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

Meeting Attendees

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

- **Commissioners:**
  Joe Barker  
  Jim Cogdell

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

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