

## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 9:05 AM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries Members of the Rule Change Review Committee

**From:** Ellen Kiddy <ekiddy05@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 9:04 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Cc:** Kim Lunger Craig <Allaboutthered@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** [External] Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries Members of the Rule Change Review Committee

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To: Rules Review Commission  
From: Ellen Kiddy  
Re: Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries Members of the Rule Change Review Committee

I cannot agree more with my friend Kim Craig below. We love North Carolina and the natural wildlife and especially our bears. It would be a horrible atrocity to kill these amazing, beautiful creatures.

Please do not allow this rule change to proceed. Do not allow the permitted hunting of bears in these sanctuaries. Let's do our part through education and coexistence in the lands given to the bears for their safety.

NC Rules Review Commission 1711 New Hope Church Road Raleigh, NC 27609 [Oah.rules@oah.nc.gov](mailto:Oah.rules@oah.nc.gov)

RE: Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries Members of the Rule Change Review Committee,

The above rule change is in review. Please impose legitimacy to this review process by reading and understanding the mass opposition to the killing of bears in their designated sanctuaries.

Panthertown, Standing Indian, and Pisgah sanctuaries have protected bears and other wildlife for decades. I am deeply disturbed and disappointed at how a sanctuary designation can be so easily reversed and be reassigned a "management area" to kill bears.

North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission and US Forest Service - your institutions are now allowing the killing/harvesting of bears and base this sanctuary reversal on increased

human-bear interactions and bear encounters. Killing the bears to decrease these interactions is not a civilized reaction to what is clearly increased human presence in the sanctuaries and other wilderness areas. It is the educating of humans that is vital to reducing unwanted bear-human interaction. We are in THEIR habitat. We need to educate humans on Bearwise's national program and assure we are not attracting these beautiful

creatures into unnatural situations. It is human behavior, not the "stabilization" of the bear population that is the answer.

With multiple organizations proposing to continue and market bear-human education and awareness to campers, visitors, and hikers, the commission has chosen to kill bears instead of implementing these human behaviors within our sanctuaries and wilderness.

I am an outdoor enthusiast, and like thousands of people, I am confused as to why the killing of bears will be permitted in spite of an 86% public opposition. The process, even with the input of biological science, has not been legitimately served. Killing these majestic, slow-breeding animals in the name of "protection," "population control," or for a hunter's trophy is NOT credible or civilized. With over 3,700 bears hunted and killed in the already existing management areas of North Carolina last year, is it really necessary to kill even more?

I photograph bears. I paint them in nature, and I have hiked all the sanctuaries mentioned above. Actually, I have not even encountered a bear in these sanctuaries. These sanctuaries are for humans as well. Our places to enjoy, and to explore with no guns blasting, and no dogs baying. There should be no dreadful anxiety at the possibility of watching or hearing this bear-killing process in a sanctuary.

This rule change is a sad defeat for all who protect, enjoy, and deserve the right to be part of these sanctuaries.

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Please do not allow this rule change to proceed. Do not allow the permitted hunting of bears in these sanctuaries. Let's do our part through education and coexistence in the lands given to the bears for their safety.

Sincerely,  
Kim Craig Highlands, NC

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To whom it may concern,

I read disturbing news yesterday. The NC wildlife commission plans to reopen black bear hunting. I urgently feel the need to write this to inform you that I and so many others are adamantly against this. Plain and simple, as if the world isn't in enough of a delicate fragile state, the bloody carnage of these beautiful creatures is going to be allowed? These bears need to stay protected. That's why they are in a "sanctuary". Bears will not overpopulate, They will deliberately not breed when they know their habitat space may be encroached with too many numbers, so overpopulation cannot be your reasoning. They are primarily vegetarian and are naturally fearful of humans and avoid them. They are Majesties of nature and should be respected, admired and revered, not taxidermied and placed in some "trophy hunters" home. And speaking of "trophy hunters", where is the actual skill and sport when all they do is get their hunting dogs to catch whiff of their scent and chase those poor creatures up a tree, then they just walk up and SHOOT THEM DOWN ! I have heard North Carolina being called "God's Country" ever since I moved here from Florida 27 years ago, and indeed it is! North Carolina is incredibly rich and diverse in beauty and splendor! From the purple mountains majesties, to the pristine beaches on the east coast, our state offers so much to travelers. They come here to get away from the noise and confusion of their "concrete jungle" lifestyle, to get a sense of peace and tranquility from our natural wonders. They come here hopefully to catch a glimpse of a bear, wandering through the forest or resting high up in a tree with their cubs, They WANT to see the bears just doing their thing out in their natural world. So I say, let's keep giving it to them! Let's keep these amazing creatures safe and protected , and in turn they will greatly continue to help North Carolina's economy flourish, because that's what North Carolina is, a tourist state. But more importantly than helping us in attracting tourists, these bears are part of a rich and diverse circle in which we all are a part of. We are ALL connected in this great circle of life and are interdependent, in some way, shape or form, upon each other. Everything exists in balance and if the homeostasis of that balance is severed, we all suffer! Meaning that if these bears are no longer protected and are allowed to be destroyed by humans, eventually the species gets critically endangered or even worse extinct, and that detrimentally affects the planet as a WHOLE. The problem with humans is that they think they are exempt from this, but we are not. Any species that exempts itself from the "natural laws" ends up destroying the diverse community in order to support its own expansion. That's what I see happening in the world today. Modern humans view themselves as Lord's of the earth, and feel the need to take control of and "conquer" other species, (these bears for instance), and so they live in a constant state of unbalance and discord and anything they do is never "enough" because they are not at peace, but the native cultures of the world (native indian, aboriginals, alaskan eskimos, to name a few) don't live like that. They live in reference and respect for the earth and only take what they need, giving thanks and praise to our Creator for what they DO take. They live in peace, balance and harmony. God gave humans dominion over all creatures to care for them and to protect them, and this planet that we ALL share, not to divide and conquer! This opening up of bear hunting is one of the worst ideas, in the long, sad history of bad ideas. Please, I implore you to reconsider this, for All our sakes. Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mary Johnson

venus.smith3587@gmail.com

Michael S. Levine, MD  
City Manager  
Highlands, N.C.

April 13, 2022

NC Rules Review Commission  
1711 New Hope Church Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Re: Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries

Members of the Committee,

The rule is ambiguous and does not stipulate the number of permits that may be issued in each area and the limits.

Is it necessary? There is very little public support. There have been very few human bear conflicts in these sanctuaries. With bear proof lockers there will be still less if any.

I am a frequent hiker in Panther town and have never seen a bear and very rarely have I seen any scat on the trails. The complaint by the commission claims the presence of too many bears however at the recent meeting (April 5<sup>th</sup> in Murphy, NC) they admitted that they have not reached the geologic carrying capacity in any of the sanctuaries. The Commission voted unanimously to open up more places to hunt bears but the hunters and hikers disagree. They want to protect the sanctuaries so numbers increase and can be hunted elsewhere outside of the sanctuary.

Economic Input; as a hiker, camper, fisherman, photographer, and volunteer many of us will be less likely to utilize these sanctuaries and surrounding facilities once there are hunting dogs and hunters crossing our paths. I believe it will be a negative financially.

I hope you will rule against the opening of the sanctuaries for bear hunting.

Please reconsider since this decision which was made on 2006 information.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael S. Levine MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael S. Levine, MD

Diane T. Levine, Bear Wise Committee

April 13 2022

NC Rules Review Commission  
1711 New Hope Church Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Re: Rule # 15A NCAC 10D.01106 Bear Sanctuaries

Members of the Committee,

This rule is NOT what the people want. 86% voted against this proposal yet ALL the Commissions voted in favor. How does that happen?

Your data is based on old 2006 information.

Not one bear management area has ever been turned back to a bear sanctuary even though you say they can.

The bear hunter along with hikers, fishermen, photographers DON'T want this.

You are going to have hungry hunting dogs running free when your kiosk say all dogs must be leashed.

You are going to have shooting guns in the forest with families enjoying the solitude of the forest. What makes you think there will be no accidents?

I truly think the Fox (Wildlife and Foresters) are manning the chickens.

This is the people's land and the people have voted. They are not in favor of the Bear Sanctuaries being turned in Management areas so government can do whatever they please. Will you listen -could you please do the next right thing the people want.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane T. Levine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "L".

Diane T. Levine

**Burgos, Alexander N**

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**From:** McGhee, Dana  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 2:36 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bear Sanctuaries

**From:** Mary Shabbott <mshabbott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 5:39 PM  
**To:** McGhee, Dana <dana.McGhee@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Bear Sanctuaries

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Mary Shabbott

04-08-2022

N.C. Rules Review Commission  
1711 New Hope Church Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Re: [15A NCAC 10D .0106] Bear Sanctuaries

Members of the Commission:

I request that the above rule(s) be reviewed in the upcoming legislative session as set out in N.C.G.S. 150B-21.3. I further request that the rule(s) be subject to a delayed effective date as set out in that same provision.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's recently adopted rule that allows bear hunting and hunting with dogs in the Pisgah, Panthertown-Bonas Defeat, and Standing Indian Bear Sanctuaries along with a change in the term "designated bear sanctuaries to "designated bear management areas" is not clear and unambiguous for the following reasons;

1. The NCWRC's basis for the rule was that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) requested that they open up the sanctuaries to hunting due to increased bear-human conflicts. It is important to note that there is no scientific evidence to support claims that hunting reduces

## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 8:44 AM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries

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**From:** Carlton Cole <carlton842@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries

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The rule is ambiguous and does not stipulate the number of permits that may be issued in each area and the limits.

Is it necessary? There is little public support. There have been few human / bear conflicts in these sanctuaries. With bear proof lockers there will be less, if any.

I am a frequent hiker in Panthertown and have never seen a bear. The complaint by the commission claims the presence of too many bears; however, at the April 5th meeting in Murphy, it was admitted that geologic carrying capacity has not been reached in any of the sanctuaries. The Commission voted to open up more places to hunt bears, but hunters and hikers disagree. They want to protect the sanctuaries so the number of bears may increase and can be hunted elsewhere, outside the sanctuaries.

As a hiker, photographer, and volunteer, I would be less likely to use these sanctuaries and surrounding facilities once there are hunters and hunting dogs crossing my path. I think permitting hunting would have an adverse economic impact.

I hope you will reconsider and rule against opening the sanctuaries for bear hunting. As I understand it, the decision was made based on 2006 information, not current information.

Yours sincerely,

Carlton W. Cole  
Highlands NC

## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** McGhee, Dana  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 2:22 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bears

-----Original Message-----

From: Jaime Turgeon <jaime.turgeon@icloud.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 5:36 PM  
To: McGhee, Dana <dana.McGhee@oah.nc.gov>  
Subject: [External] Bears

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To whom it may concern,

Please do not allow trophy hunters to murder innocent bears inside sanctuaries. Sanctuaries are meant to be a safe haven for these beautiful animals. They belong to ALL of us, not just the people who want to murder them. It takes a sick person to take pleasure in murdering innocent creatures then hide the brutality by calling it "sport". Please do not allow this to happen. Thank you. Sent from my iPhone

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## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bears

-----Original Message-----

From: Jaime Turgeon <jaime.turgeon@icloud.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 5:35 PM  
To: Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
Subject: [External] Bears

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To whom it may concern,

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## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:49 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Request for bear review

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**From:** Janice Foltz <organic4444@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 5:03 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Request for bear review

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Dear Representative,

Dear Representative,

The commission claims there are too many bears, but they admit the sanctuaries have not reached their biological carrying capacity. I know many people who hike frequently in the valley, and none has ever seen a bear. Bears naturally regulate the number of offspring according to the availability of food. There is no need to kill them.

Their crucial job of reforestation is pooping 200,000 seeds an hr dispersed .62 miles. The lifespan of foods is finite. These seeds grow continued foods for bears deer small animals birds, and more, even we humans, you see bears are part of nature as the farmers in the forest, & not beginning to compare to bird seeds dropped. Please.

Trees get diseased , fall, maturity dying, have to be replaced . Bushes of blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, huckleberries . Nuts to many to count in this brief information. Biologically vast in complexity to detail here. I believe we all understand these facts.

I live amongst bears they aren't baited with birdseeds, not a dangerous encounter in 76 yrs. Bears pass on my land on my 1 mile to National Park Great Smoky's. Used to see many more as I did younger , when every crossing to Gatlinburg were always bears, now once in a rare while. Point being NCWRC says to many bears yet adds not a quota. The NCWRC is making money in licenses and pro bear culling. Bears are what forests must have for sustainability. I read a 206 thesis from TN UNIV 20 yr study. The bears are fine according to facts, at managing themselves. There's much to consider in rules & quantities such as I Poaching , selling organs , illegally, fines even for dogs off leash with hikers not written up. Nicely excused, but bears get killed is out of control. Do not lessen their amount or it'll collapse They Must Be written up for illegal situations and paid. Also why is there no rule in amount of hounds run by one bear hunter? I was told this by a hunter at last meeting with

Senator Corbin. Perhaps wrong same as opening bear sanctuaries to so called manage bears? People need management on coexisting with bears that proven they aren't out to get us: Winnie the Pooh, teddy bears we grew up with, even the marvelous advisor SMOKEY THE BEAR, we all come to know and respect. Humankind is the problem in lack of educating them to live and let live in wooded places where they have no choice, We Do. Our many groups are getting more involved, let this take place to calm the restless creatures.... Humans.

Respectfully Yours,

Janice Foltz

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

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## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] NC Bears

**From:** Dagmar Buchner <dagmar-buchner@gmx.de>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 4:14 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] NC Bears

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Dear Governor,

please stop killing Bears !

It is not ok to destroy life because they feel like us and they want to live like we do. They have rights like we have and we have to protect them- this is what GOD wants from us to do for them and we are guilty of killing so many of them.

Kind regards,  
Dagmar  
Buchner

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NC Rules Review Commission  
1711 New Hope Church Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
[Oah.rules@oah.nc.gov](mailto:Oah.rules@oah.nc.gov)

RE: Rule #15A NCAC 10D.0106 Bear Sanctuaries

Members of the Rule Change Review Committee,

The above rule change is in review. Please impose legitimacy to this review process by reading and understanding the mass opposition to the killing of bears in their designated sanctuaries.

Panthertown, Standing Indian, and Pisgah sanctuaries have protected bears and other wildlife for decades. I am deeply disturbed and disappointed at how a sanctuary designation can be so easily reversed and be reassigned a "management area" to kill bears.

North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission and US Forest Service - your institutions are now allowing the killing/harvesting of bears and base this sanctuary reversal on increased human-bear interactions and bear encounters. Killing the bears to decrease these interactions is not a civilized reaction to what is clearly increased human presence in the sanctuaries and other wilderness areas. It is the educating of humans that is vital to reducing unwanted bear-human interaction. We are in THEIR habitat. We need to educate humans on Bearwise's national program and assure we are not attracting these beautiful creatures into unnatural situations. It is human behavior, not the "stabilization" of the bear population that is the answer.

With multiple organizations proposing to continue and market bear-human education and awareness to campers, visitors, and hikers, the commission has chosen to kill bears instead of implementing these human behaviors within our sanctuaries and wilderness.

I am an outdoor enthusiast, and like thousands of people, I am confused as to why the killing of bears will be permitted in spite of an 86% public opposition. The process, even with the input of biological science, has not been legitimately served. Killing these majestic, slow-breeding animals in the name of "protection," "population control," or for a hunter's trophy is NOT credible or civilized. With over 3,700 bears hunted and killed in the already existing management areas of North Carolina last year, is it really necessary to kill even more?

I photograph bears. I paint them in nature, and I have hiked all the sanctuaries mentioned above. Actually, I have not even encountered a bear in these sanctuaries. These sanctuaries are for humans as well. Our places to enjoy, and to explore with no guns blasting, and no dogs baying. There should be no dreadful anxiety at the possibility of watching or hearing this bear-killing process in a sanctuary.

This rule change is a sad defeat for all who protect, enjoy, and deserve the right to be part of these sanctuaries.

Please do not allow this rule change to proceed. Do not allow the permitted hunting of bears in these sanctuaries. Let's do our part through education and coexistence in the lands given to the bears for their safety.

Sincerely,  
Kim Craig  
Highlands, NC

## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:45 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bear hunting

-----Original Message-----

From: emilydgray@me.com <emilydgray@me.com>  
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2022 12:44 PM  
To: Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
Subject: [External] Bear hunting

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Please do NOT allow bear hunting in any previously protected ares, especially Panther Town.  
Thank you for considering to limit bear hunting in most places

Emily Gray

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## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:45 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bear Hunting PANTHERTOWN

-----Original Message-----

From: shirley Insoft <J.S.Insoft@outlook.com>  
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2022 9:28 PM  
To: Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
Subject: [External] Bear Hunting PANTHERTOWN

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We Definitely DO NOT APPROVE BEAR HUNTING IN PANTHERTOWN !!!!!!! The season we understand is when most people are here for leaf season. How would you want to have your wife, husband, daughter, son, grand parents accidentally killed while hiking or riding their horse in PANTHERTOWN. We are DEFINITELY APPOSED Being a resident of Bald Rock Community. PANTHERTOWN is a BEAR SANCTUARY !!! Joe and Shirley Insoft

Sent from my iPhone

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## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:46 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bear Hunting in Panthertown and Standing Indian

**From:** James Riddle <riddle4iu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 16, 2022 11:38 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Bear Hunting in Panthertown and Standing Indian

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Please, please reconsider your decision regarding allowing bear hunting in Panthertown and Standing Indian. We along with hundreds if not thousands hike in those area regularly. Not only is bear hunting dangerous to us, we do not want more hunting of these animals especially in these sanctuaries we value so much. I find it difficult to understand why you want to against the obvious wishea of the very who utilize the areas.

Thank you.

James Riddle, Full Time Resident

*(Faint, illegible text)*

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## Burgos, Alexander N

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:46 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Protest Panthertown Hunting

**From:** Lila Howland <lilahowlan@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 16, 2022 10:00 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Protest Panthertown Hunting

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NC Rules Review Commission:

Panthertown is a beloved sanctuary for humans and animals. Hunting of any sort should not be allowed. Hikers who frequent the trails report no bear sighting and rare bear scat. The finding by the commission that the bear population in Panthertown is excessive is simply wrong. Do not desecrate this special place by allowing the hunting of bear and other animals.

Lila Howland

[lilahowlan@aol.com](#)  
[oah.rules@oah.nc.gov](#)  
[oah.rules@oah.nc.gov](#)  
[oah.rules@oah.nc.gov](#)

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**Burgos, Alexander N**

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**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:47 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bear hunting in Panthertown

**From:** Slocum Howland <slocumhowland@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 16, 2022 9:47 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Bear hunting in Panthertown

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PLEASE reconsider the recent ruling allowing bear hunting in Panthertown. I am a full time resident of Macon County and hike in Panthertown. Bear hunting in this area will make hiking in this area dangerous to the hikers.

**I am strongly opposed to bear hunting in Panthertown.**

Thank you for your attention to my comment.

Sincerely,  
Slocum Howland

W. Slocum Howland, Jr.

[slocumhowland@outlook.com](mailto:slocumhowland@outlook.com)

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## Burgos, Alexander N

---

**From:** Rules, Oah  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 1:48 PM  
**To:** Burgos, Alexander N  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Fwd: Black Bears

**From:** Mary Smith <venus.smith3587@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah <oah.rules@oah.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Fwd: Black Bears

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Mary Smith** <venus.smith3587@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 1:28 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Black Bears  
**To:** <[rrc.comments@oah.nc.gov](mailto:rrc.comments@oah.nc.gov)>

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Mary Smith** <venus.smith3587@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 1:05 PM  
**Subject:** Black Bears  
**To:** <[montycrump@ncwildlifecommission.org](mailto:montycrump@ncwildlifecommission.org)>

To whom it may concern,

I read disturbing news yesterday. The NC wildlife commission plans to reopen black bear hunting. I urgently feel the need to write this to inform you that I and so many others are adamantly against this. Plain and simple, as if the world isn't in enough of a delicate fragile state, the bloody carnage of these beautiful creatures is going to be allowed? These bears need to stay protected. That's why they are in a "sanctuary". Bears will not overpopulate, They will deliberately not breed when they know their habitat space may be encroached with too many numbers, so overpopulation cannot be your reasoning. They are primarily vegetarian and are naturally fearful of humans and avoid them. They are Majesties of nature and should be respected, admired and revered, not taxidermied and placed in some "trophy hunters" home. And speaking of "trophy hunters", where is the actual skill and sport when all they do is get their hunting dogs to catch whiff of their scent and chase those poor creatures up a tree, then they just walk up and SHOOT THEM DOWN ! I have heard North Carolina being called "God's Country" ever since I moved here from Florida 27 years ago, and indeed it is! North Carolina is incredibly rich and diverse in beauty and splendor! From the purple mountains majesties, to the pristine beaches on the east coast, our state offers so much to travelers. They come here to get away from the noise and confusion of their "concrete jungle" lifestyle, to get a sense of peace and tranquility from our natural wonders. They come here hopefully to catch a glimpse of a bear, wandering through the forest or resting high up in a tree with their cubs, They WANT to see the bears just doing their thing out in their natural world. So I say, let's keep giving it to them!

Let's keep these amazing creatures safe and protected , and in turn they will greatly continue to help North Carolina's economy flourish, because that's what North Carolina is, a tourist state. But more importantly than helping us in attracting tourists, these bears are part of a rich and diverse circle in which we all are a part of. We are ALL connected in this great circle of life and are interdependent, in some way,shape or form,upon each other. Everything exists in balance and if the homeostasis of that balance is severed,we all suffer! Meaning that if these bears are no longer protected and are allowed to be destroyed by humans, eventually the species gets critically endangered or even worse extinct, and that detrimentally affects the planet as a WHOLE. The problem with humans is that they think they are exempt from this, but we are not. Any species that exempts itself from the "natural laws" ends up destroying the diverse community in order to support its own expansion. That's what I see happening in the world today. Modern humans view themselves as Lord's of the earth, and feel the need to take control of and "conquer" other species, (these bears for instance), and so they live in a constant state of unbalance and discord and anything they do is never "enough" because they are not at peace,but the native cultures of the world (native indian,aboriginals,alaskan eskimos, to name a few) don't live like that. They live in reference and respect for the earth and only take what they need,giving thanks and praise to our Creator for what they DO take.They live in peace, balance and harmony. God gave humans dominion over all creatures to care for them and to protect them, and this planet that we ALL share, not to divide and conquer! This opening up of bear hunting is one of the worst ideas, in the long,sad history of bad ideas. Please, I implore you to reconsider this, for All our sakes. Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mary Johnson



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Email correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized state official.

**Burgos, Alexander N**

---

**From:** Brenda Buzzell <brendabuzzell99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** rrc.comments  
**Subject:** [External] Bears

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Please stop this cruel Bear hunt. Undue the Riesling to hunt bears! Thank you for your kindness to animals.

## Burgos, Alexander N

---

**From:** ROBERT MYERS <bobwmyers@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 7:54 PM  
**To:** rrc.comments  
**Cc:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Objection to designating a bear sanctuary as a bear management area

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report [Spam.<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>](mailto:report.spam@nc.gov)

Robert Myers

April 8, 2022

Bears which grow up in a sanctuary are not the same as bears raised in the wild.

To hunt them with dogs is to cause damage to the dogs and bears as well as the hunters who are not hunting but are merely shooting bears.

What self-respecting North Carolinian would be proud of that?

Thank you,

Robert Myers

**Burgos, Alexander N**

---

**From:** JOHN SATKOWSKI <jillka@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 6:50 PM  
**To:** rrc.comments  
**Subject:** [External] Bears

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>

Please let the bears live peacefully in the sanctuary and not hunted.

**Burgos, Alexander N**

---

**From:** Kimberly Craig <allaboutthered@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 11:50 AM  
**To:** rrc.comments  
**Subject:** [External] Bear Sanctuaries

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>

Has rule 15A NCAC 10D.0106 Changing 3 bear sanctuary areas in Western North Carolina to areas to kill bears been reviewed yet? I know the rule was approved. It is my understanding that the approved rule now goes to a review board?

Please let me know  
Thank you,  
Kim Craig  
Jackson County Resident

Sent from my iPad

**Burgos, Alexander N**

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**From:** Sharon Franco <shar5334@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2022 7:53 PM  
**To:** rrc.comments  
**Subject:** [External] Update on petition — Stop Rule That Allows N.C. Bears Living In Bear Sanctuaries To Be Killed By Trophy Hunters

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Hi,

I wanted to share an exciting update about a petition I signed on [Change.org](#): "Stop Rule That Allows N.C. Bears Living In Bear Sanctuaries To Be Killed By Trophy Hunters".

Read about the update "URGENT: Take Action Now To Save North Carolina Bears - New Calls To Action" below, and join me in supporting this campaign by signing the petition!

<https://chng.it/4qpWgh2YCJ>

Thanks!  
sharon

Sharon Franco RD LD  
Registered Dietitian

**Burgos, Alexander N**

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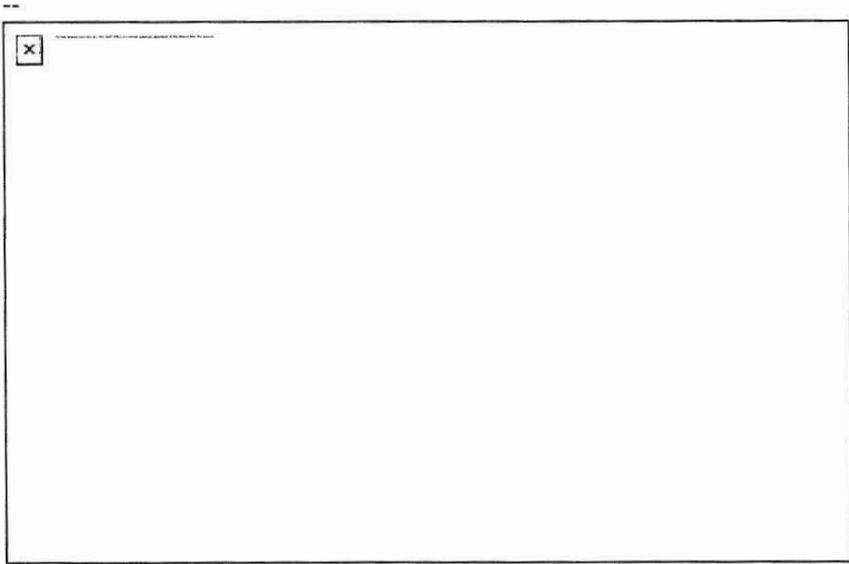
**From:** Erika Gettig <erika.gettig@saintandrews.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 5:45 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah; McGhee, Dana; rrc.comments  
**Subject:** [External] Re: [15A NCAC 10D .0106] Bear Sanctuaries  
**Attachments:** bear letter.pdf

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Dear committee members,

As a summer visitor to Brevard, North Carolina, and specifically Pisgah Forest, for the last 12 years, I believe it's important for committee members to hear the perspective of tourists who are committed to spending money in the towns that surround state and national forests as well as designated wildlife areas. North Carolina's approach to managing those forests and wildlife can inspire and attract tourists, it can also disgust and repulse them. Thank you for considering the details of my formal comment attached in a letter form as a pdf.

Thank you.



**McGhee, Dana**

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**From:** Sue Willis <willis0147@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 6:53 AM  
**To:** McGhee, Dana  
**Subject:** [External] 15A NCAC 10d.0106 - BEAR SANCTUARIES  
**Attachments:** BEARS AT PISGAH.doc

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Dear Ms McGhee

Please consider my attached letter re the above.

Emergency yesterday prevented me from finalising this request for consideration.

Yours Sue Willis.

10 April 2022

Dear Dana McGhee

**Re: 15A NCAC 10D.0106**

I write to you with concern that the 3 sanctuaries of Pisgah, Panthertown-Bonus Defeat and Standing Indian Bear Sanctuaries remain as designated "*sanctuaries*".

The area's in question to be opened as "management" sites is surely inappropriate for such a colossal area which will be impossible to monitor behaviour of shooting, and hunting dogs. Dogs do get out of control such has happened here in the UK. (At present a court action is going through where uncontrollable hounds entered a housing estate killing a domestic pet as the owner could not get to her pet in time, and just witnessed the frenzy). The US government cull millions of indigenous animals every year in response to farmers requests.

The request to change the Bear Sanctuaries to Bear Management is an indulgence for the few, on an unprecedented scale. The three sites are so large that it will be impossible to monitor, observe and record the activities of shooting/killing. There will be other species killed as they panic to escape. This whole change in a name is one of an excuse for hunters priority only. As with UK policies killing a species of wildlife does not resolve the problems within that species of wildlife.

I have to question why have hunters pressured NCWRC to open up these areas so they can hunt? Does this mean that wildlife has dwindled become rarer in other areas.

To reduce such large areas to become barren of all wildlife will be detrimental to the whole environment harmful of 3 specific sites as mentioned above. Nil tranquillity of the sites being considered, and less

tourists. People need their spaces today to the ever increasing stresses of life.

The achievement of food lockers being installed is a success and one of installing more lockers which is on going. As I read Bears manage their own population through delayed implantation.

The above measures have made these special sites a wonder for the tourists near and far, local businesses need tourists for finance to survive, local people being employed for tourists and the education in nature that could be used for the children visiting. To actually see an animal in the wild in it's own habitat is the best reward one can have and remember for years. The outdoor recreation and employment of people is vital for the community. I see there are thousands of businesses reliant on these special places for walking, cycling, tranquillity, resting and a chance to some wildlife.

NCWRC stakeholders oppose the opening of sanctuaries to hunting, again pressure from a specific fraternity is pushing for this change. So it speaks volumes "*minority over the majority*".

NCWRC does not appear to be specific about permits to be issued and the cost of permits along with doubt of the number of bears to be culled. The issues on this whole process is one of suspicion to the bystander.

I see North Carolina law re dogs being used in a lawful hunt are exempt from certain rules. As my comment above proves dogs when hunting can become out of control and kill pet dogs, and possibly children. I am sorry to say in this day and age it is a serious possibility and something that everyone needs to consider. How do you trace what dog/dogs did a fatal act, and in the process destroy that one dog or the whole pack would need to be put down, how many?

At my age now of 74 years I see less and less nature in my own land due to destruction, so please, do consider seriously this application to open up nature to a specific group.

Yours sincerely  
Ms Sue Willis.

## McGhee, Dana

---

**From:** Bambi Robinson <bambirobinson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 5, 2022 1:53 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Stop Panthertown bear hunting

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>

Please stop bear hunting in Panthertown. I go there daily and worry about my safety from hunters. I live next door to Panthertown. I don't have a problem with bears. The few encounters I know about were because campers did not store food properly. Bear boxes are now in place. Please don't allow hunting.

Bambi Robinson

Sent from my iPad

## McGhee, Dana

---

**From:** Barbara Jackson <barbara.c.jackson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:52 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Appeal the vote to allow Bear Hunting in NC National Forrests

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I'm one of the more than 2000 messages that the NC Wildlife Resource Commission received in opposition to hunting bears, I'm asking that you stop the approval and reconsider the decision. It's not inconceivable to me that the NCWRC ignored the requests of its citizens. I'm well aware that power and money makes the decisions in local and national politics. I would ask that you take a look at the representation - the individuals that make up that commission and look at their justification for approval. Do they represent the mindset of the current day citizens of NC? I would also ask that you take a close look at the reports from the wildlife biologists regarding the bear population. I don't believe the report. I know from being in the technology industry for 25 years that data can be made to represent anything you want it to.

I'm a full-time resident of NC living in Lake Toxaway, NC and I walk the Panthertown area every day. I realize that this decision affects other areas and I'm just as against it in the other areas as I am here.

I'm not a tree hugger or an animal rights activist nor have I let my female sensitivities run away with logic. I grew up hunting with my father who was a double retiree from the Marines and the AirForce. I don't have a problem with the killing of a bear that is making a nuisance of itself by killing livestock. I have a guttural objection to the blood sport of "bear hounding". The words, "make it a clean kill" were said over and over again until it was the first thought before shooting. I don't care that it has "legacy", lots of things have gone to the wayside that had "legacy" because people finally realized the wrongness of it.

I'm not even a big advocate of the Humane Society but rather provide my support to local animal support groups. However, they do have an excellent article that I have linked below that was well written by someone who articulated perfectly the inhumanness of the blood sport of bear baiting as well as its long term impact on the welfare of bear populations. It upsets the balance of their ability to sustain themselves during winter. It upsets hierarchical order and causes more killing of cubs not fathered by the same male. We have healthy bears in NC and are not dealing with the terrible mange that is running rampant through bears from Virginia northward. Bears are already stressed with human population growth. Their only safe place is our National Forest lands which should be protected habitat. Don't stress them any more by allowing them to be chased with dogs by hunters. Dogs kill cubs, dogs don't care if it's a male or a female bear when they get on the scent. Hunters, no matter how much they profess their talent at knowing females from male are just as likely to shoot whatever is before them in the heat of the hunt.

Please investigate the NCWRC approval and keep bear hunting out of our National Forests. Keep our bear populations healthy by overturning this decision.

Article link: <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/facts-about-bear-hounding>

Sincerely,

--

Barbara Jackson

Call 678-575-8888

FILED

MAR 10 2022

3-07-2022

OFFICE OF ADMIN HEARINGS

FROM: TOM GRIFFIN

~~2960 COWEETA LAB RD.~~  
~~OTTO, N.C. 28763-9217~~

TO: RULES REVIEW COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
HEARINGS  
1171 NEW HOPE CHURCH RD  
RALEIGH, N.C. 27609

SUBJECT: BEAR HUNTING IN  
SANCTUARY AREAS

THIS IS MY OFFICIAL PROTEST  
TO THE UNANIMOUS VOTE  
CAST FEB. 24, 2022 BY THE  
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
COMMISSION TO ALLOW THE  
CONTROVERSIAL AND TOTALLY  
WRONG VOTE TO ALLOW  
BEAR HUNTING IN SANCTUARY  
AREAS: EXAMPLE: STANDING  
INDIAN

I LIVE IN OTTO, N.C. AND  
MY PROPERTY BORDERS U.S.F.S.  
LAND AT THE COWEETA LAB

I HAVE BEEN HERE AND  
WALKED AND DRIVEN ALL

2.

OVER THE LAB AND STANDING  
INDIAN AREA AND I  
HAVEN'T SEEN THE FIRST  
BLACK BEAR OR BEAR  
SIGNS.

SANCTUARY MEANS SANCTUARY-  
NO HUNTING, TRAPPING,  
WHATSOEVER.

IF AN OCCASSIONAL HIKER OR  
PROPERTY OWNER HAS AN  
ENCOUNTER WITH BLACK BEARS  
SO BE IT.

THE NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE  
RESOURCES COMMISSION NEEDS  
TO GET INVOLVED IN BEAR  
SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS/  
TRAINING — NOT KILLING  
IN SANCTUARY AREAS.

THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH  
AN OVERPOPULATION ON BEARS.  
NO PROBLEM!

I MOVED TO OTTO FROM  
PACOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO  
IN THE SAN JUANS AND  
WE PRACTICED BEAR SAFETY.

3.

BEAR SAFETY - BEAR PROOF  
TRASH CANS, COMMON  
SENSE THINGS, LIKE NO  
BIRD / ANIMAL FEEDERS  
LEFT OUT AT NIGHT, NO  
PET FOOD LEFT ON THE  
PORCH, NO LIVESTOCK  
FOOD AVAILABLE TO THE  
CRITTERS. -

AGAIN - SANCTUARY AREAS  
MEAN SANCTUARY

I INTEND TO PROTEST THIS  
ASSININE RULING TO  
THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN  
STATE GOVERNMENT

AGAIN - THINK ABOUT IT!

TOM GRIFFIN  
2960 COWEETA LAB RD.  
OTTO, NC 28763

828 369-5253

C 678 708-3576

P.S. I HAVE NO COMPUTER OR  
E-MAIL - CAN'T FIND A  
LETTER TEMPLATE, HOPE  
THIS WORKS!

**McGhee, Dana**

---

**From:** Slocum Howland <slocumhowland@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:31 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Bear hunting in Panthertown

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**ALL:**

I am a full time resident of Macon County and **strongly oppose bear hunting in Panthertown**. I hike in Panthertown on a regular basis and bear hunting in that area will endanger hikers. The bears pose no danger to visitors to Panthertown.

Please reconsider your previous decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Slocum Howland

**McGhee, Dana**

---

**From:** James Riddle <riddle4iu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:16 AM  
**To:** Slocum Howland  
**Cc:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Re: Bear hunting in Panthertown

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Good letter

JR

On Tue, Mar 15, 2022, 7:30 AM Slocum Howland <[slocumhowland@outlook.com](mailto:slocumhowland@outlook.com)> wrote:

**ALL:**

I am a full time resident of Macon County and **strongly oppose bear hunting in Panthertown**. I hike in Panthertown on a regular basis and bear hunting in that area will endanger hikers. The bears pose no danger to visitors to Panthertown.

Please reconsider your previous decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Slocum Howland

**McGhee, Dana**

---

**From:** (null) lindysgifts1 <lindysgifts1@frontier.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:37 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Bear hunting

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>

Panhetown should not be open to bear hunting. Too many hikers and campers would be injured or affected.  
Marsha

Sent from my iPhone

Mar 10, 2022

Dean W. R. C. & Disastrous Ideas & Rules  
Party

In regards to your Unanimous vote of the opening of bear Sanctuaries in Western part of N.C. Panther Town, Standing Ind. & Pisgah area. A very controversial proposal from bear hunters who disagreed. 379 people that commented on the proposal at a meeting that was held in Marion, not even in the district that was to be opened 86% opposed six in favour. What even happened to the majority on a vote rules.?

If we supposedly have 7,000 plus bears they are around Asheville area & the housing development around ~~own~~ mountains with locked gates, where you can't hunt. I'd say, very few bear & human encounters happen. If some of the stupid people wouldn't run up to the bears with cubs & elk to take pictures, like they are some animals few problems would occur.

My opinion of the house owners that are concerned about bear dogs staying on public land while chasing bear, probably have yard & house dogs that bark at every little ratchet they hear, & buy the way

bean dogs offer no danger to the people that has private property on their property not near as much damage that Elk does to crops, fences, & land, it seems like dogs having a good time chasing bean & a public eye.

I submitted a letter to the rules dept. that we feed & train our dogs year around for one bean harvest Tag, while deer hunters have six Tags, If you W.K.C. would issue two Tags you would see a greater number of bean being harvested than you think.

I'm Eighty years old, probably won't effect my hunting very much won't to kill more beans, but I'm afraid my Grandson, & Great Grandson will have a problem.

I think also the W.K.C. & Jones Tservice need to not close off so many roads after bean season & Deer, it deprives the small game hunter two months of use of the same road, we used to, coon, squirrel, grouse & rabbit hunt, which you are waisting your time hunting grouse in Western Mid. anyone

P.S.

Don't goun people moving in here from all over the U.S, anti-Hunters that pay nothing for the use of Gov. lands  
Harold W. Rogers

**McGhee, Dana**

---

**From:** Janice Foltz <organic4444@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 6:22 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Letter to board appealing this culling of black bears in sanctuaries.  
**Attachments:** bear paper.docx

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03-16-2022

I am strongly opposed to the N.C. Wildlife Resource Commissions ruling to open 3 bear sanctuaries for hunting. It's like a barbaric, unannounced war on bears which may have the consequence of making the bears more aggressive and problematic. I think that increased public education and enforcing fines when people choose to ignore the rules is a much more humane approach. We need to remember; these lands are the homes of wild animals and we are visitors when we enter the sanctuaries. The idea that all resources on this planet are here for human manipulation and benefit, is an attitude that needs to change for the benefit of all. And as a hiker, I do not want to be concerned about hunters in the area. I am there for the peace the wilderness brings. Hearing hunting dogs and gunshots is upsetting at best. When 86 % of public comment opposes a proposal/ruling, those in charge of decisions need to not only hear us but vote with us.

Jane Thomas

Sent from my iPhone

03-16-2022

I am strongly opposed to the N.C. Wildlife Resource Commissions ruling to open 3 bear sanctuaries for hunting. It's like a barbaric, unannounced war on bears which may have the consequence of making the bears more aggressive and problematic. I think that increased public education and enforcing fines when people choose to ignore the rules is a much more humane approach. We need to remember; these lands are the homes of wild animals and we are visitors when we enter the sanctuaries. The idea that all resources on this planet are here for human manipulation and benefit, is an attitude that needs to change for the benefit of all.

And as a hiker, I do not want to be concerned about hunters in the area. I am there for the peace the wilderness brings. Hearing hunting dogs and gunshots is upsetting at best. When 86 % of public comment opposes a proposal/ruling, those in charge of decisions need to not only hear us but vote with us.

Jane Thomas

*Kay & Edwin Poole*

3/14/22

Office of Administration Hearings  
1711 New Hope Church Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Ref: 15A NCAC 10D.0106

Hello,

Please do not allow bear hunting (or any other type of hunting) in Panthertown. I no longer live in NC, but I spent years hiking in western NC and especially enjoyed Panthertown. It is a beautiful wild (except for all the hikers) place and to allow hunting seems mighty dangerous.

Sincerely,



Edwin H. Poole

OFFICE OF  
ADMIN HEARINGS

2022 MAR 17 AM 10:19

FILED

**McGhee, Dana**

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**From:** evans gleaton <pegleaton@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2022 5:59 PM  
**To:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Panthertown Valley bear hunt

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The NCWRC only represents the hunting community. Public opinion overwhelmingly opposed this action allowing bear hunting in Panthertown.  
The commission is corrupt.

Sent from my iPad

**McGhee, Dana**

---

**From:** Kimberly Craig <allaboutthered@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 11:18 AM  
**To:** Rules, Oah  
**Subject:** [External] Management area concern

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>

Please do not allow bear killing in a bear sanctuary!

Sincerely,  
Kim Craig  
Jackson County, NC

Sent from my iPad