

WDFW Help

Can I use bait when I go out hunting?

You cannot use bait to hunt black bear in Washington State.

In accordance with WAC 220-414-030, it is unlawful to hunt for deer and elk using any type of bait placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the purpose of attracting deer or elk with the intent to hunt them, if the volume of bait accessible to wildlife exceeds 10 gallons. Bait sites of an individual license holder cannot be placed within 200 yards from another known bait site or another bait site of the same license holder.

There are some exceptions to this rule. They include:

- Hunting on or over locally common agricultural and ranching practices, including salt or mineral distribution and feeding.
- Hunting on or over food that is available from undisturbed wild, volunteer, or planted vegetation, including fruit trees, orchards, vineyards, and food plots.
- Hunting on or over scents used for cover and attractant that are not consumed by animals.
- Hunting on or over naturally occurring mineral deposits.
- Using bait as authorized by a department permit issued to address a management objective.

The exceptions do not include accidental or intentional spills, dumping, or storage of agricultural produce, feed, or bait.

A violation of this section is punishable as an infraction under RCW 77.15.160 if no animal has been shot or killed and RCW 77.15.410 if an animal has been shot or killed.

For more information on baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk, see the most current Big Game hunting pamphlet, located on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/>.

Per Washington Administrative Code 220-414-090, it is illegal to hunt waterfowl, wild turkeys, or deer with the use or aid of electronic calls and battery powered or other electronic devices as decoys. This information can be found in the most recent Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game pamphlet, located on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/>.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/help/questions/331/>