



# FEBRUARY 2021 WOLF HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

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## REMEMBER

- You must notify the DNR within 24 hours of harvest by visiting [GameReg.wi.gov](https://www.dnr.wi.gov) or by calling 844-GAMEREG (844-426-3734)
- You must also exhibit your wolf to an authorized DNR representative (usually a Conservation Warden) for registration and tagging no later than March 7, 2021.
  - Before registering a wolf with an authorized DNR representative, you must skin the animal and separate the pelt from the carcass. Be sure it is thawed out on the day of registration so that the registration tag can be attached. This does not need to be completed before registration for specimens going to a taxidermist. Persons who intend to have the wolf mounted by a taxidermist may exhibit the wolf to the department for registration without separating the pelt. The skinned carcass must be exhibited to the department within 30 days of registration. (Note: These animals must still be registered prior to taxidermy).
  - Contact the local Conservation Warden or wildlife biologist or call 888-936-7463 to determine available times for registration.
- This pamphlet gives a summary of Wisconsin's wolf hunting and trapping laws and how they affect you; it is not a complete set of all the hunting-related laws.
- Call 1-855-299-9653 or visit [dnr.wi.gov](https://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search "[wolf hunt](#)" for the most up-to-date zone closure information.

## REPORT NATURAL RESOURCE VIOLATIONS

Call or text 800-TIP-WDNR (800-847-9367) toll-free or 608-267-4023 to report a suspected violation. Lines are open 24 hours, and calls are confidential.

## FIND MORE INFORMATION ON HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN WISCONSIN

Visit [dnr.wi.gov](https://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search "[hunt](#)" and "[trap](#)" for season dates, regulations, license and permit requirements, finding a place to hunt or trap and more.

## HARVEST LICENSE ISSUANCE

### RESIDENT LICENSE: \$49; NON-RESIDENT LICENSE: \$251

- A wolf harvest license and a valid, unused wolf carcass/pelt tag are required to be in your possession while hunting or trapping wolf. If selected to receive a wolf harvest license, you must purchase your wolf harvest license prior to hunting or trapping wolf.
- Applicants who do not apply for a preference point or license during the February 2021 application period will not lose previously accumulated preference points. Customers with accumulated preference points who have not applied for either a license or preference point since 2012 will lose their points if they do not apply for a license or preference point for at least one season during the 2021 calendar year. These customers must apply for the February 2021 season, the fall 2021 season or both to retain their preference points.

- Applicants successful in the drawing will have their preference points reset to zero. Applicants who do not want to be entered for the license drawing in a particular year may choose to apply for a preference point.
- There is no minimum age restriction to apply for a preference point.
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard who are selected for a license through the cumulative preference system and are unable to hunt or trap wolves during this license year because of active duty service can choose to receive a preference point in lieu of the license.
- A person may not purchase more than one wolf harvest license valid for the same wolf season.

## **HUNTER AND TRAPPER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1973 who intend to hunt wolf with a firearm, bow or crossbow must present their hunter education certificate or proof of successful completion of basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard to purchase a wolf harvest license unless participating in the hunting mentorship program. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “[mentored hunting](#)” for more information).
- Persons who intend to trap wolf must have successfully completed a Wisconsin trapper education course or other approved trapper education course unless exempt from this requirement or a youth under the age of 16 trapping as part of the youth trapper program. See the [2020 Trapping Regulations](#) for additional details on youth supervised trapping.
- The trapping of wolves is not authorized under the authority of a mentored trapping license. See the [2020 Trapping Regulations](#) for additional details on the Mentored Trapping Program.

## **TRANSFER OF LICENSE AND PREFERENCE POINTS**

- The department will not accept wolf license transfer requests for the February 2021 season because statute requires transfer applications be received at least 15 days prior to the start of the season.
- Preference points may be transferred to a youth within 365 days of the death of the preference point holder using the required form. Call the DNR call center at 1-888-936-7463 for more information.

## **HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASON INFORMATION**

THE FEBRUARY 2021 WOLF HARVEST SEASON CLOSES FEB. 28

During the February 2021 season, wolves may be pursued statewide\*, except in zones that are closed early.

If early closure of a wolf zone is necessary, it will take effect 24 hours after the DNR has:

1. Posted notice of the closure on the DNR website. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “[wolf hunting](#).”



## HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN STATE PARKS

- For information about hunting in state parks, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “[hunting state parks](#).”

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING ON THE ST. CROIX RIVERWAY

The National Park Service has specific regulations on these sites to inform the public of special federal regulations already in place.

- Hunting is allowed according to Wisconsin state regulations with a few exceptions in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. For more information, please visit [www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/hunting.htm](http://www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/hunting.htm).
- Trapping is restricted in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/trapping.htm](http://www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/trapping.htm).

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING AT FORT MCCOY

- Fort McCoy is closed to wolf hunting and trapping during the February 2021 season. Fort McCoy conducts its own hunting seasons independent of the DNR’s seasons. For Fort McCoy season dates and regulation information, please see [mccoy.iSportsman.net](http://mccoy.iSportsman.net).

## METHODS FOR HUNTING

A wolf harvest license and carcass/pelt tag authorize hunting of wolf by any of the following methods:

- Firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow (see below);
  - State statute specifically authorizes hunting wolves with a shotgun and shot sizes larger than BB under s. 29.185 (6) (b).
  - See the 2020 Wisconsin Hunting Regulations for additional hunting, firearm, bow and crossbow restrictions that apply to hunting of all species.
- With the use of dogs to track or trail;
- Predator calls, including electronic calls; and
- Bait that does not contain animal parts, animal by-products other than liquid scents or substances poisonous to canines. See page 7 for additional restrictions on baiting.

See the [2020 Wisconsin Hunting Regulations](#) for additional hunting, firearm, bow and crossbow restrictions that apply to hunting of all species.

## FIREARMS AND CROSSBOWS AUTHORIZED FOR WOLF HUNTING

Please see the section titled “Weapons and Ammunition” in the General Hunting Regulations section (page 4) of the [2020 Wisconsin Hunting Regulations](#) for a description of weapons and ammunitions regulations.

## TELEMETRY DEVICES

It is **illegal** to:

- Use radio-telemetry or similar equipment to locate, pursue or hunt any wolf that has been fitted with a radio transmitter.

**Note:** It is legal to possess a radio-telemetry receiver if pursuing a wolf with dogs that are equipped with radio transmitters and the device is only used for locating transmitters attached to the dogs.

## DOGS

Hunting with the aid of dogs used to track or trail wolves is legal during the entire February 2021 season.

It is **illegal** to:

- Hunt wolves with a dog that is not tattooed or that isn't wearing a collar with the owner's name and address attached;
- Allow a dog to kill any wild animal. The use of firearms, crossbows and bow and arrow are the only legal hunting methods allowed to kill a wolf;
- Use more than six dogs in a single pack to hunt wolf, regardless of the number of people assisting the holder of the wolf harvest license or the dog's ownership;
- Hunt wolves with dogs outside of the hunting hours listed on page 10;
- Allow dogs to run on DNR lands from April 15 - July 31, unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 ft. in length; this rule does not apply to Class 1 field trial grounds, DNR lands open to dog training or trials, or after June 30, when training dogs to track bear, rabbit or raccoon on lands open to hunting; or
- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog from May 1 to June 30 in the portion of the state north of the highways shown on the map to the right; except as authorized for raccoon and rabbit dog trials or training under the authority of a dog trial or training license.

## NIGHT HUNTING

No person may hunt wolves at night unless they are hunting:

- With aid of a predator call or over a legal bait site;
- From a stationary position; and
- Without the use of dogs.

A flashlight or firearm-mounted light may be used 1) while shooting a wolf at the point of kill or 2) to find your way.

**Flashlight:** Defined as a battery-operated light held by hand or attached to clothing or part of the body.

**Point of Kill:** The location at which a light is used to illuminate, identify and kill an animal. It does not include shining a light for the purpose of searching for wild animals whose specific location the hunter does not yet know.

- Hunters may only use dogs to track or trail wolves during open shooting hours listed on page 10. Hunters who are legally night hunting may hunt with no hunting hour restrictions during the February 2021 season.

## **BAIT**

During the February 2021 wolf harvest season, it is **illegal** to:

- Place, use or hunt over bait or feed for wolves:
  - In excess of 10 gallons;
  - That is not totally enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or stump which is capped with logs, rocks or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which prevent deer from accessing the material. Liquid scent does not need to be enclosed, but is considered 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;
  - Unless the person placing the bait possesses a valid wolf harvest license or written authorization\* from the holder of a valid wolf harvest license to place and maintain a bait site for the licensee; or
  - Containing any animal part, animal by-product other than liquid scent or substances that are poisonous to canines.

\*Written authorization must include:

- The name, address and phone number of the licensee;
- The name, address and phone number of the person placing or maintaining the bait site; and
- The county, town and property owner's name for the location where the licensee has authorized assistance with the bait site.

## **METHODS FOR TRAPPING**

A wolf harvest license and carcass/pelt tag authorize the trapping of wolf under the following regulations:

### **CABLE RESTRAINTS**

It is **illegal** to:

- Set, place or operate any cable restraint for wolves except from Dec. 1 - Feb 28, 2021.

To be a legal set, the cable restraint must:

- Be 10 ft. or less in length with a diameter of 3/32 inch or larger and be composed of multiple strands of galvanized aircraft cable wire;
- Have cable stops that ensure that the portion of the cable which makes up the noose loop may not be longer than 48 inches when fully open or less than 8 inches when fully closed;

- Be set with the bottom of the cable loop six to 14 inches above the surface, where the surface is soil, ice, crusted or packed snow or any other hard surface;
- Include a reverse-bend washer lock with a minimum outside diameter of 1¼ inches and a 1,500-pound roller (or barrel) swivel that acts as the maximum opening cable stop; and
- Be staked in a manner that does not allow the restraint device to reach any part of a fence, rooted woody vegetation greater than ½ inch in diameter or any other immovable object or stake that could cause entanglement.

## TRAPS

It is *illegal* to:

- Set, place or operate steel-jawed foothold traps with a maximum jaw spread width of more than 8 inches;
- Place or use sight exposed bait consisting of feathers, animal flesh, fur, hide or entrails within 25 ft. of any trap, snare or cable restraint; or
- Set any trap, including cable restraints and snares, for which a trapping license is required, unless a metal tag is attached. The tag must be stamped or engraved legibly with the name and address or customer ID number of the operator of the trap. Heavy-duty stamped tags are recommended.

See the [2020 Trapping Regulations](#) for additional trap type, size and placement restrictions that apply to trapping of all species, including wolves.

**Incidental Take:** It is legal to retain any raccoon, coyote, fox or bobcat taken incidentally with a cable restraint if it is the open season for hunting or trapping the animal and the trapper has the necessary unfilled license, permits and tags for that species.

**Dispatch Methods:** A wolf caught in a trap may only be killed with a firearm. Alternative methods for dispatch are illegal. Age, mentoring and accompanying requirements apply to the use of a firearm (for more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “[mentored hunting](#)”). A person who has legally trapped a wolf but is prohibited from possessing a firearm may authorize a companion who can legally possess a firearm to kill the trapped wolf humanely with a firearm.

## TAGGING AND REGISTRATION

Upon killing a wolf, the harvester must do all of the following:

1. Immediately validate and attach the wolf carcass/pelt tag to the wolf in the manner described on the tag. After skinning the wolf the pelt tag shall be left attached to the pelt (Carcass/pelt tags must be kept intact and legible; consider protecting the tag inside a zip-top plastic bag.);
2. You must notify the DNR within 24 hours of harvest by visiting [GameReg.wi.gov](#) or by calling 844-GAMEREG (844-426-3734);
3. Exhibit the pelt and “skinned-out” carcass for registration with an authorized DNR representative no later March 7. Contact the local

Conservation Warden or wildlife biologist or call 888-936-7463 to determine available times for registration; and

4. Exhibit the skinned-out carcass or surrender any part of the carcass as required by the department for population monitoring\*.

\*Persons who intend to have the wolf mounted by a taxidermist may exhibit the wolf to the department for registration without separating the pelt. The skinned carcass must be exhibited to the department within 30 days of registration.

It is **illegal** to:

- Possess a wolf carcass or pelt longer than seven days after the month of harvest without registering the pelt with an authorized DNR representative;
- Possess, control, store or transport a wolf carcass unless it is tagged as required. The removal of a pelt tag from a wolf prior to registration results in the wolf being untagged and illegal to possess;
- Transfer, give, trade, sell or purchase a raw pelt or unskinned carcass of a wolf without a registration tag attached and locked to the pelt;
- Remove the pelt and registration tag prior to its removal by a fur dresser or taxidermist at the time of preparation;
- Possess, loan or borrow a license or pelt tag; or
- Place a wolf pelt tag on a wolf that has been harvested by another person

**Note:** A person is not allowed to tag a wolf that was intentionally or accidentally caught in a trap set by another person. The person who tags a wolf must be the person who made the trap set.

**Note:** A person who harvests a wolf that has an attached or implanted radio telemetry device must return the device to the DNR.

## **ATTACKS ON DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

On private lands, the landowner, lessee, occupant of the land or any other person with permission of the landowner, lessee or occupant may shoot and kill any wolf in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal. Shootings shall be reported to a department Conservation Warden within 24 hours. The wolf carcass must be surrendered to the department. For more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "[wolf conflict](#)."

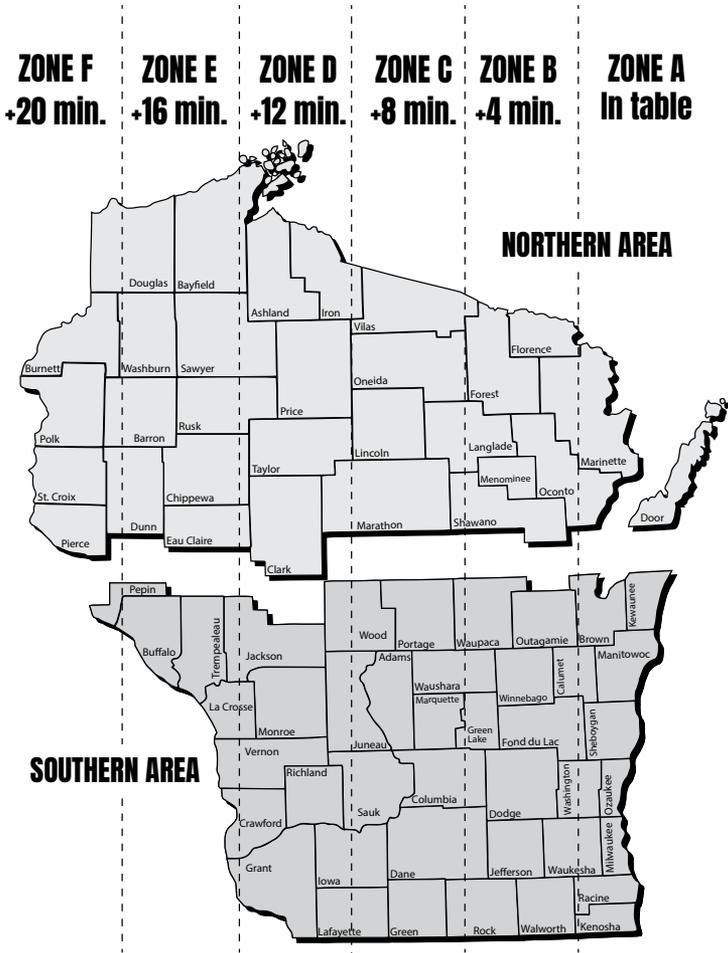
## **TRAPPING HOURS AND SHOOTING HOURS**

It is legal to set, place, check and operate traps from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. when the wolf season is open (24 hours a day). Normal trap check periods apply. See the [2020 Trapping Regulations](#) for more information.

Hunters who are legally hunting during the February 2021 wolf harvest season with no shooting hour restrictions. Hunters may only use dogs to track or trail wolves within the shooting hours listed in the table on page 10.

# CALCULATING SHOOTING HOURS

Determine your location using the map below and add the minutes shown for the zone in which you are hunting to the opening and closing times listed in the hunting hours table.



February Wolf Shooting Hours For Hunters Hunting With The Use of Dogs- Zone A				
Day	Northern Area Shooting Hours - Zone A		Southern Area Shooting Hours - Zone A	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
21	6:12	5:46	6:10	5:49
22	6:10	5:47	6:08	5:51
23	6:09	5:49	6:07	5:52
24	6:07	5:50	6:05	5:53
25	6:05	5:52	6:04	5:55
26	6:03	5:53	6:02	5:56
27	6:02	5:55	6:00	5:57
28	6:00	5:56	5:59	5:59