

NORTH CAROLINA BEAR BAITING FACTS

- Bear baiting violates the basic principle of fair chase and lacks the skills involved in traditional hunting.
- Baiters dump piles of unnatural food in the woods, and then shoot the animal after she has been habituated to the food source.
- Baiting is currently largely prohibited. Hound hunters are allowed to release their dogs at bait sites, but “still hunters” can’t currently use bait.
- Baiting can actually lead to increased human/bear conflicts. Baiting acclimates bears to human food, and also teaches them to associate human scents with food. Although black bears are shy by nature and will typically avoid humans, this association with food can lead to conflicts and nuisance bears.
- Rather than serving as a method of population management, baiting can actually cause an increase in bear populations. Because diet and nutrition affect the reproductive rates of bears, the access to abundant and unnatural food sources from baiting can cause a higher rate of cub production.
- Baiting poses significant dangers to other species of wildlife in addition to bears. By unnaturally concentrating animals around an artificial food source, the risk for disease transmission is increased. Because species may come into contact more often, the chances for fighting and conflicts also heightens. Baiting bears can cause competition and stress on non-target wildlife, creating a much-wider impact than on bears alone.

