

OFAH FILE: 405/452
October 4, 2013

Mr. Eric Boysen, Director
Ministry of Natural Resources
Biodiversity Branch
5th Floor North
300 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 8M5

Subject: Expansion of Black Bear Hunting Opportunities

Dear Eric:

In recent months, the OFAH has received numerous calls from members about increasing black bear populations and an apparent expansion of black bear range in southern Ontario. In previous discussions with MNR staff, we were informed that the MNR considers bear populations status and public acceptability when considering new black bear hunting seasons. Given the recent progress that the MNR has made towards estimating bear populations, the OFAH believes that black bear hunting opportunities can be expanded into Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) that do not currently support a bear season.

On behalf of our 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 710 member clubs, the OFAH respectfully requests that the MNR initiate a review of WMUs within black bear range to determine if current hunting opportunities can be expanded into new areas. Specifically, we recommend examining WMUs that are immediately adjacent to WMUs that currently support bear hunting seasons (e.g. 77, 78A-C, 80-82, and 84-86).

We look forward to discussing with you the details of this proposal in the near future.

Yours in Conservation,

Mark Ryckman, M.Sc.
Senior Wildlife Biologist

MR/gh

cc: Deb Stetson, MNR Wildlife Policy Section
Mike Gatt, MNR Southern Region
OFAH Board of Directors
OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director
Terry Quinney, OFAH Provincial Manager of Fish & Wildlife Services
Greg Farrant, OFAH Manager of Government Affairs and Policy
OFAH Fish & Wildlife Staff