



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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June 13, 2024

CDFW – Wildlife Branch
ATTN: Black Bear Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: Comments on the Black Bear Conservation Plan for California

To Whom it May Concern:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is writing this letter to provide comments to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding the California Black Bear Conservation Plan.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the California Department of Wildlife for their efforts to collect data on bears in California and we appreciate that the Department noted that most of the data collection has been paid for by hunters and collected from hunters' take of bears.

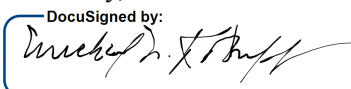
The Black Bear Conservation Plan for California lists two goals for black bear conservation. The first is to conserve disease-resilient and genetically diverse black bears and the second is to provide hunting, viewing, and public educational opportunities regarding black bears. While these are admirable goals, we agree with comments made in the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission's letter to CDFW dated June 9, 2024 (Attachment 1) where they state that these goals do not appear to be sufficiently defined. Both staff and the public need to be provided with clear and direct information regarding these goals. Further, without clear direction and measurable deliveries, we feel that these goals will be challenging to fulfil.

As noted in the plan, hunting is an important part of data collection, funding, and bear population control. To encourage safe and responsible bear hunting to continue, we encourage new incentives be proposed such as reducing or eliminating bear tag costs during periods of overabundant population levels, expanding the hunting season, and education programs.

Current bear depredation processes are difficult and time consuming. Now, with data being readily available that documents population numbers, health, and distribution of bears within the state, it may be time to shorten the process to deal with problem bears in efforts to reduce livestock and property damage, as well as human safety.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and appreciate this opportunity to provide our thoughts on the Black Bear Conservation Plan for California, 2024.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


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Michael N. Kobseff

Chair, Board of Supervisors