

Resolution to add Black Bear to the Urban Wildlife Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's mission is to conserve wildlife and outdoor sporting heritage, including important game species such as the black bear, and

WHEREAS, there are on average 1,000 nuisance bear complaints per year in Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the majority of these complaints involve a human attractant and occur within municipal limits, and

WHEREAS, there is currently no state sponsored programs to assist communities to proactively resolve bear complaints, and

WHEREAS, hunters and the general public overwhelmingly support non-lethal management to reduce complaints, and proactive management will reduce the amount of total complaints, cost, and use of direct controls such as translocation and lethal means, and

WHEREAS, the urban wildlife grant program is already established in state statute 29.887, providing assistance to municipalities to manage deer and geese complaints, and

WHEREAS, similar grant programs for black bear in Colorado and Florida have experienced a reduction in complaints, with Colorado experiencing a 60% reduction, and

WHEREAS, the cooperative agreement for managing bird and bear complaints in Wisconsin currently costs \$360,000 a year, the addition of black bear to this grant program will reduce these costs, and

WHEREAS, cost sharing with the state will provide an incentive for municipalities to become actively involved in preventing bear complaints through the management of human attractants, such as bear resistant trash canisters, and the implementation of public education efforts, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin on April 12th and 13th of 2019 begin working with the legislature and the Department of Natural Resources to add black bear to the Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control grant program and increase the funding allocated to the program.

Submitted by Conservation Leadership Corps alumni:
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Sources:

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