Hunting and Bear Dog Training Hours

Blaze Orange

During the two-day youth gun deer hunt that takes place on October 10–11, 2015, no person may hunt bear unless at least 50% of their outer clothing above the waist is colored blaze orange.

Finding Land Open to Hunting

Wisconsin has an abundance of land open to hunting, including forests, state-managed lands, and private lands. No hunting land enrolled in the Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law, Voluntary Public Access and Wisconsin Damage Abatement and Claims Programs. Combined, hunters have access to nearly 2.8 million acres of land throughout Wisconsin. If you are looking for a place to hunt this fall, please visit: dnr.wi.gov, keywords “public hunting lands” or “public access to tax law land”.

Bear or Wolf Conflicts

If you are experiencing conflicts with bears or wolves and are located in Northern Wisconsin, please contact USDA Wildlife Services at 1-800-228-1368 (in-state) or 715-369-5221. In Southern Wisconsin call 1-800-433-0666 (in-state) or 920-324-5414.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program

The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) provides two types of hunting opportunities for hunters, hunting during the special "hunting and bear dog training" shooting permits that can be used outside of the regular season. In order for farmers to be eligible for damage compensation in the WDACP, they must provide hunting access to the public during the regular open hunting season for the species that are causing damage. For more information about enrolling in WDACP for hunting on lands enrolled in WDACP, please visit: dnr.wi.gov, keywords “damage permit hunting”.

Questions?

Contact the DNR Call Center toll-free or visit the website. (1-888) WDNR INFOS (1-888-936-7463) & local (608) 266-2621

TTY Access via relay – 711

Staff are available 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. Spanish and Hmong speaking representatives are available.

dnr.wi.gov

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 (Statutes - Administrative Code - 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 questions, please refer to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interagency, Workforce Development, DNR - 115, 2015.

The DNR Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need the information in an alternative format, please call (608) 264-6294.

Notes:

• A Class B Bear License is required by a licensed guide who engages in any activities requiring a Class B Bear License. A guide license does not grant Class B Bear License privileges.
• A Class B Bear License is not required to place bait for bear or to train or assist with bear dog training on Aug. 15–16, 2015.
• Any person who is assisting a disabled person who holds a Class A or B Bear License and a Class A or B disabled hunting permit is exempt from needing a Class B Bear License.

Youth Specific Information

Persons under age 15 who do not need to purchase a Class B license to engage in the activities authorized by the Class B license, however:
• Youth ages 10-15 may engage in all the activities authorized by a Class B Bear License, except that they may not possess a firearm or shoot a bear.
• Youth ages 10-15 may only shoot a bear as a backup shooter or possess a firearm if they are in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements*. Youth ages 12-15 who have completed Hunter Education must be under adult supervision, within visual and voice contact with an additional licensed firearms. 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 additional licensed firearms. Must be in the presence of the Class A license holder to act as a backup shooter.
• The Hunting Mentorship Program requires that the youth must possess a valid Wisconsin hunting license if they must be monitored. Since youth ages 10–15 are not required to hold a Class B Bear License, any other type of Wisconsin hunting license will fulfill this requirement. Visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword “mentor hunting” for more information.

Bear Hunting Back Tag

The number of Class A Bear Licenses and tags available per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.
Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference point system. Applicants receive preference points each year they apply for licenses. They are not drawn for a Class A Permit. For each zone, applicants with the greatest number of preference points are chosen first to receive a Class A Bear License. Hunters not selected to receive a Class A permit (or any other type of bear license) will enter the drawing for these permits the following year. Applicants are drawn for the license according to their preferences. No preference points will be carried over to the following year. Hunters must apply at least one year prior to the license issue date to be entered into the drawing for a Class A permit. The license and associated privileges begin the following year. Hunters may not select more than 30 preference points in any given year; after 30 preference points, hunting is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other Restrictions

• load a firearm other than a handgun while it is in a vehicle
• hunt bear with a crossbow, unless it has a minimum draw weight of 30 pounds;
• possess any poisoned, drugged, or explosive-tipped arrow
• hunt bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds;
• discharge a firearm or shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a stationary, non-motorized vehicle except for certain disabled hunters with a valid Class A gun license, who are registered according to the procedures outlined under “Tagging and Registration.”
• hunt, train dogs or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a group
• sell, buy, trade or barter bear hides unless the claws, head and teeth are attached. Bear cliffs and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded or bartered unless the hide is attached to the head from which it was removed.

Note: To become a member with lowest preference.

Baiting

1. 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 before the bear season closes and continuing through the following April 14;
• in excess of 10 gallons of bait at any site;
• that is not totally enclosed in a box, a bale in the ground or stump which is capped with logs, rocks, or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which prevent deer from accessing the bait; or
• contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed material. Bait that is not applied to place bait in holes of lumps or stumps or to scent materials;

• that is in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish bait automatically, mechanically or by gravity;
• that is located within 50 yards of any established and maintained trail, road, or campsite used by the public or within 100 yards of the roadway of any state, local or county road;

• may hunt over bait material for bear without possessing a valid, unused Class A Bear License and carcass tag.

2. Person may place bait material for bear hunting without possessing a valid Class A or Class B Bear License, unless under 16 years of age. A license is not needed to place bait for a bear after Aug. 5-15, 2015 or for persons who are assisting a disabled person who holds a Class A or B Bear License and a Class A, B or C disabled hunting permit.

3. Person may hunt or train dogs over a bait that is in violation of these regulations unless the area is completely free of bait material at least 30 days prior to prior to registration, hunting, 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 feeding or feeding material in the area and is subject to a fine.

Baiting With Cheese

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

Tagging and Registration

• immediately upon killing and before field dressing or moving the bear you must tag the carcass by slitting the mark indicated on the tag and attaching it to the bear at any location.
• A backup shootor who kills a bear must ensure that the Class A Bear License holder will immediately attach their validated bear carcass tag to the bear.

Note: The saurus surrounding the Mondeaux Fl owage Recreation Area in Taylor County is closed to all forms of bear hunting and dog training from April 1- September 30. For details visit the 3USF’s website at www.wi.gov under the DNR.

Note: 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 prior to registration:

• may not allow the bear to be stored or transported with any other bear that has been divided prior to registration.

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, excepting poisons and bear dog training/hunting. Upon completion of registration, you will be required to record a confirmation number on your tag.

Note: Harvesters may transport legally possessed bear out of state provided they have a valid Wisconsin out-of-state transportation permit and reachable by phone. Information on the procedures outlined under “Tagging and Registration”.

Dog Training and Use

Dogs may be trained by pursuing bear statewide from July 1 through Aug. 15. It is legal to train dogs in Zones A, B, C, D and in the season when hunting with the aid of dogs is open. A Class B Bear License is not required to train or assist with bear dog training during the free bear dog training weekend.

Note: Dogs that fall out of the chase may be replaced, but no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bears regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog’s ownership.

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Hunters may only hunt in the zone indicated on their license.