

Bear hunting/dog training hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset. The table below lists these times for Zone A. To determine opening (AM) and closing (PM) times for other zones, add the minutes shown on map at left to the times listed in the table below.

September 2016	Southern Area Hours		Northern Area Hours		
	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
7	5:52	7:35	5:49	7:36	
8	5:53	7:33	5:50	7:34	
9	5:54	7:31	5:52	7:32	
10	5:55	7:29	5:53	7:30	
11	5:56	7:27	5:54	7:28	
12	5:57	7:26	5:55	7:26	
13	5:59	7:24	5:57	7:24	
14	6:00	7:22	5:58	7:22	
15	6:01	7:20	5:59	7:20	
16	6:02	7:18	6:00	7:18	
17	6:03	7:17	6:02	7:16	
18	6:04	7:15	6:03	7:14	
19	6:05	7:13	6:04	7:12	
20	6:06	7:11	6:05	7:11	
21	6:08	7:09	6:07	7:09	
22	6:09	7:07	6:08	7:07	
23	6:10	7:05	6:09	7:05	
24	6:11	7:04	6:10	7:03	
25	6:12	7:02	6:11	7:01	
26	6:13	7:00	6:13	6:59	
27	6:14	6:58	6:14	6:57	
28	6:16	6:56	6:15	6:55	
29	6:17	6:55	6:17	6:53	
30	6:18	6:53	6:18	6:51	
October 2016	1	6:19	6:51	6:19	6:49
2	6:20	6:49	6:20	6:47	
3	6:21	6:47	6:22	6:45	
4	6:23	6:46	6:23	6:44	
5	6:24	6:44	6:24	6:42	
6	6:25	6:42	6:25	6:40	
7	6:26	6:40	6:27	6:38	
8	6:27	6:38	6:28	6:36	
9	6:29	6:37	6:29	6:34	
10	6:30	6:35	6:31	6:32	
11	6:31	6:33	6:32	6:31	

Registration and Submitting Tooth Samples

- Registration is mandatory.
- Successful hunters must electronically register bears they harvest, in the management zone of kill or in an adjoining management zone, by 5 PM the day after the kill. There are three ways to do this:
 - Go to gamereg.wi.gov.
 - Call (844) GAME REG (844-426-3734).
 - Visit an in-person station. Call (888) 936-7463 or go to dnr.wi.gov and search "registration stations" to find a list.
- When registration is complete, you will be given a confirmation number. Record this number in pen/pencil where indicated on the carcass tag.
- Keep the carcass tag, which has been marked with the confirmation number, until all meat has been consumed.
- This year, successful hunters are required to provide one upper pre-molar tooth from each harvested bear to determine the bear's age. Instructions for collection of the teeth will be mailed to hunters who draw Class A licenses, and is also available at dnr.wi.gov keyword "bear registration." Hunters will be notified of the bear's age after samples are analyzed.
- If hunters do not have DNR-provided materials, they should write their name, customer ID number and registration confirmation number on a piece of paper and affix the tooth to it with tape. Enclose this in an envelope and mail to: Bear Tooth, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

Questions?

Contact the DNR Call Center (888) WDNR INFO (888-936-7463) • local (608) 266-2621 • DNR.WI.GOV
TTY Access via relay - 711

Available 7 days a week, 7:00 AM until 10:00 PM.

Spanish and Hmong speaking representatives are available.

Report Natural Resources Violations

CALL or TEXT
(800) TIP-WDNR
(800-847-9367)

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential

This pamphlet is a summary of Wisconsin's bear hunting laws and regulations. For a complete set of laws and regulations, please refer to the Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need this information in an alternative format, please call (608) 266-8204.

- NEW!** Holders of a Class A license must carry proof of their license while engaging in any of the activities requiring the license and display it to a warden upon request. See dnr.wi.gov and search "Go Wild" for acceptable forms of proof in lieu of original license issued at the point of sale.
- Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference point system. Applicants receive a preference point every year they apply and are not drawn for a Class A license. For each zone, **applicants with the greatest number of preference points are chosen first to receive a Class A license.** Hunters who apply as a group will enter the drawing with the preference point total of the group member with lowest preference. **Hunters must apply for a license or preference point at least once every 3 years to retain their preference points.**
- To be considered for a Class A bear license in 2017, an applicant must pay a \$4.50 application fee and provide zone preference to the license agent at the time of purchase. Applications go on sale in March and the **application deadline is midnight, Dec. 10, 2016.** If a zone is selected at the time of purchase and you are selected in the drawing, your preference points will be reset to zero even if you do not purchase a Class A license. Unsuccessful applicants automatically receive a preference point.
- Applicants who will not be bear hunting in 2017 but would like a preference point should inform the license agent at the time of purchase.
- It is the hunter's responsibility to determine if he or she was selected in the drawing. Preference points will not be reinstated for hunters who were unaware of their drawing status.
- Applicants may submit applications online at gowild.wi.gov. There is an additional \$1 convenience fee for submitting online.
- Non-residents may purchase Class A licenses at the resident rate if they are current active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and were Wisconsin residents when they enlisted.
- Hunters drawn for a 2016 Class A license can purchase their license at any time beginning March 2016. However, licenses purchased after Sept. 6, 2016 are **not valid until three days after the purchase.** For example, a license purchased on Monday is valid on Thursday.
- Anyone charging a fee to provide bear hunting services must possess a guide license; a guide license does not grant Class A privileges.

Class A Bear License Transfer

- NEW!** A person may apply to transfer their Class A bear license to a Purple Heart recipient, a current active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces or holder of a valid Class A, B, C or D disability permit issued by the Department. (*Documentation required*).
- A person may apply to transfer their Class A license to a minor age 10-17.
- Preference points or Class A bear licenses can be transferred to a minor from a customer who is deceased.
- Recipient of the Class A bear license must be eligible to use the approval.

2016

Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations



Photo by Gary Kaeter

Jillian Kaefer, 18, harvested this bear while hunting near Grantsburg in September 2015. Jillian participated in the Learn to Bear Hunt Program in 2011 when she was 13 years old. After this positive experience, she started applying for preference points and was drawn for a harvest tag in 2015. "I applied what I learned and harvested this really nice bear pretty much on my own," said Jillian.

2016 Season Dates

Zone A, Zone B, Zone D

September 7 to September 13

- with aid of bait
- with other legal methods not using dogs

September 14 to October 4

- with aid of dogs
- with aid of bait
- with all legal methods

October 5 to October 11

- with use of dogs only

Zone C

September 7 to October 11

- with all legal methods not using dogs

Bear or Wolf Conflicts

Those experiencing conflicts with bears or wolves in Wisconsin should contact USDA Wildlife Services: (800) 228-1368 in northern Wisconsin, (800) 433-0663 in southern Wisconsin.

NEW IN 2016!

- Back tags are eliminated. They are no longer required or issued. You are still required to purchase a license.**
- Class B licenses are eliminated. See first NEW item in "Licensing Requirements" section.**
- Application fees for Class A licenses have increased from \$3 to \$4.50.**
- Class A licenses may now be transferred to Purple Heart recipients, current active duty U.S. Armed Forces members and holders of Class A, B, C and D disabled permits.**
- Because of changes to the licensing system, hunters should note the following:**
 - Carcass tags will be printed on regular paper.
 - Tagging requirements have changed. See NEW items in "Tagging" section.
 - Rules regarding proof of licenses have changed. See second NEW item in "Licensing Requirements" section.
 - Hunters must carry a pen or pencil with them in the field for validating carcass tags.
 - Tags must be kept intact and legible.

Licensing Requirements

Class A License Cost: Residents \$49, Non-Residents \$251

A Class A license is **required** to shoot and tag a bear. Hunters may only hunt in the management zone indicated on their license.

License Issuance

The number of Class A bear licenses available per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.

- NEW!** Residents and nonresidents may now participate in the following bear baiting, hunting and training activities without a Class B license if those activities are permitted and in compliance with applicable regulations: bait bears for hunting purposes (recreational feeding of bears remains illegal); train dogs to track bears; act as a backup shooter; assist hunters with pursuing bears, provided that a person does not shoot, shoot at, capture, take, or kill the bear (unless acting as a backup shooter).



Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
(888) 936-7463

PUB-WM-197 2016



- Transfer recipient will retain his/her accumulated preference points.
- Transfer application shall be submitted at least 15 days prior to the start of the bear season.
- Upon request, the DNR will defer the use of a Class A bear license approval for members of the Armed Forces or National Guard who are on active duty and unable to hunt.
- Bear transfer applications and information can be found at dnr.wi.gov keywords "permit transfer" or at DNR Service Centers.

Youth-Specific Information

- Youth under age 10** may engage in all bear hunting activities, except that they may not possess a firearm or shoot a bear. Youth applicants must be at least 10 by the first day of the bear hunting season that immediately follows the date of application.
- Youth ages 10-11** may only shoot a bear as a backup shooter or possess a firearm if they are in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirement.
- Youth ages 12-13** who have not yet completed hunter education must be in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements. Youth ages 12-13 who have completed Hunter Education must be under adult supervision, within visual and voice contact of the adult, and must be in the presence of the Class A license holder to act as a backup shooter.
- Youth ages 14-15** who have not yet completed hunter education must be in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements. Youth ages 14-15 who have completed hunter education do not need to be in visual or voice contact with an adult while in possession of a firearm, but must be in the presence of the Class A license holder to act as a backup shooter.

Hunting Mentorship Program

Under this program, adults and youth age 10 or older may obtain a Class A hunting license without first completing a hunter education certification. Individuals utilizing this program are required to hunt within arm's reach of a mentor and may only possess one firearm, crossbow, or bow jointly between the mentored hunter and the mentor. A concealed weapon, legally possessed by a permit holder, is counted toward the one weapon limit but a youth age 10-17 is not allowed to hunt with a handgun. Visit dnr.wi.gov keyword "mentored hunting" for more information.

Finding Land Open to Hunting

Wisconsin has nearly 7 million acres of land open to public hunting. Information on various land types and programs can be found at dnr.wi.gov. Search the following keywords: public lands, public access to tax law land, voluntary public access lands, and wildlife damage abatement programs.

Backup Shooters

Backup shooters must adhere to the following rules:

- may only shoot for the purpose of killing a bear that was shot, but not killed, by a Class A bear license holder;
- may only shoot if the Class A bear license holder possesses an unused bear carcass tag valid for the zone being hunted;
- may only shoot if killing the bear is necessary to protect the safety of the members of the hunting party or others.

Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- hunt bear with any rimfire rifle, air rifle, centerfire rifle less than .22 caliber, .410 shotgun, handgun loaded with .410 shotgun ammunition, fully automatic firearm or with ammunition loaded with non-expanding type bullets;
- use handguns that are not muzzleloading handguns unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5½" 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 pull of less than 30 pounds, or use arrows with well-sharpened broadhead blades less than 7/8" wide;
- possess any poisoned, drugged or explosive-tipped arrow while hunting;
- hunt bear with a crossbow, unless it has a minimum draw of 100 pounds, a workable safety and uses at least 14-inch long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads. Compound bows equipped with a drawlock mechanism that is capable of holding the bow at full draw are considered crossbows, which are exempt from the 100-pound requirement but must meet the 30-pound minimum;
- possess in a vehicle or transport in or on a moving vehicle any firearm (other than a handgun) or bow unless it is unloaded* or any crossbow unless it is unloaded and decocked or unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case;
- load a firearm other than a handgun while it is in a vehicle, or discharge any firearm in or from any moving vehicle** or a stationary motorized vehicle except for certain disabled hunters with proper permits.

*A loaded firearm can be placed on, but not in, a vehicle which is stationary.** A person may load and discharge a firearm, bow or 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 highway 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: Class A and certain Class B disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact the DNR for more information.

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 following April 14th;
- 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 naturally occurring and unprocessed substances **which prevent deer from accessing the material.**

Note: Liquid scent used for hunting bear or training bear dogs does not need to be enclosed, but is part of the 10 gallon limit.)

- unless, when bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made inaccessible to deer.

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

Note: Baiting of any sort is not allowed on lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

2. **No person may** place, use, or hunt over bait or scent that:

- contains any animal part or animal by-product. Animal part or by-product includes, but is not limited to, honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, bacon grease, animal carcass, or parts of animal carcasses, but does not include liquid scents or cheese. Attracting bears by the methods commonly referred to as 'honey burns' or 'bacon burns' is not legal;
- contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to bait placed in hollow logs or stumps or to scent materials;
- is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish bait automatically, mechanically or by gravity;
- is located within 50 yards of any established and maintained trail, road, or campsite used by the public or within 100 yards of a roadway having a posted limit of 45 MPH or more.

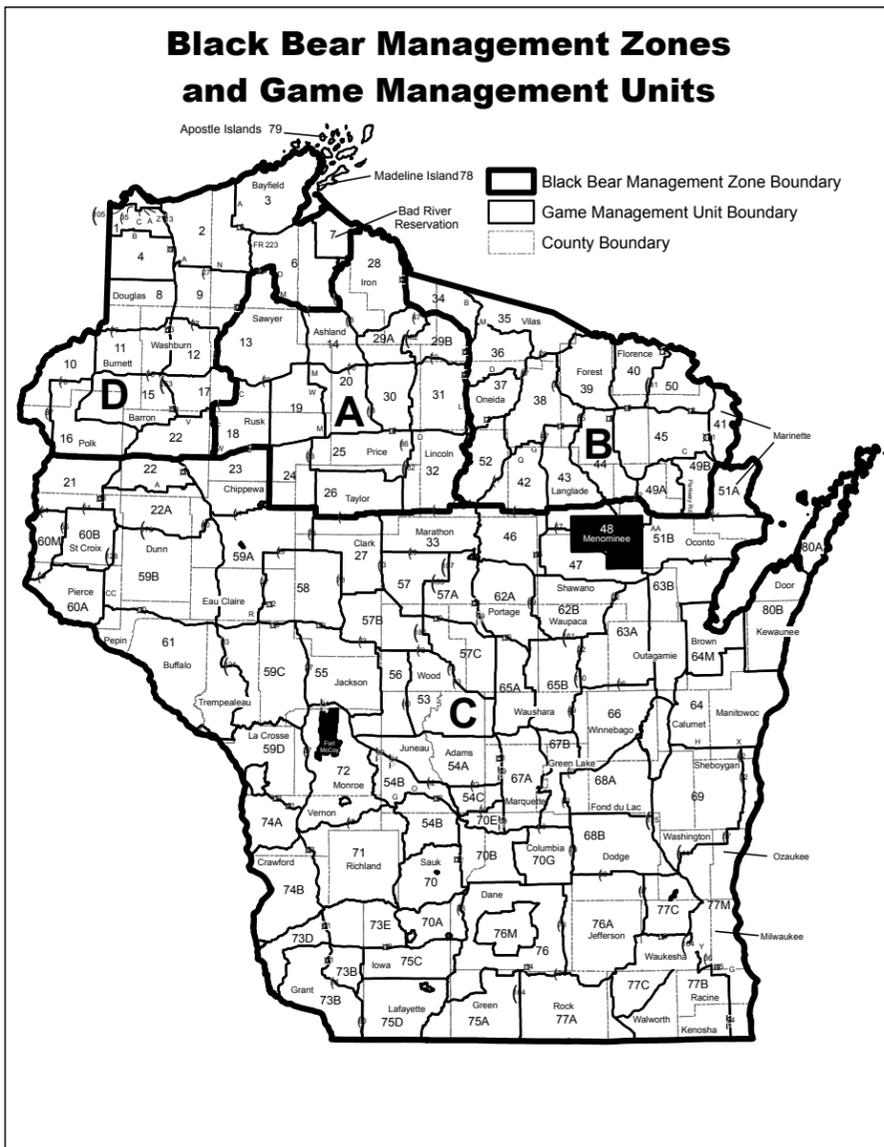
3. **No person may** hunt over bait material for bear without possessing a valid, unused Class A bear license and carcass tag.

Baiting With Chocolate

Solid blocks of chocolate should not be used. Chocolate can be toxic or lethal to bears and other wildlife, especially cubs.

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.



Note: The 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 fs.usda.gov/cnnf or call (715) 748-4875.

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 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

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

Tagging

- Immediately upon killing a bear, validate the carcass tag by writing the date and time of kill on the tag.
- **NEW:** You may not leave the bear carcass unless the validated carcass tag is attached to it. In other words, you attach the tag as soon as you leave the carcass. Attach the tag with string or other fastener as in the past. If you leave it, tag it.
- **NEW:** Carcass tags must be kept intact and legible; consider protecting them inside a zip-top plastic bag.
- **NEW:** No person may possess or transport a bear carcass unless also in possession of the validated carcass tag.
- **NEW:** No person may possess, while afield, a validated bear carcass tag unless that person is also in possession of the legally killed bear corresponding to it.
- **NEW:** No person may possess, while hunting or afield, more than one unique carcass tag; nor possess, borrow or loan another's license, permit or tag.
- If a backup shooter kills a bear that was shot, but not killed, by the 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 from the field. 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 afield:
 - 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 bear in a manner that 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 was an adult bear of 42 inches or greater;
 - must remove all parts from the field except the entrails.

Blaze Clothing Requirement

Bear hunters afield during the 2-day youth gun deer hunt on Oct 8 and 9, 2016, must wear blaze orange or fluorescent pink.

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 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.

Transport

While afield, no person may possess or transport another hunter's bear, even after it has been registered, unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag which is attached to the bear, except that anyone may still transport another person's registered bear on a public road or possess it at a residence, home, camp or business.

Dog Training and Use

Dogs may be trained statewide by pursuing bear from July 1 through Aug. 31. It is legal to train dogs in Zones A, B, and D during the season when hunting bear with aid of dogs is open. While hunting bear, or training dogs to pursue bear during the open season for hunting bear, **it is illegal to:**

- hunt or train dogs to pursue bear before or after established hunting hours;
- hunt bear with dogs in Zone C;
- train dogs by pursuing bear **except** during times stated above;
- hunt or train dogs unless one person in the group has on their person rabies tags and dog license tags for each dog;
- hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed or wearing a collar displaying the owner's name and address;
- hunt, train dogs or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a single pack, regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog's ownership;

Note: dogs that fall out of the chase may be replaced, but no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bear.

- allow the dogs to kill any wild animal;
- hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, May 1 to June 30 north of the highways shown on the map below, **except** for approved dog trials and training on free-roaming rabbits or raccoons under a hound dog trial or training license.

Dog Training Restrictions Area Map

