

Bear

HUNTERS ARE LIMITED TO HARVESTING 1 BEAR PER LICENSE YEAR.

Regular Firearms

STATEWIDE

Nov. 19 &
Nov. 21-23

Archery

Includes Crossbow

STATEWIDE
Nov. 14-18

WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D
Sept. 17-Nov. 18

WMU 5B
Oct. 1-Nov. 18

Muzzleloader

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Oct. 15-22

Special Firearms

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Oct. 20-22

*Junior & Senior license holders,
Mentored Youth, active-duty military
and certain disabled persons'
permit holders*

Extended Season

WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D
Nov. 28-Dec. 10

WMUs 3B, 3C & 3D
Nov. 28-Dec. 3

WMUs 1B, 2C, 4B,
4C, 4D & 4E
Nov. 30-Dec. 3

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manually operated centerfire rifles, handguns and shotguns with all-lead bullet or ball, or a bullet designed to expand on impact (buckshot is illegal); 2) muzzleloading long guns of any type, 44 caliber or larger, or a muzzleloading handgun 50 caliber or larger; and 3) long, recurve or compound bows (draw weights at least 35 pounds), or crossbows with weight minimum of 125 pounds. A broadhead is a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length of the cutting surface may not exceed 3.25 inches.

Tagging & Reporting

A successful bear hunter must complete all information on tag and attach it to the bear's ear immediately after harvest, and before the carcass is moved. In addition, within 24 hours, each hunter who harvests a bear must take the animal, along with his or her hunting license and bear license, to a Game Commission check station for examination. Bear check stations are listed in this section. **Bears should be field-dressed before being brought to a check station**, as Game Commission personnel do not need to examine reproductive tracts. Check stations are open on each day of the regular firearms bear season, and on select days of the extended seasons. Hunters harvesting bears anywhere during the statewide archery bear season, or during any early season in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, should contact the appropriate region office for instructions to have the animals checked. Hunters with bears to be checked after check stations close on Nov. 23, or Dec. 5-10 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D, should contact the appropriate region office. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field. Keep in mind that if you purchase a bear license through PALS online, you cannot hunt for bear until the physical license is delivered to you with a harvest tag.

Licenses

A general hunting license is required to hunt in any season. Bear hunters must have a bear license in addition to a general license. A bear license allows hunters to participate in the bear archery and bear muzzleloader season. There no longer is a split schedule for bear-license sales. Bear licenses are available to purchase from the time general hunting licenses go on sale through the Dec. 10 close of the last extended seasons.

Fluorescent Orange

Bear hunters during firearms seasons must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, visible from 360 degrees. Camouflage fluorescent orange will satisfy this regulation if the total orange content is at least 250 square inches. When hunting in an area with a concurrent fall turkey season, archery bear hunters must wear a hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches of solid fluorescent orange when moving. The hat may be removed when the archer is stationary or on stand.

Restrictions

It is unlawful to:

- Kill a bear in a den;
- Use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached;
- Hunt on areas where artificial or natural bait, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals, minerals or other foods – including residue – are used, or have been used as an enticement to lure wildlife within the past 30 days;
- Use scents or lures;
- Hunt bears in a party of more than 25 persons.

BEAR FEEDING BAN

It is unlawful to "intentionally lay or place food, fruit, hay, grain, chemicals, salt or other minerals that may cause bears to congregate or habituate in an area." In addition, if nuisance bears are being attracted to an area by any other wildlife feeding, wildlife conservation officers can issue written notice to temporarily halt the activity.

Bear Check Stations

Check stations statewide are open each day through the regular firearms bear season. Hours are:

- **Saturday, Nov. 19** – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Sunday, Nov. 20** – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Monday, Nov. 21** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 22** – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 23** – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NORTHWEST REGION

Forest County: Allegheny National Forest, Marienville Ranger Station, Rt. 66 approx. 1.5 miles north of Marienville—41.48806 N, 79.1025 W

Jefferson County: Friendship Hose Company #1, Interstate 80, Exit 97, Rt. 830 W (Slab Run Road/First Street), right on 1st Street in Falls Creek, then 600 feet on right—41.1458166 N, 78.7985611 W

Venango County: Northwest Region Office, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin—41.36734 N, 79.859747 W

Warren County: Tidioute Borough Fire Hall, 228 Main Street, Tidioute—41.68278 N, 79.40444 W

SOUTHWEST REGION

Indiana County: Homer City Fire Department, 25 West Church Street in Homer City—40.54189 N, 79.16193 W

Somerset County: New Centerville Rural Fire Dept., on Rt. 281 in New Centerville—39.9420 N, 79.1950 W

Westmoreland County: Southwest Region Office, Rt. 711, 7 miles north of Ligonier—40.3140 N, 79.1480 W

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Clearfield County: PGC Maintenance Building along the Quehanna Highway, about 3.5 miles south of the intersection with Wykoff Run Road about 4.5 miles north of Karthaus—41.1901 N, 78.14594 W

Clinton County: Chapman Twp. Fire Hall, four miles south of Renovo on Rt. 120 in North Bend—41.34861 N, 77.70038 W

Lycoming County: Antes Fort Fire Hall, 1/4 mile south of NC Region Office on Rt. 44—41.1909 N, 77.22612 W

Lycoming County: Trout Run Fire Hall, Rt. 14—41.38587 N, 77.05572 W

McKean County: Mt. Jewett Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6—41.7241 N, 78.64347 W

Potter County: Coudersport Fire Hall on U.S. Rt. 6, west of town—41.76788 N, 78.02842 W

Tioga County: Wellsboro Fire Company Social Building, U.S. Rt. 6 in center of town—41.74858 N, 77.29642 W

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

Fulton County: Buchanan State Forest Bldg., 5 miles east of Breezewood on Rt. 30 – 40.017185 N, 78.150533 W

Huntingdon County: Huntingdon Nat'l Guard Armory, 10034 Raystown Rd., Huntingdon—40.4889 N, 78.0499 W

Snyder County: Beavertown Hose Company, 222 S. Sassafras Street, Beavertown – 40.75133 N, 77.166542 W

NORTHEAST REGION

Carbon County: Beltzville State Park Main. Bldg., 2950 Pohopoco Dr., just east of Exit 74 PA Turnpike NE Ext. (I-476) – 40.863781 N, 75.628489 W

Lackawanna County: Lackawanna State Park Maintenance Bldg., behind park office on Rt. 524; from I-81 take Exit 199 and go 3 miles west on 524—41.5655 N, 75.7026 W

Luzerne County: Back Mountain Regional EMA Building, 3593 Route 118 (half-mile west of the intersection of routes 118 and 415), Dallas—41.335226 N, 75.997755 W

Monroe County: SGL 127 Bldg., Rt. 423, 2 miles south of Tobyhanna—41.168317 N, 75.439614 W

Pike County: SGL 180 Shohola Bldg., Rt. 6 at Shohola Falls, 13 miles south of Hawley—41.3862 N, 74.9758 W

Sullivan County: DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center, 6735 Rt. 220, 7 miles south of Dushore—41.439228 N, 76.4646 W

SOUTHEAST REGION

Berks County: Southeast Region Office, 253 Snyder Road, 7 miles north of Reading—40.440840 N, 75.911236 W

Dauphin County: PGC Headquarters, 2001 Elmerston Ave., Harrisburg—40.2934 N, 76.8553 W

NEW LOCATIONS FOR 2016 HIGHLIGHTED

*Several long-running check stations have closed or have been relocated.
Please review the list carefully.*

Bear Check Stations

Check stations are open in select WMUs during the extended bear season. Dates and hours of operation vary.

See preceding page for specific location information if not provided.

NORTHWEST REGION

Venango County – Northwest Region Office:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Warren County – State Game Lands 143 Building:
375 Moore Lane, Pittsfield - 41.823172 N, 079.435473 W
Wednesday-Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Westmoreland County – Southwest Region Office:
Wednesday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. Noon - 7 p.m.

Somerset County – New Centerville Rural Fire Dept.:
Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Lycoming County
Northcentral Region Office, 1566 S. Rt. 44 Hwy., P.O.
5038, Jersey Shore - 41.1911 N, 77.2315 W :
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

Huntingdon County
Southcentral Region Office, Rt. 22, 1.1 miles west of
Huntingdon - 40.4944 N, 78.0450 W:
Monday & Tuesday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.;
Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.;
Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Snyder County

Beavertown Hose Company, 222 S. Sassafrass Street,
Beavertown
Wednesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

NORTHEAST REGION

Carbon County

Beltzville State Park Maintenance Building:
Wednesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Lackawanna County – Lackawanna State Park:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Luzerne County – Back Mountain Regional EMA Building:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Monroe County – State Game Lands 127 Building:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

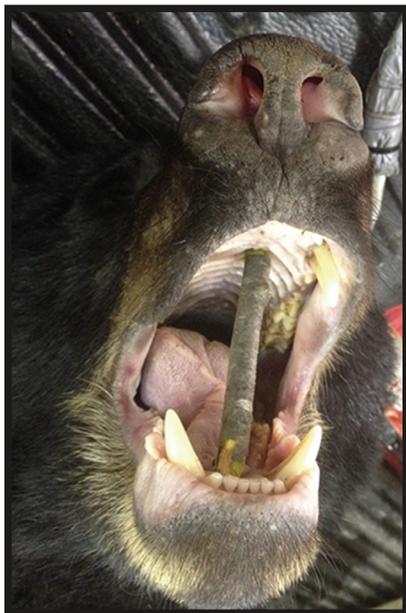
Pike County – State Game Lands 180 Shohola Building:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Sullivan County – DCNR Loyalsock State Forest Resource
Management Center:
Monday, Tuesday & Saturday, Noon - 7 p.m.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Berks County – Southeast Region Office:
Monday & Tuesday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday to Friday
8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.

Dauphin County – Game Commission Headquarters:
Monday & Tuesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday to Friday
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday Noon - 7 p.m.



PREPPING FOR THE CHECK STATION

At the time of a harvest, successful bear hunters should place a 3- to 4-inch stick into the bear's mouth, before rigor mortis or freezing temperatures set in, making it extremely difficult for check-station staff to open the mouth to remove a tooth for aging.