

Black Bear Hunter Questionnaire 2011

by Brian Dhuey, Kevin Wallenfang, and Jes Rees

Abstract

Wisconsin black bear permit holders (Class A and B) were surveyed on their dog training and bear hunting experiences of the 2011 season. Class B permit holders participated in the dog training season at a significantly higher rate than Class A permit holders (41% vs. 9%, $P < .0001$). The percent of respondents that baited for bear (84.4% for Class A and 86.1% for Class B) did not differ significantly by license type, $P = 0.28$. Ninety-eight percent of Class A permit holders participated in the 2011 black bear hunting season. Of these hunters, 56% said they killed a bear.

Methods

In 1997 Wisconsin adopted a new permitting system for black bear hunters. Under the current system there are two types of permits issued, Class A and B. The Class A permit is valid for the dog training season and allows the holder to harvest a bear in a specific bear management zone during the hunting season. The Class B permit allows the holder to participate in the dog training season and to assist a Class A permit holder during the hunting season. The Class B permit holder is allowed to carry a weapon and kill a bear during the hunting season, but only to assist a Class A permit holder in killing a previously wounded bear.

A questionnaire was mailed to 5,000 black bear permit holders (2,500 Class A and 2,500 Class B) at the conclusion of the 2011 black bear hunting season. Class A permit holders were questioned about their activities during the dog training season and their black bear hunting experience. Class B permit holders were asked the same questions about the dog training season and if they assisted other bear hunters during the hunting season. A second mailing was made to non-respondents. All data were then entered into the DNR computer system and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System.

Results

Questionnaires were received from 2,410 (1,318 Class A, 1,092 Class B) permit holders. After duplicate questionnaires were removed, the resulting response rate was 47.5%. Class A permit holders responded to the questionnaire at slightly higher frequency than Class B permit holders (52% vs. 43%, Table 1).

Class B permit holders participated in the dog training season at a significantly ($P < .0001$) higher rate than Class A permit holders, 41% vs. 9% respectively (Tables 1 and 2, Question 1). Of the people participating in the dog training season, 56% of Class A permit holders and 64% of Class B permit holders owned all or some of their bear hunting dogs. The mean number of dogs owned was the same for Class A and B permit holders at 4.8 vs. 4.9 respectively (Tables 1 and 2, Question 1a). The mean number of days spent training dogs did not differ between groups, 16.3 days for Class A and 18.2 days for Class B. Most dog training occurred on public land (Tables 1 and 2, Question 1b). Forty-eight percent of the respondents with Class A, and 56% with Class B permits ran sow(s) with cub(s) at least once during the training season. Class A and B license holders reported seeing about the same number of cubs per sow, 2.3 and 2.2 (Tables 1 and 2, Question 1c).

Eighty-four percent of the respondents with Class A, and 86% with Class B permits baited for bear. Class A permit holders more frequently placed bait on private land, while Class B permit holders more frequently placed bait on public land. The mean start date of baiting was 01 August for Class A permit holders and 17 July for Class B. Most permit holders re-baited their sites twice a week. On average, Class B permit holders placed more gallons of bait than Class A permit holders, 333 vs. 193 gallons (Tables 1 and 2, Questions 2-2e).

Both Class A and B permit holders experienced interference during the early dog training and baiting season at fairly low rates, 26% and 36% respectively (Tables 1 and 2, Question 3). Of the permit holders that were interfered with, people pursuing bear with dogs was the most common activity that caused the interference.

Competition for a spot to train dogs or bait bears was not an issue for 74.9% (“None at all” or “A little” Tables 1 and 2, Question 4) of Class A permit holders and 63.1% of Class B permit holders. The majority all permit holders participating in dog trainers and/or baiters experienced “None at all” or “A little” interference from other dog trainers or baiters, 74.1% for Class A permit holders and 68.1% for Class B (Tables 1 and 2, Question 5). Fewer than 11% for Class A permit holders and 14% of Class B permit holders felt the need to move their baiting / dog training site(s) to avoid conflicts with other baiters / dog trainers (Tables 1 and 2, Question 6). Of those who did move dog training / baiting sites, most moved 1-5 miles (Tables 1 and 2, Question 6a).

The majority of Class A permit holders (48.6%) felt that the bear population was “About the same as last year” while 48.4% of the Class B permit holders felt that the bear populations was “About the same as last year” (Tables 1 and 2, Question 7).

A recent change to Wisconsin law now allows Class B permit holders to continue training dogs by pursuing bear during the hunting season, previously not allowed. Class A permit holders were asked if this law change would influence how they applied for a harvest permit. Most (54.1%) said that this law change would have “No change in the way I apply for a Class A license” (Table 1, Question 8).

Ninety-eight percent of the Class A permit holders hunted during the black bear season (Table 1, Question 9). Seventy-nine percent of Class B permit holders assisted with the hunting of bear (Table 2, Question 8).

Class A permit holders averaged 8.4 days afield in pursuit of bear, the majority of them hunting on private land (Table 1, Question 10). While hunting with the aid of dogs started on the 7th of September, hunting pressure was highest at the opening of the hunting over bait season (September 14th) (Table 1, Question 11). Most people (33.3%) that hunted on private land, “own and/or leased the land” they had access to (Table 1, Question 12). Few hunters (14.3%) hunted areas of known black bear damage or at the request of a landowner (20.4%) (Table 1, Question 13). Most black bear hunters (67.9%) had someone assist them while hunting. Of those that did have assistance, most (35%) used a “hunting partner for help” (Table 1, Question 15). Few hunters (21.9%) provided a monetary payment for the assistance (Table 1, Question 16).

A new law allowing Class B permit holders to carry a weapon while assisting Class A permit holders was in effect for the 2011 bear season. As a result, 17.3% of Class A permit holders said that the people assisting them carried a weapon. This was similar to Class B permit

holders who said they assisted with a hunt and carried a weapon (21%) (Table 1, Question 17; Table 2, Question 8)

The most commonly used method to hunt black bear was baiting (80.3%). Combination of bait and dogs was the next most commonly used hunting method (11.2%; Table 1, Question 18). The most common weapon used while hunting was a rifle/shotgun, followed by a bow, muzzleloader, and handgun (Table 1, Question 19).

Fifty-six percent of survey respondents said they were successful in killing a bear (Table 1, Question 20). Most bears (55%) were killed on private land (Table 1, Question 20a). Only 13% of successful bear hunters continued to “run bears with dogs after they harvested a bear” Sixty-eight percent of black bear hunters declined to take at least one opportunity to harvest a bear, the most common reason stated was they were waiting for a larger bear (Table 1, Questions 21 and 21a). The number of hunters who rated their hunting experience as “Very High” or “Fairly High” was 36% (Table 1, Question 22).

“Seeing bear” was the factor that most influenced a hunter’s perception of a “quality” bear hunt. Having “An opportunity to kill a bear” was the next most important factor. “Weather” was the factor having the least influence (Table 1, Question 23).

Most bear Class A permit holders did not have their bear hunt interfered with by other hunters this fall (73.3%). Of the hunters that were interfered with, other bear hunters were the most common cause of the interference (63.2%; Table 1, Question 24).

Nineteen percent of Class A permit holders felt that “other bear hunters kept me from hunting where I wanted to” “A lot” or “Some”. Similarly, 30% of respondents answered the question of “How much competition from other hunters did you experience” with “A lot” or “Some”. Twenty-three percent of Class A permit holders felt that “other hunters interfered with their chance to bag a bear” “A lot” or “Some” (Table 1, Question 25).

Class A permit holders were asked “On a scale of 1 to 9, with 9 being the most crowded and 1 the least, how crowded by other bear hunters did you feel”. The mean response was 2.8, and the response with the highest frequency was 1 (Table 1, Question 26).

Forty-three percent of Class A permit holders said that the number of permits should “definitely or probably increase” while just 13.9% said that they should “definitely or probably decrease” (Table 1, Question 27).

Class A permit holders on average observed 5.7 other bear hunters while out hunting bear. Most Class A permit holders (66.2%) felt that the number of bear hunters they saw was “About the right amount”. Yet when asked the number of bear hunters they would prefer to see, the mean response was 1.7 bear hunters (Table 1, Question 28-30).

Table 1. Responses to the 2011 Black Bear Class A License Questionnaire.

Response of survey participants by permit type issued.

Class A	Zone A		Zone B	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Resident	440	93.8	228	97.4
Nonresident	29	6.2	6	2.6

Class A	Zone C		Zone D		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Resident	355	98.6	180	92.8	1,203	95.7
Nonresident	5	1.4	14	7.2	54	4.3

Class B	Frequency	Percent
Resident	1,037	96.4
Nonresident	39	3.6

Class A License Holders

Question 1. Did you participate in the 2011 dog training season (1 July – 31 August)?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	119	9.3
No	1,157	90.7

No Answer = 23

If yes, answer questions 1a through 1c. **If no**, go to question 2.

Question 1a. Do you own the dogs?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	66	55.5
No	53	44.5

If yes, how many dogs do you own? Mean number of dogs: **4.8**

Question 1b. What Bear Management Zone did you train in (see map), how many days did you train, and on what type of land? (If you trained on more than one type of land on a given day, list only the land in which you spent the **most** of your time.)

Bear Zone	Private Land		Public Land		Industrial Land	
	Total Days	Mean Days	Total Days	Mean Days	Total Days	Mean Days
A	81	7.4	756	14.8	75	12.5
B	20	6.7	320	12.8	52	26.0
C	3	3.0	120	20.0	N/A	N/A
D	82	13.7	411	17.1	24	8.0

Overall mean days trained: **16.3**

Question 1c. Did you run any sows with cubs?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	56	47.9
No	61	52.1

No answer = 2

If yes, how many sow(s) and cub(s) and average cubs per sow?

Answer	Total	Mean
Sows	185	3.3
Cubs	265	5.2
Avg. Cub(s)/Sow	N/A	2.3

Question 2. Did you bait for bear during the past season (15 April – 11 October 2011)?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Go to Question 2a)	1,061	84.4
No (Go to Question 3)	196	15.6

No answer = 42

Question 2a. How many sites and on what type of land did you place bait?

Answer	Frequency	Mean Sites
# of Private land bait sites	709	2.3
# of Public land bait sites	401	5.2
# of Industrial land bait sites	28	5.2

Question 2b. Approximately, what was the date you started baiting for bear in 2011?

Mean starting date was: **01 August**

Question 2c. How often did you re-bait the sites? (Check the **best** answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Daily	213	20.3
Every other day	270	25.8
Twice a week	318	30.3
Weekly	207	19.8
Every other week	40	3.8

No answer = 13

Question 2d. Were you establishing/maintaining bait sites for someone other than YOURSELF?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	141	13.7
No	886	86.3

No answer = 34

If **yes**, how many others were you baiting for? Mean # of People: **2.8**

Question 2e. Please make an estimate as to the **total** number of gallons of bait used during the **entire** bear season. Mean number of gallons: **193.4**

Question 3. Did you experience any interference from other bear dog trainers or baiters during the dog training / bear baiting season?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Go to 3a)	321	26.2
No (Go to 4)	905	73.8

No answer = 73

Question 3a. If **yes**, what were they doing?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Pursuing bears with dogs	204	64.6
Establishing / rebaiting sites	66	20.9
I don't know what they were doing	46	14.6

No answer = 5

Question 4. How much competition, if at all, did you experience in finding a spot to train your dog / bait bear during the dog training / bear baiting season? (Circle the best answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
A lot	81	7.1
Some	206	18.0
A little	237	20.7
None at all	620	54.2

No answer = 155

Question 5. How much, if at all, were your dog training / bear baiting activities interfered with by the presence of other dog trainers / bear baiters? (Circle the best answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
A lot	65	5.8
Some	225	20.1
A little	217	19.4
None at all	612	54.7

No answer = 180

Question 6. Did you have to move your dog training / bear baiting site(s) to avoid conflicts with other dog trainers / baiters?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Go to question 6a)	122	10.6
No (Go to 7)	1,027	89.4

No Answer = 150

Question 6a. How far did you have to move? (Circle the best answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 mile	26	21.5
1-5 miles	62	51.2
6-10 miles	17	14.1
11-15 miles	7	5.8
16-20 miles	2	1.7
More than 20	7	5.8

No answer = 1

Question 7. What is your impression of the current Black Bear population? (Check only one)

Bear Population	Frequency	Percent
More than last year	375	32.5
About the same as last year	561	48.6
Less than last year	218	18.9

No answer = 144

Question 8. A recent change to the bear regulations allows for the training of dogs during the bear hunting season WITHOUT the need of a Class A (harvest permit) license in the hunting party. How, if at all, do you think this new law might change the way you apply for a Class A (harvest permit) license? (Check all that apply)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
More likely to apply for a Class A license	54	4.5
Less likely to apply for a Class A license	145	12.0
No change in the way I apply for a Class A license	651	54.1
Not Sure	302	25.1
Other	52	4.3

Question 9. Did you hunt black bear during the 2011 season?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1,246	97.5
No	32	2.5

No answer = 21

Question 10. How many days, and on what type of land did you hunt?

Land Type	Frequency	Mean Days
Private	853	8.1
Public	512	6.2
Industrial	31	4.6

Mean days hunted: **8.4**

Question 11. Please check all the days that you hunted during the 2011 bear season:
(Percent)

Date ^a	Percent	Date ^a	Percent	Date ^a	Percent
Sep, 7 2011	2.6	Sep, 19 2011	1.3	Oct, 1 2011	2.8
Sep, 8 2011	2.2	Sep, 20 2011	0.5	Oct, 2 2011	6.0
Sep, 9 2011	2.1	Sep, 21 2011	0.9	Oct, 3 2011	2.1
Sep, 10 2011	1.8	Sep, 22 2011	0.9	Oct, 4 2011	3.2
Sep, 11 2011	1.5	Sep, 23 2011	1.3	Oct, 5 2011	0.6
Sep, 12 2011	0.6	Sep, 24 2011	2.9	Oct, 6 2011	0.9
Sep, 13 2011	0.6	Sep, 25 2011	3.6	Oct, 7 2011	2.4
Sep, 14 2011	4.4	Sep, 26 2011	0.6	Oct, 8 2011	4.1
Sep, 15 2011	5.7	Sep, 27 2011	0.5	Oct, 9 2011	7.7
Sep, 16 2011	5.1	Sep, 28 2011	0.7	Oct, 10 2011	3.5
Sep, 17 2011	6.4	Sep, 29 2011	0.9	Oct, 11 2011	14.0
Sep, 18 2011	4.0	Sep, 30 2011	1.9		

^aBoldfaced dates represent weekends.

Question 12. If you hunted on **private land**, how did you obtain access? (Check only one)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
I own and/or lease the land	307	33.3
I hunted land owned by a relative or family member	157	17.0
I hunted on a friend or neighbor's land	298	32.3
I obtained permission from a non-related/non-friend landowner	160	17.4
I hunted private land without permission	0	0.0

No answer = 324

Question 13. Did you hunt an area...

...because of known bear damage?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	151	14.3
No	905	85.7

No answer = 190

...at the request of a landowner?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	206	20.4
No	806	79.6

No answer = 234

Question 14. Did someone assist you in your bear hunting in 2011?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	843	67.9
No	398	32.1

No answer = 5

Question 15. Was this assistance from a hunting partner, from some else, or both?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Hunting partner	287	35.0
Someone else	281	34.2
Both hunting partner and someone else	253	30.8

No answer = 5

Question 16. Did you provide monetary payment for this assistance?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	180	21.9
No	643	78.1

No answer = 20

Question 17. Did anyone assisting you carry a weapon during the hunting season?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	142	17.3
No	680	82.7

No answer = 21

Question 18. What method did you use **most** while hunting? (Check only one)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Baiting	996	80.3
Hunting with dogs	99	8.0
Combination of bait and dogs	139	11.2
No dogs or bait	6	0.5
Other	0	0.0

No answer = 6

Question 19. What type of weapon did you use **most** while hunting? (Check only one)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Bow	276	22.2
Rifle/Shotgun	878	70.6
Muzzleloader	69	5.6
Handgun	20	1.6

No answer = 3

Question 20. Did you kill a bear?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	695	56.0
No	546	44.0

No answer = 5

Question 20a. **If yes**, on what type of land did you kill the bear?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Private Land	388	55.5
Public Land	299	42.8
Industrial Land	12	1.7

No answer = 4

Question 20b. Did you continue to run bears with dogs after you harvested a bear?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	76	13.0
No	511	87.1

No answer = 116

Question 21. Did you shoot at the first bear which presented an opportunity?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	336	32.4
No	700	67.6

No answer = 210

Question 21a. If **no**, please tell us which of the following was the reason. (Check only one)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Waiting for a better shot	37	9.5
Waiting for a larger bear	307	79.1
Waiting for a bear with a "better" coat (color, condition)	8	2.1
Did not know if the bear had cub(s)	12	3.1
Wanted to hunt longer	22	5.7
After shooting hours	2	0.5

No answer = 5

Question 22. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the 2011 black bear season? (Check only one)

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Very High	198	16.3
Fairly High	235	19.3
Average	421	34.6
Fairly Low	180	14.8
Very Low	182	15.0

No answer = 30

Question 23. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a “quality” bear hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with “1” having the most effect and “7” having the least effect on a “quality” bear hunting experience. (Mean response)

Factor	% Ranking	Mean
An opportunity to kill a bear	42.2	2.5
Seeing bear	44.6	2.3
Working with dogs and pursuing bear / planning bait sites and scouting	21.9	4.1
Weather	10.6	4.6
Not seeing other hunters	26.2	3.8
Spending time with friends and family	34.8	3.2
Killing a bear	38.4	3.0

Question 24. While you were afield this fall, did the presence of other hunters interfere with your bear hunting?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	328	26.7
No	900	73.3

No answer = 18

If **yes**, what were the other hunters hunting? (Check all that apply)

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Archery Deer	62	19.3
Small Game	39	12.2
Turkeys	3	0.9
Bear	132	41.1
Bear Dog Training	71	22.1
Unknown	14	4.4

No answer = 7

Question 25. Other **bear** hunters may have affected your hunt. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2011 bear hunt.

Response	A lot	Some	A little	None at all
How much, if at all did other bear hunters keep you from hunting where you wanted?	5.3	13.2	14.0	67.5
How much competition from other bear hunters did you experience?	10.2	20.0	25.3	44.6
Overall, how much did other bear hunters interfere with your chance to bag a bear?	8.2	15.2	19.0	57.7

Question 26. On a scale of 1 to 9, with 9 being the most crowded and 1 being the least, how crowded by other **bear** hunters did you feel during your 2011 bear hunt?

Mean value of response: **3.0** 1, most frequent at 38.8%

Question 27. Thinking about the zone you bear hunted in 2011, would you say the number of harvest permits should...

Response	Frequency	Percent
definitely increase	250	20.3
probably increase	278	22.5
stay the same	420	34.0
probably decrease	109	8.8
definitely decrease	63	5.1
I don't know	114	9.2

No answer = 12

Question 28. Approximately, how many other bear hunters did you see while bear hunting this fall?

Mean value of response: **5.7**

Question 29. How did you feel about the number of bear hunters you saw this fall? (Check only one) I saw...

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Too many other bear hunters	232	20.0
About the right amount	769	66.2
Too few other bear hunters	160	13.8

No answer = 85

Question 30. How many other bear hunters would you **PREFER** to see? (if you don't want to see any other bear hunters, please enter 0)

Mean value of response: **1.7**

Table 2. Responses to the 2011 Black Bear Class B License Questionnaire.

Class B License Holders

Question 1. Did you participate in the 2011 dog training season (1 July – 31 August)?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Answer questions 1a through 1c)	444	41.4
No	629	58.6

No Answer = 12

If yes, answer the questions 1a through 1c. **If no**, go to question 2.

Question 1a. Do you own the dogs?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	281	63.7
No	160	36.3

No Answer = 3

If yes, how many dogs do you own? Mean number of dogs: **4.9**

Question 1b. What Bear Management Zone did you train in (see map), how many days did you train, and on what type of land? (If you trained on more than one type of land on a given day, list only the land in which you spent the **most** of your time.)

Bear Zone	Private Land		Public Land		Industrial Land	
	Total Days	Mean Days	Total Days	Mean Days	Total Days	Mean Days
A	412	10.8	2,047	14.4	195	9.3
B	143	8.4	1,579	16.6	255	15.0
C	166	13.8	626	15.3	13	4.3
D	329	10.0	2,129	17.6	201	14.4

Overall mean days trained = 18.2

Question 1c. Did you run any sows with cubs?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	244	56.2
No	190	43.8

No answer = 10

If yes, how many sow(s) and cub(s)?

Answer	Total	Mean
Sows	226	3.7
Cubs	210	5.8
Avg. Cub(s)/Sow	173	2.2

Question 2. Did you bait for bear during this past season (15 April – 11 October 2011)?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Go to Question 2a)	901	86.1
No (Go to Question 3)	146	13.9

No answer = 38

Question 2a. How many sites and on what type of land did you place bait?

Answer	Frequency	Mean Sites
# of Private land bait sites	513	2.9
# of Public land bait sites	579	9.8
# of Industrial land bait sites	51	5.6

Question 2b. Approximately, what was the date you started baiting for bear in 2011?

Mean starting date was: **17 July**

Question 2c. How often did you re-bait the sites? (Check the **best** answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Daily	193	21.8
Every other day	199	22.4
Twice a week	294	33.2
Weekly	163	18.4
Every other week	38	4.3

No answer = 14

Question 2d. Were you establishing/maintaining bait sites for someone other than YOURSELF?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	576	65.5
No	303	34.5

No answer = 22

If yes, how many others were you baiting for? Mean number of people: **3.0**

Question 2e. Please make an estimate as to the **total** number of gallons of bait used during the **entire** bear season. Mean number of gallons: **333.4**

Question 3. Did you experience any interference from other bear dog trainers or baiters during the dog training / bear baiting season?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Go to 3a)	372	36.1
No (Go to 4)	658	63.9

No answer = 55

Question 3a. If yes, what were they doing?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Pursuing bears with dogs	279	77.5
Establishing / rebaiting sites	50	13.9
I don't know what they were doing	31	8.6

No answer = 12

Question 4. How much competition, if at all, did you experience in finding a spot to train your dog / bait bear during the dog training / bear baiting season? (Circle the best answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
A lot	113	11.8
Some	242	25.2
A little	249	25.9
None at all	358	37.2

No answer = 123

Question 5. How much, if at all, were your dog training / bear baiting activities interfered with by the presence of other dog trainers / bear baiters? (Circle the best answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
A lot	82	8.6
Some	221	23.3
A little	254	26.7
None at all	393	41.4

No answer = 135

Question 6. Did you have to move your dog training / bear baiting site(s) to avoid conflicts with other dog trainers / baiters?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Go to question 6a)	139	14.2
No (Go to 7)	840	85.8

No Answer = 106

Question 6a. How far did you have to move? (Circle the best answer)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 mile	25	18.5
1-5 miles	76	56.3
6-10 miles	20	14.8
11-15 miles	5	3.7
16-20 miles	3	2.2
More than 20	6	4.4

No answer = 4

Question 7. What is your impression of the current Black Bear population? (Check only one)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
More than last year	266	26.5
About the same as last year	485	48.4
Less than last year	252	25.1

No answer = 82

Question 8. Did you assist with the hunting of bear during the 2011 season?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	833	79.0
No	222	21.0

No answer = 30

If YES, did you carry a weapon

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	170	21.2
No	632	78.8

No Answer 31

Question 9. Did you continue to train dogs during the bear hunting season without a Class A (harvest permit) license in your training group?

Answer	Frequency	Percent
Yes	113	13.2
No	742	86.8

No answer = 230

If yes, how many days did you train? Mean days: **7.4**

Question 10. A recent change to the bear regulations allows for the training of dogs during the bear hunting season WITHOUT the need of a Class A (harvest permit) license in the hunting party. How, if at all, do you think this new law might change the way you apply for a Class A (harvest permit) license? (Check all that apply)

Answer	Frequency	Percent
More likely to apply for a Class A license	39	3.9
Less likely to apply for a Class A license	99	9.8
No change in the way I apply for a Class A license	674	66.7
Not Sure	161	15.9
Other	38	3.8

No Answer 74

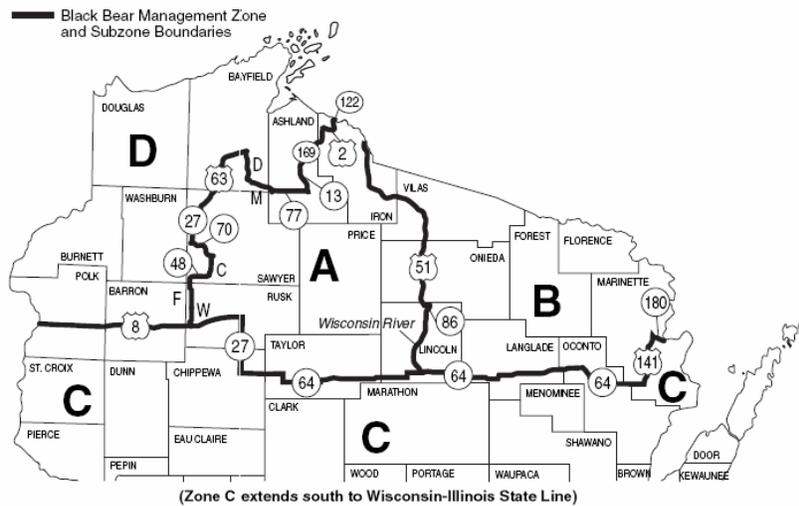
Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter:

You have been selected to provide us important information on the 2011 black bear season. This questionnaire is an effort to estimate the types of activities you participated in during the dog training/baiting and bear hunting seasons. Please answer the following questions. Answer only for yourself; do not include any information from friends or family members. The information you provide us will only be used for evaluating license usage and your impressions of black bear hunting in Wisconsin.

Your response is important, whether or not you hunted, or how much you hunted. After completing the questions please fold the questionnaire with the business reply side showing, tape the edge, and mail. No postage is necessary, although using your postage will save the DNR funds for management. Thank you for your cooperation and interest in our black bear management program.

Sincerely,

Linda Olver
 Linda Olver
 Assistant Deer and Bear Biologist
 Bureau of Wildlife Management



Dog Training / Baiting Season

<p>1. Did you participate in the 2011 dog training season (1 July - 31 August)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Answer questions 1a through 1c)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No (Go to question 2)</p>	<p>1a. Do you own the dogs?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes: How many dogs do you own? _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>																				
<p>1b. What Bear Management Zone did you train in (see map), how many days did you train, and on what type of land? (If you trained on more than one type of land on a given day, list only the land in which you spent most of your time.)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bear Mgmt. Zone</th> <th>Private Land Days</th> <th>Public Land Days</th> <th>Industrial Land Days</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Bear Mgmt. Zone	Private Land Days	Public Land Days	Industrial Land Days	A	_____	_____	_____	B	_____	_____	_____	C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____	<p>1c. Did you run any sows with cubs?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, how many sow(s), cub(s) and average cubs per sow?</p> <p>Sow(s): _____ Cub(s): _____ Average Cub(s)/Sow: _____</p> <p>2. Did you bait for bear during this past season (15 April - 11 October 2011)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Go to question 2a) <input type="checkbox"/> No (Go to question 3)</p>
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Figure 1. 2011 Black Bear Class A License Questionnaire.

<p>2c. How often did you re-bait the sites? (Check the best answer)</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Daily (4) <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly</p> <p>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Every other day (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Every other week</p> <p>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a week</p>	<p>2d. Were you establishing/maintaining bait sites for someone other than YOURSELF?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If YES, how many others were you baiting for?</p> <p>_____ # of people</p>																																																																								
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<p>12. If you hunted on private land, how did you obtain access? (Check only one)</p> <p>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> I own and/or lease the land.</p> <p>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I hunted land owned by a relative or family member.</p> <p>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> I hunted on a friend or neighbor's land.</p> <p>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> I obtained permission from a non-related/non-friend landowner.</p> <p>(5) <input type="checkbox"/> I hunted private land without permission.</p>	<p>13. Did you hunt an area...</p> <p>...because of known bear damage? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>...at the request of a landowner? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>																																																																								

Figure 1. 2011 Black Bear Class A License Questionnaire.

Bear hunters often rely on the help of others to prepare for and to hunt bear. With this in mind please answer the following questions

14. Did someone assist you in your bear hunting in 2011?
 Yes No (Go to 18)

15. Was this assistance from a hunting partner, from someone else, or both?
 (1) Hunting partner
 (2) Someone else
 (3) Both hunting partner and someone

16. Did you provide a monetary payment for this assistance?
 Yes No

17. Did anyone assisting you carry a weapon during the hunting season?
 Yes No

18. What method did you use **most** while hunting? (Check only one)
 (1) Baiting
 (2) Hunting with Dogs
 (3) Combination of Bait and Dogs
 (4) No dogs or bait
 (5) Other _____

19. What type of weapon did you use **most** while hunting? (Check only one)
 (1) Bow
 (2) Rifle/Shotgun
 (3) Muzzleloader
 (4) Handgun

20. Did you kill a bear?
 Yes (Go to 20a)
 No (Go to 21)

20a. If **yes**, on what type of land did you kill the bear?
 (1) Private Land (3) Industrial Land
 (2) Public Land

20b. Did you continue to run bears with dogs after you harvested a bear?
 Yes No

21. Did you shoot at the first bear which presented an opportunity?
 Yes (Go to 22) No (Go to 21a)

21a. If **no**, please tell us which of the following was the **most** important reason. (Check only one)
 (1) Waiting for a better shot
 (2) Waiting for a larger bear
 (3) Waiting for a bear with a "better" coat (color, condition)
 (4) Did not know if the bear had cubs
 (5) Wanted to hunt longer
 (6) After shooting hours

22. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the 2011 black bear season? (Check only one)
 (1) Very high (4) Fairly low
 (2) Fairly high (5) Very low
 (3) Average

23. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" bear hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on a "quality" bear hunting experience.
 _____ An opportunity to kill a bear
 _____ Seeing bear
 _____ Working with dogs and pursuing bear / planning bait sites and scouting
 _____ Weather
 _____ Not seeing other hunters
 _____ Spending time with friends and family
 _____ Killing a bear

24. While you were afield this fall, did the presence of other hunters interfere with your bear hunting?
 Yes No (Go to 25)
 If **yes**, what were the other hunters hunting? (Check all that apply)
 (1) Archery Deer (4) Bear
 (2) Small Game (5) Bear Dog Training
 (3) Turkeys (6) Unknown

25. Other **bear** hunters may have affected your hunt. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2011 bear hunt.

	(1) A lot	(2) Some	(3) A little	(4) None at all
a. How much, if at all, did other bear hunters keep you from hunting where you wanted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. How much competition from other bear hunters did you experience?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Overall, how much did other bear hunters interfere with your chance to bag a bear?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. On a scale of 1 to 9, with 9 being the most crowded and 1 being the least, how crowded by other **bear** hunters did you feel during your 2011 bear hunt?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Not at all		Slightly		Moderately				Extremely

(Circle ONE)

27. Thinking about the zone you bear hunted in 2011, would you say the number of harvest permits should...

	definitely increase	probably increase	stay the same	probably decrease	definitely decrease	I don't know
	<input type="checkbox"/>					

(Circle ONE)

28. Approximately, how many other bear hunters did you see while bear hunting this fall?

29. How did you feel about the number of bear hunters you saw this fall? (Check only one) I saw...
 (1) Too many other bear hunters
 (2) About the right amount
 (3) Too few other bear hunters

30. How many other bear hunters would you **PREFER** to see?

 (If you don't want to see any other bear hunters, please enter 0)

Figure 1. 2011 Black Bear Class A License Questionnaire.

Dear Wisconsin Bear Enthusiast:

You have been selected to provide us important information on the 2011 black bear season. This questionnaire is an effort to estimate the types of activities you as a Class B license holder, participated in during the dog training/baiting and bear hunting seasons. Please answer the following questions. Answer only for yourself; do not include any information from friends or family members. The information you provide us will only be used for evaluating license usage and your impressions of black bear pursuit/hunting in Wisconsin.

Your response is important, whether or not you trained/baited, or how much you trained/baited black bear. After completing the questions please fold the questionnaire with the business reply side showing, tape the edge, and mail. No postage is necessary, although using your postage will save the DNR funds for management. Thank you for your cooperation and interest in our black bear management program.

Sincerely,

Linda Olver

Linda Olver
Assistant Deer and Bear Biologist
Bureau of Wildlife Management

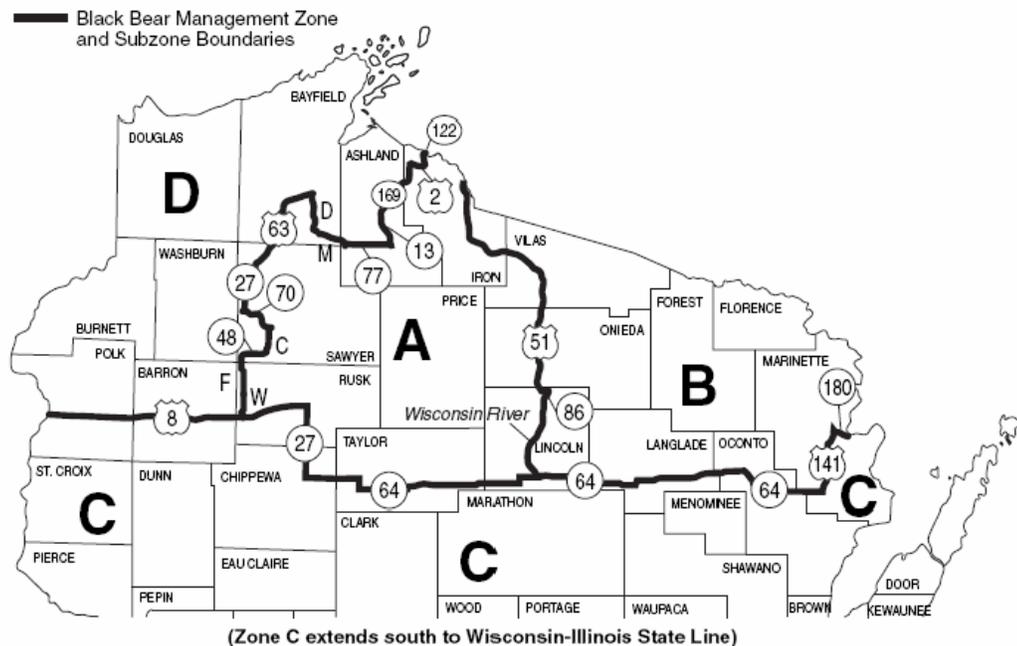


Figure 2. 2011 Black Bear Class B License Questionnaire.

Dog Training / Baiting Season																					
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Figure 2. 2011 Black Bear Class B License Questionnaire.