



***Big Game Committee Meeting Summary
November 6, 2013 at 11:00 am
NCWRC, 5th Floor Commission Room***

Meeting Attendees

• **Committee Members:**

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| David Hoyle, Jr. – Big Game Committee Chair | John Litton Clark |
| Wes Seegars | John Coley |
| Tom Berry | Tommy Fonville |
| Ray Clifton | Richard Edwards |
| Garry Spence | Michell Hicks |
| Tim Spear | |

• **Commissioners:**

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| Joe Barker | Jim Cogdell |
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• **Staff:**

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| Mallory Martin | Isaac Harrold |
| Gordon Myers | Chris Dillon |
| Betsy Haywood | Dale Caveny |
| Brad Howard | Geoff Cantrell |
| Kate Pipkin | Bob Curry |
| Perry Sumner | Lisa Hocutt |
| David Cobb | Evin Stanford |
| Colleen Olfenbuttel | Brad Gunn |
| David Sawyer | |

• **Visitors:**

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| Hal Atkinson – Camp-Younts Foundation | Fred Harris, NC Wildlife Federation |
| David Simmons – NC Bear Hunters Assoc. | Russell Poole, NC Bowhunters Assn. |
| Gerald W. Smith – HMRPC | Dianne Newton – NCBA |
| William Newton – NCBA | Jim Noles - NCBHA |
| Dick Hamilton NCWF | Greg Culpepper |

Big Game Committee Chair David Hoyle, Jr. called the meeting of the Big Game Committee to order at 11:05 am.

Policy Related to Fungicide-Treated Peanuts

Dr. David Cobb updated the Committee on the policy related to seed peanuts that have been treated with fungicide to preserve them. Research by staff veterinarian Dr. Maria Palamar reveals that the seed peanuts, which are chemically processed, are somewhat toxic to animals. As a processed food product they are illegal for use as bait.

Discussion of Proposed Youth Deer Season Regulation Change

The Committee recommends deferring discussion of a youth deer season. Staff was tasked with compiling and evaluating recorded deer harvest data for the last two years for discussion at a later Big Game Committee meeting.

Discussion of Proposed Bear Hunting Season Regulation Changes

The Committee reviewed proposed rules changes to be taken to public hearings pertaining to bear hunting. Dr. Cobb announced that all proposals are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Bear Management Plan. Discussion included proposals to open bear hunting seasons in counties in the Piedmont Bear Management Unit to run concurrent with the gun deer season. Discussion was held about allowing bears to be taken with the use or aid of unprocessed foods but not while actually consuming the unprocessed foods on private lands in certain counties and under certain circumstances. The Committee discussed the statutory authority of the NCWRC to regulate hunting with dogs and noted that east of the “dog line” the statutory authority exists only on game lands. Existing protections remain for hunting with dogs east of the dog line.

The Committee asked Dr. Cobb to provide graphics at the public hearings to better explain the bear hunting proposals.

Discussion of Submission of Bear Tooth When a Bear is Taken

The Committee discussed creating a process whereby a tooth from any bear taken in hunting will be provided to the WRC in order to collect biological data. The Committee agreed that educating the hunters is important to encourage more data collection. Staff was asked to investigate various methods of collecting data and to report back to the Committee of the Whole.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Hoyle at 11:55 am.