

BEAR General Regulations

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Resident and Nonresident Bear Hunting License Privileges

Two black bear may be taken during the archery, crossbow or firearms seasons combined, provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.** No person may take more than one bear per day.

To hunt black bear, hunters must possess one of the following valid license combinations: resident license (Classes X+DS, Classes XJ+DS, Classes AHJ+DS, Class XS, Classes AB-L+DS, Classes A-L+DS, Classes A+CS+DS+BG or Classes AH+CS+DS+BG); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen or Class DT); or nonresident license (Classes EE+DS+CS/LE or Class DT). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 10) hunting on their own land may hunt bear without a license. Class DT license holders must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or, with written consent of the parent or guardian, any other competent licensed adult 21 years of age or older.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt on National Forest lands: Class I (required for Class EE)
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1 (must be 21 or older, required for all hunters except resident landowners)

It is illegal to:

- hunt bears with the use of bait.
- bait or feed bears at any time.
- hunt a bear with:
 - » a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball.
 - » a rifle of less than .25 caliber using rimfire ammunition.
 - » a pistol or revolver using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottlenecked case of less than .24 caliber.
 - » a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.
 - » a crossbow that does not have:
 - a draw weight of at least 125 pounds.
 - a working safety.
 - bolts at least 18 inches long.
 - broadheads with at least two cutting edges at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in width.
 - » arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in width.
- use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- hunt bear between $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise.
- kill or attempt to kill any bear through the use of bait, poison, explosives, snares, steel traps or deadfalls.
- **shoot at or kill a bear weighing less than 75 pounds live weight or 50 pounds field dressed weight or to kill any bear accompanied by a cub or to kill any cub accompanied by another bear, regardless of its weight.**
- pursue a bear, after the chase has begun, with dogs not in use at the beginning of the hunt.
- kill more than one bear per day or more than two bears per year.
- organize for commercial purposes, or to professionally outfit a bear hunt, or to give or receive any consideration whatsoever or any donation in money, goods or services in connection with a bear hunt.
- for nonresidents to hunt bear with dogs, except in certain designated counties during the bear firearms season (see page 39).
- use an electronic call.

PENALTIES FOR CHAPTER 20 BEAR LAW VIOLATIONS

These penalties are not subject to suspension by the court.

First Offense

\$1,000 to \$5,000 fine or 30 to 100 days in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for two years.

Second Offense

\$2,000 to \$7,000 fine or 30 days to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for life.

Third Offense

FELONY - \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine or one to five years in prison, or both.

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a bear must attach a completed field tag to the bear or remain with the bear and have upon their person a completed field tag before moving the carcass from where it was killed. A person who does not have a tag must make one. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. Immediately upon arriving at a residence, camp, hunting lodge, vehicle or vessel, the field tag shall be attached to the bear and must remain on the carcass until it is tagged with a DNR issued game tag number.

A person killing a bear must, within 24 hours after the kill, electronically register the bear. The DNR issued game tag number and the hunter's name and address must be affixed to the bear before any part of it may be transported more than 75 miles from the point of kill and shall remain on the skin until it is tanned or mounted.

No person may transport or possess wildlife killed by another hunter unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the DNR issued game tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

Dog Training

The same licenses required for bear hunting are required for the training of dogs on bear.

Training for nonresidents is permitted during any open small game season.

- It is unlawful for a person to permit a dog owned by him or under his control to chase, pursue or follow the tracks of any deer or wild turkey.
- Residents may train dogs on bear on private land with the landowner's written permission, or on public lands, at any time. Prohibitions on Sunday hunting apply to dog training.
- Persons training dogs may not have firearms or other implements for the taking of wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds.
- A person may not be guilty of hunting without permission just because their dog, without their direction or encouragement, travels onto another person's land where they do not have permission to hunt, providing no game is taken, livestock or domestic animals killed or damage done to that property. Dogs may not be retrieved without the landowner's permission.
- No person other than the owner of a registered dog may remove a tag, collar or other identifying apparel, nor remove or turn off a radio transmitting collar without the permission of the owner, unless it is necessary to prevent or treat an injury to the dog or is done by a law-enforcement officer for law enforcement purposes.

BEAR TOOTH COLLECTION

The DNR is currently studying factors related to the productivity and mortality of black bears in West Virginia. As part of this research effort, radio collars, ear tags and lip tattoos have been placed on a number of bears. Anyone observing a bear wearing a radio collar or ear tag is asked to report the number of the tag (if obtainable) to the DNR. Hunters who harvest a bear with a radio collar and/or ear tag should return this equipment to the DNR.

Successful bear hunters can contribute to this research effort by either pulling or allowing a small tooth or two to be pulled and submitted to the bear project. Hunters pulling a bear tooth should refer to the accompanying diagram.

Use a screwdriver to pry out the small teeth located just in back of the large canines as shown. This is difficult to do without breaking the roots, so work slowly.



Each tooth pulled should be taped to an index card, placed in a small envelope and labeled with the hunter's name, county of kill, bear weight, sex and check tag number and dropped off at a District DNR office or mailed to the DNR at: Elkins Operation Center, PO Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241. After processing the tooth, the DNR will provide you with the age of the animal. If you do not collect a tooth, please contact the appropriate District DNR office to make arrangements for a tooth to be collected prior to processing the bear or disposing of the skull.

A tagged bear may have been tranquilized. Please contact the District Wildlife Biologist prior to consumption of meat.

BEAR Archery and Crossbow Seasons

Daily Bag Limit: 1 Statewide Split Seasons: Sept. 26, 2015 – Nov. 21, 2015 and Dec. 7 - 31, 2015

BEAR REPRODUCTIVE TRACT COLLECTION

WV Wildlife Biologists are continuing to collect female bear reproductive tracts. Information from these tracts, as well as a premolar tooth from each bear, will reveal such data as breeding ages of females, number of cubs produced, age structure of the female population and reproductive success. Please help us obtain as much information as possible by following the outlined procedures. You may call any District DNR office or the Elkins Operations Center for assistance.

District 1: (304) 825-6787

District 2: (304) 822-3551

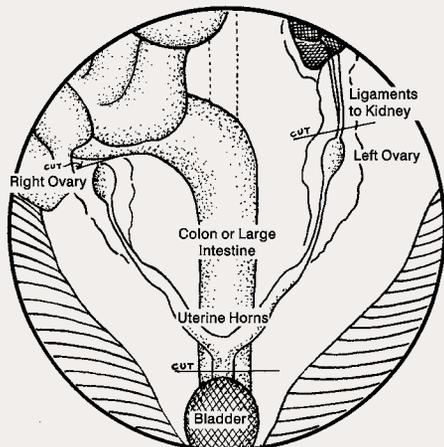
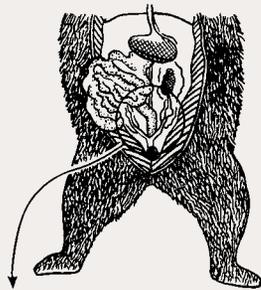
District 3: (304) 924-6211

District 4: (304) 256-6947

District 5: (304) 675-0871

District 6: (304) 420-4550

Elkins Operations Center:
(304) 637-0245



Procedures

1. Open bear abdominal cavity.
2. Move intestines aside.
3. Locate bladder.
4. Note uterus under bladder, over large intestine.
5. Remove uterus and ovaries by cutting as outlined in the above diagram. Be certain to get both ovaries which are each about the size of an acorn. They may be buried in large amounts of fat.
6. Put in plastic bag and place in cool location (in refrigerator if available), and notify DNR personnel.
7. If scales are available, weigh the bear.

No person may take more than two bears annually during the archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined, provided at least one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties. Only one bear may be taken per day.

The use of dogs for bear hunting is illegal during the bear archery and crossbow seasons. A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during the bear firearms season while hunting with dogs in counties where hunting with dogs is legal (see bottom left of page 39).

Bear hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof open during a deer firearms season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.



Firearms Season **BEAR**

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Two bears may be taken during the bear firearms season provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.** Only one bear may be taken per day. No person may take more than two bears annually in archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

A bow or a crossbow may be substituted for a firearm during bear firearms season.

Bear hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange over his or her outer clothing while hunting in a county or part thereof during a deer firearms season. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

May NOT Hunt Bear With Dogs

November 23 – December 5 <i>By Permit Only*</i> <i>(Private & Public Lands)</i>	December 7-31	November 23 – December 5 and December 7-31	November 23 – December 5
Barbour	Barbour <i>(West of Route 92)</i>	Mercer	Berkeley
Braxton	Braxton <i>(West of I-79)</i>	Mineral <i>(East of New Creek)</i>	Hampshire <i>(With dogs only on Nathaniel Mountain and Short Mountain WMAs by special limited permit)**</i>
Calhoun	Brooke	Monroe <i>(West of Route 219)</i>	Boone
Clay	Cabell	Ohio	Fayette
Grant	Calhoun	Pleasants	Kanawha
Greenbrier	Clay <i>(North of Elk River)</i>	Putnam	Nicholas
Hardy	Doddridge	Ritchie	Preston
Lewis	Gilmer	Roane	Raleigh
Mercer	Hancock	Summers	
Monroe	Harrison	Taylor	
Pendleton	Jackson	Tyler	
Pocahontas	Lewis	Upshur <i>(West of Route 20)</i>	
Randolph	Lincoln	Wayne	
Summers	Marion	Wetzel	
Taylor	Marshall	Wirt	
Tucker	Mason	Wood	
Upshur			
Webster			

May Hunt Bear With Or Without Dogs

Sept. 19-25 and Dec. 7-31	Oct. 3-9 and Dec. 7-31	Sept. 5-12 and Dec. 7-31
Barbour <i>(East of Route 92)</i>	Boone	Logan
Braxton <i>(East of I-79)</i>	Fayette	McDowell
Clay <i>(South of Elk River)</i>	Kanawha	Mingo
Grant	Raleigh	Wyoming
Greenbrier		Dec. 7-31
Hardy		Mineral <i>(West of New Creek)</i>
Monroe <i>(East of Route 219)</i>		
Nicholas		
Pendleton		
Pocahontas		
Preston		
Randolph		
Tucker		
Upshur <i>(East of Route 20)</i>		
Webster		

Special Seasons and Restrictions

*Counties (private and public lands) with limited resident and nonresident hunting for bear during the Buck Firearms Season

There are 18 counties with resident and nonresident bear hunting during the Buck Firearms Season on private and public lands with prior application in 2015. To be eligible to hunt in one of these counties an application must be submitted online by August 15, 2015. Resident landowners do not need a permit to hunt on their own land. Successful applicants will receive notification from the DNR by mail and applicants can check online at wvhunt.com beginning August 18.

To apply, go online to wvhunt.com, and log into your account and click the Enter Lottery tab.

**Hampshire County: Nathaniel Mountain and Short Mountain WMAs

A special controlled Black Bear season will be open December 7-31, 2015, on Nathaniel Mountain and Short Mountain WMAs in Hampshire County. Hunters who use dogs must apply for a permit by October 31, 2015, (permit applications and instructions will be available online at wvhunt.com) that will allow for one party of no more than four hunters and eight dogs to hunt on one of the WMAs. Hunters who hunt without dogs may participate in bear hunting on the WMAs during this season without having a special permit.