

From: Greensboro Conservation Commission

To: The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and Members of the Fish & Wildlife Board

Re: Intentional Killing of Sows with Cubs

**Please vote to prohibit the intentional
killing of a sow with cubs**

The majority of states with bear hunting prohibit killing mothers with cubs. Notable exceptions are New Hampshire, Alaska, Maine, and Vermont.

Bear cubs are completely dependent for two summers and many mother bears keep their cubs in a safe place, like up a tree, while they go off and forage. Therefore, her cubs are not always present.

Consequently, it follows that hunters should not shoot a bear without knowing what its gender is and checking the area for cubs. Hunters should be able to discern the gender of a bear based on educational materials provided by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife:

<https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/black-bear>

In addition, there are also numerous videos online with expert instruction on how to tell a black bear sow from a boar.

Vermont has no bear rehabber so any orphaned cubs lucky enough to be found must be sent to The Kilham Bear Center in NH. <https://kilhambearcenter.org/>

Those cubs not found inevitably die from predation, exposure or starvation which is why Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department biologists discourage the killing of a sow with cubs.

Allowing the killing of sows with cubs who will not survive without their mother would seem to be counter to the ethical treatment of wildlife and counter to best practices of forest ecology / biodiversity.

Thank you.

Chris Steel, Chair, Emma Palumbo, Clerk, Jane Hoffman, Treasurer, JoAnn Hanowski, Erika Karp, Liza Kiesler Will Marlier, Peter Watkinson, Betsy Youngman