

DRAFT

2. A review and discussion of the ability of hunters to determine bear sex (i.e. females) in the field:

- a) The ability to sex bears in the field,
- b) The probability that cubs are observed with females, and a
- c) Discussion about how the proposed ban on killing females with cubs would be effective or enforceable.

3. Estimate the likely number of cubs orphaned and their mortality rates during an average spring hunting season, based on past hunt data and the review of kill and lactation rates in killed females. How does that compare with the literature? Is estimated cub mortality consistent with Washington RCW 77.15.170, which prohibits the taking and wasting of wildlife?

Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other):

Report and a presentation at a Commission regular or wildlife committee meeting. The report need not be an exhaustive literature review. Consult Beck et al 1995¹ for starters, and the written public testimony of Dr. Lynn Rogers, long-time bear biologist, before the last Commission vote. The report could be 5-10 pages, I'd guess.

A guide to an acceptable content and process that conform to best available science standards can be found in WAC 365-195-905(5a). That WAC is designed for Growth Management Plan issues, but is generic to best available science. Outside peer review is not required, unless the authors feel it necessary, as that would delay the delivery of the report.

¹ Beck, T. D. I., Moody, D. S., Koch, D. B., Beecham, J. J., Olson, G. R., & Burton, T. (1995). Sociological and ethical considerations of black bear hunting. In *Proceedings of the Western Black Bear Workshop* (Vol. 5, pp. 119-132).