2015 UTAH BIG GAME FIELD REGULATIONS

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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WHAT'S NEW?

Boundary changes: Some hunt boundaries have changed this year, including the northern boundary of the Wasatch elk unit and the Oquirrh-Stansbury general-season deer unit. To find a map and description of the area you want to hunt, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*.

New antlerless elk-control areas: Did you obtain a buck, bull or once-in-a-lifetime permit this year? If so, you may be eligible to purchase an antlerless elk-control permit. This year, you can use an elk-control permit in three new areas: Mt. Dutton; Pine Valley and West Desert, Vernon. See page 19 or *wildlife.utah.gov/elkcontrol* for more information about antlerless elk-control areas.

Changes to extended archery areas: For 2015, the Wildlife Board has approved a new West Cache extended archery deer area and eliminated the Sanpete extended archery elk area. For more information, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery* or see the information box on page 23.

Extended archery opportunity: This year, for the first time, limited-entry deer and elk archery hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will also be allowed to hunt extended archery seasons.

Season date extensions: There are longer seasons this year for both limited-entry muzzleloader elk hunts and mountain goat hunts. If you're participating in one of these hunts, please see *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* or look at the dates listed on your hunting permit.

Download the app: You can now download a free Utah Hunting and Fishing app that makes it easy to store digital versions of your licenses on a mobile device. For details, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp* or see page 9.

Check for closures: There may be late-season road closures on federal and state

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE RULES

This guidebook summarizes Utah's big game hunting laws and rules. Although it is a convenient quick-reference document for Utah big game regulations, it is not an all-encompassing resource.

For an in-depth look at the state's big game hunting laws and rules, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/rules*.

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-24 and Utah Code § 23-20-25—to search the Division's website for the detailed statute or rule that underpins the guidebook summary.

If you have questions about a particular rule, call or visit the nearest Division office.

Who makes the rules?

The Utah Wildlife Board passes the rules and laws summarized in this guidebook.

There are seven board members, and each serves a six-year term. Appointed by the governor, board members are not Division employees.

The Division's director serves as the board's executive secretary but does not have a vote on wildlife policies.

Before board members make changes to wildlife rules, they listen to recommendations from Division biologists. They also receive input from the public and various interest groups via the regional advisory council (RAC) process.

If you have feedback or suggestions for board members, you can find their contact information online at *wildlife.utah.gov*.

Wildlife Board members

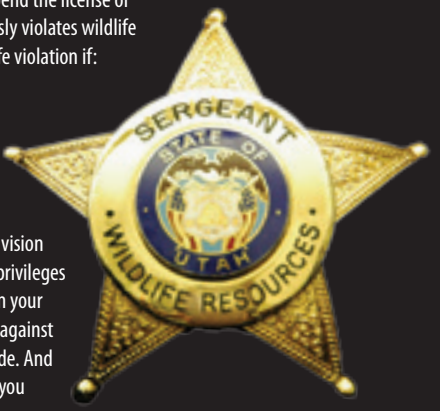
John Bair
Calvin Crandall
Steve Dalton
Michael King
Kirk Woodward

Jake Albrecht, *Chair*
Bill Fenimore, *ViceChair*
Gregory Sheehan, *Division Director & Executive Secretary*

Don't lose your hunting and fishing privileges

If you commit a wildlife violation, you could lose the privilege of hunting and fishing in Utah. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources can suspend the license of anyone who knowingly, intentionally or recklessly violates wildlife laws. Your license can be suspended for a wildlife violation if:

- You are convicted.
- You plead guilty or no contest.
- You enter a plea in abeyance or diversion agreement.



Suspension proceedings are separate and independent from criminal prosecution. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources may suspend your license privileges whether or not the court considers suspension in your criminal case. You will be notified of any action against your privilege after criminal proceedings conclude. And remember, if your license is suspended in Utah, you may not be permitted to hunt or fish in most other states. (Visit *ianrc.org* to see a map of participating states.)

lands. Before heading into the field, please check with the managing agency for the area you plan to hunt.

Seasons overlapping: In an effort to provide more limited-entry deer hunting opportunities, the Utah Wildlife Board approved deer and elk seasons that overlap on six general-season deer units and on the North Slope, Summit limited-entry unit.

And keep in mind

Research antlerless hunts online: Starting in late May 2015, you can find all of the information you need to research your hunt—including application dates, rules, hunt tables, boundaries and maps—at *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks*. The Division is not producing a printed guidebook. The antlerless application period runs from May 28–June 18, 2015.

Hunting in Salt Lake County: Before you hunt deer or elk in Salt Lake County, visit page 38 to learn about special restrictions.

Mandatory reporting: Many big game hunters must report hunt information within 30 calendar days after the end of the hunting season (even if they did not harvest an animal). To see if you are required to report—and to learn how to report—see the information box on page 17 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/harvestreporting*.

Trial hunting program: This year, people who haven't hunted big game may be able to try it for the first time without taking Hunter Education. For details, see the information box on page 8.

Mentoring program for youth: Hunters can choose to share their big game permits with their children, stepchildren, grandchildren and legal wards—and with terminally ill youth—while mentoring them in the field. For details, see the information box on page 10 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring*.

Multiple elk permits: You may obtain two elk permits—provided one or both of the permits are antlerless—but you can only apply for or obtain one antlerless elk permit in the

No drones allowed

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-14

Although drones are growing in popularity, it is illegal to use them while hunting protected wildlife in Utah. For details on all the restrictions that apply to airborne vehicles and devices, please see *Use of vehicle or aircraft* on page 40.

drawing. To learn more about this opportunity, see the information box on page 20.

Flexibility in using antlerless elk permits: If you obtain two antlerless elk permits for the same area, but the permits are for different seasons, you may harvest both elk during the same season. For details, see the information box on page 20.

Wearing hunter orange: You must wear hunter orange if you are in an area where a centerfire rifle hunt is occurring. For detailed information on Utah's hunter orange regulations, please see page 33.

Use a licensed guide: If you plan to use a guide or outfitter on public land in the 2015 hunting season, state law requires that individual to be licensed. Please see page 35 for details or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guides*.

National parks closed to hunting: All of Utah's national parks and monuments—except the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—are closed to hunting.

Predator-control program: For details on Utah's predator-control program, and how you can participate, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/predators*.

Review application guidebook: If you have questions about the 2015 big game application period, hunt drawing or limited-entry season dates, please see the 2015 Utah Big Game Application Guidebook at *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks*. That guidebook was printed in December 2014 and is a companion to this book.

Guidebook corrections: If errors are found in this guidebook after it is printed, the Division will correct them in the online copy. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks* to view digital versions of all the Division's guidebooks.

Protection from discrimination: The Division receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please visit *www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights.cfm*.

Private lands: The Division cannot guarantee access to any private land. If you plan to hunt—or engage in any other wildlife-related activities—in an area made up of all or mostly private lands, you must obtain WRITTEN permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative. For more information, please see *Trespassing* on page 38.

Division funding: The Division is mostly funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and through federal aid made possible by an excise tax on the sale of firearms and other hunting- and fishing-related equipment.

2015 SEASON DATES

General-season dates

Hunt	Dates
General archery deer	Aug. 15–Sept. 11
General muzzleloader deer	Sept. 23–Oct. 1
General any legal weapon (rifle) deer	Oct. 17–25
General archery any bull elk	Aug. 15–Sept. 11
General archery spike elk	Aug. 15–Sept. 4
General any legal weapon (rifle) spike and any bull elk	Oct. 3–15
General muzzleloader spike and any bull elk	Oct. 28–Nov. 5
Youth general (rifle) any bull elk	Sept. 12–20
Youth late-season (rifle) any bull elk	Nov. 28, 2015–Jan. 15, 2016

CWMU season dates

The Utah Wildlife Board has established timeframes for hunting on Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs). Hunters should expect to hunt at least five days for bucks/bulls and two days for antlerless big game within these timeframes.

To see the timeframes and learn more about the CWMU program, see the article on page 31 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu*.

Extended archery season dates

You do not need to apply for an additional permit to hunt during the extended archery seasons.

As long as you have an archery deer or elk permit—and you complete the required archery ethics course—you may hunt in the extended archery areas during the seasons listed below.

For maps, boundaries and more information on Utah's extended archery hunts, see *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery*.

Hunt	Dates
Extended archery deer (either sex) in the Ogden, Uintah Basin, Wasatch Front and West Cache extended archery areas	Sept. 12–Nov. 30
Extended archery elk (either sex) in the Uintah Basin extended archery area	Sept. 12–Dec. 15
Extended archery elk (either sex) in the Wasatch Front extended archery area	Aug. 15–Dec. 15

Sportsman and statewide conservation seasons

Hunt	Dates
Deer and elk on any open unit with archery equipment*‡	Aug. 15–Aug. 31, 2015
Deer and elk on any open unit with any legal weapon*‡	Sept. 1, 2015–Jan. 15, 2016
Pronghorn and moose on any open unit with any legal weapon	Sept. 1–Nov. 15, 2015
Bighorn sheep, mountain goat and bison on any open unit with any legal weapon*‡	Sept. 1–Dec. 31, 2015

** You may not take an elk or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep on the Pilot Mountain hunting unit.*

‡ Antelope Island is not an open unit. In order to hunt on Antelope Island, you must have a permit valid for Antelope Island.

License fees

Resident license fees

License	Fee
365-day hunting license (age 13 and under)	$11
365-day hunting license (ages 14–17)	$16
365-day hunting license (ages 18–64)	$34
365-day hunting license (age 65 and older)	$25
Multi-year hunting license (age 18 and older)	$33 per year, up to five years
365-day combination** license (ages 14–17)	$20
365-day combination** license (ages 18–64)	$38
365-day combination** license (age 65 and older)	$29
Multi-year combination** license (age 18 and older)	$37 per year, up to five years

When to apply for a sportsman permit

Long season dates—and the ability to hunt almost every hunting unit in Utah—make sportsman permits the most prized permits offered to Utah's public hunters.

The application period for 2016 will run from Oct. 28 to Nov. 18, 2015. Only Utah residents can apply for sportsman permits.

For more information about these permits, and the few restrictions that apply, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov* in late October 2015.

Nonresident license fees

License	Fee
365-day hunting license (age 17 and younger)	$25
365-day hunting license (age 18 and older)	$65
Multi-year hunting license (up to five years) for age 18 and older	$64 per year, up to five years
365-day combination** license (age 17 and younger)	$29
365-day combination** license (age 18 and older)	$85
Multi-year combination** license (age 18 and older)	$84 per year, up to five years

*** A combination license allows you to hunt or fish in Utah. It also allows you to fish with a second pole.*

Permit fees

Permit	Resident	Nonres.
General deer	$40	$268
General any bull elk or spike bull elk	$50	$393

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Are you planning to hunt big game in Utah this year? Before you apply for a permit, make sure you meet Utah's age, hunter education, license and permit requirements.

Are you old enough?

Utah Code § 23-19-22

To hunt big game in Utah, you must be at least 12 years old.

If you're 11 years old—but you'll be 12 by Dec. 31, 2015—you can apply for or obtain a big game permit. Remember, you cannot hunt until you are 12 years old.

If you're 11 to 13 years old, you are eligible to:

- Apply for general-season deer or youth any bull elk permits in the drawing.
- Buy general-season deer, general-season elk and youth any bull elk permits over the counter, if any are available.
- Buy a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) permit directly from a CWMU operator.

If you're 13 years old—and you'll be 14 by Dec. 31, 2015—you can also apply for limited-entry, once-in-a-lifetime or CWMU permits in the public drawing.

If you're 12 to 17 years old, you can participate in the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program. For details on the program, see the information box on page 10.

If you're 12 years old or older, you can also participate in the Trial Hunting Program. For details, see the box on the bottom left of this page.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-68

Have you ever wanted to bring your spouse, child or friend along on a hunt and give them a chance to try hunting? Now, they can join you on your next big game hunt.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program allows anyone over the age of 12 to try hunting for a few years—while accompanied by a licensed hunter over the age of 21—before taking a Hunter Education course.

The program applies to hunts for many different species, including general-season deer and elk. To sign up for the program or to learn more about it, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/trial*.

Adults must accompany young hunters

Utah Code § 23-20-20

While hunting big game, a person under 16 years old must be accompanied by his or her parent, legal guardian or other responsible person who is 21 years of age or older and who has been approved by the parent or guardian.

The Division encourages adults to be familiar with hunter education guidelines or to complete the hunter education course before accompanying youth into the field.

While in the field, the youth and the adult must remain close enough for the adult to see and provide verbal assistance to the young hunter. Using electronic devices, such as walkie-talkies or cell phones, does not meet this requirement.

Have you passed hunter education?

Utah Code § 23-19-11 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-23

If you were born after Dec. 31, 1965, you must provide proof that you've passed a hunter education course approved by the Division before you can apply for or obtain a hunting license or a big game permit.

The only exception to this law is for individuals who are participating in the Division's Trial Hunting Program. You can find details

Residency

Utah Code 23-13-2(37)

Before you apply for a big game hunt, it's important to know whether you are a legal resident of the state of Utah. See the definition of Resident on page 55 to determine whether you are a resident or a nonresident.

about the program on page 8 or by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov/trial*.

Proof of hunter education

You can prove that you've completed hunter education by obtaining a hunter education card (called a "blue card" in Utah) or by using a hunting license from a previous year with your hunter education number noted on the license.

How to take hunter education

To get started, you should visit *wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation*. You'll see links to a complete list of traditional or online hunter education courses. Follow the instructions on the website to sign up for a course.

If you need assistance, please contact your local Division office or call 801-538-4727.

When you complete the course, your instructor will sign your course certificate, which will then become your hunting license. With a valid hunting license, you can also apply for or obtain permits in the Division's hunt drawings.

Approximately four to six weeks after you complete the course, you will receive your blue card by mail.

You should also keep the following in mind:

- Hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
- All hunting regulations, including season dates and bag limits, will apply.

Keep your license on your phone or tablet

We've made it easier for you to keep track of your hunting or combination license and know when it's about to expire.

With our new mobile app, you can now download your license to a smartphone or tablet.

If a conservation officer asks to see your license, you can easily produce the digital copy, which is just as valid as a paper license. You also have the option of taking a photo of your paper license and storing that on your phone or tablet.

If you use the app, you will be able to easily see when your license expires. Then, you can use the app to quickly renew it.

The app is available for both Apple and Android devices. You can download it at *wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp*.

- Students who are planning to hunt out of state should allow enough time for their hunter education card to arrive in the mail.

New to Utah?

If you become a Utah resident, and you've completed a hunter education course in another state, province or country, you must obtain a Utah blue card before you can buy a resident hunting license. You can obtain a Utah blue card at any Division office by providing proof that you've completed a hunter education course approved by the Division.

Utah Hunter Mentoring Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-67

The Utah Hunter Mentoring Program allows eligible adults to share their big game hunting permits with eligible minors. Acting as a mentor, the adult is required to accompany the youth into the field.

Here's a quick look at how the program works:

- All big game permits are eligible for sharing.
- To qualify for the program, a minor must be a Utah resident between the ages of 12 and 17; possess a Utah Hunter Education number or trial hunting authorization; and be either the child, stepchild, grandchild or legal ward of the mentor — or be suffering from a life-threatening medical condition.
- The mentor may be either a resident or a nonresident, but must be at least 21 years of age and able to legally possess a firearm.
- The mentor may not receive any form of compensation for participating in the program.
- Both the mentor and the participating minor can carry a firearm in the field. However, only one animal may be taken per permit.

For detailed program information, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring*.

Do you have a license?

Utah Code §§§ 23-19-1, 23-19-22 and 23-20-3

You must have a current Utah hunting or combination (hunting and fishing) license before you can apply for any big game permits, bonus points or preference points. Licenses are available at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

As long as your license was valid on the date you submitted your permit application, you don't have to purchase a new license for the actual hunt.

For example, assume that your license expires on June 28, 2015. If you applied for permits on February 25, 2015, then you do not have to purchase a new license for your hunt in the fall. All hunting and combination licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase.

Do you have a permit?

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-18

To participate in any of Utah's big game or antlerless hunts, you need to obtain a hunting permit.

Most of the big game permits have already been issued through the big game drawing, but some will be available for over-the-counter purchase in July 2015. For more information about permit sales dates, see the article on page 12.

Many of Utah's antlerless permits will be issued through the antlerless drawing. You can begin applying for those permits on May 28, 2015. For more information about application deadlines and how to apply for antlerless permits, see page 11.

Carry your permit

If you are successful in obtaining a big game or antlerless permit, you must have it on your person while hunting. You cannot alter your license or permit, nor can you sell, transfer or loan either of them to another person.

APPLY FOR AN ANTLERLESS PERMIT

In 2015, the Antlerless guidebook has again been split into two components.

You'll find the antlerless field regulations in this booklet. If you're looking for the information you need in order to apply for an antlerless permit, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks*. There, you'll find application dates, rules, hunt tables, maps, boundaries and other essential information.

If you are planning to apply for a 2015 antlerless permit, please be aware of the following dates and deadlines.

May 21: Review online antlerless hunt resources

Beginning May 21, 2015, you can visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks* to review all of the application rules, hunt tables, season dates, maps, boundaries and other information you'll need in order to apply for an antlerless permit.

The antlerless application information will be available online only—there will not be a separate printed Antlerless guidebook.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please visit or call a Division office.

May 28: Apply online for an antlerless permit

Starting May 28, 2015, you can visit *wildlife.utah.gov* to apply for the following items:

- Antlerless hunting permits
- An antlerless moose bonus point
- Antlerless preference points

You can also apply by calling any Division office.

June 18: Deadline for antlerless permit applications

You must apply online or by phone no later than June 18, 2015. There's an 11 p.m. MDT deadline for online applications and a 5 p.m. MDT deadline for phone applications. To apply, simply visit *wildlife.utah.gov* or call any Division office.

July 9: Antlerless drawing results available

You'll be notified of your drawing results by email on or before July 9, 2015. You can also learn your drawing results by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov* or by calling 1-800-221-0659.

Depredation hunts

When big game animals cause damage to agricultural crops, the Division may hold hunts that are not listed in this guide. These hunts are called depredation hunts. They may occur on short notice, involve small areas and are often limited to only a few hunters.

To apply for the depredation hunter pool, submit an online application at *wildlife.utah.gov/depredation*.

Boundary descriptions online

Looking for a map and a boundary description for your hunting area? Boundary descriptions are printed on nearly all of Utah's hunting permits.

You'll also find detailed maps and boundary descriptions online. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* to download and print your boundaries today.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN PERMITS

Some big game permits for the 2015 season are available online and over the counter. If you're interested in purchasing one of these permits, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov*, a license agent or a Division office on the dates listed below.

A variety of big game permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis in July. Please keep in mind that you may only have one buck deer permit per year.

You must have a valid hunting license or a combination license to buy one of these permits. A license agent list is available at *wildlife.utah.gov/licenseagents.* Before you visit any of the agents, contact them to verify their hours of operation.

July 14: Remaining limited-entry permits available

Any limited-entry permits remaining after the big game drawing will be available beginning July 14 at 8 a.m. MDT. You can buy permits at *wildlife.utah.gov* and at license agent locations and Division offices.

Poaching-reported reward permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-22

It pays to report big game poachers in Utah.

If you provide information that leads to the successful prosecution of another person for the wanton destruction (poaching) of any big game species—on any once-in-a-lifetime or limited-entry hunt area in the state—you may receive a permit to hunt the same species on the same area where the violation occurred.

To learn more, please see Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-22 at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules*.

July 14: General-season bull elk permits available

General-season bull elk permits may be purchased beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on July 14 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

July 16: Remaining general-season buck deer permits available (all weapon types)

Any general-season buck deer permits remaining after the drawing may be purchased beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on July 16 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

If you purchase one of the archery permits, you may also use it on any of the extended-season archery areas after the general season ends, as long as you first complete the Division's Archery Ethics Course, located at *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery*.

July 16: Youth archery deer permits available

Youth archery deer permits may be purchased beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on July 16 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

July 21: Remaining antlerless permits available

Any antlerless permits remaining after the antlerless drawing will be available beginning July 21 at 8 a.m. MDT. You can buy permits at *wildlife.utah.gov* and at license agent locations and Division offices.

September 14: Unsold general-season archery deer permits convert to muzzleloader permits

If any general-season archery deer permits remain unsold at the end of the general

Permit refunds and exchanges

Utah Code § 23-19-38 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

Obtaining a refund

The Division rarely issues refunds for permits, licenses or certificates of registration, but there are some exceptions. To see if you're eligible for a refund, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/refund*.

Permit exchanges

You may exchange your general-season buck deer permit for one that's available in another unit, but it must be for the same species and sex. For example, you cannot exchange a buck deer permit for a bull elk permit.

You may also exchange your general-season bull elk permit for another available general-season bull elk permit. For example, you could exchange an any bull elk permit for a spike bull elk permit, if a spike bull permit was available.

You may also exchange a general-season bull elk permit to obtain an available bull elk permit for a different weapon type. For example, you could exchange a general-season any legal weapon bull elk permit for a general-season archery bull elk permit.

Any exchange must occur at a Division office, before the season opening date on the permit you originally obtained.

You must also pay a $10 handling fee to exchange a permit.

Duplicate licenses

Utah Code § 23-19-10 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-5

If your unexpired license or permit is destroyed, lost or stolen, you can obtain a duplicate from a Division office or a license agent for $10 or half of the price of the original license or permit, whichever is less.

archery season, they will convert to general-season muzzleloader deer permits on Sept. 14, 2015. You can buy these permits, if available, beginning at 8 a.m. MDT at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

October 5: Unsold general-season muzzleloader deer permits convert to any legal weapon permits

If any general-season muzzleloader deer permits remain unsold at the end of the general muzzleloader season, they will convert to general-season any legal weapon (rifle)deer permits on Oct. 5, 2015. You can buy these permits, if available, beginning at 8 a.m. MDT at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG HUNTERS

If you are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2015, you may have more opportunities to hunt this fall. It all depends on what type of permit you obtain.

Any legal weapon deer permits

If you are a youth and you obtain a general-season any legal weapon deer permit, you may use archery tackle to archery hunt the unit listed on your permit from Aug. 15–Sept. 11, 2015.

If you haven't harvested a deer by the time the archery season ends, you may hunt the same unit during the general muzzleloader and general any legal weapon deer seasons, using the appropriate equipment.

You also have the option of hunting in the extended archery areas, starting September 12, 2015. To do so, you must complete the archery ethics course available at *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery*, carry your course-completion certificate in the field and use the appropriate archery tackle. For more information on the extended archery hunt, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery*.

Definition of youth

For the purposes of big game hunting, a youth is someone who is 17 years old or younger on July 31 of any given year.

This year, you will be considered a youth if you are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2015.

Muzzleloader deer permits

If you obtain a general-season muzzleloader deer permit, you may hunt *only* during the general muzzleloader season. You must use muzzleloader equipment and hunt the unit listed on your permit. You may not hunt during the general archery or any legal weapon seasons.

This is a change from previous years, when you could hunt multiple seasons after obtaining a general-season muzzleloader permit.

Archery deer permits

If you obtain a general-season archery deer permit, you may hunt *only* during the general archery deer season and the extended archery deer season.

During the general season, you may hunt in the unit printed on your permit.

During the extended season, you may hunt in any of the extended archery areas after completing the online archery ethics course. For more information on the extended archery hunt, or to take the course, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery.*

For more information, please call the nearest Division office.

Youth any bull elk permits

This year, the Utah Wildlife Board approved 200 additional youth any bull elk permits. This increase will allow more youth to participate in the hunt.

STOP AT CHECKSTATIONS

If you harvest a deer this fall, please take a few minutes to stop by a Division checkstation. We will assess the age of your deer, collect some biological information and possibly take a small tissue sample to test for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

CWD is a relatively rare disease that attacks the nervous system and brain of infected deer, elk and moose.

The Division has been monitoring for CWD since 1998. Over the past 17 years, only 60 mule deer and 2 elk have tested positive for CWD in Utah.

The first positive mule deer in Utah was identified in 2002 as a result of a Division testing effort near Vernal. Since that time, CWD has also been found on the La Sal Mountains near Moab, on the San Juan Mountains near Monticello, and in central Utah near Fountain Green.

In these areas (and a few others), Division biologists collect samples from harvested deer, elk and moose during the fall hunts. To see which units the Division is sampling, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cwd.*

If you harvest an animal in one of these units, please stop at a checkstation. A biologist may take a small sample from the head of your harvested animal and send it to the lab for CWD testing. You may also visit a regional office to have a sample collected.

If the Division tests your animal, you can find the results online at *wildlife.utah.gov/cwdtesting* within six to eight weeks. If your animal tests positive for CWD, the Division will contact you directly.

To learn more about CWD, the testing process and precautions you can take, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cwd*. To find checkstation locations, please call your local Division office before the hunt begins.

Utah hunters helping condors

Over the past few years, hunters have joined the Division in a program to help California condors survive in southern Utah. Condors are some of the world's rarest and largest birds. They feed on large dead mammals, including the remains of harvested big game species.

To keep condors from consuming lead as they scavenge big game remains, the Division has partnered with The Peregrine Fund, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We offer incentives for hunters to use non-lead ammunition in the Zion hunting unit.

Last fall, the Division provided coupons for a free box of non-lead ammunition to 2,150 hunters who drew permits for the Zion unit. Many of those hunters voluntarily used non-lead ammunition to help condors.

To show our appreciation to hunters who voluntarily used non-lead ammunition or packed out their gut piles, we offered a prize drawing for an ATV or one of five hunting rifles. The Peregrine Fund donated the prizes to reward hunters for helping Utah's condor population.

In 2015, the Division will offer the same opportunities, including the ammunition coupon and the prize drawing. If you have obtained an any legal weapon (rifle) permit for the Zion unit, we will contact you with additional details about how you can participate.

The Division encourages all eligible hunters to participate in the program and to help Utah's condor population continue its recovery. Maybe you will be one of this year's lucky prize winners!

BIG GAME HUNTS

Utah offers several different big game hunts each year. Depending on the permit you obtain, you could hunt deer, elk, pronghorn, bison, bighorn sheep, moose or mountain goat. The following section describes the species you can hunt, the weapons you can use and the types of permits that are available.

Buck deer hunting

A "buck deer" is a deer with antlers that are longer than five inches (R657-5-2(2)(e)).

Utah has three general-season buck deer hunts:

- Archery hunt
- Muzzleloader hunt
- Any legal weapon (rifle) hunt

Please see *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* for all hunt boundaries.

General-season archery buck deer hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-23

Utah's general-season archery buck deer hunt runs from Aug. 15 to Sept. 11, 2015.

If you obtained a general-season archery buck deer permit, you may use archery equipment to take one buck deer in the hunting unit listed on your permit.

During the general-season archery buck deer hunt, you may only hunt in the unit listed on your permit. You may not hunt within deer CWMUs, premium limited-entry deer units or limited-entry deer units.

If you obtained a general-season archery buck deer permit, the only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit.

Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.

Hunter orange

Utah Code § 23-20-31

You must obey Utah's hunter orange regulation (see page 21) if a centerfire rifle hunt is happening in the area where you're archery hunting. This does not include hunts for once-in-a-lifetime species.

Extended archery deer hunts

If you haven't taken a deer by the time your archery buck hunt ends, you can continue your archery hunting in the state's extended archery areas.

In the Ogden, Wasatch Front, West Cache and Uintah Basin extended archery areas, you may use archery equipment to take a deer of either sex from Sept. 12–Nov. 30.

Before hunting any of the extended archery areas, you must complete the Division's Archery Ethics Course. For more information, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery* or see the Archery Ethics Course box on page 23.

General-season muzzleloader buck deer hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-25

Utah's general-season muzzleloader buck deer hunt runs from Sept. 23 to Oct. 1, 2015.

If you obtained a general-season muzzleloader buck permit, you may use a muzzleloader to take one buck deer in the hunting unit listed on your permit.

If you participate in this hunt, please keep in mind that some areas are closed to hunting

Updates on research projects

Division biologists are conducting research projects on many of Utah's big game species. These projects are multi-year efforts to study a variety of issues, including migration, survival and forage.

Various sportsmen's organizations are helping to fund these studies, and local universities are helping to plan and complete the research. The Division appreciates everyone's interest and assistance.

For summaries of these projects, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/research*.

or have special restrictions. For a list of those areas, see page 37.

If you obtained a general-season muzzleloader buck deer permit, the only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.

Hunter orange

Utah Code § 23-20-31

You must obey Utah's hunter orange regulation (see page 33) if a centerfire rifle hunt is happening in the area where you're muzzleloader hunting. This does not include hunts for once-in-a-lifetime species.

General-season any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-24

The general-season any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer hunt runs from Oct. 17 to Oct. 25.

If you obtained a general-season any legal weapon buck permit, you may use any legal weapon to take one buck deer in the hunting unit listed on your permit. You may also choose to use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzle-

Mandatory reporting

If you obtained a premium limited-entry, limited-entry, management buck deer, CWMU, conservation, sportsman, expo or once-in-a-lifetime permit, you must complete a harvest survey questionnaire within 30 days after your hunt ends. This information is required even if you didn't harvest an animal.

If you harvested an animal, this is an ideal time to return your tooth packet. Returning your tooth packet does not fulfill the harvest survey requirement.

You can report information about your hunt at *wildlife.utah.gov/harvest* or by calling 1-800-221-0659.

Reporting your hunt information is important. If you don't report your hunt information within 30 days of the end of the hunt, you won't be allowed to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime, premium limited-entry, limited-entry, management buck deer or CWMU permits, or bonus points in 2016.

loader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt. (You may not use them during the archery or muzzleloader hunts.)

If you participate in this hunt, please keep in mind that some areas are closed to hunting or have special restrictions. For a list of those areas, see page 37.

If you obtained a general-season any legal weapon buck deer permit, the only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.

Limited-entry buck deer hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-26

Utah's premium limited-entry and limited-entry deer units are managed for older, bigger bucks.

A premium limited-entry buck deer permit allows you to hunt on one of the best limited-entry buck deer units in Utah—the Paunsaugunt unit or the Henry Mountains unit.

A limited-entry buck deer permit allows you to hunt on a high-quality unit that has higher buck-to-doe ratios than some of the general-season units.

If you obtained a limited-entry buck deer permit, you may use the weapon listed on your permit to take one buck deer within the area and the season specified on your permit.

You may NOT hunt within deer CWMUs.

If you obtained a limited-entry buck deer permit, the only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.

New late-season muzzleloader hunts

This year, late-season limited-entry muzzleloader deer hunts will occur on six general-season units. Permits for these hunts are very limited, and season dates will overlap with the general-season muzzleloader elk hunts (Oct. 28–Nov. 5, 2015).

New multi-season hunts

This year, there are new multi-season hunts that allow the permit holder to hunt buck deer during all three seasons (archery, muzzleloader and any legal weapon) on select limited-entry or premium limited-entry units.

If you have obtained a permit for one of these hunts, you must use the appropriate weapon type for the season.

More opportunity for archers

This year, for the first time, limited-entry archery deer hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will be allowed to hunt the extended archery areas after completing the online extended archery course. For details, please see page 23 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery*.

And don't forget: You must submit your harvest survey within 30 days of the final day of your limited-entry season. You do not need to submit a survey for the extended archery season.

CWMU buck deer hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. To learn more about hunting buck deer on CWMUs, read the article on page 31 and visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu*.

Antlerless elk-control permits available

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-33

During the 2015 season, the Division wants to provide more hunting opportunities on units where it is difficult to harvest antlerless elk. To provide this opportunity, the Division issues antlerless elk-control permits.

You may only obtain an antlerless elk-control permit if you have a buck, bull or once-in-a-lifetime permit for areas that overlap antlerless elk-control hunting units.

Example 1: If you have a permit to hunt buck deer on the Pine Valley unit, you may purchase an antlerless elk-control permit and harvest an antlerless elk on the Pine Valley unit during your deer hunt.

Example 2: If you have an any bull elk permit and you're hunting on the South Slope unit, you can obtain an antlerless elk-control permit. You can harvest a bull elk anywhere on the unit, but you may only harvest an antlerless elk within the South Slope, Yellowstone elk-control unit.

You can see a map of Utah's antlerless elk-control units on page 52. Antlerless elk-control permits are not valid statewide. Please verify all hunt boundaries before heading into the field.

For detailed information about how elk-control permits work and when you may use one, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/elkcontrol*.

Management buck deer hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-46

A "management buck" is a buck deer with 3 points or less on at least one antler, above and including the first fork, but not including the eye guard. The eye guard does not count as a point. A point is a projection that's longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip, including damaged or broken antlers.

If you were successful in drawing a management buck deer permit, you must complete an online orientation course before you will receive your permit. This course is also open to anyone who wants to learn more about what a management buck looks like. To take the online course, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/biggame*.

A management buck deer permit allows you to take one management buck deer during the season. You may use any legal weapon to hunt on the area specified on your permit.

If you participate in this hunt, you may not hunt in the following areas:

- Deer CWMUs
- Areas with special restrictions (see page 37)

After taking your buck deer, you must bring its head and antlers to a Division office for inspection no later than 72 hours after the date of kill.

Important: If you obtain a management buck deer permit, you will lose your bonus points and incur a waiting period of two years. The only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.

Why a management buck deer hunt?

Removing excess bucks on the Paunsaugunt and Henry Mountains limited-entry units—while protecting the larger bucks in the herds—is the goal of the management buck deer hunt.

These two units have high buck-to-doe ratios. Harvesting smaller-antlered bucks will preserve trophy-class bucks and provide more room for does. Having more does in the herds will result in more fawns being born. Having more fawns will help ensure that these herds remain strong and healthy into the future.

Bull elk hunting

A "bull elk" is an elk with antlers that are longer than five inches (R657-5-2(2)(g)).
A "spike bull" means a bull elk which has at least one antler beam with no branching above the ears. Branched means a projection on an antler longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip (R657-5-2(2)(r).

Utah has three general-season elk hunts:

- Archery hunt
- Any legal weapon hunt
- Muzzleloader hunt

These hunts are held on two types of units: any bull elk units and spike bull elk units.

If you obtain an archery permit, you can hunt on all of the open any bull and spike bull units in the state.

If you obtain a general-season any legal weapon or muzzleloader permit, you must hunt on the type of unit specified on your permit. For example, if you obtain an any bull elk permit, you may hunt only on any bull elk units. If you obtain a spike bull permit, you may hunt only on spike bull units.

Permits for most of the general-season elk hunts are available beginning July 14—on a first-come, first-served basis—from Division offices, license agents and *wildlife.utah.gov*.

General-season archery elk hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-28

In 2015, Utah's general-season archery spike elk hunt runs from Aug. 15 to Sept. 4. The general-season archery any bull elk hunt runs

Multiple elk permits

Utah Code § 23-19-22 and Utah Admin. Rules R657-62-20 and R657-5-33

You may obtain a maximum of two elk permits each year—provided one or both of the permits are antlerless—but you can only apply for or obtain one antlerless elk permit in the drawing. You may obtain two elk permits in any one of the following combinations:

- One bull elk permit and one antlerless permit
- One bull elk permit and one antlerless elk-control permit (see page 19)
- Two antlerless permits
- One hunter's choice permit and one antlerless permit

For the purposes of obtaining two elk permits, a hunter's choice elk permit is considered a bull elk permit. Likewise, a general-season archery elk permit is also considered a bull elk permit. An antlerless elk-control permit is considered an antlerless permit.

If you obtain two antlerless elk permits for the same area—but the permits are for different seasons—you may harvest both elk during the same season.

And don't forget: you may harvest an antlerless elk while hunting general-season buck deer or bull elk, as long as your permits are for the same area and you use the weapon type listed on your general-season permit.

Beginning July 21, 2015, eligible hunters may purchase antlerless elk permits that remain available after the drawing. The permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

from Aug. 15 to Sept. 11, except on the state's extended archery areas, where the season runs later into the year.

If you obtain a general-season archery elk permit, you may use archery equipment to take only one of the following animals:

- One elk of either sex on a general-season any bull elk unit
- An antlerless elk or a spike bull elk on a general-season spike bull elk unit
- Only a spike bull on the Book Cliffs unit
- One elk of either sex on the extended archery areas (see details below)

You may not hunt within elk CWMUs.

If you obtain a general-season archery elk permit, the only other elk permit you can obtain is an antlerless elk permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless hunts.

Hunter orange

Utah Code § 23-20-31

You must obey Utah's hunter orange regulation (see page 21) if a centerfire rifle hunt is happening in the area where you're archery hunting. This does not include hunts for once-in-a-lifetime species.

Extended archery elk hunts

If you haven't taken an elk by the time your archery hunt ends, you may continue hunting in the Wasatch Front and Uintah Basin extended archery elk areas during the extended archery seasons. You may use archery equipment to take one of the following animals:

- One elk—either any bull or antlerless—within the Wasatch Front extended archery area from Aug. 15–Dec. 15
- One elk—either any bull or antlerless—within the Uintah Basin extended archery area from Sept. 12–Dec. 15

To hunt any of the extended archery areas, you must complete the Division's Archery Ethics Course and carry your archery ethics

Legal in a spike bull unit.

Legal in a spike bull unit.

Legal in a spike bull unit.

NOT legal in a spike bull unit.

course certificate of completion with you while you're hunting. For more information, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery* or see the Archery Ethics Course box on page 23 .

General-season any legal weapon (rifle) bull elk hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-29

Utah's general-season any legal weapon elk hunt consists of the any bull elk hunt and the spike bull elk hunt. These hunts run from Oct. 3 to Oct. 15.

To hunt during the general-season elk hunt, you must obtain either a spike bull permit or an any bull permit.

If you obtain a general-season any legal weapon bull elk permit, you may use any legal weapon to take your bull elk.

You may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt. (You may not use them during the archery or muzzleloader hunts.)

If you obtain a spike bull elk permit, you may take a spike bull elk on a general-season spike bull elk unit. You may NOT hunt on the any bull elk units.

If you obtain an any bull elk permit, you may take a bull elk of any size, including a spike bull, on a general-season any bull elk unit. You may NOT hunt on spike bull units.

If you participate in this hunt, please keep in mind that some areas are closed to hunting or have special restrictions. For a list of those areas, see page 37.

Please see the general-season bull elk hunt reference map on page 48, and the boundary descriptions at *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*, to learn where spike bull units and any bull elk units are located in the state.

If you obtain a general-season any legal weapon bull elk permit, the only other elk permit you can obtain is an antlerless elk permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless hunts.

General-season muzzleloader elk hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-30

The general-season muzzleloader elk hunt runs from Oct. 28 to Nov. 5 within the general-season elk units.

If you participate in this hunt, please keep in mind that some areas are closed to hunting or have special restrictions. For a list of those areas, see page 37.

To hunt during the general season for muzzleloader elk, you must obtain either a muzzleloader spike bull elk permit or a muzzleloader any bull elk permit.

If you obtain a muzzleloader spike bull elk permit, you may use a muzzleloader to take a spike bull elk on a general-season spike bull elk unit. You may NOT hunt on the any bull elk units.

If you obtain a muzzleloader any bull elk permit, you may use a muzzleloader to take a bull elk of any size, including a spike bull, on a general-season any bull elk unit. You may NOT hunt on spike bull elk units.

Please see the general-season bull elk hunt reference map on page 48 and the boundary descriptions at *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* to learn where spike bull units and any bull elk units are located in the state.

If you obtain a general-season muzzleloader bull elk permit, the only other elk permit you can obtain is an antlerless elk permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless hunts.

Hunter orange

Utah Code § 23-20-31

You must obey Utah's hunter orange regulation (see page 33) if a centerfire rifle hunt is happening in the area where you're muzzleloader hunting. This does not include hunts for once-in-a-lifetime species.

Archery Ethics Course

Before hunting in any of Utah's extended archery areas, you must complete the Division's Archery Ethics Course. The course is available online at *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery*, and it takes about 30 minutes to complete. You must complete the course each year and carry your Archery Ethics Course certificate of completion with you while you're hunting.

Youth bull elk hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-31

If you'll be 17 years of age or younger on July 31, 2015, you may be eligible to participate in one of the state's youth elk hunts. Remember, you cannot hunt until you are 12 years old.

Utah offers two youth bull elk hunts:

- The youth general-season any bull elk hunt runs from Sept. 12 to Sept. 20 on general-season any bull elk units across Utah. If you obtained a permit for this hunt, you may use any legal weapon to take a bull elk of any size—including a spike bull—on any general-season any bull elk unit in Utah. You may NOT hunt on a spike bull elk unit.
- The late season youth any bull elk hunt runs from Nov. 28, 2015 to Jan. 15, 2016 on a portion of the South Slope any bull elk unit in northeastern Utah (please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* for a boundary description). If you obtained a permit for this hunt, you may use any legal weapon to take a bull elk of any size—including a spike bull—within the hunt boundaries.

If you participate in this hunt, please keep in mind that some areas are closed to hunting or have special restrictions. For a list of those areas, see page 37.

Avoid harvesting collared wildlife

The Division has placed radio and GPS collars on bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goats and pronghorn in various areas across the state. The Division is monitoring these animals in a handful of ongoing studies. If possible, please avoid harvesting a collared animal. It is an expensive and time-consuming process to capture and collar replacement animals.

If you do harvest a collared animal, please contact your local Division office and return the collar.

You may obtain only one youth any bull elk permit in your lifetime, and preference points do not apply to this hunt.

If you obtain a youth any bull elk permit, the only other elk permit you can obtain is an antlerless elk permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless hunts.

Limited-entry bull elk hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-32

Utah's limited-entry elk permits are among the state's most prized big game permits.

A limited-entry bull elk permit allows you to use the weapon listed on your permit to take one bull elk of any size within the area and season specified on your permit. You may not hunt on elk CWMUs.

If you obtained a limited-entry bull elk permit, the only other elk permit you can obtain is an antlerless elk permit. See page 28 for more information on antlerless hunts.

Note: This year there is a longer season for Utah's limited-entry muzzleloader elk hunts. If you obtain one of these permits, please double check the season dates on your permit before heading into the field.

Multi-season hunts

There are multi-season hunts (formerly known as premium limited-entry hunts) that allow the permit holder to hunt bull elk during all three seasons (archery, muzzleloader and any legal weapon) on select limited-entry units.

If you have obtained a permit for one of these hunts, you must use the appropriate weapon type for the season. You may not hunt on elk CWMUs.

More opportunity for archers

This year, for the first time, limited-entry archery elk hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will be allowed to hunt the extended archery areas after completing the online extended archery course. For details, please see page 23 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery*.

And don't forget: You must submit your harvest survey within 30 days of the final day of your limited-entry season. You do not need to submit a survey for the extended archery season.

CWMU bull elk hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. To learn more about hunting bull elk on CWMUs, read the article on page 31 and visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu*.

Buck pronghorn hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-34

"Buck pronghorn" means a pronghorn with horns that are longer than five inches (R657-5-2(2)(f)).

To hunt buck pronghorn, you must possess a buck pronghorn permit. If you obtain a buck pronghorn permit, you may **not** obtain any other pronghorn permit.

If you obtained a buck pronghorn permit, you may use the weapon listed on your permit to take one buck pronghorn within the area and season specified on your permit.

You may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the any legal weapon (rifle) hunt. (You may not use them during the archery or muzzleloader hunts.)

You may not hunt on buck pronghorn CWMUs.

Note: Only archery equipment may be used during the buck pronghorn archery hunt. If you'd like to hunt from a blind, please contact the public agency that manages the land you'll be hunting on to learn about their regulations that must be followed to construct a blind.

CWMU buck pronghorn hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a small number of public and private hunters. To learn more about hunting buck pronghorn on CWMUs, read the article on page 31 and visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu*.

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME HUNTS

All of Utah's bison, bull moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat permits are considered once-in-a-lifetime permits. That's because you can draw a permit for each of these species only once in your lifetime.

Bison hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-38

To hunt bison, you must possess a bison permit.

Your bison permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one bison on the limited-entry unit and during the season specified on your permit. You may obtain a bison permit through the big game drawing only once in your lifetime.

If you obtained a hunter's choice permit, you may take a bison of either sex. If you obtained a cow bison permit, you may take only a cow bison.

Note: You may obtain only one bison permit—of any kind—during the 2015 season.

Online orientation course

If you drew a cow bison permit, you must complete the online orientation course located at *wildlife.utah.gov/biggame*. You'll receive your permit after you successfully complete the course.

Antelope Island

If you drew an Antelope Island bison permit, the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (Utah State Parks) may require you to complete a course before you can hunt.

Before the hunt begins, Utah State Parks will notify you about the date, time and location of the course. You'll receive your permit after you successfully complete the course.

Because the Antelope Island hunt is administered by Utah State Parks, your hunt will include some extra park-related fees. For more information, please call 801-209-4678.

Bull moose hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-37

A "bull moose" is a moose that has antlers that are longer than its ears (R657-5-2(2)(h)).

To hunt bull moose, you must possess a bull moose permit. You may obtain a bull moose permit through the big game drawing only once in your lifetime.

Your bull moose permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one bull moose on

Weapon options for once-in-a-lifetime hunters

Don't forget: if you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species, you have additional weapon options for your hunt. You can use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope.

the limited-entry unit and during the season specified on your permit. You may not hunt on moose CWMUs.

Note: You may obtain only one moose permit—of any kind—during the 2015 season.

CWMU bull moose hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. To learn more about hunting bull moose on CWMUs, read the article on page 31 and visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu*.

Desert bighorn and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-39

A "ram" is a male desert bighorn sheep or a male Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (R657-5-2(2)(q)).

To hunt desert bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, you must possess a permit for the species you wish to hunt (i.e., a desert bighorn sheep permit to hunt desert bighorn sheep, or a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit to hunt Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep).

Prevent wildfires!

Make sure campfire ashes are cold. Always use a shovel and a bucket of water.

UtahFireInfo.gov

Desert bighorn sheep hunts and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunts are considered separate once-in-a-lifetime hunts. For example, if you obtain a desert bighorn sheep permit, and you've never obtained a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit before, you can continue applying for a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit the following year.

A bighorn sheep permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one ram within the area and the season specified on your permit. Any ram is legal to take, but the Division encourages you to take a mature ram.

After taking your ram, you must bring its horns to a Division office within 72 hours of leaving your hunting area. When you come to the office, a Division staff person will permanently affix a numbered plug to the horn. This plug certifies that the sheep was taken legally.

Note: You may obtain only one bighorn sheep permit—of any kind—during the 2015 season.

Helping wildlife makes you look good.
(Now your car wants a turn.)

Mountain goat hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-40

To hunt mountain goats, you must possess a mountain goat permit.

Your mountain goat permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one mountain goat within the area and the season specified on your permit. You may obtain a mountain goat permit through the big game drawing only once in your lifetime.

If you obtained a hunter's choice permit, you may take a goat of either sex, but the Division encourages you to take a mature goat. If you obtained a female goat permit, you may take only a female goat.

If you drew a female mountain goat permit, you must complete the online orientation course located at *wildlife.utah.gov/biggame*. You'll receive your permit after you successfully complete the course.

Note: You may obtain only one mountain goat permit—of any kind—during the 2015 season.

ANTLERLESS HUNTS

Utah offers antlerless hunts each year. These hunts serve two purposes: they help ensure that populations remain at sustainable, manageable levels, and they remove animals that pose depredation problems. Depending on the permit you obtain, you could hunt antlerless deer or elk, or doe pronghorn. The following section describes the species you can hunt, the weapons you can use and the types of permits that are available.

Antlerless deer hunting

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-27

An "antlerless deer" is a deer without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter (R657-5-2(2)(a)).

To hunt antlerless deer, you must possess an antlerless deer permit. This permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one antlerless deer—per antlerless deer tag—in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt. (You may not use them during the archery-muzzleloader-shotgun season.)

You may not hunt on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain an antlerless deer permit for that CWMU.

You may obtain only one antlerless deer permit for the 2015 antlerless season.

Additional opportunity

There is some flexibility if you are an antlerless deer permit holder who also possesses a permit to hunt any one of the following seasons:

- General archery buck deer
- General muzzleloader buck deer
- Limited-entry archery buck deer
- Limited-entry muzzleloader buck deer

If your buck deer permit and antlerless deer permit are for the same area—and you use the appropriate archery or muzzleloader equipment specified for your current hunting season—you may use your antlerless permit during the buck deer season. However, you

Antlerless season dates online

To review the 2015 antlerless season dates—as well as information about antlerless hunting options, permit numbers, application dates, maps and hunt boundaries—visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks*. These tools and resources will be available online at least a week before the antlerless application period begins on May 28.

For more information on the antlerless application period, see page 11.

Report your harvest

If you obtain an antlerless permit this year, don't forget to complete a harvest report after your hunt ends.

Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/harvest* and click the "Report your harvest" button at the top of the page. Then, you can log in and complete your harvest report.

If you prefer to complete your harvest report over the phone, call 1-800-221-0659. The line is staffed 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

may not use your buck deer permit during the antlerless season.

Antlerless elk hunting

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-33

An "antlerless elk" is an elk without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter (R657-5-2(2)(b)).

To hunt antlerless elk, you must possess an antlerless elk permit. This permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one antlerless elk in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt. (You may not use them during the archery or muzzleloader hunts.)

You may not hunt on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain an antlerless elk permit for that CWMU.

You may obtain two elk permits each year. At least one of them must be an antlerless elk permit. If you plan to obtain two elk permits, please note that a hunter's choice elk permit is considered a bull elk permit. Likewise, a general-season archery elk permit is also considered a bull elk permit. You may apply for only one antlerless elk permit in the antlerless drawing.

If you do not obtain an antlerless elk permit in the drawing, you may be eligible to purchase up to two remaining antlerless elk permits.

Additional opportunity

There is some flexibility if you are an antlerless elk permit holder who also possesses a permit to hunt any one of the following seasons:

- General buck deer (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- General bull elk (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- Limited-entry buck deer (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- Limited-entry bull elk (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- Antlerless elk

If your buck deer or bull elk permit and your antlerless elk permit are for the same area, you may use your antlerless elk permit during your buck deer or bull elk season, using the weapon listed on your buck or bull permit. However, you may not use your buck deer or bull elk permit during the antlerless season, unless it's during the timeframe when the two seasons overlap.

If you obtain two antlerless elk permits for the same area—but the permits are for different seasons—you may harvest both elk during the same season.

Doe pronghorn hunting

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-35

A "doe pronghorn" is a pronghorn without horns or with horns five inches or shorter (R657-5-2(2)(j)).

To hunt a doe pronghorn, you must possess a doe pronghorn permit. This permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one doe pronghorn in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt. (You may not use them during the archery or muzzleloader hunts.)

If you already have a 2015 pronghorn permit, you may not apply for or obtain a doe pronghorn permit or preference point.

You may not hunt on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain a doe pronghorn permit for that CWMU.

Note: You may only obtain one pronghorn permit—of any kind—during the 2015 season.

Antlerless moose hunting

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-36

An "antlerless moose" is a moose without antlers or with antlers shorter than its ears (R657-5-2(2)(c)).

To hunt antlerless moose, you must possess an antlerless moose permit. This year, because of recent declines in moose populations, there will be no antlerless moose permits available to hunters.

Note: You may only obtain one moose permit—of any kind—during the 2015 season.

COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

More than 60 percent of the rangelands that Utah's big game animals rely on in the winter are on private land. Utah's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) program works with landowners to preserve these lands and to make them good habitat for wildlife.

How the program works

The CWMU program provides landowners with an economic incentive to keep their private range and forest lands as wildlife habitat instead of developing them.

CWMUs comprise more than two million acres of land in Utah. They'll provide more than 5,000 big game and antlerless hunting permits in 2015. More than one-third of those permits are available to the general public through the state's big game drawing.

Hunting on CWMUs provides both public and private hunters with several advantages. Among those advantages are a better chance to take an animal and fewer hunters to compete with.

Obtaining a CWMU permit

If you're a Utah resident, there are two ways to obtain a CWMU permit: you can apply for one in the state's public drawing, or you can obtain a permit voucher from the landowner or operator of the CWMU you want to hunt.

If you're not a resident of Utah, you cannot apply for a CWMU permit in the public drawing. You can, however, obtain a permit voucher directly from the CWMU landowner or operator.

If you obtain a CWMU voucher, you can redeem the voucher for a permit by mailing the voucher to:

CWMU Front Desk
Division of Wildlife Resources
P.O. Box 146301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301

(Please allow 10 to 14 days for processing.)

You can also redeem the voucher at any Division office.

If you obtain a CWMU permit, you may hunt only on the CWMU that's specified on your permit. You may take only one animal of the species and sex listed on the permit. You'll also incur a waiting period for the species you obtained a permit for. (Please see page 18 in the 2015 *Utah Big Game Application Guidebook* for more information about waiting periods.)

You may not obtain more than one pronghorn, one moose, one buck deer or one bull elk permit in a year. But you can obtain an antlerless deer or antlerless elk permit. More information about antlerless permits is available on page 28.

Important: CWMU landowner association members and operators—and their spouses and dependent children—cannot apply for their own CWMU permits in the public drawing.

How to participate

If you draw a permit to hunt a CWMU, you must contact the CWMU operator to obtain the following:

- The dates you'll be allowed to hunt within the legal CWMU hunting season framework. Both you and the operator must schedule around each of your individual needs—please be realistic and patient.
- A map of the CWMU showing access points and the acreage you'll be allowed

to hunt. The CWMU should provide the same amount of acreage to both public and private hunters. If you feel that you haven't received equal treatment, please contact your regional Division office.

- A copy of the CWMU's rules. CWMUs are allowed to develop rules of conduct for their unit. Examples of these rules may include: no preseason scouting; checking into and out of the unit daily; limited vehicle access; no overnight camping; a marksmanship test; and limiting the number of hunting companions. If you fail to abide by these rules, you might be asked to leave the CWMU. You can also review these rules online at *wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu*.

Season dates

The Utah Wildlife Board has established timeframes for hunting on CWMUs (see chart below). Within these timeframes, hunters should expect to hunt at least five days for bucks/bulls and two days for antlerless big game.

The CWMU operator may also allow you to hunt additional days within the listed timeframes.

Before you apply for a CWMU permit, contact the operator to obtain general information about hunt dates, permitted weapons and other rules. If you draw a permit, you **must** contact the CWMU operator to confirm your season dates.

Hunt	Dates
Archery buck deer	Aug. 15, 2015–Oct. 31, 2015
Any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer	Sept. 1, 2015–Oct. 31, 2015
Muzzleloader buck deer	Sept. 1, 2015–Oct. 31, 2015
Antlerless deer	Aug. 15, 2015–Dec. 31, 2015
Archery bull elk	Aug. 15, 2015–Oct. 31, 2015
Any legal weapon (rifle) bull elk	Sept. 1, 2015–Oct. 31, 2015
Muzzleloader bull elk	Sept. 1, 2015–Nov. 5, 2015
Antlerless elk	Aug. 15, 2015–Jan. 31, 2016
Buck and doe pronghorn	Sept. 1, 2015–Oct. 31, 2015
Bull moose	Sept. 1, 2015–Oct. 31, 2015

Some deer and elk CWMUs have hunting seasons outside of these timeframes. For more information, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU*.

Reporting your harvest success

If you obtain a CWMU permit for an antlered animal, you must report information about your hunt within 30 days after it ends. Please see page 17 for more information about this important requirement.

Complaint process

If you wish to lodge a complaint against a CWMU, you should contact the Division of Wildlife Resources immediately. Biologists and conservation officers can supply you with a complaint form, or you can make the complaint in person or over the telephone. You and the operator should make every effort to resolve your issues before they escalate to the Division level.

If your problem cannot be resolved locally, it may be passed on to a CWMU Advisory Committee for review and possible action.

Learn more

To learn more about the CWMU program or to view maps of CWMU properties, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU*.

FIELD REGULATIONS

Several rules have been established to regulate big game hunting in Utah. These rules exist to ensure big game animals are hunted ethically and to help keep you safe in the field. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using firearms and archery tackle. You should also know the different types of hunting methods that may and may not be used and what you're required to do with any big game animal you take.

Hunting hours

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-6

You may take big game animals from 30 minutes before official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset.

Requirement to wear hunter orange

Utah Code § 23-20-31

If you're hunting in an area where a centerfire rifle hunt is occurring, you must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange material on your head, chest and back.

A camouflage pattern in hunter orange meets this requirement; however, the Division strongly encourages hunters to continue using solid hunter orange whenever possible.

There are some exceptions to the hunter orange rule. You're not required to wear hunter orange if you're participating in a bighorn sheep hunt, a bison hunt, a moose hunt or a mountain goat hunt—or a hunt that requires you to possess a statewide conservation permit or a statewide sportsman's permit—unless a centerfire rifle hunt is in progress in the same area.

Checkpoints and officer contacts

Utah Code §§ 23-20-25 and 77-23-104

To help the Division fulfill its responsibility as trustee and custodian of Utah's wildlife, Division conservation officers and biologists monitor the taking and possession of big game animals and the required permits, firearms and equipment used for hunting. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking hunters in the field and at checkpoints.

If you're contacted by a conservation officer, you must provide the officer with the items he or she requests, including any licenses and permits required for hunting, any devices used to participate in hunting and any game you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about Utah's big game animals.

Are you allowed to possess a weapon?

Utah Code §§ 76-10-503 and 76-10-512

It is illegal under Utah Code §§ 76-10-503 and 76-10-512 to possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader or any other dangerous weapon if you have been charged or convicted of certain offenses.

The purchase or possession of any hunting license, permit, tag or certificate of registration from the Division does not authorize the holder to legally possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader or any other dangerous weapon while hunting if they are otherwise restricted from possessing these weapons under Utah Code.

To determine whether you are allowed to possess a weapon, please review the Utah Code sections listed above or contact the law enforcement agency that oversees your case.

Firearms and archery equipment

Prohibited weapons

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7

You may only use firearms and archery tackle that are expressly permitted in this guide.

You may not hunt big game with a firearm that's capable of being fired fully automatic, or with any light-enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light. Laser range-finding devices are exempt from this restriction.

Rifles and shotguns

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-8

You may use a rifle or shotgun to take big game, but your firearm and ammunition must meet the following requirements:

- Your rifle must fire centerfire cartridges and expanding bullets.
- Your shotgun must be 20 gauge or larger, and you may use only slug ammunition or buckshot that's 00 or larger in size.

Handguns

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-9

You may use a handgun to take big game animals, but the handgun must be a minimum of .24 caliber and must fire a centerfire cartridge with an expanding bullet.

If you're hunting deer or pronghorn, the handgun must develop at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle. If you're hunting elk, moose, bison, bighorn sheep or mountain goat, the handgun must develop at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards.

Muzzleloaders

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-10

Muzzleloaders may be used during any big game hunt—except the archery hunt. To hunt big game with a muzzleloader, your muzzleloader must meet all of the following requirements:

- It can be loaded only from the muzzle.
- It must have open sights, peep sights or a fixed non-magnifying 1x scope. (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-10* for exceptions to this rule.)
- It can have only one barrel, and the barrel must be at least 18 inches long.
- It cannot be capable of firing more than once without being reloaded.
- The powder and bullet—or powder, sabot and bullet—cannot be bonded together as one unit for loading.
- It must be loaded with black powder or a black powder substitute. The black powder or black power substitute cannot contain smokeless powder, but may contain some nitrocellulose.
- To hunt big game, you must use a lead or expanding bullet or projectile that's at least 40 caliber in size.
- If you're hunting deer or pronghorn, your bullet must be 130 grains or heavier, or your sabot must be 170 grains or heavier.
- If you're hunting elk, moose, bison, bighorn sheep or mountain goats, you must use a 210-grain or heavier bullet, or a sabot bullet that's at least 240 grains.

If you obtain a muzzleloader permit, you may use only the muzzleloader equipment authorized in this section to take the species listed on the permit.

You may not possess or be in control of a rifle or shotgun while in the field during the muzzleloader hunt. For the purposes of this section, "field" means a location where you are likely to find the species listed on your permit. (You are not considered to be in the field if you are in an established camping area or traveling in a fully enclosed automobile or truck.) This restriction does not apply to the following people:

- Hunters who are licensed to hunt upland game or waterfowl (You must comply

State-licensed guides and outfitters

Guides and outfitters must be licensed with the State of Utah before they can legally take hunters onto public land to hunt big game, cougars or black bears.

Before you use a guide or an outfitter, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guides* to determine if he or she is licensed in Utah.

The Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing is the regulatory agency for this law. For more information, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/DOPL*.

with the regulations in the Upland Game Guidebook or Waterfowl Guidebook, and you may possess only those firearms and archery equipment that are legal for taking upland game or waterfowl.)

- Hunters who are licensed to hunt big game species during archery or rifle hunts that coincide with the muzzleloader hunt
- Livestock owners who are protecting their livestock
- Individuals who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon (You may not use your concealed firearm to hunt or take protected wildlife.)

Archery equipment

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11

Archery equipment may be used during any big game hunt except the muzzleloader hunt. To hunt big game with archery equipment, your equipment must meet all of the following requirements:

- Your bow must have a minimum pull of 40 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first.

Hunters with disabilities

Utah Admin. Rule R657-12

Utah provides special hunting accommodations for people with disabilities. These accommodations include the opportunity to hunt with a companion, use a crossbow, hunt from a vehicle, use a draw lock and use a scope on archery equipment or a muzzleloader.

Hunters with disabilities may also apply for an extension to their season if they have a 2015 big game hunting permit in their possession and they meet certain criteria.

To learn more about hunting accommodations for people with disabilities, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/disabled, wildlife.utah.gov/rules/R657-12.php* or call any Division office.

- Your arrowheads must have two or more sharp-cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring. If you're using expanding arrowheads, the arrowheads must have two or more sharp-cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring when expanded.
- Your arrows must be at least 20 inches long, from the tip of the arrowhead to the tip of the nock, and must weigh at least 300 grains.

You may not use any of the following archery equipment to take big game during the archery season:

- A crossbow (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)
- Arrows with chemically treated or explosive arrowheads
- A mechanical device that holds the bow at any increment of draw (Please see

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1-800-662-3337
Turn In a Poacher

Utah Admin. Rule R657-12 and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)

- A release aid that is not handheld or that supports the draw weight of the bow
- A bow with an attached electronic range-finding device or a magnifying-aiming device

Please remember that if you carry arrows in or on a vehicle, the arrows must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case.

If you obtain an archery permit, you may use only the archery equipment authorized in this section to take the species listed on the permit

You may not possess or be in control of a rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader while in the field during an archery hunt. For the purposes of this section, "field" means a location where you are likely to find the species listed on your permit. (You are not considered to be in the field if you are in an established camping area or traveling in a fully enclosed automobile or truck.)

This restriction does not apply to the following people:

- Hunters who are licensed to hunt upland game or waterfowl (You must comply with the regulations in the Upland Game Guidebook or Waterfowl Guidebook, and you may possess only those firearms and archery equipment that are legal for taking upland game or waterfowl.)
- Hunters who are licensed to hunt big game species during rifle or muzzle-loader hunts that coincide with the archery hunt
- Livestock owners who are protecting their livestock
- Individuals who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon (You may not use your concealed firearm to hunt or take protected wildlife.)

Loaded firearms in a vehicle

Utah Code §§§§ 76-10-502, 76-10-504, 76-10-505 and 76-10-523

You may not carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle unless you meet all of the following conditions:

- You own the vehicle or have permission from the vehicle's owner.
- The firearm is a handgun.
- You are 18 years of age or older.

A pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun is considered to be loaded when there is an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile in the firing position.

Pistols and revolvers are also considered to be loaded when an unexpended cartridge,

shell or projectile is in a position whereby the manual operation of any mechanism once would cause the unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile to be fired.

A muzzleloading firearm is considered loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or shot in the barrel or cylinders.

The firearm restrictions in this section do not apply to concealed firearm permit holders, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-12

You may not discharge a dangerous weapon or firearm under any of the following circumstances:

- From a vehicle
- From, upon or across any highway
- At power lines or signs
- At railroad equipment or facilities, including any sign or signal
- Within Utah state park camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps or developed beaches
- Without written permission from the owner or property manager, within 600 feet of:
    - A house, dwelling or any other building
    - Any structure in which a domestic animal is kept or fed, including a barn, poultry yard, corral, feeding pen or stockyard

Carrying a dangerous weapon while under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Utah Code § 76-10-528

You may not carry a dangerous weapon or hunt big game while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please see Utah Code § 76-10-528 at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* for more information.

Areas with special restrictions

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-12

The following areas have certain restrictions. Please be familiar with them before heading into the field.

Counties and local municipalities

Please check county and local municipality ordinances regarding firearm restrictions before hunting in these areas.

State waterfowl management areas

In 2015, you may hunt big game during the archery season on the following waterfowl management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, Browns Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Locomotive Springs and Redmond.

All of Utah's other waterfowl management areas—except the Stewart Lake Waterfowl Management Area—are closed to big game hunting.

State parks

Utah Admin. Rule R651-614

Hunting any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Utah Admin. Rule R651-614-4.

Hunting with rifles, handguns or muzzleloaders in park areas designated open to hunting is prohibited within one mile of all park facilities, including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps and developed beaches.

Hunting with shotguns or archery tackle is prohibited within one-quarter mile of the above areas.

National parks and monuments

All of Utah's national parks and monuments—except the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—are closed to hunting.

Native American trust lands

To hunt on Native American trust lands, you must obtain a permit from the Native American tribe that owns the land. You must also observe all of the tribe's wildlife regulations while hunting on these trust lands.

Military installations

All of the military installations in Utah, including Camp Williams, are closed to hunting and trespassing unless you have authorized permission.

Salt Lake County

In Salt Lake County, you may not do any of the following:

- Hunt big game within one-half mile of Silver Lake in Big Cottonwood Canyon
- Hunt on the Red Butte Research Natural Area, which is closed to public access
- Hunt in Emigration Township with a rifle or muzzleloader. This area is restricted to archery tackle only. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* to view a map of the archery-only area in Emigration Township.
- Hunt within the portion of Alta that is closed to hunting. Please contact the town of Alta for hunt boundaries and other information.
- Hunt big game south of I-80 and east of I-15 (see map online at *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*)

Also, before hunting in the Salt Lake County area, please check the Salt Lake County and local municipality ordinances regarding firearm and hunting restrictions.

CWMUs and limited-entry units

If you participate in the general-season buck deer hunt, the spike bull elk hunt, the any bull elk hunt or the youth any bull elk hunt, you may not hunt in any of the following areas:

- Deer CWMUs
- Elk CWMUs
- Premium limited-entry deer or elk units
- Limited-entry deer or elk units

Additionally, if you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit for bull elk, you may not hunt the Monroe unit during the spike bull elk hunt.

Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve

You may use only archery equipment, muzzleloaders or shotguns while hunting on the Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve.

Green River—Jensen, Utah

You may not discharge a firearm, except a shotgun or a muzzleloader, from, upon or across the Green River near Jensen, Utah (from the bridge on US-40 upstream to the Dinosaur National Monument boundary).

Motorized vehicle access on wildlife management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-14

Motorized vehicle travel on state wildlife management areas is restricted to county roads, parking areas, and areas marked or posted open to motorized vehicle travel.

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 23-20-14 and 23-20-3.5

While taking wildlife or engaging in wildlife-related activities, you may not—without permission—enter or remain on privately owned land that is:

- Cultivated

Obtain permission to hunt private property

If you want to hunt on private property, you must obtain written permission from the landowner before you can hunt. Ideally, you should have permission **before you even apply for a permit**.

If you obtain written permission in advance, you know you'll be able to use the permit if you draw it.

The Division cannot guarantee access to private land, and the agency does not have the names of landowners who own property where hunts occur.

- Properly posted
- Fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders

In addition, you may not:

- Enter or remain on private land when directed not to do so by the owner or a person acting for the owner
- Obstruct any entrance or exit to private property

"Cultivated land" is land that is readily identifiable as land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops, land used for the raising of crops, or a pasture that is artificially irrigated.

"Permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private land that is cultivated or properly posted. Permission must include all of the following details:

- The signature of the owner or person in charge
- The name of the person being given permission
- The appropriate dates
- A general description of the land

"Properly posted" means that signs prohibiting trespass—or bright yellow, bright orange or fluorescent paint—are clearly displayed at all corners, on fishing streams crossing property lines, and on roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land. Or, they are displayed in a manner that is visible to a person in the area.

You may not post private property you do not own or legally control or land that is open to the public as provided by Utah Code § 23-21-4. In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or its parts while trespassing in violation of Utah Code § 23-20-14.

You are guilty of a class B misdemeanor if you violate any provision described in this section. Your license, tag or permit privileges may also be suspended.

Utah's Walk-in Access Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-56-13

If you enjoy using Utah's Walk-in Access (WIA) program and you are 14 years old or older, you must obtain a free WIA authorization number in order to access any WIA properties.

The Division is using the authorization numbers to track who's using WIA properties throughout the year and to assess the program's value to the public.

To obtain your authorization number, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess* and click the "Authorization number" link at the top right of the page. Follow the instructions and obtain your number. You can also request a number by calling 1-800-221-0659.

Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess* for detailed information on all WIA properties.

Prohibited hunting methods

Spotlighting

Utah Code §§§ 23-20-3, 76-10-504, 76-10-523 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-13

You may not use a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to take or locate any protected wildlife (including big game) if you have any of the following weapons in your possession:

- Rifle
- Shotgun
- Archery equipment
- Muzzleloader

The use of a spotlight or other artificial light in any area where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife. (Prima facie evidence means that if you're spotlighting, the burden of proof falls on you to prove that you were not attempting to locate protected wildlife.)

The provisions of this section do not apply to the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife.

In addition, the above restrictions do not apply to concealed firearm permit holders, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

Use of vehicle or aircraft

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-14

You may not use an airplane, drone or any other airborne vehicle or device, or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle (except a vessel)—including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles—to take protected wildlife, including big game.

Also, you may not take protected wildlife that are being chased, harmed, harassed, rallied, herded, flushed, pursued or moved by an aircraft or any other vehicle or transportation device listed above.

In addition, you may not use any type of aircraft, from 48 hours before any big game hunt begins through 48 hours after any big game hunting season ends, to perform any of the following activities:

- Transport a hunter or hunting equipment into a hunting area
- Transport a big game carcass
- Locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife

Flying slowly at low altitudes, or hovering, circling or repeatedly flying over an area where protected wildlife is likely to be found, may be used as evidence that you've violated the restrictions above.

Use of dogs

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-15

Dogs may not be used to take, chase, harm or harass big game. You may, however, use one blood-trailing dog—controlled by leash—to track wounded animals and aid in recovery. You may only use the tracking dog within 72 hours of shooting a big game animal and during lawful hunting hours.

Party hunting

Utah Code § 23-19-1 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-15

You may not take a big game animal for another person. For example, you cannot kill a big game animal, and then tag the animal with a tag that belongs to one of your hunting companions. This practice is called "party hunting," and it's illegal.

The only exception to this rule is if a mentor shares a permit and tag with a minor as part of the Hunter Mentoring program. For details on this program, please see the box on page 10.

Big game contests

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-16

You may not enter a contest or hold a contest that is based on big game or its parts and that offers cash or prizes totaling more than $500.

Tagging, transporting and exporting big game

Tagging requirements

Utah Code § 23-20-30 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-17

After you've taken a big game animal, you must tag the animal before moving the carcass or leaving the site of the kill.

To tag a big game animal, completely detach the tag from your big game permit and completely remove the three notches that indicate the date the animal was taken and the sex of the animal. Then, attach the tag to the animal so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating the date or sex, or tag more than one animal, using the same tag. Also, you may not hunt or pursue big game after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from your permit.

Your tag must remain with the largest portion of the animal's meat until all of the meat has been eaten.

Transporting big game within Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-18

You must obey the following rules to transport big game in Utah:

- The head or sex organs of the animal you've taken must remain attached to the largest portion of its carcass.
- If you take an elk on a spike bull unit, the antlers must remain attached to the animal's skull plate, and you must transport the skull plate and antlers with the carcass.
- You must accompany the carcass of any big game animal you've harvested, and you must have a valid permit that corresponds to the tag that's attached to the carcass.

There is one exception to this rule: you may transport a big game animal you did not take if you obtain a shipping permit or a disposal receipt from the Division, or you have a donation slip. You may not donate big game in the field.

Please see *Donating big game* on page 42 for more information.

Transporting big game out of Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-19

You may transport big game or its parts out of Utah if you accompany the big game animal you harvested and you have a valid permit that corresponds to the tag on the animal. The tag must be attached to the largest portion of the carcass.

If you didn't harvest the animal, you must obtain a shipping permit from the Division before taking the animal or its parts out of Utah.

Bringing big game into Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-42

If an elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer or moose has been taken from an area that has been diagnosed with Chronic Wasting Disease, the following are the only parts of the animal you may bring into Utah:

- Meat that is cut and wrapped, either commercially or privately
- Quarters or other portions of meat (no part of the spinal column or head may be attached to the meat)
- Meat that is boned out
- Hides with no heads attached

- Skull plates with antlers attached, but the skull plates must be cleaned of all meat and tissue
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached
- Upper canine teeth (also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories)
- Finished taxidermy heads

You can learn which areas in North America have been diagnosed with Chronic Wasting Disease by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov/cwd* or any Division office.

If you're not a resident of Utah, you can transport harvested elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer from areas that have CWD. However, you may not leave any part of the harvested animal in Utah, and you may not stay more than 24 hours in the state. In addition, your deer or elk may not be processed in Utah.

Possession and use of big game

Donating big game

Utah Code § 23-20-9

The following are the only places you may donate, or give, a big game animal or its parts to another person:

- The residence of the donor
- The residence of the recipient
- A meat locker
- A storage plant
- A meat-processing facility

A written statement of donation must be kept with the animal or its parts. The statement must show:

- The number and species of the wildlife or parts donated
- The date of donation
- The permit number of the donor
- The signature of the donor

There is one exception to the rules above. You may donate the hide of a big game animal to another person or organization at any location, and a donation slip is not required.

Waste of game

Utah Code § 23-20-8

You may not waste any big game animal or permit it to be wasted or spoiled. (Waste means to abandon a big game animal or allow it to spoil or be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use. For example, using the meat as fertilizer or for trapping bait is not considered a beneficial use of the meat.)

In addition, you may not kill or cripple a big game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it. You must immediately kill any animal you wound and tag the animal.

Purchasing or selling big game or its parts

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-20

You may not buy, sell or offer, or possess for sale, barter, exchange or trade, any big game animal or its parts. The only exceptions are the following:

- Antlers, heads and horns of legally taken big game may be bought or sold from Feb. 15 through July 31.
- Untanned hides of legally taken big game may be bought or sold from Aug. 1 through Feb. 14.
- Inedible byproducts of legally possessed big game—except for hides, antlers and horns—may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- Tanned hides of legally taken big game may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- Shed antlers and horns may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- Protected wildlife that the Division obtains may be sold or donated by the Division or its agents (usually Utah

State Surplus) any time of the year. Also, you may purchase or receive protected wildlife from the Division any time of the year.

If you sell or buy antlers, heads, horns or untanned hides, you must keep a transaction record that states all of the following information:

- The name and address of the person who harvested the animal
- The date you sold or bought the items
- The permit number of the person who harvested the animal

There is one exception to this rule: scouting programs and other charitable organizations do not need to keep a transaction record if they're using untanned hides.

Possession of antlers and horns

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-21

You may possess antlers or horns—or parts of antlers or horns—that were obtained:

- From lawfully harvested big game
- By lawfully meeting the requirements listed in the "Purchasing or selling big game or its parts" section above
- From lawfully gathered antlers or horns shed by big game animals

You may gather shed antlers or horns—or parts of shed antlers or horns—statewide, but there are a couple of seasonal requirements.

From Feb. 1 to April 15, you need an antler-gathering certificate on your person while collecting shed antlers or horns. You can obtain this certificate free of charge by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov* and completing an online education course. You do not need an antler-gathering certificate at any other time of the year.

Finding a skull with antlers or horns attached

If you find a skull with the antlers or horns still attached, it's possible the animal was poached. **Do NOT pick up or move the skull, or disturb any footprints or other evidence.** Instead, we encourage you to take the following steps:

- Take photos of the skull from a couple of angles
- Pinpoint the location of the skull (preferably its GPS coordinates)
- Call or visit a Division office to report your find
- Provide key details in your report

The Division will send a conservation officer to investigate if the animal was poached. If it's clear that the animal died of natural causes, we may allow you to keep your find.

Important: Do not trepass on closed areas or private lands to collect shed antlers or horns.

"Shed antlers" are antlers that a big game animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual life cycle. Shed antlers have a rounded base that's commonly called an antler button or burr.

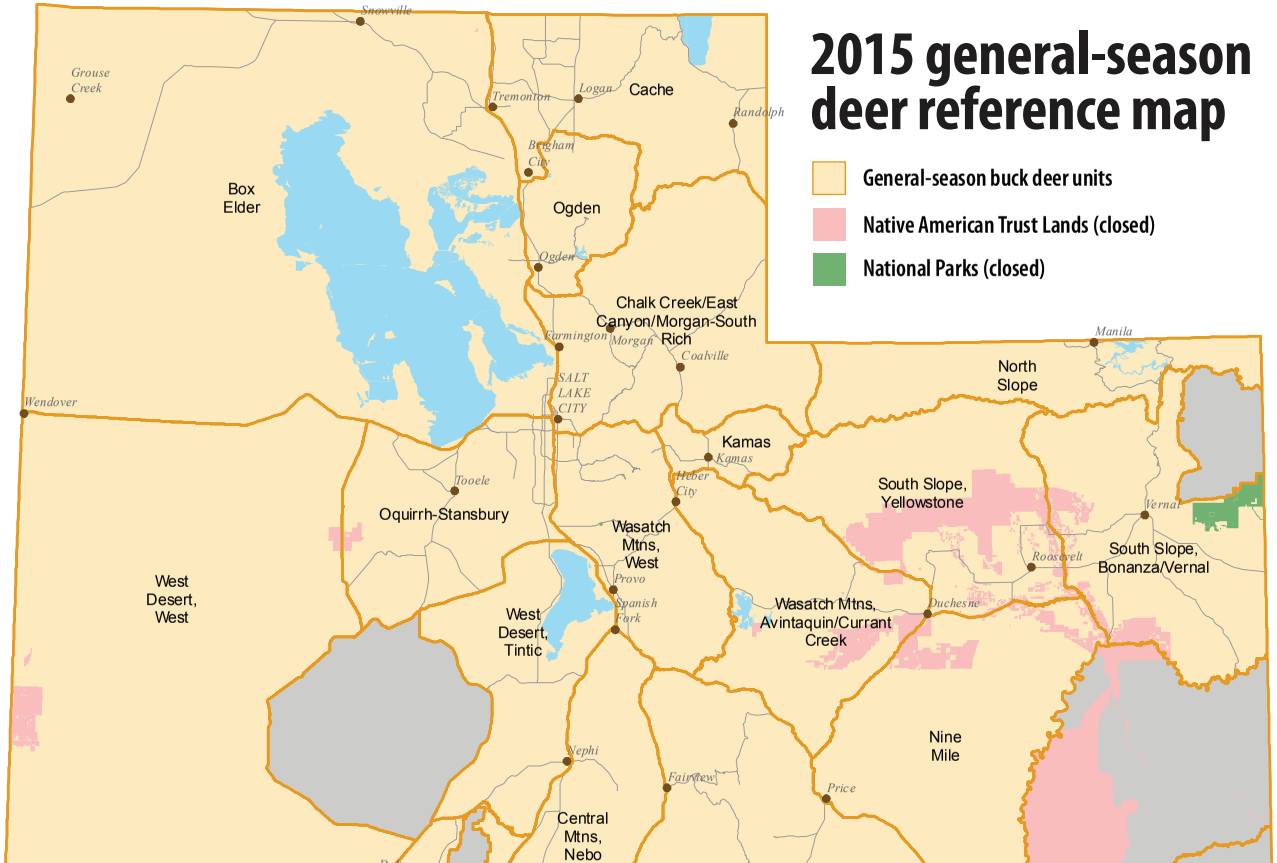
A "shed horn" is the sheath from the horn of a pronghorn that the animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual life cycle. Pronghorn are the only big game animals that shed their horns.

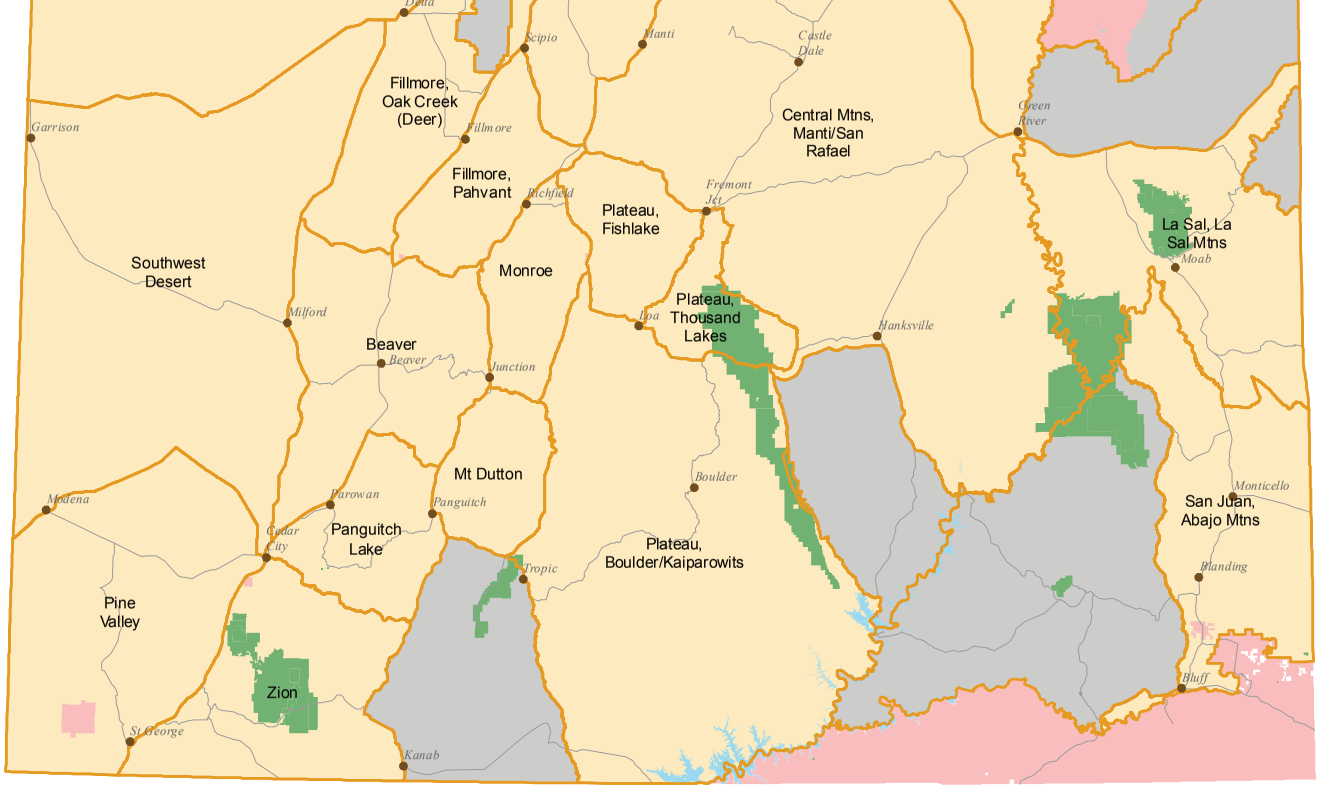
2015 general-season deer reference map

General-season buck deer units

Native American Trust Lands (closed)

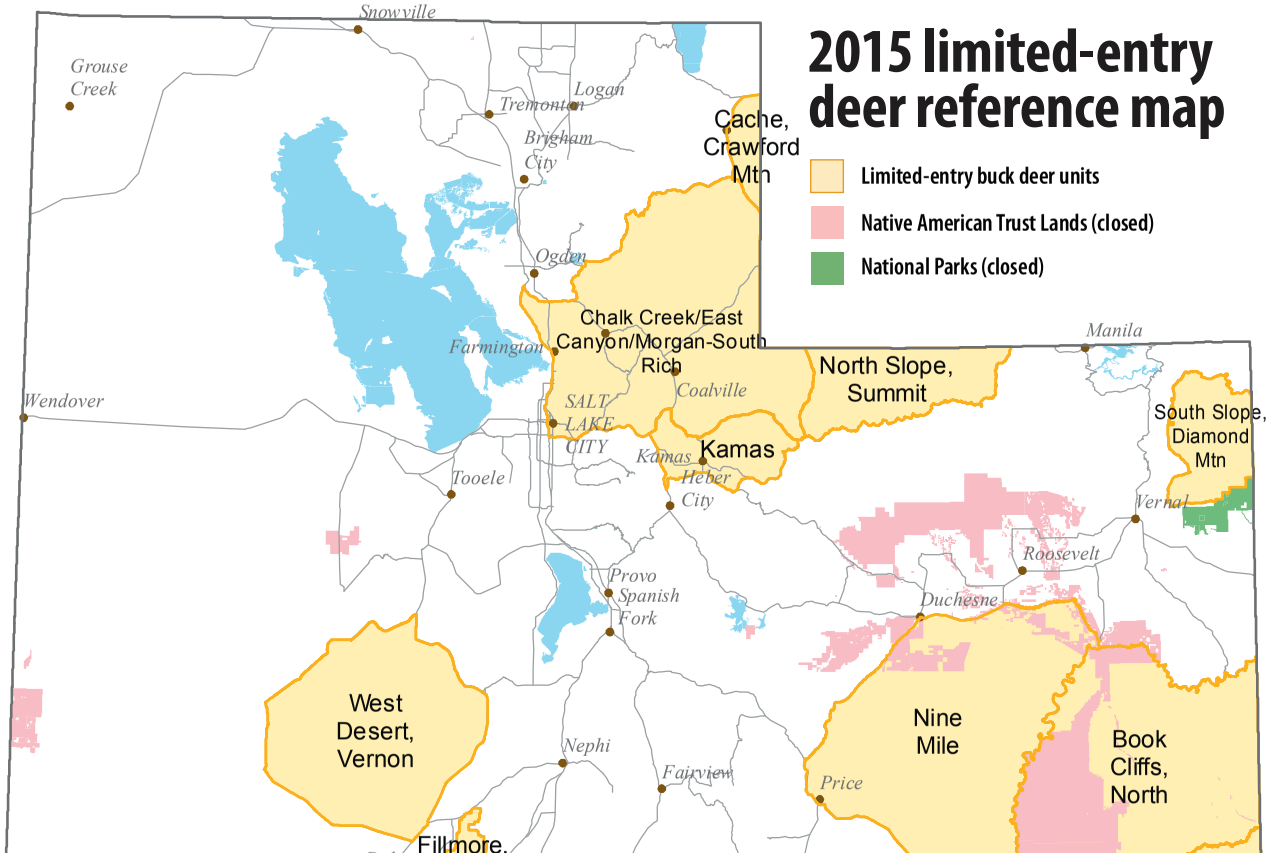
National Parks (closed)

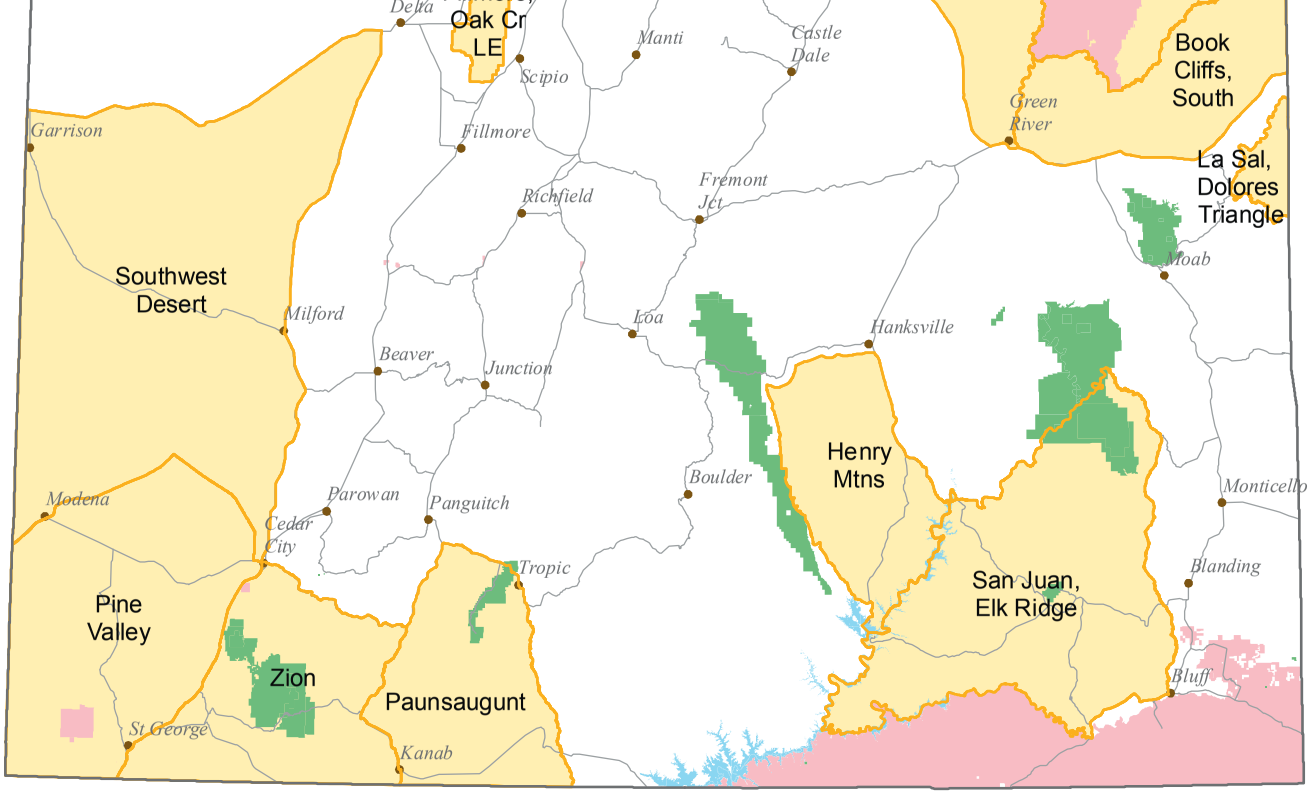




This map is for general reference only. Please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** deer CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.

2015 limited-entry deer reference map

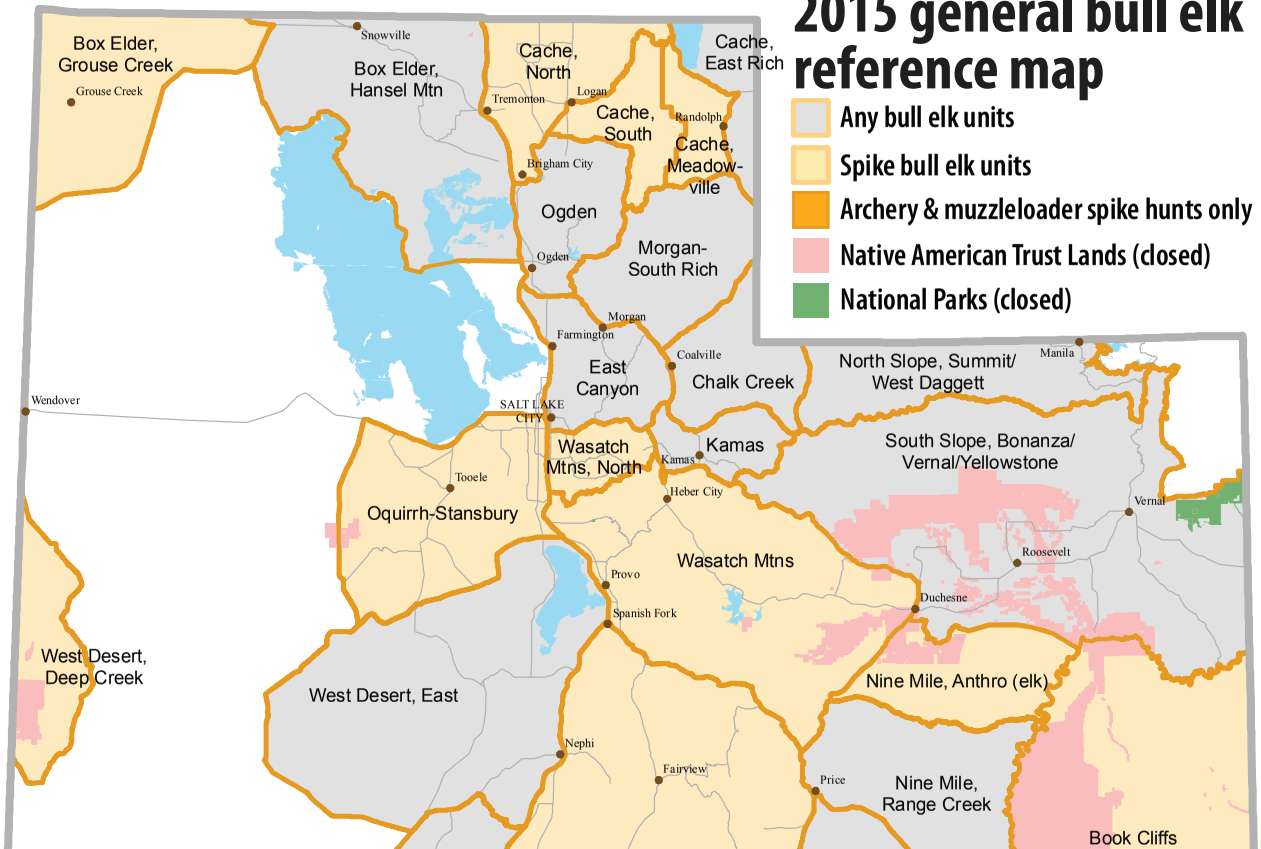


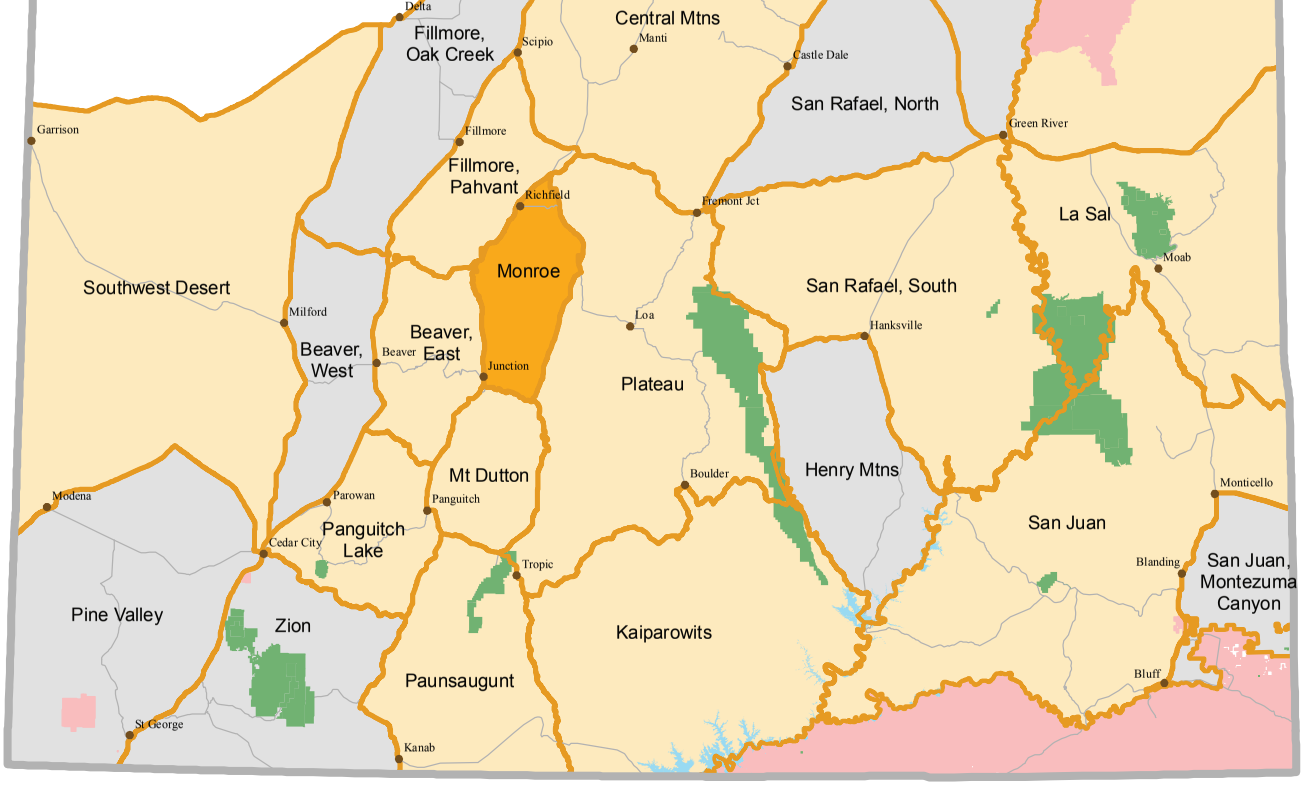


This map is for general reference only. Please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** deer CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.

2015 general bull elk reference map

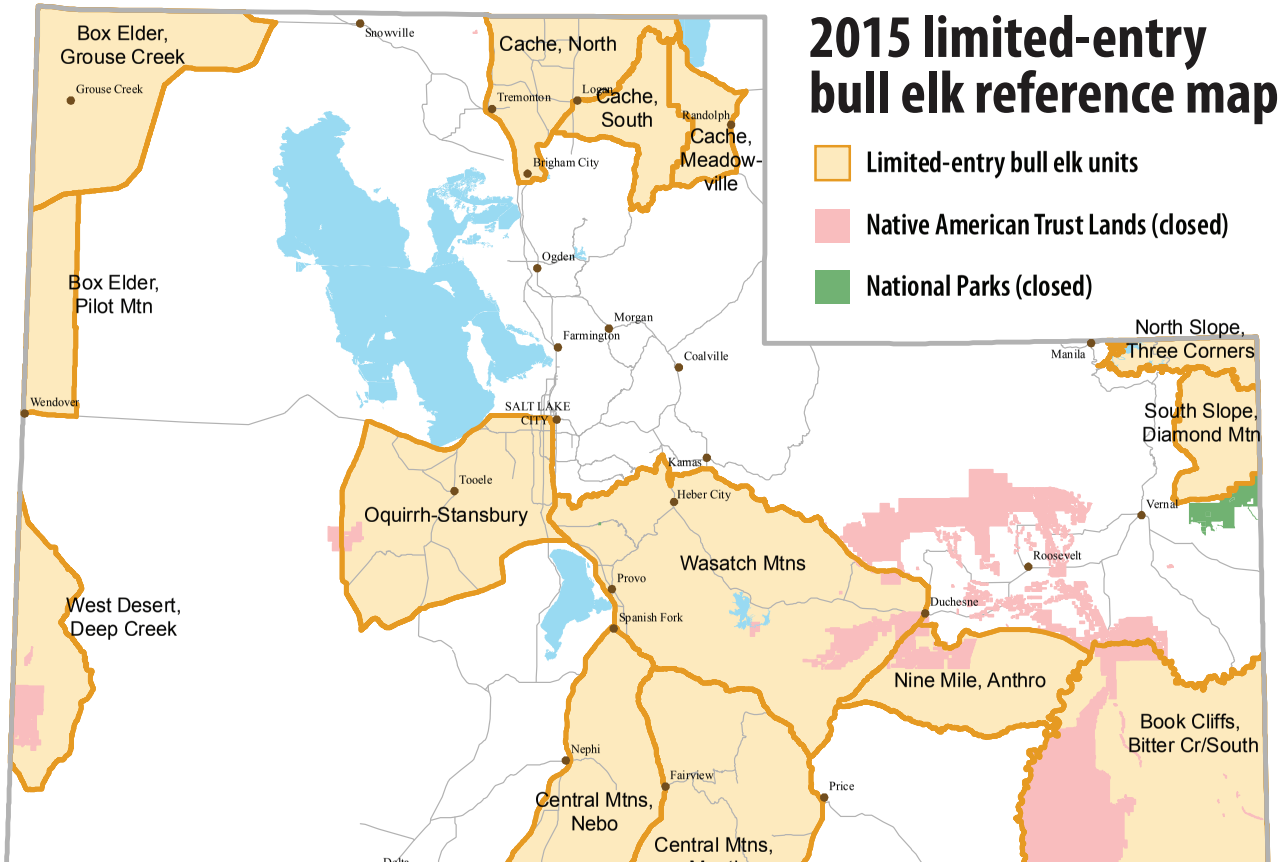
- Any bull elk units
- Spike bull elk units
- Archery & muzzleloader spike hunts only
- Native American Trust Lands (closed)
- National Parks (closed)

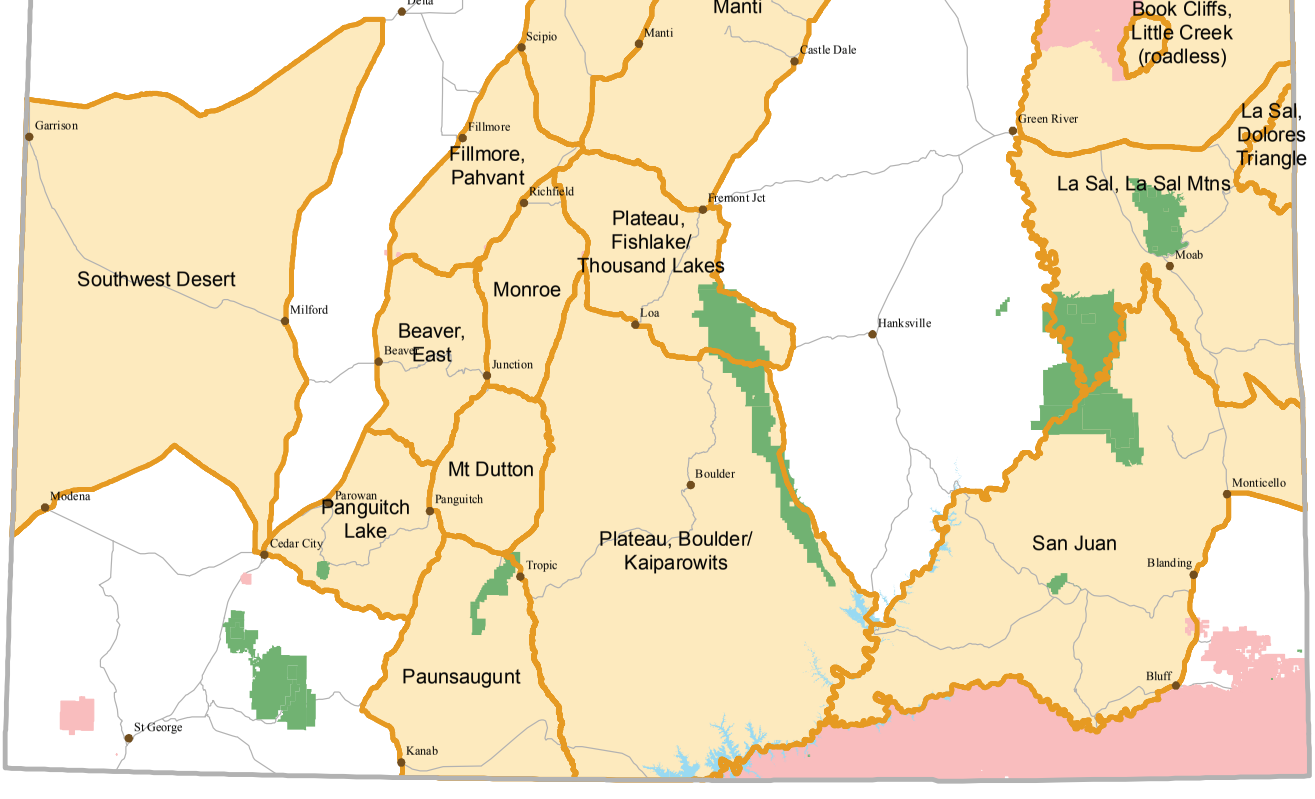




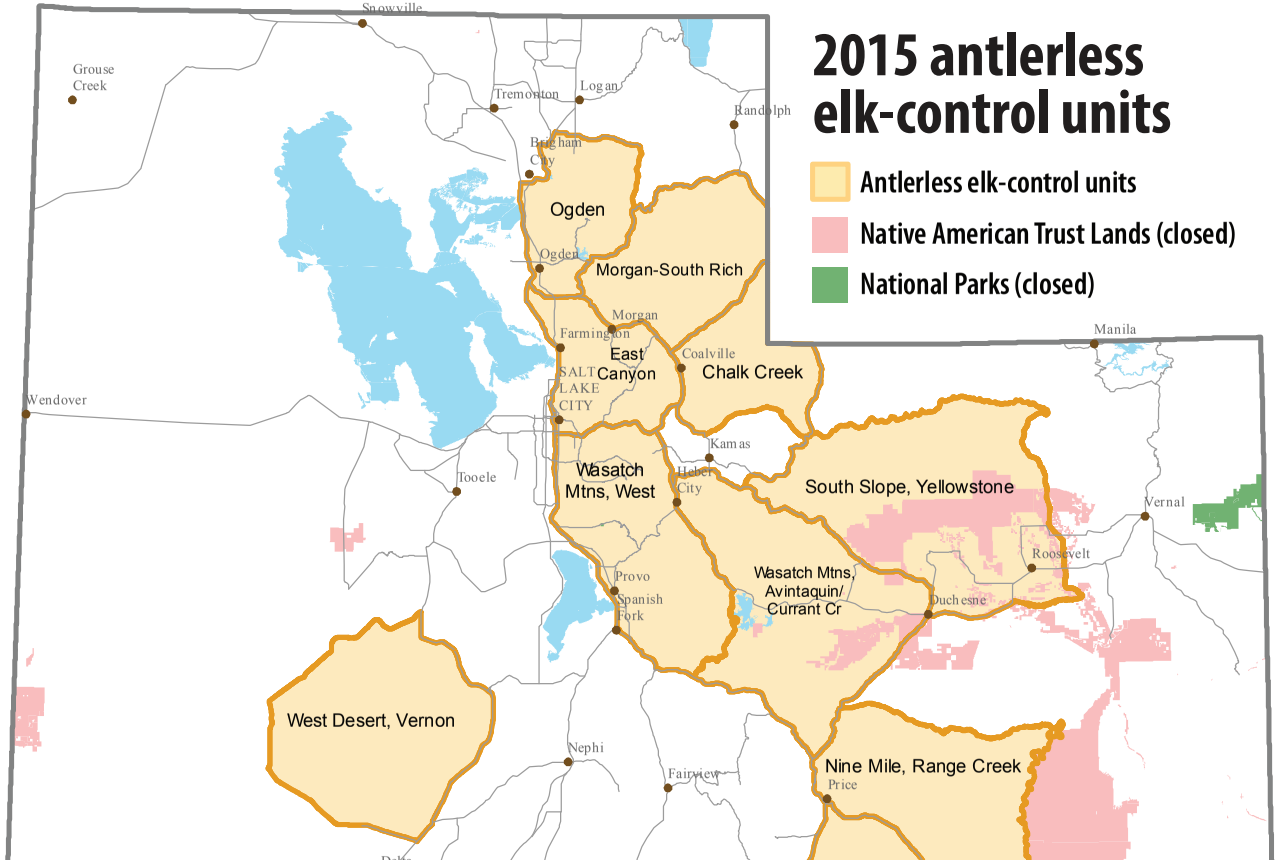
This map is for general reference only. Please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** elk CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.

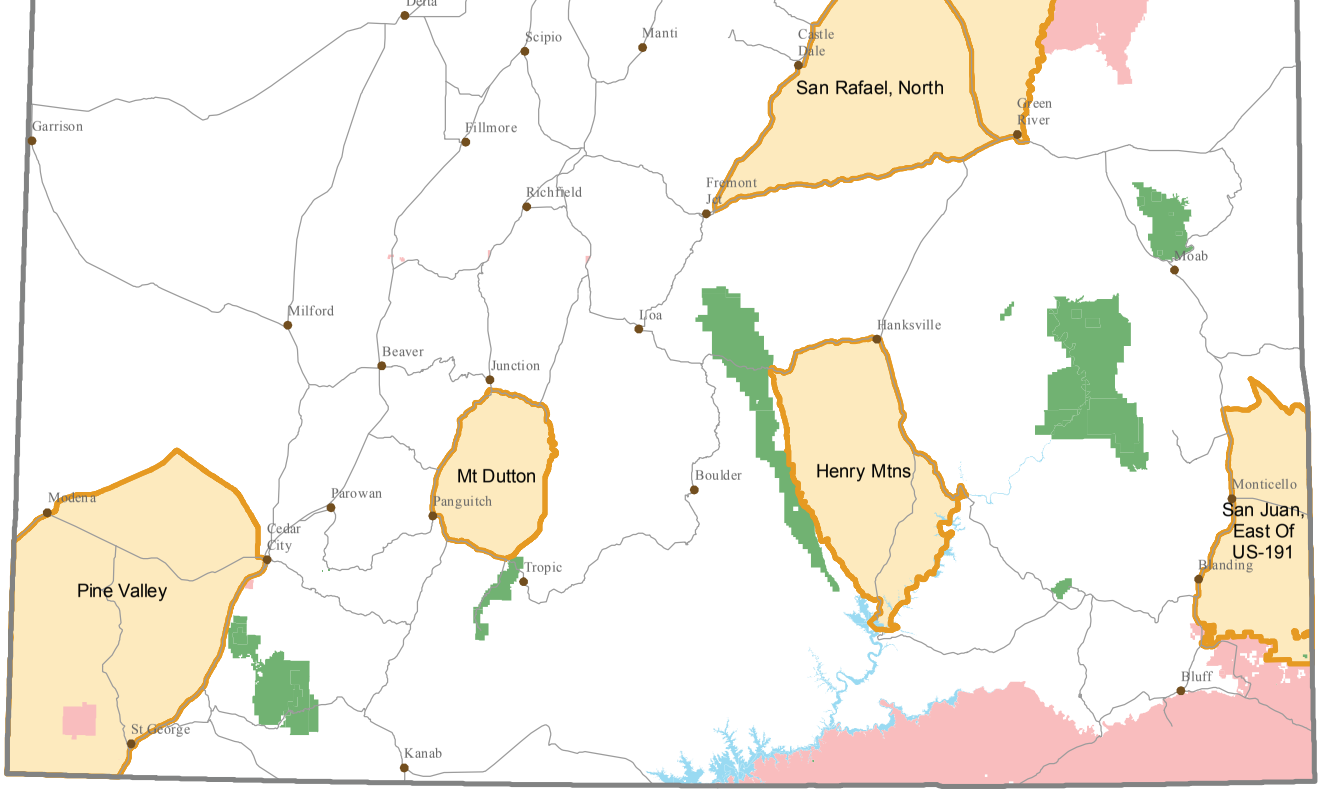
2015 limited-entry bull elk reference map





This map is for general reference only. Please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps* for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** elk CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.


2015 antlerless elk-control units
Antlerless elk-control units
Native American Trust Lands (closed)
National Parks (closed)
Snowville
Grouse Creek
Tremonton
Logan
Randolph
Brigham City
Ogden
Morgan-South Rich
Morgan
Farmington
East Canyon
Coalville
Chalk Creek
SALT LAKE CITY
Wendover
Tooele
Kamas
Wasatch Mtns, West
Heber City
South Slope, Yellowstone
Manila
Vernal
Roosevelt
Provo
Spanish Fork
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/ Currant Cr
Duchesne
West Desert, Vernon
Nephi
Fairview
Nine Mile, Range Creek
Price



This map is for general reference only. Please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/ElkControl* for more information about the program, and to see detailed maps and boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** elk CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.

DEFINITIONS

Utah Code § 23-13-2 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-2 & R657-37

Any legal weapon means the weapons described under *Firearms and archery equipment* on page 34.

Arrow quiver means a portable arrow case that completely encases all edges of the broadheads.

Big game means species of hoofed protected wildlife.

Buck deer means a deer with antlers longer than five inches.

Buck pronghorn means a pronghorn with horns longer than five inches.

Bull elk means an elk with antlers longer than five inches.

Bull moose means a moose with antlers longer than its ears.

Carcass means the dead body of an animal or its parts.

Certificate of registration means a document issued under any rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board granting authority to engage in activities not covered by a license, permit or tag.

CWMU means Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit.

Domicile means the place:

- where an individual has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment;
- to which the individual if absent, intends to return; and
- in which the individual and the individual's family voluntarily reside, not for a special or temporary purpose, but with the intention of making a permanent home.

To create a new domicile an individual must:

- abandon the old domicile; and
- be able to prove that a new domicile has been established.

Draw lock means a mechanical device used to hold and support the draw weight of a conventional or compound bow at any increment of draw, until released by the archer using a trigger mechanism and safety attached to the device.

Highway means the entire width between property lines of every way or place of any nature when any part of it is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for vehicular travel.

Hunter's choice means either sex may be taken.

Hunting means to take or pursue a reptile, amphibian, bird or mammal by any means.

Limited-entry hunt means any hunt that is identified as limited-entry and listed in the hunt table of this guidebook, and that does not include general or once-in-a-lifetime hunts.

Limited-entry permit means any permit obtained for a limited-entry hunt by any means, including multi-season permits, conservation permits, expo permits, sportsman permits, CWMU permits and limited-entry landowner permits.

Nonresident means a person who does not qualify as a resident.

Once-in-a-lifetime hunt means any hunt that is identified as once-in-a-lifetime and

listed in the hunt table of this guidebook, and that does not include general or limited-entry hunts.

Once-in-a-lifetime permit means any permit obtained for a once-in-a-lifetime hunt by any means, including conservation permits, expo permits, sportsman permits, CWMU permits and limited-entry landowner permits.

Permit means a document, including a stamp, which grants authority to engage in specific activities under the Wildlife Resources Code or a rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board.

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Ram means a male desert bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Resident means a person who has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment in Utah for six consecutive months immediately preceding the purchase of a license or permit, AND DOES NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

An individual retains Utah residency if he or she leaves Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States, or for religious or educational purposes, and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

Members of the armed forces of the United States and dependents are residents as of the date the member reports for duty under assigned orders in Utah, if:

- the member is NOT on temporary duty in Utah and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- the member presents a copy of his or her assignment orders to a Division office to verify the member's qualification as a resident.

A nonresident attending an institution of higher learning in Utah as a full-time student may qualify as a resident if the student has been present in Utah for 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the purchase of the license or permit and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

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A Utah resident license or permit is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing or trapping is purchased in any other state or country.

An individual DOES NOT qualify as a resident if he or she is an absentee landowner paying property tax on land in Utah.

Sell means to offer or possess for sale, barter, exchange or trade, or the act of selling, bartering, exchanging or trading.

Shed antlers are antlers that a big game animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual lifecycle.

Shed horns are the sheaths from the horns of a pronghorn that the animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual lifecycle. Pronghorn are the only big game animals that shed their horns.

Spike bull means a bull elk which has at least one antler beam with no branching above the ears. Branched means a projection on an antler longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip.

Spoiled means impairment of the flesh of wildlife which renders it unfit for human consumption.

Tag means a card, label or other identification device issued for attachment to the carcass of protected wildlife.

Take means to:

- hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or
- attempt any of the above actions.

Vessel means every type of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Waste means to abandon protected wildlife or to allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use.

Youth means someone who is 17 years old or younger on July 31 of any given year.