



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

December 5, 2007

Dr. Lynn Rogers
145 W. Conan Street
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Dear Dr. Rogers,

As you are aware, a cabin owner in the Eagles Nest Township area has a sow black bear with 2 cubs of the year denning under the cabin. The sow has a radio collar, and is believed to be the bear you refer to as "Solo." It has been reported to Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) staff that this same bear damaged a screen house nearby earlier this year, and "pushed" the cabin owner's relative as he was tending to his dock last spring. The cabin owner is quite concerned about this bear's past behavior and does not want the bears to remain on the property. We share that concern and agree that the bears should be removed. The reported behavior of this bear towards humans is not normal for a wild bear, and may be a direct result of your activities, which have habituated the bear to human presence. Although no one can precisely predict the future behavior of this animal, when making public safety determinations, DNR and local law enforcement must err on the side of public safety.

Consequently, DNR will remove this bear and the cubs from the property in question. We will consider capturing all of the bears alive and issuing a permit to the North American Bear Center to possess the sow (and perhaps the cubs) in captivity, or the adult bear will be euthanized and we will consider relocation of the cubs. If you choose to accept the bear, a requirement of the permit would include a provision that the bear not be released at any time into the wild or transferred to another facility. If you are interested in such a permit, please advise me as soon as possible so we can further discuss the terms.

If I do not hear from you by December 14, 2007, I will assume you are not interested in obtaining a permit to possess this bear in captivity.

As you are also aware, DNR investigated reports of another radio-collared bear, believed to be the bear you refer to as June, approaching and biting one or more people last summer. Again, this behavior is not normal for a wild bear, and may be a direct result of your activities, which have habituated the bear to human presence. Because the bite did not break the skin, and considering other factors,

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DNR did not take immediate action in this case, but we remain quite concerned about this bear's abnormal behavior, as well.

DNR takes its responsibility to public safety very seriously. On a case-by-case basis, when individual bears demonstrate abnormal behavior towards people, we will err on the side of public safety when deciding whether such animals need to be removed from the population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. DonCarlos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael W. DonCarlos
Wildlife Research and Policy Manager
(651) 259-5202

c: Jeff Lightfoot, Regional Wildlife Manager
Capt. Ken Spring, Regional Enforcement Manager