Bear Season & Bag Limits

Archery Bear Season: WMUs 2B, 5C & 5D: Sept. 15-Nov. 10

Archery Bear Season: WMU 5B: Sept. 29-Nov. 10

Archery Statewide Bear Season: Nov. 12-16

(To hunt bears during the bear bow season hunters need a general hunting license and a bear hunting license. Crossbows can be used during this season.)

Muzzleloader Bear Season: WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D: Oct. 13-20

(One bear per license year. Bear license required in addition to regular hunting license.)

Bear, Special Firearms (WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D)- Oct. 18-20 for Junior and Senior license holders (Also, persons (residents and nonresidents) who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in year of license application and either hold a valid adult license, or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706), disabled persons with permit to use a vehicle as a blind, and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in U.S. Armed Services, or in the U.S. Coast Guard only.

Firearms Statewide Bear Season: Nov. 17, 19, 20 & 21

Firearms Bear Season in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D: Nov. 26-Dec. 8

Firearms Bear Season in WMUs 3A, 3C and: Nov. 26-Dec. 1

That portion of WMU 3B east of Rt. 14 from Troy to Canton, east of Rt. 154 from Canton to Rt. 220 at Laporte and east of Rt. 42 from Laporte to Rt. 118 and that portion of 4E east of Rt. 42.
Portion of WMUs 2G in Lycoming and Clinton counties, and portion of 3B in Lycoming County, that lie north of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from the Rt. 405 Bridge, west to Rt. 15 at Williamsport, Rt. 15 to Rt. 220, north of Rt. 220 to the Mill Hall exit, north of S.R. 2015 to Rt. 150, east of Rt. 150 to Lusk Run Rd. and south of Lusk Run Rd. to Rt. 120, Rt. 120 to Veterans Street Bridge to S.R. 1001, east of S.R. 1001 to Croak Hollow Rd., south of Croak Hollow Rd. to Rt. 664 at Swissdale, south of Rt. 664 to Little Plum Rd. (the intersection of S.R. 1003), south of S.R. 1003 to S.R. 1006, south of S.R. 1006 to Sulphur Run Rd., south of Sulphur Run Rd. to Rt. 44, east of Rt.44 to Rt. 973, south of Rt. 973 to Rt. 87, west of Rt. 87 to Rt. 864, south of Rt. 864 to Rt. 220 and west of Rt. 220 to Rt. 405 and west of Rt. 405 to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Firearms Bear Season in WMUs 3D, 4C, 4D & 4E: Nov. 28-Dec. 1

Daily and Season Limit: One Bear Per License Year, Any Age. Bear license required.

Regulations:

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, compound or crossbows with broadheads of cutting edge design. Crossbow draw weight minimum of 125 pounds.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Bear hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined. (Example: a portion of the orange must appear on a cap and coat/vest so as to be visible 360 degrees.) Camouflage fluorescent orange may 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.

License, Tagging, Reporting Requirements

Bear licenses will be available for purchase on a split schedule this year. Bear licenses can be purchased from the start of 2012 license sales (mid-June) until the day before the statewide firearms bear season (Nov. 16). Licenses will then be available for purchase from Nov. 22-25, 2012. A successful bear hunter must complete all information on tag and attach to head (ear) of the animal 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 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.** 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.

Restrictions

It is unlawful to 1) kill a bear in a den; 2) use a radio to locate a bear to which a radio transmitter has been attached; 3) hunt on areas where artificial or natural bait, hay, grain, fruit, nuts, salt, chemicals, minerals, including residue or other foods are used, or have been used, as an enticement to lure wildlife within the past 30 days; 4) use scents or lures. It is also unlawful to 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 Station Locations

Statewide: Sat. Nov. 17, 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.; Sun. Nov. 18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.; Mon. Nov. 19, Tues. Nov. 20, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. & Wed. Nov. 21, 10 a.m.- 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: **SGL 244**, south from Exit 86, I-80 and just off Fuller Road, Reynoldsville—41.11170 N, 78.96322 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: **Yellow Creek State Park**, off Rt. 422, Indiana—40.5740 N, 79.0080 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 Wycoff Run Road about 4.5 miles north of Karthaus—41.1901 N, 78.14594 W
Lawrence Township Firehall Off of Rt. 153 in Clearfield—41.03223 N, 78.44301 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**, quarter-mile south of NC Region Office on Rt. 44—41.1909 N, 77.22612 W
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
Union County: **Laurelton Bald Eagle SF Hdqs.**, on Rt. 45 0.1 mile west of intersection of rts. 45 & 235—40.0923 N, 77.2138 W

Southcentral Region:

Fulton County: **Buchanan SF 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
Mifflin County: **Brown TWP. Municipal Building**, off Rt. 655 0.5 mile west of the 322/655 interchange—40.6643 N, 77.6108 W

Northeast Region:

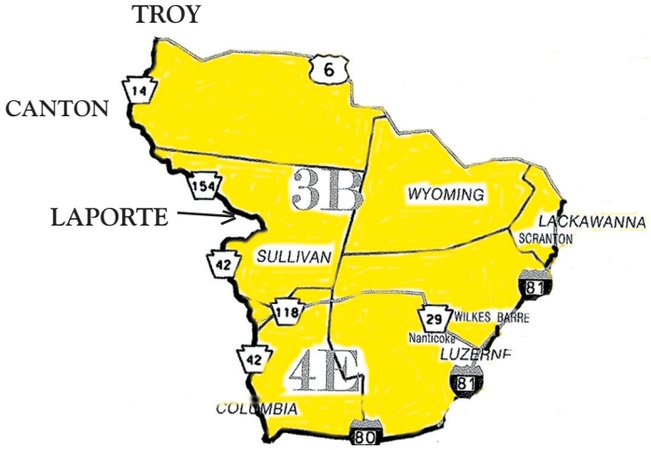
Bradford County: **Wysox Fire Company**, 111 Lake Road, Wysox—41.7765 N, 76.4005 W
Carbon County: **Beltzville State Park Main. Bldg.**, 2950 Pohopoco Dr., just east of Exit 74 PA Turnpike NE Ext. (I-476) 40.863781 N, 75.628489 W
Lackawanna County: **Lackawanna State Park Maintenance Bldg.**, behind 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: **Northeast Region Office**, intersection of routes 415 and 118 Dallas—41.3423 N, 75.9913 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: **Hillsgrove Ranger Station**, Route 87, 1.5 miles south of Hillsgrove—41.4205 N, 76.7038 W

Southeast Region:

Berks County: **Southeast Region Office**, 448 Snyder Road, 7 miles north of Reading—40.4355 N, 75.9230 W
Dauphin County: **PGC Headquarters**, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg—40.2934 N, 76.8553 W

Hunters harvesting bears anywhere during the statewide archery bear season should contact the appropriate region office for instructions to have the animals checked. Hunters with bears to be checked after check station closing hours on November 21 should contact the appropriate region office.

Many fire halls hosting bear check stations offer food concessions, which help fund their operations. Take advantage of these and help support the local community who cooperate with the Game Commission in hosting check stations.



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Hunt Area
Season Nov. 26-Dec. 1

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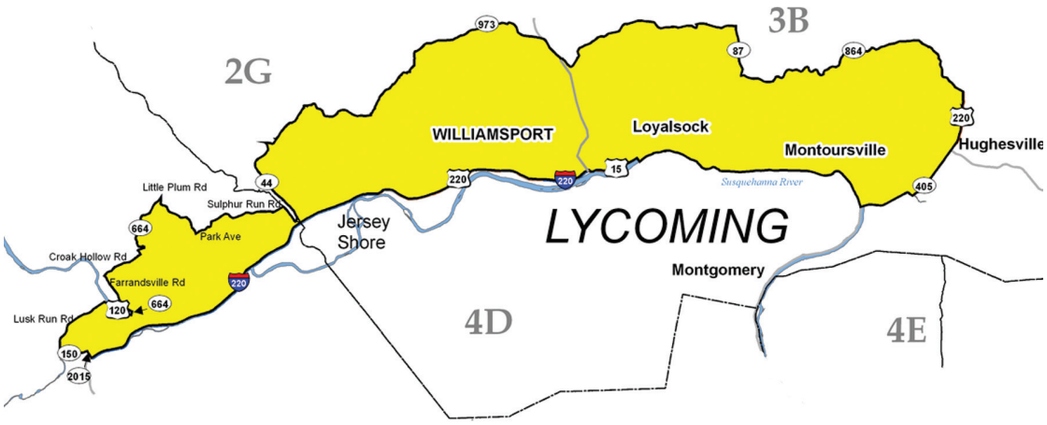

Bear Firearms Season After the Traditional 4-Day Statewide Season

Check Stations in those WMUs and parts of WMUs open to hunting during parts of firearms deer season

All Game Commission Region Offices and the Harrisburg Headquarters will check bears Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. In addition, bears will be processed at the following stations and times:

Open Monday-Saturday Noon - 8 p.m.
- Lycoming County: Northcentral Region Office, Rt. 44 south of Jersey Shore—41.1911 N, 77.2315W
- Luzerne County: Northeast Region Office, Int. of routes 415 & 118, Dallas *

Open Monday, Tuesday & Saturday Noon - 8 p.m.
- Tioga County: Wilson Maintenance Headquarters, Colton Rd., Ansonia, along Rt. 6 near Pine Creek—41.7415 N, 77.4320 W
- Potter County: Susquehannok State Forest Building on Denton Hill off Rt. 6—41.7692 N, 77.8699 W
- McKean County: Game Lands 62, building is 4 miles from Mt. Jewett on the Kinzua State Park Road—41.3418 N, 078.3758 W
- Lackawanna County: Lackawanna State Park *
- Bradford County: Wysox Fire Company *
- Sullivan County: Hillsgrove Ranger Station *

Open Wednesday & Saturday Noon - 8 p.m.
- Union County: Laurelton Bald Eagle State Forest Headquarters *
- Mifflin County: Brown Township Municipal Building *
- Carbon County: Beltzville State Park Maintenance Building *
- Monroe County: State Game Lands 127 Building *
- Pike County: State Game Lands 180 Shohola Building *

Open Wednesday-Saturday Noon - 8 p.m.
- Huntingdon County: Southcentral Region Office, Rt. 22, 1.1 miles west of Huntingdon—40.4944 N, 78.0450 W
- Berks County: Southeast Region Office * 448 Snyder Rd., 7 miles north of Reading
- Dauphin County: Pennsylvania Game Commission Headquarters *

* See the preceding page for more specific location information