

# BEAR

LYNN BYSTROM

## ■ BEAR SEASON DATES

Zone	Dates
Zones A, B and D	Sept. 7–13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With aid of bait</li> <li>With all legal methods <b>not</b> using dogs</li> </ul>
	Sept. 14–Oct. 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With aid of dogs</li> <li>With aid of bait</li> <li>With all other legal methods</li> </ul>
	Oct. 5–11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With aid of dogs only</li> </ul>
Zone C, E and F	Sept. 7–Oct. 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With aid of bait</li> <li>With all other legal methods <b>not</b> using dogs</li> </ul>

## LICENSES/PERMITS

### What You Need To Hunt Bear:

- A class A bear license (See page 8 for acceptable forms of proof.)
- A paper carcass tag.
- No license is required for a person to bait bear for hunting or training purposes, to train a dog to track or trail bear or to assist a licensed bear hunter in hunting bear by tracking or trailing bear.

## VALIDATION AND TAGGING

- The hunter is required to possess a paper carcass tag while bear hunting. Electronic copies of carcass tags are not accepted.
- Immediately upon killing a bear, validate the paper carcass tag by removing the bottom portion (the “validation stub”).
- If you leave it, tag it!** You may not leave the bear carcass unless the validated carcass tag is attached to it. In other words, attach the tag with string or other fastener as soon as you plan to leave the carcass.
- Carcass tags must be kept intact and legible; consider protecting the tag inside a zip-top plastic bag.
- It is illegal to:**
  - Possess or transport a bear carcass unless also in possession of the validated carcass tag.

- Possess while afield a validated bear carcass tag unless that person is also in possession of the legally killed bear corresponding to it.
- Possess while hunting or afield more than one copy of a unique carcass tag.
- Possess, borrow or loan another’s license, permit or tag.
- If a backup shooter kills a bear that was shot, but not killed, by the Class A bear license holder, it is still the Class A bear license holder’s responsibility to validate that carcass tag.

## FIELD DRESSING

- A bear may be divided into not more than 5 parts, not including the hide, only to facilitate removal from the field. The hunter may divide the carcass

prior to registering the bear. 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 while afield:
  - 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.

## TRANSPORT

While afield, it is illegal to possess or transport another hunter’s bear, even after it has been registered, unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag that has been attached to the bear, except that anyone may still transport another person’s registered bear on a public road or possess it at a residence, home, camp or business.

## BACKUP SHOOTERS

Backup shooters must adhere to the following rules:

- May only shoot if the Class A bear license holder possesses an unused bear carcass tag valid for the zone being hunted.
- May only shoot for the purpose of killing a bear that was shot but not killed by a Class A bear license holder.
- May only shoot if killing the bear is necessary to protect the safety of the members of the hunting party or others.

## DOG TRAINING AND USE

Dogs may be trained by pursuing bear statewide on lands open to public hunting or on private lands with permission from July 1–Aug. 31. It is legal to train dogs in Zones A, B and D during the season when hunting bear with aid of dogs is open.

While hunting bear, or training dogs to pursue bear during the open season for hunting bear, **it is illegal to:**

- Hunt or train dogs to pursue bear before or after established shooting

## ■ BEAR REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY

Successful hunters must electronically register bears they harvest in the county of kill or in an adjoining county, by 5 p.m. the day after recovery. Register a bear in one of three ways:

- Go to [gamereg.wi.gov](http://gamereg.wi.gov)** (fastest and easiest method).
- Call 844-426-3734 (844-GAME-REG).**
- Visit** an in-person station. Go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “**registration stations**” to find a list.

Once registration is complete, the GameReg system will issue a confirmation number for the hunter’s records. Once the bear is registered, keep the carcass tag with the meat until all meat has been consumed.

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hours (except when training dogs from July 1 – Aug. 31, these hours do not apply).

- Hunt bear with dogs in Zones C, E and F.
- Hunt, train dogs or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed or wearing a collar displaying the owner's name and address.
- 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.

## BAITING

Bait may be used for hunting or training bear dogs if the following rules are followed:

- Bait may only be placed beginning April 15 through the last day of the bear season.
- No more than 10 gallons may be used at any bait site, including liquid scent.
- Bait must be enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or stump which is capped with unprocessed or naturally occurring materials such as logs or rocks to prevent deer from accessing the materials. This does not apply to liquid scents.
- Although not regulated, hunters are encouraged to minimize or avoid the use of chocolate in bait. Chocolate is toxic and can be lethal to bears and other wildlife, especially cubs.
- Bait may not contain or be contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, processed wood, or other similar processed materials, except that a processed wood bottom may be affixed to a hollow log or stump using adhesive, nails, or screws for the purpose of containing bear bait or feed.
- Bait may not contain any animal part or by-products. Animal parts or by-products include honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, animal carcasses and bacon grease, but does not include liquid scents or cheese.
- Automatic, mechanical or gravity feeders designed to automatically deposit or replenish bait may not be used.
- Bait may not be placed within 50 yards of any established or maintained trail, road or campsite or within 100 yards of a roadway having a posted speed limit of 45 MPH or more.
- When the bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered must again be enclosed and made inaccessible to deer.
- No person may hunt bear or train dogs over bait that is in violation of these regulations, unless the area is completely free of bait or feed material

for at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals, or dog training. 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.

- ***It is not legal to place or deposit feed for bears for purposes other than legal bear hunting or bear dog training.***

## OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Hunters may not:

- Shoot or molest any bear in a den.
- Hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill.
- Kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs.

**Note:** An adult bear is any bear 42 inches or greater in length from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.

## MANDATORY BEAR TOOTH SAMPLE SUBMISSION

In addition to registering their harvest, successful hunters are required to provide TWO upper pre-molar teeth in 2022. One will be used to determine age, and one will be used for DNA sampling to support development of a statewide bear population estimate.

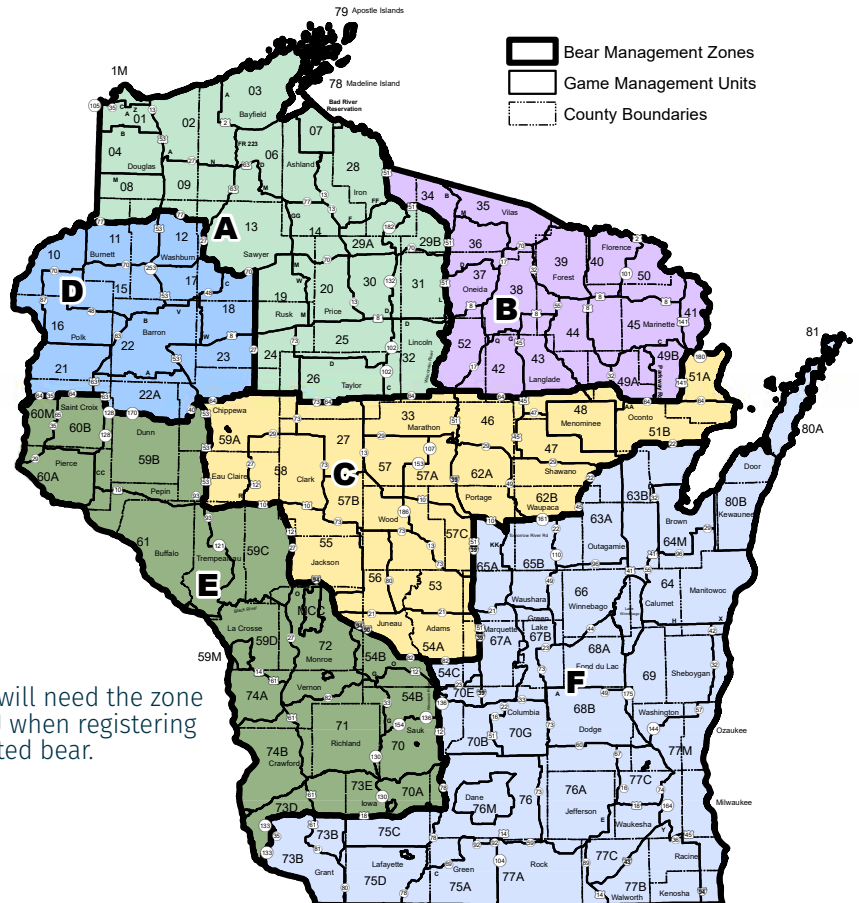
Instructions for collection of the teeth will be mailed to hunters who draw Class A licenses. To find instructions online, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "bear registration."

Hunters will be notified of the bear's age after samples are analyzed.

If a hunter does not have DNR-provided materials, the hunter should write their name, customer ID number and registration confirmation number on a piece of paper and affix the teeth to it with tape. Enclose this in an envelope and mail to:

Bear Tooth  
107 Sutliff Ave  
Rhinelander, WI 54501.

## BEAR MANAGEMENT ZONES



Hunters will need the zone and GMU when registering a harvested bear.