

- any bow for which a portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, or other device that attaches directly to the bow's riser contacts, supports, and/or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height. This is not intended to restrict the use of standard overdraw systems.
- electronic or battery-powered devices attached to a hunting bow or arrow that aides in the taking or locating of any game animal or game bird. **Exception:** camera devices attached to bows for the sole purpose of filming are allowed.
- a bow sight or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics. **Exception:** an arrow may have a lighted nock.

#### **Artificial Light (MCA 87-6-401)**

It is unlawful for anyone to take or attempt to take any game animal or game bird with the aid of projected artificial light. Use of rifle scopes that project an artificial light to illuminate the target or project infrared light visible only with specialized optics to illuminate the target are unlawful for the taking of game animals.

#### **Baiting (MCA 87-6-401, CR)**

- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird by the aid of or with the use of any bait, salt lick, trap, snare, or set gun.

- Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of food sources or salt so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

#### **Black Bear Specific Regulations (CR)**

- It is unlawful to harvest/take black bear cubs. Cubs are defined as bears less than one year old.
- It is unlawful to harvest/take a female black bear with cubs.

#### **Check Stations (MCA 87-6-218)**

All hunters are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting areas, even if they have no game to be checked.

#### **Dogs (MCA 87-6-404)**

It is unlawful for a person to use dogs to chase game animals. Exception: dogs may be used to hunt mountain lions and spring black bears; see appropriate regulations for rules. Dogs may be utilized to recover or locate wounded game animals, but handlers shall maintain physical control of the dog at all times by means of a maximum 50-foot lead attached to the dog's collar or harness.

#### **Evidence of Sex (MCA 87-6-406)**

A person who kills a game animal in this state shall retain evidence of sex of the animal with the carcass until it is processed. The provisions of this section do not apply to a game animal harvested using a license with which either sex of the animal may be taken. Evidence of sex does not need to be naturally attached. A person who kills a game animal in a hunting district where the harvest is limited by the animal's antler point or horn size shall retain the antlers or horns until the carcass is processed.

#### **Firearms**

- Firearms, including rifles, handguns, shotguns with 0, 00, or slugs, and muzzleloaders; archery equipment; and crossbows are lawful for taking game animals. All other methods of take are prohibited.
- There is no rifle or handgun caliber limitation or magazine/round capacity restrictions for the taking of game animals.
- Rifle scopes with illuminated reticles, built-in range-finding capabilities, and "red dot" scopes are lawful for the taking of game animals.

#### **Glandular Scents (ARM 12.6.1016, 12.6.1017) (MCA 87-6-101)**

- Natural or artificial glandular scents may not be used to hunt black bears.

#### **Hound Hunting**

- A resident hunter with a valid Black Bear License may lawfully chase black bears with hounds during the spring hound season in any valid hunting district or management unit during the period that unit is open to hound hunting or chasing.
- Hound hunting and training is prohibited in occupied grizzly bear habitat in BMUs 100, 101, 103, 104, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 130, 140, 141, 150, 170, that portion of 200 in *Missoula County* that includes the *Ninemile watershed north of 90*, that those portions of 216 in *Missoula County* and east of the Granite/Ravalli county line and in *Ravalli County north of township 9N 18W, 9N 19W, and 9N 20W, that portion of 240 in Missoula County and Ravalli County north of township 9N 20W, 9N 21W, and 9N*

22W, 280, 290, 300 west of I-15, 301 west of I-15 and HWY 69, 309, 317, 341, 400 north and west of I-15/Hwy 87 between Helena and Fort Benton, west of Hwy 223 between Fort Benton and Hwy 2 at Chester, south of Hwy 2 between Chester and I-15 at Shelby, and west of I-15 between Shelby and the Canadian border, 510 West of Hwy 310, 520.

- A resident who possesses a Resident Hound Training License may pursue black bears with a dog or dogs during a training season from the end of the spring season for black bear through June 15 of that year as authorized by the commission (MCA 87-6-404(4)).
- Authorized black bear hunting and training hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.
- It is prohibited for a dog owner or black bear hunter to release a dog on a black bear, or allow dogs to chase a black bear, or hold a black bear at bay during any period of the day or year when the season is not open to hunting or chasing black bears. Legitimate attempts to retrieve loose dogs after legal hunting hours does not constitute a violation of this rule.

- Persons using hounds to hunt are required to have a valid Resident Black Bear License if hunting or chasing during the black bear hunting season, or a valid Class D-3 Resident Hound Training License during a training season from the end of the spring season for black bear through June 15 of that year as authorized by the commission. Nonresidents must also have a Nonresident Hound License during the hunting or training season if they are using dogs.

- The holder of a Nonresident Class D-4 Black Bear Hound License may not assist another person in the pursuit of a black bear for harvest. Any area restrictions on the Black Bear License and the Nonresident Black Bear Hound License both apply as well as quota restrictions in quota areas.

- While hunting with or training hounds, the dogs must wear tracking collars with the ability to send GPS location information and receive transmissions from hound handler so that the dogs may be electronically recalled and the hound handler's receiver must be able to receive GPS location data from the collars.

#### **Hunter Harassment (MCA 87-6-215)**

It is unlawful to:

- intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of a wild animal.
- disturb an individual engaged in the lawful taking of a wild animal with intent to prevent the taking of the animal.

#### **Hunting Hours (CR)**

Authorized hunting hours for the taking of game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See the official Sunrise-Sunset Tables listed on page 15.

#### **Hunter Orange Requirement (MCA 87-6-414)**

A person may not hunt any game animals in this state or accompany any hunter as an outfitter or guide under any of the provisions of the laws of this state without wearing as exterior garments, above the waist, a total of not less than 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material visible at all times while hunting.

This section does not apply to a person hunting with a bow and arrow during the special archery season; or hunting wolves outside the general deer and elk season as authorized by commission rules. However, bowhunters hunting wolf during any portion of the general (firearm) seasons for deer, elk, antelope, moose, bison, sheep, mountain goat, black bear, or mountain lion must meet the hunter orange requirement while hunting.

#### **Incidental Harvest Resulting in an Unlawfully Taken Animal**

If you or a member of your hunting party shoots an animal that results in an unlawfully taken animal, you should notify a FWP game warden or 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) immediately and follow their instructions.

- > Hunters should field dress the animal, but **DO NOT** transport the animal until you've received instructions.

#### **Indian Reservations (MCA 87-6-204, CR)**

- The F&W Commission has by rule, closed all lands within the exterior boundaries of Montana's Indian Reservations to the hunting of game animals with the use of state licenses unless provided for in a cooperative agreement between the Tribal Government and the State of Montana.
- Currently there are no cooperative agreements between FWP and any of the Tribal Governments in Montana and as such the season for the hunting of game animals, by nonmembers, with a

# Black Bear Management Unit Regulations

BMU	Spring Quota	Fall Quotas	Max No. NR Hound Training Licenses	NR Hound License	Hound Hunting Season	Hound Training Season	Spring Season	Archery-only Season	General Season	Opportunity specific details and/or restrictions
<b>REGION 1</b>										
100	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
103	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Libby Big Game Archery-only Hunting Area.
104	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
110	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
120	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
121	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
122	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
123	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
130	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
140	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31 Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
141	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31 Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): BNSF right-of-way from Marias Pass to the Java Creek Bridge is closed.
150	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31 Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	-
170	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31 Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Bad Rock Canyon WMA; Kuhns WMA map available from FWP Region 1, KallsPELL office 406-752-5501.

## Region 1 Specific Inspection Requirements

### All successful black bear hunters must personally report their black bear harvest within 48 hours.

Physical inspection of a black bear harvested in Region 1 is no longer required. However, mandatory 48 hour reporting of any successful black bear harvest is required. In addition, successful hunters are required to submit **one** **both** premolar **teeth** from any black bear harvested in Region 1 within 10 days of harvest. Teeth can be submitted in person or by mail (post-marked within 10 days).

Please include the following information with the **teeth**: Hunter name, reference number received from the Harvest Reporting line or MyFWP portal, date of harvest, BMU, and sex of bear. Wrap the **teeth** in a paper towel and place inside a plastic bag. Place plastic bag containing the **teeth** and data sheet in an envelope and include your return address.

Mail teeth to:  
FWP RI Headquarters,  
490 North Meridian, KallsPELL, MT, 59901

Or drop off at any FWP regional office or the Thompson Falls and Libby area offices. Please contact your local biologist or call 406-752-5501 if you have questions.

The graphic below depicts which **teeth** to remove. You must carefully extract **both teeth a tooth** in its **their** entirety as the root is needed to accurately determine age. Extracted teeth should look like the tooth circled in the illustration below. Age information will be posted online and available at MyFWP. Lab results for aging teeth typically takes eight months or more.



1st PREMOLAR

(PULL THIS TOOTH WITH ROOT)

A tooth submission form and additional information on how to pull and submit teeth can be found on the [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) website under hunting, hunt by species, black bear, regulations, and maps.

Instructions and data forms can also be obtained at the FWP offices in KallsPELL, Libby, and Thompson Falls.

BMU	Spring Quota	Fall Quotas	Max No. NR Hound Training Licenses	NR Hound License	Hound Hunting Season	Hound Training Season	Spring Season	Archery-only Season	General Season	Opportunity specific details and/or restrictions
<b>REGION 4</b>										
400	-	-	3	400-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve; <b>Brinkman Game Preserve</b> ; Sun River Game Preserve; are all closed to bear hunting. Only valid in the portion of BMU 400 northeast of Shelby (east of I-15 and north of Hwy 2), east of Hwy 223 from Chester to Hwy 87 near Fort Benton, south of Hwy 87 near Fort Benton to Great Falls, and east of I-15 from Great Falls to Wolf Creek.
<b>REGION 5</b>										
510	Total harvest quota = 5 Female subquota = 2	Female quota = 2	1	510-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this BMU will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.
520	Female quota = 12	Female quota = 10	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this BMU will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.
580	-	-	4	580-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Only valid in portion of BMU 510 east of HWY 310.
<b>REGION 6</b>										
600	Harvest quota = 4	Harvest quota = 4	4	600-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this district will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.
<b>REGION 7</b>										
700	Harvest quota = 4	Harvest quota = 12	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 07-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Dec. 01	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this district will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.
	<b>Hound</b> harvest quota = 2	-	4	700-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	-	-	-	When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this district will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.