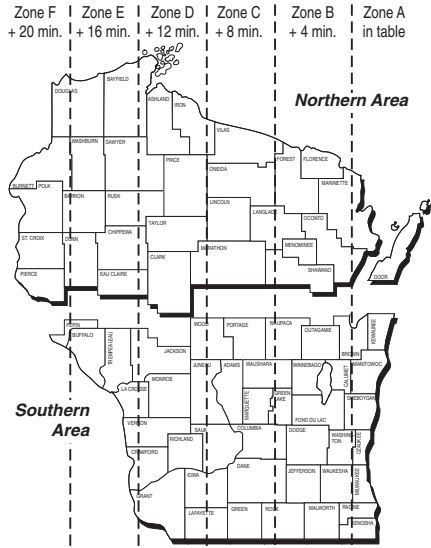


Hunting Hours

To determine the opening (A.M.) and closing (P.M.) times for all zones, add the minutes shown (see map) to the times listed in the table below.



| | Southern Area Hours | | Northern Area Hours | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| September 2008 | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| 3 | 5:47 | 7:42 | 5:44 | 7:43 |
| 4 | 5:48 | 7:40 | 5:46 | 7:41 |
| 5 | 5:49 | 7:38 | 5:47 | 7:40 |
| 6 | 5:51 | 7:37 | 5:48 | 7:38 |
| 7 | 5:52 | 7:35 | 5:49 | 7:36 |
| 8 | 5:53 | 7:33 | 5:50 | 7:34 |
| 9 | 5:54 | 7:31 | 5:52 | 7:32 |
| 10 | 5:55 | 7:29 | 5:53 | 7:30 |
| 11 | 5:56 | 7:28 | 5:54 | 7:28 |
| 12 | 5:57 | 7:26 | 5:55 | 7:26 |
| 13 | 5:58 | 7:24 | 5:57 | 7:24 |
| 14 | 6:00 | 7:22 | 5:58 | 7:22 |
| 15 | 6:01 | 7:20 | 5:59 | 7:20 |
| 16 | 6:02 | 7:18 | 6:00 | 7:18 |
| 17 | 6:03 | 7:17 | 6:01 | 7:16 |
| 18 | 6:04 | 7:15 | 6:03 | 7:15 |
| 19 | 6:05 | 7:13 | 6:04 | 7:13 |
| 20 | 6:06 | 7:11 | 6:05 | 7:11 |
| 21 | 6:08 | 7:09 | 6:06 | 7:09 |
| 22 | 6:09 | 7:07 | 6:08 | 7:07 |
| 23 | 6:10 | 7:06 | 6:09 | 7:05 |
| 24 | 6:11 | 7:04 | 6:10 | 7:03 |
| 25 | 6:12 | 7:02 | 6:11 | 7:01 |
| 26 | 6:13 | 7:00 | 6:13 | 6:59 |
| 27 | 6:14 | 6:58 | 6:14 | 6:57 |
| 28 | 6:16 | 6:56 | 6:15 | 6:55 |
| 29 | 6:17 | 6:55 | 6:16 | 6:53 |
| 30 | 6:18 | 6:53 | 6:18 | 6:51 |
| October 2008 | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| 1 | 6:19 | 6:51 | 6:19 | 6:49 |
| 2 | 6:20 | 6:49 | 6:20 | 6:47 |
| 3 | 6:21 | 6:47 | 6:22 | 6:46 |
| 4 | 6:23 | 6:46 | 6:23 | 6:44 |
| 5 | 6:24 | 6:44 | 6:24 | 6:42 |
| 6 | 6:25 | 6:42 | 6:25 | 6:40 |
| 7 | 6:26 | 6:40 | 6:27 | 6:38 |

DNR Service Centers

Office hours vary by location. Contact center for hours. You may also call the DNR Call Center toll-free at 1-888-WDNR INFO (1-888-936-7463) • local 608-266-2621. Staff are available 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Txhais lus Hmoob thoj hu tus xovtooj 1-888-936-7463. Muaj txhais lus Hmoob txhua hnub, Monday txog Sunday, 7:00 sawv ntxov 10:00 tsaun ntuj.

El personal también está disponible para asistir a clientes de habla hispana en nuestro número gratuito. El personal que habla español está disponible 7 días a la semana a partir de la 7:00 de mañana hasta 10:00 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| South Central Region (Fitchburg) | 608/275-3266 |
| Madison (Central Office) | 608/266-2621 |
| Dodgeville | 608/935-3368 |
| Horicon..... | 920/387-7860 |
| Janesville | 608/743-4800 |
| Poynette | 608/635-8110 |
| Southeast Region (Milwaukee) | 414/263-8500 |
| Plymouth | 920/892-8756 |
| Sturtevant..... | 262/884-2300 |
| Waukesha..... | 262/574-2100 |
| Northeast Region (Green Bay) | 920/662-5100 |
| Oshkosh | 920/424-3050 |
| Peshigo | 715/582-5000 |
| Sturgeon Bay..... | 920/746-2860 |
| Wautoma..... | 920/787-4686 |
| West Central Region (Eau Claire) | 715/839-3700 |
| Baldwin | 715/684-2914 |
| Black River Falls..... | 715/284-1400 |
| La Crosse..... | 608/785-9000 |
| Wausau | 715/359-4522 |
| Wisconsin Rapids..... | 715/421-7800 |
| Northern Region (Spooner) | 715/635-2101 |
| Antigo..... | 715/627-4317 |
| Ashland..... | 715/685-2900 |
| Cumberland..... | 715/822-3590 |
| Park Falls..... | 715/762-3204 |
| Hayward | 715/634-2688 |
| Ladysmith..... | 715/532-3911 |
| Rhineland | 715/365-8900 |
| Superior | 715/392-7988 |
| Woodruff..... | 715/356-5211 |

About the cover photo

Les Jost of Alma with the first black bear legally shot and tagged in Buffalo County. Jost shot the 250 pound bear in the town of Modena while hunting over a baited tree stand. This is Jost's first bear.

2008 Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations



Photo by Robert Jumbek

Season Dates

Zone A, Zone B and Zone D:

- September 3 – September 9
 - with aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

September 10 – September 30

- with aid of dogs
- with aid of bait
- with other methods

October 1 – October 7

- with aid of dogs only

Zone C:

September 3 – October 7

- With aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

Visit the DNR website at
dnr.wi.gov



Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

PUB-WM-197 2008

Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,

Welcome to the 2008 Wisconsin Bear Season!

Interest in Wisconsin bear hunting continues to grow and, once again, a record number of applicants have applied for the highly sought-after Class A permit. Over 80,000 eager hunters applied for a Class A license or preference point for the 2007 season. The number of applicants has nearly doubled in the last ten years, significantly increasing the number of preference points required to draw a Class A kill tag. Last year, the minimum number of preference points required to draw a Class A license was as follows: Zone A: 7; Zone B: 9; Zone C: 4; and Zone D: 7.

Wisconsin's bear population is healthy and estimated at approximately 13,000 bears statewide, slightly higher than the statewide goal of 11,300 bears. Preliminary 2007 figures indicate the harvest was very near the quota of 2,650 bears. More than 2,660 bears were harvested throughout the state in 2007, with a statewide hunter success rate of 60%. Permit levels for 2008 will increase slightly over those available in 2007.

Please note that Bear Management Subzone A1 is no longer a subzone of Zone A. Subzone A1 is now its own independent zone—"Zone D." Hunters with a Class A license for Zone A will no longer be able to harvest a bear in Zone D (formerly Subzone A1).

The 2007 bear hunting season was the second of a two-year study conducted by UW-Madison, in coordination with the DNR and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association. Successful hunters were asked to submit a bear tooth and rib sample for analysis. As in 2006, we had an excellent return rate from Wisconsin bear hunters. Data obtained from these samples will help to improve Wisconsin's black bear management—thank you to all who submitted samples!

Best wishes for a safe hunt in 2008,

Linda R. Olver

Assistant Deer and Bear Ecologist

Support Ethical Responsible Hunting Report Violations

CALL 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)
or #367 from your cell phone
(free for U.S. Cellular customers)

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential
(This is NOT an information number)

To email a report of violation not in progress:
le.hotline@wisconsin.gov

New for 2008

- Subzone A1 is now called Zone D. Hunters with a Class A license for Zone A will no longer be able to harvest a bear in Zone D (formerly Subzone A1). The subzone was established in 1996 to increase harvest pressure in Subzone A1. The change effectively reduced the population, but made harvest management difficult as wildlife officials could not accurately predict the number of hunters that would cross over into Subzone A1 from Zone A. The proposed change to rename Subzone A1 to Zone D was posed and passed overwhelmingly in the 2007 Spring Hearings.

Licenses and Permits

- To be considered for a Class A Bear License in 2009, an applicant must pay a \$3.00 application fee and complete and submit the Class A Bear Hunting License application by **December 10, 2008**.
- Applicants who will not be bear hunting in 2009 but would like a preference point **do not need** to complete an application. Applicants will only have to pay a \$3.00 application fee by December 10, 2008 to automatically be awarded a preference point. **If an application is submitted and you are selected in the drawing, you will lose all preference points, even if you do not purchase a Class A License.**
- Applicants for a 2009 license or preference point must be at least 12 years old and eligible to purchase a license authorizing hunting by Sept. 2, 2009.
- Those hunters who have been drawn for a Class A Bear License can purchase their license at any time beginning on March 10, 2008. However, licenses purchased after September 3 are not valid until three days after the purchase (Example: A license purchased on a Monday is valid on Thursday).

Class A License (Residents: \$49, Non-Residents: \$251)

Formerly called a "bear harvest permit," a Class A Bear License is **required** to shoot and tag a bear. It also includes all the privileges of a Class B Bear License.

Class B License (Residents: \$14, Non-residents: \$110)

Formerly called a "bear pursuit" license, a Class B license **does not allow** the license holder to shoot or tag a bear. A Class B license allows the holder to *assist* a Class A bear harvest license holder in hunting activities, including baiting and dog training. To *assist* with the bear hunt means helping a Class A license holder hunt bear by handling dogs, locating bear, or engaging in other bear hunting activities that enable the Class A licensee to locate bear. You do not need to be with a Class A license holder to place bait. The Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, placing bait, or tracking. **Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.**



Bear Hunting Back Tag

A bear hunting back tag is issued to all Class A and Class B bear licensees. Back tags must be worn while hunting bear, training dogs, or assisting the holder of a Class A Bear License. The back tag must be attached to the center of the back of the outermost garment where it can be clearly seen. Back tags do not have to be worn if only placing bait.

License Issuance

The number of bear licenses 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 a preference point every year they apply and are not drawn for a Class A permit. Applicants with the greatest number of preference points are chosen first to receive a Class A license. **Hunters must apply at least once every three years to retain their preference points.**

Class A Bear License Transfer

An adult may transfer their Class A Bear License to a youth ages 12–17, provided the youth successfully completes a hunter's education course prior to the bear hunting season and that the transfer takes place by **August 1**. The youth receiving the license will retain his or her accumulated preference points. A youth may only be the recipient of a transferred license once. If you wish to transfer your Class A license, please contact your local DNR Service Center for more information. Bear license transfer applications can be found at all DNR Service Centers or on-line at dnr.wi.gov.

The DNR will defer the use of a Class A Bear License approval for members of the Armed Forces or National Guard who are on active duty and unable to hunt. Contact a local DNR Service Center for more information.

Bear Hunting Management Zones

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

Subzone A1 is now called Zone D. Hunters with a Class A license for Zone A will no longer be able to harvest a bear in Zone D (formerly Subzone A1).

Finding Public Land Open to Hunting

The DNR website provides detailed maps showing public lands in your area. Go to dnr.wi.gov and click on the Maps link under the Favorites section. On this page click on the DNR Managed Lands link.

Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with **any** rimfire rifle; air rifle; any center-fire rifle less than .22 caliber, .410 shotgun, fully automatic firearm, or with ammunition loaded with full metal jacket, non-expanding type bullets.
- Use handguns that are not muzzleloading handguns, unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5½ inches from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed.
- Use a muzzleloading handgun unless it is at least .44 caliber with a minimum barrel length of 7 inches measured from muzzle to breech and fires a single projectile weighing not less than 138 grains.
- 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, or to use arrows which have metal broadhead blades less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
- Possess while hunting any poisoned, drugged, or explosive tipped arrow, or any crossbow (except disabled residents and nonresidents under Class A, Class B crossbow or Class C permit or residents age 65 and older).

Note: Legal crossbows shall have a minimum draw of 100 pounds, a workable safety, and use at least 14-inch long bolts 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. These are exempt from the 100 pound requirement but must meet the 30 pound minimum.

- Possess, place or transport, in or on any moving or stationary vehicle, any firearm, bow or crossbow, unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, and the bow or crossbow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

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 the nose to the base of the tail.** Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42 inch log next to their bait to assist in determining the size of a bear.) *If you're not sure, don't shoot!*
- Possess a bear carcass unless lawfully tagged.

Other Restrictions continued...

- 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.

Road Hunting

It is illegal to:

- Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center.
- Discharge a firearm, or 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 center. This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map. Unpaved fire lanes are exempt and shown as dotted lines on county maps.

Note: Class A and B disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact your local DNR office for more information.

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 14th.
 - 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 **prevents deer from accessing the material**. Liquid scent used for hunting bear or training bear dogs does not need to be enclosed, but is part of the 10 gallon limit.
 - Unless, when the bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made **inaccessible to deer**.
2. Additionally, **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 honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, bacon grease, animal carcass or parts of animal carcasses, but does not include liquid scents or cheese.
- Note:** Attracting bears by the methods commonly referred to as "honey burns" or "bacon burns" is not legal.
- Contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to bait placed in hollow logs or stumps or to scent materials.

Baiting rules continued...

- Is located within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards from a roadway having a posted limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
- Is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish bait automatically, mechanically, or by gravity.
- 3. **No person may hunt over** bait material for bear without possessing a valid unused Class A Bear License and carcass tag.
- 4. **No person may place** bait material for bear hunting without possessing a valid Class A or Class B Bear License.
- 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 animals or dog training.

Note: You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices. Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.



Tagging and Registration

- Immediately upon killing and before field dressing or moving the bear, you must validate the carcass tag by slitting the marks indicated on the tag, and attach it to the bear.
- If quartered, the carcass tag should be attached to any part, and all parts and hide must be displayed at registration.
- Each bear must be registered within the county (or adjoining county) and within the black bear management zone in which the bear was killed no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day after the kill. Registration stations adjacent to a highway forming the boundary of the zone are also acceptable. For a list of registration stations, look on the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov.
- The person who tags the bear must keep the carcass and registration tag with the butchered meat until it is consumed.

Transport

It is illegal to:

- Transport another person's unregistered bear unless accompanied by the person who was issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal.
- Note:** Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed bear out of state provided it is registered according to the procedures outlined under "Tagging and Registration."

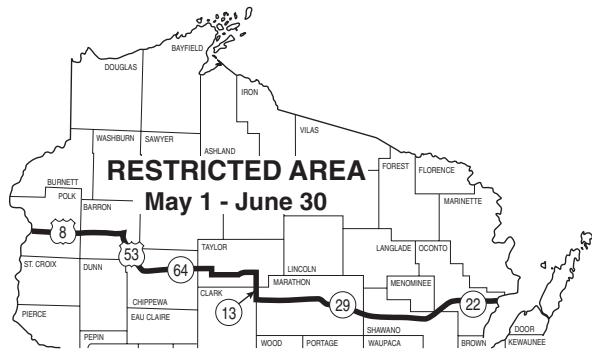
Dog Training and Use

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with dogs in Zone C.
- Train dogs by pursuing bear except from **July 1 through August 31**. Bear dog training is not permitted during the bear hunting season.
- 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 pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed, or that isn't wearing a collar with the owner's name and address attached.
- Allow the dogs to kill any wild animal.
- 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.

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

- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, from May 1 to June 30, north of the highways shown on the map below, **except** for approved dog trials and training on free-roaming rabbits or raccoons under a hound dog trial or training license.



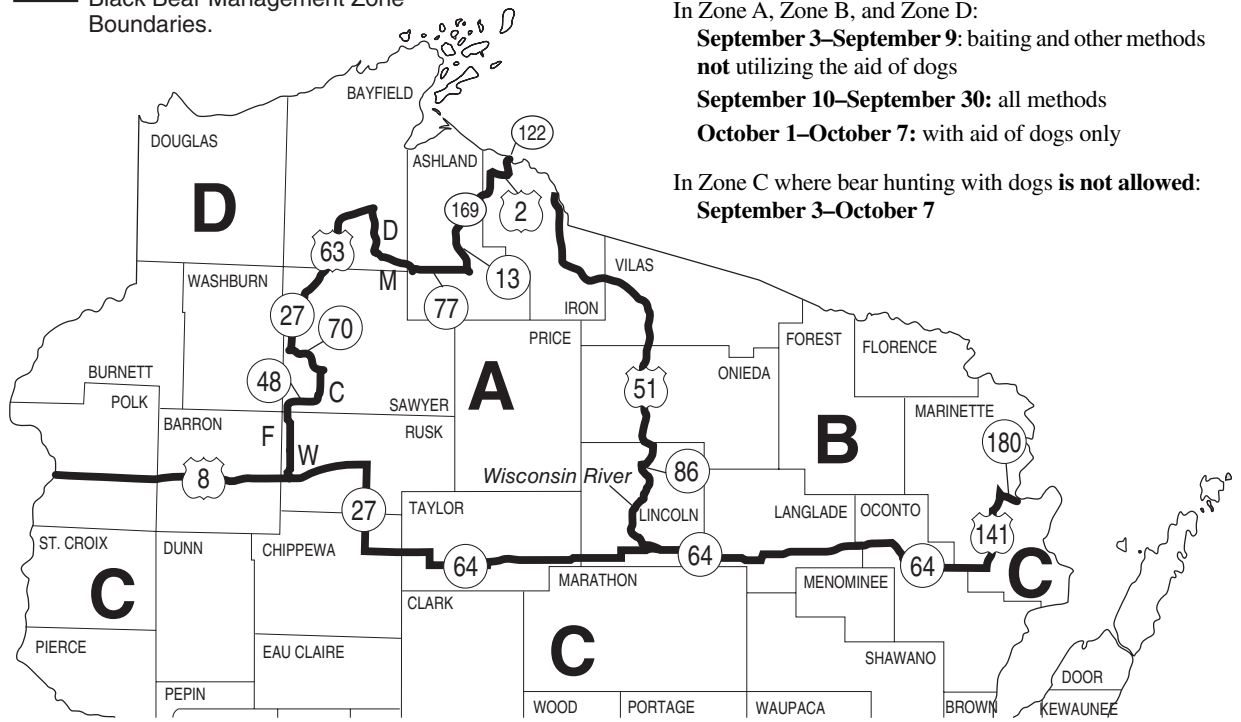
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

* This publication is available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call 608-266-8204 for more information.



Bear Hunting Management Zones Map

— Black Bear Management Zone Boundaries.



(Zone C extends south to Wisconsin-Illinois State Line)

2008 Season Dates

In Zone A, Zone B, and Zone D:

September 3–September 9: baiting and other methods **not** utilizing the aid of dogs

September 10–September 30: all methods

October 1–October 7: with aid of dogs only

In Zone C where bear hunting with dogs is **not** allowed:

September 3–October 7

Bear Population and Harvest Trends: 1990–2007

