

# Wisconsin Bear Baiting and Feeding Regulations (WM-457-2021)

## Summary of Statewide Bear Baiting and Feeding Regulations

- Feeding bears for non-hunting purposes, such as recreational viewing, is NOT legal.
- You may use up to 10 gallons of legal bait material for hunting and dog training.
- Bait for bear may be placed from April 15 through the end of bear hunting season.
- Bait must be enclosed and covered to prevent access to the bait material by deer.

## Regulations on Baiting

- Bait may be placed and used for the purpose of hunting bear or training bear dogs statewide\*, except that no person may place, use, or hunt over bait placed for bears:
  - Beginning the day after the bear season closes and continuing through the following April 14th.
  - In excess of 10 gallons of bait at any baiting site.
  - That is not totally enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground, or stump, and is capped with logs, rocks, or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which prevent deer from accessing the material. Liquid scent used for hunting of bear or training bear dogs does not need to be enclosed but is part of the 10-gallon limit.
  - Unless, when the bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed
  - and made inaccessible to deer.
  - \*Note: Baiting of any sort is not allowed on lands managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
- Additionally, no person may place, use, or hunt over bait that:
  - Contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, processed wood, or other similar processed materials. A processed wood bottom may be affixed to a hollow log or stump using adhesive, nails, or screws for the purpose of containing bear bait or feed.
  - Contains any animal part or animal by-product.
  - Is located within 50 yards of any trail, road, or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards of a roadway having a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or more. Is contained in or replenished or deposited by an automatic, mechanical, or gravity feeder.

- No person may hunt over bait material placed for bear without possessing a valid unused Class A bear license and carcass tag.
- No person may hunt or train dogs over bait that is in violation of these regulations, unless the area is completely free of bait or feed material for at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals, or dog training.
- Note: Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.

## Regulations on Feeding

- It is not legal to place or deposit feed for bears for purposes other than legal bear hunting or bear dog training.
- If any bear begins to use a deer feeding site, the owner must stop the feeding and remove all feed for a period of not less than 30 days.

## Baiting and Chocolate

Hunters are encouraged to minimize or avoid the use of chocolate in bait. Chocolate is toxic and can be lethal to bears and other wildlife, especially cubs.

## Definitions

**Animal part or animal by-product** means honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, animal carcass, or parts of animal carcasses, but does not include liquid scents or cheese.

**Bait** means any material placed or used to attract wild animals, including liquid scent.

**Bait or feed site** means any location or area in which bait or feed is placed or deposited or that contains bait or feed material used to attract wild animals for hunting or dog training purposes.

**Feeding site** means any location or area in which bait or feed is placed or deposited or that contains bait or feed materials used to attract wild animals for recreational or supplemental feeding purposes, not related to hunting or dog training.

**Hunt over** means hunting within 100 yards of any feeding site or sites where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area contains one or more feeding sites.

**Scent** means any material, except honey, used to attract wild animals solely by its odor.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington D.C., 20240. This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, etc.) upon request. Please call the Accessibility Coordinator at 608-267-7490 for more information.

