Proposed Changes to Wildlife Feeding Prohibitions

Staff is requesting final approval of proposed changes to wildlife feeding prohibitions under Administrative Code Rule 68A-4.001. The proposed amendments would:

1) Add ‘coyotes’ to the list of species in 68A-4.001(3). Coyotes are attracted to human-provided foods such as garbage, as well as prey on other animals attracted to human-provided foods. Adding coyotes to the list of species will further efforts to keep coyotes from frequenting human communities and creating a public nuisance.

2) Remove ‘black bears’ from the list of species in 68A-4.001(3). Black bears will have their own species-specific feeding prohibition that will differ from 68A-4.001(3) and specifically prohibit feeding of black bears (see below).

3) Add a new subsection (4) to 68A-4.001 using current subsection (3) language but with the following changes:
   a. Only applies to black bears
   b. The new subsection differentiates (a) intentional and (b) unintentional feeding to increase clarification and requires a written notification for unintentional feeding prior to a citation being issued.
   c. The new subsection exempts the intentional feeding prohibition from other rules related to bear feeding in Title 68-A.

4) Re-number subsequent subsections accordingly.

The current language (strike-through), and proposed language, (underline) follow.

68A-4.001 General Prohibitions.
   (1) No change.
   (2) No change.
   (3) Intentionally placing food or garbage, allowing the placement of food or garbage, or offering food or garbage in such a manner that it attracts black bears, coyotes, foxes, or raccoons and in a manner that is likely to create or creates a public nuisance is prohibited.
   (4)(a) Intentionally feeding bears is prohibited except as provided for in this Title.
   (b) Placing food or garbage, allowing the placement of food or garbage, or offering food or garbage that attracts bears and is likely to create or creates a nuisance is prohibited after receiving prior written notification from the Commission.
   (4) through (6) Renumbered to (5) through (7)