

0  
Comments

# Let's not try to hide the 'bear' facts with semantics



By Fred J. Aun/For The Star-Ledger

on July 17, 2009 at 7:10 PM, updated October 25, 2009 at 6:35 PM

Print

0

Tweet

Log In

0

Share

Dribbble

Reddit

One of the recently approved changes to the state Game Code modifies what New Jersey is calling the places where, maybe someday, people will be able to again hunt black bear. No longer will these areas be referred to as "Bear Hunting Areas." Instead, they'll be assigned the friendlier-sounding name "Bear Management Areas."

In a statement discussing that change, and the others approved last month by the state Fish and Game Council, the state Division of Fish and Wildlife said the name alteration "more accurately reflects management objectives, such as population and harvest densities, than the old language."

It could be argued that choosing the word "management" instead of the word "hunting" is little more than engaging in the use of a euphemism, defined by Random House as "the substitution of a mild, indirect, or vague expression for one thought to be offensive, harsh or blunt." It could also be argued that the same applies to the use of the word "harvest," instead of plain, old "kill."

There's no real harm in the wordplay. The only downside is that, in doing so, the division and the council are tacitly acknowledging that the word "hunting," and, therefore, the practice of hunting, is distasteful (if not offensive, harsh or blunt). It's too bad the agencies can't shrug off the image-consciousness and proudly call a hunting area a "hunting area." And instead of talking about "harvesting" game animals, why not just acknowledge that hunters, if they're any good at it, render those critters downright dead.

The problem is too many people fail to acknowledge, or even consider, the fact that hunting serves a purpose beyond satisfying the hunters' desire to leave those animals bereft of life.

Most of the critters killed by hunters end up on dinner plates, but that's not the point here.

Without natural predators or hunters to thin their population, large game animals will overpopulate their environment and run out of food. So, hunting is synonymous with wildlife management and it would be nice if we didn't have to partake in silly word substitution games.

If hunting is just another word for management, then banning a hunt is the same as failing to manage. And failing to manage is a nice way of saying "being irresponsible."

The last New Jersey bear hunt was in 2005. During the ensuing years, the bears certainly didn't stop making cubs. This wouldn't be as big a problem if it wasn't happening in the most densely populated state, a place riddled with chicken and rabbit coops, honey-producers' beehives, goat and sheep farms, enticingly fragrant kitchens and myriad sources of tasty human garbage. A place where hungry bears need not be content eating berries deep in the forest.

The result of this non-management is revealed in the periodic reports of the Fish and Wildlife Bear Unit. Between May 21 and June 20, the unit fielded 508 calls about bears causing problems, some of them serious. During the same period in 2008, the unit received 128 calls.

The list of problems caused by this explosion of unmanaged bruins includes quite a few instances of bears forcing their way into garages and houses, killing livestock and pets and charging at people. Sugar-coated words have their place, but the Corzine Administration, which pulled the plug on bear hunting and has allowed the bruin population to surge unchecked, should not expect angry people to use euphemisms when one of these incidents results in a human death.

0

Tweet

Log In

0

Share

Dribbble

Reddit

0

Tweet

Log In

0

Share

0

Award-Winning  
Property ManagementA Leader in ENERGY STAR  
Certified Buildings

## Latest Local Scores

| MLB Baseball |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Tue, Sep 16  |                     |
| Philadelphia | 10:10 ET<br>Preview |
| San Diego    |                     |
|              |                     |
| Miami        | 7:10 ET<br>Preview  |
| NY Mets      |                     |
|              |                     |
| NY Yankees   | 7:10 ET<br>Preview  |
| Tampa Bay    |                     |

MLB Scores | NFL Scores | NCAA Scores

© 2013 STATS LLC. All rights reserved.

party poker  
Need help?  
 Gambling problem?  
 Call 1-800-522-4700

## Don't Miss: Sports mobile apps!

**FOLLOW YOUR TEAM**

**NJ.com**  
True Jersey.

**NJ.com SPORTS TEAM APPS**

## Sports Essentials

Latest sports photos  
from NJ.com

Must-watch sports  
videos

High School Sports  
scores, stats and more