

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

BEAR, COUGAR and FURBEARER

GUIDEBOOK



2026

BLACK BEAR • COUGAR • BADGER • BEAVER • BOBCAT • FOX
MARTEN • MINK • MUSKRAT • RINGTAIL • SKUNK • WEASEL

KNOW THE LAWS

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

For an in-depth look at Utah's black bear, cougar and furbearer hunting laws and rules, visit wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as *Utah Code § 23A-5-309* and *Utah Administrative rules R657-33-3, R657-10-13 and R657-11-4*—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 DWR office.

Who makes the rules?

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

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

Bob Christensen	Gary Nielson, <i>Chair</i>
Ryan Foutz	Paula Richmond,
Kent Johnson	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Justin Oliver	Riley Peck,
Chris Robinson	<i>Division Director & Executive Secretary</i>

CONTACT US

Turn in a poacher

Phone: 800-662-3337

Text: 847411

Online: wildlife.utah.gov/utip

Division offices

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

Salt Lake City

1594 W North Temple

Box 146301

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301

801-538-4700

Central Region

1115 N Main Street

Springville, UT 84663

801-491-5678

Northeastern Region

318 N Vernal Avenue

Vernal, UT 84078

435-781-9453

Northern Region

515 E 5300 S

Ogden, UT 84405

801-476-2740

Southeastern Region

319 N Carbonville Road, Ste A

Price, UT 84501

435-613-3700

Southern Region

1470 N Airport Road

Cedar City, UT 84721

435-865-6100

Washington County Field Office

451 N SR-318

Hurricane, UT 84737

435-879-8694



CONTENTS

- 10 Key dates
- 12 License and permit fees
- 17 Utah's Trial Hunting Program
- 19 Hunter Mentoring Program
- 20 Bear: types of permits and eligibility
- 22 Why bonus points matter
- 23 Are you eligible to apply?
- 24 Hunters with disabilities
- 24 Points options for active, deployed military personnel
- 25 Apply for a bear permit
- 27 After applying for a bear permit
- 27 Permit refunds and exchanges
- 28 Surrendering a permit
- 29 Bear: permits available after the hunt drawing
- 30 Conservation and sportsman permits
- 31 Cougar: hunting and pursuit requirements
- 33 Furbearer: obtaining permits and tags
- 33 Furbearer: obtaining permits and temporary tags
- 35 Furbearer: using temporary tags and obtaining permanent tags
- 38 General field regulations
- 38 Firearms and archery equipment
- 40 Areas with special restrictions
- 43 Prohibited hunting methods
- 45 Disposal of wildlife
- 46 Trespassing
- 47 Utah's Walk-in Access program
- 48 Bear: hunting and pursuit
- 49 Harvest and pursuit restrictions
- 51 Use of dogs to hunt or pursue bear
- 52 Permits for commercial activities
- 53 Bear baiting
- 55 Possession and transportation
- 55 Harvest reporting
- 57 Cougar: hunting and pursuit
- 57 Use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougars
- 59 Checking in your bear, bobcat, cougar or marten?
- 60 Don't jeopardize future hunts
- 61 Furbearer: trapping and hunting regulations
- 61 Hunting and trapping methods
- 61 Avoid nontarget species
- 62 Trap restrictions to protect river otters
- 63 Unmodified and modified body-gripping traps
- 64 Did it get wet? Decontaminate it!
- 65 Trapping on waterfowl management areas
- 65 Areas closed to beaver and mink harvest
- 67 Wolf management in Utah
- 68 Trappers Association reward program
- 68 Accidental trapping
- 69 Possession, sale and transportation
- 69 Trapping coyotes and raccoons
- 70 Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale
- 71 Livestock depredation and property damage
- 72 Utah's Predator Control Program
- 73 Hunt tables
- 81 Management units
- 83 Furbearer season dates and bag limits
- 84 Definitions

WHAT'S NEW

Combined black bear, cougar and furbearer guidebook: Utah's requirements and field regulations for bear and cougar hunting and pursuit are very similar, as are the rules and requirements for trapping furbearers and cougars. To consolidate information for hunters and trappers, the division combined these guidebooks beginning this year. The current *2025-26 Utah Furbearer Guidebook* will also be valid through April 1, 2026.

Digital-only guidebook: Beginning Sept. 1, 2025, this guidebook (and several others) will be available as a digital edition only, accessible on the DWR website (wildlife.utah.gov) and downloadable in the Utah Hunting and Fishing mobile app. This shift will significantly reduce the state's increasing costs for printing, shipping, labor and storage, and reduce overages and paper waste. Our staff at DWR offices will be available to assist customers who need digital guidebook information in print form.

Apply for bear hunts using the NEW online draw platform: The division distributes permits for limited-entry bear hunts through a drawing, and the application period is Feb. 10–24, 2026. Apply online at utahdraws.com or by calling the new draw hotline at 855-883-7297. If you are successful in drawing a permit, you will be notified via email on or before March 5, 2026. For additional details, see page 25.

Bear season dates: Bear season dates change every year. For details, see the tables that start on page 73.

New bear unit: The Utah Wildlife Board approved creating the Dolores Triangle unit—separating it from the La Sal Mtns unit—in order to match current boundaries of big game hunting units. La Sal Mtns unit permit numbers will remain the same, and there will be 10 bear permits allocated for the new Dolores Triangle unit. See the bear hunt tables that begin on page 73 for details.

Maps and boundaries: Bear unit boundaries may/can change every year. Use the Utah Hunt Planner to find unit maps, boundaries and information on the hunts you want to apply for. Learn more at hunt.utah.gov.

Purchasing 2026-27 season bobcat permits: Bobcat permits will be available at wildlife.utah.gov, DWR offices and license agent locations, starting at 8 a.m. MDT on Oct. 1, 2026 through Oct. 31, 2026. You may obtain a maximum of six bobcat permits for the 2026–27 season. See page 33 for details about obtaining permits, and page 83 for season dates and bag limits.

Furbearer season dates and bag limits: Season dates change each year. Furbearer season dates and bag limits are listed on pages 83.

Beaver trapping closures: To protect habitat restoration projects using beaver transplants, the following areas have been added to the closure list: Johnson and Wildcat creeks (Box Elder County), Threemile Creek (Garfield County), Little Creek (Iron County), Reservoir Canyon (Washington County) and a portion of the Logan River (Cache County). Areas no longer closed to beaver trapping include: Pine Creek (Beaver County), Basin Creek drainage (Box Elder County), Hunt Creek (Garfield County) and Beaver Creek (Cache County). For a full list, see page 65.

UTA Fur Sale in March: The Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale will be held in Nephi March 10–12, 2026. In 2026, the fur sale will occur after permanent marten and bobcat tagging closes on March 6; permanent tags will not be available at the event. For details and to check for 2027 dates (TBD), visit utahtrappers.org/events.

Hunting outfitters and guides: Guides and outfitters in Utah are now regulated by the DWR (instead of the Department of Professional Licensing) as approved by the Utah Legislature in 2025. If you are a guide, outfitter or spotter, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/guides for information about application, registration and other operational requirements.

Nonresident fee increase: In the 2025 session, the Utah Legislature authorized higher nonresident fees for licenses, application fees and hunting permits to help fund the purchase of land for wildlife habitat and conservation. See page 12 for details, or visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees for full list of Utah's license and permit fees.

WMA license requirement: Anyone 18 years old or older must have a valid Utah hunting, fishing or combination license to access waterfowl and wildlife management areas in Utah's four largest counties (Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber counties, based upon population). This law was passed by the Utah Legislature, effective May 7, 2025. WMAs are primarily funded by the sales of Utah hunting, fishing and combination licenses and by federal excise taxes (which are paid on hunting and fishing equipment)—typically, state taxes do not pay for them. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/wmas for details about which WMAs require a license, exemptions and more.

Important reminders

Cougar hunting, pursuit and trapping: A person may pursue or hunt cougars year-round in Utah with any legal weapon if they have a valid hunting or combination license, provided they comply with all rules set forth in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-10* (taking cougar) and in this guidebook. You must also have a valid trap registration license if you intend to trap cougars. (You do not need to apply for an additional permit to hunt or trap cougars.) There is no annual limit on the number of cougars a person may take, but each cougar must be checked in at a DWR office within 48 hours of harvest and receive a permanent tag.

Download guidebooks and more to your DWR mobile app: You can download Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks using your Utah Hunting and Fishing mobile app. The app makes it easy to read, search and navigate this guidebook and others. You can keep your hunting or combo license and any DWR course completion certificates on the app, too. Learn more about the app and download it at wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp. Remember, you must still carry any printed permit with you in the field.

License required: Before you can apply for or obtain a black bear hunting permit, bonus point or pursuit permit, you must have a valid Utah hunting or combination license. Trappers must have a valid furbearer license and trap registration license.

Age requirement for bear hunting: If you're 11 years old, but you'll turn 12 during 2026, you can apply for a permit to hunt bears in 2026. See page 14 for more information.

Bear orientation course: If you obtain any type of black bear permit, you must successfully complete the current-year bear orientation course before going into the field, and have proof of course completion (printed or digital) in your possession while hunting or pursuing a black bear. The course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear.

Multiseason bear permits: Hunters who draw a multiseason bear permit may hunt any harvest-objective seasons on the unit they draw, in addition to the limited-entry seasons. Harvest-objective unit closures apply. For more information about multiseason limited-entry permits, see page 6 and the hunt tables that begin on page 73.

Bear and cougar 48-hour harvest reporting: Each harvested bear or cougar must be reported to a DWR office within 48 hours of harvest and issued a permanent tag. Hunters must provide the exact location of harvest (GPS coordinates preferred). We strongly encourage you to make an appointment to check in your harvested animal so that staff are available to assist you. See page 55 (bear) and page 58 (cougar) for details.

Unit closures available online: Any bear harvest-objective unit closures will be posted at wildlife.utah.gov/bear by noon daily. Closures will take effect the following day.

Pack size restrictions: The maximum number of dogs that can be used to pursue a bear is 16 for the spring and fall seasons. During all summer pursuit seasons and restricted summer pursuit seasons, there's an eight-dog maximum. For details, see page 51.

365-day bear pursuit permits: Bear pursuit permits are valid for 365 days from the day you buy them, but you may pursue bears only during the state's pursuit seasons. You'll find pursuit season dates on page 10 and pursuit restrictions on page 50. You do not need a permit of any kind to pursue cougars.

Bear bait seasons: The only bear season that allows bait is the summer limited-entry season, May 25–June 28, 2026, on specified hunt units. See the hunt tables beginning on page 73 for more information. Remember, early baiting is prohibited statewide.

Apply for a bait station online: Beginning April 1, 2026, you may apply for your required bait station certificate of registration (COR) online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear or by visiting a DWR office. Bait sites must comply with all rules and regulations in this guidebook and listed in Utah Code. See additional requirements for using bait on public and private lands on page 53.

Hunting over another hunter's bait site: Hunters with valid bait permits may hunt over another hunter's bait site with written permission from the COR holder. For details, see page 53.

Bear pursuit guides and outfitters: If you're a Utah-licensed guide or outfitter—and you're accompanying a paying client to pursue black bear—you do not need a bear pursuit permit. To learn more, see page 51.

Bobcat removal and temporary tagging: Whether you find a bobcat in one of your traps, or in a trap you have written authorization to check, you must possess and carry a valid bobcat permit issued in your name. Then, if you kill the bobcat, you must attach your own tags to the carcass. For additional details, see page 36.

Obtain permanent bobcat and marten tags: You may obtain permanent marten and bobcat tags—by appointment only—at any DWR office. Remember, you are required to surrender the lower jaw of your bobcat when you obtain a permanent tag. See page 11 for tag availability dates and deadlines.

Beaver and river otter trapping closures: To protect habitat restoration projects using beaver transplants, some areas are closed to trapping and are listed on page 65 of this guidebook. Additionally, some rivers have trapping restrictions to protect river otters; see page 62 for a list of restricted waters.

Trapping coyotes and raccoons: Because coyote and raccoon traps are capable of capturing or killing protected wildlife, Utah's trapping laws apply to individuals who are trapping coyotes and raccoons. For details, see the information box on page 69.

Utah's Predator Control Program: Utah's Predator Control Program includes a variety of requirements. For details, see page 28 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/predators.

Trap registration numbers: If you already have a valid trap registration number, but you don't have a physical copy of it, please contact a DWR office to receive a duplicate copy, free of charge. You can also download the Utah Hunting and Fishing app and carry an electronic copy of your trap registration license on your mobile device. See page 62 for details.

Accidental trapping of federally protected species: Black-footed ferret and lynx are protected species under the Endangered Species Act. If you accidentally trap or capture one of these species, you must immediately report it to the DWR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See page 68 for details.

Accidental trapping or take of wolves: Wolves have been documented dispersing into Utah from neighboring states, but there are currently no known established breeding packs in the state. Under current federal and state protections, the general public may not hunt, kill or trap wolves. If you accidentally trap, capture or kill a wolf, you must immediately report it to the DWR. See page 19 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/wolf for more information.

Native American trust lands and national wildlife refuges: If you want to trap on Native American trust lands and national wildlife refuges in Utah, you should first check with the respective tribal authority or refuge manager.

Trail camera regulations: Trail cameras are prohibited on public land from July 31 to Dec. 31, with some exceptions for research and monitoring by land management agencies. The sale or purchase of trail camera footage in the take—or attempted take—of big game, cougar or bear is prohibited. Trail cameras that utilize internal data storage may be used on private property. See information box on page 42 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams for details.

Ways to report poachers: Use the UTDWR law enforcement app or the text option for reporting poachers (text 847411). For details about these and other wildlife-crime reporting options, visit wildlife.utah.gov/utip.

Utah Hunter Mentoring Program: Eligible mentors can share their bear permits with qualifying minors. For details, see the information box on page 19 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program: People who haven't hunted black bears or cougars may be able to try it for the first time without taking Hunter Education. For details, see the information box on page 17.

Points options for military members: Active military personnel may be eligible to take advantage of some points opportunities if they are deployed during the black bear application period. For details, see page 24 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/military.

Discounted licenses for disabled veterans: The division offers discounted hunting and combination licenses to Utah servicemembers who were disabled in the line of duty. See page 11 for more details.

Stay informed: We will communicate changes that may affect you and your hunt via email and social media. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/stay-connected to sign up for email updates and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads and YouTube.

Private land: The division cannot guarantee access to any private land. Under certain circumstances, you must obtain documented permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting on private lands. For more information, please see page 22.

Guidebook regulatory cycle: Every three years, the Utah Wildlife Board approves a 3-year guidebook for black bear and furbearer regulations. 2025 was the first year of a three-year recommendation cycle, and season dates and permit numbers have been adjusted to reflect updated management strategies across the state and approved by the board. The cougar regulations cycle is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year, and is approved by the board annually.

Guidebook correction: If errors are found in this guidebook after it is initially published, the division will correct the online copy and update the digital version available for download in the Utah Hunting and Fishing app. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks for digital versions of all DWR guidebooks.

Protection from discrimination: The DWR 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 facility, program, or activity, or if you need more information, please write to:

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

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.



1. Check the **DWR wildlife calendar** for upcoming meeting dates and agenda topics.
2. Review **proposals** on the division website or our YouTube channel.
3. Attend a **public meeting** in your region to share comments or **submit feedback online** during the public comment period.

The **Utah Wildlife Board** creates wildlife-related rules for the state. The board considers recommendations from **The Division of Wildlife Resources** and the five **Regional Advisory Councils**. Each **RAC** depends on **public feedback** for guidance on agenda items and their recommendations for the board.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/getting-involved to learn more. 



The Utah Wildlife Board meets throughout the year at the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at Farmington Bay.

KEY DATES

Bear hunt application dates

Permit process	Date	Time
Start applying online	Feb. 10, 2026	8:00 a.m. MST
Application deadline	Feb. 24, 2026	11:00 p.m. MST
Drawing results available	March 5, 2026	n/a
Harvest-objective permit sales begin	March 10, 2026	8:00 a.m. MDT
Remaining permits go on sale, if available	March 10, 2026	8:00 a.m. MDT

Bear hunt season dates

Season dates vary by unit. See the hunt tables that begin on page 73.

Pursuit unit	Season	Season dates
Units not designated as restricted*	Spring	March 28–May 25, 2026
	Summer	July 5–31, 2026
	Fall	Nov. 2–8, 2026
Restricted pursuit units*	Spring (all three units, restricted for nonresidents)	March 28–May 25, 2026
• Book Cliffs	Early summer (all three units)	July 5–16, 2026
• La Sal	Late summer (all three units)	July 18–31, 2026
• San Juan		

* The Book Cliffs, La Sal (which includes both the La Sal Mtns and Dolores Triangle units) and San Juan are Utah’s only restricted pursuit units. To learn more about applying for and using restricted pursuit permits, see page 12 and page 21.

Cougar important dates

See the **Utah Hunt Planner** at hunt.utah.gov for unit boundaries and other important details.

Pursuit unit	Activity	Season dates
Units not designated as restricted*	Cougar pursuit, hunting and trapping	Year-round
Restricted pursuit units*	Cougar pursuit and hunting Restrictions: No dogs allowed except for hunters with valid bear permits.	March 28–Nov. 1, 2026

* The Book Cliffs, La Sal (which includes both the La Sal Mtns and Dolores Triangle units) and San Juan are Utah’s only restricted pursuit units.

Furbearer permits and tags available

Permit or tag type	2025–2026 season	2026–2027 season
Marten permits available	Aug. 28, 2025–March 1, 2026	Aug. 27, 2026–March 1, 2027
Permanent marten tags available	Sept. 15, 2025–March 6, 2026	Sept. 14, 2026–March 5, 2027
Bobcat permits and temporary possession tags available	Oct. 1–31, 2025	Oct. 1–31, 2026
Permanent bobcat tags available	Nov. 15, 2025–March 6, 2026	Nov. 16, 2026–March 5, 2027

Furbearer season dates

See pages 83 for a complete list of furbearer season dates by species, areas open, bag limits and other details.

Species	2025–2026 season	2026–2027 season
Badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk and weasel	Sept. 15, 2025–March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026–March 1, 2027
Beaver and mink	Sept. 15, 2025–April 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026–April 1, 2027
Bobcat	Nov. 15, 2025–March 1, 2026	Nov. 18, 2026–March 1, 2027
Marten	Sept. 15, 2025–March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026–March 1, 2027
Cougar, muskrat, red fox and striped skunk	Year-round	

Discounted licenses for disabled veterans

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

The discounted hunting license is \$25.50, instead of the \$40 full price. Likewise, the discounted combination license is \$28.50, instead of the \$44 full price. Either license is good for 365 days from the day you buy it.

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.

Apply for a discounted license online at wildlife.utah.gov/disabledvet, or at any DWR office (see page 2).

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

If you need assistance, please call the nearest DWR office (page 2).

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

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

For a complete list of Utah’s license and permit fees, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees.
A 2.2% transaction fee applies to all credit/debit card transactions.

License fees

License type	Age	Resident	Nonresident
365-day hunting license	13 and under	\$11	\$44
	14–17	\$16	\$44
	18–64	\$40	\$144
	65+	\$31	\$144
365-day hunting license for disabled veterans (see the box on page 11 for details)	n/a	\$25.50	n/a
Multi-year hunting license (up to five years)	18-64	\$39 / year	\$143 / year
365-day combination* license	17 and under	\$20	\$58
	18–64	\$44	\$190
	65+	\$35	\$190
365-day combination* license for disabled veterans (see the box on page 11 for details)	n/a	\$28.50	n/a
Multi-year combination* license (up to five years)	18-64	\$43 / year	\$189 / year
Furbearer license	n/a	\$33	\$255
Trap registration license (payable once)	n/a	\$10	\$20

* A combination license allows you to hunt or fish in Utah.

Permit and application fees

Permit type	Resident	Nonresident
Bear pursuit permit	\$45	\$342
Bear restricted pursuit permit*	\$45*	\$342*
Bear harvest-objective permit	\$93	\$600
Bear limited-entry permit*	\$93*	\$600*
Bear multiseason limited-entry permit*	\$183*	\$889*
Bear application fee*	\$10	\$21
Bobcat permit	\$17 each (up to 6)	\$89 (up to 6)
Marten permit	No charge	No charge

* There is a nonrefundable application fee if you apply for this permit through the hunt drawing.

Find a license agent near you at wildlife.utah.gov/locator

Certificates of registration

COR type	Fee
Bait station certificate of registration (See <i>Bear baiting</i> on page 53)	\$10
Bear bait station (See <i>Bear baiting</i> on page 53)	\$10
Fur dealer	\$160
Fur dealer's agent	\$160
Fur dealer renewal	\$40
Fur dealer's agent renewal	\$40

Residency

Utah Code § 23A-1-101

Before you purchase any type of 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 *Resident* on page 87 to determine whether you are a resident or a nonresident.



Ready to apply for a bear permit?

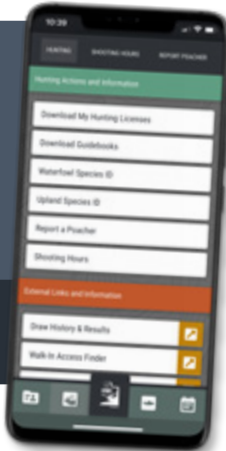
Beginning **Feb. 10, 2026**, apply for a permit or bonus point online at **utahdraws.com** or call the new hunt-drawing helpline at **855-883-7297 (855-UTDRAWS)**.

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

HUNTING & FISHING MOBILE APP

Keep regulations, licenses, season dates and other important resources at your fingertips!

The app is **FREE** for both iOS and Android devices. Learn more at **wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp**.



BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN UTAH

Are you planning to hunt or pursue black bears or cougars in Utah this year? Or planning to hunt or trap cougars, bobcats, martens or other furbearers? Make sure you meet Utah's age, hunter or furharvester education, and license requirements.

Age requirements

Utah Code §§ 23A-4-704, 23A-4-201 and 23A-4-708

Hunting and pursuing bear

To hunt or pursue a black bear in Utah, you must be at least 12 years old by Dec. 31, 2026.

Note: If you're 11 years old, but you'll be 12 by Dec. 31, 2026, you may apply for and obtain a black bear permit this year. All sales are final.

If you're younger than 18, you can apply to participate in the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program. For details on the program, see the information box on page 19 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring.

Hunting and trapping furbearers and cougars

In Utah, there are no age restrictions for individuals who can hunt and trap furbearers and cougars.

Reminder: If you're under the age of 16—and hunting with any weapon—you must be accompanied in the field by your parent, a legal guardian or a responsible person 21 years of age or older (see below).

Adults must accompany youth

Utah Code § 23A-4-708

While hunting with any weapon, a person under 14 years old must be accompanied by their 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 education required for hunting and pursuing bear and cougar

Utah Code § 23A-4-1001 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 bear permit. You must also provide proof of hunter education to hunt, pursue or trap cougars.

The only exception to this law is for individuals who are participating in the Utah's Trial Hunting Program. You can find details about the program in the box on page 17 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 DWR 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 DWR'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.

Possible habitat work in your hunt area

Throughout the year, the DWR works with other government agencies—including the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management—to complete thousands of acres of habitat-improvement work on Utah's public lands.

Projects range from plant removal to prescribed burns and from helicopter reseedling to large-scale planting projects. They help restore habitat for many different species, giving them the food and cover they need to thrive on the landscape.

Sometimes a project may occur in a portion of your hunt area, during the hunt. If this is something you're concerned about, consider contacting the appropriate land-management agency before you apply for a particular hunt area. They may be able to give you a tentative list of projects for the coming year.

You can also see a list of many past, current and proposed restoration projects at watershed.utah.gov.

Furharvester education required for hunting and trapping furbearers

Utah Code § 23A-4-1006 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-23-6

If you are a Utah resident born after Dec. 31, 1984, you must provide proof that you've passed a furharvester education course approved by the division before you can:

- Obtain a furbearer license
- Obtain a bobcat permit
- Obtain a marten permit

Taking a furharvester education course

You can prove that you've completed furharvester education if you have a certificate of completion from your furharvester education course or if you have a verified furharvester education number on file with the DWR. That number is assigned when you complete furharvester education. Here's how to take the course:

- To get started, you should visit wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-education. You'll see links to various traditional and online furharvester education courses.
- Follow the instructions on the website to obtain a furharvester education registration certificate (required) and to register for a course online. If you need assistance, please contact your local DWR office or call 801-538-4727.
- When you finish the course, your instructor will verify your course completion in the online hunter education system.

For more information on how to complete Utah's furharvester education course, visit wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-education.

New to Utah?

If you become a Utah resident—and you've completed an approved hunter education or furharvester education course in another state, province or country—you must transfer your certification to the DWR. (See the definition of *Resident* on page 87.)

This proof of education certification transfer must occur before you can buy a resident hunting license, trap registration license, or be eligible to purchase a resident hunting permit. You can provide proof that you've completed a nationally recognized hunter education course or furharvester course by submitting the online form at wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-ed-transfer, or visit any DWR office for assistance (see locations and hours on page 2).

License required for hunting and pursuing bear and cougar

Utah Code §§§§ 23A-4-201, 23A-5-207, 23A-4-703 and 23A-5-309

You must have a current Utah hunting or combination (hunting and fishing) license before you can:

- Apply for or obtain a black bear permit or bonus point of any kind.
- Purchase a black bear pursuit permit.
- Harvest or pursue black bears in Utah.
- Hunt, pursue or trap cougars in Utah.

Licenses are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and DWR offices.

Be sure to double-check the date on your license before you apply for any permits or points. As long as your license is valid on the date you submit your application, you don't have to purchase a new license for the actual hunt.

For example, assume that your license expires on June 22, 2026. If you apply before that date, you do not have to purchase a new license for your hunt. All hunting and combination licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase.

Carry your bear permit

If you are successful in obtaining a black bear permit of any kind, you must have it on your person while in the field. You cannot alter your license or permit, nor can you sell, transfer or loan either of them to another person.

Bear orientation course

If you obtain any type of black bear permit, you are required to take the current-year black bear orientation course before heading into the field (available online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear).

Important: A copy of the course completion certificate must be in your possession—either a printed copy or downloaded to your Utah Hunting and Fishing app—while hunting or pursuing black bear.

Licenses required for hunting and trapping furbearers

Furbearer license requirement

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-3

You must have a valid Utah furbearer license before you can:

- Hunt, trap or harvest most furbearers
- Check someone else's traps for them (only with additional written authorization, see page 34)
- Obtain or use a bobcat permit
- Use a marten permit

Furbearer licenses are available at wildlife.utah.gov, from license agents and DWR offices.

You do not need a furbearer license to hunt, harvest or trap cougars, coyotes, muskrats, raccoons, red foxes or striped skunks. You do, however, need a trap registration license to set a trapping device for any species (see page 18 for details).

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 bear or 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 black bears and cougars. To sign up for the program or to learn more about it, visit wildlife.utah.gov/trial.

Trap registration license requirement

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-8

You must possess a valid trap registration license when trapping furbearers, cougars, coyotes or raccoons.

The only exception is for those who are trapping coyotes or raccoons within 600 feet of a building or structure occupied or used by humans or livestock.

You can obtain a trap registration license by calling or visiting a division office. There is a one-time license fee for a new trap registration license.

For more detailed information about meeting this requirement, please see wildlife.utah.gov/trapping-faq.

Important: If you already have a valid trap registration number, but you don't have a physical copy of it, please contact a DWR office. We can provide you with a duplicate copy free of charge. You can also download the Utah Hunting and Fishing app and carry an electronic copy of your license on your mobile device.

Permanently mark all trapping devices

When you receive a trap registration license, it will have a unique, permanent trap registration number printed on it. You must ensure that all of your trapping devices are permanently and legibly marked or tagged with your trap registration number. (This requirement does not apply to trapping devices set for coyotes or raccoons within 600 feet of a building or structure occupied or used by humans or livestock.)

Carry your licenses and permits

You must have your furbearer license and trap registration license—and any bobcat or marten permits—on your person while setting, checking or moving trapping devices. You must have a physical, printed bobcat permit in your possession (a digital copy does not meet this requirement). For marten, either carrying a printed permit or digital confirmation downloaded to your Utah Hunting and Fishing app fulfills this requirement. You cannot alter your licenses or permits, nor can you sell, transfer, give, loan or assign them to another person.

Basic requirements summary

Requirements	Minimum age	Education	License type	Permit
Black bear hunting or pursuit	Must be at least 12 years old by Dec. 31, 2026	Hunter education	Hunting or combination license	Bear hunting permit or pursuit permit
Cougar hunting or pursuit	n/a	Hunter education	Hunting or combination license	n/a
Furbearer trapping	n/a	Furharvester education	Furbearer license and trap registration license	Permit required for bobcat and marten
Cougar trapping	n/a	Hunter education	Hunting or combination license and trap registration license	n/a

Hunter Mentoring Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-67

The Utah Hunter Mentoring Program allows any qualifying adult to share their hunting permits with youth (ages 12–17).

Permits that are eligible for sharing under the Hunter Mentoring Program include all big game permits as well as black bear, turkey, greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse permits. Tundra

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.



Furharvester education provides instruction on responsible trapping, the use of trapping devices, laws, firearm safety, trapping ethics and more.

wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-education

Utah Trappers Association offers furharvester education courses, as well as skill-building and mentorship opportunities. They also host an annual fur sale.

utahtrappers.org



Participate in surveys

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-24

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

BEAR: TYPES OF PERMITS AND ELIGIBILITY

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-19

To participate in Utah's black bear hunt, you need to obtain a permit. The DWR distributes permits for limited-entry hunts and restricted pursuit through the black bear drawing; that application period is Feb. 10–24, 2026. There are also a few other types of bear hunting and pursuit permits available to hunters in Utah. This part of the guidebook describes the types of permits that are available, and will help you find the information and resources you need in order to apply for and obtain bear permits.

Verify your residency

Before you apply for any black bear hunts, it's important to know whether you are a legal resident of the state of Utah. Although residents and nonresidents can apply for most of the same types of permits, there are some differences in permit fees and availability. See the definition of *Residency* on page 87 to determine if you are a resident or a nonresident.

Understand permit types

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

You may not apply for or obtain more than one permit to harvest a black bear in 2026. You can, however, obtain a bear pursuit permit in addition to a limited-entry or harvest-objective permit.

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

Hunting permits

There are three different types of bear hunting permits in Utah.

Limited-entry permits

These permits are available for any legal weapon hunts. If you obtain one of these permits, it authorizes you to harvest one black bear in the area and season specified on your permit.

You must use the appropriate weapon type and method for your hunt. To learn more about legal hunting methods (spot-and-stalk, bait and use of dogs), see the *Field Regulations* section that begins on page 33.

How to obtain one: Apply for a limited-entry permit in the black bear drawing (utahdraws.com). For details, see page 25.

Multiseason limited-entry permits

This permit authorizes you to use any legal weapon to harvest one black bear in the area and seasons specified on your permit.

You must use the appropriate weapon type and method for the seasons you are hunting. To learn more about legal hunting methods (spot-and-stalk, bait and use of dogs), see the *Field Regulations* section that begins on page 38.

How to obtain one: Apply for a multiseason limited-entry permit in the black bear drawing (utahdraws.com). For details, see page 25.

Remember: If you draw a multiseason bear permit, you may hunt any open harvest-objective seasons on the unit you drew a permit for, in addition to the limited-entry seasons (see the bear hunt tables that begin on page 77 for details). Harvest-objective closures apply.

Harvest-objective permits

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

The harvest-objective permit allows you to use any legal weapon to harvest one bear on any harvest-objective hunting unit until the season ends or the unit's harvest objective has been met. (There are additional restrictions on the fall harvest-objective hunts. For details, see page 29.)

How to obtain one: Purchase a harvest-objective permit at wildlife.utah.gov, from a license agent or at any DWR office. For details, see page 29.

Pursuit permits

There are two different types of bear pursuit permits in Utah.

Restricted pursuit permit

This limited-entry permit authorizes you to pursue, but not kill, black bears during the restricted pursuit season listed on your permit on only one of the following units:

- Book Cliffs
- La Sal
- San Juan

The permit is also valid for all pursuit seasons on all other units, except the other restricted pursuit units during their restricted seasons. For a list of restricted pursuit units and season dates, see the bear hunt table on page 78. For more information on using this permit, see page 50.

Reminder: There are spring restricted pursuit seasons for nonresidents on the Book Cliffs, La Sal and San Juan units. The spring pursuit seasons on those units are **not** restricted for resident pursuers.

How to obtain one: Apply for a restricted pursuit permit in the black bear drawing (utahdraws.com). The drawing is also the only way for nonresident pursuers to obtain restricted pursuit permits for the spring restricted pursuit seasons described above.

Important: Residents who want to pursue bears on those three units during their spring seasons can do so by purchasing pursuit permits at wildlife.utah.gov, from a license agent or at any DWR office.

If you apply for a restricted pursuit permit but don't draw one, you will receive a restricted pursuit permit bonus point. For details, see page 22.

Pursuit permit

This permit authorizes you to pursue, but not kill, black bears on any unit that is not designated as restricted during all three pursuit seasons. (For all pursuit season dates, see page 10.)

Reminder: Nonresidents with pursuit permits may not use them on any restricted pursuit units unless they are accompanying someone who possesses a valid restricted pursuit permit or hunting permit for that unit and season. Residents may use a pursuit permit on restricted pursuit units during the spring pursuit season.

For a complete list of units where you can use a bear pursuit permit, visit hunt.utah.gov.

How to obtain one: Purchase a pursuit permit at wildlife.utah.gov, from a license agent or at any DWR office. For details, see page 30.

Research your options

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

It's important to be sure of the details before applying for a hunt. You don't want to accidentally apply for the wrong hunting unit or season.

Review the hunt tables

All of the black bear hunts you can apply for are listed in the hunt tables that begin on page 73. You will need to use the hunt numbers associated with the hunts in order to apply for permits. Please keep in mind that hunt names and boundaries may change from year to year.

See maps and boundaries online

Find detailed maps and boundary descriptions for all black bear hunts at hunt.utah.gov.

Obtain permission to hunt private property

Utah's trespassing laws are very specific about what private lands you may and may not access. If you obtain documented permission from the landowner, you know you'll be able to access the land you want to hunt.

And by obeying Utah's trespassing laws, you will avoid citations, fines, the loss of your harvested animal and other legal penalties.

You can find Utah's trespassing laws on page 46.

Please keep in mind that the DWR cannot guarantee access to private land, and the agency does not have the names of landowners who own property where hunts occur.

Why bonus points matter

Utah Admin. Rules R657-62-8 and R657-62-19

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

You will receive a bonus point every year you apply for a bear permit or restricted pursuit permit but don't draw one.

There is an application fee for each bonus point you apply for. The application fee is \$10 for residents and \$21 for nonresidents. The application period is Feb. 10–24, 2026 (utahdraws.com).

If you don't want to hunt a bear in the current year, you may apply for a bonus point by selecting the appropriate bonus point code.

You may only apply for a bear bonus point if you are eligible to apply for a bear permit or a restricted pursuit permit.

You may apply for a bear hunting permit or a bear hunting bonus point, but NOT both.

You may apply for both a bear hunting permit and a restricted pursuit permit bonus point.

Reminder: Permit surrender rules have changed, and they could affect the bonus points you've accrued for black bear. If you draw a multiseason permit or a spring limited-entry permit of any kind—and you need to surrender it—be sure to do so before the spring season opens. If you do, you'll get your accrued bonus points back, but you won't earn a point for the current year. (For other seasons, there's a 30-day surrender requirement if you want to get your previously acquired bonus points back, but there aren't 30 days between when you receive your permit and the spring season opener.)

If you draw a limited-entry bear hunting permit for the summer or fall season, and you need to surrender it, be sure to do so at least 30 days before your hunting season opens. If you do, you'll get your accrued bonus points back, but you won't earn a point for the current year.

Important: If you have a limited-entry bear hunting permit for the summer or fall season, and you surrender it less than 30 days before your season begins, you will lose your accrued bonus points and 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.

For detailed information on how your bonus points work in the drawing, visit wildlife.utah.gov/how-bonus-and-preference-points-work.

Are you eligible to apply?

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

You may not apply if...

You **cannot** apply for a bear permit or a restricted pursuit permit or obtain a bonus point if any of the following conditions apply:

- Your bear hunting privilege has been suspended.
- You're under a waiting period for a black bear hunting permit or restricted pursuit permit.
- You don't have a hunting or combination license.

Reminder: There are restrictions on fishing and hunting license purchasers for nonpayment of child support. For additional information—or to arrange a payment schedule—please contact the Office of Recovery Services at 801-536-8500.

Waiting period

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-19

If you obtain a bear limited-entry or restricted pursuit permit, there is a two-year waiting period before you can apply for another bear limited-entry permit, restricted pursuit permit or bonus point.

For example, if you obtain a bear permit in 2026, you may not apply for a bear permit until 2029.

The waiting period gives other hunters a better chance at drawing a limited-entry permit or restricted pursuit permit.

You may obtain a bear harvest-objective permit while under a waiting period for a bear limited-entry permit. You will not begin a new waiting period if you purchase a harvest-objective permit.

Permits obtained after the drawing

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-15

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

For example, if you have one year left on your bear waiting period, and you buy a bear limited-entry permit—or restricted pursuit permit—that remains available after the drawing, you'll begin a new two-year waiting period.

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 DWR office.

Points options for active, deployed military personnel

If you are an active, deployed member of the military, you can purchase a bonus or preference point, even if you missed an application period while deployed. The DWR will 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 about these options and the application form, visit wildlife.utah.gov/military.

APPLY FOR A BEAR PERMIT

Utah Admin. Rule R656-33-3, R656-33-26, R656-42 and R656-62

The process of applying for a black bear 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 2026 black bear permit, please be aware of the following dates and deadlines.

February 10: Apply online for a bear permit or bonus point

Beginning Feb. 10, 2026, both residents and nonresidents can apply for a bear permit—or a bonus point—online at utahdraws.com, or by calling the new hunt-drawing helpline at 855-883-7297.

You can also apply by calling any DWR office during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MST, Monday through Friday).

To apply for a resident permit, you must be a resident on the date you submit your application. Only nonresidents may apply for nonresident permits. To determine whether you're a resident, please see the definition on page 87.

Here's what you need to know in order to apply for any type of bear limited-entry permit, a restricted pursuit permit, a bonus point or a restricted pursuit permit bonus point:

- You may select up to three hunt choices when applying for any type of bear limited-entry permit or restricted pursuit permit.
- You cannot apply for both a bear limited-entry permit and a bonus point.
- Group applications are not accepted.
- If you draw a permit for a hunt that allows bait, you can bait bears, but you must obtain a certificate of registration before you set up a bait station. Apply at any DWR office or register online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear. For more information about this requirement, see page 53.
- There are special requirements if you want to pursue bears on a restricted pursuit unit during one of the restricted pursuit seasons. See page 21 to learn more about these permits and their requirements.
- If you apply for a restricted pursuit permit but do not draw one, you will receive a restricted pursuit bonus point.

When you submit your application, you'll be charged an application fee for each hunt type or bonus point you applied for. The application fee is \$10 for residents and \$21 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 obtain a permit.

Any credit or debit cards used as payment must be valid through March 2026. You can also use a pre-paid credit card.

Processing fee: DWR charges a 2.2% processing fee on all online and in-person credit/debit card transactions.

Please keep in mind that the DWR 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, visit utahdraws.com or call 855-883-7297.

Remember: If you draw a permit, you must complete the online bear orientation course at wildlife.utah.gov/bear before you go into the field.

February 24: Deadline for permit applications and bonus points

Utah Admin. Rule R656-62

If you want to participate in the drawing for any type of bear limited-entry permit, a restricted pursuit permit, a bonus point or a restricted pursuit permit bonus point, you must apply online or by phone no later than Feb. 24, 2026. There's an 11 p.m. MST deadline for online applications and the draw helpline and a 5 p.m. MST deadline for contacting a division office. To apply, visit utahdraws.com, call the new hunt-drawing helpline at 855-883-7297 or contact a DWR office during regular business hours.

Changing or withdrawing your application

If you make a mistake in your online permit application, simply go to utahdraws.com and click the *View/Edit/Withdrawal* button at the top of the page. All edits must be made before 11 p.m. MST on Feb. 24, 2026. You must have your customer ID and date of birth in order to edit your application. You will not be charged any additional fees, unless you completely withdraw your application and resubmit.

February 24: Deadline for withdrawing your application

If you decide not to hunt, you can withdraw your online permit application at no additional cost until 11 p.m. MST on Feb. 24, 2026.

Please remember that the application fee is not refundable.

March 5: Drawing results available

By March 5, 2026, you'll receive an email that lists your bear drawing results. You can also learn your drawing results by visiting utahdraws.com or call 855-883-7297.

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

If you draw a hunting permit, you'll receive your permit in the mail in mid-March.

Please be aware that if you receive your permit, and then the credit card you used for payment is refused, your permit becomes invalid and you may not participate in the bear pursuit or hunt. If this happens, please call 855-883-7297 to resolve the problem.

March 10: Remaining permits available

Any permits remaining after the bear drawing will be available beginning March 10, 2026 at 8 a.m. MDT. You can buy permits at wildlife.utah.gov, at license agents and DWR offices.

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

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

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

AFTER APPLYING FOR A BEAR PERMIT

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 permit. If you need to update your name (because of marriage or divorce), your address or the credit card number associated with your application, please call 855-883-7297 or visit utahdraws.com.

Obtaining your drawing results

You will receive an email that contains your drawing results on or before March 5, 2026. You can also learn your drawing results by visiting utahdraws.com or call 855-883-7297.

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 limited-entry permit of any kind, you'll receive your permit in the mail in mid-March.

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.

Take the orientation course

If you obtain any type of black bear permit, you are required to take the orientation course before you pursue or hunt bear. Successful completion of the current-year bear orientation course is required each year you obtain a permit, and you must have the orientation course certificate in your possession—either a printed copy or downloaded to your Utah Hunting and Fishing app—while hunting or pursuing a black bear.

The orientation course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear.

Permit refunds and exchanges

Utah Code §§ 23A-4-207, 23A-4-301 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 return your permit before the hunting season ends and then submit all required forms and accompanying paperwork within 30 days (new change) of the season ending in order to qualify for a full refund.

Exchanging a permit

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

Please be certain about the hunts you are interested in before you apply. You can see a complete list of hunts in the tables that begin on page 73.

Forfeited permits

Any original license, permit, tag or certificate of registration becomes invalid when surrendered or forfeited, or when a duplicate or exchanged one is issued.

Surrendering a permit

Utah Code § 23A-4-207 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

If you obtain a permit and decide not to use it, you may surrender the permit to any DWR office. If your permit is for the summer or fall hunting season, we strongly encourage you to surrender it at least 30 days before the season opens.

Reminder: If you draw a multiseason permit or a spring limited-entry permit of any kind—and you need to surrender it—be sure to do so before the spring season opens. If you do, you'll get your accrued bonus points back, but you won't earn a point for the current year. (For other seasons, there's a 30-day surrender requirement if you want to get your previously acquired bonus points back, but there aren't 30 days between when you receive your permit and the spring season opener.)

If you draw a limited-entry bear hunting permit for the summer or fall season, and you need to surrender it, be sure to do so at least 30 days before your hunting season opens. If you do, you'll get your accrued bonus points back, but you won't earn a point for the current year.

Important: If you have a limited-entry bear hunting permit for the summer or fall season, 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.

Reallocated permits

Any limited-entry permit surrendered to the division is 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.

Duplicate licenses

Utah Code § 23A-4-208 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

If your unexpired license or permit is destroyed, lost or stolen, you can obtain a duplicate from a DWR 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 DWR office or a license agent.

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

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

BEAR: PERMITS AVAILABLE AFTER THE HUNT DRAWING

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-3, R657-33-27, R657-42 and R657-62

If you did not draw any type of limited-entry permit in the black bear drawing, don't lose hope. You can still purchase permits that will allow you to hunt and pursue black bears during the 2026 season. This section explains which permits are available online and over the counter.

Harvest-objective permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-29

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

You may not use bait if you obtain a harvest-objective permit. For allowable hunting methods on each harvest-objective unit, see the hunt tables that begin on page 79.

The harvest-objective permit is available to all eligible hunters, except those who drew a bear limited-entry permit (not including pursuit or restricted pursuit permits).

Remember: You may only obtain one permit to harvest a bear during the 2026 season.

March 10: Purchase a harvest-objective permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-30

Bear harvest-objective permits will be available to residents and nonresidents, beginning March 10, 2026 at 8 a.m. MDT. To purchase a permit, you can visit a license agent, a DWR office or online at wildlife.utah.gov.

Remember that any harvest-objective bear permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days from the date of purchase. As a result, the last day to purchase a 2026 harvest-objective permit is Nov. 5, 2026. We suggest that you purchase a permit early in the season because a unit may close at any time.

Reminder: Hunters with a spot-and-stalk permit may not use dogs or bait to take a bear.

Harvest-objective unit closures

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-31

Harvest-objective permits are only valid for the 2026 season on any open harvest-objective unit.

Before you begin a hunting trip to a bear harvest-objective unit, you must visit wildlife.utah.gov/bearharvest 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 hunting until one of the following events occurs:

- The bear harvest objective for that unit is met.
- The hunting season ends. For season dates, see the hunt table on pages 79-80.

After a harvest-objective unit closes, you may not use your harvest-objective permit to harvest a bear in that unit. You may, however, use your permit in any other harvest-objective units that are open in 2026.

Reminder for multiseason permit holders: If you obtained a multiseason bear permit in the limited-entry drawing, you may hunt open harvest-objective seasons **on the unit you draw**, in addition to the limited-entry seasons (see the hunt tables that begin on page 79 for details). You do not need to obtain an additional harvest-objective permit in order to harvest a bear with your multiseason permit. Harvest-objective unit closures still apply.

Bear pursuit permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-4

You can purchase a pursuit permit online at wildlife.utah.gov or from a DWR office or a participating license agent.

A pursuit permit authorizes you to pursue, but not kill, black bears on any unit that is not designated as restricted during all three pursuit seasons.

For all pursuit season dates, see *Key dates* on page 10.

Reminder: Nonresidents with pursuit permits may not use them on any restricted pursuit units unless they are accompanying someone who possesses a valid restricted pursuit permit or hunting permit for that unit and season. Residents may use a pursuit permit on restricted pursuit units during the spring pursuit season.

For a complete list of units where you can use a bear pursuit permit, visit hunt.utah.gov.

If you are the dog handler, and you already possess a bear limited-entry permit, you may pursue bear on the unit—and during the season—for which the permit is valid. If you want to pursue bear on a different unit or during a different season—or after you harvest a bear—you will need to purchase a bear pursuit permit.

Conservation and sportsman permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-41

Conservation permits for taking black bear 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 will take place in late October 2026. For more information about this drawing, visit wildlife.utah.gov/sportsman-permits.

A complete copy of the conservation and sportsman permit regulations is available at wildlife.utah.gov/rules or any DWR office.

Take the bear orientation course

If you obtain any type of black bear permit, you are required to take the orientation course before you pursue or hunt bear. Successful completion of the current-year bear orientation course is required each year you obtain a permit, and you must have the orientation course certificate in your possession—either a printed copy or downloaded to your Utah Hunting and Fishing app—while hunting or pursuing a black bear.

The orientation course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear.

COUGAR: HUNTING AND PURSUIT REQUIREMENTS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-19

A person may hunt, pursue or trap cougars using a valid hunting or combination license, provided they comply with all rules set forth in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-10* (taking cougar) and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-11* (taking furbearers and trapping) and in this guidebook. A separate permit is not required to hunt cougars in Utah, although you must obtain a trap license if you intend to take cougars by trapping.

Residency

Utah Code § 23A-4-704

As long as you have a valid Utah hunting or combination (hunting and fishing) license, Utah residents and nonresidents may hunt or pursue cougar year-round.

License requirements

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

A person may hunt or pursue cougars with any legal weapon, provided they have a valid Utah hunting or combination license. You are not required to apply for or purchase an additional permit.

Trapping

If you choose to take a cougar by trapping, you must also have a valid Utah trap registration license. Licenses are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and DWR offices.

Obtain permission to hunt private property

The DWR cannot guarantee access to any private land, and cannot provide the names of landowners who own property where you may want to hunt.

Hunters should obtain documented permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting on private lands. See wildlife.utah.gov/permission for details and a printable form.

For more information, see *Trespassing* on page 46.



Protect wildlife by reporting suspected wildlife crimes

**CALL
TEXT
APP** | 800-662-3337
847411
UTDWR

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

UTiP
UTAH TURN IN A POACHER

Learn more or report online
at wildlife.utah.gov/utip



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 are not required to purchase a hunting or combination license to guide a customer in the field.

What about bonus points?

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-8

Prior to 2023, you were able to apply for a limited-entry cougar permit, which used the bonus point system to increase your chance of drawing limited-entry cougar permits.

Your cougar bonus points will remain in your profile history and will not expire. Points are nontransferable, and refunds will not be provided for points earned or purchased before 2023.

Reminder: Per rule, there is no allowable transfer of points from one species to another species.

Duplicate licenses

Utah Code § 23A-4-208 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

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

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

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

Important: Any original license, permit, tag or certificate of registration becomes invalid when surrendered or forfeited, or when a duplicate or exchanged one is issued.

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 or other accommodations.

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

FURBEARER: OBTAINING PERMITS AND TEMPORARY TAGS

If you want to hunt or trap bobcat or marten in Utah, you'll need a permit in addition to your furbearer license. This section describes how to obtain bobcat and marten permits, temporary tags and permanent tags. See pages 83 for season dates, open areas and bag limits for other furbearer species (which do not require an additional permit).

If you were born after Dec. 31, 1984, you must have proof of furharvester education before you can purchase a bobcat or marten permit. For more information, see page 18 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-education.

Bobcat permits and temporary tags

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-4

You may purchase bobcat permits at wildlife.utah.gov, from a DWR office or at license agent locations. You may purchase no more than six bobcat permits each season. Each bobcat permit issued also includes a temporary possession tag. (See pages 35-37 for instructions on using temporary tags and obtaining permanent tags.)

Bobcat permits will be sold until 11 p.m. MDT on the last season sales date. There will **not** be a cap on the total number of available bobcat permits in any season 2025–2027.

You must have your current furbearer license, bobcat permit and trap registration license on your person while hunting or trapping a bobcat.

See the tables on pages 83 for season dates and other information.

Marten permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-6

Marten permits are available free of charge from any DWR office. Please keep in mind that you only need one marten permit in order to trap marten each season.

You must have a current furbearer license, a marten-trapping permit and a trap registration license on your person when you trap a marten or have a marten in your possession. (See pages 35-37 for instructions on obtaining permanent tags.)

Key dates: bobcat and marten permits

Permit or tag type	2025–2026 season	2026–2027 season
Marten permits available	Aug. 28, 2025–March 1, 2026	Aug. 27, 2026–March 1, 2027
Bobcat permits and temporary possession tags available	Oct. 1–31, 2025	Oct. 1–31, 2026

Duplicate license or permit

Utah Code § 23A-4-208 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

If your valid furbearer license is destroyed, lost or stolen, you may obtain a duplicate from a DWR office or license agent. To obtain a duplicate bobcat or marten permit, you must visit a division office.

The duplicate will cost \$10, or half of the price of the original license or permit, whichever is less.

If you already have a valid trap registration number, but you don't have a physical copy of your trap registration license, please contact a DWR office. We can provide you with a duplicate copy of the license free of charge.

You can also download the Utah Hunting and Fishing app and carry electronic copies of your furbearer and trap registration licenses on your mobile device.

Sales final: exceptions and refunds

Utah Code § 23A-4-207 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

Some hunters and trappers successfully obtain licenses or permits and then realize—for one reason or another—that they won't be able to use them.

In most cases, the division cannot refund the cost of the license or permit, but there are some exceptions. To determine whether you are eligible for a refund or to download a refund-request form, visit wildlife.utah.gov/refund.

Invalid permits

Any original license, permit, tag or certificate of registration becomes invalid when surrendered or forfeited, or when a duplicate or exchanged one is issued.

What am I required to carry in the field?

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-8

The licenses and permits you're required to carry depend on what you are hunting or trapping.

If you're using any trapping device that's capable of catching or killing protected wildlife, you must have a trap registration license on your person. This requirement applies even if you are trapping coyotes or raccoons.

If you're trapping furbearers, you must have both a valid furbearer license and a trap registration license on your person while in the field. If any of those furbearers include bobcat or marten, you must also have the appropriate bobcat or marten permit on your person.

If you're checking someone else's furbearer traps for them, you must have all of the following on your person: a valid furbearer license, a trap registration license, the appropriate permits or tags, and written authorization from the owner of the trapping device. (For details about what that written authorization must include, see pages 17-18.)

Important: You may not check someone else's traps if any of your licenses or permits are denied or suspended.

Use the app: The free *Utah Hunting and Fishing* app makes it easy to store your furbearer license, trap registration license and any permits right on your mobile device. You can also download this and other Utah hunting and fishing guidebooks for quick reference. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp for details.

FURBEARER: USING TEMPORARY TAGS AND OBTAINING PERMANENT TAGS

As soon as you harvest a bobcat or marten, you need to attach the temporary possession tags. Then, you should contact a DWR office and **make an appointment** to have a division employee attach the permanent tag.

Tagging bobcats

Utah Code § 23A-4-709 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-5

You may only kill and tag a bobcat if you possess a valid bobcat permit issued in **your** name and you find a bobcat in your own marked trapping device or a trapping device you have written authorization to check. You must have both the permit and tags on your person when checking the traps. (See page 17 for the requirements you must meet to check someone else's trapping devices.)

After you kill a bobcat—but before you move the bobcat's carcass or leave the site of the kill—you are required to attach **your own** bobcat tags to the carcass. You'll find both tags attached to your permit. There's one tag for the pelt and one for the jaw.

The tagging process requires you to:

- Completely detach the tags from the permit
- Remove the notches that correspond with the harvest date and the animal's sex
- Complete the required county and license number information at the bottom of the tag
- Attach the temporary possession tag to the unskinned carcass or green pelt so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible

Later, you can remove the lower jaw of the bobcat and tag it with the numbered jaw tag that corresponds to the number on the pelt tag. Remember, you must surrender the lower jaw when you are issued a permanent tag.

While tagging a bobcat, you may not remove more than one notch indicating date or sex, nor can you tag more than one bobcat using the same tag.

The temporary possession tag must remain attached to the green pelt or unskinned carcass until a permanent bobcat tag has been affixed.

You may not use a bobcat permit to hunt, trap or pursue bobcat after any of the notches have been removed from the temporary possession tag or the tag has been detached from the permit. Possession of an untagged green pelt or unskinned carcass is considered probable cause of unlawful taking and possession.

Obtaining permanent tags

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-7

For any type of permanent tag, you **must make an appointment at a DWR office**. See page 2 for contact information.

There is no fee for the permanent tags.

You will receive them after the employee verifies the bobcat or marten was tagged with the temporary possession tag that corresponds to your permit. The employee will also review any applicable furbearer or hunting licenses.

Permanent possession tags for cougar, bobcat and marten

If you harvest a cougar, you must take the hide with evidence of sex attached and the skull to a DWR office within 48 hours of harvest. A division employee will attach a permanent possession tag at that time.

If you harvest a bobcat or marten, you must make an appointment to have a division employee attach a permanent possession tag to the pelt no later than Friday, March 6, 2026 (2025–2026 season), or Friday, March 5, 2027 (2026–2027 season).

Remember: You are required to surrender the lower jaw of your bobcat when you obtain a permanent tag.

You may not buy, sell, trade or barter a green pelt from a cougar, bobcat or marten that does not have a permanent tag affixed.

New: The Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale will be held March 10–12, 2026. You must obtain any permanent tags at a DWR office by March 6 for the 2025–2026 season.

Important: Permanent bobcat and marten tags will not be issued at the fur sale. Visit utahtrappers.org/events for more information about the fur sale and for 2027 dates to be determined.

Permanent possession tags: requirements and dates available

Tag type*	Requirements	2025–2026 season	2026–2027 season
Permanent marten tags	A DWR employee will attach a permanent tag.	Sept. 15, 2025– March 6, 2026	Sept. 14, 2026– March 5, 2027
Permanent bobcat tags	A DWR employee will attach a permanent tag and take possession of the bobcat’s lower jaw.	Nov. 15, 2025– March 6, 2026	Nov. 16, 2026– March 5, 2027
Permanent cougar tags	You must take the hide with evidence of sex attached and the skull to a DWR office. A DWR employee will remove a tooth and attach a permanent tag.	Year-round, within 48 hours of harvest	Year-round, within 48 hours of harvest

*For any type of permanent tag, **you must make an appointment at a DWR office.**

Transporting pelts to obtain tags

Bobcats and martens that were legally harvested may be transported by someone other than the furharvester to have the permanent tag affixed.

If you transport a bobcat or marten for another person, you must have written authorization that includes all of the following information:

- Date of kill
- Location of kill
- Species and sex of animal being transported
- Origin and destination of transportation
- The name, address, signature and furbearer license number of the furharvester
- The name of the individual transporting the bobcat or marten
- The furharvester's marten permit number, if marten is being transported

You can download an authorization form at wildlife.utah.gov/furbearer that makes it easy to collect all of the required information.

Animals harvested outside of Utah

Green pelts of bobcats and martens that were legally harvested outside of the state may not be possessed, bought, sold, traded or bartered in Utah unless one of the following conditions applies:

- A permanent tag has been affixed.
- The pelts are accompanied by a shipping permit issued by the wildlife agency of the state where the animal was harvested.

Help us protect wildlife.

The following methods are available to report a suspected wildlife crime:

CALL
800-662-3337

TEXT
847411

Use the
UTDWR app



UTiP

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

FIELD REGULATIONS

Several rules govern hunting in Utah. These rules exist to help keep you safe and to ensure an ethical hunt. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using firearms, crossbows, airguns and archery tackle. You should also know the different types of hunting methods you may use, areas restricted to hunting and proper disposal of wildlife. Additional rules and regulations specific to hunting and pursuing bear begin on page 48, hunting and pursuing cougar on page 57, and hunting and trapping furbearers (and trapping cougars) on page 61.

Firearms and archery equipment

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

Rifles, airguns, shotguns and crossbows

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-8

You may use a rifle or shotgun to hunt a bear or 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 bear or 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 travel at least 400 feet per second at the muzzle. They must also have either 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 bear must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and a positive mechanical safety mechanism.

A crossbow arrow or bolt used to hunt a bear must 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 bear may have a fixed or variable magnifying scope.

Handguns

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-9

You may use a handgun to take a bear or 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 bear or cougar, the handgun must develop at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

Important: Rimfire cartridges and ammunition may be used to harvest cougars and furbearers caught in traps. This rule **does not** allow these types of firearms and ammunition to harvest cougars not confined in traps.

Muzzleloaders

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-10

Muzzleloaders may be used during any bear or cougar hunt. To hunt a bear or 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.
- 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 bear or cougar.

Archery equipment

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11

Archery equipment may be used during any bear or cougar hunt.

To hunt a bear or 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 bow may be equipped with a range-finding device.

If you carry arrows in or on a vehicle, it's important that 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 bear or cougar.

Are you allowed to possess a weapon?

Utah Code §§ 76-11-302 and 76-11-303

It is illegal under *Utah Code §§ 76-11-302 and 76-11-303* 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 *Utah Code §§ 76-11-302 and 76-11-303* or contact the law enforcement agency that oversees your case.

Loaded firearms in a vehicle

Utah Code §§§§ 76-11-102, 53-5a-3, 76-11-204 and 53-5a-108

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 § 76-11-217

You may not carry a dangerous weapon or hunt while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Areas with special restrictions

State parks

Utah Code § 76-11-208 and Utah Admin. Rule R651-614-4

Remember: 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-parks.

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 next section or review *Utah Code § 76-11-208*.

Plan on sharing the backcountry

As much as you'd like to have Utah's wild places to yourself, you share them with campers, hikers, photographers and other hunters. Like you, some of those hunters are after black bear, cougars or bobcats, while others are pursuing deer, elk, forest grouse and other species.

Everyone shares the landscape, so please be patient and considerate when encountering others on public land.

Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-11-208 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-12

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

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

Use of weapons on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-9

You may only discharge a shotgun (with nontoxic shot) or archery tackle on the following waterfowl management areas and other DWR-managed properties during the specified waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the DWR:

- Box Elder County—Harold S. Crane, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek
- Daggett County—Brown's Park
- Davis County—Farmington Bay, Howard Slough and Ogden Bay
- Emery County—Desert Lake
- Juab County—Mills Meadow
- Millard County—Clear Lake and Topaz Slough
- Sanpete County—Manti Meadows
- Tooele County—Blue Lake and Timpie Springs
- Uintah County—Stewart Lake
- Utah County—Powell Slough, Utah Lake Wetland Preserve
- Wayne County—Bicknell Bottoms
- Weber County—Ogden Bay and Harold S. Crane

You may not discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle on any of these areas listed at any time of the year except during the specified waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the DWR.

Trail camera regulations and night-vision device rules

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7 and Utah Code § 23A-5-307

Since 2022, there have been several Utah Wildlife Board and legislative updates regarding the use of trail cameras and night-vision devices.

What are the trail camera regulations in Utah?

- All trail cameras are prohibited on public land from July 31 to Dec. 31 (with exceptions for approved research and monitoring).
- A trail camera using internal data storage—and not capable of transmitting live data—is permitted for use on private land for the purposes of legal hunting.
- The sale or purchase of footage or data from any trail camera (or non-handheld device) that could be used to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of big game, cougars or bears is prohibited. That includes images or video, location

information, time and date of the footage, and any other data that could aid in the harvest or attempted take of big game, cougars or bears.

Night-vision devices

- It is unlawful to possess any type of night-vision device while locating, taking or attempting to locate big game from July 31 to Dec. 31.

For more information

See definitions for night-vision devices and trail cameras on page 86 and 88 of this guidebook.

Learn more about these and other prohibited hunting methods on pages 43-45, and visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams for details about these rules.

Wildlife management areas

Utah Admin. Rules R657-11-32 and R657-10-23

Most DWR-owned wildlife management areas are closed during the winter months to protect big game animals. You may only access one of these areas if you have obtained prior written authorization from the appropriate DWR regional office. Contact the nearest DWR office to see if any WMAs are open near you.

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

- Motor vehicle access is necessary to effectively hunt, pursue or trap cougars by legal means.
- Motor vehicle access will not interfere with wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Other restricted areas

Utah military installations (including Camp Williams) and federal wildlife refuges are closed to hunting, trapping and trespassing, unless otherwise authorized.

If you are hunting on Native American trust lands, you must observe the tribe's wildlife regulations.

No drones allowed

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-14

Utah's regulations prohibit the use of any type of aircraft, drone, or other airborne vehicle or device to locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife. This includes scouting, hunting and retrieval.

Prohibited hunting methods

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-309, 23A-5-315 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-9

Protected wildlife 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:

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

Reminder: You must make reasonable efforts to call dogs off of a bear or cougar that has been cornered or held at bay.

You may not:

- Pursue a single bear or cougar in repeated pursuits to the point where it renders the animal physically unable to escape.
- Use dogs to harvest a cougar with a GPS tracking collar in management units with an active research study area (see page 45).
- Engage in a canned hunt.
- Take a protected wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device (including a drone), or from any motorized terrestrial, aquatic or recreational vehicle.
- Use electronic locating equipment to locate protected wildlife wearing electronic radio devices.

See *Furbearer: trapping and hunting regulations* beginning on page 61 for methods specific to furbearers.

Night-vision devices

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7

It is unlawful to possess any type of night-vision device while locating, taking or attempting to locate big game from July 31 to Dec. 31. If you are hunting or pursuing bear, cougar or furbearers—and also obtain a big game permit—please be aware of this restriction.

Trail cameras and their data

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7 & Utah Code 23A-5-307

The Utah legislature and wildlife board have made several changes to the state's trail camera rules since 2022:

- Trail cameras are prohibited on public land from July 31 to Dec. 31.
- There are some exceptions for research and monitoring by land management agencies (and other approved applications).
- The sale or purchase of footage or data from any trail camera (or non-handheld device) that could be used to take, attempt to take—or aid in the take or attempted

Ways to report poachers

Utah Admin. Rule R657-51

If you witness an in-progress wildlife violation—or you're aware of a previously committed wildlife crime—you have several ways to contact our conservation officers. These options make it easy to report wildlife crimes, and you can do so anonymously, if needed.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/utip or see page 8 to learn more about your four contact options.

We encourage you to report any poaching activities immediately and truly appreciate your help in protecting Utah's wildlife.

take—of big game, cougars or bears is prohibited. That includes images or video, location information, time and date of the footage, and any other data that could aid in the harvest or attempted take of big game, cougars or bears.

- A trail camera using internal data storage and not capable of transmitting data is permitted for use on private lands for the purposes of taking protected wildlife.

See the informational box on page 42 for details about restrictions and exceptions to this rule, and page 84 for definitions.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams for more information about trail camera rule changes and frequently asked questions.

Using collar data to aid in hunting

Utah Admin. Rules R657-10-8 and R657-33-9

A person may not use any protected GPS location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take or retrieve—or attempt to locate, track, take or retrieve—protected wildlife or their parts.

Spotlighting

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-309, 53-5a-3, 53-5a-108 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-10

You may not use spotlighting to take protected wildlife.

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 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 carry permit holders carrying a concealed weapon. See wildlife.utah.gov/rules for more information.

Checking traps: A trapper may use an artificial light to illuminate the path and trap sites for the purpose of conducting the required trap checks. In this instance, the trapper must carry the artificial light. It cannot be a motor vehicle headlight or a light attached to or powered by a motor vehicle. And while checking trapping devices with an artificial light, the trapper may not occupy or operate any motor vehicle.

Avoid harvesting collared wildlife

The DWR has placed GPS collars on many wildlife species—including black bears and cougars—across the state. We monitor these animals for a handful of ongoing studies.

If possible, please avoid harvesting a collared bear or cougar. It is an expensive and time-consuming process to capture and collar replacement animals.

If you do harvest a collared animal, please remove the collar without cutting it and return it to a DWR employee when you check in your animal.

Learn more about how our biologists use collar data to improve wildlife health and habitat at WildlifeMigration.utah.gov.

Some counties allow spotlighting if a hunter is trying to harvest coyote, red fox, striped skunk or raccoon. See *Utah Code § 23A-1-204* and your county laws and ordinances for more information.

Even if your county's laws do not permit spotlighting, you may still use spotlighting to hunt coyote, red fox, striped skunk or raccoon if you are one of the following individuals:

- A landowner (or landowner's agent) who is protecting crops or domestic animals from predation by those animals
- A Wildlife Services agent, acting in an official capacity under a memorandum of understanding with the DWR.

Party hunting

Utah Admin. Rules R657-33-11 and R657-67

A person may not harvest a bear or cougar for another person.

The only exception to this rule is if a mentor shares a black bear permit and tag with a minor as part of the Hunter Mentoring program. For details on this program, please see the box on page 19.

Disposal of wildlife

Donating

Utah Code § 23A-1-205 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-20

You may donate, or give, an animal or its parts to another person, as long as proper documentation of the donation is kept with the protected wildlife parts.

Documentation of donation must include:

- The number and species of the wildlife or parts donated
- The date of donation
- The license or permit number of the donor
- An image or picture of the wildlife or wildlife parts donated

Important: A green pelt of any bear or 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.

Processing and taxidermy of protected wildlife

Utah Code § 23A-4-709 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-17

A butcher or owner/employee of a locker or storage plant may not receive the carcass of protected wildlife unless the animal is properly tagged or there is a valid donation slip. Taxidermists must keep records of all received protected wildlife parts—including the date of receipt and documentation of the associated hunting license, furharvester license or permit—for at least three years.

Wasting wildlife

Utah Code § 23A-5-314 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-22

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

Note: The skinned carcass of a bear, cougar or furbearer may be left in the field and does not constitute a waste of wildlife. However, the DWR recommends that hunters remove the carcass from the field.

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-317, 23A-5-317 and 23A-5-310

While taking wildlife or engaging in wildlife-related activities, you may not—without documented 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 documented 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 § 23A-6-402*. In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or its parts while trespassing in violation of *Utah Code § 23A-5-317*.

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

Utah's Walk-in Access program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-56-13

The Walk-in Access program provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to privately owned land, streams, rivers, ponds or reservoirs.

If you use Utah's WIA properties, remember to obtain your annual WIA authorization number.

To obtain your authorization number, visit wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess and click "Authorization numbers." Follow the instructions and obtain your number. You can also request a number by calling your local DWR office.

WIA properties are private land and may have special restrictions on season dates, allowable activities, species and weapon types. For more information, visit wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess.

Checkpoints and officer contacts

Utah Code § 23A-5-207 and 77-23-104

Utah Department of Natural Resources conservation officers and DWR biologists monitor the harvest and possession of protected wildlife. They may also stop hunters and trappers to ensure they have the required licenses, permits, firearms and trapping equipment. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking hunters in the field and at checkpoints.

If you're contacted by a conservation officer, you must provide the officer with the items they request. These may include any licenses, permits and tags required for hunting, any devices used to participate in hunting, trapping and any game you've taken. These contacts allow the DWR to collect valuable information about Utah's wildlife populations.

Aiding or assisting in violations

Utah Code § 23A-5-301

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

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

Participating in surveys

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-23

If the DWR contacts you about your hunting or furharvesting 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.

HUNTING AND PURSUING BEAR

In addition to the general field regulations, there are some rules and regulations that apply to hunting and pursuing bears in Utah.

Proof of orientation course completion

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-3

If you obtain any type of black bear permit, you are required to take the orientation course before you pursue or hunt bear. Successful completion of the current-year bear orientation course is required each year you obtain a permit, and you must have the orientation course certificate in your possession—either a printed copy or downloaded to your Utah Hunting and Fishing app—while hunting or pursuing a black bear.

The orientation course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear.

Hunting hours

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-5

During the spring, summer and fall hunting seasons, you may hunt or harvest a bear from 30 minutes before official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset. Those are also the hours you may pursue a bear during the spring and fall pursuit seasons.

During the summer pursuit season, you can pursue bears from 5 a.m. until 30 minutes after official sunset. For season dates, see the hunt tables that begin on page 73.

Hunting methods

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rules R657-33-2, R657-33-12 and R657-33-13

Before heading into the field, check both your permit and this guidebook to verify which hunting methods are allowed for your hunt. Here's a brief summary of the three main hunting methods used in Utah bear hunting:

Spot-and-stalk method

The spot-and-stalk hunting method involves finding a bear without the use of bait or dogs. After you locate a bear, you track it and try to move in closer for a good shot.

You can choose to use the spot-and-stalk method during any hunting season, and there are some limited-entry hunts that only allow the spot-and-stalk method. Those hunts are listed in the hunt table on page 77.

Using dogs

Some of Utah's bear hunts allow the use of dogs to locate, track and tree a bear. There are detailed rules about when, where and how you may use dogs. Those rules are available on page 51.

To learn which hunts allow the use of dogs, see the hunt tables that begin on page 73.

Using bait

Some of Utah's bear hunts allow the use of bait to lure bears to a specific area. You must obtain a bait station certificate of registration by applying at a DWR office or online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear. There are detailed rules about what types of bait are allowed and when, where and how you may use bait. Those rules are available on page 54.

Remember: No early baiting is allowed statewide.

Important: The only season that allows bait is the summer limited-entry season. To learn which hunts allow the use of bait, see the hunt tables that begin on page 74.

Prohibited weapons

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-309 and 23A-5-307 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 bear, 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 projectile for which the path can be altered or electronically tracked after it is set in motion.

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

Traps and trapping devices

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-7

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

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

Harvest and pursuit restrictions

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rules R657-33-25 and R657-33-26

Depending on the type of permit you obtain, various restrictions apply.

Harvest restrictions

If you obtain a valid permit to harvest a bear, you may take only one bear. It may not be a cub or a female accompanied by cubs.

You may only hunt in the season and area specified on your permit. Likewise, you may use only the weapon listed on your permit.

Reminder: There are limits on the number of dogs you may use during a bear hunt. See page 51 for details.

If you are the owner or handler of dogs being used to harvest a bear—and there is not an open pursuit season—you must either:

- Have a valid pursuit permit and be accompanied by a licensed hunter
—OR—
- Have a valid bear hunting permit (either limited entry or harvest objective) that allows the use of dogs.

Pursuit restrictions

A pursuit permit of any kind does **not** allow you to kill a bear.

During the summer pursuit season and restricted summer pursuit season, you may not use more than eight dogs at one time to pursue a black bear on any unit.

Reminder: You may only use a maximum of 16 dogs during the spring and fall pursuit and hunting seasons.

Pursuit restrictions differ, depending on type of permit you have.

General restrictions

Even with a pursuit permit (or a restricted pursuit permit), you may **not** perform any of the following actions:

- Pursue a cub or a female bear with cubs.
- Repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner or hold at bay the same bear during the same day.
- Possess a firearm or any device that could be used to kill a bear while pursuing bear, unless you are licensed to carry a concealed weapon.

Pursuit permits

If you have a valid pursuit permit, you may pursue bears in any unit that is not designated as restricted during all three pursuit seasons.

Reminder: Nonresidents with pursuit permits may not use them on any restricted pursuit units unless they are accompanying someone who possesses a valid restricted pursuit permit or hunting permit for that unit and season. Residents may use a pursuit permit on restricted pursuit units during the spring pursuit season.

You may purchase a pursuit permit at any time from DWR offices, license agents and at wildlife.utah.gov.

An eligible hunter may obtain a bear pursuit permit and either a limited-entry or harvest-objective permit.

Restricted pursuit permits

If you have a valid restricted pursuit permit, you may pursue bears in the following areas and seasons:

- The restricted pursuit unit and season listed on your permit
- Any unit that is not designated as restricted during all three pursuit seasons

Reminder: There are spring restricted pursuit seasons for nonresidents on the Book Cliffs, La Sal and San Juan units. The spring pursuit seasons on those units are **not** restricted for resident pursuers.

In addition, if you do not have a restricted pursuit permit, you may **not** pursue bears in any of the restricted pursuit units during the summer pursuit seasons.

Individuals who combine packs of dogs to pursue a bear during either summer season on a restricted pursuit unit must comply with the eight-dog limit. They must also have at least one restricted pursuit permit in their possession.

On a restricted pursuit unit, the dog handler must remain close enough to the permit holder to maintain visual contact and verbal communication without the assistance of any electronic device. The only time a dog handler may separate from the pursuit-permit holder is to retrieve dogs that leave the pack. The dog owner must do all of the following:

- Take reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit.
- Only separate from the permit holder to retrieve stray dogs (and not actively pursue a bear during the retrieval process).
- Immediately release any bear that is incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.

See the table on page 78 for detailed information about restricted pursuit units and season dates.

You may apply for a restricted pursuit permit in the state's black bear drawing, beginning Feb. 10, 2026. See page 21 for more information on how to apply for a permit.

An eligible hunter may obtain a bear restricted pursuit permit and either a bear limited-entry permit or a bear harvest-objective permit.

Guides and outfitters

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

Use of dogs to hunt or pursue bear

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-12

You may use dogs to harvest or pursue bear only during the authorized hunts listed in this guidebook. To learn which hunts allow the use of dogs, see the hunt tables that begin on page 73.

Dog handlers may not use a bait station to lure bears, and they may not start pursuing a bear from a bait station.

Maximum number of dogs

Reminder: You may **not** use more than 16 dogs in a single pursuit while pursuing or hunting a black bear on any unit during the spring or fall seasons.

During the summer pursuit season or the summer restricted pursuit season, you may not use more than eight dogs in a single pursuit while pursuing or hunting a black bear on any unit.

Important: The maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit is cumulative across all members of a hunting party, even if multiple members of the hunting party possess authorization to use dogs to pursue bears. For example, if you have a pursuit permit and 10 dogs, and your friend has a pursuit permit and 12 dogs, you cannot use all 22 dogs to jointly pursue a single bear during the spring or fall. At most, during those seasons, you may use 16 dogs during a single pursuit.

Reminder: You may **not** do any of the following while using dogs to pursue or hunt a bear:

- Release into the field more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit.
- Pursue a bear with more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit, regardless of whether you own or control the dogs.
- Harvest a bear that was pursued using more than the allowable maximum number of dogs.

Other land-management agencies may have additional dog-use restrictions. Please check with them before pursuing a bear on their property.

Permits for commercial activities

Federal land management agencies may require special use permits for people engaging in commercial activities on federal lands. For example, if you collect payment for guiding, training dogs, or exchanging dogs (buying or selling) on federal land, you may be required to obtain a special permit in advance from the overseeing agency, such as the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. Check with the managing agency for more information.

Other requirements

If you are the owner or handler of the dogs, you must have a valid bear permit in your possession while you are harvesting or pursuing bear. However, there are some exceptions to this rule for guides and outfitters licensed in the state of Utah.

If you are already a Utah-licensed guide or outfitter, see *Pursuit restrictions* on page 50.

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

Retrieving stray dogs

The only time a dog handler may separate from the pursuit-permit holder is to retrieve dogs that leave the pack. The dog handler must do all of the following:

- Take reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit.
- Only separate from the permit holder to retrieve stray dogs (and not actively pursue a bear during the retrieval process).
- Immediately release any bear that is incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.

Keep in mind that any dogs that separate from the pack will continue to count toward the maximum number of dogs allowed in pursuit. If you are retrieving stray dogs, you must still possess the documentation that initially allowed you to use dogs to pursue a bear.

Carrying required documentation

When dogs are used to pursue a bear during a restricted pursuit season, the dog handler must either:

- Have a valid pursuit permit and be accompanied by an individual with a valid restricted pursuit permit for the unit where pursuit is occurring
—OR—
- Have a valid restricted pursuit permit for the unit where pursuit is occurring.

When dogs are used to harvest a bear—and there is not an open pursuit season—the dog handler must either:

- Have either a valid pursuit permit and be accompanied by a hunter with a valid bear hunting permit (either limited entry or harvest objective) that allows the use of dogs
—OR—
- Have a valid bear hunting permit (either limited entry or harvest objective) that allows the use of dogs.

Bear baiting

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-13

You can only bait a bear if you have obtained a limited-entry permit for a hunt that allows the use of bait. You must also have a certificate of registration for baiting. For more information about how to register for and obtain this permit, visit wildlife.utah.gov/bear.

Reminder: You may **not** use bait if you have a bear harvest-objective permit.

Any person who tends a bait station must also be listed on the certificate of registration.

If you are listed on a bait-station certificate, please review the following sections for essential information about using bait and moving a bait station.

Important: Hunters with valid bait permits may hunt over another hunter's bait site, with written permission from the COR holder. The proof of written permission must be in the hunter's possession while hunting over the bait station.

Registering to use bait

Utah Code § 23A-5-309

You'll need to follow a couple of important steps, depending on where you want to use bait.

Baiting on BLM lands

If you are interested in baiting on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, you must verify with the BLM that an area is open to baiting before you apply for a bear limited-entry permit for a season that allows the use of bait.

Here's what you need to do to check with the BLM:

1. Learn whether certain lands are open by contacting the district offices.
2. Have the district supervisor verify your proposed baiting locations and any applicable travel restrictions.
3. After you receive verification from the district supervisor, you may apply for a certificate of registration from the DWR.

If you bait a bear illegally on federal lands, you can be prosecuted under federal law. Areas generally closed to baiting stations can include:

- Designated wilderness areas
- Heavily used drainages or recreation areas
- Critical watersheds

Baiting on U.S. Forest Service lands

If you are interested in using bait on lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service, you do not need permission from the USFS before applying for a certificate of registration from the DWR.

Baiting on private lands

If you are interested in baiting on private lands, you must obtain documented permission from the appropriate landowner. Then, you may apply for a certificate of registration from the DWR.

Obtaining a certificate of registration

The DWR issues certificates of registration only to hunters who have bear limited-entry permits for hunts that allow the use of bait.

You can obtain the certificate of registration by visiting the DWR office in the region where you plan to set up your bait station or online at wildlife.utah.gov/bear. Certificates of registration will be available starting April 1, 2026.

To obtain a certificate of registration for baiting, you must provide the following information to the DWR:

- The type of bait you will use.
- The exact location of the bait station (GPS coordinates preferred).
- Written permission from the appropriate landowner if you want to bait and hunt on private land.

If you apply for a certificate of registration, there is a \$10 nonrefundable application fee.

Bait sites must comply with all rules and regulations stated in this guidebook and in code; however, the DWR will not review specific locations and approve them before a certificate of registration is issued.

Moving a bait station

If you want to move a bait station, you must first remove all materials used as bait from the original station. Then, you must apply for a new certificate of registration. The DWR will not issue a certificate of registration for your new station until you clean up your old station.

Using bait

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-14

You may establish or use no more than two bait stations at one time during the season listed on your permit (must be a season that allows baiting).

If a bait station lures a bear, you may not use dogs to take the bear. With a limited-entry bear permit for a season and hunt unit that allow baiting, you may use any legal weapon, as specified on your permit.

Bait may not be contained in—nor can it include—any glass, porcelain, plastic, cardboard or paper. The bait station must be marked with a sign provided by the DWR and posted within 10 feet of the bait.

A metal container may be used to hold bait. The maximum size of the container cannot exceed 55 gallons and may not be used in areas designated as wilderness by federal land-management agencies.

A dog handler may not intentionally run dogs off of a bait station while pursuing bear.

All materials used as bait must be removed within 72 hours after the season ends (including any midseason breaks) or within 72 hours after the hunter harvests a bear.

You may use nongame fish as bait, except fish listed as prohibited in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-13*. You may not use any other species of protected wildlife as bait.

You may use domestic livestock or its parts—including processed meat scraps—as bait, as long as you have a certificate of brand inspection, bill of sale or other proof of ownership or legal possession.

The use of chocolate or cocoa powder products as bait is prohibited.

You may not place bait in either of the following areas:

- Within 100 yards of water, a public road or a designated trail.
- Within a half-mile of any permanent dwelling or campground.

Reminder: Early baiting is prohibited statewide.

Using bait on U.S. Forest Service lands

On USFS lands, hunters' bait containers must be marked with their DWR bait station certificate of registration number **and** the bait station identification sign.

The half-mile bait restriction area applicable to campgrounds has been expanded to include **all developed recreation sites** (i.e., campgrounds, organizational camps, formal trailheads, visitor centers, picnic areas, interpretive sites, designated parking lots/snow parks, resorts and ski areas).

Possession and transportation

Bear tagging requirements

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-309 and 23A-4-709 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-15

Before you move the bear'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 after the date of kill and must remain attached to the pelt or unskinned carcass until the permanent possession tag is attached (see page 56).

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.

Note: You may not remove more than one notch indicating date or sex, nor tag more than one carcass using the same tag.

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

You may not possess a bear pelt or unskinned carcass without a valid permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass. This provision does not apply to a person in possession of a properly tagged carcass or pelt within 48 hours after the kill, provided the person was issued and is in possession of a valid permit.

Transporting a bear

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-18 and R657-10-15

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

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

Harvest reporting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-17 and R657-10-14

If you harvest a bear, you must contact the DWR within 48 hours.

You are required to report exactly where the bear was taken (GPS coordinates preferred) and meet with a DWR employee to have a permanent tag affixed to the carcass. We **strongly encourage you to make an appointment** to check in your bear. Otherwise, you run the risk of not having someone available to help you.

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

To report your harvest after business hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday) or over the weekend, please call your local police department (on a nonemergency line). They will contact a conservation officer who can assist you.

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

Evidence of sex and age

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-16 and R657-10-13

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

The permit holder must bring the pelt and skull to a conservation officer or DWR office in an unfrozen condition. This allows DWR biologists to gather management data.

The DWR may seize any bear pelt not accompanied by its skull.

Permanent tag

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-17

Any harvested bear must be presented by the permit or license holder to a DWR employee within 48 hours after the date of kill. That employee will affix a permanent possession tag to the pelt or unskinned carcass.

During the check-in process, you must also provide the exact location of the harvest (GPS coordinates preferred). A DWR employee will confirm your bear hunt unit on your permit.

A DWR employee will remove one or two smaller teeth at the time of permanent tagging. These teeth help biologists determine the animal's age.

Important: Do not bring in frozen bears. Retrieving teeth and other biological data from frozen carcasses is very difficult.

If you need to reach a DWR employee after regular business hours, over the weekend, or on a holiday, contact your local police dispatch office (on a nonemergency line).

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

Exporting a bear from Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-19 and R657-10-16

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

You may not ship a bear pelt from Utah—or cause one to be shipped—without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by an authorized DWR representative.

Purchasing or selling

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-21

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

You may not purchase, sell, offer for sale or barter a green pelt, gall bladder, tooth, claw, paw or skull of any bear.

HUNTING AND PURSUING COUGAR

In addition to the general field regulations, there are some rules and regulations that apply to hunting and pursuing cougars in Utah.

Hunting hours and methods

Hunting hours

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-4

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

Traps and trapping devices

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-8 and R657-11

You may take cougar with a trap, snare or other trapping device if you comply with all the regulations set forth in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-11* (taking furbearers and trapping), and summarized in this guidebook beginning on page 61.

Taking cougar

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-22

You must have a valid Utah hunting or combination license to take 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 86 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.

Remember: If you are a Utah-licensed guide or outfitter, you may not need to purchase a hunting or combination license if you are not taking a cougar. For details, see page 32.

Use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougars

Utah Admin. Rule R657-10-11

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

If you are the owner or handler of the dogs, you must have a valid hunting or combination license in your possession while you are taking or pursuing cougars.

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, the owner or handler of the dogs must either:

- Have a valid hunting or combination license; or
- Be a guide or outfitter receiving more than \$100 in compensation

Possession and transportation

Harvest reporting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-17 and R657-10-14

If you harvest a cougar, you must contact the DWR within 48 hours.

You are required to report exactly where the cougar was taken (GPS coordinates preferred) and meet with a DWR employee to have a permanent tag affixed to the carcass.

We strongly encourage you to make an appointment to check in your cougar. Otherwise, you run the risk of not having someone available to help you.

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

To report your harvest after business hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday) or over the weekend, please call your local police department (on a nonemergency line). They will contact a conservation officer who can assist you.

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

Evidence of sex and age

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-16 and R657-10-13

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

The permit holder must bring the pelt and skull to a conservation officer or DWR office in an unfrozen condition. This allows DWR biologists to gather management data.

The DWR may seize any cougar pelt not accompanied by its skull.

Transporting cougar

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-18 and R657-10-15

If you are a license holder who has legally harvested a cougar, you may transport the carcass if you have your valid Utah hunting or combination license on your person or downloaded on the DWR app.

Exporting a cougar from Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-19 and R657-10-16

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

You may not ship a cougar pelt from Utah—or cause one to be shipped—without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by an authorized DWR representative.

Permanent tag

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-17

Any harvested cougar must be presented by the permit or license holder to a DWR employee within 48 hours after the date of kill. That employee will affix a permanent possession tag to the pelt or unskinned carcass.

During the check-in process, you must also provide the exact location of the harvest (GPS coordinates preferred). A DWR employee will confirm the cougar management unit name (see the map and table on pages 81-82) where you harvested your cougar.

A DWR employee will remove one or two smaller teeth at the time of permanent tagging. These teeth help biologists determine the animal's age.

Important: Do not bring in frozen cougars. Retrieving teeth and other biological data from frozen carcasses is very difficult.

If you need to reach a DWR employee after regular business hours, over the weekend, or on a holiday, contact your local police dispatch office (on a nonemergency line).

Purchasing or selling

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-21

You may purchase or sell legally obtained "green" cougar pelts or tanned hides, as long as they have a permanent tag affixed.

Cougar claws may be sold if they are still attached to the hide. Also, cougar claws may be sold if they are still attached to a whole pelt.

Checking in your bear, bobcat, cougar or marten?

Need to check in your carcass or pelt and receive a permanent tag? **We strongly encourage you to make an appointment.** (See page 2 for DWR contacts.) This will ensure that a wildlife biologist or conservation officer is available to check in your bear, bobcat, cougar or marten.

Bear and cougar

To make the tooth extraction easier during check-in, you should prop the animal's mouth open before bringing it to a DWR office.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING FROZEN BEARS OR COUGARS.

When you check in a bear or cougar, a DWR employee will:

- Ask you the exact location of the harvest (preferably the GPS coordinates; also, see page 81 for cougar management unit names)
- Determine the sex of the animal
- Extract a small tooth to obtain accurate age information
- Attach a permanent tag

Bobcat and marten

Before you arrive, please remove as much flesh from the bobcat or marten pelt as possible.

Important: You must surrender a bobcat's lower jaw at the time of check-in. Remove as much flesh from the jaw as possible and securely attach the jaw tag. Store in a cardboard box or paper bag (not plastic) to help prevent decay.

You do not need to present a marten jaw during check-in.

When you check in a bobcat or marten, a DWR employee will:

- Attach a permanent tag
- Take possession of a bobcat's lower jaw

The information and samples you provide help the DWR responsibly manage Utah's wildlife populations. **Thank you for hunting and trapping in Utah.**

DON'T JEOPARDIZE FUTURE HUNTS

How you act in the field could affect bear and cougar hunting in the years to come.

We are very lucky to live and hunt in a state with such abundant wildlife. That's led to more of us spending time in our favorite wild places each year. As you're out hunting and pursuing bears or cougars this year, please be mindful of those around you and think about how your actions can build—or sabotage—support for what you love to do.

Hunting bears and cougars is a subject that sparks a wide range of public opinions, ranging from hearty support to passionate opposition. How **you** behave during the hunt can determine how your fellow Utahns feel about the matter.

Bear seasonal pack size restrictions

The maximum number of dogs that can be used to pursue a bear is 16 for the spring and fall seasons. During the summer season, there's an eight-dog maximum.

Be mindful of the number of dogs you are using and consider how they may be impacting other users and land-management agencies.

It is important that you have control of your dogs so they don't cause conflicts with private landowners, other hunters, campers and hikers.

Try to help the people you encounter feel the passion you have for training and taking care of your animals.

Fair chase and ethics

If you are hunting a bear or cougar, once it is treed, either humanly harvest the animal or let it escape and retrieve your dogs.

It is illegal and violates the principles of fair chase to pursue a bear or cougar to the point it can no longer escape the dogs due to exhaustion.

If you are using bait to hunt bears, think about how your bait placement could impact other users. Make sure you are leaving your bait site in better shape than you found it.

We all have an equal right to use our wild places and, if we can make an effort to get along in the backcountry, the activities you love will enjoy greater support from your fellow Utahns. If general support for bear and cougar hunting increases, it could reduce the likelihood of tighter, more restrictive regulations.

Remember: If you have a spot-and-stalk permit, you may not use bait or dogs to take a bear.

Don't lose
your hunting
and fishing
privileges

Wildlife crimes are serious. As a hunter or angler in Utah, it is your responsibility to know the laws and abide by them. Wildlife violations may result in fines, jail time, confiscation of equipment and the loss of hunting and fishing privileges.



Learn more at wildlife.utah.gov/know-consequences

FURBEARER: TRAPPING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS

In addition to the general hunting field regulations, there are some rules and regulations that apply to trapping furbearers and cougars in Utah. These rules exist to help keep you safe and to ensure an ethical hunt. Whether you're targeting furbearers, cougars, coyotes or raccoons, please be familiar with the requirements for legally using trapping devices. You should also know what you're required to do with any animals you harvest.

Hunting and trapping methods

Harvest methods and shooting hours

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-309, 23A-5-315 & Utah Admin. Rules R657-11-12, R567-10-4, R657-10-5 and R657-10-6

You may harvest all furbearers—except for bobcats and marten—by any legal means, excluding explosives and poisons. While hunting and trapping, you may not use the illegal spotlighting methods described on page 44.

Bobcats may be taken only by shooting or trapping, or with the aid of dogs.

Marten may be taken only with an elevated, covered set in which the maximum trap size shall not exceed 1½ foothold or 160 Conibear.

Harvesting furbearers by shooting or with the aid of dogs is restricted to 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, unless the county grants permission to spotlight coyote, red fox, striped skunk or raccoon. For more information on spotlighting, see page 44.

Furbearers and cougars caught in a trapping device may be taken by shooting at any time. Rimfire cartridges and ammunition may be used to harvest cougars caught in traps. (Rimfire cartridges and ammunition may **not** be used to harvest cougars not confined in traps.)

Avoid nontarget species

The following recommendations can help you avoid catching domestic animals and other nontarget species in trapping devices set for bobcats and other furbearers.

- Avoid using 4-coiled traps. A 2-coiled trap is sufficient to hold bobcats and coyotes, but larger animals like domestic animals should be able to pull out of the trap.
- Anchor foothold traps solidly to the ground. A large animal will have a better chance of pulling out of a trap that is solidly anchored.
- When using a cable device, reduce the loop size and set it about eight inches off the ground. A smaller loop size won't fit around a larger animal's head, and if the loop is set low, it will likely miss the heads of most large nontarget animals. You may not use a drag with a cable device—they are prohibited.
- If you catch a cougar kitten or a cougar female with kittens, remove traps from the area to avoid catching additional kittens.
- Avoid setting traps near trails that are frequently used by people and dogs.
- Avoid using baits that are likely to attract pets or other nontarget species.

You may check trapping devices and remove animals at any time of day or night, except on certain waterfowl management areas. For more information, see page 65.

You may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device (including drones), or from any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

Trap registration numbers

Utah Admin. Rules R657-11-8 & R657-11-9

Each trapping device you use to trap furbearers, cougars, coyotes or raccoons must be permanently and legibly marked with your trap registration number.

Your trap registration number is printed on your trap registration license, which is required if you plan to trap furbearers, coyotes or raccoons. For more information about obtaining a trap registration license, see page 18.

You will be assigned only one trap registration number. This is your permanent number, and you should mark it on each of your trapping devices. The only exception is for trapping devices set for coyotes or raccoons within 600 feet of a building or structure occupied by humans or livestock.

You may not have more than one registration number on your traps.

You must notify the DWR within 30 days if you change your address or if your trapping devices are stolen.

Trap restrictions to protect river otters

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-9

To protect Utah's river otter populations, there are trapping-device restrictions for the following areas:

- Colorado River, between the Utah-Colorado state line and Lake Powell
 - Escalante River, between Escalante and Lake Powell
 - Green River, between Flaming Gorge Dam and the Utah-Colorado state line
 - Middle section of the Provo River, between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir
- If you are trapping for a furbearer, coyote or raccoon within 600 yards of either side of these four rivers—or their tributaries—and up to one-half mile from their confluences, you may use only the following trapping devices:
- Nonlethal-set foothold trapping devices with a jaw spread less than 5 1/8 inches, and nonlethal-set padded foothold traps. Drowning sets with these traps are prohibited.
 - Body-gripping, killing-type trapping devices with body-gripping area less than 30 square inches.
 - Nonlethal dry-land cable trapping devices equipped with a stop-lock mechanism that prevents it from closing to less than a 6-inch diameter.
 - Size 330, body-gripping, killing-type trapping devices modified by replacing the standard V-trigger assembly with one top side-parallel trigger assembly, with the trigger placed within one inch of the side, or butted against the vertical turn in the Canadian bend (see figure on page 63).

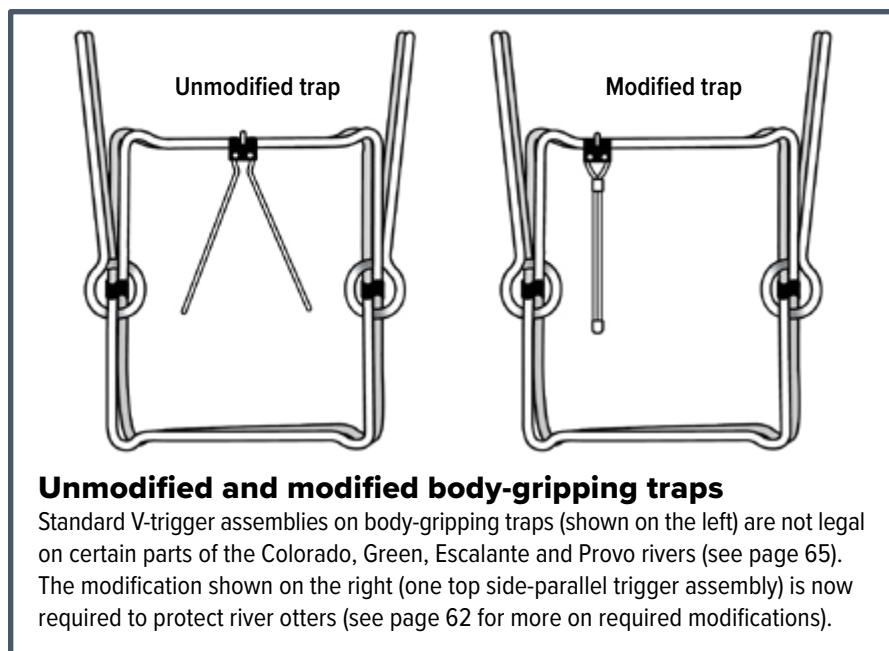
Trapping devices

Utah Code § 23A-5-302 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-9

Any foothold trap used to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote or raccoon must have spacers on the jaws that leave an opening of at least $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch when the jaws are closed. The only exceptions to this requirement are the following types of traps:

- Rubber-padded jaw traps
- Traps with jaw spreads less than 4.25 inches
- Traps that are completely submerged under water when set

Any cable device (i.e., snare) used to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote or raccoon—except those set in water or with a loop size less than 3 inches in diameter—must be equipped with a breakaway lock mechanism that will release when any force greater than 300 pounds is applied to the loop. Breakaway cable devices must be fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground. The use of drags is prohibited.



Unmodified and modified body-gripping traps

Standard V-trigger assemblies on body-gripping traps (shown on the left) are not legal on certain parts of the Colorado, Green, Escalante and Provo rivers (see page 65).

The modification shown on the right (one top side-parallel trigger assembly) is now required to protect river otters (see page 62 for more on required modifications).

Setting and checking traps

You may not set any trapping device on posted private property without the landowner's or lessee's documented permission.

If you see an illegally set trapping device, notify a conservation officer as soon as possible. While performing their duties, conservation officers may seize all traps, trapping devices and wildlife used or held in violation of the rules in this guidebook.

All trapping devices used to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote or raccoon must be checked, and any animals removed, at least once every 48 hours. The only exception is if you are using the following types of traps, which must be checked, and have any animals removed, every 96 hours:

- Killing traps that strike the top and bottom of the animal simultaneously
- Drowning sets
- Lethal cable devices that are set to capture on the neck, that have a nonrelaxing lock without a stop, and that are anchored to an immovable object

If you are unable to check your own traps, you may authorize another person to check them for you. Only someone who possesses your written authorization, a valid furbearer license and trap registration license—and the necessary permits to check traps and remove protected wildlife—may check your traps in your absence. See *Removing traps and trapped wildlife* in the next section for all wildlife-removal requirements.

You may not remove any of the following from a trapping device and then transport or possess them:

- Live protected wildlife
- A live coyote or raccoon

Any live animal found in a trapping device must be euthanized and removed from the device by the trapper within the 48-hour trap-check period or released immediately by the trapper unharmed.

A cougar released from a trapping device may not be pursued with dogs for 48 hours after release.

Important: The trapping restrictions in this section do not apply to trapping devices set for coyotes or raccoons, as long as those devices are within 600 feet of a building occupied or used by humans or domestic livestock.

Removing traps and trapped wildlife

You may not disturb or remove any trapping device unless you are one of the following individuals:

- The owner of the trapping device
- A person who meets all the legal requirements and has the owner's written authorization (see end of next column)
- A peace officer performing routine duties
- The landowner where the trapping device is set
- A domestic pet owner who is disturbing the trapping device in order to remove their trapped pet

You may not kill or remove wildlife caught in a trap, unless you are:

- The owner of the trapping device who possesses the permit, license, tag or legal authorization required for the species that is captured
- A person who meets all the legal requirements and has the owner's written authorization (see page 66)

Did it get wet? Decontaminate it!

Before you leave a trapping area and step into another water, rinse all the mud and other debris off of your waders, boots and wetted trapping gear or equipment.

Then, generously spray all of it—especially the soles of boots or waders—with Formula 409 (a popular household cleaner). This treatment will kill any whirling disease spores.

After you return home, thoroughly clean and dry all of your gear before using it again.

Trapping on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-26

Trapping wildlife, including nonprotected species, on state waterfowl management areas is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by the DWR.

The division uses limited trapping on WMAs to protect wildlife populations and to prevent burrowing damage to the dikes.

To apply for the opportunity to trap muskrats and other furbearers on these WMAs, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/WMAtrapping in mid-October.

Areas closed to beaver and mink harvest

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-25

The following areas are closed to beaver and mink harvest at all times:

- **(New)** Box Elder County—Johnson Creek and Wildcat Creek
- Cache County—Right Hand Fork and Temple Fork drainages (tributaries of the Logan River), Rock Creek and Curtis Creek drainages (tributaries of Blacksmith Fork River) and **(new)** Logan River from the crossing of Franklin Basin Road to the Idaho state line.
- Emery County—San Rafael River
- **(New)** Garfield County—Threemile Creek
- Grand County—Willow Creek, Bitter Creek and Sweetwater drainages
- Garfield and Kane counties—East Fork of the Sevier River and tributaries above Blue Fly Creek
- Garfield and Iron counties—Bear Creek drainage and the following creeks above Panguitch Lake: Blue Springs Creek, Bunker Creek and Deer Creek
- **(New)** Iron County—Little Creek
- Rich County—Big Creek (above ranches), Randolph Creek, Woodruff Creek (above Woodruff Reservoir) and Pine Creek, Dip Hollow and Peggy Hollow within the U.S. Forest Service boundary
- Summit County—Boundary begins at SR-150 and USFS Rd 058; east on this USFS road to USFS Rd 073; east on this road to USFS Rd 072; north on this road to the Utah-Wyoming state line; east on this state line to USFS Rd 017; southeast on this road to USFS Rd 077; south on this road to USFS Rd 082; east on this road to USFS Rd 078; east on this road to USFS Rd 086; east on this road to the Daggett-Summit county line; south on this county line to the Summit-Duchesne county line (summit of the Uinta Mountains); west on this county line to SR-150 at Hayden Pass; north on SR-150 to USFS Rd 058.
- **(New)** Washington County—Reservoir Canyon

There are also trapping-device restrictions on parts of the Colorado, Escalante, Green and Provo rivers, including their tributaries and some of the surrounding land. You can read more about these restrictions in the information box on page 62.

Artificial cubby set

This manufactured container has an opening on one end that houses a trapping device.

Bait must be 8 inches from the opening.



Tilt the trap so bait cannot be seen from above.



Artificial cubby sets must be placed with the top of the opening even with or below the bottom of the bait so that the bait is not visible from above.

A person, other than the owner, may possess, set, disturb or remove a trapping device—or temporarily possess, kill or remove wildlife caught in a trap—as long as he or she meets all of the following requirements:

- The trapping device is appropriately marked with the owner's trap registration number.
- The person possesses a valid furbearer license and appropriate permits or tags when working with furbearer sets.

Important: If the animal in the trap is a bobcat, the person who kills the bobcat must possess—and be carrying—a valid bobcat permit issued in their **own** name. They must then attach their own tags to the carcass. For additional details, see page 35.

- The person's trap registration license or furbearer license are neither denied nor suspended.
- The person has obtained written authorization from the owner of the trapping device with the following information printed on the authorization in permanent ink:
 - The date written authorization was obtained
 - The name, address and phone number of the owner
 - The owner's trap registration number
 - The name of the individual being given authorization
 - The owner's signature

You can find an easy-to-complete authorization card online at wildlife.utah.gov/TrapForm.

Nothing in this section authorizes a person to use the owner's trap registration license, furbearer license, permit or tag.

While you're hunting and trapping, you may not possess any trapping device that is not permanently marked or tagged with your registered trap number unless you have received written permission as described above.

If your registered trap number is on a trapping device, you can be held criminally liable and civilly responsible for any violations committed with that device. This rule still applies if you've authorized someone else to use the device. That's why it's important to report stolen trapping devices to the DWR as soon as possible.

You must also keep a record of the individuals who have written authorization to remove your traps, and supply a copy of that record to a conservation officer, upon request.

Important: The trapping restrictions in this section do not apply to trapping devices set for coyotes or raccoons, as long as those devices are within 600 feet of a building occupied or used by humans or domestic livestock.

Use of bait

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-10

In most instances, you may not use protected wildlife or its parts as bait to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote or raccoon. The only exceptions are as follows:

- You may use the white-bleached bones of protected wildlife with no hide or flesh attached.
- You may use parts of legally taken furbearers and nonprotected wildlife.

You may not set trapping devices for furbearers, cougars, coyotes or raccoons within 30 feet of any exposed bait.

Trapping devices may be placed near carcasses of protected wildlife, provided the carcass has not been moved for the purpose of trapping and the trapping device is not located within 30 feet of the carcass.

White-bleached bones with no hide or flesh attached may be set within 30 feet of a trapping device.

Bait used inside an artificial cubby set must be placed at least 8 inches from the opening.

Artificial cubby sets must be placed with the top of the opening even with or below the bottom of the bait so that the bait is not visible from above. (See illustration on page 66.)

If you use bait, you can be held responsible if it becomes exposed for any reason.

Important: The trapping restrictions in this section do not apply to trapping devices set for coyotes or raccoons, as long as those devices are within 600 feet of a building occupied or used by humans or domestic livestock.

Wolf management in Utah

Wolves have been documented dispersing into Utah from neighboring states, but there are currently no known established breeding packs in the state. Wolves in most of Utah are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act; the DWR has management authority only in the area both north of I-80 and east of I-84.

Important: The general public may **not** hunt, kill or trap wolves anywhere in Utah. If you do inadvertently trap or capture a wolf, please contact the division immediately.

The Utah Wolf Management Plan outlines Utah's strategies and protocols for managing wolves statewide. You can see the management plan and learn more about wolves at wildlife.utah.gov/wolf.

Accidental trapping

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-11

Any protected wildlife accidentally caught and found alive in a trapping device—including cougar kittens, and female cougars with kittens—must be immediately released unharmed by a person authorized to do so. (See page 64 for a list of individuals who are authorized to remove protected wildlife from a trap.)

If you accidentally trap protected wildlife, you must report it to the DWR within 48 hours.

You must obtain permission from a DWR representative to remove the carcass of any protected wildlife accidentally caught in one of your trapping devices. After removing the carcass, you must turn it over to the DWR.

Black-footed ferret and lynx are protected species under the Endangered Species Act. If you accidentally trap or capture either of these federally protected species, you must immediately report it to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the DWR.

Wolves are protected species in the state of Utah. If you accidentally trap or capture a wolf, you must immediately report it to the DWR.

If you capture or kill an unauthorized species of protected wildlife in a trapping device, you are not criminally liable under state law as long as all of the following circumstances apply:

- You were not attempting to take the unauthorized species.
- You possess a valid trap registration license or a valid written authorization from the owner of the trapping device.
- You possess the licenses, permits and tags required to trap the targeted wildlife species.
- You otherwise comply with the provisions of Utah's Wildlife Code and all regulations that apply to trapping the targeted wildlife species.

Use of dogs

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 & Utah Admin. Rules R657-11-14 and R657-10-11

You may use dogs to pursue or harvest furbearers from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, and only during the open seasons listed in this guidebook. See pages 83 for season dates and bag limits.

If you are the owner or handler of the dogs, you must have a valid furbearer license in your possession while you are pursuing and harvesting a furbearer.

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

For regulations pertaining to the use of dogs to take cougars, see page 57.

Trappers Association reward program

Every year, thieves steal valuable traps from Utah trappers.

The Utah Trappers Association is offering a reward—up to \$500—to individuals who report trap theft to the DWR, which results in a successful prosecution. If you see someone stealing a trap, report it by **texting 847411** or **calling 800-662-3337**.

If you encounter traps while outdoors, you have a legal obligation to respect that private property. At the same time, trappers have an ethical obligation not to set traps in areas where they are likely to be encountered by the general public or their pets.

Trapping coyotes and raccoons

Utah Code § 4-23-101 and Utah Admin. Rules R657-11 and R58-14

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has regulatory authority over the state's coyotes and raccoons.

Although the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources does not manage these species, it does have responsibility and authority over trapping and the use of trapping devices capable of catching or killing protected wildlife.

Trapping devices—even those set for coyotes and raccoons—sometimes capture and kill nontarget animals. The DWR regulates trapping and the use of trapping devices to reduce the capture of nontargeted protected species.

This guidebook references both coyotes and raccoons in regulations about the use of trapping devices. Those

regulations are in place to:

- Reduce the capture and killing of nontargeted protected wildlife
- Improve the likelihood of successfully releasing nontargeted protected wildlife
- Detect illegal trap sets that target protected wildlife
- Protect law-abiding trappers from criminal liability if they accidentally capture nontargeted protected wildlife

For detailed information on the use of trapping devices in Utah, see pages 63-67 of this guidebook. For more information about the trap registration license requirement, see page 18 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/trapping-faq.

Possession, sale and transportation

Transporting furbearers

Utah Code § 23A-5-302 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-16

You may only transport the green pelts of furbearers if you possess the appropriate license and permits. If you have harvested bobcat or marten, they must be correctly tagged. For more information on attaching temporary and permanent tags, see page 36.

A registered Utah fur dealer—or that person's agent—may transport or ship green pelts of furbearers within Utah.

No one may transport or possess live protected wildlife, except as permitted by *Utah Admin. Rule R657-3*.

You do not need a furbearer license in order to transport green pelts of coyote, muskrat, raccoon, red fox or striped skunk.

Exporting furbearers from Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-17

You may not export or ship the green pelt of any furbearer from Utah without first obtaining a valid shipping permit from the DWR.

You do not need a shipping permit in order to export green pelts of coyote, muskrat, raccoon, red fox or striped skunk from Utah.

Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale

The annual Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale (typically held in February) will be held March 10–12, 2026.

Important: You must obtain permanent bobcat and marten tags at a DWR office by March 6, 2026; permanent tags for the 2025-26 season will not be available at the fur sale. Visit utahtrappers.org/events for details, and for 2027 fur sale dates to be determined.

Sales

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-18

If you possess a valid furbearer license, you may sell, offer for sale, barter or exchange only those species you were licensed to take and that you legally harvested.

Any person who obtains a valid fur dealer or fur dealer's agent certificate of registration may buy, sell or trade green pelts or parts of furbearers within Utah.

Fur dealers (or their agents and taxidermists) must keep records of all transactions dealing with green pelts of furbearers. Those records must contain all of the following information:

- The transaction date
- The name, address, license number and tag number of each seller

If the ownership of a pelt changes, the above information must be listed on a receipt issued to the new owner.

You may possess legally acquired furbearers and tanned hides—without possessing a furbearer license—as long as you can provide proof of legal ownership.

A furbearer license is not required to sell or possess coyote, muskrat, raccoon, red fox or striped skunk or their parts.

The sale of green cougar pelts is allowed, and the sale of cougar claws if they are still attached to the hide. Any pelt must still have a permanent tag issued by the DWR within 48 hours of harvest.



ADVENTURE AWAITS
Don't miss out on Utah's breathtaking views and unforgettable hunts.

 Renew or purchase your license today at wildlife.utah.gov/licenses

LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION AND PROPERTY DAMAGE

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-23, R657-33-25, R657-10-21, R657-11-20 and R657-11-21

Bears, cougars and furbearers may damage property or harm livestock. This section provides information about things you should know before you remove or kill nuisance wildlife.

Bear

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-23

There are bear-removal options for livestock owners and commercial crop growers who have chronic problems with depredating bears. To learn more about these options, see *Utah Admin Rule R657-33-23* or call the nearest DWR office.

Hunters who are interested in taking depredating bears may contact the DWR, and the agency will call them as needed.

Extended and preseason hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-33-25

The DWR may authorize an extended or preseason hunt on selected limited-entry hunting units to control depredation or nuisance problems.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Director can choose to authorize any preseason or extended season hunts for problem areas, and those hunts would be carried out by hunters who drew limited-entry permits for those areas.

Cougar

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.
- A landowner or livestock owner may notify the DWR 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 Utah Department of Agriculture and Food specialist.
- The livestock owner may notify a UDAF specialist of the depredation, and the specialist may then take the depredating cougar.

A depredating cougar may be taken at any time by a U.S. Department of Agriculture-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 DWR.

A depredating cougar may be taken with any weapon authorized for taking cougar. Use of snares or traps must follow rules set forth in this guidebook.

The cougar carcass must then be reported to a DWR office or employee within 96 hours.

Utah's Predator Control Program

The Utah Predator Control Program launched after the Utah Legislature passed the Mule Deer Protection Act in 2012. The program provides incentives for members of the public to remove coyotes for the benefit of Utah's mule deer populations. Participants in the program receive up to \$50 for each properly documented coyote that they kill in Utah. Higher bounties (up to \$100) are paid for coyotes killed within designated mule deer habitat areas.

Participants in Utah's Predator Control Program are required to meet a variety of program requirements. For detailed information about these requirements—and how they might affect you—visit wildlife.utah.gov/predators.

Furbearers

In cases of property damage or recurring nuisance, please be aware of the following rules and requirements before you trap or kill wildlife.

Badger, weasel and spotted skunk

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-20

If a badger, weasel or spotted skunk is creating a nuisance or causing damage, you may harvest it at any time—without a license—as long as you do not sell or trade the animal or its parts.

Red fox and striped skunk

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-20

Red fox and striped skunk may be taken at any time without a furbearer license.

Bobcat

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-21

A Utah Department of Agriculture and Food agent may remove or harvest a depredating bobcat as long as the agent is supervised by the UDAF's livestock protection program and is following DWR-approved procedures.

A livestock owner or the owner's employee may take bobcats that are harassing livestock. The employee must be on a regular payroll and not hired specifically to take furbearers.

Any bobcat harvested by a livestock owner or an employee must be surrendered to the DWR within 72 hours.

Beaver

Utah Code § 23A-8-203 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-22

If a beaver is causing damage or exhibiting other nuisance behavior, you may harvest or remove it during closed seasons, but you must first obtain a nuisance permit from a DWR office or conservation officer.

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Spring limited-entry hunts

Permit fee: Resident \$93, Nonresident \$600.

Use the hunt number to apply. Bonus point code: **BER**

Any legal weapon, no bait allowed

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Beaver	BR7000	9	1	March 28–May 25
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7001	49	5	March 28–May 25
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7224	14	1	March 28–May 25
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7012	20	2	March 28–May 25
Cache/Ogden	BR7017	2	0	March 28–May 25
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7015	7	0	March 28–May 25
Dolores Triangle (new)	BR7021	2	0	March 28–May 25
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7007	1	0	March 28–May 25
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7013	7	0	March 28–May 25
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7018	5	0	March 28–May 25
La Sal Mtns	BR7022	40	3	March 28–May 25
Manti, North	BR7003	17	2	March 28–May 25
Manti, South/San Rafael, North	BR7004	18	2	March 28–May 25
Monroe	BR7020	1	0	March 28–May 25
Mt Dutton	BR7009	4	0	March 28–May 25
Nebo	BR7005	7	0	March 28–May 25
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7010	9	0	March 28–May 25
Paunsaugunt	BR7011	4	0	March 28–May 25
San Juan	BR7014	35	3	March 28–May 25
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7016	36	4	March 28–May 25

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Summer limited-entry hunts

Permit fee: Resident \$93, Nonresident \$600.

Use the hunt number to apply. Bonus point code: **BER**

Reminder: Baiting is allowed where permitted, and a bait station COR is required in advance to place bait (see pages 53-54). Early baiting is prohibited.

Note: The first day of the summer season overlaps the last day of the spring limited-entry season, which allows the use of dogs.

Any legal weapon, no dogs allowed

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Beaver	BR7100	9	1	May 25–June 28
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7101	14	1	May 25–June 28
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7102	5	0	May 25–June 28
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7114	13	1	May 25–June 28
Cache/Ogden	BR7121	4	0	May 25–June 28
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/ Morgan-South Rich	BR7122	7	0	May 25–June 28
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7117	5	0	May 25–June 28
Dolores Triangle (new)	BR7126	6	0	May 25–June 28
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7124	2	0	May 25–June 28
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7115	7	0	May 25–June 28
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7123	6	0	May 25–June 28
La Sal Mtns	BR7127	25	2	May 25–June 28
Manti, North	BR7104	17	1	May 25–June 28
Manti, South/San Rafael, North	BR7105	18	2	May 25–June 28
Monroe	BR7125	1	0	May 25–June 28
Mt Dutton	BR7109	3	0	May 25–June 28
Nebo	BR7106	8	0	May 25–June 28
Nine Mile	BR7110	18	2	May 25–June 28
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7111	1	0	May 25–June 28

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Summer limited-entry hunts (continued)

Any legal weapon, no dogs allowed

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7112	5	0	May 25–June 28
Paunsaugunt	BR7113	3	0	May 25–June 28
San Juan	BR7116	22	2	May 25–June 28
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7119	5	0	May 25–June 28
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7120	22	1	May 25–June 28
Yellowstone	BR7118	5	0	May 25–June 28

Fall limited-entry hunts

Permit fee: Resident \$93, Nonresident \$600.

Use the hunt number to apply. Bonus point code: **BER**

Any legal weapon, no bait allowed

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Beaver	BR7200	9	1	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7201	18	2	Aug. 1–Aug. 14 Oct. 2–Nov. 8
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7215	9	1	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Cache/Ogden	BR7228	1	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7218	7	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Dolores Triangle (new)	BR7238	2	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7207	1	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7216	5	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7229	4	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Fall limited-entry hunts (continued)

Any legal weapon, no bait allowed

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
La Sal Mtns	BR7239	6	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Manti, North	BR7203	10	1	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Manti, South/San Rafael, North	BR7204	18	2	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Monroe	BR7237	1	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Mt Dutton	BR7210	3	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Nebo	BR7205	5	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Nine Mile	BR7211	26	3	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
North Slope, Three Corners/ West Daggett	BR7212	2	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7213	9	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Paunsaugunt	BR7214	4	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
San Juan	BR7217	6	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/ Currant Creek	BR7220	9	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7221	18	2	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8
Yellowstone	BR7219	4	0	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Limited-entry spot-and-stalk hunts

Permit fee: Resident \$93, Nonresident \$600.

Use the hunt number to apply. Bonus point code: **BER**

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7225	5	0	Sept. 1–Nov. 8

Multiseason limited-entry hunts

Permit fee: Resident \$183, Nonresident \$889. Bonus point code: **BER**. Use the hunt number to apply.

Note: For each of the limited-entry seasons listed on your multiseason permit, you must use the appropriate hunting method. See pages 73–76 for limited-entry hunt details and pages 79–80 for harvest-objective hunt details. See hunting method restrictions for each unit.

Reminder: If you draw a multiseason bear permit, you may hunt any open harvest-objective seasons on the unit you drew, in addition to the limited-entry seasons (see the hunt tables that begin on page 79 for details).

Any legal weapon

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Beaver	BR7318	1	0	All open seasons
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7300	9	1	All open seasons
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7301	5	0	All open seasons
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7310	10	1	All open seasons
Cache/Ogden	BR7320	4	0	All open seasons
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/ Morgan-South Rich	BR7325	1	0	All open seasons
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7313	5	0	All open seasons
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7311	3	0	All open seasons
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7321	5	0	All open seasons
La Sal Mtns	BR7326	13	1	All open seasons
Manti, North	BR7303	13	1	All open seasons
Manti, South/San Rafael, North	BR7304	18	2	All open seasons

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Multiseason limited-entry hunts (continued)

Any legal weapon

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Mt Dutton	BR7322	1	0	All open seasons
Nebo	BR7305	5	0	All open seasons
Nine Mile	BR7317	9	1	All open seasons
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7308	1	0	All open seasons
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7309	4	0	All open seasons
Paunsaugunt	BR7323	1	0	All open seasons
San Juan	BR7312	11	1	All open seasons
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/ Curret Creek	BR7315	3	0	All open seasons
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7316	14	1	All open seasons
Yellowstone	BR7314	3	0	All open seasons

Restricted pursuit limited-entry units

Permit fee: Resident \$45, Nonresident \$342. Bonus point code: **BPU**. Use the hunt number to apply.

Reminder: There are spring restricted pursuit seasons for nonresidents on the Book Cliffs, La Sal and San Juan units. The spring pursuit seasons on those units are not restricted for resident pursuers, which is why resident permits aren't listed in the spring season table below.

Spring season

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Book Cliffs	BR1015	See below	2	March 28–May 25
La Sal	BR1017	See below	2	March 28–May 25
San Juan	BR1016	See below	2	March 28–May 25

Important: The spring pursuit seasons on these units are not restricted for residents. If you're a resident, you do not need to apply for a pursuit permit in the drawing. To pursue bear during the spring pursuit season (March 28-May 25, 2026) on the Book Cliffs, La Sal or San Juan units, you can simply obtain a pursuit permit at wildlife.utah.gov, from a license agent or at any division office.

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Restricted pursuit limited-entry units (continued)

Early summer season

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Book Cliffs	BR1008	26	2	July 5–July 16
La Sal	BR1009	14	1	July 5–July 16
San Juan	BR1010	14	1	July 5–July 16

Late summer season

Unit name	Hunt #	Res.	Nonres.	Season dates
Book Cliffs	BR1011	26	2	July 18–July 31
La Sal	BR1012	14	1	July 18–July 31
San Juan	BR1013	14	1	July 18–July 31

Harvest-objective hunts

Permit fee: Resident \$93, Nonresident \$600.
See hunting method restrictions for each unit. Hunters should visit wildlife.utah.gov/bearharvest each day to verify that their hunt is still open.

Any legal weapon

Unit name	Harvest quota	Season dates	Hunting method
Beaver	5	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	20	Aug. 15–Oct. 1	No bait/no dogs
Boulder/Kaiparowits	22	July 5–July 31 Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Cache/Ogden	10	July 5–July 31 Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	March 28–May 25	No bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	Aug. 1–Aug. 31 Nov. 2–Nov. 8	No bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	July 5–July 31 Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	9	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs

BLACK BEAR HUNT TABLES

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Harvest-objective hunts (continued)

Permit fee: Resident \$93, Nonresident \$600.

See hunting method restrictions for each unit. Hunters should visit wildlife.utah.gov/bearharvest each day to verify that their hunt is still open.

Any legal weapon

Unit name	Harvest quota	Season dates	Hunting method
Fillmore, Pahvant	1	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	5	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	5	July 5–July 31 Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
La Sal Mtns	12	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Manti, North	15	July 5–July 31 Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Manti, South/San Rafael, North	25	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Mt Dutton	2	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Nebo	10	July 5–July 31 Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Nine Mile	25	March 28–May 25	No bait
Nine Mile	10	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	5	March 28–May 25	No bait
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	3	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Panguitch Lake/Zion	3	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
San Juan	12	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	15	March 28–May 25	No bait
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	10	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	20	July 5–July 31 Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs
Yellowstone	10	March 28–May 25	No bait
Yellowstone	10	Sept. 1–Oct. 25	No bait/no dogs

COUGAR MANAGEMENT UNITS

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Note: See the Cougar reference map on page 82.

Reminder: Refer to page 10 for units that do not allow dogs during seasonal closures.

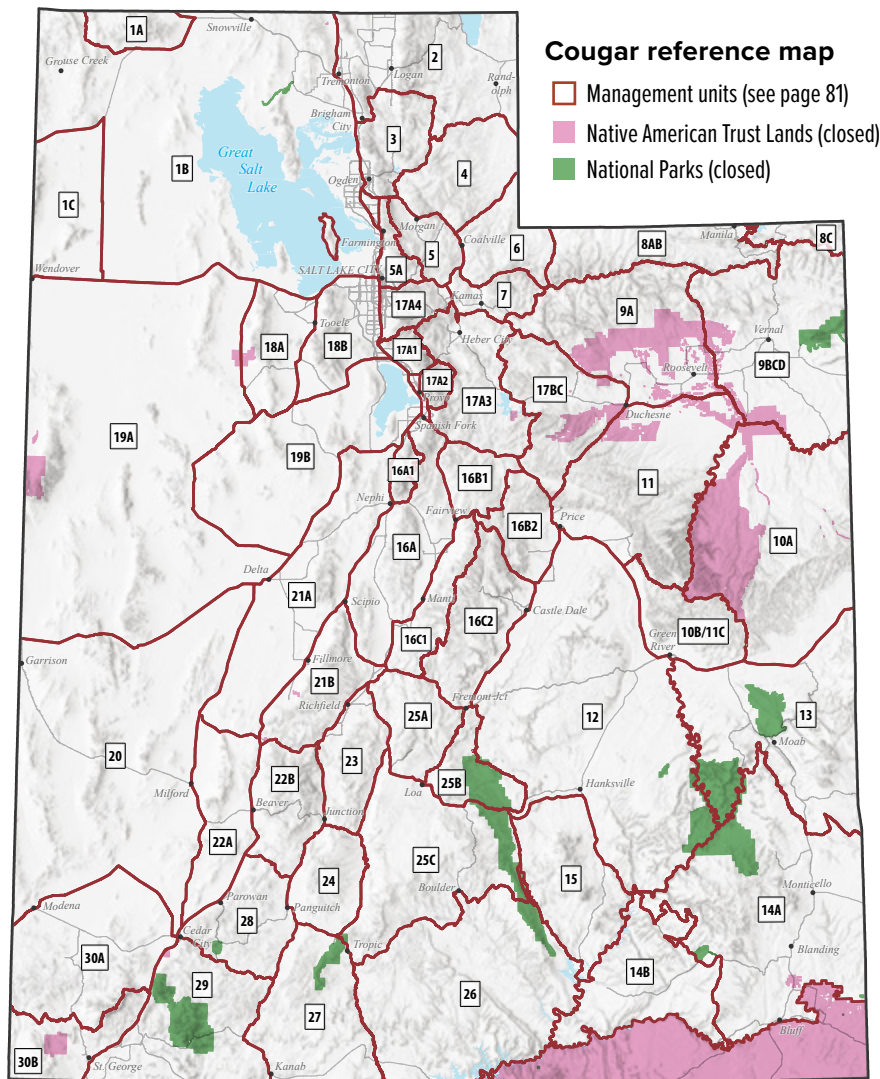
Unit name	Unit #
Beaver, East	22B
Beaver, West	22A
Book Cliffs, East	10A
Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/ Nine Mile, South	10B/11C
Boulder	25C
Box Elder, Desert	1B
Box Elder, Pilot Mtn	1C
Box Elder, Raft River	1A
Cache	2
Chalk Creek	6
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	9BCD
East Canyon	5
East Canyon, Davis	5A
Fillmore, Oak Creek	21A
Fillmore, Pahvant	21B
Fishlake	25A
Henry Mtns	15
Kaiparowits	26
Kamas	7
La Sal Mtns	13
Manti, Northeast	16B2
Manti, Northwest	16B1
Manti, Southeast	16C2
Manti, Southwest	16C1
Monroe	23
Morgan-South Rich	4
Mt Dutton	24

Unit name	Unit #
Nebo (excluding West Face)	16A
Nebo-West Face	16A1
Nine Mile, North	11
North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	8AB
North Slope, Three Corners	8C
Ogden	3
Oquirrh-Stansbury, East	18B
Oquirrh-Stansbury, West	18A
Panguitch Lake	28
Paunsaugunt	27
Pine Valley, North	30A
Pine Valley, South	30B
San Juan, Desert	14B
San Juan, Mountains	14A
San Rafael	12
Southwest Desert	20
Thousand Lakes	25B
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	17BC
Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	17A2
Wasatch Mtns, Salt Lake	17A4
Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	17A1
Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry	17A3
West Desert, Mountain Ranges	19A
West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	19B
Yellowstone	9A
Zion	29

COUGAR MANAGEMENT UNITS

The DWR does not guarantee access to any private or public land. Unit boundaries may include private property or other excluded areas. Visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions.

Note: Please provide the cougar management unit number and name when you check in your harvested cougar. See the table on page 81.



This map is for general reference only. Hunters must research land accessibility before purchasing a license.

*Refer to page 10 of this guidebook for units that do not allow dogs during seasonal closures.



AVENZA MAPS®

| Explore this map with the **AVENZA APP**. [Learn more.](#)

FURBEARER SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

Utah Admin. Rules R657-10 & R657-11-25

In season, all areas are open statewide unless otherwise noted. National wildlife refuges, Native American trust lands and DWR waterfowl and wildlife management areas may have special regulations.

Species	2025-26 season dates	2026-27 season dates	Bag limit	Other details
Badger	Sept. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– March 1, 2027	none	
Beaver	Sept. 15, 2025– April 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– April 1, 2027	none	Closures apply, see page 65. Trapping-device restrictions are listed on page 62.
Bobcat ^♦	Nov. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Nov. 18, 2026– March 1, 2027	one/ permit	Possession limit is one per permit, up to a maximum of six permits.
Cougar ♦	Year-round	Year-round	none	Must report within 48 hours of harvest.
Gray fox	Sept. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– March 1, 2027	none	
Coyote *	Year-round	Year-round	none	Coyotes are not managed by the DWR. See page 72 for details on compensation through Utah's Predator Control Program.
Kit fox	Sept. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– March 1, 2027	none	The kit fox is considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Utah. Trappers are encouraged to release all kit fox unharmed.
Marten ^♦	Sept. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– March 1, 2027	none	Areas open: Daggett, Duchesne, Summit and Uintah counties. See page 61 for covered set trapping requirements.
Mink	Sept. 15, 2025– April 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– April 1, 2027	none	Closures apply, see page 65. Trapping-device restrictions are listed on page 62.
Muskrat *	Year-round	Year-round	none	Special permit required to trap muskrat on a WMA (see wildlife.utah.gov/WMAtrapping).
Raccoon *	Year-round	Year-round	none	Raccoons are not managed by the DWR.
Red fox *	Year-round	Year-round	none	
Ringtail	Sept. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– March 1, 2027	none	
Spotted skunk	Sept. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– March 1, 2027	none	
Striped skunk *	Year-round	Year-round	none	
Weasel	Sept. 15, 2025– March 1, 2026	Sept. 15, 2026– March 1, 2027	none	

^ This species requires a permit.

* You do not need a furbearer license to harvest coyotes, muskrats, raccoons, red foxes or striped skunks. However, a trap registration license is required (see page 18 for more information).

♦ Make an appointment at a DWR office to check in a carcass or pelt and obtain a permanent tag (see page 59).

DEFINITIONS

Utah Code §§ 23A-1-101 and 23A-8-201; and Utah Admin. Rules R657-10-2, R657-11-2, R657-33-2, R657-33-12 and R657-33-26

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.

Accompany means that on a bear or cougar restricted pursuit unit, the dog handler must remain close enough to the permit holder to maintain visual contact and verbal communication without the assistance of any electronic device. The only time a dog handler may separate from the pursuit-permit holder is to retrieve dogs that leave the pack. The dog handler must do all of the following:

- Take reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit
- Only separate from the permit holder to retrieve stray dogs (and not actively pursue a bear during the retrieval process)
- Make reasonable efforts to call dogs off of a bear that has been cornered or held at bay
- Immediately release any bear or cougar that is incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs

Artificial cubby set means any manufactured container with an opening on one end that houses a trapping device.

Bait means any lure containing animal, mineral or plant materials.

Baiting means the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of bait to lure, attract or entice bear on or over any area.

Bear means *Ursus americanus*, commonly known as black bear.

Cage trap means any enclosure containing a one-way door triggered by a treadle or pan that prevents escape of an animal after the door closes.

Canned hunt means that a bear or 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 bear or cougar.

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

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

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 bear or cougar for any purpose.

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

Cub means a bear less than one year of age.

Cultivated land means land that is readily identifiable as any of the following:

- Land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops
- Land that is used for the raising of crops
- Pasturage that is artificially irrigated

Division means the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

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 has an actual plan, method, and means to return to the individual's domicile within six months;
- 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; and
- is a place where the individual resides for the majority of the individual's time.

To create a new domicile an individual must:

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

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

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

Exposed bait means bait that is visible from any angle, except when used in an artificial cubby set.

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

Foothold trap means any underspring or jump trap, longspring trap or coil-spring trap with two smooth arms or jaws that come together when an animal steps on a pan in the center of the trap.

Furbearer means species of the *Bassariscidae*, *Canidae*, *Felidae*, *Mustelidae* and *Castoridae* families, except coyote and cougar.

Fur dealer means any individual engaged in, wholly or in part, the business of buying, selling, or trading skins or pelts of furbearers within Utah.

Fur dealer's agent means any person who is employed by a resident or nonresident fur dealer as a buyer.

Good condition means the carcass is fresh or frozen and securely wrapped to prevent decomposition so that the tissue remains suitable for analysis.

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

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

Harvest-objective permit means any permit valid on harvest-objective units.

Harvest-objective unit means any unit designated as harvest-objective in the hunt table of this guidebook.

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.

Hunting mentor means a resident or nonresident individual possessing a valid permit issued by the DWR to take protected wildlife in Utah and who is 21 years of age or older at the time of application for the Mentor Program.

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 hunt means any hunt listed in the hunt table of this guidebook that is identified as a limited-entry hunt for bear, and that does not include harvest-objective hunts or pursuit only. Certain limited-entry hunts span multiple seasons and are identified in this guidebook as multiseason limited-entry hunts.

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

Livestock means cattle, sheep, goats and turkeys.

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

Night-vision device means anything that enhances visible and nonvisible light and includes the use of night-vision devices, thermal-imaging devices, infrared-imaged devices and other electronic devices that enhance the visible and nonvisible light spectrum. Trail cameras are not a night-vision device.

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

Owner means the person who has been issued a trap registration number associated with one or more trapping devices.

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.

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Private lands means any lands that are not public lands, excluding Native American Trust Lands.

Protected wildlife means the animals defined in the “wildlife” definition below. It does not include coyote, field mouse, gopher, ground squirrel, jackrabbit, muskrat and raccoon.

Public lands means any lands owned by the state, a political subdivision or independent entity of the state, or the United States—excluding Native American Trust Lands—that are open to the public for purposes of engaging in pursuit.

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

Qualifying minor means a Utah resident who is under 18 at the time of application for the Mentor Program and who is otherwise eligible to lawfully hunt.

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 application of a license, permit, or tag, 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 DWR 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.

Restricted pursuit permit means a limited-entry permit issued in a DWR drawing that authorizes an individual to pursue bear using trained dogs, consistent with the restrictions found in *Utah Admin. Code R657-33*.

Restricted pursuit unit means a bear pursuit unit where pursuit is allowed only by a dog handler who meets at least one of the following requirements:

- Possesses a special pursuit permit issued for that particular unit
- Possesses or is accompanied by a hunter who possesses a limited-entry bear permit for the unit, and pursuit must occur within the area and during the season established for the limited-entry bear permit
- Is engaged in pursuit for compensation (see *Compensation* on page 84)

Scent means any lure—composed of material of less than one cubic inch—that has a smell intended to attract animals.

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

Spot-and-stalk means that a hunter must locate, pursue and harvest a bear without using dogs or bait.

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

Take means to hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, gather, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or 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. Trail cameras are not a night-vision device.

Trapping means taking protected wildlife with a trapping device.

Trapping device means any apparatus used to remotely capture or kill an animal, including a cage trap, foothold trap, snare wire or any other body-gripping mechanism.

Valid application means it is for a species for which the applicant is eligible to possess a permit;

There is a hunt for that species regardless of estimated permit numbers; and

There is sufficient information on the application to process the application, including personal information, hunt information, and sufficient payment.

Applications missing any of the above items may still be considered valid if the application is timely corrected through the application correction process.

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

Wildlife means crustaceans—including brine shrimp and crayfish—and all vertebrate animals living in nature, except feral animals.

**DOUSE. STIR.
CHECK. REPEAT.**

Extinguish campfires. Prevent wildfires.

