



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
NEW ENGLAND

January 15, 2025

Re: DFW Bear Hunting Regulations 321 CMR 2 00 and 321 CMR 3 02

Dear Director Tisa, Chairman Sears, and Members of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board:

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) seeks to ensure North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting. Our members advocate for access and opportunity to hunt and fish on public lands and science-based management of wildlife to ensure healthy fish and game populations persist on the landscape.

With these things in mind, we support the Division's proposed regulatory amendments to 321 CMR 3.02(1) Hunting of Bear Regulations in Massachusetts and respectfully submit the following comments.

**3.02 (1):**

- BHA supports the clarification that naturally growing vegetation does not constitute baiting.
- BHA supports the Youth Bear Hunt Permit as proposed and the ability of youth hunters to use their tag on any day of the open season, including during the Youth Deer Hunt.
- BHA supports the creation of a single open season for bears running Labor Day and ending at the close of the shotgun deer season. This change simplifies the season's structure and creates more opportunities for hunters who wish to pursue bear.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

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