

Mr. David Chanda
Director, Division of Fish & Wildlife
NJ DEP
Doc. # 05-09-03/718
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Re: Comments on Proposed Amendments to 2009-2012 Game Code N.J.A.C. 7:25-5

Dear Mr. Chanda,

I oppose allowing hunters to obtain a second black bear permit, and I oppose the hunting of bears in the proposed 2009-2012 game code. The proposed amendments should remove black bears from the game code.

Allowing hunters to obtain a second bear permit will increase the number of bears killed, which will further endanger the bear population and will do nothing to reduce human/bear conflicts.

In 2003, the Division of Fish and Wildlife discovered that the bear population was half of the Division's previous estimate. In the 2003 hunt and in the illegal 2005 hunt, an alarmingly high number of female bears were killed. The science does not support a bear hunt, and the hunt does not protect female bears – pregnant or not.

Time and again, across the country, lethal management has failed and non-lethal management has proven effective for reducing human/bear conflicts. Until there is a comprehensive management policy, how can the Council plan for a bear hunt, and how can the Council plan to issue 10,000 bear hunt permits for each of the next three years?

Sincerely,

cc: Governor Jon Corzine
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Commissioner Mark Mauriello
NJ DEP
C-401 E. State Street
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625