Daily Bag Limit: 1

Resident and Nonresident Bear Hunting License Privileges

Two black bear may be taken during the archery; crossbow; Special Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS; and firearms seasons combined, provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, 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).

PENALTIES FOR CHAPTER 20 BEAR LAW VIOLATIONS

These penalties are not subject to suspension by the court.

First Offense

$500 to $1,000 fine or 10 to 30 days in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for two years if convicted of killing a bear in violation of the law.

Second Offense

$1,000 to $3,000 fine or 30 to 100 days to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for five years.

Third Offense

$2,500 to $5,000 fine or six months to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for 10 years.

It is illegal to:

- hunt bears with the use of bait (includes, but not limited to, corn and other grains, animal carcasses or animal remains, grease, sugars in any form, scent attractants and other edible enticements, and an area is considered baited for ten days after all bait has been removed).
- 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 and arrows at least 16 inches long, including the insert and the nock.
    - broadheads with at least two sharp-cutting edges at least 3/4 inch in width.
    - use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- 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 bait, poison, explosives, 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.
- 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 40). See page 7 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded deer or bear.
- use an electronic call.

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 13-digit game check number and the hunter's name and address must be affixed to the bear 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.

HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

The DNR is looking for evidence of the eastern spotted skunk in West Virginia and needs your help!

You can help:

- Please report any evidence of eastern spotted skunks from sightings, game cameras, roadkills, fur trapping or other sources.
- Evidence can be recent or historic
- Do not report striped skunk sightings

Spotted Skunk *(Spilogale putorius)*

- About half the size of the more common striped skunk
- Upside-down white triangle on face
- White patches and stripes on body
- Bushy tail with white tip

Striped Skunk *(Mephitis mephitis)*

- Narrow white stripe on face
- Typically 2 white stripes along back
- Long, fluffy, black tail

How to report:

- Email evidence of eastern spotted skunks to: KNHassler@frostburg.edu
- Call the Romney DNR Office at (304) 822-3551

Dog Training

Training dogs on bears or pursuing bears with dogs is defined as the hunting of bear, and all applicable regulations and license requirements apply.

Training for nonresidents is permitted from Sept. 1 – Mar. 31.

- 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. See page 7 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded deer or bear.
- Residents may train dogs on bear 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, except that a person who is not prohibited from possessing firearms by law may carry a firearm for self-defense.
- 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.

Special Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS Bear Season

This special bear season will be open to youth, ages 8 to 18, Class Q/QQ holders and Class XS holders and will be held October 17 and 18 on private and public lands in counties open to a firearms deer hunting season.

The use of dogs is prohibited during this season. See page 7 for exception when tracking a mortally wounded deer or bear.

Daily bag limit is one bear that counts towards the hunter's annual bag limit. Two black bears may be taken during the archery; crossbow; Special youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS; and firearms seasons combined, provided that at least **one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.**

See page 32 for youth, senior and Class Q or QQ hunter license requirements.

Hunters aged 15-18 and Class Q/QQ holders are required to have a valid DS stamp, except for resident landowners hunting on their own land (see page 10).

See page 35 for general bear hunting regulations.

See page 36 for field tagging, checking and transporting of bear.

HUNTERS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A FIRST PREMOLAR TOOTH FROM EACH BLACK BEAR THAT THEY KILL.

A person who kills a bear shall submit a first premolar tooth to the Division of Natural Resources by January 31 of the year following the kill. The tooth should be secured to a card along with a label with the name and address of the hunter, date of kill, weapon used, whether dogs were used to kill the bear, county of kill and the game tag number, and either mailed or delivered to a DNR District Office or the DNR Elkins Operation Center.

Locating the tooth

The first premolar teeth are located immediately behind the canine teeth (largest, sharpest teeth). There are four first premolar teeth (two on top, two on bottom) and any of those four teeth will meet the mandatory tooth submission requirement.

The tip of the black knife blade in the photographs is pointing to two of the first premolar teeth. The photo on the left shows the first upper premolar (one on each side of the jaw). The photo on the right shows the first lower premolar (one on each side of the jaw). The tooth is very small and can be easily broken when trying to remove it from the jaw.

First Upper Premolar

First Lower Premolar

In order for the tooth to be used for aging purposes, it must be unbroken. If you break a tooth trying to remove it from the jaw, there are three others that can be submitted. Hunters are encouraged to remove two or more teeth from their bear in the event that a tooth is lost in the mail. The skull of your bear will not be used in any mount (half mount, full mount, rug) that you have made and removing these teeth will not damage the skull itself.

First premolar tooth after extraction showing a complete, unbroken tooth with root intact.

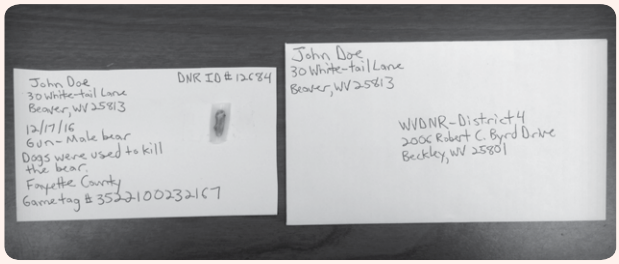
Removing the tooth

The first premolar teeth are most easily extracted when the bear is freshly killed (not frozen). Hunters are encouraged to remove the tooth (or teeth) as soon as the bear is killed and before the skull and hide are frozen. In addition, hunters are reminded that the tooth from their bear must be received by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources by January 31 of the year following the kill.

The easiest way to remove a first premolar tooth is to use a knife with a wide blade. Cut the skin around the tooth (gum) Then, place the back of the knife blade (the unsharpened side) against the large canine tooth and the sharpened edge against the first premolar tooth. Use the back of the knife blade (the unsharpened side) and the canine tooth for leverage to roll the first premolar tooth out of the bear's jaw. Go to www.wvdnr.gov to watch a video about how to remove a bear's first premolar tooth.

Submitting the tooth

Hunters may mail or deliver the tooth from their bear to any DNR District Office or the DNR Elkins Operations Center (mailing information can be found on the inside of the front cover of the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary). If mailing a tooth, hunters can get a pre-addressed envelope provided by the DNR at all District offices and the Elkins Operations Center.



Example of properly labeled bear tooth

If hunters do not have an envelope provided by DNR, the tooth should be secured to a card along with a label with the name and address of the hunter, date of kill, weapon used, whether dogs were used to kill the bear, county of kill, DNR ID number and game tag number. The card with the tooth attached should then be placed in an envelope and either mailed or delivered to a DNR District Office or the DNR Elkins Operation Center by January 31 of the year following the kill.

BEAR Archery and Crossbow Season

Daily Bag Limit: 1 **Statewide: September 26 – December 31, 2020**

No person may take more than two bears annually during the archery; crossbow; Special Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS; and firearms seasons combined, provided at least one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, 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 (see page 7 for exception for tracking a mortally wounded bear). 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 page 40).

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.

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) 756-1023

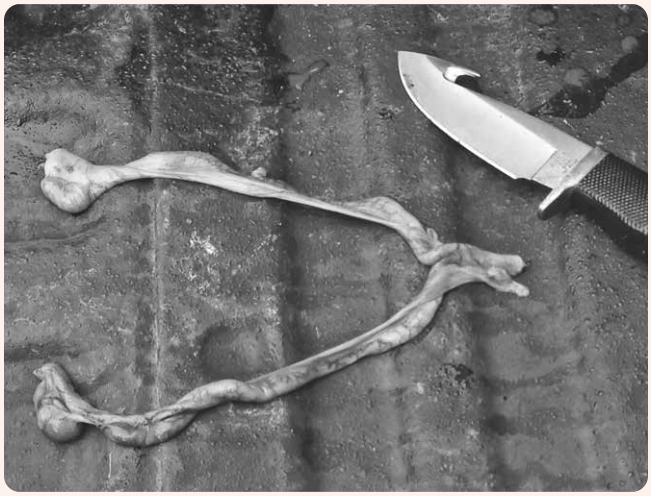
District 6: (304) 420-4550

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 carefully cutting them free of fat and connective tissue. 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 a refrigerator or freezer, and notify DNR personnel at any District office location or the Elkins Operations Center (contact information is on the inside cover of the 2020-2021 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary).
7. **Go to www.wvdnr.gov to watch a video on how to remove a reproductive tract.**

ABOVE: A reproductive tract before removal with both ovaries and a complete uterus. BELOW: A complete reproductive tract with both ovaries and a complete uterus.



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, Preston, 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 Hunt Bear Without Dogs*

October 22-25 *Public and Private Land (portions of counties open to antlerless deer hunting)*	December 7-31	November 23 – December 31		November 23 – December 6
Barbour	Barbour *(West of Route 92)*	Berkeley	Mercer	Barbour
Berkeley	Braxton *(West of I-79)*	Brooke	Monongalia	Boone
Boone	Clay *(North of Elk River)*	Cabell	Morgan	Braxton
Braxton	Mineral *(East of New Creek)*	Calhoun	Ohio	Clay
Calhoun	Monroe *(West of Route 219)*	Doddridge	Pleasants	Fayette
Clay	Upshur *(West of Route 20)*	Gilmer	Putnam	Grant
Fayette		Hampshire	Ritchie	Greenbrier
Gilmer		Hancock	Roane	Hardy
Hampshire		Harrison	Summers	Kanawha
Harrison		Jackson	Taylor	Mineral
Jefferson		Jefferson	Tyler	Monroe
Kanawha		Lewis	Wayne	Nicholas
Lewis		Lincoln	Wetzel	Pendelton
Lincoln		Marion	Wirt	Pochaontas
Marion		Marshall	Wood	Preston
Mercer		Mason		Raleigh
Monongalia				Randolph
Monroe				Tucker
Morgan				Upshur
Nicholas				Webster
Preston				
Raleigh				
Ritchie				
Roane				
Summers				
Taylor				
Upshur				
Wetzel				
Wirt				

** See page 7 for exception for tracking mortally wounded bear.*

HELP WVDNR MONITOR BLACK BEAR REPRODUCTIVE RATES

The first 100 hunters who submit a complete female black bear reproductive tract are eligible to receive a $20 gift card from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Requirements for receiving a gift card

Hunters are asked to send the following to the Elkins Operations Center or nearest WVDNR district office (phone numbers listed on page 38):

- A complete reproductive tract with both forks of the uterus to the point where they attach and form a "Y" (see photo on page 38).
- Label the reproductive tract with the hunter's name and address, phone number, DNR ID#, date of kill, whether dogs were used to kill the bear, county of kill and 13-digit game check number.
- Submit a premolar tooth (in addition to the tooth submitted to WVDNR, required by law for aging purposes).

Gift cards will be mailed 2-3 months after the close of the hunting season.

WVGAMECHECK

All hunters must check big game electronically in one of three ways:

- online at wvhunt.com
- at a license agent
- by calling 844-WVcheck (844-982-4325)

You must have your DNR ID number *(which is valid for your lifetime)* to successfully check big game, beaver, otter, fisher and bobcat.

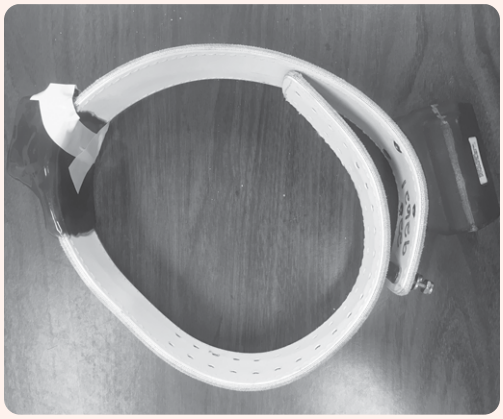
WVDNR

BEAR Firearms Season

May Hunt Bear With Or Without Dogs		
September 19-25 and December 7-31	**October 3-9 and December 7-31**	**August 29 – September 13 and December 7-31**
Barbour *(East of Route 92)*	Boone	Logan
Braxton *(East of I-79)*	Fayette	McDowell
Clay *(South of Elk River)*	Kanawha	Mingo
Grant	Raleigh	Wyoming
Greenbrier		
Hardy		
Mineral *(West of New Creek)*		
Monroe *(East of Route 219)*		
Nicholas		
Pendleton		
Pocahontas		
Preston		
Randolph		
Tucker		
Upshur *(East of Route 20)*		
Webster		

REPORT HARVESTED TAGGED BEARS TO WVDNR

All bears caught and released in West Virginia are marked in both ears with silver metal tags that are 1.5” long. Some bears also may have round plastic tags that are either black or orange. Tagged bears also will typically have a tattoo on their upper lip with a number that matches their ear tag. Some black bears will also have a tracking collar around their neck. If you harvest a tagged bear, please call your nearest District Office to report the tag number and return the collar (if it is wearing one). The District Office will be able to tell you when that animal was immobilized and confirm that it is safe to eat.



Top left: *plastic ear tag*

Bottom left: *metal ear tag*

Above: *tracking collar*