = exp(\alpha_i + \lambda_t + \sum_{j=1}^{s} \beta_j lc_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{s} \rho_j conf_{i,t-j} + x'_{i,t}\gamma) \tag{9}$$

Tables 11, 12, 13, 14 show Poisson estimation results for varying lag lengths. The estimates from the Poisson model closely match those obtained using OLS in the TWFE panel, as well as the results from panel local projections. There is no significant long run effect, with Poisson coefficient estimates supporting only a temporary reduction in conflict approximately 4-6 months after the lethal intervention. The estimates from the Poisson model suggest an approximate temporary 18% reduction in human-black bear conflict events for one month and an approximate 30% peak reduction around 5-6 months after the lethal control of black bears. The effect reverts to zero around 8 months after lethal interventions.

[13] Overdispersion is not a concern in the fixed effects Poisson regression. The Poisson model provides consistent estimates regardless of the variance-mean relationship (Wooldridge 1999).

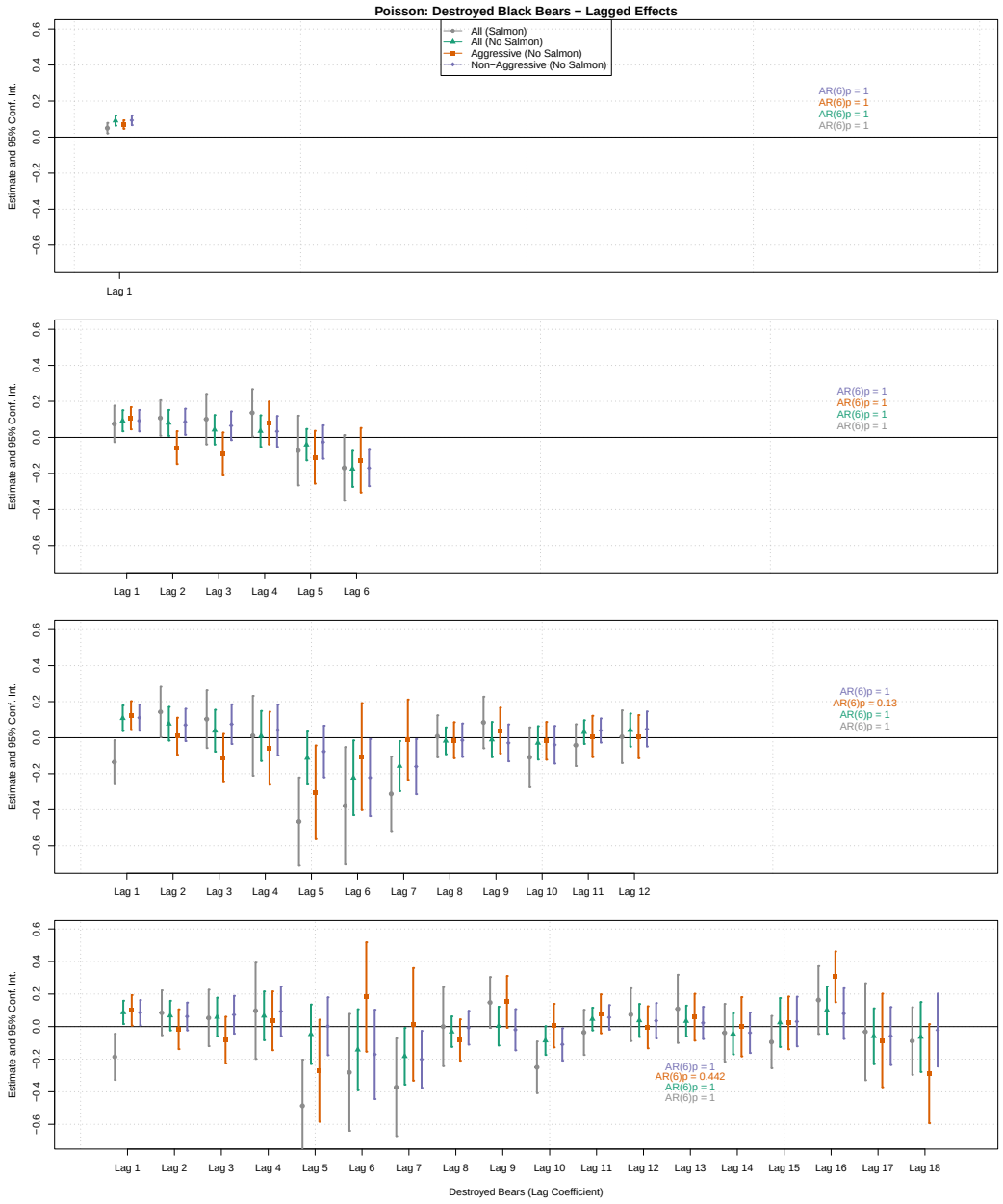


Figure 14: Poisson Coefficient estimates of lagged lethal control on conflict for varying lag lengths, conflict types (aggressive includes attacks on humans and livestock; non-aggressive includes disturbed garbage etc.), and salmon control. All models control for weather and lights at night. Bars denote 95% confidence interval with standard errors clustered at the grid level. AR(6) residual autocorrelation test p-values reported for each model.

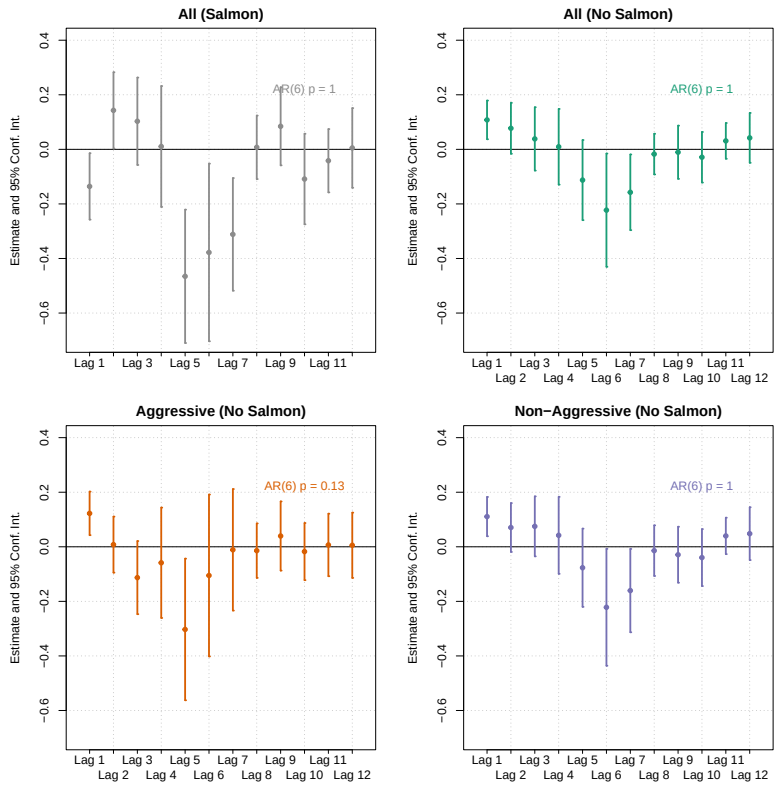


Figure 15: Poisson coefficient estimates of lagged lethal control on conflict for 1-12 months and varying conflict types (aggressive includes attacks on humans and livestock; non-aggressive includes disturbed garbage etc.), and salmon control. All models control for weather and lights at night. Shading denotes 95% confidence interval with standard errors clustered at the grid level. AR(6) residual autocorrelation test p-values reported for each model. Gray lines in background in each panel show model estimates highlighted in other panels for reference.

Table 11: Poisson Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lag 1)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	0.0496^{***}	0.0912^{***}	0.0697^{***}	0.0931^{***}
	(0.0148)	(0.0141)	(0.0120)	(0.0138)
Confl. t-1	0.0094^{***}	$0.0036^{\cdot}$	0.0471^{***}	$0.0036^{\cdot}$
	(0.0022)	(0.0020)	(0.0113)	(0.0021)
Max. Temp.	0.0562^{*}	3.79×10^{-5}	-0.0067	0.0004
	(0.0255)	(0.0217)	(0.0224)	(0.0226)
Min. Temp.	0.0405	0.0659^{*}	0.1354^{***}	$0.0580^{\cdot}$
	(0.0393)	(0.0291)	(0.0313)	(0.0303)
Precip. (Sum)	0.0002	0.0016^{*}	0.0007	0.0016^{*}
	(0.0009)	(0.0007)	(0.0008)	(0.0008)
Light	-0.0341	0.0266	-0.0326	0.0327
	(0.0718)	(0.0442)	(0.0332)	(0.0469)
Salmon (Pink)	$-4.98 \times 10^{-8}{}^{**}$			
	(1.8×10^{-8})			
Observations	15,963	31,260	22,088	29,345
AR(6) p=	1	1	1	1
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 12: Poisson Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lags 1-6)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	0.0750	0.0922**	0.1063***	0.0927**
	(0.0514)	(0.0299)	(0.0315)	(0.0304)
Leth. Cont. t-2	0.1077*	0.0804*	-0.0571	0.0867*
	(0.0502)	(0.0368)	(0.0465)	(0.0370)
Leth. Cont. t-3	0.1011	0.0423	-0.0922	0.0644
	(0.0712)	(0.0415)	(0.0607)	(0.0405)
Leth. Cont. t-4	0.1363*	0.0349	0.0801	0.0331
	(0.0668)	(0.0445)	(0.0603)	(0.0435)
Leth. Cont. t-5	-0.0731	-0.0404	-0.1103	-0.0255
	(0.0987)	(0.0443)	(0.0746)	(0.0471)
Leth. Cont. t-6	-0.1695·	-0.1746***	-0.1271	-0.1700***
	(0.0929)	(0.0510)	(0.0913)	(0.0515)
Confl. t-1	0.0112	0.0179**	0.0522**	0.0186**
	(0.0088)	(0.0060)	(0.0203)	(0.0064)
Confl. t-2	-0.0089	-0.0118·	0.0053	-0.0121·
	(0.0074)	(0.0065)	(0.0337)	(0.0068)
Confl. t-3	-0.0012	0.0003	0.0372·	-0.0020
	(0.0075)	(0.0059)	(0.0212)	(0.0065)
Confl. t-4	-0.0274·	-0.0154*	-0.0673	-0.0190*
	(0.0147)	(0.0075)	(0.0434)	(0.0086)
Confl. t-5	0.0103	-0.0017	0.0442	-0.0028
	(0.0079)	(0.0073)	(0.0420)	(0.0082)
Confl. t-6	0.0174**	0.0283***	0.0882	0.0289***
	(0.0066)	(0.0053)	(0.0550)	(0.0065)
Max. Temp.	0.0959**	0.0404·	0.0149	0.0526*
	(0.0309)	(0.0228)	(0.0311)	(0.0229)
Min. Temp.	0.0395	0.0163	0.1097**	-0.0086
	(0.0472)	(0.0332)	(0.0418)	(0.0356)
Precip. (Sum)	-0.0005	0.0016*	0.0011	0.0016*
	(0.0009)	(0.0007)	(0.0011)	(0.0007)
Light	0.0002	-0.0282	-0.0726·	-0.0179
	(0.0508)	(0.0283)	(0.0381)	(0.0317)
Salmon (Pink)	-7.65×10^{-8}***			
	(1.93×10^{-8})			
Observations	13,158	26,848	17,072	24,849
AR(6) p=	1	1	1	1
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 13: Poisson Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lags 1-12)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	-0.1358*	0.1079**	0.1225**	0.1107**
	(0.0621)	(0.0362)	(0.0407)	(0.0367)
Leth. Cont. t-2	0.1429*	0.0772	0.0080	0.0706
	(0.0713)	(0.0476)	(0.0524)	(0.0457)
Leth. Cont. t-3	0.1029	0.0383	-0.1130·	0.0749
	(0.0817)	(0.0592)	(0.0683)	(0.0561)
Leth. Cont. t-4	0.0105	0.0094	-0.0586	0.0420
	(0.1130)	(0.0707)	(0.1032)	(0.0720)
Leth. Cont. t-5	-0.4654***	-0.1126	-0.3029*	-0.0768
	(0.1247)	(0.0749)	(0.1324)	(0.0731)
Leth. Cont. t-6	-0.3779*	-0.2229*	-0.1052	-0.2217*
	(0.1661)	(0.1059)	(0.1514)	(0.1093)
Leth. Cont. t-7	-0.3117**	-0.1574*	-0.0111	-0.1605*
	(0.1053)	(0.0707)	(0.1136)	(0.0779)
Leth. Cont. t-8	0.0074	-0.0174	-0.0141	-0.0141
	(0.0593)	(0.0380)	(0.0509)	(0.0473)
Leth. Cont. t-9	0.0844	-0.0106	0.0395	-0.0290
	(0.0730)	(0.0498)	(0.0646)	(0.0523)
Leth. Cont. t-10	-0.1088	-0.0289	-0.0175	-0.0395
	(0.0847)	(0.0473)	(0.0534)	(0.0533)
Leth. Cont. t-11	-0.0417	0.0310	0.0067	0.0399
	(0.0592)	(0.0334)	(0.0585)	(0.0340)
Leth. Cont. t-12	0.0052	0.0421	0.0056	0.0481
	(0.0745)	(0.0466)	(0.0610)	(0.0494)
Confl. t-1	0.0732***	0.0188**	0.0362	0.0185**
	(0.0150)	(0.0067)	(0.0258)	(0.0066)
Confl. t-2	-0.0270·	-0.0167·	-0.0345	-0.0159
	(0.0157)	(0.0098)	(0.0461)	(0.0100)
Confl. t-3	0.0002	0.0009	-0.0113	-0.0025
	(0.0161)	(0.0100)	(0.0444)	(0.0095)
Confl. t-4	-0.0312·	-0.0170	-0.0377	-0.0257*
	(0.0187)	(0.0106)	(0.0516)	(0.0115)
Confl. t-5	0.0295*	-0.0185	0.0154	-0.0223·
	(0.0135)	(0.0127)	(0.0947)	(0.0133)
Confl. t-6	0.0392*	0.0243*	0.0728	0.0211·
	(0.0195)	(0.0109)	(0.0758)	(0.0120)
Confl. t-7	0.0133	0.0126·	-0.1320·	0.0172*
	(0.0147)	(0.0069)	(0.0742)	(0.0073)
Confl. t-8	0.0162	0.0091	-0.0542	0.0118
	(0.0142)	(0.0066)	(0.0640)	(0.0074)
Confl. t-9	-0.0111	-0.0122	-0.0428	-0.0162*
	(0.0193)	(0.0075)	(0.0669)	(0.0080)
Confl. t-10	0.0016	-0.0082	-0.0291	-0.0073
	(0.0109)	(0.0074)	(0.0562)	(0.0102)
Confl. t-11	0.0237	-0.0021	-0.1056*	-0.0038
	(0.0167)	(0.0094)	(0.0495)	(0.0121)
Confl. t-12	0.0042	-0.0083	-0.0091	-0.0095
	(0.0132)	(0.0080)	(0.0412)	(0.0083)
Max. Temp.	0.1049**	0.0462·	0.0233	0.0604*
	(0.0395)	(0.0254)	(0.0367)	(0.0255)
Min. Temp.	0.0811	0.0358	0.1234*	0.0114
	(0.0640)	(0.0429)	(0.0551)	(0.0456)
Precip. (Sum)	-0.0004	0.0018*	0.0013	0.0017*
	(0.0011)	(0.0008)	(0.0013)	(0.0008)
Light	0.0484	-0.0096	-0.0461	0.0066
	(0.0403)	(0.0339)	(0.0540)	(0.0358)
Salmon (Pink)	-2.7×10^{-8}			
	(2.47×10^{-8})			
Observations	10,965	23,650	12,847	21,345
AR(6) p=	1	1	0.12990	1
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 14: Poisson Estimates of lagged Effects of Lethal Control on Conflict (Lags 1-18)

	Bear Conflict (all)		Bear Conflict (aggressive)	Bear Conflict (non-aggressive)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Leth. Cont. t-1	-0.1860**	0.0872*	0.1001*	0.0857*
	(0.0721)	(0.0365)	(0.0478)	(0.0394)
Leth. Cont. t-2	0.0847	0.0675	-0.0162	0.0622
	(0.0702)	(0.0464)	(0.0624)	(0.0435)
Leth. Cont. t-3	0.0530	0.0589	-0.0831	0.0726
	(0.0884)	(0.0605)	(0.0732)	(0.0593)
Leth. Cont. t-4	0.0971	0.0660	0.0354	0.0938
	(0.1508)	(0.0763)	(0.0921)	(0.0775)
Leth. Cont. t-5	-0.4867***	-0.0469	-0.2710·	0.0020
	(0.1448)	(0.0931)	(0.1597)	(0.0906)
Leth. Cont. t-6	-0.2812	-0.1421	0.1820	-0.1709
	(0.1832)	(0.1269)	(0.1713)	(0.1400)
Leth. Cont. t-7	-0.3725*	-0.1822*	0.0140	-0.2010*
	(0.1530)	(0.0888)	(0.1764)	(0.0890)
Leth. Cont. t-8	-0.0003	-0.0310	-0.0826	-0.0068
	(0.1237)	(0.0477)	(0.0647)	(0.0529)
Leth. Cont. t-9	0.1481·	0.0031	0.1522·	-0.0193
	(0.0796)	(0.0608)	(0.0810)	(0.0645)
Leth. Cont. t-10	-0.2500**	-0.0859·	0.0059	-0.1098*
	(0.0808)	(0.0449)	(0.0682)	(0.0507)
Leth. Cont. t-11	-0.0356	0.0465	0.0786	0.0565
	(0.0707)	(0.0355)	(0.0609)	(0.0385)
Leth. Cont. t-12	0.0734	0.0378	-0.0043	0.0359
	(0.0826)	(0.0516)	(0.0659)	(0.0555)
Leth. Cont. t-13	0.1092	0.0340	0.0575	0.0226
	(0.1067)	(0.0484)	(0.0734)	(0.0503)
Leth. Cont. t-14	-0.0380	-0.0444	-0.0008	-0.0376
	(0.0905)	(0.0644)	(0.0928)	(0.0635)
Leth. Cont. t-15	-0.0949	0.0252	0.0225	0.0311
	(0.0818)	(0.0766)	(0.0826)	(0.0777)
Leth. Cont. t-16	0.1631	0.1011	0.3062***	0.0799
	(0.1063)	(0.0740)	(0.0796)	(0.0794)
Leth. Cont. t-17	-0.0315	-0.0592	-0.0851	-0.0579
	(0.1518)	(0.0874)	(0.1464)	(0.0907)
Leth. Cont. t-18	-0.0886	-0.0639	-0.2890·	-0.0214
	(0.1058)	(0.1095)	(0.1552)	(0.1141)
Confl. t-1	0.0979***	0.0132·	0.0289	0.0129·
	(0.0128)	(0.0079)	(0.0389)	(0.0076)
Confl. t-2	-0.0225	-0.0135	0.0216	-0.0157
	(0.0180)	(0.0096)	(0.0525)	(0.0099)
Confl. t-3	-0.0056	-0.0023	0.0334	-0.0028
	(0.0222)	(0.0097)	(0.0653)	(0.0094)
Confl. t-4	-0.0263·	-0.0195*	-0.1281*	-0.0294**
	(0.0157)	(0.0086)	(0.0560)	(0.0101)
Confl. t-5	0.0472*	-0.0156	0.0186	-0.0194
	(0.0193)	(0.0125)	(0.1149)	(0.0147)
Confl. t-6	0.0638*	0.0360*	-0.0887	0.0391*
	(0.0311)	(0.0153)	(0.0976)	(0.0160)
Confl. t-7	0.0187	-0.0056	-0.1566	0.0014
	(0.0240)	(0.0125)	(0.1133)	(0.0145)
Confl. t-8	0.0356	0.0047	-0.0630	0.0015
	(0.0271)	(0.0103)	(0.0911)	(0.0114)
Confl. t-9	-0.0526*	-0.0085	-0.1463*	-0.0109
	(0.0228)	(0.0087)	(0.0632)	(0.0091)
Confl. t-10	0.0289*	-0.0097	-0.1026·	-0.0052
	(0.0142)	(0.0079)	(0.0556)	(0.0113)
Confl. t-11	-0.0013	-0.0219*	-0.1714**	-0.0318*
	(0.0176)	(0.0094)	(0.0658)	(0.0131)
Confl. t-12	0.0500**	0.0033	-0.1066*	0.0079
	(0.0193)	(0.0080)	(0.0423)	(0.0095)
Confl. t-13	-0.0136	-0.0188*	-0.0810·	-0.0233·
	(0.0249)	(0.0090)	(0.0466)	(0.0119)
Confl. t-14	-0.0096	-0.0087	-0.1556*	-0.0075
	(0.0208)	(0.0125)	(0.0768)	(0.0138)
Confl. t-15	0.0057	-0.0103	-0.1255	-0.0138
	(0.0201)	(0.0177)	(0.0765)	(0.0186)
Confl. t-16	-0.0809***	-0.0361***	-0.1898*	-0.0350***
	(0.0219)	(0.0085)	(0.0814)	(0.0101)
Confl. t-17	-0.0556	-0.0234·	-0.1371	-0.0277·
	(0.0463)	(0.0128)	(0.1179)	(0.0142)
Confl. t-18	0.0022	0.0162	0.0225	0.0116
	(0.0270)	(0.0218)	(0.1025)	(0.0258)
Max. Temp.	0.0686	0.0446	0.0174	0.0575·
	(0.0468)	(0.0305)	(0.0411)	(0.0308)
Min. Temp.	0.1386*	0.0584	0.1060·	0.0410
	(0.0654)	(0.0523)	(0.0637)	(0.0556)
Precip. (Sum)	0.0002	0.0020*	0.0013	0.0020*
	(0.0013)	(0.0009)	(0.0015)	(0.0009)
Light	0.0675	0.0091	-0.0180	0.0197
	(0.0465)	(0.0382)	(0.0715)	(0.0454)
Salmon (Pink)	-2.42×10^{-8}			
	(3.13×10^{-8})			
Observations	9,231	19,939	10,288	18,137
AR(6) p=	1	1	0.44220	1
id fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓
year_month fixed effects	✓	✓	✓	✓

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season? NO, DO NOT extend the season. The current end of Bear season ALREADY overlaps too much with the time when bears are likely denning up, especially in years when food sources are reduced. With drought being more common, this will happen more frequently. (see: https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/vermont-critters/mammals/black-bear). Hunting does not reduce human bear conflicts. See attached papers.(https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4951764; https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/jwmg.22363)

   We need to make it easier for humans to reduce their conflicts with bears. The education on your webpage is great, but many trash haulers DO NOT offer bear resistant trash containers despite what is advertised on the list on your webpage. I live in Middlesex and Casella told me they "don't offer them for Middlesex customers." Casella and all haulers should be required to only offer bear resistant bins to customers in regions where bears are likely to be attracted to trash bins. I know that's only one measure amongst many others people need to take to reduce conflicts w bears, but it would be a start. We just moved to Middlesex on a road (Wood Road) where a fed bear was harvested last year. The previous owner left his unsecured trash and compost in the driveway. We stopped that irresponsible behavior immediately upon moving in and store our trash in the basement along w compost in 5 gallon buckets until we go to the transfer station. We have had NO issues w bears on our property. We've seen tracks, but that's it. Improperly protected trash, compost, chickens, etc are the issue. Resources need to be put into reducing the bears exposure to unsecured human-related food sources, NOT extending the bear hunting season.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season? Yes, fine.

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag? YES. Support.

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs? No, do not allow, for reasons stated above.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present? YES. I support 100%

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season? No, I don't support. I think it should be ended **much earlier** to give denning sows a better chance at finding a dens site and eating enough before denning up. It would ideally ended by the end of October.

From: bequesting@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Becky Eno <bequesting@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 11:07 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from bequesting@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Becky Eno
Rutland, VT 05701-2726

From: Bernadette Brown <bdettebrown@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from bdettebrown@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Bernadette Brown
West Windsor, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Betsy Carpenter <betsycarpenter16@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed bear hunting rule changes

You don't often get email from betsycarpenter16@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please know that we are very much opposed to extending bear hunting season into December, when Black Bears typically are denning. What is the sport in killing a sleeping animal? And as females den with their cubs, killing a female in winter, also endangers the lives of the cubs. **We also oppose increasing the bear limit from one to two state-wide**. Perhaps bears are increasingly a nuisance in some of the more populous parts of the state. But up in the NEK,bear sightings are still relatively rare events.

I wonder if those who would extend the bear hunting these ways realize that the proposed changes could well backfire on hunters seeking to bag more bears. Up until now, we, for instance, have not posted our land. But if these proposed rule changes comes into effect, we undoubtedly will--as will myriad other landowners around the state.

Sincerely,

Betsy Carpenter & James Gibney
Waterford, VT

From: Betsy Dorries <bbearvt@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 11:52 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from bbearvt@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

We need to educate people about bears and respect their rights to the land! In addition to the regulations presented here I would also like to state that bear hunting with dogs is a cruel and horrific practice; it is unjustifiable.
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
Eliminate allowing hounds to hunt and kill bears!
Elisabeth Dorries
Danville, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Beverly L <mio.bistro@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:50 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mio.bistro@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermonts reputation for compassion and decency is being tarnished by allowing cruel and barbaric methods to hunt and destroy bears. Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Beverly Buber
Dorset, VT
mio.bistro@gmail.com
802-353-2999

From: Bill Westervelt <wgwestervelt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:47 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from wgwestervelt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Bill Westervelt
Warren

From: blackpoll <blackpoll@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 2:08 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting

You don't often get email from blackpoll@charter.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

From: Bob Pratt <ropra2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:15 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

You don't often get email from ropra2020@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Robert Pratt. Hartford Vt registered voter

From: Bob Pratt <ropra2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:41 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

You don't often get email from ropra2020@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

**Please include (for verification) your name, town of residence, phone and/or email address in email of support. **

EVERY VOTE WILL BE COUNTED AND CONSIDERED. PLEASE SEND TO LIKE MINDED FRIENDS TODAY. Thank you sincerely for your time. Please do let me know if you are able to send this.

Sue (Skaskiw) (802) 952-8181

From: Bonnica Zuckerman <bonnicaz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Changes to Vermont's Bear Management Rule
Attachments: Bonnica_Zuckerman_Bear_Management_Public_Comment.pdf

You don't often get email from bonnicaz@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Bonnica Zuckerman, MPH, and I am writing in opposition to the proposed expansion of Vermont's bear hunting season, the authorization of a second bear tag, and the continued use of hounds to pursue black bears. I strongly support the proposed prohibition on intentionally taking a sow accompanied by cubs, but I believe Vermont should go further in protecting bears during this particularly vulnerable period of their life cycle.

I am concerned that these proposals expand lethal management without adequately demonstrating that doing so will address the underlying causes of negative interactions between bears and people.

At the public hearing I attended, much of the justification for increasing bear harvest centered on Vermont's growing bear population and reports of increased human-bear interactions. But the existence of more bears—or more reports involving bears—does not by itself demonstrate that killing more bears will solve those problems.

We should also reconsider the language we use. Calling these situations "human-bear conflicts" subtly places the bear in the role of an adversary when many of these encounters are actually the predictable result of human-provided food sources, unsecured garbage, bird feeders, livestock feed, and development within bear habitat. I encourage the Department to use language such as **human-bear interactions** or **human-bear coexistence challenges**, which more accurately recognizes our role and our responsibility in preventing them.

I have seen firsthand that coexistence works. A black bear began visiting the property where I work this year. We did not kill the bear. We removed attractants, secured garbage, and used appropriate aversive conditioning when necessary. The bear changed its behavior. That experience reinforced for me that prevention and education should be our first tools—not increased killing.

I am particularly concerned about hounding.

There is a tendency to discuss a bear that is chased but not killed as though nothing significant happened to that animal. Research using biologgers tells a different story. In a study of free-ranging Scandinavian brown bears, researchers measured heart rate, body temperature, GPS movement, and activity during 52 simulated hunts using dogs. Bears subjected to dog hunts traveled farther, moved faster, and experienced higher heart rates than during control periods or ordinary human encounters, and longer pursuits were associated with increased resting the following day. Although this research involved brown bears rather than American black bears, it provides important evidence that pursuit by dogs can impose physiological, behavioral, and energetic costs even when the bear is not killed.

That matters because a hound hunt does not affect only the bear ultimately harvested. Multiple bears can be pursued and escape. Those bears may still experience substantial disturbance and energetic expenditure. The biological cost of hounding therefore extends beyond harvest numbers.

This is especially concerning as bears prepare for denning. Bears have a limited seasonal window in which to accumulate the fat reserves that sustain them through winter. Vermont should be asking whether repeatedly forcing bears to expend energy fleeing packs of dogs during this period is consistent with responsible wildlife management.

Extending hunting farther into the denning period raises additional concerns. Research on American black bears has documented den abandonment following human disturbance, greater winter weight loss among bears that changed dens, and instances in which disturbance-related den abandonment was associated with cub mortality. Bears depend on stored energy reserves throughout the winter, making unnecessary disturbance during this period particularly concerning. Vermont should explicitly prohibit the intentional taking or disturbance of bears in dens and should not expand hunting opportunity farther into a period when bears may be entering dens.

I also urge the Department and Board to carefully examine the data being used to justify increased harvest.

If reported bear mortality is incorporated into population modeling, the public deserves a clear explanation of how those data are collected, validated, and incorporated into estimates. Mortality and harvest data are not independent of human behavior: hunting pressure, reporting practices, regulations, and enforcement all influence the numbers that ultimately enter a model.

Vermont already requires harvested bears to be reported and requires hunters to submit a premolar, which provides valuable biological information including age data. Those are important tools for wildlife management. But the submission of a tooth itself does not independently establish the circumstances under which a bear was killed. If harvest and mortality information are being used to justify increased hunting opportunity, the public should understand how those data are verified and how potential illegal or otherwise unreported mortality is accounted for.

I would also like the Department to examine whether mortality records distinguish bears that had recently been pursued by hounds from bears that had not. If Vermont is going to allow months of hound training and hunting, we should be studying not simply how many bears are directly killed by hound hunters, but whether pursuit contributes indirectly to mortality through displacement, road crossings, exhaustion, altered habitat use, or subsequent interactions with people.

This raises an important question about the stated goal of reducing negative interactions between bears and people: **when bears are repeatedly pursued by hounds, where are they being displaced to?** A bear fleeing dogs does not recognize property boundaries, roadways, residential areas, or other hazards. If pursuit pushes bears out of secure forest cover, across roads, or closer to homes and developed areas, hounding could potentially contribute to some of the very human-bear interactions that increased hunting is intended to reduce. Before expanding hunting opportunity, Vermont should evaluate this possibility rather than assume that additional pursuit and mortality will improve coexistence.

Finally, I ask the Department and Board to consider what the purpose of wildlife management should be.

Vermont's wildlife belongs to all Vermonters. Management should reflect ecological science and the values of the entire public—not simply maximize hunting opportunity. A growing bear population should be viewed as a conservation success requiring thoughtful coexistence strategies, not automatically as a problem requiring additional mortality.

I therefore respectfully ask the Board to:

- Reject the proposed second bear tag.
- Reject the proposed extension of the bear hunting season into December.
- Explicitly prohibit the taking or disturbance of bears in dens.
- Maintain and strengthen protections for sows with cubs.
- Reevaluate the ecological and welfare impacts of hound hunting and training, including impacts on bears that are pursued but never harvested.

- Prioritize attractant management, public education, enforcement of feeding and garbage regulations, and other evidence-based coexistence strategies before increasing lethal management.
- Provide greater transparency regarding the population models and mortality data being used to justify management decisions.

Black bears are not simply harvest numbers. They are a native species with an important ecological role, and Vermonters have demonstrated that we can coexist with them when we address the human behaviors that draw bears into dangerous situations.

Wildlife management should ask not only how many bears can be killed while maintaining a viable population, but what practices are scientifically justified, humane, and consistent with the values of the people whose wildlife is being managed.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Bonnica Zuckerman, MPH

From: Bonnie Brown <bonniebrown1@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 2:03 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from bonniebrown1@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am very concerned about proposed changes to bear hunting in Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Cubs need to spend 18 months with their mothers to learn how to survive.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you.

Bonnie Brown
141 Vaughn Road
West Halifax, VT. 05358

From: Bonnie Geisler <magdog32@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 10:16 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Black Bear Management Rules

You don't often get email from magdog32@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I support:
• Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs
• Protecting hibernating/denning bears
• Reconsidering hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound training from June 1 until August 1.

I oppose:
• Issuing a second bear tag
• Extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December

Bonnie Geisler
Coventry, VT

From: Bonnie McIntosh <bonnie.mcintosh@sympatico.ca>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 8:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from bonnie.mcintosh@sympatico.ca. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a resident of Bridgewater Corners, Vermont and I wish to express my views on changes to bear hunting rules:
1) Vermont Fish & Wildlife has proposed extending the season by a full month.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December. This puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

2) Vermont Fish & Wildlife proposes offering a second bear tag in some areas of the state.
I oppose issuing a second bear tag.

3) I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. Most (84%) of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

While I oppose bear hounding as a practice that puts hounds, bears, and hikers with pet dogs in danger, I ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season.
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs" in order to ensure the humane treatment and safety of all animals (including innocent humans) involved.
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you for your consideration. All the best for a safe and productive season.
Bonnie McIntosh
58 Valley View Road
Bridgewater Corners
05035

From: Bonnie <behaselton@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:35 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from behaselton@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Bonnie Haselton
50 S Henry Ct
S Burlington VT 05403
behaselton@comcast.net
802.343.2581

From: Brenna <dbgaldenzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 6:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dbgaldenzi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Brenna Galdenzi Stowe VT

From: Brett Ladeau <longbeardfreak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 7:59 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Rule Changed

[You don't often get email from longbeardfreak@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I support the extended season for bear hunting into December.

Also, I support a statewide 2-bear tag limit per hunter.

Please get it done for the 2027 season.

Thank you.

Brett Ladeau

Hartland, Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: Brian C Jones <1organicjones@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:27 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: BEARS...Saving Wildlife

[You don't often get email from 1organicjones@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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"I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears."

Brian C Jones
802 734 4789

From: Brian T. Fitzgerald <fitzgerald@madriver.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Black Bear Rule Changes

You don't often get email from fitzgerald@madriver.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good day,

I have reviewed the presentation from the public meetings on the proposed changes to the black bear rule and offer the following responses to the questions at the end of the presentation.

1. What are your comments on the proposed extension of the black bear hunting season?

The mid-December end date is too late in the season, especially with Vermont lacking a regulation prohibiting the killing of hibernating bears. The season should be extended only to coincide with the end of the 16-day regular deer season.

2. What are your comments on the proposed combining the early season dates with the late season to make one hunting season?

No concerns

3. What are your comments on the proposal to require all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag?

Support

4. What are your comments on the proposal to allow for a second bear tag in annually designated WMUs?

I presume the objective is to reduce the bear population to reduce the incidence of bear conflicts. If that is the case, institute this appoach for a defined timeframe (5 years, perhaps) with a requirement to revisit it and determine if it achieved the objective. If not, discontinue it.

5. What are your comments on the proposed regulation to make it illegal to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present?

Strongly support. I commend the Department for ending this practice.

6. What are your comments on the proposed rule to end the hound hunting season on the second Sunday of the regular deer season?

This seems like an administrative change only. I encourage the Department to consider banning bear hounding altogether.

7. Any other comments you wish to share on proposed regulations?

Nothing on the proposed regulations, but I urge the Department to consider a prohibition on hunting hibernating bears. Finally, I commend the Department and Board for their recent decision to not allow bear baiting.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

BTF

Brian T. Fitzgerald

55 Ward Hill Road
South Duxbury, VT 05660

802.261.0619 (cell)
fitzgerald@madriver.com

From: Brian Tijan [btijan@gmail.com]
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:28:20 AM
Subject: Bear Rules

Why am I having to email a department that is supposed to be responsive to all the taxpayers of Vermont, not some of the taxpayers of Vermont, over an issue on which it is crystal clear what public polling of the Vermont population would show on that issue?

Would the majority of taxpayers in Vermont favor killing bears that are (a) asleep or (b) trying to raise babies?

One of the things that makes Vermont special in 2026 America is that we are actually considerate of our neighbors. There are no Trumps or Mamdamis here - we find the middle ground and work together. I might totally disagree with someone - but I don't ignore them and just do things my own way. It's about time this Department started acting like the rest of our state.

1) I oppose extending the season into mid-December. There should be a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

2) I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight.

I also ask that the Department consider the followin:g

* Shorten the bear hound training season
* Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
* Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I would love a reply to my polling question - it would be the considerate thing to do after all.

Thank you,

Brian Tijan

From: Brigett Wilson <littlewoofvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 7:33 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from littlewoofvt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Brigett Wilson

From: Bruce Brown <bdbrown247@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:03 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from bdbrown247@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. .

Bruce Brown
Brandon


Virus-free.www.avast.com

From: Bruce <bruce5402011@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 3:42 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. To What End??

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department do the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Bruce McClelland
Woodstock, VT

From: Bruce <bruce5402011@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I OPPOSE the barbaric and cowardly practice of bear hounding and believe it should be banned. It is not sport. It is not hunting. It is not a fair fight. Let's come into the 21st century and ban it now.

Short of an outright ban, I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Bruce McClelland
Woodstock, VT

From: Burnham, Nicholas <Nicholas.Burnham@partner.vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 7:27 PM
To: 'anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov'
Subject: [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Norwich Conservation Commission comment on bear regulations
Attachments: NCC comment on bear rules 826.docx; ATT00001.txt

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nicholas.burnham@partner.vermont.gov. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

From: Lynnwood B Andrews <lynnwoodandrews@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 9:11 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Windsor <ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov>
Cc: Norwich Conservation Commission <norwich.conservation.commission@gmail.com>
Subject: Norwich Conservation Commission comment on bear regulations

You don't often get email from lynnwoodandrews@mac.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

The Norwich Conservation Commission approves most of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board's proposed revision of bear hunting rules. We object to the provision, which would extend the hunting season. We are concerned that this would allow the killing of bears who have entered their winter dens. We urge the board to include an explicit ban on killing any bears in their dens. If enforcement of such a ban is impractical with an extended season, or if killing bears in dens were not categorically banned, then we would oppose lengthening the season.

We specifically endorse increasing the tag limit to 2 bears as a reasonable and effective means of managing the population size. We are pleased that killing of sows with cubs is banned and that baiting is not permitted.

Lynnwood Andrews, Chair
Andrew Torkelson
Peg Merrens
Craig Layne
Chris Rimmer
Alex Gottlieb

Lynnwood B Andrews
69 Meetinghouse Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

The Norwich Conservation Commission approves the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board's proposed revision of bear hunting rules, although we object to the provision, which would extend the hunting season. We are concerned that this would allow the killing of bears who have entered their winter dens. We urge the board to include an explicit ban on killing any bears in their dens. If enforcement of such a ban is impractical with an extended season, or if killing bears in dens were not categorically banned, then we would oppose lengthening the season.

We specifically endorse increasing the tag limit to 2 bears as a reasonable and effective means of managing the population size. We are pleased that killing of sows with cubs is banned and that baiting is not permitted.

Lynnwood Andrews, Chair
Andrew Torkelson
Peg Merrens
Craig Layne
Chris Rimmer
Alex Gottlieb

_____
ANR.FWBoard mailing list
ANR.FWBoard@list.vermont.gov
https://list.vermont.gov/mailman/listinfo/anr.fwboard

From: Burnham, Nicholas <Nicholas.Burnham@partner.vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:35 AM
To: 'anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov'
Subject: [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Bear regulations
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

From: MARK GREEN <madbgreen@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:09 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Windsor <ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear regulations

You don't often get email from madbgreen@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi my name is Mark Green I am resident in Weathersfield VT and i am writing concerning the new bear regulation proposal. I am in favor of MOST of the new proposed regulations as the past couple years have delt with several bears doing various damage at my residence in Perkinsville and know there is a need for a reduction in numbers but really wonder if the new proposals will seriously reduce the number of bears on the landscape especially in residential areas,I would have loved to have seen a bear baiting season as I believed it would have worked well especially in residential areas but water over the dam now!! My concern is with the bear hound season extending into the regular firearm season for 9 days, My concern is that a deer hunter can shoot a bear that unbeknownst to him was being chased by hounds in this case the hunter could be brought on charges up under the hunter harassment charges by interfering in a legal hunt and with the woods full of deer hunters that is a very good likelihood of that occurring. Unlike if a hunter shoots a deer being pursued by another hunter!! Doesn't make much sense!! I brought this matter up with Jacquline she says not many run their hounds during firearm season so why not end it before the start of firearm season to help alleviate any potential conflicts!!! Well thanks for hearing me out on this matter!! Mark Green

_____
ANR.FWBoard mailing list
ANR.FWBoard@list.vermont.gov
https://list.vermont.gov/mailman/listinfo/anr.fwboard

From: Burnham, Nicholas <Nicholas.Burnham@partner.vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:37 AM
To: 'anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov'
Subject: [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Comment from the Marlboro, Vt. Conservation Commission on Proposed New Bear Hunting Rules
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

From: Conservation Commission <marlboroconservation@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 8:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Windsor <ANR.FWBoardWindsor@vermont.gov>
Cc: Conservation Commission <marlboroconservation@gmail.com>
Subject: Comment from the Marlboro, Vt. Conservation Commission on Proposed New Bear Hunting Rules

You don't often get email from marlboroconservation@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the Fish and Wildlife Department

Re: Proposed New Bear Hunting Rules

The Conservation Commission of Marlboro, Vermont strongly opposes proposals 1 and 4 of the proposed new regulations and supports proposal 2 and 3.

Apropos proposal 1: We strongly oppose increasing the number of bears hunters can take this season.

This proposal to increase the number of allowed tags is based on the assumption that there is a bear overpopulation issue. Studies show and Vermont Fish and Wildlife recognizes that the increase in human-bear interaction is not due to bear overpopulation but rather due to the result of unintentional human behaviors (including leaving out unsecured garbage, bird feeders, etc.) that attract bears to human dwellings. Rather than increasing the number of bears allowed to be killed (secondary prevention), we feel that public education and increased awareness on how to coexist and live safely with bears (primary intervention) is essential. Following the model of our neighbors in Hinesburg, our commission here in Marlboro is planning to host a 'Living with Bears' educational talk at our community center. We will invite Bear ambassador experts and will encourage open public discussion on how to coexist peacefully with our bears.

2 We agree wholeheartedly that bear baiting should continue to be banned as it is cruel and unnecessary.

3 We agree wholeheartedly that killing sows in front of their cubs should continue to be banned as it is cruel and unnecessary.

4 We adamantly oppose extending bear hunting season to 12/15, from current 11/22.

Extending bear hunting season into December is not the way we should be dealing with the problem of human-bear interactions. This would interfere with bears' preparations for denning and hibernation. If we agree that it is unethical to kill sows with cubs, then we should not encourage hunting during this critical time in their yearly lifecycle. Bears already face complications from the loss and fragmentation of their habitat through human encroachment. Winter bear hunting can significantly alter social dynamics by shifting sex and age demographics, which can lead to detrimental changes in group behavior. This can have an impact on cub survival. In our region, den entry occurs as early as November. Because of the reasons stated above, we strongly oppose the proposal to extend bear hunting season to mid-December.

The Marlboro, Vt. Conservation Commission

Lindy Corman

Eric Slayton

Jeremiah Burke

Patrice Melvin

Pamela Adlersmith

_____
ANR.FWBoard mailing list
ANR.FWBoard@list.vermont.gov
https://list.vermont.gov/mailman/listinfo/anr.fwboard

From: cake <cakearon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:17 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public comment response to extending (combining) the Bear Hunting Season

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello again,

I'm also opposed to hunters being permitted to hunt a second bear.

I believe the hysteria around "too many" bears is overstated by your department. People are asked to report sightings regardless of what a bear is doing ---usually nothing that we aren't single handedly responsible for.

Maybe fine people who keep their bird feeders out (I see them everywhere) and don't secure their trash (see this a lot, too).

Thanks again,
Coleen Kearon

As always,
Coleen

Please excuse the brevity of this message and any typos as it is sent from my tiny keyboard.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **cake** <cakearon@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 1, 2026, 4:36 PM
Subject: Public comment response to extending (combining) the Bear Hunting Season
To: <ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov>

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing to express my opposition to combining hunting seasons, which would extend the bear hunting season through mid-December. This extension risks hunters killing bears in their dens during hibernation, a practice prohibited in almost all states and a violation of fair chase ethics.

Additionally, I request that mother bears be protected from hunting while they are with their cubs. Furthermore, having attended your recent public comment forum, I suggest increasing the current $5.00 bear tag fee.

In my forum discussion group, nearly everyone opposed extending the bear hunting season and hunting mothers with cubs. The group also expressed strong opposition to bear hounding due to ethical concerns and the infringement on private property rights.

Listening to the extensive comments during the August 24, 2026 hearing, this appeared to be the general consensus across the different groups. I hope you will take this feedback into consideration and decline to pass

these proposed rules.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Coleen Kearon
Montpelier, Vermont

From: cake <cakearon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 11:36 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public comment response to extending (combining) the Bear Hunting Season

You don't often get email from cakearon@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing to express my opposition to combining hunting seasons, which would extend the bear hunting season through mid-December. This extension risks hunters killing bears in their dens during hibernation, a practice prohibited in almost all states and a violation of fair chase ethics.

Additionally, I request that mother bears be protected from hunting while they are with their cubs. Furthermore, having attended your recent public comment forum, I suggest increasing the current $5.00 bear tag fee.

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Listening to the extensive comments during the August 24, 2026 hearing, this appeared to be the general consensus across the different groups. I hope you will take this feedback into consideration and decline to pass these proposed rules.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Coleen Kearon
Montpelier, Vermont

From: Candis Cousins <candis.cousins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:51 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from candis.cousins@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Candis Pearson
Hinesburg , Vermont

From: Candis Cousins <candis.cousins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:51 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from candis.cousins@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Cara Martell <cara.m.martell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:07 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from cara.m.martell@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • I do not support hounding AT ALL • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Cara Martell
Milton, VT

From: Carol Davis <caroldavis1023@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:47 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from caroldavis1023@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

PLEASE PROTECT OUR BEAUTIFUL VERMONT WILDLIFE!

Thank you,
Carol and Charles Davis
Brattleboro, VT

From: Carol j Scafuro <carolforanimals@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from carolforanimals@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

As a Vermont resident who is educated and knowledgable in respect to wildlife behavior, habitats etc., I am truly dismayed in respect to how Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department functions.

It is not a stretch to see that this department does not act on behalf of the wildlife, but increasingly on behalf of hunters, trappers and fisherman.

It is so interesting and perplexing that there is still this misconception of Vermont as being a state that protects and advocates for wildlife.

If The department were more transparent about the way it is functioning and to whom it is catering to, there is no doubt there would be more outcry.

Those who follow closely know that this department has an increasingly bad reputation and has truly failed the people in respect to living up to its title.

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife should be open and honored to have active, “non-hunter/non- trapper/ non-fishermen “ participation as we represent a greater percentage of the population and a good percentage of us follow the science.

This department should be representative of and advocate for the wildlife whose management and , especially whose protection, has been entrusted to them.
At this point in time, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is a disgrace to its name.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

With Utmost Sincerity,
Carol J Scafuro
Andover
VT

05143
802 - 875 - 5665
802 -289 - 4903

From: Carol <crwbabdl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 12:46 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from crwbabdl@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Best regards, Carol

From: Caroline Canning <carcan43@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:04 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Vermont Bears

You don't often get email from carcan43@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Who It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any proposal to extend Vermont's bear hunting season or allow hunters to take a second bear. Rather than expanding the bear harvest, I urge the Department to strengthen protections for Vermont's black bears—particularly mothers with dependent cubs—and to prohibit the hunting of bears once they have entered their winter dens.

The Department itself recognizes the importance of protecting bear family groups. Vermont Fish & Wildlife states that black bear cubs remain dependent on their mothers until approximately 16–18 months of age and advises hunters not to shoot sows accompanied by cubs. Yet this remains guidance rather than the meaningful protection these animals deserve. If orphaned, young cubs are more vulnerable to starvation and predation and may seek human food sources in an effort to survive.

Vermont already provides an extraordinarily long opportunity to hunt bears. In 2026, the black bear season runs from September 1 through November 22—nearly three months. Expanding that season or issuing a second bear tag would increase hunting pressure when I believe the Department should instead be adopting stronger safeguards for vulnerable bears and family groups.

I am particularly concerned about hunting late enough in the year that bears may be denning or preparing to den. A bear in or at its winter den is in an especially vulnerable position, and hunting an animal under those circumstances bears little resemblance to the principles of fair chase that should guide ethical wildlife management.

I respectfully urge the Department to reject both an extended bear season and a second bear tag. Instead, please establish enforceable protections prohibiting the killing of mothers with dependent cubs and prohibiting the hunting or killing of bears in their dens.

Vermont's wildlife is a public resource, and decisions about its management should reflect not only population objectives and hunting opportunity, but also conservation, animal welfare, ethical hunting practices, and the values of the broader Vermont public. Protecting bears—especially mothers, cubs, and denning animals—is a reasonable and responsible place to begin.

Respectfully,

Caroline Canning

Burlington

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carolyn Bronz <carolynbronz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:43 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

[You don't often get email from carolynbronz@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I strongly oppose hounding bears, killing mothers with cubs, interfering with hibernating bears. Wish there was a way to neuter some of them. And humans need to get smarter, don’t attract them with garbage!
Sent from my iPhone

From: carolyn grodinsky <cgrodinsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:40 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: citizen comments on Bear hunting

You don't often get email from cgrodinsky@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello ANR folks:

I'm submitting my comments on the proposed rule changes. I participated via Zoom at the St Johnsbury hearing but my audio wasn't working so couldn't comment at the time and could only listen and hear other comments.

I strongly oppose extending the hunting season into December when bears are starting to hibernate. Leave the season as is.

In regards to 7.6 Except as permitted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4827, no person shall intentionally take a sow accompanied by a cub or cubs.This language is way too vague and I strongly oppose it. If a sow is shot/killed, ***all*** hunters will say it was unintentional. This is especially more likely to be the case if bear season is extended into December. I would propose it be illegal (rather than unintentional) to hunt a sow with cubs.

I'd like to see more be done to help deter bears from human interactions in the first place, perhaps fines or some deterrent for humans!

Thank you!

Carolyn
Grodinsky

Thank you
Carolyn
Grodinsky

From: Cassandra Edson <cassandraedson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:17 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunt propsed rule comments

You don't often get email from cassandraedson@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear FW:

I write to comment on proposed rules.
I oppose the extension of the bear hunting season. I also oppose granting more than 1 bear license per person(allowing taking or more than 1 near per season). Finally, I find the practice of killing a bear who is nurturing cubs to be inhumane and feel strongly that practice should be banned.

I live in Montpelier. I've stopped using bird feeders and take other measures to keep from inviting bears to our neighborhood and yards. I believe we can live in harmony with bears without overhunting or interfering with bear mothering. I hope you will adopt rules in line with bear- human harmonious living.

Kind regards,
Cassandra Edson
Montpelier, VT
802.229.1745

From: Catherine Gott <cegott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Batchelder, Jason; ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Moore, Julie; Raimundi, Karla
Subject: Hybrid Option for Fish and Wildlife Board Hearings and Meetings

You don't often get email from cegott@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning, Commissioner Batchelder,

I am writing to inquire why there is no Zoom option for the Fish and Wildlife Board hearing scheduled for Thursday, August 27. I was unable to attend the August 24th hearing due to other commitments, and I planned to participate remotely on the 27th since Bennington is more than a two-hour drive for me. Additionally, the hearing meeting notice with login information is not available or easily accessible on the Department's website.

Public Hearings | Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Below is the schedule of public hearings for proposed changes to Fish and Wildlife Board rules. Bear Management ...

I was surprised to learn that the only electronic means of attending is by phone. Vermont's Open Meeting Law requires that public bodies provide meaningful public access to meetings, and phone-only participation does not meet the standard of accessible, equitable, or transparent public engagement — particularly for hearings of statewide significance.

I work in a program that conducts weekly publicly held meetings and am familiar with both the requirements of the Open Meeting Law and the public's expectations regarding accessibility and environmental justice. Given the distance and the importance of these proceedings, offering a Zoom option is both reasonable and consistent with the intent of Vermont's public-access requirements.

I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing a Zoom option made available for this important public hearing.

Kind Regards,
Catherine

From: cedric sanborn <crsanborn777@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 6:42 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed revisions to Bear Rules

You don't often get email from crsanborn777@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Following are my comments on the proposed bear rule revisions;

I generally concur with the the proposed bear rule changes, which will extend the bear season with the object of increasing the bear harvest. And to also clarify and update the hunting with dogs rules.

Comments (in blue) are suggested changes in addition to proposed rules.

4.0 section 4.1 a)
revise wording for clarification -

4.1 a) For Vermont Residents, including bear dog permit holders, and Non-Vermont Residents without the use of dogs: September 1st through the last day of the regulated deer hunting season. For Non-Resident bear dog permit holders, the season shall begin no earlier than September 15th.

6.2 A person shall not take a black bear into his/her actual possession except by killing the bear by legal means or methods.

a) A person taking black bear with the use of a bow and arrow or crossbow shall, upon demand of a game warden or other law enforcement personnel, show a current archery license, proof of having a prior archery license, or of having passed a bow hunter education course in Vermont, another state or a province of Canada approved by the Commissioner.

Thank you

Cedric Sanborn
106 Lyman Road
Barre, VT 05641
802-476-0617

--
*

From: CHARLES WOLF <cw10631@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 9:26 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from cw10631@aol.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Charles Zigmund <chaszigmund@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 10:13 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from chaszigmund@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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From: Charmaine Vinton <charvinton@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 1:45 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from charvinton@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely
Charmaine Vinton
Newark

Sent from my iPhone

From: Chas Ebel <chas.ebel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 11:05 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Fwd: Bear Regulations

You don't often get email from chas.ebel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to 4, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Black Bears are a valuable and necessary contributor to the Vermont forest ecosystem.

The bear population in general and, specifically, mother bears and their cubs should be protected by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

--

Charles Ebel
Stowe, Vermont

--
Chuck

From: Chris A <lonebadger2u@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 1:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from lonebadger2u@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also oppose any change that would allow the taking of a bear in its den.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season.
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Since people have caused these issues with bears it should be people changing their own behavior to deal with the issue not just go kill the bears. People need to better handle their garbage and their habits that bring bears to their yards.

Regards,

C. Adamson

From: Christie Binzen <cbinzen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:24 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from cbinzen@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet you propose an extension of the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. Those proposals do not align with your goals to reduce human/bear conflicts.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. I ask the Department to propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I find it appalling that we allow hounding of bears or coyotes at any time and ask the department to:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christine Carone <christinecarone@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 1:17 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from christinecarone@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

* I live in Ripton,VT and have resided in this town for the past twenty years. I find bear hounding disturbing in practice as a form of "hunting" and I find it does not take the human residents of these popular hounding areas into account. I have to listen to these hounds run free (I have seen them in the woods, no human in sight) and consider the safety of my own dog and myself. I am pro hunter but there are ethics that go along with that. I grew up with hunting and I look at bear hounding as a barbaric tradition...it's not hunting and the people who take part are not hunters. These people chose to come and do this, drive too fast on back roads where other people and animals live and walk. I wish this were completely outlawed.
I find it disturbing that I can have the immense pleasure of seeing a mama bear with her three cubs one night and then the next morning I hear the obnoxious, fear inducing call of bear hounds. Please stop, please stop this practice. Go into the woods and hunt and be grateful for that quiet and what this world provides for you....no dogs or gas required.

Christine Carone
Ripton, VT

From: Christine Carone <christinecarone@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:24 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from christinecarone@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I have already written regarding my opinion on the proposed rules; however Iwant to share that I tried to take part via Zoom at a VFW meeting and could hear only an obscured voice, I couldn't hear anything well enough to discern any meaning. In the future it is only fair that if you are going to use technology as a resource for communicating during these meetings that it's used to actually serve people trying to take part in the process. I feel this is especially important if you are going to hold meetings in towns that are not central where only small demographics may be present ro able to attend in person.

Christine Carone
Ripton, VT

From: Christine Hartman <christineart1962@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 12:27 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from christineart1962@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.

The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. Killing a hibernating bear is unethical.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont!!

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and **strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."**
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for considering.

Christine Hartman
Berlin, VT

Christine Hartman
Communications Director
Shidaa Projects Inc.

Creativity Consultant, Pet Portraits & more
cell: 802-522-4927

Christine Hartman Art

From: Christopher Weaver <dubya0856@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:30 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dubya0856@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Regards,

Chris Weaver
Stowe, VT

From: Chrystie Heimert <chrystieheimert6@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:57 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Ban the Bear killing

You don't often get email from chrystieheimert6@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Sincerely,

-Chrystie Heimert
4 Landing Lane
Grand isle VT 05458
802.338.2556

From: cindy anne <cindylewww@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:03 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from cindylewww@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit!

thank you.

From: Claire Payne <clair3t@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:36 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from clair3t@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

Claire Payne
St. Albans, VT

From: Claudia Welch <drclaudiawelch@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 11:19 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please protect Vermont's bears

You don't often get email from drclaudiawelch@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife,

I'm writing as a Vermont resident who cares deeply about our wildlife and about decisions concerning wildlife being based on sound science.

I **oppose extending the bear hunting season through December 15** and **oppose allowing a second bear to be killed in designated areas of the state**.

I understand that the Department initially proposed extending the bear season by only one week, through the end of November, and later changed its recommendation to December 15 after hunters petitioned for a longer season. I would like to understand the scientific basis for that change. Extending the season well into December increases the possibility that bears entering hibernation will be disturbed or killed. Vermont should join the majority of bear-hunting states that prohibit the harassment or killing of bears in their dens.

I'm also concerned about the proposal to issue a second bear tag in parts of Vermont. If increasing the number of bears killed has not been shown to reduce future human-bear conflicts, I don't see a sound conservation reason for increasing the allowable kill. I would much rather see Vermont put its efforts into the measures we know can reduce conflicts, particularly preventing bears from gaining access to garbage and other human food sources.

I **strongly support prohibiting the intentional hunting and killing of a mother bear when cubs are in sight**. It is surprising to me that this is still legal in Vermont when 84% of jurisdictions in the U.S. and Canada that allow black bear hunting prohibit killing females accompanied by cubs. This seems like a basic protection that is long overdue.

I would also ask the Department to strengthen protections related to bear hounding. Please consider shortening the bear hound training season, reducing the number of dogs allowed from six to four, bringing the bear-hounding rules into line with the coyote-hounding rules, and strengthening the definition of what it means for hunters to maintain "control of dogs." The Commissioner should also have the authority to revoke a bear dog permit when circumstances warrant it.

We are fortunate to share Vermont with black bears. I hope our regulations will reflect the value of maintaining a healthy bear population, minimizing unnecessary disturbance and suffering, and using the best available science to determine how we manage conflicts between bears and people.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Claudia Welch
Calais, Vermont

--
Dr. Claudia Welch

From: Clifford Peters <petersclifford1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 12:40 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Bear Hunting Season

[You don't often get email from petersclifford1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

For the upcoming meeting tomorrow August 24, 2026 i would like to state my support and opposition for the following:

SUPPORT - the prohibition of killing a mother bear with cubs.

OPPOSE - extending bear hunting season through mid-December.

OPPOSE - a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

In New Hampshire, most WMUs end bear hunting season November 12, only a few extend it to November 30th.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford Peters
Walpole, New Hampshire
Sent from my iPhone

From: Clifford Peters <petersclifford1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:18 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Discussion: Banning the hunting of hibernating bears

[You don't often get email from petersclifford1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It has come to my attention that the Department is open to the discussion of banning the hunting of hibernating bears.

I fully support that ban. While such hunting is currently “legal”, it is clearly inhumane and then unethical from several standpoints.

Respectfully submitted,
Cliff Peters
Walpole, NH
Sent from my iPhone

From: Colleen Schuster <caseyjonesvt1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 11:53 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Colleen Schuster
Bristol, VT

From: Colleen Schuster <caseyjonesvt1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:01 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Colleen Schuster
Bristol, VT

From: coloneledamvc <coloneledamvc@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:32 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from coloneledamvc@aol.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Richard kite

Sent from my Galaxy

From: coloneledamvc <coloneledamvc@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:46 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from coloneledamvc@aol.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Richard Kite

Sent from my Galaxy

Comments taken via phone calls by Jaclyn Comeau:

8/24/26: Doug Devost, Brownington

802-673-4037

- Supports a second bear tag, but concerned by a recent lack of bears in E2 where he hunts. He has hunted this area for 30 years and this year has seen less bears than ever. He is hearing similar reports from other hound hunters up through E1 and in southwestern Vermont.

9/3/26: Tim Getty, Bennington

802-688-7823

- Lives in a small development in Bennington – they have been seeing increasing bear issues over the past 3-4 years. They are becoming increasingly more “invasive”.
- Bears getting into neighborhood garbage, birdfeeders, and gardens. He has friends in the community with farms that have experienced corn and pumpkin damage.
- Bears (and deer) are more around houses. Worried we don’t have enough habitat to keep them in the woods – there isn’t enough food and therefore they are coming into town.
- Believes we should limit the amount of bear (and deer) and supports more bear being taken by hunting.
- Believes we should be baiting to hunt bear (and deer). Bait would pull more bears back into the woods and away from houses. Baiting would also increase hunter success and hunter interest and help improve the declining interest in hunting.
- He hunts in other places that allow baiting (KY and OH) and thinks it works well. He knows lots of Vermonters who also now hunt other places because they don’t have much success in Vermont.

From: Connie Belkovicz <ursaloo@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:11 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from ursaloo@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Connie Belkovicz
Jericho, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Connie D <cpd831@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 11:09 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comment on changes to Vermont's Bear hunting rules (Oppose extending Bear Hunting)

You don't often get email from cpd831@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose extending Vermont's bear hunting season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- Shorten the bear hound training season. In an ideal world, hounding would be eliminated!
- Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Constance Dollinger
Essex Junction, VT

From: Connie DeVere <cdevere@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting rules- Vote

You don't often get email from cdevere@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Connie DeVere, 292 Prior Road, Cavendish, Vermont 05142. cdevere@verizon.net

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

- Shorten the bear hound training season.
- Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.
- I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Thank you.

From: Corey, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 5:13 PM
To: Connolly, Abigail
Subject: Fw: I'm glad it's you and not me

From: Jason Kehaya <jekehaya1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Corey, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Corey@partner.vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: I'm glad it's you and not me

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Im sure there is but everything looks good on paper and fails in practice. Jaclyn said bear / human interaction won't change. So why have all this conversation about it. Hunters don't need education about bears, the people that think bears are cute, cuddly and belong in their backyard do.
I assume I get a free bear tag with a permanent license but I won't shoot another bear anyway. Unless the landowner wants me to (unlikely). If you want them killed give tags to everyone and ask that question on the license again another way for the department to get hunters money. That's why most hunters I talk to have no confidence in the fish and game department.
Also, rifle doe season is going to put even more pressure on public land. If the departments goal is to push hunters out and stop hunting then they are on the right track. Nobody wants to hunt in overcrowded areas.
Just my thoughts. Thanks for volunteering.
Jake
Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 20, 2026, at 8:56 AM, Corey, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Corey@partner.vermont.gov> wrote:
>
> Thank you for your commit. It is nice to know that the public does look at what is actually happening with our wildlife . There I alot of science that goes along with the decision process.
> Jeffrey Corey
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jason Kehaya <jekehaya1@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2026 10:11 AM
> **To:** Corey, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Corey@partner.vermont.gov>
> **Subject:** I'm glad it's you and not me
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
>
> Jeff, I just finished watching the board meeting about bear hunting. I seriously doubt anyone is doing anything substantial to fix this " perceived " problem. Baiting is really the only fix but the anti hunting community and ill informed non hunters won't let that happen. Sows with cubs would be easily identified over bait. Farmers will take care of nuisance bears and most I know don't want them anyway.
> I suggested a free bear tag good for the whole season. I was paying 135 bucks for a license I won't pay more for a bear tag. If they want to see how many bear hunters there are put it on the license like us duck hunters do for hip info.
> On a different note, Nick Fortin said he was planning on losing money on the doe tags. BS more guys will put in for it. I'm still not a fan but time will tell. Good thing deer are resilient no matter how humans try to screw

things up. Lots of deer out there.
Thank you for doing what I would get in trouble for.
Jake
Sent from my iPhone

From: Craig <clantagne51@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:18 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear season

[You don't often get email from clantagne51@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I agree there are to many bears on the landscape. I own close to 500 acres of forest land and have been trying to improve it by planting apple trees and oaks to help support wildlife in the area. The problem with the bears is that as soon as an apple tree starts to produce they destroy it so nothing gets the benefit except a one time feed by the bear. Also I have but up over one hundred tree protectors for the oaks that I have planted and for some reason they simply chew them up, break them down and that basically kills the tree. I have pictures from my game cameras of them doing it. I think instead of increasing the number of bear to be killed and extending the season we should allow baiting, extend the bear season to the end of rifle deer season and keep the limit to one bear a year and see how that affects the population. That could be a good first step in my opinion to see if the population can be controlled with these simple measures.
Thanks for your time
Craig Lantagne
Newport VT
Sent from my iPad

From: Crystal Banevicius <crystalbanevicius.cb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 12:56 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Vermont laws around our Bears

You don't often get email from crystalbanevicius.cb@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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I have lived and grown up in VT my entire life. I grew up on country roads with ducks, chickens , goats, horses, rabbits, cats , dogs.. and BEARS. Never has a bear become a problem for my home.

I do not agree with extending hunting laws for bear season. I think allowing bears in their Dens or with cubs to be shot is in humane and a bad move for VT. There is not a bigger bear problem or higher population issue. Theres more & more ppl and less space for animals to go. It seems like very unfair sportsmanship to make them pay for finding ways to survive around our intrusion.

From: Cynthia Masi <kitten5759@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:30 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kitten5759@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.
Having a longer hunting season during the gears hibernation season is causing a death sentence to innocent animals! Please do not extend the season and don’t allow dogs to chase them, it’s cruelty to animals and is punishable by law! Thank you Cynthia Neuenfeldt

From: Cynthia Taverna <cyn061@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:59 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: No to bear hunting, yes to better education!

You don't often get email from cyn061@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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NO to shooting mothers with cubs on site!

NO to hounds hunting!

NO to killing Hibernating Bears!



Cynthia T.

From: D D <ddayiii@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:01 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting rules

You don't often get email from ddayiii@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi there,

I own 42 acres in prime hunting territory in Plymouth Vermont. I used to allow hunting on my property until hunters started acting badly. I saw incidents of hunting after dark, hunting very close to my buildings, setting traps without permission, and even bullet holes in my barn and camp.

Since the 1970s, I've noticed less wildlife, not more. We used to have lots of coyotes and coy-dogs. Now I see almost none. In fact, the local hunters call Five Corners "Coyote Corners" because of all the coyotes they have killed. I used to see lots of deer when I was a chid here. Now I'm lucky to see a couple all year. I haven't seen moose in over 10 years here. Bears have always been rare since they keep to themselves, but it does seem like I have seen fewer bear droppings on my property.

I know you all are talking about bear hunting rules. My comments:

1) I oppose extending the season. Let the bears begin their hibernation.
2) I also oppose issuing a second tag. Bear populations self limit based on food supply. We should educate people about proper food waste disposal (bring to a facility or put it in a 5 gallon bucket in a bear proof space (garage/basement) until it rots then dump into a compost bin at least 100 feet from home)>
3) The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.
4) I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.
5) Stop or at least limit the hounding of bears. It's cruel and these hounds don't know property boundaries and, honestly, are scary.

Thank you

Donald Day

From: D H Kingsley <burslf7@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:09 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from burslf7@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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I strongly oppose bear/hound hunting as it is extremely barbaric and cruel.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Dana Gilbert <dcolemanz@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 1:59 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dcolemanz@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Daniel Crowe <danielcrowe51@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 4:03 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: BEARS

You don't often get email from danielcrowe51@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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SIRS,

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track

and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Daniel Crowe
Hartford VT 05047
danielcrowe51@gmail.com

From: Daniel Galdenzi <dangaldenzi@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:02 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dangaldenzi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I have been involved with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife process long enough to know these bear rules are already a foregone conclusion and the public hearing is just something they either have to do or do for optics. They do not care about "the publics" opinion unless those opinions are of hunters.

That said, I will do my part in throwing poop against the tide and here make a public comment for posterity sake.

1. I DO NOT support extending the bear hunting season. (You will also be defacto allowing killing of hibernating bears) 2. I DO NOT support a second bear tag. (You have no data on poaching numbers nor critically wounded bears that die after they are not shot but not recovered) so the number of kills is much higher than your records indicate. But I know you don't care about that.
3. Hounding of bears should be outright illegal. It offers nothing but entertainment for a couple of hundred guys who chase bears out of the woods where we want them into places we don't and wreaks havoc on land owner rights. At least put in some type of rules like with coyote hounding and allow for real penalties for violating posted land, revoking permits, charging more for licenses, shorting the season and training season, lower the number of dogs.
4. I DO support the prohibition of killing SOWs with cubs in sight. (The mere fact that we need to debate this shows how far gone the Fish and Wildlife department is with what the majority of the public wants.)

Again, I know you all already made up your minds a long time ago on these rules and it's sad that the majority is the minority in Vermont when it comes to our environment and wildlife. You're all stuck in the 1950s when the world was very different.

Dan Galdenzi
Stowe Vermont

Sent from my iPad

From: Darryll Rudy <drudy898@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:56 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from drudy898@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: David Adkins <dsadkins1811@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dsadkins1811@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Dave Adkins
Colchester, VT

From: David comcast Email <davidbardes@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:56 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from davidbardes@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: David Kelley <davidkelley05602@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 1:48 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Kelly Robinson
Subject: Bear rules
Attachments: Comment on bear hunting rules.docx

You don't often get email from davidkelley05602@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Comment

To: Fish and Wildlife Board
From: David Kelley
Date: August 30, 2026
Subject: Revision of Bear Hunting Rules

My wife and I live in Greensboro. We are grateful to have a healthy wildlife population in Greensboro, including a healthy bear population. It is one of the important reasons why we live here. We respect the bears and they respect us. For the most part they stay away from us. We are careful regarding bird feeders, trash etc. When we do see the bears, and their cubs, crossing the road or at a distance crossing nearby fields, it is a genuine pleasure.

What is not respectful are the hounders who come into our neighborhood—not with just one truckload of hounds, but frequently, like this morning, with two truckloads of hounds. When their hounds chase bears across our property they scare the hell out of our horses, dogs and cats. When we point out that our land is posted the hounders chuckle, and tell us their hounds can't read (ha, ha) like it is a joke. It is not a joke—

The idea that some of these people (I say "people," because it is not always just men), want the right to shoot a sow with cubs in plain site staggers the imagination. The fact that such behavior is actually legal in Vermont makes us wonder, "Where are we living." We used to live in Montana. In Montana shooting a sow with cubs results in heavy fines, jail time and loss of hunting privileges.

My wife and I both grew up in Vermont. We love Vermont. We are grateful to live here. We both grew up in hunting families. We both support hunting to put food on the table. But we support hunters who do so with care, skill and respect for the animals they hunt and kill. Hounders and those who would kill a sow with cubs, who respect neither landowners nor wildlife, shouldn't be allowed to hunt at all. And Vermont should have rules that make that clear.

From: David Magnus <magnuswools@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 6:17 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from magnuswools@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: David Magnus <magnuswools@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from magnuswools@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dawn Bausch <riverdaughter6@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:28 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Deb Ravenelle <dravenelle@pshift.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:37 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dravenelle@pshift.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Deb Ravenelle <dravenelle@pshift.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 1:59 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public input on bear proposals:

[You don't often get email from dravenelle@pshift.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Good day,
Thank you for allowing the public to voice our concerns about the board's decisions on the hunting and killing of Vermont's black bears.
Please note:I am not an anti hunter.I have great respect for a hunter that has good ethics and kills for food for their family.But I am against any form of hunting and trapping that harasses and tortures any wildlife with no respect to the animal's life it has taken.
But back to the bear issue at hand.The fish and wildlife board believe we have an overpopulation of black bears in the state and want to scale back the population considerably.Bear conflicts seem to be a key issue to add more bear killing.I question the idea that we have an overpopulation of bear.
Here is some interesting information on bear populations in other regions.
In Hoonah Alaska and surrounding Chichagof island,they have 800 residents (people),and 3200-3500 brown bears in 6.6 square miles.The ratio is 3 brown bears to 1 person,within 6.6 square miles.
Admirilty island has 350-400 residents ,1600 brown bears within 1646 square miles.This is 4 bears to 1 person within 1646 square miles.
Vermont has 645,000 residents and roughly 7000 bears .This equals 1 bear to 92 people within 9,250 square miles.
I know this is not all apples to apples.The Alaska bears are feeding on salmon.But they must have figured out how to live in an area that bears outnumbered the population so dramatically.
I know the Northwest as well as Alberta do a much better job at managing trash.There are lockable metal trash containers everywhere.Brown bears are more aggressive than our black bears as well.So ,I would think getting a handle on trash here in Vermont would be the first step in keeping the bears in the woods.
The other Paradym I question on analyzing our bear population brings my thoughts to the history of our landscape.
By 1840,Vt had been cleared of 75-80 percent of its woodland to raise sheep.This massive deforestation destroyed the natural habitat for bear.Vt also placed an official bounty on black bears,wolves and cougars in 1931.These species were hunted and killed aggressively.The cougars and wolves were decimated and the bear population plummeted to near extinction.
It wasn't until 1941 that black bears had some legal protections as a big game species and it allowed the population to begin to recover.
According to fish and game records,1963 is when data started to be collected on bear "harvests "/kills.Therefore we know the bear population has thankfully rebounded from the 1800's.It has taken more than a century for the woodlands and bears to recover from the sheep farming and bounty on bears era.
And since these two factors have recovered,and we have forested lands again.I am curious what the bear population was before the sheep era?Do we truly have too many bears?We have 9,250 square miles in Vermont.
If we first contained our trash,would we still have bear conflicts?Do we knock down the bear population and find we still have bear conflicts because we have not done our part?Can we have a higher bear population and cohabitate comfortably with them?
And ,from a bear's perspective…I also think it's interesting that we have a higher concentration of bear conflicts in Killington and Stowe.These two areas have built back country mountain bike trails and Stowe has a high elevation golf course.It sure seems they have been pushed out of the woods in those areas.
My voice in this is to first do everything we can to contain our trash before we kill a higher number of bears.
My proposal for the vote is:
I oppose extending the bear season another month.
I support the legality of prohibiting hunting and killing a mother bear with cubs.
I oppose giving hunters two bear killing tags.
I know you are not voting on this,but I oppose the use of hounds to train and hunt.
Thank you. Deb Ravenelle
Johnson Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: Deb Sharpe <dsharpe@gmavt.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 11:24 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dsharpe@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I **oppose** extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support **prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears** with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

We can do better in our state....thank you for considering amended regulations that align with best and most humane hunting practices.

Deb Sharpe
Richmond, VT

From: Deb <bearn1758@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 6:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from bearn1758@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

• eliminating the bear and coyote hound training season altogether. Abhorrent

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: Deb <bearn1758@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from bearn1758@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Debbie <dlziter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

[You don't often get email from dlziter@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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"I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears."

Thank you for your time.
Debbie Ziter

———————
Sent from my iPhone

From: Deborah Henry <ladevoracha@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 10:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Black Bear Hunting

[You don't often get email from ladevoracha@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I would like to make my voice heard on the current reconsideration of hunting black bear in Vermont.

I support:
• Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs • Protecting hibernating/denning bears • Reconsidering hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound training from June 1 until August 1

I oppose:
• Issuing a second bear tag
• Extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December

Sincerely,
Deborah Henry
Derby, Vermont
"Be the change you want to see in the world."

From: Deborah Reed <deborahreed22@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:21 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from deborahreed22@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Deborah Reed <deborahreed22@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:20 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from deborahreed22@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

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• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Deborah Singleton <deborah.singleton2244@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:37 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from deborah.singleton2244@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Sent from my iPhone

To whom it may concern:
I'm reaching out to share proposed changes to Vermont's bear hunting rules.

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states

and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Thank you

Deborah Singleton
Proctorsville, VT
802-226-7330
Singprop@tds.net

From: Debra Campbell <campbdd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 1:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from campbdd@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I own 78 woodland acres in Brookfield, VT and am a permanent resident.

I understand wildlife management and preservation issues.

Below are my thoughts

- Prohibit the intentional killing of a mother bear with cubs ***SUPPORT***
- Extend the bear hunting season through mid-December ***OPPOSE*** *The bear hound hunting season will not be extended.* Vermont Fish & Wildlife initially recommended to extend the season by just a week, but after pressure from a hunter's petition, they changed course with no justification.
- Offer a second bear tag in certain areas of the state ***OPPOSE***

Scientific studies reveal that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts—Vermont Fish & Wildlife knows this.

Thank you for respecting my rights.

Debra Campbell Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Debra Hurlburt <derupa@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 9:18 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear tag extension

[You don't often get email from derupa@live.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern;

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Debra J. Fisk <Debra.J.Fisk@dartmouth.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: [Borderline - Be Cautious] I OPPOSE THIS BEAR HUNTING!!!!!

[You don't often get email from debra.j.fisk@dartmouth.edu. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I also ask that the Department consider the following as my vote: I Oppose the bear hunting period,...this is cruel and heartless.
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.
I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.
* Shorten the bear hound training season.
* Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
* Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.
* I request the department provide a tally of the votes.
**Please include (for verification) your name, town of residence, phone and/or email address in email of support. **

Debra Fisk
Sharon Vermont
802 763 8551

From: Debra J. Fisk <Debra.J.Fisk@dartmouth.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 4:01 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Sue Skaskiw
Subject: [Borderline - Be Cautious] RE: I OPPOSE THIS BEAR HUNTING!!!!!

[You don't often get email from debra.j.fisk@dartmouth.edu. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I horse back ride also and it is bad enough to deal with hunters that I have to curtail riding in the best time of the year and this would certainly curtail it all together...and I would have more litter on my road for messy hunters and the worst part is suffering animals. This is truly unfair to all! Who makes up these laws!!!!! Obviously hunters who want more than they need. We encroach on the wildlife and why should they suffer our need to kill and harm their families!!!!We moved in on them and continue to do so.

-----Original Message-----
From: Debra J. Fisk
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:25 PM
To: 'ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov' <ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov>
Subject: I OPPOSE THIS BEAR HUNTING!!!!!

I also ask that the Department consider the following as my vote: I Oppose the bear hunting period,...this is cruel and heartless.
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.
I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.
* Shorten the bear hound training season.
* Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
* Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.
* I request the department provide a tally of the votes.
**Please include (for verification) your name, town of residence, phone and/or email address in email of support. **

Debra Fisk
Sharon Vermont
802 763 8551

From: Debra Sprague <dsprague@monktonvt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 2:12 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Cc: Conservation Commission
Subject: Proposed Bear Rules

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dsprague@monktonvt.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Fish and Wildlife Board members:

We are very pleased with the proposed bear rules that do not allow bear baiting and ban killing of sows with cubs. At this time we are not taking a position on the rule that allows hunters to take 2 bears per season. We know that the Wildlife Division has advised that the bear population be reduced. This may be an effective way to do this, but it is important to monitor the outcomes and see if the rule is effective.

We are NOT in favor of extending the bear season from approximately the third week in November to the middle of December. By that time, many bears may have entered dens for the winter. Killing bears in dens is not sporting and would reflect negatively on the state of Vermont and our Fish and Wildlife division. This decision seems based on the wishes of hunters, not science.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Monkton Conservation Commission

Ann Johnston Miller (Co-Chair)
Sue Stasny (Co-Chair)
Debra Sprague (Treasurer)
Jaime Schulte
Janet Schwarz
David Moore
Chuck Soule

From: Deimling, Beth <Beth.Deimling@partner.vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 4:45 PM
To: 'anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov'
Subject: [ANR.FWBoard] Fw: Bear rules, a few concerns
Attachments: BearHarvAges_2025.pdf; ATT00001.txt

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

From: Sarah Gorsline <sgorsline@projectcoyote.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:00 AM
To: Deimling, Beth <Beth.Deimling@partner.vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle <ANR.FWBoardGrandIsle@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear rules, a few concerns

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Hi Beth,

I hope you're doing well. I'm reaching out because I have a few concerns to add into your consideration of the black bear rules before the final Board vote after the upcoming public commentary period. I appreciate all of the work you and the other Board members have put into these rules.

1) If the bear hunting season is extended and overlaps bear denning season, then why not simply ban the killing of a denning bear with or without cubs? This regulation communicates the expected hunting standard, and is a common sense response to the extended season.

2) I recently heard a concern from a bear hound hunter that if 2 bear hunting tags can be issued at one time at the beginning of the season, then 2 bears from the same family group could potentially be killed on the same hunt in a Wildlife Management Area. The suggested solution would be that the 2nd bear tag could only be issued when the first bear killed is checked in. This would also encourage reporting.

3) I'm attaching a list of the ages of black bears killed in 2025, received by Protect Our Wildlife via a Department information request. There are a fair amount of yearlings killed, and I count 15 instances of a bear age "0" being killed. It seems like, as there are in many other bear hunting states and provinces, eventually there should be a regulation on the books to suggest a minimum age for bears hunted.

I hope these ideas might be discussed as part of the final bear rules. At Project Coyote we know the only way to reduce bear conflicts is through human-led coexistence measures and bear-proof waste disposal. I hear the Department wants to work toward more of this. Thanks for your work on the Board, your good questions and careful review of the materials for each meeting.

Best wishes,
Sarah

Sarah Gorsline
MULTIMEDIA ASSOCIATE & VERMONT REPRESENTATIVE
PROJECT COYOTE

sgorsline@projectcoyote.org
802-378-5141
projectcoyote.org

Species	Serial	Age
BB	1	5
BB	2	2
BB	3	1
BB	4	3
BB	5	3
BB	6	8
BB	7	2
BB	8	1
BB	9	1
BB	10	4
BB	11	2
BB	12	8
BB	13	1
BB	14	1
BB	15	7
BB	16	2
BB	17	1
BB	18	7
BB	19	5
BB	20	1
BB	21	1
BB	22	9
BB	23	6
BB	24	4
BB	25	5
BB	26	2
BB	27	9
BB	28	2
BB	29	1
BB	30	5
BB	31	1
BB	32	9
BB	33	11
BB	34	1
BB	35	3
BB	36	14
BB	37	1
BB	38	3
BB	39	2
BB	40	5
BB	41	1
BB	42	5
BB	43	7

BB	44	4
BB	45	1
BB	46	5
BB	47	7
BB	48	1
BB	49	1
BB	50	2
BB	51	7
BB	53	1
BB	54	5
BB	55	7
BB	56	9
BB	57	2
BB	58	14
BB	59	1
BB	60	1
BB	61	5
BB	62	1
BB	63	1
BB	64	2
BB	65	0
BB	66	9
BB	67	1
BB	68	1
BB	69	7
BB	70	5
BB	71	6
BB	72	3
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BB	75	9
BB	76	11
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BB	125	13
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BB	367	1
BB	368	1

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BB	417	0
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BB	531	1
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BB	880	3
BB	881	1
BB	936	4
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ANR.FWBoard mailing list
ANR.FWBoard@list.vermont.gov
https://list.vermont.gov/mailman/listinfo/anr.fwboard

From: Dennis Hill <grategar@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:58 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

You don't often get email from grategar@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Allowing an extra month of bear season ia not scientifically based. It is the FandW's way to placate a few grumpy b#starts who didn't get their way about baiting bears. Instead get real and end the barbaric and brutal idea of killing a mother bear with cubs or a hibernating bear. These are sick and gruesome practices that are not ok anymore. (They never were ok) Now let's talk about out ending hounding as well. A sick , cruel and torturous way to treat another sentient being. Sick. Talk about the tyranny of the minority. There are only 120 registered "hounders" in the state yet we continue to
allow this sick sick sick practice. Terrifying animals before you kill them is
just so F'ed up. Come out of the 14th century and do the right thing. Bears deserve better that Vermont allows.

Dennis M. Hill

From: Deste Relyea <deste.c.relyea@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Vermont's bears

You don't often get email from deste.c.relyea@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern:
I support:
• Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs
• Protecting hibernating/denning bears
• Reconsidering hounding altogether

I oppose:
• Issuing a second bear tag
• Extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December

From: devon craig <dcraig3052@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 12:46 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed bear season changes

You don't often get email from dcraig3052@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

1) please support the rule changes to 2 bear limit per annum
2) please support the extended season proposal

Thank you ,
Devon Craig
Plainfield , Vt

From: Dian Parker <dianparker9@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:21 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dianparker9@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Dian Parker
www.dianparker.com

From: Dian Parker <dianparker9@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:04 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dianparker9@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Dian Parker
Chelsea, VT
www.dianparker.com

From: Diana Salyer <DianaSalyer@proton.me>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear regulations

You don't often get email from dianasalyer@proton.me. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I have posted my 350 acre mountain property to prohibit hunting of bears wit hounds. I do not support hounds chasing wildlife and their cubs. It's a cruel "sport".

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
•Limit the number of dogs to two used for hunting.
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Diana Salyer
Halifax VT

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

From: Diana Salyer <DianaSalyer@pm.me>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:22 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dianasalyer@pm.me. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Diana salyer Guilford Vt

From: Diane K <dkunigis@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 6:44 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dkunigis@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Diane K <dkunigis@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dkunigis@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Diane Reynolds <dianer@gmavt.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 7:19 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR.FWBoard.Lamoille@vermont.gov; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Subject: bear season extension

You don't often get email from dianer@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Board Members

The Board has decided, to further its goal of reducing bear population, to permit, this year, 2 bear tags per hunter instead of 1. That is a responsible population control measure. Hunters get a benefit. The state numbers likely go down.

Extending the season, which has the effect of possibly shooting a bear in its den, is not responsible population control.

Watch the short video below. This is what it looks like to kill a bear in its den. This is not 'sport'. This is not 'population control'. It is just despicable and bloodthirsty. And currently, it is completely legal.

Please reconsider the season extension. Bring the end date, please, back to the end of November.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7SoGMv4eMg&t=2s

From: Diane Reynolds <dianer@gmavt.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:12 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dianer@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

There is only one legitimate reason to countenance the hunting of more bears: bear numbers exceed the carrying capacity of the landscape.

If the science is clear that we have exceeded this capacity, then we might want more bears killed during the season. The only way to do this without cruelty is through the second tag.

I and the Huntington Conservation Commission OPPOSE extending the season into December. For 2 reasons 1-bear are already hunted and hounded for 6 months of a calendar year...any more than that is punishing 2-bears may be denning -they need to be left in peace

We also support the great step you are taking to prohibit the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this type of kill and so should Vermont.

We also support the following:
- combining the early season and late season to make one hunting season
- requiring all bear hunters to purchase a bear tag
- allow a second bear tag in designated WMU's
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

thank you for considering our input

Diane Reynolds, Vice Chair Huntington Conservation Commission

From: dianedeegan@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting season-urgent

You don't often get email from dianedeegan@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my Very strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears. I live on a class 3 road with my 11 acres posted , non developed land in much of my area, and are horrified by the hunting and hounding of bears...the invasion of these individuals not following the laws currently in place is unacceptable and the disrespect shown to posted land is UNACCEPTABLE!... and that doesn't even speak to the trash they leave behind, and the drinking and drugging while carrying weapons that kill. Allowing more of this is unacceptable!

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

From: Dianne Jacques <divelladesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:43 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from divelladesigns@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

Sincerely,
Dianne Jacques
Springfield, VT

From: Dianne Jacques <dianneljacques@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 6:55 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Rules

You don't often get email from dianneljacques@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing as a Vermont resident who cares deeply about the bears and other wildlife we are fortunate enough to share this state with.

I strongly oppose extending Vermont's bear hunting season into mid-December and allowing a second bear tag in parts of the state. If increasing the bear kill will not effectively reduce human-bear conflicts, then I don't believe expanding hunting is the answer.

I'm especially troubled by a season that extends into a time when bears may already be denned for the winter. Hibernating bears should not be subjected to harassment or killing, and I would like Vermont to adopt clear protections for denned bears.

I also strongly support prohibiting the killing of mother bears when cubs are present. Vermont should not lag behind the many other states and provinces that already provide this basic protection.

I would also like to see Vermont shorten the bear hound training season, reduce the number of dogs allowed from six to four, strengthen the requirement that hounds remain under the handler's control, and give the Commissioner the ability to revoke a bear dog permit when necessary.

I understand that wildlife management can be complicated, but expanding opportunities to kill bears should not be the default response to human-bear conflict. I would much rather see Vermont focus on prevention, education, attractant management, and other measures that address why these conflicts happen in the first place.

Please protect Vermont's bears and reject these proposed expansions.

Thank you for listening to Vermont residents who want to see our wildlife treated with greater care.

Dianne Culbertson-Jacques
Springifled, Vermont

From: Dianne Jacques <divelladesigns@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 6:50 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from divelladesigns@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing as a Vermont resident who cares deeply about our wildlife and about responsible, science-based wildlife management.

I'm very concerned about the proposal to extend Vermont's bear hunting season by a full month and to allow a second bear tag in certain parts of the state. Vermont Fish & Wildlife has acknowledged that increasing the number of bears killed will not effectively solve human-bear conflicts, so expanding hunting opportunities does not make sense to me as a solution.

I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December. By that time, bears may already be denned for the winter, and I do not believe hibernating animals should be vulnerable to harassment or killing. I would like to see Vermont specifically prohibit the harassment and killing of hibernating bears, as most other states already do.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

One change I strongly support is prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears when cubs are present. The fact that the large majority of states and provinces that allow bear hunting already provide this protection makes Vermont's failure to do so especially troubling. A mother with dependent cubs should not be a legal target.

I also urge the Department to:

* Shorten the bear hound training season.

* Bring bear hounding regulations more closely in line with Vermont's coyote hounding rules, including reducing the number of dogs allowed from six to four and strengthening the definition of what it means to have dogs "under control."

* Give the Commissioner clear authority to revoke a bear dog permit when circumstances warrant it.

I live in Vermont because I value the wildlife we share this state with. Wildlife management should protect healthy populations while reducing conflict through measures that actually address the causes of those conflicts — not simply by providing more opportunities to kill bears.

Please choose policies that give Vermont's bears greater protection, particularly mothers with cubs and bears that have already entered their dens for the winter.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Dianne Culbertson-Jacques

Springfield, Vermont

From: dianne Mcknight Warren <dmw@gmavt.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:50 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: andrew Warren
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dmw@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My husband and I own 45 conserved acres of prime bear habitat in Moretown where we have lived for 38 years. We have never had a problem with bears. Let them be!

We oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. We also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

We fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

We also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Yours truly,

Dianne and Andrew Warren
PO Box 555
Moretown, VT 05660

From: diggahlamp@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:18 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from diggahlamp@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.
Natural bear habitat is shrinking in Vermont. Bear hounders chase the bears out of where they prefer to be and cause human/bear conflicts as well as people carelessly providing food attractions.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit
Your department “bites the hand that feeds you”. While you continue to coddle hounders, you hurt the true hunters (the ones willing to get out of their truck) since land gets posted to all hunters as landowners try to get relief from packs of hounds tearing through their property.
Wendy Lamphere
Peacham, Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: Don Smith <dastkmx@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:22 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Bear hunting rules

You don't often get email from dastkmx@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am not in favor of hunting bear with dogs, baiting, killing Bears with cubs or extending the season.

Thank you
Don Smith
163 farmer dr
St Johnsbury, VT 05819

From: Donald Main <donald.main@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:56 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Hunting in Vermont

You don't often get email from donald.main@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes

Signed,

Donald Main
Town of Hartford, Windsor county
donald.main@gmail.com

From: Donna Thomas <donnakay@vermonters.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:21 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

^..^
(oo))~
" "

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dorothy Dahm <ddahmvermont@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 12:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comments on Proposed Changes to Bear Hunting Regulations

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Fish and Wildlife Officials:

I am concerned about some proposed changes to Vermont's bear-hunting regulations. These policy revisions would not only endanger Vermont's black bear population, but increase conflicts with humans and undermine support for hunting in general.

First, please reject the move to extend bear-hunting into mid-December. Extending the season into the winter means hunters would be pursuing hibernating bears, including mothers and cubs, in their dens. It is impossible to classify any activity that includes pursuing sleeping or drowsy or animals as a "sport," and if Fish and Wildlife hopes to retain broad public support for hunting, it should scrap this plan.

Second, please oppose the proposal to allow hunters to kill a second bear during a given season. While 2024 data from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife suggest that the current bear population is at 6,800 to 8,000 bears—well above the target range of 3,550 to 5,550 bears—the Board should look beyond these numbers to obtain a clearer picture of the species' status. In a press release dated 9/4/2025, Jaclyn Comeau, the state's lead bear biologist, stated that a large number of the bears killed by hunters were young adults, aged two to three years. This means that these animals were likely killed before they produced offspring. For this reason, it is impossible to project how the black bear population may evolve in the next several years. Before allowing hunters to kill more bears, the department should undertake a more comprehensive study of the state's bear population.

Finally, please continue to prohibit the intentional killing of a mother bear with cubs in sight. Black bears usually travel with their mothers until they are about 18 months old. During this time, they learn how to forage for food. If their mother is killed before their education is complete, they will be more likely to seek nourishment from human sources, such as trashcans and birdfeeders, further increasing instances of human-wildlife conflict—and endangering people and pets.

Thank you for your time.

Best Wishes,
Dorothy A. Dahm
Hubbardton, Vermont

From: Dorothy Vail Buxbaum <racegirl969@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:53 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Subject: BEAR CHANGES IN THE SEASON-VOTE NOOOO

Some people who received this message don't often get email from racegirl969@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear FWBOARD,
PLEASE know I am absolutely opposed to extending the bear season into mid December which will mean denning mama bears are defenseless and with cubs...I VOTE NO to KILLING IN-FRONT OF CUBS AND I VOTE NO TO ADD A SECOND BEAR TAG...
Are we Vermonters soooo pathetic to do this??

Dorothy Buxbaum
6 Eastview Drive
Bennington, VT 05201
VERMONT BORN!

From: Dorothy Vail Buxbaum <racegirl969@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 2:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules PLS READ

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

PLEASE READ-
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

Vermont MUST take aggressive action to have homeowners and restaurants use BEAR-PROOF receptacles for garbage…WE EAT and BEAR EAT to take away the source and it takes away the conflict.

I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.

The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also strongly oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Dorothy Buxbaum
6 Eastview Drive
Bennington, VT 05201

From: Dottie Nelson <dottienelson2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 11:35 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi,
I want to add that I agree with everything in the following prewritten letter. Killing bears who are hibernating is not hunting. It's disgusting and hurts the reputations of ethical hunters. Killing mothers who have cubs is just cruelty, plain and simple. I agree with the rest of this letter. Dottie Nelson, Middlebury

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Douglas Lawrence <dowlaw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 1:00 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: RE Bear mngt. rule 10 VSA App. 7

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Re. App 7 , section 8.2 - requiring a person who took a bear to return to the kill site upon request of a Game Warden.

Forgive me for assuming that being a hunter does not negate one's Fifth Amendment rights as provided by the US Constitution.

Please strike this section and others related to such requirement for other hunting activities. Your legal council should know better than to allow this rule to be proposed or enacted.

Sincerely : Douglas Lawrence , Retired Vermont District Chief Game Warden.

From: downtoearth@vtlink.net
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: public comment on bear hunting regulations

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern -
I writing to support:
• Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs
• Protecting hibernating/denning bears
• Abolishing hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound 'training' from June 1 until August 1

And to oppose:
• Issuing a second bear tag
• Extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December
I strongly believe that using hounds to chase bears through their natural habitat is cruel to both the bears and the dogs, and is not so much 'hunting' as it is animal cruelty. The State of Vermont should do better. Because 'bear hounding' depends on the modern technology of gps collars, with computer displays of where the activity is taking place, I don't see it as being a 'Vermont tradition'. It is a modern lazy way for a small number of 'hunters' to feel proud of their barbaric thirst for blood. If the bear population in Vermont really needs to be controlled, there are other far less cruel ways to go about it!
Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Carol Schminke
219 Main Street
East Hardwick. VT 05836
downtoearth@vtlink.net

From: Dunja Moeller <dunja@workshopsforabetterlife.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 12:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit. Sincerely Dr. Dunja Moeller

From: Dunja Moeller <dunja@workshopsforabetterlife.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from dunja@workshopsforabetterlife.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely Dunja Moeller

From: E. Hoffman <ehoff802@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:00 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

[You don't often get email from ehoff802@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am vehemently opposed to any extension of the bear hunting season or allowing a second bear tag. I strongly support any measure that will protect bears, particularly laws that will ban the killing of mothers with cubs and the killing of hibernating bears. Killing a mother animal with young or killing an animal asleep in its own den is wrong in every conceivable way and should be illegal.

Meanwhile, the situation with bear hounding is horrifying. The abuse – of bears and dogs – by bear hounders is shocking, as is their disregard for the law. No animal should be chased and tormented the way bears are, and dogs should not be treated as weapons. I ask that the Fish and Wildlife Department shorten the bear hound "training" season, reduce the number of hunting dogs allowed, implement rules that will require hunters to keep their dogs under control, and permanently revoke the permits of offenders.

As a society we need to cultivate empathy and kindness and responsibility, not cruelty and selfishness. I sincerely hope that the Fish and Wildlife Department will increase protection for bears and focus their efforts on teaching people how to coexist peacefully with bears and avoid conflict. Thank you.

Elizabeth Hoffman
Putney VT

From: Eddie Habeck <eddiehabeck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 8:16 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Support for Second Bear Opportunity in Vermont

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife,

As a Vermont bear hunter, I strongly support the proposed provision allowing a second bear harvest in designated WMUs when supported by the Department's annual population data. Vermont's own 2025 bear guide states that the bear population may have increased beyond the historical 4,000–6,500 range, while the state's management objective is 3,500–5,500 bears. At the same time, the Department has documented increasing bear-human conflicts and recognizes that declining hunter numbers will make maintaining hunting as an effective wildlife-management tool more challenging.

I believe a carefully controlled second-bear opportunity in WMUs where population data supports it would be a scientifically sound way to increase harvest pressure while maintaining responsible population management. It would give hunters a greater role in addressing growing bear numbers and conflicts, while allowing the Department to adjust or limit the opportunity based on annual biological data. I strongly encourage the Board to adopt this provision and use it where the science demonstrates that additional harvest is appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration and for continuing to manage Vermont's bear population.

Respectfully,

Eddie Habeck

Richmond, VT.

From: Edward Morgan <thechildrensgarden@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:40 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Edward Morgan
St. Johnsbury, VT

From: Edward Morgan <thechildrensgarden@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:02 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Edward Morgan
St. Johnsbury, VT

From: elainearonoff@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elaine Aronoff <elainearonoff@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 12:32 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from elainearonoff@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elaine Aronoff
Springfield, VT 05156-8840

From: Elisha Renne <erenne@umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 7:47 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear meeting--Question 5

You don't often get email from erenne@umich.edu. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please make it illegal to to intentionally harvest a sow with cubs present. There were a set of cubs near Barre that were abandoned by the mother that had been shot.

Thank you, Elisha Renne, Woodbury VT

From: Eliza Mabry <emabry@vermontel.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Bear Hunting Rules

[You don't often get email from emabry@vermontel.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please do not extend the bear hunting season at all. If the purpose of any extention is to reduce the bear population don't also allow hunters to take two bears this year. No need to over kill, please go slowly.

Please prohibit the hunting of hibernating bears in Vermont. The idea of using hounds to hunt bears as they are denning for the winter is abhorent as is most of what is called hounding.

How is the Department going to prohibit the intentional killing of sows with cubs while allowing training of bear hounds to begin just as cubs are starting to forage in early summer?

Sincerely,

Eliza Mabry
Shrewsbury

From: Elizabeth Ferry <ewferry@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 4:12 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comment on Bear Hunting Rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Members of ANR

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on bear hunting rules. I am writing to voice my opinions as follows:

OPPOSITION

1. Extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. I believe that most hunters respect wildlife. Why, then, would ANR extend the season so as to allow them to harass or destroy a bear who is preparing for hibernation? It runs counter to hunting ethics.

SUPPORT

1. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. I don't think this needs any further explanation; it is unnecessary and cruel behavior, period.
2. I support your decision to not recommend hunting bears with bait.
3. I support conferring to the Commissioner the authority to revoke a bear dog permit.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: I ask you to please consider

1. shortening the bear hound training season. Starting on June 1 does not allow adequate time for sows to give their cubs a "quality start."
2. update the definition of "control of dogs".

Thank you for your receptivity and for your thoughtful oversight of our natural resources.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Ferry
East Barnard

From: Ella Argersinger <argersingerella@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:50 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from argersingerella@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Ellen Adams <ellenbadams@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:32 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

[You don't often get email from ellenbadams@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am opposed to the following:
Bear hunting with dogs
Hunting hibernating bears
Shooting mother bears with cubs
Thank you
Ellen Adams
Sent from my iPhone

From: Ellen Jareckie <ejareck@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 4:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from ejareck@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It is truly about time that the Vt. Fish and Wildlife Dept. began to act on behalf of the wildlife, and not just on behalf of the hunters, fishermen and trappers. This department has a very bad reputation among the public and we need a department that lives up to it's title. In addition, the dispatchers, who I presume are shared by both the State Police and Fish and Wildlife, are often giving out inaccurate or entirely false, inhumane "advice" when people call for help with wildlife issues. I hear about it all the time. Please step up the the plate and instate ethical rules that are on behalf of our wildlife.
Ellen Jareckie
Shelburne, VT.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Ellen Thomson <ethomson126@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:49 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from ethomson126@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Ellen Thomson
Braintree

Sent from my iPad

From: Emilee Gaulke <gaulkew@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comment on proposed extension to the bear hunting season

You don't often get email from gaulkew@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears. Leaving orphan bears causes inhumane suffering and can lead to an increase in problem bears as these orphan bears look for food in inappropriate places. Please listen to science and the public.

Thank you,
Emilee Gaulke

From: emily houghton <1kirbyfarmgirl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:19 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Bear Rule Changes

You don't often get email from 1kirbyfarmgirl@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi, my name is Emily Hartsock and my husband and I would like to ask you to support the proposed extended season for bears as well as the two tag rule change.

We also support hound hunting for bears.

We are dairy farmers in the NEK and we sustain a huge amount of damage in our cow corn from the over abundant bear population here.
We feel a monitored extended season with the possibility of two tags could help with that.

Thank you,

Jed and Emily Hartsock

From: Eric Perkins <ericjperkins72@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:05 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: comments on the proposed bear hunting rule

You don't often get email from ericjperkins72@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife,

I'm a Vermont resident who spends a lot of time exploring the state's wild areas, and I have a fun trail cam hobby (about a dozen cams) that helps give me some modest insight on bear behavior patterns in my area (Washington County).

I **strongly oppose extending the bear hunting season through December 15** and **oppose allowing a second bear to be killed in designated areas of the state**.

I realize that the bear population has grown modestly in recent years and that there have been more bear/human conflicts in some areas, due to humans not being responsible about food and trash attractants. But the science on this is clear: more hunting of bears will not reduce the number of bear/human conflicts. As you know, most bear hunting occurs deeper in the woods, not near residential areas where the "nuisance bears" spend most of their time. So even if more bears are killed through the hunting process, it will not affect the bear numbers near residential areas that some people are concerned about. And increased hunting of bears deep in the woods, especially with hounds, can result in those bears running for hours and sometimes ending up in developed areas and highways where tragic bear/car collisions can occur. So neither extending the length of the hunting season nor adding another bear tag (even if just in designated areas) makes sense as a strategy to reduce human/bear conflicts. What does make sense is educating the public on how to prevent such conflicts. I've seen F&WD adds encouraging certain basic things like taking down bird feeders in the spring and not leaving trash out. Those are great. But unfortunately most of the public does not understand that a bear's sense of smell is among the best of any animal species on earth, and that garbage stored in a shed behind flimsy doors is going to be detected by bears miles away. There are many bears in my town (Woodbury) and the surrounding towns such as Calais and Worcester. But I rarely hear of any bear conflicts in this area. There are bears living in the woods not far from my house actually. But they have never once got into trash at my house or my neighbors, and they never cause any problems whatsoever – we enjoy seeing them on the rare occasions we spot them (and when they appear on my trail cam videos). Why no problems? Because we are very careful about food waste and trash and birdseed (storing everything in very secure spaces). This time of year bears will occasionally come eat apples on or under the many wild apple trees in this area – but that doesn't harm anyone, and we're happy they are finding some good food to help them put on weight ahead of the winter sleep.

So in conclusion, I strongly oppose extending the length of the bear hunting season, because this change will not help address bear/human conflicts, and extending the season into mid-December increases the possibility that bears entering hibernation will be disturbed or killed in dens (something that most other states wisely prohibit). And I also strongly oppose issuing a second bear tag as this too has not been shown to help reduce bear/human conflicts.

I **certainly support prohibiting the intentional hunting and killing of a mother bear when cubs are in sight**. It seems crazy to me that this is still legal in Vermont. I understand VTF&W encourages hunters to not kill mothers with cubs (which is great) but the fact that it's still legal is very unfortunate. I really appreciate that this provision is proposed for inclusion in the rule!

Thank you for your consideration.

Eric Perkins

Woodbury, Vermont

From: Eric Picard <picardtappan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:01 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from picardtappan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Eric Picard
Hinesburg

From: Eric Seyferth <seyfren@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 7:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Eric Seyferth
Subject: Proposed bear hunting rules

[You don't often get email from seyfren@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I strongly disagree with expanding the bear season length into December and allowing a 2 bear limit. Unlike deer which degrade their habitat with high population densities which can be assessed objectively with field work, bear at the current high density do not seem to degrade the habitat. Therefore, setting a “target” population for bear is much more subjective than for deer and seems to be influenced by bear-human problematic interaction frequency. With higher densities there are more bear-human interactions which can be managed by public education and killing of problem bears. I would much rather have targeted bear killing than a blanket population reduction.
I and my friends and neighbors for the most part are thrilled by bear sightings (which are still relatively infrequent despite the “high” bear population in the state) and do not want the population reduced. I am an avid hunter but do not hunt bear.

Eric Seyferth
895 Mt Anthony Rd
Bennington, VT 05201
Sent from my iPhone

From: Erik Bailey <erik.b.bailey@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 12:57 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Rule Changes

You don't often get email from erik.b.bailey@outlook.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please support the extended season for bear hunting into December.

Also, support a statewide 2-bear tag limit per hunter. Defend hound hunting and add a bait season for bears. We need to curb this population spike a bit, and bait and hound hunters have mor ability to assess a bear and ensure it is a mature specimen and without cubs much better than most other hunting methods.

Please get it done for the 2027 season.

Erik Bailey
246 RT-2
West Berlin VT 05663

From: erik white <camoboy82@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:05 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear changes

You don't often get email from camoboy82@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I support the proposed Bear hunting charges.

Sincerely Erik White

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

From: erikwaring <erikwaring@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 8:28 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear season

You don't often get email from erikwaring@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To VT Fish and wildlife board and department,

I am a VT sugarmaker going into my 30th year. I have had major damage caused by bears, some on land I own, and some on land I lease from the State of VT in the Darling state forest. I am in support of adding an extra tag, possibly 2. I also suggest giving the game wardens the option of calling in a houndsman to run bears earlier in the season if neccessary.

I will use my own experience to illustrate the point. In the 2025 season I tapped about 7200 trees. My production was about 80% of a crop. With syrup at roughly $3/lb, and an estimated loss of $21,000 in gross revenue, that's a big hit. There were 2 parts to this loss of production, 1 damaged lines that were leaking at the start of the season which slowed tapping. The second issue which is possibly the biggest cause of loss is bears coming out of hibernation and breaking the tubing system open and causing huge vacuum leaks. For every 1in of vacuum loss, the potential of lost sap is 5% per Proctor Maple. Unfortunately according the wardens their is nothing they can do. This is where you could help. You could allow targeted use of hounds to attemp a no lethal way of detering the damage. The other option will be that as a farmer we just take care of the problem ourselves, I'm sure you won't like that.

During the 2026 season while boiling I watched the vacuum levels drop from 27in+, to 5 or 6. I went into the woods, and found a bear chewing, I walked to within 100ft of the bear and chased it thru the snow. I then proceeded to mend the lines as best I could. The following morning with some help, fixed the damaged mainlines, and lateral lines. About 6 man hours for 2 people, probably $250 in parts.

The losses we are sustaining are considerable. Would you accept a 20 to 25% pay cut every year? At some point and time this operation is no longer going to be viable. I have spoken to the Vermont Sugarmakers association about this, they have declined to speak on our behalf saying, "its not a good optic".

Thank you for your consideration,

Erik Waring
Erik's Sugarbush
Kirby, Vermont. 05832

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

From: Erin Brooks <erinemilebrooks@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:44 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Updates to bear hunting

You don't often get email from erinemilebrooks@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. No one needs a second bear this hunting season.

I would rather the department implement protections to prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears. We should be stewards of nature as hunters.

Thank you,
Erin

From: Erin Hayde <erinkhayde@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting rules - public comment

You don't often get email from erinkhayde@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my very strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. I urge the department to instead implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Predators are keystone species that the ecosystem needs to remain healthy. There are already significant pressures on the Vermont bear population, as we've seen with recent unfortunate incidents of bears being shot because of encroachment and human error. I understand the need to balance human use (like hunting) with conservation, but these new rules would make the current unbalance even worse.

Sincerely,
Erin Hayde
East Dover, VT

From: erin <eksleclair@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from eksleclair@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Thank you,

Erin Niles
Eden Mills

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

From: Farrah Katz <drfarrahkatz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:12 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear

You don't often get email from drfarrahkatz@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

"I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears."

Dr. Farrah Katz
Audiologist

OTOHealth Hearing Care
771 New York
Huntington NY 11743-3346
631-673-5820

From: Fern Lickfield <fearnessence@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 1:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from fearnessence@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

hello,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thanks so much for protecting our bears,
Fern Lickfield
Worcester, VT.

From: Fern Lickfield <fearnessence@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 11:42 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from fearnessence@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for protecting the bears of VT!
Catherine Lickfield

From: Fiona Cook <fionascook@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:17 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from fionascook@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Please do not change the bear hunting rules to include these new provisions.

Fiona Cook
West Brattleboro

From: Franz CAMENZIND <fcamenzi@wyoming.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:43 AM
To: Sarah Gorsline
Cc: ANR - FW Public Comment; Austin, John; Comeau, Jaclyn; Batchelder, Jason; ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor; Renfrew, Rosalind; Morse, Joshua
Subject: Re: Comments on behalf of Project Coyote and our VT supporters on the proposed black bear rules

Some people who received this message don't often get email from fcamenzi@wyoming.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Sarah, first off, thank you and your pack fir taking this on and putting the comment together and including us/ me. If and when convenient, I wouldn't mind a clean copy of the final. No hurry, and if it's already in this chain, sorry for asking. Just not sure if it is. Thanks and indeed, good luck. Here in Wyoming we can't even get G&F to eliminate bear hunting over bait!
- even in grizzly range! Franz

Sent from my iPhone Franz

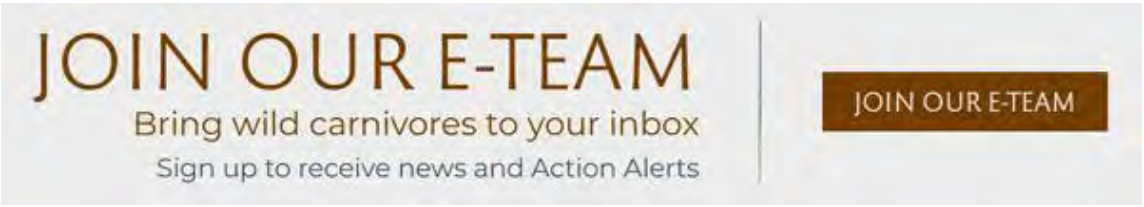
> On Sep 3, 2026, at 8:10 PM, Sarah Gorsline <sgorsline@projectcoyote.org> wrote:
>
> Dear
> Agency of Natural Resources, Members
> of the Board of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Fish and Wildlife,
>
> Attached
> please find comments on the 2026 proposed bear rules from Project
> Coyote on behalf of our Vermont supporters. I appreciate the opportunity to
> comment on the bear rules. We thank the Board and Department for their work on
> these rules.
>
> Best
> wishes,
> Sarah



Sarah Gorsline
MULTIMEDIA ASSOCIATE & VERMONT REPRESENTATIVE
PROJECT COYOTE

sgorsline@projectcoyote.org
802-378-5141
projectcoyote.org

project coyote
PROTECTING WILD CARNIVORES
FOSTERING THRIVING ECOSYSTEMS



<Project Coyote_comments on VT bear rules_September 3_2026.pdf>

From: Gaelan Chutter-Ames <gaelan.chutterames@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:45 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment; ANR - FW Board Orange; Batchelder, Jason
Subject: Bear Rule Comment

You don't often get email from gaelan.chutterames@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi,
I'm not sure I was entirely clear or coherent when I spoke at the August Board Meeting so I would like to follow up here. I support extending the bear season and making it possible, where the biologists indicate necessary, to get a second bear tag. As I understand it, bears out later are more likely to be boars or single sows, so this strikes me as a good move as well as aligning with rifle season for greater clarity and opportunity.

I do worry that changing the license structure from combined/included with rifle deer tag to separate tag will lower tag purchases by those who will harvest a bear if they have it in their pocket but would not/might not affirmatively select it in the purchase process.

Why not try to get the data in reverse? Make the new bear tag an "opt out" option in the purchase process - this will tell the department numbers on who is NOT open to harvesting a bear. Add, then, a question you must answer before checkout asking whether you target bears or are an opportunistic bear hunter.

I think this, or a structure like this would allow the department to gather data on hunting behavior/intent while helping maintain opportunistic bear harvest. Given the rising bear population it seems this would be in the interest of all stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gaelan Chutter-Ames
Randolph Center

From: Gary Hillard <garydhillard@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 7:11 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from garydhillard@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am so tired of the good old boys club running what should be wildlife support and protection in the state of Vermont. The fact that the two "public hearings" on this are set as far away from progressive, urban areas is not an accident. I increasingly hate this part of the Vermont state government. The views below are the views of the Vermont majority. Most of us have evolved past the need for cruelty in our sports.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Gary West <garewest@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:54 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Gary West
Grand Isle

From: Gen Habeck <zumbagen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 5:19 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Support for proposed changes to Vermont's bear hunting regulation

You don't often get email from zumbagen@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

As a Vermonter whose husband is an avid hunter, I am strongly in favor of the proposed bear rule changes, especially the ability to allow a second bear tag. Please consider this a resounding "yes"!

Thank you,
Gen Habeck
Richmond, Vermont

From: Gene White, Jr. <genewhitejr@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 6:55 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from genewhitejr@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont ANR and F&W,

While it appears that Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

These requests/suggestions are entirely reasonable. I hope they will be considered. Thank you.

Gail Cummings and Gene White Jr
Essex Jct., VT

From: Gene White, Jr. <genewhitejr@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:54 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Gene White, Jr.; Gail Cummings
Subject: Bear hunting rules & regs

You don't often get email from genewhitejr@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VT F & W,

My wife and I have been paying close attention to the bear issues. We want you to know our opinions:

-- We oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. Simultaneously, there should be a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears. This is simply a decent thing to do, and it would align Vermont's regs with those of the majority of States.
-- We oppose issuing a second bear tag.
-- We fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for listening to our concerns and opinions. Sincerely,
Gail Cummings & Gene White Jr
Essex Jct, VT

From: GEORGE HELMER <wbighh@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:57 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: info
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from wbighh@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Respectfully submitted,

George Hood Helmer

--
--
1202 South Perry Road
Woodstock, VT 05091
(802) 457-1728

As you walk upon our sacred Mother Earth, treat each step as a prayer. ~ NICHOLAS BLACK ELK

From: Gerard Monteux <monteuxgallery@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 1:04 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Gerhard, Aliena
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Aliena J. Gerhard

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Gideon Covey <gideoncovey998@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rule changes

You don't often get email from gideoncovey998@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please support the extended bear season into December, also support the statewide two bear tags limit per hunter.

Please get it done for 2027 season I've been looking forward to a proposal like this and I'm excited about it thank you!

Sincerely Gideon

From: gina mireault <ginamireault@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:12 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from ginamireault@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to strongly oppose proposals to extend Vermont's bear hunting season, increase the number of bears an individual hunter may take, or permit the killing of mother bears with dependent cubs.

These measures are particularly troubling because the evidence does not show that simply killing more bears will reduce human-bear conflicts. If the goal is genuinely to reduce dangerous encounters between people and bears, Vermont should focus its efforts where they can actually make a difference: preventing bears from gaining access to human food sources.

That means requiring bear-proof dumpsters and other secure waste disposal at restaurants, apartment and condominium complexes, and other locations where large amounts of food waste are routinely accessible to wildlife—and imposing meaningful fines and penalties when businesses or property owners fail to comply.

The Boston Globe recently highlighted exactly this problem in Stowe, including the case of a bear that repeatedly accessed food at the Matterhorn restaurant and was ultimately shot by police at the direction of Vermont Fish & Wildlife. The incident was also reported in detail by Seven Days in this freely accessible article: **"Stowe Police Officer Shoots Bear After Restaurant Cooler Break-In."** The Seven Days reporting is particularly disturbing: the restaurant owner acknowledged that bears had attempted to raid his dumpster, that he did not have bear-proof dumpsters, and that employees sometimes overfilled the dumpster in a way that rendered its electric-wire deterrent ineffective.

That outcome should be deeply embarrassing to us as Vermonters. A bear paid the price for a completely preventable human failure.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife has an opportunity to lead on this issue by instituting, enforcing, or advocating for requirements for bear-resistant waste containers in communities experiencing human-bear conflicts. This is a straightforward, safe, preventive approach that addresses the behavior drawing bears into populated areas in the first place.

I am deeply frustrated that the Department so often appears to turn first to killing wildlife rather than addressing the human behaviors that create these conflicts. Extending hunting seasons, increasing bag limits, and allowing mothers with cubs to be killed may reduce the number of bears, but reducing the bear population is not the same thing as reducing the conditions that cause human-bear conflicts.

Please reject these proposed hunting expansions and put Vermont's resources toward evidence-based prevention: secure food waste, meaningful enforcement, and greater accountability for the businesses and property owners whose practices attract bears.

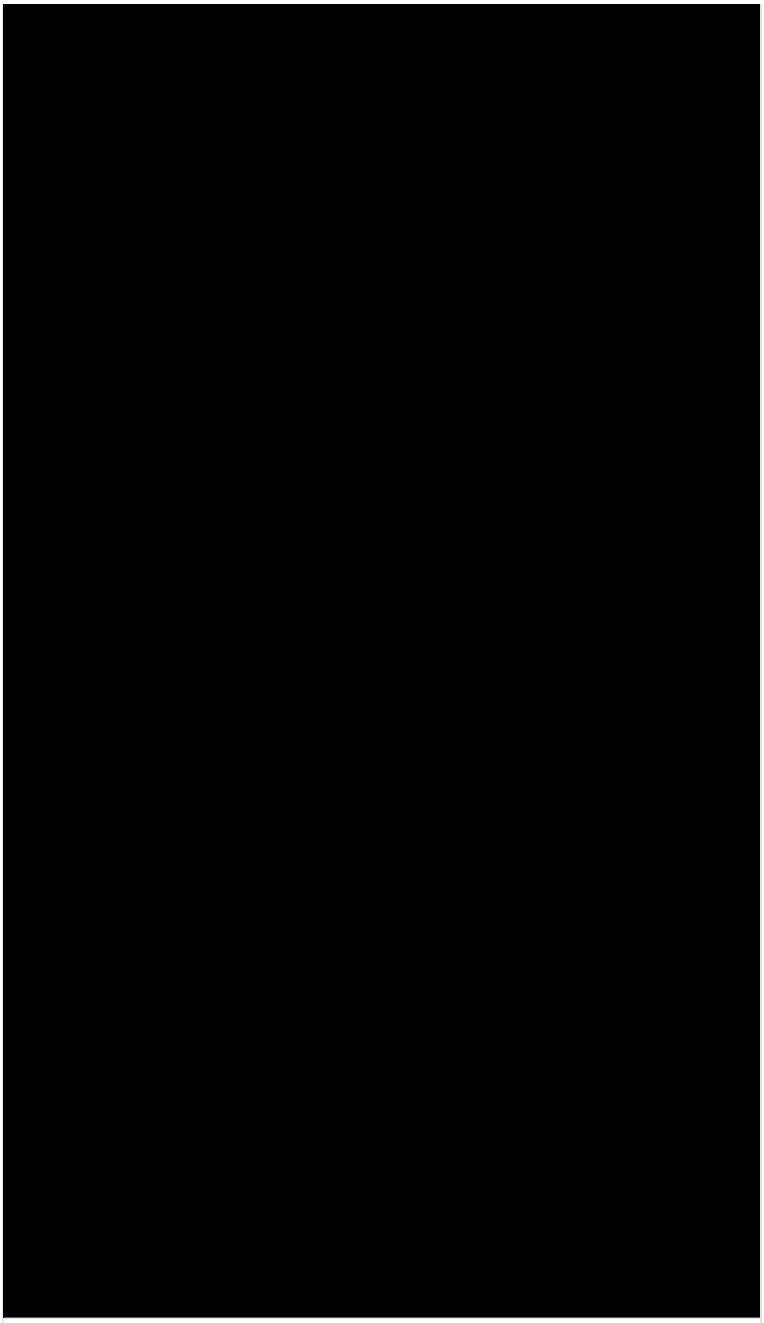
Vermont can do better than simply shooting more bears. We should be addressing the problem at its source.

Thank you,

Gina Mireault
Waterbury Center, VT (full-time resident)

Free Seven Days coverage:
Stowe Police Officer Shoots Bear After Restaurant Cooler Break-In | Seven Days





Stowe Police Officer Shoots Bear After Restaurant Cooler Break-In | Seve...

Aaron Calvin

A bear took a jug of sauce and was "rummaging through the frozen chicken patties" in a cooler at the Matterhorn ...



From: gina mireault <ginamireault@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:15 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comments on Proposed Bear Hunting Regulations

You don't often get email from ginamireault@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my opposition to several of the proposed changes to Vermont's bear hunting regulations.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife has acknowledged that increasing the number of bears killed through hunting is not an effective way to prevent future human-bear conflicts. Given that, I do not support extending the bear hunting season by a full month or allowing hunters to take a second bear in certain areas of the state.

I am particularly concerned about extending the season into mid-December, when bears are entering or have already entered their dens for hibernation. Rather than increasing their vulnerability during this period, I urge the Department to prohibit the harassment and killing of hibernating bears, bringing Vermont in line with the majority of other states.

I strongly support the proposed prohibition on hunting and killing mother bears when cubs are in sight. Most states and provinces that allow bear hunting—84%—already provide this protection, and Vermont should do the same.

I also ask the Department to consider several additional changes that would strengthen protections for bears and improve oversight of hound hunting:

• Shorten the bear hound-training season.
• Align bear-hounding regulations with those for coyote hounding, including reducing the maximum number of dogs from six to four and strengthening the definition of what constitutes "control of dogs."
• Give the Commissioner authority to revoke a bear-dog permit when warranted.

Thank you for considering these comments as you develop Vermont's bear management regulations.

Gina Mireault
Waterbury Center, VT (full-time resident since 1992)

From: Glenda Nye <glnvt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:02 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from glnvt@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Fish and Game Board Members,
Thank you for holding hearings and public input on the consideration process for input on Bear season extension.
I oppose extending the bear hunting season for a month it is totally unacceptable. The hibernating bears should be able to do just that safely hibernate/sleep for the winter. I also do not find it at all acceptable the issuing of a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Glenda J Nye

From: Glo Webel <gloewebel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:20 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from gloewebel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. That sounds like a terrible plan!

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for reading and considering my comments. I truly believe Humans need to learn to respect other beings who share the same habitat! Our killing them is clearly not the answer!
Sincerely, Glo Webel, Johnson, Vermont.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Gloria Currie <gbcurrie214ur@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from gbcurrie214ur@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Gloria Currie
Leicester, Vermont

From: Gloria Currie <gbcurrie214ur@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 5:32 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from gbcurrie214ur@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Hounding dogs pose a threat to me, my livestock, my pets. A loose dog during deer season can be shot by hunters because “they chase deer,” I was told by a game warden. And yet hunters with hounding dogs are given permission to chase other wildlife. Clearly a double standard — and always in favor of the hunters.

Gloria Currie
Leicester, Vermont

From: Grace Initiative <contact@grace-initiative.org>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 1:16 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from contact@grace-initiative.org. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife,

I am writing to request that Vermont Fish and Wildlife reconsider the proposal to extend the bear season hunt. Several reasons justify this request.

First, hunting is not monitored enough and illegal hunting beyond established hours and times already occurs. This has happened near my house in southern Vermont. Cars with license plates from nearby states regularly hunt near my house, even after legal hunting hours. Extending the season could contribute to further excessive hunting, as current activity does not seem patrolled or monitored. It is unknown whether these outstate hunters possess permits.

Furthermore, extending the season into mid-December puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

Additionally, please prohibit the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. Approximately 42 states, which allow bear hunting, prohibit killing a mother bear with cubs in sight and Vermont should do the same.

Also, please consider the following:
• Reduce the bear hound training season;
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from six (6) to four (4), and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs;" and,
• Provide the Commissioner with the authority to revoke a bear dog permit.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Lodico
JD, LL.M. MIA, MAR

From: Greg Guilmartin <huntingfire@gmavt.net>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 1:00 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from huntingfire@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Greg Hoch <issinc1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:55 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from issinc1@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Get Outlook for Android

From: Gregory Smith <gbmainesmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from gbmainesmith@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Gregory B Smith
724 Hills Point Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

From: Gregory Stefurak <gstefurak@mac.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:04 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from gstefurak@mac.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

• Eliminate the bear hounding!

Thank You,

Greg Stefurak
Rochester, Vt.

From: hbusier@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Holly-Lynn Busier <hbusier@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 3:51 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from hbusier@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Holly-Lynn Busier
Essex Junction, VT 05452-3118

From: Heidi Nepveu <heidinepveu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.

The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. Eighty four% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- Shorten the bear hound training season.
- Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you,

Heidi Nepveu
Burlington, VT

From: HEIKE HARTMANN <clipetc@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:19 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from clipetc@aol.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

H Hartmann
Hyde Park

Sent from my iPhone

From: HEIKE HARTMANN <clipetc@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:19 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from clipetc@aol.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Heike Meyer <heike.meyer@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 9:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment: Protect Vermont's Bears and Follow the Science

You don't often get email from heike.meyer@icloud.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern:

I strongly support the proposal **to prohibit the intentional killing of a mother bear with cubs.** This is a basic and important protection for Vermont's wildlife, and prohibits irresponsible hunting and animal cruelty. I urge the Board to adopt it.

I strongly oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December and oppose allowing hunters to take a second bear in designated areas.

These measures are presented as tools for managing Vermont's bear population and reducing human-bear conflicts, but the scientific evidence does not support the idea that simply killing more bears will effectively address those conflicts. A peer-reviewed study examining bear hunting and human-bear interactions found that increased harvest did **not** produce a corresponding reduction in conflicts; in fact, interactions and incidents were higher in areas where additional hunting was introduced. The study concluded that managing human-related food sources and promoting coexistence are more effective approaches.

Vermont's own data point toward the same problem: human-bear conflicts are strongly associated with access to human food sources such as garbage, bird feeders, buildings, and backyard chickens. In 2024, Vermont recorded 1,580 human-bear incidents, the second-highest number ever recorded.

If the goal is to reduce conflicts, Vermont should focus its resources on preventing bears from accessing human food and garbage, educating residents, and addressing the conditions that create conflict—not simply increasing hunting opportunities.

I am also concerned about extending the season into December. Later-season hunting, particularly with hounds, raises additional concerns because bears are preparing for denning and hibernation. Extending hunting pressure into this biologically sensitive period deserves a strong scientific justification, not simply increased hunting opportunity.

Most importantly, I urge the Board to base these decisions on **transparent biological evidence and the actual goal of reducing human-bear conflict—not on pressure from hunting interests**. Vermont should be setting wildlife policy according to sound science and the long-term health of our bear population.

I therefore ask the Board hear the voices of Vermonters who overwhelmingly

- **SUPPORT prohibiting** the intentional killing of mother bears with cubs.
- **OPPOSE** extending the bear hunting season into mid-December.
- **OPPOSE** allowing a second bear tag.
- Prioritize prevention of human-bear conflicts through secure garbage and food storage, public education, and effective non-lethal management.

Vermont can protect public safety while also demonstrating responsible, science-based stewardship of its

wildlife. We should do both.

Sincerely

Heike Meyer

Fairfax, Vermont

From: Henry Coe <henrycoevt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:22 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from henrycoevt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

My name is Henry Coe of Danville. I have lived in the Northeast Kingdom for sixty years. My extended family lives in four communities in Orleans County.
I was a deer hunter as a young man. One son and two grandsons are deer hunters. None of us has ever posted our land against hunters.

I am opposed to the proposed extension of the bear hunting season until Dec. 15, possibly into the bear denning or hibernation period.

We have comparatively few people-bear conflicts in the Northeast KIngdom. I personally have not seen a bear for three or four years. My sons in Barton, Glover, and Brownington, likewise have not seen a black bear for years.

Bears are naturally wary of people. Except where a person comes between a sow and her cubs, bears will not show aggression. I recently read that for the entire country, in the last 100 years, there have been only 100 human fatalities from black bears, - mostly from bears defending their cubs. Bears simply must have an escape route away from people. That requires education of people.

The majority of people-bear conflicts can be avoided by what the F&W Department staff is already doing: more citizen education on handling of food scraps; seasonal use of birdfeeders only on snow-covered ground; proper handling and fencing of compost piles; proper fencing and housing of small poultry fllocks. F&W staff is doing an excellent job with this and should increase its education outreach.

My gut reaction is that these changes are being proposed by the F&W, whose 14 members, to my knowledge, are appointed by the Governor. I am under the impression that the large majority of the Board consists of hunters and trappers. The F&W Board should not have an outsiize influence upon management decisions, - which in my vew should come from professional staff . Are special interests, such as large cornland owners, or others, responsible for these called-for changes proposed by the F&W Board? I feel that publicizing more bear-people "conflicts" are simply the justification for the proposed extension to the bear season in Vermont.

I would like to hear from F%W staff professionals, the biologists and ecologists, to explain if there are other game management goals for the proposal to extend the black bear hunting season in Vermont. If so, what are the management matrices?

Like Aldo Leopold, as a youth I had a bit of "trigger itch". As I get older, I am softer to all living thngs. The globe is shrinking, and I feel strongly we should all do more to conserve our environment, free from toxics, free from more hunters with trigger itch, and to protect and enhance opportunities for all wild critters.

I strongly oppose the extension of the black bear hunting season. I am also opposed to bear hounding, and the shooting of bears from a tree. In the late sixties I had the experience of seeing hounds tree a bear in the Town of Albany. The out of state licensed hunter, showed me his large pistol (I think a 45 calibre), then proceeded to shoot a bear out of the tree. The small wounded bear was immediately pounced upon by his hounds, to the satisfaction of the hounds' owner. The memory is indelible. I can't believe the F&W laws permit such cruelty. I also oppose the

long bear hounding "training" season for hounds, upon which most hunters have no control over their hounds; sow bears and nursing cubs are terrified and exhaused; (and without explicit permission of landowners, over whose land the hounds travel.)

We who love wildlfe, should heed the words of Aldo Leopold in his essay, "Thinking Like a Mountain" in his "Sand County Almanac, first published in 1949 (when I was nine years old.)

"Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf.....
In those days we had never heard of passing up a chance to kill a wolf.....
We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes.....
Since then I have lived to see state after state extirpate its wolves.....
I now suspect that just as a deer herd lives in mortal fear of its wolves, so does a mountain live in mortal fear of its deer.....
Perhaps this is behind Thoreau's dictum: In wildness is the salvation of the world. Perhaps this is the hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf,
long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men."

Thanks to the F&W Department for giving citizens the opportunity to comment on the proposed hunting rule changes for bears.

Sincerely,

Henry Coe

From: Holly Cook <nol230@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:01 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from nol230@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom it may concern,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

While I understand that limiting bear numbers can keep the population more healthy, it's not as if hunting bears is needed for anybody's survival. Bringing some sense of human restraint and compassion to such non-essential taking of life seems the least we can do.

Sincerely,

Holly Cook
Wolcott, VT

From: Holly Counter Beaver <hcounterbeaver@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 9:46 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from hcounterbeaver@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- Prohibit bear hound training season
- Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Holly Counter Beaver
05450
802-933-4355

From: Holly Counter Beaver <hcounterbeaver@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 3:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from hcounterbeaver@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Holly Counter Beaver

--
Holly Counter Beaver
Finn & Roots and Stone Creek Farm
contact@finnandroots.com
www.finnandroots.com
M 720/272-1330
P 802/933-4355

From: Holly Stockett <stockettholly@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from stockettholly@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

The bears in our state aren't the problem. The destruction of their habitat is. Can we find a way to protect a reason of land from development or deforestation so the have a home and aren't forced to mingle with humans? It is us who have destroyed their homes and we are the intruders, not them. They should not have to suffer for human choices. Please protect our precious wildlife. Thank you!

Bob and Holly Stockett
Beckley Hill Rd., Barre, Vt 05641

From: Hope Welch <hope_welch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:49 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Dog hunting bears

You don't often get email from hope_welch@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern:

Wildlife is our treasure and should be treated as such. It is shameful using dogs to hunt down bears. Shameful!

I also ask that the department consider the following as my vote:

•Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/beat conflicts, YET They've proposed extending the "season" by a FULL MONTH and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the State! I OPPOSE THIS!

- I OPPOSE extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating bears at risk. Instagram other words, they and cubs can legally be killed in their den--how is this okay???? The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other States!

- I fully support the hunting and killing of Mother bears with cubs in site! That is just horrible! 84% of States and Provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this AND SO SHOULD VERMONT!! Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight! HOW IS THIS AN OKAY THING TO DO????? I OPPOSE the killing of Mother Bears!
- Shorten the bear/hound season! Or better yet ELIMINATE IT! I would like to see Hunter's take on bears with their own hands!
- I strongly OPPOSE hounding in hunting practice!
- Allow the commissioner to revoke a dog/bear permit Permanently!
- I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "Control of dogs."
- I request the department to provide a tally of the votes!
- Bears should be treasured, not killed.

Sincerely,

Hope Welch
Springfield, Vermont

From: Howard Hall <hhallpmoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:55 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from hhallpmoore@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Howard Hall and Paula Moore
410 Ridgeline Rd.
Panton VT. 05491

From: Howard Hall <hhallpmoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:33 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from hhallpmoore@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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Howard Hall @ Paula Moore

410 Ridgeline Road
Panton Vt.
802-377-1821

From: Imogen Corcoran <imogencorcoran@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:49 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from imogencorcoran@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Imogen Corcoran, Bethel, VT

From: Ivana Peralta T. de Ruffner <ivanaper@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 12:54 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from ivanaper@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Ivana Ruffner <ivanaper@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 1:46 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears hunting season

[You don't often get email from ivanaper@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Ivana Ruffner
Sent from my iPhone

From: J Hall <janisgardens@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from janisgardens@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please be guided by science, and please represent all Vermonters in your decisions.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, especially since cubs left motherless are more likely to forage in people's yards. Yet they've proposed extending the season by a month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support PROHIBITING the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season.
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you,
Janis Hall
Brattleboro

From: Jack Rossi <Jack@jackrossi.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:15 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jack@jackrossi.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jackie Evans <jmevans1@ptd.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 9:23 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting season

You don't often get email from jmevans1@ptd.net. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

-Jacqueline Evans
19 East St.
Bennington, VT

From: Jacqueline Doyle <jldvermont@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 9:03 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear slaughter and animal abuse

You don't often get email from jldvermont@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning,

Why do you think shooting she bears with cubs is a good idea? Why would you not be horrified by slaughtering sleeping bears? Don't you see that running bear with dogs is animal abuse?

You appear to be all for hunters and their $$$ and don't really care all that much for the extraordinary beings that bears are.

As a tax payer and a rural Vermonter who appreciates the bears that eat in my wild orchard, graze on dandelions and clover in my yard and remind me if the precious remnants of natural life left in Vermont, I implore you to stop the running of bear, shorten the hunt you've extended, outlaw the slaughter of hibernating bears, cubs, and she bears with cubs.

Do you want your legacy with future generations to be slaughter and cruelty or compassionate stewardship?

Jacqueline Doyle
Montgomery, Vermont

From: Jacqueline Doyle <jldvermont@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jldvermont@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

IS THE DEPARTMENT MOTIVATED BY HUNTER $$ OR EXCELLENT STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES?

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.

The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states AND OUR VALUES OF STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight.
THAT IS MURDER

84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: James Hodge <jameshhodge521@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:58 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jameshhodge521@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

James H. Hodge

From: Jan Feldman <Jan.Feldman@uvm.edu>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:26 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jan.feldman@uvm.edu. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As a Northfield resident, my livestock and I have managed to live comfortably in close proximity to bears without incident.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

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• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your kind attention.
Dr. Jan Feldman
171 West Hill Rd.
Northfield, VT 05663

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jan Feldman <Jan.Feldman@uvm.edu>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jan.feldman@uvm.edu. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

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• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jan <jan@thouron.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jan@thouron.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

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• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Please,
Janet Thouron
North Middlesex

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jane Hoffman <jehoffman@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 12:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Greensboro Conservation Commission Comment On Proposed Black Bear Hunting Season Extension
Attachments: Greensboro Conservation Commission .docx

Importance: High

You don't often get email from jehoffman@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please see attached the Greensboro Conservation Commission Comment on the Proposed Black Bear Hunting Season Extension.

Please circulate to all Members of the VT Fish and Wildlife Board.

Thank you.

Jane Hoffman

From: Greensboro Conservation Commission

To: Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board

Re: Public Comment on Proposed Black Bear Hunting Season Extension

Dear Members of the Fish and Wildlife Board,

The Greensboro Conservation Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Vermont's black bear hunting regulations, specifically regarding the proposal to extend the hunting season into mid-December.

We strongly oppose merging the early and late seasons into a continuous hunting period extending through mid-December. As the Department's own documentation notes, many black bears in Vermont enter their winter dens by late November. Prolonging the hunting season through mid-December creates a high risk of hunters encountering bears that are already curled up in dens. Shooting denned bears, or disturbing pregnant females and mother bears with young right as harsh winter conditions set in, runs counter to ethical wildlife management and **directly conflicts with the Board's intent to protect sows with cubs.**

We suggest that the Board allow the proposed two-tag limit in designated Wildlife Management Units to play out first. Increasing the bag limit in areas with high bear density is a more targeted method for population control, making a season extension into denning season unnecessary at this time.

We respectfully urge the Board to reject the mid-December season extension and continue to promote non-lethal management practices that decrease human conflict.

Thank you for considering local conservation perspectives, as you work to manage bear populations in Vermont.

Sincerely,

Greensboro Conservation Commission

Chris Steel, Chair

Emma Palumbo, Secretary

Jane Hoffman, Treasurer

JoAnn Hanowski

Peter Watkinson

Betsy Youngman

From: Jane Tenney <jtenney@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 9:24 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Changes in bear hunting season

Importance: High

[You don't often get email from jtenney@myfairpoint.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom it may concern,

My husband and I are life long Vermonters. Though we grew up in hunting families we do not hunt but have always loved wildlife.
It has been hard to follow what has evolved with bears in Vermont. Our state has changed, so much natural habitat has been taken by humans for both living and recreating in VT. Of course the conflicts were going to happen. But we must be honest about what has caused the conflicts!

A few are: composting rules in VT that attract wildlife, people who want to have chickens and bees but do not want to protect them from wildlife properly, and sad to say- hunters themselves!
We seem to have a hunting culture that rejects all science in the desire to kill bears. It is sad to see all the disinformation spread by social media about bears and hunting.
We are all aware there is no real way to say just how many bears we have in VT, ESTIMATES are just that and are flawed. Education for the humans is needed!

It is time for change, in more ways than one. hunting with hounds is antiquated, aside from the fact it is cruel and inhumane to both dogs and bears. Anyone who follows the stories and conflicts between hounders and homeowners know this is a serious problem. Those hounders take out of state hunters out with hounds to get bears, they cause conflict too! of course we all know the hounders get NOTHING for doing this service- haha! It is NOT helpful for hunters to post on their social media about bears will eat your children and pets!!

The only solution is to educate the people and enforce the laws of securing garbage, compost, bees and chickens.

So the answer proposed by F&W is to extend the season, allowing hunters to kill bears and cubs denning for the winter, and to allow more permits for hunting.
We vehemently OPPOSE extending the season, giving out more tags, and intentionally killing of mother bears with cubs.

Scientific studies reveal that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts.

F&W it is time to transform into a department who listens to ALL Vermonters, not just hunters! Also to allow wildlife advocates to be heard and have a seat at the table. This problem can be solved by Vermonters working together for what is best for our state and its wildlife.

We live in the woods, with a brook and all kinds of natural attractants for wildlife. Of course we see bears, deer, fox, turkeys and other wildlife. but they come and go! We are not bothered by them! It is a joy to see and enjoy wildlife living their best lives.

Please do NOT allow these changes in the bear hunting season! It will not end the conflicts.

Respectfully,
Allen and Jane Tenney
Lyndon VT

From: Janean <jahnean13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 4:39 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jahnean13@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Please Note-I Do NOT Support Hound Hunting at ALL-
!! No matter how many dogs .. It’s cruel to torture both the Bear and the dog too -
I couldn’t imagine the Fear involved in this situation—and when it’s person or dog who gets hurt ...everyone wants to blame the Bear for protecting its life..and possibly its cubs too !!
Seems unfair and extremely heartless -
Atleast give the bears a fair chance to put on a good proper Hunt -
To shoot a hibernate Bear should be a crime too -that’s not fair or even hunting..
that’s killing a sleeping Bear ,and should not be happening in VT or anywhere else-

Thank you for helping the Bears have a humane future.

Janean zuckerman

From: Janet St. Onge <jelsaint@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 3:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jelsaint@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Janet St.Onge
Peacham, Vermont

From: Janet St. Onge <jelsaint@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 3:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jelsaint@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Janice Ebel <janice.ebel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 7:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from janice.ebel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to 4, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Black Bears are a valuable and necessary contributor to the Vermont forest ecosystem.

The bear population in general and, specifically, mother bears and their cubs should be protected by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Janice Ebel

Stowe, Vermont

Vermont resident since 1993

Sent from my iPhone

From: Janice Stearns <jstearns918@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:21 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Janice D Stearns
1460 Halladay Rd
Middlebury

From: Janis Mattson <janismattson2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 5:30 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from janismattson2@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing because Vermont's black bears matter to me, and I'm concerned about the direction of the proposed changes to bear hunting regulations. I was born in Vermont and have lived here most of my life. I live and hike in bear country, and I have had a handful of sightings even though I know they are all around. I care about seeing our wildlife managed responsibly, which is why these proposals concern me.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife has itself acknowledged that increased bear harvest won't meaningfully reduce human/bear conflicts. This is a human behavior issue that needs to be addressed' since the conflicts are primarily over bird feeder, exposed trash etc. Given that, I don't understand why the proposal still calls for extending the season by a month and adding a second bear tag in some areas.

I'm especially troubled by the idea of pushing the season into mid-December. Bears are hibernating by then, and hunting during that window feels like an unnecessary cruelty, not a management tool. I'd like to see the Department move toward banning the harassment or killing of hibernating bears altogether, which would bring Vermont in line with most other states. I'd also ask that the second bear tag proposal be dropped.

One change I feel strongly about: banning the killing of mother bears when cubs are visibly present. This is already standard in 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting. It's hard to see a good reason why Vermont should be the any exception.

Vermont's wildlife is part of what makes this state special to me, and I want to see it managed with that in mind for the long term. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,

Janis Mattson, Waterford, VT

From: Janis Mattson <janismattson2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:29 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: New bear hunting rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose any extension of the current bear hunting season, and the issuing of a 2nd tag. I would like to see strict protections that will prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs, and an all out ban on hunting hibernating bears.

Janis Mattson
Waterford, VT

From: jann lee <carajanlee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 4:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting vote

You don't often get email from carajanlee@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

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I ask the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Sincerely

Jann Lee

Carajanlee@gmail.com <mailto:Carajanlee@gmail.com>

1 Mt. Peg Rd

Woodstock, Vt

From: Jason Crooks <mwongera@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 3:37 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from mwongera@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thanks for being the voice, for the voiceless.
Jason Crooks
Westford, V

From: Jason Crooks <mwongera@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:51 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from mwongera@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for being the voice of the voiceless.

Be good,
Jason Crooks
Westford, VT

From: Jay <jsh@doctorbeer.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:43 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jsh@doctorbeer.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Jean Farrell <minke5412@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:00 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from minke5412@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Jean Farrell <minke5412@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from minke5412@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Jean Pace <jeanlouisepace@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:43 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Bentley Pace *ICE
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jeanlouisepace@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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To the VFW Department and all Citizens of Vermont -

We are very much concerned that many of the changes to bear rules proposed by Vermont Fish & Wildlife are actually detrimental to the balance of nature and biodiversity that we Vermonters are hoping to achieve.

In addition, it must be noted that the vast majority of Vermonters, when given the actual details of bear hunts and hounding, are alarmed and saddened by the cruelty and pointlessness of these activities.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

We oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

We fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

We also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

These limits on the proposed changes are far more aligned with good science, good management, and responsive governing. We hunters and non-hunters are watching and expecting a reasonable and compassionate response.

Jean and Bentley Pace
Manchester Center, VT

From: Jean Rook <jeanrook@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:13 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jeanrook@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: •
END the bear hounding!
If you let there be use of dogs, allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

From: Jeanette Malone <jmalone@gmavt.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jmalone@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Dear ANR,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on harassing and killing hibernating bears to align Vermont with most other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this, and Vermont should, too.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your attention,
Jeanette Malone

From: Jen R <jrussell.nas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:38 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jrussell.nas@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

In addition to the above items, I also propose to enact stiff fines to any and all businesses who do not manage waste disposal properly including allowing open garbage overflow and not adequately keeping garbage bins closed and tamper-proof. The recent shooting of a bear in Stowe illustrates that we need to be held more responsible for our actions as they have a direct negative consequence and detrimental effect on the bear population. Fines, jail time, etc. should be on the table for offenders, especially those who repeatedly violate trash containment and thus contribute to an otherwise healthy bear's demise.

I strongly oppose the killing of mother bears with cubs and strongly oppose extending the season. This seems like a short-sighted and inhumane approach to a problem that is created by humans not being more responsible.

Thank you,
Jeannine Russell

From: Jenn and Bob Nixon <jandbnixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 4:39 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jandbnixon@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Jenn and Bob Nixon <jandbnixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:21 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jandbnixon@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Jenn and Bob Nixon <jandbnixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:20 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jandbnixon@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Jenn Hedling <jenn@c7-global.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 7:42 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

J.

From: Jenn M <jennmontoro@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 6:30 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jennmontoro@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
- Eliminate all bear hound training and hunting
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

If allowed to remain, I ask the Department consider the following with respect to bear hound training and hunting:
- Shorten the bear hound training and hunting season
- Require bear hound hunters to obey posted no trespassing and no hunting property signs
- Limit the number of hound dogs allowed to conduct a bear hunt to less than 4

Thank you.

Jennifer Montoro
2 McCoy Rd, Tinmouth, VT 05774

From: Jenna Upson <jdboillotat@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2026 8:57 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Laws

You don't often get email from jdboillotat@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Vermont resident, the wife of a hunter and the mother of a future hunter, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. I believe these changes would place unnecessary additional pressure on Vermont's bear population and prioritize increased opportunities for harvest over responsible wildlife management.

I strongly urge the Department to instead consider meaningful protections for bears, including prohibiting the killing of mother bears with dependent cubs and banning the hunting of bears while they are in their dens or hibernating. Mother bears play an especially important role in the survival and health of Vermont's bear population, and killing a sow with cubs can leave dependent cubs vulnerable to starvation, predation, and death.

I am also deeply concerned about the practice of hounding bears. Using dogs to pursue and exhaust bears can result in prolonged and stressful chases, and it can disrupt bears' natural behavior and movement patterns as well as trespass onto land that can't be rightfully hunted on. I believe Vermont should carefully examine whether this practice is consistent with modern principles of fair chase, animal welfare, and responsible wildlife stewardship.

As someone who respects and understands hunting and its role in Vermont's outdoor ecosystem, I do not believe that opposing these proposed expansions means opposing hunters. There is an important distinction between sustainable, responsible hunting and continually increasing opportunities. Vermont's wildlife belongs to all of us and management decisions should prioritize the long-term health of these populations and the ecosystems they support.

I respectfully ask the Department to reject the proposed season extensions and second bear tag and instead pursue stronger protections for Vermont's bears, particularly mothers with dependent cubs and bears in their dens. I also ask that the Department seriously reconsider the use of hounds in bear hunting and evaluate its impacts on animal welfare, wildlife behavior, and the broader principles of responsible wildlife management.

Thank you for considering my concerns and for your commitment to protecting Vermont's wildlife for future generations like my son.

Best,
Jenna

From: Jennifer Indeliclae <jenandezerpants@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:32 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jenandezerpants@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. Why?

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following, at the very least:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Jennifer Indeliclae

Sent from my iPhone

From: jennifer lovett <jagl815@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:22 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

Jennifer Lovett
Starksboro, VT

Sender notified with Mailtrack · Opt out

From: Jennifer Moore <jennmoore73@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:57 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: bear comments

You don't often get email from jennmoore73@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

i wanted to write to say i oppose extending the bear hunting season, and i also oppose taking two bears per season and also object to a mother being killed.

i also find hounding to be immoral and irresponsible for the bear and the dogs.

please do that you are supposed to do which is protect our wildlife not make it easier to shoot them.

jennifer moore
67 roseade parkway
burlington vt 05408

From: Jennifer Smith <jmsmith5000@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 2:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jmsmith5000@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith
Newfane, VT

From: Jenny Chapin <wingedheart61@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:47 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from wingedheart61@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely yours,
Jenny Chapin
Brattleboro, VT

From: Jenny Garber <jlgarber1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jlgarber1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

The reality is that if black bears wanted to harm Humans, they could. But they have no interest in humans: they are interested in our food attractants. It's up to us to come together and embrace bear-smart practices and a lot more time and effort should be spent on educating people about this. If necessary, hefty fines should be used to discourage repeat offenders.

Jennifer Garber
Waterbury Center

From: JennyLazar@protonmail.com
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 10:07 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: VT F&W Hearings on Bear Rule Changes

You don't often get email from jennylazar@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear F & W,

I urge you **NOT** to change the bear rules.

The people are the problem, not the bears.

We cannot shoot and hunt our way out of this problem because it will not work.

The "nuisance" bear will just keep repeating until people change their behaviors.

The vast majority of bear issues occur simply because people are not bear "food" aware.

Key examples:

- **People leave garbage cans on the road overnight** even though this is a known bear trigger. There should be laws in place that make this clear to the public.

- **Vermonters still refuse to compost even though this is the law** (!) - these scraps the garbage cans are irresistible to bears.

- **Tourists and others feed bears**, which should be posted as illegal.

- **Resorts and Inns do not clean up**. ex. Equinox hotel, in my town of Manchester, has events at their pond with catering, and they often leave food scattered all over the pond area. Yes, it's their property, but this naturally attracts bears who come down from the forest.

- Even **rare** bear break-ins can occur because people leave food scraps strewn around their property or food in their garbage (which they rarely admit).

SOLUTIONS: Vermont needs a PR campaign to advertise bear 'food aware' on radio, posters, internet - everywhere.

Finally, black bears are an essential part of the ecosystem and provide crucial benefits. Just a few: **they eat wasp nests,** which have increased due to climate change. They **disperse plants** and **keep other animal populations in check**.

I urge you to try a conservative approach with PR campaigns and enforcement of composting laws.

I am a professional advertising writer and will gladly donate my time to the effort.

Thank you.

Jenny Lazar
Box 1155

Manchester VT 05254

From: Jeremiah Gracie <gracietrackingservice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 5:47 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: New Black Bear regulation changes

You don't often get email from gracietrackingservice@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello!
My name is Jeremiah Gracie I am a resident of Lincoln, VT and I am writing to support the proposed black bear changes.
We desperately need to address the rising bear population in this state and I feel that both proposed changes are very much in the benifet of our state. The two bear limit is very reasonable and acceptable. And extending the bear season to the end of muzzleloader I feel is the most usefull change of all. I love harvesting bear but the greatest challenge for me to do so is dealing with butchering the animal. As the years go on there are less and less big game processors in this state and of the ones around most do not offer bear cutting services. This leaves me to cut my own bear when one is harvested, which I do not mind except that during most of the early season it is far too hot to let a bear hang long enough to butcher. Extending the season into december will greately increase oppertunity for me to harvest a bear in sutible weather to allow for propper care of the meat.
Thank you for your time! Both new regulations i whole heartidly support! Please in the future also consider a seperate spring season around March/April.
Thank you,
Jeremiah Gracie

From: Jeremy Ayotte <jayotte2011@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2026 12:49 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear management

You don't often get email from jayotte2011@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

While the state of Vermont is not legally mandated to keep management goals of black bears it is legally required by state statute to actively manage wildlife to keep populations stable and in balance with the ecosystem. You're failing in that category for 5 years. We didn't react soon enough to the issues with the moose population and look at the devastating effect it had. We are doing the same with the bear. What are we going to do wait until there's a problem and our ecosystem with too many bears and the bears start dying off like the moose did? And look back again and say "oh yeah we missed it again. " We can do better.

This increases likelihood of increased costs to the department, to the state of Vermont, taxpayers, and the most important thing of all the balance within the ecosystem!

This isn't a popularity contest of who's right and who's wrong. Or how many votes one person gets to another person's votes on ideas. It's about the ecosystem and doing what's right by the bears. It's about biology. Your increasing the likelihood of bear diseases and the likelihood of an eventual attack.

Please start the season in 2026 for expanded opportunities. Open up your mind to the opportunities of different ways of maintaining the goal. Sometimes that means making the unpopular decision that is not favored by the majority but it is favored by the ecosystem within our environment of Vermont. Target certain areas this year for two tags. Work with landowners to try to get responsible hunters into their property to manage bear population. With a 1.8 cub ratio with the 16 bears collared for the departments research what is the variable, +/- .Im willing to bet 2.3 is the avg looking across all of our bear population. It is not sustainable. I would argue that the variable would not be - or we would not have seen the continued growth over 5 years.

Sincerely Jeremy Ayotte

From: Jeremy Frederick <roastedcode@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:36 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from roastedcode@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I support my fellow hunters but I do not support Bear Hounding because it archaic and unnecessarily cruel to all animals involved.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

- Jeremy Frederick

Fletcher

From: Jeri Martinez <jeri.martinezj@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:21 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jeri.martinezj@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

They were here before we were! We slaughtered Native Americans as well as much of the wildlife they'd cherished and cared for. PLEASE DON'T LET BLOOD-THIRSTY HUNTERS TERRORIZE ALL OF OUR WILDLIFE WHILE MURDERING BEARS!

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Jeri Martinez
Middlesex, Vermont

From: Jess Russell <jesscole76@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:09 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jesscole76@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello!

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this, and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you!
Jess Russell
Morrisville, VT

From: Jess Russell <jesscole76@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:14 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jesscole76@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with most other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this, and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Jess Russell
Morristown VT

From: jesscole76@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jessica Russell <jesscole76@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 8:14 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from jesscole76@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont’s landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Russell
Stowe, VT 05672-5196

From: Jim White <jimbylakec@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:52 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jimbylakec@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

Jim White, Shelburne VT

From: jo <grizzlymama@juno.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:04 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from grizzlymama@juno.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please protect our bears.
I am a wildcrafter and live in the woods. I'm a retired mental health clinician.
I have bears on my property all the time, because my yard is wild food and surrounded by forest.
I have had hundreds of encounters with bears, including mothers with cubs.
It would be impossible for me to write about all the reasons bears are essential to me, as someone who lives primarily on wild food. They provide the trails through the berry bushes, trails that lead me to a host of wild foods. They are the sweetest and extremely sentient animals. Anyone who has regular contact with them and who is not a coward, knows that. Bears come on my deck (no food there), to explore, they come to drink the water from my brook. They even gather berries, just feet away from me, with zero interest in me. When a human is doing what they're doing and minding their own business, bears just assume we're another wild critter.
I don't think people in the city or even suburgatory understand how integral black bears are to ALL WILDLIFE. Like me, wild critters use the bear trails to access food. They eat the food seeded by the bears, who seed more wild food than any other wild animal, thus supporting our diverse ecosystem, like no other.
If they wonder through town, leave them alone. They will leave on their own, unless someone has rewarded them with bad human behavior. And that bad human behavior attracts real pests like rats! So it behooves you to fine anyone in populated areas, who leave food scraps and garbage out or don't clean their grills. Fine the humans and leave the bears alone. Please. NYC rats come for food...they come for food in VT, too. Those are the critters with whom you should be concerned. I saw a rat run right out of the statehouse once! Nobody cared!
Please protect our bears in every way possible.
Hunting them is completely unethical. Hunting mothers with cubs is absolutely criminal.
A man who kills are bear is extremely capable of killing a human being. There is plenty of scientific evidence of that. Go to a prison, ask how many murders in there who lived in a rural area, had also killed bears. You might just be astounded.
Your consideration is greatly appreciated,
Joanna Hamlin
Vershire, VT
802-685-3097

From: jo <grizzlymama@juno.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:18 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from grizzlymama@juno.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom all it concerns,
I am writing to express my deep and consistent opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.
I realize that people who do not live in the forest and depend on bears, and those who live in the forest who have no clue what bears do for them, including hunters, like hounders, who are unethical and immoral.
I depend on the bears for the trails they make and the seeds they drop here on this land where I live, because I live primarily off wild food, many generations. Anyone who lives like this, truly and authentically, realize that the bears are hugely important not only to people like me but even those who hunt. Less wild food, less critters of all kinds. The bears are our MAJOR seeders of the forest. Please, please, please, I urge you to consider all of this in making your decision. I trust you WILL make the right decision, for the bears, the forest and we humans who depend on both.

Sincerely yours,
Joanna Hamlin
Vershire, VT

From: jo <grizzlymama@juno.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:07 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Re: BEARS

You don't often get email from grizzlymama@juno.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom all it concerns,
I am writing to express my deep and consistent opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.
I realize that people who do not live in the forest and depend on bears, and those who live in the forest who have no clue what bears do for them, including hunters, like hounders, who are unethical and immoral.
I depend on the bears for the trails they make and the seeds they drop here on this land where I live, because I live primarily off wild food, many generations. Anyone who lives like this, truly and authentically, realize that the bears are hugely important not only to people like me but even those who hunt. Less wild food, less critters of all kinds. The bears are our MAJOR seeders of the forest. Please, please, please, I urge you to consider all of this in making your decision. I trust you WILL make the right decision, for the bears, the forest and we humans who depend on both.

Sincerely yours,
Joanna Hamlin
Vershire, VT

From: JoAnn Verga <jojovtbear@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 8:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Black Bears

[You don't often get email from jojovtbear@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Members of the Fish & Wildlife Board,

I am writing as a lifelong Vermonter who cares deeply about Vermonts Black Bears and wildlife that makes our state special.

I respectfully but strongly urge you to reject proposals that would expand opportunities to kill Black Bears including extending the hunting season into December and allowing a second bear tag in certain areas.

I also support prohibiting the intentional killing of mother bears with cubs.
Bears are intelligent, social animals, and mothers play an essential role in raising and protecting their young.

Extending hunting into December, when food is diminishing and bears are preparing for winter, seems unnecessary and cruel. Likewise, allowing additional tags raises serious questions about whether more killing is truly necessary for responsible wildlife management.
Human-bear conflicts should be addressed through effective non-lethal measures rather than expanding hunting opportunities.

Black Bears are an important part of Vermonts natural heritage, and many Vermonters value them alive. We should ensure future generations can experience the wonder of seeing these remarkable animals in the wild.

I want future generations-including my own family-and community to have the opportunity to experience the wonder of seeing these remarkable animals in the wild.

Wildlife belongs to all of us, not only to those who wish to hunt it.

Please reject the proposed expansion of bear hunting and the additional bear tag. Keep Vermonts bear-management policies grounded in sound science, compassion, conservation and respect for these animals.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and for your responsibility to protect Vermonts Wildlife.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Verga
Jericho Vt
Sent from my iPhone

From: JoAnn Verga <jojovtbear@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:08 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please do not extend Vermonts Black Bear hunting season into mid-December or allow additional Black Bears to be killed.
I have had Black Bears passing through my yard for 24 years, and in all that time I have never had a single problem or dangerous encounter with them.
Bears and people can coexist if we respect their habitat and act responsibly.
Extending the hunting season and allowing more bears to be killed is not the answer.
Vermonts Black Bears are a precious part of out Wildlife heritage, and they deserve thoughtful management based on sound science- not simply more opportunities to hunt them.

Vermont recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.
Please protect Vermonts Black Bears rather than making it easier to kill them.
Leave their families and their habitat alone!
24 years, no incidents, Coexistence works!
Please don’t change that.
Peacefully sharing my yard in my 10.1 acres of old forest woods, babbling brook, is a true prospective to bring this to discussion.
Vermonts Bears deserve a voice too

Sincerely
JoJo Verga
Jericho Vt

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit JoJo Verga Jericho Vt

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jodi Butler <jodi.butler14@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:54 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Opposed to bear hunting extensions

You don't often get email from jodi.butler14@icloud.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

"I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears."

Jodi Forwand, MD

From: Joe Helmick <joehelmick98@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:14 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Subject: vote YES on prohibiting the intentional killing of mother bears with cubs.

You don't often get email from joehelmick98@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Joseph Helmick
1357 Edgehill Rd. 105
Columbus Ohio 43212 USA

Phone 614 302 0074

From: Joel Eisenkramer <j.eisenkramer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 1:24 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Regarding bear rules

You don't often get email from j.eisenkramer@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VT Fish & Wildlife,

My name is Joel Eisenkramer and I am writing from Guilford, Vermont.

Your own body (VTF&W) recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month. In addition, you're talking about issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December. This is senseless. It puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

Why on earth does anyone need a SECOND bear tag? I don't support hunting bears at all, so a second tag is out of the question. I strongly oppose the issuing of a second bear tag for hunters. These animals are denizens of the land we inhabit and we, the public, deserve equal rights to enjoying their presence. Having hunters out on my land looking for bears definitely curtails that right. Not only do I need to wear reflective clothing to avoid being killed myself, I also have to tolerate hounds and other trespassing due to the bear hunting laws.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

From: John Aberth <johnaberth1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:07 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: John Beagan <jbeagan.vt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:47 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jbeagan.vt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

We oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

We fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

We also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong feelings about this.

John T. Beagan
Sarah M. Peck
Jamaica, VT

From: John Cassella <j.w.cassella@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 7:07 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Population

You don't often get email from j.w.cassella@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

The bear population has reached an unsustainable level, threatening public safety, residents' quality of life, and our tourism-dependent economy. Although current wildlife officials are working hard and have been excellent to deal with, the state must take stronger, immediate action.

We urge state leaders to:

- Extend the bear-hunting season and increase harvest limits where necessary.
- Enforce meaningful fines for businesses and property owners that fail to secure dumpsters and other food sources.
- Give homeowners clear legal authority to protect themselves, their families, and their property when a bear enters an occupied home.
- Implement a deliberate, science-based population-reduction program.
- Establish measurable population targets and publicly report progress.

With no significant natural predators, the bear population will continue to grow unless the state intervenes. Recent encounters are already affecting how residents live, work, and enjoy their communities. They also risk damaging Vermont's fragile tourism economy.

This problem requires more than monitoring and public education. State leaders must act now to reduce the bear population, prevent dangerous encounters, and restore residents' sense of safety.

--
John Cassella
978-500-0624

From: Jon Nothing <jonnothingmusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:31 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jonnothingmusic@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Regards,
Jonathan McLeod
Former resident of Dover and Jamaica, VT

From: Jon Schottland <jonschottland@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 9:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from jonschottland@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR and Vermont Legislature,

One has to wonder about where the state of Vermont comes down in terms of the humane treatment of animals.

Providing a bear hunting season that runs from September to November is one thing, but now there is a proposal to extend that season an additional month, *allowing hunters with up to six dogs to hunt bears who have entered their period of winter hibernation*.

There is no biological data to support the necessity of this extended bear hunting season. But put that aside for a moment and consider this: we humans are stewards of the natural environment, and it is a gross violation of that role to allow bears to be disturbed, chased from their dens while hibernating, and then shot.

We have to be careful with all of our decisions and actions, because it is up to us to create a world where reasonable people can agree on how to live in harmony with nature and each other. Hunting hibernating bears sounds like we are hell bent on doing just the opposite.

Sincerely,
Jon Schottland
Brattleboro, VT

From: Jon Schottland <jonschottland@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:14 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jonschottland@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VT Fish & Wildlife Board and Vermont Legislators:

It is my understanding you are considering a ban on the hunting of hibernating bears.

Good for you, I am in full support of this resolution! From a strictly wildlife management point of view, such a ban is good science because hibernating bears require rest and low metabolic activity to survive in a cold climate like Vermont.

It makes little sense to rouse any hibernating animal and force it to avoid threats to its life. That is not in the spirit of good sportsmanship and sound wildlife management.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing some common sense and wise decision decision-making on this issue.

Best regards,
Jon Schottland
Brattleboro, VT

From: Jonathan Gibson <jgibson@vermontel.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:57 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: proposed changes to Vermont's bear hunting regulations

You don't often get email from jgibson@vermontel.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Friends at the Department of Fish and Wildlife and members of the Fish and Wildlife Board:

I am writing as a private individual, a 44-year resident of Vermont, a landowner enrolled in Use Value Appraisal (where we allow deer hunting), a graduate-level degree holder in natural resources management, and a citizen conservationist. I first want to raise a question about and to dissent from what I understand to be the context for the Department's and the Board's discussions of your responsibities and proposed rules regarding the black bear population in Vermont.

Your proposed rules appear to flow largely from your perception that there are "too many bears in Vermont". Based on your Aug. 6, 2026 press release, the population is estimated at 7,500 to 8,900, compared to "the state's objective" of 3,500 to 5,500. To what extent does the "carrying capacity" of the state's natural ecology to fulfill the food and habitat needs of Ursus americanus factor into calculating the "state's objective"? What are the criteria for measuring that carrying capacity; what verifiable (not anecdotal) data and research have been used to determine actual and optimal species and population requirements; and what additional research is needed to support a wise decision? How well vetted are the computer models being used? Finally, in addition to relying on natural science, the Department and Board must also consider how the bear population objective you set will reflect the various *objectives of the human population*, the people of Vermont, with regard to bears. How will you ensure that you are assessing and weighting *this* accurately? Will this public input help?

There are two voices to which you seem to be most responsive: bear hunters and non-compliant complainers. At least equal, if not far surpassing, the number of hunters who like bear meat or think it's "sporting" or "traditional" practice to shoot bears are those Vermont residents like myself who feel fortunate to share the land with wild creatures and privileged ever to see a black bear. I'm in the woods fairly frequently, and in what I know to be bear habitat - I see signs of feeding and occasional scat in our woodland - but I've seen a bear in the wild only once. Plus once near a bird seed container, twice crossing a road, and a cub dead by a highway. Doesnt seem like we're being catastophically overrun by maurauding bears!

But it appears that the chief reason the state seeks to limit bear numbers is because of human-bear interaction, what are called "frequent and severe human-bear conflicts" (emphasis added). I don't buy the too-many-bears-in-relation-to-humans rationale for longer hunting seasons and higher bear "harvest" (what an arrogant word: "WE," not nature, grew them, so "WE" can take them at will). You are resorting to the same solution as to human-mosquito interaction - kill more, impose the solution disproportionately on the animals, not on the humans. Granted that a car crash involving a bear or significant property or personal harm merits preventive measures, but does a damaged bird feeder or compost fence really justify "taking" more bear? If the problem is really so "severe", why not require humans to be part of a non-fatal solution - impose a fine on people who don't or won't follow the advice of removing or bear-proofing food sources? Call a permitted hunter and let them shoot the bear in the person's back yard - and see how they like that consequence of their inaction. Or, seriously, a modest income/cost-related financial assistance program (funded by hunting permit fees or the Ag Dept) for farmers or others who demonstrate need for more expensive protective measures, like electric fencing of a larger area?

To conclude, I urge you a) TO CONTINUE with ever-better monitoring and research, b) NOT to extend the bear

hunting season, c) NOT to double bear tags to two in certain Wildlife Management Areas (or - if you must have a trial “research” area, make it just one WMA, d) TO PROHIBIT shooting a female bear with cubs in view (and that’s defined as waiting long enough to see if cubs appear, tho’ hard to verify this), e) through increased educational efforts, increase public tolerance of black bears and understanding of bear conservation by removal/exclusion of food sources, f) establish (with Legislative action as needed) enforceable rules that provide penalties for non-compliance with removal of food source attractants - just as I ask you to prohibit and ensure that people are penalized for baiting bears, g) eliminate or curtail hounding of bears by dogs, in terms of timing of training, actual hounding, number of dogs, and owner responsibility for behavior of dogs.

Thank you for your work for Vermonters and for Vermont wildlife and for accepting these comments.
Jonathan Gibson
Shrewsbury, VT 05738

From: Jonathan Miller <jonathan.p.miller1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:08 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Rules

You don't often get email from jonathan.p.miller1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose the extended bear hunting season & issuing a second bear hunting tag.

I support **prohibiting** killing mother bears with cubs & killing hibernating bears. I mean come on that's not sport that's straight up awful.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joyce Maher <mostlysunnyandbreezy@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 2:42 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mostlysunnyandbreezy@outlook.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department,

The Department already recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state has been proposed.

I OPPOSE extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.
The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.
I also OPPOSE issuing a second bear tag.

I fully SUPPORT prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for including my comment in your decision.

Joyce Maher
Newfane, VT

From: Joyce05851@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joyce Littlefield <Joyce05851@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 4:53 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from joyce05851@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joyce Littlefield
Lyndonville, VT 05851-1393

From: jsn7@myfairpoint.net
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 12:26 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: jsn7@myfairpoint.net
Subject: Re: Bears and all animals

You don't often get email from jsn7@myfairpoint.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To our public servants, Vermonters and all citizens of our Great United States,

It is our most important life's task to act with kindness for all life.

A healthy human should never be able to think that which causes pain and suffering to another life is permissible. We understand this with our wonderful and self sacrificial pet dogs. We have laws to protect them. They protect us and willingly give their life for us! All animals should and must receive fair and humane treatment. To do otherwise, we lose a great lasting benefit in our life for ever.

A necessity to live does not necessitate breaking conscience and honorable bounders, then forcing other types of animals to suffer.

Logic should be obvious. Old laws allowing any animal to suffer should be changed.

Sincerely,

Jeff Norton
Burke, VT

From: jsn7@myfairpoint.net
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 12:08 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: jsn7@myfairpoint.net
Subject: Animal rights to humane treatment

You don't often get email from jsn7@myfairpoint.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Humane treatment of all animals should be the goal of all people.
Anything less than a mercy killing is wrong.
We have power and our conscience should be standing on only humane truth.
All animals have love, loyalty and devotion.
Humans should have the same.
Jeff Norton, Burke Vermont

From: Judy Bellairs <judybellairs@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:57 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please amend draft bear rule

You don't often get email from judybellairs@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

We live in a rural part of the state and frequently see bears. We are happy to share the land with them and want to live in peace with them.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I **oppose extending the season into mid-December,** as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose **a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears** to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also **oppose issuing a second bear tag.**

I fully **support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight.** 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

The Department should also support the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Judy Bellairs
Walden

From: Julia Smist <dartor@vermontel.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:30 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from dartor@vermontel.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Julia Smist Westminster Vt

Sent from my iPhone

From: June and George Reilly <myjamcats@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 1:11 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from myjamcats@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

The bears were here first as were all animals.

June Reilly
Stowe resident

From: K Bulnes <akbulnes@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:43 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from akbulnes@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
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• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Ana Bulnes
Colchester, VT

"When you exist in spaces that weren't made for you, remember that just being yourself is the revolution" ~Elaine Welteroth

From: K. Mack <katmack802@pm.me>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 8:15 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from katmack802@pm.me. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,
Katharina Mack
Washington. VT

From: Kaomi Taylor <kaomivermont@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:00 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Brenna
Subject: Public comment on bear rules

You don't often get email from kaomivermont@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Attention Fish and Wildlife:

Please do not extend bear season. Extending the season is wasteful and wanton. Hunting does not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, habitat protection does.

I urge the department to become a leading voice in preserving and improving wildlife habitat so that wildlife and humans have sufficient resources to coexist.

Bear hounding is outdated cruelty and should be eradicated. Until it is, prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears is just common decency and giving the Commissioner specific power to revoke a bear dog permit is simple common sense.

Please have the courage to do the right things in these matters.

Respectfully,
Kaomi

From: Kaomi Taylor <kaomivermont@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:23 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Updated public comment on bear rules

You don't often get email from kaomivermont@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Regarding my previous comment, I want to put on record that I am a Vermont resident.

_____

Attention Fish and Wildlife:

Please do not extend bear season. Extending the season is wasteful and wanton. Hunting does not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, habitat protection does.

I urge the department to become a leading voice in preserving and improving wildlife habitat so that wildlife and humans have sufficient resources to coexist.

Bear hounding is outdated cruelty and should be eradicated. Until it is, prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears is just common decency and giving the Commissioner specific power to revoke a bear dog permit is simple common sense.

Please have the courage to do the right things in these matters.

Respectfully,
Kaomi
Colchester

--
___

Kaomi Joy Taylor, MPA

How Name Fluent Are You?™

802 242-5402
www.museumofnames.com
kaomi@museumofnames.com
Curious how to pronounce my name? Listen here.

From: Kara Evarts <evartsk@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Extending the bear hunt season

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

I believe choosing to shoot hibernating bears and cubs is not hunting and totally unethical and certainly not sporting. We need to respect the lives of these helpless
creatures while they are at their most vulnerable stage of their lives, not exploit it for gratuitous barbaric enjoyment.

Please, let's be on the side of compassionate human beings preserving and protecting our beautiful sentient and wild creatures.

Thank you,

KC Evarts
Bennington County

From: Karen Dolliver <karen.dolliver@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 9:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from karen.dolliver@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I agree issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank You,
Karen

Sent from my iPhone

From: Karen Hoover <fourcatshoover@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: ANR - FW Board Windham
Subject: Public Comment on Bear Management Rule

You don't often get email from fourcatshoover@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To: The Board
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

From: Karen Hoover MD (fourcatshoover@gmail.com)
77 Country Hill
Brattleboro VT 05301-6868

Date: September 2, 2026

I have recently become aware of proposed changes to State rules regarding the management of bears in Vermont.

First, I commend the Board for maintaining a ban on the hunting of bears using bait as well as currently proposing prohibition of intentional hunting of a mother bear with cubs in sight—a cruel practice that can well consign the offspring to a period of protracted hunger and ultimate starvation.

I would like to address the proposals to extend bear hunting season and the allowance for killing two bears in designated areas of the state. Both of these proposals stand as the means to reduce drastically the bear population estimated by the VFAWD at 7500-8900 currently down to 3500-5500.

Why?

I see no valid rationale to implement such rules given existing guidelines for coexisting with wildlife in our state. And I see a significant downside to doing so in view of the benefits we gain from that coexistence. Bears are great stewards of our environment, regulating the insect and ungulate populations, and acting as powerful agents of plant nutrition and spread via their scat while accelerating transformation of decayed tree trunks into soil, as they also aerate it. As you are aware, the evidence of mitigating human-bear interactions by killing these animals is frankly not there. The numbers of HBC's do **not** diminish reliably with the increase in killed animals, whereas the efficacy of simple actions that residents can take to protect themselves and the bears against unfortunate interactions (injury and death vanishingly rare if ever) is compelling and avoids the cruelty of resorting to killing them. Educating Vermont's residents about these inquisitive fascinating creatures is a great way to assuage the fear people may necessarily have towards such large animals and invest them with a confidence in how to manage a sighting without fear.

In this age of ever advancing climate change, the last objective we should have is to destroy significant numbers of our natural wildlife populations which already struggle to survive in an increasingly hostile environment. I would sincerely hope that the VFAWD would assume more of a stewardship role with considerably less proposals that resort to higher numbers of animals killed and more creative approaches that manage the welfare as well as the numbers of wildlife in our beautiful state.

From: Karen Nielsen <knielsenmv@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 12:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from knielsenmv@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also vehemently oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

It is time for Vermont to join the 21st century with regard to its wildlife laws and protection. It is an embarrassment how cruel and ignorant current laws and some of these proposed changes are. It is time to align with current views and practices that are in place in many other states.

Signed,

Karen Nielsen
Morrisville, VT

From: kasiokea@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of K. King <kasiokea@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 9:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from kasiokea@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont’s landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
K. King
Burlington, VT 05408-5719

From: Kate Tilton <katetilton17@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:27 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from katetilton17@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning,

I have some concerns.
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you
Kate Tilton
Middlebury, VT 05753

From: kate <kate@kkirkwood.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 12:10 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment; ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kate@kkirkwood.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for listening to and considering these issues.

Kate Kirkwood
867 Whitaker Farm Rd
Brattleboro, VT 05301
603-781-4304

From: KATERINE AUBRY <kataubry@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:51 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Protecting our bear population

You don't often get email from kataubry@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi! I am a Vermont resident and I support protecting mother bears and their dependent cubs.
I am also for protecting hibernating and denning bears.
We need to reconsider hounding as well,like pushing back the dates for hound training to August 1st.
And finally I strongly oppose the extension of bear hunting season to December and no second bear tag should be issued.
Thank you.Katerine Aubry.

From: Katherine Mclellan <katherinemclellan95@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:17 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from katherinemclellan95@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Katherine Mclellan <katherinemclellan95@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:17 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from katherinemclellan95@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Katherine Schubart <robart@gmavt.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:51 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules — input from Hinesburg, Vermont

You don't often get email from robart@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I write to say that I'm in accord with the declaration below from Protect Our Winters (POW). And this is written by a Vermonter who lives with bear visits rather regularly despite obeying rules to take down birdfeeders spring through fall. It is clear that there are more bears these days, but this is not an "invasion" that threatens people. So we can and should find other ways to manage the current bump in population without killing more bears.

It is shocking to hear that removing the ban on hunting and killing bears during hibernation is being considered. This would not be sport but culling of an animal that is in no way a real threat to humans.

Katherine Schubart in accord with the following POW positions...

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Voltaire: "Anyone who has the power to make you believe absurdities has the power to make you commit injustices." ***From my iPad***

From: Kathleen Beach <kmbeach25@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear laws

You don't often get email from kmbeach25@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to submit my comments regarding the proposed changes to the bear hunting regulations.

First, I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as this puts hibernating bears at an increased risk. To align Vermont with the majority of other states, the Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears. I also oppose the issuance of a second bear tag.

Conversely, I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. Eighty-four percent of states and provinces that allow bear hunting already prohibit this practice, and Vermont should do the same.

Additionally, I request that the Department consider the following measures:

- Shorten the bear hound training season.
- Align the bear hounding rules with coyote hounding rules by limiting the number of dogs from six to four and strengthening the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you for considering my feedback on these important conservation issues.

Best regards,

Kathleen Beach

From: kathleen gaffney <kgaff059@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 5:03 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kgaff059@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

The supposed rationale VT F & W uses to make many of its decisions is unscientific and it undermines whatever trust the public who do NOT hunt (i.e.: the MAJORITY of Vermont Residents) have left in this agency.

Leaving orphan cubs to die without their mother is cruel & heartless - ANIMALS ARE SENTIENT CREATURES!!!!!!!!

Killing more bears OR coyotes does NOT in & of itself reduce populations. FACT. Killing moose to reduce tick populations does NOT reduce said tick populations. FACT.

Harassing wild animals or using "CANNED HUNTING" methods as "sporting" events is amoral & shameful.

Governor Shumlin's popularity is waning & these issues are a part of what is driving them down.

Cease catering to a minority of this state's population - you are: BEHOLDEN TO US ALL!!!

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

The Dunlap Family
Bennington VT

From: kathleen gaffney <kgaff059@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:46 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kgaff059@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

PLEASE CEASE TO ALLOW THE HUNTING OF HIBERNATING BEARS AND KILLING LACTATING FEMALES TO ALLOW HELPLESS CUBS TO SUFFER & DIE!

HUNTING HIBERNATING BEARS IS CRUEL AND IS THE EQUIVALENT OF CANNED HUNTING! IT REQUIRES NO SKILL WHATSOEVER AND CERTAINLY NO COURAGE. IT IS, IN FACT, A COWARDLY ACT!

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Kathleen Gaffney

The Dunlap Family

Old Bennington

From: Kathleen Moore <kathleen1moore@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 1:24 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comment on Bear Rules

You don't often get email from kathleen1moore@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

* I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I

* also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

* I support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also encourage you to:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you.
Kathleen Moore
213 Elm Street #5
Montpelier, VT 05602

From: Kathryn Heath <kathrynv.heath@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:03 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comments and Position on Proposed Bear Rules - State of Vermont

You don't often get email from kathrynv.heath@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello

Thank you for considering my comments and opinions regarding the proposed rules for hunting bears in the State of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife have proposed extending the bear hunting season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I am opposed to extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also am opposed to issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
The Heath Family
Chittenden and Washington Counties

From: Kathy Archibald Clarkson <kathyaclarkson@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 8:23 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: ANR - FW Board Windsor; Michael.Hoyt@vtleg.gov
Subject: Public Comment: Total Ban on Bear Hounding and Opposition to Proposed Bear Rule Changes (26P025)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Members of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, Representative Hoyt, and Board Member Burnham,

As a Pomfret resident from a multi-generational Vermont family, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed bear rule changes (26P025) and demand a complete ban on bear hounding.

The current regulatory process disproportionately favors special interest groups, denying the broader public an equal voice in how our state's shared wildlife is managed.

When we know better, we must do better. Wildlife management should evolve alongside modern ecological science and the ethical values of today's citizens. Vermont cannot progressively move forward while expanding practices that the majority of its residents no longer support.

While I support the proposed prohibition on killing mother bears with cubs, the remaining proposals are unacceptable:

- **Oppose Extended Season:** Extending the season into mid-December places vulnerable, hibernating bears at severe risk.
- **Oppose Second Tag:** Vermont Fish & Wildlife acknowledges that increasing the bear harvest does not reduce human-bear conflicts; a second tag is unnecessary.
- **Demand Total Hounding Ban:** Instead of minor rule adjustments, Vermont must completely outlaw bear hounding. Chasing bears with GPS-collared hound packs inflicts immense biological stress on wildlife, disrupts non-target species, and repeatedly violates the private property rights of local landowners.

True conservation must reflect the values of all Vermonters. I urge the Board to reject the extended season, deny the second tag, and take immediate steps to end bear hounding permanently.

Thank you for your time and accountability.

Kathy A Clarkson

Pomfret, VT

From: Kathy Johnson <yayo.johnson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 7:47 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from yayo.johnson@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

For public comment:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Additionally, I would like to see the banning of hibernating bears. Vermont is an outlier with this practice and I would like the state I love to join others who also believe this practice is wrong in many ways. Please consider and ban this inhumane practice.

Sincerely,
Kathy J Johnson
Williston

From: Kathy K <katkinter@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:51 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from katkinter@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my understanding that hunting more bears in VT will not necessarily reduce future conflicts between bears and humans. For this reason I oppose extending the season by a full month into mid-December which puts hibernating bears at risk. As you know, most other states do not allow hibernating bears to be killed or harassed.

Mother bears accompanied by cubs absolutely should NOT be hunted and killed. Again, most other states prohibit this.

In addition, I would like to see the department take action on the following:
1. Limit dogs from 6 to 4 for bear hounding and strengthen policy regarding the control of dogs
2. Shorten the bear hound training season
3. Allow the commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, should it be warranted.

Thank you for your consideration.
Kathy Kinter
2559 Eagle Peak Rd
W Brookfield, VT

From: KATHY ULLMEYER <kku83@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:46 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Vermont's Wildlife

You don't often get email from kku83@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge and plead that the department can implement strict protections that prohibit the inhumane and cruel killing of mother bears with cubs, and ban the "hunting" and killing of hibernating bears. Please don't allow Vermont to sink that low - there are ways to coexist without merely killing off the inbalance - and not with cubs to die painfully and unnecessarily without the nurturing, love and teaching of their mothers.

Sincerely & Respectfully,
Kathy Ullmeyer
Arlington, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Katie <kwklutz@stowe.nu>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kwklutz@stowe.nu. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I vehemently oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
Shorten the bear hound training season
Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for any consideration you may give these ideas!!!

Katie Whittaker

Stowe VT

From: Katie <kwklutz@stowe.nu>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:08 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kwklutz@stowe.nu. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
Shorten the bear hound training season
Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for any consideration you might give this!!

Katie Whittaker

Stowe VT

From: KB <karen.m.bourque@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:55 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public comment: Bear hunting rules

You don't often get email from karen.m.bourque@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing to oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December, as that allows hibernating bears to be killed in their dens. How can that be considered "hunting"? The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department should prohibit the harassment and killing of hibernating bears in Vermont, which would align our state with the laws and best practices in almost every other state in the nation. Further, I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- Shorten the bear hound training season
- Align bear hounding rules with coyote hounding rules, and limit the number of dogs to four. Also, strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." A pack running wild out of sight of their owner can in no way be considered "under control"
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your consideration,
Karen Bourque
West Fairlee, VT

From: Kelly Lord <kelly.e.lord@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:53 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Laws

You don't often get email from kelly.e.lord@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I strongly oppose the proposed extension of the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Rather than extending the season and allowing for the killing of even more bears, I urge the department to enact strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears, practices that are cruel and unjust. Bears deserve better.

Thank you.
Kelly Lord
Peru, VT

From: kelly wellings <vtkelly2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:52 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from vtkelly2001@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Kelly Wellings
Addison, VT

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: kelsyraap@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:21 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public comment: I oppose the proposed extension to bear hunting season

You don't often get email from kelsyraap@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Thank you,
Kelsy

From: Kent Penfield <dkpenfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:04 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Cruelty to Bears

You don't often get email from dkpenfield@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dogs should NOT be allowed in bear hunting.

Kent Penfield
(802)296-1559

From: kerry edmunds <kjedmunds1@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 12:52 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting rule changes

You don't often get email from kjedmunds1@outlook.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Fish and Wildlife:

We oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. We also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

We fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

We also ask that the
Department consider the following:

• Shorten the bear hound
training season

• Align the bear
hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and
strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner
to revoke a bear dog permit

As a personal note, we have had issues with hounders for 28 years, on posted property, in our neighborhood. Still, last year we sat on our deck and listened as trucks released hounds on 4 separate Sundays, and within 15 to 30 minutes ended with gunshots and a dead bear. At least one of those

was a mother with 2 cubs. One of those cubs died during the winter in a tree behind our house. I actually buried the remaining fur and bones today with leaves because I have to walk by it every single day. The other cub survived the winter by itself but it is a tiny little thing with a potbelly. It hung around the roadside all spring and just now is beginning to explore and extend its range and feed on things other than grass.

There is no excuse for hounding in posted neighborhoods, especially when you have been asked multiple times to keep out, when you have frightened horses and sheep and chased cats, attacked coyotes on front lawns, walking past No Trespassing signs with rifles. We now keep up to 11 cameras out over at least 3 properties. I met one of my neighbors yesterday who allows public ski trails on his property, and he said, he is too old to post anymore but because of hounding, his daughter is posting and is halfway done. I told him it would be wonderful if F&W adopted humane standards for every practice, then perhaps none of us would have to post our land.

No hounding should begin on June 1st when all Vermont wildlife is pregnant, nursing or giving birth. This is just plain wrong. No mother bear with cubs should be killed intentionally, leaving the cubs to die or suffer.

Thank you for your time,
William and Kerry Edmunds
1324 Shadow Lake Road
Craftsbury Common, VT 05827

From: Kevin Carney <vtcarney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 1:53 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment; Kevin Carney

You don't often get email from vtcarney@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I am offering my comments and concerns about the expansion of bear hunting season.

This past spring we had a young bear push over our chicken coop and steal the eggs. I was upset, not with the bear but, with myself. I hadn't fortified my coop against bears. The bear visited several times and he was a pleasure to watch. He was at times curious and at times playful, never threatening.

Unfortunately, someone with a gun became upset when the bear went through his trash. Rather than secure his trash, he killed the young animal. Maybe part of the problem was that I didn't scare the off rather than enjoying a view of nature. Instead, I blame a short sighted, selfish and lazy man for robbing me of the great joyful experience watching wildlife.

I fear that the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is making a similar move as my neighbor by expanding the bear hunting season. In doing so, the department allows people who love to kill wildlife to increase their personal pleasure at the expense of those who enjoy wild LIFE.

Additionally, expanding hunting season creates conditions on my property whereby I cannot safely walk my dogs, especially my 100lb black dog, due to hunters who frequent the upper sections of my property. In discussion with some friends, we are posting our lands for the first time ever.

Please remember that you represent the Department of Fish and Wildlife, not the Department of Hunters and Fisherman. Protect and increase wildlife populations for the pleasure of all of the people rather than for the enjoyment of the minority of folks (hunters). Shorten the hunting season. Educate people to avoid unsatisfactory wildlife experiences. Offer incentives for private land owners to allow hunting by educating hunters to pick up their trash including shell casings. Further educate hunters to only fire their weapons at their intended legal game and avoid randomly discharging multiple shots on private land that is not their own.

My family and I want to enjoy the wildlife. I loved hearing the sounds of coyotes which have become rare in my local area due to year round hunting. I love following animals tracks and signs in the winter woods. I loved following the bobcat tracks in the snow but another neighbor's chickens were attacked so he killed the animal that I had been following. I want to enjoy and share these pleasures which have enriched my life and the lives of so many others. I hope you can support everyone's goals, not just those of hunters.

From: kevin duniho <duniho@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 7:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from duniho@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Dr. Kevin Duniho, DPT
Owner: VT Pain Relief PT
83 Kirby Rd
East Burke, VT 05832
802-752-7990
Www.PTnVT.com
IG: @DrSkimo

From: Kevin lawrence <nedappleman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 6:43 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from nedappleman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please vote to support the changes to the bear hunting rules. We need to increase opportunity for hunters and reduce the bear herd. Thank you.

From: Kevin lawrence <nedappleman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2026 10:26 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear regulations

You don't often get email from nedappleman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It's time to expand hunter opportunity with a longer season and increased tag availability. Please don't let the vocal anti's speak for Vermonters. Thank you.

From: Kevin lawrence <nedappleman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 10:35 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Rule Changes

You don't often get email from nedappleman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please support the extended season for bear hunting and a statewide 2-bear tag limit per hunter. Also, get it done for the 2027 season.

Thankyou.

Kevin Lawrence
Newbury, Vermont

From: Kilborn, Ryan
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:15 AM
To: anr.fwboard@list.vermont.gov
Cc: Connolly, Abigail
Subject: Fw: Bear Rule Comment

Just passing this along to everyone.

From: Gaelan Chutter-Ames <gaelan.chutterames@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment <ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov>; ANR - FW Board Orange <ANR.FWBoardOrange@vermont.gov>; Batchelder, Jason <Jason.Batchelder@vermont.gov>
Subject: Bear Rule Comment

You don't often get email from gaelan.chutterames@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi,
I'm not sure I was entirely clear or coherent when I spoke at the August Board Meeting so I would like to follow up here. I support extending the bear season and making it possible, where the biologists indicate necessary, to get a second bear tag. As I understand it, bears out later are more likely to be boars or single sows, so this strikes me as a good move as well as aligning with rifle season for greater clarity and opportunity.

I do worry that changing the license structure from combined/included with rifle deer tag to separate tag will lower tag purchases by those who will harvest a bear if they have it in their pocket but would not/might not affirmatively select it in the purchase process.

Why not try to get the data in reverse? Make the new bear tag an "opt out" option in the purchase process - this will tell the department numbers on who is NOT open to harvesting a bear. Add, then, a question you must answer before checkout asking whether you target bears or are an opportunistic bear hunter.

I think this, or a structure like this would allow the department to gather data on hunting behavior/intent while helping maintain opportunistic bear harvest. Given the rising bear population it seems this would be in the interest of all stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gaelan Chutter-Ames
Randolph Center

From: Kimberly DiNofrio <tangerineandolivevt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:46 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting rules

You don't often get email from tangerineandolivevt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag.

Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Kimberly DiNofrio
Morristown, VT
--
Kimberly DiNofrio
Tangerine & Olive
Tangerineandolive.com

From: Kimberly W Findlay <farafieldfarm@gmavt.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Kim Findlay
Charlotte, VT

From: Kimberly W Findlay <farafieldfarm@gmavt.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:01 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Kim Findlay
Charlotte, VT

From: Kip Douglas <kipsive@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 5:26 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Rules

[You don't often get email from kipsive@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hunting more VT bears is not guaranteed to resolve Vermont's human/bear conflicts, yet in some areas of our State, VT Fish and Wildlife has proposed extending the bear season by an additional month and issuing a second bear tag.

I oppose extending Vermont's bear season into mid-December, thereby putting hibernating bears at increased risk of being shot in their dens, leaving their nursing cubs to starve.

The Department should prohibit the winter harassment and killing of hibernating bears, which would align our state with the majority of American states.

I oppose VT Fish and Wildlife's proposed issuance of a second bear tag, since there is no science supporting the supposition that killing more bears would prevent bear-human contacts.

Along with the 83% of the states and provinces that prohibit hunting and killing mother bears with cubs in sight, I support a prohibition on this cruel practice.

I further request that the Department consider making the following changes to the State's bear hounding rules:

• Shortening the bear hound training season; • Aligning the bear hounding rules with the rules for hunting coyotes; reducing the dog limit from 6 to four, and strengthening the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allowing the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Respectfully,

Susan K. Sively
PO Box 213/ 390 Tunnel Street
Readsboro, VT 05350

From: Kirby Mene <kirbymene@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:41 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kirbymene@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- Shorten the bear hound training season
- Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thanks,
Kirby Mene
Wilmington, VT

From: Kit Whallon <kwhallon@wsesdvt.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:31 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kwhallon@wsesdvt.org. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.
Thank you. It's a privilege to live in a place where we still have wildlife. We need to treat them with respect. Many citizens like me are paying attention to this issue.

My name is Kathleen Whallon. I live in Brattleboro, Vermont.
My address is 808 Bonnyvale Rd, Brattleboro, VT. 05301.
892 579- 5814

From: Kit Whallon <kwhallon@wsesdvt.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:27 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from kwhallon@wsesdvt.org. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Kris Linn <kris_dotcom@gmavt.net>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 6:09 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from kris_dotcom@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit Sincerely, Kris Linn Richmond

Sent from my iPhone

From: L. Winter <sbmwinter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 7:51 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from sbmwinter@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,

Laura Winter
Wilmington

From: L. Winter <sbmwinter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 7:26 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,

Laura Winter
Wilmington

From: lakin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Justine Lakin <lakin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 6:22 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from lakin@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Justine Lakin
Springfield, VT 05156-2234

From: lamphere.jeff@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from lamphere.jeff@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

As a landowner with personal experiences with bear hounders on several occasions covering several years of the too lengthy “training season”, I am requesting that a serious modification of the description of “control” be established. Racing up and down the road “TRACKING” the hounds is not control of the hounds, and is a serious violation of human vehicular control.

As a result of these control issues with bear hounders my property in peacham is posted.

Jeff Lamphere
Peacham, Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lance Polya <lpvt14@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:59 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from lpvt14@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Lance Polya, PhD
46 Fields Ln
Jericho,Vermont

From: Lani Nichols <lani_1121@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:40 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from lani_1121@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am appalled that Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The bears are hounded (chased by dogs) right up to hibernation as it is, making it difficult to eat and gain weight for hibernation. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

Stop killing cubs and mother bears. It’s deplorable! I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Lani Nichols
2167 Lake Dunmore Rd
Leicester, VT 05733

Sent from my iPhone

From: larkshield@aol.com
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2026 1:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor; Comeau, Jaclyn; Austin, John
Subject: Fish and Wildlife Board Meeting June 17, 2026

You don't often get email from larkshield@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Board members and associates,

I attended Wednesday's Fish & Wildlife Board meeting and would like to address something the Department shared that is inaccurate.

I listened attentively and watched the replay video when Jaclyn Comeau said the hounds strike a scent off a traveling bear, which led the listeners to think the bear had to be traveling recently in order for the hounds to pick up the scent.

Scent persistence is also a factor. A bear's den consistently releases the animal's distinct scent into the air. Hounds can easily pick this up on the breeze rather than having to follow a fresh ground trail. Bear hounds often run miles away from the hounder, and during these pursuits they run unsupervised through the forest. These hounds will undoubtedly be attracted to the smell of a bear emanating from its den. Their noses are trained to sniff out bears. I was disappointed that the Department didn't offer a more accurate response and instead chose to downplay this. There is a definite need to educate hunters, the Board, and public regarding this matter.

Before receiving a bear dog permit, hounders are not required to prove that their hounds are trained, therefore, basically anyone that applies and pays the fee, gets a permit. It makes no sense for the Department to claim that hounds won't disturb hibernating bears.

I understand that the Department is very sensitive to not wanting to upset the hounding community, but that does not mean they should provide the Board with inaccurate and incomplete information. I look forward to this subject being corrected at future Board meetings, with hunters, and with the public at large.

Sincerely,

Lark Shields
Craftsbury, VT

From: Larry Tho <larrythompsonms@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:05 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comments on Proposed Vermont Bear-Hunting Rule Changes

You don't often get email from larrythompsonms@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Commissioner and Board Members,

I am concerned that the proposed bear-hunting changes rely too heavily on increased harvest as a response to human-bear conflicts. Vermont Fish & Wildlife itself emphasizes reducing access to human food sources such as garbage, birdfeeders, pet food, chicken coops, and beehives as an important means of preventing conflicts.

Research does not support assuming that additional recreational hunting alone will reduce conflicts. A 2023 Ontario study found that adding a spring hunt significantly increased bear harvest but did not reduce human-bear interactions. A long-term Minnesota study found that reducing the bear population through hunting can reduce complaints, but the population declined more than intended and the researchers described hunting as a "blunt instrument." Both studies emphasize the importance of food availability, attractant management, and public education.

For these reasons, I oppose allowing a second bear in selected Wildlife Management Units unless Vermont-specific evidence demonstrates that the additional harvest is likely to meaningfully reduce conflicts.

I also oppose extending the season into mid-December. Research on female black bears in Maine found that many entered dens in October during poor food years and in mid- to late November during abundant food years, with pregnant females tending to den earlier. Extending hunting into December therefore overlaps the denning period for some bears. Recent research also shows that significant disturbance of denning females can cause them to flee their dens and, in some cases, abandon cubs. I urge Vermont to prohibit the intentional pursuit, harassment, or killing of bears in dens.

I strongly support prohibiting the intentional taking of a sow accompanied by cubs. Black bear cubs typically remain with their mother for approximately 17–18 months, including a second winter, and California is among the jurisdictions that prohibit taking females accompanied by cubs.

I also urge the Department and Board to:

- Move bear-hound training from June 1 to July 1, consistent with Maine.
- Reduce the maximum bear-hound pack from six dogs to four, consistent with Vermont's coyote-hounding rule, and strengthen dog-control and tracking requirements.
- Give the Commissioner explicit authority to suspend or revoke bear-dog permits for serious or repeated violations.

Vermont should give priority to measures most directly aimed at the causes of human-bear conflict—preventing access to human food, public education, and addressing individual conflict bears—rather than relying primarily on longer seasons and additional tags.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Larry Thompson
West Brookfield, VT

From: Laura C <lhfroggie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment; Laura C; LCAR@leg.state.vt.us; Batchelder, Jason
Subject: Bear Management Rule Comments

You don't often get email from lhfroggie@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department,

I am writing as a Vermont (275 Bliss Road, Marshfield VT) resident to express my opposition to proposals that would expand opportunities for bear hounding or extend Vermont's black bear hunting season into mid-December.

I support responsible wildlife management and recognize that hunting has a long history in Vermont. However, I believe bear management decisions should place strong emphasis on conservation, animal welfare, **fair-chase principles,** and protection of family groups.

I am particularly concerned about any extension of hounding opportunities. Pursuing bears with packs of dogs can place significant stress on bears and may also disturb other wildlife, private property owners, hikers, and others using Vermont's woods. Extending these activities further into the year would only increase those concerns.

I also oppose extending the general black bear hunting season into mid-December, through the end of deer season. By that time of year, bears are entering or preparing for their winter denning period.

I do, however, strongly support establishing explicit protections for mother bears with cubs. Vermont regulations should clearly prohibit the intentional targeting or killing of a sow when dependent cubs are present. Protecting family groups should be a basic component of responsible bear management, and the regulation should leave no ambiguity about this protection.

I respectfully ask the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Board to:

- Oppose expansion of Vermont's bear **hounding season.**
- Maintain the existing black bear hunting season rather than extending it into mid-December.
- Adopt a clear prohibition against intentionally targeting or killing a sow accompanied by dependent cubs.
- Ensure that any future changes to bear hunting regulations are supported by sound biological data, conservation needs, and meaningful public input.

Vermont's wildlife is a public resource, and decisions affecting black bears should reflect the interests of all Vermonters, including hunters, wildlife watchers, landowners, hikers, and those who simply value having healthy wildlife populations in our state.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Laura Christie

275 Bliss Road

Marshfield, VT 05658

From: laura conti <contionline@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: 100% opposed to bear hunting extension & added tags

You don't often get email from contionline@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

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ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov

I am writing to state my complete disapproval of extending the bear hunting season and issuing more tags as well as the completely inhumane concept of killing sows with cubs, and cubs themselves.

PLEASE - there are better ways to manage this. I just read a post (3 days into the season) of a man whose hounds chased a bear up a tree and then into a rock hole where he shot it. How cruel must that death have been?? This is what you want more of?? Not a skilled single kill shot, but likely many torturous & painful shots to the head and face as that bear attempted to hide. Horrible and inhumane. And that hunter afterward, grinning and so proud as he told his story. Do not reward this behavior!

You want to give more access to people like this, someone so callous about the bear's suffering, so careless to be shooting at rocks?!?! Is this not gun-safety 101?? You want to give him a longer season and more tags?

Aside from the 6 months of hell you already issue to bear, you want to extend it? Why stop at all? Oh, because then there would be nothing left to hunt. We wouldn't want that. Don't upset the hunters.

You simply aren't taking responsibility for what's going on out there if you think allowing more killing is the answer.

Rather than penalize the bear and reward the hunters (yes, we know many of vtf&w are hunters themselves, making this a personal vs representative campaign) - concentrate your efforts on reducing bear human conflict - on fixing the real issue: make people stop training bear to inhabit our communities. Let's send the bear back into the woods where nature will take them back under its wing.

The lack of a truly measured effort to ensure residents & businesses take responsibility for their refuse (and bird feeders) almost makes it seem like you're supportive of the problem. If you put as much effort into fixing the bear influx into our communities as you do protecting hunters and trying to give this minority special interest group even more leeway - you could have solved the problem by now.

Don't fix this by allowing more killing. Fix it by being smart and humane.

Thank you.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears."

From: Laura Dailey <lalacovey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 9:53 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: 2026 proposed bear season changes

You don't often get email from lalacovey@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good day,
My name is Laura Dailey. I live in Calais, born and raised multi-generation Vermonter. I haven't hunted a ton, but some, my husband does every year most seasons. We had a bear take out the wall of our garage to get to our locked trash cans last year, then come charge towards me in the driveway with my dog behind me. I was forced to defend myself and my animal, but inadvertently killed it when I shot bird shot at it. (Of course it was reported and investigated.) We have had them take out our chicken and turkey coops, destroy fences and gardens, and property and it's getting worse every year despite our efforts. We love to see their beauty occasionally but the numbers are out of control and they are getting more brazen all the time. We NEED to try new strategies to address it. Therefore, you have my vote to extend the season, add an additional tag, AND allow baiting (which I know is not on the agenda yet but when and if it is I absolutely support that as well.)

Feel free to email me with any questions or for further feedback.

Thank you,
Laura Dailey
(802) 522-8227

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Laura Fried <lauragfried@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:04 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting - public comment

You don't often get email from lauragfried@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I would like to voice my request for public comment:
to not shoot bears while hibernating,
to not shoot mothers with cubs,
to not hunt with hounds.

In fact, let's be ecstatic that we have bears at numbers so high above previous recent years. Why kill them at all?

Yes, it is difficult to deal with compost (if you don't have a working electric fence). But luckily the town transfer stations offer that as an option. It is up to us to protect and help bears thrive. And I am happy that they can help curb the overabundant deer population, overgrazing our forest floor of its native vegetation. Without native plants, we will lose our pollinators (and birds), and Vermont will be a really, really inconvenient place to live (no local food). Let's think long term.

Thank you,
Laura Fried
Waterbury Center

From: Laura Smart <laura392007@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Laura Yanne <laura_yanne@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:35 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from laura_yanne@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Laura Yanne
145 Tiffany Ln
Pawlet, VT 05761

From: lauren Alpert <laurenmichelealpert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from laurenmichelealpert@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

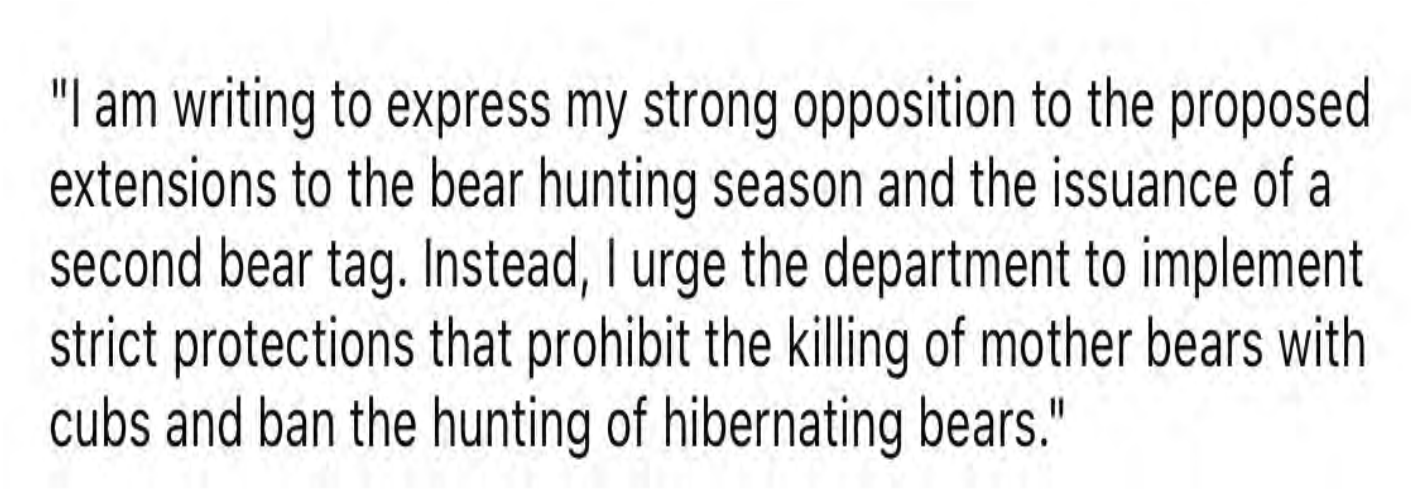
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• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Lauren Vara-Good <lvaragood@cvsu.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 6:45 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please help the bears

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From: Laurie Danforth <danforth.laurie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 4:59 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: response to 26P025, Bear Management Rule.

You don't often get email from danforth.laurie@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Members of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board and Department,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed extension of Vermont's bear hunting season.

I understand the concern about the increasing number of human-bear encounters in Vermont. I live in rural Vermont, where bears are very much a part of our landscape, and I certainly believe we need to take these conflicts seriously. But I question whether extending the hunting season is the right response when so many of these encounters are caused by human behavior rather than aggressive bear behavior.

Bears are extraordinarily good at finding food. When we leave garbage accessible, keep bird feeders out during the months when bears are active, leave pet or livestock food outdoors, fail to protect chickens and beehives, or otherwise provide an easy meal, bears learn very quickly that our homes and communities are sources of food. Too often, the bear ultimately pays the price for behavior that began with people.

Before extending the hunting season, I would like to see Vermont make a much greater investment in preventing these conflicts in the first place.

In particular, I urge the Department and the State to consider programs that make bear-resistant garbage containers readily available and affordable to Vermonters, particularly in communities experiencing frequent bear conflicts. The cost of a bear-resistant container can discourage people from purchasing one; a subsidy, rebate, community purchasing program, or partnership with waste haulers could make a real difference.

I would also like to see a much stronger public education campaign about bird feeding. Many well-intentioned Vermonters simply do not realize that birdseed is an extremely attractive and calorie-rich food for bears. The message needs to be simple, consistent, and repeated often: if bears are active, bird feeders need to come down. Feeding birds should be limited to the winter months when bears are denned.

The same effort should address compost, grills, pet food, chicken feed, beehives, and other common attractants. We should make it easy for people to understand exactly what they need to do to live responsibly in bear country.

I value Vermont's healthy black bear population. The return of bears to our forests is a wildlife conservation success, not simply a problem to be solved. As our bear population and human development increasingly overlap, coexistence will require some changes in human behavior.

Hunting may have a legitimate role in wildlife management, but extending the hunting season should not become a substitute for addressing the preventable causes of human-bear conflict. Before killing more bears, I would like to see Vermont put substantially more effort and resources into helping Vermonters stop attracting them.

Please do not extend the bear hunting season. Instead, invest in practical prevention, bear-resistant waste systems, public education, and greater responsibility on our part for the behaviors that bring bears into conflict with people.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your work on behalf of Vermont's wildlife.

Sincerely,

Laurie Danforth
Grafton, Vermont

From: Laurie Lakin <ljlakin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 4:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from ljlakin@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

Laurie Lakin
1100 Coles Road
Island Pond, VT 05846

From: Leavitt, Priscilla <priscilla.kellert@yale.edu>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:14 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules!

You don't often get email from priscilla.kellert@yale.edu. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Department of Fish and Wildlife in Vermont,

I live in Washington, Vermont and love seeing wildlife on my farm. I own over 200 acres.

I understand that you recognize that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet you have proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I **oppose** extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.
The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.
I also **oppose** issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support **prohibiting** the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight.
84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cilla Leavitt
Washington, VT

From: Leigh McMullan Abramson <leigh.m.abramson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 2:12 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from leigh.m.abramson@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

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• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,

Leigh Abramson (Hartford)

From: LENNY T <ecthom522@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:33 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from ecthom522@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I support this request fully. VT's hunting laws are bordering on barbaric. Trapping? Hounding? Putting out bear bins? I love Vermont and its way of life EXCEPT the hunting laws. The only reason the hunting laws are so outdated, so crude, grotesque and backward is because the laws are decided by a small group of hunters with the approval of the Governor. There is no one knowledgeable in science or biology in the group, no one who understands the interactive relationships in nature - they are just hunters who want to keep killing. And with the Governor's approval. And how do they call "trapping" hunting? It's not. It's just torturing those that aren't killed. And is "hounding" actual hunting? It's not. Dogs track down bear, bear goes up tree, hunters follow the barking, see the bear and shoot it. How is that hunting? It's not. A bit like tree stands...just sit for hours waiting for a deer to cross through and shoot it. That's not hunting either. They are not skilled hunters - they are people who look for the easiest way to kill wildlife. Extending the hunting season into hibernation is another example. There are the bears, hunkered down and vulnerable during the cold season. Hunters send out the dogs to find the hibernators and the hunters follow. Again, not hunting, just killing. It's time to join California, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon by stopping hounding, period. And trapping should also be banned in heavily forested areas. I wish there was a market for human hair, bone, muscle - I would go get a hunting license so fast!! It would be ok - after all, there are too many humans on this earth who are slowly destroying it and the life it holds.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Most sincerely,
Ellen Thomas
ecthom522@gmail.com

From: Lili Cappello <yemahaforest@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears 🐻

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Thank you, Joanne Cappello, Brattleboro

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Lily Mitchell <lilmkm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 6:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

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I also ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I

strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes

Sent from my iPhone
L Mitchell
Woodstock Vt

From: Lily Mitchell <lilmkm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 6:40 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from lilmkm@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I also ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

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I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

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strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes

Sent from my iPhone
L Mitchell
Woodstock Vt

From: Linda Burlak <lkb@catscoffeechocolate.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:22 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting hibernating bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. There is no skill involved in killing a bear sleeping in a den. We have learned over the lifetime of this country that eliminating keystone species as “nuisances” simply leads to greater imbalance and problems all throughout our ecosystem.

The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

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• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you

Linda Burlak
lkb@catscoffeechocolate.com <mailto:lkb@catscoffeechocolate.com>
Pownal, VT

From: Linda Burns <lindalou159@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:01 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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Respectfully,
Linda Burns
South Burlington, Vt

From: Linda Di Sante <disantelinda598@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from disantelinda598@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Let’s do the right thing here!!

Thanks
Linda Di Sante

From: Linda Glock <lindaglock15@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 10:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Rules and Regulations

[You don't often get email from lindaglock15@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am opposed to the changes to the Bear hunting Rules and Regulations that will be voted on soon. I am not sure why you need to change them when the hunting season is just fine the way it is and to extend into hibernation is simply cruel and stupid. I realize people think they are a nuisance but people are the cause of that and can’t seem to bring in bird feed and garbage. Not their fault!! You are inviting them and to make a change in the law is simply ridiculous!! Please think smart and do not let this pass.
Linda Glock
Ascutney, Vermont
Sent from my iPhone

From: Linda Huebner <lh.coyote13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:18 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules comments

You don't often get email from lh.coyote13@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I'm sorry I was unable to attend a hearing in person or via zoom and must reach out via email.

I've seen two bears recently, both running across roads presumably fleeing hounds during the training season, as I've also seen the hounders driving slowly around town. I wish that abolishing hounding were included in these rules. Given that it's not, here are my comments:

Conflicts between people and bears always seem to focus on the latter, rather than the former, and often involve killing random bears who probably never caused a conflict, rather than the specific ones who may have learned that humans mean food.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. This seems like a no-brainer. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you.

Sincerely, Linda Huebner, Halifax, Vt

From: Linda Jackson <lwjax48@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 5:27 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from lwjax48@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

We have happily co-existed with bears since we built our home here 45+ years ago. We love living here because of the rural community and the nature and wildlife that surrounds us!
It's about being *smart* about how and when you expose your garbage, compost, chicken coops, etc. Don't fault the bears! We moved into *their* neighborhood!! Not the other way around!!!

Thank you,
Linda Jackson, Middlesex

From: Lindsey Britt <lindseybritt@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:40 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comment on bear rules

You don't often get email from lindseybritt@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern:
I oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears. This is what the majority of other states do and we should follow suit.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lindsey Britt
Brattleboro, VT 05301

From: Lindzey Beal <lindzeyp86@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 11:49 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Lindzey and Jeff Beal
Wolcott, VT

From: Lindzey Beal <lindzeyp86@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 3:50 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing out of deep concern for bears in Vermont. The Fish & Wildlife Department continues to cater to the greedy needs of hunters as opposed to truly fulfilling their role and responsibility of protecting wildlife and managing habitat with respect and dignity.

Time and time again the department ignores scientific data and rule in favor of inhumane practices. Please prove to Vermonters that you have compassion and intellect when determining the management of wildlife. Up until now all I see are misguided lies and misinformation in hopes to cover up your terrible policies.

I strongly OPPOSE:
- Extending the bear hunting season
- Allowing hunters to kill two bears in designated areas of the state
- The harassment and hunting of hibernating bears (align with the majority of other states)

I strongly SUPPORT:
- Prohibiting intentionally hunting a mother bear with cub(s) in sight.
- Banning bear hounding. At a minimal shorten the training season to be in line with other neighboring states.
- Not allowing hunting bears using bait

*Please do not email me back. Every time it is filled with more nonsense in attempt to defend your cruel, dangerous and outdated laws. I am only here to defend wildlife and speak up for those who you should not be exploiting.

Jeff and Lindzey Beal
Wolcott, VT

From: Lisa Jablow <caseylnj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 9:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Windsor; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Rutland
Subject: Extension of Bear Season

You don't often get email from caseylnj@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Members of the VT Fish & Wildlife Board:

I had intended to share this at the last meeting, but was unable to attend because of internet issues. I am submitting my comments below.

I appreciate the thoughtful deliberation thus far on the bear rule, and I thank the Board for denying the petition to hunt bears over bait and for prohibiting the killing of mother bears with cubs.

However, one topic that has not been addressed is the Department's change of course regarding its hunting season recommendation.

Earlier this year, the Department recommended extending the bear season by just one week. Then, a few months later they recommended extending the season by a whole month, into mid-December, with zero explanation. They simply approved Kevin Lawrence's petition, which requested a December 15th extension.

This season extension into mid-December increases the risk that hibernating bears will be killed in their dens. And I do think it’s somewhat evasive and disingenuous to say "no one does this." So long as Vermont has regulations that favor unethical hunters, they will take advantage, that’s just a fact.

The large majority of states that allow bear hunting expressly prohibit hunting bears in dens. Now is the time for Vermont to catch up.

Also, I'd like to ask the Department why they chose not to hold a public hearing in a population-dense county such as Chittenden or Washington. They should be looking to maximize participation, but instead they are holding both meetings in counties with the lowest populations. I find that rather curious.

Thank you.

Lisa Jablow
Brattleboro

From: Lori Peckham <lapeck@mindspring.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:40 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: On Bear Hunting Recommendations

[You don't often get email from lapeck@mindspring.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

It's very important that all parts of Vermont's public are able to voice their concerns and comment on Bear Hunting in 2026.

I support banning the hunting of hibernating bears -- a practice Vermont is one of only a few states that allows.

I support prohibiting the intentional killing of a mother bear with cubs.

I oppose extending the bear hunting season through mid-December.

I oppose offering a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

Scientific studies reveal that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear incidents -- this is well known.

Lauren M.
Essex, VT

From: Lori <zimmer_mim2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 7:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from zimmer_mim2000@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to request that you make reasonable decisions when you vote on various proposals regarding bears. Specifically:
I oppose extending the season into mid-December because we should not risk the lives of hibernating bears.
I also oppose issuing a second bear tag, as that appears unsupported by the science.
I support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. This prohibition is common in other states and Vermont should do the same.

Lori Kettler
Burlington, VT

From: Lou Magnani <loumagnani@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:57 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting regulations

You don't often get email from loumagnani@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Legislators,

I don't understand what is going on at F&W. To me it appears that it has become an arm of a lobby that is bound and determined to sell more hunting licenses, preferably to out of staters and at higher cost. Why else was an attempt recently made to prevent people from posting their lands? Was there any real science involved in the decision to kill more moose to decrease tick populations and was there a follow up study to determine if it was accomplished? One of my real peeves is the numerous crow seasons with no bag limit that surely can't be supported by ornithologists. Perhaps you should ask the F&W commissioner for the scientific justification for these actions and what the follow on data shows about the practicality of such seasons.

I read that F&W wants to extend the bear season, allow hunting over bait, taking bear in hibernation and taking mother bears with cubs. I'm still hoping to see one in my lifetime and f&w is trying to make sure there are fewer chances for the that to happen. I realize they can become a somewhat dangerous nuisance to the public. It would help if they were made more aware of all the non-lethal things they can do to protect their children, hives, chicken coops, and garbage from hungry bear.

Last night I saw BIG NEWS at 6pm - a rattlesnake on the Shelburne shore of Champlain. I'm sure Jim Andrews of VT Herp Atlas organization was thrilled to see such a rare find but the news indulged the "snake fears" so many of us share. Instead of a blessing, this lonesome rattlesnake was just seen as a threat.

There are many things threatening humanity all over the world. There are wars, pollutions, wild fires, climate warming unaddressed and a rising tide of autocracy and international saber rattling. Things that need to be addressed and aren't. Bear, snakes, moose and crows aren't really that big a threat to life here in VT.

Can you folks on the ANR/F&W committees demand that regulations be far more science based instead of just hearing from the public - regardless of which side the public is on. Not just for hunting regulations but for poisoning lakes to kill millfoil, how to manage wildlife areas, how to control invasives and more.

Stop letting lobbyists sell their unkind and often inhumane management solutions that are designed to support some industry or special interest.

Sincerely,
Lou Magnani, Wells, VT

From: Lucinda Alcorn <lucsea56@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 11:31 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from lucsea56@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi~
Please consider that the Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Please consider raising the cost of a bear tag to allow a budget to support hunter safety requirements and courses for people to learn how best to live with wildlife without conflict.
Thank you!
Lucinda Alcorn
Putney, Vermont

Sent from my iPad

From: Luis Martin <lamading@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 12:11 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Support for bears

[You don't often get email from lamading@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Sirs,

My name is Luis Alfonso Martin, resident in Lamoille county. I wanted to submit my opinion about wild bear management in the state of Vermont.

I support:
• Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs • Protecting hibernating/denning bears • forbidding hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound training from June 1 until August 1

I oppose:
• Issuing a second bear tag and extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December.

I'd appreciate confirmation my opinion has been acknowledged.

Best regards,
Luis A. Martin

From: Lyn Sellars <lynsellars263@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:05 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from lynsellars263@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your attention and consideration,
Lyn Sellars
Johnson, VT

From: Lyn Sellars <lynsellars263@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 1:48 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from lynsellars263@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Lyn Sellars
Johnson

From: lynn andrews <lynmisha@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:06 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed bear hunting rules

You don't often get email from lynmisha@msn.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Julie Moore,

I'm writing this letter on September 3rd. It's my birthday. I'm fifty six today. In 1970, my birth year, Vermont had almost exactly the same bear hunting laws it does today except that the wildlife department stepped up its efforts to protect a species that had been hunted, trapped, and hounded to less than a few thousand bear. Today we cater to hunters irrespective of the global wildlife biologist data that constantly informs us that the way to reducing human interactions with bears is to secure food, trash, compost.

And yet instead your agency is pushing to support an extended hunting season. The state of Montana and so many others have proven without exception that killing more bears with increased hunting, trapping, and hounding doesn't stop anything. It actually makes the woods less safe for EVERYONE.

Vermont embraces supporting its hounders and trappers and catering to hunting guides. Why? How can Vermont's government stand behind raising property taxes so significantly, reducing the number of schools, reducing state benefits, acknowledge that climate change is pushing our farmers to the brink and STILL side with a minority of 80,000 hunters? The other 580,000 of us (not including the 16 million tourists who come to Vermont for quiet, open space, strolls through PEACEFUL forests, do NOT want more hunters, hunting dogs, and steel jawed traps on our PUBLICLY owned land. Perhaps this is why you just make policy instead of letting us vote on it in November.

Here is a lovely PR photo of you. If you insist that the bear baiting enthusiasts like Kevin Lawrence are on the right side of history, the man whose name is on this bear hunting proposal, then you should really have a more appropriate public image displayed. Because ignoring the fact that hunters will make more bear cub orphans, avoid honor system reporting of killing denned bears, kill more than two bears and have someone else tag it, AND add to the state's average of 3 hunting injuries a year is more in line with posing next to a dead bear. You have a duty to tomorrow's young Vermonters and this proposal conflicts with every decent consideration for preserving a better Vermont for youth.





Respectfully,
Lynn Andrews
Bennington County resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lynn Blevins <lynnzbvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:52 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: No hunting of hibernating bears or mothers with cubs please

You don't often get email from lynnzbvt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello - I'm writing to express my support for the following:

Prohibition of the intentional killing of a mother bear with cubs
Prohibition of the hunting of hibernating bears

I also do not feel that extending the season or allowing a second bear tag is necessary to reduce human-bear conflicts. Humans need to be more careful with rubbish and birdseed!

Thank you,
Lynn Blevins

From: Lynn Eikenberry <dleiken@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:42 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting regulations

[You don't often get email from dleiken@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,

We do not need to extend or combine the various bear hounding seasons we need to end the practice (I don't really call it a sport) as a possibility. It is inhumane and brutal and quite frankly we need to acknowledge the real damage this does in bear populations—not recite poorly constructed research data to support this.

Obviously taking a bear with cubs is unethical hunting practice but of course it happens and the basic mammalian response of bears under stress from hounding undoubtedly impacts bears capacity to mother to begin with.

I am a landowner—1100 acres connected to Victory Forest and have happily allowed hunting on our land as a cornerstone to the collective ideals of Vermont. But the proposed changes and hounding in general have become untenable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynn Eikenberry

From: M F <michelefouts@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:30 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from michelefouts@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I oppose bear hunting. Period.

Hunting bears does not reduce human-bear incidents. The evidence is there if you are willing to craft regulations based on actual evidence and not mythology.

If VFW is determined to keep bear hunting legal, look at the regulations in Minnesota which were designed with input from a bear biologist who actually spends time getting to know real bears.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also urge you to do away with hound hunting. I've seen too many hunting hounds, regular pets and bears wounded and terrorized by this practice.

Michele Fouts
Addison county property owner and former full time Vermont resident

From: M Wilkinson <mwilkinson194@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 2:23 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mwilkinson194@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Let's hope when we get a new governor, things will improve at the Fish and Wildlife department.

Maggie Wilkinson
Dummerston, VT

From: M Wilkinson <mwilkinson194@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 8:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Respectfully,
Maggie Wilkinson
Dummerston, VT

From: M. C. Ruth <mcruth_2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Ron Ruth
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you, Ron Ruth Morrisville, VT, 05661

From: M. C. Ruth <mcruth_2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:26 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Ron Ruth
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern,
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit
Sincerely, Ron Ruth

From: M. Kaseweter <mkasew01@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:24 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules comment

You don't often get email from mkasew01@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not reduce future wildlife conflicts, yet they want to extend the season by a full month and issue more bear tags.

Why?

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should instead propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears, like the majority of other states in the country.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont! This is a no-brainer.

_____

While you're here, also consider:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Mikhala Kaseweter, MSc
Williston, VT

From: madcaphorse <madcaphorse@protonmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:05 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from madcaphorse@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Janet Sing
home 802-454-0134
cell 802-559-2508
madcaphorse@protonmail.com

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

From: madcaphorse <madcaphorse@protonmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from madcaphorse@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I would like to preface the following letter with the fact that I have livestock, and I have never once in a decade had any issue with the bears on my property. I have encountered bears in the woods, and they were not aggressive. They mind their own business, and I mind mine. Bears have never caused even the slightest property damage or harassment here.

I wish I could report the same about the men who have come to my property, harassing, vandalizing, stealing, and behaving with rudeness, entitlement, and aggression. This behavior sometimes includes firearms, littering, alcohol consumption, and violent dogs that have killed my livestock.
I prefer the bears, thank you.

When the men in Vermont can bring themselves to behave as well as the wildlife, I might have a different opinion concerning "hunters".
When I moved here, I did not post my land for years, and was fully welcoming of hunters.
The men here have worked hard to earn my fear and disdain.

The last time I called to report this criminal and offensive behavior to the Fish and Wildlife Service, one of the employees who answered the phone referred to these harassing, abusive men as "little pukes".
I was unfamiliar with this perjorative, but it is apropos....although they have proven to be **dangerous** "little pukes", as your astute agent calls them.

Unfortunately, I cannot trust anyone on my land, as a disabled senior woman, while this harassing and criminal behavior is so prevalent.
"One bad apple ruins the whole bunch", as they say. There are far more than just one...or even a few.
This vile behavior is ubiquitous.
Currently, **I consider this brutalization of female and hibernating bears to be uncomfortably reminiscent of the misogynistic behavior towards women in VT...as is born out by the statistics.**
The number one reason for homicide in Vermont, according to Circle, is men murdering women. Why would anyone want any of those unhinged men on their property carrying guns?
Shameful.

I would also like to mention that your website and state rules on the internet have not updated to mention that no-hunting signs do not need to be dated yearly and that if they get stolen or torn down (as mine often are), the posting still legally applies. Hunters can use GPS property line apps and contact the town clerk and appropriate agents to find out who has paid the yearly fee to list their property as no hunting, no trapping, no fishing, and no trespassing.
Perhaps the Fish and Wildlife Service can create its own app to prevent potentially dangerous conflicts between property owners and trespassing hunters who might be inclined to tear down no-hunting signs.

You cannot expect anyone to be welcoming and keep an open mind to differing lifestyles when property owners (and women) are subjected to grotesque criminal behavior, discrimination, vandalism, violence, theft, littering, and harassment.
Moreover,
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The

Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- **Shorten the bear hound training season**
- **Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."**
- **Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit**

Janet Sing
home 802-454-0134
cell 802-559-2508
madcaphorse@protonmail.com

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

From: Madeline Motta <madelinemmotta@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:23 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Oppose proposed killing hibernating bears, more bears and regulate the hounds attacking mother Bear and cubs

You don't often get email from madelinemmotta@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: marcrph <marcrph@vermontel.net>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board,

I write to you asking for Prohibiting the intentional killing of a mother bear with cubs always.(Support)

I am opposed to an extend the bear hunting season through mid-December
(OPPOSE)
I am opposed to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state (OPPOSE) I am opposed to hounding of all types and leg hold traps also.

--
Gina Cote
P.O. Box 405
Saxtons River, Vermont 05154
Home:(802)869-2506 Cell: (802)289-9200
E-mail: marcrph@vermontel.net

From: marcy armell <marmello23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 4:58 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Rules

You don't often get email from marmello23@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a citizen of Sheldon and I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Marcy Armell
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Maree Gaetani <maree.cultivates@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:34 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Want protections on bears - moms and hibernating

You don't often get email from maree.cultivates@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears."

Maree Gaetani

_____

From: Margaret Blanchard <imetub42day@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:05 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from imetub42day@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont's wildlife is part of what makes it beautiful.

I support:
- Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs
- Protecting hibernating/denning bears
- Reconsidering hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound training from June 1 until August 1

I oppose:
- Issuing a second bear tag
- Extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December

From: Marge Christie <marge_c@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Marge Christie
Plainfield, VT

From: Marilyn Donovan <marilyn.donovan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:57 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Marilyn Donovan DVM
124 Parker Lane
Weston VT 05161

From: Marilyn Donovan <marilyn.donovan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:26 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Personal experience of bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

While taking my morning walk out Moses Pond Road with my 2 dogs my elder, 15 year old border collie, was attacked and bitten by a bear hound! Obviously this dog was NOT under the control of its owner. Copper, the hound's name, refused to release my dog from its bite even with the owner yelling at it and kicking its head repeatedly. It was a terrifying experience for all involved. I have reported this to attack to Fish and Wildlife. My dog sustained two bite wounds.
So you can understand why I think " control" of bear hounds needs to be tightened!

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Marilyn Donovan
124 Parker Lane
Weston VT 05161

From: Mark Crimmins-Murdock <captainirons@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 3:24 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from captainirons@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit
Vermont should be in alignment with other states re: hunting rules. Hunters are not the only ones using or exploring wild areas and having encounters with animals. Killing for "sport" is cruel, and barbaric.

From: Mark Crimmins-Murdock <captainirons@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 8:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from captainirons@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit
Mark Crimmins-Murdock
Rochester, VT

From: Mark Tunney <mtunney317@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:19 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from mtunney317@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Mark Tunney <mtunney317@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:15 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from mtunney317@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Markus Vogt <markusvogt@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 8:51 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comments on Proposed Changes to Bear Hunting Rules

You don't often get email from markusvogt@outlook.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear ANR,

I would like my following stance on bear hunting to be considered in your decision making process:

I support:
• Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs • Protecting hibernating/denning bears • Banning hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound training from June 1 until August 1 I oppose:
• Issuing a second bear tag
• Extending Vermont’s bear hunting season into December Thank you for taking my opinion into account.-- Markus Vogt
81 Smugglers Road
Newport, VT 05855

From: Maroni, Carol A. (Alumni) <cam12241@alumni.northernvermont.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:36 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from cam12241@alumni.northernvermont.edu. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To my Vermont ANR representatives,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they have proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose both the extension of the season and issuing a second bear tag. Hibernating bears face enough challenges preparing for hibernation. Extending the season into mid-December puts hibernating bears at increased risk.

Moreover, The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season

• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs".

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Most, sincerely,
Carol Maroni
Craftsbury, VT

From: Mary Barron <marylbarron@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:56 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from marylbarron@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Mary Barron
West Rutland

From: Mary Beth Porter <marybethporter8@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:08 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting

You don't often get email from marybethporter8@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear F&G,
I live in a very rural area where the people in my neighborhood coexist with a couple of families of bears. We are not in conflict with these bears. We change our behavior to allow them to wander around freely as they forage, sometimes in our fields and back yards.

In August, many of us were aware of some bear hounding activity that came through our neighborhood. Both occurrences were on an early Sunday morning and the trucks hauling many baying hounds were disruptful. When asked why the hunters were here, one of them explained that they hunt where there have been "nuisance" bears. A neighbor explained to them that we have no such critters.

We appreciate the wildlife in this area. Many of us post our land. I would like to see Fish and Game do a better job with identifying "nuisance" bears on a map, based on actual reports rather than hunters' claims. None of us in my area support hounding, especially since we know we have a couple of sows with cubs and don't want those cubs orphaned.

Please increase accountability and regulations for hounding in VT. Enforce rules rather than believing hounders are following them. Send personnel to rural areas in VT to check on hunting practices. Stop the killing of sows and make it illegal to den-hunt.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Porter
Winham County

From: Mary Dollenmaier <mdollenmaier@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 11:54 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: dogs and bear hunting

[You don't often get email from mdollenmaier@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

The use of dogs to run off leash after bear to ‘hunt’ should not be permitted under any circumstance.

Inhumane, cruel and unfair to run down an animal until total exhaustion when it can’t go any further.

The long, exhausting chases lasting several hours stress the wildlife severely.
Packs of hounds can corner, bite, and maul a bear on the ground, causing deep physical trauma before the hunter even arrives.

Hunting dogs can suffer severe wounds, mutilation, or death when they physically engage or confront a cornered bear.

Long chases separate sow bears from dependent cubs, reducing the cubs' chances of survival.

I am disgusted with humanity when i read about this ‘technique’ of ‘hunting’.

It should not be condoned legally or morally.

From: Mary Langevin <melangevin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:28 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Future of VT Bears

You don't often get email from melangevin@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I write to voice that I oppose the extended 2nd tag hunting of Black Bear in VT.

A lot of residential bear issues could be helped with tighter regulations on people's trash and recycling and composting (which would also help address so many other important issues by doing this!).

Many people choose to live within beautiful rural areas and they are lucky they can afford this. The bear issues we see is also an issue of responsibility, respect for neighbors, for natures natural and relevant rythems, and for the environment.

Education and affordable ways to create better ways to establish smart safe and easier ways for recycling, trash, composting are super important. There are always going to be the houses that hoard and have their own landfill which is sad .These are people who have nobody to put the pressure on them, or they are old, or they just simply don't know where to start bettering their situation, and yes some lazy.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Langevin
Town of Northfield, VT
Born in Johnson, VT in a rural community . Wanting to move back.

From: Mary Reed <marysuereed@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 12:42 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Bear Rules Changes

You don't often get email from marysuereed@outlook.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a resident of Poultney, a landowner, and I allow limited hunting on my property. I also have a B.S. Degree in Biology. Some of my comments are gleaned from the Humane World website's 2025 article on black bears. States frequently suggest they need bear hunts to keep people safe, although there is scant evidence supporting this hypothesis. In fact, the data Humane World compiled show that hunting bears does nothing to make people safer, whereas using commonsense precautions such as securing attractants away from wildlife prevents drawing in bears to human communities, and without the violence. Vermont Fish & Wildlife also recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet there is a proposal to extend the season by a full month and issue a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I am opposed to extending the bear-hunting season from November 22 to December 15 as some bears may be hibernating and will be “fair game” for hunters. This doesn’t come across as fair or ethical. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag in designated areas as it’s been shown that this does not reduce future human-bear conflicts.

Per Humane World, "Decades of research and wildlife management experience have shown that the primary drivers of these [human-bear] encounters are unsecured human food sources—especially garbage, bird feeders, pet food and compost piles. In semirural and exurban areas, poorly protected chicken coops and beehives also serve as enticing attractants. When bears access these easy food sources, they quickly learn to associate human settlements with meals, increasing the likelihood of repeated visits and escalating interactions. Without addressing these attractants through proactive measures—such as bear-resistant containers, electric fencing and community education—conflicts will persist regardless of hunting pressure. In fact, hunting may remove non-problematic individuals while leaving food-conditioned bears behind, further undermining public safety and conservation goals. The science is clear: The root cause of human-bear conflicts comes from food attractants. Wildlife management agencies often wrongly presume that an increase in human-bear conflicts is a result of a growing bear population, but bears may simply be modifying their behaviors to seek out easy food sources, especially if they are losing natural habitat or nutrition sources...In a study by bear biologists and social scientists in Durango, Colorado, when people received bear-resistant trash cans with automatically self-locking lids, residents drastically increased compliance with trash ordinances. With automatically locking trash containers, residents followed ordinances banning food attractants for bears by 92%, compared to only 39% compliance for trash containers with manually locking lids."

I am in favor of the proposal to prohibit the intentional hunting of a sow with cubs in sight. Ethical hunters will take the time to observe and ensure that the sow isn’t nursing or have cubs nearby. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

Additionally, I ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season;
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen and clarify the definition of "control of dogs";
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you for taking my comments. It's important that F&W know, understand and respect the view of those residents who enjoy outdoor activities and our wildlife without hunting or fishing.

Respectfully,
Mary S. Reed
1135 Hampshire Hollow Rd.
Poultney, VT 05764

From: Mary Sonnekson <sunxsun@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 6:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I have been coexisting with bears on my property since 1985 with no issues. I consider them my neighbors. An occasional grab of my garbage bag if I forget to put it in a garbage container, does not negate the joy of hearing them with their cubs in the Spring, and observe the obvious love they feel as a family in their hoots and calls to each other. I have been up close to bears by accident many times, and we both calmly walked away from each other . They leave my orchard alone, while other animals are not so courteous. I really am in awe of them as a sentient animal which has been hypothesized to be a sentient animal that reciprocates with others in its environment. Look up the studies on that.
The thought of killing mother bears in their den with cubs is just totally horrifying. Why? Why is this even a thing? What is the justification for this? To think this state is becoming known for being barbarous compared to the rest of the country is just unbelievable. Vermont had a hunting season for many years that was just two weeks around Thanksgiving basically to hunt deer. Now, hunting season is every day of the year for just about everything. Well, we have been waking up about what Vermont is doing with wildlife, and we are only going to become more outraged as the public continues to know what is going on.
Please reflect on what you are promoting. It is well known in Psychology that cruelty to animals predates cruelty to humans.
Mary Sonnekson
Athens, VT

From: Mary Sonnekson <sunxsun@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 2:45 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it concerns,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.
Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Sonnekson
Athens, VT

From: maryann@wellnessvermont.com
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:26 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from maryann@wellnessvermont.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Mary Ann Ficociello

Sent from my iPhone

From: maryholland505@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from maryholland505@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Mary Holland, Shelburne, VT

From: Mason Nadeau <masonnadeau7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 4:22 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: New Bear Laws

You don't often get email from masonnadeau7@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Personally, I believe Vermont should allow limited bear baiting and a second bear harvest. With proper regulations and enforcement, I think these changes could give hunters more opportunities while also helping manage Vermont's bear population. I think it's worth having an honest conversation about whether the current regulations are doing enough.

From: Matt Kelly <mattkellyvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:10 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Opposition to the December Bear Hunting Season Extension and the Take of Hibernating Mothers with Cubs

You don't often get email from mattkellyvt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Secretary Moore,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extension of the bear hunting season into December, as well as the practice of killing hibernating mother bears with cubs.

Allowing the hunting of bears while they are hibernating in their dens is unnecessary and cruel. This initiative targets vulnerable animals and directly threatens the survival of dependent cubs, leaving them to freeze or starve. I deeply question the science and motivation behind this population target.

The State of Vermont recently released updated bear population targets, yet there is no public safety justification for increasing the harvest. To my knowledge, Vermont media and state agencies have reported no recent fatal or severe bear attacks on humans. In contrast, our society regularly manages far greater, daily public safety risks. Statistically, domestic dog attacks on people and other animals are a frequent occurrence.

Furthermore, biological threats like tick-borne illnesses and other insect-borne health vectors pose a demonstrably higher threat to the health and well-being of Vermonters than our native black bear population.

We should focus state resources on addressing these active public health and safety harms rather than expanding the slaughter of a sentient wildlife species that poses minimal risk to our communities.

Black bears possess awareness, social structures, and intrinsic value. They deserve protections and ethical considerations similar to those we grant our domestic companion animals.

I urge the Agency of Natural Resources to reject this season extension, immediately ban the take of denning families, and re-evaluate its management priorities to reflect the values of the broader Vermont public.

Sincerely,

Matthew Carr
Milton, Vermont

From: Matthew <matt7111990@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 3:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from matt7111990@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Maureen Dwyer <maurfrat@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from maurfrat@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hey people who say you're taking care of wildlife and trying to keep people and wildlife safe you're doing a pretty terrible job. You have said the policy is that bears being tortured and killed with Hounders is not an effective way to reduce conflicts with humans. So why do you do it? Why do you think it's a good idea to let Hounders harass chase torture bears in the heat for miles from June to September and then let them kill them between September and the middle of December??????? Aren't bears mostly denning by the middle of December?? Do you really feel it's ethical hunting to shoot a bear while it's asleep and in its den possibly with cubs?
I'm truly ashamed of how you have presented this to the public.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Maureen Dwyer
Barretown, VT

From: maurfrat@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maureen Dwyer <maurfrat@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 5:46 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from maurfrat@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Maureen Dwyer
Barre, VT 05641

From: Megan Buchanan <mbuchanan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:18 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from mbuchanan@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you for reading my comment. And thank you for your service to the state of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you again.
Sincerely,
Megan Buchanan
Putney, Vermont

Sent flying from my iPhone.

From: Mel Hale <mhale178@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia
Subject: Bear population

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Brad

My suggestion is to some how get the early season tags supplied with standard hunting license purchase.
Last year approximately 64,000 hunters purchased hunting licenses and only approx 13,800 of those hunters purchased an early season tag.
50,000 license holders could not shoot a bear with gun or bow from Sept1 to mid November.
Many bear used to be harvested by hunters by happen stance in those 21/2 mos.
I know some have issues with hunters shooting bear when not specifically hunting bear, but it is a tool in controlling the population.
Hunting bear in Dec-Jan is a no go and gives fodder for antis that is not a solution
Thanks for considering my input
Melvin Hale
St J

From: Mel Hale <mhale178@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:31 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Season Tags

You don't often get email from mhale178@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Suggestion on getting the best population under control is to back early season tags supplied with standard hunting license purchase.
Approx 64,000 hunting licenses were sold last year and approx 13,800 early season bear tags were purchased
Approximately 50,000 hunters had no bear tag from Sept 1 until mid November.
Bear population has been a problem since the early tag was eliminated/changed from being part of the standard license purchase
Some had a problem with bear being shot by rifle and bow hunters who were not specifically hunting bear but were in the woods and had that tag and the change was made.
Hunting bear into Dec and later is ridiculous and only gives fodder for anti bear hunters to plead a non factor case
Thanks for considering my opinion
Melvin Hale
St J Vt

From: Melissa Shoenthal <mshoenthal@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:32 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mshoenthal@outlook.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season. Or better yet- stop this barbaric practice fully.
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Sincerely,
Melissa Shoenthal
Barre VT.

Get Outlook for Android

From: Melody Ellis <melodyellis34@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:57 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from melodyellis34@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

It’s not that there are more bears, there are simply less of the bears habitat because of us humans. We aren’t seeing an increase in bear attacks; it’s humans who foolishly leave out their trash for wildlife and draw them in.

Thank you for your time,
Melody Stone

Sent from my iPhone

From: Melvin <melvin@vermontel.net>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:01 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from melvin@vermontel.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From Fern Melvin, Belmont Vermont

Sent from my iPad

From: Merill Creagh <mcreaghz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:03 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mcreaghz@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I am in the woods all the time, in and around Barre, Barre Town, Berlin, Montpelier, E. Montpelier, Calais, Adamant, Waterbury, Duxbury, etc. I have only run into a bear once and that was behind U32 school. I stopped, the bear stopped and soon the bear continued where it was headed, probably hoping to find more wild berries. After it disappear from sight, I waked pass the spot it was standing. If it had cubs, I would have turned around and walked back from where I came.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. The idea of killing hibernating bears is so shocking I don't even know what to say. The hunters I personally know find the practice appalling, asking "what kind of hunter would do that?" I hope I never meet one.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. However, its worth looking around to see if she sent them up a tree to be safe. Just because the cubs are not in "sight," doesn't mean they aren't there. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. This is a no brainer. Again, the hunters I know couldn't stomach it. Go to a county fair's children's shooting range if you feel the urge. Innocent cubs? Really?

I am opposed to using dogs to run down bears. These are not the kinds of hunters I grew up with. The hunters I've come across practicing this are out of shape dudes driving down roads in their truck tracking their dogs who run all over private property, making a racket and harassing and possibly tearing a bear apart! If my dog did that, he can legally be shot! I know the state needs money, but there are better ways than supporting this lazy cowards idea of "hunting." I oppose the whole idea, including coyote hounding. I have never had a problem with coyotes or foxes.

Merill Creagh
Barre City

From: Michael Libecci <mlibecci@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:30 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment — Opposition to Proposed Bear Season Extension and Second Tag

You don't often get email from mlibecci@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board,

I am writing to express opposition to two elements of the proposed bear hunting rule changes: the extension of the season through the end of the regulated deer seasons, and the authorization of a second bear tag in specified Wildlife Management Units.

Season length and denning overlap: Extending the season into mid-December pushes hunting well into the period when Vermont's black bears are entering torpor. A bear in or near a den is not engaged in the kind of active, evasive behavior that hunting regulations generally presume; taking one at that stage is closer to opportunistic removal than hunting, and it's difficult for the Department to distinguish an actively-foraging late-season bear from one already denned or in the process of denning. I'd ask the Board to build an explicit prohibition on taking hibernating or denned bears into the final rule, with a hard season end-date set well ahead of typical denning onset rather than tied to deer-season dates that were set for an unrelated species.

Second tag: I understand the rationale — a growing bear population and rising human-bear conflict — but a second tag applied broadly across specified WMUs is a blunt tool for what the Department has described as a localized conflict problem. If the goal is targeted population management in specific conflict zones, I'd ask the Board to consider whether a more geographically narrow, conflict-data-driven approach (e.g., limited to WMUs with documented elevated conflict incidents) would achieve the same goal with less impact on the broader population.

I do support the Department's proposed prohibition on taking a sow bear accompanied by cubs, and I'd urge the Board to hold firm on that provision through final rulemaking.

Thank you for considering this input before the September 4 deadline.

Sincerely,
Michael Libecci
Pittsfield, VT

From: Michael Sivalls <mjsivs@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:50 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mjsivs@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

As a vermont land owner these rules are important to me. Please carefully consider my opinions.

- Mike Sivalls

From: Michele Klein <kleinmichele2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:27 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from kleinmichele2@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing to express my opposition to the extension of the bear hunting/hounding season. I hope the department will prohibit the killing of Mother bears with cubs, and ban hunting/hounding of hibernating bears.

Thank you,
Michele Klein
Wallingford, VT

From: Michelle Fountain <michelleunitedchurchofludlow@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 6:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Opposed to Expanded Bear Hunting

You don't often get email from michelleunitedchurchofludlow@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Agency of Natural Resources Personnel:

I ask that the Department consider the following:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to add a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

- Shorten the bear hound training season.
- Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts

the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.
- I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michelle Fountain, Rutland, VT

Pastor Michelle Fountain
United Church of Ludlow

From: Michelle Kaufman <marsupigal@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 4:16 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• STOP the bear hound training season. Bear hounding is incredibly inhumane to the bears and an unethical way of hunting. To get joy from terrorizing a living being cannot be justified on any level.
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Michelle Kaufman <marsupigal@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 8:42 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Stop bear hounding
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Michelle O'Reilly <moreilly299@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:13 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from moreilly299@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Michelle O'Reilly
Milton VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Michelle Rollins Wooten <rollins.michelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 5:16 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from rollins.michelle@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Michelle Rollins
Pownal, VT 05261

From: Mike Fry <mike@nokilllearning.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 11:47 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Changes to Bear Rules

[You don't often get email from mike@nokilllearning.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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The first time I experienced black bears in the wild was in the mid 1970's when I was privileged to participate with teams of people who traveled deep into the Superior National Forest of northern Minnesota in winter to collect medical data from hibernating bears wearing radio collars. We would dig out their dens, tranquilize them, weigh them, take blood samples and collect other information before replacing their radio collars and carefully returning them to their dens.

The first den I even visited was occupied by a mother with 3 cubs. The second contained a mother and 2 cubs.

I also worked with black bears when serving as the Rehabilitation Manager at the HOWL Wildlife Center in Seattle, Washington. These experiences tell me a number of things about the proposed rule changes, most importantly, that they could be very damaging to bears in Vermont, while inflicting unnecessary cruelty, all, apparently, at the request of one very well-connected hunter. (Link:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvtdigger.org%2F2026%2F06%2F26%2Ftrust-in-vermont-fish-and-wildlife-is-eroding%2F&data=05%7C02%7CANR.FWPublicComment%40vermont.gov%7Cfca68a0d156c4b54eb5e08def3d1e7f7%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C639216280029451940%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4As0PenEByfzvb%2FUvpVL%2FDAPd3TyMGFTU1BIOFOtKiE%3D&reserved=0
)

The problem with these proposed rules are many. And several are contradictory. For example: The rules limit the taking of bears to 2.
Yet, whole families of bears who are disturbed during their hibernation will die, even if a hunter only "takes" 2. The rules say a hunter can't intentionally hunt mother bears with cubs. But allowing "hunters" to use dogs to sniff out hibernating bears makes that meaningless, because the dogs will seek out mother bears that are hibernating with their cubs.

Additionally, the average Vermonter would likely not classify letting packs of dogs to sniff out hibernating bears "hunting." It is simply killing sitting ducks.

And, sadly, the ways Vermont Fish & Wildlife is talking about and pushing these very problematic rule changes suggest to me an agency that is contaminated by corruption, hubris or a combination of both.

The fact that you are holding 2 "Public Hearings," at which, apparently, no public testimony will take place, is beyond problematic and is yet another indication that organizational structure and leadership needs to be changed.

I recently wrote a letter to the editor published in VTDigger on this topic. You can read that here:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvtdigger.org%2F2026%2F08%2F02%2Fopinion-why-vermonters-wont-call-fish-and-game-about-bears&data=05%7C02%7CANR.FWPublicComment%40vermont.gov%7Cfca68a0d156c4b54eb5e08def3d1e7f7%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C639216280029486599%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mg6Y%2Bhe7K9LVbB4K9Syw1V51EVLpZONEbpZsqUPCiXQ%3D&reserved=0.
The data is clear: Vermonters do not see Fish & Wildlife as being on our side. This experience is just one of many examples of why that is.
Dramatic change is needed.

--
Mike Fry
612-590-1868

From: Mike Schuster <mikeschustervt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:12 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mikeschustervt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Mike Schuster
Bristol, VT

From: Molly Coseno <mcoseno@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from mcoseno@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. The price of a bear tag does not reflect how important these species are to our community and environment - there's increasing bear numbers in our area due to the lack of bear proofing providing easy access to garbage. This increases their reproductive success. We should come to recognize at this point, as our population grows we will have more bear interactions. What we need is a continual increase in bear-wise education and holding people accountable. Increasing the number of bear tags and killing more bears is a bandaid and a weak one - at some point people will need to do more than take up killing but learn to co-exist.

I respect and appreciate all that the VFW do to protect our wildlife but let's try to work together to increase education to prevent conflict and not move to more killing.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Much appreciated.
Molly Coseno
Stowe Bear Project

From: Monica Farrington <meemacat@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:58 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules - from a senior citizen Vermonter

You don't often get email from meemacat@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Committee,

I know I am sending this plea a bit after the deadline, but I have been ill, even hospitalized for two days in August, and have not had a chance to voice my opinion. I'm a native Vermonter, 85 years of age, so I feel as if I should have my voice heard.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Mrs. Monica Farrington
4 Green Dolphin Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

From: Monica <monicafrank2025@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:55 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Stop the unnecessary killing of Bears

You don't often get email from monicafrank2025@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am for everything that is mentioned below and have taken the time to read through this. I also attended the meeting in St. Johnsbury last week. Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I live in Middlesex, Vermont.

From: Morse, Joshua
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 3:08 PM
To: Connolly, Abigail
Subject: FW: Re bears

-----Original Message-----
From: Kathy Casagrande <katacasagrande@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:14 AM
To: ANR - FW Information <ANR.FWInformation@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re bears

[You don't often get email from katacasagrande@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

You can deny that using bears is cruel, tortuous, and results in poor meat quality.

But as a person who rescues dogs, bear dogs are poorly fed, poorly taken care of, manipulated and sbused for a human sungular purpose. Therefore more likely to be abused and or neglected and then abandoned. I find them in the woods. Poor things.

And i rescue them from shelters. The hunters often dont want to take care of them when the season is over.

Help the bears, help the dogs,help me, stop the cruelty as it has many angles.

Kathy casagrande
Barnet vermont

Sent from my iPad

From: Nancy Dunavan <birdylover2022@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 9:15 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from birdylover2022@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It is WRONG to kill Mama Bears with cubs. You are dooming those cubs lives! If hunters want to hunt them, make the playing field more level and absolutely no hounding. The state is just selling bears lives for a trophy kill on someone's wall. This is barbaric!!!

Nancy Dunavan
Morristown, VT

From: Nancy Fitzpatrick <vtkiltmaker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:50 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from vtkiltmaker@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Nancy Hogue <njh813@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 11:19 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from njh813@mac.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I live on 65 acres in Danville and have bears on my land. I am careful not to put out any attractants. I care about the wildlife including the bears and would appreciate the passage of a law or rule that prohibits the disturbance of hibernating bears as well as prohibiting the hunting of mother bears.
I also support the prohibition of using hounds to hunt bears. Please do not extend the bear season!

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support PROHIBITING the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following, in the absence of a full prohibition of using hounds to hunt bears:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Nancy Hogue
Danville

" Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration" .....Thomas Edison

From: Natalie Kinsey <Natalie@kinsey-warnock.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 2:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from natalie@kinsey-warnock.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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To members of the Fish and Wildlife Board;

In the interests of the actual welfare of Vermont's wildlife, we ask you to DENY extending the bear hunting season into mid-December, to DENY offering a second bear tag, AND to support a prohibition on killing mother bears with cubs in sight.

We feel we shouldn't even have to be asking you to vote this way, that it should be a common-sense decision, but we have had to write many letters in the past year or so, urging the board to have more regard for the actual welfare of Vermont's wildlife.

We wrote to protest the requirement that landowners had to post their land on a calendar year basis. We wrote to defeat bear baiting (again, that is something that should never even have come up, to put it mildly, what a bone-headed idea).

We have been very angry at the direction Fish and Wildlife has taken over the past few years, where they don't appear to have any regard for actually protecting our wildlife, but instead, are pandering/catering to trappers, and hounders. The majority of people in Vermont are against trapping and hounding. Trappers and hounders like to claim that the people opposing trapping and hounding aren't 'real Vermonters', that it's 'flatlanders' who complain. Well, I'm from a 7th generation Vermont farming family, and I can tell you that that is NOT the case.
Even those in my huge, extended family who are hunters do not condone trapping and hounding. And the idea of bear-baiting, and killing a mother bear with cubs in sight, would sicken them (it would have sickened my ancestors, too), as it does us.

We also feel that there shouldn't be ANY hounding of animals, bear or coyote, allowed, but at the very least the bear hound training season should be shortened; align the bear hounding rules with coyote hounding rules, and to strengthen the definition of control of dogs; and to be able to revoke a bear dog permit.

Natalie Kinsey and Tom Warnock
Albany home and land owners

From: Nathan Potter <np36181@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:31 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Change in bear rules

You don't often get email from np36181@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to weigh in with my opinion on bear hunting in Vermont. I would love to see Vermont consider allowing bear baiting. I believe it could be structured responsibly, even with something like a $25 fee per bait site to help fund the program and management.

I also believe baiting could help reduce the chance of sows being taken with cubs by allowing hunters to make more ethical and informed shots. It could provide a better opportunity for younger hunters to get involved in bear hunting and learn how to hunt bears safely and responsibly.

There are a lot of bears in Vermont right now, and I also believe the bear population has an impact on fawn survival. I understand there are many factors involved, but I think it is something worth considering.

I have hunted in Vermont my whole life and have been fortunate to be successful both here and in other states. This is simply my opinion, and I appreciate you taking the time to read it.

Thanks,
Nathan Potter

From: nckittenbird@aol.com
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:09 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from nckittenbird@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will NOT effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I OPPOSE extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also OPPOSE issuing a second bear tag. I fully SUPPORT prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you,
Cindy Grimes, a concerned Vermont resident

From: Nick Smith <vt.outdoor.forestry@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Rule Changes

You don't often get email from vt.outdoor.forestry@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please support the extension of the current bear season into December as well as the addition of a second tag.

Enthusiast bear hunter and frustrated farm owner with numerous bear problems.
Groton, VT.

Best,
Nick

Nicholas Smith-President
Northeast Natural Resource Management
Licensed Professional Forester
Licensed Commercial Herbicide Applicator
603-359-0272

From: Norma Norland <norlandnorken@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 10:39 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Wildlife is having a hard enough time surviving in these days of climate change and infringement on their environment. Give them a break, for goodness' sake!

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a **prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears** to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- **Shorten the bear hound training season**
- **Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."**
- **Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit**

N. Norland
1320 Hallock Road
Vergennes, VT 05491
norlandnorken@gmail.com

From: Norman Beam <normbeam12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed bear hunting rule changes

You don't often get email from normbeam12@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please accept this notice as my personal opinion on the suggested bear season rule changes.

The most disturbing suggestion is that you would extend bear hunting with hounds into the regular firearms deer hunting season. The suggested date changes would allow hounds to chase bear the first weekend, through the first full week and through the second weekend of the regular firearms deer hunting season!!!!

Have you considered the impact of hounds running through the woods during the most active period of deer hunting seasons in VT? It may negatively impact the many hours of scouting and stand or site preparation of some of your most dedicated deer hunters. It will certainly ruin a peaceful day of traditional still hunting through the woods. What about the potential for conflict between regular deer hunters and bear hound hunters? I think it may even have a negative impact on the sales of regular firearms deer hunting licenses. Can the state afford another reason for declining license sales?

There are other and better ways for the state to accomplish their bear management goals, some of which were suggested already at the public meetings. One was to develop a relationship between farmers with problem bears, the state and hunters. A system in which hunters can connect with the farmers or agencies regulating the problem bear areas and hunt those problem bears. Another is to allow baiting for bears. It is a proven effective bear management tool. Yes it must have sensible rules and regulation but it works on many levels and I don't understand why the state continues to stand fast against it. Let's really think outside the box and introduce a month long spring bear season specifically for the areas with problem bears based on the history of reported bear problems from the previous year.

As an agency you folks can do better and need to do better because the tradition of hunting and the revenue it brings to this state depends on it.

Thank you,

Norman Beam
Westminster VT

From: Oliver Halberg <oshalberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2026 7:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Subject: Bears

You don't often get email from oshalberg@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I urge the Board to **deny the bear hunting season into mid-December and refrain from adding a second bear tag.** I also need to urge the Board to **support a prohibition on killing mother bears with cubs in sight.**

Protect our bears.

Sincerely,
Oliver Halberg

From: Oliver Halberg <oshmusic11@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 6:50 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from oshmusic11@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this, and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from six to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Oliver Halberg <oshalberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 1:11 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from oshalberg@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this, and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Olivia O'Rourke <oliviaorourke66@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from oliviaorourke66@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

From: owmarly@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:02 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from owmarly@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

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I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

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• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: P S <pxsonn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 1:11 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from pxsonn@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello!

I **oppose** extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I **oppose** issuing a second bear tag.

I would like to **prohibit** the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season

I would prefer that there is no hunting of bears with dogs. It is unnecessarily stressful for bears and other wildlife. I was a high school science teacher and had a student do a very well researched project on the impacts of hunting with dogs, and hunting dogs negatively impact more species than the one being hunted!

Thank you,
Pamela Sonn
New Haven

From: Pam Freilich <pam@gmavt.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 11:38 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from pam@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Pam Perry <pamperryvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 3:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

[You don't often get email from pamperryvt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm opposed to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag.

Bears do seem to be crossing paths with the human population with increasing frequency, and I'd like to see a public campaign to educate people about how their habits may unwittingly be inviting bears to visit and encourage the adoption of more responsible practices.

I also urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Thank you for listening.

Pamela Perry
Plainfield, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Pam <pnalefski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:23 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from pnalefski@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Pam nalefski
Rupert vt

From: Pam <pnalefski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:23 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from pnalefski@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Pamela Kentish <pamelakentish@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 8:45 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment

You don't often get email from pamelakentish@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife,

I'm a Vermont resident writing to express my care for our wildlife, how we co exist with our wildlife, and humane practices for the control of our wildlife.

Please note:

I oppose extending the bear season through December 15th.

I oppose allowing a second bear to be killed in designated areas of the state.

And I strongly SUPPORT prohibiting the intentional hunting and killing of a mother bear when cubs are in sight.

I hope our regulations will reflect the value of maintaining a healthy bear population, safety, and minimizing unnecessary suffering.

Thank you for your consideration,

Pamela Kentish

Calais, Vermont

Pamela Kentish, L.Ac.
pamelakentish@gmail.com <mailto:pamelakentish@gmail.com> Traditional Acupuncture Office
28 East State St.
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-229-4537

From: Pamela Laurette Dein <laurettedein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 7:17 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: BEARS

You don't often get email from laurettedein@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to express my full support to prohibit the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. Killing mother bears with cubs is disgusting and inhumane. Most states (84 percent) and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont!

I strongly oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The VT Department of F&W should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. The Dept recognizes that hunting more bears will NOT effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I also strongly oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I also ask that the Department of F&W consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your consideration
Pamela Laurette Dein
381 Joe Manning Rd., Stockbridge VT 05772

From: Pamela Polhemus <pamelapolhemus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Opposition to extending the bear hunting season

You don't often get email from pamelapolhemus@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to
the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.
Sincerely,
Pamela Polhemus
Cambridge, Vt

From: Pamela Taylor <blackelk@gmavt.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Black bears

You don't often get email from blackelk@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,
I'm am against hunting female bears who have cubs and hunting with dogs. I'm not anti-hunting but being morally humane is necessary as well,
Sincerely, Pamela A. Taylor. No. Ferrisburgh, VT

Get BlueMail for Mobile

From: Pat DeAngelo <osolomiotinky@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 1:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from osolomiotinky@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Pat Englert <pkenglert@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 1:01 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from pkenglert@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Pat Englert
Burlington

From: Pat Stevenson <psteve54vt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 7:15 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from psteve54vt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Stevenson

Salisbury,VT

From: Patricia Hunt <chattypattihunt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 1:07 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from chattypattihunt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you.
Patricia Hunt
Bristol, VT

From: Patricia McGill <redhen@pshift.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from redhen@pshift.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Patricia McGill
Kirby

From: Patricia McGill <redhen@pshift.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from redhen@pshift.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,
Patricia McGill
Kirby

From: Patricia Thompson <tpathompson@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 2:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from tpathompson@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Patricia Thompson

Middlebury

From: Patty K <pktalks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:18 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: My input regarding bear hunting rules and regulations.

You don't often get email from pktalks@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Thanks, Patty K.
1659 White Creek Road, N. Bennington, VT 05257
pattykeough.com
802-440-2888
~~~~~~~~~~~~
~~~~~~~~~~~~

From: Paul Collodi <prcollodi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from prcollodi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing to urge the biologists at the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife to make management decisions based on science and not to simply cater to the wishes of the hunters and trappers who are members of their board. Based on the available research, the department recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank You,

Paul Collodi
Hubbardton, Vermont

From: Paul Collodi <prcollodi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 8:50 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from prcollodi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Paul Collodi
Hubbardton, Vt

From: Paula Spellacy <pinupvirgin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 8:13 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit
Thank you- Paula Spellacy, Hancock VT

From: Paula Spellacy <pinupvirgin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 12:41 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your time- Paula Spellacy, Hancock VT

From: Paula Spellacy <pinupvirgin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit
Thank you- Paula Spellacy, Hancock VT

From: Peggy Larson <meowvet1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:57 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Peggy W Larson, DVM MS JD
422 Blair Park Road, Williston, VT. 05495
(802) 363-1332

From: Peggy Larson <meowvet1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:32 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Respectfully,
Peggy W Larson, DVM MS JD
Williston, VT. 05495

From: Peggy Larson <meowvet1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 4:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.
I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.
• Shorten the bear hound training season.
• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.
• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.

Peggy W Larson, DVM MS JD
422 Blair Park Road
Williston, VT. 05495
(802) 363-1332

From: Personal <screamin.meemz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:18 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hounding

You don't often get email from screamin.meemz@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Bear hounding is disgusting and archaic, and only practiced by the most mentally incompetent, morally void, and empathetically handicapped trophy hunters who deserve to feel the same anguish and pain they inflict on innocent animals. The State of Vermont should be absolutely ashamed of itself for letting this barbaric practice survive. This is 100% animal abuse!!!

To even consider extending this season into the bear hibernation season is unbelievable, so put an end to that thought now.

I ask myself all the time, what kind of people are so devoid of empathy for another living creature that they would treat them with such disrespect and disdain. Then I remember that this state is full of a bunch of undereducated, ill-spoken, dumbasses with guns who believe killing is fun, and do not know a thing about hunting.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife promotes the torturing animals, the orphaning of cubs, and Trophy Hunting/Hunters. Shame on you.

Perhaps you could work on your EQ and see the reality of how absolutely vile bear hounding is.

DO NOT EXTEND A SEASON THAT SHOULD NOT EXIST AT ALL!

DO BETTER! BE A BETTER HUMAN TO THE PLANET and TO ALL CREATURES THAT INHABIT IT.

STOP SUPPORTING TORTURE!

Marianne F. Oakes
Putney, VT

From: Pete Land <peter.c.land@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 2:54 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from peter.c.land@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,

Pete Land
Burlington and Ripton, VT

From: peter macausland <petermacausland@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 5:04 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Long live the bears in Vermont

You don't often get email from petermacausland@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Sincerely,
Peter MacAusland
32 Orchard Terrace
Burlington, Vt 05401

From: Peter Swaine <swaine@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 5:32 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from swaine@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Peter Swaine
Richmond, VT 05477

From: phasing_llamas.76@icloud.com
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 7:56 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: I oppose extending the bear hunting season - public comment

[You don't often get email from phasing_llamas.76@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a local writer who opposes extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Betsy Vereckey
Norwich, VT

From: Phil Lovely <brownlovely1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:54 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from brownlovely1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Phil Smith <philrobertovich@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:01 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from philrobertovich@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Phil Smith
Glover, VT

From: Phyllis Giordano <phylliscg@pshift.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:50 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from phylliscg@pshift.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit. Respectfully, Phyllis Giordano, Moretown, Vermont

Sent from my iPad

From: Piper Abbott <piper@burlingtonyoga.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:22 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from piper@burlingtonyoga.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Piper
(802)658-9642

From: Piper Abbott <piper@burlingtonyoga.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from piper@burlingtonyoga.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Piper
(802)658-9642

From: pjajod5@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of PJ Carlisle <pjajod5@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 3:50 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from pjajod5@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont’s landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
PJ Carlisle
Sutton, VT 05867-4437

From: Priscilla Olle <priscilla.dsj.olle@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:26 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Opposition to extensions to bear hunting season. Please consider.

You don't often get email from priscilla.dsj.olle@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Let's please move towards a more humane world for everyone who lives in it. Similar to Massachusetts for example, a neighboring state, we should strive for Vermont to be on the forefront of animal welfare and consideration. I could not say this statement currently for Vermont and that is deeply sad as someone who grew up and lived in that state for 18 years.

Thank you for your consideration.
Regards,
Priscilla Olle

From: Protect Our Wildlife VT <info@protectourwildlifevt.org>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2026 11:54 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Subject: Bear hounding

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning F&W Board members,
As the Board continues to discuss the bear regulations, I'd like to share some information and attachments about bear hound hunting that you may be unaware of. The attachments that I've shared are only examples from a much larger record file.

The Season

Bear hounders can chase bears during the hound "training" season with a pack of hounds not to exceed six hounds on one bear. The season begins June 1 and runs through Sept. 1. The bear hound hunting season then starts on Sept 1 and runs through mid-November.

The hounders track the hounds from afar using GPS devices. Hounds are often miles away from the hounders and cover great distances. Vermont is the only state in the region with a June 1 training season start date. In contrast, Maine, New Hampshire, and New York all begin their training seasons in July. *New York only allows a training season, not a bear hound hunting season.*

Physical Condition of Bears

Bear sows are in poor physical condition in early summer, and their cubs are still very small (approximately 5 pounds). According to Vermont Fish & Wildlife, "Typically, bears must wait until early to mid-summer before regaining an adequate level of nutrition." Natural food sources do not become abundant until mid-summer. Forcing bears to run for miles during the high heat of summer, when they are not in prime physical condition, puts undue stress on these animals. It also separates vulnerable cubs from their mothers. Their thick black coats make them exceptionally susceptible to hyperthermia when forced to flee the hounds.

Conflicts with the Public

Beginning each year on June 1, landowners experience conflicts with bear hounders and their hounds. Packs of hounds can be heard baying at daybreak, disrupting the peace of rural communities. These conflicts have become increasingly contentious in recent years. There seems to be little consideration for private property rights. During 2026 testimony on Vermont's land posting bill, legislators heard from many landowners who choose to post their land as legal protection against hounders.

Pitting Animals Against Eachother

There is also the very real issue of what is essentially legalized animal fighting. And this is not hyperbole. Bear hounders routinely post comments on their social media pages about their dogs getting injured.

We know that most dangerous encounters between humans and bears involve dogs, which is why one of our campaigns encourages people not to allow their dogs off-trail when recreating. Despite this, hounding continues to accommodate the recreational pursuits of about 120 bear

hounders, some of whom are from out of state.

This Vermont bear hounder allowed his hounds to torment, and possibly injure, a bear that sought refuge in a cave during the training season. We shared this with the warden and it was perfectly legal. While some bears flee up trees hoping for safety, other bears do not tree and instead bay on the ground placing the bear and hounds in danger.

We Want Bears in the Woods

Lastly, most of the hounding activity that occurs happens in the woods, where we want the bears. Hounders are also used to haze bears out of cornfields but that is only for a short period, and research has shown that the bears will always return as long as the food attractant remains.

You may hear a lot of reasons to allow bear hounding, but none of them are rooted in any sound ecological science. It is a recreational activity that inflicts tremendous stress on the targeted species, non-targeted species (deer fawns, moose calves), the public, our pets, and private property owners. Hounders claim that they can make a more selective kill, but evidence proves otherwise. Hounders kill female bears, including those with cubs despite what they claim.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this with an open mind. We are here as subject matter experts to answer any additional questions you might have. We have closely followed and researched bear hounding in Vermont for the last 8 years and have testified before the legislature as witnesses.

For hunters concerned about posted land, please know that in our experience, most landowners don't post land because of deer hunters. Hounding gives all hunting a bad name.

Respectfully,
Brenna

Brenna Galdenzi
President
Protect Our Wildlife POW
www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org

From: Protect Our Wildlife VT <info@protectourwildlifevt.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 10:27 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Subject: Re: Bear hounding

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning all,
My apologies if the email below was confusing because it referred to "attachments. To view the attachments, click the blue hyperlinks in the email. If you have any difficulty, let me know and I'll just email the files to you.

Enjoy the beautiful weather,
Brenna

Brenna Galdenzi
President
Protect Our Wildlife POW
www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org

On Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 11:53 AM Protect Our Wildlife VT <info@protectourwildlifevt.org> wrote:

> Good morning F&W Board members,
> As the Board continues to discuss the bear regulations, I'd like to share some information and attachments about bear hound hunting that you may be unaware of. The attachments that I've shared are only examples from a much larger record file.
>
> **The Season**
>
> Bear hounders can chase bears during the hound "training" season with a pack of hounds not to exceed six hounds on one bear. The season begins June 1 and runs through Sept. 1. The bear hound hunting season then starts on Sept 1 and runs through mid-November.
>
> The hounders track the hounds from afar using GPS devices. Hounds are often miles away from the hounders and cover great distances. Vermont is the only state in the region with a June 1 training season start date. In contrast, Maine, New Hampshire, and New York all begin their training seasons in July. *New York only allows a training season, not a bear hound hunting season.*
>
> **Physical Condition of Bears**
>
> Bear sows are in poor physical condition in early summer, and their cubs are still very small (approximately 5 pounds). According to Vermont Fish & Wildlife, "Typically, bears must wait until early to mid-summer before regaining an adequate level of nutrition." Natural food sources do not become abundant until mid-summer. Forcing bears to run for miles during the high heat of summer, when they are not in prime physical condition, puts undue stress on these animals. It also separates vulnerable cubs from their mothers. Their thick black coats make them exceptionally susceptible to hyperthermia when forced to flee the hounds.

Conflicts with the Public

Beginning each year on June 1, landowners experience conflicts with bear hounders and their hounds. Packs of hounds can be heard baying at daybreak, disrupting the peace of rural communities. These conflicts have become increasingly contentious in recent years. There seems to be little consideration for private property rights. During 2026 testimony on Vermont's land posting bill, legislators heard from many landowners who choose to post their land as legal protection against hounders.

Pitting Animals Against Eachother

There is also the very real issue of what is essentially legalized animal fighting. And this is not hyperbole. Bear hounders routinely post comments on their social media pages about their dogs getting injured.

We know that most dangerous encounters between humans and bears involve dogs, which is why one of our campaigns encourages people not to allow their dogs off-trail when recreating. Despite this, hounding continues to accommodate the recreational pursuits of about 120 bear hounders, some of whom are from out of state.

This Vermont bear hounder allowed his hounds to torment, and possibly injure, a bear that sought refuge in a cave during the training season. We shared this with the warden and it was perfectly legal. While some bears flee up trees hoping for safety, other bears do not tree and instead bay on the ground placing the bear and hounds in danger.

We Want Bears in the Woods

Lastly, most of the hounding activity that occurs happens in the woods, where we want the bears. Hounders are also used to haze bears out of cornfields but that is only for a short period, and research has shown that the bears will always return as long as the food attractant remains.

You may hear a lot of reasons to allow bear hounding, but none of them are rooted in any sound ecological science. It is a recreational activity that inflicts tremendous stress on the targeted species, non-targeted species (deer fawns, moose calves), the public, our pets, and private property owners. Hounders claim that they can make a more selective kill, but evidence proves otherwise. Hounders kill female bears, including those with cubs despite what they claim.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this with an open mind. We are here as subject matter experts to answer any additional questions you might have. We have closely followed and researched bear hounding in Vermont for the last 8 years and have testified before the legislature as witnesses.

For hunters concerned about posted land, please know that in our experience, most landowners don't post land because of deer hunters. Hounding gives all hunting a bad name.

Respectfully,
Brenna

Brenna Galdenzi
President
Protect Our Wildlife POW
www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org

From: Protect Our Wildlife VT <info@protectourwildlifevt.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 11:11 AM
To: Austin, John; Comeau, Jaclyn
Cc: ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Subject: Bear hounds

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi John and Jaclyn,
We received a message this morning from a concerned Vermont resident regarding a recent incident with bear hounder Keith Brick.

Brick's hounds treed a bear, and the bear climbed down to confront the barking hounds at the base of the tree. The hounds, and likely the bear, suffered injuries. The hounds rarely receive veterinary care for these injuries; instead, hounders often staple or glue their wounds at home.

Incidents like this happen frequently. We have evidence of it. How, then, can the Department continue to support a recreational activity that is, in practice, akin to animal fighting? That is not hyperbole; it is an accurate description of what can happen when hounds are deliberately used to pursue and confront a wild animal.

Bears are being chased through the woods—exactly where we want them to be. They should not be pursued for recreation, cornered, and forced into violent encounters with dogs.

If the Department is going to continue endorsing bear hounding, it should be honest about the risks involved and acknowledge that both bears and hounds can be injured during these pursuits. The Department should not minimize or whitewash the reality of what this activity entails.

Brenna

Brenna Galdenzi
President
Protect Our Wildlife POW
www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org

Joe Gates · 2h · by Author
That one looks to me like it's second-guessing it decision climb a tree

Reply

Brick Keith · 2h
Joe Gates yep

Reply

Write a reply...

Joe Gates · 2h · by Author
You ever had one come down a tree like a raccoon. After the dogs?? Many years ago we used to have coon dogs. I will never forget the two coons we had treed that came down to fight with the dogs

Gotta love those vet visits getting them stitched back up.

Reply Edited

Brick Keith · 2h
Joe Gates that bear came down was a heck of a brawl for a couple min they put it back up came home stapled one up the other 2 had some holes all relatively minor

Reply

Brick's Post

Brick Keith
3h ·

Addy and I took just the 3 pups alone this morning Jane struck off the rig I cut her go she lined it out I dumped scout and Willow wasn't long before treed then things got real and fast



From: Protect Our Wildlife VT <info@protectourwildlifevt.org>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 5:49 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Protect Our Wildlife's Comment on Bear Rules

You don't often get email from info@protectourwildlifevt.org. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing on behalf of POW's 4,000 Vermont members and more than 50,000 social media followers in response to the Department's recommendations regarding bear hunting.

We oppose extending the bear hunting season and issuing a second bear tag for several reasons:

- We are uncomfortable with the Department's estimates of Vermont's bear population.
- The scientific literature indicates that killing bears will not reduce future human-bear encounters.
- The Department has not recently surveyed Vermonters about their opinions on the current bear population; the last survey was nearly 10 years ago.
- Bears are managed based on social carrying capacity, not biological carrying capacity, and by the Department's own admission, it lacks data on both.
- Extending the season into mid-December puts hibernating bears at increased risk of being disturbed or even shot in their dens.
- Bears would be hunted in parts of the state where they are causing no problems at all.

We support prohibiting the hunting of mother bears with cubs and prohibiting the hunting of hibernating bears for obvious reasons that do not need to be restated. These changes would better align Vermont with the majority of other states that already have these prohibitions in place.

Black bears are a cherished Vermont species, valued for both their ecological and intrinsic importance. They reproduce slowly and cannot rebound quickly if "harvest" numbers exceed the Department's expectations. For this reason, the season should remain as it is, and greater emphasis should be placed on preventing human-bear incidents by requiring the secure storage of food attractants and more strictly enforcing existing laws, including the prohibition on bird feeders during the months when bears are active.

In addition, the Department should propose legislation requiring waste management companies to provide or adopt bear-resistant receptacles.

Vermont's bear management policies should prioritize sound science, prevention, and the long-term health of the species rather than expanding more hunting opportunities. We urge the Department to maintain the current season and focus instead on measures that address the underlying causes of human-bear incidents.

Brenna

Brenna Galdenzi
President
Protect Our Wildlife POW
www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org

From: R A <thatsfine1245@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:25 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from thatsfine1245@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello, this is Rachel Amundsen from Shelburne. Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Please do the right thing for these beautiful animals.

From: Rachel Kampus <rachel.kampus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 9:26 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from rachel.kampus@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am a property owner in Morristown, Vermont. Please mark my position as follows on the voting for changes to bear hunting rules:

- Prohibit the intentional killing of a mother bear with cubs ***SUPPORT. Hunting mother bears is cruel and inhumane. 85% of states and Canadian provinces have banned this.***
- Extend the bear hunting season through mid-December ***OPPOSE . This practise is also inhumane and unfair as it would allow hunting hibernating bears. What sportsmanship is that?***

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

Thank you
Rachel Hanmer
Morristown

From: Rachel Ritacco <ritaccophoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: 10 App. V.S.A. § 7 Bear Management Rule

You don't often get email from ritaccophoto@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board,

I am writing as a current resident of Vermont to express my concern over the proposed changes to the Bear Management Rule within the state. Specifically, I do not agree that hunters should be permitted to harvest 2 bears annually or that the hunting season for black bears should be extended.

There have been zero human fatalities by black bears in the state of Vermont since 1943. As far as my recent research concludes, there have been 4 reports of black bear attacks on humans in the last 15 years - 2 of which were connected to humans who had been feeding bears, and 2 of which were the result of humans walking dogs that had startled bears. The issue that the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board is facing this year is not an overabundance of bears. The issue lies with an abundance of people encroaching on bear habitat who do not have an awareness, care, understanding or consideration of how to properly behave in bear country.

Hunting more bears is not the answer to recent sightings and encounters. Learning to coexist is. My suggestions to those who are afraid or frustrated by a recent increase in bear activity in their areas are as follows:

Remove your bird feeders (the birds will find other ways to eat). Coop your chickens (use an electric fence if you have to). Leash your dogs and make a bit of noise before you take them outside (black bears prefer to avoid confrontations, and will likely steer clear of you). Store your trash properly (it shouldn't be exposed for sanitary reasons, anyway). The solutions are simple and doable. People just need to act more thoughtfully and less recklessly.

VT Fish and Wildlife's response in this case should not be to bend to the will of an ignorant, stubborn, lazy public. It should be to call on animal advocates to further spread public awareness on how to prevent bear encounters. Bears are not out to "get" anyone. They are looking to survive and protect their offspring, something so many people can relate to in their own lives. We don't need to choose violence to eliminate things that are scary or inconvenient from our environment. We simply need to adapt.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Rachel Ritacco

From: Ragosta, Christian <CRagosta@scifirstforhunters.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 10:40 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Letter of Support- Rule Change 10 V.S.A. App. § 7. Bear Management Rule
Attachments: Letter of Support- Rule Change 10 V.S.A. App. § 7. Bear Management Rule.pdf

You don't often get email from cragosta@scifirstforhunters.org. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning,

Please see the attached letter of support to Rule Change 10 V.S.A. App. § 7. Bear Management Rule from Safari Club International. Please do not hesitate if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,
Christian Ragosta

Christian Ragosta
State and Local Liaison

Cell: (315) 657-1215

cragosta@scifirstforhunters.org
www. safariclub.org

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August 27, 2026

Rule Change 10 V.S.A. App. § 7. Bear Management Rule
C/O ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive
Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3702

Re: Rule Change 10 V.S.A. App. § 7. Bear Management Rule

Dear Fish and Wildlife Board:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation changes to Rule 10 V.S.A. App. § 7. Bear Management Rule.

The proposed changes to bear regulations demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of black bear while increasing high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting benefits all wildlife conservation.

Extending and simplifying the bear hunting season will both benefit access and opportunity for hunters as well as provide the population management tool needed for the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department). Facing a bear population which exceeds the healthy management numbers derived from the biologists and wildlife experts at the Department, permitting an additional tag in select Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) will also help confront the challenges of maintaining healthy numbers of black bears in the wild.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Management Rule Change recommendations for Fall 2026. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the partnership with the Department. SCI is always first for hunters.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO – Safari Club International

From: Randolph Wales <waleswoodwork@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 7:29 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from waleswoodwork@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPad

From: Rebecca Coons <becca.coons@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:52 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from becca.coons@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for listening!

Cheers,
Rebecca Coons
Williston, VT

From: Rebecca Trono <rebecca_trono@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 1:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Rules

[You don't often get email from rebecca_trono@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I vehemently oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Our state already has a bear season which is longer than most states and there really is no good reason for extending it, since bears go into hibernation in winter. Do you really believe that slaughtering hibernating bears is following "fair chase" rules for honorable hunting? Or have we just given up on ethics in this state?

And no, I do not support issuing more than one bear tag. We are not being "overrun" by bears in Vermont. Our Fish & Wildlife department's population estimates aren't true counts of bears, but more along the lines of trying to sell more licenses.

I also do not support allowing hunters to kill sows with cubs in sight. In fact, I do not believe bear hunting during the season that bears are raising/nursing their young is ethical OR honorable. And I would venture to say that the vast majority of states in this country agree and prohibit this disgraceful practice.

If the Fish & Wildlife department doesn't possess the ethics to BAN the practice of hounding (I will not EVER call it a "sport", that's ridiculous), then at the very least I request the following changes be made:

• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Respectfully,
Rebecca Trono
Milton, VT
"Be yourself; everyone else is taken." - Oscar Wilde

From: Rebecca Trono <rebecca_trono@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:42 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed changes of Bear Rules

[You don't often get email from rebecca_trono@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife,

I am writing as a taxpayer of this state, as well as an active enjoyer of our state's outdoors and a lover of our precious wildlife. I cannot possibly support lengthening the bear hunting season, especially since it is already longer than many other state's. This long season doesn't make sense.
My other issue with this change, pushing the season well into December is that there has been no justification for this. Originally the season change was going to end in November, but was changed to December, with no reason given. Excuse me? You are not the owners of Vermont's wildlife, you are to work for ALL in this state and that includes the taxpayers. So, with no good reason offered, no good support for this change will be given.

Pushing the season for hunting bears into December is also cruel, and only benefits those who aren't TRUE, ETHICAL, EXPERIENCED, KNOWLEDGEABLE hunters.
Slaughtering sleeping bears is like shooting a fish in a barrel. Disgusting and only for those pathetic enough to actually believe that behavior is "sporting".
Fair Chase has always been the honorable, ethical standard. Let's keep it that way. Vermont is already seen as being populated by backward, slack-jawed hayseeds because we still allow hounding and trapping. What CENTURY are we in?!

Killing a bear with cubs in sight happens, we all know it does. Many a terrible hunter, especially hounders, simply ignore the fact that the cubs are there and kill the mother. There needs to be consequences for this behavior, if Vermont is to be seen as being supportive of wildlife. In many areas, this state has a very poor reputation. Holding people accountable for their really poor choices could help that.

I do NOT support issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. It's foolhardy to do this, given there really is no good way to determine the real number of bears. ONE bear is plenty. Enough is enough. The greediness of hunters is getting out of hand!

Here are other issues that must receive serious consideration:

• The rule should include a prohibition on the harassment and hunting of hibernating bears and align Vermont with the majority of other states.
• We support the Department and Board not recommending hunting bears using bait.
• The Commissioner should have the authority to revoke a bear dog permit, especially in extreme circumstances. The Department made this recommendation but it was not incorporated into the proposed rule.
• While we would like to see bear hounding banned completely, the Department should at the very least shorten the bear hound training season to be in line with neighboring states. A June 1st start date does not provide adequate time for sows to nurture cubs with the potential for harassment from hounds.

• Update the bear hounding regulations to be consistent with the 2024 regulations developed regard- ing coyote hounding, specifically limit pack size to 4 vs. 6 and update definition of “control of dogs.”

Let's bring Vermont into the 21st Century, please.

Regards,
Rebecca Trono
Milton, VT

"Be yourself; everyone else is taken." - Oscar Wilde

From: Richard Fitzhenry <r.fitzhenry@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 12:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It's my understanding that Vermont Fish & Wildlife has acknowledged that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts.In spite of this clear fact, they've mystifyingly proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December, as this will undeniably put hibernating bears at increased risk. F&W seems determined to lay blame for human/bear conflicts entirely on the bears while leaving humanity blameless. Instead, the Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. In the interest of decency, true sportsmanship, and simply legislating in a humane fashion, this should not even be a subject for debate. Whereas 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this, Vermont should, too.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

All sensible recommendations for a "sport" that has historically seen far too little oversight.

Respectfully yours,
Richard Fitzhenry
Hyde Park

From: Richard Maizell <rmaizell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:54 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Regards,

Richard Maizell, Psy.D.
973-903-9583
1640 West County Road
Calais, VT. 05648

"Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves." - Horace Mann

From: Rob Geisler <robgeisler21@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 10:23 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I support:

- Protecting mother bears with dependent cubs
- Protecting hibernating/denning bears
- Reconsidering hounding altogether — and at minimum delaying hound training from June 1 until August 1.

I oppose:

- Issuing a second bear tag
- Extending Vermont's bear hunting season into December

Rob Geisler
Coventry, VT

From: Rob Thomas <rob.thomas0215@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 10:27 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Rule Changes For Bear Hunting

[You don't often get email from rob.thomas0215@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I propose allowing baiting of bear by permit like New Hampshire does. This allows the hunter to better estimate the size and sex of bear and also allows the chance to see if a sow has cubs with her. This could also provide more money being brought into the Vermont Fish and Game department with cost of baiting permits.

Thank you
Rob Thomas
Sharon, Vermont

Sent from my iPhone

From: Robert Goldman <bobg128@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:16 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Black Bear rules in Vermont

[You don't often get email from bobg128@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

As a native New Englander who lived in Vermont way back when, I am paying close attention to how Vermont Fish & Wildlife is mis-managing (= KILLING) black bears and so many other native animals in the state. It's still a punch in the gut to know that Vermont's regressive, unscientific, unenlightened wildlife killing policies are not much different than in Idaho. Are Idaho bureaucrats in charge in Vermont, too?

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. Huh?

So VT F&W is OK with killing hibernating bears?? That is the opposite of fair chase hunting. Does that ethical principle mean anything to the governor and to wildlife bureaucrats in the Green Mountain State? Could someone there answer that simple question?

I STRONGLY OPPPOSE extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

Why would you ignore the wishes of most Vermonters, to refrain from this brutality?

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag, that will only double down on mis-management.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

Do you 'leaders' at VT F&W really want to be remembered for allowing THIS???

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I still visit the state to hike and ski but if you continue to abuse and kill black bears, including hibernating bears, mothers and cubs, doubling down on your abuse of native black bears, while turning your backs to the majority of decent Vermonters who oppose such awful abuse and killing of black bears, my days of setting foot in Vermont will come to an end, beginning this Fall. And I'll spread the word everywhere.

Robert Goldman
Lived in Stowe in the 1980s, when the state appeared decent… or maybe I was just young and ignorant. No more.

Portland, ME

From: Robert Thomson <robertforbesthomson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:56 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from robertforbesthomson@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I strongly oppose extending the bear hunting season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. VFW's estimates of bear population trends are highly unreliable, based largely on harvesting data rather than state-of-the-art tracking methodologies. Thus, for example, the Department's estimate of average bear population over the last decade has increased by 50% (comparing the average of the last five years (~7,500) with the previous five (~5,000)), a remarkable result which is surely worthy of more critical investigation and validation. Instead the Department reverts to the easier explanation - but highly questionable logic - of a positive correlation between population and harvested numbers (with a 30% increase in the latter over the comparable period - ~900 vs ~700).

Extending the season into mid-December puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Robert Thomson

Braintree, VT

From: Robi Artman Hodge <artmanhodge@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Altering Bear rules plus stopping or restructuring hound hunting

You don't often get email from artmanhodge@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. It also puts winter hikers, snowshoers and X-Country skiiers at more risk when in the woods and fields during this time of the early snow season. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also fully support the prohibition of hound hunting and hound training as it is an inhumane approach to sports hunting plus violates many people's personal space and property--even when property is fully posted.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• If we cannot eliminate hound hunting, then limit dogs from 6 to 2 (at a max), and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit
. Add hound hunting restrictions to posted property.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. The bears have every right to lead a peaceful life free of inhumane acts.

Regards,
Carole R. Artman-Hodge
Stowe, VT

From: Roger Goldstein <taurus0137@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:56 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from taurus0137@aol.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I consider the continued weakening of protection is the for cubs and their mothers to be unacceptable. Also unacceptable is the extension of bear hunting season and the refusal to curtail hounding. It is difficult to understand how hunters can support the unsportsmanlike behaviors of some of their fellows.
Thank you,
Roger Goldstein
Dorset, Vermont (year round resident)

From: Roger Goldstein <taurus0137@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:29 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Roger Goldstein
Dorset, Vermont
(Year round resident)

Sent from my iPhone

From: Roger Goldstein <taurus0137@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:27 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from taurus0137@aol.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Roger Goldstein <taurus0137@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 9:47 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPhone

From: Roger Goldstein <taurus0137@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Roger Goldstein
Dorset, VT
(Full Time Resident)
Voter

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rohit Sharma <roy_sharma@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 12:54 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from roy_sharma@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

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I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you.

Rohit Sharma, Ph.D.
Roxbury, VT

Sent from my iPad

From: RoseAnn Johnson <rojohnmidd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 2:30 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from rojohnmidd@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Roseann Johnson
72 Meadow Hawk Lane
Rochester, VT 05767

From: Sabra Ewing <sabra.ewing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 4:06 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from sabra.ewing@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To the board of Fish and Wildlife,
I vehemently oppose any extension of bear hunting season.
Also, I oppose bear hounding .
And I oppose adding a second bear tag!

I read that Fish ànd Wildlife spends one million à year on " nuisance bears ". I would like to see an accounting of this.
Instead of F ànd W helped folks with nuisance bears I would rather see a law that requires back yard bee keepers and chicken houses to have adequate electric fencing ànd a provision for income sensitivity to be able to afford the electric fencing ànd.
Additionally business owners in tourist towns should be required to deal with their own trash problems!!
Sincerely
Sabra Ewing
Additional funding could be made available from sept of tourism to provide a nature/education program /fim to watch that makes the fact that we have bears an attraction to Vermont and not allow Stowe to have the Boston Globe make them seem alarming to tourists !

From: Sam Pratt <sam.pratt.vt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 9:48 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Rules

You don't often get email from sam.pratt.vt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife's own research shows that killing more bears does not reduce human/bear conflicts — yet the Department has proposed extending the bear season by over three weeks and adding a second bear tag in parts of the state. These proposals aren't rooted in wildlife science; they're a concession to hunter pressure.

I strongly oppose extending the season to December 15. Vermont has no law against killing hibernating bears, and pushing the season deep into December means bears will be killed in their dens — a practice the majority of bear-hunting states explicitly prohibit. Vermont should not be an outlier on something this basic. The Department should adopt a clear prohibition on harassing or killing denning bears and bring Vermont in line with the rest of the country.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. Given the Department's own admission that hunting doesn't reduce conflict, this proposal serves no wildlife management purpose — it simply results in more dead bears for no measurable benefit.

I fully support prohibiting the intentional hunting of a mother bear with cubs in sight. It is hard to overstate how far behind the curve Vermont is on this: 84% of black bear hunting jurisdictions already prohibit shooting females accompanied by cubs. This rule exists because a member of the public witnessed a sow shot and killed in front of her cubs. That should never have been legal in the first place, and closing this loophole is long overdue.

I also urge the Department to act on the following, which are not currently part of the draft rules but should be:

- Shorten the bear hound training season. A June 1 start gives sows no meaningful protection while nursing cubs, and leaves them and their cubs vulnerable to harassment from hounds during a critical period.
- Align bear hounding regulations with the 2024 coyote hounding rules — reduce pack size from 6 to 4 and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Give the Commissioner explicit authority to revoke a bear dog permit in cases of abuse or extreme violations. The Department itself recommended this and it was left out of the proposed rule — that omission should be corrected.

Vermont has the opportunity to modernize bear management policy and bring it in line with national norms. I urge the Department and Board to reject the season extension and second tag, and to adopt the additional protections above.

Thank you,

Sam Pratt

From: Sandy Butkovich <sbutkovich57@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:25 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from sbutkovich57@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I would like to have a voice regarding VT F&W's new proposals regarding bear hunting.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.

I would like to see the killing of hibernating bears banned. This is alarmingly sadistic behavior. Please end this.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit.

I oppose any proposal asking for extended seasons. My hope is they will be shortened.

I know that trapping bears in VT is not legal; however, the problem with allowing VT animals to be trapped is that unintended animals become victims to the traps. This summer I witnessed a bear crossing the road in front of my car. It was hobbling on 3 legs; the front right foot was dangling. Most likely the result of getting caught in a trap. The animal was painfully thin and its coat was a mess. My guess is it died a slow painful death. Please end trapping. This is unnecessary cruelty.

Thank you.

Sandy Butkovich
Charleston, VT

From: Sarah A Laird <sarahlaird@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please respect the public's views, and not special interests - bears

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am writing as a resident of Lincoln, VT. We have had a few killings of mother bears around here in the last few years - these sometimes result in Fish and Wildlife spending enormous amounts of time and energy to bring out cages to supposedly catch the cubs and bring them to safety. One cage ended up at my place, and I could see how time consuming this was for the staff. They have not caught the cubs in my experience. The F&W staff are extremely nice and knowledgeable, but I can't help feeling that this is some kind of theatre, since it rarely works - and those who kill mother bears with cubs are not penalized. We all know the bears that live near us, and whether they have cubs or not. In one instance an individual killed a mother bear many in town had been watching with her cub all summer. This is not sportsmanlike, nor is killing mothers with offspring what most hunters would view as responsible hunting.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. This also seems inhumane. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Vermont should be one of the more responsible states in managing its wildlife, rather than a strange outlier that tolerates abusive practices that encourage the suffering of animals. This does not serve hunters, the general public, and certainly not our wildlife.

- Sarah Laird
925 Elder Hill Rd
Lincoln, VT 05443

From: Sarah Gorsline <sgorsline@projectcoyote.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Cc: Austin, John; Comeau, Jaclyn; Batchelder, Jason; ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Windsor; Renfrew, Rosalind; Morse, Joshua
Subject: Comments on behalf of Project Coyote and our VT supporters on the proposed black bear rules
Attachments: Project Coyote_comments on VT bear rules_September 3_2026.pdf

You don't often get email from sgorsline@projectcoyote.org. Learn why this is important

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Dear
Agency of Natural Resources, Members
of the Board of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Fish and Wildlife,

Attached
please find comments on the 2026 proposed bear rules from Project Coyote on behalf of our Vermont supporters. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the bear rules. We thank the Board and Department for their work on these rules.

Best
wishes,
Sarah



Sarah Gorsline
MULTIMEDIA ASSOCIATE & VERMONT REPRESENTATIVE
PROJECT COYOTE

sgorsline@projectcoyote.org
802-378-5141
projectcoyote.org

project coyote
PROTECTING WILD CARNIVORES
FOSTERING THRIVING ECOSYSTEMS

JOIN OUR E-TEAM
Bring wild carnivores to your inbox
Sign up to receive news and Action Alerts
JOIN OUR E-TEAM

project coyote

PROTECTING WILD CARNIVORES
FOSTERING THRIVING ECOSYSTEMS

September 3, 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Agency of Natural Resources,

On behalf of Project Coyote, I'd like to submit the following comments, based on guidance from our leadership and Science Advisory Board, and on behalf of our many Vermont supporters. Project Coyote advocates for practical coexistence measures with wild carnivore species. We work with communities, wildlife agencies, farmers, and hunters to prevent wildlife conflicts, and keep wild carnivores on the landscape to continue offering the critical ecosystem services they do. In the case of bears, these ecosystem services include the diversification of forests through seed dispersal from their scat and fur, improvement of forest health through soil aeration, and the reduction of disease spread through scavenging (end notes, #1).

That black bears are surviving and thriving in Vermont is a testament to the return and success of our state's forests, after the historic removal of forests for agriculture. Bears left alone and alive have intrinsic value to the state, aside from the recreational and consumption opportunities pursued by hunters.

Bear populations naturally self-regulate if left undisturbed. Thus, hunting is not necessary to prevent bears from becoming "overpopulated." Bears dispersing from saturated populations can become "nuisance" bears where wildlands and human communities meet. Nuisance bear situations should be dealt with where they occur with efforts to change the behavior of specific bears. Increasing the indiscriminate hunting of random bears in the region is the wrong approach. The Department should not assume that increasing harvest is necessary—or effective—for reducing human-bear conflicts without Vermont-specific evidence demonstrating that connection.

Peer-reviewed scientific research consistently demonstrates that increasing general sport hunting of black bears does not reduce or prevent human-bear conflicts. Long-term studies conducted across various regions of North America have found no measurable correlation between higher hunting or harvest rates and a subsequent decline in nuisance complaints or encounters with bears. Notably, the pattern observed indicates that recreational hunting primarily removes non-conflict individuals—bears that reside in deeper, forested habitats—rather than the specific animals responsible for foraging in residential areas and creating conflicts.

We are aware of no scientific support for the idea that hunting more bears will reduce or prevent the human-bear conflicts that have increased in recent years. This is due largely to the

fact that the scientific literature consistently demonstrates that bear-human conflict is a poor metric for tracking changes in the growth rates of bear populations (end notes, #3). It is important to realize that in most bear-human conflict situations, only a small portion of a regional bear population is responsible for the conflict. These are exactly the individual bears that are very unlikely to be killed by sport hunters, given their occurrence in the rural/urban fringe. In other words, hunters disproportionately kill bears that are not responsible for increases in human-bear conflicts.

Project Coyote comments on the 2026 proposed bear rules:

- **First, Project Coyote strongly supports the common-sense inclusion of a prohibition on the known killing of a mother bear accompanied by her cubs.** Vermont is an outlier among other states and Canadian provinces that allow bear hunting, the majority of which already prohibit the cruel practice of killing mothers. It's time we joined these states and provinces in stating clearly in our regulations that intentionally killing a mother accompanied by dependent cubs is unacceptable—a position shared by many Vermonters, including ethical Vermont hunters.

- **Second, Project Coyote opposes extending the bear hunting season into mid-December.** Because bears can den as early as October in Vermont, extending the hunting season into December puts even more pressure than already exists on hibernating bears and vulnerable bears preparing for hibernation. The proposed rule would increase the risk of bears being killed in dens, a practice that is not currently prohibited in Vermont, but which the Board should prohibit with a simple regulatory change, if the season is extended. Extending the hunting season could disrupt bear hibernation and key biological cycles related to nutrition, weight, and health, which are occurring throughout the year to prepare for the next season. (end notes, #2)

- **Third, Project Coyote opposes the addition of a second tag for hunters to use in certain wildlife management units.** Allowing hunters to take two bears in certain areas risks damage to that area's bear population, and specific bear family units. For example, two bears could be taken from the same family group, including cubs or yearlings, because Vermont currently lacks any regulations on the minimum age or size of bear cubs who can be hunted. **We strongly encourage the Board to also enact a rule at this time with enforceable restrictions on the minimum age or size under which cubs should not be hunted, which most other bear-hunting states and provinces currently have.**

- **Implementing and managing an expanded bear hunting season would take up more of the limited and valuable time of Fish and Wildlife staff and game wardens.**

Project Coyote agrees with the scientific consensus that hunting more bears will not solve bear conflicts in Vermont. The root causes of human-bear interactions are predominantly linked to environmental and human factors rather than the density of the bear population itself. Research indicates that natural food shortages, such as poor berry or nut production, lead bears to seek alternative resources, often drawing them towards human settlements. Additionally, unsecured attractants, including garbage, bird feeders, and other easily accessible food sources, significantly contribute to the frequency of these encounters. (end notes, #4)

Evidence also points toward more effective and sustainable strategies for mitigating human-bear conflicts. One of the most impactful methods is attractant management, with USDA figures stating that securing garbage in bear-proof containers can reduce community conflicts by at least 60%. Public education initiatives that encourage residents to eliminate food subsidies and properly manage attractants help reshape bear behavior, fostering a safer environment and promoting coexistence. In circumstances where human safety is immediately threatened, targeted removal of individual, highly habituated nuisance bears by wildlife agencies proves to be a more precise and functional approach than broad recreational hunting.

Collectively, these findings underscore that management efforts focused on addressing the underlying causes of conflict and implementing evidence-based interventions are far more effective than increasing general hunting pressure on black bear populations.

“Bear problems” are generally human problems with securing attractants. We look forward to seeing the Board, Department and Legislature invest in practical measures to address bear conflicts. We suggest bear coexistence measures that overlap with existing work by the Department, including:

- A bill to require Vermont waste companies adopt bear-proof waste containers, such as dumpsters, trash cans, recycling and compost containers, and green waste areas. This bill could include a phased-in approach, starting in the areas with most bear conflicts.
- Education and educational materials about removal of human attractants such as birdseed, unsecured pet and livestock feed, and unsecured garbage and compost from around residences and businesses.
- Use of electric fencing to protect livestock and crops, when possible, and more support for farmers from USDA on this.
- Humane hazing of bears before they become food-conditioned.
- Increased signage for the public about how to properly dispose of waste and coexist with bears, especially in areas with high bear conflicts.

Project Coyote thanks the Board members and Department for their work on these bear rules. A special thank you to bear biologist Jaclyn Comeau for her expertise and educational presentations about bears at Board meetings. I look forward to supporting the Department and Board in future coexistence endeavors to prevent human-bear conflicts and encourage successful coexistence with these key ecosystem engineers.

Thank you for your consideration,



Sarah Gorsline
VT Representative, Project Coyote
e: sgorsline@projectcoyote.org
p: 802-378-5141

Camilla Fox
Founder and Executive Director, Project Coyote

Marc Bekoff, Ph.D.
University of Colorado, Boulder
Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Science Advisory Board Member, Project Coyote

Franz J. Camenzind, Ph.D.
Director, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Retired
Jackson, Wyoming
Science Advisory Board Member, Project Coyote

Rick Hopkins, PhD
Senior Conservation Biologist
Live Oak Associates, Inc.
Science Advisory Board Member, Project Coyote

Paul C. Paquet, Ph.D
Senior Scientist
Raincoast Conservation Foundation
Victoria, BC, Canada
Science Advisory Board Member, Project Coyote

David Parsons, M.S.
Wildlife Biologist
Science and Ethics Advisor, Project Coyote

END NOTES

1. **"Bears as providers of ecosystem services,"** Authors: Clara Tattoni , Francesco Bisi, I. Mauricio Vela-Vargas , Ganesh Marin , Giacomo Cremonesi, Odbayar Tumendemberel , Jorge E. Araña , Adriano Martinoli [a], Damiano G. Preatoni , John L. Koprowski
   ScienceDirect website:
   https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212041626000781

2. "**Managing Human-Wildlife Interactions: Black Bear (Ursus americanus)"** Authored by Jim Parkhurst, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech
   Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech University website:
   https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-200/420-200.html

3. "**Do public complaints reflect trends in human-bear conflict?"** Authors: Eric J. Howe and Martyn E. Obbard and Ron Black and Linda L. Wall.
   International Association for Bear Research and Management website:
   https://www.bearbiology.org/download/do-public-complaints-reflect-trends-in-human-bear-conflict

4. **"Perception and trust influence acceptance for black bears more than bear density or conflicts."** Authors: Siemer WF, Lauber TB, Stedman RC, Hurst JE, Sun CC, Fuller AK, Hollingshead NA, Belant JL and Kellner KF (2023) Front. Conserv. Sci. 4:1041393. doi: 10.3389/fcosc.2023.1041393
   ResearchGate website:
   https://www.researchgate.net/publication/368417151_Perception_and_trust_influence_acceptance_for_black_bears_more_than_bear_density_or_conflicts

From: Sarah Grunwell <sgrunwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:21 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from sgrunwell@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Sarah Grunwell
Jeffersonville vt

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Sarah Lyda <udderjoy@me.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 6:27 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

• Shorten the bear hound training season

• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sarah Lyda
Washington Vt
05675

From: Sarah Lyda <udderjoy@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:43 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Having gone to the meeting in St Johnsbury I honestly do not see that there is a problem with bears. Just because a bear wrecks someone's feeder or rifles through their garbage does not constitute a problem. I run into bears a lot and never ever have I felt threatened. So to propose the solution to a not problem and that solution to the not problem is to kill a third to half the bear population is just wrong.

I propose instead that the bear hunting tag price be increased from the ridiculous pittance of 5 dollars and the money be used to protect bear habitat, education, and bear proof dumpsters.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sarah Lyda
655 Doyle Rd
Washington Vt 05675

From: Sarah.Nilsen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sarah Nilsen <Sarah.Nilsen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 8:38 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from sarah.nilsen@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Nilsen
Shelburne, VT 05482-6429

From: sarahgorsline@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sarah Gorsline <sarahgorsline@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 1:06 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from sarahgorsline@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Gorsline
Grand Isle, VT 05458-2563

From: Scott Moore <sjmoore26@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:46 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from sjmoore26@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your consideration,

Scott Moore
Williamsville, VERMONT

From: Scott Moore <sjmoore26@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:50 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from sjmoore26@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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To whom this may concern,

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

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• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

It means a lot to the community of Vermont's who would prefer that the state update. It's an ancient ideas of ethics and sustainability regarding wildlife and its relationship to the people who live here. Recreational hounding and trapping now seem like ancient violence that has been eliminated in most states.

It would be good to see VERMONT lead the way in setting in an example for sound legislation moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Scott Moore
Williamsville, Vermont

From: Senta Augsberger <sentaaugs@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:01 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you!
Ms. Augsberger

Sent from my iPhone

From: Shanie Bartlett <shanie_bartlett@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:16 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

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I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Time and money will be better spent educating the public. We must learn to cohabitate.

Vermont hunting is out of hand and it is time to fix it.

Thank you,
Shanie Bartlett
18 Covey Road
Underhill, VT 05489

From: Sharon E Bovaird <sebvt2017@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:27 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules - why is killing hibernating bears not called what it is - cowardly murder

You don't often get email from sebvt2017@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. Why is it even considered a “a sport” to kill sleeping bears. Call it what it is - murder. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Best regards,
Sharon
Sebvt2017@gmail.com
802.999.8634

From: Sharon Skye Forest <thejourneyservices@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:24 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from thejourneyservices@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I love Vermont because we live in nature, with respect for the animals we are threatening.
As a committed voter, I ask that we keep reasonable guidelines in place, and avoid expanding hunting.
Thank you,
Sharon Forest

Sent from my iPhone

From: shawn Standen <sstanden36@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 10:07 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Season Changes

You don't often get email from sstanden36@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Fish and Wildlife,

I want to reach out and give my support for an extended bear season and the ability to get a second Bear Tag for the upcoming season. The last several years I've seen quite a bit more bear than ever before. They keep doing a number on my apple trees so it is my opinion we should reduce the overall numbers.

Thank you,

--
Shawn Standen
sstanden36@gmail.com
802-793-9593
--

From: Shawn Thayer <reddart@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from reddart@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Thayer
Milton, VT

From: Sheila B <eastgsdvt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 11:40 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear ruleprotect our bears and coyotes, foxes and bobcats!s

You don't often get email from eastgsdvt@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Sheila Hastie <shastieod@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:34 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from shastieod@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

STOP CATERING TO THE VOCAL MINORITY and keep up with the newest scientific research showing lower bear numbers do not reduce human/bear conflicts as it's the humans that are the problem, NOT the bears (bird feeders, easy accessible garbage, chickens not securely enclosed, etc). Most people following this realize this is just a way to keep more hunters happy.

Sincerely,
Sheila Hastie
Hartford

From: SHELAH VOGEL <shelah.vogel8@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 5:10 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you
Shelah Vogel
East Charleston, VT

From: Sidney Sullivan <sidneysullivan897@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:36 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Rules Public Comment

You don't often get email from sidneysullivan897@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello Vermont State,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Please consider safety of our wildlife.

Best, Sidney Sullivan

From: slybecklabs@icloud.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 10:49 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bears

[You don't often get email from slybecklabs@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Don’t shoot bears with cubs or bears in dens. Hate bear “hounding.” Would be very open to better garbage cans and education. We do allow hunting by permission on our 120 acres. No hounding!
Susan Lybeck
West Haven

From: Stephanie Nyzio <snyzio@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:37 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from snyzio@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To The Fish & Wildlife Deptartment,

Apologies for this rubber stamp email but I agree with the clear and factual statements of the message. Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this, and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you,
Stephanie Nyzio
Bethel, VT
(full-time permanent resident)

From: steved518@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 12:03 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from steved518@aol.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. Why was extending the season even considered? The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states or just not extend the season into the bears hibernation period. It looks like you're just trying to make it easier for hunters to kill bears. Isn't the whole point of bragging about killing a bear is the fact that it's not easy. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. When you kill a mother bear with cubs, the cubs usually die. Is that really something you want to brag about?

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season or eliminate it because in reality the dogs don't know it's practice. There is no hunting training season so why hound training season?
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." At this point there is no control of dogs. Following from a truck with a GPS tracker is not control.
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Steven F. DiCicco
Hyde Park

From: Steven Bogart <stevenbogart12@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:06 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Bear Hunting Regulations

You don't often get email from stevenbogart12@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extension of the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag.

Rather than expanding bear hunting opportunities, I urge the Department to strengthen protections for Vermont's black bears, including prohibiting the killing of mother bears with dependent cubs and banning the hunting of bears while they are hibernating.

I respectfully ask the Department to prioritize the protection and responsible management of Vermont's bear population when considering these proposed changes.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Steve Bogart

From: Stewart McDermet <smcdermet1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 11:47 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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We STRONGLY stongly support these suggestions.
Stewart and Kris McDermet
Dummerston

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: stuart granoff <stuartgranoff@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 11:20 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from stuartgranoff@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing this re bear-hunting in VT, and subscribe to the very reasonable and moderate positions below.

I have no problem with hunting in general; I understand this is part of VT culture. However, I cannot for the life of me understand how we can allow the killing of mother bears. The bear hunters who drive on our road have multiple dogs, geo-navigation, and guns. This is bloodsport, not anything rooted in humane hunting tradition.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

These are not extreme positions. They allow conscientious hunters to pursue their sport, while protecting wildlife.

Thank you,
Stuart Granoff

From: stumpjumper802 <stumpjumper802@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 12:47 PM
To: ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Cc: Austin, John; Fortin, Nick; Batchelder, Jason; Comeau, Jaclyn; Shortsleeve, Andrea; Sausville, David; Saunders, Chris; Smith, Hannah; Phil Scott; rodgersforvt; Moore, Julie; Martin, Charles
Subject: Batchelder: A fed bear is a dead bear - Vermont Daily Chronicle

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
https://vermontdailychronicle.com/batchelder-a-fed-bear-is-a-dead-bear/

"Concerns Regarding Black Bear Over Population and Conflicts"

To whom it may concern:
Recent data indicates that the Black Bear population in Vermont is not only thriving, but has frequently surpassed state biologists conservation goals.

While this speaks to our region's successful habitat regeneration, the Unchecked population growth is now driving bears further into Residential Neighborhoods and human- dominated environments.

When Bear population out grow their natural ecosystems, it leads to an increase in properly damage,and dangerous close encounters with humans.
To address this issue, we must implement responsible management strategies by increasing the harvesting of black bears, and maintain a balanced population.

Vermont and neighboring states are having a population surge.
Primarily driven by:
Protect the population from over harvesting, not using all modern methods to harvest.
Climate change: shorter (milder) winters, higher survival rate, higher reproduction rate. Female bears reach reproductive age younger and produce larger litters.

Bears naturally disperse and adapt to new territory.
A black Bears home range depends heavily on food availability,habitat, and sex. Adult males have a vast territories (10 to over 200 square miles) that overlap several female territories.
Females with out cubs range from 2 to 50 square miles, while mother's with cubs stay the most localized (1 to 12 square miles) to protect their young.

Thank you
The Vermonter
Bert Saldi

From: stumpjumper802 <stumpjumper802@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 7:59 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Cc: Austin, John; Fortin, Nick; Batchelder, Jason; Comeau, Jaclyn; Saunders, Chris; Shortsleeve, Andrea; Sausville, David; Smith, Hannah; Smith, Tony
Subject: Surprising info about Acorns and Black Bears

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.
https://youtube.com/watch?v=OTvYC-cluxQ&is=lX8PaGDmhPdbZnky

Dear. Fish and Wildlife Board and Department.
Please take the time..
Very good one to watch and listen too...

Same thing occurs with beech nuts, berries,chokecherrie's,corn crops,apple orchards,honey hives ,their own,others animals,and so on.....

Black bears will travel vast distances, sometimes spanning days and miles.
They have highly sensitive sense of smell, up to 20 miles depending on the wind and environmental conditions.
Black bears smell is 100 times greater than Ours....

Remember:
Black bears are incredibly intelligent creatures with outstanding long-term memory. They never forget where they previously found a meal.....

Shared by that Vermonter
Bert Saldi

From: stumpjumper802 <stumpjumper802@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 8:46 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Caledonia; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board Windsor
Cc: Austin, John; Fortin, Nick; Batchelder, Jason; Smith, Tony; Comeau, Jaclyn; Kilborn, Jillian; Shortsleeve, Andrea; Sausville, David; Smith, Hannah; Connolly, Abigail; Stedman, Justin; Phil Scott; Moore, Julie; Martin, Charles
Subject: Black Bear Incident Reports from 2005 to 2025.....
Attachments: AnnualHumanBearIncidentReports_2005to2025.xlsx

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello folks.
Vermont: Total Human- Bear Incident Reports...
As you can see 👀 from 2018 or so ,Vt fish and wildlife has been kicking the can down the Road with the over population of black Bears period....
Vt ,Fish and Wildlife,Overdue by 8 plus years.You have had enough data for many passed years, to say the least...what have you been afraid
of ?...👽

Is the paycheck worth more than doing the right thing:
When weighting a paycheck against doing the right thing,doing the right thing hold the greater, lasting value.
"Let that sink in".....

Shared by that native Vermonter
Bert Saldi

Year	Total Human-Bear Incident Reports
2005	159
2006	135
2007	140
2008	142
2009	143
2010	180
2011	158
2012	305
2013	235
2014	337
2015	179
2016	540
2017	381
2018	794
2019	626
2020	1704
2021	684
2022	1370
2023	912
2024	1565
2025	1431

From: Sue Johnston <muddylegs2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 6:15 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rule change

[You don't often get email from muddylegs2004@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Comcern,

Ninth generation Vermonter here writing to encourage the banning of bear hounding. This activity is barbaric. We can do better.

Thank you,
Sue Johnston
Lyndonville, VT

From: sue pfaff <vtpfaff@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 7:05 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from vtpfaff@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It is unthinkable that Vermont should allow the harassment and killing of single bears and bear families, let alone hibernating ones!

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season *** Please !
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." **** Please!
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit **** Of course!

Susan Pfaff
East Dover, Vermont 05341

From: Sue Skaskiw <skaskiw@vermontel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 3:15 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment; neal stark
Subject: Bear hunting vote

You don't often get email from skaskiw@vermontel.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

This email is sent on behalf of Neal Stark, Corinth, VT per his request. He can be contacted at 802-439-5005.

I also ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.
I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.
• Shorten the bear hound training season.
• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which

puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

- **Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.**
- **I request the department provide a tally of the votes.**

Thank you.

From: Sue Wetmore <iibirdvt@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2026 7:35 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from iibirdvt@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sue Wetmore
Brandon

Sent from my iPod

From: Sue Wetmore <iibirdvt@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 1:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from iibirdvt@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Susanne Wetmore
Brandon

Sent from my iPod

From: Sue Wetmore <iibirdvt@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:35 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from iibirdvt@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sent from my iPod

From: SUSAN CLARK <sclarkvt7@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:31 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Regulations

You don't often get email from sclarkvt7@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I am opposed to extending Vermont's bear hunting season through mid-December because this is too close to denning time. The intentional killing of mother bears with cubs should be prohibited. I am also strongly opposed to hounding. Killing bears does not reduce human-bear conflicts. Problems happen when food, trash or bird feeders are available. Removing a bear just leaves an open space for a new bear to move in and find the food. FWS should represent all Vermonters, not just hunters.

Susan Clark
B2 Stonehedge Drive
South Burlington, VT

From: Susan Edgerton <she7041@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:57 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from she7041@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Susan Edgerton
Readsboro, VT

From: Susan Hong <susanmhong@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:19 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from susanmhong@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:

- Shorten the bear hound training season
- Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
- Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Hong
Charlotte, VT

From: Susan Molloy <windyacres@gmavt.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:14 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from windyacres@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Susan Pare <runlong@gmavt.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 3:34 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules - PLEASE READ

You don't often get email from runlong@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

PLEASE READ-

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will **not effectively reduce** future human/bear conflicts, **yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month** and i**ssuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.**

Vermont **MUST take aggressive action** to have homeowners and restaurants use **BEAR-PROOF receptacles for garbage**…WE EAT and BEARS EAT-SO take away the source and it takes away the conflict.

I strongly oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk.

The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of **hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.**

I also strongly oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear **hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.**

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• **Shorten the bear hound training season**
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to **four**, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• **Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit**

Thank you,

Susan Pare
Starksboro, VT. 05487
runlong@gmavt.net

From: Susanne Abetti <susanne.abetti@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 11:49 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Rules & Regs

You don't often get email from susanne.abetti@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I would ask that the Department consider the following as my vote:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and want to a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts pre-hibernating/hibernating bears at increased risk. In other words, they, and cubs, can be killed legally in their den. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of these bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Mother bears can forage without their cubs in sight. I oppose the hunting of female bears.

• Shorten the bear hound training season.

• Rules now allow dogs to hound coyotes and bear, which puts the dogs at risk. Currently dogs can be used to track and hunt coyote and bear, referred to as hounding. It's proposed to limit dogs used to hunt from 6 to four, I strongly oppose hounding in hunting practice. I agree with the need to strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."

• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit, permanently.

• I request the department provide a tally of the votes.
Respectfully submitted.

Susanne Abetti
White River Junction
802.281.2383

From: Suzanne Stone <sstonejewels@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 4:36 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from sstonejewels@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,

Kathryn Stone
97 Star Point Dr.
Middlebury VT 05753

From: tabbatha henry <th@tabbathahenry.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting

You don't often get email from th@tabbathahenry.com. Learn why this is important <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I'm writing to express my deep opposition to extending the bear hunting season, as well as second bear tags.

These animals are crucial to a thriving ecosystem and we must never allow mother bears with cubs to be hunted, or hibernating bears to be hunted. How truly disgusting we would be if this was how we conducted ourselves. What kind of person shoots a hibernating animal?

I unequivocally support strict protections for these animals. Hands off!

Sincerely,

Tabbatha Henry

tabbatha henry creative
waterbury, vermont
www.tabbathahenry.com <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tabbathahenry.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7Canr.fwpubliccomment%40vermont.gov%7C66118d2e9986448d556208df0a36c388%7C20b4933bbaad433c9c0270edcc7559c6%7C0%7C0%7C639240902737193415%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XWBTNyInTgKMxsZDdM%2FXDT5kE5R3JToHD4qyZ8pWkj8%3D&reserved=0>
802.244.6800

From: Taylor Evans <taylor.evans.vt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:20 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public comment

You don't often get email from taylor.evans.vt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears. I also strongly oppose hounding as a means of hunting bears.

Taylor Evans

Sent from my iPhone

From: Terri Glasser <coldmountain1979@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 9:53 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules - From Terri Glasser, Waterbury,VT

You don't often get email from coldmountain1979@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Terri Glasser
Waterbury, VT

From: Terry Zigmund <terry@burlingtonglass.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 5:24 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from terry@burlingtonglass.net. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom it MayConcern,

Please include the following comments regarding proposed changes to bear hunting rules currently being considered.

I oppose extending bear hunting season into mid-December, this seems shortsighted and it puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. Extending bear hunting season and issuing a second bear tag will not reduce human/bear conflicts.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Best,
Terry Zigmund
Winooski, VT

From: the zuckermans <thezuckermans@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 2:21 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment – Opposition to Proposed Bear Hunting Rule Changes

You don't often get email from thezuckermans@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Vermont Fish and Wildlife,

As a lifelong supporter of Vermont Fish and Wildlife and a Vermont resident, I am writing to express my strong opposition to extending the bear hunting season and allowing a second bear tag.

My wife and I have lived rurally in Vermont for the past 32 years and raised four children here. All four have chosen to remain in Vermont as adults and continue to live rurally. Our family has lived alongside Vermont's wildlife, including black bears, for decades, and none of us has experienced a serious negative encounter with a bear. We have, however, had several negative experiences associated with hound hunting.

I believe Vermont should first address the human behaviors that contribute to bear conflicts rather than simply increasing the number of bears that can be killed. Food availability, unsecured garbage, bird feeders, compost, and other human-provided food sources can attract bears and contribute to conflicts. Greater public education and stronger requirements and enforcement regarding bear-resistant trash and other attractants would be a more responsible approach.

I am particularly opposed to expanding hunting practices that could result in sows being killed when dependent cubs are present. I also strongly oppose the use of hounds to pursue bears, particularly during the summer training season when very young cubs may be present. The possibility of hounds pursuing a sow and her cubs, treeing them, and the sow later being legally harvested is extremely troubling to me.

There is also a larger issue here concerning the future of hunting in Vermont. I have grandchildren whom I hope will choose to remain in this state. Younger generations will ultimately determine whether hunting continues to have broad public acceptance in Vermont. If hunting practices are viewed by the public as unnecessarily cruel or inconsistent with modern wildlife-management ethics, that public support will continue to erode.

I support responsible, ethical hunting and science-based wildlife management. But wildlife management should also reflect reasonable standards of animal welfare and the values of the broader Vermont public—not simply increase hunting opportunities as the first response to a growing bear population.

I respectfully ask the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Board to reconsider extending the bear season, issuing a second bear tag, and policies that permit the pursuit and harvest of bears under circumstances where dependent cubs may be present. I would instead encourage Vermont to place greater emphasis on reducing human-provided food sources, preventing bear conflicts, educating the public, and allowing bear populations to respond naturally to available habitat and food resources.

If we want to preserve Vermont's hunting tradition for future generations, we need to preserve the respect, ethics, and fair chase principles that give that tradition legitimacy.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Scott Zuckerman
Vermont Resident

From: thechildrensgarden@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Edward Morgan <thechildrensgarden@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 3:54 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from thechildrensgarden@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont’s landscape. I urge you to:

Support the new rule: prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Edward Morgan
Saint Johnsbury, VT 05819-1226

From: Tim & Leslie Peters <tpeters.vt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 1:13 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from tpeters.vt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Timmy Yandow <tim.yandow123@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:39 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear hunting rules

You don't often get email from tim.yandow123@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I want to thank you for coming up with newer ways to help lower the current bear population. I strongly agree with the 2 bear limit along with other changes. I would like to see baiting become legalized. Thank you for continuing to provide legislative assistance with facts and not feelings.

Thanks

Tim

From: Timothy Azarian <timazarian@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 5:45 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from timazarian@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Timothy Pickett <tpickett63@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 11:40 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public bear regulations comment

You don't often get email from tpickett63@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tim Pickett. Although I am a resident of Florida- I grew up in Vermont, hold a Lifetime Licence, and regularly return to Vermont to hunt and fish when visiting my parents who still live there. I support the liberalization of any bear hunting opportunities in the state- including and exceeding these proposed changes. Participation in the hunting heritage in the state is dwindling, and anything that can be done to encourage participation should be done- particularly if the resource is healthy, which it is by all refereed accounts. Looking forward to the proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Tim Pickett

From: Tracy Penfield <tpenfield5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:28 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Management Comments

You don't often get email from tpenfield5@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello to the Fish and Wildlife Folks~

I attended the St. J hearing and pushed myself to stand up and speak.
Next time I will be better prepared. I was aghast when the first speaker got up and threatened us with his stance and verbiage. "I can get ugly," he claimed in a loud voice.
Well, I can get ugly, too, in the face of humans who do not respect the true value of bears and other wildlife.

In brief:

~I oppose the extended season for bear hunting as no law prohibits the killing of a hibernating bear. We should have a law for that.

~I support the prohibition of killing a sow with cubs. How could anyone kill the mother of a bear family? Apparently, some people would, so this law must be passed.

~I oppose allowing two bear tags in certain WMU's. Killing, (this is not harvest, I harvest my vegetables and fruit), I repeat, killing two bears will not solve the problem of Human/Bear conflicts. Education and rules for humans to follow will go a long way in providing an environment where bears and humans can coexist.

Bears have evolved here for longer than humans have and are far better adapted to survive here than we are. However, they cannot speak up for themselves.

It is my belief that bears have the right to live in Vermont with the same securities and liberties that humans have. And certainly not to be hunted with hounds, which in this day and age is disgraceful to the humans participating in it. How this can be called "hunting" is beyond me.

Should we also decrease the human population in Vermont to gain a balance of humans and bears and other wildlife? Why should bears be murdered because there are too many of us and too few of us who know how to live with bears? Please consider bears and other wildlife as they are: indigenous to this land in a way we never will be. We are lucky to be able to observe them, respect them and learn how to live with them.

Thank you,
Tracy Penfield
Chelsea VT

--
Tracy Penfield
Passing Project Artistic Director
Trauma Healing Practitioner and Educator
she/her
PO Box 251
Chelsea, VT 05038
(802) 685-3157

From: Tracylea Byford <tracyleab@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 3:43 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from tracyleab@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear All:

I would like to add my thoughts to the complex issue of bear management. While I feel that Vermont's bear population could potentially support increased harvest numbers, I am vehemently opposed to killing bears in their dens and killing mothers with cubs. We have two mamas by us, one with cubs so small that they could be easily held. It is beyond comprehension that these mother bears are permitted to be killed, and their cubs die by starvation or predation.

Vermont is seeing historic changes. Development in urban areas is increasing steadily and rural areas are sprouting more of their final crop - houses. We don't like it, but it is happening. No one that I know welcomes hounds on their land and yet, hounders flaunt that, parking near no hunting lands on our road with their dogs as a passive-aggressive move to intimidate.. The unbridled harassment of bears through the summer prior to hunting season is an embarrassment. When I tell visitors about the rules on hunting bears they think I am mistaken. Unfortunately, I am not. Vermont is one of a handful of States that allow killing mother bears with cubs in sight.

Vermont depends heavily on tourism dollars. Our archaic hunting laws do not inspire visitors, many who are horrified when they discover what is happening in September. Hunters do come, but I would argue they make a small percentage of "tourists" and who do not spend the money that is spent by those who come for more benign outdoor pursuits. Out of control dogs and hunters who disrespect property rights are not uncommon in Vermont. Hunting bears with dogs should be disallowed and the killing of mother bears banned. If killing two bears helps reduce the population, as long as the bears are not denned, this seems like a reasonable option. But let's make it a fair fight.

Inhumane laws only fester discontent and anger towards hunters which is a disservice to those meat hunting in a responsible way, including those in our family.

Please consider not allowing mother bears to be killed and not extending the season into denning time. And, make hunting with hounds more tightly restricted so we landowners have a better legal grounds to bring lawsuits for intimidation and damages. No one should have to have hounds on their property if they do not want them there.

Respectfully,

Tracylea Byford
Tinmouth Vermont

From: Trudy Jones <jonestrudy96@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 12:48 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit I stand with our wildlife and their rights.

Trudy Jones
Northfield

Sent from my iPhone

From: trueartstudios@madriver.com
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 8:28 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from trueartstudios@madriver.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: v c <victoria.cerami@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:34 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Regulations

You don't often get email from victoria.cerami@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you for your time.

Victoria
Windham County

From: Vanessa Kranz <nessa.kranz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:51 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Vermont Black Bear Regulation Changes

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department,

I support responsible, science-based management of Vermont's black bear population. However, I do not believe that increasing hunting opportunity should be the default response to concerns about bear abundance or human-bear conflicts. Vermont's bear regulations should be based on the best available biological information, should account for the biology and behavior of bears, and should prioritize long-term population health and public confidence in wildlife management.

I support some of the proposed changes, but I strongly oppose allowing hunters to harvest a second bear and oppose extending the bear hunting season into December.

Protect sows accompanied by cubs

I strongly support the proposal to prohibit the intentional harvest of sows accompanied by cubs.

This is a straightforward and important wildlife-protection measure. FWD itself recognizes the importance of these family groups. The FWD's hunting guidance states that black bear cubs remain dependent on their mothers until approximately 16–18 months of age and recommends hunters not kill mothers (https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-opportunities/black-bear/hunting-black-bear-faqs). The Department already recognizes that maintaining these family groups is important and knows a mother's death likely means her cubs will die as well.

I also believe Vermont should look to other jurisdictions that have adopted protections for sows accompanied by cubs when developing this regulation. Protecting dependent young from the intentional killing of their mothers is a reasonable and widely understandable wildlife-management standard.

Oppose a second bear tag

I strongly oppose the proposal allowing a hunter to harvest a second bear in designated WMUs.

If the FWD believes additional bear mortality is necessary in particular WMUs, it should clearly demonstrate the biological basis for that conclusion and explain why an additional bear per hunter is the appropriate management tool.

I have not seen sufficient evidence accompanying this proposal demonstrating that allowing individual hunters to kill a second bear will meaningfully reduce Vermont's bear population or achieve the FWD's stated management objectives.

Before increasing the annual harvest limit from one bear to two, the public should be provided with:

- The estimated bear population by WMU.
- The estimated population trend by WMU.

- Current annual mortality and harvest rates.
- Reproductive and survival data.
- The additional number of bears the FWD expects the second-tag proposal to remove from the population.
- The modeling demonstrating that this additional mortality is necessary.
- The biological trigger that would cause the FWD to discontinue the second-tag program.

Without this information, increasing the individual harvest limit appears premature. If the FWD goal is population reduction, it should demonstrate quantitatively how the proposed second tag will accomplish that goal before adopting it.

Oppose extending the season into December

I oppose extending the bear hunting season through the regulated deer season in December.

This proposal is particularly concerning because the FWD's own 2020–2030 Big Game Management Plan states that it did not recommend extending the bear hunting season (https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Library/REPORTS%20AND%20DOCUMENTS/HUNTING/BIG-GAME-MANAGEMENT-PLAN-2020/BGP-7.08.22-web.pdf).

If season length is an important tool for controlling harvest, then extending the season should require a clear biological justification.

I have not seen evidence demonstrating that extending bear hunting into December is necessary to meet Vermont's bear-management objectives. In the absence of such evidence, I believe the FWD should not increase hunting pressure simply to create additional hunting opportunities.

Additionally, bears begin to den in October and November. Hunters should not be permitted to hunt and kill denning bears.

Establish a continuous bear season

I support combining the early and late bear seasons into one continuous season. A single, clearly defined season would be simpler for hunters and easier for the public to understand.

Prohibit hunting bears in dens

I strongly recommend adding an explicit prohibition on hunting or harvesting bears in their dens.

Bear denning is a significant part of the species' annual life cycle. Black bear families may den together, and the FWD recognizes that cubs remain dependent on their mothers well into the following year.

Bear dens can also be surprisingly inconspicuous. Bears may den in hollow trees, logs, brush piles, root masses, ground nests, and other locations rather than only in obvious caves.

Regulations should provide a clear prohibition against intentionally locating and killing a bear in its den.

Require a bear tag AND increase the fee

I support requiring every bear hunter to purchase a separate bear tag in addition to the general hunting license.

However, I recommend that the proposed $5 bear tag be increased to $25.

A dedicated bear tag provides a straightforward mechanism for connecting bear-specific hunting activity with bear-management costs, including population monitoring, biological research, enforcement, and administration.

—

If FWD’s primary concern is decreasing encounters, property damage, or other conflicts, killing additional bears is not necessarily the only or best management response.

Vermont's own 2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan identifies reducing negative human-bear interactions as an important management objective and discusses measures such as preventing access to human-associated food sources and improving conflict response. FWD should continue emphasizing prevention, enforcement of bear-attractant regulations, public education, and conflict response alongside population management.

I believe Vermont can maintain a sustainable bear population while also maintaining reasonable hunting opportunities. But increasing harvest should be supported by demonstrated biological necessity, not simply by the availability of additional hunting opportunity.

Vermont's black bears are an important part of our state's natural heritage. The FWD’s responsibility is not simply to maximize or minimize the number of bears; it is to manage the population responsibly using the best available science while maintaining public confidence in the state's wildlife-management decisions.

Thank you.

Vanessa Kranz

Bethel, VT

From: Vanessa Kranz <nessa.kranz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:50 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Vermont Black Bear Regulation Changes

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Dear Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department,

I support responsible, science-based management of Vermont's black bear population. However, I do not believe that increasing hunting opportunity should be the default response to concerns about bear abundance or human-bear conflicts. Vermont's bear regulations should be based on the best available biological information, should account for the biology and behavior of bears, and should prioritize long-term population health and public confidence in wildlife management.

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- Reproductive and survival data.
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However, I recommend that the proposed $5 bear tag be increased to $25.

A dedicated bear tag provides a straightforward mechanism for connecting bear-specific hunting activity with bear-management costs, including population monitoring, biological research, enforcement, and administration.

—

If FWD’s primary concern is decreasing encounters, property damage, or other conflicts, killing additional bears is not necessarily the only or best management response.

Vermont's own 2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan identifies reducing negative human-bear interactions as an important management objective and discusses measures such as preventing access to human-associated food sources and improving conflict response. FWD should continue emphasizing prevention, enforcement of bear-attractant regulations, public education, and conflict response alongside population management.

I believe Vermont can maintain a sustainable bear population while also maintaining reasonable hunting opportunities. But increasing harvest should be supported by demonstrated biological necessity, not simply by the availability of additional hunting opportunity.

Vermont's black bears are an important part of our state's natural heritage. The FWD’s responsibility is not simply to maximize or minimize the number of bears; it is to manage the population responsibly using the best available science while maintaining public confidence in the state's wildlife-management decisions.

Thank you.

Vanessa Kranz

Bethel, VT

From: vchiuphotography@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Vincent Chiu <vchiuphotography@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 10:08 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Please Protect Vermont's Bears

[You don't often get email from vchiuphotography@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VTFWP Public Comments,

Vermont's black bears are a conservation success story and are an important part of Vermont's landscape. Most bears have zero interest in interacting with humans or approaching homes or livestock unless humans have intentionally or unintentionally enticed/ attracted them in some manner. As a professional ethical conservation photographer and voter in Vermont, who has photographed these marvelous and beautiful creatures in their natural environment performing natural behaviors, I urge you to please support the new rule:

Prohibit killing a mother bear accompanied by her cubs. This is a common-sense protection against needless cruelty to bear families and orphaned cubs.

Oppose extending the bear hunting season into mid-December. Bears may already be denning for hibernation, and this rule would open the door to bears being killed in or near their dens.

Oppose issuing a second bear tag per hunter. This could impact local bear populations and family groups, especially since Vermont doesn't explicitly ban killing cubs.

Human-bear conflict isn't solved by killing more bears. It's solved by securing attractants like garbage, compost, and animal feed, bear-proof containers, electric fencing for livestock and crops, and humane hazing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Vincent Chiu
Westminster, VT 05158-0338

From: Vera Nazarian <vnazarian@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 3:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Sincerely,

Vera Nazarian
Highgate, VT

From: Victoria Blewer <victoria@victoriablewer.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 12:54 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Killing

[You don't often get email from victoria@victoriablewer.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Folk,

The idea that the proposed extensions of bear hunting season be extended and allowing hunters to kill hibernating bears is disgusting to me. Seriously, hunting a hibernating bear is not hunting. It is animal cruelty.
When is Vermont going to move into the 21st century? A second bear tag issued? How many hunters are there in this state that want to kill a bear or two bears? Why are we catering to this small seriously deranged group?
Please don’t extend the bear hunting season. Let’s leave the bears alone.

Victoria Blewer
Chris Bohjalian
Weybridge, VT

From: Victoria <jasz@sover.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:01 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jasz@sover.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I support this message and ask you include suggested changes.
Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

From: Victoria <jasz@sover.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 10:27 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

[You don't often get email from jasz@sover.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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Bear human conflict arises out of human activity that attracts bear not the number of bears. Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. This is not a solution.

Klling a hibernating-sleeping bear is not hunting, it’s murder.
I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit Susan DeWind Middlebury VT

Voicemail public comment 8/27/26:

Hi there. I heard you were soliciting public feedback on the proposed rule change to extend Vermont's bear hunting season from September first to the mid to end of mid December. I just wanted to call and register my opposition to this rule change and advocate for keeping the season to the limited span that it currently is at. Please feel free to give me a call back, thank you.

Voicemail public comment 8/31/26:

Hi this is Sarah Page. I'm from Brattleboro and Westmore and I want to leave a message for the Board regarding bear hunting and extending the season. I understand bears are, the numbers are on the rise. I understand that, I agree that hunting them is ok. But I want to state emphatically that hunting with hounds is not ok, it is not humane, it is destructive, frankly for other animals, like my dog. And I am not able to post my land, my 27 acres up in Westmore because it has to be posted in January, and I will, I'm not physically able to do that in January. Deep snow, whatever. I'm also not up there all the time. I don't want hunters on my land and I have no way other than putting security cameras up all around. Which is certainly not the Vermont neighborly way of being. I don't want to have to do that. I won't do that. I want hound bear hunting stopped. Thank you. My name again is Sarah Page, Westmore and Brattleboro.

From: vtskydncr@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 9:03 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

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Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state. I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont. I also ask that the Department consider the following: • Shorten the bear hound training season • Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs." • Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Vermont is a front runner for so many issues facing our country, let the our bears sleep and keep their babies safe.

Donna Parfitt

From: wade mullin <wadejmullin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 8:44 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment - Proposed Bear Hunting Changes

You don't often get email from wadejmullin@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am not in favor of extending Vermont's bear season into one continuous season or allowing hunters to take two bears. I understand that the news has been focusing heavily on Vermont's growing bear population and the increase in negative or dangerous human-bear interactions, but hunting and killing more bears should not be the solution. Growing black bear populations, which used to be limited to just the North East Kingdom and the Green Mountains, should be celebrated, not seen as an issue. Human-bear interactions should be mitigated through increased education about how to avoid bears and reduce attractants, like unsecured garbage or bird feeders. I would much rather see a ban on hunting bears with dogs than extending the season. I am not opposed to hunting and enjoy deer hunting myself, but in a time of global environmental degradation, the fact that a local species is thriving should not be seen as a problem. Thank you.

From: Walter Medwid <wmedwid@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 9:58 AM
To: ANR - FW Board Orleans; ANR - FW Board Rutland; ANR - FW Board Washington; ANR - FW Board Windham; ANR - FW Board Windsor; ANR - FW Board Bennington; ANR - FW Board Orange; ANR - FW Board Lamoille; ANR - FW Board GrandIsle; ANR - FW Board Franklin; ANR - FW Board Essex; ANR - FW Board Chittenden; ANR - FW Board Addison; ANR - FW Board Caledonia
Cc: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Mgmt Policy/Fruit of Poisoned Tree/Ethical Dilemma for Board Members

You don't often get email from wmedwid@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning. I support the prohibition of the killing of bears with cubs and I oppose the extension of the season and the killing of a second bear for the two following reasons:

1. The recommendations to the FW Board from management at the Department, are the fruit of a poisoned tree. It has been documented in the US FW Service's America's Wildlife Values Survey, that management at VFWD is heavily biased and that the values held, grossly under-represent the values held by the largest block of Vermonters. Further, the staff at VFWD affirm via their responses in the survey that management is deeply biased. What is also evident from the survey is that hiring practices are so discriminatory as to ensure that the cultural agenda within the Department is protected at all costs including the rejection of any employee reflecting the wildlife values held by the largest block of Vermonters. Because the mission of the Department has been superseded by adherence to an agenda as the evidence indicates, no product coming out of management can be viewed as the best science or the most objective. In the peer-reviewed literature this situation at the Department is termed a "captured" agency where special interests trump public interests. Thus the recommendations that come before you are indeed, the fruit of the poisoned tree. Without a review of the Department's recommendations by an independent body of scientists that has been determined to be free of the Department's biases can the Board have confidence they are being presented with a neutral valued assessment of the bear management options. Without a biased free review, the Board must reject the proposals.

2. The FW Board is a branch of state government that, through its extraordinary regulatory powers, establishes public policy for the State of Vermont-that is for all Vermonters not just hunters. Article Seven of our state's Constitution has a direct bearing on the decisions you are about to make. It states with my emphasis added:

Article 7. [Government for the people; they may change it]
That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single person, family, or set of persons, who are a part only of that community; and that the community hath an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right, to reform or alter government, in such manner as shall be, by that community, judged most conducive to the public weal.

Governor Scott by design or default has appointed members to this branch of our government who are almost exclusively selected from "a set of persons who are in a part only of the community." More to the point, board members are selected because of their attachment to the license holder community and not from the community as a whole. This presents the ethical and personal dilemma: should a board member participate in establishing public policy over public resources that by law and by the Constitution must serve all of the public, not a small, narrow band of the community? The only ethical response can be to reject the proposals before you and offer resignations until such time as the FW Board as a branch of government, fully aligns with

Vermont's Constitution and with the provisions of Title 10, Chapter 103, Section 4081 of Vermont Statutes which prohibits the de facto privatization of Vermont's wildlife to serve special interests (emphasis added):
(*a)(1) As provided by Chapter II, § 67 of the Constitution of the State of Vermont, the fish and wildlife of Vermont are held in trust by the State f<u>or the benefit of the citizens of Vermont and shall not be reduced to private ownership.</u> The State of Vermont, in its sovereign capacity as a trustee for the citizens of the State, shall have ownership, jurisdiction, and control of all of the fish and wildlife of Vermont.*

Thank you for your review of my comments. Walter Medwid, Derby

From: We are all One <sacredintheround@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:09 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Public comment Bear rules

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife recognizes that hunting more bears will not effectively reduce future human/bear conflicts, yet they've proposed extending the season by a full month and issuing a second bear tag in certain areas of the state.

I oppose extending the season into mid-December, as that puts hibernating bears at increased risk. The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag.

I fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department consider the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

--
Peace,

Pippa

From: WILLIAM DUDLEY <kldud@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 11:27 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: New proposed hunting regs

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“I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.”

Kathy Dudley
179 High Street
Saint Albans, VT 05478

From: William E. Kraham <will.kraham@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:19 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Proposed Black Bear Regulations
Attachments: Comment to the Vermont Fish.pdf

You don't often get email from will.kraham@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please see attached - thank you.

William E. Kraham
Attorney & Counselor at Law
15 Grove St., Ste. 203
P.O. Box 447
Brattleboro, Vermont 05302
P: (802) 258-2550
F: (802) 258-2551
M: (802) 490-0071
will.kraham@gmail.com

To: ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov
From: William E. Kraham
Date: 3 September 2026

Comments to Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board Regarding Proposed Black Bear Regulations

I am not a hunter. I recognize Vermont's constitutional protection of hunting, fishing, and fowling. Chapter II, § 67 of the *Vermont Constitution* provides:

> The inhabitants of this State shall have liberty in seasonable times, to hunt and fowl on the lands they hold, and on other lands not inclosed, and in like manner to fish in all boatable and other waters (not private property) under proper regulations, to be made and provided by the General Assembly.

Under 10 V.S.A. § 4082, the Board's rules must be designed to maintain the best health, population, and utilization levels of regulated species and other ecologically related species, and **the rules must be supported by investigation and research conducted by the Department** (emphasis added).

The existing Bear Management Rule states that its purpose is to establish seasons, possession limits, and legal methods of taking black bears while maintaining the best health and population levels of the species.

I therefore respectfully ask the Board to approach the proposed changes from the standpoint of science, wildlife welfare, and long-term management – not simply by asking how many additional bears can be killed.

Human-Bear Conflicts

It appears that one impetus for the proposed regulatory changes is the increasing number of complaints concerning "human-bear conflicts."

https://vtdigger.org/2026/07/26/the-worst-possible-catch-22-fish-and-wildlife-struggles-to-combat-bear-rumors/

https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2026-08-26/bear-population-booming-conflict-with-humans

Before responding to those conflicts by increasing opportunities to kill bears, however, we should consider their causes.

I attended the Vermont Fish & Wildlife presentation concerning the proposed black bear regulations in Bennington on August 27, 2026. I have also attended several presentations by Ben Kilham, the black bear biologist and rehabilitator who rescues, rehabilitates, and releases orphaned, abandoned, and injured black bear cubs, and I have read two of his books about black bears. See https://kilhambearcenter.org/about

Some of the cubs he has rehabilitated were orphaned when their mothers were killed, or were separated from their mothers through den disturbances, hounding, or other means.

Black bears are highly intelligent, opportunistic omnivores with an extraordinarily powerful sense of smell. They are seeking food and attempting to survive. When they discover unsecured garbage, bird feeders, compost, pet food, or other human food sources, they can learn that human habitation provides an easily accessible source of calories. A hungry, habituated bear can turn into a problem bear. The solution is not to kill more bears, but by educating and training the humans to co-exist with black bears.

Scientific research has specifically examined the relationship between black-bear habituation, human activity, and supplemental food. Other research has found that early intervention can be effective in preventing some bears from becoming food-conditioned and in changing unwanted behavior.

This suggests a fundamental principle for Vermont's bear policy:

Prevent the conflict before killing the bear.

Education, enforcement of attractant-management requirements, bear-resistant garbage containers, responsible composting, removal or proper management of bird feeders, and prompt intervention when a bear first begins associating people with food should be central components of Vermont's management strategy.

A bear that finds an unsecured garbage can is not violating a human rule. It is behaving like a bear.

Humans can change their behavior.

Vermont's Changing Landscape

In the mid-to-late 1800s, intensive sheep farming, agriculture, and logging cleared nearly 70% to 80% of the state's trees.

Vermont is now approximately 78% forested. When I hike through Vermont's forests, I encounter stone walls dating from the 1800s – remnants of former sheep pastures, cropland, and property boundaries of farms that have long since been abandoned.

The landscape has changed dramatically.

Climate change is changing it further. Changes in temperature and forest composition may affect the availability of natural foods for bears, including mast-producing trees and other important food sources.

Vermont's bear population has recovered substantially from historical lows. The Department's 2020–2030 Big Game Management Plan established a population objective of 3,500–5,500 bears.

A healthy bear population is not itself a management failure.

If the population is changing because Vermont has more forest and suitable habitat, that is a wildlife-management success that requires adaptation—not necessarily a reason to increase mortality.

Protect Sows and Dependent Young

I oppose extending the length of the black bear hunting season, particularly where an extension could interfere with bears' preparation for denning and hibernation.

I also oppose issuing a second bear tag in wildlife management units.

Instead, I urge the Board to adopt specific protections for vulnerable bears.

First, prohibit the killing of a sow accompanied by dependent cubs.

Black bears are slow reproducers. Females only reproduce every second year or less frequently. They typically do not have cubs until age 3 to 5 years and litter sizes are small, at around two cubs on average.

The current proposal concerning an "intentional" killing is problematic because intent can be extremely difficult to establish after the fact.

A clear prohibition against killing a sow accompanied by dependent cubs would provide a more meaningful and enforceable protection.

Sows invest substantial time and energy in raising their young. Cubs remain dependent on their mothers for 18 months and separating them from their mothers can have devastating consequences.

Second, prohibit the killing of bears in their dens.

No hunter should be permitted to kill a bear while it is occupying its den. Denning is a fundamental part of the bear's natural life cycle and should be afforded meaningful protection.

Third, prohibit the killing of cubs and yearlings.

Cubs and yearlings should be protected. I recommend establishing a minimum size threshold—for example, prohibiting the killing of bears weighing less than 100 pounds—and providing hunters with practical education on estimating a bear's size and age before shooting.

These measures would provide meaningful protection to the most vulnerable bears and help achieve the best health and population levels of the species.

Bear Tags

The current $5 early-season bear tag should be substantially increased.

The additional revenue could be dedicated to:

- black bear research and population monitoring;
- law enforcement;
- bear-conflict response;
- bear-resistant infrastructure and attractant-management programs; and
- public education concerning black bear behavior and coexistence.

A higher fee would also discourage people from purchasing a bear tag merely as an inexpensive "just in case" option while hunting other species.

Someone who is genuinely interested in pursuing a black bear would still have that opportunity. But a nominal $5 tag should not be treated as an essentially cost-free additional opportunity to kill a bear encountered while hunting something else.

Prohibit Bear Hounding

I urge the Board to prohibit the use of dogs to hunt black bears. It is cruel, barbaric, and like shooting fish in a barrel.

Is hounding supported by investigation and research conducted by the Department?

Hounding bears causes severe wildlife stress and puts dogs in dangerous situations. Packs of hounds flush out, harass, or injure other species like fawns, moose calves, and ground-nesting bids.

A pack of dogs pursuing a bear can create a prolonged chase in which the bear is forced to flee, climb, or defend itself. The current Vermont rule defines a pack as one to six dogs and expressly recognizes GPS/telemetry as part of the control and tracking of dogs.

The use of GPS technology may help hunters locate their dogs, but it also permits pursuit over substantial distances and raises questions concerning encounters with private property, domestic animals, livestock, roads, and other wildlife. Dogs chasing bear are not constrained by property lines and run onto private land without permission. This leads to conflicts between bear hunters and landowners.

Hounding can also create a particular danger for family groups. The chaos of a hound chase often separates mother bears (sows) from their young cubs. This leaves dependent cubs highly vulnerable to predators, starvation, or abandonment.

The Board should require evidence demonstrating that Vermont's current hounding practices do not produce unacceptable rates of separation, orphaning, injury, or mortality among dependent cubs.

The Duration of Dog Pursuit

I also ask the Board to recognize that the impact of hounding should not be evaluated solely by counting bears killed.

A bear that is pursued but survives has nevertheless experienced profound stress. Using a pack of trained aggressive dogs against a single, terrified animal is inhumane.

Vermont's dog-training season runs from June 1 through September 15, followed by the bear-hunting season from September 1 through the end of November.

In practical terms, black bears can be subjected to pursuit by dogs for approximately six months of the year. This is reprehensible.

Fair Chase and Wildlife Management

I understand that hunters have different views about what constitutes fair chase. But wildlife policy should be based on science, ethics, and ecological balance rather than tradition or preference.

The Board's statutory responsibility is broad. Vermont law requires wildlife regulations to maintain the best health and population levels of regulated species and requires those regulations to be supported by Department research.

What is the scientific evidence that demonstrates that hounding is necessary for sound bear-population management?

The Department's own data reveal that the number of bears taken with hounds is only about 10-15% of the total bear kill, so bear hunting with dogs is not critical for maintaining population objectives.

And if hounding does not meaningfully reduce the bears responsible for human-bear conflicts, then it ought to be discontinued.

A bear living deep in Vermont's forest is not the bear eating garbage behind someone's home.

Removing bears from remote forest habitat does not solve the underlying attractant problem that brings other bears into developed areas.

A Better Approach

Vermont can respect the constitutional right to hunt while simultaneously demanding responsible wildlife management, by basing its regulations on research.

I therefore respectfully ask the Board to:

1. **Reject an extension of the black bear hunting season** where it would interfere with denning or preparation for hibernation.
2. **Reject a second bear tag** in wildlife management units.
3. **Prohibit the killing of sows accompanied by dependent cubs.**
4. **Prohibit the killing of bears occupying dens.**
5. **Protect cubs and yearlings**, including a 100-pound minimum threshold.
6. **Substantially increase the bear-tag fee** and use the additional revenue for bear research, enforcement, conflict response, and public education.
7. **Prohibit the use of dogs to pursue and hunt black bears**, or, at minimum, require a rigorous scientific assessment of the physiological, behavioral, ecological, and mortality consequences of hounding before expanding or continuing the practice.
8. **Invest substantially more in prevention and public education**, particularly concerning garbage, compost, bird feeders, pet food, and other human caused attractants.

The bears were here before us. They have inhabited our landscape for thousands of years.

They are intelligent, adaptable, magnificent animals that are trying to survive in a landscape increasingly shaped by human activity and a changing climate.

We have the capacity to change our behavior.

We have the scientific and regulatory tools to manage conflicts without simply increasing the number of bears killed.

Vermont can do better.

We can protect the tradition of hunting while recognizing that responsible wildlife management means more than maximizing the number of bears to be killed. We can protect vulnerable bears, reduce human-bear conflicts at their source, and learn to coexist with one of Vermont's most remarkable native animals.

The solution to human-bear conflict should begin with changing human behavior—not with killing more bears.

From: William Harke, RA <wharke@cascobaydesign.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:29 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Comments regarding Proposed Bear Regulations

You don't often get email from wharke@cascobaydesign.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I would like to voice both support and opposition to specific parts of this proposed change.

Support: A single bear season that includes the regular rifle deer season is a great idea. I don't actively hunt bear. The one bear I took was while deer hunting in MA. To have that opportunity is great and have already planned to be in the field. Finding additional time to do a separate bear hunt is difficult. As such, I don't always buy a tag in VT. I would of it coincided with deer.

Oppose: Allowing hounding during deer season is a recipe for disaster. Deer hunting grounds are likely to be spoiled. Hunters will get frustrated with each other and it will lead to a lot of issues. The regulations should be composed to provide the maximum opportunity for all hunters, not pit them against one another. Ideally you would have a single bear season where a bear can be taken. Hounding, however should be limited to the period ending one (or two)week(s) prior to deer rifle and immediately after. All hunting methods should be considered so no method is completely overlapped by hounds. I have experienced hound hunting season in Maine and there is zero opportunity for deer hunting during that time. You might fix the bear population but the deer population will skyrocket as so many fewer will be harvested.

From: William Roper <william.roper0599@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 7:11 AM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear rules

You don't often get email from william.roper0599@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear VF&W: I can not support your lengthening the bear hunting season or increasing the number of bears that will be killed. Killing bears to manage conflicts with humans seems wrong...how about educating the public more so that conflict is reduced? Killing bears is an easy, yet inhumane solution.

The Department should propose a prohibition on the harassment and killing of hibernating bears to align Vermont with the majority of other states. I also oppose issuing a second bear tag. I also fully support prohibiting the hunting and killing of mother bears with cubs in sight. 84% of states and provinces that allow bear hunting prohibit this and so should Vermont.

I also ask that the Department reconsider the use of hounds and enact the following:
• Shorten the bear hound training season
• Align the bear hounding rules with the coyote hounding rules, limit dogs from 6 to four, and strengthen the definition of "control of dogs."
• Allow the Commissioner to revoke a bear dog permit

Thank you.
William Roper
Weybridge, VT

From: Wistar Rawls <wistar@gmavt.net>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:07 PM
To: ANR - FW Public Comment
Subject: Bear Hunting Rules

[You don't often get email from wistar@gmavt.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed extensions to the bear hunting season and the issuance of a second bear tag. Instead, I urge the department to implement strict protections that prohibit the killing of mother bears with cubs and ban the hunting of hibernating bears.

Sincerely,
Wistar Rawls
Addison County

Sent from my iPad