

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
Big Game Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 9AM**

**VISITORS**

Dick Hamilton	NC Wildlife Federation
Hal Atkinson	Camp-Younts Foundation
Diane Newton	NC Bowhunters Association
William Newton	NCBA
Mike Noles	Conman's Guide Service
J.R. Stone	NCBA
Russell Poole	NCBA
Gerald Smith	HMR & PC
Reed Sheffield	NC Bear Hunters Association
Jackie Morris	NCBHA
Anson Byrd	Landowner, Hyde Co. Commissioner
Hoyt Haddock , Sr.	Landowner
Gerald Chandler	WNC Houndsman
Terry Morris	NCBHA
Culley Wilson	Landowner
Joe McClees	NC Sporting Dog Association
Henri McClees	NC Sporting Dog Association
David Simmons	NCBHA
Matthew Pait	NCBHA
Jim Noles	NCBHA
Roy Stiles	NCBHA
Wallace Messer	NCBHA
Tony Simpson	NCBHA
Ricky Hall	NCBHA
B.J. Johnson	NCBHA
Joey Thompson	NC Bowhunters Association
Tommy Kimball	NCBA
Bobby Harris	AHA
Preston Tyndall	

## **COMMISSIONERS**

John Litton Clark, Chair	Jim Cogdell
Dave Hoyle	John Coley
Joe Barker	Garry Spence
Dell Murphy	Mark Craig
Durwood Laughinghouse	Tom Berry
Ray Clifton	Richard Edwards
Dalton Ruffin	Ray Clifton
Ray White	

### **Big Game Committee Meeting: January 16<sup>th</sup> 2013**

Committee meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairman Clark

After introductory comments by commissioners and Executive Director Myers, David Cobb reviewed Division of Wildlife Management efforts since November 2012 to address the inequity between houndsmen and still hunters regarding take of bears with bait. Colleen Olfenbuttel presented information regarding this issue. In addition to addressing the equity issue a primary goal in the Black bear Management Plan is to stabilize the statewide bear population. Much of the discussion centered on options to address the inequity between hunters and bear management goals.

Two of the possible options to resolve the equity issue include 1) prohibiting all hunters from taking bears with the aid of unprocessed foods, or 2) allowing all hunters to take bears using the aid of unprocessed food. Details of possibly implementing each option were discussed at length. One point of agreement among attendees was the need to establish a new bear “license” so that all bear hunters can be identified. This ability to identify hunters will allow for collection of additional hunter and harvest data required to reliably evaluate any changes in hunting seasons or techniques. There was general recognition that an inequity exists, and that there are enough differences among regions of the state such that a “one size fits all” model for the entire state will not likely be successful. Other topics of discussion included increasing the bear limit to 2 bears, concerns about commercialization of bear hunting, and the need, or lack thereof, for bait in order to be able to effectively hunt bears with dogs.

The committee agreed to consider all the input provided and continue working on the issues.

Chairman Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:52 am.