

LaCroix, Linda

From: Chris & Meira DiNardi <dinardi2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 9, 2019 2:48 PM
To: LaCroix, Linda
Subject: Oppose LD 337

Dear Madam,

I'm writing to inform you that my family and I strongly oppose a Spring bear hunt. I hold a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and I am a former Vermont State Game Warden. I am not anti-hunting, nor do I align myself with any particular anti-hunting organizations. I oppose the implementation of a Spring bear hunt for multiple reasons. I find it unethical and not "sporting" to hunt bear that are in a diminished state after the winter season. Although there is evidence that a Spring hunt may be effective in reducing population numbers, I believe that it's not the right method to accomplish this. Mother bears have their cubs with them during the time of the proposed hunt and the cubs are helpless at this age without her. In addition, cubs often do not accompany their mother while she forages and this will naturally lead to orphaned cubs. Intentionally creating a situation where an untold amount of cubs will be orphaned is not only a PR nightmare for the state, it may potentially contribute to the black market trade on Black bear parts (organs, paws). As a State Game Warden, I encountered situations in which bear cubs were killed solely for parts to be sold illegally. I think this is a legitimate concern, knowing that not all hunters hunt ethically and a bear cub (or two) is easy to take and hide or dispose of. Additionally, I believe that a Spring hunt will lead to a rise in human-bear conflicts as the orphaned cubs will scavenge food (garbage) to prevent starvation. Once a cub begins to rely on human food, it will continue to do so for life. Let's allow our bears learn how to forage naturally from their mothers rather than be forced to scavenge in a dumpster to survive.

There are numerous, proven ways to effectively reduce and control the bear population. I trust that our states biologists will be able to adequately control the population where necessary by implementing methods other than a Spring hunt. Thank you for your time in reading this and taking my concerns into consideration. Please feel free to email me if I can help in any way.

Best,
Meira and Christopher DiNardi
Wells, ME