



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

9/8/2023

Agenda item:

A petition that asks the commission to begin rule making for 2024 and future year spring black bear hunting seasons.

Presenter(s):

Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director.

Background summary:

In this petition dated August 20, 2023, the petitioner is asking for rulemaking for 2024 and future year spring black bear hunting seasons and summarily asserts that public opinion and “conservation social science” related to this topic favors a spring black bear season. The department has not conducted any public opinion surveys related to spring black bear hunting since the commission gave the staff policy direction against a recreational spring black bear season. The department and, by extension, the commission have received a lot of public comment through the open public comment period during commission meetings and through email and other methods. Those comments included multiple perspectives on this topic and do not suggest that public opinion on this issue has changed. The petitioner cites no conservation social science to support the rulemaking request. Therefore, given the Commission’s policy direction and the diversity of views on this topic, department staff recommend denying this petition.

Staff recommendation:

Department staff recommend denying this petition.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

If this petition is denied no rule making will take place to contemplate a 2024 and future spring black bear hunting seasons.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

The fiscal impact of this decision is minimal and is not different from the status quo, based on commission direction.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The public were given notice of these petitions through the commission agenda and had an opportunity to submit written comment. There was no public involvement directly related to this petition prior to its submission. A public engagement process will occur if rule making occurs in the future.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Dependent on Commission decision.

Draft motion language:

I move we deny this petition.

Post decision communications plan:

Communicate the outcome of the Commission's decision to the petitioner.
