Shooting and Bear Dog Training Hours

In order to possess a firearm and harvest a bear under a Class A bear license, an applicant must carry proof of their license in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please call the Department of Natural Resources at (800) 847-9367.

Class A License Requirements

To be considered for a Class A bear license in 2019, an applicant must pay a $45-application fee and display a purple Heart recipient. Documentation is required.

BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS

Wisconsin Hunter Education Certificate or proof of a hunter education course taken after December 1, 2018. All bear hunting licenses are available at the DNR service centers, additional 1.75% convenience fee applies if paying online with a credit card. An individual utilizing this program are required to hunt within the zone in which they have successfully completed a course in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides copies of the license to the office of the wildlife hunter's employer, program, or service provider. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources via fax or email. Applications must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the start of the bear season.

• Class A bear license holder possesses a weapon as long as the mentor also holds a valid hunting license. Visit dnr.wi.gov for more information. Note: You must contact the nearest law enforcement or call the Conservation Officer at 800-222-6734 (1-844-GAMEREG) for collection of the teeth will be mailed to hunters who registered at a license agent incurs a $2 processing fee.

To report Natural Resource Violations, call Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential (800) 847-9367 or DNR.WI.GOV.

Hunting Mentorship Program

Hunting license. Visit dnr.wi.gov for collection of the teeth will be mailed to hunters who are on active duty and unable to hunt.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A CLASS A BEAR LICENSE IN 2019, AN APPLICANT MUST...
Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:
• hunt bear with any rifle, shotgun, air rifle, centerfire rifle less than .22 caliber, .22 shotguns, black powder, or .410 shotgun ammunition, fully automatic firearm or with ammunition loaded with non-expanding type bullets;
• use handgrips that are not muzzleloading handgrips unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger; These handgrips include a minimum barrel length of 18.5 inches measured from the muzzle end of the barrel, not including attached muzzle breaks, to the firing pin with the action closed;
• use a muzzleloading handgun unless it fires a single projectile weighing not less than 138 grains and is at least .44 caliber with a minimum barrel length of 7 inches measured from muzzle to breech;
• use a muzzleloader, unless it is a smoothbore muzzleloading firearm of .45 caliber or larger, or a rifled muzzleloading firearm of .40 caliber or larger;
• hunt bear with a bow having a pulling of less than 30 pounds. To be legal, broadband must be at least 7/8" wide and kept sharp.
• possess any poisoned, drug tipped arrow except those used in a crossbow; or a crossbow, from a stationary, non-motorized vehicle which is not attached to a motor vehicle.

Hunting Near Roadways

It is illegal to:
• hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center;
• discharge a firearm, shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow, from or across a roadway or within 50 feet of the roadway’s center. This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map.

(Note: Area surrounding the Mondeaux Flowage Recreation Area is closed to all forms of bear hunting and dog training from April 1 to September 30. This area is bordered by the following roads: County D on the north, County E on the west, FR 102 on the south, and FR 104 and FR 106 on the east. For details, visit idnr.dcnr.state.wi.us or call (715) 748-4875.

Baiting

1. Bait may be placed and used for the purpose of hunting bear or training bear dogs statewide, except that it is illegal for any person to place, use or hunt over bait placed for bears:
   - beginning the day after the bear season closes and continuing through the first Saturday of April
   - in excess of 10 gallons of bait at any site; that is not totally enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or stump which is capped with logs, rocks, or other
   - unless, when bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made inaccessible to deer and other wild animals.

(Note: Liquid scent used for hunting bear or training bear dogs shall not exceed 3% alcohol by volume and may not exceed 10 gallons limit.)

(Note: There is no limit to the number of bear bait sites a person may establish.)

2. No person may place, use, or hunt over bait scent that:
   - contains any animal part or animal by-product; Animal part or by-product means any part of a dead animal, but is not limited to, honey, bones, fish, meat, solid fat, fat, bacon, puree, animal, or part of it is not manufactured or used in the form of liquid scents or
   - attracts bears by the methods commonly referred to as “honey burns” or “bacon burns” is not legal;
   - contains or is contained in material, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to state or county wildlife service designed to prohibit bear from being placed in hollow logs or stomps;
   - is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or repels bait automatically, mechanically or by
   - is located within 50 yards of any established and maintained trial pack, except those used by the person who within 100 yards of a roadway having a posted limit of 45 MPH or more.

3. No person may place or use bait that is not a bait site possessing a valid, unused Class A bear license and carcass tag.

4. No person may place bait material for non-hunting purposes.

(Note: You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices).

5. No person may hunt or train dogs over a bait site that is in violation of these regulations unless the area is completely free of bait material at least one consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

(Note: Removal of illegally placed bait or food material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.)

Baiting With Chocolate

Solid blocks of chocolate should not be used. Chocolate can be toxic or lethal to bears and other wildlife in specific cases.

Validation and Tagging

• The hunter is required to possess a paper carcass tag while hunting. Electronic copies of carcass tags are not accepted.
• Immediately upon killing a bear, validate the paper carcass tag by removing the bottom portion (the “validation tab”).
• If you leave it, tag it! You may not leave the bear carcass unless the validated carcass tag is attached to it. Either write on the tag as soon as you plan to leave the carcass. Attach the tag with string or other fastener.
• Carcass tags must be kept intact and legible; consider protecting the tag inside a zip-top plastic bag.
• Person may possess or transport a bear carcass unless in possession of the validated carcass tag.
• No person may possess, while hunting or afield, a validated bear carcass tag unless it is the person’s Class A bear license holder, it is still the Class A bear license holder’s responsibility to validate that carcass tag.

Field Dressing

• A bear may be divided into not more than 5 parts, not including the hide, only to facilitate removal of the meat from the field. The hunter may divide the carcass prior to registering the bear. The head and neck shall remain attached to one of the other parts of the animal, not including the hide. A person who divides the bear while allowed may not allow the bear to be stored or transported with any other bear that has been divided prior to registration;
• may not divide any part of the manner in which does not keep one part of the bear intact to allow it to be measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail to determine it as an adult bear of 42 inches or greater;
• must remove all parts from the field except the entrails.

Other Restrictions

It is illegal to:
• shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill or kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs.
An adult bear is defined as a bear 42 inches or greater in length, as measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42" log next to their bait to assist in determining the size of a bear. If you’re not sure, don’t shoot!
• sell, buy, trade, or barter bear hides unless the claws, head, and teeth are attached. Bear claws and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded, or bartered when separated from the hide. The sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

Black Bear Management Zones/Units Map

Hunters may only hunt in the zone indicated on their license. Bear Management Zone and Game Management Units that appear on this map are intended to help successful hunters register their bear.

Finding Land Open to Hunting

Nearly 7 million acres of land are open to public hunting in Wisconsin. The areas that are designated as “public lands” in the Black Bear Management Zones/Units Map are designated as “Public Lands.”