

Important information for all bear hunters

Nonresident brown/grizzly bear hunters must be accompanied in the field by an Alaska-licensed guide or a resident relative within second-degree of kindred. (See guide info, page 10.)

Locking-tag requirements

Nonresidents must purchase a locking-tag in addition to their license to hunt either a black or brown/grizzly bear. Harvest tickets and permits may also be required.

Resident hunters do not need a locking-tag to hunt black bears.

Resident hunters must possess a \$25 locking-tag to hunt brown/grizzly bear in Units 1-10, 14, and 15 (however, no locking-tag is required for Registration hunt RB525 in Units 9 and 10 or subsistence hunt RB502 in Unit 9).

Big game locking-tags are valid from the date of purchase through December 31 of that year. Locking-tags must be locked on a part of the animal required to be salvaged prior to leaving the kill site and must remain there until the animal is prepared for storage, consumed, or exported.

Bear locking-tags may not be transferred to another hunter. A nonresident bear locking-tag may be used for any other species for which the locking-tag fee is of equal or lesser value, but you must have a harvest ticket or permit (if required) for that species.

A hunter less than 10 years old is not allowed to kill a bear, except under direct, immediate supervision of a licensed hunter at least 18 years old. The bear is then counted against the licensed hunter's bag limit. (See youth hunting information, page 13.)

In Units 1-5, and in Unit 8, bears wounded by a hunter count toward the bag limit for the regulatory year, but do not count toward the every four regulatory year bag limit. **“Wounded” means there is a sign of blood or other sign that the bear has been hit by a hunting projectile.**

You may not transport or export any untanned bear hide or skull from Alaska until it has been sealed.

All bear hides intended for sale must be sealed.

Evidence of sex

If you take a brown/grizzly bear anywhere in the state, evidence of sex (penis sheath or vaginal orifice) must remain naturally attached to the hide until sealing requirements have been met.

If you take a black bear in Units 1-7, 14A, 14C, 15-17, or 20B, evidence of sex (penis sheath or vaginal orifice) must remain naturally attached to the hide or meat (see Black bear salvage requirements on page 26) until sealing requirements have been met.

Salvage for brown/grizzly bears

You must salvage the entire hide (with claws attached) and skull of a brown/grizzly bear unless it was taken in (and not removed from) one of the subsistence hunt areas under a subsistence Registration permit (see page 25).

Salvage for black bears

Meat: In all areas of the state during Jan 1-May 31, edible meat must be salvaged and removed from the field. This meat may **not** be used for pet food or bait.

In Units 19A, 19D upstream from the Selatna and Black River drainages, 19E, 21B, 21C, 21D, 24, and 25D, the edible meat of black bears, taken under customary and traditional use activities at a den site, must be salvaged.

The hide and skull may not be transported from the field until the edible meat has been salvaged.

Skull AND Hide or Skull AND Meat: In Units 1-7, 14A, 14C, 15-17, and 20B, the skull must be salvaged and removed from the field year round for sealing; during June 1-Dec 31, either the hide with claws attached (for sealing) or the meat must also be salvaged and removed from the field. If salvaging the meat, the hide and/or skull may not be transported from the field until the edible meat has been salvaged.

Hide or Meat: In Units 9-13, 14B, 18-19, 20 (except 20B), and 21-26 during June 1-Dec 31, either the hide (with claws attached) or the meat must be salvaged and removed from the field.

(See definition of edible meat, page 34.)

Sealing requirements

All brown/grizzly bears must be sealed. Black bears taken in Units 1-7, 14A, 14C, 15-17, and 20B must be sealed. Sealing means taking the skull and hide (with claws and evidence of sex attached) of the bear you killed to an officially designated “sealing officer.” The skull must be skinned from the hide and **both must be unfrozen. Sealing must be completed within 30 days of kill, or less as required by permit conditions.** During June 1-Dec 31, if the hide is not salvaged, only the skull will be sealed.

The sealing officer asks questions about when, where, and how the bear was taken, measures the skull and may pull a small tooth or take other biological samples. Then the officer locks a metal or plastic seal on the hide and on the skull. The seal must remain on the hide until the tanning process begins and on the skull until it is cleaned for display. Part of the sealing requirement is that you sign the sealing certificate. If you can't get your bear to a sealing officer in person, you must complete and sign a temporary sealing form available from any ADF&G office. You must also make sure someone takes the bear and the temporary certificate to the sealing officer within the time required.

If you are a nonresident and kill a bear while on a guided hunt or while hunting with an Alaska-licensed resident relative within second-degree of kindred, both you and your guide or resident relative must sign the sealing certificate or temporary sealing certificate.

Special sealing requirements apply within the brown bear subsistence Registration permit (see subsistence hunt areas on page 25).

If you kill a brown/grizzly bear in Unit 8, you may not take the bear out of that unit until it has been sealed.

Black bear hides and skulls may be sold after sealing.

Brown bear hides (with claws attached) and skulls from bears harvested in areas with a two brown bear bag limit per regulatory year may be sold after sealing; a permit is required. Hides and skulls will be permanently marked by ADF&G.

Important information regarding the use of motorized vehicles:

You may **not** drive, harass, herd, or molest a bear with any motorized vehicle, such as a snowmachine. While you may use a motorized vehicle to locate a bear, you may **not** use a motorized vehicle to pursue a bear that is fleeing. In addition, you may **not** use a motorized vehicle to drive a bear to another hunter. See page 18 for exceptions.

Brown/grizzly bear bag limits

Depending on where you hunt, brown/grizzly bear bag limits are either one bear every four regulatory years, one bear every regulatory year, or two bears every regulatory year. A regulatory year is July 1 through June 30. See the unit you intend to hunt for bag limit information.

One bear every four regulatory years

If you kill a bear in any “one bear every four regulatory years” area you may kill a bear in any “one bear every regulatory year” or “two bears every regulatory year” areas during the next regulatory year, but you **MAY NOT** kill a bear in any “one bear every four regulatory years” area for four regulatory years.

One bear every regulatory year

If you kill a bear in any “one bear every regulatory year” area, you may kill a bear in any legal area of the state during the next regulatory year.

Two bears every regulatory year

You may kill two bears in any “two bears every regulatory year” area. If you have already killed a bear in any other legal area of the state, you may kill one more bear in areas where the bag limit is “two bears every regulatory year” during the same regulatory year. You may kill a bear in any legal area of the state during the next regulatory year.

Brown/grizzly bear subsistence hunting

Resident hunting by subsistence Registration permit for brown/grizzly bears used for food is allowed in Units 9B, all drainages in 9E that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumlium and the border of 9E and 9D, 17, 18, that portion of 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 21D, 22-24, and 26A. Hunters may hunt under an alternate set of regulations adopted to better allow subsistence use of brown bears. General brown bear hunting seasons remain in effect in these areas.

Registration subsistence hunts in Units 9B, 9E, 18, 19B, 22C, and 24, have a bag limit of one bear every regulatory year. Registration subsistence hunts in Units 17, 18, 19A, 19B, 21D, 22A, 22B, 22D, 22E, 23, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 26A have a bag limit of two bears every regulatory year. Taking a brown bear in one of these areas under a subsistence permit does not count in the “one bear every four regulatory years” bag limit restriction in other units.

Subsistence regulations versus general regulations within the brown bear subsistence areas:

Subsistence hunting

- see units for bag limits
- meat must be salvaged for human consumption and may not be used as bait
- no locking-tag required but you must register to hunt
- hide and skull need not be sealed unless removed from subsistence area or presented for commercial tanning; if sealing is required, it must be completed by a designated sealing officer; at the time of sealing, the skin of the head and front claws are removed and kept by ADF&G
- no use of aircraft for subsistence hunting in Units 21D, 22-24, and 26A
- see units for season dates.

General hunting

- see units for bag limits
- meat need not be salvaged
- \$25 locking-tag may be required for residents
- see units for seasons
- hide and skull must be sealed by a designated sealing officer

See unit pages (39-140) for information on where subsistence permits are available. For specific information on hunts listed in unit pages, please call the ADF&G office in or nearest the subsistence area where you want to hunt.

In units with a brown/grizzly bear bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years...

last successful hunt was:	next opportunity to hunt is:
fall '20 - spring '21.....	fall '24 - spring '25
fall '21 - spring '22.....	fall '25 - spring '26
fall '22 - spring '23.....	fall '26 - spring '27
fall '23 - spring '24.....	fall '27 - spring '28

Other bear regulations

Bears taken under a predator control permit do not count against the statewide bag limit for bears.

You **MAY NOT** take black or brown/grizzly bear cubs or sows accompanied by cubs; however, black bear cubs and sows accompanied by cubs may be taken by resident hunters Oct 15-Apr 30 under customary and traditional use activities at a den site in Unit 19A, that portion of Unit 19D in the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from the Selatna and Black River drainages, Unit 19E, Units 21B, 21C, 21D, 24, and 25D. In addition, black bear cubs and sows accompanied by cubs may be taken by resident hunters year-round in Unit 25D.

“Cub bear” means a brown/grizzly bear in the 1st or 2nd year of life, or a black bear (including cinnamon and blue color phases) in the 1st year of life.

You **MAY NOT** buy or sell any part of a brown/grizzly bear **EXCEPT**:

- an article of handicraft made from the fur of a bear;
- for brown/grizzly bears taken in brown bear control areas with a control permit, ADF&G will issue permits allowing permittees to sell untanned hides (with claws attached) and skulls, after sealing. See predator control supplement online;
- brown bear hides (with claws attached) and skulls from bears harvested in areas with a two brown bear bag limit per regulatory year may be sold after sealing; a permit from ADF&G is required. Hides and skulls will be permanently marked by ADF&G.

You **MAY NOT** hunt or kill brown/grizzly bears within one-half mile of garbage dumps or landfills.

You **MAY** use the carcass of a skinned brown/grizzly or a black bear taken June 1–Dec 31, as animal food or bait as long as the black bear hide was salvaged. (See *Use of Game*, page 17.)

If you take a brown/grizzly bear in a brown bear subsistence area under a Registration permit for subsistence purposes, you are required to salvage all meat for human consumption; salvage of the hide or skull is optional.

If you wish to hunt black bears with dogs, you must first obtain a permit from the ADF&G office nearest the area you wish to hunt. You may not hunt brown/grizzly bears with dogs.

Bears killed in defense of life or property must be skinned and the hide (with claws and evidence of sex attached) and skull turned over to an ADF&G representative. (See *Emergency taking of game*, page 16.)

Brown/grizzly bears **MAY NOT** be taken over bait or scent lures **EXCEPT** under conditions of a bear baiting permit in Units 7, 11-13, 14A, 14B, 14C remainder, 15-16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24B, 24C, 24D, 25C, and 25D.

Bear baiting seasons and requirements

Bear bait stations may be established in certain areas. All bait stations must be registered with ADF&G and all persons who wish to register a bait site must have successfully completed an ADF&G-approved bear baiting clinic. **Clinics are available in person or online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bearbaiting.main>**

Bait stations may be registered at an ADF&G office 15 days prior to the start of the season. Bait may not be placed at the site until the season is open.

TO REGISTER A BAIT STATION YOU MUST:

ADF&G may prohibit bear baiting in certain areas.

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have successfully completed an ADF&G-approved bear baiting clinic.
- Provide ADF&G with a specific description of the location where you will place bait.

You will be given a sign to post at your bear bait site. You may use this sign or make your own, but the sign must clearly identify the site as a “Bear Bait Station” and display:

1. the bear bait site number assigned by ADF&G, and
2. your hunting license number and hunting license numbers of others who hunt over that bait station.

<p>You <u>MAY</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place bait at only 2 bait stations at the same time. Only biodegradable materials may be used for bait. Scent lures may also be used. The skinned carcasses of furbearers, fur animals, unclassified game, and small game (other than birds) may be used as bait. If fish or big game is used, only the head, bones, guts, and skin may be used; however, in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used for bait. • Other hunters may use, place bait at, or maintain your bait station with your written permission. Written permission must be carried in the field. • In Units 6-7, 9, 11-13, 14A, 14B, 15-17, 19-21, and 24-25, a registered guide may operate up to 10 bait stations at a time in each guide use area they are registered to operate in. A guide contract is required for each hunter. • In Units 7, 9, 11-13, 14A, 14B, 15-21, 23-25, 26B, and 26C, black bears (and brown bears where allowed-see units listed below, but not including 14C remainder, 20D south of the Tanana River, and 25C) may be taken at permitted bait stations the same day you have flown provided you are at least 300 feet from the airplane. This is NOT allowed on National Park Service lands. • In Units 7, 11-13, 14A, 14B, 14C remainder, 15-16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24B, 24C, 24D, 25C, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at bear bait stations. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, salvage, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (Registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact ADF&G for details). 	<p>You <u>MAY NOT</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a bait station within 1 mile of a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> »house (including your own home), »school, »business, »developed recreational facility, »campground, or »permanent dwelling including a seasonally-occupied cabin (including your own). Establishing bait stations within 1 mile of a seasonally occupied cabin is allowed in some areas. <i>(See page 27 for the list of places this is allowed.)</i> • Set up a bait station within one-quarter mile of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> »a publicly maintained road or trail, »the Alaska Railroad, »the Unit 14 shorelines of the Susitna River and Little Susitna River south of the Parks Highway bridge, or »the Unit 7 or 15 shorelines of the Kenai River (including Kenai Lake and Skilak Lake), »the Unit 15 shorelines of the Kasilof and Swanson rivers. • Take money, bartered goods, or services from someone who uses your bait station. <i>This does not apply to a registered guide-outfitter, master guide-outfitter or employee of the contracting guide for providing big game hunting services.</i> • Use another’s bait station without their written permission. You must write your hunting license number on the permit at each site you intend to hunt over and written permission must be carried in the field. • Use game cameras that can send messages through wireless communication.
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Black bear salvage requirements

= Sealing required, skull must be salvaged = Sealing not required

Units	Jan 1 - May 31 *Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the hide.	June 1 - Dec 31 *Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to salvaged meat or hide.
1-7, 14A, 14C, 15-17, 20B	Meat, Hide*, Skull	Skull AND Meat* or Skull AND Hide*
9-13, 14B, 18-19, 20A, 20C, 20D, 20E, 20F, 21-26	Meat	Meat or Hide

Bowhunters wishing to hunt bears over bait in Units 7 and 14-16 are required to complete an IBEP or equivalent course, and proof of certification must be carried in the field.

All bait, litter, and equipment must be removed from the bait site when hunting is completed. This includes all attractants. In this section, “equipment” means barrels, tree stands, game cameras, and other items associated with a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or such other person authorized to give permission.

Areas Open for Bear Baiting	Dates
Units 1A, 1B, 1C*, 2-3, 5, 6A, 6B, 6C	Apr 15-June 15
Unit 6D*	Apr 15-June 10
Units 1D*, 7*, 9, 11-13*, 14A*, 14B*, 14C remainder*, 15*, 20**, 23, 24A, 25A, 25B, and 25C	Apr 15-June 30
Unit 16*	July 1-Oct 15 Apr 15-June 30
Unit 17	Apr 15-May 31
Unit 18	Apr 1-June 30
Units 19, 21A, and 21E	Aug 1-Oct 31 Apr 15-June 30
Units 21B, 21C, 21D, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 25D	Aug 1-Sept 30 Apr 15-June 30

***Bait MAY NOT be used and bait stations MAY NOT be registered in the following areas:**

- Unit 1C, those portions within the City and Borough of Juneau.
- Unit 1D, that portion of the Chilkat Peninsula south of the Haines Hwy and within 1 mile of the Haines Hwy, Lutak Road, the Porcupine Mine road to the confluence of the Porcupine and Klehini rivers, and the Chilkat Lake road from the Porcupine Bridge to Chilkat Landing on the Tsirku River.
- Unit 6D, Blackstone Bay and Harriman Fiord.
- Unit 7, Resurrection Creek and tributaries and within one-quarter mile of the shoreline of the Kenai River (including Kenai Lake).
- Unit 13, within one-quarter mile of the Alyeska pipeline and pipeline access road from mile 75 of the Richardson Hwy (where the pipeline crosses the Tonsina River) north to the unit boundary at mile 227 of the Richardson Hwy (Black Rapids).
- Units 14A, 14B within one-quarter mile of the shorelines of the Susitna River, and Little Susitna River south of the Parks Hwy Bridge.
- Unit 14C remainder, the Glacier Creek drainage outside of Chugach State Park.
- Unit 15, within one-quarter mile of the shoreline of the Kenai River (including Skilak Lake), Kasilof River, and Swanson River.
- Units 13E and 16A in Denali State Park.

****Chena River State Recreation Area: additional hunting, shooting, and off-road vehicle use restrictions apply. Call DNR at (907) 451-2695 for specific information.**

Bait MAY be used within 1 mile of seasonally occupied cabins, provided the cabin is on the opposite side of the river from the bait site, in the following areas:

- 11 and 13, the Copper River north of Miles Lake.
- 16, the Beluga, Susitna, and McArthur rivers, the Deshka River (Kroto Creek) below its confluence with Trapper Creek, the Yentna River below its confluence with the Skwentna River, and Alexander Creek.
- 12, 20, 21, and 25, the Tanana and Yukon Rivers
- Unit 19, the Kuskokwim River
- Unit 25, the Porcupine River

It is legal to take a wolf at a bear bait station during an open wolf hunting season, provided the hunter has a hunting license, and the following are not present at the bait site: chemicals, scent lures, human food, animal food, mineral supplements, or garbage. In addition, if game parts are used as bait, only those parts not required to be salvaged may be used. (See page 26 for game that may be used as bear bait.)