

Hunting small populations is not sustainable

No Bear Hunt NV has questioned the scientific conclusions supporting the bear hunt since the hunt was approved. After a decade of a stable bear population, the department biologists reported an average annual population growth rate of 16%. No explanation for this sudden, dramatic increase was given. Multiple organizations and wildlife biologists, hired by No Bear Hunt NV, have disagreed with the department's assessment.

Dr. Steve Stringham, a bear biologist with decades of experience studying bear populations, explains why the department's statistical analysis does not make sense. He also gives suggestions on how to deal with human-bear conflict.

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Dr. Hopkins, an expert in the ecology and biology of large mammals, agrees that the Nevada Department of Wildlife fails to provide detailed information regarding the population estimate and fails to incorporate the spatial and social complexity that represents the black bear population in Nevada.

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The Sierra Club's Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee, comprised of wildlife and conservation biologists from all parts of the country, strongly opposed authorization by the commission of the black bear hunt. They agreed that the department had not met the burden of proof that an annual hunt is sustainable and that the hunt would not support the interests of the majority consensus nor the public trust.

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Conservation Group Big Wildlife, in conjunction with NoBearHuntNV, filed a petition with the US Dept of the Interior for Nevada's sky island black bears to be listed as a Distinct Population (DPS) under the federal endangered species act.

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The Humane Society of the US opposed the bear hunt for similar reasons. Our black bears are facing habitat loss. No data has been presented to demonstrate the necessity of a hunt. Additionally, there is no justification for hunting with hounds. Hounds stress the bears they are pursuing. They harass non-target animals. The hounds are occasionally injured or killed during the hunt.

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NoBearHuntNV issued a position paper prior to the 2011 hunt.

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