

Season Limit: 1

Resident and Nonresident Bear Hunting License Privileges

To hunt black bear, hunters must possess one of the following valid license combinations: resident (Classes X+DS, Classes XJ+DS, Classes AB-L+DS, Classes A-L+DS, Classes A+CS+DS or Classes Q+CS+DS); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen); or nonresident (Classes EE+DS+CS/LE). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may hunt bear without a license.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- To hunt on national forest lands: Class I (required for Classes A, Q and 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.
- feed bears.
- hunt a bear with
 1. a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball,
 2. a rifle of less than .25 caliber using rimfire ammunition
 3. a pistol or revolver using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber or
 4. a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.
- hunt bear between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- kill or attempt to kill any bear through the use of poison, explosives, snares, steel traps or deadfalls.
- shoot at or kill a cub bear weighing less than 100 pounds or to kill any bear accompanied by such cub.
- 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 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 gun season.
- use an electronic call.

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting

Each person killing a bear must, within one hour and before moving the carcass from where it was killed, complete and attach the game field tag supplied with his/her license. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. The field tag must remain on the carcass until it is dressed for consumption.

A person killing a bear must, within 24 hours after the kill, transport the bear or its fresh skin to a conservation officer or an official game checking station for retagging. A checking tag 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.

Penalties For Chapter 20 Bear Law Violations

These penalties are not subject to suspension by the court.

1st 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.

2nd 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.

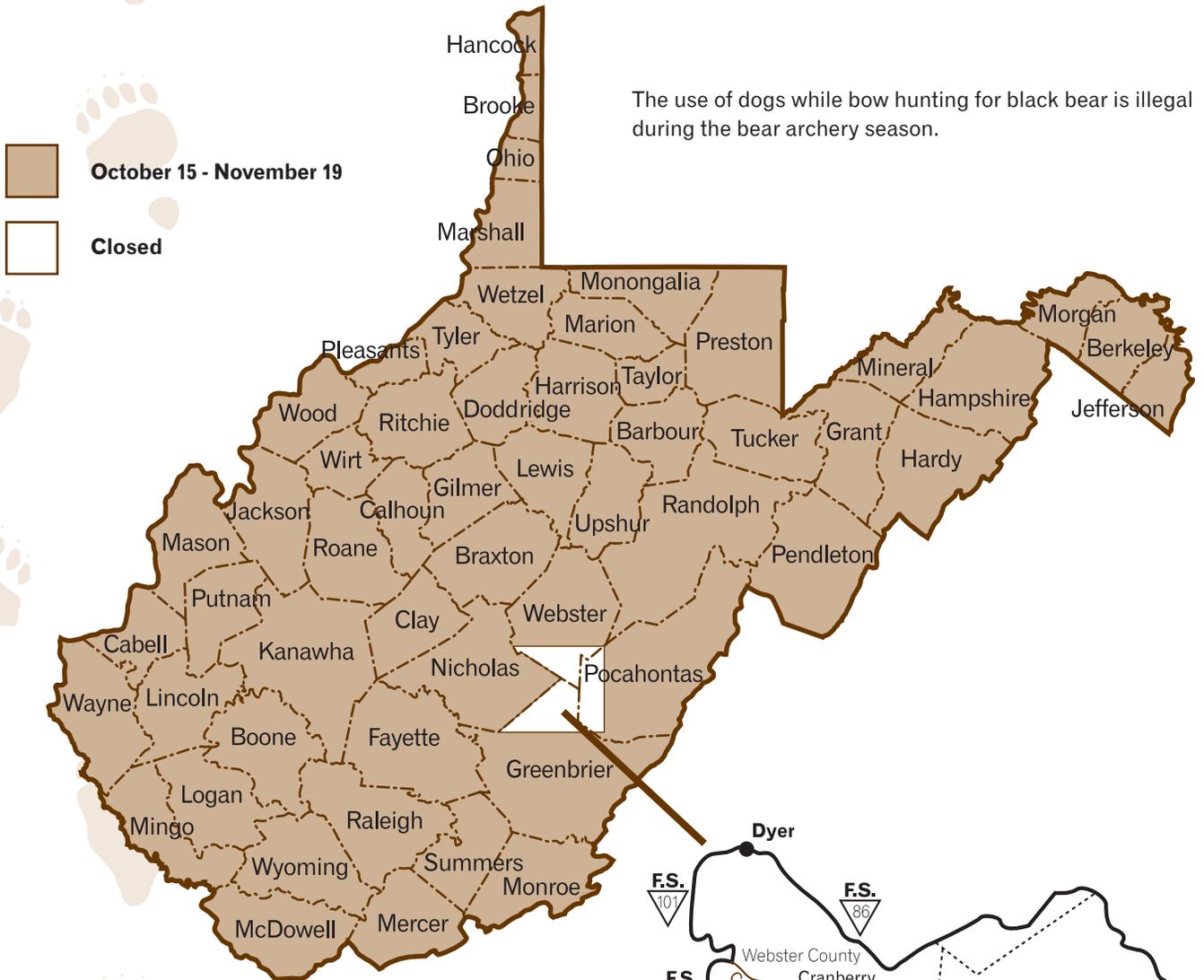
3rd Offense

FELONY - \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine or 1 to 5 years in prison, or both.

Bear - Archery Season

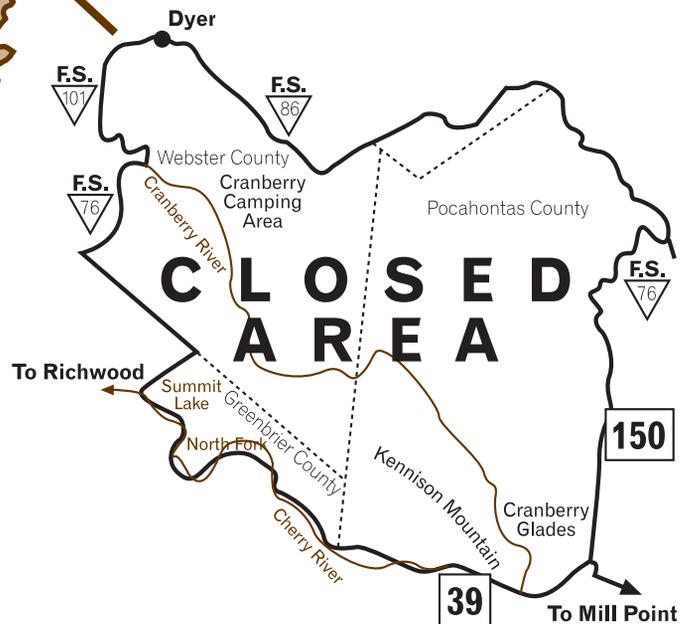
Opening Date: October 15

Closing Date: November 19



Cranberry Closed Area

The Cranberry Closed Area is bounded as follows: Starting at Dyer on Forest Service Route 86, the boundary proceeds along Forest Service Route 86 east to Forest Service Route 76 (The Black Mountain Road); the boundary follows Forest Service Route 76 south to the intersection with the Highland Scenic Highway (State Route 150); the line then follows State Route 150 to State Route 39. The southern boundary of the Closed Area follows State Route 39 to the Nicholas County line; then proceeds north following the Nicholas County line to Forest Service Route 76, it then follows Forest Service Route 76 north to Forest Service Route 101. The boundary then follows Forest Service Route 101 north to Dyer.



Firearms Season - Bear

Season Limit: 1

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

Can Use Dogs

**Oct. 31 - Nov. 5
December 5 - 31**

Boone
Fayette
Kanawha
Raleigh

December 5 - 31

Barbour (*East of Rt. 92*)
Grant
Greenbrier
Hardy
Mineral
(*West of New Creek*)
Monroe (*East of Rt. 219*)
Nicholas
Pendleton
Pocahontas
Preston
Randolph
Tucker
Webster

 **October 31 - November 5
and December 5 - 31**

 **December 5 - 31**

 **Closed**



Cranberry Closed Area

Cannot Use Dogs

November 21 - 26

Boone
Fayette
Kanawha
Raleigh

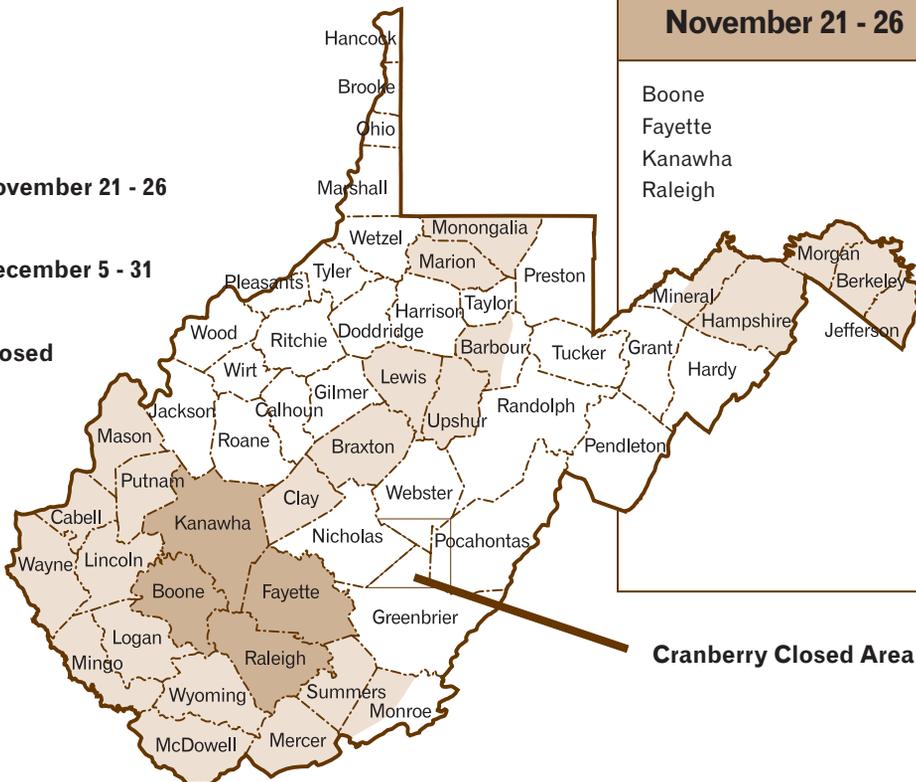
December 5 - 31

Barbour (<i>West of Rt. 92</i>) Berkeley Braxton Cabell Clay Hampshire Jefferson Lewis Lincoln Logan Marion Mason McDowell	Mercer Mingo Mineral (<i>East of New Creek</i>) Monongalia Monroe (<i>West of Rt. 219</i>) Morgan Putnam Summers Upshur Wayne Wyoming
--	---

 **November 21 - 26**

 **December 5 - 31**

 **Closed**



Cranberry Closed Area

Bear - Dog Training Regulations

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

Training for nonresidents may begin October 8, 2005 and continue throughout small game season, ending February 28, 2006.

- It is unlawful for a person to permit a dog owned by him or under his control to chase, pursue or follow upon the track of any deer or wild turkey.
- Dogs may be trained on bears on private land with the landowner's written permission, or on public lands, at any time.
- 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.

Attention Bear Hunters

The Division of Natural Resources (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 that 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 allowing a tooth, the size of a kitchen match, to be pulled and submitted to the bear project. This will enable wildlife biologists to determine the bear's age. After processing the tooth, the DNR will provide you with the age of the animal.

A tagged bear may have been tranquilized.

Please contact the District Wildlife Biologist prior to consumption of meat.



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 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) 367-2720

District 2: (304) 822-3551

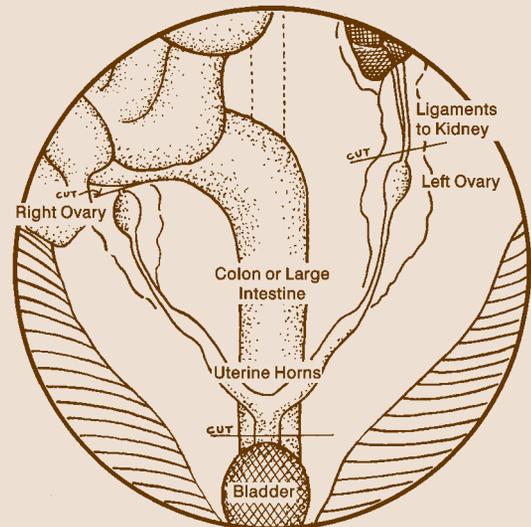
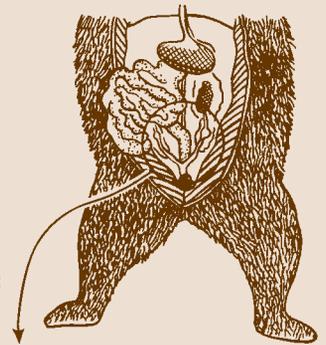
District 3: (304) 924-6211

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 close to vulva as possible and above ovaries. 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.