

strongly oppose this bill regarding a spring bear hunt.

Fall bear hunting is already almost three months long, and Maine is the only state that still allows baiting, hounding and trapping to kill bears. Now they want to add spring hunting? The bears will spend most of their waking hours in a state of constant threat.

Even more important, mother bears often leave their cubs alone while they search for food. If the mothers are killed, their cubs will die of starvation, exposure or will be eaten by another animal. There is just no excuse for killing bears as they emerge from their winter dens with their babies.

The IF&W still allows completely unregulated baiting of bears with high calorie foods, a practice I strongly oppose. Baiting is likely a key factor in increasing the bear population. Now they claim we need to reduce the number of bears. Stop baiting! A spring hunt is not the answer.

Humans need to learn to live with wildlife. As it is, we've destroyed most of their natural habitat. It's ironic that just last week a game warden rescued three cubs when their mother ran off due to a logging operation. Were these cubs rescued so they could grow up, get hunted and have their heads mounted on somebody's wall??

Jamila Levasseur
254 Savage Rd.
Waldo, ME 04915

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