



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2018-24

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2018, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 34 (EO 34) to exercise the full extent of the legal authority of the Governor and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to limit the hunting of American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) within the State in order both to promote the public safety and welfare and protect an important wildlife species that provides an overall benefit to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, EO 34 directs me, as Commissioner, to take all necessary and appropriate actions within my authority to protect black bears on lands controlled by the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 13:1B-5 authorizes me to exercise the State's proprietary authority to direct and coordinate the uses of all public lands under the jurisdiction of the Department, including all State forests, parks, recreation areas, historic sites, natural areas, and wildlife management areas; and

WHEREAS, in Safari Club International v. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 373 N.J. Super. 515 (App. Div. 2004), the Appellate Division affirmed the Department's authority to close all or any portion of its lands to hunting and to allow hunting of only certain species; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of Department lands from black bear hunting will allow for the limited protection of the black bear population in New Jersey while the Department continues to focus its resources on pursuing, developing, and increasing its alternative control methods and evaluating its policies, recommendations, and regulations related to black bear management on its lands, and is in the best interest of balancing conservation, recreation, preservation, and management of these lands at this time.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner, pursuant to the authority vested in me under N.J.S.A. 13:1B-5, hereby ORDER and DIRECT that all lands owned, managed or otherwise controlled by the Department, including, but not limited to, all State forests, parks, recreation areas, historic sites, natural areas, and wildlife management areas, are closed to the hunting of black bears.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall continue in effect until revoked or amended in writing by me.

Date: August 30, 2018



Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner