

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS

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OFAH FILE: 405/452  
October 4, 2013

Mr. Eric Boysen, Director  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Biodiversity Branch  
5<sup>th</sup> 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryckman', is positioned below the text '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