

# BEAR HUNTING

## SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

BEAR	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Chase-Only	Aug. 1-31 and Sept. 9-30, 2018		
Quota Hunt with Dogs*	Oct. 20 - Nov. 2, 2018		
Archery/Crossbow	Oct. 27 - Nov. 2, 2018		Closed
Modern Gun	Dec. 15-21, 2018		Closed
Muzzleloader	Closed		Dec. 8-16, 2018

\* Chase-Only season continues after quota is met.

BEAR HARVEST QUOTAS	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Quota Hunt with Dogs	Three (3) bears or two (2) female bears, whichever is reached first.	Eight (8) bears or three (3) female bears, whichever is reached first.	
Archery/Crossbow	Five (5) bears or two (2) female bears, whichever is reached first.	Ten (10) bears or four (4) female bears, whichever is reached first.	Closed
Modern Gun	Five (5) bears or two (2) female bears, whichever is reached first.	Fourteen (14) bears or four (4) female bears, whichever is reached first.	Closed
Muzzleloader	Closed		Five (5) bears or three (3) female bears, whichever is reached first.

### CHASE-ONLY SEASON WITH DOGS

Unless license exempt, participants must purchase a bear chase permit or youth bear chase permit and an annual hunting license.

Bear chase permits can be purchased online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) from July 1 - Dec. 31.

In any bear zone, a dog can be used to chase a bear on private land with permission of the landowner except the chase-only and quota hunt with dogs seasons are closed in McCreary County.

Bears can be chased during legal daylight hours only. Hunters cannot chase bears from a baited area while bait is present or for 30 days after the bait has been removed.

The bear quota hunt with dogs season also is open as a chase-only season for any person with a valid bear chase permit, even if the quota for the bear quota hunt with dogs season has been met.

### LEGAL BEAR HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- A modern rifle of .270 caliber or larger, with a magazine capable of holding no more than 10 rounds
- A muzzle-loading rifle of .50 caliber or larger
- A muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotgun no larger than 10-gauge, and no smaller than 20-gauge, firing a single projectile (slug, round ball, conical bullet or sabot bullet) only
- A handgun loaded with centerfire cartridges with a case length of 1.285 inches or larger, firing bullets of .270 caliber or larger designed to expand upon impact
- Firearms may not be fully automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull)
- Full metal jacketed or tracer bullet ammunition is prohibited
- Archery and crossbow equipment that is legal for deer hunting

### HUNTING SEASONS

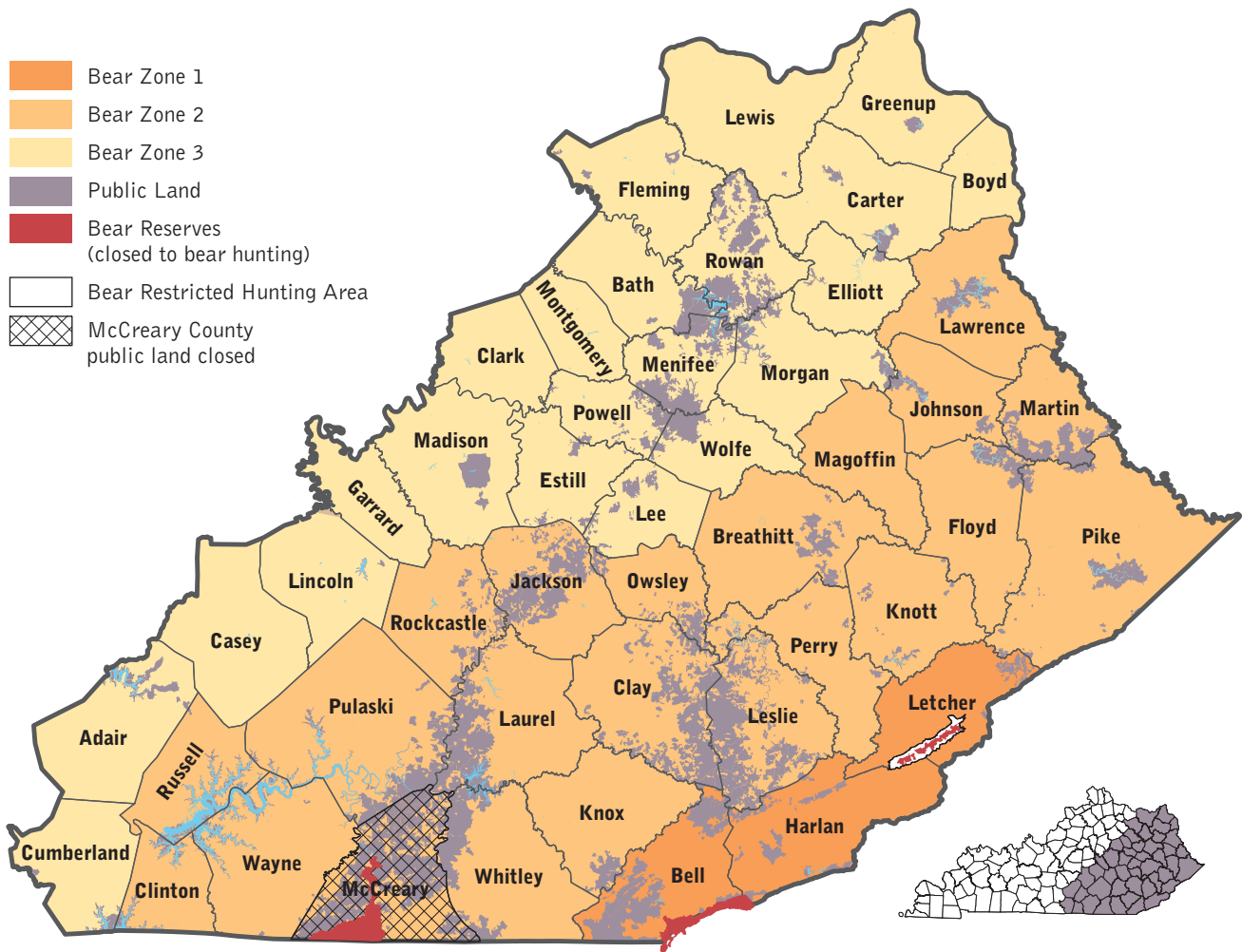
Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase and possess proof of the appropriate valid bear permit(s) in addition to an annual hunting license.

Hunters who harvest a bear during any bear hunting season must telecheck it by 8 p.m. Eastern time, and also call 1-800-858-1549 within 24 hours of

harvest to arrange for a physical check of the animal and receive a tag issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Bears physically checked during any hunting season must include a carcass or an intact hide that contains the skull and proof of sex.

Hunters must call 1-800-858-1549 after 9 p.m. (Eastern) on each day of a

# BEAR HUNTING ZONES



bear hunting season to check if the quota for that season has been reached. If the quota has not been reached, the season will continue through the next day.

If a harvest quota limit is reached, the season will close 30 minutes after sunset that day.

## HUNTER RESTRICTIONS

- Hunters and houndsmen may not disturb or take bears from dens.
- Bear hunting is prohibited in the following areas within bear zone 1: Big South Fork National River and

Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Kingdom Come State Park, and the Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA. Additionally, bear hunting within the 12,094 acres surrounding Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA and Kingdom Come State Park is limited to landowners, their spouses and dependent children hunting on their own property.

- The chase-only and bear quota hunt with dogs seasons are closed in McCreary County.
- All archery, crossbow and modern gun hunting for bears in McCreary County is limited to private land.
- Hunters may not take female bears with cubs, or any bear weighing less than 75 pounds.
- Hunters may not use bait during any bear season.
- Dogs may not be used to hunt bears

during the archery/crossbow, modern gun or muzzleloader seasons, but leashed tracking dogs may be used to recover wounded bears.

- Hunters 15 years old and younger who use a firearm must be accompanied by an adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

## HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT

Bear hunters and those who accompany them, or any other person hunting on public or private lands in the bear hunting zones during a firearm season for bears, must comply with the hunter orange clothing law. This requirement also applies to any person chasing bears during the bear quota hunt with dogs season.

**Q:** Is it legal to shoot a bear that is feeding at a trash can or dumpster?

**A:** No. Garbage is considered bait.