

Summary Comprehensive Black Bear Policy Public Comments (CBBMP)

(Last Revised July 9, 2010)

Total Comments Received on CBBMP:

Comment Type	Support Entire Policy	Oppose Entire Policy	Object to Portions of Policy (most hunting issue)
Written	380	9	169
Oral	41		66
Web Comments	1,066	10	1,426
Form Letters	1,200	160	220
HSUS form letter	0		3,204
Postcards	52		1,212
Petitions	64		8
Total	2,803	179	6,305

TOTAL Comments received 9,287
 TOTAL Commenters 8,561
 TOTAL Individuals providing 631
 multiple comments (written, oral, Web comments, postcard, form letter, petition)

Written, Oral and Email Comments Received For CBBMP

Specific Reasons For Support:

- 1,076 Hunting is the most efficient method to control population
- 824 The policy is comprehensive and data/ science is sound
- 701 The bear population is becoming dangerous
- 515 Hunting will solve nuisance bear problem/ alter bear nuisance behavior
- 335 Hunting will provide increased recreational opportunity
- 294 Hunting is a form of aversive conditioning
- 279 Hunting will reduce agriculture damage
- 26 There are too many bears

Specific Items of Concern:

- 633 Philosophically opposed to killing
- 485 DFW/ DEP/ law officers should enforce the no-feeding law
- 459 DFW should implement more non-lethal techniques
- 386 DFW should provide more education
- 298 Opposed to a trophy hunt; the hunting season is strictly recreational
- 213 Hunting season will not solve nuisance problems
- 205 DFW should create Bear Smart communities
- 125 DFW should stop development; there is insufficient habitat for bears
- 104 DFW should apply more aversive conditioning
 - 88 Opposed to the killing of females with cubs and cubs
 - 56 Hunting raises a safety concern; bears are less dangerous than hunters
 - 42 DFW should utilize immuno-contraception/ birth control methods
 - 41 Oppose baiting for bear hunting
 - 37 The population estimates/ data cannot be believed
 - 28 Bears are not dangerous
 - 5 Hunters would wound bears
 - 5 Bear meat is not good to eat
 - 2 DFW should create a bear refuge or bear sanctuary
 - 1 There are not too many bears
 - 1 DFW should re-evaluate bear management zones using the most recent land use/ land cover data
 - 1 The Council did not adhere to Executive Order Number 2
 - 1 The policy does not contain an economic analysis
 - 1 Trap Neuter Release (TNR) actions will increase nuisance bear activity

1,200 Form Letters from the Sussex County Federation of Sportsmen

Expressed support for the policy in its entirety. They support the continued multi-faceted approach to black bear management in New Jersey.

52 Postcards

Expressed support for the policy in its entirety. They support the continued multi-faceted approach to black bear management in New Jersey.

160 Form Letters opposing Policy

Expressed opposition to entire policy and suggested to reject policy entirely because it includes trophy hunting, cubs and females are killed, and they believe that non-lethal control will solve the nuisance bear problem. They stated that no person has been killed by a bear in NJ in 100 years.

1,212 Postcards from the Bear Education and Resource Group (B.E.A.R)

Expressed opposition to the hunting season but did express support for the CBBMP policy's non-lethal components such as education, aversive conditioning, enforcement of the no-feeding law, proper storage and management of garbage and development of Bear Smart Communities.

3,204 Form Letters from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

(Note: unsigned form letters sent in bulk mailing packages from Washington D. C. office) Expressed opposition to the trophy hunting season but did express support for the CBBMP policy's non-lethal components such as education, aversive conditioning, enforcement of the no-feeding law, proper storage and management of garbage and development of Bear Smart Communities.

220 Form Letters

Expressed opposition to the hunting season but did express support for the CBBMP policy's non-lethal components such as education, aversive conditioning, enforcement of the no-feeding law, proper storage and management of garbage and development of Bear Smart Communities.

Recommendation:

The Game Committee of the F&G Council recommends to the full F&G Council that no changes be made to the draft CBBMP based on the comments received. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of commenters supported all or most components of the CBBMP. However, many commenters specifically disagreed with reestablishing the bear hunting season and indicated that a more intensive non-lethal effort would preclude the need for a hunt. Although commenters opposed re-establishing the bear season, they provided no sound scientific evidence, data, or publications that documented how the non-lethal techniques mentioned in the policy or other methods available would regulate, stabilize or decrease the bear population. . We believe that the CBBMP contains clearly defined black bear management objectives and a plan to meet these objectives. It relies on the proven techniques available to meet these objectives and considers the resources available to the Division of Fish and Wildlife and DEP.

Organizations providing Comments:

Animal Protection League of NJ (APLNJ)
Animal Rights Activists of NJ
Assemblyman Bucco, 25th District
Association of NJ Rifle and Pistol Clubs (ANJRPC)
Catholic Concern For Animals
Coalition For Animals
Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting
Hearts For Animals
Hickerson Orchards
Humane Society of the US (HSUS)
National Trappers Association (NTA)
National Wild Turkey Federation-NJ Chapter
NJ Conservation Foundation
NJ Farm Bureau
NJ Outdoor Alliance (NJOA)
NJ State Council Trout Unlimited
NJ State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs (NJSFSC)
NJ State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs-Atlantic County
NJ State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs-Camden County
NJ State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs-Mercer County
NJ State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs-Ocean County
NJ State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs-Sussex County
NJ Trappers Association
Northern NJ Bear Alliance
Picatinny Rod and Gun Club
Rutgers University/Chemistry Dept
Safari Club International
Sierra Club-Central NJ
South Jersey Furtakers
South Jersey Saltwater Anglers Fortescue Anglers Association
Square Circle Sportsmen-NJSFSC
The B.E.A.R. Group
The Wildlife Society, National office (TWS)
The Wildlife Society-NJ Chapter
The Wildlife Society-NE Section (TWS-NE)
United Crossbow Hunters of NJ (UXBNJ)
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)