

Recreational Licenses

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Hunting

Sec. 29.193(2)(e), Wis. Stats.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (**DNR**) issues several different types of special hunting permits for people with disabilities. The permits are issued at no cost, although a hunter must obtain a valid hunting license in addition to the permit. If your application for a Class A or C permit is rejected, you may ask DNR for review of their decision.

Class A permit

The Class A permit is for hunters with certain permanent physical disabilities, who need physical or mechanical assistance for mobility. The initial permit is valid for five years. With a Class A permit, a hunter may:

1. Hunt with a crossbow.
2. Hunt with a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow from a vehicle parked at least 50 feet from the center line of roadways. (Permission from the property owner is required.)
3. Hunt from a vehicle legally parked along a county highway or town road, if the road is not within municipal boundaries and has not been restricted from this use. Permission from the property owner is required, and the vehicle must display disabled license plates or an 11" x 11" "Disabled Hunter" sign. All shots must be directed away from the roadway.

Note: Check with your local warden for restrictions against hunting from some roadways.

4. Take a deer of either sex with a regular gun deer license, without a hunter's choice permit.

Eligibility

Sec. 29.193(2)(c), Wis. Stats.

To qualify for a Class A permit, a doctor or licensed chiropractor must complete a Class A application form for you. (Any costs for this examination are your responsibility.) The doctor or chiropractor must verify that you have a permanent physical disability, which either:

Permanent physical disability

- prevents mobility without a wheelchair, walker, single leg brace or prosthesis above the knee, two leg braces or prosthesis below the knees, two crutches or two canes; or
- prevents you from exhaling at least one liter of air per second, or displacing at least 60 millimeters of mercury in a lung capacity test; or

- reflects a cardiovascular disorder with a severity rating of 3 or 4 by the standards of the American Heart Association. This is generally defined as a condition in which ordinary physical activity causes you to experience discomfort, fatigue, palpitation, dyspnea or anginal pain.

Sec. 29.193(2)(c)(3), Wis. Stat



If you are denied a Class A permit, you may ask for review to receive a Class B permit.

Class B permit

The Class B permit is for hunters with a temporary or permanent disability or medical condition resulting in a loss of mobility or an inability to hunt using traditional methods. Class B permits are commonly issued to people who have been fitted with a cast due to a leg, hip, or back injury, or who have undergone surgery to correct leg, hip, or back problems which result in a loss of mobility. The permit is issued for a time period sufficient to cover a specific hunting season or seasons, and expires at a time determined by the DNR. With a Class B permit, a hunter may:

1. Hunt from a stationary vehicle parked at least 50 feet from the center line of a roadway.
2. Have other possible hunting and fishing opportunities granted to Class A permit holders.

To qualify for a Class B permit, a doctor or licensed chiropractor must complete a Class B application form for you, indicating that your mobility has been restricted as the result of an injury or surgery involving your legs, back, or hip, or that a medical condition prevents you from hunting using traditional methods.

Class C permit Legally blind

The Class C permit is for legally blind hunters, allowing them to hunt when assisted by another person. The initial permit is valid for five years. Class C permit holders may:

1. Hunt with a crossbow.
2. Take a deer of either sex with a regular gun deer license, with no hunter's choice permit.

While hunting, Class C permit holders must be assisted by someone not eligible for a Class C permit, to help the permit holder identify targets; sight the firearm, bow, or crossbow; retrieve, tag, and field dress game. To hunt or carry a weapon, the assistant must also have a valid hunting license. To qualify for a Class C permit, you must have a licensed physician or optometrist complete the Class C application form, certifying that you are legally blind.

Crossbow hunting

Crossbow hunting is automatically authorized with a Class A or Class C permit. It may also be authorized for those unable to use a bow and

arrow due to a permanent disability. To qualify, you must submit an application form indicating that you have either an amputation or loss of one or both arms above the wrist; amputation or loss of certain fingers; or permanent, substantial loss of function in one or both hands, arms, or shoulders, as determined by a physician.

Gun deer and turkey hunting events

The DNR authorizes **gun deer hunting** opportunities for Class A and Class C permit holders each year in the early fall, and **turkey hunting** in certain state parks during the spring turkey hunting season.

DNR's website
www.dnr.state.wi.us

Contact your local DNR wildlife manager for more information, or write to:

DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management
P.O. Box 7921,
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Fishing

Permit to Fish or Troll with an Electric Motor

All Class A hunting permit holders also receive authorization to troll with an electric motor. Others who are missing a hand or an arm, or who have permanently lost significant function of a hand or arm, may qualify for a trolling permit. To apply, complete and submit a Permit to Troll application to a DNR office. Note that you must have a valid fishing license to use the permit.

Discounted Annual Fishing License for Wisconsin Residents

Wisconsin residents with disabilities are eligible for a discounted fishing license if, because of a disability, they receive Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement benefits, or Veteran's disability compensation for a reduction in earning capacity of greater than 70%. The fishing license must be renewed annually, and license holders must also purchase required fishing stamps. To qualify for the fishing license discount, you must complete a Reduced Rate Fishing License Application form when purchasing the license and provide evidence of receiving disability benefits, such as a letter or notice from the agency paying your benefits. Wisconsin residents who are legally blind may also receive a fishing license discount. In this case, a physician or optometrist must certify your legal blindness on the application form.

Much of this information also appears in the Department of Natural Resources publication What You Should Know About Permits for People with Disabilities, and has been used with permission of the DNR. Any errors are of course entirely my own.