

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

UPLAND GAME AND TURKEY

— GUIDEBOOK —



2025-26

GROUSE • HARE • PARTRIDGE • PHEASANT • PTARMIGAN • QUAIL • RABBIT • TURKEY

CONTACT US

Turn in a poacher

Phone: 800-662-3337

Text: 847411

Online: wildlife.utah.gov/utip

Division offices

Offices are open 8 a.m.–5 p.m.,

Monday through Friday.

Salt Lake City

1594 W North Temple

Box 146301

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301

801-538-4700

Central Region

1115 N Main Street

Springville, UT 84663

801-491-5678

Northeastern Region

318 N Vernal Avenue

Vernal, UT 84078

435-781-9453

Northern Region

515 E 5300 S

Ogden, UT 84405

801-476-2740

Southeastern Region

319 N Carbonville Road, Ste A

Price, UT 84501

435-613-3700

Southern Region

1470 N Airport Road

Cedar City, UT 84721

435-865-6100

Washington County Field Office

451 N SR-318

Hurricane, UT 84737

435-879-8694

CONTENTS

- 7 Key dates and fees**
- 9 Basic requirements**
- 9 Hunter education**
- 10 Avian diseases in Utah**
- 11 License requirements**
- 11 Trial Hunting Program**
- 12 Upland game permits**
- 13 Upland Game Slams**
- 15 Youth upland game hunts**
- 16 DWP mobile app**
- 17 Turkey permits**
- 18 Youth turkey hunts**
- 24 Field regulations**
- 24 Weapons requirements**
- 25 Hunter orange**
- 25 Areas with special restrictions**
- 25 Legal weapon possession**
- 26 Banded or collared birds**
- 27 Trespassing**
- 28 Hunting methods**
- 28 Harvest surveys**
- 29 Walk-in Access program**
- 32 Hunter Mentoring Program**
- 34 Prairie dogs**
- 35 Wildlife Management Areas**
- 37 Season dates, bag and possession limits, and hunting areas**
- 42 Shooting hours**
- 45 Species identification**
- 51 Turkey age**
- 52 Definitions**
- 54 Quick-reference calendar**

On the cover: A ruffed grouse peeks through the branches of a tree. Photo by Jim Shuler.



WHAT'S NEW?

Migratory game birds have moved: Beginning in 2025, the migratory game birds formerly included in this Utah guidebook—American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, sandhill crane and white-winged dove—are now regulated under *Utah Admin. Rule R657-9* as approved by the Utah Wildlife Board. If you're hunting migratory game birds (including ducks, geese, snipe, coots and tundra swan), please refer to the *2025-26 Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook* for permit information, field requirements, season dates and more.

Apply for sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse hunts: You can apply for greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse during the application period that runs from July 2–16, 2025. You can also apply for sandhill crane and tundra swan permits during the same application period. To learn more, see page 12.

Hunt drawing for spring turkey permits: If you hope to hunt turkey on a limited-entry unit or CWMU in 2026, the application period runs from Dec. 16–30, 2025. See *Types of turkey permits* on page 17 for details.

White-tailed ptarmigan permits: Beginning July 31, 2025 at 8 a.m. MDT, you can obtain the free permit required for hunting white-tailed ptarmigan. Permits are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices.

Residency requirements: To apply for a resident permit, you must be a Utah resident on the date you submit your application. (Previously, the residency date was linked to the date of purchase.) See the definition of *Resident* on page 53.

Brief WMA closures for sponsored pheasant hunts: Some wildlife and waterfowl management areas are closed to the general public each year for sponsored, organized youth and beginner pheasant hunts. Closures this year:

- Oct. 25—Huntington Game Farm (until 3 p.m.)
- Nov. 8—Annabella, Pahvant, and a portion of the Ogden Bay and Santaquin WMAs.

See wildlife.utah.gov/uplandyouth later this summer for more details.

KNOW THE LAWS

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

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

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as *Utah Code § 23A-5-309* and *Utah Administrative Rule R657-6-4*—to search the Division's website for the detailed statute or rule that underpins the guidebook summary.

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

Who makes the rules?

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

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

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

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

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

Wildlife Board members

Kent Johnson
Paula Richmond
Bret Selman
Bryce Thurgood

Randy Dearth, *Chair*
Gary Nielson, *Vice Chair*
Riley Peck, *Division Director*
& *Executive Secretary*

Nonresident fee increase: In the 2025 session, the Utah Legislature authorized higher nonresident fees to help fund the purchase of large blocks of land for wildlife habitat and conservation. These nonresident fee increases begin July 1, 2025 for hunting, fishing and combination licenses, and Sept. 1, 2025 for hunting application fees and hunting permits. See page 8 for details, and visit *wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees* for full list of Utah's license and permit fees.

License required to access WMAs: Effective May 7, 2025, a new state law requires anyone 18 years old or older to have a valid Utah hunting, fishing or combination license to access waterfowl and wildlife management areas in Utah's four largest counties (Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber). This includes anyone accessing a WMA for dog training or other recreational purposes. WMAs are primarily funded by the sales of Utah hunting, fishing and combination licenses and by federal excise taxes paid on hunting and fishing equipment; typically, state taxes do not pay for them. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/wmas* for a list of Utah's WMAs, other rules and requirements, and exemptions to this law.

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

Pen-reared gamebirds: Some minor changes to the rules regarding pen-raised game birds were approved by the board. For more information, refer to the *Possession and release of pen-reared gamebirds* rule at *wildlife.utah.gov/r657-4*.

Check all season dates: Season dates change every year. For details, see page 37 or the quick-reference calendar on page 54.

And keep in mind

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, HIP number 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 any printed permit with you in the field.

Turkey limited-entry hunt boundaries: Make sure to check the boundaries for your limited-entry turkey hunt before you go into the field. See the map on page 39 or visit *hunt.utah.gov* for details.

Technology rules: Night-vision devices, drones, and recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds are prohibited in turkey and upland game hunting. For details about Utah Wildlife Board changes to trail camera and night-vision device rules in effect this year, see the information box on page 33 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams*.

No dog training near grouse leks: Dog training is prohibited within 1/2 mile of sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse leks (breeding sites) from March 1 to May 31.

Transaction fee: In 2024, the Division began charging a 2.2% transaction fee on all in-person and online credit/debit card transactions.

Hunting license required: You must have a valid Utah hunting or combination license before you can apply for or obtain a greater sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, turkey or ptarmigan permit. You must also have a valid license in your possession while hunting any upland game species. You can buy your license from a license agent, a Division office or online at *wildlife.utah.gov*. You can also purchase your license by calling 801-538-4700.

You don't need a HIP number or duck

stamp: Turkeys and upland game species covered by this guidebook **do not** require a Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number for Utah or a federal duck stamp. For more information, please see page 11.

Trial Hunting Program: People who haven't hunted may be able to try it for the first time without taking Hunter Education. For details, see the box on page 11.

Opportunities for youth: For detailed information on youth hunting opportunities and age requirements, please see the boxes on pages 15 and 18.

Harmful algal blooms: In recent years, Utah has experienced recurring toxic algal blooms, which can be fatal for dogs. Visit habs.utah.gov for details.

Avian diseases in Utah: Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are typically uncommon in Utah game birds, but there have been more widespread, multi-county outbreaks in recent years. See the box on page 10 or wildlife.utah.gov/diseases for more information.

Upland Game Slam: This year, the Division is continuing the Upland Game Slam program. For more information, see page 13.

Maps and boundaries on Utah Hunt Planner: The Utah Hunt Planner contains detailed information on Utah's hunting units, including unit maps and boundary descriptions. To learn more, visit hunt.utah.gov.

Walk-in Access program requirement: If you plan to hunt on Utah's Walk-in Access properties in 2025–2026, you'll need to obtain an authorization number. For details, see the information box on page 29.

Fall turkey management harvest hunt:

During the fall management harvest hunt, hunters may apply for three permits (two beardless permits and one either-sex permit per hunter). **Note:** Fall management harvest hunts are intended to address depredation in targeted areas, encourage the opportunity to harvest female turkeys—often in order to manage nuisance turkey populations—and are held almost entirely on private land. You must obtain documented permission before hunting on private property. For details, see *Types of turkey permits* on page 17.

Turkey control permits: Up to three vouchers may be allocated per individual in instances where turkeys are causing damage to private property and in other nuisance situations. Redeeming a turkey control voucher for a permit does not count toward the over-the-counter permit quota per hunter.

Air rifles allowed for specific hunts: Air rifles may be used for hunting and harvesting turkeys during the fall hunts, as well as for cottontail rabbits and snowshoe hares. See *Field regulations* beginning on page 24 for weapons requirements.

Options for military members: Active military personnel may be eligible to take advantage of points opportunities if they are deployed during the 2025 application periods for grouse, crane, tundra swan and turkey permits. For details, see the information box on page 33 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/military.

Ways to report poachers: Protect Utah's wildlife and report poachers using the UTDWR law enforcement app, send a text to 847411 or make an online report at wildlife.utah.gov/utip.

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

Corrections: If errors are found in this guidebook after it is printed, the Division will correct them in the electronic copy that is posted at wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

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 27.

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.

Protection from discrimination: The Division receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to:

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS HAVE MOVED!

Species that require a HIP (Harvest Information Program) number have been integrated with the 2025-26 *Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook*.



SANDHILL
CRANE



MOURNING AND
WHITE-WINGED DOVE



AMERICAN
CROW



BAND-TAILED
PIGEON

KEY DATES AND FEES

Application and season dates

Grouse* application dates

Apply online	July 2, 2025
Application deadline	July 16, 2025
Drawing results available	July 31, 2025
Remaining permits available	Aug. 7, 2025

*Greater sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse

Turkey application and purchase dates

Fall 2025 management harvest permits available	Sept. 11, 2025
Limited-entry applications available online	Dec. 16, 2025
Application deadline	Dec. 30, 2025
Drawing results available	Jan. 8, 2026
Remaining limited-entry permits available	March 10, 2026
Spring general-season permits available	March 10, 2026

Turkey season dates

Fall 2025 turkey hunts (Central, Northern, South-eastern and Southern areas)*	See page 21
Spring 2026 limited-entry hunts	April 11–30, 2026
Spring 2026 youth hunt	May 1–3, 2026
Spring 2026 general-season hunts	May 4–31, 2026

* Visit hunt.utah.gov for boundaries.

Upland game season dates

Utah has a variety of upland game seasons that will be held between Sept. 1, 2025 and March 15, 2026. For exact season dates, see *Season dates, bag and possession limits, and hunting areas* on page 37.

Permit and application fees

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

Type of permit	Resident	Nonresident until Aug. 31, 2025	Nonresident starting Sept. 1, 2025
Greater sage-grouse permit	\$0 ⁰	\$0 ⁰	\$0 ⁰
Sharp-tailed grouse permit	\$0 ⁰	\$0 ⁰	\$0 ⁰
White-tailed ptarmigan permit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Turkey limited-entry permit	\$40 [§]	\$125 [§]	\$175 [§]
Turkey general-season permit	\$40	\$125	\$175
Turkey general-season permit (youth)	\$25	n/a	n/a
CWMU turkey permit	\$40 [§]	\$125 [§]	\$175 [§]
Application fee [§]	\$10	\$16	\$21

0 There is a nonrefundable application and handling fee to obtain this permit.

§ There is a nonrefundable application fee if you apply for this permit through the hunt drawing. If you obtain a permit that remains available after the drawing, the application fee does not apply.

License fees

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

License type	Age	Resident	Nonresident <i>starting July 1, 2025</i>
365-day hunting license	13 and under	\$11	\$44
	14–17	\$16	\$44
	18–64	\$40	\$144
	65+	\$31	\$144
365-day hunting license for disabled veterans <i>(see the box on page 19 for details)</i>	n/a	\$25.50	n/a
Multi-year hunting license (up to five years)	18–64	\$39 / year	\$143 / year
365-day combination* license	17 and under	\$20	\$58
	18–64	\$44	\$190
	65+	\$35	\$190
365-day combination* license for disabled veterans <i>(see the box on page 19 for details)</i>	n/a	\$28.50	n/a
Multi-year combination* license (up to five years)	18–64	\$43 / year	\$189 / year
3-day small game license	n/a	n/a	\$89

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

Nonresident fee increase

In the 2025 session, the Utah Legislature authorized higher nonresident fees to help fund the purchase of large blocks of land for wildlife habitat and conservation. These nonresident fee increases begin July 1, 2025 for hunting, fishing and combination licenses, and Sept. 1, 2025 for hunting permits and application fees.

Three-day nonresident small game license

If you’re not a resident of Utah and you’ll only be in the state for a short time, you can hunt upland game without paying the full price for a nonresident license. A three-day nonresident small game license is available for \$89.

You can purchase a three-day small game license online at wildlife.utah.gov or from license agents and Division offices.

Note: A three-day license does not allow you to apply for or obtain any Utah hunting permits.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Are you planning to hunt upland game or wild turkey in Utah this year? Before you head into the field, make sure you meet Utah's hunter education and license requirements. This section explains how to meet these requirements.

Are you old enough?

Utah Code § 23A-4-1001

In Utah, there are no age restrictions for upland game or turkey hunters. If you have passed a Division-approved hunter education course, then you can hunt upland game and turkey in Utah, regardless of your age.

Adults must accompany young hunters

Utah Code § 23A-4-708

While hunting with any weapon, a person age 13 or younger must be accompanied by their parent, legal guardian or other responsible person who is 21 years of age or older and who has been approved by the parent or guardian.

A person who is 14 or 15 years old must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older while hunting with any weapon.

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

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

Is hunter education required?

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 or combination license.

Boundary maps online

Looking for a map of your hunting area? Maps of all hunt boundaries, species distributions, Walk-in Access areas and wildlife management areas are available at hunt.utah.gov.

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.

The only exception to this law is for individuals who are participating in the Division's Trial Hunting Program. You can find details about the program on page 11 or by visiting wildlife.utah.gov/trial.

Proof of hunter education

You can prove that you've completed hunter education by obtaining a hunter education card (called a "blue card" in Utah) or if you have a verified hunter education number on file with the Division. The number is assigned when you complete hunter education and your blue card is issued.

How to take hunter education

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

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

Avian diseases in Utah

Avian cholera, avian botulism and harmful algal blooms are diseases that primarily affect wild bird populations. Low pathogenic avian influenza is also common in upland game birds and usually does not cause symptoms in wild birds. Neither disease typically affects humans.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses, on the other hand, are typically uncommon in upland game birds and turkeys, but there have been more widespread, multi-county outbreaks in recent years in migratory waterfowl. To date, strains infectious to humans are extremely rare.

Please report dead birds: If you find a group of five or more dead game birds—or any individual dead scavengers or raptors—please report the birds and their exact location to the nearest DWR office. Absolutely do not touch the birds or pick them up.

By taking some simple precautions, you can greatly reduce your risk of contracting any wildlife disease:

- Do not harvest any bird that appears sick, and do not pick up diseased birds or dead birds that you didn't shoot.
- Do not handle or eat sick birds.
- Do not allow dogs or other pets to handle or eat sick or dead birds.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean and dry.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning your birds.
- After cleaning the birds, wash your hands with soap and water, and thoroughly clean and disinfect all knives, equipment, boots and surfaces that may have touched the birds with a 10-percent bleach solution.
- All birds should be cooked thoroughly (internal temperature should reach 165° F).
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling your birds.

Please visit wildlife.utah.gov/diseases for more information about avian diseases.

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

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

You should also keep the following in mind:

- Hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
- 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 an approved hunter education course in another state, province or country—you must transfer your certification to the Division before you can buy a resident hunting license or be eligible to purchase a resident hunting permit. You can provide proof that you've completed a nationally recognized hunter education course at any DWR office, or by submitting the online form at wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-ed-transfer.

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?

Utah's Trial Hunting Program allows anyone age 12 or older to try hunting for

up to three years—while accompanied by a licensed hunter age 21 or older—before taking a Hunter Education course.

The program applies to hunts for many species, including wild turkeys and all upland game. To sign up for the program or to learn more about it, visit wildlife.utah.gov/trial.

Do you have a license?

Utah Code §§ 23A-4-201 and 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-54a-3

You must possess a valid hunting license or a combination license to hunt upland game in Utah. You must also have one of these licenses before you can apply for or obtain a permit to hunt greater sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan or wild turkey.

Here's the difference between a hunting license and a combination license:

- A hunting license allows you to hunt small game, including upland game and waterfowl.
- A combination license allows you to fish and hunt small game in Utah.

It costs less to buy a combination license than it does to buy separate hunting and fishing licenses.

Licenses are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices. You can also purchase a license by calling 801-538-4700. In addition to the fee for the license, you'll also be charged a 2.2% transaction fee on all credit/debit card transactions. You must carry your license and any applicable permits with you while you're hunting upland game, and you cannot alter, transfer or lend your license or permit to another person.

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

IS A DUCK STAMP OR HIP NUMBER REQUIRED?

50 CFR 20.20, Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-3 and R657-9

Turkeys and upland game species covered by this guidebook do **not** require a Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number for Utah.

New: Beginning in 2025, migratory game birds formerly included in this Utah guidebook—American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, sandhill crane and white-winged dove—are now regulated under *Utah Admin. Rule R657-9*.

If you're hunting migratory game birds or waterfowl (including ducks, geese, snipe, coots and tundra swan), please refer to the *2025-26 Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook* for field requirements and more. You must still obtain a HIP registration number for Utah to hunt any of these species.

Duck stamp not required

You **do not** need a federal duck stamp to hunt any of the upland game species regulated in this guidebook.

You will need a federal duck stamp if you are going to hunt any species regulated in the current *Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook*.

HOW TO OBTAIN AN UPLAND GAME PERMIT

After you meet the basic hunting requirements (see page 9), you should determine whether you need any additional permits. There are a few upland game hunts that require you to obtain a separate permit before you can head into the field. This section outlines the types of permits available and explains how to apply for or obtain them. You'll also find information about group applications, preference points and the youth hunt drawing.

Types of permits

Utah Code §§ 23A-4-201 and 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-4 and R657-6-5

You must obtain a permit if you want to hunt the following upland game species:

- Greater sage-grouse (a two-bird permit)
- Sharp-tailed grouse (a two-bird permit)
- White-tailed ptarmigan

For each of the above species, you may only obtain one permit.

White-tailed ptarmigan permits are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices, beginning July 31 at 8 a.m. MDT.

The permits for greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse are available through the state's hunt drawing.

For information about obtaining wild turkey permits, see pages page 17-25.

(New) Migratory game birds: Beginning in 2025, migratory game birds formerly included in this Utah guidebook—American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, sandhill crane and white-winged dove—are now regulated under *Utah Admin. Rule R657-9*. Please refer to the *2025-26 Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook* for permit requirements for these species.

Applying for a permit

Utah Admin. Rules R657-62-21 and R657-42-8

To hunt greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse in Utah, you must draw a permit in the hunt drawing. You can apply for the drawing online at wildlife.utah.gov from July 2–16, 2025.

You must have a valid Utah hunting or combination license to apply for or obtain a greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse permit. You must also have a valid hunting or combination license in order to hunt any upland game species. If your hunting license expires before the applicable hunting season ends, you'll have to buy a new license to hunt the remainder of the season.

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

And don't forget: You may also apply for a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit when you apply for grouse permits in the hunt drawing. For details, see pages 13–15 of the *2025–26 Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook*.

If you don't want to apply for a permit this year, but you want a better chance of drawing one next year, you can apply for a preference point instead.

Please note the following dates if you want to apply for permits or preference points.

July 2: Apply online for permits or preference points

Beginning July 2, 2025, you can visit wildlife.utah.gov to apply for greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse permits or preference points. You may apply for one permit or preference point per species each year.

Both residents and nonresidents may apply. Groups of up to four people may also apply by using the group code. For more information, please see *Applying as a group* on page 14.

Application fees are charged to your credit or debit card when your application is processed. Your application can be rejected if your credit or debit card is invalid or refused. A permit fee is charged only if you are successful in drawing a permit. For a list of permit fees, see page 7.

Reminder: The application fee is \$10 for residents and \$16 for nonresidents. If you purchase your hunting or combination license during the application process, you'll also be charged a license fee. You won't be charged a permit fee unless you draw a permit that has a permit fee. (Some of the permits are free, except for the application fee.) For details, see the fees table on page 7.

You can use credit or debit cards as payment. You can also use a pre-paid credit card. Please keep in mind that the Division is not responsible for any bank charges incurred for the use of credit or debit cards.

All credit or debit cards must be valid through September 2025. To change the credit or debit card associated with your application, call 800-221-0659 or visit utah-hunt.com.

Reminder: A 2.2% transaction fee applies to all online and in-person credit/debit card transactions.

July 16: Deadline for permit applications and preference points

Your application must be submitted through wildlife.utah.gov no later than 11 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025. If you need help with your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MDT on July 16. A Division employee will be available to help you.

July 16: Deadline to edit your application

If you make a mistake on your online permit application, simply go to utah-hunt.com and click the *View, Edit, and Withdraw* button at the bottom of the page. All edits must be made before 11 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025.



Upland Game Slam program

The Division's Upland Game Slam program partners with multiple conservation organizations. Hunters who join the program contribute directly to funding upland game habitat projects and earn prizes for harvesting various upland game species. Goals of the program include:

- Encourage hunters to improve their upland game identification skills
- Help hunters learn more about upland game habitats and behavior
- Raise money for upland game-specific projects
- Create friendly competition among hunters

To learn more about the program, visit wildlife.utah.gov/uplandslam.

You must have your confirmation number, customer ID and date of birth in order to edit your application. You will not be charged any additional fees, unless you completely withdraw your application and resubmit.

If you need help editing your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025.

July 16: Deadline to withdraw your application

If you decide not to hunt, you can withdraw your online permit application until 11 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025. Application fees are not refundable.

July 31: Drawing results available

You'll be notified of the drawing results by email on or before July 31, 2025. You can also learn the drawing results by calling 800-221-0659 or by visiting *wildlife.utah.gov*.

Note: Drawing results are not final until you receive an official notification email. If you draw a permit, you'll receive your permit in the mail in August.

August 7: Remaining permits available

If any permits remain after the hunt drawing, they will be available beginning Aug. 7, 2025. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame* in early August to see purchase times and locations.

Reminder: If you obtain a permit that remains available after the hunt drawing, you will **lose** any preference points you've accrued for that species.

Applying as a group

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-21

Instead of applying as an individual hunter, you and your friends and family can apply as a group for each of the following hunts:

- Greater sage-grouse
- Sharp-tailed grouse

Up to four hunters—including both residents and nonresidents—can apply together for these permits. See *wildlife.utah.gov/group-applications* for details.

Youth upland game drawing process

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-21

Fifteen percent of each greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse permits are reserved for youth hunters.

You are considered a youth if you will be 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2025.

You can submit an application as an individual hunter or as a member of a youth-only group. To see more about applying as part of a youth-only group, see the details above this information box.

Important: If you're a youth and you want an opportunity to draw one of the permits reserved for youth, do **not** apply in a group with an adult. Up to **four youth hunters** can apply together in a **youth-only group**. This allows youth to hunt grouse with siblings, friends and cousins.

When you apply in a youth-only group for one of these hunts, all hunters must meet the age requirement for the application to be processed as a youth-only application.

For details on applying as a group for sand-hill crane or tundra swan permits, see pages 13-14 of the *2025–26 Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook*.

Preference points

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-9

Preference points are used to ensure that applicants who are unsuccessful—or who apply only for preference points for greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse—will have an advantage in the next year's drawing for the respective permits.

A preference point is awarded for each unsuccessful greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse application.

If you don't want to apply for a permit this year, but you want a better chance of drawing one next year, you can apply for a preference point instead. You will be charged a nonrefundable application fee for every preference point you apply for (limit one per species).

The application period is from July 2–16, 2025.

Reminder: If you obtain a greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse permit that remains available after the hunt drawing, you will **lose** any preference points you've accrued for that species.

How preference points work in the drawing

Starting with the highest point level, the drawing looks at the hunter's first choice. If a permit is available for the hunt, the permit is awarded. (In the case of a group application, permits are awarded if there are enough per-

Youth upland game hunts

Utah's youth upland game hunts are statewide, and open to all youth who have a valid hunting license. To participate in these hunts:

- You must be 17 years of age or younger on July 31, 2025.
- If you are under the age of 16, you must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older who has been approved by your parent or legal guardian.

See page 37 for bag and possession limits, and shooting hours on page 42.

Youth chukar and gray partridge hunts

• Sept. 20–22, 2025

Youth quail hunt

• Oct. 25–27, 2025

Youth pheasant hunt

• Oct. 25–30, 2025

Additional hunt opportunities

A few sponsored youth and beginner pheasant hunts will be offered during the upland game season. For more information, visit wildlife.utah.gov/uplandyouth. For details about youth turkey hunts, see page 18.

mits for the people in the group.) If permits are not available, the application is skipped, and the first choice of the next person is considered.

After all first choices have been considered at that preference point level, the drawing will look at the first choices of hunters at the next-highest preference point level. After all the applicants' first choices have been considered, the drawing will look at everyone's second choices. This process continues in the same way for third, fourth and fifth choices. If you draw a permit, you will lose all of your preference points.

Preference points are averaged and rounded down when two or more applicants apply as a group. For example, if hunter A with three preference points and hunter B with zero preference points apply as a group, the preference points are averaged (1.5) and rounded down to one.

Eligibility to obtain a preference point

If you are eligible to obtain a greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse permit, you are eligible to apply for a preference point for that hunt.

You cannot apply for both a permit and a preference point for the same species.

You cannot apply for a greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse permit or a preference point if you are currently under wildlife license suspension.

Surrendering your permit

If you need to surrender your greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse 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 preference points.

Reminder: If you surrender a permit at least 30 days before the start of the season, you'll get all of your previously accrued preference points back for that species, but you will not earn a point for the current year.

Important: If you surrender a permit less than 30 days before the season opens, you will lose all of your previously accrued preference points for that species, and you will not earn a point for the current year.

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

Group surrender

Reminder: If you obtain a greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse permit through a group application—and then you decide to surrender it—you will not have your preference points reinstated unless your **entire** group meets the following conditions:

Store your digital license on the app

With our convenient Utah Hunting and Fishing app, you can download your license to a your 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.

You can now download Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks to the app, making it easy to read, search and navigate this guidebook and others.

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

Please remember that licenses are different from permits. If you have a permit for a specific hunt, you must carry it with you while hunting.

- 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 preference points for that species.

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

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

New look for the application website coming in September

If you apply for spring turkey permits in December, you'll see a fresh new look to our application website.

Please note the following changes for the application website address and the drawing application helpline starting Sept. 1, 2025.

Until Aug. 31, 2025	Beginning Sept. 1, 2025
utah-hunt.com	utahdraws.com
800-221-0659	855-883-7297 (855-UTDRAWS)

Permit refunds

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

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.

Forfeited permits

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

HOW TO OBTAIN A TURKEY PERMIT

After you meet Utah's hunter education and license requirements (see page 9), you can apply for or obtain a wild turkey permit. You must have a turkey permit before you can hunt turkeys in Utah. This section provides information about the different types of turkey permits, the permit application process, bonus points, applying with a group and important dates for turkey hunters.

Types of turkey permits

There are a variety of wild turkey permits available to hunters:

- Limited-entry permits (spring)
- General-season permits (spring)
- Conservation permits (spring)
- Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) permits (spring)
- Management harvest permits (fall)

Reminder: You may obtain one permit for the spring season.

Important: You must carry the turkey permit on your person while you're hunting. You cannot alter your permit or transfer it to another person.

Fall management harvest permits:

An individual may obtain up to three fall management harvest permits, which may include up to two beardless permits and one either-sex permit per hunter. These hunts are almost entirely on private land.

Turkey depredation permits: Up to three vouchers per individual may be issued in instances where turkeys are causing damage to private property and in other depredation situations. Redeeming a depredation voucher for a permit will not count toward the over-the-counter permit quota per hunter.

Limited-entry permits

Limited-entry turkey permits are available through the state's turkey permit drawing.

You can enter the permit drawing by applying online at wildlife.utah.gov during the turkey application period, which will be open from Dec. 16–30, 2025.

If you are successful in the drawing, your limited-entry permit will authorize you to harvest one bearded turkey on a specific limited-entry area during the 2026 limited-entry season.

Most mature male turkeys have a beard, and about 20% of mature female turkeys have one too. Please see page 31 to learn what a beard looks like and where it's located on a turkey.

Fifteen percent of Utah's turkey limited-entry permits are reserved for young hunters (those who are 17 years old and younger by July 31, 2026). For more information on this opportunity for youth, see the information box on page 18.

If a youth obtains a limited-entry permit but does not harvest during the limited-entry season, he or she will be allowed to continue hunting during the spring general-season youth hunt and the spring general season. During the general-season hunts, the youth may hunt in the statewide general-season area.

For more information on the limited-entry areas, see page 39.

Turkey application period

The 2026 turkey application period will be open from Dec. 16–30, 2025. Here's what you need to know in order to apply for a turkey limited-entry permit or a bonus point (see page 19 for more information about bonus points):

- Before you can apply, you must have a valid Utah hunting or combination license. If you don't already have one of these licenses, you can buy one online when you apply.
- You can apply online at wildlife.utah.gov until 11 p.m. MST on Dec. 30.

If you need help with your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MST on Dec. 30, 2025. A Division employee will be available to help you.

Turkey hunting opportunities for youth

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-25 and R657-54a-20

If you're a youth hunter, make sure you understand all of the opportunities you have to hunt and harvest a wild turkey.

You may obtain one permit for the spring season (limited-entry or general-season) and three permits for the fall season.

Limited-entry permits for youth

Fifteen percent of Utah's turkey limited-entry permits have been set aside for young hunters.

If you'll be 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2026, you'll be eligible for the youth permit drawing when you apply for your permit.

You can submit an application as an individual hunter or as a member of a youth-only group. For more information on applying as part of a youth-only group, see *Applying as a group*, below.

With a turkey limited-entry permit, you can hunt only the unit listed on your permit from April 11–30, 2026. And, if you don't harvest a turkey during the limited-entry season, you may participate in the spring general-season youth hunt and the spring

general season. Once the general-season hunts begin, you may hunt in the statewide general-season area.

General-season permits and the youth-only hunt

If you're a youth who obtains a turkey general-season permit, you can participate in Utah's Youth Turkey Hunt from May 1–3, 2026. (See page 42 for shooting hours.) This hunt will be restricted to youth who are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2026.

If you do not harvest a turkey during the youth hunt, you can continue to hunt during the turkey general season, which runs from May 4–31, 2026.

Fifteen percent of the fall management harvest permits will also be set aside for youth. For more information about fall turkey permits, see page 21.

Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult in the field. Please see page 9 for more information about this requirement.

For information on youth upland game hunts, please see the information box on page 15.

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

Applying as a group

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-25

Instead of applying as an individual hunter, you and your friends and family can apply as a group for limited-entry turkey permits.

Up to four hunters—including both residents and nonresidents—can apply together by using a group code. See wildlife.utah.gov/group-applications for details. If your group is

successful in the drawing, all of the applicants in your group who have valid applications will receive a permit.

Important: If you're a youth and you want an opportunity to draw one of the wild turkey permits reserved for youth, do **not** apply in a group with an adult. Up to **four youth hunters** can apply to hunt together in a **youth-only group**. This allows youth to hunt wild turkeys with siblings, friends and cousins.

When you apply in a youth-only group for this hunt, all hunters must meet the age requirement for the application to be processed as a youth-only application.

Permit application fees

Utah Code § 23A-4-207 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-6

There is a nonrefundable application fee when you apply for a turkey limited-entry permit or a bonus point.

The nonrefundable application fee is \$10 for residents and \$21 for nonresidents. The application fee will be charged to your credit or debit card when your application is processed. Permit fees are charged later, if you are successful in the drawing. If you purchase your hunting or combination license during the application process, you'll also be charged a license fee.

You can use credit or debit cards as payment. You can also use a pre-paid credit card. Your application can be voided if your credit or debit card is invalid or refused. Please keep in mind that the Division is not responsible for any bank charges incurred for the use of credit or debit cards.

All credit or debit cards must be valid through February 2026. To change the credit or debit card associated with your application, call 855-883-7297 or visit utahdraws.com.

A 2.2% transaction fee applies to all in-person and online credit/debit card transactions.

Discounted licenses for disabled veterans

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

The discounted hunting license is \$25.50, instead of the \$40 full price. Likewise, the discounted combination license is \$28.50, instead of the \$44 full price. Either license is good for 365 days from the day you buy it. Discounted licenses are available from all Division offices listed on page 2.

To purchase a discounted hunting or combination license, you must be a Utah resident

Remaining permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-14

Starting March 10, 2026 at 8 a.m. MST, any remaining turkey limited-entry permits will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. If available, these permits will be listed online at wildlife.utah.gov/remaining-permits.

Important: If you purchase a remaining limited-entry permit, you will lose any bonus points you've accrued for wild turkey.

Waiting periods

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-25

Waiting periods do not apply to turkey limited-entry permits.

Bonus points

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-8

A turkey bonus point system was started in 2000 to increase your chance of drawing a limited-entry turkey permit.

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

- Fifty percent of the permits (rounded up) for each limited-entry hunting unit are reserved for applicants who have the greatest number of bonus points.
- You receive a random drawing number for your current turkey application and a

and have a qualifying service-connected disability of at least 20 percent.

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

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

For more information, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/disabled or call the nearest Division office.

random drawing number for every turkey bonus point you have. Your lowest random number is then used in the drawing. (The lower your number, the better your chance at drawing a permit.)

How bonus points are earned:

- You receive a bonus point each time you're unsuccessful in drawing a limited-entry turkey permit.
- If you don't plan to hunt a turkey during the upcoming limited-entry season, you may apply for a bonus point only. Simply select the appropriate hunt choice code (TKY) on the application and pay the application fee.
- You may apply for either a limited-entry turkey permit or a bonus point, but not both.

You cannot apply for or receive a bonus point if your hunting privileges are suspended for turkey or small game.

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

Note: You will not lose your bonus points if you purchase a turkey general-season permit.

Surrendering your permit

If you need to surrender your limited-entry wild turkey 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.

Reminder: If you surrender a limited-entry turkey permit at least 30 days before the start of the season, you'll get all of your previously accrued bonus points back, but you will not earn a point for the current year.

Important: If you surrender your permit less than 30 days before the season opens, you will lose all of your previously accrued bonus points, and you will not earn a point for the current year.

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

Group surrender

Reminder: If you obtain a limited-entry wild turkey permit through a group application—and then you decide to surrender it—you will not have your bonus 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 points for that species.

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

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

General-season permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-54a-20

Utah will again hold management harvest hunts in the fall of 2025. These hunts will be in addition to the spring general-season hunt of 2026. Here's what you need to know about obtaining permits for the general-season hunts.

Fall 2025 management harvest hunts

The fall turkey hunt was established to decrease nuisance turkey issues and depredation that result in damage to private property.

A hunter may purchase up to for three fall management harvest turkey permits (two beardless permits and one either-sex permit per hunter).

There will be a limited number of permits for three management harvest turkey hunts in the following areas:

- Central Region, Oct. 1, 2025–Feb. 28, 2026
- Northern Region, Oct. 1, 2025–Feb. 28, 2026
- Southeastern Region, Oct. 1, 2025–Feb. 28, 2026
- Southern Region, Oct. 1, 2025–Jan. 4, 2026

Important: Only specified areas within each of these regions will be open to hunting during the fall. A permit allows you to hunt all of the specified areas within a region. **These hunt areas are almost entirely on private property** and you must obtain documented permission before hunting on private property. To see hunt boundary maps, visit hunt.utah.gov in August 2025.

Permits for the fall 2025 management harvest turkey hunts will be available beginning Sept. 11, 2025. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame in August to see purchase times and locations.

Fifteen percent of Utah's fall management harvest turkey permits are reserved for youth (those who are 17 years old and younger by July 31, 2025). For more information on opportunities for youth, see the information box on page 18.

Keep in mind: The fall turkey hunt is designed to reduce turkey populations and address conflicts between turkeys and landowners. Permit numbers are set solely with this goal in mind. For this reason, female harvest is encouraged. You may obtain up to three fall management harvest turkey permits (two beardless permits and one either-sex permit per hunter). You do not need to harvest a bearded turkey.

Spring 2026 general-season hunt

Spring general-season permits will be available beginning at 8 a.m. on March 10, 2026 at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices.

You may obtain a spring general-season turkey permit if you meet the basic hunting requirements (see page 9), and you didn't obtain a limited-entry turkey permit for the spring 2026 season.

Young hunters who obtain general-season turkey permits will have the opportunity to participate in the youth hunt. For details, see the information box on page 18.

Permit refunds

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

The Division rarely issues refunds for licenses or permits, 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.

Forfeited permits

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

Important dates for turkey hunters

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-25

Please note the following dates if you want to obtain a turkey limited-entry (spring), general-season (spring) or management harvest (fall) permit.

September 11: Fall 2025 management harvest permits available

Permits for the fall 2025 management harvest turkey hunts will be available beginning Sept. 11, 2025 at 8 a.m. MDT.

Please remember that license agents have different hours of operation. You should verify that an agent is open before you attempt to purchase a turkey management harvest permit.

You can find a list of participating license agents at wildlife.utah.gov/licenseagents.

December 16: Apply online

From Dec. 16–30, 2025, residents and nonresidents can apply for a turkey limited-entry permit, a CWMU permit or a bonus point at utahdraws.com. You can also apply by calling any Division office.

Residency: To apply for a resident permit, you must be a resident on the date you apply for or purchase a license or permit (formerly, residency was tied only to the purchase date). Please see the definition of *Resident* on page 53.

When applying for a turkey limited-entry permit, you may select up to five hunt choices. Please list your hunt choices in order of preference.

Remember, you may apply with a group for limited-entry permits. Up to four hunters—including both residents and nonresidents—can apply together. If your group is successful in the drawing, all of the applicants in your group who have valid applications will receive a permit.

December 30: Application deadline

Your application for a turkey limited-entry permit, a CWMU permit or a bonus point must be completed at utahdraws.com and submitted no later than 11 p.m. MST on Dec. 30, 2025.

For assistance with your online application, you can call any Division office until 5 p.m. MST on Dec. 30, 2025. Please remember that you must have a hunting license or a combination license to apply for a permit or bonus point.

December 30: Deadline to edit and resubmit your application

If you make a mistake in your online permit application, simply log in to your account at utahdraws.com and select *View/Edit/Withdrawal* at the top of the page. Any edits must be made before 11 p.m. MST on Dec. 30, 2025.

Turkey control permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-69

Up to three permit vouchers per individual may be allocated for harvesting wild turkeys when turkeys are causing damage to private property.

Landowners may receive these vouchers through the depredation program at a Division office (see page 2). When redeeming a voucher for a permit, the permit may be used during the dates and within boundaries listed on the permit.

This quota will not count toward the over-the-counter permit quota per hunter.

You will not be charged any additional fees, unless you completely withdraw and resubmit your application.

If you need help editing your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MST on Dec. 30, 2025.

December 30: Deadline to withdraw your application

If you decide not to hunt, you can withdraw your online permit application until 11 p.m. MST on Dec. 30, 2025. Application fees are not refundable.

January 8: Drawing results available

You'll be notified of the turkey drawing results on or before Jan. 8, 2026. You can also learn the drawing results by visiting utahdraws.com or calling 855-883-7297.

Note: Drawing results are not final until you receive an official notification email. If you draw a turkey permit, you'll receive it in the mail by the middle of February.

Please be aware that if the debit card or credit card you used for payment is refused, the Division will attempt to contact you multiple times to obtain a valid card number. If you realize that your card number is no longer valid, please call 855-883-7297.

What about squirrels and other nuisance mammals?

Squirrels, chipmunks, marmots and other small mammals can sometimes cause nuisance issues for homeowners.

These species are not considered upland game. If you need to remove them to resolve a nuisance or depredation issue, there are no bag limits or seasonal closures, and no license is required. Please make an effort to identify the species before you remove it — some animals are protected.

Important: Pursuit or harvest of Abert's squirrel, spotted ground squirrel and Utah prairie dog are prohibited at all times. See page 34 for additional regulations specific to prairie dogs.

March 10: Spring general-season permits and remaining limited-entry permits available

Any limited-entry permits remaining after the drawing—as well as the spring general-season permits—may be obtained beginning at 8 a.m. MST on March 10, 2026 at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices.

Remaining limited-entry permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you purchase a remaining limited-entry permit, you will lose any turkey bonus points you've accumulated.

Spring general-season permits will be available for purchase through May 31, 2026.

You can find a list of participating license agents at wildlife.utah.gov/licenseagents. Please remember that license agents have different hours of operation. You should verify that an agent is open before you attempt to purchase a remaining permit.

Additional turkey permits

In addition to limited-entry and general-season permits, other types of turkey permits are available.

Conservation permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-41

You may obtain conservation permits in addition to any other turkey permit you've obtained.

Turkey conservation permits are available from nonprofit conservation organizations. The organizations usually sell the permits at fundraising banquets. A list of organizations selling conservation permits for Utah's 2026 turkey season will be available at wildlife.utah.gov/conservation-permits by late December 2025.

Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

You can enjoy hunting turkeys on private property in Utah through the state's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) program. Here's how the CWMU program works:

Private lands can become CWMUs if the landowners work with the Division to manage the land for turkeys. Private landowners who own land that qualifies as a CWMU are given permits they can sell to hunters. In return, the landowners agree to allow an equal number of public hunters—those who obtain CWMU permits through the state's drawing—onto their CWMUs to hunt.

You can obtain a CWMU permit in one of two ways: you can either apply for one in the turkey drawing, or you can contact a CWMU operator directly to inquire about purchasing a permit. For a list of CWMU operators, visit wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU.

For more information about obtaining a CWMU permit, contact the nearest Division office.

Public land in CWMUs: Public land use is restricted **only** for those species the CWMU is enrolled in each season (such as elk or turkey). If you are hunting upland game, you **may** hunt upland game on **public lands** in CWMU properties; all season dates and bag limits apply.

FIELD REGULATIONS

While hunting upland game or turkey in Utah, you should know the requirements for carrying and using firearms, crossbows and archery tackle. You should also know the different hunting methods you may use and what you're required to do with any game you take.

Firearms, crossbows and archery tackle

50 CFR 20.21, Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-6, R657-6-7 and R657-54a-4

Several rules apply to the types of firearms, crossbows, archery tackle and ammunition that you may use to take upland game and wild turkeys in Utah.

Upland game

You may hunt and harvest upland game with any of the following:

- Archery equipment, including a draw lock
- A crossbow
- A shotgun no larger than 10 gauge
- A handgun
- An air rifle (**for cottontail rabbits and snowshoe hares only**)

Ammunition for shotguns and handguns must be one-half ounce or more of shot that ranges in size from no. 2 through no. 8.

Also called a pre-charged pneumatic air rifle, an air rifle must:

- Fire using compressed air released from a chamber built into the rifle.
- Be pressurized at a minimum of 2,000 per square inch from an external high-compression device (such as a hand pump, compressor or scuba tank).
- Fire a single broadhead tipped bolt or arrow. And must fire a pellet or slug that:
- Is .25 caliber or larger.
- Weighs 18 grains or more.
- Is fired at a velocity to produce at least 30 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

The only exceptions to these rules are as follows:

- Cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare may be taken with any firearm that is not capable of being fired fully automatic.

Additionally, you may NOT use any of the following:

- A firearm capable of being fired fully automatic
- Any light-enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light
- Aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device

Wild turkey

You may hunt and harvest a turkey with any of the following:

- Archery equipment, including a draw lock, using broadhead-tipped arrows.
- A crossbow, using broadhead-tipped arrows or bolts.
- Any shotgun firing shot BB or smaller diameter.
- Rimfire firearms (**during the fall turkey season only**).
- Air rifles (**during the fall turkey season only**).

Also called a pre-charged pneumatic air rifle, an air rifle must:

- Fire using compressed air released from a chamber built into the rifle.
- Be pressurized at a minimum of 2,000 per square inch from an external high-compression device (such as a hand pump, compressor or scuba tank).
- Fire a single broadhead tipped bolt or arrow.

And must fire a pellet or slug that:

- Is .25 caliber or larger.
- Weighs 18 grains or more.
- Is fired at a velocity to produce at least 30 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

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.

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 cylinder(s).

No drones allowed

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

The use of any type of aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device to locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife is prohibited. This includes scouting and hunting.

Hunter orange requirements

Although there are no regulations that govern what you should wear on an upland game or turkey hunt, your choice of clothing could affect your safety.

For Utah's upland game hunts, we strongly encourage you to wear hunter orange in the field. It will make you more visible to other hunters at a time of year when there are many different hunts in progress.

For Utah's turkey hunts, we discourage you from wearing hunter orange. Hunters sometimes mistake bright colors for the head of a turkey.

Areas with special restrictions

Although many areas are open to hunters, some areas are closed or have specific restrictions.

Areas closed to upland game hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-21

You may not hunt upland game in any area posted closed by the Division or in any of the following areas:

- Salt Lake International Airport is closed to hunting within posted airport boundaries.
- Many Utah towns, cities and incorporated municipalities have laws that restrict hunting and the discharge of firearms within city limits. Contact the city's administrative office for specific laws and boundaries.

Report banded or collared birds

The Division, Brigham Young University and Utah State University are conducting research on wild turkeys and many upland game species. As part of these ongoing studies, we've placed leg bands and radio transmitters on some of the animals.

You may legally harvest banded or collared birds as long as you follow state and federal hunting regulations. If you take a wild turkey or an upland game bird with a leg band or a radio transmitter, please report it at wildlife.utah.gov/band.

We will need to know when and where you harvested the bird (GPS coordinates preferred) as well as the number on the leg band.

The Division thanks you in advance for helping with these research projects!

- All national wildlife refuges in Utah are closed to crow hunting and to most other hunting, unless they have been declared open by the managing authority. For example, Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge is **only open to chukar partridge and cottontail rabbit hunters**. See page 35 for details.
- The Goshen Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is closed to all hunting.
- Some WMAs are closed to the general public each year for sponsored, organized youth and beginner pheasant hunts. This year those areas are Huntington Game Farm on Oct. 25 until 3 p.m., and the Annabella, Pahvant, and a portion of the Ogden Bay and Santaquin wildlife management areas on Nov. 8. For details visit wildlife.utah.gov/upland-game-youth-hunts.
- Military installations, including Camp Williams, are closed to hunting and trespassing.

Some waterfowl management areas are open, but they have weapon, ammunition and season restrictions. For detailed information, see page 35.

Areas closed to turkey hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-54a-14

You may not hunt wild turkeys in any area posted closed by the Division or in any of the following areas:

- Salt Lake International Airport boundaries as posted.
- Many Utah towns, cities and incorporated municipalities have laws that restrict hunting and the discharge of firearms within city limits. Contact the city's administrative office for specific laws and boundaries.
- All state waterfowl management areas, except Brown's Park and Stewart Lake.
- All national wildlife refuges, unless they have been declared open by the managing authority. For example, Ouray National Wildlife Refuge is **only open to youth turkey hunters** during the 2025 turkey season.
- Military installations, including Camp Williams, are closed to hunting and trespassing.

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 in *Utah Admin. Rule R651-614*. For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/resources/hunting-at-state-park.

State laws regarding the possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting. For information about discharging a dangerous weapon or firearm in a state park, see the *Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm* section below or review *Utah Code § 76-10-508*.

Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508

You may not discharge a dangerous weapon, crossbow 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

Areas with motorized vehicle restrictions

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-14

Motorized vehicle travel on all state wildlife management areas is restricted to county roads and improved roads that are posted open to vehicles.

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

“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.

Checkpoints and officer contacts

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-207 and 77-23-104

To help the Division fulfill its responsibility as trustee and guardian of Utah’s wildlife, Division conservation officers monitor the taking and possession of wildlife, and the required licenses, permits, firearms and equipment used for hunting. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists 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 that you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about upland game and turkeys in Utah.

Hunters with disabilities

Utah Admin. Rule R657-12

Utah provides special hunting accommodations for people with disabilities. For a complete copy of these accommodations and what's required to qualify for them, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/disabled or call any Division office.

Hunting methods for upland game and turkey

Several rules apply to the methods you can use to hunt upland game and wild turkeys in Utah.

Baiting upland game and wild turkey

50 CFR 20.11 and 20.21, Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-13 and 54-9, Utah Code § 23A-5-309

Baiting is an illegal activity that involves the spreading of shelled, shucked or unshucked grain, feed or salt to lure, attract or entice birds to an area for the purposes of hunting them. You may not hunt upland game or wild turkey by baiting, and you may not hunt in an area where you reasonably should have known that the area is or has been baited.

An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the bait has been completely removed from the area.

You can take upland game or wild turkey on or over any of the following lands or areas, so long as these areas have not been baited:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics)
- Standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation
- Flooded harvested croplands

Participate in harvest surveys

After the upland game and turkey seasons end, the Division may email you to request your participation in an online harvest survey.

Although these surveys are not mandatory, we encourage you to complete them, even if you didn't harvest. The surveys help the Division evaluate population trends, gauge harvest success and collect other valuable information.

- 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
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds

For example, a farmer working his land after harvesting a crop does not render his field "baited" — so long as the post-harvest manipulation of the farmer's field is a normal agricultural process. To see detailed information about normal agricultural processes, visit bit.ly/3x8jvw5. For the hunter, the presence of rows, piles or other concentrations of grain should raise questions about the legality of the area for upland game or wild turkey hunting.

In addition to the provisions above, you cannot take sandhill crane on or over lands where standing crops have been manipulated to distribute or scatter grain or other feed on the land where it was grown. You can take

other upland game species and wild turkey on or over lands where standing crops have been manipulated to distribute or scatter grain or other feed on the land where it was grown, if the area is not otherwise baited.

This distinction is important primarily for wildlife food plots where seed or grain is not harvested as part of a normal agricultural process. For example, if a farmer were to mow a crop without first harvesting it, that field would be considered baited for sandhill crane, but it would not be considered baited for other upland game species or wild turkey.

Using dogs to hunt

Utah Admin. Rules R657-6-20 and R657-54a-13

Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve upland game or wild turkeys during open hunting seasons.

Although dogs are generally allowed on state wildlife and waterfowl management areas (WMAs), they are prohibited on many WMAs from March 10 to August 31 or as posted by the Division. You can see the complete list of WMAs that are seasonally closed to dogs in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-20*.

Live decoys and electronic calls

50 CFR 20.21 and Utah Admin. Rules R657-6-22 and R657-54a-8

You may not use drones, live decoys, recorded turkey calls or sounds, or electronically amplified imitations of turkey calls to take wild turkeys.

Spotlighting

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-309, 76-10-504, 76-10-523 and Utah Admin. Rules R657-6-24 and R657-54a-16

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

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

Utah's Walk-in Access program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-56-13

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

If you use Utah's 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 click "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.

Hunting dog field trials and training

Utah Admin. Rule R657-46

Many hunting dog field trialers and trainers want to use game birds (waterfowl or upland game) in their dog-related pursuits.

To use live game birds in dog field trials and training, you must follow certain rules and regulations. Those rules are available at any Division office or in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-46* at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Important: Dog training is prohibited near sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse leks (breeding sites) from March 1 to May 31.

Commercial hunting areas

In addition to hunting Utah's wild upland game birds, you can also hunt pheasant, partridge and quail on commercial hunting areas (CHAs).

The CHA season runs from Aug. 31 to March 31. CHAs typically charge on a per-bird basis. Hunter education or trial-hunting authorization is required, but you do not need a hunting license to hunt on a CHA.

See wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame for more information.

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.

Commercial guiding and outfitting

Utah Code § 23A-4-1201 and 23A-12-302, and Utah Admin. Rule R657-72 and R6567-28-8

Guides and outfitters are required to have a special use permit before guiding or transporting hunters across waterfowl and wildlife management areas. This change applies to anyone who receives more than \$100 in compensation for providing guiding services, as defined in *Utah Code 58-79-102*. Remember, special-use permit applications are due by the end of August to be valid for this season's hunts.

New: Effective July 1, 2025, guides and outfitters in Utah are now regulated by the DWR (instead of the Department of Professional Licensing) as approved by the Utah Legislature. If you are a guide, outfitter or spotter, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/guides for important information about the licensing application, registration fees and other operational requirements.

Safety tips for turkey hunters

To stay safe during the turkey hunt, follow the recommendations of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf):

- Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; turkeys are hesitant to walk into thick brush.
- Select a stump, tree trunk or rock—taller and wider than you are—to lean back against while calling; this will protect your back if another hunter moves in behind you.
- Eliminate the colors white, red, orange, black and blue from your hunting outfit; these are the colors of most gobblers.
- Listen for the alarm cries of birds or squirrels; these sounds can alert you when another hunter begins moving into your area.
- When nearby songbirds or your turkey go suddenly silent, take a careful look around. There's a good chance another hunter is moving in on your bird.
- Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter to your location. Remain still and speak in a loud, clear voice to announce your presence.

For more information, visit the NWTf's website at nwtf.org.

Using falconry to hunt upland game

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-12

If you're interested in using falconry to hunt upland game, you must obtain a hunting or combination license and a falconry certificate of registration (COR). Falconers who are interested in hunting greater sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse or white-tailed ptarmigan must also obtain a permit for the bird(s) they wish to hunt.

The areas open and the bag and possession limits for falconry are the same as those listed on pages 37-44 and the *Wildlife Manage-*

ment Area Rules (pages 35–36). The only differences are as follows:

- Falconers may take pheasants of either sex.

Falconry season dates for upland game are as follows:

- All upland game may be taken by falconry from Sept. 1, 2025 through Feb. 28, 2026.

New: Falconers hunting migratory game birds formerly regulated by this guidebook—American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, sandhill crane and white-winged dove—should refer to the *2025-26 Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook* for requirements, season dates and bag limits.

For details, please see the Falconry Rule at wildlife.utah.gov/falconry.

Using falconry to hunt wild turkey

Utah Admin. Rule R657-54a-7

In order to hunt a wild turkey using falconry, a falconer must have a fall management harvest turkey permit and follow the same rules and boundaries that apply to those who are hunting with archery tackle, a crossbow or a shotgun.

A falconer may only release a raptor on a wild turkey during the fall hunting season listed on their permit. Using falconry to hunt a turkey during the spring is prohibited.

Sitting or roosting turkeys

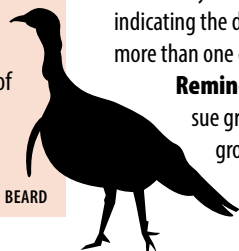
Utah Admin. Rule R657-54a-10

You may not take any turkey that is sitting or roosting in a tree or any structure.

What is a beard?

A cluster of hair-like feathers called a beard grows from the center of the chest on male turkeys. A small percentage of hens also grow a beard.

During all turkey seasons, the head—and beard if present—of a turkey must remain attached during transport to help conservation officers confirm the sex of the bird.



Possession of upland game and turkey

Once you've harvested an upland game species or a wild turkey, several rules apply to the use of the game you've taken.

Waste of upland game or turkey

Utah Code § 23A-5-314 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-18, R657-54a-15 and R657-54a-18

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

In addition, you may not kill or cripple any upland game or turkey without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it. Any game you've wounded must be immediately killed and included in your bag limit.

Tagging requirements

Utah Code § 23A-4-709 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-16 and R657-54a-11

You must tag the carcass of a greater sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse or wild turkey immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.

To tag a carcass, completely detach the tag from the permit and completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the bird was taken. Then attach the tag to the carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

Your tag also includes a notch that indicates the sex of the bird. You are only required to remove this notch if you harvested a turkey.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating the date the bird was taken, or tag more than one carcass using the same tag.

Reminder: You may not hunt or pursue greater sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse or wild turkey after **any** of the following has occurred:

Game bird breeders and hobbyists

Utah Admin. Rule R657-4

Because game birds in Utah are classified as protected wildlife, rules and regulations govern their possession and use. If you are interested in possessing or using live game birds, please review the rules carefully.

For more information, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/r657-4.

- Shooting and retrieving the bird
- Detaching the tag from the permit
- Removing any of the notches from the tag

Identification of species and sex

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-17 and R657-54a-12

When you are transporting any upland game bird, one fully feathered wing must remain attached to each bird you've taken. Keeping the wing attached allows wildlife officers and biologists to determine the species and sex of each bird.

When you are transporting a turkey, both the head and beard (if applicable) of the turkey must remain attached to the bird.

Possession of live upland game

50 CFR 20.38, Utah Code § 23A-5-302, and Utah Admin. Rule R657-4 and R657-6-15

A hunting license does not give you authority to possess live upland game. You must immediately kill any upland game you've wounded and include it in your bag limit.

Processing and taxidermy of protected wildlife

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

A butcher or owner/employee of a locker or storage plant may not receive the carcass of protected wildlife unless the animal is properly tagged or there is a valid donation slip.

Hunter Mentoring Program

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

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

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

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.

Donating and transporting upland game or turkey

50 CFR 20.36, 20.37 and 20.40, Utah Code § 23A-1-205, and Utah Admin. Rule R657-6 and R654-54

The following are the only places where you may donate, or give, upland game or turkey (or their parts) to another person:

- The residence of the donor
- The residence of the person receiving upland game, turkey or their parts
- A meat locker
- A storage plant
- A meat-processing facility

You may donate, or give, harvested upland game and turkey (or their 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

Trail cameras and night-vision devices

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. Some of these rules may affect upland game and turkey hunters, especially those who are also planning to hunt big game, cougars or bears.

- 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 stor-

age—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.
- 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.

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

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.

Exporting harvested upland game or turkey from Utah

50 CFR 20.53 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-23 and R657-54a-17

You may only export harvested upland game or turkey (or their parts) from Utah if one of the following conditions applies:

- You harvested the upland game or turkey and possess a valid license or permit corresponding to the tag.
- If you're not the person who harvested the upland game or turkey, you must obtain a shipping permit from the Division.

PRAIRIE DOG HUNTING

Check the calendar and map before making plans to hunt prairie dogs.

Before you begin hunting prairie dogs, it's important to understand which species you're allowed to hunt and when you can hunt them. Utah is home to three prairie dog species:

- Utah prairie dogs in southwestern Utah
- Gunnison's prairie dogs in southeastern Utah
- White-tailed prairie dogs in northern and eastern Utah

Hunt closure—counties in southwestern Utah

You may **not** hunt Utah prairie dogs. They are protected under the Endangered Species Act and state law. Because Utah prairie dogs are the only species of prairie dog found in southwestern Utah, **all prairie dog hunting is closed year-round in the following counties:** Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Washington and Wayne.

It is unlawful to pursue, hunt or kill Utah prairie dogs at any time without official federal and/or state permits or authorization. There is no recreational shooting of Utah prairie dogs.

Hunt closure—Coyote Basin

Coyote Basin, in northeastern Utah, is closed year-round to hunting of prairie dogs in order to protect the federally listed black-footed ferret. (Prairie dogs are the ferrets' primary food source.) You can find the specific boundary description for this closure in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-19-6*.

Hunt closure—seasonal

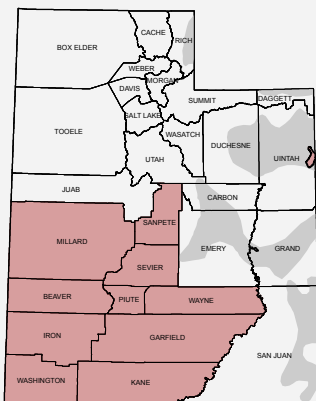
All prairie dog hunting is closed on public lands statewide from April 1– June 15, 2026. This closure protects prairie dogs while they breed and raise their litters, giving their young a better chance of survival. Remember that all national parks are closed to hunting by federal law.

Open season dates

Subject to the closures noted above, the hunting season for white-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dogs runs from June 17, 2025 through March 31, 2026.

Gunnison's and white-tailed prairie dogs causing agricultural damage or creating a nuisance on private land may be taken at any time (except in areas subject to the year-round closure described above).

Prairie dog hunting



- Closed to hunting year-round**
- Gunnison and white-tailed prairie dog distribution**

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA RULES

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-7 and R657-6-9

Certain state wildlife and waterfowl management areas and national wildlife refuges are intensively managed for upland game and waterfowl production. As such, each area has restrictions on the use of firearms, crossbows, archery tackle and ammunition. Please use the table below to help you understand the restrictions at each area you plan to hunt.

Wildlife Management Area or National Wildlife Refuge	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open hunting seasons.*	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open waterfowl hunting seasons.	May hunt upland game, only with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and only during waterfowl hunting seasons.
Bear River National Wildlife Refuge #			X
Bear River Trenton Property Parcel	X		
Bicknell Bottoms †		X	X
Blue Lake		X	X
Browns Park †	X		X
Bud Phelps	X		
Clear Lake ‡	X		X
Desert Lake †	X		X
Farmington Bay		X	X
Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge †§	X		
Harold S. Crane		X	X
Howard Slough		X	X
Huntington	X		
James Walter Fitzgerald	X		
Kevin Conway	X		

* Specified hunting seasons are authorized by the Utah Wildlife Board. You can find information about the hunting seasons in Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks. These guidebooks are available from license agents and Division offices and at wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

† May hunt mourning dove with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and during the season dates listed in the Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook.

‡ May hunt mourning dove with a shotgun using nontoxic shot from Sept. 1–14, 2025.

§ Weapons are restricted to only shotguns and archery tackle on the Willard Bay WMA and at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. For details about upland game hunting at Fish Springs, visit bit.ly/fws_fsnwr.

National wildlife refuges have many unique regulations. Please visit their websites and know the regulations before you hunt.

Wildlife Management Area or National Wildlife Refuge	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open hunting seasons.*	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open waterfowl hunting seasons.	May hunt upland game, only with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and only during waterfowl hunting seasons.
Locomotive Springs	X		X
Manti Meadows	X		X
Mills Meadows		X	X
Montes Creek	X		
Nephi	X		
Ogden Bay		X	X
Ouray National Wildlife Refuge #			X
Pahvant	X		
Powell Slough		X	X
Public Shooting Grounds		X	X
Redmond Marsh †	X		
Richfield	X		
Salt Creek		X	X
Scott and Norma Matheson Wetland Preserve	X		X
Stewart Lake †	X		X
Timpie Springs		X	X
Utah Lake Wetland Preserve †			X
Vernal Game Farm	X		
Willard Bay §	X		

* Specified hunting seasons are authorized by the Utah Wildlife Board. You can find information about the hunting seasons in Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks. These guidebooks are available from license agents and Division offices and at wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

† May hunt mourning dove with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and during the season dates listed in the Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook.

§ Weapons are restricted to only shotguns and archery tackle on the Willard Bay WMA and at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. For details about upland game hunting at Fish Springs, visit bit.ly/fws_fsnwr.

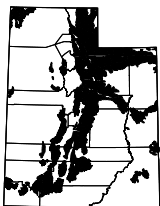
*National wildlife refuges have many unique regulations. Please visit their websites and know the regulations before you hunt.

SEASON DATES, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS, AND HUNTING AREAS

Shaded areas in the provided reference maps indicate the general distribution of each species.

New this year: Beginning in 2025, migratory game birds formerly covered in *Utah Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook*—American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, sandhill crane and white-winged dove—are now regulated under *Utah Admin. Rule R657-9* and are included in the *Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook*. The Utah Wildlife Board approved this change with the intent to provide more clarity and consistency for hunters regarding federal and state requirements, which apply to all migratory game birds.

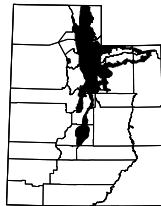
Grouse hunts



Dusky grouse

Dusky and ruffed grouse

- **Season dates:** Sept. 1–Dec. 31, 2025
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 4 birds
- **Possession limit:** 12 birds
- **Notes:** Limits singly or in combination.

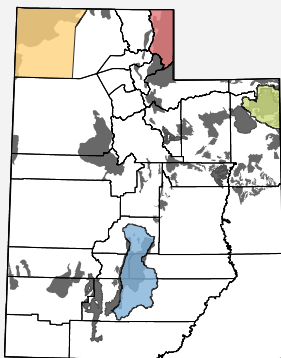


Ruffed grouse

Greater sage-grouse

- **Season dates:** Sept. 27–Oct. 19, 2025
- **Areas open:** Diamond, Blue Mountain (SG1000); Parker Mountain (SG1001); Rich County (SG1002) and West Box Elder County (SG1003). * Boundary maps are available online at hunt.utah.gov.
- **Permit requirement:** A greater sage-grouse permit is required to participate in this hunt. Only 2 birds of either sex may be taken during the entire season.
- **Notes:** To apply for a preference point, use the code **SAG** in your online application.

Greater sage-grouse

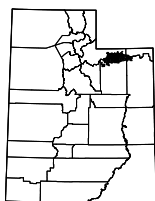


- Diamond, Blue Mountain**
- Parker Mountain**
- Rich County**
- West Box Elder County**

*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

Sharp-tailed grouse

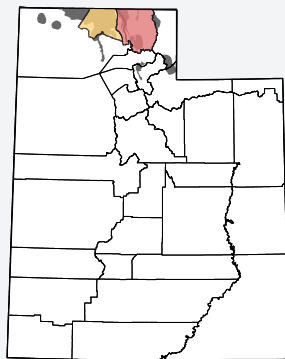
- **Season dates:** Sept. 27–Oct. 19, 2025
- **Areas open:** Northeast Box Elder County (ST1000) and Cache County (ST1001). * Boundary maps are available online at hunt.utah.gov.
- **Permit requirement:** A sharp-tailed grouse permit is required to participate in this hunt. Only 2 birds of either sex may be taken during the entire season.
- **Notes:** This hunt is comprised of all or largely private property. Hunters should ideally acquire written permission from the landowner before obtaining a permit for this hunt. To apply for a preference point, use the code **SHA** in your online application.



White-tailed ptarmigan

- **Season dates:** Sept. 1–Oct. 31, 2025
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 4 birds
- **Possession limit:** 12 birds
- **Permit requirement:** A free permit is required to participate in this hunt.

Sharp-tailed grouse



- Box Elder County
- Cache County

Turkey hunts

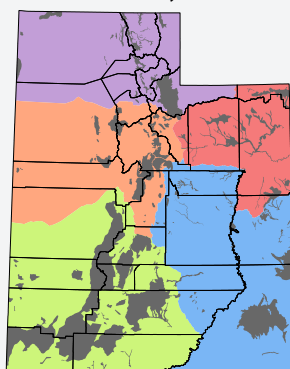
Wild turkey (*Fall management harvest hunts*)

- **Season dates:** Oct. 1, 2025–Feb. 28, 2026 (Northern, Central and Southeastern regions), Oct. 1, 2025–Jan. 4, 2026 (Southern region)
- **Areas open:** Select areas within the Central, Northern and Southeastern regions. **These hunt areas are almost entirely on private property.** Boundary maps are available via the Utah Hunt Planner at hunt.utah.gov. Mapped boundaries include private lands only within defined boundary unless otherwise specified in the Hunt Planner description.
- **Permit requirement:** A wild turkey permit is required to participate in this hunt. **Reminder:** A hunter may obtain three total fall management harvest permits, which may include two beardless permits and one either-sex permit per hunter. **You may obtain only one either-sex turkey permit.** **Important:** Fall turkey hunts are designed first and foremost to reduce nuisance turkey populations in targeted areas and address conflicts between turkeys and landowners. For this reason, female harvest is encouraged and permits are set to achieve this goal.
- **Notes:** Permits for the fall 2025 management harvest hunts will be available starting Sept. 11, 2025 at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices. See page 21 for details.

*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

Wild turkey *(Limited-entry hunts)*

- **Season dates:** April 11–30, 2026
- **Areas open:** Central (TK1003), Northeastern (TK1004), Northern (TK1005), Southeastern (TK1006) and Southern (TK1007) areas.*
- **Boundary maps are available online at** hunt.utah.gov.
- **Permit requirement:** The limited-entry hunt requires a wild turkey permit distributed through Utah's turkey drawing. See page 17 for more information. You may take only 1 bearded turkey within the season and the unit listed on your permit.
- **Notes:** To apply for a bonus point, use the code **TKY** in your online application. If you are a youth with a limited-entry permit and you don't harvest during the limited-entry season, you may continue to hunt during the youth hunt and the spring general-season hunt.

Wild turkey*(Colors show limited-entry hunt boundaries)*

- Northern area
- Central area
- Northeastern area
- Southern area
- Southeastern area

Wild turkey *(Spring general-season hunts)*

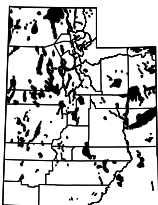
- **Season dates:** May 4–31, 2026
- **Youth hunt:** May 1–3, 2026. For more information about the youth hunt, see page 18.
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Permit requirement:** The spring general-season hunt requires a wild turkey permit that you can purchase over the counter. See page 23 for more information. You may take only 1 bearded turkey within the season on your permit.

Wild turkey *(CWMU hunts)*

- **Season dates:** The Utah Wildlife Board establishes the timeframe for turkey hunting on CWMUs, which runs from **April 11–May 30, 2026**. Within this timeframe, the CWMU operator allows at least five hunting days. If you draw a permit, it is your responsibility to contact the CWMU operator to confirm your season dates.
- **Areas open:** Pahvant Ensign (TK1018) and East Zion (TK1021). Visit hunt.utah.gov for maps and contact information.
- **Permit requirement:** The CWMU hunt requires a wild turkey permit distributed through Utah's turkey drawing. See page 23 for more information. During the hunting period established by the CWMU operator, you may take only 1 bearded turkey.

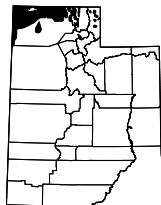
*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

Partridge and pheasant hunts



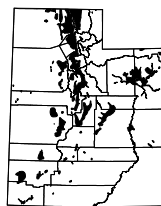
Chukar partridge

- **Season dates:** Sept. 27, 2025–Feb. 15, 2026
- **Youth hunt:** Sept. 20–22, 2025. For more information, see page 15.
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 5 birds
- **Possession limit:** 15 birds
- **Notes:** Antelope Island is closed to all upland game hunting.



Gray (Hungarian) partridge

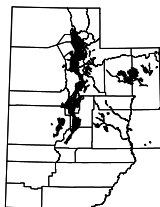
- **Season dates:** Sept. 27, 2025–Feb. 15, 2026
- **Youth hunt:** Sept. 20–22, 2025. For more information, see page 15.
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 5 birds
- **Possession limit:** 15 birds



Ring-necked pheasant

- **Season dates:** Nov. 1–Dec. 7, 2025
- **Youth hunt:** Oct. 25–30, 2025. For more information, see page 15.
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 2 male birds
- **Possession limit:** 6 male birds
- **Notes:** Only males may be harvested. The Goshen Warm Springs WMA in Utah County is closed to all hunting.
- **Closures:** Some wildlife management areas are closed to the general public each year for sponsored, organized youth and beginner pheasant hunts. Closures this year:
 - Oct. 25—Huntington Game Farm (until 3 p.m.)
 - Nov. 8—Annabella, Pahvant, and a portion of the Ogden Bay and Santaquin WMAs.

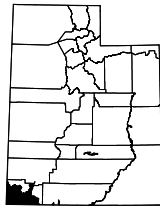
Quail hunts



California quail

California and Gambel's quail

- **Season dates:** Nov. 1–Dec. 31, 2025
- **Youth hunt:** Oct. 25–27, 2025. For more information, see page 15.
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 5 birds
- **Possession limit:** 15 birds
- **Notes:** Limits singly or in combination.



Gambel's quail

Scaled quail

- **Season dates and bag limit:** Closed statewide

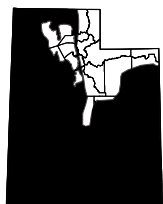
*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

Rabbit hunts



Cottontail rabbit (desert and mountain)

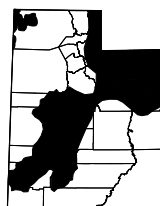
- **Season dates:** Sept. 1, 2025–Feb. 28, 2026
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 10 rabbits
- **Possession limit:** 30 rabbits



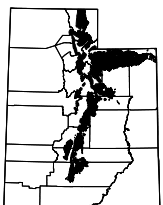
Black-tailed jackrabbit

Jackrabbit (black-tailed and white-tailed)

- **Season dates:** Year round
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** No limit
- **Possession limit:** No limit
- **Notes:** May be hunted without a license, using any weapon that you lawfully possess.



White-tailed jackrabbit



Snowshoe hare

- **Season dates:** Sept. 1, 2025–March 15, 2026
- **Areas open:** Statewide*
- **Bag limit:** 5 hares
- **Possession limit:** 15 hares

ADVENTURE AWAITS

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

Renew or purchase your license today!
Scan the QR or visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses

*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

SHOOTING HOURS

Utah Admin. Rules R657-6-10

Shooting hours for all upland game species begin 30 minutes before official sunrise.

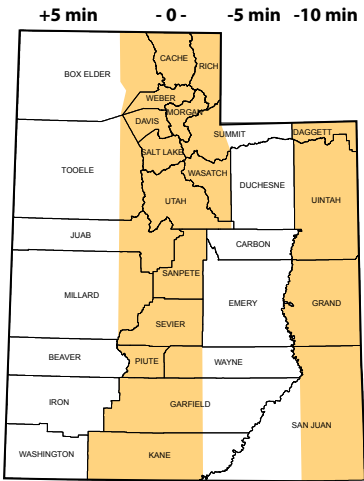
Shooting hours end at different times, depending on the species you're hunting:

- For pigeon, dove, crow and crane, shooting hours end at official sunset.
- For turkey and for all other upland game species, shooting hours end 30 minutes after official sunset.

Official sunrise and sunset times are different, depending on the day and your location. Please consult the table at the right and the time zone map below to learn the differences. You must also follow one other shooting-hour rule:

- You may not discharge a firearm on state-owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, on state waterfowl management areas or on federal refuges after official sunset or sooner than 30 minutes before official sunrise.

Time zone map



Official sunrise and sunset

September 2025			October 2025	
DATE	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.
1	6:55	7:59	7:25	7:09
2	6:56	7:58	7:26	7:07
3	6:57	7:56	7:27	7:06
4	6:58	7:54	7:28	7:04
5	6:59	7:53	7:29	7:02
6	7:00	7:51	7:30	7:01
7	7:01	7:49	7:31	6:59
8	7:02	7:48	7:32	6:57
9	7:03	7:46	7:33	6:56
10	7:04	7:44	7:34	6:54
11	7:05	7:43	7:35	6:53
12	7:06	7:41	7:36	6:51
13	7:07	7:39	7:37	6:50
14	7:08	7:38	7:38	6:48
15	7:09	7:36	7:39	6:47
16	7:10	7:34	7:40	6:45
17	7:11	7:32	7:41	6:44
18	7:12	7:31	7:42	6:42
19	7:13	7:29	7:44	6:41
20	7:14	7:27	7:45	6:39
21	7:15	7:26	7:46	6:38
22	7:15	7:24	7:47	6:36
23	7:16	7:22	7:48	6:35
24	7:17	7:21	7:49	6:33
25	7:18	7:19	7:50	6:32
26	7:19	7:17	7:51	6:31
27	7:20	7:16	7:53	6:29
28	7:21	7:14	7:54	6:28
29	7:22	7:12	7:55	6:27
30	7:24	7:11	7:56	6:26
31			7:57	6:24

	November 2025		December 2025		January 2026		February 2026	
DATE	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.
1	7:58	6:23	7:33	5:01	7:52	5:11	7:37	5:45
2	7:00	5:22	7:34	5:00	7:52	5:12	7:36	5:47
3	7:01	5:21	7:35	5:00	7:52	5:13	7:35	5:48
4	7:02	5:20	7:36	5:00	7:52	5:14	7:34	5:49
5	7:03	5:19	7:37	5:00	7:52	5:14	7:33	5:50
6	7:04	5:18	7:38	5:00	7:52	5:15	7:32	5:52
7	7:05	5:16	7:39	5:00	7:52	5:16	7:31	5:53
8	7:07	5:15	7:39	5:00	7:52	5:17	7:30	5:54
9	7:08	5:14	7:40	5:00	7:51	5:18	7:29	5:55
10	7:09	5:13	7:41	5:00	7:51	5:19	7:28	5:56
11	7:10	5:12	7:42	5:00	7:51	5:21	7:26	5:58
12	7:11	5:12	7:43	5:00	7:51	5:22	7:25	5:59
13	7:13	5:11	7:43	5:00	7:50	5:23	7:24	6:00
14	7:14	5:10	7:44	5:01	7:50	5:24	7:23	6:01
15	7:15	5:09	7:45	5:01	7:50	5:25	7:21	6:03
16	7:16	5:08	7:46	5:01	7:49	5:26	7:20	6:04
17	7:17	5:07	7:46	5:02	7:49	5:27	7:19	6:05
18	7:18	5:07	7:47	5:02	7:48	5:28	7:17	6:06
19	7:20	5:06	7:47	5:02	7:48	5:30	7:16	6:07
20	7:21	5:05	7:48	5:03	7:47	5:31	7:15	6:09
21	7:22	5:05	7:48	5:03	7:46	5:32	7:13	6:10
22	7:23	5:04	7:49	5:04	7:46	5:33	7:12	6:11
23	7:24	5:04	7:49	5:04	7:45	5:34	7:10	6:12
24	7:25	5:03	7:50	5:05	7:44	5:35	7:09	6:13
25	7:26	5:03	7:50	5:06	7:44	5:37	7:07	6:14
26	7:28	5:02	7:51	5:06	7:43	5:38	7:06	6:16
27	7:29	5:02	7:51	5:07	7:42	5:39	7:04	6:17
28	7:30	5:01	7:51	5:08	7:41	5:40	7:03	6:18
29	7:31	5:01	7:51	5:08	7:40	5:42		
30	7:32	5:01	7:52	5:09	7:39	5:43		
31			7:52	5:10	7:38	5:44		

	March 2026		April 2026		May 2026	
DATE	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.
1	7:01	6:19	7:11	7:53	6:26	8:24
2	7:00	6:20	7:09	7:54	6:25	8:25
3	6:58	6:21	7:07	7:55	6:23	8:26
4	6:57	6:22	7:06	7:56	6:22	8:27
5	6:55	6:23	7:04	7:57	6:21	8:28
6	6:53	6:25	7:03	7:58	6:20	8:29
7	6:52	6:26	7:01	7:59	6:19	8:30
8	7:50	7:27	6:59	8:00	6:17	8:31
9	7:49	7:28	6:58	8:01	6:16	8:32
10	7:47	7:29	6:56	8:02	6:15	8:33
11	7:45	7:30	6:55	8:03	6:14	8:34
12	7:44	7:31	6:53	8:04	6:13	8:35
13	7:42	7:32	6:52	8:05	6:12	8:36
14	7:41	7:33	6:50	8:06	6:11	8:37
15	7:39	7:34	6:48	8:07	6:10	8:38
16	7:37	7:36	6:47	8:08	6:09	8:39
17	7:36	7:37	6:45	8:09	6:08	8:40
18	7:34	7:38	6:44	8:10	6:07	8:41
19	7:32	7:39	6:42	8:11	6:07	8:42
20	7:31	7:40	6:41	8:13	6:06	8:43
21	7:29	7:41	6:40	8:14	6:05	8:44
22	7:27	7:42	6:38	8:15	6:04	8:45
23	7:26	7:43	6:37	8:16	6:04	8:46
24	7:24	7:44	6:35	8:17	6:03	8:47
25	7:22	7:45	6:34	8:18	6:02	8:47
26	7:21	7:46	6:32	8:19	6:02	8:48
27	7:19	7:47	6:31	8:20	6:01	8:49
28	7:17	7:48	6:30	8:21	6:00	8:50
29	7:16	7:49	6:28	8:22	6:00	8:51
30	7:14	7:50	6:27	8:23	5:59	8:51
31	7:12	7:51			5:59	8:52

Official source: gml.noaa.gov/grad/solcalc position Salt Lake City.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Dusky grouse

Length: Male, 21 inches; Female, 18 inches

Weight: up to 3.5 pounds

The dusky grouse is also called blue grouse, pine hen, pine grouse and fool hen. It is dark gray to blackish with mottled brown on the wings, and pale bluish-gray under parts marked with white on the sides of the neck and flanks. The tail is dark gray with a broad, light gray terminal band. Prefers open stands of conifer or aspen with an understory of brush.



Ruffed grouse

Length: 16–19 inches | **Weight:** 1–1.75 pounds

The ruffed grouse is also known as the willow grouse. This bird is brown or gray in appearance and the feathers on the head may be raised to form a crest. The tail's sub-terminal band is often black or brown. Ideal habitat includes thickets of aspen, alder, willow, maple, and other deciduous shrubs and trees interspersed with conifers. May be heard “drumming” in the spring.



Greater sage-grouse

Length: Male, 25–30 inches; Female, 20 inches

Weight: Male, up to 7 pounds; Female, less than 3 pounds

Also called sage-hen or sage-chicken, the greater sage-grouse is the largest North American grouse species. It is a grayish-brown bird with a dark belly and long, pointed tail feathers. Males have black throats—bordered with white at the rear—and yellow air sacs on each side of the neck covered with short, stiff, scale-like white feathers. Females look similar, but lack the air sacs and white collar and sides. Habitat includes sagebrush plains, foothills and mountain valleys; where there is no sagebrush, there are no sage-grouse.



Sharp-tailed grouse

Length: 20 inches | **Weight:** 1.5–1.75 pounds

Also known as the pin-tailed grouse, both sexes of sharp-tailed grouse are grayish-brown with black and buff markings. Distinctive features are white spots on the primary wing feathers and the barred pattern of the wing. Wing undersides are buff-white; belly and under tail are white. Preferred habitat: Foothills bunchgrass areas and benches interspersed with deciduous shrubs.



White-tailed ptarmigan

Length: 12-15 inches | **Weight:** 12-15 ounces

The white-tailed ptarmigan are also called snow quail, and are pure white in the winter. Summer features include a mottled brown head, breast and back with white wings, belly and tail. Introduced into the Uinta Mountains in 1976, this alpine species is a permanent resident of the high mountains above timberline, and is associated with willowy drainages.



Wild turkey

Length: Male, 48 inches; Female, 36 inches

Weight: Male, up to 18 pounds; Female, less than 10 pounds

There are two subspecies of wild turkey in Utah—Merriam's (introduced in 1952) and Rio Grande (introduced in 1984)—and both are large, dark-colored birds. Wild turkeys inhabit high-elevation ponderosa pine forests, oak tree forests, cottonwood tree bottoms and pinyon/juniper habitats. Adult males are called toms or gobblers, one-year-old males are called jakes, adult females are called hens and one-year-old females are called jennies. Chicks are called poults.



Ptarmigan and wild turkey illustrations by Ben Sutter

Chukar partridge

Length: 14–15 inches | **Weight:** up to 1.25 pounds

Chukar partridge are also known as chukar and Indian chukar, and were introduced to Utah in 1951. Both sexes have buff-gray backs and wings with gray-tinged cap, breast and rump. The bill, legs and feet are red. Chukars inhabit steep, rocky, semi-arid slopes and prefer rabbitbrush, sagebrush, saltbush and cheatgrass below the juniper tree belt. Low shrubs and rocky outcrops provide loafing or escape cover.



Gray (Hungarian) partridge

Length: 12–14 inches | **Weight:** 12–13 ounces

This partridge goes by many names: gray partridge, Hungarian partridge, hun and European partridge. Predominantly gray, with reddish-brown tail feathers and very conspicuous in flight. It is generally found in grassland or mixed sage and grass—adjacent to cultivated lands—and in open rangeland in some high-mountain valleys. Native to eastern Europe and western Asia, gray partridge populations now present in Utah likely spread from those established in Idaho and Nevada.



Ring-necked pheasant

Length: Male, 25–34 inches, tail may exceed 20 inches

Weight: Male, up to 3 pounds

The ring-necked pheasant is native to eastern Asia and introduced to Utah in the 1890s. It prefers agricultural and grain-producing regions, especially irrigated areas of Utah. Male plumage of the male is distinctive, with a greenish-blue head, a white ring around the neck, a pale bluish rump patch, and a long, pointed tail barred with black. Females have a mottled blend of browns with buff and dusky markings.



California quail

Length: 9–11.5 inches | **Weight:** 6–7 ounces

Also called valley quail, California quail were introduced to Utah in 1869. Males are olive-gray and have several distinctive characteristics: a grayish-blue breast, buff belly with a scaled appearance and deep chestnut marking, a black throat and face bordered with white, and black plume that curves forward from the crown of the head. Females are more olive-brown, have a shorter brownish plume and lack the male's distinctive markings on both the breast and face. They inhabit brushy areas near cultivated lands, particularly along streams, and are also common in urban areas.



Gambel's quail

Length: 9–11.5 inches | **Weight:** 6–7 ounces

Similar to California quail in size, shape and coloration, Gambel's quail are distinguished by the reddish-brown crown and sides. Males have a black throat and face bordered with white, and a short black plume that curves forward from the crown of the head. Females are more olive-brown, have a shorter brownish plume and lack the male's distinctive markings on both the breast and face. Found in brushy thickets of southwestern Utah's portion of the Mojave Desert.



Scaled quail **NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.**

Length: 10-12 inches | **Weight:** 6–7 ounces

The scaled quail is only occasionally seen in southeastern Utah, in the Four Corners area. The most distinguishing feature is the scaled breast, neck and nape, and the lack of a plume on the head (as seen in other Utah quail species). The head is topped with a white-tipped crest. Sexes are similar. It is native to the southwest desert grasslands, primarily the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands and the southern Great Plains.



Cottontail rabbit (desert and mountain)

Length: 16 inches | **Weight:** 2-3 pounds

There are two cottontail rabbit species in Utah: desert cottontail and the mountain cottontail. They are grayish or brownish on the back and sides, with white bellies and a distinctive white tail. Cottontail rabbits are widely distributed across Utah. Generally, desert cottontails occupy areas below 6,000 feet in elevation and mountain cottontails above 6,000 feet. Cottontails have relatively small ears.



Gambel's quail, scaled quail and cottontail rabbit illustrations by Ben Sutter

Jackrabbit (black-tailed and white-tailed)

Length: 24-26 inches | **Weight:** 7-9 pounds

There are two jackrabbit species (black-tailed and white-tailed) in Utah, and both have long ears up to 7 inches long. Black-tailed jackrabbits are found in foothills, lower valley and desert brushlands; they are brownish-gray, with year-round coloration of black on the rump and on top of the tail. White-tailed jackrabbits inhabit open areas in higher elevations, and are light brownish-gray in the summer with a completely white tail. In the winter, this species turns white, similar to the snowshoe hare, but is distinguished by being bigger than snowshoe hares and having longer ears.



Snowshoe hare

Length: 14 inches | **Weight:** 3-4 pounds

Snowshoe hares have large hind feet for their size and short ears (3-4 inches long). Snowshoe hares are dark brownish-gray in the summer; the tail is brown on top and dusky beneath. In the winter, they turn completely white, except the black tips on each ear. They inhabit coniferous forests and thickets of aspen, alder and willow at higher mountain elevations. Compared to white-tailed jackrabbits, snowshoe hares are smaller, have shorter ears and relatively larger hind feet.



Pygmy rabbit **NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.**

Length: 10 inches | **Weight:** Less than 1 pound

Pygmy rabbits are the smallest rabbits in North America—half the size of cottontail rabbits. Pygmy rabbits are grayish or brownish on the back and sides. They have a uniformly brown tail—lacking the distinctive white tail of cottontail rabbits—and may appear tailless. Pygmy rabbits may be seen in the northern and western half of Utah, and they prefer tall, thick sagebrush habitats.



Protect wildlife by reporting suspected wildlife crimes



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

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

UTiP
UTAH TURN IN A POACHER

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



UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

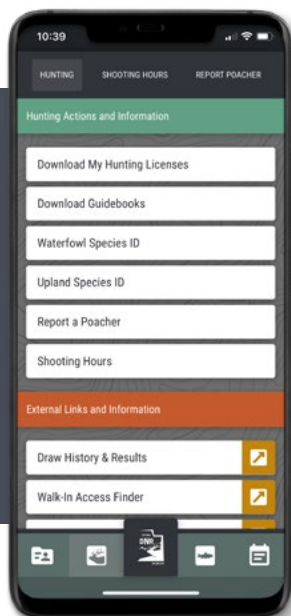


Hunting & Fishing App

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



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



DETERMINING A SPRING TURKEY'S AGE

Juveniles, or jakes (sub-adult male turkeys less than one year old), can be distinguished from adult gobblers by the coloration (barring) on their wings, the length of their beards and spurs, and the shape of their tail feathers.

Wings

Adults have white barring to the tips of the two outermost wing feathers. These bars are absent at the tips of jakes' two outermost wing feathers. Also, the tips of the adults' two outermost feathers are more rounded than the tips of jakes' two outermost feathers.



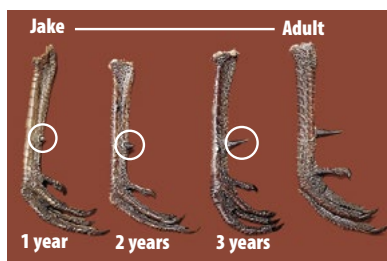
Beards

Turkeys' beards (top) become longer as turkeys age.

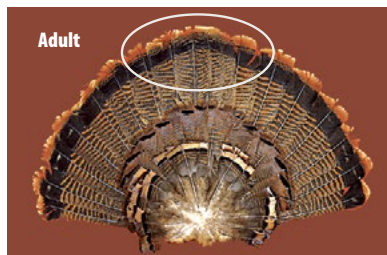


Photos courtesy of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Spurs



Tail feathers



DEFINITIONS

50 CFR 20.11, Utah Code § 23A-1-101 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-2

Bag limit means the maximum limit, in number or amount, of protected wildlife that one person may legally take during one day.

Bait means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices upland game or wild turkey.

Baited area means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for upland game to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for birds to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Certificate of registration (also known as a COR) means a document issued under the Wildlife Resources Code, or any rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board, granting authority to engage in activities not covered by a license, permit or tag.

CFR means the Code of Federal Regulations.

Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit means a generally contiguous area of land open for hunting small game, waterfowl or big game, which is registered in accordance with the rules and proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

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.

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

Falconry means the sport of taking quarry by means of a trained raptor.

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

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

Migratory game bird means, for purposes of this guidebook, American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove and sandhill crane.

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.

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

Nontoxic shot means soft iron, steel, copper-plated steel, nickel-plated steel, zinc-plated steel, bismuth, tungsten and any other shot types approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lead, nickel-plated lead, copper-plated lead, copper and lead/copper alloy shot have not been approved.

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

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Possession limit means the number of bag limits one individual may legally possess.

Pre-charged pneumatic air rifle means a rifle that fires a single projectile with compressed air released from a chamber built into the rifle, and be pressurized at a minimum of 2,000 per square inch from an external high-compression device (such as a hand pump, compressor or scuba tank) firing a single broadhead tipped bolt or arrow.

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

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

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

- the member is **not** on temporary duty in Utah and does **not** claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- the member presents a copy of his or her assignment orders to a 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.

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 action referred to above.

Transport means to ship, carry, export, import, receive or deliver for shipment, conveyance, carriage, exportation or importation.

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.

Upland game means pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, gray partridge, greater sage-grouse, ruffed grouse, dusky grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare and white-tailed ptarmigan.

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.

Wild turkey as used in this rule means a wild, free-ranging turkey and does not include a privately-owned wild turkey, domestic turkey or wild-domestic hybrids.

Youth means a person who will be 17 years of age or younger on July 31.

QUICK-REFERENCE CALENDAR

SPECIES	BAG/POS.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH
White-tailed ptarmigan (pg 38)	4 / 12	9/1	10/31	FREE PERMIT REQUIRED.				
Dusky and ruffed grouse (pg 37)	4 / 12	9/1	12/31					
Greater sage-grouse (pg 37)	Permit required	9/27 10/19 PERMIT REQUIRED.						
Sharp-tailed grouse (pg 38)	Permit required	9/27 10/19 PERMIT REQUIRED.						
Chukar and gray (Hungarian) partridge (pg 40)	5 / 15	9/20-22	9/27	2/15				
Ring-necked pheasant (pg 40)	2 / 6 - males	10/25-30		11/1	12/7			
California and Gambel's quail (pg 40)	5 / 15	10/25-27		11/1	12/31			
Wild turkey (pg 38-39)	Permit required	SEASON DATES VARY IN THE SPRING AND FALL. SEE PAGES 38-42 FOR DETAILS.						
Cottontail rabbit (pg 41)	10 / 30	9/1	2/28					
Snowshoe hare (pg 41)	5 / 15	9/1	3/15					
Jackrabbit (pg 41)	No limit	OPEN YEAR ROUND						

License required for WMA access in four Utah counties

New this year: Anyone 18 years old or older must have a valid Utah hunting, fishing or combination license to access waterfowl and wildlife management areas in Utah's four largest counties. This currently includes Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber counties, based upon population. This new law was passed by the Utah Legislature, effective May 7, 2025.

WMAs are primarily funded by the sales of Utah hunting, fishing and combination licenses and by federal excise taxes (which are paid on hunting and fishing equipment)—typically, state taxes do not pay for them. All license sales go toward conservation in Utah, so it's a way to support wildlife conservation, land acquisition, management and habitat restoration at your favorite WMA and statewide.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/wmas for details. **Thank you for supporting Utah's wildlife.**

Don't lose your hunting and fishing privileges

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



Wildlife crimes are serious. Learn more at wildlife.utah.gov/know-consequences.



Keeping You Supplied For Your OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Visit us at 1594 West North Temple in SLC or online at: utahmapstore.com

THE NATURAL RESOURCES
MAP & BOOKSTORE

MAPS • GEOLOGY • HISTORY • ADVENTURE • NATURE • TRAVEL • HIKING • GIFTS

DOUSE. STIR. CHECK. REPEAT.

Extinguish campfires. Prevent wildfires.



We want to hear from you.



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



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

*Scan the QR or visit wildlife.utah.gov/getting-involved to learn more about the public process and how you can get involved.



The Utah Wildlife Board meets eight times a year at the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at Farmington Bay.