



## Utah's Predator Control Program

*Learn more about how to participate*

In early 2012, the Utah Legislature passed the Mule Deer Protection Act. This new law directs the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to reduce coyote populations for the benefit of mule deer.

This year, in addition to maintaining an aggressive predator-management policy, the DWR has implemented a new predator control program that provides incentives for members of the public to remove coyotes. Participants in this program can receive \$50 for each properly documented coyote that they kill in Utah.

### How to register for the program

To register and receive compensation for coyote removal, you must follow the program rules and guidelines. Specifically, you must:

1. Complete the online training and registration course. You'll find a link to the course at [wildlife.utah.gov/predators](http://wildlife.utah.gov/predators).
2. Submit the coyote's lower jaw and either the full pelt or the scalp (with both ears attached). Also submit the properly filled out compensation form, which must include the GPS location where the coyote was taken, the identity of the person who took it and the date of removal.
3. Request compensation only at designated sites and on designated days and times. You'll find a link to these locations and times at [wildlife.utah.gov/predators](http://wildlife.utah.gov/predators). Coyote ears will be marked by the DWR to prevent double payments. Disposal of carcasses is the responsibility of the program participant.
4. Follow all rules and regulations related to trapping and firearm use, as detailed in the 2012–2013 Utah Furbearer Guidebook, the Predator-Control Incentive Rule R657-64, Utah Code and local law.
5. To learn more, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/predators](http://wildlife.utah.gov/predators).

### Why location is important in removal efforts

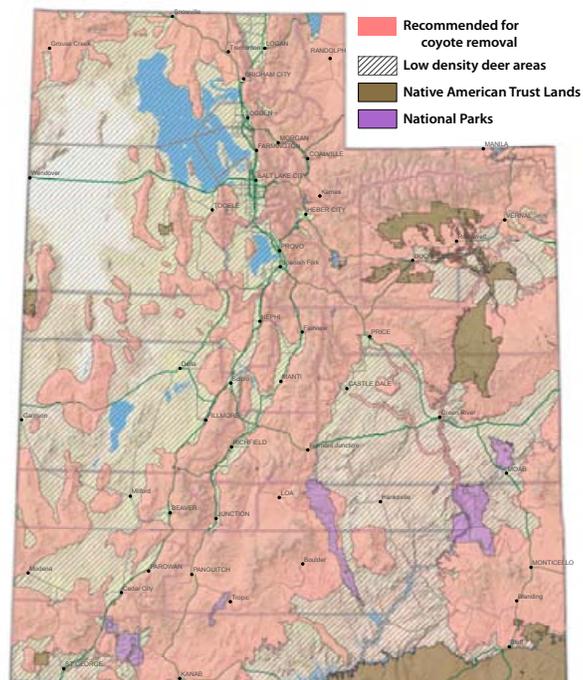
Coyotes primarily kill fawns. Although any coyote taken in Utah can be submitted for compensation, the DWR encourages hunters to focus on deer-fawning grounds and adjacent areas. A statewide map (see page two) identifies areas where control should be targeted to provide the most benefit to mule deer.

### Timing also plays a key role

Coyotes mate during the winter, usually January and February. The most effective control efforts will remove coyotes after pair bonds and territories are set, and before pups are raised. Coyote removal is less effective in late summer. That is when coyotes typically wander and disperse, often dying of natural causes in their attempts to find new territories. To be efficient, coyote control should be targeted to occur at times of year when removals will have the greatest impact on coyote populations. The DWR encourages hunters to remove coyotes from December 1 until the end of June.

**For the greatest benefit to mule deer, coyotes should be removed in the recommended locations and season.**

### Utah's Predator Control Program map



### How will the Predator Control Program benefit mule deer?

The severity of weather and the amount of forage available are usually the most important factors that limit deer numbers. If the weather is mild and the habitat is good, then removing predators could increase the number of fawns that survive. More fawns could help to stimulate an increase in mule deer numbers. If there is not enough good habitat or there is a harsh winter, then fawns may die from other causes besides coyotes, and predator removal won't help deer populations to grow.

### The future of the Predator Control Program

The Mule Deer Protection Act also calls for the DWR to create a more targeted program that uses contractors to remove coyotes from areas where it may help deer. The DWR will use information gathered during the first year of the program — particularly tissue samples and removal locations — to evaluate the program's benefits and identify areas where additional coyote removal is needed. Then, the DWR will use reports of coyotes taken by individuals to identify a list of preferred vendors who can be contracted to remove coyotes from targeted areas. Clear and accurate reporting is essential.

### Submit questions and comments

If you have questions or comments about how the program works, please send them to [PredatorIncentives@utah.gov](mailto:PredatorIncentives@utah.gov).

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