

Guest Questions from Bear Ad Hoc Committee meeting 11/4/24

(Note questions are in blue type, answers are in red type)

18:11:57 From Alan Alters:

Is there anyone out there that can simply respond with the mission of this committee in chat? Simple courtesy?

Mission:

Promotes safe coexistence between residents and the local bear population through education on bear-proofing and safe encounter practices, fostering respect for wildlife within the community.

This info can be found on the PMCPOA website at this link:

<https://www.pinemountainclub.org/general-6>

You will note that there is a statement “Charter Coming Soon”. This is a brand-new committee.

18:18:59 From Alan Alters:

What is the crime?

I’m not certain what this question pertains to, but if you are asking about the crime of feeding wildlife, it is under California Code of Regulations section 251.3 which states “no person shall knowingly feed big game mammals, as defined in Section 350 of these regulations.”

18:19:53 From Paul Mobley:

Patrice I appreciate your comments regarding criminal protection of the bear feeders. What is PMCPOA doing regards to Civil lawsuits for property damages and costs associated with Patrol investigations?

PMCPOA is not the victim of the bear-caused damages, and no civil lawsuits have been filed on behalf of the POA. The victims are the homeowners whose homes have been damaged. In order to bring a civil complaint against an individual you suspect of feeding bears, you must be able to prove that their actions directly caused your damages. I’m no lawyer, but I think this would be tough to prove to the extent a civil action could prevail.

Although calls for assistance with bears are certainly not a part of the official job description for PMC Patrol officers, it is part of the job and so no “additional” costs are incurred by the POA.

18:49:17 From Paul Mobley:

There are over 20,000 to 40,000 black bears in California most of them are in to Northern California Counties. Many of them have to deal with Bear Invasions. What are other mountain communities doing successfully where they have significantly higher density of BEARS? The most recent data on CDFW for bears taken in the hunt goes back to 2022. 2022 Black Bear Tooth Age Data (PDF)

The estimated number of black bears in California varies wildly depending on what source you believe. The CA Fish & Wildlife estimate is **50,000-81,000** statewide. Take the Lake Tahoe basin, for example. There is a high concentration of black bears in that area. Half of the basin is under CA Fish & Wildlife, where the other half is under Nevada Fish & Game. I believe their laws are the same or similar.

I used to live in Lake Tahoe, and I received my Wildlife Handling Certification from Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. They are one of only a very few wildlife rehab centers that are permitted by CDFW to take in black bears. As far as I am aware, they do nothing different there than they do here, except that the county ordinances include a code that states all trash receptacles must be bear-resistant. There is no such code for Kern County, but PMCPOA has some strict rules about trash.

18:54:00 From Paul Mobley:

I cant hear WHAT IS MANDATORY

I'm not sure what you are referring to here, Paul – did someone at the meeting answer this for you? If not, let me know.

18:55:44 From Alan Alters to Jennifer Emett:

Hi Jennifer, I would love to help out. Can we chat for a few minutes?

Jennifer, can you please reach out to Alan about helping?

18:56:03 From Paul Mobley

Was that an emergency measure or permanent?

Paul, if this question is about the new bird feeding rule, I believe it is permanent.... But rules can change when the BoD deems it necessary.

19:03:17 From Paul Mobley

What is the number of bear feeders being followed up with criminal and civil efforts

As far as I am aware, there are no civil complaints at this time. There is at least one on-going criminal investigation, but like any other criminal investigation, details are not publicly available.

19:09:22 From Alan Alters:

Hi, I have learned a lot and have more questions, which may have already been answered. where is this information

Go to the source: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Living-with-Wildlife> There is also a link on this page for filing a Wildlife Incident Report (WIR)

19:09:49 From Alan Alters:

where is this information posted or made available for PMC members?

<https://www.pinemountainclub.org/general-1> this PMCPOA webpage specifically relates to bears in PMC. Much more detailed information can be found on the CA Fish & Wildlife website <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Living-with-Wildlife>

19:18:45 From Paul Mobley

where is the parato of repeat offenders?

Paul, I'm sure this is a typo – if you contact me directly, I can probably answer the intended question.

19:33:08 From Paul Mobley

Is there a policy to keep commercial foragers from taking away the food supply that bears naturally eat? I know there is an entity that take folks on foraging tours for elderberry, etc. Foraging within PMC to reduce apples, acorns, etc would be good to eliminate.

There is no PMCPOA policy regarding people harvesting what bears may eat in the forest. PMCPOA cannot mandate what happens off of PMCPOA property (i.e., Forestry land). Whatever folks may grow/harvest on their own property (apples, acorns etc) is not under the control of PMCPOA. We can advise on best practices, but it is not mandated.

19:40:28 From Alan Alters

STR tenants are unaware of this and frequently leave trash, which blows down hill. Is there a way to have the STR owner agree to inform tenants that they have to pack out their trash?

ALL STRs that register/operate within PMC are sent information that they are required to inform their tenants about. Trash is top of the list, with instructions on how to get to the Transfer Site, and the rules about trash/wildlife. Should the tenants disregard the rules, the property owners are held responsible.

If there are any other questions I may be able to answer, please email me directly at pspatrol@pmcpoa.com