**2019 Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations**

**Class A Bear License Transfer**

A person may apply to transfer their Class A license to a person younger than age 18, a person holding a valid Class A, B, or C disabled permit, an active duty military member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a Purple Heart recipient. Documentation is required.

Preference points or Class A bear licenses can be transferred to a minor from a customer who is deceased.

Class A Bear License Transfer Approval will be issued to the transferee.

**Bear Registration**

• Registration is mandatory.
• Successful hunters must electronically register bears they harvest, in the county of kill or in an adjoining county, by 5 p.m. the day after recovery. Register a bear in one of three ways:
  - Go to gamereg.wi.gov (fastest and easiest method).
  - Call 844-426-3734 (844-GAME-REG).
  - Visit an in-person station. Go to dnr.wi.gov and search "registration station" to find a list of approved sites.
• Once registration is complete, the Gamereg system will issue a confirmation number for the hunter’s record.
• Once the bear is registered, keep the carcass tag with the meat until all meat has been conserved.

**Submittting Bear Tooth Samples**

- Successful hunters are required to provide two upper pre-molar teeth in 2019. One tooth will be used to determine age, and one will be used for DNA sampling to support development of a statewide bear population estimate.
- Successful hunters can request the tooth be mailed to hunters who draw Class A licenses, and is also available at www.dnr.wi.gov. Keywords: "bear registration." Hunters will receive instructions for submitting samples.
- If hunters do not have DNR-provided materials, they should write the tooth, including the 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 Saffice Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

**Questions? Contact the DNR Call Center (888) W3R-DNR (888-936-7463) or dnr.wi.gov**

Spanish and Hmong speaking representatives are available.

Report Natural Resource Violations CALL or TEXT (800) TIP-W3R (800-847-9673) Toll Free | Statewide | 24-Hour | Confidential

**Reminders for 2019**

- Submission of two teeth from harvested bears is mandatory for 2019.
- A person of any age may acquire preference points or apply for a Class A bear license.
- Hunters should note the following:
  - Carcass tags are required and are printed on registered hunter information at a DNR service center or at a license agent. Reprinting tags at a license agent incurs a $2 processing fee.
  - Tagging requirements have changed. Tags are now validated by removing the bottom portion of the tag. See the "Validation and Tagging" section for details.
- While bear hunting, hunters must carry one of the accepted forms of proof of their Class A license on their person or in a "Licensing Requirements" section.

**Licensing Requirements**

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

Mentored License Cost: Resident and Non-resident $7

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 on factors that determine a hunter success rate and current bear population estimates.

- 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 "search warrants" and search "too wild" for acceptable forms of proof in lieu of original license issued at the point of sale. In addition, you must carry your paper carcass tag while engaging in hunting activities.
- Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference point system. Applicants receive a preference point every year they apply and are not awarded for a Class A license. For each zone, applicants with the greatest number of preference points chosen are first eligible to receive a Class A license. Up to 4 hunters may apply as a group. As hunters who apply, a group will enter the drawing with the preference point total of the group number with lowest preference. Hunters must apply for a license or preference point at least once every 3 years to retain their preference points.

**Shooting and Bear Dog Training Hours**

Bear shooting and dog training hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset during the bear harvest season. The table below lists those 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. Prior to the harvest season, shooting and training times between July 1 – Aug. 31: these hours do not apply.

**2019 Season Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>A Zone</th>
<th>B Zone</th>
<th>C Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 4 to Sept 10</td>
<td>Sept 4 to Oct 8</td>
<td>Sept 4 to Oct 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Dog&quot; may be used to locate bear and hunt with dogs</td>
<td>&quot;Dog&quot; may only hunt in the management zone indicated on your license.</td>
<td>&quot;Dog&quot; may use dogs with all legal methods, including bait and dogs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register a bear harvest with Gamereg

Online: [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)

By phone: 1-844-426-3734 (1-844-GAMEREG)

In person: Find a list of stations at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) or contact an Accessibility Coordinator at 608-267-7490.

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707

(888) 936-7463

**Accessibility**


- Bear transfer applications and information can be found at [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov). Keywords: "bear transfer" or DNR Service Centers.

**Hunting Education Requirements**

Persons born on or after January 1, 1973 must present their Wisconsin Hunter Education Certificate or proof of a hunter safety course recognized by the department from another state, province, or country; or a Wisconsin hunting license from a previous year that has been retroactively validated on or proof of successful completion of basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard to purchase a Class A bear license. If hunters do not complete hunter education, hunter may only obtain a license that requires hunting with a mentor in compliance with the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements.

**Youth-Specific Information**

- In order to possess a firearm and harvest a bear under a Class A license or serve as a backup shooter in the presence of a Class A license holder, youth must meet these requirements:
  - Youth under age 12 must be in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements.
  - Youth ages 12–13 who have not yet completed hunter education must be in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements. Youth ages 12–15 who have completed hunter education must be under adult supervision, within visual and voice contact of the adult.
  - Youth ages 12–17 who have completed hunter education may hunt bear without being accompanied by an adult and do not need to visibly or voice contact with an adult while in possession of a firearm.
- It is illegal to hunt with a handgun, including muzzleloading handguns, if under age 18 (see firearm and archery restrictions).

**Hunting Mentorship Program**

Under this program, a person may obtain a Class A hunting license without first completing hunter education certification. Individuals utilizing this program are allowed to hunt within arm’s reach of a mentor, and both the mentor and mentee may possess a weapon as the mentee also holds a valid hunting license. Visit [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov) keyword "Hunting" for more information.

**Backup Shooters**

Backup shooters must adhere to the following rules:

- May only shoot when the Class A bear license holder possesses an unused bear carcass tag valid for the zone being hunted.
- May only shoot for the purpose of killing a bear that was not killed, by a Class A bear license holder.
- May only shoot if the killing 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 riflfire, rifle, air rifle, centrefire less than 22 caliber, .40 caliber, 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. Thugs bear, or transients, have a minimum barrel length of 8 inches measured from muzzle to breech.
- disperse 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.
To be legal, broadheads must be at least .78" wide and kept sharp. Some arrow heads may be used.
- possess any poisoned, drugged or explosive-tipped arrow while hunting;
- hunt bear with a crossbow, unless it has a minimum draw weight of 100 pounds, a workable safety and uses at least 14-inch long broadheads equipped with broadheads. Compound bows equipped with a drawlock mechanism that is capable of holding the bow at full draw are considered crossbows, which require the same minimum equipment but must meet the 30-pound minimum.
- possess in a vehicle or transport in, on or a moving vehicle any firearm (other than a handgun) or bow unless it is unloaded or any crossbow unless it is in a stationary vehicle equipped with a drawlock mechanism that is incapable of being released without the operator's action.
- 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, 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 centerline;
- 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 centerline. 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 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 for any other hunting or hunting-related activities, 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 through March 31, these hours do not apply;
   - 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, or a cupped with logs, rocks, or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances that prevents the bait from being accessed by non-target species.

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

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

   (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:
   - consists of a feed or feed product. Animal parts or by-product includes, but is not limited to, honey, bones, fish, meat, fat, feather, feather meal, bacon grease, animal carcass, or parts of animal carcasses, but does not include liquid scents or cheeses.
   - containing bear by the methods commonly referred to as "honey bears" or "bait bears" is not legal; or
   - contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood, or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to scent materials, and does not prohibit bait from being placed in hollow logs or stumps;
   - 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 any public land within 100 yards of a roadway having a posted limit of 45 MPH or more.

3. No person may hunt bear over bait without possessing a valid, current Class A or B bear hunting license or permit.

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 or training any dog.

(Note: Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not constitute a legal use of the bait material, the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.)

Transport

While afield, no person may possess or transport another hunter’s bear, even if 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 place 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 illegal 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 shooting hours; except when training dogs from July 1 - Aug. 31, these hours do not apply;
- hunt bear with dogs in Zone A;
- hunt, train dogs, or possess a dog that is not tattooed or wearing a collar displaying the owner’s name and address;
- hunt, train dogs or possess 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 six dogs may be used to pursue bear)

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

Dog Training Restrictions Area Map

Bear and Wolf Conflicts

Those experiencing conflicts with bears or wolves in Wisconsin should contact USDA Wildlife Services: (800) 228-1368 in northern Wisconsin (800) 433-5663 in southern Wisconsin.

**Find Land Open to Hunting**

Nearly 7 million acres of land are open to public hunting in WI. Visit dnr.wi.gov and search keywords "public hunting."