

	Southern Area Hours		Northern Area Hours	
September	2012			
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
5	5:50	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	5:59	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	6:02	7:16
18	6:04	7:15	6:03	7:14
19	6:05	7:13	6:04	7:13
20	6:06	7:11	6:05	7:11
21	6:08	7:09	6:07	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	6:17	6:53
30	6:18	6:53	6:18	6:51
October 20	012			
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
8	6:27	6:39	6:28	6:36
9	6:29	6:37	6:29	6:34

Greetings 2012 Bear Hunters,

Wisconsin bear hunting continues to be a highly sought-after experience, with more than 103,000 people applying for the 2011 bear season drawing. Of these, nearly 28,000 asked to be included in the drawing for a harvest permit and just over 76,000 requested a preference point. In 2011, 9,005 permits were available, slightly more than the 8,910 permits available in 2010.

In the 2011 bear drawing, the number of preference points required to draw a permit decreased by one from 2010 for the three northern zones. In Zone A, everyone with 7 points or more who asked to be in the drawing successfully drew a permit. In Zone B, everyone with 9 points or more were successful in the drawing. In Zone C, everyone with 5 points or more were successful in the drawing, while in Zone D, everyone with 8 points or more drew a permit.

Preliminary bear harvest results indicate just over 4,500 bear were harvested in Wisconsin during the 2011 bear season. Price County led all counties with 349 bear harvested. Bayfield and Sawyer came in a close second and third with 326 and 301 bear registered, respectively. The statewide success rate decreased from 57% in 2010 to approximately 50% in 2011.

You may have heard about the bear population study currently in progress. The study began in spring 2011 when volunteers and DNR staff placed peanut butter baits containing tetracycline, a harmless antibiotic, in primary bear range. Thank you to the volunteers, including many members of the Bear Hunters Association, who assisted. An essential component of the study is to look for the presence of tetracycline in bears. Tetracycline is deposited in the bones when consumed, so we analyze a piece of rib from bears harvested within two years of the placement of the bear baits containing tetracycline. During the 2011 bear season, successful bear hunters submitted a 2 inch piece of rib from their bear for the population study and an upper pre-molar tooth for aging. In 2012, the Department is again requesting hunters submit the 2 inch rib sample and upper pre-molar tooth from all bears harvested. The tooth will be sent to a lab for aging analysis and we will contact successful hunters by mail with the age of their bear when we receive the age results. We appreciate you taking the time to collect and submit the required bear tissue samples if you harvest a bear during the 2012 season. The information provided from these samples provides data necessary to properly manage Wisconsin's black bear population.

Finding Public Land Open to Hunting

The DNR website provides detailed information about public and public-access lands in your area. Go to *dnr.wi.gov* and click on the hunting link. Look for the 'Where to Hunt' link under the 'Plan Your Hunt' subheading.

Voluntary Public Access Program

Voluntary Public Access (VPA) is a voluntary program offered by the DNR that provides financial incentives to private landowners who open their property to public hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife observation. More information about open properties and enrolling in VPA can be found by visiting *dnr.wi.gov* and searching 'VPA', or by contacting the VPA program coordinator at 608-266-5560.

Lead in Game Meat

Game harvested with lead bullets have been shown to have tiny lead particles or fragments remaining in the processed meat. These are often too small to be seen and can disperse far from the wound channel. Although lead in game meat does not rival lead paint in older homes as a health risk for the public, the risk is not low enough to ignore.

For information on where to find copper bullets and non-toxic ammunition for hunting, visit:

http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/lead2.pdf

Firewood Rules: Firewood brought onto state managed lands must not come from more than 25 miles away. Details can be found at: *dnr:wi.gov/invasives/firewood/* or by phone at: 1-877-303-WOOD (9663).

Questions?

Contact the DNR Call Center toll-free or visit the website

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.

Spanish and Hmong are spoken dnr.wi.gov

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 tsaus 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.

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.

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities. If you need this information in an alternative format, please call 608-266-8204.

Blaze Orange

Bear hunters **must** wear blaze orange during the two-day youth gun deer hunt that takes place October 6 - 7, 2012.

Licenses and Permits

- To be considered for a Class A Bear License in 2013, 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, 2012. If a zone is selected 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 will automatically receive a preference point.
- Applicants can submit their bear applications online at *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 will lose all previously accumulated preference points.
- Applicants who will not be bear hunting in 2013 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, 2012.**
- Applicants for a 2013 license or preference point must be at least 10 years old and eligible to purchase a license authorizing hunting by September 4, 2013.
- A nonresident may purchase a Class A or B bear license at the

2012 Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations



1937 - 2012

Tina Secora, 16, shot this bear, a boar with a 16" skull, in Vilas County on her first bear hunt. Her father, Matt accompanied her during the hunt and her uncle, Mark Macco, assisted with baiting and tracking. Tina is an accomplished archer and is captain of her National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) team.

Season Dates

Zone A, Zone B, and Zone D:

September 5 – September 11 • with aid of bait • with other legal methods not utilizing dogs

> September 12 – October 2 • with aid of dogs • with aid of bait • with other legal methods

October 3 – October 9 • with aid of dogs only

Zone C: September 5 – October 9 • with aid of bait

• with other legal methods **not** utilizing dogs



Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707 1-888-936-7463 **PUB-WM-197 2012**

Class A license holder who first shot the bear, who must also be present at the point of kill. Youth age 10-11 must comply with the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements* if they will act as the backup shooter. **Persons under the age of 16 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a Class B license. Note:** A Class B bear license is required by a licensed guide who engages in any activities requiring a Class B bear license. A guide license does not grant Class B bear license privileges. **Note:** A Class B bear license is not required to place bait for bear or to train or assist with bear dog training on August 18-19, 2012. **Note:** Any person who is assisting a disabled person who holds a Class A or B bear license and a Class A, B, or C disabled hunting permit is exempt from needing a Class B bear license.

- * Youth under age 10 may engage in all the activities authorized by a Class B bear license except that they may not possess a firearm or shoot a bear.
- * Youth ages 10 and 11 may only shoot a bear as a 'backup shooter' or possess a firearm if they are in compliance with all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements. One of the requirements is that they must possess a valid Wisconsin hunting license. Since youth ages 10 and 11 are not required to hold a Class B bear license, any other type of Wisconsin hunting license will fulfill this Hunting Mentorship Program requirement. Visit *dnr.wi.gov* and search for 'mentored hunting' for more information.

Best wishes for a safe and successful 2012 bear season,

Linda Olver Assistant Bear Biologist

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 resident fee if they are a current active duty member of the US Armed Forces and were a Wisconsin resident when they joined.

• Those hunters who have been drawn for a 2012 Class A Bear License can purchase their license at any time beginning on March 7, 2012. However, licenses purchased after September 5, 2012 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. Hunters may only hunt in the zone indicated on their license.

Class B License

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

A Class B license allows the holder to assist a Class A bear 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 (age 16 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, placing bait, or tracking. In addition, the Class B bear license allows the license holder to shoot a bear that was first lawfully shot, but not killed, by a Class A bear license holder but only if killing the bear is necessary to protect human safety. The 'backup shooter' must be a member of the same hunting party as the * Youth ages 12-15: All youth ages 12-13 and any person age 14-15 who has not yet completed hunter education must be in visual and voice contact of a parent or adult guardian to act as a 'backup shooter'.

Bear Hunting Back Tag

A bear hunting backtag is issued to all Class A bear licensees. The Class A bear license backtag is required to be attached to the center of your outermost layer of clothing above the waist where it is clearly visible while hunting bear, but is not required to be worn if only placing bait or training dogs to track or trail bear. While performing activities that do not require the backtag to be worn, **you must carry the backtag/license with you**.

License Issuance & Display

The number of Class A 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 within each zone are chosen first to receive a Class A license.** Hunters who apply as a group will enter the drawing with the preference point total of the group member with lowest preference. **Hunters must apply at least once every three years to retain their preference points.**

Holders of either the Class A or B bear licenses must carry their licenses on them when engaging in any of the activities requiring

the license, and display it to a warden upon request.

Class A Bear License Transfer

An adult may apply to transfer their Class A bear license to a youth age 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*.

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 arm's reach of a mentor and may only possess one firearm or bow jointly between the mentored hunter and the mentor. Refer to the DNR website at *dnr.wi.gov* for more information.

Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with **any** rimfire rifle, air rifle, center-fire rifle less than .22 caliber, .410 shotgun or handgun loaded with .410 shotgun ammunition, 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 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 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 explosivetipped arrow.
- Hunt bear with or while in possession of any crossbow except for residents and non-residents age 65 or older or those who hold one of the following permits for disabled hunters: crossbow permit, Class A, Class B crossbow, or Class C

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 attaching it to the bear. A backup shooter who kills a bear must ensure that the Class A bear license holder who first shot the bear immediately attaches their validated bear carcass tag to the bear.
- A bear may be divided into not more than five parts, not including the hide, only to facilitate removal from the field. 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 prior to registration:
- 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 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, and exhibit all parts at the time of 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 and before the carcass is removed from the county and bear management zone of kill. Registration stations adjacent to a

disabled permit. **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 or transport in a moving vehicle any firearm (other than a handgun), bow, or crossbow unless it is unloaded. Note: A loaded firearm can be placed on, but not in, a vehicle which is stationary. See http://dnr:wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/act51_faq.htm for more details.
- Place, possess, or transport a cocked crossbow in or on a motorized vehicle unless it is enclosed within a case.
- Load a firearm other than a handgun while it is in a vehicle, or to discharge any firearm in or from any moving vehicle or a stationary motorized vehicle except for certain disabled hunters with proper permits.*

* A person may load and discharge a firearm, bow, or crossbow from a stationary non-motorized vehicle which is not attached to a motor vehicle.

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.
- Possess, loan, or borrow another's license, permit, or tag.
 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, 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.

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 the DNR 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 *prevent 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.*

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

- 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 includes, but is not limited to, 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.
- Is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish bait automatically, mechanically, or by gravity.
- Is located within 50 yards of any established and maintained trail, road, or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards of a roadway having a posted limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
- 3. *No person may* <u>hunt over</u> bait material for bear without possessing a valid unused Class A bear license and carcass tag.
- 4. *No person may* <u>place</u> bait material for bear hunting without possessing a valid Class A or Class B bear license, unless under 16 years of age. A license is not needed to place bait for bear on August 18-19, 2012, or for persons who are assisting a disabled person who holds a Class A or B bear license and a Class A, B, or C disabled hunting permit.
- 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.



- 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.

Tooth and Rib Sample

Successful bear hunters are now required to provide a carcass tissue sample to the DNR at the time of registration if a tissue sample is requested. Currently, the DNR is requesting **one upper pre-molar tooth** and a **2**" **long piece of bear rib**. The tooth will be used to determine the age of the bear; the hunter will be notified of the bear's age when it is available.

The rib is used for a study that will estimate the size of the bear population within the state. The rib sample should be cut near the backbone. Do not collect the rib sample near the breastbone, as this part is not useable for this study. Be sure to remove all soft tissue from the bone to prevent the sample from rotting and place in the plastic sample bag provided.

Instructions on tooth and rib sample collection are also available at *dnr.wi.gov*.

Transport

It is illegal to:

• Transport another person's unregistered bear unless

accompanied by the person who was issued the Class A bear carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal. **Note:** Residents and non-residents may transport legally possessed bear out of state provided they are registered according to the procedures outlined under "Tagging and Registration."

Dog Training and Use

A Class B bear license is not required to train or assist with bear dog training on August 18-19, 2012.

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with dogs in Zone C.
- Train dogs by pursuing bear except from July 1 through August 31 statewide, or in Zones A, B, or D during the season when hunting bear with dogs is open.
- 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



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

