

Citizen Resolution # 133022

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Prohibit the Use of Chocolate in Bear Baiting

Any amount or type of chocolate may legally be used as bear bait. Ten gallons of bait are allowed at a single bear bait site. The number of bait sites per person is not restricted. Necropsy reports revealed a cub died in Bayfield County after eating a mix of corn, molasses, cookies, blue-frosting and chocolate shavings. Theobromine and caffeine concentration levels from the chocolate shavings examined in the cub's liver fell within the range toxic to bear. This illustrates why unregulated use of chocolate bear baits is not best management practice. Although the DNR discourages the use of dark chocolate and solid blocks of chocolate, milk chocolate may also be fatal depending on a number of factors including but not limited to size and weight of the animal as well as their unique metabolic rate, but also the amount and concentration of caffeine and theobromine in the chocolate itself. Analysis of bear tissues from a cub who died from ingesting chocolate bait suggests that bears are as sensitive or more sensitive than dogs to chocolate. For example, a 30-lb. cub could become ill from ingesting 5 oz milk chocolate, seriously ill from 9 oz and possibly die from 22 oz. A 30-lb. cub could become ill from ingesting as little as 2 oz of semi-sweet chocolate, seriously ill from 4 oz, and possibly die from 9 oz. Trail camera recordings show that animals other than bear visit bear bait sites. Other wildlife sensitive to chocolate may also become ill or die. Bait suppliers sell plenty of effective and alternative baits. Therefore, the use of chocolate is not necessary to attract bear. A proposed study on chocolate baits in the Wisconsin Bear Management Plan was never mandated, therefore it allows for an implementation of a ban.

Would you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress working with the DNR to implement prohibiting chocolate bear baits?

Additional Information provided by author:

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.