

2012 Wolf Hunting and Trapping Season Information

June 4, 2012

Authorizing legislation: Act 169 signed by governor on April 2, 2012

Statutory Provisions:

License: Wolf trapping and hunting license combined

Fees: Application fee \$10, License fee \$100 resident and \$500 non-resident

Use of fees: License and application fees fund wolf depredation payments first and then other costs

License transfer: allowed by application to DNR no later than 15 days before season

Preference system: one half random drawing; one half by drawing based on preference

Season dates: October 15 to end of February

Legal Weapons: Firearms, bows, crossbows

Shot size: larger than BB allowed

Dogs: May use up to 6 dogs in a pack to track or trail wolves beginning day after deer season

Night Hunting: legal option beginning day after deer season

Use of Lights: flashlights only at point of kill

Cable restraints: May be used as a trapping method

Baiting: allowed for trapping; allowed but restricted for hunting

Calling: allowed including electronic calls

Reporting and registration of harvest: required

Harvest zones, quotas and permit levels: May be determined by department

Zone season closures: Protocol provided for closing seasons based on wolf harvest through news release, website, and telephone registration system.

Department Objective for 1st Wolf Season: Begin to reduce statewide wolf population; provide hunting and trapping opportunities; monitor, learn and adapt for future seasons.

Draft Rule Ideas for Public Feedback and Additional Tribal Consultation:

- Authority to allow licensed hunters and trappers to pursue wolves in any zone not yet closed or to restrict them to zones
- Quotas to consider population goals set in approved management plan, statewide wolf population size and trend, wolf population size and trend in zones, wolf impacts on human interests and other wildlife in zones, zone management approach, depredation control kills, and hunter and trapper harvests and impacts on wolves in past seasons. Tribal reservation packs would not be considered in quota calculations. Quotas approved by Natural Resources Board.
- Permit levels to consider quotas, hunting and trapping success rates, desire to offer maximum participation and season quality and maximum probability of reaching quotas while avoiding overharvest and premature season closures in zones. Permit levels approved by Natural Resources Board.
- Secretary authority to establish zones by secretary's order with approval by Natural Resources Board.
- Baiting for hunting with either deer or bear baiting option, if legal in county

- Foothold traps not to exceed jaw spread of 7 inches
- Cable restraints may be used beginning December 1
- Harvest reporting required within 24 hours of kill as for bobcat
- Registration required in person with DNR staff within 5 days of month of kill as for other furbearers with limited permits
- Tagging and transportation rules as required for other furbearers with limited permits
- Carcass parts surrender at registration as with otter, fisher and bobcat for research and management purposes
- Night hunting only over bait or while predator calling

Preliminary Harvest Zones Map: 7 zones proposed (see proposed map).

Preliminary Quota proposals for 2012: Total 143-233 with modest harvest rate in primary range zones, moderate harvest rate in secondary range zones, and heavy harvest rate in unsuitable range zones (see proposed zone map)

Preliminary Permit Level proposal for 2012: (total quota – tribal declaration) x 5; assuming success rate of at least 20% in first year, before the actual rate is known. For example: if quota = 200, tribal declaration = 100, and assumed hunter/trapper success rate = 20%, then $(200-100) \times 5 = 500$ permits for state-licensed hunters and trappers.

Public Input: Surveys available at public meetings. Letters may be sent to Wolf Management – WM/6, Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Testimony to Natural Resources Board can be arranged by contacting Laurie Ross at 608-267-7420 in DNR by July 12.

Rule Approval by Natural Resources Board: DNR recommendations will be approved or modified by the Natural Resources Board on July 17.

License Applications: Expecting to be available August 1 – 31 through ALIS system.

License, Pelt Tag and Carcass Tag: Will be printed at an ALIS vendor upon purchase of license by those notified that they were successful in the drawing.

More information: Watch for information developments on the DNR Website dnr.wi.gov and use the keyword “wolf”.

Volunteer Wolf Trackers Needed: Volunteer trackers are needed to determine future wolf counts to monitor the impact of the hunting and trapping seasons and to enable DNR to set responsible harvest quotas. If interested, call 715-762-1363.