

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 explosive-tipped 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 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

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.

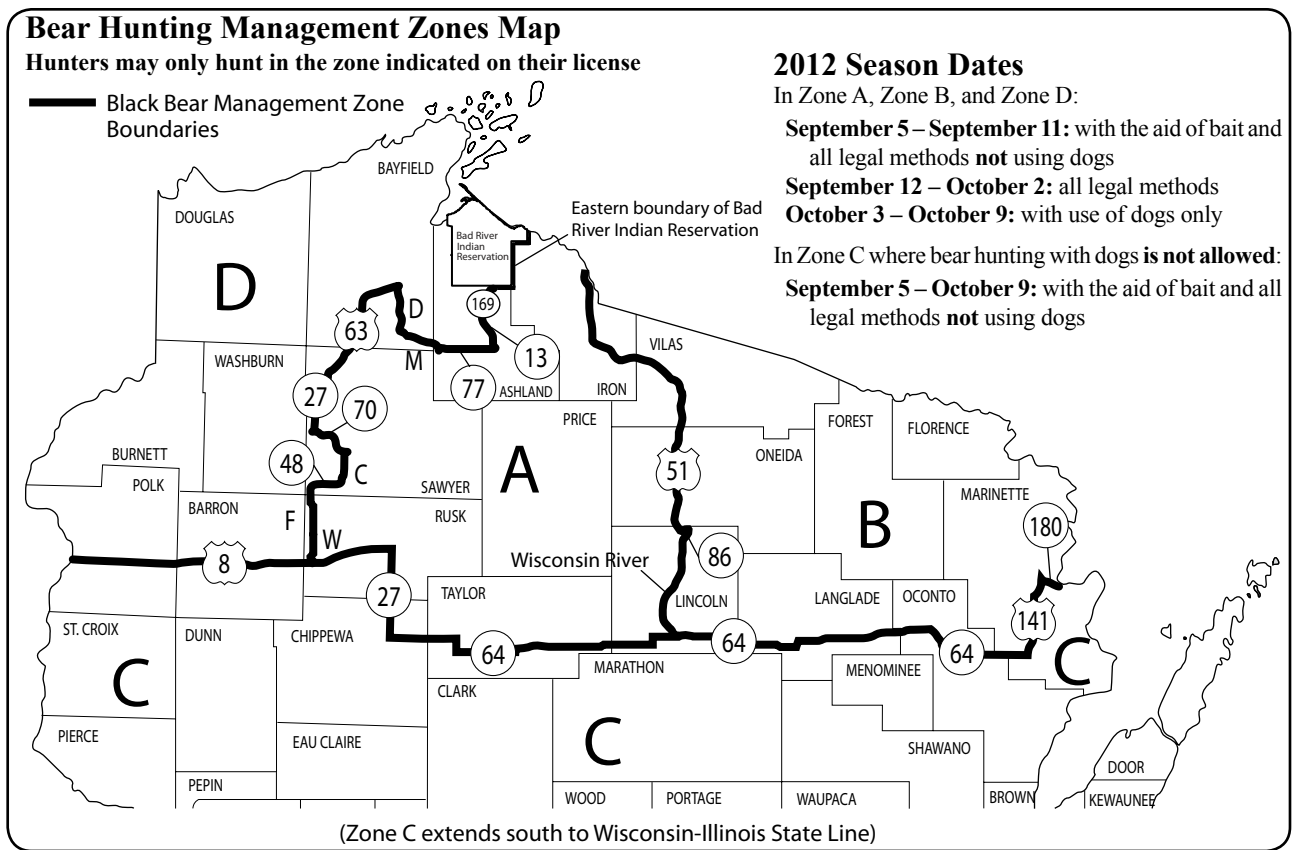
Note: Class A and certain Class B disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact the DNR for more information.

Baiting

- 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.
- 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.
 - No person may hunt over** bait material for bear without possessing a valid unused Class A bear license and carcass tag.
 - No person may place** 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.
 - 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.



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

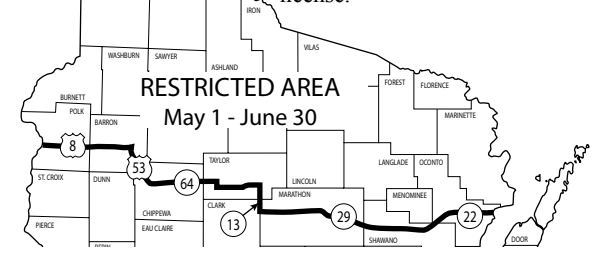
A Class B bear license is not required to train or assist with bear dog training on August 18-19, 2012.

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 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.

