

2009

Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations



Photo by Kevin Morgan

Season Dates

Zone A, Zone B and Zone D:

September 9 – September 15

- with aid of dogs only

September 16 – October 6

- with aid of dogs

- with aid of bait

- with other methods

October 7 – October 13

- with aid of bait

- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

Zone C:

September 9 – October 13

- With aid of bait

- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

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 hnuh, Monday txog Sunday, 7:00 sawv ntxov 10:00 tsauv 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
Dodgeville608/935-3368
Horicon.....920/387-7860
Janesville608/743-4800
Poynette608/635-8110

Southeast Region (Milwaukee)414/263-8500

Plymouth920/892-8756
Sturtevant.....262/884-2300
Waukesha.....262/574-2100

Northeast Region (Green Bay).....920/662-5100

Oshkosh920/424-3050
Peshtigo715/582-5000
Sturgeon Bay.....920/746-2860
Wautoma.....920/787-4686

West Central Region (Eau Claire).....715/839-3700

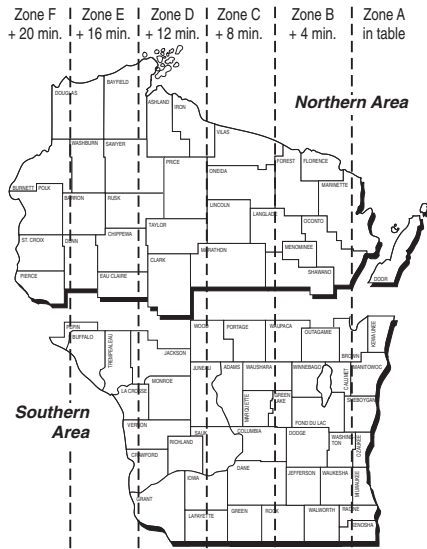
Baldwin715/684-2914
Black River Falls.....715/284-1400
La Crosse.....608/785-9000
Wausau715/359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids.....715/421-7800

Northern Region (Spooner).....715/635-2101

Antigo.....715/627-4317
Ashland.....715/685-2900
Cumberland715/822-3590
Park Falls.....715/762-3204
Hayward715/634-2688
Ladysmith.....715/532-3911
Rhineland715/365-8900
Superior715/392-7988
Woodruff.....715/356-5211

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 2009 | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| 9 | 5:54 | 7:32 | 5:51 | 7:32 |
| 10 | 5:55 | 7:30 | 5:53 | 7:30 |
| 11 | 5:56 | 7:28 | 5:54 | 7:29 |
| 12 | 5:57 | 7:26 | 5:55 | 7:27 |
| 13 | 5:58 | 7:24 | 5:56 | 7:25 |
| 14 | 5:59 | 7:23 | 5:58 | 7:23 |
| 15 | 6:00 | 7:21 | 5:59 | 7:21 |
| 16 | 6:02 | 7:19 | 6:00 | 7:19 |
| 17 | 6:03 | 7:17 | 6:01 | 7:17 |
| 18 | 6:04 | 7:15 | 6:02 | 7:15 |
| 19 | 6:05 | 7:13 | 6:04 | 7:13 |
| 20 | 6:06 | 7:12 | 6:05 | 7:11 |
| 21 | 6:07 | 7:10 | 6:06 | 7:09 |
| 22 | 6:08 | 7:08 | 6:07 | 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 | 7:01 | 6:12 | 6:59 |
| 27 | 6:14 | 6:59 | 6:14 | 6:58 |
| 28 | 6:15 | 6:57 | 6:15 | 6:56 |
| 29 | 6:16 | 6:55 | 6:16 | 6:54 |
| 30 | 6:18 | 6:53 | 6:17 | 6:52 |
| October 2009 | | | | |
| 1 | 6:19 | 6:51 | 6:19 | 6:50 |
| 2 | 6:20 | 6:50 | 6:20 | 6:48 |
| 3 | 6:21 | 6:48 | 6:21 | 6:46 |
| 4 | 6:22 | 6:46 | 6:23 | 6:44 |
| 5 | 6:23 | 6:44 | 6:24 | 6:42 |
| 6 | 6:25 | 6:43 | 6:25 | 6:40 |
| 7 | 6:26 | 6:41 | 6:26 | 6:39 |
| 8 | 6:27 | 6:39 | 6:28 | 6:37 |
| 9 | 6:28 | 6:37 | 6:29 | 6:35 |
| 10 | 6:29 | 6:36 | 6:30 | 6:33 |
| 11 | 6:31 | 6:34 | 6:32 | 6:31 |
| 12 | 6:32 | 6:32 | 6:33 | 6:29 |
| 13 | 6:33 | 6:30 | 6:34 | 6:28 |

About the cover photo

Kathleen Morgan was hunting alone when she harvested this Barron County bear from a ground stand at a distance of 25 yards. Kathleen has been hunting 9 years and this is her first bear. The bear weighed about 140 lbs dressed.

Visit the DNR website at
dnr.wi.gov



Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
PUB-WM-197 2009

Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,

The results of a two-year cooperative University of Wisconsin study indicate there are more than twice the number of black bears in Wisconsin than previously thought. Taking the study results into consideration, wildlife managers recommended an increase in the number of bear harvest permits allocated for the 2009 bear season. The prospect of more permits is good news to the more than 81,000 bear hunters who applied last year for a Class A license or preference point. The number of preference points required to draw a tag may decrease, but to what extent is dependent upon the number of applicants and the number of preference points they've accumulated to date.

Preliminary 2008 harvest figures indicate hunters enjoyed a success rate of over 62% statewide. Bear Management Zone D had the highest success rate of all management zones, just under 80%. The 2008 harvest statewide was nearly 2,900 bear, slightly lower than the 2,950 quota.

Again in 2009, we are asking successful hunters to submit a pre-molar tooth from the bear they harvest. Teeth from hunter-harvested bear are submitted for laboratory analysis and provide information useful to bear management, such as the age structure of the bear population, the age at which sows produce first litter, and the years in which they produced litters. Some states have written the tooth submission requirement into their state code, based upon poor submission rates. In Wisconsin, however, a large percentage of successful hunters have consistently responded to our request and we have not found it necessary to codify the tooth submission requirement. Shortly after we receive the laboratory results we will mail the bear ages directly to hunters who submitted samples. Thank you to all successful hunters who submitted a bear tooth. Your efforts are much appreciated.

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

Blaze Orange

Bear hunters **must** wear blaze orange during the two-day youth gun deer hunt. The youth gun deer hunt in 2009 takes place on October 10 and 11.

Licenses and Permits

- To be considered for a Class A Bear License in 2010, an applicant must pay a \$3.00 application fee and provide zone preference to the license agent at the time of purchase. The deadline is 12 midnight, **December 10, 2009. If a zone is selected at the time of purchase, and you are selected in the drawing, you will lose all preference points, even if you do not purchase a Class A License.** Unsuccessful applicants will automatically receive a preference point.
- Applicants can submit their bear applications on-line at dnr.wi.gov. There is an additional \$1 convenience fee for submitting on-line.
- Applicants who fail to apply for either a preference point or a license at least once during any 3 consecutive years shall lose all previously accumulated preference points.
- Applicants who will not be bear hunting in 2010 but would like a preference point should inform the license agent at the time of purchase. A \$3.00 application fee must be received by 12 midnight, **December 10, 2009.**
- Applicants for a 2010 license or preference point must be at least 12 years old and eligible to purchase a license authorizing hunting by Sept. 8, 2010.
- A nonresident may purchase a Class A or B bear license at the resident fee if they are a current member of the US Armed Forces and were a Wisconsin resident when they joined.
- Those hunters who have been drawn for a Class A Bear License can purchase their license at any time beginning on March 4, 2009. However, licenses purchased after September 9 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)

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)

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 that include handling dogs and locating 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 application is received at least 15 days prior to the start of the bear season. 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. Bear license transfer applications can be found at all DNR Service Centers or on-line at dnr.wi.gov.

Preference points or approvals can be transferred to a minor from a customer who is deceased using form 9400-592.

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.

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 crossbow 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 certain 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 tag 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."

