

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:

6232

2025 AND 2026 BEAR SEASONS

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Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to 2025 and 2026 Bear Seasons.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2025 and 2026 Bear Seasons**

1.3 **6232.2600 DEFINITIONS.**

1.4 *[For text of subparts 1 to 7, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.5 Subp. 8. **Problem bear.** "Problem bear" means a bear that:

1.6 A. has caused serious property or agricultural damage;

1.7 B. has killed or attempted to kill livestock or pets; or

1.8 C. has a repeated presence close to human activity.

1.9 **6232.2800 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR TAKING BEARS.**

1.10 Subpart 1. **Bag limit.** Except as provided in part 6232.3300, a person may not take
1.11 more than one bear in quota areas and ~~two bears~~ one bear in no-quota areas during any
1.12 calendar year whether by firearm or archery. Bears taken may be of either sex or any age
1.13 except that bear cubs may not be taken.

1.14 *[For text of subparts 2 to 5, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.15 Subp. 6. **Registration requirements and sample collection.**

1.16 A. Every person taking a bear must present it for registration:

1.17 *[For text of subitem (1), see Minnesota Rules]*

1.18 (2) in the case of a ~~nuisance~~ problem bear authorization, to the authorizing
1.19 wildlife manager or conservation officer.

1.20 *[For text of items B to E, see Minnesota Rules]*

1.21 *[For text of subparts 7 and 8, see Minnesota Rules]*

2.1 **6232.3000 BEAR QUOTA AREAS.**

2.2 Subpart 1. **Quota area licenses.** Licenses for bear quota areas are limited in number
2.3 and are issued through a drawing as provided in part 6232.2900. Quota area licenses are
2.4 valid only in the quota area specified on the license except when validated by a wildlife
2.5 manager or conservation officer for a problem bear under part 6232.3300.

2.6 Subp. 1a. **Bear Quota Area 12.** Bear Quota Area 12 consists of that portion of the
2.7 state lying within the following described boundary:

2.8 Beginning at ~~the intersection~~ a point along the state boundary due north of the junction
2.9 of State Trunk Highway (STH) 72 and the northern boundary of the state STH 11;
2.10 thence due south to said junction; thence along STH 72 to the Tamarac River; thence
2.11 along the southerly shore of said river to Upper Red Lake; thence along the southeasterly
2.12 shore of said lake to the eastern boundary of the Red Lake Indian Reservation; thence
2.13 along the easterly, ~~southerly, and westerly~~ and northerly boundaries of said reservation
2.14 ~~to the point where the Clearwater River leaves the reservation boundary; thence along~~
2.15 ~~the south shore of said river to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2, Polk County;~~
2.16 ~~thence along CSAH 2 to CSAH 27, Pennington County; thence along CSAH 27 to~~
2.17 ~~STH 1; thence along STH 1 to CSAH 28, Pennington County; thence along CSAH 28~~
2.18 the west boundary of Beltrami County; thence due west to CSAH 54, Marshall County;
2.19 thence along CSAH 54 to CSAH 6, Marshall County; thence along CSAH 6 to STH
2.20 89; thence along STH 89 to County Road (CR) 134, Marshall County; thence along
2.21 CR 134 to STH CSAH 54, Marshall County; thence along STH CSAH 54 to CSAH 9,
2.22 Roseau County; thence along CSAH 9 to CSAH 2, Roseau County; thence along CSAH
2.23 2 to STH 89; thence along STH 89 to STH 310; thence along STH 310 to the Roseau
2.24 River; thence along the south shore of said river to STH 89; thence along STH 89 to
2.25 the northern boundary of the state; thence along the northern boundary of the state to
2.26 the west shore of Lake of the Woods at the 49th parallel north; thence continuing along
2.27 the 49th parallel to the state boundary with Ontario in Big Traverse Bay of Lake of the
2.28 Woods; thence along the northern state boundary to the point of beginning.

2.29 Subp. 2. **Bear Quota Area 13.** Bear Quota Area 13 consists of that portion of the
2.30 state lying within the following described boundary:

2.31 Beginning ~~on the northern boundary of the state~~ at a point along the state boundary
2.32 due north of the junction of State Trunk Highway (STH) 72 and STH 11; thence along
2.33 the northern boundary of the state to a point due north of the intersection of STH 11
2.34 and U.S. Highway 71; thence due south to U.S. Highway 71; thence along U.S. Highway

3.1 71 to STH 6; thence along STH 6 to STH 1; thence along STH 1 to STH 72; thence
3.2 north along STH 72 to STH 11; thence due north to the point of beginning.

3.3 Subp. 2a. **Bear Quota Area 14.** Bear Quota Area 14 consists of that portion of the
3.4 state north of the 49th parallel north, commonly known as the Northwest Angle.

3.5 Subp. 3. **Bear Quota Area 22.** Bear Quota Area 22 consists of that portion of the
3.6 state known as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) ~~but excluding the detached part~~
3.7 ~~of the BWCA lying south of the Echo Trail, St. Louis County, and known as the Trout Lake~~
3.8 ~~unit or block.~~

3.9 [For text of subpart 4, see Minnesota Rules]

3.10 Subp. 5. **Bear Quota Area 25.** Bear Quota Area 25 consists of that portion of the
3.11 state lying within the following described boundary, excluding the detached part of the
3.12 Boundary Waters Canoe Area lying south of the Echo Trail, St. Louis County, and known
3.13 as the Trout Lake unit or block:

3.14 Beginning at the junction of State Trunk Highway (STH) 1 and STH 65; thence along
3.15 STH 1 to STH 169; thence along STH 169 to the first Shagawa River bridge at Winton;
3.16 thence along the northerly shore of said river to Fall Lake; thence along the westerly
3.17 and northerly shores of Fall Lake to the southern boundary of the Boundary Waters
3.18 Canoe Area (BWCA); thence westward along the southerly boundary of the BWCA
3.19 to the intersection with the northern boundary of the state; thence along the northern
3.20 boundary of the state to a point due north of the junction of U.S. Highway 71 and STH
3.21 11 at Pelland; thence due south to said junction; thence along U.S. Highway 71 to STH
3.22 6; thence along STH 6 to STH 1; thence along STH 1 to the point of beginning.

3.23 Subp. 6. **Bear Quota Area ~~26~~ 27.** Bear Quota Area ~~26~~ 27 consists of that portion of
3.24 the state lying within the following described boundary:

3.25 Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and State Trunk Highway (STH) 65;
3.26 thence along STH 65 to STH 1; thence along STH 1 to STH 72; thence along STH 72
3.27 to U.S. Highway 71; thence along U.S. Highway 71 to U.S. Highway 2; thence along
3.28 U.S. Highway 2 to the west boundary of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, as described
3.29 in the Agreement and Settlement on file and of record in the United States District
3.30 Court for the District of Minnesota, Third Division, in the following entitled actions:
3.31 Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians et al. v. Robert L. Herbst, No. 3-69 Civ. 65,

and *United States of America v. State of Minnesota*, No. 3-70 Civ. 228; thence along the west, north, and east boundaries of said reservation to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to the point of beginning.

Subp. 6a. **Bear Quota Area 28.** Bear Quota Area 28 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and the east boundary of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, as described in the Agreement and Settlement on file and of record in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, Third Division, in the following entitled actions: *Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians et al. v. Robert L. Herbst*, No. 3-69 Civ. 65, and *United States of America v. State of Minnesota*, No. 3-70 Civ. 228; thence along the east, north, and west boundaries of said reservation to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to the point of beginning.

Subp. 7. **Bear Quota Area 31.** Bear Quota Area 31 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

Beginning on U.S. Highway 53 at the eastern boundary of the state; thence along U.S. Highway 53 to County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 16, St. Louis County; thence along CSAH 16 to the Soudan-Two Harbors Branch of the Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway Company (DM&IR); thence along said railroad to CSAH 21, St. Louis County; thence along CSAH 21 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 135; thence along STH 135 to STH 169; thence along STH 169 to the first Shagawa River bridge at Winton; thence along the northerly shore of said river to Fall Lake; thence along the westerly and northerly shores of Fall Lake to the southern boundary of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA); thence easterly along said boundary of the BWCA to the northern boundary of the state at Magnetic Lake; thence easterly along the northern boundary of the state to the boundary of the BWCA on the south shore of North Lake; thence along the boundaries of this detached part of the BWCA to the northern boundary of the state at ~~South~~ North Fowl Lake; thence along the northern and eastern boundaries of the state to the point of beginning.

Subp. 8. **Bear Quota Area 41.** Bear Quota Area 41 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

Beginning at the junction of the northern boundary of the White Earth Indian Reservation and County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 7, Clearwater County; thence along CSAH 7 to CSAH 6, Clearwater County; thence along CSAH 6 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 92; thence along STH 92 to STH 223; thence along STH 223 to CSAH 14, Clearwater County; thence along CSAH 14 to CSAH 4, Clearwater County; thence along CSAH

4 to the west boundary of Clearwater County; thence along said boundary to the southern boundary of the Red Lake Indian Reservation; thence along the southern and eastern boundaries of said reservation to the southeasterly shore of Upper Red Lake; thence along said lakeshore to the Tamarac River; thence along the southerly shore of said river to STH 72; thence along STH 72 to U.S. Highway 71; thence along U.S. Highway 71 to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to STH 92; thence along STH 92 to CSAH 27, Clearwater County; thence along CSAH 27 to the northern boundary of the White Earth Indian Reservation; thence west along said reservation boundary to the point of beginning.

Subp. 9. **Bear Quota Area ~~43~~ 46.** Bear Quota Area ~~43~~ 46 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

~~Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 59 at County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 3, Mahnomen County and the northern boundary of the White Earth Indian Reservation; thence along said boundary to CSAH 27, Clearwater County; thence along CSAH 27 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 92; thence along STH 92 to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to STH 6; thence along STH 6 to STH 18; thence along STH 18 to U.S. Highway 169; thence along U.S. Highway 169 to STH 23; thence along STH 23 to the Mississippi River; thence upstream along the easterly shore of said river to STH 27 at Little Falls; thence along STH 27 to U.S. Highway 71; thence along U.S. Highway 71 to U.S. Highway 10; thence along U.S. Highway 10 to U.S. Highway 59; thence along U.S. Highway 59~~ the west boundary of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, as described in the Agreement and Settlement on file and of record in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, Third Division, in the following entitled actions: *Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians et al. v. Robert L. Herbst*, No. 3-69 Civ. 65, and *United States of America v. State of Minnesota*, No. 3-70 Civ. 228; thence along the west, south, and east boundaries of the reservation to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to STH 6; thence along STH 6 to CSAH 1, Crow Wing County; thence along CSAH 1 to CSAH 1, Cass County; thence along CSAH 1 to STH 84; thence along STH 84 to STH 371; thence along STH 371 to STH 87; thence along STH 87 to U.S. Highway 10; thence along U.S. Highway 10 to U.S. Highway 59; thence along U.S. Highway 59 to the southern boundary of the White Earth Indian Reservation; thence along said boundary to CSAH 21, Becker County; thence along CSAH 21 to CSAH 13, Mahnomen County; thence along CSAH 13 to STH 113; thence along STH 113 to CSAH 3, Mahnomen County; thence along CSAH 3 to the point of beginning.

The Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge within Area ~~43~~ 46 is not open for bear hunting.

Subp. 9a. [See repealer.]

Subp. 9b. **Bear Quota Area 45.** Bear Quota Area 45 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

Beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highway 10 and State Trunk Highway (STH) 87; thence along STH 87 to STH 371; thence along STH 371 to STH 84; thence along STH 84 to County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 21, Cass County; thence along CSAH 21 to CSAH 1, Crow Wing County; thence along CSAH 1 to STH 6; thence along STH 6 to STH 18; thence along STH 18 to U.S. Highway 169; thence along U.S. Highway 169 to STH 23 27; ~~thence along STH 23 to the Mississippi River; thence upstream along the Mississippi River along the easterly shore of said river to STH 27; thence along STH 27 to U.S. Highway 71; thence along U.S. Highway 71~~ thence along STH 27 to STH 25; thence along STH 25 to CSAH 48, Morrison County; thence along CSAH 48 to a junction with STH 371; thence due west of said junction to the Mississippi River; thence downstream along the west bank of the Mississippi River to U.S. Highway 10; thence along U.S. Highway 10 to the point of beginning.

Subp. 9c. **Bear Quota Area 47.** Bear Quota Area 47 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary:

Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and the west boundary of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, as described in the Agreement and Settlement on file and of record in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, Third Division, in the following entitled actions: *Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians et al. v. Robert L. Herbst*, No. 3-69 Civ. 65, and *United States of America v. State of Minnesota*, No. 3-70 Civ. 228; thence along the west, south, and east boundaries of the reservation to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to the point of beginning.

Subp. 10. **Bear Quota Area 51.** Bear Quota Area 51 consists of that portion of the state lying within the following described boundary, excluding Bear Quota Area 53:

Beginning on U.S. Highway 53 on the eastern boundary of the state; thence along U.S. Highway 53 to County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 133, St. Louis County; thence along CSAH 133 to CSAH 25, Itasca County; thence along CSAH 25 to U.S. Highway 2; thence along U.S. Highway 2 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 6; thence along STH 6 to STH 18; thence along STH 18 to U.S. Highway 169; thence along U.S. Highway 169 to STH 23; thence along STH 23 to STH 47; thence along STH 47 to STH 27; thence along STH 27 to STH 65; thence along STH 65 to STH 18; thence along STH 18 to the western boundary of Pine County; thence along the western and northern boundaries of Pine County to STH 23; thence along STH 23 to CSAH 22, Pine County;

7.1 thence along CSAH 22 to CSAH 32; thence along CSAH 32 to the eastern boundary
7.2 of the state; thence along the eastern boundary of the state to the point of beginning.

7.3 Subp. 11. **Bear Quota Area 53.** Bear Quota Area 53 consists of that portion of the
7.4 state within the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation.

7.5 **6232.3100 BEAR NO-QUOTA AREA.**

7.6 Licenses for the no-quota area are not limited in number and may be purchased at an
7.7 electronic licensing system (ELS) agent, ELS-Internet, or ELS-Telephone. A person may
7.8 purchase a license for both a quota area and the no-quota area in the same year. No-quota
7.9 licenses are valid only in the no-quota area except when validated by a wildlife manager or
7.10 conservation officer for a problem bear in a quota area under part 6232.3300. When a
7.11 no-quota license is purchased after the start of the bear season, the license is valid only if
7.12 issued before legal shooting hours on the day the license is first used.

7.13 **6232.3200 BAIT STATIONS AND GARBAGE DUMPS.**

7.14 [For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]

7.15 Subp. 2. **Registration of bait station.** A person may not establish a bear bait station
7.16 without registering the site as provided in this subpart.

7.17 A. The following information must be provided on a form provided by the
7.18 commissioner or on an 8-1/2 inch by 11 inch sheet of paper:

7.19 (1) name, address, Minnesota DNR number, and telephone number of person
7.20 who established the bear bait station; ~~and~~

7.21 (2) if the bait station is placed for someone else, name and Minnesota DNR
7.22 number of the person for whom the bear bait station is established; and

7.23 ~~(2)~~ (3) the global positioning system coordinates or county, township, range,
7.24 and section in which the bear bait station is established.

8.1 [For text of item B, see Minnesota Rules]

8.2 Subp. 3. **Display of sign.** A person establishing a bear bait station must display a sign
8.3 at the site meeting the following requirements.

8.4 [For text of item A, see Minnesota Rules]

8.5 B. The sign must contain:

8.6 (1) for unguided hunters, the full name and ~~either~~ address, the Minnesota
8.7 DNR number, or the Minnesota driver's license number of both the person on whose behalf
8.8 the bait is placed and the person who is placing the bait; or

8.9 [For text of subitem (2), see Minnesota Rules]

8.10 [For text of items C to F, see Minnesota Rules]

8.11 [For text of subparts 4 to 7, see Minnesota Rules]

8.12 **6232.3300 NUISANCE PROBLEM BEARS.**

8.13 ~~Nuisance Problem~~ bears may be taken by licensed bear hunters ~~from July 1 to August~~
8.14 ~~31~~ under the conditions in this part.

8.15 A. Wildlife managers or conservation officers may authorize any licensed ~~hunters~~
8.16 bear hunter to take ~~nuisance~~ problem bears after the manager or officer has verified that a
8.17 ~~nuisance~~ problem exists.

8.18 B. ~~Only hunters licensed for the area where damage is occurring will be authorized~~
8.19 ~~to take bears. Only one hunter may hunt under a license. Authorized hunters are restricted~~
8.20 ~~to the location specified on the license. Only the hunter whose name appears on the license~~
8.21 may take bear under this part. Multiple hunters may be authorized for each location. The
8.22 verifying conservation officer or wildlife manager must specify the location and valid period
8.23 for taking the problem bear on the hunter's license. Hunters authorized under this part may

9.1 take only problem bear during the period and in the area specified by a conservation officer
9.2 or wildlife manager.

9.3 C. Any available hunters who hold a quota area license or a no-quota area license
9.4 may be authorized to take problem bear under this part.

9.5 ~~C. D.~~ A licensee taking a nuisance problem bear ~~prior to the season~~ must register
9.6 it with report it to the authorizing wildlife manager or conservation officer within 48 hours
9.7 after taking.

9.8 ~~D. E.~~ A licensee who takes a nuisance bear may not take another bear in that year.
9.9 The bear-hunting license of a hunter authorized to take problem bear under this part is valid
9.10 during the regular bear season if the hunter does not take a problem bear under this part.

9.11 ~~E. F.~~ A licensee taking a nuisance problem bear is subject to all provisions of
9.12 parts 6232.2600 to 6232.3500 not inconsistent with this ~~subpart~~ part and all laws relating
9.13 to the taking of wild animals.

9.14 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, part 6232.3000, subpart 9a, is repealed.

9.15 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts
9.16 6232.2600, 6232.2800, 6232.3000, 6232.3100, 6232.3200, and 6232.3300, expire November
9.17 16, 2026. After the emergency amendments expire, the permanent rules as they read before
9.18 the amendments again take effect, except as they may be amended by permanent rule.