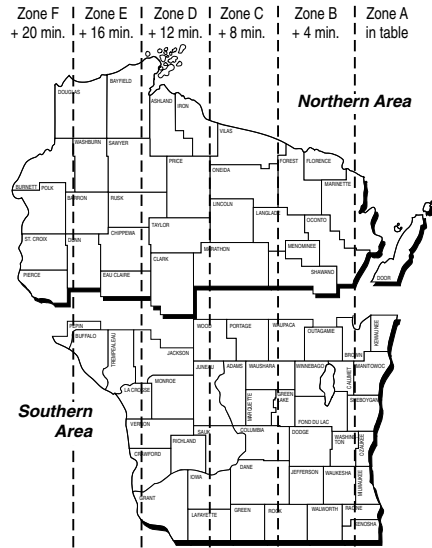


# 2010

# Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations

## 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.



## Questions?

Contact 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 toj hu tus xovtooj 1-888-936-7463. Muaj txhais lus Hmoob txhua hnuv, Monday txog Sunday, 7:00 sawv ntov 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.

Customer service representatives at service centers are also available to assist you but have limited hours and days open for counter services. See below.

**New service center hours effective January 4, 2010**  
Office hours: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Southern Area Hours		Northern Area Hours		
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
<b>September 2010</b>				
8	5:52	7:34	5:50	7:35
9	5:53	7:32	5:51	7:33
10	5:55	7:30	5:52	7:31
11	5:56	7:28	5:54	7:29
12	5:57	7:27	5:55	7:27
13	5:58	7:25	5:56	7:25
14	5:59	7:23	5:57	7:23
15	6:00	7:21	5:58	7:21
16	6:01	7:19	6:00	7:19
17	6:02	7:18	6:01	7:17
18	6:04	7:16	6:02	7:15
19	6:05	7:14	6:03	7:14
20	6:06	7:12	6:05	7:12
21	6:07	7:10	6:06	7:10
22	6:08	7:08	6:07	7:08
23	6:09	7:06	6:08	7:06
24	6:10	7:05	6:10	7:04
25	6:12	7:03	6:11	7:02
26	6:13	7:01	6:12	7:00
27	6:14	6:59	6:13	6:58
28	6:15	6:57	6:15	6:56
29	6:16	6:56	6:16	6:54
30	6:17	6:54	6:17	6:52
<b>October 2010</b>				
1	6:18	6:52	6:18	6:50
2	6:20	6:50	6:20	6:48
3	6:21	6:48	6:21	6:47
4	6:22	6:46	6:22	6:45
5	6:23	6:45	6:24	6:43
6	6:24	6:43	6:25	6:41
7	6:26	6:41	6:26	6:39
8	6:27	6:39	6:27	6:37
9	6:28	6:38	6:29	6:35
10	6:29	6:36	6:30	6:33
11	6:30	6:34	6:31	6:32
12	6:32	6:33	6:33	6:30

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Antigo	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Oshkosh	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Open
Ashland	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Park Falls	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
Baldwin	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Peshigo	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
Black River Falls	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Plymouth	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Cumberland	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Poynette	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dodgeville	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Rhineland	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed
Eau Claire	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Spooner	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Fitchburg	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Sturgeon Bay	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Green Bay	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Sturtevant	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Hayward	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Superior	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open
Horicon	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Waukesha	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
Janesville	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Wausau	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Open
La Crosse	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Wautoma	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ladysmith	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Wisconsin Rapids	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Milwaukee	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Woodruff	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Open



Photo by Ed Culhane

## Season Dates

**Zone A, Zone B and Zone D:**  
September 8 – September 14

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

**September 15 – October 5**

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

**October 6 – October 12**

- with aid of dogs only

## Zone C:

**September 8 – October 12**

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

Visit the DNR website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)



Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
PUB-WM-197 2010

Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,

*The Wisconsin black bear population is thriving and expanding its occupied range in the state. In 2009, 7,310 harvest permits were available and hunters responded by harvesting more than 3,900 bears, the highest bear harvest documented in Wisconsin history.*

*Bear hunter success rates decreased in 2009, with a statewide average success rate of 53%. Zone D hunters experienced the highest success rate, with 67.4% of hunters harvesting a bear. In Zone B, 66.8% of hunters were successful, followed by 58.9% in Zone A and 31.0% in Zone C. Many hunters reported active baits going cold prior to the start of the season likely due to an abundant mast crop attracting bears off baits. The 3-year average success rate statewide is 59%.*

*Thank you to successful hunters who submitted bear tooth and hair samples during the 2009 bear season. This year, we are only requesting tooth samples. If you harvest a bear during the 2010 bear season, please submit a tooth sample for aging analysis. The information we obtain from tooth analysis provides biologists with critical information about the age structure of Wisconsin's bear population and helps us to better manage this valuable resource. Hunters submitting a tooth sample will be notified of the age of the bear via postcard approximately 10-12 months following the end of the bear season.*

*Best wishes for a safe and successful 2010 bear season.*

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 that takes place on October 9 and 10 in 2010.

## Licenses and Permits

- To be considered for a Class A Bear License in 2011, 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, 2010. 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 online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov). There is an additional \$1 convenience fee for submitting online.
- 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 2011 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, 2010.**
- Applicants for a 2011 license or preference point must be at least 10 years old and eligible to purchase a license authorizing hunting by Sept. 7, 2011.
- 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 10, 2010. However, licenses purchased after September 7 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, placing bait 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 apply to transfer their Class A Bear License to a youth ages 10–17, provided 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 online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://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.

## Hunting Mentorship Program

Under the hunting mentorship program, anyone age 10 or older may obtain a Class A hunting license without the need to first complete hunter education certification. Individuals utilizing this program are required to hunt within arms reach of a mentor and may only possess one firearm or bow between the mentored hunter and the mentor. Refer to the DNR website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) 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](http://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 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.
- Hunt bear with or while in possession of any crossbow (except for those who hold one of the following permits for disabled hunters: crossbow permit, Class A, Class B crossbow, or Class C disabled permit. Residents and non-residents age 65 and older may also use crossbows).  
**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 Class 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, unless under 12 years of age.
  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](http://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."

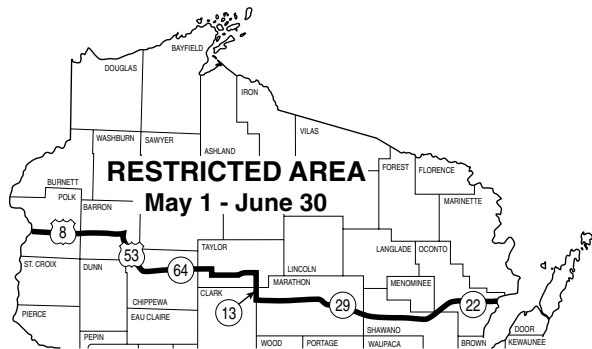
## Dog Training and Use

### 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.



This pamphlet is a summary of Wisconsin's bear hunting laws and regulations. For a complete set of laws and regulations, please refer to the Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources.

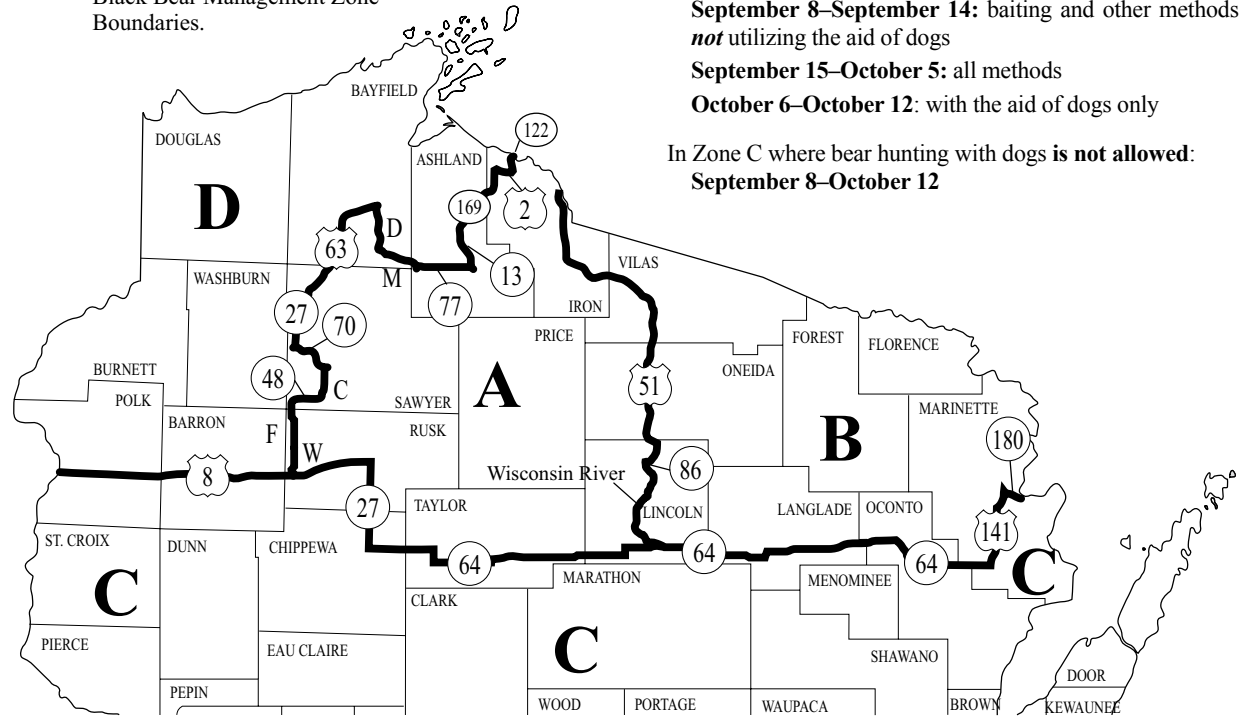
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

\* 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)

## 2010 Season Dates

In Zone A, Zone B, and Zone D:

**September 8–September 14:** baiting and other methods *not* utilizing the aid of dogs

**September 15–October 5:** all methods

**October 6–October 12:** with the aid of dogs only

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

**September 8–October 12**

## Please—Don't Move Firewood.

Firewood can harbor many different kinds of invasive pests and diseases that are harmful to Wisconsin's trees—both in forest and urban settings. Gypsy moth, oak wilt, and the emerald ash borer are just a few examples of pests and diseases that hitch hike on firewood, making their way easily into previously unaffected, healthy areas.

To help protect trees in state parks and forests, the Wisconsin DNR does not allow firewood onto any DNR properties *from more than 50 miles away*, from outside of Wisconsin, or from areas quarantined for certain pests and diseases if the property is not also within the quarantine. This includes campsites in state parks and forests. Stay tuned to the website below for any changes in these rules next year.

**Details can be found online at: [dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/) or by phone: 1-877-303-WOOD (9663).**

Please buy or harvest firewood near where you will burn it, and use it all up. Thank you for helping to keep our state's trees and habitats healthy.