

BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS

Please read the following regulations carefully. In addition, general hunting regulations and legal firearms and bows and arrows for big game hunting are described in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations, which will be available in August.

LICENSE TYPES, ELIGIBILITY, AND COSTS

New for 2011: Bear lottery winners must purchase their license by August 1, 2011. Unsold and any surplus licenses will then become available for one week to those that applied but were not selected in the lottery starting August 4, 2011 at 12:00PM. August 10, 2011 at 12:00PM any remaining unsold license will become available to anyone. A list of available licenses will be posted online on August 3, 2011.

Licensing: Two types of hunting licenses are available: 1) Permit Areas: A total of 7,050 permits were offered through a lottery drawing in 11 permit areas (see map). Hunters with licenses for permit areas are allowed to hunt for bears only in the permit area listed on their license. 2) No-Quota Areas: An unlimited number of permits are available for purchase over-the-counter to take bears in the No-Quota Area, which is the part of the state outside of the 11 Permit Areas.

Eligible Hunters: Both license types require that individuals be at least 10 years of age for residents, 12 for nonresidents, prior to hunting, and have not had their big game hunting privileges suspended pursuant to M.S. Section 97A.421. In addition, anyone born on or after January 1, 1980, must have a Firearm Safety Certificate (or equivalent), or other evidence of successfully completing a hunter safety course to obtain a bear hunting license.

No-Quota License Purchase: No-Quota licenses may be purchased by any eligible person. Licenses are available after June 1. No-Quota licenses are allowed only outside of the 11 permit areas. Obtaining a No-Quota bear hunting license has no effect upon eligibility or preference in drawings for Permit Areas.

License Fees: \$39.00 resident age 12 and over. Ages 10 and 11 must obtain a license, but will pay no fee. \$201.00 nonresident. Price includes issuing fee.

SEASON DATES, SHOOTING HOURS, AND BAG LIMITS

Season Dates: The bear hunting season is September 1 - October 16, in all Permit Areas and in the No-Quota Areas.

Bag Limit: Bag limit is one bear in quota zones and two bears in no-quota zones during any calendar year whether by firearm or archery. Bears taken may be either sex or any age except bear cubs. Cub bears are defined as bears less than one year old. No party hunting for bears is allowed. This means no hunter may kill a bear for another hunter, and hunters may only tag a bear they, themselves, have killed.

Shooting Hours: Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

BAIT STATIONS AND GARBAGE DUMPS

Definitions: "Bait" is any material placed for the purpose of attracting or attempting to attract bears. A bear "bait station" is any location where bait is placed for the purpose of hunting. Materials that are at all times attended by the hunter are not considered a bait station.

The following materials may not be used as baits for bear.

- A carcass from a mammal containing more than 25 percent of the intact carcass.
- Meat from mammals that contains bones.
- bones of mammals;

- solid waste containing bottles, cans, plastic, paper, or metal;
- materials that are not readily biodegradable; or
- any part of a swine, except cured pork.

Note: 55-gallon drums, pails, plastic garbage bags, or other containers may not be left unattended at bait stations.

Use of drum on private land for baiting bears.

A private landowner or person authorized by the private landowner may use a drum to bait bear on the person's private land. The drum must be securely chained or cabled to a tree so that it cannot be moved from the site by a bear and the drum may not include a mechanical device for dispensing feed. The drum must be marked in the same manner as bait station signs. A "drum" means a 30 gallon or larger drum.

Establishing Bait Stations: A person may not hunt bears within 100 yards of a bait station, unless it is registered and marked with a sign in accordance with the following regulations:

- **Requirement for Placing Bait:** A person may not place bait for bears on or after August 12 unless the person has a 2011 bear license or is operating under the direction of a person with a 2011 bear license. If you are baiting for someone else, you must have their MN DNR number in your possession.
- **New for 2011. No more than three bait stations may be placed at one time for each licensed bear hunter. If a hunter wishes to establish a different bait station, one of the hunter's three existing bait stations must be removed. Each licensed bear hunting outfitter may establish up to three bait stations in addition to bait stations placed for licensed hunters.**
- **Date:** A person may not establish, service, maintain or place a sign for any bait station prior to August 12. A person may not establish a bait station within 100 yards of any site where bait has been placed before August 12.
- **Bait Station Registration:** A person may not establish a bait station without registering it with the DNR. The name, address, MN DNR number, and telephone number of the person who established the bait station and the county, township, range, and section for which the bait station is established must be mailed, no later than the next postal service day after establishing the bait station. Bait station registration forms should be mailed to the appropriate address as per the instructions on the forms.
- **Bait Station Signs:** A person who establishes a bait station must display a sign at the site. The sign must be made of plastic, wood, or metal and be at least 6-by-10 inches in size and no more than 18- by-24 inches in size. The sign must contain the licensee's name and address; the licensee's driver's license number; or the "MDNR#" license identification number for a licensed bear hunter or a licensed bear outfitter. The letters and numbers must be legibly printed and either painted or impressed on the sign material. Bait station signs must be prominently displayed between 6 and 10 feet above the natural ground level, and within 20 feet of the bait. Signs must be removed within 48 hours after the close of the bear season.
- **Other Baiting Provisions:** A person may establish and maintain a bait station for someone else, without payment, if the station is registered and displays a sign containing the name and driver's license number of the person who is actually doing the baiting and the name and MN DNR number of the person for which the bait is placed. A person may not establish a bait station within 150 yards of an established campsite. A person may not establish a bait station in Bear Permit Area 22 (Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the portion of the BWCAW outside of Bear Permit Area 22). A person may not establish a bait station or take a

bear within one-half mile of a garbage dump.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

White Bears: May not take a white bear. A white bear was present in parts of Northern MN in 1998, and hunters in all areas should be aware of this regulation.

Dens: May not take or disturb any bear in a den.

Dogs: May not take or attempt to take bears with the aid of dogs.

Archery-Firearms Restriction: May take bears by archery while in possession of a firearm.

Sale of Meat, Organs, and Parts: May not sell meat or organs (including gall bladders) of a bear. May sell teeth, skulls, bones, hides, or claws of a lawfully taken bear. May not sell bear paws, unless attached to the hide.

TAGGING AND REGISTRATION

Site-Tagging: A person who takes a bear must tag it using the site tag that comes with the person's bear hunting license. The site tag must be fastened around the bears sternum (breast bone), through an ear, or around a leg bone or tendon, in such a way that the tag cannot be removed. See the deer tagging section of the Hunting and Trapping Handbook for tagging instructions.

Validation: You are required to validate the site tag by punching out or marking with a pen the date of the kill, the sex of the bear, and whether taken by firearm or archery. This tag must remain in the hunter's possession and must be attached before putting the bear in a vehicle or hanging it in camp.

Registration: A person who takes a bear must present it for registration at a bear registration station within 48 hours after taking and obtain a Big Game Possession Tag. Registration stations have large, orange "Big Game Registration" signs. A complete list of all stations is on the DNR's website at mndnr.gov. The possession tag must be affixed to the bear in the same manner as the site tag before the animal may be transported from the registration station.

Sub-dividing Bears Prior to Registration: Bears may be skinned, quartered, or further divided prior to transportation and registration, but all edible meat and all other parts of the bear retained by the hunter must be presented for registration at the same time.

Mandatory Tooth Collection: DNR researchers use the information from bear teeth to monitor bear populations. Every person who kills a bear must submit a tooth sample to the DNR (see instructions). Postage-paid envelopes for mailing the bear teeth to DNR are provided at registration stations. Each person who kills a bear is responsible for mailing the envelope to the DNR unless the registration station is collecting the materials. If you do not obtain an envelope at the registration station, put the samples and relevant information in an ordinary envelope and mail to: DNR Wildlife Research, Minnesota DNR, 1201 E. Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. All individuals who submit a tooth sample will be sent information on the age of their bear and a bear cooperation patch.

NUISANCE BEARS

Nuisance bears may be taken by licensed hunters before the season in the area where the license is valid if authorized by a DNR Area Wildlife Manager or Conservation Officer. Nuisance bear taken by authorized licensed hunters before the season must be registered with the authorizing Area Wildlife Manager or Conservation Officer within 48 hours after taking.

BEAR GUIDES

A person may not place bait or guide bear hunters for compensation without first obtaining a Bear Outfitters License (\$82.50, resident only) or Master Bear Outfitters License (\$165.00, resident only).

CITES EXPORT PERMITS

International trade in black bear hides (pelts), claws, skulls, or teeth is regulated by federal law and international treaty.