

# Black Bear Depredation Permits

Presented by  
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Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



# Managing Damage to Small Industrial Forest Lands

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Master hunters have the skills to assist WDFW with requests from landowners under a depredation permit issued by the department to hunt black bear causing damage to timber.

The nature of this program and authorization from the director makes this a high profile topic and often results in public disclosure requests.



# Program History

- **Originated within WDFW Enforcement to deal with timber damage**
- **Not part of the Spring Bear Hunt program.**
  - **Small forest land owners property size may not qualify for the Spring Bear Hunt program**
- **Over the years, Master Hunter participation has been minimal**
- **Is currently an objective in the WDFW Game Management Plan**





06/28/2011





05/20/2010





05.03.2005



- **Bear Timber Damage season is from mid April to end of June**

			Region 4		Region 5		Region 6	
Black Bear	Total Permits Issued	Total Bear Harvest	Permits	Harvest	Permits	Harvest	Permits	Harvest
2015	100	92	8	4	30	34	62	54
2014	107	95	8	15	39	27	60	53
2013	144	117	11	9	87	62	46	46
2012	123	134	6	9	73	70	44	55
2011	168	183	25	27	74	83	69	73
2010	152	176	29	34	43	84	60	58

- **Permits for Master Hunters are valid for 30 days.**
- **Most of the harvest occurs during the first 15 days**

Harvest 2015		
18 Permits	2 Bears in first 15 days	36
28 permits	1 Bear in first 15 days	28
5 Permits	2 Bears in first 30 days	10
15 Permits	1 Bear in first 30 days	15
3 Permits	1 Bear in 45+ days	3
68 Total Permits		92



# WDFW Depredation Permit

- April – June Season
- Licenses and tags are required for all hunters
- Authorized for 2 bears
- Must report activity to WDFW
- Bears carcass and all parts must be disposed of as per the permit



## PERMIT DEPREDATION

Permit Number # \_\_\_\_\_

### Removal of Animal

This permit constitutes a limited appointment of authority to hunt, haze, and kill black bear that are damaging crops. This permit also authorizes the use of hunting dogs or baiting as a method of hunting as specified within the affidavit and permit. This limited appointment does not include the ability to bind the state to contracts or other obligations, and permittee shall be deemed an independent contractor who shall be solely liable for any and all damage arising out of any activities connected with this permit. Compensation shall be the sole responsibility of the land owner or other person hiring the permittee to remove black bear. Authority for this permit is granted under RCWs 77.15.194, 77.12.240, 77.15.245, 77.36.030, and WACs 232-12-142, 232-12-025.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reserves the right to verify damage via site visit at any time. Prior notification will be made to applicants. Permits are subject to revocation if damage is unverifiable.

The activity granted by this permit applies only to the property owner, tenant of the property described on the permit, and the permittees listed. Any person exercising the privileges granted by this permit must have this permit in his/her immediate possession.

This permit is valid only for the dates specified below. Permittees must report the results of their hunt, whether or not any animals are killed, to the WDFW Wildlife Conflict Section within five (5) business days of the permit's expiration.

CustomerName		ContactName		Address	
Company Name		Representative's Name		Street Address	
City	State	PostalCode	OfficePhone	CellPhone	
City	State	Zip Code	Office Phone	Call Phone	
Is authorized to Kill		#Issued Animal2	using METHOD only		
Permit Area (Top, Rg, Sec)		AreaTwnRgSec	Local Name	LocalName	
GPS Coordinates	Lat	GPSLat	Long	GPSLong	County
County	County	Acres	Acres		
Permit Valid from	PermitStartDate	To	PermitExpireDate		
Describe Actual or Immediate Threat to Property:		Comments			
<p>I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read the terms and conditions of this permit, and I agree to be bound by them. I also waive for myself, my heirs, administrators, and assignees, all claims against the state of Washington, its officers, agents, or employees, for all injury or loss occurring in any manner whatsoever while exercising the privileges granted by this permit. I further agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the state of Washington, its officers, agents, or employees, from any and all claims arising from injury or loss to any other person or property directly or indirectly related to the use of any privileges granted by this permit.</p>					
<b>PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED BY PERMITTEE AND WDFW TO BE VALID</b>					
Landowner Signature		Permittee		Date	
Printed Name		Printed Name		Date	
Hunter1	Hunter2	Hunter3		Hunter4	
Permittee Name	Permittee Name	Permittee Name		Permittee Name	
Hunter4	Hunter5	Hunter6			
Permittee Name	Permittee Name	Permittee Name		Permittee Name	
Issued by (Signature)		Wildlife Conflict Section		Date	
Wild Signature		Wildlife Conflict Section		Date	
Hide Tags: Hide1, Hide2		Tooth Envelopes: Tooth1, Tooth2			



# Requesting a Permit

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## Verification of Damage

- Forester
- Conflict Specialist
- Agency Staff

## Applications submitted to WDFW

- GPS coordinates & certification letter

## Screened by WDFW

- Agency unique # assigned
- Tooth envelopes & tags assigned

Permits emailed/ mailed to landowner  
Tags/Envelopes mailed out



# Cooperative Goals

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Verifying damage (foresters/ WDFW staff responsibility)

All participants must work to:

- Ensure hunters purchase necessary tags/licenses
- Coordinate to obtain reports of bears taken
- Ensure hunters turn in all unused tags and envelopes.



# Proposal to use Master Hunters

**WDFW values Master Hunters as a viable and quality option for small timber producers based on their ability to provide accuracy in removing specific offending bears.  
(Scalpel vs. Sword)**

- Provide the opportunity for Master Hunters to participate
- Have the support of the Small Forest Land Owners

**Need to define:**

1. Who coordinates selection of MH's within regions?
2. Are there lists of qualified and reliable MH's for timber owners to select from?
3. Not Agents of the State, just very qualified hunters.
4. MH's must be from corresponding damage region/GMU.



# Benefits

- Consideration and credit for participation**
  - **May count toward hours of service**
  - **Coordinate and work cooperatively with Hunter Education Division**
- Consideration for retention of animal**
- Promotes the Master Hunter program**
- Questions?**



# The End

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