## Bear Registration

- Registration is mandatory.
- Successful hunters must electronically register they bear 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 cut-in” to find a list.
- Once registration is complete, the GameReg system will issue a confirmation number for the hunter’s records.
- Once the bear is registered, keep the carcass tag with the registration until all stages of the harvest are completed.

## Submitting Bear Tooth Samples
- Submission of a tooth is mandatory.
- Successful hunters are required to provide one upper pre-molar tooth to determine the bear’s age. Instructions for collection of the tooth 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 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) • DNR.HWG@wisconsin.gov

- August 1–October 2, 2018 is the hunting season for bears. Bear shooting and bear dog training hours:

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<tr>
<th>Southern Area Hours</th>
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- Available 7 days a week, 7:00 AM until 10:00 PM. Spanish and Hmong speaking representatives are available.

## Report Natural Resource Violations
- CALL or TEXT (800) 847-9367 (844-GAME-REG). In-person: Find a list of stations at dnr.wi.gov/search “registration stations.”

## Bear Shooting and Bear Dog Training Hours

- Bear shooting and dog training hours are 10 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset during the bear harvest season.

- The table below lists these times for Zone A, B, and D. After determining opening (AM) and closing (PM) times for other zones, add the minutes shown on the map at left to the times listed in the table below. Prior to the harvest season, when training days between July 1 - Aug. 31, these hours do not apply.

## Licensing Requirements

### Class A License Cost: Residents S49, Non-Residents S251

A valid 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

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- To be considered for a Class A bear license in 2019, 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 hunting season begins on Oct. 5, 2018. If you select a zone 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 do not wish to bear hunt in 2019 but would like a preference point should inform the license agent at the time of purchase.

- Drawing winners will be notified by mail in February, however, it is the hunter’s responsibility to determine if he or she was selected in the drawing. Hunters may check their drawing status via their online Go Wild customer care site. Preference points will not be reinstated for hunters who were unaware of their drawing status.

- Applicants may submit applications online at provided.wi.gov. An additional 1.75% convenience fee applies if paying online with a credit card. There is no fee for paying with a checking account.

- 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 Wisconsin residents. For more information, visit gamereg.wi.gov (fastest and easiest method). 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.

- 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

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

- Applicants who wish to bear hunt in 2019 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 hunting season begins on Oct. 5, 2018. If you select a zone 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.

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- Anyone charging a fee to provide bear hunting services must possess a guide license; a guide license does not grant Class A privileges.

### 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 the following 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 12–13 who have completed hunter education may not harvest without being accompanied by an adult and do not need to be in visual 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 required to hunt within arm’s reach of a mentor, and both the mentor and mentee must possess a weapon as long as the mentor also holds a valid hunting license. Visit dnr.wi.gov/keyword “mentor hunting” for more information.

### Backup Shooters

Backup shooters must adhere to the following rules:

- 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 for the purpose of calling a bear that was shot, but not killed, by a Class A bear license holder;

- May only shoot if the caller is necessary to protect the safety of the members of the hunting party or others.

### Wisconsin Bear Hunting Regulations

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 the hunter safety number printed on it; 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 a person has not completed hunter education, that hunter may only obtain a license that requires hunting with a mentor in compliance with the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements.

### Shooting and Bear Dog Training Hours

- During the 2-day youth gun deer hunt on Oct. 6 and 7, 2018, non-residents may purchase Class A licenses at the resident rate if they are current active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces or a Purple Heart recipient. Documentation is required.

- 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 the hunter safety number printed on it; 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 a person has not completed hunter education, that hunter may only obtain a license that requires hunting with a mentor in compliance with the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements.
It is illegal to:
- hunt bear with any rimfire rifle, air rifle, centerfire rifle less than .22 caliber, .40 caliber, .45 caliber, or .458 caliber, ammunition fully automatic firearm or with ammunition loaded with non-expanding type bullet;
- use handguns that are not muzzleloading handguns unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger;
- hunt bear with a minimum barrel length of 6.5 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 has 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 7/8” wide and kept sharp.
- discharge 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 bows 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 unsealed and decoded 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 parked. ** An unmuzzled firearm may be loaded and discharged a crossbow or crossbow from a stationary, non-motorized vehicle which is not attached to a motor vehicle.

**Note:** Federal regulations deem deer and elk to be big game for purposes of baiting and the sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

Firearm and Archery Restrictions

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 30.
   - 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 access to the material;
   - unless, when bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made inaccessible to bears.

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

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 means any part of any animal comprised of flesh, fat, bone, hair, skin, muscle, organ, or any body part, including teeth and tusks, except for naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which prevent access to the material;
   - unless, when bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made inaccessible to bears.

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

3. No person may:
   - hunt or train bear with bait material for bear hunting 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.)
   - (Note: Any 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 for purposes of baiting or dog training.

(Note: Removal of bait material from a site located over a bait site is prohibited unless the issuance of a citation for the original violation of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.)

Validation and Tagging
- The hunter is required to possess a paper carcass tag while bear 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 stub”).

- If you leave it, tag it! You may not leave the bear carcass unless the validated carcass tag is attached to it. In other words, attach the tag as soon as you plan to leave the carcass. Attach the tag with string or raven outer.

- Carcass tags must be kept intact and legible; consider protecting the tag inside a zip-top plastic bag.

- No person may possess a bear carcass unless also in possession of the validated carcass tag.

- You may not leave the bear carcass unless you are also in possession of the legally killed bear corresponding to it.

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 hunter may divide the carcass prior to registering the bear. The head and neck shall be removed and 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 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.

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 line 70” next to your boot 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.

Find Land Open to Hunting
Nearly 7 million acres of land are open to public hunting in Wisconsin. Visit dnr.wi.gov and search keywords “public land.”

Black Bear Management Zones/Units

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

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 August 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 shooting hours (except when training dogs from July 1 - Aug. 31, these hours do not apply);
- hunt bear with dogs in Zone C;
- 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 purse bear with a dog that is not tattooed or wearing a collar displaying the owner’s name and address;
- hunt, train dogs or purse 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 purse any fur-bearing 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 dogs trials and training on public lands, or in a raccoon or fox hunt under a bound dog trial or training license.

Dog Training Restrictions Area Map

Bears and Wolf Conflicts

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