

Black Bear Master List

December 14, 2021

Specific proposed changes for 2022-23 are listed below. All other season components except calendar year rotation are open for public comment but are proposed to be unchanged from 2021.

BLACK BEAR

Statewide: Eliminate the requirement that each harvested black bear needs to be physically inspected by a department employee. Successful hunters will be required to submit a premolar from any black bear harvested and provide it to a department office within 10 days either in person or by mail (postmarked within 10 days). All harvests will be required to be reported through the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) or (406) 444-0356 within 48 hours of the kill. Hunters must report location of harvest by Township, Range and Section when reporting harvest.

Region 1: Boundary change – eliminate current black bear management units and align new ones with deer/elk hunting district boundaries and numbering system. New districts would be BMUs 100, 101, 103, 104, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 130, 140, 141, 150, 170 to coincide with proposed elk/deer HDs, with the exception of HD 200. See boundary change master list.

Boundary change – Combine current elk/deer HDs 123 and 124 and call BMU 123

Boundary change - BMU 121 & 123: - Adjust boundary near Belknap, Montana. The current legal description references a USFS trail that no longer exists. Therefore, the description for that portion of the boundary will be changed to follow Sievers Ridge to its termination with Mosquito Creek road.

Region 2: Add hound hunting season of April 15-June 15 in BMU 200 except the Ninemile watershed north of I-90, entire BMU 240, and the portion of BMU 216 west of the Granite/Ravalli county line.

Add hound training season of June 1-June 15 to same BMUs or portions as described.

Region 3: Add hound hunting season of April 15-May 31 in the portion of BMU 300 east of I-15, the portion of BMU 301 east of I-15 and Hwy 69, and entire BMU 319.

Boundary change – Change the east edge of BMU 316 to follow I-15 from Butte to the Montana-Idaho border.

Add hound hunting season of April 15-June 15 in entire BMU 316.

Add hound training season of June 1-June 15 in same BMUs or portions as described.

Region 4: Add hound hunting season of April 15-May 31 to 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.

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Add hound training season of June 1-June 15 in the portion of BMU 400 as described.

Region 5: Add hound hunting season of April 15-May 31 in entire BMU 580 and the portion of BMU 510 east of Hwy 310.

Add hound training season of June 1-June 15 in same BMUs or portions as described.

Region 6: Boundary change – establish a new BMU 600 that will encompass entire Region 6. See boundary change master list.

Add spring hunting and hound hunting season of April 15–May 31, archery only season of Sept 4–Sept 14, and fall general season of Sept 15–Nov 28 in entire BMU 600. Spring quota of 4 bears and Fall quota of 4 bears.

Add hound training season of June 1–June 15 in entire BMU 600.

Region 7: Add hound hunting season of April 15-May 31 with a quota of 2 in entire BMU 700.

Add hound training season of June 1–June 15 in entire BMU 700.

Hound Hunting – 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 that includes the Ninemile watershed north of I-90, 216 east of the Granite/Ravalli county line, 280, 290, 300 west of I-15, 301 west of I-15 from Chester to Hwy 69 near Forth Benton, 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.

NON-RESIDENT HOUND LICENSE

A non-resident Class D-4 black bear hound license may be issued to successful applicants valid from March 1 to June 30 that may be used in open BMUs designated above. The total number of nonresident hound licenses is limited by law to not more than 80. FWP recommends those be split between black bears and mountain lions, and for black bears recommends the following:

No more than 2 in BMU 200,
No more than 2 in BMU 216,
No more than 3 in BMU 240,
No more than 1 in BMU 300,
No more than 2 in BMU 301,
No more than 3 in BMU 316,
No more than 3 in BMU 319,
No more than 3 in BMU 400,
No more than 1 in BMU 510,

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No more than 4 in BMU 580,
No more than 4 in BMU 600, and
No more than 4 in BMU 700.

STATEWIDE BLACK BEAR HOUND HUNTING REGULATIONS

- For nonresidents to use dogs for hunting black bears they must be on an outfitted trip with a licensed Montana outfitter/guide or have a Nonresident Class D-4 Black Bear Hound License in addition to a Black Bear License. To apply for a Nonresident Class D-4 Black Bear Hound License, the nonresident must already hold a Black Bear License. You must hold a Black Bear License valid in at least a portion of the hound area for which you are applying. If unsuccessful in the hound drawing, the department will refund the Nonresident Hound License-Spring Black Bear fee of \$250. The hunter can choose to return their Black Bear License for a refund if they are unsuccessful in the drawing for the Nonresident Hound License-Spring Black Bear between March 29 and April 14; licenses must be returned by April 14 without exception.
- Nonresident Black Bear Hound License Drawing. Applications for the Class D-4 Nonresident Black Bear Hound License will be available starting March 1. The deadline to apply for it will be March 25, and the drawing will be March 29. To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must have purchased a Black Bear License
- Rules and Restrictions. To be eligible to apply for the nonresident black bear hound license to hunt black bears, the applicant must be 18 or turn 18 by June 15, 2022. (MCA 87-2-519).
- A nonresident is not required to have a Class D-4 license to use a dog or dogs to aid in the pursuit or harvest of mountain lions or black bears when the nonresident is a nonresident landowner who owns 640 or more contiguous acres. Nonpaying guests of the nonresident landowner may also hunt and pursue mountain lions or black bears on the landowner's property and any adjacent public land within 2 miles of the landowner's property without a Class D-4 license. (MCA 87-2-519).
- 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.
- A resident hunter with a valid Black Bear License may lawfully chase Black Bears in any valid hunting district or management unit during the period that unit is open to hunting or chasing.
- A resident who possesses a Class D-3 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 dogs 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.

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- 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 handling dogs.