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Search called off for bear that wounded man

July 16, 2006

GATLINBURG (AP) -- State wildlife officials have called off their search for a female black bear that injured a Sevierville man in June.

Willard Perryman, law enforcement supervisor for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, says a bear trap that had been set in Gatlinburg was removed last week.

A bear swatted Max Lemmons of Sevierville in the face on June 30, leaving a 6-inch gash in his cheek.

Lemmons was taking pictures of the bear and her two cubs when his dog ran at the animal. Lemmons was wounded while trying to save the dog.

TWRA officers shot at a bear that same day, but there is no evidence they hit it.

Perryman says he is not aware of the bear being sighted in the area since the incident.

The two cubs were captured and taken to the Appalachian Bear Center in Townsend where they were to be released into the wild.

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