Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.

**DOCUMENT ID**
WM-19-0007-C

**DOCUMENT TITLE**
2019 Bear Hunting Regulations

**PROGRAM/BUREAU**
Wildlife Management

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION**
Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 29 or Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources

**DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)**
Sept. 9, 2019

**DATE FINALIZED**
Oct. 14, 2019

**DNR CERTIFICATION**
I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.

Signature: [Name]
Date: 10/12/19
### 2019 Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations

#### 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 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. Prior to the harvest season, check training dog hours between July 1 - Aug. 31. These hours do not apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone A</th>
<th>Zone B, Zone D</th>
<th>Zone C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 4 to September 10</td>
<td>September 4 to October 8</td>
<td>September 4 to October 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- with all tags of any age*</td>
<td>- all legal methods and not using dogs</td>
<td>- with all legal methods not using dogs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Register a bear harvest with GameReg**

- **Online**: gamereg.wi.gov
- **By Phone**: 1-844-262-7374 (1-844-GAMEREG)

In person: Find a list of stations at dnr.wi.gov/search registration stations.

### REMINDERS FOR 2019

- **Submission of two teeth from harvested bears is mandatory for 2019.**
- **A person of any age may acquire bear preference points or apply for a Class A bear license.**
- **Hunters should note the following:**
  - Carcass tags are required and are printed on regular hunting license without 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 with them at all times in “Licensing Requirements” section.

#### Licensing Requirements

- **Class A License Cost: Residents $49, Non-residents $251**
- **Class A License Cost: Resident and Non-resident $7**

### 2019 Season Dates

- **Zone A, Zone B, Zone D**: September 4 to September 10
- **Zone C**: September 4 to October 8

### Bear Registration

- **Registration is mandatory.**
- **Successful hunters must electronically register their bear, 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 stations” to find a list.
- **Once registration is complete, the GameReg system will issue a confirmation number for the hunter’s records.**
- **If bears do not have DNR-provided materials, they should write their name, customer number, and registration confirmation number on a piece of paper and affix the tooth to it with tape. Enlarge this in an envelope and mail to Bear, Toft Staff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501.**

### Submitting 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.**
- **Contact information for the tooth will be mailed to hunters who draw Class A licenses, and is also available may be obtained at dnr.wi.gov, keyword “bear registration.”**
- **If hunters do not have DNR-provided materials, they should write their name, customer number, and registration confirmation number on a piece of paper and affix the tooth to it with tape. Enlarge this in an envelope and mail to Bear, Toft Staff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501.**

### 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 only obtain a license that requires hunting with a mentor in compliance with the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements.**

#### Hunting Education Requirements

- **Persons born on or after January 1, 1973 must present their Wisconsin Hunter Education Certificate or proof of a harvest safety course recognized by the department from another state, province or country; or a Wisconsin hunting license from a previous year than the current year.**
- **Individuals utilizing this program are required to hunt within 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.**
- **Although not completely required, the hunter may only obtain a license that requires hunting with a mentor in compliance with the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements.**

#### Bear Transfer Applications and Information

- **Can be found at dnr.wi.gov, keyword “bear transfer” or at DNR Service Centers.**

#### 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 12–13 who have completed hunter education must be in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements.**
  - **Youth ages 14–17 who have completed hunter education may hunt bear without being accompanied by an adult and do not need to be visibly or vocally in 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. The mentor also holds a valid hunting license.**
- **See dnr.wi.gov keyword “Hunting” for more information.**

#### Backup Shooters

- **Backup shooters must adhere to the following rules:**
  - May only shoot if the bear is down and a backup shooter has not processed an unused bear carcass tag valid for the zone being hunted;
  - May only shoot for the purpose of killing a bear that was not shot, but 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 rifl...make a minimum barrel length of 7 inches measured from muzzle to breech.

Hunting Near Roadways

It is illegal to:

• hunt or train bear dogs in Zone 1 or Zone 2 on or near any roadway which is either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map.

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 through the month of April 14;
   • in excess of 100 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 bear scent from accessing the material;
   • unless, when bait site is checked and re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made inaccessible to deer.

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

   • is located within 50 feet of the roadway’s center;
   • discharge a firearm, shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a stationary, non-motorized vehicle which is not attached to a motor vehicle.

Baiting With Chocolate

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

Validation and Tagging

• The hunter is required to possess a paper carcass tag while hunting. Hunting. Electronic copies of carcass tags are not accepted.

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 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 both sides prior to the tag being removed.
   • may not divide any part of the 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.

Other Restrictions

It is illegal to:

• shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump, 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 the nose to the base of the tail. Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42”-long toe into the bear’s mouth to determine 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.

• hunting Near Roadways

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.

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 C during the season when hunting with aid of dog 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 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.

Finding Land Open to Hunting

Nearby 7 million acres of land are open to public hunting in WI. Visit dNR.gov and search keywords "public hunting."