

2025

# MICHIGAN BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS SUMMARY



## Important

- Elevated platforms can be placed on public lands 31 days prior to the open bear season in each bear management unit.
- The quiet period for dog training on bears in Zone 2 and Zone 3 has been changed to four days.
- The option to select a second hunt choice at the time of application has been removed. Applicants can apply for one hunt choice.
- Edible meat from harvested bears must be utilized.

**Drawing results available  
June 23.**

**Application period: May 1 - June 1, 2025**

RAP (Report All Poaching): Call or text 800-292-7800

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish. The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/NRC](http://Michigan.gov/NRC).

This program receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

NOTICE: This document is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a summary of regulations issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of wildlife conservation orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](http://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws).



Revenue from hunting licenses funds wildlife conservation in Michigan.

MICHIGAN  
**WILDLIFE**  
COUNCIL

### Managing bears

Bears have likely been in Michigan since the melting of the last glacier. Until European settlement, bears existed throughout the state in areas with forested habitat. Bears typically were treated as pests by early European settlers arriving in Michigan and were unprotected in the state until 1925. Since 1925, regulated hunting has been an important part of the bear management program, with many different season structures. The majority of the bear population lives in the Upper Peninsula, where large tracts of state, federal and private commercial forest lands contain good to excellent bear habitat. Increasing bear and human populations in portions of the northern Lower Peninsula bring additional complexity

to bear management, as bears and people attempt to use the same areas at increasing rates. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of bears to meet management goals. For more information on bear management in Michigan, visit [Michigan.gov/Bear](https://Michigan.gov/Bear).

Healthy habitat is an important part of managing bears, including preventing the spread of invasive species. Protect habitats by starting each day with clean gear and equipment and decontaminate before leaving the location.

### Bear management plan strategic goals

The statewide bear management plan is summarized below to promote an understanding of the overall bear management vision for Michigan.

1. Use hunting as the primary tool for managing bears.
2. Manage bear recreation to reduce user conflicts and maintain recreational opportunities.
3. Increase public awareness and understanding of bears and bear-related issues.
4. Maintain an active bear research and monitoring program.
5. Provide bears with appropriate habitat.
6. Achieve a balance between bear distribution and abundance and social carrying capacity.
7. Prevent and resolve negative bear-human interactions.



**Bear hunting season dates and license quotas**

**How many bear licenses are available in 2025?**

Bear licenses are valid for specific bear management units and hunting dates. In all BMUs, license availability is subject to a license quota.

<b>BMU</b>	<b>Hunt period</b>	<b>Season dates</b>	<b>License quota</b>	<b>Maximum nonresident licenses</b>	<b>Hunt number</b>
Amasa	1	Sept. 10 – Oct. 21	120	6	0007
Amasa	2	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	110	5	0008
Amasa	3	Sept. 25 – Oct. 26	280	14	0009
Baldwin	1	Sept. 13-23 and Oct. 3-9	395	19	0021
Baraga	1	Sept. 10 – Oct. 21	305	15	0004
Baraga	2	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	435	21	0005
Baraga	3	Sept. 25 – Oct. 26	830	41	0006
Bergland	1	Sept. 10 – Oct. 21	170	8	0001
Bergland	2	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	230	11	0002
Bergland	3	Sept. 25 – Oct. 26	435	21	0003
Carney	1	Sept. 10 – Oct. 21	90	4	0010
Carney	2	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	155	7	0011
Carney	3	Sept. 25 – Oct. 26	320	16	0012
Drummond Island	1	Sept. 10 – Oct. 21	8	0	0019
Gladwin	1	Sept. 13-23 and Oct. 3-9	95	4	0022
Gwinn	1	Sept. 10 – Oct. 21	140	7	0013
Gwinn	2	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	155	7	0014
Gwinn	3	Sept. 25 – Oct. 26	440	22	0015
Newberry	1	Sept. 10 – Oct. 21	200	10	0016
Newberry	2	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	200	10	0017
Newberry	3	Sept. 25 – Oct. 26	480	24	0018
Red Oak	1	Sept. 13-23 and Oct. 3-9	685	34	0020

See the equipment regulations and hunting methods sections on pages 31-41 for date restrictions on the use of firearms, bait and dogs.

## SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

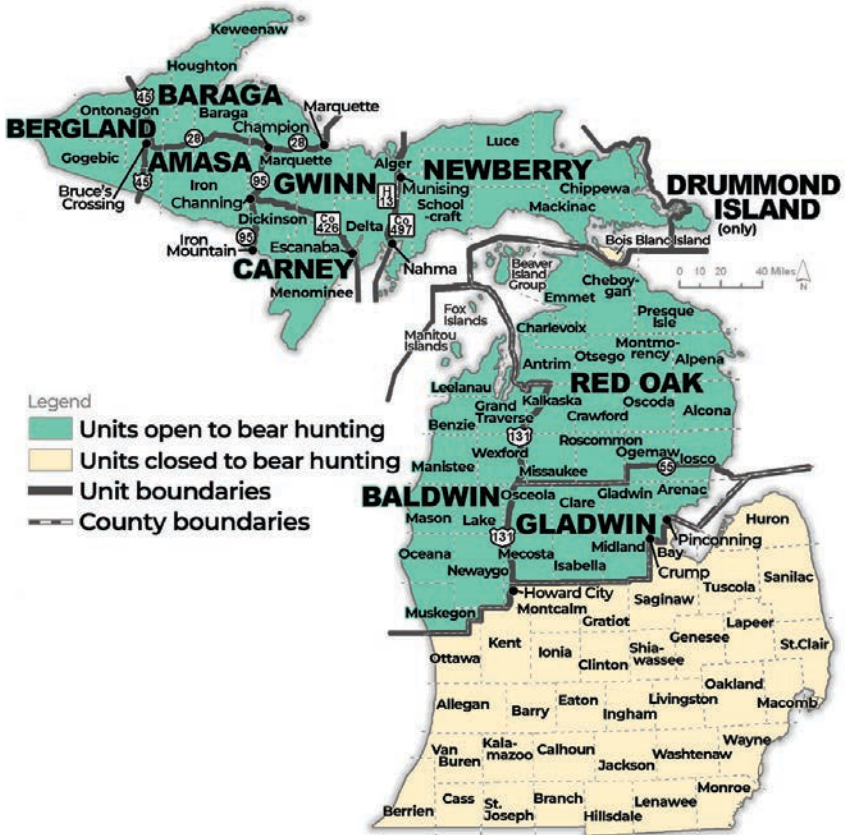
### I am new to bear hunting. Is there a program to help new hunters like me?

Yes. The DNR offers bear hunting clinics, where students will learn about bear habitat, gear, stand placement, baiting, rules and regulations, carcass care, and hide care. A fee may be charged, and space may be limited. For details about events, visit [Michigan.gov/OutdoorSkills](http://Michigan.gov/OutdoorSkills) or call the DNR's Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center at 231-779-1321.

## Bear management units

### Where can I find detailed descriptions of bear management unit boundaries?

For detailed descriptions of bear management unit boundaries, visit [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](http://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws) or contact a DNR customer service center, listed at [Michigan.gov/ContactDNR](http://Michigan.gov/ContactDNR).



*Isle Royale, part of Keweenaw County (not pictured), is closed to bear hunting.*

## Lower Peninsula season structure

### Why do the Lower Peninsula season dates change each year?

Lower Peninsula season dates are determined by a formula defined in the Wildlife Conservation Order. Each year, the Lower Peninsula season is:

- The second Saturday in September through 10 days thereafter and the first Friday following Oct. 1 through six days thereafter.

## Upper Peninsula season structure

### Why do the Upper Peninsula season dates change each year?

Upper Peninsula season dates are determined by a formula defined in the Wildlife Conservation Order. Each year, the Upper Peninsula season is:

- First hunt period: From the Wednesday before the second Saturday in September through Oct. 21.
- Second hunt period: From the Monday following the second Saturday in September through Oct. 26.
- Third hunt period: Sept. 25 through Oct. 26.

## Bag limits

### How many bears can I harvest with a bear license?

You can harvest one bear per bear license.

### Can I harvest a cub bear or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear?

No. You cannot harvest a cub bear or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear.

### How do I identify a cub bear?

A cub bear is defined as any bear less than 42 inches in length from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. Marking a stick or other item and placing it near your bait site may help you determine whether a bear is legal to harvest.



### **How does the bear drawing and preference point system work?**

Hunters are selected for a bear license using a preference point drawing system. In the annual drawing, an applicant's total number of preference points is equal to the number of preference points they have earned in past bear drawings (beginning in 2000). Drawing applicants with the greatest number of preference points in each hunt period are selected first. Drawing applicants who are not selected for a license earn one point for future bear drawings. Only one preference point will be awarded each year. For more information on the bear drawing, watch the "Preference Point System Explained" video at [Michigan.gov/Bear](https://Michigan.gov/Bear).

### **Where can I check my preference points?**

You can check your preference points at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. Preference points are tracked by customer ID. To ensure that all your preference points are considered in the drawing, you should apply with the same ID used to apply in previous years. If your ID changes, call 517-284-9453 before the application deadline to ensure your preference points are combined under your current ID.

### **What will happen to my preference points if I stop applying?**

You must apply in the bear drawing at least once every five years to retain your preference points. Preference points are reset to zero for applicants who do not apply for five consecutive years.

### **How many preference points do I need to be selected for a bear license?**

Preference point requirements for each hunt period vary from year to year depending on license availability and number of applicants. In all BMUs, license availability is subject to a license quota. See what the point requirements were for the 2024 license drawing on page 14.

### **What happens to my preference points if I am selected for a bear license in the drawing?**

If you are successful in the drawing, your preference points will be reset to zero, including if you choose not to purchase your license. Lifetime comprehensive license holders who purchase a leftover bear license retain their bear points.

## Application information

### **When is the application period for the 2025 bear drawing?**

The application period is May 1 – June 1, 2025.

### **How much is an application?**

An application is \$5.

### **How many bear applications can I purchase?**

You can only purchase one bear application per year. You can apply for a bear license valid for a specific BMU during specific season dates or apply for a preference point only.



## What identification do I need to purchase an application?

To purchase a bear application in Michigan, you must have one of the following forms of identification:

1. Valid Michigan driver's license.
2. Valid nonresident driver's license.
3. State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State).
4. Michigan DNR Sportcard.

## Where can I purchase an application?

You can purchase an application from any license agent, online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. The app is available for download at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Find a license agent at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents).

## Eligible applicants

### Who is eligible to apply for the drawing?

The following people are eligible to apply for a bear license or preference point (unless they have an active revocation or are otherwise ineligible):

1. A person who is 9 years old or younger and is licensed under the Mentored Hunting Program.
2. A person who is or will be 10 years old or older during the hunt period for which they are applying for and has a hunter education certificate or is licensed as an apprentice hunter or an inclusive mentored hunter.

### I am an apprentice hunter. Can I apply for the drawing?

Yes. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you can purchase an application for a bear license or preference point. See the Apprentice hunting section for more information.

### I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I apply for the drawing?

Yes. You can apply in the Michigan bear drawing as a nonresident. However, no more than 5% of licenses for any hunt number will be issued to nonresidents.

## Application process

### How do I apply for the drawing?

1. Look at the BMU map on page 6 and choose the BMU you want to hunt.
2. Look at the bear hunt table on page 5 to find your desired season dates for the BMU you chose. Make note of the corresponding hunt number and be sure to select this number when purchasing your application.
3. Purchase an application for the hunt number you chose (you can select one hunt number).
4. Check your receipt for accuracy and retain it as proof of your application.

### **If I know I won't be able to hunt this year, can I apply for a preference point only?**

Yes. You can apply for a preference point only to use for future drawings if you do not apply for a license.

### **How do I apply for a preference point?**

When purchasing your application, select the "preference point only" option. Do not select a hunt number. By selecting "preference point only" on your application, you are not eligible to receive a 2025 bear license but will earn an additional preference point for future bear drawings.

### **Can I auto-renew my bear preference point application?**

Yes. If you select "preference point only" on your bear application, you have the option to set up auto-renewal for next year. Applications with hunt choices selected cannot be auto-renewed. Contact the Licensing help desk at 517-284-6057 for assistance.

## Party applications

### **Can I apply to hunt with other hunters?**

Yes. You can apply in a party with up to four people (including yourself). If you apply with more than three people, you will be ineligible for the drawing. The preference point total for the party will be equal to the person with the fewest number of preference points. A party is considered nonresident if any person in the party is a nonresident. Everyone in the party will receive a license if the party is selected, except for those who submit an invalid application.

### **How do I apply with someone else as a party?**

The first person to apply (either you or another member of the party) selects the hunt number and receives a "party ID" number, which is printed on the application receipt. A new party ID number is issued each year. Then, the other people use the party ID number when applying to complete the party. Make sure to verify the party ID number is identical on all receipts.

## Application assistance

### **The receipt I received is not printed clearly or has an error. What do I do?**

You are responsible for obtaining a DNR application receipt that correctly states your customer ID and hunt choice. Do not accept a receipt that is not legible. Check your receipt for accuracy and retain it as proof that you applied. Ensure any application errors are corrected prior to the application deadline. If you submit an invalid application, you will be ineligible for the drawing.

### **I am having trouble applying. What do I do?**

You can call 517-284-9453 for assistance.

## Drawing results

### **When will drawing results be available?**

Drawing results will be available on June 23, 2025.

### **How do I check my drawing results?**

You can check your drawing results online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses), through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app or by calling 517-284-9453. You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results.

### **What happens if I am selected for a license in the drawing?**

You can purchase the license for which you were selected. Your preference points will be reset to zero, even if you choose not to purchase your license. See the License types and fees section for more information.

### **Can I sell my drawing success?**

No. You cannot sell your bear drawing success to another person.

### **Can I transfer my drawing success?**

Yes. You can transfer your bear drawing success to an eligible individual. It is unlawful for an individual who transfers their bear drawing success to assist the transfer recipient in any manner in taking a bear for a fee or other consideration or service of value, either directly or indirectly. See the Bear hunt transfer program section on page 15 for more information.

### **What happens if I am not selected for a license in the drawing?**

If you applied in the drawing and were unsuccessful, you will receive one preference point for use in future bear license drawings. You can purchase a leftover license for another hunt number with a quota remaining beginning July 7 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. Depending on how many hunters apply, leftover licenses may or may not be available for some bear management units and/or hunt period dates. Your preference points will be reset to zero if you purchase a leftover license. See the Leftover licenses section for more information.

### **What happens if I didn't apply for the drawing?**

If you didn't apply for the drawing, you can purchase a leftover license, if available, beginning July 14 at 10 a.m. ET. See the Leftover licenses section for more information.

## Bear drawing statistics

### **Where can I find the bear drawing statistics summary?**

You can find the complete bear drawing statistics summary at [Michigan.gov/Bear](https://Michigan.gov/Bear).

### **Can I plan my bear hunt based on previous year's drawing statistics?**

No. You must confirm your personal drawing results before finalizing your bear hunting plans. Preference point requirements for each hunt number vary from year to year depending on license availability and number of applicants. Statistics from past drawings do not guarantee future drawing success.



## Bear management unit information

BMU	Hunt period	2023 applicants*	2024 applicants*	2023 license quota	2024 license quota	2025 license quota
Amasa	1	534	600	120	120	120
Amasa	2	419	474	130	130	110
Amasa	3	513	535	250	250	280
Baldwin	1	2,270	2,639	395	395	395
Baraga	1	1,103	1,213	305	305	305
Baraga	2	814	425	425	425	435
Baraga	3	789	846	810	810	830
Bergland	1	586	659	180	180	170
Bergland	2	610	598	260	260	230
Bergland	3	279	289	480	480	435
Carney	1	770	854	95	95	90
Carney	2	543	590	135	135	155
Carney	3	623	753	320	320	320
Drummond Island	1	169	196	6	6	8
Gladwin	1	979	1,050	100	100	95
Gwinn	1	897	1,021	155	155	140
Gwinn	2	552	605	205	205	155
Gwinn	3	566	664	525	525	440
Newberry	1	1,996	2,147	215	215	200
Newberry	2	1,169	1,227	235	235	200
Newberry	3	1,301	1,407	555	555	480
Red Oak	1	8,372	8,830	685	685	685
Preference points only	N/A	34,246	39,953	N/A	N/A	N/A
Statewide	N/A	60,100	67,988	6,586	6,586	6,278

Includes both eligible and ineligible applicants.

\*Number of applicants who selected each hunt as their first choice.

# BEAR DRAWING AND PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM

Preference point requirements – resident only				
BMU	Hunt period	2022 points required*	2023 points required*	2024 points required*
Amasa	1	7-8	6-7	5-6
Amasa	2	3-4	3-4	3-4
Amasa	3	0-1	0-1	0-1
Baldwin	1	10-11	8-9	8-9
Baraga	1	3-4	3-4	3-4
Baraga	2	1-2	0-1	0-1
Baraga	3	0	0	0
Bergland	1	4-5	3-4	3-4
Bergland	2	0-1	0-1	0-1
Bergland	3	0	0	0-1
Carney	1	6-7	6-7	7
Carney	2	2-3	2-3	3
Carney	3	0-1	0-1	0-1
Drummond Island	1	19	19-20	20-21
Gladwin	1	7-8	7-8	8-9
Gwinn	1	5-6	5-6	5-6
Gwinn	2	1-2	1-2	1-2
Gwinn	3	0-1	0-1	0-1
Newberry	1	8-9	8-9	8-9
Newberry	2	4-5	4-5	4-5
Newberry	3	1-2	1-2	1-2
Red Oak	1	9-10	9-10	9-10

\*Residents within this range of preference points were selected for a license in the bear drawing. Those at the top number of the range were all selected. Some residents at the bottom number of the range were selected. Point requirements may vary in future drawings.

## Bear hunt transfer program

### **What is the bear hunt transfer program?**

The bear hunt transfer program allows successful applicants to transfer their drawing success to an eligible person they know or donate their drawing success anonymously to individuals on the DNR hunt waiting list. Visit [Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers](https://Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers) to learn more about the bear hunt transfer program.

### **Who is eligible to receive a bear hunt transfer?**

1. Youth hunters, 16 years old and younger, who applied for a bear license and were unsuccessful in the current-year bear drawing.
2. Any person who has been diagnosed with an advanced illness. An application for a license in the current-year bear drawing is not required. Individuals with an advanced illness must complete the Physician Certification of Advanced Illness form to certify their eligibility for a transfer. The form is available at [Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers](https://Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers).

### **I am a successful applicant. How do I transfer or donate my drawing success?**

You must submit a transfer request form by Sept. 1. Forms are available at [Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers](https://Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers). You have the option to transfer your success to an eligible person of your choosing or donate your success to someone on the DNR hunt waiting list. If a hunt recipient is not named on your form, the hunt will be offered to the next eligible person on the DNR hunt waiting list.

### **What will happen to my preference points if I transfer my drawing success?**

Your preference points were reset to zero when you were selected for a license in the drawing. Preference points will not be restored if you transfer your drawing success.

### **What is the DNR hunt waiting list?**

Those who are eligible to receive a donated bear hunt through the bear hunt transfer program can register for the DNR hunt waiting list to receive a donated bear hunt. The registration period to join the list is March 1 - July 10. There is no guarantee that everyone on the list will receive a donated hunt.

## License types and fees by age

License type	Youth age 9 and under	Youth age 10-16	Resident age 17-64	Resident senior age 65+	Nonresident age 17+ <sup>1</sup>
<b>Base license* - valid through March 31, 2026</b>	N/A	\$6	\$11	\$5	\$151
<b>Bear application</b>	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
<b>Bear license</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
<b>DNR Sportcard<sup>2</sup></b>	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
<b>Inclusive mentored license<sup>3</sup></b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Mentored youth license</b>	\$7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>No-kill-tag bear license</b>	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
<b>Pure Michigan Hunt application</b>	N/A	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5

\*One dollar from each of these licenses will be used to educate the public on the benefits of hunting, fishing and trapping in Michigan and the impact of these activities on the conservation, preservation and management of the state's natural resources.

<sup>1</sup>Nonresidents under 17 years old may purchase a resident base license.

<sup>2</sup>The DNR Sportcard is not required if you have a valid state-issued driver's license or ID card.

<sup>3</sup>The inclusive mentored license package is only available for qualified individuals at DNR offices, online through [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.

### **Resident active-duty U.S. military personnel and Michigan veterans with disabilities**

Resident active-duty military personnel and resident veterans with a 100% disability rating can obtain a leftover bear license free of charge, beginning July 14. Licenses are full price for those who apply for a license and are selected in the drawing.

**Lifetime comprehensive license holders** receive a current-year base license free of charge. If selected in the drawing, lifetime comprehensive license holders may obtain their bear license free of charge. Lifetime comprehensive license holders who do not receive a license through the drawing may obtain a free leftover bear license beginning June 30 at 10 a.m. ET. A lifetime comprehensive license holder may purchase a no-kill-tag bear license for \$15.

## Hunter education

### **Is hunter education required for purchasing a license?**

Yes. If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, you must present your hunter education certificate or previous hunting license (other than a base apprentice license) to purchase your license. Individuals who are qualified to hunt with inclusive mentored licenses are exempt from the hunter education requirements



(see the Mentored hunting section for more details). A valid hunter education certificate from another state meets this requirement. Michigan's hunter education courses are offered throughout the year around the state. The online course can be found at [Michigan.gov/HunterEducation](https://Michigan.gov/HunterEducation). For a replacement Michigan hunter education certificate, visit [Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety](https://Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety).

### **What are the rules for a youth hunter 10-16 years old who has a hunter education certificate?**

A youth hunter 10-16 years old who has a hunter education certificate must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older to while hunting, unless the youth is hunting on land where a parent or guardian regularly lives.

## **Mentored hunting**

### **What is the Mentored Hunting Program?**

The Mentored Hunting Program is a set of rules that establishes the mentored youth license package and the inclusive mentored license package. Complete program details can be found at [Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting](https://Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting).

### **What are the rules for a mentor participating in the Mentored Hunting Program?**

A mentor is responsible for the mentored hunter's actions in the field. A mentor must ensure the hunting device (shotgun, rifle, bow, etc.) used by the mentored hunter is properly fitted and appropriately suited for the mentored hunter. A mentor can only carry two hunting devices in the field. To participate as a mentor in the Mentored Hunting Program, you must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Have previous hunting experience.
- Possess a current-year Michigan base license that is not an apprentice license.

### **What is the mentored youth license?**

The mentored youth license is a license package that allows youth hunters 9 years old and younger to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species with a qualified mentor. It also allows the mentored youth hunter to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk and fall turkey. The mentored youth license and kill tags will remain valid for the duration of the license year, even if the mentored youth hunter turns 10 years old during the year.

### **I am 9 years old or younger and not a resident of Michigan. Can I purchase a mentored youth license?**

Yes. The mentored youth license is available to both residents and nonresidents who are 9 years old or younger.

### **What is the inclusive mentored license?**

The inclusive mentored license is a license package that allows individuals with developmental disabilities to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers and fish for all species with a qualified mentor. It also

allows the mentored hunter to purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk and fall turkey.

### **Who qualifies for the inclusive mentored license?**

To qualify for the inclusive mentored license, one of the following must apply:

- The mentored individual is a minor child with a developmental disability and is unable to complete hunter education.
- The mentored individual is an adult with a developmental disability, has a guardian appointed under chapter 6 of the mental health code (1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1600 to 330.1644) and is unable to complete hunter education.

### **I am a mentored hunter. Can I purchase a bear license?**

Yes. If you are licensed under the Mentored Hunting Program, you can purchase a bear license awarded in the drawing or a leftover bear license, if available.

## Apprentice hunting

### **What is the Apprentice Hunting Program?**

The Apprentice Hunting Program allows a person who does not have a hunter education certificate and is 10 years old or older to hunt during the current hunting seasons with a qualified mentor. An apprentice hunter will need to purchase a base apprentice license to participate. Additional licenses are required to hunt big game, furbearers and waterfowl. Complete program details can be found at [Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting](https://Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting).

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I purchase a base apprentice license?**

Yes. The base apprentice license is available to residents and nonresidents who do not have a hunter education certificate.

### **How many times can I purchase a base apprentice license?**

You can purchase a base apprentice license for up to two license years before you must successfully complete a hunter education course and purchase a regular base license.

### **I am an apprentice hunter. Can I purchase a bear license?**

Yes. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you can purchase a bear license awarded in the drawing or a leftover bear license, if available.

### **I am an apprentice hunter. Can I hunt by myself?**

No. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you must be accompanied by someone 21 years old or older who has a regular, current-year hunting license for the same game you are hunting. If you are an apprentice hunter who is 10-16 years old, your accompanying mentor must be your parent, guardian or someone designated by your parent or guardian who is at least 21 years old. A mentor can accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

## **Does my accompanying mentor need to have a bear license for the same BMU or season dates as me?**

For hunting bear, your accompanying mentor needs a current-year bear license, but it does not have to be for the same BMU or season dates as your bear license.

## **How close do I need to be to my accompanying mentor during the hunt?**

Your accompanying mentor must be able to come to your immediate aid and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

## **Michigan residents**

### **Do I qualify as a Michigan resident?**

To qualify as a Michigan resident, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Reside in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state. Resident status can only be claimed in one state.
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university and reside in the state during the school year.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and be officially stationed in Michigan.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and maintain residency in Michigan.

### **I own land in Michigan but live in a different state. Can I purchase a resident hunting license?**

No. The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not a qualification for a resident license. You would be considered a nonresident.

## **Treaty-authorized hunters**

### **Can I hunt with a tribal member?**

Yes. You can hunt with a tribal member who is present and actively hunting if you possess a state-issued hunting license for the applicable species and season for which you are hunting. You must follow all applicable state bear hunting regulations.

### **Can I assist a tribal hunter during their bear hunt?**

Yes. You can assist a tribal hunter who is present and actively hunting or participating in legal hunting-related activities. However, state-licensed hunters or those accompanying them cannot use hunting dogs to assist a tribal hunter outside of the state bear hunting season or during the closed dog training season (April 16 - July 7). State-licensed hunters or those accompanying them cannot establish or tend to bait sites for tribal hunters outside the state bear baiting season (31 days before the open bear hunting season in the BMU through the end of the bear hunting season). For complete dates of when hunting with dogs is not allowed, please see pages 36-37.

### DNR Sportcard

#### What is a DNR Sportcard?

A DNR Sportcard serves as a valid form of identification for people without a driver's license. There are no age restrictions or residency requirements for purchase. **A DNR Sportcard is not required if you have a valid state-issued driver's license or ID card.** A DNR Sportcard with accurate information can be used from year to year.

### Base license

#### What is a base license?

A base license is required for everyone who hunts in Michigan. The base license provides funding for habitat and conservation work on both public and private land and supports the work of conservation officers and field staff to ensure safe, legal hunting practices are followed. The base license is not a kill tag and is valid for hunting small game. Additional licenses are required to hunt and trap other species. Hunters are always encouraged to carry their base license when hunting.

#### When can I purchase a 2025 base license?

The 2025 base license is currently available for purchase from any license agent, online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. A 2025 base license is valid through March 31, 2026.

#### I was selected for a bear license in the drawing, but cannot purchase my license. Why not?

While an application can be purchased prior to obtaining a base license, you must purchase a 2025 base license before you can purchase a bear license or a no-kill-tag bear license.

### Bear license

#### What is a bear license?

A bear license is a kill tag that allows an individual to harvest a bear within a designated BMU and hunt period. You cannot harvest a bear without the physical kill tag in your possession.

#### What types of lands can I hunt with a bear license?

A bear license is valid on all public and private lands within the designated BMU. You must have permission from the landowner to hunt on private property.

#### Can I purchase more than one bear license?

No. You can only purchase one bear license per year.

#### Can I allow someone else hunt to using my bear license?

No. You cannot use another person's kill tag or allow another person to use your

kill tag. It is illegal for hunters to harvest or attempt to harvest a bear unless they have an unused bear license issued in their name for the BMU in which they are hunting.

### **Can I use my bear license outside of the regular bear hunting season to harvest a bear that's causing crop damage?**

Yes, you can use your bear license to harvest a bear causing crop damage on private land if you are listed as the designated shooter on a bear damage shooting permit obtained by the landowner. You must have a valid bear license for the BMU where the damage is occurring. Bear damage shooting permits are only valid outside the regular bear hunting season. The use of bait to harvest a bear causing crop damage is prohibited. The use of dogs or nighttime shooting to harvest a bear causing crop damage is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For more information, please contact DNR bear specialist Cody Norton at [NortonC3@Michigan.gov](mailto:NortonC3@Michigan.gov).

### **Can I use the same kill tag on more than one bear?**

No. You cannot use a kill tag more than once.

### **Can I put my kill tag on a bear someone else harvested?**

No. You cannot put your kill tag on a bear you did not harvest.

## **No-kill-tag bear license**

### **What is a no-kill-tag bear license?**

A no-kill-tag bear license allows an individual (without a bear kill tag) to:

- Possess a bow, crossbow or firearm while accompanying a licensed bear hunter on a bear hunt.
- Chase or locate bear on a hunt with dogs they own.

## **Leftover licenses**

### **Are there always leftover licenses available?**

No. There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt number. Current leftover license and permit availability may be viewed at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses).

### **Do I lose my preference points if I purchase a leftover license?**

Yes. Your preference points will be reset to zero if you purchase a leftover bear license. However, lifetime comprehensive license holders retain their preference points with the purchase of a leftover bear license.

### **When can I purchase a leftover license if I am a lifetime comprehensive license holder?**

Lifetime comprehensive license holders who were not selected for a license in the drawing may obtain a free leftover bear license beginning June 30 at 10 a.m. ET.

### **When can I purchase a leftover license if I was not selected for a bear license in the drawing?**

If any licenses remain after the drawing and you have a current base license, you can purchase a leftover bear license on a first-come, first-served basis beginning July 7 at 10 a.m. ET.

### **When can I purchase a leftover license if I didn't apply for the drawing?**

If any licenses remain as of July 14 at 10 a.m. ET and you have a current base license, you can purchase a leftover bear license on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I purchase a leftover bear license?**

No. You cannot purchase a leftover bear license as a nonresident. Leftover licenses are available for residents only.

### **How many leftover bear licenses can I purchase?**

You can purchase one bear license (awarded in the drawing or leftover) per year. If you purchase a bear license awarded in the drawing, you are ineligible to purchase a leftover bear license.

## Pure Michigan Hunt

### **What is the Pure Michigan Hunt?**

The Pure Michigan Hunt is a chance at the hunt of a lifetime for three lucky hunters. Winners may purchase one elk (resident only), bear, antlerless deer, spring turkey, fall turkey and base hunting license at a total cost of \$3. They may also participate in one reserved waterfowl hunt at a managed waterfowl area or have first selection of another hunt choice at any managed waterfowl area if approved by the local area manager. Also, winners will receive a prize package worth thousands and can choose to transfer their Pure Michigan Hunt opportunities to other individuals. Each PMH license will be valid for the applicable 2026 species hunting season and able to be used in any open hunt area for that species, except bear hunting on Drummond Island. Licenses will be subject to all 2026 hunting regulations.

### **How does the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing system work?**

Hunters are selected for a Pure Michigan Hunt license package using a random drawing system. In the license drawing, Michigan residents and nonresidents are equally eligible for selection and license purchase.

### **Will the Pure Michigan Hunt affect my bear preference points?**

No. The purchase of Pure Michigan Hunt licenses will not affect your eligibility to apply for or purchase other hunting licenses and will not affect bear preference points you have earned.

**When is the application period for the 2026 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing?**

The application period is Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025.

**How many Pure Michigan Hunt applications can I purchase?**

You can purchase as many Pure Michigan Hunt applications as you wish until Dec. 31, 2025.

**I am an apprentice hunter. Can I apply in the drawing?**

No. You must be eligible to purchase a regular, nonapprentice base license to apply in the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing.

**I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I apply in the drawing?**

Yes. You can apply in the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing as a nonresident. However, if you are selected, you will not be eligible to receive the PMH elk license.

**When will the 2026 Pure Michigan Hunt winners be announced?**

Three lucky hunters will be drawn in January 2026, and the winners will be announced via Facebook video broadcast, with final confirmation by phone. Drawing results will be posted online the week following the video announcement.

**Where can I find more information?**

For more information on the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing, visit [Michigan.gov/PMH](https://Michigan.gov/PMH).



### Identification requirements

#### What identification do I need to purchase a license?

To purchase a hunting license in Michigan, you must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid Michigan driver's license.
- Valid nonresident driver's license.
- State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State).
- Michigan DNR Sportcard.

#### Do I have to carry my hunting license(s) when hunting?

Yes. When hunting, you must carry your applicable hunting license(s) and the identification used to purchase the license(s) and present them upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any law enforcement officer.

### Where to buy licenses and kill tags

#### Where can I purchase a Michigan hunting license?

You can purchase a Michigan hunting license from any license agent, online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. The app is available for download at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Find a license agent at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents).

#### I purchased my bear license online. When will I get my kill tag?

If you purchased your bear license online, your kill tag will be mailed to you seven to 10 business days after your purchase. You cannot go hunting without the bear license in your possession.

#### Where can I purchase the inclusive mentored license package?

You can purchase an inclusive mentored license package from any DNR office, online through [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.

### Lost licenses and kill tags

#### What do I do if I lost my bear license?

If you originally purchased your bear license at a license agent or online, you can visit a license agent and have your license replaced. Because a bear license is a kill tag, **a bear license replacement is full price**. You must provide the identification number used to purchase the original license.



# The Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app

Your portal to outdoor recreation



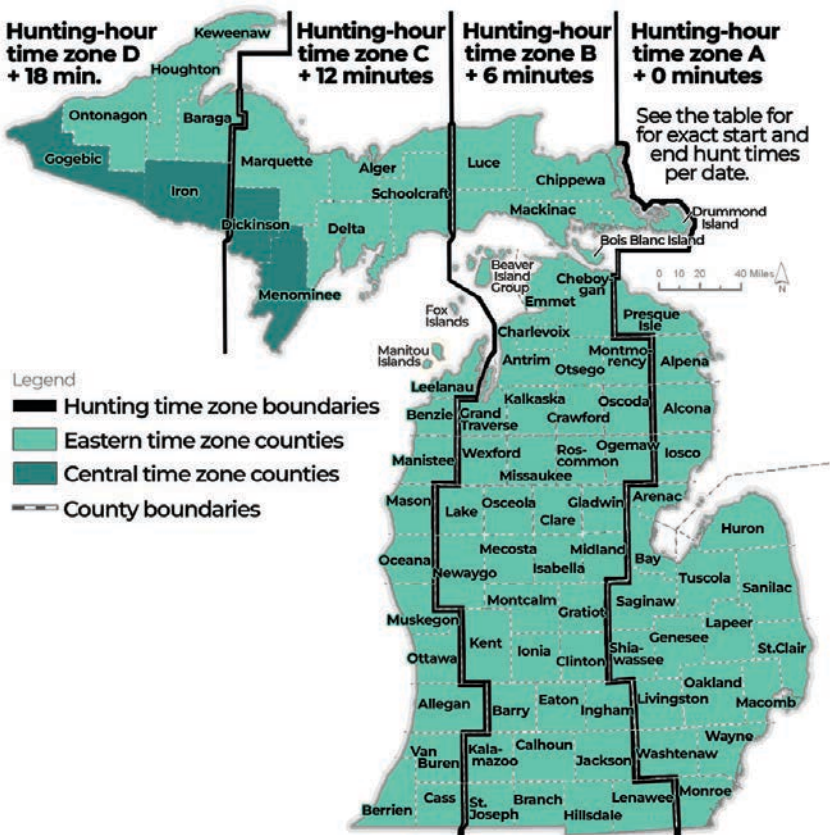
**Access licenses • Report harvests  
Regulations in your pocket**

## Hunting hours

### When is it legal for me to hunt bears?

Legal hunting hours for bears (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset) for Zone A are printed in the table. To determine the opening (a.m.) or closing (p.m.) time in another zone, add the minutes shown on the map for the zone to the time from the Zone A hunting hours table. The hunting hours listed in the table reflect Eastern Time. If you are hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson or Menominee counties (Central Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.

### Hunting time zones map



Isle Royale, part of Keweenaw County (not pictured), is closed to hunting and trapping.

## Zone A hunting hours table (September - October 2025)

Hunting hours listed are one half-hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time).

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Sept. 10	6:37	8:20
Sept. 11	6:38	8:18
Sept. 12	6:39	8:17
Sept. 13	6:40	8:15
Sept. 14	6:41	8:13
Sept. 15	6:42	8:11
Sept. 16	6:44	8:09
Sept. 17	6:45	8:08
Sept. 18	6:46	8:06
Sept. 19	6:47	8:04
Sept. 20	6:48	8:02
Sept. 21	6:49	8:01
Sept. 22	6:50	7:59
Sept. 23	6:51	7:57
Sept. 24	6:52	7:55
Sept. 25	6:53	7:54
Sept. 26	6:54	7:52
Sept. 27	6:55	7:50
Sept. 28	6:56	7:48
Sept. 29	6:57	7:47
Sept. 30	6:59	7:45

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Oct. 1	7:00	7:43
Oct. 2	7:01	7:41
Oct. 3	7:02	7:40
Oct. 4	7:03	7:38
Oct. 5	7:04	7:36
Oct. 6	7:05	7:35
Oct. 7	7:06	7:33
Oct. 8	7:07	7:31
Oct. 9	7:09	7:29
Oct. 10	7:10	7:28
Oct. 11	7:11	7:26
Oct. 12	7:12	7:24
Oct. 13	7:13	7:23
Oct. 14	7:14	7:21
Oct. 15	7:15	7:20
Oct. 16	7:17	7:18
Oct. 17	7:18	7:16
Oct. 18	7:19	7:15
Oct. 19	7:20	7:13
Oct. 20	7:21	7:12
Oct. 21	7:22	7:10
Oct. 22	7:24	7:09
Oct. 23	7:25	7:07
Oct. 24	7:26	7:06
Oct. 25	7:27	7:04
Oct. 26	7:28	7:03

### Safety zones

#### **What are the safety zones around buildings when hunting with a firearm?**

Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence, cabin or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person may hunt or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm within a safety zone without the written permission of the owner or occupant of the property. The safety zone applies to hunting only. It does not apply to indoor or outdoor shooting ranges, target shooting, law enforcement activities or the lawful discharge of firearms for any nonhunting purpose.

### National forest lands

#### **Can I hunt on national forest lands?**

Yes. Opportunities to hunt on national forest lands may be available for the Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee and Ottawa national forests. All state laws apply to national forest lands. Additional federal regulations also apply. For a complete listing of regulations, see 36 CFR 261 (Code of Federal Regulations) at

[FS.USDA.gov](https://www.fs.usda.gov).

### DNR-managed lands

Over 4.5 million acres of public lands are managed by the DNR and open to hunting!

#### **Where can I find public lands near me?**

You can find places to hunt by visiting [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://Michigan.gov/MiHunt). The interactive DNR map application Mi-HUNT can help you plan your hunting and other outdoor recreation adventures. It is the responsibility of the users of these maps to be aware of all regulations relevant to their hunting activities and locations. These maps show approximate boundaries of the lands open to public hunting.

#### **Where can I find the rules for DNR-managed lands?**

You can find the DNR-managed land use rules at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws). Please keep in mind that you cannot:

- Cut branches, limbs, trees or other vegetation for shooting lanes on public lands
- Block any gate, road or trail on public lands.
- Camp on public lands without a permit. Permits are free and are available online at [Michigan.gov/Camping](https://Michigan.gov/Camping) or at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and some state game areas.

## Local municipalities

### **Are there any local municipalities with hunting or trapping restrictions?**

Yes. Some local municipalities may be closed to hunting, trapping or the discharge of firearms. Please contact the local municipality office or local law enforcement agency to find out about restrictions.

## Commercial Forest lands

### **What are Commercial Forest lands?**

Commercial Forest lands are privately owned forests enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program. CF landowners are not required to identify the property as CF, and CF land may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing or hunting. The landowner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Descriptions of land in the CF program and a GIS map are available on the DNR website at [Michigan.gov/CommercialForest](https://Michigan.gov/CommercialForest). CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://Michigan.gov/MiHunt). Contact the DNR Forest Resources Division at 517-284-5900 or visit the Commercial Forest webpage for more information about CF lands.

### **Can I hunt on Commercial Forest lands?**

Yes. Over 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the Commercial Forest program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing, hunting and trapping. To hunt all species, you must possess licenses that are valid for private-land hunting. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner's discretion. Any activities other than the acts of fishing, hunting and trapping require landowner permission. Leaving anything unattended, other than traps, also requires landowner permission. In addition, hunters may not build structures or construct blinds other than with natural materials found on-site. The use of nails, bolts or tree steps is not allowed. The cutting of shooting lanes or destruction of brush, trees or other vegetation is prohibited. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction.

## Rights of way

### **Can I hunt within a road right of way?**

You can hunt within a road right of way where the adjoining property is publicly owned. If the adjacent property is privately owned, you must have permission from the landowner.

### Can I hunt within a railroad right of way?

Railroad rights of way are private property. **Trespassing on railroad property is a misdemeanor.** You must have written permission from the railroad company to be exempt from trespass.

## Trespassing

### Do I need permission to hunt on someone's private land?

Yes. Trespassing is unlawful and erodes support for recreational hunting. Written or verbal permission is required from the landowner or leaseholder before you hunt on any farmlands, connected woodlots, private land or property that is fenced or enclosed. Hunters are required to produce their hunting licenses for landowners upon request. Unless previously prohibited by the landowner, a person not possessing a firearm may enter on foot upon the property of another person for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. The person cannot remain on the property beyond the reasonable time necessary to retrieve the dog.

### What if the bear I wounded goes onto private land?

If you wound a bear and it goes onto private property, you have no legal right to pursue it without permission from the landowner and would be subject to prosecution for trespassing.



### **Are there any types of equipment I cannot use to hunt a bear?**

Yes. You cannot use any of the following types of equipment to hunt a bear in Michigan:

- Snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls or deadfalls.
- Spears, slingshots, fully automatic firearms, airbows or mechanical devices other than bows, crossbows and firearms.
- Cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets.
- Drugs, poisons, anticoagulants, stupefying substances, smoke, gas or explosives.

### **I hunt bears on DNR-managed lands. Are there any restrictions on using a device to drag the roads?**

Yes. On lands managed by the DNR, it is unlawful to drag a state forest road with any device that disturbs the surface of the roadbed at a depth greater than 2 inches.

## Hunter orange

### **Do I need to wear hunter orange while bear hunting with a firearm?**

Yes. If you are hunting bears with a firearm, you must wear a cap, hat, vest, jacket or rain gear of hunter orange. The hunter orange garments must be your outermost layer and be visible from all sides. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange.

### **Do I need to wear hunter orange while bear hunting with archery equipment?**

No. If you are hunting bears with archery equipment, you are exempt from the hunter orange requirement. However, the use of hunter orange is encouraged for safety purposes.

## Elevated platforms and ground blinds

### **Can I hunt bears from an elevated platform?**

Yes. You can hunt bears from an elevated platform using a bow, crossbow or firearm on public and private lands. A fall arrest system is recommended.

### **When can I set up my elevated platform on public lands?**

You can place an elevated platform on public lands in the BMU for which you have a license. Elevated platforms can be placed on public lands 31 days prior to the open season through five days after the close of the bear season in each BMU. If successful in harvesting a bear, elevated platforms must be removed within five days of harvest.

### **Are there other restrictions for elevated platforms placed on public lands?**

Yes. If you hunt on public lands, your elevated platform must be portable. Elevated platforms on public lands cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts. However, a "T" bolt or similar device supplied by a tree

stand manufacturer can be used. Screw-in tree steps are illegal on public lands. It is unlawful to use any item that penetrates through the bark of a tree in the construction or affixing of any device to assist in climbing a tree.

### **Can I use an elevated platform on private lands?**

Yes. You can use an elevated platform for hunting on private lands with the permission of the landowner. Permanent elevated platforms are not allowed on Commercial Forest lands. The use of tree steps, nails, screws, bolts, etc. is also not allowed on Commercial Forest lands.

### **Can I use a ground blind on public lands during the bear season?**

Yes. You can use ground blinds on public lands in the BMU for which you have a license. Ground blinds can be placed on public lands 31 days prior to the open season through five days after the close of the bear season in each BMU. If successful in harvesting a bear, ground blinds must be removed within five days of harvest. Ground blinds can be placed on public lands beginning Aug. 10 in the Upper Peninsula or Aug. 13 in the Lower Peninsula.

### **What types of ground blinds are legal on public lands?**

The following three types of ground blinds are legal on public lands:

**Type 1 (portable ground blind):** This blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day's hunt (if you wish to leave your blind out overnight, see Type 3 below). Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed daily. No identification is required. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public lands, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3.

**Type 2 (dead natural materials ground blind):** This blind must be constructed exclusively of dead and natural materials found on the ground in the area of the blind, except that a hunter can add netting, cloth, plastic or other materials for concealment or protection from the weather if these materials are not permanently fastened to the blind and are removed at the end of each day's hunt. These items can be tied to the blind but cannot be stapled, nailed, glued or fastened in any permanent manner. No identification is required. Fasteners (nails, screws, etc.) cannot be used in construction. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public lands, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3.

**Type 3 (constructed ground blind):** This includes all other blinds not meeting the requirements of either Type 1 or Type 2, including portable ground blinds, if not removed daily. Identification is required. Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed with the blind. These blinds are not legal on state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3. Note: If a person's Type 3 ground blind has been permitted to be placed on lands administered by a local public agency (city, township, county), the local agency will establish the length of time that a blind may be placed on its property.



For detailed descriptions of hunting and trapping zone boundaries, visit [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws) or contact a DNR customer service center.

### **Can I use a ground blind on private lands during the bear season?**

Yes. You can use a ground blind to hunt bears on private lands during the bear season with the permission of the landowner. Permanent ground blinds are not allowed on Commercial Forest lands.

### **I am placing an elevated platform or ground blind on public lands. What information must I tag the elevated platform or ground blind with?**

In legible English, you must permanently affix your name and address or Michigan driver's license number or DNR Sportcard number to the elevated platform or Type 3 ground blind if it is placed on public lands.

### **Can someone else use my elevated platform or ground blind that is on public lands?**

Yes. Your name and address or Michigan driver's license number or DNR Sportcard number on an elevated platform or ground blind placed on public lands does not guarantee exclusive use.

## **Bows, crossbows and firearms**

### **What equipment can I use to hunt a bear?**

You can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm per regulations explained in this section.

### **What equipment can a mentor carry in the field when mentoring?**

A mentor is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow or crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the mentored hunter must always be within arm's length of the mentor. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the mentored hunter while in the field.

### **What equipment can a mentored hunter use?**

Mentored hunters can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored hunter must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the mentored hunter.

### **I hunt with archery equipment. Are there any restrictions on which arrows I can use?**

Yes. You can only use arrows, bolts and quarrels at least 14 inches in length, tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inch wide.

### **Is there a time when firearms are not allowed?**

Yes. In Lower Peninsula BMUs, firearms cannot be used to hunt a bear Oct. 3-9. During this time, only archery equipment (bow or crossbow) can be used. You cannot possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver or other firearm during this time. However, this does not apply to the following:

- Pistols carried under the authority of a concealed pistol license or properly

carried under the authority of a specific exception from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. However, a concealed pistol license does not authorize the individual to use the pistol to take game except as provided by law.

### **Can I use a crossbow during the period when firearms are prohibited in the Lower Peninsula BMUs?**

Yes. You can use a crossbow to hunt a bear in the Lower Peninsula BMUs Oct. 3-9.

### **What are the firearm restrictions I must follow when hunting a bear during the bear season?**

If you are bear hunting during the bear season, you must abide by the following firearm restrictions or use a crossbow or bow. Legal firearms are as follows:

- A shotgun.
- A rifle of any caliber larger than a .22-caliber rimfire rifle.
- A muzzleloading firearm, including black powder handguns, loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute.
- A handgun of any caliber larger than a .22-caliber rimfire handgun.

### **I am hunting a bear. What is the shell capacity for shotguns and centerfire rifles?**

You cannot hunt a bear with a semi-automatic shotgun or semi-automatic rifle that can hold more than six shells in the barrel and magazine combined.

### **Do I have to use nontoxic ammunition when hunting a bear?**

While not required by law, it is recommended that you use nontoxic ammunition when hunting a bear.

### **I have a concealed pistol license. Can I carry my pistol while hunting?**

Yes. The prohibition on carrying any other type of firearm does not apply to pistols carried under authority of a concealed pistol license, or under a specific exception from the CPL requirement.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. What documentation do I need to carry a handgun in Michigan?**

You must own and have in your possession either a concealed pistol license or a license to purchase, carry or transport issued by your home state to legally carry or transport a handgun in Michigan. For more information about statewide handgun regulations, obtaining a CPL, or concealed weapons and firearms laws, contact your local police department.

## Transporting bows, crossbows and firearms

### **How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm when afield outside the legal hunting hours?**

Firearms must be unloaded in the barrel and all arrows must be in a quiver when you are afield outside the legal hunting hours.

### **How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm while in or on a motor vehicle?**

These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped or moving. At all times when carried in or on a motor vehicle:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle on private or public property.
- Crossbows and bows must be unloaded and uncocked or enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road or street.
- A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a personal assistive mobility device if the action is open.

### **How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm while in or on an off-road vehicle?**

These rules apply whether your off-road vehicle is parked, stopped or moving. At all times, when carried in or on an off-road vehicle:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured, key-locked, trigger-housing mechanism.
- Crossbows and bows must be unloaded and uncocked or enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road or street.
- A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a personal assistive mobility device if the action is open.

### **How should I transport my firearm while in or on a boat?**

These rules apply when the vessel is under power and until forward motion has ceased. Once the vessel is no longer under power and forward motion has ceased, firearms can be loaded. When carried in or on a motor-propelled boat or sailboat, while the vessel is under power or forward motion is occurring:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine.

## HUNTING METHODS

### Can I hire a hunting guide for bear hunting?

Yes. You can hire a commercial hunting guide for bear hunting in Michigan. A list of licensed commercial hunting guides is available at [Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits](http://Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits).

### Can I hire a nonresident to guide my hunt?

No. You cannot use a nonresident guide for bear hunting in Michigan. It is unlawful for any nonresident to assist and/or guide another person in any manner in the taking of bear for a fee, other consideration or service of value, either directly or indirectly.

### Can I harvest a bear while it's in a den?

No. You cannot harvest a bear in a den. It is unlawful to disturb a bear den or disturb, harm or molest a bear in its den.

### Can I harvest a bear while it's in a body of water?

No. You cannot harvest a bear if it is in a body of water. It is unlawful to chase, pursue, shoot or kill a bear when it is swimming in a stream, river, pond, lake or other body of water.

### Can I set fires to drive out bears?

No. You cannot set fires to drive out game animals, including bears.

### Can I hunt bears while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances?

No. You cannot hunt bears while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

### Which hunting methods can I use for hunting a bear?

Bait, dogs and other legal hunting methods can be used as outlined in this regulations summary for the BMU and season dates specified. There are no date restrictions for the use of other legal hunting methods. The date restrictions for using bait and/or dogs are described below:

BMU	Cannot use dogs	Can use dogs	Must use dogs
Amasa	Sept. 10-14	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	N/A
Baldwin	Sept. 13-14 Oct. 3-9	Sept. 15-19	Sept. 20-23
Baraga	Sept. 10-14	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	N/A
Bergland	Sept. 10-14	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	N/A
Carney	Sept. 10-14	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	N/A
Drummond Island	Sept. 10-14	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	N/A
Gladwin	Sept. 13-14 Oct. 3-9	Sept. 15-19	Sept. 20-23
Gwinn	Sept. 10-14	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	N/A

BMU	Cannot use dogs	Can use dogs	Must use dogs
Newberry	Sept. 10-14	Sept. 15 – Oct. 26	N/A
Red Oak	Sept. 13-14 Oct. 3-9	Sept. 15-19	Sept. 20-23

**When are all legal hunting methods allowed in the Upper Peninsula?**

Bait, dogs and other legal hunting methods are allowed during Sept. 15 – Oct. 26 in Upper Peninsula BMUs.

**When are all legal hunting methods allowed in the Lower Peninsula?**

Bait, dogs and other legal hunting methods are allowed Sept. 15-19 in Lower Peninsula BMUs.

**Bait stations**

**Can I use bait while hunting a bear during the bear hunting season?**

Yes. You can use bait to aid in the taking of a bear during the bear hunting season per regulations explained in this section.

**How many bait stations can I establish or tend to for my bear hunt?**

You (or your designee) can only establish or tend to up to three bait stations for your bear hunt.

**Can I establish or tend to another licensed hunter’s bait stations?**

Yes. Anyone can establish or tend to up to 12 bait stations, but it must be limited to three stations per hunter. For example, if you are a licensed bear hunter, you can establish up to three bait stations for yourself, while tending to up to nine additional bait stations for three other licensed hunters.

**Are there restrictions on when I can establish or tend a bait station?**

Yes. You can only establish or tend a bait station from the start of the bear baiting period (31 days before the open season in that BMU) through the end of the bear hunting season. For example, it is legal to tend a bait station in Amasa from Aug. 10 to Oct. 26 only.

**Is there a time in the Lower Peninsula when hunting with bait or other methods that do not include dogs is required?**

Yes. In Lower Peninsula BMUs, bait or other methods that do not include dogs must be used to hunt bears during the first two days of the hunting season (Sept. 13-14) and during the archery-only season (Oct. 3-9).

**Is there a time in the Upper Peninsula when hunting with bait or other methods that do not include dogs is required?**

Yes. In the Upper Peninsula BMUs, bait or other methods that do not include dogs must be used to hunt bears during the first five days of the first hunt period (Sept. 10-14).

### **Are there any types of baits that can be used statewide and in unlimited quantities at a bait station?**

Yes. You can use any of the following at a bait station statewide in unlimited quantities:

- Meat and meat products, including dog food.
- Fish and fish products, including cat food.
- Bakery/confectionery products, including jams, jellies, sweeteners and candies.
- Other cooked or commercially processed products, including pie filling, yogurts and granola.

### **Can I use chocolate at a bait station?**

No. You cannot use chocolate or cocoa derivatives at a bait station.

### **Can I use melatonin at a bait station?**

No. You cannot use melatonin or any other stupefying substance, drug or anticoagulant at a bait station.

### **How do the deer baiting regulations impact a bear bait station?**

Legal bear bait at a bait station depends on when and where you are bear hunting in Michigan. Food materials that lure, entice or attract deer and elk may be used at a bait station under the following conditions:

- In areas where deer baiting is allowed, up to 2 gallons of bait that attracts deer or elk can be used:
  - ◊ Prior to Sept. 15, if made inaccessible to deer and elk.
  - ◊ After Sept. 15, if used in accordance with all deer baiting requirements **OR** made inaccessible to deer and elk.
- In areas where deer baiting is not allowed, up to 2 gallons of bait that attracts deer or elk can be used:
  - ◊ If made inaccessible to deer and elk.

Hunters should consult the Michigan Deer Hunting Regulations Summary for current deer baiting regulations.

### **What types of food materials lure, entice or attract deer and elk?**

Grains, fruits, vegetables, salts and minerals are considered food materials that can lure, entice or attract deer and elk.

### **What makes a bait station inaccessible to deer and elk?**

A bait station is considered inaccessible to deer and elk when the bait is placed in a bait container on private lands or in a hole in the ground, hollow stump or other location, and covered with logs, rocks or other lawful materials in a way that deer and elk cannot access the bait.

### **What kind of bait stations can I establish or tend to on public lands?**

At bait stations on Commercial Forest lands, as well as state, federal and other public hunting lands, you must place the bait on the ground. You cannot use

metal containers, plastic, manufactured wood products, concrete, glass, fabric, cloth, paper or other human-made materials at a bait station on these lands. Any containers used to transport bait to bait stations on these lands must be immediately removed and disposed of properly. You cannot hunt over bait that has, within 100 yards of the bait site, any containers used to transport bait to the bait station.

## Bait containers

### **What can I use to contain bear bait on public lands?**

For bear bait placed on the ground, you can use dead and downed trees, hollow stumps, rocks, soil and other natural materials to contain bear bait at a bait station on public lands.

### **Where can I use bait containers?**

You can use bait containers, such as metal barrels, on private lands only. You cannot use bait containers on public lands or Commercial Forest lands.

### **Are there restrictions for bait containers placed on private lands?**

Yes. Bait containers placed on private lands can only have holes that are EITHER 1 inch or less in diameter OR 22 inches or greater in diameter.

## Dog training

### **How many dogs can I use while training on a bear?**

You can use no more than eight dogs to chase a bear at any one time. Check [Michigan.gov/DNRDigests](http://Michigan.gov/DNRDigests) for possible changes to the dog training regulations that may have occurred after the printing of this publication.

### **I am a Michigan resident. When can I train my dogs on a bear?**

You can train your dogs on a bear from July 8 through April 15 of the following year. The following exceptions apply:

- You cannot train dogs or hunt a bear with dogs from Sept. 5-14 in the Upper Peninsula.
- You cannot train dogs or hunt a bear with dogs from Sept. 9-14 and Oct. 3-9 in the Lower Peninsula.
- You cannot train dogs or hunt a bear with dogs in the Gladwin Field Trial Area.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. When can I train my dogs on a bear?**

If you are a nonresident of Michigan, you can only train your dogs on a bear during the open hunting season for each BMU, unless you are training dogs on bear within the Amasa, Bergland or Carney BMUs or special dog training areas.

### **Can I train my dog on a captive bear?**

No. You cannot train your dog on a captive, tethered or caged bear.

### **How can I prevent the spread of invasive species when training my dogs on bears?**

Before leaving the training location, remove plant debris, dirt and mud from your dogs to protect their health and habitat quality.

## Hunting with dogs

### **How many dogs can I use while bear hunting?**

For bear hunting, you can use no more than eight dogs running as a pack. You cannot relay dog packs. You can replace individual dogs within a pack, provided eight or fewer dogs are used at one time. All dogs must be immunized and licensed. The license number or other form of identification must be affixed to their collars.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. Do I need a permit to use dogs while bear hunting?**

Yes. If you are a nonresident of Michigan, you must have a special permit in your possession to use dogs while bear hunting. You cannot register more than 10 dogs on one permit. You can apply for a special permit to use dogs for bear hunting, free of charge, by visiting [Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits](https://Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits).

### **What identification do I need to have with me if I am hunting a bear with dogs?**

Those pursuing a bear with dogs during an open season must have in their possession either a valid Michigan bear license or a no-kill-tag bear license if in possession of a firearm, crossbow or bow, or if they are the owner of any dog used for chasing or locating bear during the hunt. If you plan on running bears with dogs after you harvest a bear, retain the top portion of your bear license and tag your harvested bear using the lower portion.

### **Is there a time in the Lower Peninsula when hunting with dogs is required?**

Yes. In Lower Peninsula BMUs, dogs must be used to hunt bears during Sept. 20-23.

### **Is there a time in the Upper Peninsula when hunting with dogs is required?**

No. There is not a time when hunting with dogs is required in the Upper Peninsula.

### **Is there a time when hunting with dogs is not allowed in the Lower Peninsula?**

Yes. Dogs cannot be used to hunt bear during the first two days of the hunting season (Sept. 13-14) and Oct. 3-9 in Lower Peninsula BMUs.

### **Is there a time when hunting with dogs is not allowed in the Upper Peninsula?**

Yes. Dogs cannot be used to hunt bear during the first five days of the first hunt period (Sept. 10-14) in Upper Peninsula BMUs.

### **What time of day can I start running my dogs?**

For purposes of training on or hunting a bear, you cannot begin to chase a bear with dogs between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.



### **Can I run my dogs after I harvest a bear?**

Yes. If you plan on running bear with dogs after you harvest a bear, you must securely attach the lower portion of your kill tag to the harvested bear and retain the top portion of your kill tag as documentation for running your dogs.

### **Can I retrieve my hunting dog if it runs on to private property?**

Yes. Unless previously prohibited by the landowner, you can enter on foot the property of another person for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. You cannot be in possession of a firearm when retrieving a dog from private property. You should not remain on the property beyond the reasonable time necessary to retrieve the dog.

## **Wolf-dog conflicts**

### **I hunt in the Upper Peninsula. Should I be concerned that my hunting dogs might be attacked by wolves?**

Yes. Wolves will defend their territories and may attack other wolves, coyotes and domestic dogs that are in their territory. Wolf attacks on domestic dogs are relatively rare. Most wolf-dog conflicts occur where dogs are trained or used for bear hunting. These dogs are more at risk because they: traverse large areas, which increases their chances of encountering wolves; may be released at bear bait sites that also may be used by wolves; bark while tracking, which may be viewed as a territorial challenge by wolves; and are some distance from hunters and therefore not protected by the presence of humans.

### **How can I avoid potential problems with wolves and my dogs?**

To minimize the conflict between wolves and dogs, it is best to avoid areas of recent wolf activity. Wolves will concentrate much of their activity around the den and rendezvous sites. Rendezvous sites, where pups are raised, usually include forest openings or edge areas and often are near water. These sites may vary from year to year and can change throughout the summer. They can be identified by a concentration of wolf tracks, droppings and matted vegetation. It is best to do some scouting and look for wolf sign before releasing dogs. Be especially vigilant when starting dogs from a bear bait station and make sure wolves have not been using the bait. If wolf sign, particularly the sign of wolf pups, is evident, move to another area before releasing dogs. Become familiar with coyote and dog tracks, so they can be correctly distinguished from wolf tracks. Consider adding bells or beepers to dog collars, which may reduce wolf attacks.

### **What should I do if I suspect my dog has had a conflict with a wolf?**

Report all suspected wolf-dog conflicts to the DNR immediately to allow a timely investigation. **To report a dog depredation, call the Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800.** Your reports help other hunters by allowing the DNR to provide updated dog depredation locations. At this time, the use of lethal control of wolves in the act of depredation is not authorized. Because the federal status of wolves has changed, and may continue to change, please contact a DNR office to

## HUNTING METHODS

ask about current rules regarding lethal take of wolves if in the act of killing or wounding a dog.

### **Where can I find more information on hunting dog conflicts with wolves?**

For more information, including locations where hunting dog conflicts with wolves have occurred, visit [Michigan.gov/Wolves](https://Michigan.gov/Wolves) or contact the DNR Marquette Customer Service Center at 906-228-6561.

## WILDLIFE DISEASES

### **What if I see a sick-looking bear while scouting or hunting?**

The DNR encourages you to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife at [Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField](https://Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField). You should provide information about the location, number and condition of the animals you observed. Contact the DNR Wildlife Health Section at 517-336-5030 if you have any questions.

### **What is trichinellosis?**

Trichinellosis, also called trichinosis, is a disease that people can get by eating raw or undercooked meat from animals infected with the microscopic parasite *Trichinella*. Black bears can harbor *Trichinella* infection and have been associated with confirmed cases of trichinellosis among hunters in the United States.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

### **What if I see an invasive species while scouting or hunting?**

The DNR encourages you to learn how to identify and report invasive species at [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://MISIN.MSU.edu). For more information on invasive species management or your local cooperative invasive species management area, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://Michigan.gov/Invasives).

### **How can I help stop the spread of invasive species?**

Prevention is the best way to manage invasive species! Practice PlayCleanGo by checking yourself and your gear. Arrive clean and remove any plant debris, dirt and mud before leaving your hunting location.

### **Can I harvest Russian boar?**

Yes. Russian boar can be hunted and trapped, year-round, statewide with a valid base license. Russian boar can be taken on public land by anyone possessing a valid hunting license or a concealed pistol license, or on private land with the landowner's permission. You are encouraged to report all Russian boar seen or taken at [Michigan.gov/FeralSwine](https://Michigan.gov/FeralSwine) or by calling 517-336-1928.

### **Can I possess invasive plants in Michigan?**

No. You cannot move or possess invasive plants. For a complete list of prohibited and restricted species, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://Michigan.gov/Invasives).

### Validating harvest

#### **Can I tag my bear after I take some photos with it first?**

No. Immediately after harvesting and before moving a bear, you must validate your kill tag and securely attach the kill tag to the lower jaw of the bear. If you plan on running bears with dogs after you harvest a bear, retain the top portion of your kill tag and securely attach the lower portion of it to your harvested bear.

#### **How do I validate my kill tag?**

To validate your kill tag, you must notch out the appropriate information as instructed on the kill tag.

#### **How must I tag my harvested bear?**

You must securely and permanently attach the entire kill tag or lower portion of the kill tag from the bear's upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw. The best way to attach a kill tag is to lay a strong piece of wire or cord across the back of it (after removing backing), so the tag can be folded in half, and to tape it in place as needed. Tie the wire or cord from the bear's upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw in such a manner that the kill tag remains securely attached. Do not stick or wrap the kill tag directly onto the upper jaw, eye socket or lower jaw of a bear. Make sure the kill tag is completely legible and visible for inspection. The kill tag must remain attached until the bear is sealed at a DNR registration station. The kill tag will be replaced by an official DNR seal at registration.

### Transporting game animals

#### **What are the rules for transporting game animals?**

You can transport your own and another person's lawfully taken game. You cannot transport or possess a bear unless a validated kill tag is attached to the bear. You cannot destroy the identity or evidence of the sex of a bear while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.

### Bear registration stations

**Bear registration locations are subject to change. Hunters must call the DNR office or private cooperators before arriving to schedule an appointment.**

#### **Can I divide my bear pelt prior to registration?**

No. Prior to registration, you cannot divide a harvested 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 prior to registration.

#### **How do I register my bear?**

Within 72 hours of harvest, you must take the unfrozen, undivided bear head and hide, or the entire animal, to a DNR registration station to be examined, sealed and registered.

### **What will DNR staff do to register my bear?**

The DNR will attach an official seal to the harvested bear. This seal replaces the bear kill tag. The bear kill tag will be retained by DNR staff and will not be returned to you. The location of take (town, range and section), date of harvest and manner of harvest will be recorded when the animal is sealed. A premolar tooth will be collected to determine the age of the bear. Collected teeth will be retained by DNR staff and will not be returned to you. Ages are estimated using a microscope to count the number of cementum layers in cross-sections of premolar teeth from either the upper or lower jaw. Teeth collected from bears harvested in the Upper Peninsula may also be used to estimate population size through genetic analysis. A small sample of hair may also be collected from harvested bears in the Lower Peninsula to estimate population size through genetic analysis.

### **Where can I find the age of my registered bear?**

The age of your registered bear will be available at [Michigan.gov/DNRLab](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLab) after June 1.

### **Can someone else take my harvested bear to a DNR registration station for me?**

No. You must be present while registering the bear and should provide identification upon request as the person who harvested the bear.

### **Where can I register my bear?**

A list of bear registration stations can be found on pages 45-47. You must call the DNR office or private cooperator bear registration station to schedule an appointment before arriving. Hours and locations are subject to change. Please visit [Michigan.gov/Bear](https://Michigan.gov/Bear) for the most up-to-date locations, hours of operation and contact information.

### **Can the seal be removed from my bear after registration?**

The seal should remain attached to the bear until:

- The carcass is processed or butchered for consumption by an individual for his or her use.
- The carcass is accepted for processing and recorded by a commercial processor. If the head or hide is returned to the person submitting the animal to the commercial processor, the seal should accompany the head or hide.
- The carcass is accepted for processing and recorded by a licensed taxidermist.

## Bear registration stations

### Alcona County

**Harrisville State Park**  
248 State Park Road  
Harrisville  
989-724-5126

### Alger County

**Bayshore Market**  
N14284 Lake Ave.  
Grand Marais  
906-494-2581

### Bear Trap Inn

N7294 County Road H15  
Shingleton  
906-452-6364

### Cusino DNR Field Office

W. M-28  
Shingleton  
906-452-6227, ext. 231

### Allegan County

**Allegan DNR Field Office**  
4590 118th Ave.  
Allegan  
989-965-3333

### Plainwell DNR Customer Service Center

621 10th St.  
Plainwell  
269-685-6851

### Alpena County

**Advanced Wildlife Designs**  
3361 U.S. 23 S.  
Alpena  
989-356-3600

### Arenac County

**Lazy 8 Taxidermy LLC**  
1475 M-76  
Sterling  
989-546-9011

### Baraga County

**Baraga DNR Customer Service Center**  
427 U.S. 41 N.  
Baraga  
906-353-6651

### Indian Country Sports

17 S. Front St.  
L'Anse  
906-524-6518

### Woodland Firearms & Supply

513 Michigan Ave.  
Baraga  
906-353-1911

### Barry County

**Barry DNR Field Office**  
1805 S. Yankee Springs Road  
Middleville  
269-795-3280

### Bay County

**Bay City DNR Customer Service Center**  
3580 State Park Drive  
Bay City  
989-684-9141

### Cass County

**Crane Pond DNR Field Office**  
60887 M-40  
Jones  
269-244-5928

### Cheboygan County

**Great Lakes Taxidermy**  
8625 N. M-33  
Cheboygan  
231-333-3337

### Chippewa County

**Drummond Island Outfitters**  
29129 E. Channel Road  
Drummond Island  
906-493-6300

### Sault Ste. Marie DNR Customer Service Center

4131 S. M-129  
Sault Ste. Marie  
906-635-5281

### Strong's Motel & Tavern

28952 W. M-28  
Eckerman  
906-274-5548

### Wilderness Treasures

101 S. M-129  
Pickford  
906-647-4002

### Clare County

**Trading Post of Farwell**  
720 W. Main St.  
Farwell  
989-588-4161

### Clinton County

**Rose Lake DNR Field Office**  
8903 E. Stoll Road  
East Lansing  
517-641-4092

### Crawford County

**Grayling DNR Field Office**  
1955 Hartwick Pines Road  
Grayling  
989-370-7313

### Delta County

**Escanaba DNR Customer Service Center**  
6833 U.S. 2, U.S. 41 and M-35  
Gladstone  
906-786-2351

### Soderman's Meats

6207 Days River 24.5 Road  
Gladstone  
906-428-2487

## Dickinson County

### Hardcore Outfitters

1616 N. Stephenson Ave.  
Iron Mountain  
906-828-1034

### Norway DNR Field Office

520 W. U.S. 2  
Norway  
906-563-9247

### Silver Lake Resort

N13195 M-95  
Channing  
906-542-7195

## Gladwin County

### Gladwin DNR Field Office

801 N. Silverleaf  
Gladwin  
989-426-9205, ext. 2267632

### The Back 40 Taxidermy Studio LLC

1402 W. M-61  
Gladwin  
989-824-1409

## Gogebic County

### West Shore Resort

N10960 M-64  
Marenisco  
906-842-3336

## Grand Traverse County

### Traverse City DNR Customer Service Center

2122 S. M-37  
Traverse City  
231-922-5280

## Houghton County

### JD's East Branch Outfitters

4788 E. M-23  
Trout Creek  
906-287-5512

### Krupps Resort

32170 Emily Lake Road  
Toivola  
906-288-3404

### Kurt's Korner

17510 E. Askel Road  
Pelkie  
906-334-3333

### McLain State Park

18350 M-203  
Hancock  
906-482-0278

## Ingham County

### Lansing DNR Customer Service Center

4166 Legacy Parkway  
Lansing  
517-284-4720

## Ionia County

### Flat River DNR Field Office

6640 Long Lake Road  
Belding  
616-794-2658

## Iosco County

### East Tawas State Park

686 Tawas Beach Road  
East Tawas  
989-362-5041

## Iron County

### Crystal Falls DNR Field Office

1420 U.S. 2 W.  
Crystal Falls  
906-875-5032

### Luckey's Sport Shop

3237 U.S. 2  
Iron River  
906-265-0151

### Superior Sport & Feed

31 Superior Ave.  
Crystal Falls  
906-874-1131

## Jackson County

### Waterloo DNR Field Office

13578 Seymour Road  
Grass Lake  
517-522-4097

## Keweenaw County

### Fort Wilkins State Park

15223 U.S. 41  
Copper Harbor  
906-289-4215

## Lake County

### Baldwin DNR Field Office

2468 W. 24th St.  
Baldwin  
231-878-7851

## Luce County

### Newberry DNR Customer Service Center

5666 M-123  
Newberry  
906-293-5131

## Mackinac County

### McNeil's Bar

6154 Gould City Road  
Gould City  
906-477-9915

### Naubinway DNR Field Office

W11569 U.S. 2  
Naubinway  
906-477-6048

## Macomb County

### Mt. Clemens DNR Fisheries Station

33134 S. River Road  
Harrison Township  
313-396-6890

### Marquette County

#### Arnold Trails Station

42904 County Road 426  
Arnold  
906-238-4231

#### Cram's General Store

100 Bensinger Road  
Big Bay  
906-345-0075

#### Marquette DNR Customer Service Center

1990 U.S. 41 S.  
Marquette  
906-228-6561

#### Van Riper State Park

851 County Road AKE  
Champion  
906-339-4461

### Mecosta County

#### Paris DNR Field Office

22250 Northland Drive  
Paris  
231-465-4188

### Menominee County

#### B&J Taxidermy

N9590 P-1 Road  
Daggett  
906-753-4090

#### Gary's Quality Foods Venison Processing

N5977 U.S. 41  
Wallace  
906-788-4330

#### Wild Spirit Taxidermy Creations

W2695 Veeseer 38th Lane  
Powers  
906-368-0030

### Missaukee County

#### Wildlife Legends Taxidermy

9921 S. Eight Mile Road  
McBain  
231-878-9882

### Montmorency County

#### Atlanta DNR Field Office

13501 M-33  
Atlanta  
989-785-5304

### Muskegon County

#### Muskegon DNR Field Office

7600 E. Messinger Road  
Twin Lake  
231-788-5055

### Oakland County

#### Holly DNR Field Office

8100 Grange Hall Road  
Holly  
248-634-0240

### Ontonagon County

#### Bergland Outfitters Bait Shop & Motel

35802 M-28  
Merriweather  
906-235-8288

#### Porcupine Mountains State Park

M-107 and S. Boundary Road  
Ontonagon  
906-885-5275

#### Settler's Cooperative

M-28 and U.S. 45  
Bruce Crossing  
906-827-3515

### Oscoda County

#### Mio DNR Field Office

191 Mount Tom Road  
Mio  
989-370-7313

### Oshtemo County

#### Gaylord DNR Customer Service Center

1732 W. M-32  
Gaylord  
989-732-3541

#### Prime 45 Processing

820 Ranch Road  
Gaylord  
989-470-8554

### Presque Isle County

#### Adrian's Sport Shop

335 N. Bradley Highway  
Rogers City  
989-734-2303

### Roscommon County

#### Roscommon DNR Customer Service Center

8717 N. Roscommon Road  
Roscommon  
989-275-5151, ext. 2722038

### Schoolcraft County

#### Jack Pine Lodge

5350N M-94  
Manistique  
906-573-2414

#### Mater's Stop N Go

1545 W. M-28  
Seney  
248-202-0419

### Wayne County

#### Pte. Mouillee DNR Field Office

37205 Mouillee Road  
Rockwood  
734-379-9692

### Wexford County

#### Cadillac DNR Customer Service Center

8015 Mackinaw Trail  
Cadillac  
231-429-6838



## Bear registration data

BMU	Hunt period	2023 bears registered	2024 bears registered*
Amasa	1	57	62
Amasa	2	69	61
Amasa	3	44	56
Baldwin	1	131	150
Baraga	1	85	121
Baraga	2	106	115
Baraga	3	91	116
Bergland	1	70	93
Bergland	2	81	86
Bergland	3	63	73
Carney	1	44	43
Carney	2	49	54
Carney	3	40	60
Drummond Island	1	5	5
Gladwin	1	28	43
Gwinn	1	61	68
Gwinn	2	85	73
Gwinn	3	64	70
Newberry	1	117	117
Newberry	2	135	93
Newberry	3	138	119
Red Oak	1	284	346

\*Preliminary 2024 bear registration data.



## Handling and processing game meat

### **Are there portions of a harvested bear I must salvage?**

Yes. You must salvage all edible meat from a harvested bear. Edible meat for bear means the hind quarters, front quarters, loins and tenderloins.

### **Am I required to salvage edible bear meat that is unfit for human consumption?**

No. You can discard edible bear meat if it is unfit for human consumption at the time you take possession of the harvested bear. Meat that is unfit for human consumption includes, but is not limited to, meat that was damaged by the method of taking, decayed, rotted or scavenged, or obviously infected or diseased.

### **Should I be concerned about lead in game meat?**

Ammunition used to shoot wildlife, including traditional lead birdshot or rounds containing lead bullets, may fragment, leaving particles remaining in game meat, even after processing. Some of these lead particles may be too small to be seen or felt when processing game. Being exposed to any lead can be a serious issue for developing bodies and nervous systems, so those most at risk of health effects from eating wild game meat that contains lead are young children and women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.

- Use lead-free ammunition: Opt for shotgun shells with nontoxic shot and nontoxic rifle bullets. If nontoxic ammunition is unavailable, avoid rapidly expanding bullets that tend to fragment.
- Aim carefully: Avoid shooting through large bones, like the front shoulder, as bullets passing through these bones are more likely to fragment. Aim for areas with softer tissue to minimize lead fragmentation.
- Trim around wound channels: Cut away the meat around the wound channel to remove lead fragments that may have entered the meat.
- Select cuts wisely: Ground meat often contains more lead fragments than other cuts of meat. Choose different cuts to reduce lead exposure.
- Avoid acidic cooking ingredients: Refrain from using vinegar or wine when cooking wild game shot with lead ammunition, as acids can increase lead absorption in the body.

### **How should I handle and process game meat?**

Keep yourself and others healthy by taking care of your harvested meat. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends proper food safety practices when handling and processing game meat, as well as any other meat or poultry.

## Buying and selling game animals

### **Can I buy or sell game animals?**

You cannot buy or sell game animals, dead or alive, except as provided by Wildlife Conservation Order 4.3, available at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRLaws).

### Bear cooperators patch

#### **Who coordinates the Bear Cooperator Patch Program?**

Michigan's Bear Cooperator Patch Program is coordinated by the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, in partnership with the DNR. The patch design is selected from entries submitted to the annual bear patch contest. Funds raised by the sale of bear patches are used for bear outreach and education efforts.

#### **How do I submit my designs for the bear patch contest?**

You must be a K-12 student at a public, private or home school in Michigan to submit designs to the bear patch contest. Visit [MiBearHunters.org](http://MiBearHunters.org) to learn how to submit your design.

#### **Do I need to harvest a bear to purchase a bear patch?**

No. You do not have to harvest a bear to purchase a patch.

#### **How much does a bear patch cost for adults?**

Adult hunters, collectors and other interested individuals can purchase a bear patch for \$7, including postage and handling.

#### **How much does a bear patch cost for young bear hunters?**

Young hunters, 17 years old and younger, who have a valid bear hunting license can receive a free bear patch by sending their name and complete address, along with a legible copy of their valid bear hunting license, to Michigan Bear Hunters Association, Bear Patch Program, 10510 Fairgrieve Road, Johannesburg, MI 49751. If you have questions, please email [Cowboys1971@yahoo.com](mailto:Cowboys1971@yahoo.com).

#### **Can I order bear patches from previous years?**

Yes. You can order bear patches from previous years, while supplies last.

#### **How do I order a bear patch?**

Bear patches can be ordered online at [MiBearHunters.org](http://MiBearHunters.org) or by mailing an order form to Michigan Bear Hunters Association, Bear Patch Program, 10510 Fairgrieve Road, Johannesburg, MI 49751. If you are mailing an order form, please make your check or money order payable to the Michigan Bear Hunters Association. If you have questions, please email [Cowboys1971@yahoo.com](mailto:Cowboys1971@yahoo.com).

#### **When will I receive my bear patch?**

You should receive your bear patch four to six weeks after purchase.



## Bear reporting options

### **Is there a way for me to give the DNR feedback about my hunting experience?**

Yes! We need your help. After your hunting season has ended, please report your hunting activity online at [Michigan.gov/Bear](https://Michigan.gov/Bear). Information you provide will improve management and ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are based on the best information available.



### **Can I possess a live wild animal?**

No. It is unlawful to possess live game or protected animals taken from the wild except under a permit issued by the DNR. Visit [Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits](https://Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits) for more information.

### **What is the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact?**

Michigan is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, an agreement where participating states share information about fish and game violators and honor each other's decision to deny licenses and permits. If your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked in Michigan, you may lose your privileges in the other 45 participating states as well. And, if your license is revoked in any of those states, it also may be revoked in Michigan.

### **What are the penalties for bear hunting violations?**

The fine for an illegally harvested bear is \$3,500 per animal with jail time between five and 90 days. Revocation of licenses will be for the current year plus three years. The first offense includes an additional two years of license revocation. The second offense includes an additional seven years of license revocation.

### **How do I report suspected poaching?**

If you witness a natural resource violation or have information on the illegal killing of bears in Michigan, report it immediately. You can do this by texting or calling 800-292-7800. Phone lines are open 24/7. You may remain anonymous.

# REPORT ALL POACHING



Report poaching  
immediately.

Tipsters may remain  
anonymous.

Tipsters may be eligible  
for a cash reward.

CALL OR TEXT  
**1-800-292-7800**

**Accompany** – to go along with another individual under circumstances that allow one to come to the immediate aid of the other individual while staying within a distance from the other individual that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communication.

**Advanced illness** – a medical condition defined by the Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978 [MCL - 333.5653]. An advanced illness must be diagnosed and certified by a physician.

**Apprentice hunter** – a person 10 years old or older without a hunter education certificate who is licensed under the apprentice program.

**Bag limit** – the number of animals that may be taken and possessed as determined by the DNR.

**Bait** – a substance composed of grains, fruits, vegetables or other food placed to lure or entice bears. This does not apply to standing farm crops (normal agricultural practices) or other naturally growing grains, fruits or vegetables.

**Bait station** – a site where food or lure is placed that can attract bears and all materials used to establish the bait station.

**Bear management unit (BMU)** – a geographical area, as defined in the Michigan Wildlife Conservation Order, used to set bear hunting regulations.

**Bow** – a device for propelling an arrow from a string drawn, held and released by hand if the force used to hold the string in the drawn position is provided by the archer's muscles.

**Buy/sell** – an exchange or attempt or offer to exchange for money, barter or anything of value.

**Chase** – to follow animals with dogs or other wild or domestic animals trained for that purpose.

**Crossbow** – a weapon consisting of a bow, with a draw weight of 100 pounds or more, mounted transversely on a stock or frame and designed to fire an arrow, bolt or quarrel by the release of a bow string controlled by a mechanical or electric trigger with a working safety.

**Cub bear** – any bear that is less than 42 inches in length from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.

**Developmental disability** – a severe, chronic condition as defined in section 100a of the mental health code, 16 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1100a.

**Dog training** – to chase or locate a game animal with a dog outside the open season for that game animal.

**Edible meat (bear)** – the hind quarters, front quarters, loins and tenderloins of a bear.

**Elevated platform** – any horizontal surface, constructed or manufactured by a person, that increases the field of vision of a person using it beyond the field of vision that normally would be attained by that person standing on the ground. Elevated platforms include scaffolds, raised platforms, ladders, steps and any other device that is used to assist in climbing a tree.

**Firearm** – any weapon which will, is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.

**Game animal** – any species of wildlife designated by the Legislature or the Natural Resources Commission as game under Section 40110 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and any of the following animals: badger, bear, beaver, bobcat, brant, coot, coyote, crow, deer, duck, elk, fisher, Florida gallinule, fox, goose, hare, Hungarian partridge, marten, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, ruffed grouse, sharptailed grouse, skunk, snipe, sora rail, squirrel, Virginia rail, weasel, wild turkey, woodchuck and woodcock.

**Ground blind** – a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising a person for the purpose of harvesting an animal.

**Hunt or hunting** – to pursue, capture, shoot, kill, chase, follow, harass, harm, rob or trap a wild animal, or to attempt to engage in such an activity.

**Hunter education/safety** – a certification course used to train hunters on understanding wildlife management, wildlife identification, ethics, laws and regulations, and firearms safety and handling.

**Hunter orange** – the highly visible color commonly referred to as hunter orange that includes blaze orange, flame orange and fluorescent blaze orange.

**Identification** – a driver license issued by Michigan, another state or a Canadian province as accepted by the DNR, a state of Michigan identification card issued by the Secretary of State or a Sportcard issued by the DNR.

**Kill tag** – a license that is affixed to a harvested bear, bobcat, deer, elk, fisher, marten, otter or turkey.

**License** – a document or a tag, stamp, plastic card or other device that may include a stamp or a tag that authorizes the licensee to hunt, fish, trap or possess wild animals or aquatic species and other identification required by the DNR.

**Mentor** – a person at least 21 years old who has a valid license to hunt and previous hunting experience and is participating in the Mentored Hunting Program.

**Nonresident** – a person who is not a resident of Michigan.

**Poaching** – the illegal shooting, trapping or taking of game, fish or other natural resources from private or public property.

**Protected wildlife** – bear cubs, bear sows accompanied by cubs, cougars, eagles, flying squirrels, hawks, lynx, moose, nongame birds (except starlings, house

sparrows and feral pigeons), owls, spruce grouse and wolverines. Protected wildlife cannot be taken at any time.

**Residence** – a permanent building serving as a temporary or permanent home. Residence may include a cottage, cabin or mobile home, but does not include a structure designed primarily for taking game, a tree blind, a tent, a recreational or other vehicle, or a camper.

**Resident** – a person who resides in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state; a student who is enrolled in a full-time course at a college or university within this state and who resides in the state during the school year; a person regularly enlisted or commissioned as an officer in the armed forces of the United States and officially stationed in this state; or a person regularly enlisted or commissioned as an officer in the armed forces of the United States who, at the time of enlistment, was a resident of this state and has maintained his or her residence in this state for purposes of obtaining a driver license or voter registration, or both.

**Safety zone** – all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence, cabin or any barn or other building used in a farm operation.

**Season dates** – the legal dates that may be hunted or trapped.

**Sow bear** – a female black bear.

**Take** – to hunt with any weapon, dog, raptor or other wild or domestic animal trained for that purpose; kill; chase; follow; harass; harm; pursue; shoot; rob; trap; capture or collect animals, or to attempt to engage in such an activity.

**Transport** – to carry or ship animals within this state or to points outside this state.

**Uncocked bow** – a bow that is not in the drawn position.

**Uncocked crossbow** – a crossbow that is not in the cocked position.

**Unloaded bow** – a bow that does not have an arrow nocked.

**Unloaded crossbow** – a crossbow that does not have a bolt in the flight groove.

**Unloaded firearm** – a firearm that does not have ammunition in the barrel, chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine when the barrel, chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine is part of or attached to the firearm. Muzzleloading firearms are considered unloaded when the cap is removed or priming powder is removed from the pan, or when the battery is removed on electronic systems. The ball and powder can remain in the barrel.

**Wild animal** – a mammal, bird, fish, reptile, amphibian or crustacean of a wild nature indigenous to this state or introduced to this state by the DNR or a species determined by the DNR to be of public benefit.

## Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online. Customer service center (CSC) hours of operation can be found at [Michigan.gov/ContactDNR](https://Michigan.gov/ContactDNR).

### **Baraga CSC**

427 U.S. 41 N.  
Baraga, MI 49908  
906-353-6651

### **Bay City CSC**

3580 State Park Drive  
Bay City, MI 48706  
989-684-9141

### **Cadillac CSC**

8015 Mackinaw Trail  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
231-775-9727

### **Crystal Falls Field Office**

1420 W. U.S. 2  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
906-875-6622

### **Detroit Metro CSC**

1801 Atwater St.  
Detroit, MI 48207  
313-396-6890

### **Escanaba CSC**

6833 U.S. 2, U.S. 41 and M-35  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
906-786-2351

### **Gaylord CSC**

1732 W. M-32  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-3541

### **Lansing CSC**

4166 Legacy Parkway  
Lansing, MI 48911  
517-284-4720

### **Marquette CSC**

1990 U.S. 41 S.  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906-228-6561

### **Naubinway Field Office**

P.O. Box 287  
W11569 U.S. 2 E.  
Naubinway, MI 49762  
906-477-6048

### **Newberry CSC**

5666 M-123  
Newberry, MI 49868  
906-293-5131

### **Norway Field Office**

520 W. U.S. 2  
Norway, MI 49870  
906-563-9247

### **Plainwell CSC**

621 10th St.  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
269-685-6851

### **Roscommon CSC**

I-75 and M-18 S.  
8717 N. Roscommon Road  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
989-275-5151

### **Sault Ste. Marie CSC**

4131 S. M-129  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
906-635-6161

### **Traverse City CSC**

2122 S. M-37  
Traverse City, MI 49685  
231-922-5280

## Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/MichiganDNR](https://Facebook.com/MichiganDNR)

Follow us on X at [Twitter.com/MichiganDNR](https://Twitter.com/MichiganDNR)

Follow us on Instagram at [Instagram.com/MichiganDNR](https://Instagram.com/MichiganDNR)

### **Direct DNR website URLs:**

DNR hunting regulations: [Michigan.gov/DNRRegs](https://Michigan.gov/DNRRegs)

Wildlife diseases: [Michigan.gov/WildlifeDiseases](https://Michigan.gov/WildlifeDiseases)

Hunter education: [Michigan.gov/HunterEducation](https://Michigan.gov/HunterEducation)

Hunting: [Michigan.gov/Hunting](https://Michigan.gov/Hunting)

Invasive species: [Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies](https://Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies)

Mi-HUNT: [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://Michigan.gov/MiHunt)

Pure Michigan Hunt: [Michigan.gov/PMH](https://Michigan.gov/PMH)

Shooting ranges: [Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges](https://Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges)

Trapping/fur harvesting: [Michigan.gov/Trapping](https://Michigan.gov/Trapping)

### **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

#### **Wildlife Division**

**525 W. Allegan St.**

**P.O. Box 30444**

**Lansing, MI 48933**

**517-284-9453**

**Contact hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**