

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

April 30, 2026, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/Ca3c8gXmee4>

AGENDA

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
 - Gary Nielson, Chairman

2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
 - Paula Richmond, Chairman

3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
 - Paula Richmond, Vice-Chairman

4. DWR Update **INFORMATIONAL**
 - Riley Peck, DWR Director

5. Legislative Update and Rule Amendments **INFORMATIONAL**
 - Justin Shannon, Deputy Director
 - Charles Lyons, Asst. Attorney General
 - Taking Waterfowl, Common Snipe and Coot – R657-9
 - Hunting and Fishing Accommodations for Disabled Persons – R657-12
 - Taking Fish and Crayfish – R657-13
 - Terminally Ill Fishing Licenses – R657-30
 - Fees, Exchanges, Surrenders, Refunds and Reallocation of Wildlife Documents – R657-42
 - Landowner Permits – R657-43
 - AIS – R657-60
 - Licensing and Operation of Outfitters, Guides and Spotters – R657-72

6. Big Game Informational Presentation **INFORMATIONAL**
 - Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator

7. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
 - Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator

8. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
 - Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator

9. Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
 - Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator

10. Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
 - Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator

11. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
 - Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator

12. 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
 - Darren DeBloois, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

13. Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a **ACTION**
 - Randy Oplinger, Assistant Chief of Fisheries

14. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
 - Gary Nielson, Chairman

Wildlife Board Action Log

Following is a summary of Wildlife Board motions directing the Division to take action and the response to date:

Fall 2026 – Target Date – Antelope Island MOU

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look at the Antelope Island Memorandum of Understanding and adjust both season dates and hunting structure. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Justin Oliver
Assigned to: Dax Mangus
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: December 4, 2025

Winter 2026 – Target Date – Furbearer and Bobcat Licensing

MOTION: We ask the Division to look at separating the Bobcat license from the Furbearer requirements.

Motion made by: Bob Christensen
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: January 8, 2026

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 8, 2026, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

Thursday, January 8, 2026 – 9:00 am

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|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Paula Richmond, Vice Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Riley Peck, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Law Enforcement update on Drones and Thermal use
– Chad Bettridge, Major DLE | INFORMATIONAL |
| 6. Utah Cougar Update
– Chad Wilson, Mammals Coordinator | INFORMATIONAL |
| 7. Utah Furbearer Update
– Chad Wilson, Mammals Coordinator | INFORMATIONAL |
| 8. Utah Black Bear Recommendations
– Chad Wilson, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Predator Control Incentive Amendments – Rule R657-64
– Darren DeBloois, Private Lands Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Cooperative Agreements for Big Game or Turkey Rule – Rule R657-74
– Darren DeBloois, Private Lands Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. Board Appeal – Brandon Jeffs – 1:00 pm
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | ACTION |
| 12. Other Business
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Action Log

Following is a summary of Wildlife Board motions directing the Division to take action and the response to date:

– Target Date – Antelope Island MOU Hunt Structure and Season Dates

MOTION: I move that we look at the Antelope Island MOU hunt structure and season dates. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Justin Oliver
Assigned to:
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: December 4, 2025

Winter 2026 – Target Date – Furbearer and Bobcat Licensing

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at separating the bobcat license from the furbearer requirements. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Bob Christensen
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: January 8, 2026

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 8, 2026, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 S. Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
Summary of Motions

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bob Christensen, seconded by Justin Oliver and passed unanimously with one abstention (Kent Johnson).

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.

- 3) Law Enforcement Update on Drones and Thermal Use (**Informational**)
- 4) Utah Cougar Update (**Informational**)
- 5) Utah Furbearer Update (**Informational**)

The following motion was made by Bob Christensen, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at separating the bobcat license from the furbearer requirements. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

- 6) Utah Black Bear Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Chris Robinson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed 5-1, with Bob Christensen opposed.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal with the new unit and additional 10 tags.

- 7) Predator control Incentive Amendments – Rule R656-64 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bob Christensen, seconded by Justin Oliver and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Predator Control Incentive Amendments – Rule 657-64 as presented by the Division.

- 8) Cooperative Agreements for Big Game or Turkey – Rule R657-74 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bob Christensen and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Cooperative Agreements for Big Game or Turkey, Rule 657-74 as presented by the Division, with the addition of an annual report to the Wildlife Board.

- 9) Board Appeal – Brandon Jeffs (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Chris Robinson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we authorize the Director or the Division to enter into a settlement agreement with Brandon Jeffs that would call for a 15-year suspension of privileges which would commence in March 2025 and run to 2040, and that the terms and other specifics of such agreement be worked out between counsel for the Division and Mr. Jeffs; and once they are in agreement, that the Director be authorized to sign such a settlement.

- 10) Other Business (**Contingent**)

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 8, 2026, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 S Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
Attendance

Wildlife Board		RAC Chairs
Gary Nielison - Chairman		Central – Brock McMillan
Paula Richmond – Vice Chair		Northeastern – Nathan Crapo
Riley Peck – Executive Secretary		Northern – Brad Buchanan
Bob Christensen		Southeastern – Scoot Flannery (online)
Ryan Foutz		Southern – Austin Atkinson
Kent Johnson		
Justin Oliver		
Chris Robinson		
Division Personnel		
Mike Canning	Todd Reed	Lindy Varney
Ashley Green	Chad Wilson	Charles Lyons
Dax Mangus	Darren DeBlois	Steven Kaiser
Chris Wood	Rusty Robinson	Trevor Dolman
Miles Hanberg	Chad Bettridge	Staci Coons
Danny Summers	Ian Montgomery	Paige Wiren
Blair Stringham	Devin Christensen	Jessa Bowman
Dallon Christensen	Kenny Johnson	
Dustin Mitchell	David Smedley	
Teresa Griffin	Jim Christensen	
Paul Gedge	Dave Bettridge	
Mike Christensen	Matt Burgess	
Public Present		
Bret Selman	John Bair	Brandy Smith
Kevin Albrecht	Shay Downs	JJ Brewer
Mykel Jillins	Calvin Duncan	Jeff Brewer
Cody Webster	Ryan Stott	Hunter Mecham
Sierra Nelson	Garth Jenson	Travis Jenson
Phil Crowder	John Ziegler	Nick Hugh
Kelly Pehrson	Sundays Hunt	Braylee Larson
Troy Henrie	Andy Rice	Penny Maldonado
Jeremy Bohman	Brad	Greg Sheehan
Kade Sargent	Chet Young	Anne Wright
Cameron Adams	Cory Huntsman	Beaumon Day
Todd Liefing	Guy Webster	Brett Guymon
Hunter Loveland	Kirk Robinson	Nephi Cole
Alex Lawson	Angie Wonacott	Blaine Lessard
Daniel Davis	Dan Cockayne	
TJ Pace	Cheryl Henley	

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwufUuLdHKA>

00:00:52	Chairman Nielson called the meeting to order, welcomed the public and read the meeting protocol guidelines. The Board and RAC chairs introduced themselves.
00:04:23	<p>1) Approval of the Agenda (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.</p>
00:04:37	<p>2) Approval of the Minutes</p> <p>The following motion was made by Bob Christensen, seconded by Justin Oliver and passed unanimously with one abstention. Kent Johnson abstained.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting.</p>
00:05:20	<p>3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)</p> <p>Vice Chair Paula Richmond reviewed the Antelope Island MOU action log item, noting that it is due this fall 2026.</p>
00:05:57	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>A Division update was not given at this meeting.</p>
00:05:58	<p>5) Law Enforcement update on Drones and Thermal use (Informational)</p> <p>Division of Law Enforcement Major Chad Bettridge reviewed DNR Rule R657-5-7 Prohibited Weapons and Devices, noted that the Division of Law Enforcement receives information related to this rule from individuals, information some of which is actionable, and gave general details about some incidents.</p> <p>The Board asked what kinds of received information makes that information actionable.</p> <p>Major Bettridge then reviewed R657-5-14 Use of Vehicle or Aircraft.</p> <p>The Board asked what the penalty is for illegal use of a thermal device, and asked Major Bettridge to define “take” as it applies to the rule.</p>
00:17:25	<p>6) Utah Cougar Update (Informational)</p> <p>Director Peck noted that the Division received a lot of public interest regarding a cougar study that the Division is conducting and thanked the members of the public who came to this meeting. He noted that the voices in the room represent a full spectrum of perspectives. Director Peck highlighted that the Division has a mandate from the Utah Legislature to look at cougar management, and specifically to take management actions when there is evidence that shows predators might have a top-down effect on some of the</p>

	<p>state's big game species. The study, he said, will be open to the public, peer-reviewed and published, and that the study started over a month ago. He concluded by saying that the Division is committed to preserving, protecting and understanding cougars in the best way that the Division knows how.</p> <p>Big Game Projects Coordinator Dr. Kent Hersey gave a presentation titled "Evaluating the Influence of Predation by Mountain Lions on Population Dynamics of Mule Deer."</p> <p>The Board asked what methods are, or could be, used to increase pressure on cougars in the six study units, and if collaring cougars on those units could give useful representative data about what is taking place with deer populations.</p> <p>Mammals Coordinator Chad Wilson had no additional information to add to the meeting materials presentation that was posted on the Division's website.</p> <p>Chairman Nielson noted that organizations will have five minutes to speak; individuals three minutes to speak.</p>
00:42:49	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Public comments were accepted at this time on this informational agenda item.</p>
02:02:48	<p>Meeting Break</p>
02:13:37	<p>7) Utah Furbearer Update (Informational)</p> <p>Mammals Coordinator Chad Wilson opened the floor for questions.</p> <p>The Board asked about the Northeastern RAC's motion to have a unique bobcat license that is not tied into the furbearer license, and made a motion to put on the Action Log.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Bob Christensen, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at separating the bobcat license from the furbearer requirements. This is to be placed on the Action Log.</p>
02:16:32	<p>8) Utah Black Bear Recommendations (Action)</p> <p>Mammals Coordinator Chad Wilson highlighted what the Board would be voting on for this agenda item.</p>
02:17:02	<p>Board/RAC Questions</p> <p>The Board asked how many bears have been taken in the Dolores Triangle area in the past five to ten years, and asked if the unit, overall, met its harvest objective from just the bears taken on the La Sals.</p>
02:18:00	<p>Public Input</p> <p>Director Peck summarized the electronically submitted public comments.</p>

02:18:20	RAC Recommendations All RACs voted to accept the recommendations, with various dissent and additional motions.
02:21:22	Public Comments/Division Clarification Public comments were accepted at this time.
02:27:58	Board Discussion Chairman Nielson reiterated the RAC motions and noted that discussed at RAC meetings was the perspective that we should follow the bear management plan that we have and make changes when the current plan's period is over, and also, given that there are bears in the Dolores Triangle, allocating tags for that area would provide additional opportunity. The Board asked where the proposed ten Dolores Triangle permits would come from, if the ten-permit recommendation was outside of the current bear management plan, and if bear numbers in the unit being discussed have increased. The Board commented on La Sal harvest versus Dolores Triangle harvest and voiced that if the plan is going to be looked at again in a year, then that would be the time to make this permit number change. Conversely the Board stated that if this recommendation were passed, the units would be reviewed in a year, when the management plan is reviewed, to assess whether to continue with the permit allocation, or make a change. The Board affirmed that Dolores Triangle hunting access is challenging but that there are bears there, and voiced support for increasing Dolores Triangle permits and opportunity. Chairman Nielson stated that the ten-permit adjustment would not impact the management plan. The Board then voiced support for looking into what would be the positive or negative aspects of allowing hunters to get two bear permits and asked about the possibility of a spring hunt. The Board continued to discuss opinions about adding the ten permits now, or waiting until the Bear Committee reviews the plan, asked how having ten fewer permits on the La Sals would affect that hunt, and asked if a Dolores Triangle hunt was discussed by the bear committee. It was disclosed that the bear management plan would be reviewed in two years, rather than one so, with this new information, the Board discussed waiting two years until the management plan is reviewed. The Division clarified that in two years what will be reviewed is the management cycle, not the management plan. The following motion was made by Chris Robinson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed 5-1 with Bob Christensen opposed. MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal with the new unit

	<p>and additional 10 tags.</p> <p>The Board asked if the Division will report on the harvest data for the Dolores Triangle at the meeting next year where bear hunting is discussed.</p>
02:51:55	<p>9) Predator Control Incentive Amendments – Rule R657-64 (Action)</p> <p>Mammals Coordinator Chad Wilson gave a presentation titled, “Predator Control Incentives.”</p>
02:53:05	<p>Public Input</p> <p>Director Peck summarized the electronically submitted public comments.</p>
02:53:21	<p>RAC Recommendations</p> <p>All RACs voted to pass the rule amendments.</p>
02:54:14	<p>Public Comments/Division Clarification</p> <p>There were no public comments on this agenda item.</p>
02:54:14	<p>Board Discussion</p> <p>The following motion was made by Bob Christensen, seconded by Justin Oliver and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Predator Control Incentive Amendments Rule R657-64 as presented by the Division.</p>
02:54:54	<p>10) Cooperative Agreements for Big Game or Turkey – Rule R657-74 (Action)</p> <p>Private Lands Public Wildlife Coordinator Darren DeBloois gave the explanation for this agenda item.</p>
02:55:26	<p>Board/RAC Questions</p> <p>The Board asked about the scope of the proposed agreements, how the rule would be written, and if the Division has, in the past, formally responded to turkey depredation. The Board clarified that they would be voting on approving the option for financial incentives or permits to be part of the agreement.</p> <p>The Board asked if the public would have access to the agreements, and if the Division would create an annual report showing how funds have been spent.</p> <p>A definition change for the definition of “cleared and planted land” was shared.</p>
03:03:25	<p>RAC Recommendations</p>

	<p>All RACS voted to pass the agreements as presented.</p>
<p>03:05:01</p>	<p>Board Discussion</p> <p>The Board advocated for being proactive regarding funding accountability and transparency.</p> <p>The Board asked the Division to speak to the Central RAC's motion to add "landowner or lease holder" to the definition, asked if a certain area has been identified to target, and asked if the Division knows what unit has the most deer depredation, or deer being harvested because they are not liked.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bob Christensen and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Cooperative Agreements for Big Game or Turkey Rule R657-74 as presented by the Division, with the addition of an annual report to the Wildlife Board.</p>
<p>03:10:30</p>	<p>Meeting Break</p>
<p>04:12:12</p>	<p>11) Board Appeal (Action)</p> <p>Chairman Nielson called the meeting to order and had the Board introduce themselves. Ryan Foutz was excused from the meeting. Chairman Nielson introduced the counsel for the Board and noted that the appellant has requested an appeal of his license suspension.</p> <p>The appellant and his attorney introduced themselves, as did the Assistant Attorney General representing the Division of Wildlife Resources in this matter.</p> <p>Chairman Nielson noted the date the appeal was filed, and that a conversation between counsels had taken place regarding the decision.</p> <p>The appellant's attorney stated that the parties had reached a resolution for the Board to approve. The Division's attorney stated he and the appellant's counsel would prepare an order for the Board which would negate the need for a hearing. The Division's attorney outlined provisions of the order.</p> <p>Chairman Nielson asked for clarification of the resolution.</p> <p>The appellant's attorney stated the resolution reached with the Division.</p> <p>The Board asked if they would be called that back into session, or if the Board could make a decision during this meeting. The attorney representing the Board then clarified what the Board could vote on during this meeting.</p> <p>The Board asked what becomes of the various fines and penalties that were levied. Chairman Nielson noted that the Board had the opportunity to go off the record and discuss or deliberate this matter.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chris Robinson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we authorize the Director or the Division to enter into a</p>

	<p>settlement agreement with Brandon Jeffs that would call for a 15-year suspension of privileges, which would commence in March, 2025, and run to 2040, and that the terms and other specifics of such agreement be worked out between counsel for the Division and Mr. Jeffs; and once they are in agreement that the Director be authorized to sign such a settlement.</p>
	<p>12) Other Business (Contingent)</p>

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

1) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)

NR, SER:

MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

PASSED: Unanimously

CR:

MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

PASSED: 7 in favor and 5 opposed

SR:

MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

PASSED: 7 in favor and 2 opposed

NER:

MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

PASSED: 7 in favor and 1 opposed

2) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)

NR:

MOTION: I move we accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations as presented with the acceptance of adding one archery permit for bison to both the Book Cliffs Little Creek and Bitter Creek archery hunts.

PASSED: 9 in favor and 1 opposed

CR:

MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented with the addition of one extra archery tag for Bison on the Book Cliffs.

PASSED: Unanimously

SR, SER, NER:

MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented by the Division.

PASSED: Unanimously

3) Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)

NR:

MOTION: I move we accept Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 with the acceptance of adding five bull elk permits to each of the late season limited entry archery hunts.

PASSED: Unanimously

CR:

MOTION: I move we accept Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented by the Division

PASSED: 10 in favor and 2 opposed

SR:

MOTION: I move we accept Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented by the Division

PASSED: 8 in favor and 1 opposed

SER:

MOTION: I move we accept Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented by the Division

PASSED: Unanimously

NER:

MOTION: I move we accept Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented by the Division with the addition of 5 late season archery bull permits on each unit.

PASSED: 6 in favor and 2 opposed

4) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)

NR, CR, SR, NER:

MOTION: I move we accept Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

PASSED: Unanimously

SER:

MOTION: I move we accept Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented, with the exception of antlerless moose on the Wasatch – drop that number to 1.

PASSED: 7 in favor and 1 opposed

5) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)

NR, SR, SER:

MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

PASSED: Unanimously

CR:

MOTION: I move we approve the recommendations as presented with the exception that we take the cow moose hunt on the Wasatch unit down to zero.

PASSED: 8 in favor and 3 opposed

NER:

MOTION: I move we approve the recommendations as presented with the exception that we take the antlerless moose hunt on the Wasatch unit down to one.

PASSED: Unanimously

6) 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)

NR, SR, SER, NER:

MOTION: I move we accept 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

PASSED: Unanimously

CR:

MOTION: I move we accept 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

PASSED: 10 in favor and 1 opposed

7) Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a (Action)

NR, SER, NER:

MOTION: I move we accept Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a as presented.

PASSED: Unanimously

CR:

MOTION: I move we reject the Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a as presented at this time.

PASSED: 10 in favor and 2 opposed

SR:

MOTION: I move we accept the Division's recommendations as presented, to include the additional amendment to R657-3c(9).

PASSED: 6 in favor and 3 opposed

RAC AGENDA

April 15, 2026

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/pTDjNdFVZF>

1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **ACTION**
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update **INFORMATIONAL**
- RAC Chair
4. Big Game Informational Presentation **INFORMATIONAL**
- Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator
5. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
- Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator
6. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator
7. Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
- Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator
8. Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
- Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator
9. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 **ACTION**
- Mike Wardle, Big Game Program Coordinator
10. 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
- Darren Debloois, Private Land/Public Wildlife Coordinator
11. Aquatics Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a **ACTION**
- Randy Oplinger, Assistant Chief of Fisheries

Meeting Locations

CR RAC – April 14th, 6 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115. N. Main Street, Springville
<https://youtube.com/live/QGf6KHbGGhU>

SER RAC – April 22nd 6 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
<https://youtube.com/live/2Fw74MUYNgg>

NR RAC – April 15th 6 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Ogden
<https://youtube.com/live/pTDjNdFVZF>

NER RAC- April 23rd 6 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal
https://youtube.com/live/fo9KWjw_mU

SR RAC – April 21st 6 PM
Hunter Conf. Center, Charles R Hunter Room
Southern Utah University
<https://youtube.com/live/DmmIdTMNIDE>

Board Meeting- April 30th 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
<https://youtube.com/live/Ca3c8gXmee4>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington , seconded by Wyatt Selman and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.

2) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Brandon Zundel, seconded by Hunter Stallings and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we move that we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

3) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2026 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Brandon Zundel and passed For: 9 Against: 1. Steve Sorensen. - Taking opportunity from any weapon hunts. Success is too high.

MOTION: I move we accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations as presented with the acceptance of adding one archery permit for bison to both the Book Cliffs Little Creek and Bitter Creek archery hunts.

4) Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Sorensen, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we accept Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 with the acceptance of adding five bull elk permits to each of the late season limited entry archery hunts.

5) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2026 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Wyatt Selman, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we accept Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

6) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Hunter Stallings, seconded by Avery Cook and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

7) 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we accept 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

8) Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Brandon Zundel and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we accept Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a as presented.

DRAFT

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

April 15, 2026

Attendance

RAC Members

Brad Buchanan - Chair
Blair Stringham - Exec Sec
Ryan Brown- Co-chair

James Carlson
Avery Cook
Robert Dale-Online
Garrett Larsen
Wyatt Selman

Steve Sorensen
Hunter Stallings
Ross Worthington
Brandon Zundel

Board Member

Justin Oliver, Gary Nielsen, Kent Johnson

RAC Excused

Darren Parry
Casey Snider
Jessica Wade

Division Personnel

Jodie Anderson
Crystal Ross
Jim Christensen
Darren Debloois
Sam Robertson
Daniel Sallee
Xaela Walden
Rusty Robinson
Mike Wardle
Randle McBride
Calvin Hawkins

Mike Christensen
David Beveridge
Devan Christensen
Mike Kinghorn
Melissa Early
Nick Madsen
Covy Jones
Lindy Varney
Chris Penne
Trina Hedrick

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

April 15, 2026

00:05:19 **1) Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.**

00:08:14 **2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Wyatt Selman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.

00:09:11 **3) Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Brad Buchanan**
Link on website to view.

00:11:07 **4) Big Game Informational Presentation (Informational)**
Mike Wardle- No additional information to add to the presentation for the RAC.

RAC Questions

Water concerns and how it will affect the deer populations.

00:12:55 **5) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)**
Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Mike Wardle- No additional information to add to the presentation for the RAC.

00:13:09 **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Kamas unit buck to doe ratio lower than neighboring units. Number of collars that have been put on mule deer this past year. CWD in Bountiful deer herd being a hotspot. Number of deer testing positive for CWD. Following the deer plan based off buck to doe ratios. Number of deer permits issued on certain units. Missing opportunities to hunt. Deloris Triangle buck deer numbers and what is factored in the model.

Public Questions

None

00:23:02 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Adam Denison- Utah Backcountry Hunters and Anglers- Support the division's recommendations. Concerned how the drought is going to impact the deer herd.

Kevin Norman- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the division's recommendations, with the exception on the Monroe with the fire. We should keep the buck deer permit numbers at 900.

00:26:55 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Asked Mike Wardle to go over the buck deer permit numbers for the Monroe unit. Elk hunters given the option to extend to hunt this year due to the fire last year and if that option was available to general season deer hunters.

Opportunity being missed on some of the units where there are 40 buck deer to 100 does. Most of the recommendations make sense to where the mule deer plan is.

Some units can maybe increase more permits where others are decreased. Most of the recommendations make sense with where the mule deer plan is. Happy to see no permit increases on the Morgan/South Rich, East Canyon and Chalk Creek this year. There is a social limit on how many hunters we can cram into a little bit of public land.

The following motion was made by Brandon Zundel, seconded by Hunter Stallings and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

00:32:34 6) Once-in-a Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Rusty Robinson- No additional information to add to the presentation for the RAC.

00:32:57 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Loss of moose due to tick infestation. How the light winters affect the moose. Tick loads. Bison on the Book Cliffs. Increase of permits on any weapon hunts, but no increase on the archery hunts. Average success on the any weapon bison hunts.

Public Questions

None

00:38:37 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Kevin Norman- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the division's recommendations as presented. Increase the Book Cliff Bitter Creek archery tag by one.

00:40:03 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Hunts were done thinking there would be lower success, they had a higher success rate for sheep and bison. It feels like permits are being taken away from hunters with more points verses a bow hunter who has less points. Concerns about the antlerless moose and

the tick infestation. Adjusting permit numbers from one weapon type to another. Mountain goats on Willard Peak. One permit was proposed. Population estimate. 5% to 25 % of counted adults. Changes to the permit where only a billy mountain goat can be harvested. Education available to encourage hunters to take a billy and also help identify the difference between a nanny and a billy.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Brandon Zundel and passed For: 9 Against: 1. Steve Sorensen- Taking opportunity from any weapon hunts. Success is too high.

MOTION: I move we accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations as presented with the acceptance of adding one archery permit for bison to both the Book Cliffs Little Creek and Bitter Creek archery hunts.

00:49:19 7) Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Mike Wardle- No additional information to add to the presentation for the RAC.

00:49:34 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Multi-season any bull elk permit and if it will be brought back. Late archery hunts and low success rates. One of the tools brought in to help address point creep with having minimal impact on the herds.

Public Questions

None

00:54:05 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Kevin Norman- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the division's recommendations. Concern with the increase in permits on the Nebo unit. Would like to leave permit numbers the same.

00:56:10 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Not a fan when the multi-season Any bull tag went away. Mid-season hunts were created for opportunity. Permit number increases scare the public.

The following motion was made by Steven Sorensen, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move we accept Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026 with the acceptance of adding five bull elk permits to each of the late season limited entry archery hunts.

01:01:17 8) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2026(Action)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Mike Wardle- No additional information to add to the presentation for the RAC.

01:01:53 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Increase of permits on the Parker Mountains and the success and satisfaction.

Public Questions

None

01:02:48 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Kevin Norman- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the division's

recommendations.

01:03:47 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None

The following motion was made by Wyatt Selman, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move we accept Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

01:04:33 9) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Mike Wardle- No additional comments to add to the presentation for the RAC.

01:04:45 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Kamas and North Slope Summit units for elk success rates. Elk movement on the Kamas unit. Landowners in Grouse Creek concerned about the elk that come in on their property during the fall. Season hunt dates for Nevada. Elk control permits and if they are available to CWMU operators. Ten antlerless moose permits available on the Morgan unit and population verses objectives. If there has been any cow moose loss on the Morgan South/Rich unit. Public land available to hunt cow moose on the Morgan South/Rich unit. Private Lands Only elk permits and how many elk are harvested just on that permit on each unit.

Public Questions

None

01:16:02 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Kevin Norman- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the division's recommendation with the acceptance to decrease the doe pronghorn permits to 200 on the Parker Mountains.

01:17:33 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Kamas Private Lands Only antlerless permits. Lack of calf moose recruitment. Concern with the loss of moose due to ticks. Calf moose mortality rate. In the future look at the Morgan/South Rich moose hunt.

The following motion was made by Hunter Stalling, seconded by Avery Cook and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2026 as presented.

01:30:14 10) 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Darren Deblois- No additional information to add to the presentation for the RAC.

01:30:41 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Getting CWMU's to harvest more cow elk.

Public Questions

None

01:32:09 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online

presentation.

Public Comment

None

01:32:37 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move we accept 2026 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

01:33:39 11) Aquatics Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Randy Oplinger summarized the Aquatics Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a.

01:37:36 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Impacting only buyers that have private ponds. Known mechanisms for transferring spring snails to other habitats. Documented locations of the New Zealand mud snails. Effect on fisheries from the mud snails. Possibility of extricating the mud snails from a private fishpond vs a hatchery.

Public Questions

None

01:41:51 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

None

01:42:13 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Anything to help keep the federal government from stepping in and putting something on a protective list. Appreciate the efforts that have gone into this. Local control feels more efficient.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Brandon Zundel and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move we accept Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and R657-59a as presented.

01:43:25 Motion to Adjourn: Ross Worthington

Northeastern Region Advisory Council Meeting

December 18th, 2025

RAC Present	RAC Excused	RAC Not Present
		Adam Nielson
		Jordon McMahon
Grizz Oleen		Tim Ignocia
Natasha Hadden		
Richard Buehler		
Eric Major		
Nathan Crapo		
Jake Huber (Online)		
Dwayne Davies		
Collin Crozier		
Willis LeFevre		

Wildlife Board

-Bob Christensen

-Gary Nielson (Online)

-Kent Johnson (Online)

DWR Staff Present

Miles Hanberg	Trina Hedrick (Online)	Lindy Varney (Online)
Clint Sampson	Dallon Christensen	Darren Debloois
Randall Thacker	Levi Watkins	
Derrick Ewell	Matt Fackrell	

Torrey Christopherson	Maddie Gillette	
Pat Rainbolt	Mike Wardle	
Anthony Christianson	Rusty Robinson	

00:06:49	1) Welcome and introductions by RAC Chairman Eric Major.
00:07:47	2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden , seconded by Grizz Oleen, and passed unanimously:
00:07:57	3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eric Majors gave a brief summary of the wildlife board meeting in January 2026.
00:10:30	4) Big Game Informational Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike Wardle gave a brief summary of the permit recommendations and how they decide on how many permits to issue.
00:24:09	5) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike Wardle opened it to questions.
00:24:59	<i>Questions from RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it better to up the numbers on a dry year or to lower them for more opportunity for survival? Why are the numbers up on the wasatch west? Why did the book cliffs have a 20% increase? When is the mid-year review of the mule deer plan? Did you talk about LE hunts on the mid year review committee?
00:32:29	<i>Questions from the Public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many general season permits statewide?
00:33:56	<i>Online comments</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One agreed. One was neutral

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One strongly disagreed.
00:34:40	<p><i>Public Comments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Numbers need to be lowered because we are in a huge drought. ● SFW supports the recommendations.
00:37:12	<p><i>RAC Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On the vernal bonanza there was a 200 permit jump, is it to bring it back down to a certain zone? ● How did the vernal bonanza deer herd look? ● Do you try to plan on a harvest of more bucks in a bad winter year to save more feed? ● Are you still going off of the same study from a year and a half ago? ● The public really doesn't want any more bucks taken, but I trust the biologists' data, but I don't think it would be a bad idea to slow down on the permit numbers. ● The public does feel like there are too many tags, but I see what we need to bring the buck and doe ratio down. ● The south slope has the highest success rate, so the deer are there, people just need to look for them. ● Is there a specific relationship between annual moisture and conception rate on deer? ● Do we have enough mature bucks to cover does? How well do the young bucks do against mature bucks?
00:52:14	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The following motion was made to accept the permit numbers as presented by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jake Huber and passed unanimously.
00:55:47	<p>6) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rusty Robinson is open to questions.
00:56:00	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything to help control ticks on moose? • Is there still a high rate of eriophora worms? • Where are we on bison book cliff permits? Please explain the suggestion. • How were the number of permits for bison decided upon weapon? • What is the rifle success for book cliff bison? • How are mountain goats doing in the Uintas?
01:05:49	<p><i>Questions from the Public</i></p> <p>No questions from the public</p>
01:06:04	<p><i>No online comments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One strongly agreed • One strongly disagreed. • One somewhat agreed..
01:06:27	<p><i>Comments from the Public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFW supports the recommendations and to add one bison permit on the book cliffs.
01:06:53	<p><i>RAC Comments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think it is a good recommendation and one extra archery bison permit won't be a huge change on the bookcliffs. • With more guzzlers the bison seem to spread out in the book cliffs unit.
01:09:17	<p><i>MOTION:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made to accept the permit numbers as presented by Grizz Oleen, seconded by Willis LeFevre and passed unanimously.
01:09:45	7) Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2026
01:10:03	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How successful was the private land bull tag for the general season in the NERO region? • Do the bulls get pushed from private to public land?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did you see any change in the number of private land cow tags since private land bull tags were available? ● Has there been any detrimental effects to a landowner who is not allowing public access? ● Are the numbers going down in our problem elk areas? ● How is the age of harvests? ● Where are the elk being seen on the NEBO unit? ● Is it possible that other elk move from a different unit onto NEBO? ● Have we seen any uptake in the non resident permit purchases? ● What are harvest success numbers on the youth any bull permit? ● Does the harvest survey help break down success by units? ● What are spike bull harvest rates on each unit? Are there more hunters in certain units? ● Where would we find the hunter satisfaction information? ● How is the success rate in the Wasatch? ● Do the unit permit numbers get affected by success rates and animal age?
01:29:13	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No questions from the public
01:29:26	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One strongly agree ● One somewhat agreed ● One strongly disagreed
01:29:48	<p><i>Public comment</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SFW supports the recommendations with one exception that the increase on the nebo permits is too much and to recommend keeping them the same.
01:30:18	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are the late archery permits increasing? ● Discussed the overlap of late archery and rifle anterless.
01:34:21	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The following motion was made to accept the permit numbers as presented with the addition of 5 late archery tags per unit by Grizz Oleen, seconded by Richard Buehler and passed unanimously.
01:37:37	8) Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2026
01:37:51	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why is the herd declining in the vernal unit? ● How's the population on myton bench? Why is it so low? ● How are they doing age and growth wise? ● Were some captured and transferred in the vernal unit? ● Do they do well being transferred? ● Have you noticed more interference with ag and them being pushed back on private lands? ● Have you been giving out buck tags to some landowners?
01:49:57	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No questions from the public.
01:50:09	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One strongly agreed ● One neutral ● One strongly disagreed
01:50:26	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SFW supports the recommendations.

01:50:39	<p><i>RAC Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There has been some concern about numbers on the myton bench and they could be decreased.
01:51:24	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The following motion was made to accept the permit numbers as presented by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Willis LeFevre and passed unanimously.
01:52:07	<p>9) Anterless Permit Recommendations for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mike Wardle describes how they propose anterless permits.
01:53:14	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is cow moose just purely an opportunity hunt or is it to help control the population? ● Are we still seeing urban conflict with moose? ● How far do you move nuisance moose? ● Do moose transport well? ● How does the state determine cow elk control permits? ● Why are we still issuing cow permits in the bookcliffs if we are under objective? ● Do you see people being more successful with elk on the deer winter range?
02:02:59	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No questions from the public.
02:03:05	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One strongly agreed ● One neutral ● One strongly disagreed
02:03:14	<p><i>Public comment</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SFW supports the recommendations with one change that the parker doe pronghorn be recommended 200 instead of 250.
02:03:53	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The idea of reducing cow moose tags could be beneficial. ● How hard would it be to get the unit back if the hunt was removed? ● Look into the control permits on more units in the future. ● Could we ever go back to being able to hunt buck deer and anterless at the same time?
02:07:55	<p><i>Motion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The following motion was made to accept the permit numbers as presented with the exception of dropping four permits to one permit on the wasatch moose hunt by Grizz Oleen, seconded by Jake Huber and passed unanimously.
02:09:05	10) 2026 CWMU Anterless Permit Recommendations
02:09:12	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are they issuing a few more permits on the Deseret? ● How is the Deseret on their elk objective? ● Will the second tag on Deseret be offered to anyone with a tag? ● Do they offer that to the buck and bull hunters as well?
02:12:33	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No questions from the public.
02:12:40	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One strongly agreed. ● One was neutral.
02:12:51	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No public comments.
02:12:53	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No RAC discussion.

02:13:05	<p><i>Motion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made to accept the permit numbers as presented by Nathan Crapo, seconded by Natasha Hadden and passed unanimously.
02:13:33	11) Aquatic Rule Amendments for R657-3c and dR657-59a
02:18:26	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from the RAC.
02:18:33	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from the public.
02:18:39	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two people strongly agreed.
02:18:49	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments.
02:18:54	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No RAC discussion.
02:19:03	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the rule recommendation as presented by Willis Lefevre, seconded by Grizz Oleen and passed unanimously.
	ADJOURN
02:19:48	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adjourn by Willis Lefevre, seconded by Natasha Hadden and passed unanimously.

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-9. Taking Migratory Game Birds - Waterfowl, Snipe, Coot, American Crow, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Winged Dove, and Sandhill Crane.

R657-9-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 50 CFR 32.64 and 50 CFR 27.21, 2004 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking certain migratory game birds.

(2) Specific dates, areas, limits, requirements and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking certain migratory game birds.

R657-9-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Bait" means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

(b) "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 migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

(c) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations.

(d) "Daily Bag Limit" means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination, aggregate, of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

(e) "Dark geese" means the following species: cackling, Canada, and brant.

(f) "Light geese" means the following species: snow, blue and Ross'.

(g) "Live decoys" means tame or captive ducks, geese or other live birds.

(h) "Migratory game bird" means waterfowl, snipe, coot, American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, and Sandhill crane.

(i) "Off-highway vehicle" means any motor vehicle designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain.

(j) "Permanent waterfowl blind" means any waterfowl blind that is left unattended overnight and that is not a portable structure capable of immediate relocation.

(k) "Possession limit" the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

(l) "Retrieval Zone" means areas adjacent to rest areas where game retrieval is allowed but hunting is restricted.

(m) "Sinkbox" means any type of low floating device, having a depression, affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

(n) "Snipe" means the following species: common, Jack, pin-tailed, solitary, Swinhoe's and Wilson's snipe.

(o) "Transport" means to ship, export, import or receive or deliver for shipment.

(p) "Waterfowl" means ducks, mergansers, geese and tundra swans.

(q) "Waterfowl blind" means any manufactured place of concealment, including boats, rafts, tents, excavated pits, or similar structures, which have been designed to partially or completely conceal a person while hunting waterfowl.

(r) "Waterfowl Management Area" means the same as a Wildlife Management Area as defined in Subsection 23A-6-101(3), including the following properties owned or managed by the division primarily for the conservation, production, or recreational harvest of ducks, mergansers, geese, tundra swans, and other waterfowl:

(i) Bear River Bay;

(ii) Bicknell Bottoms;

(iii) BlackHawk;

(iv) Blue Lake;

(v) Brown's Park;

(vi) Clear Lake;

(vii) Desert Lake;

(viii) Farmington Bay;

(ix) Fitzgerald;

(x) ~~Harold Crane~~Goshen Bay;

~~(xi) Harold Crane;~~

(xii) Howard Slough;

~~(xiii) Locomotive Springs;~~

~~(xiv) Mallard Springs;~~

~~(xv) Manti Meadows;~~

~~(xvi) Mills Meadows;~~

~~(xvii) Ogden Bay;~~

~~(xviii) Powell Slough;~~

- ~~(xviii)~~(xv) Provo River Delta;
- ~~(xix)~~(xx) Public Shooting Grounds;
- ~~(xx)~~(xxi) Redmond Marsh;
- ~~(xxi)~~(xxii) Rock Island;
- ~~(xxii)~~(xxiii) Salt Creek;
- ~~(xxiii)~~(xxiv) Stewart Lake;
- ~~(xxiv)~~(xxv) Timpie Springs;
- ~~(xxv)~~ Topaz;
- (xxvi) Topaz;
- ~~(xxvi)~~(xxvii) Warm Springs; and
- ~~(xxvii)~~(xxviii) Willard Spur.

R657-9-32. Rest Areas and No Shooting Areas.

(1) A person may only access and use state waterfowl management areas in accordance with state and federal law, state administrative code, and proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

(2)(a) The division may establish portions of state waterfowl management areas as "rest areas" for wildlife that are closed to the public and trespass of any kind is prohibited.

(b) In addition to any areas identified in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe, and coot, the following areas are designated as rest areas:

- (i) that portion of Clear Lake Waterfowl Management Area known as Spring Lake;
- (ii) that portion of Desert Lake Waterfowl Management Area known as Desert Lake;
- (iii) that portion of Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area that lies above and adjacent to the Hull Lake Diversion Dike known as Duck Lake;
- (iv) that portion of Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area known as Rest Lake;
- (v) that portion of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area that lies in the northwest quarter of unit one; and
- (iv) that portion of Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area known as North Bachman and extending north to the Unit one dike road and east to the spillways of South run road.

(c) Maps of all rest areas will be available at division offices, on the division's website, and to the extent necessary, marked with signage at each rest area.

(3)(a) The division may establish portions of state waterfowl management areas as "No Shooting Areas" where the discharge of weapons for the purposes of hunting is prohibited.

(b) No Shooting Areas remain open to the public for other lawful activities.

(c) In addition to any areas identified in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe, and coot, the following areas are No Shooting Areas:

- (i) all of Antelope Island, including all areas within 600 feet of the upland vegetative line or other clearly defined high-water mark;
- (ii) within 600 feet of the north and south side of the center line of Antelope Island causeway;
- (iii) within ~~600~~300 feet of all structures found at Brown's Park Waterfowl Management Area;
- (iv) the following portions of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area:
 - (A) within 600 feet of the Headquarters;
 - (B) within 600 feet of dikes and roads accessible by motorized vehicles;
 - (C) within the area designated as the Hasenyager Nature Preserve; and
 - (D) within the 300 foot retrieval zone around the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area rest area;
 - (v) within the 200 foot retrieval zone extending east from the southeast signed and posted corner of Rest Lake at Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area north to the intersection with Salt Creek bypass canal and signed and posted northeast corner of Rest Lake;

(vi) the following portions of Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area:

- (A) within 600 feet of Lakeview Parkway;
- (B) within 600 feet of Boat Harbor Drive;
- (C) within 600 feet of the Provo River Delta parking lot; and
- (D) within 600 feet of the Provo River Delta trail;

(vii) within ~~600~~300 feet of the headquarters area of Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area;

(viii) within the boundaries of all State Parks except those designated open by appropriate signage as provided in

Section R651-614-4;

(ix) within 1/3 of a mile of the Great Salt Lake Marina;

(x) below the high-water mark of Gunnison Bend Reservoir and its inflow upstream to the Southerland Bridge, Millard County;

(xi) any property within the boundary of the Salt Lake International Airport; and

(xii) any property within the boundaries of federal migratory bird refuges, unless hunting waterfowl specifically authorized by the federal government.

(4) The division reserves the right to manage division lands and regulate its use consistent with Section 23A-6-404 and Rule R657-28.

KEY: wildlife, birds, migratory birds, waterfowl

Date of Last Change: October 22, 2025

Notice of Continuation: July 2, 2021

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305; 50 CFR part 20

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-12. Hunting and Fishing Accommodations for People With Disabilities.

R657-12-1. Purpose and Authority.

Under authority of Sections 23A-2-305, 23A-4-201, 23A-4-305, 23A-5-315 and 63G-3-201, this rule provides the standards and procedures for a person with disabilities to:

- (1) obtain a certificate of registration for taking wildlife from a vehicle;
- (2) obtain a fishing license as authorized under Section 23A-4-305 (1);
- (3) obtain a certificate of registration to participate in companion hunting;
- (4) obtain a certificate of registration to receive a limited entry season extension;
- (5) obtain a certificate of registration to receive a general deer or elk season extension;
- (6) obtain a certificate of registration to hunt with a crossbow or draw-lock; or
- (7) obtain a certificate of registration to use telescopic sights on a weapon when otherwise prohibited.

R657-12-3. Providing Evidence of Disability for Obtaining a Fishing License.

(1) A resident may receive a free fishing license under Section 23A-4-305 (1) by providing evidence the person is blind, paraplegic, or otherwise permanently disabled so as to be permanently confined to a wheelchair or the use of crutches, or who has lost either or both lower extremities.

(2) A person may obtain this license at any division office.

(3) The division shall accept the following as evidence of disability:

(a) obvious physical impediment;

(b) use of any mobility device described in Section R657-12-2(b);

(c) a signed statement by a licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist, ~~or a physician,~~ physician assistant, or nurse practitioner verifying the person is blind as defined under Section R657-12-2(a); or

(d) a signed statement by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner verifying the person is paraplegic, or otherwise permanently disabled so as to be permanently confined to a wheelchair or the use of crutches, or has lost either or both lower extremities.

KEY: wildlife, wildlife law, disabled persons, fishing

Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023

Notice of Continuation: July 18, 2022

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-5-315; 63G-3-201

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-13. Taking Fish and Crayfish.

R657-13-1. Purpose and Authority.

- (1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking fish and crayfish.
- (2) Specific dates, areas, methods of take, requirements and other administrative details which may change annually and are pertinent are published in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking fish and crayfish.

R657-13-3. Fishing License Requirements and Free Fishing Day.

- (1) A license is not required on free fishing day, a Saturday in June, annually. All other laws and rules apply.
- (2) ~~A~~ Notwithstanding Subsection 23A-6-405(6)(d)(ii), a person 12 years of age or older shall purchase a fishing license before engaging in any regulated fishing activity pursuant to Section 23-19-18.
- (3) A person under 12 years of age may fish without a license and take a full daily and possession limit.

KEY: fish, fishing, wildlife, wildlife law

Date of Last Change: December 2, 2024

Notice of Continuation: August 24, 2022

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-305; 23A-24-304; 23A-4-201; 23-2-403

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-30. Fishing License for the Terminally Ill.

R657-30-1. Purpose and Authority.

Under Section 23A-4-305, this rule provides the procedures for a terminally ill person to obtain a free fishing license.

R657-30-2. Procedures for Obtaining a Free Fishing License.

(1) A resident may receive a fishing license free of charge upon providing the following information to a division office:

(a) Verification signed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner stating the applicant:

(i) is terminally ill; and

(ii) has less than five years to live; and

(b) One of the following documents stating the person is receiving assistance under a low income public assistance program administered by the Department of Human Services:

(i) A Medicaid identification card for the current month;

(ii) A food stamp identification card for the current year; or

(iii) A document stating the person is receiving Supplemental Security Income.

(2) If a person is not a recipient of a public assistance program administered by the Department of Human Services or is unable to produce one of the documents required under Subsection (b), the person must provide the division with an affidavit signed by the Office of Family Support stating that he qualifies for a low income public assistance program.

KEY: wildlife, licensing, terminally ill*, fishing, rules and procedures

Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023

Notice of Continuation: April 4, 2022

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-4-305

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-42. Fees, Exchanges, Surrenders, Refunds, and Reallocation of Wildlife Documents.

R657-42-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23A-4-201 and 23A-4-207 the division may issue wildlife documents in accordance with the rules of the Wildlife Board.

(2) This rule provides the standards and procedures for the:

- (a) exchange of permits;
- (b) surrender of wildlife documents;
- (c) refund of wildlife documents;
- (d) reallocation of permits; and
- (e) assessment of late fees.

R657-42-5. Refunds.

(1) The refund of a license, certificate of registration or permit shall be made in accordance with:

- (a) Section 23A-4-207 and Rule R657-50;
- (b) Section 23A-4-301 and Subsection (3); or
- (c) Section 23A-4-207 and this section.

(2)(a) An application for a refund may be obtained from any division office.

(b) All refunds must be processed through the Salt Lake Division office.

(c) Except for an individual applying for a refund under Subsection (3), an individual may apply for a refund up to 30 days after the expiration of the wildlife document.

(d) The division may reject an application for a refund that is incomplete.

(3) A person may receive a refund for a wildlife document if that person was deployed or mobilized on or after September 11, 2001, in the interest of national defense or national emergency and is thereby completely precluded from participating in the hunting or fishing activity authorized by the wildlife document, provided:

(a) the refund request is made to the division within one year of the end of the hunting or fishing season authorized by the wildlife document;

(b) the person surrenders the wildlife document to the division, or signs an affidavit stating the wildlife document is no longer in the person's possession; and

(c) the person verifies that the deployment or mobilization completely precluded them from participating in the activity authorized by the wildlife document; and

(d) the person provides military orders, or a letter from an employment supervisor on official public health or public safety organization letterhead stating:

(i) the branch of the United States Armed Forces, or name of the public health organization or public safety organization from which they were deployed or mobilized; and

(ii) the nature and length of their duty while deployed or mobilized.

(4) The division may issue a refund for a wildlife document if the person to whom it was issued dies before participating in the hunting or fishing activity authorized by the wildlife document, provided the person legally entitled to administer the decedent's estate provides the division with:

(a) picture identification;

(b) letters testamentary, letters of administration, or such other evidence establishing the person is legally entitled to administer the affairs of the decedent's estate;

(c) a photocopy of the decedent's certified death certificate; and

(d) the wildlife document for which a refund is requested.

(5)(a)(i) A person may receive a refund minus a processing fee for a once-in-a-lifetime or limited-entry permit provided the permit is surrendered to the division 30 days or more before the season opening date identified on the permit.

(ii) A person surrendering a once-in-a-lifetime or limited-entry permit less than 30 days before the season opening date, may receive a refund minus a processing fee, provided the drawing results are posted less than 30 days before the hunt start date.

(iii) A person may receive a refund for a general season permit that must be surrendered to accept a reallocated limited-entry permit for the same species.

(iv) The established refund processing fee will not be assessed on general season permits surrendered under Subsection (5)(a)(iii).

(6) A person may receive full refund for once-in-a-lifetime, limited-entry or general season permits if surrendering for medical reasons provided:

(i) the person to whom the license, certificate, or permit is issued becomes ill or suffers an injury that precludes the person from using the license, certificate, or permit;

(ii) the person furnishes verification of illness or injury with a written physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner statement;

(iii) the person does not use the license, certificate, or permit; and

(iv) the license, certificate, or permit is surrendered before the end of the season for which the permit was issued.

(7) The director may determine that a person did not have the opportunity to participate in an activity authorized by the wildlife document.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, the division may reinstate a bonus point or preference point, whichever applies, and waive waiting periods, if applicable, when issuing a refund in accordance with this section.

KEY: wildlife, permits

Date of Last Change: February 10, 2026

Notice of Continuation: March 15, 2023

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-4-201; 23A-4-207; 23A-4-301

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-43. Landowner Permits.

R657-43-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, this rule provides the standards and procedures for landowners to qualify for and obtain big game hunting opportunities in recognition of the benefits their private properties provide to wildlife resources in Utah.

(2) The Private Landowners may apply for and obtain Vouchers from the division through one of the following three programs, and as further outlined in this rule:

(a) The division may provide one of the following permits to individual landowners for the General Season Landowner Permit Program:

(i) A General Season Landowner - Private Land - Buck Deer Permit may be provided for Landowners to use only on their private land; or

(ii) A General Season Landowner - Unit Wide - Buck Deer Permit that Landowners can seek through a draw process and is usable throughout the general season unit.

(b) The division may provide **permits/vouchers** to individual Landowners on limited entry units with eligible lands that are not enrolled in a Landowner Association to hunt Buck Deer, Bull Elk, and Buck Pronghorn on their own private land.

(c) The division may provide Buck Deer, Bull Elk, and Buck Pronghorn permits to Landowner Associations through the Limited Entry Landowner Association Program that can be:

(i) used unit wide for a Landowner Association that allow public access; or

(ii) used only on private land within the Landowner Association if no public access is allowed.

(3) The Landowner permit programs are intended to:

(a) provide an incentive for private landowners to manage their lands as quality habitat for public wildlife;

(b) assist and support the division in managing big game populations;

(c) increase private Landowner tolerance of big game on their Private Lands;

(d) increase big game hunting opportunities;

(e) increase and secure public hunting access on participating Landowners' Private Lands;

(f) reduce the division's obligations in responding to and compensating for depredation events occurring on participating Private Lands;

(g) use objective criteria to determine how hunting opportunities are allocated under the programs; and

(h) allocate hunting opportunities in a manner that fluctuates in proportion to variations in public draw permit numbers.

R657-43-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Applicant" means a Landowner applying to participate in the General Season Buck Deer Landowner Permit program, the Limited Entry Landowner Association Permit program, or the program for Landowners on limited entry units with eligible land that is not enrolled in a Limited Entry Landowner Association.

(b) "Cropland" means agricultural Private Land that is cultivated and mechanically harvested and upon which the division has determined that migratory deer rely to meet herd management objectives.

(c) "Draw Application" means an application for Permits submitted to the division after the Applicant has been approved to participate in the program.

(d) "Eligible Property" means Private Land that:

(i)(A) provides habitat for deer, elk or pronghorn as determined by the division;

(B) is not used in the operation of a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit for the same species;

(C) is not used in the operation of an elk farm or elk hunting park; and

(D) is in agricultural use as provided in Section 59-2-502 and eligible for agricultural use valuation as provided in Sections 59-2-503 and 59-2-504.

(ii) In addition to Subsection (d)(i), Eligible Property must have one or more of the following attributes:

(A) for General Season Unit Wide Landowner Buck Deer Permits, a minimum of 100 acres of Cropland, or a minimum of 640 acres of other Private Land meeting the criteria in Subsections (d)(i) through (ii) that is owned or leased by one Landowner or leased by one landowner within the general season unit hunt boundary; or

(B) for General Season Private Land Landowner Buck Deer Vouchers a minimum of 640 acres of Private Land owned or leased within a general season unit hunt boundary; or

(C) for a Limited Entry Landowner Permit Voucher, Private Land owned or leased within a limited entry elk, deer or pronghorn unit for land that is enrolled in a Limited Entry Landowners Association.

(D) for a Limited Entry Landowner Permit Voucher for Private Land owned or leased within a limited entry elk, deer or pronghorn unit for land that is not enrolled in a Limited Entry Landowners Association, a minimum of 640 acres of Private Land meeting the criteria in Subsections (d)(i)(A) through (D) that is owned or leased by one Landowner or leased by one landowner within the limited entry unit hunt boundary.

(e) "Governing Documents" mean the legal documents executed by a Legal Entity Owners that govern the formation, operation, management, rules, duties, responsibilities, decision-making and dissolution of said Legal Entity.

(f) "Immediate Family" means a Landowner's, a Lessee's, or a Legal Entity Owner's spouse, children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, stepchildren, and grandchildren.

(g) "Landowner" means, for the purposes of this rule, any person or Legal Entity which:

(i) owns Private Land in Utah as evidenced by such deeds vesting title in such Landowner;

(ii) is the purchaser of Private Land pursuant to a recorded contract of sale; or

(iii) is an agricultural Lessee of Private Land, being any person or legal entity with a written lease whose terms permit the lessee to be in physical control of such Private Land.

(h) "Landowner Association" means a ~~Legal Entity created by Landowners who own Eligible Property within a limited entry unit, which Legal Entity is organized for an organization consisting of private land owners~~ working with the division as outlined in to implement this section and whose land: ~~rule.~~

(i) provides habitat for deer, elk, or pronghorn as determined by the division; and

(ii) is not enrolled in another private lands permit program

(i) "Legal Entity" means an entity such as a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or trust that is organized under the laws of the state and otherwise qualified to do business within Utah.

(j) "Legal Entity Owner" means a person or other Legal Entity which has ownership in a Legal Entity, such as a shareholder of a corporation, a member of a limited liability company, a partner in a partnership, or trustee or beneficiary of a trust.

(k) "Permit" means a hunting authorization obtained through a draw or purchased from the division by a person who is the holder of a Voucher, pursuant to the terms and authorizations contained in such Voucher.

(l) "Private Land" means, for the purposes of this rule, any real property owned or leased by a Landowner, excluding:

(i) land owned by the state or federal government;

(ii) land owned by a county or municipality;

(iii) land owned by an Indian tribe;

(iv) land enrolled in a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit for the same species under Rule R657-37; and

(v) land where public access for big game hunting has been secured.

(m) "Qualifier Application" means the initial application submitted to the division to determine if a Landowner meets the necessary requirements to participate in the landowner permit program.

(n) "Voucher" means an authorization issued by the division to a Landowner that entitles such Landowner or its permitted transferees, if allowed pursuant to this rule, to purchase a Permit from the division.

TABLE
Landowner Permit Programs Table

Permit/Voucher Type	Hunt Boundary	Species	Requirements	Stipulations	Public Access	Permit Quantity
General Season	Private Lands Only	Deer	640 acres of Agricultural Land or Range Land	Can be sold	Not required	Up to 10% above total unit permits
General Season	Unit Wide	Deer	100 acres Agricultural Land, or 640 acres of Range Land	Owner or immediate family only - cannot be sold	Not required	Up to 3% above total
Limited Entry - Non-LOA	Owners Private Lands Only	Deer, Elk, Pronghorn	640 acres _ of Agricultural Land or Range Land	For anyone - cannot be sold	Not required	Up to 5% above total unit permits
Limited Entry - Non-LOA	Owners Private Lands Only	Elk	2 draws - 640 - 3,999 acres and 4,000 - 8,999 acres	Can be sold	Not required	5% of total unit permits

<u>Limited Entry - Non-LOA</u>	<u>Owners Private Lands Only</u>	<u>Elk</u>	<u>4,000 - 8,999 contiguous acres</u>	<u>Can be sold</u>	<u>Not required</u>	<u>DWR can award 0-2 vouchers</u>
Limited Entry - LOA 1	Unit Wide	Deer, Elk, Pronghorn	>50% of eligible land enrolled	Can be sold	Required	Percentage of habitat = percentage of LOA permits
Limited Entry - LOA 2	Private Lands Only	Deer, Elk, Pronghorn	>50% of eligible land enrolled	Can be sold	Not required	Percentage of habitat = percentage of LOA permits

R657-43-7. Limited Entry Landowner Program - Permit Vouchers for Lands not Participating in a Landowner Association -- Availability and Eligibility.

(1) The division shall establish the number of Limited Entry Landowner Program Permit Vouchers for private lands not enrolled in a Landowner Association for buck deer, ~~bull elk~~, and buck pronghorn annually by:

- (a) identifying the total number of limited entry permits available in a unit; and
- (b) allocating up to an additional 5%, with at least one permit per unit, by weapon type, of that number to the program.

(2) Vouchers for Limited Entry Landowner Program Permits for lands not participating in a Landowner Association will be issued through the Limited Entry Landowner Program Permit Voucher draw.

(3) An Applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply for or obtain permits under the Limited Entry Landowner Program:

- (a) own the minimum quantity of Eligible Property in the proper Limited Entry unit boundaries as identified in this rule;
 - (b) be able to lawfully obtain and use a hunting license and big game permit;
 - (c) submit a complete application by the deadline;
 - (d) participate in the Limited Entry Landowner Permit drawing; and
 - (e) pay necessary fees.
- (4) An Applicant may apply for Limited Entry Landowner Permit Vouchers according to the following limitations:
- (a) A minimum of 640 acres of Eligible Property is required to submit an application;
 - (b) Only one Limited Entry Landowner Program Permit may be issued per parcel of Eligible Property; and
 - (c) An Applicant may apply for and receive a maximum of one Limited Entry Landowner Program Permit Vouchers in a single hunt year.

(5) A landowner or lessee transferring a permit voucher to another individual may not receive any form of compensation or remuneration for the transfer or for allowing access to the private ~~land~~ for hunting on a permit redeemed with that voucher on the landowner or lessee's eligible property.

R657-43-9. Limited Entry Landowner Association Program Permit Vouchers -- Availability and Eligibility.

(1)(a) Landowners in a limited entry unit may join together to form a Landowner Association for participation in the Limited Entry Landowner Association Permit program.

- (b) To qualify as a Landowner Association, participating Landowners must:
 - (i) own more than 50% of the Private Lands that are Eligible Property within the limited entry herd unit;
 - (ii) form a Landowner Association;
 - (iii) limit participation to Private Lands within a limited entry hunt unit serving as habitat for that species; and
 - (iv) the president of the Landowner Association must participate in a division training annually.

(2) The division will establish the number of Limited Entry Landowner Association Program Permits available on an annual basis by:

- (a) identifying the total number of ~~total~~ public draw permits in a limited entry unit for the previous hunt year;
- (b) identifying the total acreage of Private Land in a limited entry unit enrolled in the Landowner Association;
- (c) calculating the percentage of habitat of a big game species in the landowners association unit represented by the Landowner Association by dividing the habitat acreage represented by the Landowner Association by the habitat acreage in the whole limited entry unit; and ;
- (d) applying that percentage described in Subsection (2)(c) to the total number of available public draw permits from the previous year to determine the number of Limited Entry Landowner Association Program Permit Vouchers to be allocated to the Landowner Association;
- (e) applying standard rounding will be practiced when determining permit numbers - .49 rounds down and .5 rounds up; and

(f) an approved Landowner Association that qualifies for less than one ~~permit~~-voucher every year will receive one permit voucher annually
~~the first year after approval.~~

(g) the division shall annually allocate one additional voucher to each landowners association

(3) To form a Landowner Association, Landowners must:

(a) elect a president;

(b) enter into Governing Documents signed by all participating Landowners that:

(i) agree to the formation of a Landowner Association for the purposes of participating in the program;

(ii) establish membership qualifications;

(iii) identify any yearly dues, if any, necessary to participate and how those funds will be utilized;

(iv) establish a distribution plan for allocating Vouchers or revenue from Vouchers to members;

(v) describe the process for adding and removing members in a fair and impartial process;

(vi) describe how the Landowner Association will provide notice of upcoming meetings and how members can participate;

(vii) establish how voting and decisions on behalf of the Landowner Association will be made;

(viii) establish rules and guidelines outlining permit holder conduct on Landowner Association property;

(ix) describe how the Landowner Association will complete compliance requirements for the program;

(x) describe how the members will elect a president to represent the landowner association and the president's length of term;

(xi) include a written waiver from each participating Landowner of all depredation claims due to big game damage during the term of such Landowner's membership in the Landowner Association;

(xii) if option 1, Subsection R657-43-9(5)(a) is chosen include a written agreement from each participating member to allow free public access onto all participating Landowner's Private Lands as required by Subsections R657-43-5(5) and R657-43-5(6); and

(xiii) other items deemed necessary and appropriate to administer the Landowner Association.

(4) Limitations on the eligibility of Private Lands in Landowner Associations:

(a) Private Lands enrolled in a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit for the same species are not eligible to participate in a Landowner Association under this rule;

(b) Public and state lands are not eligible to be included in a Landowner Association;

(c) Only Private Lands that qualify as Eligible Property will be considered for Limited Entry Landowner Permits;

(d) Only one Landowner Association, per species, may be formed for each limited entry unit; and

(e) A Landowner or Landowner Association may not restrict legally established passage through Private Land to access public lands for hunting.

(5) A Landowner Association may choose one of two Voucher options during the term of its certificate of registration:

(a) Option 1:

(i) The Landowner Association will be issued Vouchers valid for the entire limited entry hunting unit;

(ii) an equivalent number of public hunters to the number of Vouchers received by the Landowner Association shall be provided complete access to hunt all Landowner Association's Private Lands at no charge for the species during the season dates identified on the Limited Entry Landowner Association Permit; and

(iii) the division will notify the lowest draw numbers of public hunters in that unit who will be given access to the Landowner Association's Private Lands pursuant to this section.

(b) Option 2:

(i) The Landowner Association will be issued Vouchers valid only for Private Lands enrolled in the Landowner Association;

(ii) the number of Vouchers allocated to a Landowner Association will be calculated using the formula in Subsection (2), rounded up to the nearest whole number.

(c) Limited Entry Landowner Association Program Permit Vouchers are not valid for:

(i) multi-season hunting opportunities;

(ii) private land not enrolled in the Landowner Association; or

(iii) late season limited entry buck deer permits on a general season unit.

(6)(a) Public draw permit holders specified in Subsection (5)(a) will have access to all enrolled Landowner Association lands for the entirety of the hunt.

(b)(i) The Landowner Association will be responsible for ensuring those public draw permit holders identified in Subsection (5)(a) are given access to all private lands; and

(ii) Landowner Associations may determine how to disperse public hunters by seasons. If all public hunters are in one season it will be the any-weapon season.

(c) The Landowner Association must provide a written copy of its guidelines used to regulate a permit holder's conduct as a guest on the Landowner Association land. These guidelines will go through the RAC and Wildlife Board process to ensure they are fair and reasonable.

(7) Performance metrics will be established by the division, with recommendations from the Landowner Association Advisory Committee, to determine if the purposes of the program are being met.

R657-43-12 – Limited Entry Bull Elk Private Landowner Vouchers.

- (1) As used in this section:
- (a) “Applicant” means a person who:
- (i) holds a fee simple ownership interest in at least 640 contiguous acres but not more than 8,999 contiguous acres of private land in Utah within a limited entry elk unit; and
- (ii) has submitted an application to the division to participate in a landowner draw to hunt bull elk.
- (b) “Block” means 640 contiguous acres that are not excluded under Subsection (2).
- (c) “Voucher” means an authorization issued by the division that entitles a person to purchase a bull elk permit valid for the private land submitted in the application.
- (2)(a) An applicant may enter an annual landowner draw for a bull elk voucher for every complete block owned by the applicant.
- (b) The private land that is the basis for determining whether there is a block for an application to qualify for a landowner draw shall have at least one common owner throughout the private land.
- (c) In order for an applicant to qualify for a landowner draw, all the owners of the private land described in Subsection (2)(b) shall agree to the applicant applying for a landowner draw.
- (d) Multiple applicants may not submit an application for the same block and the division may reject all applications for a block if more than one application is received for a single block.
- (e) The following private land is not eligible for purposes of determining a block:
- (i) private land within a cooperative wildlife management unit under Chapter 7, Cooperative Wildlife Management Units; or
- (ii) private land within a landowners association program established by the Wildlife Board in accordance with Section 23A-4-712.
- (3)(a) The division shall determine the number of vouchers in a bull elk landowner draw under this section by allocating an additional 5% of the total number of limited entry bull permits available in the public draw within a limited entry elk unit.
- (b) The division shall allocate:
- (i) 50% of the vouchers in a landowner draw to applicants with at least 4,000 contiguous acres but not more than 8,999 contiguous acres; and
- (ii) 50% of the vouchers in the landowner draw to applicants with at least 640 contiguous acres but less than 4,000 contiguous acres.
- (c) If there is an odd number of vouchers in a landowner draw, the division shall allocate the one extra voucher to:
- (i) applicants described in Subsection (3)(b)(i) in years ending in odd numbers; and
- (ii) applicants described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii) in years ending in even numbers.
- (d) If a limited entry elk unit only has one voucher available for the bull elk landowner draw described in Subsection (3)(a), the division shall allocate that voucher to an applicant with acreage of at least 640 contiguous acres but not more than 3,999 contiguous acres of private land.
- (4)(a) To qualify as an applicant under Subsection (2), a person shall obtain approval of the information described in Subsection (2), a person shall obtain approval of the information described in Subsection (4)(b) by the division.
- (b) To seek approval, a person shall file an application with the division that includes:
- (i) the name of the person;
- (ii) the date of the application;
- (iii) the number of blocks in which the person holds an ownership interest;
- (iv) proof of the ownership interest in the private land for which the person is seeking a voucher;
- (v) proof of the number of contiguous acres owned by the person within a limited entry elk unit; and
- (vi) the location of the private land for which the person is seeking a voucher.
- (c) The division shall:
- (i) review an application; and
- (ii) verify that property submitted in an application is capable of harboring bull elk during the hunting season described in Subsection (5)(b).
- (d) Once a person is approved as an applicant for a landowner draw, the applicant is automatically approved each year and does not need to reapply unless there is a change in land ownership, acreage, or habitat quality that would affect the person’s level of participation in the landowner draw. If there is a change in ownership or acreage, the person shall file the information required under Subsection (4)(b) to be eligible for the next landowner draw.
- (5)(a) An individual may redeem a voucher to obtain a permit to hunt bull elk:
- (i) if the individual is the applicant or is an individual to whom the applicant sells, donates, or otherwise transfers the voucher; and
- (ii) conditioned on the individual:
- (A) being otherwise authorized to hunt big game under this title; and
- (B) only hunting under the permit on the contiguous acres of private land owned by the applicant within a limited entry elk unit.
- (b) An individual who hunts on the applicant’s private land pursuant to a voucher redeemed under Subsection (5)(a) may:

(i) hunt with one type of legal weapon, as defined by the Wildlife Board by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and

(ii) hunt during one of the corresponding season dates for the type of legal weapon used by the individual that is established by the Wildlife Board for a bull elk hunt on the corresponding limited entry elk unit.

(6)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (6)(f), an applicant that qualifies for a landowner draw under Subsections (2) through (5) and who owns at least 4,000 contiguous acres of private land but not more than 8,999 contiguous acres of private land within a limited entry elk unit may qualify for up to an additional two bull elk vouchers annually that are determined by the division based on Subsection (4)(c)(ii) and rules for criteria made by the Wildlife Board in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

(b) An individual may redeem a voucher obtained under the Subsection (6) in accordance with Subsection (5).

(c) An applicant described in Subsection (6)(a) may sell, donate, or otherwise transfer a voucher received under Subsection (6)(a).

(d) A voucher under this Subsection (6) is in addition to and not taken from the 5% additional bull elk permits that are designated for the landowner draw under Subsection (3).

(e) An applicant that received a voucher under this Subsection (6) may also enter a landowner draw for a bull elk voucher in accordance with Subsection (2).

(f) The division may eliminate or reduce the number of vouchers issued to an applicant under Subsection (6)(a) for any year in which the average age of the harvested bull elk in the limited entry elk unit where the voucher applies is lower than the age objective in the applicable elk management plan. The elimination or reduction of vouchers under this Subsection (6)(f) applies until the average age of the harvested bull elk for that limited entry elk unit in a year equals or exceeds the age objective in the applicable elk management plan.

(g) The division shall review a voucher issued under Subsection (6)(a) every three years to determine if the correct number of vouchers are being issued based on Subsection (4)(c)(ii) and rules described in Subsection (6)(a).

(h) This Subsection (6) does not apply to land or a landowner within a limited entry elk unit that has a landowners association on May 7, 2025, or that is a member of a landowners association on May 7, 2025.

(i) This Subsection (6) does not apply to land or a landowner that has the option of joining a cooperative wildlife management unit or who is in a cooperative wildlife management unit that is issued a certificate of registration before May 7, 2025.

(7) During the fiscal year in which an applicant received a bull elk voucher, the applicant may not receive a depredation bull elk permit or submit a claim for compensation for wildlife damage to the applicant's private land within the limited entry elk unit.

(8) An individual who redeems a voucher under this section shall comply with the other applicable provisions of this title and rules or proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

(9)(a) The Wildlife Board may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that are necessary to administer this section.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (9)(a), a rule made by the Wildlife Board shall be consistent with this section.

KEY: wildlife, landowner permits, big game seasons

Date of Last Change: July 8, 2025

Notice of Continuation: February 1, 2022

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-60. Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction.

R657-60-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) The purpose of this rule is to define procedures and regulations designed to prevent and control the spread of aquatic invasive species within Utah.

(2) This rule is promulgated pursuant to authority granted to the Wildlife Board in Sections 23A-10-401, 23A-2-304, and 23A-2-305.

R657-60-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Sections 23A-1-101 and 23A-10-101.

(2) In addition:

~~(a) "Conveyance" means a terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including a vessel, or a vehicle part that may carry or contain a Dreissena mussel.~~

~~(b)~~ (a) "Decontaminate" or "Decontaminated" means to comply with one of the following methods:

(i) if no adult mussels are attached to the conveyance after exiting the water body, ~~an owner or operator~~ a person may self-decontaminate equipment or a conveyance that has been in an infested water in the previous 30 days by:

(A) removing all plants, fish, and mud from the equipment or conveyance;

(B) draining all water from the equipment or conveyance, including water held in ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, and motors; and

(C) drying the equipment or conveyance for no less than seven days in June, July and August; 18 days in September, October, November, March, April and May; 30 days in December, January and February; or expose the equipment or conveyance to sub-freezing temperatures for 72 consecutive hours; or

(D) if all water cannot be drained from the conveyance, or the conveyance has a complex water or mechanical system that the ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement determines poses a significant risk that ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussels could remain on the conveyance after the dry time identified in Subsection (C), fulfilling the requirements of Subsection (A) and (B) to the extent practicable and drying the conveyance for no less than 30 days;

(ii) professionally decontaminate equipment or a conveyance that has been in an infested water in the previous 30 days by:

(A) using a professional decontamination service approved by the ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement to flush any areas where water is held, including ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, and motors, and to apply scalding water to all conveyance and equipment surfaces at the temperature and immersion time necessary for 100 percent mussel mortality as provided in the Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs for ~~Dreissena~~ Invasive Mussels in the Western United States; and

(B) complete a mandatory 30 day dry time after the scalding water wash is completed if the ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement determines that, due to the complexity of water or mechanical systems on the conveyance, a significant risk that ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussels remain present on the conveyance regardless of receiving a scalding water wash described in Subsection (A); or

(iii) complying with all protocols identified in a certificate of registration.

~~(b)~~ (b) "Controlling entity" means the owner, operator, or manager of a water body, facility, or a water supply system.

(c) "Detected Water" or "Detected" means a water body, facility, or water supply system where the presence of a ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussel is indicated in two consecutive sampling events using visual identification or microscopy and the results of each sampling event is confirmed in two polymerase chain reaction tests, each conducted at independent laboratories.

~~(d)~~ (d) "Dreissena mussel" means a mussel of the genus Dreissena at any life stage, including a zebra mussel, a quagga mussel and a Conrad's false mussel.

~~(e)~~ (e) "Controlling entity" means the owner, operator, or manager of a water body, facility, or a water supply system.

~~(f)~~ (f) "Equipment" means an article, tool, implement, or device capable of carrying or containing water or Dreissena mussel.

~~(g)~~ (g) "Facility" means a structure that is located within or adjacent to a water body.

~~(h)~~ (h) "Highway" has the same meaning as Subsection 72-1-102(7).

~~(i)~~ (i) "Infested Water" or "Infested" means a water body, facility, water supply system, or geographic region where the presence of multiple age classes of attached Dreissena mussels is indicated in two or more consecutive sampling events using visual detection or microscopy and the result of each sampling event is confirmed in two polymerase chain reaction tests, each conducted at independent laboratories.

~~(j)~~ (j) "Juvenile or adult ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussel" means a macroscopic ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussel that is not a veliger.

~~(k)~~ (k) "Quarantine" means imposing a required minimum period of time where a conveyance must stay at a predetermined location in order to minimize the risk that ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussels are spread.

~~(h)~~ (h) "Suspected Water" or "Suspected" means a water body, facility, or water supply system where the presence of a ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussel is indicated through a single sampling event using visual identification or microscopy and the result of that sampling event is confirmed in two independent polymerase chain reaction tests, each conducted at independent laboratories.

~~(m)~~ (m) "Veliger" means a microscopic, planktonic larva of ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussel.

~~(n)~~ (n) "Vessel" has the same meaning as Subsection 73-18-2(19).

~~(o) "Water body" means natural or impounded surface water, including a stream, river, spring, lake, reservoir, pond, wetland, tank, and fountain.~~

~~(p) "Water supply system" means a system that treats, conveys, or distributes water for irrigation, industrial, wastewater treatment, or culinary use, including a pump, canal, ditch or pipeline.~~

~~(q) "Water supply system" does not include a water body.~~

R657-60-3. Possession of ~~Dreissena~~Invasive Mussels.

(1) Except as provided in Subsections R657-60-3(2) and R657-60-5(2), a person may not possess, import, ship, or transport any ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussel.

(2) ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels may be imported into and possessed within the state of Utah with prior written approval of the Director of the Division of Wildlife Resources or a designee.

R657-60-4. Reporting of Invasive Species Required.

(1) A person who discovers a ~~Dreissena~~an invasive mussel within this state or has reason to believe a ~~Dreissena~~an invasive mussel may exist at a specific location shall immediately report the discovery to the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement.

(2) The report shall include the following information:

(a) location of the ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels;

(b) date of discovery;

(c) identification of any conveyance or equipment in which mussels may be held or attached; and

(d) identification of the reporting party with their contact information.

~~(3) The report shall be made in person or in writing:~~

~~(a) at any division regional or headquarters office;~~

~~(b) to the division's toll free hotline at 1-800-662-3337; or~~

~~(c) on the division's website at www.wildlife.utah.gov/law/hsp/pf.php.~~

~~(4) (3) Reporting requirements under this Section do not apply to:~~

(a) ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels found in an ~~Infested~~infested waterbody;

(b) a conveyance or equipment that is subject to a quarantine or mandatory dry time and has been documented by the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement; or

(c) a person lawfully in possession of a ~~Dreissena~~an invasive mussel pursuant to Section R657-60-3.

R657-60-5. Requirements for Transportation and Launching of Equipment and Conveyances.

(1) Before transporting a conveyance on a highway, ~~as defined in Section 72-1-102, in the state, a person~~an individual shall:

(a) remove all drain plugs and similar devices that prevent drainage of raw water systems on the conveyance; and

(b) to the extent feasible, drain all water from live wells, bilges, ballast tanks, and similar compartments on the conveyance.

~~(2)(a)~~ Before launching a conveyance in a Utah waterbody, ~~unless exempt under 23A-10-304(3) or 23A-10-201(7), a~~ a nonresident vessel owner shall:

~~(i)~~ pay the annual aquatic invasive species fee; ~~and~~

~~(ii) successfully complete (b) display~~ the aquatic invasive species ~~education course; and~~

~~(iii) provide proof of compliance decal in accordance with this Subsection to the vessel operator. 23A-10-201(6);~~

~~(b) The vessel operator is responsible for verifying compliance with this Section while recreating on a Utah waterbody.~~

(c) Except as provided in Subsection ~~(6), a person must~~ 7), satisfy all decontamination requirements ~~before launching or placing equipment or a conveyance in a waterbody~~ if that equipment or conveyance has been in a waterbody or water supply system subject to decontamination requirements in the previous 30 days.

~~(3) (3) Before launching a conveyance in a Utah waterbody, unless exempt under 23A-10-304(3) or 23A-10-201(7), a nonresident operator of a vessel shall:~~

~~(a) successfully complete the Watercraft Operator Safety Course; and~~

~~(b) provide proof of compliance when requested by a peace officer.~~

~~(4) The owner, operator, or possessor of any equipment or conveyance that has been in a waterbody subject to decontamination requirements shall inspect the interior and exterior of the equipment or conveyance for the presence of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels immediately upon exiting the waterbody and prior to leaving the take out site.~~

~~(45)(a)~~ If all water in the equipment or conveyance is drained and the inspection undertaken pursuant to Subsection ~~(34)~~ reveals the equipment and conveyance are free from mussels or shelled organisms, fish, plants and mud, the equipment and conveyance may be transported in or through the state directly from the take out site to the location where it will be:

(i) decontaminated; or

~~(67).~~ (ii) temporarily stored and subsequently returned to the same water body ~~and take out site~~ as provided in Subsection

(b) All drain plugs and similar devices that prevent drainage of raw water systems on the conveyance shall be removed during the transport and storage of a conveyance.

~~(56)~~ Equipment and conveyances may not be moved from a take out site of an infested, suspected, or detected water body, or a water body subject to a closure order or control plan requiring decontamination, unless:

- (a) the operator satisfies the requirements of Subsection (45); or
 - (b) the operator receives prior written authorization to move the equipment or conveyance to a designated location to complete decontamination requirements.
- (67) Decontamination is not required when a conveyance or equipment is removed from an infested water or other water body subject to decontamination requirements, provided the conveyance and equipment is:
- (a) inspected and drained at the take out site, and is free from attached mussels, shelled organisms, fish, plants, and mud as required in Subsections (1) and (2);
 - (b) returned ~~to the same water body~~ and launched at the same ~~take out site~~ water body; and
 - (c) not placed in or on any other Utah water body in the interim without first being decontaminated.
- (78)(a) ~~Division of Law Enforcement~~ personnel may provide the operator of a vessel leaving an infested water, or any water subject to a closure order under Section R657-60-8 or control plan under Section R657-60-9, with an inspection certification indicating the date that vessel left the water body.
- (b) ~~An individual~~ A person who receives a certification of inspection from the ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement must retain that certification of inspection until:
 - (i) the ~~operator~~ person returns to the same body of water and receives a new certification of inspection upon leaving the water body;
 - (ii) the ~~operator~~ person completes a certification of decontamination; or
 - (iii) the ~~operator~~ person receives a professional decontamination certificate.

R657-60-6. Certification of Inspection; Certification of Decontamination; Certificate of Registration to Perform Decontamination.

- (1) The owner, operator or possessor of a vessel desiring to launch on a water body in Utah must:
 - (a) present an inspection certificate to ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement personnel if required; and
 - (b) verify the vessel and any launching device, in the previous 30 days, have not been in an infested water or in any other water subject to closure order under Section R657-60-8 or control plan under Section R657-60-9 that requires decontamination of conveyances and equipment upon leaving the water; or
 - (c) certify the vessel and launching device have been decontaminated.
- (2) Certification of decontamination is satisfied by:
 - (a) previously completing self-decontamination since the vessel and launching device were last in a water described in Subsection (1)(b) and completely filling out and dating a decontamination certification form which can be obtained from the ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement; or
 - (b) providing a signed and dated certificate by a ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement approved professional decontamination service verifying the vessel and launching device were professionally decontaminated since the vessel and launching device were last in a water described in Subsection (1)(b); or
 - (c) complying with the terms identified in a certificate of registration issued for alternative decontamination measures.
- (3) A certificate of registration to complete alternate forms of decontamination may be issued to ~~an individual~~ a person who:
 - (a) operates conveyances as a part of their business;
 - (b) whose conveyances cannot be decontaminated using self decontamination or professional decontamination as defined in Subsections R657-60-2(b)(i) and R657-60-2(b)(ii).
- ~~(4) Both the decontamination certification form and the professional decontamination certificate, where applicable, must be signed and placed in open view in the window of the launching vehicle prior to launching or placing the vessel in a body of water.~~
- ~~(5)~~(a) It is unlawful under Section 76-8-504 to ~~knowing~~ knowingly falsify a decontamination certification form.
- (b) It is unlawful under Subsection 23A-5-301 (2) to alter or destroy a certificate of inspection or other official indicator verifying inspection prior to completing a decontamination certification form.
- (c) The ~~division~~ Division of Law Enforcement may suspend, revoke, or terminate a certificate of registration if the business entity, owner, agent, independent contractor or an employee thereof has violated a term of this rule, the Wildlife Resources Code, or a certificate of registration.

R657-60-7. Wildlife Board Designations of Infested Waters.

- (1) The Wildlife Board may designate a geographic area, water body, facility, or water supply system as Infested with ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussels pursuant to Sections 23A-10-101 and 23A-10-401 without taking the proposal to or receiving recommendations from the regional advisory councils.
- (2) The Wildlife Board may designate a particular water body, facility, or water supply system within the state as Infested with ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussels when sampling indicates the water body, facility, or water supply system meets the minimum criteria for an ~~Infested Water~~ infested water as defined in this rule.
- (3) The Wildlife Board may designate a particular water body, facility, or water supply system outside the state as Infested with ~~Dreissena~~ invasive mussels when it has credible evidence suggesting the presence of a ~~Dreissena~~ an invasive mussel in that water body, facility, or water supply system.

(4) Where the number of ~~Infested Waters~~infested waters in a particular area is numerous or growing, or where surveillance activities or infestation containment actions are deficient, the Wildlife Board may designate geographic areas as ~~Infested~~infested with ~~Dreissenainvasive~~ mussels.

(5) The following water bodies and geographic areas are classified as infested:

(a) all coastal and inland waters in:

(i) California;

(ii) Nevada;

(iii) Arizona;

(iv) all states east of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico;

(v) the provinces of Ontario and Quebec Canada; and

(vi) Mexico;

(b) Lake Powell and that portion of the:

(i) Colorado River within the boundaries of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area;

(ii) Escalante River between Lake Powell and the Coyote Creek confluence;

(iii) Dirty Devil River between Lake Powell and the Highway 95 bridge; and

(iv) San Juan River between Lake Powell and Clay Hills Crossing; and

(c) other waters established by the Wildlife Board and published on the DWR website.

(6) The Wildlife Board may remove an infested classification if:

(a) the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife samples the affected water body for seven (7) consecutive years without a single sampling event producing evidence sufficient to satisfy the criteria for a "suspected" classification, as defined in this rule; or

(b) the controlling entity eradicates all ~~Dreissenainvasive~~ mussels at the water body, facility, or water supply system through chemical or biological treatments, desiccation, or freezing, and the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife verifies in writing that ~~Dreissenainvasive~~ mussels are no longer present.

R657-60-8. Closure Order for a Water Body, Facility, or Water Supply System.

(1)(a) The ~~division~~Division of Wildlife may classify a water body, facility, or water supply system as suspected or detected if it meets the minimum criteria for suspected or detected, as defined in this rule.

(b) If the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife classifies a water body, facility, or water supply system as either suspected or detected, the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife director or designee may, with the concurrence of the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, issue an order closing the water body, facility, or water supply system to the introduction or removal of conveyances or equipment.

(c) The Division of Wildlife director shall consult with the controlling entity of the water body, facility, or water supply system when determining the scope, duration, level and type of closure that will be imposed in order to avoid or minimize disruption of economic and recreational activities.

(d) A closure order may;

(i) close the water entirely to conveyances and equipment;

(ii) authorize the introduction and removal of conveyances and equipment subject to the decontamination requirements in Subsection R657-60-2(2)(b) and Section R657-60-5; or

(iii) impose any other condition or restriction necessary to prevent the movement of ~~Dreissenainvasive~~ mussels into or out of the subject water.

(iv) a closure order may not restrict the flow of water without the approval of the controlling entity.

(2)(a) A closure order issued pursuant to Subsection (1) shall be in writing and identify the:

(i) water body, facility, or water supply system subject to the closure order;

(ii) nature and scope of the closure or restrictions;

(iii) reasons for the closure or restrictions;

(iv) conditions upon which the order may be terminated or modified; and

(v) sources for receiving updated information on the presence of ~~Dreissenainvasive~~ mussels and closure order.

(b) The closure order shall be mailed, electronically transmitted, or hand delivered to:

(i) the controlling entity of the water body, facility, or water supply system;

and

(ii) any governmental agency or private entity known to have economic, political, or recreational interests significantly impacted by the closure order; and

(iii) any person or entity requesting a copy of the order.

(c) The closure order or its substance shall further be:

(i) posted on the ~~division's~~Division of Wildlife's web page; and

(ii) published in a newspaper of general circulation in the state of Utah or the affected area.

(3)(a) If a closure order lasts longer than seven days, the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife shall provide the controlling entity and post on its web page a written update every ten days on its efforts to address the ~~Dreissenainvasive~~ mussel infestation.

(b) The ten day update notice cycle will continue for the duration of the closure order.

(4)(a) Notwithstanding the closure authority in Subsection (1), the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife may not unilaterally close or restrict a suspected or detected water supply system where the controlling entity has prepared and implemented a control

plan in cooperation with the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife that effectively controls the spread of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels from the water supply system.

(b) The control plan shall comply with the requirements in Section R657-60-9.

(5) Except as authorized by the Division of Wildlife in writing, a person may not violate any provision of a closure order.

(6) A closure order or control plan shall remain effective so long as the water body, water supply system, or facility remains classified as suspected or detected.

(7) The Division of Wildlife director or his designee may remove a ~~Suspected~~suspected classification if:

(a) the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife samples the affected water body for three (3) consecutive years without a single sampling event producing evidence sufficient to satisfy the criteria for a "suspected" classification, as defined in this rule; or

(b) the controlling entity eradicates all ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels at the water body, facility, or water supply system through chemical or biological treatments, desiccation, or freezing, and the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife verifies that ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels are no longer present.

(8) The Division of Wildlife director or his designee may remove a detected classification if:

(a) the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife samples the affected water body for five (5) consecutive years without a single sampling event producing evidence sufficient to satisfy the criteria for a "suspected" classification, as defined in this rule; or

(b) the controlling entity eradicates all ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels at the water body, facility, or water supply system through chemical or biological treatments, desiccation, or freezing, and the ~~division~~Division of Wildlife verifies that ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels are no longer present.

R657-60-9. Control Plan Required.

(1) The controlling entity of a water body, facility, or water supply system may develop and implement a control plan in cooperation with the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement prior to infestation designed to:

(a) avoid the infestation of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels; and

(b) control or eradicate an infestation of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels that might occur in the future.

(2) A pre-infestation control plan developed consistent with the requirements in Subsection (3) and approved by the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife will eliminate or minimize the duration and impact of a closure order issued pursuant to Sections 23A-10-303 and R657-60-8.

(3) If a water body, facility, or water supply system within the state is classified as infested, detected, or suspected, and it does not have an approved control plan, the controlling entity shall cooperate with the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement and the Division of Wildlife in developing and implementing a control plan to address the:

(a) scope and extent of the presence of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels;

(b) actions proposed to control the pathways of spread of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels;

(c) actions proposed to control the spread or eradicate the presence of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels;

(d) methods to decontaminate the water body, facility, or water supply system, if possible;

(e) actions required to systematically monitor the presence of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels; and

(f) requirements and methods to update and revise the plan with scientific advances.

(4) All control plans prepared pursuant to Subsection (3) shall be approved by the Division of Law Enforcement in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife before implementation.

(5) A control plan prepared pursuant to this Section may require that all conveyances and equipment entering or leaving the subject water to comply with the decontamination requirements in Subsection R657-60-2(2)(b) and Section R657-60-5.

(6) Except as authorized by the Division of Law Enforcement and the controlling entity in writing, a person may not violate any provision of a control plan.

R657-60-10. Procedure for Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Utah Department of Transportation.

(1) The ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement director or designee shall negotiate an agreement with the Utah Department of Transportation for use of ports of entry for detection and interdiction of ~~Dreissena~~Mussel~~invasive mussel~~ illegally transported into and within the state. Both the Division of ~~Wildlife Resources~~Law Enforcement and the Department of Transportation must agree upon all aspects of ~~Dreissena~~Mussel~~invasive mussel~~ interdiction at ports of entry.

(2) The Memorandum shall include the following:

(a) methods and protocols for reimbursing the department for costs associated with ~~Dreissena~~Mussel~~invasive mussel~~ interdiction;

(b) identification of ports of entry suitable for interdiction operations;

(c) identification of locations at a specific port of entry suitable for interdiction operations;

(d) methods and protocols for disposing of wastewater associated with decontamination of equipment and conveyances;

(e) dates and time periods suitable for interdiction efforts at specific ports of entry;

(f) signage notifying motorists of the vehicles that must stop at the port of entry for inspection;

(g) priorities of use during congested periods between the department's port responsibilities and the ~~division's~~Division of Law Enforcement's interdiction activities;

(h) methods for determining the length, location and dates of interdiction;

(i) training responsibilities for personnel involved in interdiction activities; and

(j) methods for ~~division~~the Division of Law Enforcement regional personnel to establish interdiction efforts at ports within each region.

R657-60-11. Conveyance or Equipment Detainment.

(1) To eradicate and prevent the infestation of a ~~Dreissena~~an invasive mussel, the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement may:

(a) temporarily stop, detain, inspect, quarantine, and impound a conveyance or equipment that the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement reasonably believes is in violation of Sections 23A-10-201, 23A-10-305, or R657-60-5;

(b) order a person to decontaminate a conveyance or equipment that the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement reasonably believes is in violation of Sections 23A-10-201, 23A-10-305, or R657-60-5.

(2) The ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement, a port-of-entry agent or a peace officer may detain, quarantine, or impound a conveyance or equipment if:

(a) the ~~division~~Division of Law Enforcement, agent, or peace officer reasonably believes that the person transporting the conveyance or equipment is in violation of Sections 23A-10-201, 23A-10-305, or R657-60-5.

(3) The detainment, quarantine, or impoundment authorized by Subsection (2) may continue for:

(a) up to five days; or

(b) the period of time necessary to:

(i) decontaminate the conveyance or equipment; and

(ii) ensure that a ~~Dreissena~~an invasive mussel is not living on or in the conveyance or equipment.

R657-60-12. Penalty for Violation.

(1) Except as provided in Section 23A-10-305, a violation of any provision of this rule is punishable as provided in Section 23A-5-301.

(2) A violation of any provision of a closure order issued under Section R657-60-8 or a control plan created under Section R657-60-9 is punishable as a criminal infraction as provided in Section 23A-5-301.

R657-60-13. Inspection Stations.

(1) Inspection stations may be established for administrative purposes to interdict the spread of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels consistent with Title 23A, Chapter 27, Aquatic Invasive Species Act, and Rule R657-60.

(2) The Division of Law Enforcement may establish inspection stations at locations authorized under Section 23A-10-301 where:

(a) there is a high probability of intercepting conveyances or equipment transporting ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels;

(b) there is typically a high level of boat and trailer traffic; or

(c) inspection of conveyances or equipment will provide increased protection against the introduction of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels into a water body that is not classified as infested, suspected, or detected under Section R657-60-2.

(3) Inspection stations shall have adequate space for conveyances or equipment to be stopped, inspected, and if necessary, decontaminated, without interfering with the public's use of highways or presenting a safety risk to the public.

(4) Inspection stations shall have adequate signage providing the public:

(a) notice that the inspection station is open and operational;

(b) notice that all persons transporting conveyances or equipment must stop at the inspection station and submit their conveyance and equipment for inspection; and

(c) an adequate opportunity to safely stop at the inspection station.

(5) Any person transporting a conveyance or equipment is required to stop at an inspection station during its hours of operation and submit that conveyance or equipment to the Division of Law Enforcement for inspection.

(6) The Division of Law Enforcement shall conduct an inspection of a conveyance or equipment that is stopped at an inspection station as follows:

(a) Division of Law Enforcement personnel will determine whether the conveyance or equipment has been in an infested, suspected, or detected water body within the past 30 days.

(b) If the conveyance or equipment has not been in an infested, suspected, or detected water body within the past 30 days, the Division of Law Enforcement will:

(i) conduct a brief visual inspection of the conveyance or equipment to ensure that there are no visible ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels;

(ii) provide educational materials regarding aquatic invasive species risks and regulations in Utah; and

(iii) provide a certificate of inspection to the person in possession of the conveyance or equipment.

(c) If the conveyance or equipment has been in an infested, suspected, or detected water body within the past 30 days, the Division of Law Enforcement will:

(i) verify all water is drained from the conveyance or equipment, including water held in ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, motors, and other areas of containment;

(ii) verify that the surface of the conveyance or equipment is free of ~~Dreissena~~invasive mussels, shelled organisms, fish, plants, and mud; and

(iii) verify that the conveyance or equipment has been or will be decontaminated as defined in Subsection R657-60-2(b) before launching in a Utah water body.

(d) The Division of Law Enforcement may require professional decontamination of conveyances or equipment that have been in an infested, suspected, or detected water within the past 30 days and failed to comply with the draining and cleaning requirements established in Subsection R657-60-5(3).

(7) The Division of Law Enforcement may issue a certification of inspection and decontamination to persons who complete inspections and any applicable decontamination at an inspection station.

(8) Inspection stations shall be operated in a manner that minimizes the length of time of an inspection while ensuring that conveyances are free from the presence of Dreissenainvasive mussels.

KEY: fish, wildlife, wildlife law

Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023

Notice of Continuation: July 19, 2018

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-10-401; 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305

R657-72. Licensing and Operation of Outfitters, ~~and Guides, and Spotters.~~

R657-72-1. Purpose and Authority.

This rule is established under the authority of Sections 23A-1-101, 23A-4-1202, 23A-4-1203, and 23A-4-1204 to provide the standards and procedures that governs guiding, ~~and~~ outfitting, ~~and spotting for~~ protected wildlife on public land in Utah.

R657-72-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used for this rule are defined in Sections 23A-1-101 and 23A-4-1202.
- (2) In addition:
 - (a) "Applicant" means an individual or entity applying to the division to operate as a guide, ~~or~~ outfitter, ~~or spotter~~, and, if applicable, has the legal authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the business.
 - (b) "Affiliate code" means a numerical code or QR code provided to outfitters that are unique to that outfitter's certificate of registration and will be used to assign guides ~~and spotters~~ to a particular outfitter.
 - (c) "Client" means an individual:
 - (i) possessing a valid hunting, fishing, or combination license;
 - (ii) possessing the necessary permits as required by Utah law or rule; and
 - (iii) who has retained the services of an outfitter, ~~or~~ guide, ~~or spotter~~.
 - (d) "Guide year" means the period from April 1 of a calendar year through March 31 of the subsequent calendar year.
 - ~~(e) "Spotting" means locating or monitoring the location of protected wildlife on public land.~~

R657-72-3. Application Requirements and Approval.

- (1) An applicant must obtain a certificate of registration from the division to provide guiding, ~~or~~ outfitting, ~~or spotting~~ services and to be compensated as a guide, ~~or~~ outfitter, ~~or spotter~~.
- (2) An application to operate as an outfitter must contain:
 - (a) the name of the applicant, and if the applicant is an entity, proof of registration with Utah Business Entities, Department of Commerce;
 - (b) a brief description of the services that will be provided;
 - (c) proof of possession of a hunting, fishing, or combination license relevant to services being provided, ~~or if the outfitter is an entity, have at least one individual designated by the outfitter hold the appropriate license;~~
 - (d) all necessary federal permits to operate on federal land;
 - (e) attestation that workers' compensation insurance and commercial liability insurance to cover employees and clients has been obtained; and
 - (f) payment of the fee described in Section 23A-4-1202.
- (3)
 - (a) Guides ~~and spotters~~ must obtain a certificate of registration for each outfitter they intend to work for.
 - (b) An affiliate code to provide guide ~~or spotter~~ services with a particular outfitter can be obtained from the outfitter.
 - (c) To operate as a guide ~~or spotter~~, the applicant must acquire a guide ~~or spotter~~ certificate of registration from the division using the affiliate code obtained from each outfitter the guide ~~or spotter~~ intends to work for.
 - (d) An applicant for guide must pay the annual fee described in Subsection 23A-4-1202(4) one time for each guide year, regardless of the number of outfitters the guide intends to work for.
 - ~~(e) An applicant for spotter must pay the annual fee described in Subsection 23A-4-1202(6) one time for each guide year, regardless of the number of outfitters or guides the spotter intends to work for.~~
- (4) In reviewing an application, the division shall consider:
 - (a) the completeness and accuracy of the application;
 - (b) any conviction of, a plea of no contest to, or a plea held in abeyance of Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Act;
 - (c) any license suspension action that has been reciprocated pursuant to the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact; and
 - (d) any conviction of, a plea of no contest to, or a plea held in abeyance to a crime of moral turpitude by the applicant or an applicant's employees, that when considered with the functions and responsibilities of a guide, ~~or~~ outfitter, ~~or spotter~~ bears a reasonable relationship to the applicant's ability to responsibly operate as a guide, ~~or~~ outfitter, ~~or spotter~~.
- (6) A denial of an application for a certificate of registration is a final agency action and the applicant may appeal the denial by filing a Request for Agency Action with the division under Rule R657-2 Adjudicative Proceedings.
- (7) Certificates of registration approved by the division will expire at the end of the guide year, on March 31, annually.

R657-72-4. Application Renewal.

- (1) Certificates of registration to operate as a guide, ~~or~~ outfitter, ~~or spotter~~ must be renewed annually.

(2) If an applicant has obtained a certificate of registration to operate as an outfitter, ~~or guide, or spotter~~ during a guide year, they must submit an application for renewal to obtain a certificate of registration for the following guide year.

(3) An application for renewal must contain:

(a)(i) verification of no change in the original application; or

(ii) any necessary amendments to the documents submitted in the original application; and

(b) an accounting of:

(i) clients hired and employees compensated by that client to ensure compliance with Subsection 23A-4-1204(2)(d);

and

(ii) if an outfitter, a list of the guides ~~and spotters retained, or~~

~~(iii) if a guide, a list of the spotters retained.~~

(4) payment of the fee described in Section 23A-4-1202.

(5) Failure to provide all documentation and payment under this subsection shall result in the application being denied as incomplete.

R657-72-5. Field Requirements

(1) Pursuant to Section 23A-4-1204:

(a) no more than two registered outfitters, ~~or guides, or spotters~~ may be assigned to a client at any given time while hunting protected wildlife; and

(b) no more than three registered outfitters, ~~or guides, or spotters~~ may be assigned to a client at any given time while hunting ~~moose, bison, bighorn sheep, a big game once-in-a-lifetime or mountain goat, big game limited entry hunt.~~

(c) The limitations of Subsection (1) do not apply to an individual compensated by an outfitter to perform tasks that are not associated with hunting of protected wildlife on public land, including an individual who:

(i) does not provide guide services or outfitting services; or

(ii) assists after the protected wildlife is tagged in accordance with Section 23A-4-709.

(2) Outfitters, ~~and guides, and spotters~~ must be able to produce, in the field, documentation of:

(a) the client; and

(b) the dates providing services to that client.

(3) Outfitters, ~~and guides, and spotters~~ shall retain the records in Subsection (2) for at least two years.

R657-72-6. Prohibited Activities.

In addition to those violations listed in Section 23A-4-1203, an outfitter, ~~or guide, or spotter~~ may not:

(1) intentionally obstruct, hinder, interfere, or attempt to obstruct, hinder or interfere with lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping by a person who is not a client or an employee of the outfitter, ~~or guide, or spotter~~;

(2) fail to report to the division within 20 days any violation of ~~a~~ state or federal wildlife, regulations, or guiding statute by a client or by an employee of the outfitter, ~~or guide, or spotter~~;

(3) fail to report any serious injury or fatality of a client or outfitter staff to a federal, state, county, or local law enforcement authority;

(4) fail to comply with state or federal wildlife laws and rules;

(5) fail to produce documentation of outfitters, ~~and guides, and spotters~~ assigned to a specific client;

(6) provide outfitter, ~~or guide, or spotter~~ services to a person who is not properly licensed to hunt or fish for the species sought by that person;

(7) fail to conform to the generally accepted and recognized standards and ethics of the profession; or

(8) use the affiliate code of an outfitter without the permission of the outfitter or an agreement to work with the outfitter.

R657-72-7. Violations.

(1) A violation of Utah law, rule, or terms of a certificate of registration may result in:

(a) revocation of the certificate of registration; and

(b) suspension of the outfitter's, ~~or guide's, or spotter's~~ privilege to hunt or fish.

(2) The suspension or revocation process will be administered pursuant to Rule R657-26 Adjudicative Proceedings for a License, Permit, or Certificate of Registration.

KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game

Date of Last Change; August 27, 2025

Notice of Continuation: New Rule

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-1-101; 23A-4-1202; 23A-4-1203; 12A-4-1204