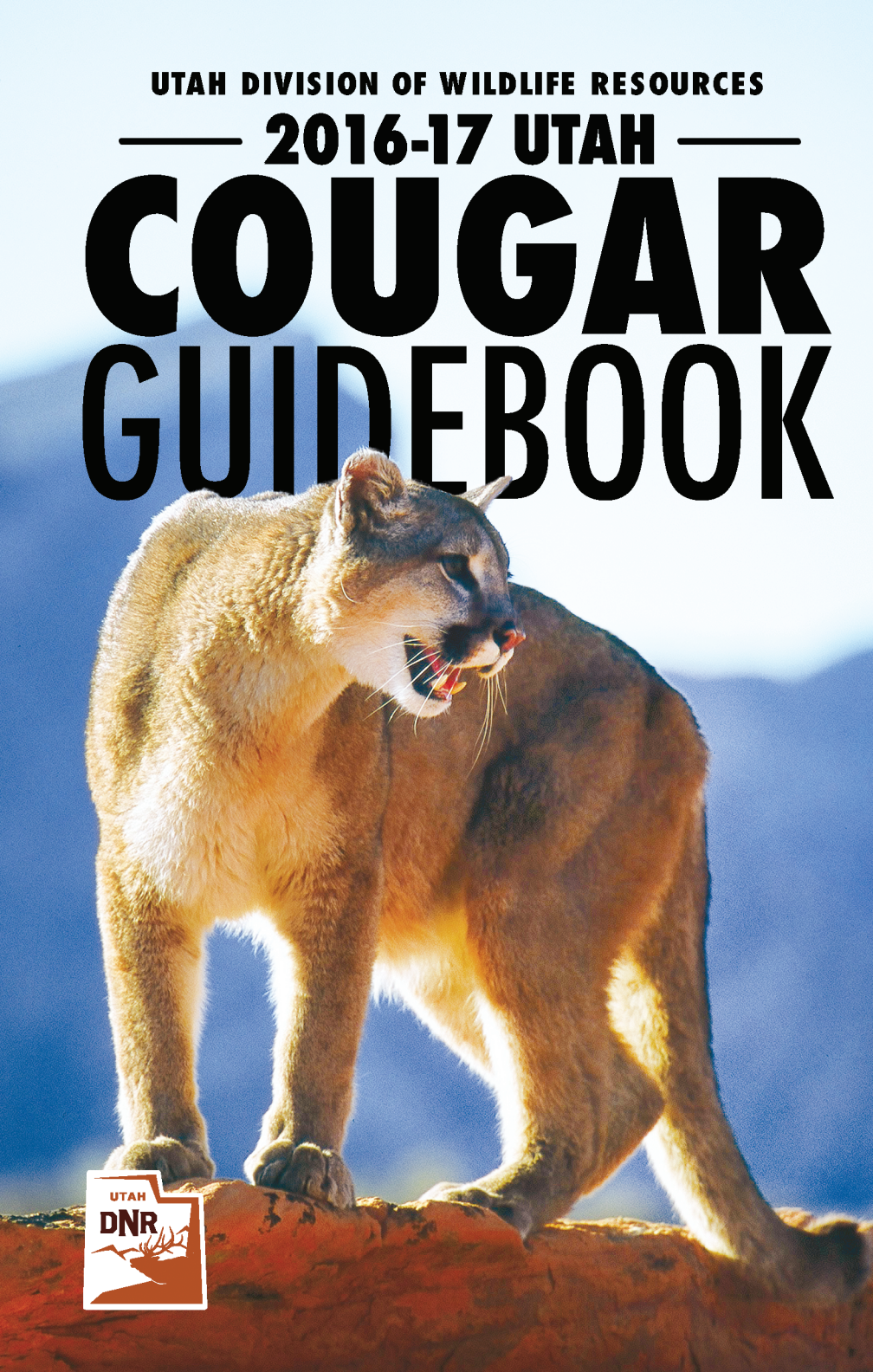
UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

2016-17 UTAH COUGAR GUIDEBOOK



CONTACT US

Turn in a poacher

Phone: 1-800-662-3337
Email: *turninapoacher@utah.gov*
Online: *wildlife.utah.gov/utip*

Division offices

Offices are open 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Salt Lake City
1594 W North Temple
Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
801-538-4700

Central Region
1115 N Main Street
Springville, UT 84663
801-491-5678

Northeastern Region
318 N Vernal Avenue
Vernal, UT 84078
435-781-9453

Northern Region
515 E 5300 S
Ogden, UT 84405
801-476-2740

Southeastern Region
319 N Carbonville Road, Ste A
Price, UT 84501
435-613-3700

Southern Region
1470 N Airport Road
Cedar City, UT 84721
435-865-6100

Washington County Field Office
451 N SR-318
Hurricane, UT 84737
435-879-8694

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WHAT'S NEW?

Apply for limited-entry hunts: You can apply for Utah's 2016–2017 limited-entry cougar hunts from Sept. 15–Oct. 6, 2016. The results of the cougar drawing will be available on or before Oct. 21, 2016. For additional details, see page 10.

Two new hunting units: The San Juan hunting unit has been split into two new hunting units: San Juan, Desert and San Juan, Mountains. To find maps and descriptions of the new units — or any other area you want to hunt — visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*.

Hunt name changes: A handful of Utah's cougar hunting units have new names this year. Those names were changed to ensure consistency with the unit names for other species. To see which units have been renamed, review the hunt tables that begin on page 32.

Boundary changes: Some cougar hunt boundaries have changed this year, specifically on the Box Elder, Pilot Mtn unit. To find a map and description of the area you want to hunt, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*.

Check the season dates: Season dates change every year. For details, see the tables that start on page 32.

Updated hunt application page: When you go online to apply for a limited-entry cougar hunt, you may notice that the application page looks different. Recent changes to organization and design should make the page easier for hunters to use.

KNOW THE LAWS

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

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

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Administrative Rule R657-10-13—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 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

Byron Bateman
Calvin Crandall
Steve Dalton
Donnie Hunter
Michael King

John Bair, *Chair*
Kirk Woodward, *Vice Chair*
Gregory Sheehan, *Division Director & Executive Secretary*

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Harvest-objective unit closures: Harvest-objective hunting units will close on a unit-by-unit basis. Any unit closures will be listed on the cougar hotline (1-888-668-5466) and posted at *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest* by noon daily. Closures will take effect the following day.

Hunting license required to apply: Before you can apply for a cougar permit or bonus point—or purchase a pursuit permit—you must have a valid Utah hunting or combination license. Please see page 8 for more information.

Download the app: The free Utah Hunting and Fishing app makes it easy to store digital versions of your licenses and permits on a mobile device. For details, see *wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp.*

Apply for permits online or by phone: If you hope to harvest a cougar on a limited-entry unit this year, the application period opens on Sept. 15, 2016. You must apply for a permit online or by phone no later than Oct. 6, 2016. 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.

Boundary maps and descriptions online

Looking for a map or description of your hunting unit? Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*. You'll find the information you need to plan your hunting trip.

Trial hunting program: People who haven't hunted may be able to try it for the first time without taking Hunter Education. For details, see the article on page 9.

Purchase pursuit permits by phone: You can now purchase a cougar pursuit permit over the telephone. Just call 1-800-221-0659. The line is staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week. You will be charged a $2 transaction fee for each item you purchase.

Your wait is over: If you last obtained a cougar limited-entry permit for the 2012–2013 season, your waiting period is over and you're now eligible to apply again.

Purchase harvest-objective permits: Harvest-objective permits may be purchased beginning Nov. 3, 2016 at *wildlife.utah.gov*, from license agents and at any Division office. If you purchase a harvest-objective permit, you may hunt statewide on any harvest-objective unit that's still open to hunting. If you purchase a cougar harvest-objective permit after the season opens, the permit is not valid until three days from the date of purchase.

Corrections: If errors are found in the printed guidebook, the Division will correct them in the online version. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks* to view all of the Division's guidebooks.

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 *wildlife.utah.gov/know-the-consequences.html* to see a map of participating states.)

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. Under certain circumstances, you must obtain written permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting on private lands. To learn more, please see page 26.

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.

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KEY DATES AND FEES

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

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

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 and also allows you to fish with a second pole.*

Permit fees

Resident fees

Cougar limited-entry permit	$58†
Cougar harvest-objective permit	$58
Cougar-control permit	$58
Cougar pursuit permit	$30
Cougar damage permit	$30

Nonresident fees

Cougar limited-entry permit	$258†
Cougar harvest-objective permit	$258
Cougar-control permit	$258
Cougar pursuit permit	$135
Cougar damage permit	$30

† You will be charged a $10 nonrefundable application fee.

UTAH HUNTING & FISHING APP

IT'S FREE!

Download from *wildlife.utah.gov/MobileApp*

Key dates

Hunt applications

Application available online	Sept. 15, 2016
Application deadline	Oct. 6, 2016
Drawing results available	Oct. 21, 2016

Permits available

Remaining limited-entry permits go on sale	Nov. 3, 2016
Harvest-objective permit sales begin	Nov. 3, 2016
Cougar-control permits available to harvest-objective permit holders	Nov. 3, 2016
Cougar-control permits available to split-unit permit holders	March 2, 2017

Season dates

Opening day	Nov. 9, 2016
Opening day for harvest-objective hunting on split units	March 2, 2017

Pursuit season dates

Pursuit season begins	Nov. 9, 2016
Pursuit season ends	May 31, 2017

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wildlife.utah.gov

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Are you thinking about hunting cougars in Utah this year? If so, you'll need to make sure you meet Utah's age, hunter education and license requirements before you apply for a cougar permit.

Are you old enough?

Utah Code §§ 23-19-22.5 and 23-20-20

If you are 11 years old, you may apply for or obtain a cougar permit as long as your 12th birthday occurs during the calendar year in which the Division issues the permit.

- Scenario 1: If you will turn 12 by Dec. 31, 2016, you can apply for a permit in the 2016 cougar drawing or purchase a cougar permit that's available after the drawing.
- Scenario 2: If you will turn 12 sometime in 2017, you cannot participate in the 2016 cougar drawing, but you can purchase a cougar permit starting Jan. 1, 2017.

Adults must accompany young hunters

Utah Code § 23-20-20

While hunting with any weapon, a person under 14 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.

A person at least 14 years old and under 16 years old must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older while hunting with any weapon.

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 and 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 cougar permit.

The only exception to this law is for individuals who are participating in the Division's Trial Hunting Program. You can find details about the program on page 9 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.

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 cougar 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 cougars. To sign up for the program or to learn more about it, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/trial*.

You should also keep the following in mind:

- Hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
- Regardless of when a student graduates, all hunting regulations (such as season dates and bag limits) will apply.
- 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.

Do you have a license?

Utah Code §§§ 23-19-1, 23-19-22.5 and 23-20-25

You must have a current Utah hunting or combination (hunting and fishing) license before you can apply for or obtain a permit to harvest or pursue cougar in Utah.

To purchase a license, visit *wildlife.utah.gov*, a license agent or any Division office. You can also buy a license over the telephone. Just call 1-800-221-0659. The line is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to the fee for the license, you'll also be charged a $2 transaction fee for each item you buy.

Carry your permit

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

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PREPARE TO APPLY

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-19

To participate in Utah's cougar hunt, you need to obtain a permit. The Division distributes permits for limited-entry hunts (held on limited-entry units and split units) through the cougar drawing. You can apply for the drawing from Sept. 15–Oct. 6, 2016. It will be easier to apply if you are thoroughly prepared before you begin the application process. This part of the guidebook will help you find the information and resources you need in order to apply.

Verify your residency

Before you apply for any cougar hunts, it's important to know whether you are a legal resident of the state of Utah. Although residents and nonresidents can apply for the same types of permits, there are some differences in permit fees and availability. See the definition of residency on page 39 to determine if you are a resident or a nonresident.

Complete the voluntary orientation course

Before you apply for or obtain a cougar permit, the Division strongly encourages you to complete the online cougar orientation course.

The course is completely voluntary, but it provides valuable information about cougar identification, target selection and how to have a successful hunt. You will find the orientation course online at *wildlife.utah.gov/cougar*.

Residency

Utah Code § 23-13-2(37)

Before you purchase a license or permit, it's important to know whether you are a legal resident of the state of Utah. See the definition of residency on page 39 to determine whether you are a resident or a nonresident.

Understand permit types

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-3 and R657-10-23

If you want to hunt or pursue a cougar in Utah, your permit options are as follows:

Hunting permits

There are four different types of cougar hunting permits in Utah. Only two of those permit types (limited-entry permits and limited-entry permits for split hunting units) are available through the cougar drawing.

Limited-entry permits

This permit will allow you to take one cougar on a specific limited-entry unit, during a specified season. All limited-entry units have an exact closing date. For more information on these hunting units and season dates, see the hunt tables that begin on page 32.

You must use the appropriate weapon type for your hunt. For details, see the *Field Regulations* section that begins on page 20.

How to obtain one: Apply for a limited-entry permit in the cougar drawing. For details, see page 14.

Limited-entry permits for split hunting units

A split hunting unit is one that begins as a specific limited-entry unit and then transitions into an open harvest-objective unit. This permit is considered a limited-entry permit.

With a valid cougar limited-entry permit for a split unit, you may hunt only the unit listed on your permit during the limited-entry portion of the season (Nov. 9, 2016–Feb. 24, 2017). Then, beginning on the split-unit transition date, you may also hunt on any open harvest-objective units. The split-unit transition date for the 2016–2017 season is March 2, 2017.

If you possess a valid cougar limited-entry permit for a split unit—and you choose to hunt on any harvest-objective unit (including the unit for which the limited-entry permit was valid) after the transition date—you are subject to all unit closure and reporting requirements. For more information, see page 18.

You must use the appropriate weapon type for your hunt. For details, see the *Field Regulations* section that begins on page 20.

How to obtain one: Apply for a permit on a split hunting unit in the cougar drawing. For details, see page 14.

Harvest-objective permits

Biologists have set harvest objectives (quotas) for the number of cougars that can be taken on certain units. When the objective is met, the unit closes to cougar hunting for the rest of the season.

The harvest-objective permit allows you to use any legal weapon to harvest one cougar on any harvest-objective hunting unit until the season ends or the unit's harvest objective has been met.

How to obtain one: Purchase a harvest-objective permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*, from a license agent or at any Division office. For details, see page 18.

Cougar-control permits

This permit is a type of harvest-objective permit. With a cougar-control permit, you may take a second cougar on harvest-objective units that have an unlimited quota. **Cougar-control permits are only valid on unlimited quota units.** You can find the unlimited quota units listed in the table on page 35.

Before you can purchase a cougar-control permit, you must first have one of the following permits:

- A harvest-objective permit
- A limited-entry permit for a split hunting unit that has already transitioned to harvest-objective status (the transition date is March 2, 2017)

How to obtain one: Purchase a cougar-control permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*, from a license agent or at any Division office. For details, see page 18.

Pursuit permits

This permit authorizes you to pursue, but not kill, a cougar on any unit that is open to pursuit. (For all pursuit season dates, see page 7.)

For the field regulations that apply to cougar pursuit, see page 23.

For a complete list of units where you can use a cougar pursuit permit, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*.

How to obtain one: Purchase a pursuit permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*, from a license agent or at any Division office. For details, see page 19.

Do your research

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-3 and R657-33-4

It's important to nail down the details before applying for a hunt. You don't want to accidentally apply for the wrong hunting unit or season. We've provided information in this guidebook and links to online tools that can help you research your options.

Review the hunt tables

All of the cougar hunts you can apply for in the drawing are listed in the hunt tables that begin on page 32. You will need to use the hunt numbers associated with the hunts in order to apply for permits. Please keep in mind that hunt names and boundaries may change from year to year.

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See maps and boundaries online

You'll find detailed maps and boundary descriptions for all cougar hunts at *wildlife.utah.gov/maps*. If you obtain your permit through the cougar drawing, a boundary description will be printed on your permit.

Obtain permission to hunt private property

If you want to hunt on private property, the Division strongly encourages you to obtain written permission from the landowner. 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.

Why bonus points matter

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-8

Utah's bonus point system has been put in place to increase your chance of drawing a cougar permit. Knowing more about the points system may be helpful during the application process.

Bonus points in the cougar drawing apply to limited-entry hunts only.

If you are eligible to obtain a cougar limited-entry permit, you are eligible to apply for a cougar bonus point.

Bonus points are not transferable, and group applications for bonus points are not accepted.

Take the voluntary cougar-hunting course

The Division offers a voluntary orientation course for cougar hunters. By taking the course, you will learn more about cougar identification, target selection and how to have a successful hunt. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cougar* to take the course today.

How to obtain bonus points

- You receive a bonus point if you submit a valid application for the cougar drawing, but you do not draw a permit.
- If you don't plan to hunt a cougar during the upcoming season, you may apply for a bonus point only. Simply select the appropriate hunt choice code (CGR) on the application and pay the $10 application fee. You must have a current Utah hunting or combination license in order to apply for a bonus point.
- You may apply for either a cougar limited-entry permit or a bonus point, but not both.

How your bonus points work in the drawing

Here's a quick look at how your bonus points work in the drawing:

- Fifty percent of the permits for each limited-entry hunting unit are reserved for applicants who have the greatest number of bonus points.
- You receive a random drawing number for your current cougar application and a random drawing number for every cougar bonus point you have. Your lowest random number is then used in the drawing. (The lower your number, the better your chance at drawing a permit.)

If you draw a cougar limited-entry permit—or obtain a remaining limited-entry permit—you lose any bonus points you've accumulated. You'll start earning bonus points again the next time you're eligible to apply for a cougar limited-entry permit and are unsuccessful in that year's drawing.

You will not lose your bonus points if you obtain a conservation permit, harvest-objective permit or cougar-control permit.

Please see Utah Code § 23-19-38 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-42 at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* for more information on permit surrender and reallocation.

For detailed information on how your bonus points work in the drawing, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/huntingpermits*.

Are you eligible to apply?

Before you submit your application, be sure you are eligible to participate in the cougar drawing.

You may not apply if...

You may **not** apply for a cougar permit or obtain a bonus point if any of the following conditions apply:

- Your cougar hunting privilege has been suspended.
- You're under a waiting period for cougar.
- You don't have a hunting or combination license.

Waiting period

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-23

The waiting period keeps successful applicants out of the drawing for a few years. This gives unsuccessful applicants a better chance at drawing a permit in the future.

The waiting period for the cougar limited-entry hunt is three seasons. If you last obtained a cougar limited-entry permit for the 2012–2013 season, your waiting period is over, and you're now eligible to apply again.

Permits obtained after the drawing

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-14

If you're under a waiting period for cougar, you can still obtain any limited-entry cougar permit that remains after the drawing, but your waiting period will begin again.

For example, if you have one season left on your cougar waiting period, and you buy a cougar limited-entry permit that remains available after the drawing, you'll begin a new three-season waiting period.

The new waiting period will prevent you from applying for a cougar limited-entry permit for the next three seasons.

You may obtain a harvest-objective permit and a cougar-countrol permit while under a waiting period for a cougar limited-entry permit. You will not begin a new waiting period if you purchase either a harvest-objective or cougar-control permit.

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, hunt from a vehicle, and receive special season extensions.

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

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APPLY FOR A PERMIT

The process of applying for a cougar permit is fairly straightforward, if you've prepared ahead of time. You will avoid unnecessary stress if you apply for the drawing before the last day of the application period.

Important dates

If you are planning to apply for a 2016–2017 cougar permit, please be aware of the following dates and deadlines.

September 15: Apply online for a permit or bonus point

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62

Beginning Sept. 15, 2016, both residents and nonresidents can apply for a cougar limited-entry permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*. You can also apply by calling any Division office.

To apply for a resident permit, you must be a resident by October 21, 2016. That is considered the purchase date of the permit and the date by which you must establish residency in the state of Utah. Only nonresidents may apply for nonresident permits. Please see the definition of residency on page 39 to learn whether you qualify as a resident.

You may not apply for more than one permit to harvest cougar during the 2016–2017 season.

Here's what you need to know in order to apply for a cougar limited-entry permit or a cougar bonus point:

- You may select up to three hunt units when applying for a cougar limited-entry permit. Your hunt unit choices must be listed in order of preference.
- You cannot apply for both a cougar limited-entry permit and a bonus point.
- Group applications are not accepted.
- You may obtain a cougar pursuit permit in addition to a limited-entry permit.

If you are unsuccessful in the limited-entry hunt drawing, you may still be able to hunt a cougar during the 2016–2017 season. See page 18 for more information about harvest-objective and cougar-control permits.

When you submit your application, you'll be charged a nonrefundable $10 application fee. If you purchase your hunting or combination license during the application process, you'll also be charged a license fee. Permit fees will be charged after the drawing, if you are successful.

You can use American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA credit or debit cards as payment, and they must be valid through December 2016.

Please keep in mind that the Division is not responsible for any bank charges incurred for the use of credit or debit cards. To change the credit or debit card associated with your application, call 1-800-221-0659.

October 6: Deadline for permit applications and bonus points

Your application for a cougar limited-entry permit or a cougar bonus point must be submitted through *wildlife.utah.gov* no later than 11 p.m. MDT on Oct. 6, 2016. Please remember that you must have a hunting license or a combination license to apply for a bonus point.

October 6: Deadline for withdrawing or resubmitting your application

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-11

If you decide not to hunt, you can withdraw your online permit application until 11 p.m. MDT on Oct. 6, 2016.

If you made a mistake in your online permit application, simply withdraw your original online application and submit a new, correct application before 11 p.m. MDT on Oct. 6, 2016.

In order to withdraw your application, visit the main application page and click the *Withdraw Application* button at the bottom of the page. For each new application you submit, you will be charged a $10 application fee.

If you need help with your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MDT on Oct. 6, 2016. A Division employee will be available to assist you.

Please remember that the fees you submitted with your application are not refundable.

October 21: Drawing results available

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-12

You'll be notified of the drawing results by email on or before Oct. 21, 2016. You can also learn the drawing results by calling 1-800-221-0659 or by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov*.

If you draw a permit, you'll receive your permit in the mail in early November.

November 3: Remaining permits available

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-14

Any cougar limited-entry permits remaining after the drawing may be obtained beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on Nov. 3, 2016 at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

Remaining permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis to both residents and nonresidents. You must have a valid hunting license or a combination license to buy one of these permits.

Guides and outfitters

Guides must be licensed by the state of Utah—and operate under a state-licensed outfitter—before they can legally take cougar hunters into the field. Guides may not operate independently.

The Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing is the regulatory agency for this law.

To learn more about becoming a licensed guide or outfitter, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guides*.

If you are a hunter who wants to use a particular guide or outfitter, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guides* to determine if he or she is licensed to operate in Utah.

If you purchase a remaining limited-entry permit, you will lose any bonus points you've accrued and begin a waiting period.

Any cougar limited-entry permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days from the date of purchase.

A list of license agents is available at *wildlife.utah.gov/licenseagents*. Before you visit any of the agents, contact them to verify their hours of operation.

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AFTER YOU APPLY

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-19

After the application period ends, the hunt drawing occurs. We appreciate your patience throughout the drawing process and in awaiting your results.

Updating your personal information

A lot of things can change while you're waiting to find out if you drew a cougar permit. If you need to update your name, your address or the credit card number associated with your application, please call 1-800-221-0659.

Obtaining your drawing results

You will receive an email that contains your drawing results on or before Oct. 21, 2016. You can also learn your drawing results by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov* or by calling 1-800-221-0659.

To protect applicants' privacy—and to comply with governmental records access laws—you'll receive access to only your own drawing results.

Obtaining permits

If you drew a cougar limited-entry permit of any kind, you'll receive your permit in the mail in early November.

Please be aware that if you receive your permit, and then the credit card you used for payment is refused, your permit is not valid.

Permit refunds and exchanges

Utah Code §§ 23-19-38, 23-19-38.2 and 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*.

Exchanging a permit

You may not exchange your limited-entry permit for a different one. Utah's cougar limited-entry permits involve a variety of different seasons, weapon types, hunting methods and harvest quotas.

Please be certain about the hunts you are interested in before you apply. You can see a complete list of hunts in the tables that begin on page 32.

Surrendering a permit

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

If you obtain a permit and decide not to use it, you may surrender the permit to any Division office. If you do so before the season opening date, the Division can waive the waiting period and reinstate your bonus points.

Reallocated permits

Any limited-entry permit surrendered to the Division shall be reallocated through the drawing process. The Division will make a reasonable effort to contact the next person listed on the alternate drawing list.

Any person who accepts the offered reallocated permit must pay the applicable permit fee. That person will also lose any points they've accrued and incur a waiting period.

The reallocation process will continue for all surrendered permits until the Division has reallocated the permits or the season closes.

Please see *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* for more information on permit surrender and reallocation.

Duplicate licenses

Utah Code § 23-19-10 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

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.

To obtain a duplicate limited-entry permit, you must visit a Division office.

The Division may waive the fee for a duplicate unexpired license or permit, provided you did not receive the original document.

Keep in mind that you can also use the Utah Hunting and Fishing app to legally carry hunting or combination licenses on a phone or tablet for all the members of your family. To download the app, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp*.

OTHER AVAILABLE PERMITS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10, R657-42 and R657-62

If you did not draw any type of limited-entry permit in the cougar drawing, don't lose hope. You can still purchase permits that will allow you to hunt and pursue cougars during the 2016–2017 season. This section explains which permits are available online and over the counter.

Harvest-objective permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-27 and R657-10-28

The cougar harvest-objective permit allows you to take one cougar on any harvest-objective hunting unit until the season ends or the unit's harvest objective (quota) has been met.

The harvest-objective permit is available to all eligible hunters, except those who drew a cougar limited-entry permit.

November 3: Purchase a harvest-objective permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-28

Both residents and nonresidents can purchase a cougar harvest-objective permit beginning Nov. 3, 2016. You can purchase this permit from license agents, Division offices and at *wildlife.utah.gov*.

Remember that any cougar permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days from the date of purchase. (This three-day waiting period also applies to cougar-control permits.)

Ongoing: Harvest-objective unit closures

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-29

Before you begin a hunting trip to a harvest-objective unit, you must call 1-888-668-5466 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest* to verify that the unit is still open. The phone line and website will be updated each day by noon. Updates become effective the following day, 30 minutes before official sunrise.

A harvest-objective unit is open to cougar hunting until one of the following events occurs:

- The quota for that harvest-objective unit is met.
- The hunting season ends. For season dates, see the hunt tables that begin on page 32.

After a harvest-objective unit closes, you may not use your harvest-objective permit to harvest a cougar in that unit. However, with a valid pursuit permit, you may pursue a cougar on that unit during the pursuit season. For pursuit season dates, please see page 7. For a complete list of pursuit units, see the table on page 36.

Cougar-control permit

The cougar-control permit is a type of harvest-objective permit. With a cougar-control permit, you may take a second cougar on harvest-objective units that have an unlimited quota. **Cougar-control permits are only valid on unlimited quota units.** You can find the unlimited quota units listed in the table on page 35.

Before you can purchase a cougar-control permit, you must first have one of the following permits:

- A harvest-objective permit
- A limited-entry permit for a split unit that has already transitioned to harvest-objective status (the transition date is March 2, 2017)

You may possess up to two cougars lawfully harvested under both permits.

You can purchase a cougar-control permit beginning Nov. 3, 2016. Permits are available from license agents and Division offices and at *wildlife.utah.gov*.

Please keep in mind that if you purchase a cougar-control permit after the season opens, the permit is not valid until three days from the date of purchase.

Pursuit permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-25

A cougar pursuit permit allows you to pursue a cougar; it does not allow you to kill a cougar.

You can obtain a cougar pursuit permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*, from a Division office or participating license agent, or by calling 1-800-221-0659. The phone line is staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and you will be charged a $2 transaction fee for each item you purchase over the phone.

If you already possess a cougar limited-entry permit, harvest-objective permit or control permit, you may pursue cougar on the unit for which the permit is valid. If you want to pursue cougar on a different unit—or after you harvest a cougar—you will need to purchase a cougar pursuit permit.

Poaching-reported reward permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-32

If you provide information that leads to someone's arrest and successful prosecution for wanton destruction of a cougar on a limited-entry cougar unit, you may receive a permit from the Division to hunt cougar on the same unit where the violation occurred.

As used above, "successful prosecution" means the screening and filing of charges for the poaching incident.

For more information on how the Division issues poaching-reported reward permits, see Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-32 online at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules*.

Guides and outfitters

Guides must be licensed by the state of Utah—and operate under a state-licensed outfitter—before they can legally take cougar hunters into the field to pursue or harvest a cougar. Guides may not operate independently.

The customer must accompany the guide at all times during the pursuit.

If you are a Utah-licensed guide or outfitter—and you charge a customer more than $100 for a cougar hunting or pursuit trip—you do not have to purchase a separate cougar pursuit permit to guide that customer in the field.

Conservation and sportsman permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-41

Conservation permits for taking cougar are often available through official tax-exempt conservation organizations. These groups sell the permits at auction or use them in wildlife-related fundraising activities.

Sportsman permits are available through the sportsman permit drawing. The results of this drawing will be available no later than Nov. 23, 2016, which is soon after the cougar limited-entry season begins. For more information about participating in this drawing, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/sportsman*.

A complete copy of the conservation and sportsman permit regulations (Utah Admin. Rule R657-41) is available at Division offices or at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules*.

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FIELD REGULATIONS

Several rules govern cougar hunting in Utah. These rules exist to help keep you safe and to ensure an ethical hunt. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using firearms and archery tackle. You should also know the different types of hunting methods you may use and what you're required to do with any cougar you take.

Firearms and hunting equipment

Several rules apply to the firearms and archery tackle you can use to take cougar in Utah.

Authorized weapons

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-6

A person may use any of the following weapons to take cougar:

- Any firearm not capable of being fired fully automatic
- A bow and arrows, including a draw-lock
- A crossbow

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.

Traps and trapping devices

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-7

You may not take cougar with a trap, snare or any other trapping device, except as authorized by the Division. Any cougar accidentally caught in any trapping device must be released unharmed, and must not be pursued or taken.

You must obtain written permission from a Division representative before you remove the carcass of a cougar from any trapping device. The carcass remains the property of the state of Utah and must be surrendered to the Division.

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.

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 cougar while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please see *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* for more information.

Areas with special restrictions

Although many areas are open to hunters, some areas have hunting, weapons and access restrictions.

Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508

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

State parks

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-8 and R651-614-4

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, crossbows or archery tackle is prohibited within one-quarter mile of the above areas.

Hunting hours and methods

Hunting hours

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-5

You are permitted to pursue or take cougar anytime between 30 minutes before official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset.

Prohibited methods

Utah Code §§ 23-20-3, 23-20-12 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-9

Cougar may be taken or pursued only during open seasons and open hours, using only the methods listed in this guidebook. Otherwise it is unlawful for any person to:

- Possess, capture, kill, injure, drug, rope, trap, snare or in any way harm or transport a cougar
- Restrict or hinder a cougar's ability to escape after it has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered or held at bay

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.

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If you want to hunt it tomorrow,
help us protect it today.

UTiP
1-800-662-3337
Turn In a Poacher

- Engage in a canned hunt
- Take cougar from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device (including drones), or from any motorized terrestrial, aquatic or recreational vehicle
- Use electronic locating equipment to locate cougars wearing electronic radio devices

Spotlighting

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

You may not use spotlighting to take cougar.

You may not use a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate any protected wildlife while having in your possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife.

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.

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.

Party hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-11

A person may not harvest a cougar for another person.

Use of dogs

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-12

You may use dogs to take or pursue cougar only during the open seasons and hours listed in this guidebook.

If you are the owner or handler of the dogs, you must have a valid cougar hunting permit or cougar pursuit permit in your possession while you are taking or pursuing cougar.

When dogs are used to pursue a cougar, the licensed hunter who intends to take the cougar must be present when the dogs are released. Then, the licensed hunter must continuously participate in the hunt until it ends.

When dogs are used to take a cougar—and there is not an open pursuit season—the owner or handler of the dogs must either:

- Have a valid pursuit permit and be accompanied by a licensed hunter; or
- Have a valid permit to harvest cougar

Harvest and pursuit restrictions

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-23 and R657-10-25

If you have a valid permit to harvest cougar, you may take only one cougar during the 2016–2017 season. The only exception to this rule is for individuals who have obtained a cougar-control permit. See page 18 for more information about harvesting a second cougar with a cougar-control permit.

The cougar you harvest must be from the unit specified on your permit.

You may only pursue a cougar if you have a valid cougar pursuit permit. The cougar pursuit permit does not allow you to kill a cougar.

Whether you are harvesting or pursuing cougar, you may not:

- Pursue or take a female cougar with kittens (or any cougar accompanied by young).
- Pursue or take kittens with spots (or any cougar accompanied by an adult). See page 38 for the definition of a kitten with spots.
- Repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner or hold at bay, the same cougar during the same day after the cougar has been released.

With a valid cougar limited-entry permit for a split unit, you may hunt on all open harvest-objective units beginning on the split-unit transition date. The split-unit transition date for the 2016–2017 season is March 2, 2017. If you possess a valid cougar limited-entry permit for a split unit—and you choose to hunt on any harvest-objective unit (including the unit for which the limited-entry permit was valid) after the transition date—you are subject to all unit closure and reporting requirements.

If you are a Utah-licensed guide or outfitter, you may not need to purchase a separate cougar pursuit permit. For details, see page 19.

Possession and transportation

Once you've harvested a cougar, there are several rules governing its possession and transportation.

Tagging requirements

Utah Code § 23-20-30 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-13

Before you move the cougar's carcass or leave the site of the kill, you must tag the carcass with a temporary possession tag. The tag is only valid for 48 hours from the time of kill and must remain attached to the pelt or unskinned carcass until the permanent possession tag is attached.

To tag a carcass with a temporary possession tag, you should perform the following steps:

- Completely detach the tag from the permit.
- Completely remove the notches that correspond with the date the animal was taken and the sex of the animal.
- Attach the tag to the carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating date or sex, and you may not tag more than one carcass using the same tag.

You may not hunt or pursue a cougar after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or after the tag has been detached from the permit.

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Make it easy, make an appointment

Please call the nearest Division regional office for an appointment to tag your cougar. This will save you time and ensure that a wildlife biologist or conservation officer will be available.

Evidence of sex and age

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-14

Evidence of the cougar's sex must remain attached to the cougar's carcass or pelt until a Division employee attaches a permanent tag.

The pelt and skull must be presented to the Division in an unfrozen condition. This allows Division biologists to gather management data.

A Division employee will remove one of the cougar's teeth at the time of permanent tagging. This tooth helps biologists determine the cougar's age. If possible, please use a stick or other object to prop open the cougar's mouth so the tooth may be easily removed.

The Division also requests the GPS coordinates from the cougar's harvest location.

The Division may seize any pelt not accompanied by its skull.

Permanent tag

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-15

The permit holder must take the harvested cougar to a conservation officer, biologist or Division office within 48 hours of the time of kill. A Division employee will affix a permanent possession tag to the pelt or unskinned carcass.

If you need to reach a conservation officer after regular business hours, over the weekend, or on a holiday, contact your local police dispatch office.

You may not possess an unskinned carcass or a green pelt after the 48-hour check-in period without a permanent tag. In addition, you cannot ship a green pelt out of Utah or present it to a taxidermist if the pelt does not have a permanent possession tag attached.

Transporting cougar

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-16

If you are a permit holder who has legally harvested a cougar, you may transport the carcass under the following conditions:

- The cougar is properly tagged.
- You have physical possession of the appropriate permit.

Exporting a cougar from Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-17

You may export a legally taken cougar or its parts if you have a valid permit, and the cougar is properly tagged with a permanent possession tag.

You may not ship a cougar pelt from Utah without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by a Division office.

Harvest reporting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-30

If you take a cougar, you must contact the Division within 48 hours. You will need to report where the cougar was taken (GPS location recommended) and meet with a Division employee to have a permanent tag affixed to the carcass. For more information on the tagging process, see page 23.

It is illegal to inaccurately report—or neglect to report—the correct hunting unit where the cougar was killed. If you are convicted for failure to accurately report, your hunting privileges could be suspended.

Administrative checkpoints

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 cougars 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 cougars you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about Utah's cougar populations.

Participating in surveys

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-22

If the Division contacts you about your cougar hunting experience, please participate in the survey regardless of your success. Your participation helps the Division evaluate population trends, assess harvest success and collect other valuable information.

Disposal of wildlife

Donating

Utah Code § 23-20-9 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-18

A person may only donate protected wildlife or its parts to another person at one of the following locations:

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

A written statement of donation must be kept with the protected wildlife or parts showing all of the following information:

- The number and species of protected wildlife or parts donated
- The date of donation
- The license or permit number of the donor and the permanent possession tag number
- The signature of the donor

A green pelt of any cougar donated to another person must have a permanent possession tag affixed. Along with the pelt, the recipient must also retain the written statement of donation.

Purchasing or selling

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-19

You may purchase or sell legally obtained, tanned cougar hides.

You may not purchase, sell, offer for sale or barter a tooth, claw, paw or skull of any cougar.

Waste of wildlife

Utah Code § 23-20-8 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-20

You may not waste—or permit to be wasted—any protected wildlife or its parts.

Note: The skinned carcass of a cougar may be left in the field and does not constitute a waste of wildlife.

Aiding or assisting

Utah Code § 23-20-23

You may not aid or assist another person to violate any provisions of the Wildlife Resources code, rule, proclamation or guidebook.

The penalty for aiding or assisting is the same as that imposed for the primary violation.

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Livestock depredation

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-21

If a cougar is harassing, chasing, disturbing, harming, attacking or killing livestock, or has committed such an act within the past 72 hours, livestock owners have the following options:

- In depredation cases, the livestock owner, an immediate family member or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll (not someone hired specifically to take cougar), may kill the cougar. Note: The pelt of the depredating cougar shall remain the property of the state, unless the Division issues a cougar damage permit to the person who killed it. A person may acquire only one cougar annually.
- A landowner or livestock owner may notify the Division of the depredation or any human health and safety concerns. The Division can then authorize a local hunter to take the offending cougar or notify a USDA-Wildlife Services specialist.
- The livestock owner may notify a USDA-Wildlife Services specialist of the depredation, and the specialist may then take the depredating cougar.

A depredating cougar may be taken at any time by a USDA-Wildlife Services specialist. This individual must be supervised by the USDA-Wildlife Services program and be performing their assigned duties in accordance with procedures approved by the Division.

A depredating cougar may be taken with any weapon authorized for taking cougar. It may also be taken with snares, if the Division director provides written authorization. The use of snares will be authorized only when numerous livestock have been killed by a depredating cougar, and the kills have been verified by Wildlife Services or Division personnel.

The cougar carcass must then be delivered to a Division office or employee within 72 hours.

In some cases, permits may be issued to a landowner experiencing chronic depredation problems. Please contact your regional office for more information.

Extended and preseason hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-24

The Division may authorize an extended or preseason hunt on selected units to control depredation or nuisance problems.

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
- 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.

Division-owned management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-31

Most Division-owned wildlife management areas (WMAs) are closed during the winter months to protect big game animals. Contact the nearest Division office to see if any WMAs are open near you.

You may not use motor vehicles on WMAs closed to motor vehicle use without first obtaining written authorization from the appropriate Division regional office.

The Division may, at its sole discretion, authorize limited motor vehicle access to its WMAs under the following circumstances:

- The person seeking access possesses a valid cougar permit for the unit.
- Motor vehicle access is necessary to effectively utilize the cougar permit.
- Motor vehicle access will not interfere with wildlife or wildlife habitat.

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COUGAR IDENTIFICATION TIPS

Get a good look before you harvest the animal you've been pursuing.

You've already done the hard part. For hours, you pursued the cougar across all kinds of terrain. Now, it's treed, and you need to decide if this is the animal you want.

Before you pull the trigger, grab your binoculars, take a close look at the cougar and consider the following questions:

- Is the cougar legal? The cougar is not legal if it has spots, is accompanied by young or is accompanied by an adult.
- Is the cougar an adult? You will be able to tell by looking at its head, overall size and teeth.
- Is the cougar male or female? Key identifiers include body and head size and a noticeable genital spot on male cougars. This is important because the Division encourages hunters not to harvest female cougars.

The following descriptions and photos should help you better identify cougars in the field.

Body and head size

Older cougars are broader, more muscular (especially in the front shoulders and chest) and generally larger than other cougars. Dogs often prove helpful in comparing size:

- Juvenile cougars are about the same size as a dog.
- Young males and adult females are about one-and-a-half to two times larger than dogs.
- Adult male cougars are two to three times larger than dogs.

When assessing head sizes, keep in mind that a mature male's head is larger and rounder than the heads of younger males and females.

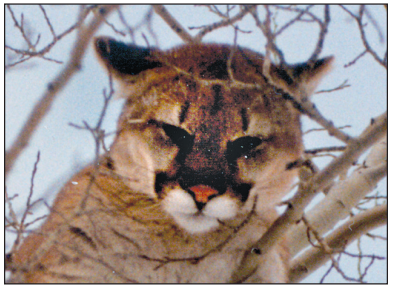
Take the voluntary cougar-hunting course

For cougar identification tips, complete the voluntary orientation course at *wildlife.utah.gov/cougar*.

Adult female

Adult male

Photos by Byron Bateman



Adult female head

Adult male head

Condition of teeth

Older cougars' teeth are thicker and often more worn and yellow than the teeth of younger cougars.

Female kitten

Emie Millgate

Young female

Photos by Byron Bateman

Adult male

Location of genital spot

When treed, a male's genital spot is often visible. This is because it's located four or five inches away from the anus. In contrast, a female's genital spot is only about an inch below the anus and is less noticeable.

Female

Photos by Colorado Division of Wildlife

Male

Size of a male

An adult male cougar is two to three times larger than a dog.

Byron Bateman

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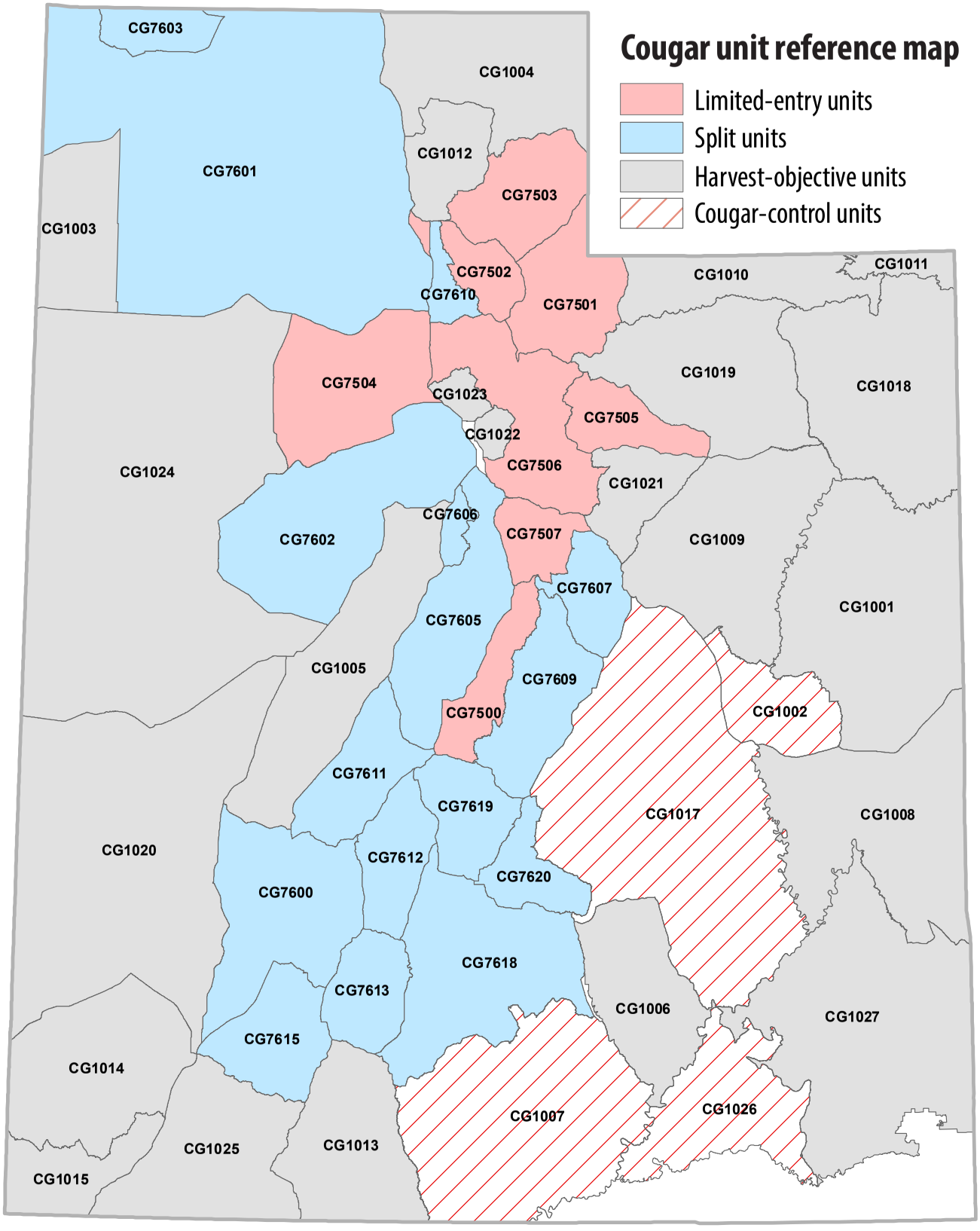

This map is for general reference only. Before you hunt any of these units—particularly the harvest-objective units—call 1-888-668-5466 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest to make sure they are still open. The Division does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Hunt unit boundaries may include private property, Native American Trust Lands or other excluded areas. Hunters must research land accessibility before applying for or obtaining a permit.

HUNT TABLES

The Division does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Hunt unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Hunters must research land accessibility before applying for or obtaining a permit.

Limited-entry hunts

Hunt #	Unit name	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
CG7507	Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	7	1	11/9/16–5/31/17
CG7500	Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	7	1	11/9/16–5/31/17
CG7501	Chalk Creek/Kamas	7	1	11/9/16–5/31/17
CG7502	East Canyon	7	1	11/9/16–5/31/17
CG7503	Morgan-South Rich	5	1	11/9/16–5/31/17
CG7504	Oquirrh-Stansbury	9	1	11/9/16–5/31/17
CG7505	Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek-North (new name)	9	1	11/9/16–5/31/17
CG7506	Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry (new name)	9	1	11/9/16–5/31/17

HUNT TABLES

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Split-unit hunts

Hunt #	Unit name	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
CG7600	Beaver	7	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7601	Box Elder, Desert	3	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7603	Box Elder, Raft River	5	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7605	Central Mtns, Nebo	10	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7606	Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	8	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7607	Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	10	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7609	Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	14	2	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7610	East Canyon, Davis	4	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7611	Fillmore, Pahvant	9	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7612	Monroe	8	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7613	Mt Dutton	12	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7615	Panguitch Lake	8	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7618	Plateau, Boulder	11	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7619	Plateau, Fishlake	12	2	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7620	Plateau, Thousand Lakes	4	0	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17
CG7602	West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	5	1	Limited-entry: 11/9/16–2/24/17 Harvest-objective: 3/2/17–5/31/17

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HUNT TABLES

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Harvest-objective hunts

To determine whether these units are open, you must call 1-888-668-5466 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest* before you hunt.

Hunt #	Unit name	Quota	Season dates
CG1001	Book Cliffs, East (formerly Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek)	29	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1002	Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/Nine Mile, South	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17
CG1003	Box Elder, Pilot Mtn (new boundary)	6	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1004	Cache	22	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1005	Fillmore, Oak Creek (cougar)	12	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1006	Henry Mtns	12	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1007	Kaiparowits	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17
CG1008	La Sal	15	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1009	Nine Mile, North	22	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1010	North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	10	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1011	North Slope, Three Corners	10	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1012	Ogden	13	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1013	Paunsaugunt	10	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1014	Pine Valley, North	10	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1015	Pine Valley, South	11	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1026	San Juan, Desert (new boundary)	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17

HUNT TABLES

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Harvest-objective hunts (continued)

Hunt #	Unit name	Quota	Season dates
CG1027	San Juan, Mountains (new boundary)	25	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1017	San Rafael	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17
CG1018	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	18	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1019	South Slope, Yellowstone	10	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1020	Southwest Desert	11	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1021	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin-Wildcat (new name)	15	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1022	Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	5	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1023	Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	7	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1024	West Desert, Mtn Ranges	8	11/9/16–11/4/17
CG1025	Zion	18	11/9/16–11/4/17

Cougar-control hunts

Hunt #	Unit name	Quota	Season dates
CG1002	Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/Nine Mile, South	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17
CG1007	Kaiparowits	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17
CG1017	San Rafael	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17
CG1026	San Juan, Desert (new boundary)	Unlimited	11/9/16–11/8/17

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HUNT TABLES

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Pursuit units

Unit name	Season dates
Beaver	11/9/16–5/31/17
Book Cliffs, East (formerly Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek)	11/9/16–5/31/17
Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/Nine Mile, South	11/9/16–5/31/17
Box Elder, Desert	11/9/16–5/31/17
Box Elder, Pilot Mtn (new boundary)	11/9/16–5/31/17
Box Elder, Raft River	11/9/16–5/31/17
Cache	11/9/16–5/31/17
Central Mtns, Nebo	11/9/16–5/31/17
Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	11/9/16–5/31/17
Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	11/9/16–5/31/17
Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	11/9/16–5/31/17
Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	11/9/16–5/31/17
Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	11/9/16–5/31/17
Chalk Creek/Kamas	11/9/16–5/31/17
East Canyon	11/9/16–5/31/17
East Canyon, Davis	11/9/16–5/31/17
Fillmore, Oak Creek (cougar)	11/9/16–5/31/17
Fillmore, Pahvant	11/9/16–5/31/17
Henry Mtns	11/9/16–5/31/17
Kaiparowits	11/9/16–5/31/17
La Sal	11/9/16–5/31/17
Monroe	11/9/16–5/31/17
Morgan-South Rich	11/9/16–5/31/17
Mt Dutton	11/9/16–5/31/17
Nine Mile, North	11/9/16–5/31/17
North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	11/9/16–5/31/17

HUNT TABLES

The Division does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Hunt unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Hunters must research land accessibility before applying for or obtaining a permit.

Pursuit units (cont.)

Unit name	Season dates
North Slope, Three Corners	11/9/16–5/31/17
Ogden	11/9/16–5/31/17
Oquirrh-Stansbury	11/9/16–5/31/17
Panguitch Lake	11/9/16–5/31/17
Paunsaugunt	11/9/16–5/31/17
Pine Valley, North	11/9/16–5/31/17
Pine Valley, South	11/9/16–5/31/17
Plateau, Boulder	11/9/16–5/31/17
Plateau, Fishlake	11/9/16–5/31/17
Plateau, Thousand Lakes	11/9/16–5/31/17
San Juan, Desert (new boundary)	11/9/16–5/31/17
San Juan, Mountains (new boundary)	11/9/16–5/31/17
San Rafael	11/9/16–5/31/17
South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	11/9/16–5/31/17
South Slope, Yellowstone	11/9/16–5/31/17
Southwest Desert	11/9/16–5/31/17
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin-Wildcat (new name)	11/9/16–5/31/17
Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	11/9/16–5/31/17
Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek-North (new name)	11/9/16–5/31/17
Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	11/9/16–5/31/17
Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry (new name)	11/9/16–5/31/17
West Desert, Mtn Ranges	11/9/16–5/31/17
West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	11/9/16–5/31/17
Zion	11/9/16–5/31/17

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DEFINITIONS

Utah Code §§ 23-13-2, 23-24-1 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-2

Canned hunt means that a cougar is treed, cornered, held at bay or its ability to escape is otherwise restricted for the purpose of allowing a person who was not a member of the initial hunting party to arrive and take the cougar.

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

Cougar means *Puma concolor*, commonly known as mountain lion, lion, puma, panther or catamount.

Cougar-control permit means a harvest-objective permit that authorizes a person to take a cougar on harvest-objective units that have an unlimited quota.

Cougar pursuit permit means a permit that authorizes a person to pursue cougar during designated seasons.

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.

Evidence of sex means the sex organs of a cougar, including a penis, scrotum or vulva.

Green pelt means the untanned hide or skin of any cougar.

Harvest-objective hunt means any hunt that is identified as harvest-objective in the hunt table of this guidebook.

Harvest-objective permit means any permit valid on harvest-objective units, including limited-entry permits for split units after the split-unit transition date.

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

Kitten means a cougar less than one year of age, or a cougar accompanied by an adult.

Kitten with spots means a cougar that has obvious spots on its sides or its back.

Limited-entry hunt means any hunt that is identified as limited-entry in the hunt table of this guidebook, not including harvest-objective hunts on split units.

Limited-entry permit means any permit obtained for a limited-entry hunt by any means, including conservation permits and sportsman permits.

Livestock means cattle, sheep, goats or turkeys.

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

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

Pursue means to chase, tree, corner or hold a cougar at bay.

Resident means a person who has a domicile (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.

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.

Split unit means a cougar hunting unit that begins as a limited-entry unit then transitions into a harvest-objective unit.

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

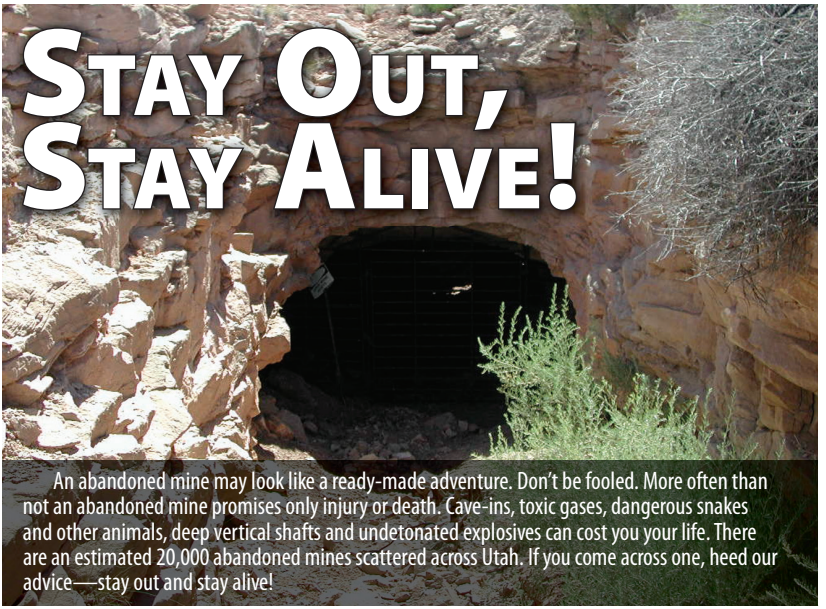
Take means to hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife or to attempt any of these actions.

Trapping means taking protected wildlife with a trapping device.

Unlimited quota unit means a harvest-objective unit that does not have a limit on the number of cougars that may be harvested during the open season.

Use means participating in the activity.

Waiting period means a specified period of time that a person who has obtained a cougar permit must wait before applying for any other cougar permit.



Stay Out, Stay Alive!

An abandoned mine may look like a ready-made adventure. Don't be fooled. More often than not an abandoned mine promises only injury or death. Cave-ins, toxic gases, dangerous snakes and other animals, deep vertical shafts and undetonated explosives can cost you your life. There are an estimated 20,000 abandoned mines scattered across Utah. If you come across one, heed our advice—stay out and stay alive!