2019 Michigan Black Bear Digest

- Application Period: May 1- June 1, 2019
- Do not use chocolate or cocoa in bear bait. See page 15 for details
- RAP (Report All Poaching): 800-292-7800
- Michigan.gov/Bear
- Drawing results posted June 24. Visit Michigan.gov/Bear
- Reminders: NEW barrels allowed on Department-managed lands under certain conditions, see pgs. 15-18. NEW nonresidents can dog train in Amasa, Bergland, and Carney BMU’s. NEW Maximum 1-inch hole diameter for all bait barrels.

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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 (NRC) 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 mi.gov/nrc. NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters’ convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: mi.gov/dnrlaws

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

You help protect Michigan’s wild places. Your licenses provide over $62 million a year to conserve wildlife, public lands and waters. Because of you, habitats have been restored and populations of deer, elk, waterfowl, and other game species have been preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.
Black Bear Management

History and Status
Bears likely have 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, hunting has been part of the bear management program, with many different season structures. The majority of the bear population resides in the Upper Peninsula, where large tracts of state, federal, and private commercial forest lands contain good to excellent bear habitat.

Bear Management Plan Strategic Goals
The statewide bear management plan is summarized below to promote an understanding of the overall bear management vision of the state of 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

2019 Black Bear Hunting

Educators, you and your students have the chance to experience A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear! Learn all about Michigan’s black bear with lessons, activities, and videos for your classroom. The free education program is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade educators in Michigan.

Hunters are selected for a bear license using a preference point drawing system that began in 2000. In the license drawing, applicants with the greatest number of preference points in each hunt period are selected first (see first bullet below). Those who are not selected earn one additional point for future drawings. Only one point will be awarded in a given year. Points are reset to zero for all successful
applicants, including those who choose not to purchase their license. Each year, hunters may apply for any Bear Management Unit (BMU) and hunt period they choose, and their total preference points (earned in previous drawings) will be considered. Applicants may apply for a bear license or apply for a point only (Hunt No. 00).

• Point requirements for each hunt period vary from year to year depending on license availability and demand for licenses. To view the number of points needed in last year’s drawing, see the table on pg. 10 or go to Michigan.gov/Bear for detailed drawing statistics.

• First hunt choices have priority. When applying, hunters choose a first hunt choice (primary) and an optional second hunt choice. If a hunter chooses a second hunt choice, it will be considered only if licenses remain after all first hunt choices have been awarded for all applicants. Hunt periods that have required zero preference points in the past are more likely to have licenses available for second hunt choices, but there is no guarantee that licenses will be available for second hunt choices in any hunt period.

• Preference points are tracked by customer ID. To ensure that all your 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-WILD (9453) before the application deadline to ensure your points are combined under your current ID.

• You must apply at least once every five years to retain your points. Points are reset to zero for applicants who do not apply for five consecutive years. Points reset under the previous three-year rule will not be restored.

• Nonresidents may apply; however, no more than 5 percent of licenses in any hunt period will be issued to nonresidents.

• Check your preference points at Michigan.gov/Bear.

[Graphic: DNR Employee video graphic with license availability information]

[Graphic: Michigan Black Bear cleaning the paw]

How to Apply
Eligibility
You must meet all of the following qualifications to be eligible to apply for a license or preference point:
1. Be eligible to purchase a bear hunting license for the current season.
2. Be licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program OR be 10 years of age or older during the hunt period for which you are applying.
3. Be hunter safety-certified or an apprentice hunter (see pg. 13)
4. Have one of the following forms of customer identification:
   – Valid Michigan driver’s license
   – State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
   – DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at mdrn-elicense.com.)
Applying for a Hunt
1. Look at the map on pg. 8 and choose a BMU in which to hunt.
2. Look at the table on pg. 9 to find the corresponding hunt number and season dates for the BMU you chose. (For previous applicant numbers as well as number of points needed for last year’s drawing success in each unit, see table on pg. 10.)
3. Purchase an application for the hunt number(s) you chose at a license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at mdnr-elicense.com (It is unlawful to apply more than once.) It costs $5 to apply, except for Comprehensive Lifetime License holders. A base license is not required for purchase of a bear application. Mentored Youths must be licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program to apply.

4. Check your receipt for accuracy and retain as proof of application.

Applying for a Hunt with Other Hunters

• You may apply in a hunt party with up to four applicants. All applicants in a hunt party will receive a license if the party is selected, except for those who submit an invalid application.
• The preference point total for the party will equal that of the partner with the fewest number of points.
• The first applicant of each hunt party chooses a hunt unit(s) and receives a “party ID” number, which is printed on his or her receipt. A new party ID number is issued each year. Remaining partners must provide this party ID number when applying and should verify the party ID number is identical on their receipt.
• A party is considered nonresident if any partner is a nonresident.
• For application assistance, call 517-284-WILD (9453).

Drawings results will be posted at Michigan.gov/Bear on June 24. Transfer requests must be received by September 1.

See page 13.

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

2019 Bear Management Units (BMU)

For detailed descriptions of bear hunt units’ boundaries, go online to Michigan.gov/DNRLaws or contact a DNR Customer Service Center.

2019 Bear Hunts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMU</th>
<th>Hunt Period</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>License Quota</th>
<th>Maximum Nonresident Licenses</th>
<th>Hunt Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bergland</td>
<td>Bergland 1</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>BMU</td>
<td>Hunt Period</td>
<td>2017 Applicants</td>
<td>2018 Applicants</td>
<td>2016 License Quotas</td>
<td>2017 License Quotas</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bergland 3</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
License Purchase

- If you are selected in the drawing or wish to purchase a leftover license, you may purchase your hunting license online at mdnr-elicense.com or from any license agent.
- Make sure the information on your license is accurate.
- Licenses may not be altered or transferred; however, successful applicants may transfer their drawing success to an unsuccessful you applicant, any person with an advanced illness by Sept 1. See the “Bear Hunt Transfer Program” on pg. 13 for more information.

When hunting, you must carry your bear license and the identification used to purchase that license and present upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer. Hunters are encouraged to carry their base license at all times when hunting. A base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters must have a base license to purchase a bear or no-kill-tag bear license. An application may be purchased riot to obtaining a base license.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Licenses by Title and Age</th>
<th>Application Cost for License Drawing</th>
<th>Base License Cost</th>
<th>Bear License Cost</th>
<th>No-Kill-Tag Bear License Cost for individuals accompanying a</th>
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</thead>
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Preference Point Applicants

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Preference Point Applicants 2017</th>
<th>Preference Point Applicants 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>22,399</td>
<td>22,962</td>
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Statewide Applicants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Applicants 2017</th>
<th>Statewide Applicants 2018</th>
<th>Statewide License Quotas 2016</th>
<th>Statewide License Quotas 2017</th>
<th>Statewide License Quotas 2018</th>
<th>Statewide Bears Registered 2016</th>
<th>Statewide Bears Registered 2017</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>56,503</td>
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<td>6,896</td>
<td>7,140</td>
<td>7,140</td>
<td>1,527</td>
<td>1,691</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Graphic: Black Bear in field looking off in the distance]
licensed bear hunter on a bear hunt (without a bear hunting license), and in possession of a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, must have a no-kill-tag bear license. The owner of any dog chasing or locating a bear on a hunt (without a bear hunting license) must also have a no-kill tag bear license.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>License Fee 1</th>
<th>License Fee 2</th>
<th>License Fee 3</th>
<th>License Fee 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mentored Youth Hunting</td>
<td>Age: Up to 9</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Junior</td>
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<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td>Resident</td>
<td>Age: 17+</td>
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<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td>Resident Senior</td>
<td>Age: 65+</td>
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<td>$5.00</td>
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<td>$15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident</td>
<td>Age: 17+</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$151.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonresident under 17 years of age</td>
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<tr>
<td>may purchase a resident base license</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime Comprehensive License-holder</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Active Duty U.S. Military Personnel and Michigan Veterans with Disabilities
Resident active-duty military personnel and resident veterans with a 100% disability rating may obtain a leftover bear license free of charge beginning July 22. License are full-price for those apply for a license and are selected in the drawing.
If you have any license questions, please call 517-284-6057.

Mentored Youth Hunting (MYH) Program
The MYH program allows youth hunters 9 years of age and younger to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years of age, has hunting experience, and possesses a valid Michigan licensed to hunt other
than an apprentice license. The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game including waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall), deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species. It also allows the ability to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk, and fall turkey. Additional restrictions apply; complete program details can be found in the Michigan Hunting Digest, or online at Michigan.gov/MetoredHunting.

Apprentice Hunting License
A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The base apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents. When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice’s parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. “Accompanied by” requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. For hunting bear, the accompanying hunter needs a 2019 bear hunting license, but it does not have to be for the same management unit or season dates as the apprentice. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

Leftover Licenses
There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt unit. Resident hunters who have not obtained a license through the drawing process may obtain one leftover license on a first-come, first-served basis until the quota is met in each hunt period, as follows:
• Beginning July 8 - Available to Lifetime Comprehensive License-holders only
• Beginning July 15 - Available to unsuccessful bear drawing applicants.
• Beginning July 22 - Available to any hunter, including those who did not apply Sales on these dates will begin at 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Leftover licenses are available for residents only. Preference points will be reset to zero for purchasers of a leftover bear license, except for Lifetime Comprehensive License-holders.

Bear Hunt Transfer Program
Successful bear drawing applicants may transfer their drawing success to an eligible person they know or donate anonymously to individuals on the DNR transfer waiting list. Eligible individuals include:
• Youth hunters, ages 16 and younger, who applied for a bear license and were unsuccessful in the current-year license drawing.
• Any person who has been diagnosed with an advanced illness*. An application for a license in the current-year 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. Eligible individuals can also register for the DNR transfer waiting list to receive a donated bear hunt. Visit Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers for details and registration. Those interested must register online by July 10. Transfer recipients will retain their preference points.
How to Request a Hunt Transfer
Successful applicants who wish to transfer their drawing success must submit a transfer request form by September 1. Forms are available at Michigan.gov/HuntTransfers. If a hunt recipient is not named on the form, the hunt will be offered to the next person on the DNR hunt waiting list. Preference points are reset to zero for all successful applicants, even if drawing success is transferred. It is unlawful for an individual to receive a fee, other consideration, or service of value, either directly or indirectly, for transferring drawing success to another person, or assisting and/or guiding that person in the hunt which has been transferred.

* Advanced Illness is a medical condition that must be diagnosed and certified by a physician. Advanced Illness is defined by the Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978 [MCL - 333.5653]. See www.legislature.michigan.gov.

License Usage to Prevent Crop Damage
If you are interested in using your license to harvest a bear that has caused crop damage on private property, please e-mail DNR Wildlife Specialist Ashley Autenrieth at Autenrietha@Michigan.gov. These permits are only valid outside of the regular bear season, must be valid in the BMU where the damage is occurring and the bear cannot be taken over bait or with hounds.

Hunting Methods
Bear hunters may use a bow and arrow, a crossbow, a firearm, or a muzzleloader. For taking a bear, crossbow hunters may only use arrows, bolts and quarrels at least 14 inches in length, tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inch wide. You may not hunt bear with a firearm during the archery-only bear season in the Red Oak Management Unit. Nonresidents must own and have either a concealed pistol license or a license to purchase, carry, or transport issued by their home state in their possession in order to legally carry or transport a handgun in Michigan.

Baiting
Baiting A bait station is a site where food or lure is placed that may attract bear, including a barrel used on Department-managed lands and all materials used to establish the bait station. Barrels are NOT allowed on Commercial Forest Lands or US Forest Service Lands. For all other managed lands, check with your local government office.

It is illegal to use chocolate or cocoa derivatives in bear bait. Baiting bear is legal from the start of the bear baiting period (31 days before the open season in that bear management unit) through the end of the bear hunting season.

LEGAL BAITS THAT MAY BE USED AT ANY LOCATION IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES:
- meat and meat products, including dog food;
- fish and fish products, including cat food; and
- bakery / confectionery products, including jams, jellies, sweeteners, candies, and other cooked or commercially processed products such as pie filling, yogurts, or granola.
- If using a barrel on private land, the maximum hole diameter in the barrel shall be 1 inch. If using a barrel on Department-managed lands, the maximum hole diameter in the barrel shall be 1 inch and there shall be a maximum of 3 open holes.
Hunters should consult the 2019 Michigan Hunting Digest which is available each year in mid-August or contact a DNR customer service center for deer and elk feeding and deer baiting regulations, including closed counties.

BAITS THAT ATTRACT OR ENTICE DEER AND ELK, INCLUDING GRAINS, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, SALTS, AND MINERALS In areas where deer or elk feeding, or deer baiting is LEGAL:

- Private Lands
  - Baits that attract or entice deer and elk that are placed on the ground:
    - Prior to Sept. 15: Only grains may be used but must be inaccessible to deer and elk and are limited to 2 gallons per bait station.
    - After Sept. 15: Grains, fruits, vegetables, salts, and minerals may be used but are limited to 2 gallons per bait station.
  - Barrels are LEGAL on private lands. Baits that attract or entice deer and elk that are placed in a barrel:
    - No quantity limit if the bait is placed in a barrel that is inaccessible to deer and elk.
    - The maximum hole diameter in the barrel shall be 1 inch.

- Commercial Forest Lands or US Forest Service Lands
  - Baits that attract or entice deer and elk that are placed on the ground:
    - Prior to Sept. 15: Only grains may be used but must be inaccessible to deer and elk and are limited to 2 gallons per bait station.
    - After Sept. 15: Grains, fruits, vegetables, salts, and minerals may be used but are limited to 2 gallons per bait station.
  - Barrels are ILLEGAL on Commercial Forest Lands and US Forest Service Lands.

- Department-managed Lands
  - Baits that attract or entice deer and elk that are placed on the ground:
    - Prior to Sept. 15: Only grains may be used but must be inaccessible to deer and elk and are limited to 2-gallons per bait station.
    - After Sept. 15: Grains, fruits, vegetables, salts, and minerals may be used but are limited to 2 gallons per bait station.
  - Barrels are LEGAL on Department-managed lands ONLY IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:
    - Barrel is at least 33 gallons in size.
    - Barrel is steel.
    - Barrels shall have a mechanically attached, securely affixed lid and no more than 3 open holes, each hole no greater than one inch in diameter.
    - Barrel is securely anchored to a post or stake in the ground with a chain or cable no greater than 8 feet in length.
    - The user or individual possessing the barrel shall permanently affix their complete Michigan driver’s license number or DNR sportscard number on a tag to the outside of the barrel.
    - There shall be a maximum of one barrel per bait station.
    - Barrel is placed no more than 100 yards from a state forest road or a roadway.
    - Bait inside the barrel shall be removed at the close of the bear season in that bear management unit.
    - Barrels shall be removed no later than 5 days after the close of the bear season. In areas where deer or elk feeding, or deer baiting is ILLEGAL:
  - Private Lands
◊ Baits that attract or entice deer and elk are illegal to use unless in a barrel that is inaccessible to deer and elk.
◊ Barrels are LEGAL on private lands. Baits that attract or entice deer and elk that are placed in a barrel:
  □ No quantity limit if the bait is placed in a barrel that is inaccessible to deer and elk.
  □ The maximum hole diameter in the barrel shall be 1 inch.
• Commercial Forest Lands or US Forest Service Lands
◊ Barrels are ILLEGAL on Commercial Forest Lands and US Forest Service Lands.
• Department-managed Lands
◊ Baits that attract or entice deer and elk are illegal to use unless in a steel barrel described below.
◊ Barrels are LEGAL on Department-managed lands ONLY IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:
  □ Barrel is at least 33 gallons in size.
  □ Barrel is steel.
  □ Barrels shall have a mechanically attached, securely affixed lid and no more than 3 open holes, each hole no greater than one inch in diameter.
  □ Barrel is securely anchored to a post or stake in the ground with a chain or cable no greater than 8 feet in length.
  □ The user or individual possessing the barrel shall permanently affix their complete Michigan driver’s license number or DNR sportscard number on a tag to the outside of the barrel.
  □ There shall be a maximum of one barrel per bait station.
  □ Barrel is placed no more than 100 yards from a state forest road or a roadway.
  □ Bait inside the barrel shall be removed at the close of the bear season in that bear management unit.
  □ Barrels shall be removed no later than 5 days after the close of the bear season.
For all other managed lands (county, tribal, etc.) please check with your local government office.
1. It is unlawful to tend or establish a bait station that attracts bear in:
   • Amasa, Bergland, Baraga, Carney, Gwinn, and Newberry BMUs prior to Aug. 11 and after Oct. 26.
   • Drummond Island prior to Aug. 11 and after Oct. 21.
   • Baldwin and Gladwin BMUs prior to Aug. 15 and after Sept. 23.
   • Red Oak BMU prior to Aug. 15 and after Oct. 11.
2. It is unlawful to hunt over bait that attracts bear that was established prior to:
   • Aug. 11 in Amasa, Bergland, Baraga, Carney, Drummond, Gwinn, and Newberry BMUs.
   • Aug. 15 in Baldwin, Gladwin, and Red Oak BMUs.
3. It is unlawful to use metal containers, plastic, wood, concrete, glass, fabric, cloth or paper at a bait station on commercial forest lands, or any public lands except if using a steel barrel on Department-managed lands. Barrels are NOT allowed on Commercial Forest Lands or US Forest Service Lands. For all other managed lands, check with your local government office.
4. It shall be unlawful to hunt over bait that has within 100 yards of the bait site any containers used to transport bait to the baiting site. Dead and downed trees may be used. It is also illegal to use a tire at a bait station on public or commercial forest lands.
5. At bait stations on commercial forest lands or public lands except if using a steel barrel on Department-managed lands it is unlawful to place bait anywhere but on the ground. Any containers used to transport bait to bait stations on public lands and commercial forest lands must be removed and disposed of properly. Also see “Commercial Forest Lands” on pg. 23. Barrels are NOT allowed on
Commercial Forest Lands or US Forest Service Lands. For all other managed lands, check with your local government office.

6. It is unlawful for any licensed bear hunter or his/her designee to establish or tend more than three bait stations per hunter. In addition, it is unlawful for any person to establish or tend more than a total of 12 bait stations.

**Dogs**

- For the purpose of hunting bear, no more than eight dogs shall be run as a pack. Relaying of packs is prohibited. It is legal to replace individual dogs, provided eight or fewer dogs are used at one time. All dogs must be immunized and licensed and must have a license or other form of identification affixed to their collars.
- Nonresidents must have in their possession a special permit to use dogs while hunting bear. No more than 10 dogs may be registered on one permit. The free permits are available by calling 517-284-6210.
- Nonresidents shall not chase bear with dogs outside the open season, unless training dogs on bear within Amasa, Bergland, or Carney BMUs or special dog training areas or when participating in an authorized field trial.
- Those pursuing bear with dogs during an open season shall have in their possession either a valid Michigan bear hunting license or a no-kill-tag license if in possession of a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, or if they are the owner of any dog used for chasing or locating bear during the hunt.
- Michigan residents may train their dogs on bears from July 8 through April 15 of the following year.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or hunt bear with dogs: - Sept. 5-15 in the Upper Peninsula - Sept. 9-14 in the rest of the Lower Peninsula. It also is unlawful to chase bears with dogs during the Oct. 5-11 archery-only season in the Red Oak BMU.
- For purposes of training, no more than eight dogs may be used to chase bear during a single day.
- It is unlawful to train a dog on a captive, tethered, or caged bear.
- For purposes of training or hunting bear, it is unlawful to begin to chase bear with dogs between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
- It is unlawful to train dogs on bear or other wild animals from April 16 – July 7.
- It is unlawful to train dogs on bear or hunt bear in the Gladwin Field Trial Area.

**Hunting Hours**

Actual legal hunting hours (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 hour listed in the table reflects EST adjusted for daylight-saving time where appropriate. If you are hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson or Menominee counties (Central Standard Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.

**Zone A Hunting Hours Table**

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**Elevated Platforms and Ground Blinds**

It is legal to hunt bear from a raised platform or tree stand when using a firearm, bow or crossbow. Bear hunters may use ground blinds on state lands in the bear management unit for which they are licensed. Blinds may be placed from Aug. 10 (Upper Peninsula) or Aug. 17 (Lower Peninsula) through five days after the close of the bear season, or if successful, five days after harvesting a bear. The name and address of the licensed bear hunter must be permanently affixed to the ground blind or tree stand in legible English.

**General Rules**

- A person shall not kill or attempt to kill a bear unless the person has an unused bear harvest license issued in his or her name for the BMU in which he or she is hunting.
- It is unlawful to assist a tribal member engaged in treaty-authorized hunting unless the non-tribal member assisting: (1) has a state license for that activity and complies with all state laws including season dates covering that activity, or (2) is the spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or sibling of the tribal member who is present during the activity, and as long as such assistance by the family member does not include using a firearm, crossbow or bow.
• 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.
• On land owned or under control of the department, it is unlawful to drag a state forest road with any device that disturbs the surface of the roadbed at a depth greater than two inches.
• It is unlawful to disturb a bear den or disturb, harm, or molest a bear in its den.
• It is unlawful to take a cub bear (a bear less than one year of age), or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear.
• 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.
• It is unlawful to use chocolate or cocoa derivatives in bear bait.

Learn How to Avoid Cubs
Generally, cubs less than a year of age are accompanying sows and appear smaller than the sow. In general, avoiding a bear that is less than 42 inches in length, from nose to tail, will avoid most bears under one year of age. Marking a stick or other item and placing it near your bait site may help in determining the size of the bear. WHEN IN DOUBT, LET IT PASS.

Hunter Orange Required
When bear hunting, hunters must wear a cap, hat, vest, jacket, or rain gear of hunter orange. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange. The garments that are hunter orange shall be the hunter’s outermost garment and shall be visible from all sides of the hunter. Crossbow and archery bear hunters are exempt from the hunter orange requirement.

Validating Kills and Registration
Immediately after killing a bear, a person shall validate the license by cutting out the appropriate information as instructed on the license. If running bears with dogs after harvest, retain the top portion of license and tag harvested bear using lower portion. The entire license or lower portion of the license must then be attached to the bear’s lower jaw. You may wish to fold the kill tag in half directly over a piece of wire or cord (after removing backing) before attaching the license to the lower jaw of the bear in a secure and permanent manner. Within 72 hours of harvest, the bear head (unfrozen) and pelt, or the entire animal shall be presented by the licensee that killed the bear, to the DNR for examination, sealing, and registration. The licensee shall provide the identification used to acquire the license. After the pelt is sealed, the DNR reserves the right to collect additional bear parts, such as a tooth, for research or management purposes (see pages 25-27 for registration stations). The seal shall 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 shall accompany the head or hide.
• The carcass is accepted for processing and recorded by a licensed taxidermist.

Report Sighting of Diseased Wildlife
In an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages people to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife at Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease.
Report Bear Hunting Results Online
Accurate and complete information on hunting activity is vital for sound wildlife management. All bear hunters are encouraged to report their hunting activity after their season has ended at Michigan.gov/Bear. These surveys are the same as those traditionally mailed to randomly selected hunters. Mail surveys will continue; however, the online reporting option allows all hunters to participate. Mandatory registration for all successful bear hunters is required within 72 hours of bear harvest.

Bear Cooperator Patch
Michigan’s bear cooperator patch program is coordinated by the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, in partnership with the DNR. Young hunters, 17 years of age and younger, who have a valid bear hunting license may receive a free patch. To receive a patch, please send name and complete address, along with a legible copy of the youth’s valid bear hunting license, to MBHA, Bear Patch Program, 10510 Fairgrieve Rd., Johannesburg, MI 49751. Adult hunters, collectors, and other interested individuals may purchase the patch for $5, including postage and handling. You do not have to harvest a bear to purchase a patch. Send orders to the address above, and please make your check or money order payable to the Michigan Bear Hunters Association. Bear patches will be available while supplies last. For further information and current availability of past patches, contact the address provided or email alimcv@yahoo.com.

General Information
Carcass Care
DON’T LET YOUR BEAR MEAT SPOIL! It is imperative to field dress your bear immediately and place ice in the cavity to cool the meat. Skin and process the animal in a timely manner and enjoy the appealing taste of black bear! For meat of good quality, follow these important steps:
- Cool meat quickly (minimum 32-40° F) and age properly.
- Prevent dampness (any waterproof covering must allow full air circulation).
- Keep meat clean and keep flies off.

Tooth Collection
The DNR collects a tooth from all bears during registration, and the tooth is used to determine the age of the bear. Ages are determined using a microscope to count the number of cementum layers in cross-sections of premolar teeth from either the upper or lower jaw. The cementum layers look much like rings in a cross-section of a tree; each layer represents one year. The premolars are small, single-rooted, peg-like teeth located between the canines and the molars. A premolar can be removed by cutting with a knife in front of and behind the tooth and pulling gently with pliers. It is okay if some of the gum adheres to the tooth. The aging technique actually works better if the tooth is not scraped clean. The age cannot be determined from the tooth crown; therefore, it is very important that the premolar be removed with the root as intact as possible. The tooth can be wrapped in paper (not plastic or foil) or placed in an envelope and can be dried or frozen. Turn in the tooth when you have your bear sealed and registered. The age of your bear can be checked at Michigan.gov/DNRLab after April 1.

[Graphic: Bear teeth diagram with premolars and canines pointed out]
Precaution about Lead in Bear Meat
Bear that are shot with rifle bullets containing lead, particularly copper-jacketed and hollow-point bullets or that are shot with shotguns using lead slugs or buckshot, can have particles of lead remaining in the meat, some too small to be seen or felt. Lead can be harmful to humans and wildlife, even in very low amounts. If you have questions about the health effects of lead exposure from lead fragments or lead shot, call the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 and/or look through the information on the DNR website at Michigan.gov/WDM. You may also contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-648-6942 or visit Michigan.gov/MDHHS.

Commercial Hunting Guides on State Public Land
All commercial hunting guides using state-owned land must receive written authorization. Guides are required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit Michigan.gov/StateLandPermission or contact Casey Reitz at ReitzC@Michigan.gov or 517-284-6210 for more information. Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a federal special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any NF office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023; or Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

Commercial Forest (CF) Lands
Over 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the CF program are accessible to the public by foot for fishing, hunting, and trapping. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner’s discretion. The CF lands are not posted or signed as commercial forests and 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 owner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Other than foot access for the acts of hunting or fishing, activities such as (but not limited to) camping, leaving anything unattended (e.g. bait, blinds, etc.), and damaging or injuring vegetation (e.g. cutting/nailing) require the landowner's permission. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction. Legal land descriptions of lands listed in this program are available on the DNR website at Michigan.gov/CommercialForest under “Where Can I Hunt?” If you have questions about this program or specific CF lands, contact the nearest DNR Customer Service Center or DNR Forest Resources Division, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-284-5900.

Bear Hunting Clinics
The DNR is offering bear hunting clinics. For $30, students will learn the ins and outs of bear hunting with experienced hunters and DNR educators. The class will cover habitat, gear, stand placement, baiting, rules and regulations, carcass care, and hide care. Participants will spend about four hours in the classroom, then hit the trail to learn how to place a stand and bait in the woods. For details contact: Carl T. Johnson Hunt and Fish Center, Cadillac Mitchell State Park, 6087 Easy Highway M-115 (Recreation Passport is required for entry into park) 231-779-1321 or visit Michigan.gov/HuntFishCenter. Dates of Clinic include Jul. 29, Aug. 5th, Aug. 11th.

Wolf Dog Conflicts
Wolves will defend their territories and may attack other wolves, coyotes and domestic dogs that are in their territory. Most wolf-dog conflicts occur where dogs are trained or used for bear hunting, which overlaps with the time wolf pups are using homesites. Dogs used for hunting are at risk of being
attacked by wolves because they: (1) traverse large areas, which increases their chance of encountering wolves; (2) may be released at bear bait sites that also may be used by wolves; (3) bark while tracking, which may be viewed as a territorial challenge by wolves; and (4) are some distance from hunters and therefore not protected by the presence of humans.

Avoid Potential Problem Areas
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 homesites. These sites may vary from year-to-year and can change throughout the summer. Homesites usually are forest openings or edge areas and often are near water. They can be identified by the concentration of wolf tracks, droppings and matted vegetation. It is best to do some scouting beforehand and look for wolf signs before releasing dogs. Be especially vigilant when starting dogs from a bear bait site, 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.

What you can do:
• Report all suspected wolf-dog conflicts to the DNR immediately to allow a timely investigation. Your reports help other bear hunters by allowing the DNR to provide updated dog depredation locations.
• Become familiar with coyote and dog tracks, so they can be correctly distinguished from wolf tracks.
• Consider adding bells or beepers to dog collars - some hunters have reported this can reduce wolf attacks.

For a map of location information on known dog depredation visit: Michigan.gov/Wolves. For information on hunting dog conflicts with wolves, contact the Marquette Customer Service Center at 906-228-6561 or visit Michigan.gov/Wolves.
To report a dog depredation, call the Report All Poaching hotline: 1-800-292-7800 At this time the use of lethal control of wolves in the act of depredation is not authorized. Because the federal listing status of wolves has and may continue to change, please contact a DNR office to inquire about current rules regarding lethal take of wolves if in the act of preying upon a dog.

Bear Registration Stations by County
At the registration station, an official seal shall be attached to the bear and information shall be obtained from the hunter. An asterisk * next to the check station indicates limited staff and/or limited office hours. Hunters must call the DNR office or private cooperator before arriving to schedule an appointment.
Alcona County:
• Lincoln DNR Office* 408 Main St. Lincoln 989-736-8336
Alger County:
• Bayshore Market Lake Ave. Grand Marais 906-494-2581
• Bear Trap Inn N7294 County Rd. H15 Shingleton 906-452-6364
• Cusino DNR Office* M-28 Shingleton 906-452-6236
Allegan County:
• DNR Plainwell Customer Service Center* 621 N. 10th St. Plainwell 269-685-6851
Alpena County:
• Advanced Wildlife Designs 3361 US-23 S. Alpena 989-356-3600
Baraga County:
- DNR Baraga Customer Service Center 427 US-41 N. Baraga 906-353-6651
- Indian Country Sports 17 South Front Street L’Anse 906-524-6518

Barry County:
- Barry State Game Area* 1805 S. Yankee Springs Rd. Middleville 989-684-9141

Bay County:
- DNR Bay City Customer Service Center 3580 State Park Dr. Bay City 989-684-9141

Cheboygan County:
- Cheboygan DNR Office 120 A St. Cheboygan 231-627-9011
- Johnson’s Sport Shop 29129 E. Channel Rd. Drummond Island 906-493-6300
- Strong's Motel & Tavern 28952 W M-28 Strongs 906-274-5548
- Wilderness Treasures 101 S. M-129 Pickford 906-647-4002

Clare County:
- Harrison DNR Office* 211S Sullivan Dr. Harrison 989-539-6411
- Jay’s Sporting Goods 8800 S. Clare Ave. Clare 989-386-3475

Clinton County:
- Rose Lake Field Office* 8903 Stoll Rd., East Lansing 517-641-4092

Delta County:
- Soderman’s Meats 6207 Days River 24.5 Rd. Gladstone 906-428-2487

Dickinson County:
- Midtown Bait & Tackle 613 Railroad Ave. Channing 906-542-7080
- Norway DNR Office* 520 W. US-2 Norway 906-563-9042
- Whispering Pines Outpost N-4200 M-95 Iron Mountain 906-774-1277

Gladwin County:
- Gladwin DNR Office* 801 N. Silverleaf Gladwin 989-426-9205 ext. 7631

Gogebic County:
- West Shore Resort N10960 Hwy. M-64 Marenisco 906-842-333

Grand Traverse County:
- Traverse City Customer Service Center* 2122 M-37 Traverse City 231-922-5280

Houghton County:
- Fred’s East Branch Outfitters 3881 East M-28 Trout Creek 906-287-0060
- McLain State Park 18350 Hwy. M-203 Hancock 906-482-0278
- Krupps Resort 32170 Emily Lake Rd Toivola 906-288-3404
- Kurt’s Korner 17510 East Askel Rd. Pelkie 906-334-3333

Ingham County:
- Lansing Customer Service Center* 4166 Legacy Parkway Lansing 517-284-4720
Ionia County:
• Flat River DNR Office* 6640 Long Lake Rd. Belding 616-794-2658

Iron County:
• Crystal Falls DNR Office* 1420 W. US-2 Crystal Falls 906-875-6622
• Luckey’s Sport Shop 3237 US-2 Iron River 906-265-0151

Jackson County:
• Waterloo Field Office 13578 Seymour Rd., Grass Lake 517-522-4097

Keweenaw County:
• Fort Wilkins State Park 15223 US Hwy. 41, Copper Harbor 906-289-4215

Lake County:
• Baldwin DNR Office* 2468 W. 24th St. Baldwin 231-745-4651

Luce County:
• DNR Newberry Customer Service Center 5100 S. M-123 Newberry 906-293-513
• 1 Muskallonge Lake State Park* 29705 County Rd. 407 Newberry 906-658-3338

Mackinac County:
• McNeil’s Bar 6154 Gould City Rd. Gould City 906-477-9915
• Naubinway DNR Office* US-2 Naubinway 906-477-6048

Macomb County:
• Mt. Clemens Fisheries Station* 33135 S. River Rd. Harrison Twp. 586-465-4771

Marquette County:
• Cram’s General Store 100 Bensinger Big Bay 906-345-0075
• LaPalme’s Country Corner County Hwy. 557 & 426 Arnold 906-238-4231
• DNR Marquette Customer Service Center 1990 US-41 S. Marquette 906-228-6561
• Van Riper State Park 851 County Rd. AKE Champion 906-339-4461

Mecosta County:
• Mecosta County Parks DNR Office* 22250 Northland Dr. Paris 231-465-4188

Menominee County:
• B&J Taxidermy N9590 P-1 Rd. Daggett 906-753-4090
• Gary’s Quality Foods Venison Processing N5977 US-41 Wallace 906-788-4330

Montmorency County:
• Atlanta DNR Office* 13501 M-33 Atlanta 989-785-4251 ext. 5233

Muskegon County:
• Muskegon State Game Area* 7600 E. Messinger Rd. Twin Lake 231-788-5055

Oakland County:
• Holly Recreation Area* 8100 Grange Hall Rd. Holly 248-634-0240

Ontonagon County:
• Greig’s Taxidermy & Tackle 35742 US-45 Ontonagon 906-884-2770
• Maple Ridge Bait Shop 35802 Hwy. M-28 Merriweather 906-365-5050
• Porcupine Mtns. State Park M-107 & South Boundary Rd. Ontonagon 906-885-5275
• Settler’s Cooperative M-28 at US-45 Bruce Crossing 906-827-3515
Oscoda County:
  - Mio DNR Office* 191 S. Mount Tom Rd. Mio 989-275-5151
Otsego County:
  - DNR Gaylord Customer Service Center 1732 W. M-32 Gaylord 989-732-3541
Presque Isle:
  - Adrian’s Sport Shop 335 N. Bradley Hwy. Rogers City 989-734-2303
Roscommon County:
  - Houghton Lake DNR Office* 180 S. Harrison Rd. Houghton Lake 989-422-6572
  - DNR Roscommon Customer Service Center* 8717 N. Roscommon Rd. Roscommon 989-275-5151
Schoolcraft County:
  - Forest Glen Store 7445 N. Federal Forest Hwy. 13 Wetmore 906-573-2655
  - Jack Pine Lodge 5350N State Hwy M-94 Manistique 906-573-2414
  - Mater’s Stop N Go 1545 West State Hwy. M-28 Seney 906-499-3015
Wayne County:
  - DNR Detroit Metro 1801 Atwater St. Detroit 313-396-6890
  - Pte. Mouillee State Game Area* 37205 Mouillee Rd. Rockwood 734-379-9692
Wexford County:
  - DNR Cadillac Customer Service Center* 8015 Mackinaw Trl. Cadillac 231-775-9727

Need Information?
Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online. Customer Service Centers (CSC) are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Baraga CSC 427 US-41 North 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. US-2 Crystal Falls, MI 49920 906-875-6622
Detroit Metro CSC 1801 Atwater St. Detroit, MI 48207 313-396-6890
Escanaba CSC 6833 US-2 41 & 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 US-41 South Marquette, MI 49855 906-228-6561
Naubinway Field Office PO Box 287 W11569 US 2E Naubinway, MI 49762 906-477-6048
Newberry CSC 5100 M-123 Newberry, MI 49868 906-293-5131
Norway Field Office 520 W. US-Hwy 2 Norway, MI 49870 906-563-9247
Plainwell CSC 621 N. 10th St. Plainwell, MI 49080 269-685-6851
Roscommon CSC I-75 & M-18 South, 8717 N. Roscommon Rd. Roscommon, MI 48653 989-275-5151
Sault Ste. Marie Field Office PO Box 798 2001 Ashmun Sault St. Marie, MI 49783 906-635-6161
Traverse City CSC 2122 South M-37 Traverse City, MI 49685 231-922-5280