



FACTS

WI's Wolves, bear baiting & bear hound payments

- In 2014, 22 bear hound dogs were sent into established wolf family territories and killed = **\$50,000**; hound vets = **\$5,827**
- In 2014, more money was paid out for bear hounds (**\$55,827**) than actual verified losses for all other combined categories (cattle, cattle vet, calves, sheep, domestic pets, pet vets, llamas, chicken, horses... = **\$31,902**) (<http://tinyurl.com/pqhf6wx>)
- In 2015 within Chequamegon-Nicolet Nat'l Forest, 7 compensated depredations (4 separate incidents) occurred in area DNR had flagged previously as being high risk for wolf attacks
- **\$573,512** paid out in hound depredation payments and vet bills since 1987
- **\$80,000+** has gone to repeat claimants (those who put dogs in successive situations where they were killed by wolves)
- **\$28,086** in claims has gone to hound hunters who live in other states
- **\$39,000** in claims has gone to hound hunters who have previously violated state hunting or firearms laws - (<http://wisconsinwatch.org/2014/01/state-pays-scofflaws-over-hound-deaths/>)



Bear baiting and bear dog training

Michigan Technological University peer-reviewed study: (<http://tinyurl.com/qcrrvyt>)

- MTU suggested depredation compensation creates incentive for abuse
- MTU study suggests bear baiting, beginning April 15, exacerbates chances for dog depredations as wolves will defend bait sites
- MTU study reported WI's "relative risk of attack on dogs is 2-7X higher than Michigan"; factors included **baiting** and **compensation**
- During bear dog training in **July & August**, bear hound hunters release their hound dogs at bait sites which increase chances of depredations since wolf families defend pups and bait sites at rendezvous locations this time of year

WDNR Bear Hunter Survey

- Based on 2014 WDNR Bear Hunter Survey, 12,000 unleashed bear hound dogs run on WI's landscape during bear training/hunting - (<http://tinyurl.com/pk4fzqd>)
- Bear baiting is illegal in 40 states (2014)
- 3/10 baiting states do not allow baiting before bear season begins (2014)
- According to WDNR Survey, 4,639,700 gallons of bait are put down on 82,340 bait sites on Wisconsin's landscape during bear training and hunting annually.
- No other state compensates owners of hound dogs killed by wolves

Bear baiting states (2014) & number of days baiting allowed before bear hunt begins:

Idaho & Wyoming = 7 days; Minnesota = 14 days; Michigan & Maine = 11-31 days

Wisconsin = 141 days (4.5 months)