



# 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)**