



State of Utah

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Predatory Mammals and Furbearer Program Coordinator

DATE: November 19, 2021

**SUBJECT: 2022-23 COUGAR & FURBEARER RECOMMENDATIONS
2022 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS**

FURBEARER

We are recommending bobcat permits and season stay the same in 2022-23 as they are this season. Six permits per individual with no permit cap. Season dates will be November 17, 2022 through March 1, 2023.

Other season dates are:

Beaver and Mink – September 17, 2022 to April 1, 2023

Marten, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk and Weasel – September 17, 2022 to March 1, 2023

COUGAR

The Utah Wildlife Board approved permit numbers in August for a three-year management cycle. At the same time, the Board approved a scheduling change for cougar recommendations to be concurrent with bear recommendation in December/January each year. We are making recommendations for 2022-23 cougar season.

Most seasons are going to be the same with adjustments for the calendar year, but we are recommending a few changes to address we have on select units where hound and bear bait hunting overlap and have cause enforcement issues.

Units with no changes to season structure are as follows:



Harvest Objective and Predator Management (unlimited) units:

- July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Harvest Objective season on La Sal, San Juan, Mtns and Book Cliffs, East units:

- No dogs from July 1 – November 1, 2022 and from March 31 – June 30, 2023, except for people with valid bear permits

Limited Entry season:

- November 2, 2022 – February 19, 2023
- Oquirrh-Stansbury, East and Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry units
 - November 2, 2022 – March 21, 2023
- Harvest Objective opens at the end of these seasons on these units if all permits aren't filled and runs through May 31, 2023

Pursuit season:

- November 2, 2022 – May 31, 2023
- Pursuit on La Sal, San Juan, Mtns and Book Cliffs, East units
 - November 2, 2022 – March 31, 2023
 - Hunters with valid bear permits for these units may pursue from April 1, 2023 – May 26, 2023

Units with changes to season structure are as follows:

Harvest Objective season on the South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal, South Slope, Yellowstone and Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek:

- No dogs May 28 – June 30, 2023 to avoid dogs in the field during the black bear bait season on those units

We are also recommending a rule change to reflect big game recommendation on trail camera use and sale of trail camera data.

BLACK BEAR

The next three-year black bear recommendation cycle begins in 2022, so we will be recommending permit numbers for that period now. Those recommendations are include in your information packet and show this year's recommendation compared to last year for each season.

Also included in your packet is a table that shows the plan guidelines for adjusting permits. Biologist have the option to adjust permits up or down within a range to try to bring management parameter within the management objectives.

In addition to permit recommendations, we are recommending seasons for the next three-year cycle. As mentioned above, we are recommending some changes on a few units to address concerns about hounds and bait being in the field at the same time and making law enforcement difficult.

Hunts with season date changes are as follows:



South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal, South Slope, Yellowstone and Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek:

- April 2 – May 27, 2022 spring hound season
- May 28 – June 26, 2022 summer bait season

This change removes the overlap of hound and bait seasons on those units to address concerns we are seeing on those units.

Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South:

- August 6 – 19, 2022 hounds or spot-and-stalk only
- August 10 – October 6, 2022 bait or spot-and-stalk only
- October 7 – November 3, 2022 hounds or spot-and-stalk only

This change eliminates the overlap of hounds and bait hunting in the book cliffs, but keep the same season structure as last year.

General fall season:

- August 8 – September 27, 2022 and November 3 – 13, 2022
- No early bait placement
- Hunter will need to choose if they want to hunt with dogs or bait when they apply

Under the current hunt structure, a person could use both bait stations and hounds with the same permit. This change will eliminate that possibility.

All other seasons are the same as last year and adjusted for the calendar. Specific dates are include in the season table in your information packet.

We are recommending a handful of rule changes:

- Adding a spot-and-stalk definition
- Use big game rule as foundation for legal weapon types
- Add trail camera language to reflect big game regulations
- Change “written permission” to “authorization” to remove a bear carcass from a trap if it is caught accidentally
- Allowing for online bait station registration
- Removing references to archery-only hunts which we no longer offer
- Other housekeeping changes including removing the hotline language

A red-line copy of rule changes is include in your information packet.

