UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

COUGAR

GUIDEBOOK

UTAH DNR

2022-2023

CONTACT US

Turn in a poacher

Phone: 1-800-662-3337
Text: 847411
Online: *wildlife.utah.gov/utip*

Division offices

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

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Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
801-538-4700

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Springville, UT 84663
801-491-5678

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435-781-9453

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Ogden, UT 84405
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Price, UT 84501
435-613-3700

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Hurricane, UT 84737
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WHAT'S NEW?

Changes to cougar timeframes: The Utah Wildlife Board approved a new timeframe for the cougar regulatory cycle, which allowed for alignment with the black bear timeframe. Now, the application period for both cougar and bear is in February (see below), and proposed regulations will go out in December. The season dates covered by this guidebook run from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. For details, see the information box on page 28.

Apply for cougar and bear hunts: The Division distributes permits for cougar limited-entry hunts through a drawing. You can apply for the drawing online or by phone from Feb. 1–22, 2022. (You can also apply for a black bear permit at the same time.) If you are successful in drawing a permit, you will be notified via email on or before March 2, 2022. For additional details, see page 14.

Spot-and-stalk hunt: The spot-and-stalk cougar hunt will run from Aug. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2022. For details about the 2022 spot-and-stalk hunt, see page 11.

Check online for unit closures: To see which harvest-objective units are open and closed, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest* by noon daily. Closures will take effect the following day. (The phone line to check for closures has been discontinued.) See page 18 for more information about harvest-objective hunts.

Dog restrictions on certain units: On the La Sal; San Juan, Mountains; and Book Cliffs, East units, you may not use dogs from July 1–Nov. 1, 2022 and from March 31–June 30, 2023. The only exception is for hunters who also have valid permits for a black bear season on those units, where the use of dogs is permitted. For all unit restrictions, see the hunt tables that begin on page 36.

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

Wade Heaton
Karl Hirst
Gary Nielson
Bret Selman
Bryce Thurgood

Kevin Albrecht, *Chair*
Randy Dearth, *Vice Chair*
J. Shirley, *Division Director & Executive Secretary*

Changes to trail camera regulations: For details about Utah's new trail camera regulations, restrictions and enforcement, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams*.

Restrictions on harvesting collared cougars: Starting July 1, it will be illegal to use dogs to harvest a collared cougar in units that are active research areas. For a list of units where this applies, see the information box on page 17.

Later season closure on two units: On the Oquirrh-Stansbury, East and Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry units, the limited-entry season will run until March 21, 2023. For all season dates and exceptions, see the hunt tables that begin on page 36.

Season structure changes on three units: There will be a harvest-objective season on the following units: South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal; South Slope, Yellowstone; and Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek, and no dogs will be allowed from May 31–June 26, 2023. For all season dates and exceptions, see the hunt tables that begin on page 36.

Check the season dates: Season dates change every year, and some units have exceptions to the general season dates. For details, see the tables that start on page 36.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Harvest two cougars: Don't forget that you can harvest up to two cougars per season. For details about what combinations of permits you may use, see page 19.

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

Purchase harvest-objective permits: Harvest-objective permits may be purchased beginning June 28, 2022 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. See details on page 18.

Child support law now in effect: There are now restrictions on fishing and hunting license purchasers for nonpayment of child support. For details, see the information box on page 7.

Maps and boundaries online: All unit maps and boundary descriptions are available at *wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner*.

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.*

Exact harvest location required: Be prepared to provide the exact location of your harvest when you check in a cougar with a Division employee. GPS coordinates are preferred. See page 27 for details.

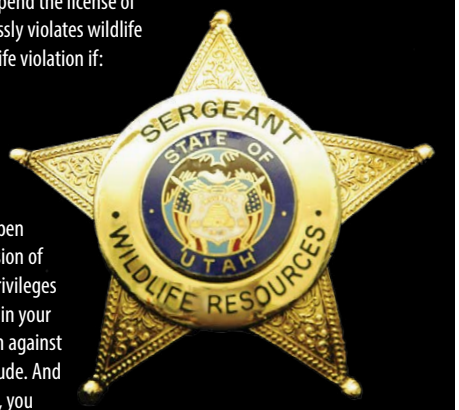
COVID-19 and the 2022–2023 cougar hunts: We will communicate changes that may affect you and your hunt—including pandemic-related measures—via email and social media. See *wildlife.utah.gov/covid* for information specific to COVID-19, and visit *wildlife.utah.gov/stay-connected.html* to sign up for email updates and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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 box on page 9.

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.)

Purchase pursuit permits by phone: You can now purchase a cougar pursuit permit over the telephone by calling 1-800-221-0659. You will be charged a $2 transaction fee for each item you purchase.

Points options for military members: Active military personnel may still be eligible to apply for points if they were deployed during the 2022–2023 cougar application period. For details, see the information box on page 24 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/military.*

Your wait is over: If you last obtained any kind of cougar limited-entry permit during the 2018–2019 season, your waiting period is over and you're now eligible to apply again.

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.

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 31.

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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wildlife.utah.gov

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
365-day hunting license for disabled veterans (see the box on page 20 for details)	$25.50
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
365-day combination license for disabled veterans (see the box on page 20 for details)	$28.50
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)	$29
365-day hunting license (age 18 and older)	$72
Multi-year hunting license (up to five years) for age 18 and older	$71 per year, up to five years
365-day combination* license (age 17 and younger)	$33
365-day combination* license (age 18 and older)	$98
Multi-year combination* license (age 18 and older)	$97 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.*

Boundary maps and descriptions online

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

Permit fees

Resident fees

Cougar limited-entry permit	$58†
Cougar harvest-objective permit	$58
Cougar spot-and-stalk permit	$30
Cougar pursuit permit	$30

Nonresident fees

Cougar limited-entry permit	$297†
Cougar harvest-objective permit	$297
Cougar spot-and-stalk permit	$30
Cougar pursuit permit	$155

† Utah residents will be charged a $10 nonrefundable application fee, and nonresidents will be charged a $15 nonrefundable application fee.

Child support law now in effect

In 2020, the Utah Legislature passed H.B. 197, which places restrictions for nonpayment of child support on those who purchase fishing and hunting licenses and permits. The law went into effect on July 1, 2021.

For information about what you owe—or to arrange a payment schedule—you **must** contact the Office of Recovery Services at 801-536-8500. DWR employees **cannot** access any details about child support obligations or accept related payments.

Key dates

Hunt applications

Application available online	Feb. 1, 2022
Application deadline	Feb. 22, 2022
Drawing results available	March 2, 2022

Permits available

Remaining limited-entry permits go on sale, if available	June 28, 2022
Harvest-objective permit sales begin	June 28, 2022

Season dates

Spot-and-stalk season	Aug. 1, 2022–Dec. 31, 2022
Limited-entry season	Nov. 2, 2022–Feb. 19, 2023**
Harvest-objective season	July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023†

Pursuit season dates

Pursuit season	Nov. 2, 2022–May 31, 2023
Pursuit season on the La Sal; San Juan, Mountains; and Book Cliffs, East units	Nov. 2, 2022–March 31, 2023 ††

*** There are two limited-entry units—Oquirrh-Stansbury, East and Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry—where the limited-entry season continues until March 21, 2023.*
† No dogs allowed on the La Sal; San Juan, Mountains; and Book Cliffs, East units from July 1–Nov. 1, 2022 and from March 31–June 30, 2023, except for people with valid bear permits.
†† Hunters with valid bear permits for these units may pursue from April 1, 2023–May 26, 2023.

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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 or obtain 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, 2022, you can apply for a permit in the 2022-23 cougar drawing or purchase a cougar permit that's available after the drawing.
- Scenario 2: If you will turn 12 sometime in 2023, you cannot participate in the 2022-23 cougar drawing, but you can purchase a cougar permit starting Jan. 1, 2023.

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.

Hunter Mentoring and Trial Hunting programs

Utah Code § 23-20-20

If you're younger than 18, you can apply to participate in the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program. For details on the program, see the box on page page 15 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring.*

If you're 12 years old or older, you can also participate in the Trial Hunting Program. For details, see the box on page page 9 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/trial*.

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 if you have a verified hunter education number on file with the Division. The number is assigned when you complete hunter education and your blue card is issued.

How to take hunter education

To get started, you should visit *wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation*. You'll see links to various traditional and online hunter education courses. Follow the instructions on the website to obtain a hunter education registration certificate (required) and to register for a course online.

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

When you finish the course, your instructor will verify your course completion in the online hunter education system. At that point, you will be able to apply for or obtain permits in the Division's hunt drawings, and your hunter education registration certificate will become your hunting license.

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.
- 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.

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*.

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. In addition to the fee for the license, you'll also be charged a $2 transaction fee for each item you buy.

Reminder: There are now restrictions on fishing and hunting license purchasers for nonpayment of child support. For details, see the information box on page 7.

Carry your permit

If you obtain 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 through the cougar hunt drawing. You can apply for the drawing from Feb. 1–22, 2022. 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 43 to determine if you are a resident or a nonresident.

To see which permits are available to residents and nonresidents, check the hunt tables that begin on page 36.

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 for the purposes of hunting, fishing or trapping. See the definition of residency on page 43 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 three main types of cougar hunting permits in Utah. Only **one** of those permit types (limited-entry permits) is available through the cougar hunt drawing.

Limited-entry permits

With a valid cougar limited-entry permit you may hunt only the unit listed on your permit during the limited-entry season (see the hunt tables on page 36 for season dates).

Then, after the limited-entry season ends—and as long as you haven't harvested a cougar—you may hunt on any open cougar units. (After the limited-entry season ends, any limited-entry units that haven't met their objectives will transition to harvest-objective units. See the table on page 36 for all season dates.)

Reminder: If you're hunting with a limited-entry permit on any open unit after the limited-entry season has ended, you are still subject to all unit closure and reporting requirements. For details, see page 18. You can find out if a unit is open by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest.*

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

Harvest-objective permits

With a harvest-objective permit, you can hunt and harvest a cougar on any open unit until the season ends or the unit's harvest objective has been met. (You can check to see if a unit is open by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest*.)

Reminder: You may obtain up to two harvest-objective permits per season and use them to harvest a maximum of two cougars. For additional information about this opportunity, see page 19.

You can also use harvest-objective permits to hunt on units under active predator management plans. (These are units with no limits on harvest where the Division is trying to protect mule deer and/or bighorn sheep populations.) For details on obtaining and using harvest-objective permits, see page 18.

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.

Spot-and-stalk permits

A spot-and-stalk permit, which costs $30, allows you to use any legal weapon to harvest one cougar on any hunting unit from Aug. 1–Dec. 31, 2022. For additional details about this hunt and permit type, see page 18.

How to obtain one: Purchase a $30 cougar spot-and-stalk permit at *wildlife.utah.gov*, from a license agent or at any Division office. For details, see page 6.

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.)

If you already possess a limited-entry permit or harvest-objective 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.

For the field regulations that apply to cougar pursuit, see page 21.

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 20.

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.

Understand harvest opportunities

Reminder: You may harvest a maximum of two cougars per year. To learn more about permit combinations you can use, see page 19.

Review the hunt tables

All of the limited-entry cougar hunts you can apply for in the drawing are listed in the hunt tables that begin on page 36. 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, season dates and boundaries may change from year to year.

See maps and boundaries online

You'll find detailed maps and boundary descriptions for all cougar hunts at *wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner*.

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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 cannot provide 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 limited-entry 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.

Reminder: If you need to surrender your cougar limited-entry permit—and your hunting season hasn't started—you should consider surrendering the permit as soon as possible. If you surrender early enough, you'll be able to keep your bonus points. For additional information, see *Surrendering your permit* on page 16.

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 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.

Interact with our maps using the Avenza Maps™ app

You can now interact with DWR maps on your mobile device using the Avenza Maps™ app.

Avenza Maps gives you the ability to download and use DWR maps on your mobile devices, even without the internet or a network connection. Know where you are hunting, even in the most remote areas of Utah.

To access these maps on your mobile devices:

- Turn to the maps on pages 34-35 and use your smartphone to scan the QR code on the map you want to view.
- If you do not have Avenza Maps installed on your device, you will be directed to the App Store or Google Play to download and install the app on your device.
- If you already have Avenza Maps on your device, you can scan the map QR code using the reader in Avenza Maps (or your device's QR reader) and the map will load.
- Find additional DWR maps by searching "UDWR" in the Avenza Map Store.

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 spot-and-stalk permit.

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 2018–2019 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 or a spot-and-stalk permit while under a waiting period for a cougar limited-entry permit. You will not begin a new waiting period if you purchase any of these types of permits.

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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wildlife.utah.gov

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 2022–2023 cougar limited-entry permit, please be aware of the following dates and deadlines.

Feb. 1: Apply online for a permit or bonus point

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62

Beginning Feb. 1, 2022, 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.

New this year: The cougar and black bear application periods have been combined, so you can also apply for a 2022 bear permit when you apply for a cougar permit. For details about available bear permits, see the *2022 Utah Black Bear Guidebook*.

To apply for a resident permit, you must be a resident by March 2, 2022. 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 43 to learn whether you qualify as a resident.

You may not apply in the cougar drawing for more than one permit to harvest cougar during the 2022–2023 season. You can, however, obtain one additional permit and harvest a maximum of two cougars. For more information on that opportunity, see page 19.

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 permit and a bonus point.
- Group applications are not accepted.

If you are unsuccessful in the limited-entry hunt drawing, you may still be able to hunt a cougar during the 2022–2023 season. See page 18 for more information about Utah's harvest-objective and spot-and-stalk permits.

The application fee is $10 for residents and $15 for nonresidents. 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 April 2022.

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 or visit *utah-hunt.com*.

Feb. 22: 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. MST on Feb. 22, 2022. If you choose to apply by phone, you must complete your application no later than 5 p.m. MST.

Please remember that you must have a hunting license or a combination license to apply for a bonus point.

Feb. 22: 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. MST on Feb. 22, 2022.

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. MST on Feb. 22, 2022.

In order to withdraw your application, visit *utah-hunt.com* and click the *Withdraw Application* button at the bottom of the page. For each new application you submit, you will be charged an application fee.

If you need help with your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MST on Feb. 22, 2022. A Division employee will be available to assist you.

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

March 2: Drawing results available

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-12

You'll be notified of the drawing results by email on or before March 2, 2022. 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.

June 28: Remaining permits available

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-14

Any cougar limited-entry permits that remain after the drawing may be obtained beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on June 28, 2022 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. If available, these permits will be listed online at *wildlife.utah.gov/remaining-permits.html.*

You must have a valid hunting license or a combination license to buy one of these permits.

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.

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.

Hunter Mentoring program

The Utah Hunter Mentoring program allows any qualifying adult to share their hunting permits with resident youth.

Permits that are now eligible for sharing under the Hunter Mentoring program include all big game permits as well as black bear, cougar, turkey, greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse permits. Only swan and sandhill crane permits may not be shared because they are subject to conflicting federal regulations.

To learn more about program eligibility and requirements and to download the application form, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring*.

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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 or visit *utah-hunt.com*.

Obtaining your drawing results

You will receive an email that contains your drawing results on or before March 2, 2022. 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 permit, you'll receive your permit in the mail in mid-June.

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*.

Reminder: If you are eligible for a refund, you must submit all required forms and accompanying paperwork within 90 days of the season ending in order to qualify for a full refund.

Exchanging a permit

You may not exchange your cougar limited-entry permit for a different one.

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 36.

Surrendering your permit

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

If you need to surrender your cougar limited-entry permit—and your hunting season hasn't started—you should consider surrendering the permit as soon as possible. If you surrender before the season starts, you'll be able to keep your bonus points.

Reminder: If you want to surrender your limited-entry cougar permit, you are strongly encouraged to do so at least 30 days before the season opens on Nov. 2, 2022. If you do, you'll get your accrued bonus points back, but you won't earn a point for the current year. The surrender process has changed and could result in the loss of previously accrued bonus or preference points. Learn more by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov/refund.*

Important: If you have a limited-entry permit, and you surrender it less than 30 days before your season begins, you will lose your accrued bonus points and will not earn a point for the current year. As long as you surrender your permit before the season opens, any applicable waiting periods will be waived.

To learn more about surrendering a permit, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/refund*.

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*.

Restrictions on harvesting collared cougars

The Division has placed GPS tracking collars on cougars in various areas across the state. The Division is monitoring these animals in a handful of ongoing studies, and it is an expensive and time-consuming process to capture and collar replacement animals. From Jan. 1 through June 30, 2022, it is **illegal** to use dogs to harvest any collared cougar.

New this year: Beginning July 1, 2022, the no-harvest restriction on collared cougars will apply only to collared cougars in an active research study area. This restriction will affect the following units: Central Mtns, Nebo (excludes West Face); Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face; Oquirrh-Stansbury, East; Wasatch Mtns, Cascade; Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry; and Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos.

There are also exceptions for cougars that are preying on livestock.

If you harvest a collared animal, please remove the collar **without cutting it** and contact your local Division office for information on how to proceed.

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OTHER AVAILABLE PERMITS

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

If you did not draw a 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 2022–2023 season. This section explains which permits are available online and over the counter. You can also learn more about the spot-and-stalk hunt and the option to harvest two cougars each season.

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.

You can now purchase a maximum of two harvest-objective permits per hunting season. See the *Harvest two cougars* section on page 19 for more information about this opportunity.

Reminder: Some units that have been harvest-objective units in the past are now under active predator-management plans to protect vulnerable big game populations. Those units no longer have a quota/limit for cougar harvest and will remain open throughout the season. If you obtain a harvest-objective permit, you can also hunt in those areas.

To see which units are now under predator management plans, see the hunt table on page 36.

The harvest-objective permit is available to all eligible hunters.

June 28, 2022: Purchase a harvest-objective permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-28

Both residents and nonresidents can purchase a cougar harvest-objective permit beginning June 28, 2022. You can purchase this permit from license agents, Division offices and at *wildlife.utah.gov*.

Remember that a harvest-objective cougar permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days from the date of purchase.

Ongoing: Harvest-objective unit closures

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-29

Before you begin a hunting trip to a harvest-objective unit, you **must** visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest* to verify that the unit is still open. The 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 36.

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 that begins on page 40.

Spot-and-stalk permit

The spot-and-stalk cougar hunt is now an annual hunt in Utah. The 2022 spot-and-stalk cougar hunt has the following rules and restrictions:

- This cougar permit is restricted to spot-and-stalk hunting methods only — you may **not** use a dog to pursue or harvest a cougar under this permit.
- The spot-and-stalk hunting season runs from Aug. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2022.
- A hunter may use any legal weapon to harvest a cougar with a spot-and-stalk permit.
- Spot-and-stalk cougar permits are available for $30 and may be purchased at *wildlife.utah.gov*, from a license agent or at any Division office.
- A hunter may purchase only one spot-and-stalk cougar permit and may harvest only one cougar with the permit.
- A hunter may acquire one additional cougar permit (e.g., harvest objective or limited entry), in addition to a spot-and-stalk cougar permit.
- The spot-and-stalk cougar permit is valid on any unit listed in the hunt tables of this guidebook.
- The three-day waiting period to begin hunting is waived for this spot-and-stalk cougar permit.
- Cougars harvested during this spot-and-stalk season, using a spot-and-stalk permit, will not count toward unit quotas.
- A hunter must report and check in any cougar harvested with a spot-and-stalk permit to a Division office within 72 hours of harvest.
- Hunters must follow all other laws governing license and permit eligibility and cougar harvest.

If you have questions about obtaining or using this permit, please contact one of the Division offices listed on page 2. To learn more about your option to harvest two cougars this season, see the section below.

Poaching-reported reward permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-51

It pays to report cougar poachers in Utah.

If you provide information that leads to the successful prosecution of another person for the wanton destruction (poaching) of a cougar, you may receive a permit to hunt a cougar in the same area where the violation occurred.

Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/utip* to learn more about your four poacher-reporting options, which are listed below in order of urgency:

1. Call our hotline at 1-800-662-3337
2. Submit a tip through the UTDWR law enforcement app
3. Text a conservation officer at 847411
4. Submit an online report at *wildlife.utah.gov/utip*

For more details about this program and how you can participate, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/earn-a-reward.html* or see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-51* at *wildlife.utah.gov/rules*.

Harvest two cougars

You may legally harvest a maximum of two cougars by obtaining and using one of the permit combinations listed below:

- Limited-entry permit and a harvest-objective permit
- Limited-entry permit and a spot-and-stalk permit
- Two harvest-objective permits
- Harvest-objective permit and a spot-and-stalk permit.

Each of the above permit types may also be used with a conservation permit or sportsman permit to harvest a maximum of two cougars.

You must follow the rules and regulations that apply to each permit type when you use it.

If you have additional questions about which permit types you can use—or the field regulations that apply to those permits—please contact one of the Division offices listed on page 2.

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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. 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 or harvest-objective 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.

Guides and outfitters

If you are a 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 application period for this drawing runs from Oct. 19–Nov. 9, 2022. 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*.

Discounted licenses for disabled veterans

The Division offers discounted hunting and combination licenses to Utah veterans who were disabled in the line of duty.

The discounted hunting license is $25.50, instead of the $34 full price. Likewise, the discounted combination license is $28.50, instead of the $38 full price. Either license is good for 365 days from the day you buy it. Discounted licenses are available online or from all Division offices listed on page 2.

To purchase a discounted hunting or combination license, you must be a Utah resident and have a qualifying service-connected disability of at least 20 percent.

To apply for a license online, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/disabledvet* and complete the online form. If you need assistance, please call the nearest Division office.

If you choose to visit a Division office to purchase your license, simply bring the verification of service-connected disability documentation that the Department of Veterans Affairs issued to you.

You can find additional resources for hunters and anglers with disabilities at *wildlife.utah.gov/disabled-access*.

FIELD REGULATIONS

Several rules govern cougar hunting in Utah. These rules exist to help keep you safe and to ensure an ethical hunt. Please know 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 archery equipment

The firearms and archery equipment you can use during a cougar hunt are consistent with the equipment allowed during a Utah big game hunt.

Prohibited weapons

Utah Code §§ 23-20-3 and 23-13-18 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7

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

While hunting a cougar, you may not use:

- A firearm that's capable of being fired fully automatic
- Any light-enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light
- A firearm equipped with a computerized targeting system that marks a target, calculates a firing solution and automatically discharges the firearm at a point calculated most likely to hit the acquired target
- A computer or other device to remotely control the aiming and discharge of a firearm or other weapon for hunting an animal.

These restrictions do not apply to laser range-finding devices or illuminated sight pins for archery equipment.

Rifles, airguns, shotguns and crossbows

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

You may use a rifle or shotgun to hunt a cougar, 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.

If you use an airgun to hunt a cougar, that airgun must:

- Be pneumatically powered
- Be pressurized solely through a separate charging device
- Only fire a bolt or arrow

Your arrows or bolts must be at least 16 inches long and travel at least 400 feet per second at the muzzle. They must also have ei-

Are you allowed to possess a weapon?

Utah Code §§ 76-10-503 and 76-10-512 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-10

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.

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ther a fixed broadhead that is at least 7/8-inch wide at the widest point or an expandable, mechanical broadhead that is at least 7/8-inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position.

A crossbow used to hunt a cougar must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and a positive mechanical safety mechanism.

A crossbow arrow or bolt used to hunt a cougar must be at least 16 inches long and have at least one of the following:

- Fixed broadheads that are at least 7/8-inch wide at the widest point
- Expandable, mechanical broadheads that are at least 7/8-inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position

It is unlawful for any person to:

- Carry a cocked crossbow containing an arrow or a bolt while in or on any motorized vehicle on a public highway or other public right-of-way, except as provided in *R657-12-4*.
- Hunt any protected wildlife with a crossbow bolt that has any chemical, explosive or electronic device attached.

A crossbow used to hunt a cougar may have a fixed or variable magnifying scope.

Handguns

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

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

If you're hunting cougar, the handgun must develop at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

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 looking for sign or tracks, scouting or hunting protected wildlife in Utah.

Muzzleloaders

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

Muzzleloaders may be used during any cougar hunt. To hunt a cougar with a muzzleloader, your muzzleloader must meet all of the following requirements:

- It can be loaded only from the muzzle.
- It may have open sights, peep sights or a variable- or fixed-power scope, including a magnifying scope.
- 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 powder substitute cannot contain smokeless powder, but may contain some nitrocellulose.
- To hunt a cougar, you must use a lead or expanding bullet or projectile that's at least 40 caliber in size.
- Your bullet must be 130 grains or heavier, or your sabot must be 170 grains or heavier.

If you choose to use a muzzleloader during your hunt, you may use only the muzzleloader equipment authorized in this section to take a cougar.

Archery equipment

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

Archery equipment may be used during any cougar hunt.

To hunt a cougar with archery equipment, your equipment must meet all of the following requirements:

- Your bow must have a minimum pull of 30 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first.
- 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.

Please remember that your bow may be equipped with a range-finding device. Also, if you carry arrows in or on a vehicle, the arrows must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case.

If you choose to use archery equipment during your hunt, you may use only the archery equipment authorized in this section to take a cougar.

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 authorization 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.

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:

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- 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 Code § 76-10-508 and Utah Admin. Rule R651-614-4

Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas, **except** those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation in *Utah Admin. Rule R651-614*. For more information, visit *stateparks.utah.gov/resources/hunting-at-state-park*.

State laws regarding the possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting. For information about discharging a dangerous weapon or firearm in a state park, see the *Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm* section above or review *Utah Code § 76-10-50*.

Points options for active, deployed military personnel

If you are an active, deployed member of the military, you can now purchase a bonus or preference point, even if you missed an application period while deployed. The Division will also waive the required combination or hunting license fee when you make that point purchase. To qualify for these exemptions, a military member must:

- Be a resident of Utah.
- Be deployed for 90 days or longer outside of Utah on federal orders from military command.
- Not have previously received a bonus or preference point for the species and hunt type in the same year.
- Otherwise be eligible to receive a bonus or preference point.
- Pay a $10 application fee per point received.
- Submit an application for the exemption to DWR no later than Dec. 31 of the qualifying year of being deployed.

For additional information and the application form, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/military*.

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
- Use dogs to harvest a cougar wearing a GPS tracking collar (see page 17 for details)
- 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

Trail cameras and their data (new)

This year, there will be changes to Utah's regulations that oversee the use of trail cameras for hunting purposes. For more information about trail camera regulations, restrictions and enforcement, please visit *wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams*.

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 considered probable cause of 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 carriers, provided the person is not using 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.

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 14.

Make it easy, make an appointment

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

Reminder: You will be required to provide your exact harvest location when you get your cougar tagged. Please be ready to share that location—preferably the GPS coordinates—with the Division employee who helps you.

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.

Reminder: You may **not** use dogs to harvest a cougar that's wearing a GPS tracking collar. (See the information box on page 17 for details.)

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

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Harvest and pursuit restrictions

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

With valid permits to harvest cougar, you may take a maximum of two cougars during the 2022–2023 season. See page 19 for more information about which permit combinations you can use to harvest two cougars.

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

If you have a valid cougar pursuit permit, you may only pursue a cougar. 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 a kitten.
- Pursue or take kittens. See page 43 for the definition of a kitten.
- Repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner or hold at bay, the same cougar during the same day after the cougar has been released.
- Use dogs to harvest a cougar that's wearing a GPS tracking collar. (See the information box on page 17 for details.)

Limited-entry permits may only be used on the specific unit they are issued for during the limited-entry season. After the limited-entry season ends, a limited-entry permit may be used on **any** unit open to cougar hunting, as long as the hunter hasn't already harvested. Remember to follow all unit closure and reporting requirements.

A cougar spot-and-stalk permit is valid on any hunting unit listed in this guidebook, and for these permits only, the three-day waiting period to begin hunting is waived. You may use any legal weapon with a spot-and-stalk permit, but you may **not** use dogs to pursue or harvest a cougar. Any cougar you harvest with a spot-and-stalk permit must be checked in at a Division office within 72 hours of harvest. For additional details about obtaining and using one of these permits, see page 18.

If you are a Utah-licensed guide or outfitter, you may not need to purchase a separate cougar pursuit permit. For details, see page 20.

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.

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 two of the cougar's smaller teeth at the time of permanent tagging. These teeth help biologists determine the cougar's age. If possible, please use a stick or other object to prop open the cougar's mouth so the teeth may be easily removed.

The Division also requires the cougar's exact harvest location. GPS coordinates are preferred.

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. (That requirement increases to 72 hours for a cougar harvested with a spot-and-stalk permit.)

A Division employee will affix a permanent possession tag to the pelt or unskinned carcass. The employee will also ask you for the GPS coordinates of the harvest location.

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 exactly where the cougar was taken (GPS coordinates preferred) and meet with a Division employee to have a permanent tag affixed to the carcass. For more information on the tagging process, see page 27.

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

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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.

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 96 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 with a cougar depredation permit.
- 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 reported to a Division office or employee within 96 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.

New timing on cougar regulations and application period

In August 2021, the Utah Wildlife Board aligned the cougar and black bear regulation cycles. Those changes affected all of the following:

Cougar regulation changes: The Division proposed regulations for Utah's 2022-2023 cougar hunting season in December 2021 (aligned with the black bear recommendation cycle). Hunters weighed in on those proposals during the December 2021 RAC meetings, and the Utah Wildlife Board made a final decision on the proposals in January 2022.

Hunting seasons: The 2022-2023 cougar hunting seasons covered by this guidebook will run from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Hunt application period: The Division has aligned the cougar and bear application periods as well. This means that if you want to apply for a cougar limited-entry permit for the 2022-2023 season, be sure to do so from Feb. 1-22, 2022. (You can apply for a bear permit at the same time.) The cougar application period will continue to be in February in the years to come.

Guidebook availability: Going forward, the *Utah Cougar Guidebook* will be available on the Division's website in late January of each year. Printed guidebooks may not be available until mid-February or so.

We realize these are big changes, and we appreciate your patience. We will be sharing more information about these changes in the months to come.

Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/stay-connected* to sign up for our email updates and to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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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.

Download the free

UTAH HUNTING & FISHING APP

wildlife.utah.gov/MobileApp

Utah Turn-in-a-Poacher

Reporting Options

Help us protect your wildlife. The following methods are available to report a suspected wildlife violation.

Call 800-662-3337

Text 847411

Use the UTDWR app

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

UTiP

To submit a report online, scan the QR code to the left or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/utip.*

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.

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.

Adult female

Adult male

Photos by Byron Bateman

Adult female head

Adult male head

Avoid illegal pursuit of female cougars with kittens

It is illegal to pursue a kitten or a female cougar accompanied by a kitten. You can avoid doing this by looking carefully for tracks.

Adult female cougar tracks average about 3.5 inches wide. Tracks in that size range, accompanied by similar, smaller tracks, could indicate a female with kittens. If you come across tracks like these, do **not** pursue the animals.

As a cougar hunter, you must take reasonable precautions to avoid harming kittens and their mothers.

Take the voluntary cougar-hunting course

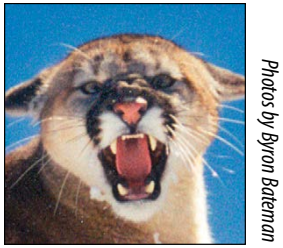
For cougar identification tips, complete the voluntary orientation course at *wildlife.utah.gov/cougar*.

Condition of teeth

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

Female kitten

Ernie Milligate



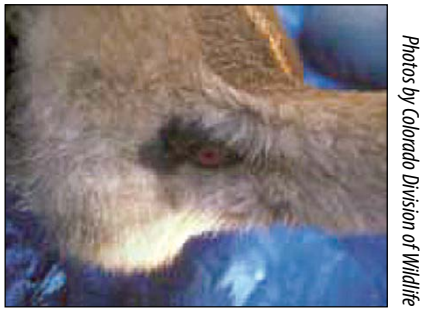
Young female

Photos by Byron Bateman

Adult male

Location of genital spot

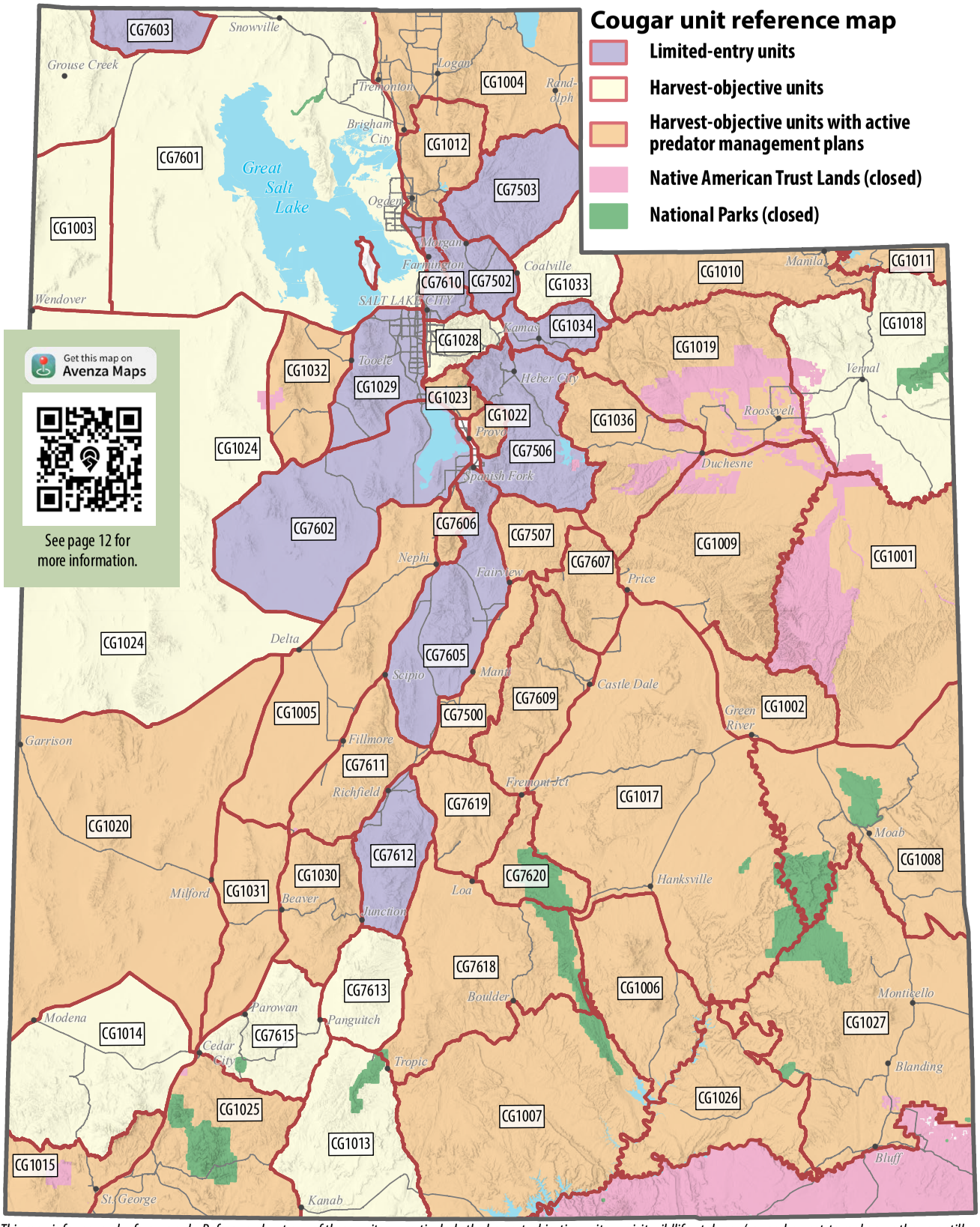
When treed, a male's genital spot is often visible. This is because it's located four or five inches away from the anus. In contrast, a female's genital spot is only about an inch below the anus and is less noticeable.



Female

Photos by Colorado Division of Wildlife

Male



This map is for general reference only. Before you hunt any of these units—particularly the harvest-objective units—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 units

Hunt #	Unit name	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
CG7603	Box Elder, Raft River	9	0	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23
CG7605	Central Mtns, Nebo (excludes West Face)	14	1	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23
CG7502	East Canyon	12	1	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23
CG7610	East Canyon, Davis	5	0	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23
CG1034	Kamas	5	0	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23
CG7612	Monroe	20	2	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23
CG7503	Morgan-South Rich	18	2	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23
CG1029	Oquirrh-Stansbury, East	10	1	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–**3/21/23** Harvest-objective: **3/25/23**–5/31/23
CG7506	Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry	14	1	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–**3/21/23** Harvest-objective: **3/25/23**–5/31/23
CG7602	West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	10	1	Limited-entry: 11/2/22–2/19/23 Harvest-objective: 2/22/23–5/31/23

• Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

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.

Harvest-objective units

To determine whether these units are open, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/cougarharvest* before you hunt.

Hunt #	Unit name	Quota	Season dates
CG7601	Box Elder, Desert	17	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1003	Box Elder, Pilot Mtn	6	7/1/22 - 6/30/23
CG1033	Chalk Creek†	28	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7613	Mt Dutton	14	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7615	Panguitch Lake	20	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1013	Paunsaugunt	20	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1014	Pine Valley, North	26	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1018	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal*	24	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1028	Wasatch Mtns, Salt Lake (archery only, no dogs allowed)	6	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1024	West Desert, Mtn Ranges	8	7/1/22–6/30/23

†This unit is composed of all or largely private property. Hunters should acquire written permission from the landowner before obtaining a permit to hunt this unit.

**No dogs 5/31/23 - 6/26/23*

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wildlife.utah.gov

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.

Harvest-objective units with active predator management plans

Hunt #	Unit name	Quota	Season dates
CG1030	Beaver, East	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1031	Beaver, West	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1001	Book Cliffs, East	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1002	Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/Nine Mile, South	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1004	Cache	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7606	Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7607	Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7507	Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7609	Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7500	Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1005	Fillmore, Oak Creek	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7611	Fillmore, Pahvant	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1006	Henry Mtns	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1007	Kaiparowits	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1008	La Sal*	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1009	Nine Mile, North	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1010	North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1011	North Slope, Three Corners	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1012	Ogden†	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1032	Oquirrh-Stansbury, West	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1015	Pine Valley, South	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7618	Plateau, Boulder	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23

** No dogs allowed from 7/1/22-11/1/22, and 3/31/23-6/30/23 except for hunters who have a valid bear permit that allows the use of dogs on this unit.*

† This unit is composed of all or largely private property. Hunters should acquire written permission from the landowner before obtaining a permit to hunt this unit.

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.

Harvest-objective units with active predator management plans (continued)

Hunt #	Unit name	Quota	Season dates
CG7619	Plateau, Fishlake	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG7620	Plateau, Thousand Lakes	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1026	San Juan, Desert	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1027	San Juan, Mountains*	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1017	San Rafael	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1019	South Slope, Yellowstone^	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1020	Southwest Desert	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1036	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek^	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1022	Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1023	Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23
CG1025	Zion	Unlimited	7/1/22–6/30/23

** No dogs allowed from 7/1/22-11/1/22, and 3/31/23-6/30/23 except for hunters who have a valid bear permit that allows the use of dogs on this unit.*

^No dogs 5/31/23 - 6/26/23

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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

Unit name	Season dates
Beaver, East	11/2/22–5/31/23
Beaver, West	11/2/22–5/31/23
Book Cliffs, East*	**11/2/22–4/1/23**
Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/Nine Mile, South	11/2/22–5/31/23
Box Elder, Desert	11/2/22–5/31/23
Box Elder, Pilot Mtn	11/2/22–5/31/23
Box Elder, Raft River	11/2/22–5/31/23
Cache	11/2/22–5/31/23
Central Mtns, Nebo (excludes West Face)	11/2/22–5/31/23
Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	11/2/22–5/31/23
Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	11/2/22–5/31/23
Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	11/2/22–5/31/23
Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	11/2/22–5/31/23
Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	11/2/22–5/31/23
Chalk Creek	11/2/22–5/31/23
East Canyon	11/2/22–5/31/23
East Canyon, Davis	11/2/22–5/31/23
Fillmore, Oak Creek	11/2/22–5/31/23
Fillmore, Pahvant	11/2/22–5/31/23
Henry Mtns	11/2/22–5/31/23
Kaiparowits	11/2/22–5/31/23
Kamas	11/2/22–5/31/23
La Sal*	**11/2/22–4/1/23**
Monroe	11/2/22–5/31/23
Morgan-South Rich	11/2/22–5/31/23
Mt Dutton	11/2/22–5/31/23

** No dogs allowed from 4/1/23-5/26/23, except for hunters who have a valid bear permit that allows the use of dogs on this unit.*

• Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

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 (continued)

Unit name	Season dates
Nine Mile, North	11/2/22–5/31/23
North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	11/2/22–5/31/23
North Slope, Three Corners	11/2/22–5/31/23
Ogden	11/2/22–5/31/23
Oquirrh-Stansbury, East	11/2/22–5/31/23
Oquirrh-Stansbury, West	11/2/22–5/31/23
Panguitch Lake	11/2/22–5/31/23
Paunsaugunt	11/2/22–5/31/23
Pine Valley, North	11/2/22–5/31/23
Pine Valley, South	11/2/22–5/31/23
Plateau, Boulder	11/2/22–5/31/23
Plateau, Fishlake	11/2/22–5/31/23
Plateau, Thousand Lakes	11/2/22–5/31/23
San Juan, Desert	11/2/22–5/31/23
San Juan, Mountains*	**11/2/22–4/1/23**
San Rafael	11/2/22–5/31/23
South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	11/2/22–5/31/23
South Slope, Yellowstone	11/2/22–5/31/23
Southwest Desert	11/2/22–5/31/23
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	11/2/22–5/31/23
Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	11/2/22–5/31/23
Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	11/2/22–5/31/23
Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry	11/2/22–5/31/23
West Desert, Mtn Ranges	11/2/22–5/31/23
West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	11/2/22–5/31/23
Zion	11/2/22–5/31/23

** No dogs allowed from 4/1/23-5/26/23, except for hunters who have a valid bear permit that allows the use of dogs on this unit.*

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DEFINITIONS

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

The definitions in this section are listed in Utah's state laws and administrative rules (see the citations above). You can use these references—included throughout the guidebook—to look online for the complete text of the relevant laws and rules.

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.

Compensation means anything of economic value in excess of $100 that is paid, loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a dog handler for or in consideration of pursuing cougar for any purpose.

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

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

Dog handler means the person in the field that is responsible for transporting, releasing, tracking, controlling, managing, training, commanding and retrieving the dogs involved in the pursuit. The owner of the dogs is presumed the dog handler when the owner is in the field during pursuit.

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.

Drone means an autonomously controlled, aerial vehicle of any size or configuration that is capable of controlled flight without a human pilot aboard.

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 means an identified limit on the number of cougars that may be harvested during the season on a particular unit.

Harvest-objective permit means any permit that can be obtained without entering a drawing and is valid on all units during non-limited entry seasons. A person may use dogs to hunt cougars with this permit.

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.

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

Immediate family member means a livestock owner's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild and grandchild.

Kitten means a cougar that has obvious spots on its sides or its back or has obvious leg barring coloration.

Limited-entry permit means any permit obtained for a limited-entry season by any means, including conservation permits and sportsman permits. Limited-entry permits may only be used on the specific unit they are issued for during the limited-entry season. Limited-entry permits may be used on any unit open to cougar hunting once the limited-entry season for which the permit is valid ends.

Limited-entry season means any season listed in the hunt tables of the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar, which is identified as limited entry, and a person must draw a permit to hunt that season.

Livestock means cattle, sheep, goats or turkeys.

Location of harvest means the exact location where the cougar is killed. GPS coordinates are preferred.

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.

Predator management unit means a unit managed under direction of DWR W1AG-4 to reduce cougar densities. This type of unit does not have a limit on the number of cougars that may be harvested during the season.

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.

Spot-and-stalk permit means a cougar permit available over the counter for seasons

and units designated by the Division Director as per Statute 23-16-10. A hunter who obtains this permit may not use dogs to take a cougar.

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.

Trail camera means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat, or motion to trigger the device.

Trapping means taking protected wildlife with a trapping device.

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 limited-entry cougar season.

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