

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

BIG GAME

FIELD REGULATIONS

— GUIDEBOOK —



2024

CONTACT US

Turn in a poacher

Phone: 800-662-3337

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Division offices

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

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Springville, UT 84663
801-491-5678

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Price, UT 84501
435-613-3700

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WHAT'S NEW?

Mandatory harvest reporting for general-season hunts: The Utah Wildlife Board voted to require mandatory harvest reporting for all general-season buck deer and bull elk hunts beginning in 2024. (All limited-entry, once-in-a-lifetime and antlerless hunts still require mandatory reporting, as well.) Filing a report is required, even if you do not harvest an animal. General-season permit holders will have 30 days to report the results of their hunt after their hunting season ends; failure to report will result in exclusion from the 2025 big game and antlerless applications. For more details about how to report, reporting requirements, restrictions and potential fines, see page 21 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/harvest.

Hunter orange: The Utah Legislature made changes to the hunter orange requirement, which previously specified that a hunter must have a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange visible. The new regulation requires that anyone hunting big game must wear hunter orange on the exterior so that it can be seen, including one or more of the following items: a hat, shirt, jacket, coat, vest or sweater. See page 22 for requirements and exceptions.

Muzzleloader scope restrictions: The board also approved prohibiting the use of scopes stronger than 1x power on muzzleloaders for all muzzleloader hunts (limited-entry, general-season, HAMSS and management). Only open sights, peep sights, a red dot or scopes with 1x power or less are allowed on muzzleloaders during muzzleloader hunt seasons. Scopes of any power are allowed on muzzleloaders during any legal weapon hunts. See page 24 for more information.

Arrow and bolt length: The board approved removing the length restrictions on arrows and bolts for airgun, archery and crossbow hunting. For details, see page 23.

Night-vision device rule changes: The board clarified rule language from “unlawful to use” to “unlawful to possess” night-vision devices while locating big game from July 31 to Dec. 31. (**Note:** The end date has also changed to align with trail camera rules.) For details, see the information box on page 39 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams.

KNOW THE LAWS

This guidebook—along with the 2024 *Utah Big Game Application Guidebook*—summarizes the rules and laws that regulate big game hunting in Utah. Although these books are convenient quick-reference documents for Utah big game regulations, they are not all-encompassing resources.

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

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-24* and *Utah Code § 23A-5-207*—to search the Division's website for the detailed statute or rule that underpins the guidebook summary.

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

Who makes the rules?

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

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

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

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

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

Wildlife Board members

Kent Johnson	Randy Dearth, <i>Chair</i>
Paula Richmond	Gary Nielson, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Bret Selman	J. Shirley, <i>Division Director</i>
Bryce Thurgood	& <i>Executive Secretary</i>

Download guidebooks and more to your DWR mobile app: You can now download Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks using your Utah DWR 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. **Note:** You must still carry your printed permit with you in the field.

Tagging requirements for donations, game processing and taxidermy: The Utah Legislature made several changes to the tagging requirements for big game animals, including documentation that must accompany protected wildlife carcasses or parts for donation, locker or storage facility receipt, and taxidermy. Carefully review the information on pages 33–36 for details about these new requirements.

Shed antler gathering rules: The board approved several changes to the rules regarding shed antler and horn gathering in Utah, in order to reduce disturbance and stress to big game animals during winter conditions that affect their survival:

- Utah residents and nonresidents may gather shed antlers year-round
- Antler gathering ethics course completion is still required for anyone gathering sheds between Jan. 1 and May 31 (new dates)
- Commercial antler buyers must have a valid certificate of registration
- Individuals may modify and resell antlers and horns if they were legally gathered or obtained

The DWR Director has the authority to close shed gathering statewide, which will be triggered by emergency wildlife feeding. See page 36 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/antler-gathering for more information about these changes.

Dedicated Hunter Program changes: The board approved several administrative changes to the Dedicated Hunter Program, including the minimum number of service hours expected per

year during participants' three-year enrollment in the program, online tracking of volunteer hours and mandatory harvest reporting. These updates—and details about how to apply to be a Dedicated Hunter during next year's big game application—are outlined at wildlife.utah.gov/dh.

Research antlerless hunts online: Starting May 16, 2024, visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks to find all of the information you'll need to research Utah's antlerless hunts. This information includes application dates, rules, hunt tables, maps and more. The antlerless application period runs from June 5–19, 2024.

Apply for bonus or preference points: If you missed applying for big game bonus or preference points during the big game permit application period that closed on April 25, you have a second opportunity during the June 7–19 antlerless application period to apply for points.

CWD regulations and surveillance: The Division will continue surveillance for chronic wasting disease at various locations. To learn more, see page 20 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/cwd for details.

Management and cactus bucks: The board lifted the requirement for hunters to physically check in management bucks and cactus bucks at a Division office. Hunters must complete the mandatory online harvest report within 30 days after the end of the hunt season. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/harvest for more information about reporting requirements.

Bighorn sheep reporting: Hunters are no longer required to check in their sheep at a Division office, and do not need to obtain a plug for bighorn sheep horns. Hunters must complete the mandatory online harvest report within 30 days after the end of the hunt season. Find out more about reporting requirements at wildlife.utah.gov/harvest.

Improved airstrips: The board removed the aircraft requirement for taking off and landing

only on improved airstrips; limitations on hunting from aircraft still apply. See page 32 for details.

Name changes for multiple hunt units:

To simplify naming, hunt units previously beginning with the designations of South Slope, Plateau and Central Mtns have been shortened to remove those words from the name (hunt numbers are the same). For example, South Slope, Diamond Mtn has been changed to Diamond Mtn. New names are noted with a “◊” symbol throughout this guidebook.

Find updated maps, boundaries and permit numbers:

Use the Utah Hunt Planner to find unit permit numbers, maps, boundaries and information for your hunts this year. **Note:** Some hunt unit boundaries, names and permit numbers have changed this year. Visit hunt.utah.gov or see the information box on page 14.

Season date changes: Season dates change every year, so please check them carefully before you head out on your hunt. You can find season dates listed on your permit or at hunt.utah.gov.

Invalid permits: Utah Legislature H.B. 382 clarified that any original license, permit, tag or certificate of registration becomes invalid when surrendered or forfeited, or when a duplicate or exchanged one is issued.

Credit card processing fee: In order to cover our increasing costs for systems and electronic payment processing, the Division will begin charging a 2.2% processing fee on all credit card transactions beginning July 1. The legislature authorized a fee up to 3% to cover these costs in the 2024 legislative session.

And keep in mind

Permit sales dates in July: Any permits remaining after the big game drawing—and all general-season elk permits—will go on sale during **different** days in July. For all of the permit sales dates, see page 15.

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 the information box on page 39 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams for details.

Weapons technology rules: Utah's allowable weapons technologies rules have changed in recent years, including prohibiting attached electronics (except for illuminated reticles) on most weapons. See page 22 for details.

No baiting allowed: It is unlawful statewide to bait big game, take big game in a baited area or take big game that has been lured to or is traveling from a baited area. See page 30.

Game retrieval and meat salvage: A hunter must physically check the area where they shot at an animal to see if the animal was killed or wounded before the hunter leaves the area. If you do harvest an animal, you must harvest the meat following rule specifications for salvage. See page 35 for details.

Ways to report poachers: Use the UTDWR law enforcement app or text 847411 to report poachers. For more about these and other reporting options, see page 31 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/utip.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program: People who haven't hunted big game may be able to try it for the first time without taking Hunter Education. See page 11 for more information.

Hunter Mentoring program: The Hunter Mentoring program allows a young person to share a mentor's permit. To learn more, see the *Hunter Mentoring program* on page 54 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring.

Hunting in Salt Lake County: Before you hunt deer or elk in Salt Lake County, learn about special restrictions. See page 29 for details.

Check for closures: There may be late-season road closures on federal and state lands. Before heading into the field, please check with the managing agency for the area you plan to hunt.

Options for military members: Active military personnel may be eligible to purchase a bonus or preference point if they were deployed during the 2024 big game application period. For details, see page 50 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/military.

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 social media channels.

Discounted licenses for disabled veterans: The Division offers discounted hunting and combination licenses to Utah veterans who were disabled in the line of duty. For details, see page 10.

Surrendering your permit: If you want to surrender your big game permit, you are strongly encouraged to do so **at least 30 days before** the season opens to avoid losing previously-accrued bonus or preference points. For details, see page 56 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/refund.

Points forfeiture for purchase of remaining general buck deer permit: If you purchase a general-season buck deer permit that's available after the big game drawing in 2024, you will lose any preference points you've accrued for general-season buck deer. To learn more about purchasing these permits, see page 15.

National parks closed to hunting: All of Utah's national parks and monuments—except the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments—are closed to hunting. See page 29 for details.

Review application guidebook: If you have questions about the 2024 big game application period, hunt drawing or limited-entry season dates, please see the *2024 Utah Big Game Application Guidebook* at wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks. That guidebook was printed in February and is a companion to this book.

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

Protection from discrimination: This agency receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. 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

Private lands: The Division cannot guarantee access to any private land. You must obtain documented permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting on private lands. For more information, please see *Trespassing* on page 30.

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.

2024 SEASON DATES

General-season dates

Hunt	Dates
General archery buck deer	Aug. 17–Sept. 13
General muzzleloader buck deer	Sept. 25–Oct. 3
Early general any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer	Oct. 9–13
General any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer	Oct. 19–27
General archery any bull elk*	Aug. 17–Sept. 18
General archery spike bull elk	Aug. 17–Sept. 6
Early general any legal weapon (rifle) any bull elk	Oct. 5–11
Late general any legal weapon (rifle) any bull elk	Oct. 12–18
General any legal weapon (rifle) spike bull elk	Oct. 5–17
General muzzleloader bull elk	Oct. 30–Nov. 7
General-season youth bull elk permit	See page 19 for dates
Draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk (see page 18 for more information)	Sept. 14–22

*No general-season archery elk hunt on the Paun-saugunt unit.

CWMU season dates

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

To see the timeframes and learn more about the CWMU program, see the article on page 58 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu.

Extended archery season dates

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5

You do not need to apply for an additional permit to hunt during the extended archery seasons. As long as you obtain an archery buck deer or bull elk permit in 2024—and you complete the required extended archery ethics course—you may also hunt any of Utah's extended archery areas during the seasons listed below.

Limited-entry buck deer and bull elk archery hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will also be allowed to hunt extended archery areas.

Note: Handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only (HAMSS) and antlerless permits are not valid on extended archery hunts.

The online archery ethics course is an annual requirement for all archers who want to hunt the extended areas and seasons. To take the course, visit wildlife.utah.gov/extended-archery before the extended seasons begin. After you successfully complete the course, print your completion certificate and keep it with you while hunting or download it to your DWR mobile app.

Important: Check the hunt number (not just the hunt unit name) on your permit carefully and refer to the Utah Hunt Planner (hunt.utah.gov) to make sure your permit allows you to hunt in an extended archery unit within the allowed season dates.

Reminder: If you are hunting in an extended archery elk area during the extended archery elk season (Aug. 17–Dec. 15), you may harvest **any bull elk** or antlerless elk. (This applies even if the extended archery area overlaps a spike bull elk unit.)

2024 SEASON DATES

Extended archery season dates

Hunt Dates

Extended archery deer (either sex) in the following extended archery areas:

- Nine Mile, Green River Valley
- Sanpete Valley
- South Wasatch

Extended archery deer (either sex) in the following extended archery areas:

- Box Elder, West Bear River
- Herriman South Valley
- Ogden
- Uintah Basin
- Utah Lake
- Wasatch Front
- West Cache

Extended archery elk (either sex) in the following extended archery areas:

- Uintah Basin
- Wasatch Front
- West Cache

Sportsman and statewide conservation permit season dates

For more information about sportsman permits, see the information box on page 13.

Hunt Dates

Deer, elk and pronghorn on any open unit with archery equipment*‡

Aug. 17–31, 2024

Deer and elk on any open unit with any legal weapon*‡

Sept. 1, 2024–Jan. 15, 2025

Pronghorn on any open unit with any legal weapon ‡

Sept. 1–Nov. 15, 2024

Bighorn sheep and mountain goat on any open unit with any legal weapon*‡

Aug. 31–Dec. 31, 2024

Bison on any open unit with any legal weapon‡

Aug. 1, 2024–Jan. 31, 2025

Moose on any open unit with any legal weapon

Aug. 31–Nov. 15, 2024

Turkey on any open unit

April 1–May 31, 2024

Black bear on any open unit

During the season dates listed in the *2024 Utah Black Bear Guidebook* for that unit

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

‡ Antelope Island is not an open unit for statewide permits.

License fees

Resident license fees

License	Fee
365-day hunting license (age 13 and under)	\$11
365-day hunting license (ages 14–17)	\$16
365-day hunting license (ages 18–64)	\$40
365-day hunting license (age 65+)	\$31
365-day hunting license for disabled veterans (see the box on page 10)	\$25.50
Multi-year hunting license (age 18–64)	\$39 per year, up to five years
Multi-year hunting license (age 65+)	\$30 per year, up to five years
365-day combination* license (ages 14–17)	\$20
365-day combination* license (ages 18–64)	\$44
365-day combination* license (age 65+)	\$35
365-day combination* license for disabled veterans (see the box on page 10)	\$28.50
Multi-year combination* license (age 18–64)	\$43 per year, up to five years
Multi-year combination* license (age 65+)	\$34 per year, up to five years

*Combination license allows you to hunt or fish in Utah.

Credit card processing fee:

In order to cover our increasing costs for systems and electronic payment processing, the Division will begin charging a 2.2% processing fee on all credit card transactions beginning July 1. The legislature authorized a fee up to 3% to cover these costs in the 2024 legislative session.

Nonresident license fees

For a complete list of Utah's license and permit fees, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees.

License	Fee
365-day hunting license (age 17 and younger)	\$34
365-day hunting license (age 18+)	\$120
Multi-year hunting license (age 18+)	\$119 per year, up to five years
365-day combination* license (age 17 and younger)	\$38
365-day combination* license (age 18+)	\$150
Multi-year combination* license (age 18+)	\$149 per year, up to five years

*Combination license allows you to hunt or fish in Utah.

Permit fees

For a complete list of Utah's license and permit fees, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees.

Permit	Resident	Nonres.
General deer	\$46	\$418
Youth general deer	\$40	\$418
General any bull and spike bull elk	\$56	\$613
Youth general elk	\$50	\$613
Multi-season spike bull elk	\$200	\$830
Private-lands-only antlerless elk	\$56	\$350
Control antlerless elk	\$40	\$118
Nine Mile bison	\$460	\$2,420

Discounted licenses for disabled veterans

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

The discounted hunting license is \$25.50, instead of the \$40 full price; 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.

You must be a Utah resident and have a qualifying service-connected disability of at least 20 percent.

Apply for your discounted license at wildlife.utah.gov/disabledvet and complete the online form, or visit any Division office listed on page 2. If you need assistance, please call the nearest Division office.

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

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

Don't lose your hunting and fishing privileges

If you commit a wildlife violation, you could lose the privilege of hunting and fishing in Utah.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources can suspend the license of anyone who knowingly, intentionally or recklessly violates wildlife laws. Your license can be suspended for a wildlife violation if:

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

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



BASIC REQUIREMENTS

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

Are you old enough?

Utah Code § 23A-4-703

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

If you are least 11 years old, you can apply for or obtain any big game permits for which you are eligible, including limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits. Any 11-year-olds who apply must be 12 by Dec. 31, 2024.

Remember: You cannot hunt until you are 12 years old.

If you're younger than 18, you can apply to participate in the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program. For details on the program, see the box on page 54 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring.

If you're 12 years old or older, you can also participate in the Trial Hunting Program. For details, see the box below.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-68

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

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

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

Adults must accompany young hunters

Utah Code § 23A-4-708

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

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

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

Have you passed hunter education?

Utah Code § 23A-4-1001 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-23

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

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

Keep your license on your mobile device

We've made it easy for you to keep track of your hunting or combination license—and any completed DWR courses—and know when they're about to expire.

With our convenient mobile app, you can download your license or proof of course completion to a mobile device.

If a conservation officer asks to see your license, you can produce the digital copy, which is just as valid as a paper license.

If you use the app, you will be able to easily see when your license expires.

For more information and to download the app, visit wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp.

Remember: Licenses are different from permits. If you have a permit for a big game or antlerless hunt, you must carry it with you while hunting.

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 course options. Follow the instructions on the website to obtain a hunter education registration certificate (required) and to register for a course online.

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

When you finish the course, your instructor will verify your course completion in the online hunter education system. At that point, you will be able to apply for or obtain permits in the Division's hunt drawing, 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 who are age 15 and younger must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
- All hunting regulations, including season dates and bag limits, will apply.
- Hunters who are planning to hunt out of state should allow enough time for their hunter education card to arrive in the mail.

New to Utah?

If you become a Utah resident, and you've completed a hunter education course in another state, province or country, you must obtain a Utah blue card before you can buy a resident hunting license. You can obtain a Utah blue card at any Division office by providing proof that you've completed a Division-approved hunter education course, or by filling out the online form at wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-ed-transfer.

Residency

Utah Code § 23A-1-101

Before you apply for a big game hunt, it's important to know whether you are a legal resident of the state of Utah. See the definition of *Resident* on page 70 to determine whether you are a resident or a nonresident.

Do you have a license?

Utah Code §§ 23A-4-201, 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 any big game permits, bonus points or preference points. Licenses are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices.

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

For example, assume that your license expires on June 22, 2024. If you applied for permits on Feb. 28, 2024, then you do not have to purchase a new license for your hunt in the fall.

Reminder: There are restrictions on fishing and hunting license purchasers for nonpayment of child support. For additional information, contact the Office of Recovery Services at 801-536-8500.

Please keep in mind that Utah hunting and combination licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. You also have the option of purchasing a multi-year license that's valid for up to five years.

For details about license, permit and application fees, see page 8 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees.

Plan on sharing the mountain

As much as you'd like to have Utah's backcountry to yourself, you share it with campers, hikers, photographers and other hunters. Some of those hunters are after big game—just like you—while others are pursuing black bear, forest grouse and other species.

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

When to apply for a sportsman permit

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

The application period for 2025 will run from Oct. 16 to Nov. 6, 2024. Only Utah residents can apply for sportsman permits.

For more information about these permits, and the few restrictions that apply, please visit wildlife.utah.gov in mid-October 2024.

Do you have a permit?

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-18

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

Most of the big game permits have already been issued through the big game drawing, but some will be available for over-the-counter purchase in July 2024. See page 15 for sales dates.

Many of Utah's antlerless permits will be issued through the antlerless drawing. You can apply for those permits from June 5-19, 2024. For more information about application deadlines and how to apply for antlerless permits, see page 14.

For details about license, permit and application fees, see page 8 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees.

Carry your permit

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

APPLY FOR AN ANTLERLESS PERMIT

Looking for Utah's antlerless field regulations? You'll find them in this guidebook (see page 52).

If you're looking for the information you need in order to apply for antlerless hunts, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks, starting May 16, 2024. There, you'll find application dates, rules, hunt tables, maps, boundaries and other essential information.

If you are planning to apply for a 2024 antlerless permit, please be aware of the following dates and deadlines.

May 16: Review online antlerless hunt resources

Beginning May 16, 2024, you can visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks to review all of the application rules, hunt tables, season dates, maps, boundaries and other information you'll need in order to apply for an antlerless permit.

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

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

June 5: Apply online for an antlerless permit

Starting June 5, 2024, you can visit wildlife.utah.gov to apply for the following items:

- Antlerless hunting permits
- An antlerless moose permit or bonus point
- A ewe bighorn sheep permit or bonus point
- Antlerless preference points
- Big game bonus and preference points if you are eligible

You can also apply by calling any Division office.

Boundary descriptions only available online

You'll find detailed maps and boundary descriptions online for all hunting units.

Visit hunt.utah.gov to download and print your boundaries today.

You also have the option of using the *Utah Hunting and Fishing* app to view the boundaries of any permits you've drawn. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp to download the app.

DWR maps are also viewable on your mobile device using the Avenza Maps™ app. See the box on page 47 for more details.

June 19: Deadline for antlerless permit applications

You must apply online or by phone no later than June 19, 2024. There's an 11 p.m. MDT deadline for online applications and a 5 p.m. MDT deadline for phone applications. To apply, simply visit wildlife.utah.gov or call any Division office.

July 5: Antlerless drawing results available

You'll be notified of your drawing results by email on or before July 5, 2024. You can also learn your drawing results by visiting wildlife.utah.gov or by calling 800-221-0659.

Definition of youth

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

This year, you will be considered a youth if you are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2024.

PURCHASE OVER-THE-COUNTER PERMITS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-18

Any permits remaining after the big game drawing—and all general-season elk permits—are available on different days throughout July. There are also a few other options for permits sold over the counter which you can take advantage of.

Browse available permits:

In late May, you can find a full list of available permits at wildlife.utah.gov/remaining-permits

What to know about purchasing these over-the-counter permits:

- Permits go on sale at 8 a.m. MDT
- You must have a valid hunting/combo license to purchase a permit
- Purchase permits online at wildlife.utah.gov, or in person at any DWR office or license agent
- Permits are sold on a first-come, first-served basis

Important reminder about point loss:

- If you purchase a remaining permit from the hunt drawing, you will lose your bonus/preference points
 - This includes remaining general-season buck deer permits
 - This excludes youth archery deer permits

OVER-THE-COUNTER SALES DATES

JULY 9

- General-season archery elk permits
- Youth general-season elk permits
- Remaining limited-entry big game permits (if available)
- Remaining general-season buck deer permits (if available)
- Youth archery general-season buck deer permits
- Bison permits for the Nine Mile unit

JULY 11

- General-season any bull elk permits

JULY 18

- General-season spike bull elk permits
- Multi-season spike bull elk permits

JULY 23

- Remaining antlerless permits (if available)
- Antlerless elk control permits
- Private-lands-only antlerless elk permits

Obtain up to three elk permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-33

A hunter can obtain up to three elk permits in Utah each year.

- A maximum of one permit can be for a bull elk.
- A maximum of one antlerless elk permit can be obtained through the antlerless drawing.
- A maximum of two antlerless elk permits can be obtained over the counter. These might include antlerless elk-control permits, private-lands-only permits, mitigation and CWMU vouchers or any permits that remain available after the antlerless drawing.

For the purposes of obtaining multiple elk permits, an archery elk permit (hunter's choice) is considered a bull elk permit. Likewise, general-season archery permits are

also considered bull elk permits. Antlerless elk-control or private-lands-only permits are considered antlerless permits.

General-season bull elk permits will be sold in July. See page 15 for the different sales dates, and then visit wildlife.utah.gov in early June to see exact purchase times and locations.

Any remaining antlerless elk permits—and both the private-lands-only and antlerless elk-control permits—will be available on July 23. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks starting in early June to learn more about antlerless permits and to see purchase times and locations.

Important: Antlerless elk permits may be used only during the season dates printed on your permit.

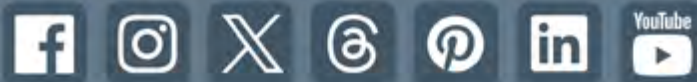
Remember: Harvest reporting is now mandatory for all hunts.



Be among the first to know what's going on in Utah's wildlife world:

- See incredible videos
- Attend cool events
- Receive email alerts
- Read the latest news
- Learn new skills
- Find the job of a lifetime

wildlife.utah.gov/stay-connected



Hunters are the frontline of conservation.

Is your ammo deadly to non-target species?



Lead-based ammunition — which is not always clearly labeled — is available for purchase in stores and online.



Hunters take the lead-based ammo on their hunts for big game and other animals such as coyotes and rabbits.



After harvesting an animal, a gut pile is left behind. Other times, the animal is unrecoverable. That's when condors, vultures, eagles and other scavengers often eat remains that are riddled with lead fragments. Consuming lead will poison and may ultimately kill them.

Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death in California condors. Help sustain this amazing species by switching to non-lead ammunition or by packing out your gut piles.



Learn more at wildlife.utah.gov/condors

YOUTH DEER AND ELK HUNTS

If you are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2024, you may have more opportunities to hunt this fall. It all depends on what type of permit you obtain.

Any legal weapon deer permits

If you are a youth and you obtain a general-season any legal weapon deer permit (**for either the early season or the later, traditional season**), you may hunt buck deer during all general-season deer seasons—in the unit listed on your permit—until you either harvest an animal or the season ends.

First, you may use archery tackle to archery hunt the unit listed on your permit from Aug. 17–Sept. 13, 2024.

If you haven't harvested a deer by the time the archery season ends, you may hunt the same unit during the general muzzleloader and general any legal weapon deer seasons—**including the early-season hunt, if it's offered on your unit**—using the appropriate equipment. See the tables on page 19 for details.

You also have the option of hunting in the extended archery areas, starting Sept. 14, 2024. To do so, you must complete the archery ethics course available at wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery, carry your course-completion certificate in the field and use the appropriate archery tackle. For more information on the extended archery hunt, visit wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery.

Muzzleloader deer permits

If you obtain a general-season muzzleloader deer permit, you may hunt *only* during the general muzzleloader season, which runs from Sept. 25–Oct. 3, 2024. You must use muzzleloader equipment and hunt the unit listed on your permit. You may not hunt during the general archery or any legal weapon seasons.

Archery deer permits

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

During the general archery deer season—which runs from Aug. 17–Sept. 13, 2024—you may hunt in the unit printed on your permit.

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

Additional youth archery deer permits will be available beginning July 9, 2024. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/biggame in early June to see purchase times and locations.

Important: Youth who purchase these additional youth archery deer permits will not lose any preference points they've accrued for general-season buck deer.

The Utah Wildlife Board approved an additional 20% of the archery quota for each unit to provide additional permits and opportunity for young archers.

For more information, please call the nearest Division office.

General-season elk permits

In 2024, there will be an unlimited number of general-season youth elk permits available for youth who will be 17 years of age or younger on July 31, 2024.

These permits will be valid during all general-season elk seasons on both any bull and spike units.

These permits are not for the draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk hunt that runs from Sept. 14–22, 2024.

(Youth had to draw a permit in the big game drawing for that hunt.) See the table on page 19 for details.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/biggame in early June to see purchase times and locations.

Which seasons can youth hunt?

YOUTH DEER SEASONS	Early any legal weapon buck deer permit (Oct. 9–13)	Any legal weapon buck deer permit (Oct. 19–27)
Archery season (Aug. 17–Sept. 13)	May hunt on your unit with archery equipment.	
Muzzleloader season (Sept. 25–Oct. 3)	May hunt on your unit with muzzleloader equipment.	
Early any legal weapon season (Oct. 9–13)	May hunt on your unit with any legal weapon.	May hunt with any legal weapon if your unit offers the early season.*
Any legal weapon season (Oct. 19–27)	May hunt on your unit with any legal weapon.	
Extended archery seasons	May hunt the extended archery areas with archery equipment. [^]	

* See the list of early-season hunts in the table on page 43.

[^] For information about extended archery hunting and the required ethics course, see page 8.

YOUTH ELK SEASONS	General-season youth elk permit (over the counter)	Draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk permit
Archery season—any bull units (Aug. 17–Sept. 18)	✓	
Archery season—spike-only units (Aug. 17–Sept. 6)	✓	
Any legal weapon/hunter's choice season—any bull units (Sept. 14–Sept. 22)		✓
Early any legal weapon season—any bull units (Oct. 5–Oct. 11)	✓	
Late any legal weapon season—any bull units (Oct. 12–Oct. 18)	✓	
Any legal weapon season—spike-only units (Oct. 5–Oct. 17)	✓	
Muzzleloader season—any bull & spike-only units (Oct. 30–Nov. 7)	✓	
Extended archery seasons [^]	✓	

[^] For information about extended archery hunting and the required ethics course, see page 8.

CHECK FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a serious—but relatively rare—disease that attacks the nervous system and brain of infected deer, elk and moose.

The Division has been monitoring for CWD since 1998. In that time, 261 mule deer and six elk have tested positive for CWD in Utah.

The Division conducts CWD surveillance in Utah's deer hunt units on a rotational basis. This fall, the Division will be conducting CWD surveillance in the following units (several hunt unit names have changed this year, which are noted with "◇"):

- Book Cliffs
- Boulder
- Cache
- Diamond Mtn ◇
- East Canyon
- Fishlake
- La Sal
- Manti ◇
- Monroe
- Mt Dutton
- Nine Mile
- San Juan
- San Rafael
- Thousand Lakes
- Vernal/Bonanza ◇
- Yellowstone ◇

If you harvest a deer in one of the above units this fall, please take a few minutes to stop by a Division check station. (The exact locations of the CWD check stations will be posted at wildlife.utah.gov/cwd closer to the 2024 hunting season.)

At the check station, we will assess the age of your deer, collect some biological information and take a small tissue sample to test for CWD.

Poaching-reported reward permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-51

It pays to report big game poachers in Utah.

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

This program applies to once-in-a-lifetime animals as well as limited-entry and general-season buck deer and bull elk.

To turn in a poacher, you can use any of the methods listed at wildlife.utah.gov/utip:

- Text DWR conservation officers at 847411
- Call our hotline: 800-662-3337
- Submit a tip through the UTDWR law enforcement app
- Submit an online report at wildlife.utah.gov/utip

For details about this reward permit program, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/earn-a-reward or see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-51* at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

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

To learn more about CWD, the testing process and precautions you can take, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/cwd.

MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Harvest surveys have been required for all limited-entry big game hunts in Utah for over two decades. Mandatory harvest reporting was implemented for all antlerless hunts in 2023. The Utah Wildlife Board approved mandatory harvest reporting for all of the general-season buck and bull elk hunts in Utah as well, beginning in 2024.

You are required to report your big game harvest within 30 days after your hunting season ends for the following hunts, even if you did not harvest an animal:

- Limited-entry
- Antlerless
- Once-in-a-lifetime
- CWMU
- HAMSS
- Management deer
- Cactus deer
- General-season buck deer (new)
- Dedicated Hunter buck deer (new)
- Youth general-season buck deer (new)
- General-season archery elk (new)
- Spike bull elk (new)
- Multi-season spike bull elk (new)
- Any bull elk (new)
- Youth general-season elk (new)
- Draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk (new)

Starting in 2024: If you have a general-season buck deer or bull elk permit, you will have 30 days to report the results of your hunt. Failure to report will exclude you from the following year's big game and antlerless applications. You can still restore your eligibility to apply for a 2025 permit by reporting your hunt (the \$50 late fee will be waived for 2024 buck deer and bull elk general-season hunt reporting).

How to submit a report: You can report information about your hunt at wildlife.utah.gov/harvest or by calling 800-221-0659.

Reporting your hunt information is important. If you don't report your hunt information within 30 days of the end of the hunt, you won't be allowed to apply for big game and antlerless applications in 2025.

Submitting teeth or other biological samples from your animal—or having your animal checked by a DWR representative or CWMU operator—does not fulfill your mandatory harvest reporting requirement.

Extended archery season reporting: If you are hunting the extended archery seasons for general-season buck deer or bull elk (does not apply to limited-entry hunts), you have up to 30 days after the extended archery hunt closes to report your harvest. See *Extended archery season dates* on pages 7-8 for areas, dates and other requirements.

Harvest reporting drives decisions about Utah's hunts

Reporting your harvest helps the DWR maintain more comprehensive and quality harvest data year-to-year. Thank you for providing better insights into Utah's big game populations statewide.

FIELD REGULATIONS

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

Hunting hours

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-6

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

Requirement to wear hunter orange

Utah Code § 23A-11-205

New this year: The Utah Legislature made changes to the hunter orange requirement, which previously specified that a hunter must have a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange visible. The new regulation requires that anyone hunting big game must wear hunter orange on the exterior so that it can be seen, including one or more of the following items: a hat, shirt, jacket, coat, vest or sweater. At least one of these items in hunter orange must be visible while hunting any species of big game, unless you are involved in one of the following types of hunts:

- Participating in a once-in-a-lifetime, state-wide conservation or statewide sportsman hunt
- Participating in an archery, muzzleloader or HAMSS hunt outside of an area where a general-season any legal weapon bull elk or general-season any legal weapon buck deer hunt is occurring
- Hunting on a cooperative wildlife management unit (CWMU), unless hunter orange is otherwise required by the operator of the CWMU
- Participating in urban deer removal, as authorized by *Utah Admin. Rule R657-65*

Keep in mind: Hunter orange is not required during the general-season archery elk hunt that

overlaps with the draw-only any bull/hunter's choice elk hunt. However, youth are still required to wear hunter orange during their draw-only elk hunt.

Checkpoints and officer contacts

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-207 and 77-23-104

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

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

Firearms and archery equipment

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 big game, you may not use:

- A firearm that's capable of being fired fully automatic
- Any light-enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light

- A firearm equipped with a computerized targeting system that marks a target, calculates a firing solution and automatically discharges the firearm at a point calculated most likely to hit the acquired target
- A computer or other device to remotely control the aiming and discharge of a firearm or other weapon for hunting an animal.

Remember: No electronics may be attached, except for illuminated reticles.

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

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 big game, but your firearm and ammunition must meet the following requirements:

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

You may only use an airgun or crossbow to take big game if you have an any legal weapon permit. You may **not** use an airgun or crossbow to take big game if you have an archery or muzzleloader permit. (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12-8* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)

If you use an airgun to hunt big game, that airgun must:

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

New this year: The length restrictions on arrows and bolts for airgun and crossbow hunting have been removed.

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

Are you allowed to possess a weapon?

Utah Code §§ 76-10-503 and 76-10-512

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

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

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

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 big game must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and a positive mechanical safety mechanism.

A crossbow arrow or bolt used to hunt big game 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:

- Hunt big game with an airgun or crossbow during a big game archery hunt, except as provided in *R657-12-8* and *R657-5-11*.
- 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 big game during an any legal weapon hunt may have a fixed or variable magnifying scope.

Important: No electronics may be attached to a rifle, airgun or shotgun, except for illuminated reticles. No electronics may be attached to the crossbow or bolt, except for illuminated nocks and cameras. However, these cameras cannot aid in the take of wildlife.

Handguns

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

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

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

Important: No electronics may be attached, except for illuminated reticles.

Reminder: If you have a handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only

permit to hunt deer or elk, there are other handgun regulations you must follow. For details, see page 26.

Muzzleloaders

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

Muzzleloaders may be used during any big game hunt, except the archery hunt.

New this year: The Utah Wildlife Board approved changes to the rules regarding scope magnification during all big game muzzleloader hunts—including general-season, limited-entry, management and HAMSS hunts:

- Scopes stronger than 1x power are prohibited.
- Only open sights, peep sights, a red dot or scopes with 1x power or less are allowed.
- Valid visual-impairment certificates of registration for scopes with magnification are permitted during muzzleloader hunts.
- Scopes of any power are still allowed during any-legal-weapon hunts.

To hunt big game with a muzzleloader, your muzzleloader must meet all of the following requirements:

- Both powder and bullet can be loaded only from the muzzle.
- **New:** It may only have open sights, peep sights, a red dot or a 1x fixed-power scope during any muzzleloader hunt.
- **New:** Variable- or fixed-power magnifying scopes greater than 1x power may only be used during any-legal-weapon hunts (or, if a hunter has a visual-impairment COR).
- 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.

Hunters with disabilities

Utah Admin. Rule R657-12

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

Hunters with disabilities may also apply for an extension to their season if they have a 2024 big game hunting permit in their possession and they meet certain criteria.

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

- It must be loaded with black powder or a black powder substitute. The black powder or black powder substitute cannot contain smokeless powder, but may contain some nitrocellulose.
- To hunt big game, you must use a lead or expanding bullet or projectile that's at least 40 caliber in size.
- If you're hunting deer or pronghorn, your bullet must be 130 grains or heavier, or your sabot must be 170 grains or heavier.
- If you're hunting elk, moose, bison, bighorn sheep or mountain goat, you must use a 210-grain or heavier bullet, or a sabot bullet that's at least 240 grains.

Important: No electronics may be attached, except for illuminated reticles.

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

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

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

Archery equipment

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

Archery equipment may be used during any big game hunt except the muzzleloader hunt.

New this year: The length restrictions on arrows for archery hunting have been removed.

To hunt big game 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.

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

- A crossbow or airgun (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)
- Arrows with chemically treated or explosive arrowheads
- A mechanical device that holds the bow at any increment of draw (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)
- A release aid that is not handheld or that supports the draw weight of the bow
- A bow with a magnifying-aiming device

Important: No electronics may be attached to the bow or arrow, except for illuminated nocks, sight pins and cameras. However, these cameras cannot aid in the take of wildlife.

Remember: If you carry arrows in or on a vehicle, the arrows must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case.

If you obtain an archery permit—for either an archery-only season or a once-in-a-lifetime hunt—you may use only the archery equipment authorized in this section to take the species listed on the permit.

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

This restriction does not apply to the following people:

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

HAMSS buck deer and bull elk hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-47 and R657-5-48

Handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only hunts (HAMSS hunts) are limited-entry hunts with very specialized weapon requirements.

Remember: Electronic communication to receive real-time information on hunter or game location to aid in the stalking of a specific big game animal is prohibited on a HAMSS hunt. This rule does not apply to general electronic communications in the field, including calls or communications relating to public safety.

Important: On all HAMSS hunts, no weapon-mounted scopes or other optics are allowed. The complete weapon specifications

for these hunts are listed in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-47*, available online.

You may only use the following weapons on a handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only hunt:

Handgun

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-9 & R657-5-47

The handgun you use must be legal for buck deer and bull elk, with no attached scope. (See *Firearms and archery equipment* that begins on page 22.)

Any currently legal handgun without a scope is allowed. No electronics may be attached, except for illuminated reticles.

The handgun must also:

- Have no more than a single barrel 15 inches or less in length, including the chamber
- Have a single rear handgrip without any form of any of the following:
 - A fixed, detachable or collapsible buttstock
 - An apparatus or extension behind the rear grip that’s capable of being used to steady the handgun against the body while firing
 - A vertical foregrip

The handgun can be no more than 24 inches in overall length.

Archery equipment

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11 and R657-5-47

The archery equipment you use must be legal for buck deer and bull elk. (See *Firearms and archery equipment* that begins on page 22.)

No electronics may be attached to the bow or arrow, except for illuminated nocks and cameras. However, a camera cannot aid in the take of wildlife.

Muzzleloader

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-10 and R657-5-47

The muzzleloader you use must be legal for buck deer and bull elk, with no attached scope. (See *Firearms and archery equipment* that begins on page 22.)

Utah's Walk-in Access Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-56-13

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

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

The Division issues authorization numbers to track the use of WIA properties throughout the year and to assess the program's value to the public.

To obtain your authorization number, visit wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess and select "Authorization numbers." Follow the instructions and obtain your number. You can also request a number by calling 800-221-0659.

Also, remember that WIA properties are private land and may have special restrictions on season dates, allowable activities, species and weapon types. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess for details.

Loaded firearms in a vehicle

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

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

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

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

Pistols and revolvers are also considered to be loaded when an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile is in a position whereby the manual operation of any mechanism once would cause the unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile to be fired.

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

Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

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

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

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

Shotgun

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-8 and R657-5-47

The shotgun you use must be legal for buck deer and bulk elk, with no attached scope. (See *Firearms and archery equipment* that begins on page 22.)

Semi-automatic shotguns are not allowed in a HAMSS hunt.

Straight-walled rifle

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-47

Any straight-walled cartridge with a minimum bullet diameter of .35 caliber and a minimum case length of at least 1.16 inches may be used.

No semi-automatic rifle, scope or other optics, or electronics are allowed.

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

Utah Code § 76-10-528

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

Areas with special restrictions

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-12

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

Counties and local municipalities

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

State waterfowl and wildlife management areas

In 2024, you may hunt big game during the archery season on the following waterfowl management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, Browns Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Locomotive Springs and Redmond.

You may hunt big game during the archery, muzzleloader and any legal weapon seasons on the Stewart Lake Waterfowl Management Area.

Otherwise, all of Utah's other waterfowl management areas are closed to big game hunting.

WMA closures for sponsored pheasant hunts: Some wildlife management areas will be closed to the general public—including big game hunters—for organized youth and beginner pheasant hunts. Closures this year include:

- Oct. 26—Huntington Game Farm (until 3 p.m.)
- Nov. 9—Annabella, Pahvant, Pine Canyon Conservation (also known as Carr Fork) and part of the Ogden Bay WMA.

See wildlife.utah.gov/uplandyouth in late summer for more details.

Obtain permission to hunt private property

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

You must obtain documented permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting or trapping on private lands. Ideally, you should have permission **before** you apply for or obtain a permit.

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

You can find and download a landowner permission card at wildlife.utah.gov/permission.

State parks

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

Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas, **except** those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation in *Utah Admin. Rule R651-614*. For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/resources/hunting-at-state-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 *Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm* section on the previous page or review *Utah Code § 76-10-508*.

National wildlife refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expanded general-season archery hunting opportunities for mule deer and pronghorn on the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. For details, visit the refuge website at fws.gov/refuge/fish-springs.

Remember: All national wildlife refuges in Utah are closed to hunting **unless** they are declared open to hunting by the managing authority. Be sure to check refuge-specific hunting regulations before you head into the field.

National parks and monuments

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

Native American trust lands

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

Military installations

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

Salt Lake County

To view maps of the Salt Lake County areas listed below, visit hunt.utah.gov. These areas have various restrictions, and you may not do any of the following:

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

No drones allowed

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

The Utah Wildlife Board approved updates to technology regulations that prohibit the use of any type of aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device—between July 31 and Jan. 31—to locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife. This includes scouting and hunting.

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

CWMUs and limited-entry units

There are a few restrictions that apply to CWMUs and limited-entry hunting units:

- You may **not** hunt on a CWMU unless you obtain a permit to hunt a particular species on that CWMU.
- Archery hunters may not kill a cow elk on the Book Cliffs hunting unit.

Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve

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

Green River—Jensen, Utah

Reminder: Muzzleloaders are not permitted, and shotgun shot size is restricted.

You may not discharge a firearm—except a shotgun firing shot size not to exceed T(.20)—from, upon or across the Green River near Jensen, Utah, from the bridge on US-40 upstream to the Dinosaur National Monument boundary.

Motorized vehicle access on wildlife management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-14

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

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 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

You can find an authorization form online at wildlife.utah.gov/permission.

“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.

Prohibited hunting methods

Utah Code §§§ 23A-5-309, 23A-11-203, 76-10-504, 76-10-523 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-13

Baiting

Utah law prohibits the baiting of big game for hunting purposes throughout the state. (See the full definitions of “bait” and “baited area” on page 68.)

Unless you have special permission from the Division—in the form of a certificate of registration—it is unlawful to do any of the following:

- Bait big game for hunting purposes
- Take big game in a baited area
- Take big game that has been lured to or is traveling from a baited area

If you have questions about this law, please see our FAQ document at wildlife.utah.gov/bait-big-game or contact your local Division office (see page 2 for contact info).

Night-vision devices

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7

New this year: The Utah Wildlife Board clarified the rule language regarding 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.

The rule applies to anything that enhances visible and non-visible light and includes the use of night-vision devices, thermal-imaging devices, infrared-imaged devices and other electronic devices that enhance the visible and non-visible light spectrum.

See page 68 for definitions, and visit *wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams* for more information.

Spotlighting

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

- Rifle
- Shotgun
- Archery equipment
- Airgun
- Crossbow
- Muzzleloader

The use of a spotlight or other artificial light in any area where protected wildlife are generally found is considered probable cause of attempting to locate protected wildlife.

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

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

Technology

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7 through R657-5-11 & Utah Code §23A-5-307

While hunting big game, you may not use:

- Projectiles for which the path can be altered or electronically tracked after they have been set in motion.
- Visual-enhancement technology, such as nanotechnology, except for basic devices used solely for magnification.
- Pattern-recognition technology in hunting, such as artificial intelligence.
- Live-feed aerial imaging.
- Electronically amplified calls or sounds for the taking of big game animals.

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 much easier to report wildlife crimes, and you can do so anonymously, if needed.

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

1. Text a conservation officer at 847411
2. Call our hotline at 800-662-3337

3. Submit a tip through the UTDWR law enforcement app

4. Submit an online report at *wildlife.utah.gov/utip*

When you visit *wildlife.utah.gov/utip*, you can access the mobile download links for the UTDWR app and see which regional office code you should include in a text to officers. (The codes ensure that texts get to the regions and officers who are in the best position to respond.)

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

For HAMSS hunts only: Electronic communication to receive real-time information on hunter or game locations that would aid in the stalking of a specific big game animal is prohibited. (This includes the use of two-way radios, cellphones, etc.) This rule does not apply to general electronic communications in the field, including calls or communications relating to public safety.

Trail cameras

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.
- Other non-handheld devices capable of capturing image, video, location, time, or date data in the field to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of big game 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 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.
- Trail cameras that utilize internal data storage to be used on private property for the purposes of taking protected wildlife.

See the informational box on page 39 for details about restrictions and exceptions to this rule, and page 70 for definitions.

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

Use of vehicle or aircraft

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

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

Important: You are prohibited from using any type of aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device—between July 31 and Jan. 31—to locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife.

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

The provisions of this section do not apply to the operation of an aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device used for the purposes of transporting hunters, equipment or legally harvested wildlife, where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife.

Hunters who are transported by aircraft into an area may not hunt protected wildlife until the following day.

New this year: The requirement that an aircraft takes off and lands only from an “improved airstrip” has been removed, maintaining all other provisions that limit hunting from an aircraft.

Use of dogs

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

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

Utah hunters helping condors

Since 2012, more than 10,000 hunters have joined the Division in a voluntary program to help California condors survive in southern Utah. Condors, some of the world's rarest and largest birds, feed on dead animals, including the remains of harvested game species—both large and small. Lead-based ammo will usually break into hundreds of fragments when it enters an animal, and these fragments can be left behind in gut piles or unrecovered animals. Unfortunately, lead ammunition found in these remains can sicken and kill condors.

To keep condors from consuming lead as they scavenge game remains, the Division

has partnered with The Peregrine Fund, the National Park Service, Tracy Aviary, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce lead on the landscape. Together, we offer incentives for hunters to voluntarily use non-lead ammunition in the Zion hunt unit, where condors spend most of their time.

If you obtain a Zion unit big game permit for 2024, you will be eligible to obtain a **\$50 voucher for non-lead ammunition**. We will email you details about how to obtain and redeem your **free voucher**. Watch for the email so you can get your non-lead ammunition as soon as possible. For more information, visit wildlife.utah.gov/condors this summer.

Party hunting

Utah Code § 23A-4-201 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-15

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

The only exception to this rule is if a mentor shares a permit and tag with a minor as part of the Hunter Mentoring program. For details on this program, please see the box on page 54.

Big game contests

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-16

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

Tagging, transporting and exporting big game

Tagging requirements

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

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

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

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

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

New this year: 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 or permit—for at least three years.

Finding a skull with antlers or horns attached

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

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

For a quicker response, use the “Utah Deadhead Reporter” app to submit your claim:

- Visit wildlife.utah.gov/deadhead for instructions on how to install the ArcGIS Survey123 app on your mobile device and set up required permissions
- Enter your DWR customer ID number to start the report
- Following the prompts, submit a GPS location of the skull, photos of the animal and surrounding scene, and other important details for investigators

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

Transporting big game within Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-18

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

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

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

For more information, please see *Donating big game* on page 35.

Transporting big game out of Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-19

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

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

Bringing big game into Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-42

Reminder: It is unlawful to import dead elk, moose, mule deer or white-tailed deer—or their parts—from any state or province that has deer or elk diagnosed with chronic wasting disease, except the following portions of the carcass:

- Meat that is cut and wrapped, either commercially or privately
- Quarters or other portions of meat (no part of the spinal column or head may be attached to the meat)
- Meat that is boned out
- Hides with no heads attached
- Skulls with antlers attached, so long as all brain matter and spinal column material is removed
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached
- Upper canine teeth (also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories)
- Finished taxidermy heads

You can learn which areas in North America have been diagnosed with chronic wasting disease (CWD) by visiting wildlife.utah.gov/cwd or any Division office.

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

Possession and use of big game

Donating big game

Utah Code § 23A-1-205

New this year: The Utah legislature made several changes to the rules about donating big game. You may donate, or give, a big game animal or its parts to another person, as long as proper documentation of the donation is kept with the protected wildlife parts.

The documentation of the 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

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

Waste of game

Utah Code § 23A-5-314 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-51

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

You must immediately kill any animal you wound and tag the animal.

Important: A hunter must physically check the area where they shot at an animal to see if the animal was killed or wounded before the hunter leaves the area. If you do harvest an animal, you must harvest the meat from the front quarters, above the knee; from the hind quarters, above the hocks; and along the backbone—between the neck and hind quarters—including the loins and tenderloins.

Purchasing or selling big game or its parts

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-20

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

- Antlers, heads and horns of legally taken big game may be bought or sold from Feb. 1 through July 31.
- Untanned hides of legally taken big game may be bought or sold from Aug. 1 through Jan. 31.
- Tanned hides of legally taken big game may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- Shed antlers and horns may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- **New this year:** Commercial antler buyers (an individual or entity that purchases

antlers or shed horns for the purpose of reselling them for financial gain) must have a valid certificate of registration. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/antler-gathering* for details.

- Protected wildlife that the Division obtains may be sold or donated by the Division or its agents (usually Utah State Surplus) any time of the year. Also, you may purchase or receive protected wildlife from the Division any time of the year.

New: The Utah Legislature updated the rules regarding when byproducts from legally possessed game can be used by meat processors in dog food products. See *Utah Code § 23A-5-309* for details.

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

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

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

New this year: The Utah Wildlife Board clarified that individuals may modify and resell antlers and horns if they were legally gathered or obtained.

Possession of antlers and horns

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-21

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

- From lawfully harvested big game
- By lawfully meeting the requirements listed in the previous section (i.e., *Purchasing or selling big game or its parts*)
- From lawfully gathered antlers or horns shed by big game animals

New this year: The Utah Wildlife Board approved several changes regarding shed antler gathering.

You may gather shed antlers or horns—or parts of shed antlers or horns—statewide, but there are a few requirements:

- There are no seasonal shed antler gathering closures for Utah residents or non-residents.
- **New dates for ethics course completion:** From Jan. 1 to May 31, you must have an antler-gathering certificate on your person—either a printed copy or downloaded to your Utah Hunting and Fishing app—while collecting shed antlers or horns. You can obtain this certificate free of charge by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov/shedantler* and completing an online education course. You do not need an antler-gathering certificate at any other time of the year.

Emergency closures clarified (new): In the event that harsh winter conditions trigger emergency feeding of big game, the DWR Director will close shed hunting statewide in order to improve the chances of survival for deer and other big game animals. On private land, shed antlers may be moved if they are interfering with normal agricultural practices.

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

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

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

BIG GAME HUNTS

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

Buck deer hunting



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

General-season buck deer hunts

Utah has four general-season buck deer hunts:

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

See hunt.utah.gov for all hunt boundaries.

General-season archery buck deer hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-23

Utah’s general-season archery buck deer hunt runs from Aug. 17–Sept. 13, 2024.

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

Extended archery deer hunts

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

In the Nine Mile, Green River Valley; Sanpete Valley and South Wasatch extended archery areas, you may use archery equipment to take a deer of either sex (hunter’s choice) from Sept. 14–Oct. 15, 2024.

In the Box Elder, West Bear River; Herriman South Valley; Ogden; Uintah Basin; Utah Lake; Wasatch Front and West Cache extended archery areas, you may use archery equipment to take a deer of either sex (hunter’s choice) from Sept. 14–Nov. 30, 2024.

Before hunting any of the extended archery areas, you must complete the Division’s archery ethics course. For more information, see page 7 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery.

Important: Check the hunt number (not just the hunt unit name) on your permit carefully and refer to the Utah Hunt Planner (hunt.utah.gov) to make sure your permit allows you to hunt in an extended archery unit within the allowed season dates.

General-season muzzleloader buck deer hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-25

Utah’s general-season muzzleloader buck deer hunt runs from Sept. 25–Oct. 3, 2024.

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

Early general-season buck deer hunts

For 2024, the Utah Wildlife Board approved early general-season any weapon buck deer hunts on the following general-season buck deer units:

- Chalk Creek
- East Canyon
- Fillmore
- Fishlake ◊
- Kamas
- Morgan-South Rich
- Nine Mile*
- North Slope
- Panguitch Lake
- Pine Valley
- Zion

These hunts will run from Oct. 9–13, 2024. The goal of these hunts is to reduce crowding and give hunters the opportunity to hunt deer and general-season elk at the same time.

**In the general season, a portion of the Myton unit is part of this unit. For details see hunt.utah.gov.*

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

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-24

The general-season any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer hunt runs from Oct. 19–27, 2024.

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

Premium limited-entry and limited-entry buck deer hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-26

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

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

A limited-entry buck deer permit allows you to hunt on a high-quality unit that is managed for a higher buck-to-doe ratio than general-season units are managed for.

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

Late-season muzzleloader deer hunts

For 2024, the Utah Wildlife Board approved late-season, limited-entry muzzleloader deer hunts on all general-season buck deer units.

These hunts will occur at the same time as the general muzzleloader elk hunt, running from Oct. 30–Nov. 7, 2024.

Important: If you are successful in obtaining a permit for one of these hunts, you will lose your bonus points and incur a waiting period of **five** years.

Multi-season hunts

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

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

HAMSS buck deer hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-47

There are three handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only (HAMSS) hunts for buck deer in 2024. These hunts are considered limited-entry hunts.

If you obtained a permit for one of these hunts, you may take one buck deer in the season and unit identified on your permit.

The 2024 HAMSS hunts will take place in the following units and season dates:

- Book Cliffs, Floy Canyon; Nov. 9–24
- East Canyon; Nov. 9–24
- Kaiparowits HAMSS; Nov. 9–30

Note: HAMSS permits are not valid on extended archery hunts.

More opportunity for limited-entry archers

Limited-entry archery deer hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will be allowed to hunt the extended archery areas after completing the online extended archery course. For details, see page 7 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery.

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

Management and cactus buck deer hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-46

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

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.

What are the rules for night-vision devices?

- **Rule language updated this year:** 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

Learn more about these and other prohibited hunting methods on page 30 of this guidebook. See page 68 for definitions.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams for more details about these rules.

Obtaining and using a management buck deer permit

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

A management buck deer permit allows you to take one management buck deer. You must use the weapon listed on your permit to hunt within the unit and season specified on your permit.

New this year: After taking a management buck deer, you no longer need to check in your deer at a Division office for inspection. However, you must complete the mandatory harvest survey questionnaire at wildlife.utah.gov/harvest within 30 days after the end of your hunt, even if you did not harvest a deer.

Remember: If you obtained a management buck deer permit, that is the **only** buck deer permit you may obtain for the 2024 season. You will lose your bonus points and incur a waiting period of **five** years.

Obtaining and using a cactus buck deer permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-47

A “cactus buck” is one that still has velvet covering at least 50 percent of his antlers during the season dates set by the Wildlife Board.

Cactus buck deer permits are distributed through the big game drawing process. If you drew a cactus buck permit, you may take one cactus buck deer during the season, in the area, and with the weapon type specified on the permit.

Important: If you drew a cactus buck permit, you must also complete a mandatory harvest survey once your hunt ends, even if you did not harvest. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/harvest and complete the harvest survey questionnaire within 30 days after the end of your hunt.

New this year: After taking your buck deer, you no longer need to check in your deer at a Division office for inspection but you will still need to complete a harvest survey online at wildlife.utah.gov/harvest within 30 days of the end of your hunt, even if you do not harvest a deer.

Remember: If you obtained a cactus buck deer permit, that is the **only** buck deer permit you may obtain for the 2024 season. You will lose your bonus points and incur a waiting period of **five** years.

CWMU buck deer hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt buck deer on a CWMU unless you obtain a buck deer permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting buck deer on CWMUs, read the article on page 58 and visit wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu.

Obtaining other deer permits

If you obtained a buck deer permit of any kind, the only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit. Please see page 52 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.



Utah Turn in a Poacher

Reporting Options

Help us protect your 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.



SHOOT FOR SKILL

Safely practice your firearm and archery skills for upcoming hunts at our public shooting ranges.



HUNTER EDUCATION • SHOOTING CLINICS • ARCHERY RANGES

LEE KAY

PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE

6000 W. 2100 SOUTH • SALT LAKE CITY

wildlife.utah.gov/lee-kay

CACHE VALLEY

PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE

2851 W. 200 NORTH • LOGAN

wildlife.utah.gov/cache-valley

Bull elk hunting



A “bull elk” is an elk with antlers that are longer than five inches (R657-5-2(2)(g)).

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

General-season bull elk hunts

Utah has four general-season elk hunts:

- Archery hunt
- Any legal weapon hunt
- Muzzleloader hunt
- Multi-season hunt (spike only)

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

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

Remember: If you obtain a multi-season spike elk permit, you may hunt during the archery, any legal weapon and muzzleloader seasons, but you must hunt on the type of unit specified on your permit and you must use the appropriate weapon type for the season.

Permits for the general-season elk hunts will be available on different days in July 2024. See page 15 for the exact sales dates and visit wildlife.utah.gov/biggame in early June to see purchase times and locations.



Legal in a spike bull unit.



Legal in a spike bull unit.



Legal in a spike bull unit.



NOT legal in a spike bull unit.

General-season archery elk hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-28

Utah's general-season archery spike elk hunt runs from Aug. 17–Sept. 6, 2024. The general-season archery any bull elk hunt runs from Aug. 17–Sept. 18, 2024, except on the state's extended archery areas, where the season runs later into the year.

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

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

Extended archery elk hunts

If you haven't taken an elk by the time your archery hunt ends, you may continue hunting in the Uintah Basin, Wasatch Front and West Cache extended archery elk areas during the extended archery elk season, which runs from Aug. 17–Dec. 15, 2024.

To hunt any of the extended archery areas, you must complete the Division's archery ethics course and carry your archery ethics course certificate of completion with you while you're hunting. For more information, see page 8 visit wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery.

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

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-29

The general-season any legal weapon any bull hunt is now divided into two separate seven-day hunts:

- **Early** general-season any legal weapon: Oct. 5–11, 2024
- **Late** general-season any legal weapon: Oct. 12–18, 2024

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

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

You may use a crossbow, an airgun, a draw lock or a muzzleloader.

If you obtain a spike bull elk permit, you may take a spike bull elk on a general-season spike bull elk unit. You may **not** hunt on the any bull elk units. Please keep in mind that some limited-entry bull elk hunts overlap the general-season spike elk hunt.

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

In 2024, there will be an unlimited number of general-season any bull elk permits (any legal weapon, muzzleloader or multi-season) available for youth who will be 17 years of age or younger on July 31, 2024. **These permits are not valid for the draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk hunt that runs from Sept. 14–22, 2024.** Visit wildlife.utah.gov/biggame in early June to see purchase times and locations.

See the general-season bull elk hunt reference map on page 60, and the boundary descriptions at hunt.utah.gov, to learn where spike bull units and any bull elk units are located in the state.

General-season muzzleloader elk hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-30

The general-season muzzleloader elk hunt runs from Oct. 30–Nov. 7, 2024 within the general-season elk units.

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

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

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

Please see the general-season bull elk hunt reference map on page 60 and the boundary descriptions at hunt.utah.gov to learn where spike bull units and any bull elk units are located in the state.

Multi-season general spike bull elk hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-29

The multi-season spike bull elk permit is capped at 4,500 permits issued for the 2024 hunting season.

Your hunting season dates and hunt areas vary by season, and are listed on your multi-season spike bull permit:

- **Archery season:** You may take an antlerless elk or spike bull elk on any spike unit Aug. 17–Sept. 6 (only spike bull elk can be taken on the Book Cliffs unit). You may take any bull elk on an any bull unit Aug. 17–Sept. 18.
- **Any legal weapon season:** Oct. 5–17; you may use any legal weapon to take a spike bull elk on a general-season spike unit.
- **Muzzleloader season:** Oct. 30–Nov. 9; you may use muzzleloader equipment to take a spike bull elk on a general-season spike unit.

Extended archery elk hunts

If you haven't taken an elk by the time your multi-season hunt ends, you may continue hunting in the Uintah Basin, Wasatch Front and West Cache extended archery elk areas during the extended archery elk season, which runs from Aug. 17–Dec. 15, 2024.

To hunt any of the extended archery areas, you must complete the Division's archery ethics course and carry your archery ethics course certificate of completion with you while you're hunting. For more information, see page 7 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery.

Reminder: If you are hunting in an extended archery elk area during the extended archery elk season, you may harvest **any bull elk** or antlerless elk. (This applies even if the extended archery area overlaps a spike bull elk unit.)

Obtaining bull elk permits

General-season any bull elk permits (including multi-season or spike bull elk) will be available on different days in July 2024. See page 15 for the exact sales dates and visit wildlife.utah.gov/biggame in early June to see purchase times and locations.

Bull elk hunt opportunities for youth

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-31

In 2024, there will be an unlimited number of general-season any bull elk permits (any legal weapon, muzzleloader or multi-season) available for youth who will be 17 years of age or younger on July 31, 2024. Remember, you **cannot** hunt until you are at least 12 years old.

The youth general-season any bull elk permits go on sale July 9, 2024. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/biggame in early June to see permit purchase times and locations.

Remember: The unlimited youth general-season elk permit will be valid during all general-season dates on both any bull and spike units.

The general-season any bull permits referenced above are not for the draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk hunt that runs from Sept. 14–22, 2024. Permits for that hunt were **only** available through the big game drawing.

If you drew a permit for the draw-only youth elk hunt—which runs from Sept. 14–22, 2024—you may use any legal weapon to take a bull elk or antlerless elk of any size on any general-season any bull elk unit in Utah.

Please remember that although you may take a spike bull elk during this hunt, you may **not** hunt on a spike bull elk unit.

You may obtain only one draw-only youth elk hunt permit in your lifetime.

Limited-entry bull elk hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-32

A limited-entry bull elk permit allows you to use the weapon listed on your permit to take one bull elk of any size within the area and season specified on your permit.

Multi-season hunts

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

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

Note: These hunts exclude the limited-entry late-season archery elk hunts, Nov. 30–Dec. 15, 2024. See hunt.utah.gov to confirm allowable units.

HAMSS bull elk hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-48

For 2024, the Utah Wildlife Board approved handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only (HAMSS) hunts (Nov. 9–30, 2024) on these four limited-entry elk units:

- Cache, North
- Barney Top/Kaiparowits ◊
- Southwest Desert, North
- West Desert, Deep Creek

Note: HAMSS permits are not valid on extended archery hunts.

More opportunity for limited-entry archers

Limited-entry archery elk hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will be allowed to hunt the extended archery areas after completing the online extended archery course. For details, please see page 8 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery.

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

CWMU bull elk hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt bull elk on a CWMU unless you obtain a bull elk permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting bull elk on CWMUs, read the article on page 58 and visit wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu.

Obtaining other elk permits

If you obtained a bull elk permit of any kind, the only other elk permits you can obtain are antlerless elk permits. Please see page 52 for more information on antlerless elk hunts.

Avoid harvesting collared wildlife

The Division has placed radio and GPS collars on bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goats and pronghorn in various areas across the state. The Division is monitoring these animals for ongoing studies about migration and survival.

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

If you do harvest a collared animal, please remove the collar without cutting it, pull the front two incisors (for aging purposes) and contact your local Division office for information on how to return the collar.

To learn more about collared wildlife studies and the Utah Wildlife Migration Initiative, visit wildlifemigration.utah.gov.

Every hunt tells a story.

Hunt data is a crucial tool for gaining insights into Utah's big game hunts and populations.

If you obtain a general-season buck deer or bull elk permit of any kind, see details and report your harvest at:

WILDLIFE.UTAH.GOV/HARVEST

OR CALL 800 221 0 59



Buck pronghorn hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-34



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

To hunt buck pronghorn, you must possess a buck pronghorn permit.

You may apply for and hunt a doe and buck pronghorn in the same year.

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

You may use a crossbow, an airgun, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the any legal weapon (rifle) hunt.

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

CWMU buck pronghorn hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a small number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt buck pronghorn on a CWMU unless you obtain a buck pronghorn permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting buck pronghorn on CWMUs, read the article on page 58 and visit wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu.

Interact with maps using the Avenza Maps™ app

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

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

To access these maps on your mobile devices:

- Turn to the maps on pages 60-67 and use your smartphone to scan the QR code on the map you want to view.
- If you do not have Avenza Maps installed on your device, you will be directed to the App Store or Google Play to download and install the app on your device.
- If you already have Avenza Maps on your device, you can scan the map QR code using the reader in Avenza Maps (or your device's QR reader) and the map will load.
- Find additional DWR maps by searching "UDWR" in the Avenza Map Store.

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME HUNTS

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

Bison hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-38



To hunt bison, you must possess a bison permit. You may obtain a bison permit through the big game drawing only once in your lifetime. An exception to this once-in-a-lifetime bison rule is that you may purchase an over-the-counter permit for the Nine Mile unit (see page 34 for details).

If you obtained a hunter's choice bison permit, you may use the weapon type listed on your permit to take one bison of either sex within the area and the season listed on your permit.

If you obtained a cow bison permit, you may use the weapon type listed on your permit to take only a cow bison within the area and the season listed on your permit.

Note: You may obtain only one bison permit—of any kind—during the 2024 season.

Important: All bison hunters must review educational information about shot placement prior to the hunt. Details about this requirement will accompany your permit; see *wildlife.utah.gov/bisonhunting* for more information about shot placement.

Online orientation course

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

Antelope Island

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

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

Because the Antelope Island hunt is administered by Utah State Parks, your hunt will include some extra park-related fees. For more information, please call 801-725-9263.

Nine Mile bison opportunity

Note: The Nile Mile unit is extraordinarily rugged and difficult to access. The odds of a successful bison hunt are fairly low.

See *hunt.utah.gov* for detailed boundary information.

Hunters who are willing to give up any future opportunities to apply for a bison permit in the big game drawing may purchase an over-the-counter bison hunting permit for this area. There is a mandatory online course before you can purchase a permit. The course explains the access issues in detail and is very direct in describing the challenges of the hunt. For additional details about this hunt and to take the course, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/biggame*.

Permits will be available for purchase starting July 9, 2024. You can buy the permits at *wildlife.utah.gov* and at license agent locations and Division offices.

Important: If you purchase a permit for this hunt, you will forfeit any future opportunities to apply for a bison permit in the big game drawing. You can, however, continue to purchase this permit annually as long as the permit is offered.

Bull moose hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-37



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

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

Your bull moose permit allows you to use the weapon type listed on your permit to take one bull moose within the hunting unit and season specified on your permit.

You may apply for and hunt cow and bull moose in the same year.

CWMU bull moose hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt on a bull moose CWMU unless you obtain a bull moose permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting bull moose on CWMUs, read the article on page 58 and visit wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu.



UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Hunting & Fishing App

NEW! Keep regulations and season dates at your fingertips with the new *Download Guidebooks* feature.

Learn more and download for **FREE** at WILDLIFE.UTAH.GOV/MOBILEAPP



Ram desert bighorn and ram Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-39



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

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

Ram desert bighorn sheep hunts and ram Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunts are considered separate once-in-a-lifetime hunts. For example, if you obtain a ram desert bighorn sheep permit, and you’ve never obtained a ram Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit before, you can continue applying for a ram Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit.

A hunter may obtain a maximum of one ram Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit and one ram desert bighorn sheep permit in the same year, but both permits may not be obtained through the big game drawing.

A ram bighorn sheep permit allows you to use the weapon type listed on your permit to take one ram within the area and the season specified on your permit.

You may apply for and hunt ewe and ram bighorn sheep in the same year.

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 Division will also waive the required combination or hunting license fee when you make that point purchase. To qualify for these exemptions, a military member must:

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

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

New this year: Hunters do not need to physically check in their ram at a Division office after harvest, nor are they required to obtain a plug for bighorn sheep horns. However, if you obtain a ram or sheep permit of any kind, you must complete the online harvest report within 30 days of the hunt season ending, even if you did not harvest an animal. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/harvest for more information.

Mountain goat hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-40



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

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

If you obtained a hunter's choice mountain goat permit, you may use the weapon type listed on your permit to take one goat of either sex within the area and the season listed on your permit.

If you obtained a female mountain goat permit, you may use the weapon type listed on your permit to take only a female goat within the area and the season listed on your permit.

Note: You may obtain only one mountain goat permit—of any kind—during the 2024 season.

Online orientation course

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

Possible habitat work in your hunt area

Throughout the year, the Division 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.

Those projects range from plant removal to prescribed burns and from helicopter reseeding to large-scale planting projects. They help restore habitat for mule deer, elk, sage-grouse and other species, giving them the food and cover they need to thrive on the landscape.

Please be aware that projects occur across the state, year round. This means that sometimes a project may occur in a portion of your hunt area, during the hunt.

If this is something you're concerned about, you may want to contact the land-management agency for your hunt area this summer. They may be able to give you a tentative list of projects for 2024, which will give you more information in planning your hunt.

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

ANTLERLESS HUNTS

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

Antlerless deer hunting

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-27



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

To hunt antlerless deer, you must possess an antlerless deer permit. A person may obtain only one antlerless deer permit or one two-doe antlerless deer permit through the antlerless drawing.

An antlerless deer permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one antlerless deer in the area and season specified on your permit.

A two-doe antlerless deer permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take two antlerless deer in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, an airgun, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

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

You may obtain only one antlerless deer permit for the 2024 antlerless season.

Additional opportunity

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

- General-season buck deer (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or dedicated hunter)
- General-season bull elk (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season spike elk)
- Premium limited-entry buck deer (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Limited-entry buck deer (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Limited-entry bull elk (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Antlerless elk

If your antlerless deer permit is for the same area as one of the permits listed above—and you use the appropriate weapon type specified for your current hunting season—you may use your antlerless deer permit during the season listed on your other permit.

If you harvest a buck deer, bull elk or antlerless elk—and you have an unfilled antlerless deer permit—you may continue hunting antlerless deer during the buck deer, bull elk or antlerless elk season listed on your other permit. However, you may not use a permit for a buck deer or bull elk during the antlerless season, unless it's during the timeframe when the two seasons overlap.

Important: Antlerless elk permits may be used only during the season dates printed on your permit.

Antlerless elk hunting

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



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

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

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, an airgun, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

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

Antlerless season dates online

To review the 2024 antlerless season dates—as well as information about antlerless hunting options, permit numbers, application dates, maps and hunt boundaries—visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks. These tools and resources will be available online May 16.

You can apply for antlerless permits June 5–19, 2024.

For more information on the antlerless application period, see page 14.

Obtain three elk permits

You can obtain up to three elk permits in Utah each year.

- A maximum of one permit can be for a bull elk.
- A maximum of one antlerless elk permit can be obtained through the antlerless drawing.
- A maximum of two antlerless elk permits can be obtained over the counter.

For the purposes of obtaining multiple elk permits, an archery elk permit (hunter's choice) is considered a bull elk permit.

Likewise, general-season archery permits are also considered bull elk permits. Antlerless elk-control or private-lands-only permits are considered antlerless permits.

You may apply for only one antlerless elk permit in the antlerless drawing.

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

Over-the-counter antlerless elk permits include all of the following:

- Antlerless elk-control permits (for detailed information about these permits, see wildlife.utah.gov/antlerless/antlerless-elk-control-permits)
- Private-lands-only permits (for detailed information about these permits, see wildlife.utah.gov/antlerless/private-lands-only-permits)
- Mitigation vouchers
- CWMU vouchers
- Any general-season permits that remain available after the antlerless drawing

Please keep in mind that both antlerless elk-control and private-lands-only permits have special usage requirements. Do **not** purchase either of the permits until you understand and can meet those requirements.

The units where you can use these permits **may change every year**. See the map on page 66 to view all of the antlerless elk-control units.

Note: Antlerless elk-control permits must be used on an antlerless elk-control hunting unit and cannot be used on a CWMU.

Important: Antlerless elk permits may be used only during the season dates printed on your permit.

Hunter Mentoring program

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

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. Only swan and sandhill crane permits may not be shared because they are subject to conflicting federal regulations.

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

Doe pronghorn hunting

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-35



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

To hunt a doe pronghorn, you must possess either a doe pronghorn permit or a two-doe pronghorn permit. A person may obtain only one doe pronghorn permit or one two-doe pronghorn permit through the antlerless drawing.

A doe pronghorn permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one doe pronghorn in the area and season specified on your permit.

A two-doe pronghorn permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take two doe pronghorn in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, an airgun, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

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

You may apply for and hunt doe and buck pronghorn in the same year.

Antlerless moose hunting

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-36



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

To hunt antlerless moose, you must first obtain an antlerless moose permit. This permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one antlerless moose in the area and season specified on your permit.

You may apply for and hunt cow and bull moose in the same year.

You may not hunt antlerless moose on a Co-operative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain an antlerless moose permit for that CWMU.

Antlerless moose hunters are strongly encouraged **not** to harvest a cow moose with a calf present.

Ewe bighorn sheep hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-39.5



A “ewe” is a female bighorn sheep or any bighorn sheep younger than one year of age (R657-5-2(2)(m)).

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

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks in late May to research antlerless hunting options and permit application information.

A ewe bighorn sheep permit allows you to use the weapon type listed on your permit to take one ewe within the area and the season specified on your permit.

You may apply for and hunt ewe and ram bighorn sheep in the same year.

PERMIT SURRENDERS, REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

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

What happens if you obtain a permit and then realize you won't be able to use it? You have a few options, some of which have recently changed.

Surrendering a permit

If you need to surrender your permit—and your hunting season hasn't started—you should consider surrendering the permit as soon as possible. If you surrender early enough, you'll be able to keep your bonus points or preference points and avoid a waiting period.

Reminder: If you want to surrender your big game permit, you are strongly encouraged to do so **at least 30 days before the season opens**. Learn more below or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/refund*.

Individuals

How permit surrender affects an individual's bonus and preference points

Reminder: If you surrender a big game permit at least 30 days before the start of the season, you'll get all of your previously accrued bonus or preference points for that species/permit back, but you will not earn a point for the current year. **Important: If you surrender a big game permit less than 30 days before the season opens, you will lose all of your previously accrued bonus or preference points for that species/permit and you will not earn a point for the current year.**

As long as you surrender a big game permit before the season opens, any applicable waiting period(s) will be waived.

Groups

How permit surrender affects a group's bonus and preference points

Reminder: If you obtain a permit through a group application—and then you decide to

surrender it—you will not have your bonus or preference points reinstated unless your **entire** group meets the following conditions:

- All group members must surrender their permits
- Permit surrenders must occur at least 30 days before the start of the season

Note: Even if you meet the above conditions, you will not earn a point for the current year.

Important: If some of your group members surrender their permits **less than 30 days** from the season opener, **all** group members will lose **all** of their bonus or preference points.

Members of the group may not surrender their permits individually unless the surrender occurs because of:

- Activation in the military
- An injury/illness that will prevent the individual from hunting
- Death

How permit surrender affects waiting periods

If members of a group surrender their permits before the season begins, the waiting period will be waived. General-season permits are not subject to waiting periods.

Dedicated Hunters

If you're enrolled in the Dedicated Hunter program, and you decide to surrender your permit, you must return it to the Division before Aug. 17, 2024 (the day the general-season archery deer hunt opens).

Private landowner and CWMU permit holders

If you obtain a limited-entry landowner permit or a private CWMU permit, you can surrender it.

Limited-entry private landowner permits must be surrendered before the season the permit was issued for opens.

To surrender a private CWMU permit, there are two options. If possible, you should surrender your CWMU permit before the CWMU season opening dates listed on page 59. To surrender your permit after the CWMU season has started, but before you hunt, you and the CWMU operator must both sign an affidavit stating that you did not hunt with the permit. Both of the signatures must be notarized.

After the signatures are notarized, submit the affidavit and the unused permit to the Division.

Obtaining a refund

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

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

Exchanging a permit

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

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

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

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

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

Duplicate licenses

Utah Code § 23A-4-208 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-5

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

If you drew a license or permit, but you never received it, the Division may waive the fee that you would normally have to pay to get a duplicate.

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

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.

COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

More than 60 percent of the rangelands that Utah's big game animals rely on in the winter are on private land. Utah's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) program works with landowners to preserve these lands, improve the habitat and provide more access to public hunters.

How the program works

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

CWMUs comprise more than two million acres of land in Utah. They'll provide more than 4,600 big game and antlerless hunting permits in 2024. Approximately one-third of those permits are available to the general public through the state's big game drawing.

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

Obtaining a CWMU permit

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

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

If you obtain a CWMU voucher, you can redeem it for a permit by visiting *wildlifelicense.utah.gov/hflo*.

If you obtain a CWMU permit, you may hunt only on the CWMU that's specified on your permit. You may take only one animal of the species and sex listed on the permit. You'll also incur a waiting period for the species you obtained a permit for. (Please see pages 22–23 in the 2024 *Utah Big Game Application Guidebook* for more information about waiting periods.)

You may not obtain more than one bull moose, one buck deer, one buck pronghorn or one bull elk permit in a year. Additionally, you can obtain antlerless deer, antlerless elk and doe pronghorn permits. More information about antlerless permits is available on page 14.

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

Note: Antlerless elk-control permits must be used on an antlerless elk-control hunting unit and **cannot** be used on a CWMU.

How to participate

If you draw a permit to hunt a CWMU, it is your responsibility to contact the CWMU operator to obtain the following:

- The dates you'll be allowed to hunt within the legal CWMU hunting season framework. Both you and the operator must schedule around each of your individual needs—please be realistic and patient.
- A map of the CWMU, including access points. The CWMU will provide public hunters access to the entire CWMU, except for areas that are closed to both public and private hunters. If you feel that you haven't received equal treatment, please contact your regional Division office.
- A copy of the CWMU's rules. CWMUs are allowed to develop rules of conduct for their unit. Examples of these rules may include: no preseason scouting; checking into and out of the unit daily; limited vehicle access; no overnight camping; a marksman-

ship test; and limiting the number of hunting companions. If you fail to abide by these rules, you might be asked to leave the CWMU. You can also review these rules online at wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu.

Season dates

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

Please remember that Sunday does not count as part of the established hunting time-frame unless mutually agreed upon by both the hunter and the CWMU operator.

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

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

Hunt	Dates
Archery hunts for buck deer, buck pronghorn and bull elk	Aug. 17–Oct. 31, 2024
Any legal weapon (rifle) hunts for buck deer, buck pronghorn, bull elk and bull moose	Aug. 31–Oct. 31, 2024
Muzzleloader hunts for buck deer	Aug. 31–Oct. 31, 2024
Muzzleloader hunts for bull elk	Aug. 31–Oct. 31, 2024

Some deer and elk CWMUs have hunting seasons outside of these timeframes. For all CWMU hunt season dates, operator names and contact numbers, visit wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU.

Reporting your harvest

Important: If you obtain a CWMU permit of any kind, you must report information about your hunt within 30 days after it ends, even if you did not harvest an animal.

Please see page 21 for more information about this important requirement.

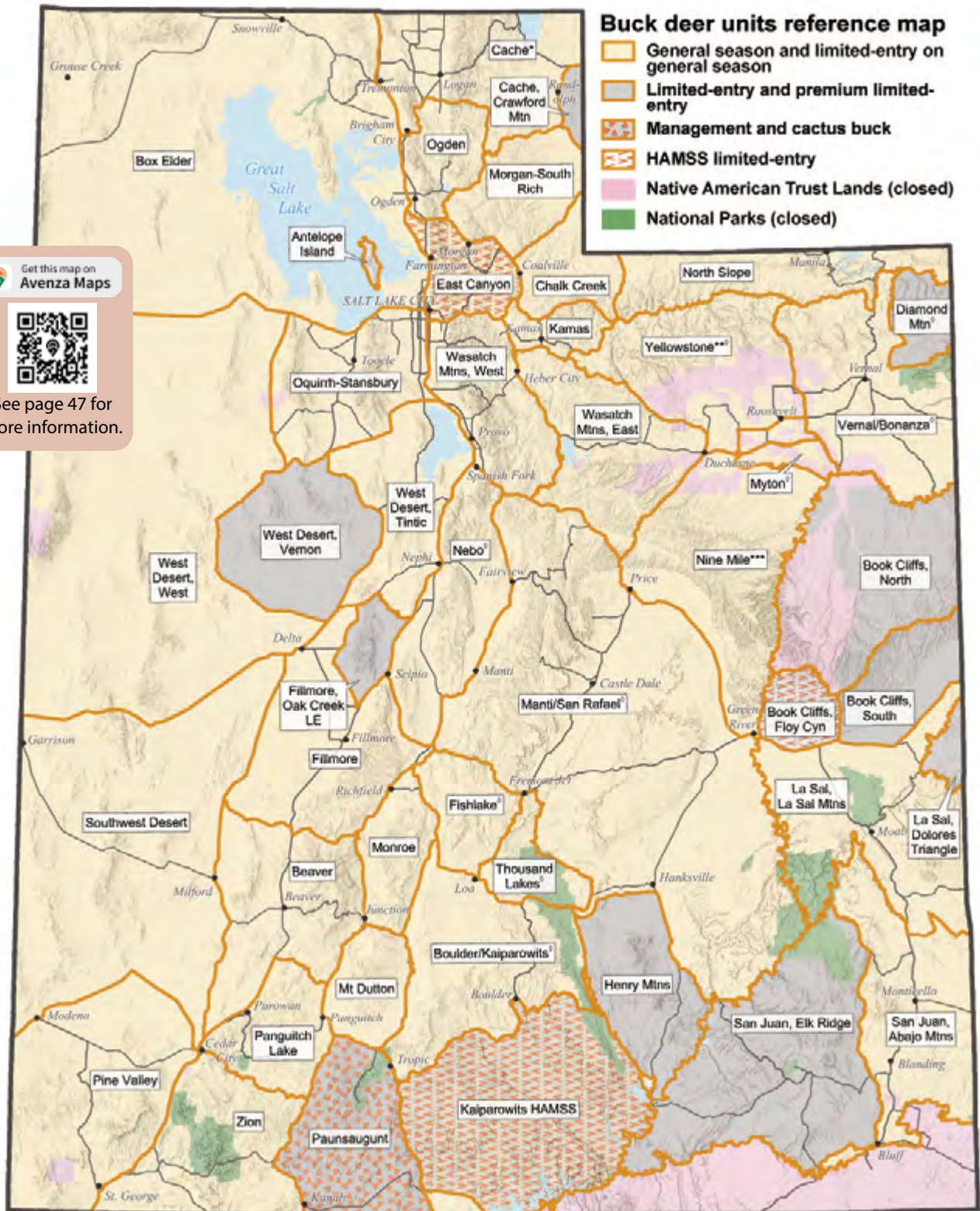
Complaint process

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

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

Learn more

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

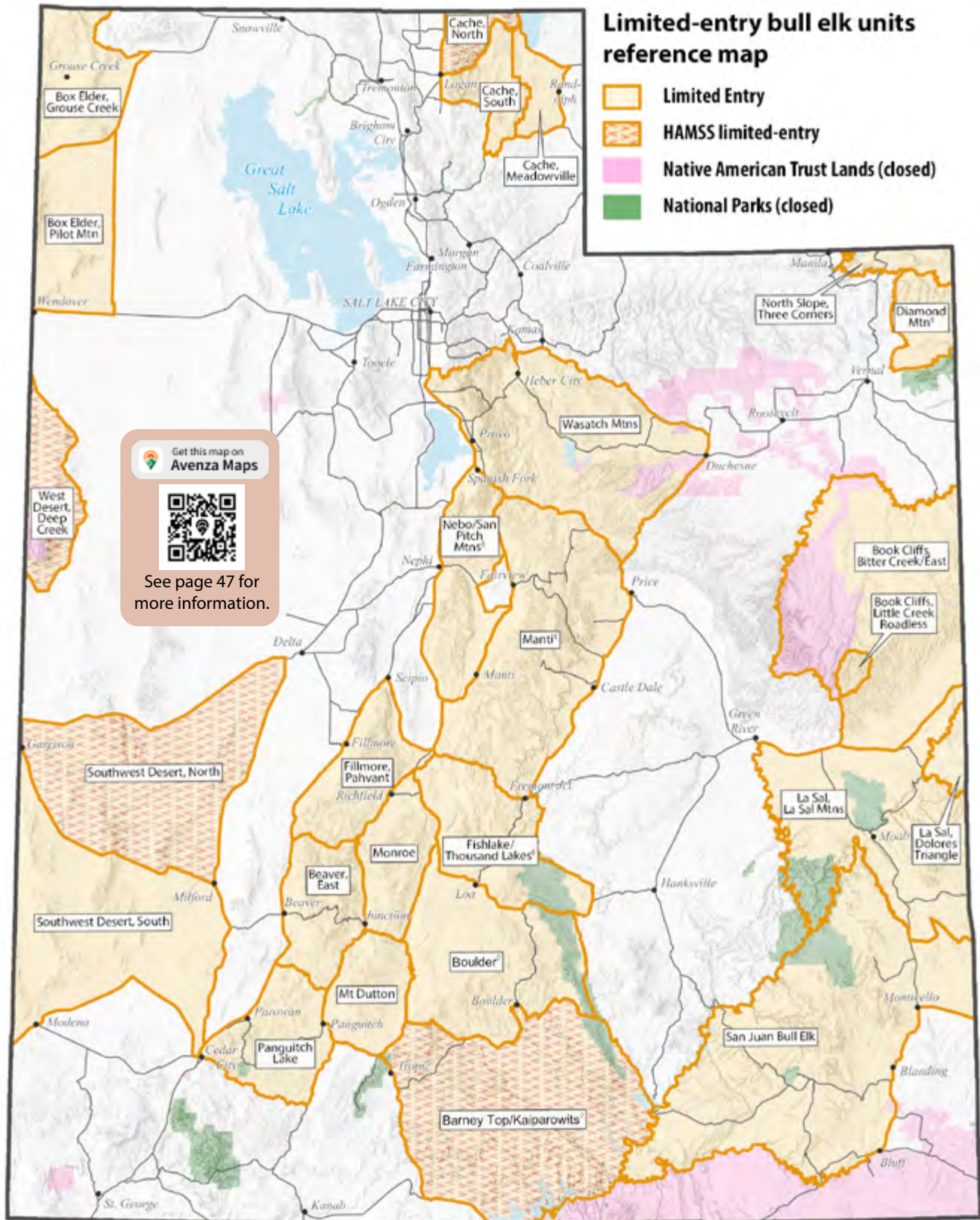


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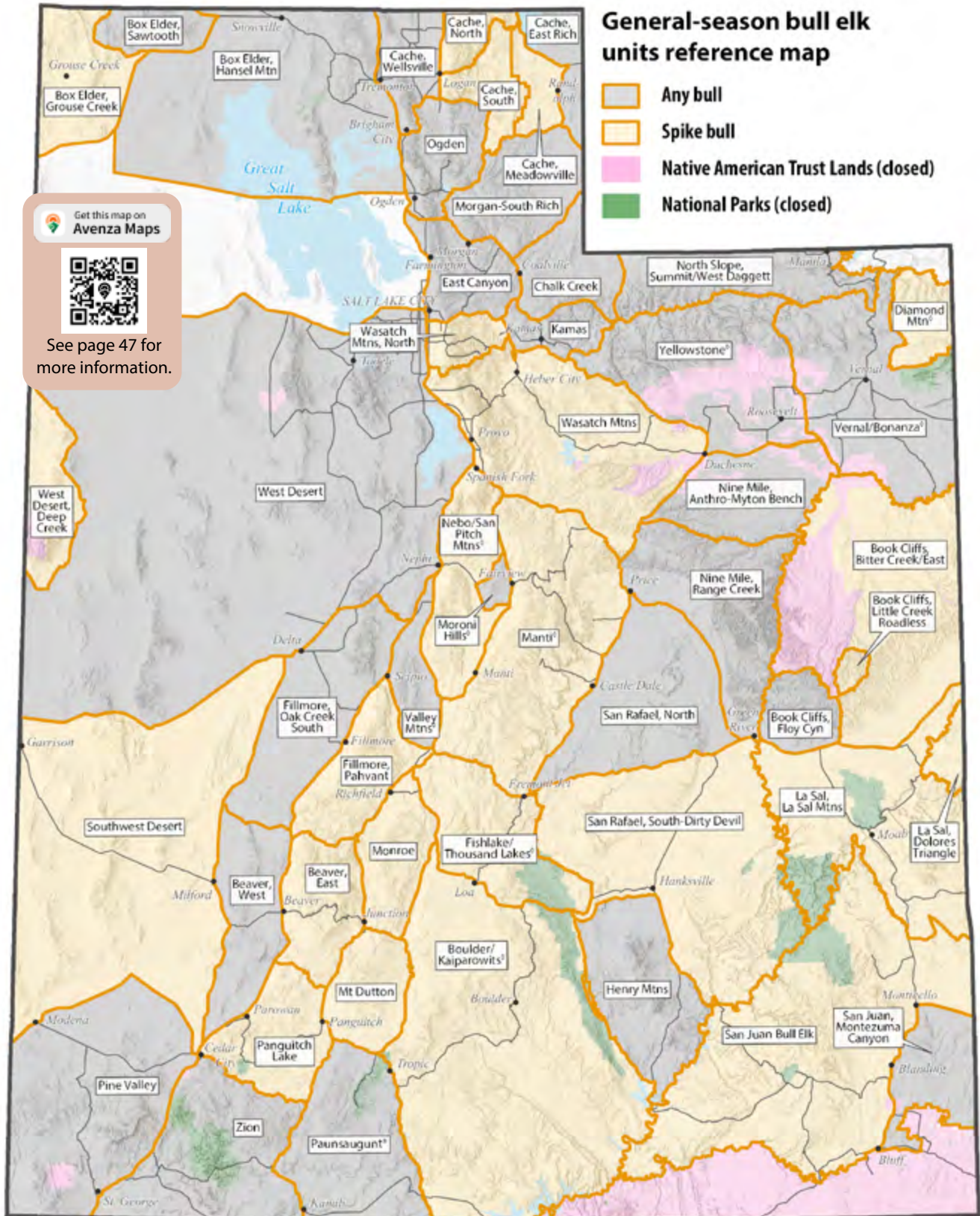
See page 47 for more information.

*During the general season, the Cache unit also includes the Cache, Crawford Mtn unit.
 **During the general season, the Yellowstone unit includes the northern portion of the Myton unit.
 ***During the general season, the Nine Mile unit includes the southern portion of the Myton unit.

This map is for general reference only. Please visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units exclude deer CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting. ◊ Hunt unit name has been modified, hunt number is the same as previous years.

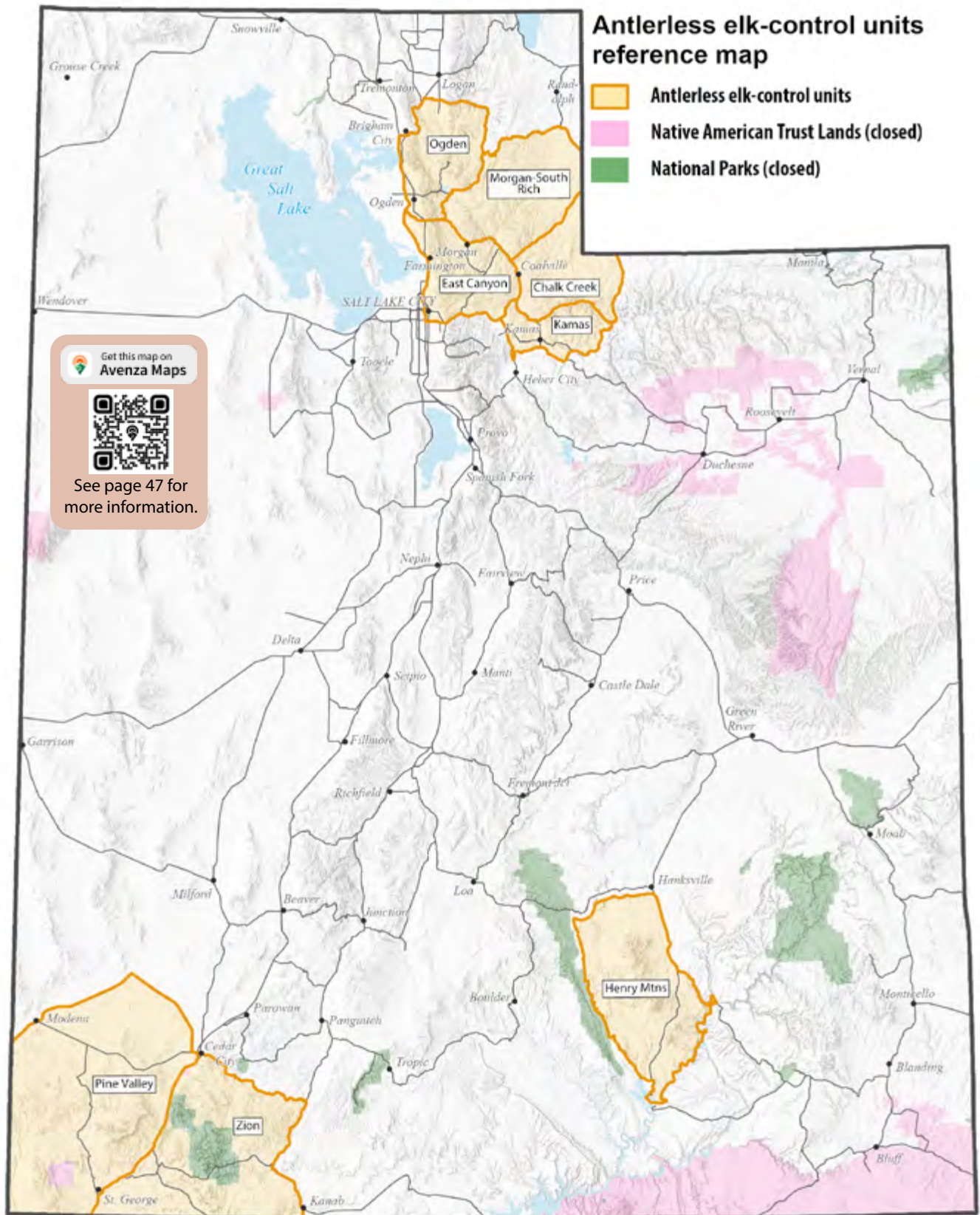


This map is for general reference only. Please visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** deer CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting. ◊ Hunt unit name has been modified, hunt number is the same as previous years.



*No general-season archery elk hunt on the Paunsaugunt unit.

This map is for general reference only. Please visit hunt.utah.gov for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** deer CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting. ♦ Hunt unit name has been modified, hunt number is the same as previous years.



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

DEFINITIONS

Utah Code § 23A-1-101 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-2 & R657-37

The following definitions explain terms used in this guidebook. The *2024 Utah Big Game Application* guidebook (published in February 2024) also contains definitions that focus on hunting, harvesting and possessing big game.

Any legal weapon means the weapons described under *Firearms and archery equipment* on page 22.

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

Bait means intentionally placing food or nutrient substances to manipulate the behavior of wildlife for the purpose of taking or attempting to take big game. Bait does not include:

- the use of salt, mineral blocks or other commonly used types of livestock supplements placed in the field by agricultural producers for normal agricultural purposes; or
- standing crops, natural vegetation, harvested croplands or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil-stabilization practice.

Baited area means all land within a 50-yard radius of the site where bait is placed, including the site where bait is placed.

Big game means species of hoofed protected wildlife.

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

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

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

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

Cactus buck means a buck deer with velvet covering at least 50 percent of the antlers during the season dates established by the Wildlife Board for a cactus buck deer hunt.

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

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

CWMU means Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit.

Domicile means the place:

- where an individual has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment;
 - to which the individual if absent, intends to return and 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 and safety 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.

Ewe means a female bighorn sheep or any bighorn sheep younger than one year of age.

Handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only hunt (HAMSS hunt) means a limited-entry hunt with very specialized weapon requirements. Before you apply for one of these hunts, see page 26 or review *R657-5-48* at wildlife.utah.gov to confirm whether the weapon you want to use is legal for the hunt.

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

Hunter's choice means either sex may be taken.

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

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

Limited-entry permit means any permit obtained for a limited-entry hunt by any means, including multi-season premium limited-entry permits, premium limited-entry permits, multi-season limited-entry permits, limited-entry permits, cactus buck permits, management buck permits, handgun-archery-muzzleloader-shotgun-straight walled rifle-only permits, conservation permits, expo permits, sportsman permits, CWMU permits and limited-entry landowner permits.

Night-vision device means anything that enhances visible and non-visible light and includes the use of night-vision devices, thermal-imaging devices, infrared-imaged devices and other electronic devices that enhance the visible and non-visible light spectrum. Trail cameras are not a night-vision device.

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

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

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

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

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Private lands means, for the purposes of this guidebook, any land owned in fee by an individual or legal entity, **excluding the following types of lands:** land owned by the state or federal government; land owned by a county or municipality; land owned by a Native American tribe; land enrolled in a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit under *R657-37*; and land where public access for big game hunting has been secured.

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.

Ram means a male desert bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep older than one year of age.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shed antlers means any portion of an antler that has been dropped naturally from a big game animal as part of the big game animal's annual life cycle, and has a rounded base commonly known as the antler button or burr attached which signifies a natural life cycle process.

Shed horns the sheath from a pronghorn that has been dropped naturally as part of the animal's annual life cycle, or a bighorn sheep, mountain goat or bison horn naturally detached from the horn core. Pronghorn are the only big game animals that shed their horns.

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

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

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

Take means to:

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

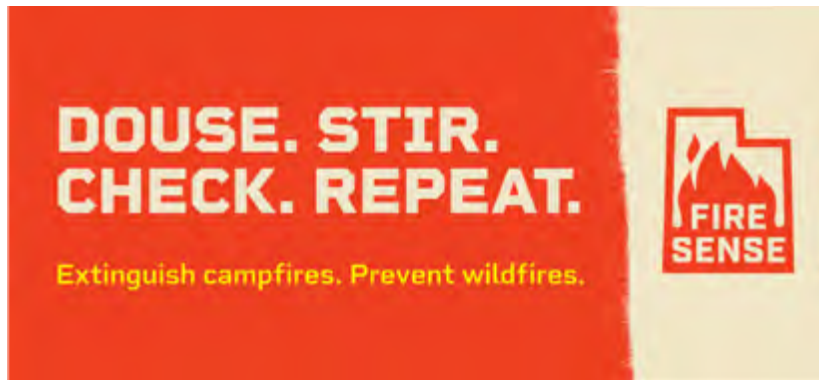
Trail camera means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat, or motion to trigger the device. Trail cameras are not a night-vision device.

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

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

Wildlife document means a permit to hunt protected wildlife or Division-issued authorization to share such a permit.

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





**ALYSSA
JACKSON**

**WHY I'M
A HUNTER**

TEAM 
WILDLIFE

READ ALYSSA'S STORY AT WILDLIFE.UTAH.GOV/TEAMWILDLIFE

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