

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-37. Cooperative Wildlife Management Units for Big Game or Turkey.

R657-37-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Section 23-23-3, this rule provides the standards and procedures applicable to Cooperative Wildlife Management Units organized for the hunting of big game or turkey.

(2) Cooperative Wildlife Management Units are established to:

(a) increase wildlife resources;

(b) provide income to landowners;

(c) provide the general public access to private and public lands for hunting big game or turkey within a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit;

(d) create satisfying hunting opportunities;

(e) provide adequate protection to landowners who open their lands for hunting; and

(f) provide landowners an incentive to manage lands to protect and sustain wildlife habitat and benefit wildlife.

R657-37-9. Permit Allocation.

(1) The division shall issue CWMU permits for hunting big game or turkey to permittees:

(a) qualifying through a drawing conducted for the general public as defined in Subsection R657-37-2(2)(c); or

(b) named by the landowner association member or landowner association operator.

(2) CWMU landowners, presidents, operators, and their spouses and dependent children cannot apply for CWMU permits specific to their CWMU that are offered in the public drawing.

(3) A landowner association member or landowner association operator shall be issued vouchers that may be used to purchase hunting permits from division offices.

(4)(a) The Wildlife Board may establish the maximum number of permits that may be issued per acre, excepted as provided in subsection 4(b).

(b) In accordance with Utah Code 23-23-7(4), a CWMU unit shall issue one buck deer permit or less per every 320 acres to be eligible to receive buck deer permits.

(c) The division and the landowner association operator must, in accordance with Subsection (4), determine:

(i) the total number of permits to be issued for the CWMU; and

(ii) the number of permits that may be offered by the landowner association to the general public as defined in Subsection R657-37-2(2)(c).

(~~b~~)d) In determining the total number of permits allocated under Subsection (4)(a), the division will consider:

(i) acreage and habitat conditions on the CWMU;

(ii) management objectives of the CWMU and surrounding wildlife management units;

(iii) classification and survey data;

(iv) depredation and nuisance conflicts; and

(v) other factors that may influence hunt quality and the division's ability to meet wildlife management objectives.

(~~e~~)e) A CWMU may only offer a management buck permit for a public hunter if that CWMU lies entirely within a wildlife management unit that also offers management buck hunts.

(5) The Wildlife Board shall increase the number of permits or hunting opportunities made available to the general public to reflect the proportion of public lands to private lands within the CWMU.

(6)(a) Big game permits may be allocated using an option from:

(i) Table 1 for moose and pronghorn; or

(ii) Table 2 for elk and deer.

(b)(i) Over the term of the certificate of registration, and at all times during the its term, at least 40% of the total permits for bull moose and buck pronghorn and at least 60% of the antlerless moose and antlerless pronghorn permits will be allocated to the public and distributed via the public drawing.

(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (b)(i) and Tables 1 and 2, if the proportion of permits allocated to the public over consecutive certificate of registration terms substantially deviates from that identified in Subsection (b)(i), the Wildlife Board may approve a modified permit distribution scheme that fairly allocates public and private permits.

(c) At least one buck or bull permit or at least 10% of the bucks or bulls permits, whichever is greater, must be made available to the general public through the big game drawing process.

(d) Permits shall not be issued for spike bull elk.

(e) Turkey permits shall be allocated in a ratio of 50% to the CWMU and 50% to the general public, with the public receiving the extra permit when there is an odd number of total permits.

Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit's Share	Bucks/Bulls	Does/Antlerless
Option 1	60%	40%
Public's Share	Bucks/Bulls	Does/Antlerless
Option 1	40%	60%

Table 2 Elk and Deer		
Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit's share	Bucks/Bulls	Antlerless
Option 1	90%	0%
Option 2	85%	25%
Option 3	80%	40%
Option 4	75%	501%
Public's Share		
Option 1	10%	100%
Option 2	15%	75%
Option 3	20%	60%
Option4	25%	50%

(7)(a) The landowner association member or landowner association operator must meet antlerless harvest objectives established in the CWMU management plan under Subsection R657-37-4(3)(a)(ii).

(b) Failure to meet antlerless harvest objectives based on a three-year average may result in discipline under Section R657-37-14.

(8) A landowner association member or landowner association operator must provide access free of charge to any person who has received a CWMU permit through the general public big game or turkey drawings and at least one companion, except as provided in Section 23-23-11.

(9) If the division and the landowner association member disagree on the number of permits to be issued, the number of permits allocated, or the method of take, the Wildlife Board shall make the determination based on the biological needs of the big game or turkey populations, including available forage, depredation, and other mitigating factors.

(10) A CWMU permit entitles the holder to hunt the species and sex of big game or turkey specified on the permit and only in accordance with the certificate of registration and the rules and proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

(11) Vouchers for antlerless permits may be designated by a landowner association member to any eligible person as provided in Rule R657-5 and the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking big game, and Rule R657-42.

(12)(a) If a landowner association has a CWMU voucher that is not redeemed during the previous year, a landowner association may donate that voucher to a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, provided the following conditions are satisfied:

(i) the voucher donation is approved by the director before transfer;

(ii) the voucher is donated for a charitable cause, and the landowner association does not receive compensation or consideration of any kind other than tax benefit; and

(iii) the recipient of the voucher is identified before obtaining the director's approval for the donation.

(b) A CWMU voucher approved for donation under this section may be extended no more than one year.

(c) The division must be notified in writing and the donation completed before August 1st the year the CWMU voucher is to be redeemed.

(d) Vouchers may be used in reciprocal hunting agreements in accordance with Subsection R657-7-(2)(b).

(13)(a) A complete list of the current CWMUs, and number of big game or turkey permits available for public drawing shall be published in the respective proclamations of the Wildlife Board for taking big game or turkey.

(b) The division reserves the exclusive right to list approved CWMUs in the proclamations of the Wildlife Board for taking big game or turkey. The division may unilaterally decline to list a CWMU in the proclamation where the unit is under investigation for wildlife violations, a portion of the property comprising the CWMU is transferred to a new owner, or any other condition or circumstance that calls into question the CWMUs ability or willingness to allow a meaningful hunting opportunity to the public permit holders that would otherwise draw out on the public permits.

R657-37-12. Season Lengths.

(1) A landowner association member or landowner association operator may arrange for permittees to hunt on the CWMU during the following dates:

(a) an archery buck deer season may be established beginning with the opening of the general archery deer season through August 31 and during the sixty-one consecutive day buck deer season;

(b) an archery bull elk season may be established beginning with the opening of the general archery elk season through October 31 and during a bull elk season variance;

(c) an archery buck pronghorn season may be established beginning with the opening of the statewide limited entry archery buck pronghorn season through October 31;

(d) general season bull elk, buck pronghorn, and moose seasons may be established September 1 through October 31, unless a season variance is approved;

(e)(i) general buck deer seasons may be established for no longer than sixty-one consecutive days from September 1 through November 10;

(ii) a landowner association member or landowner association operator [~~electing to establish~~ that provides less than one buck deer ~~hunting in November must~~ permit per every 640 acres may select the following season dates:

(A) [~~meet the CWMU management plan objectives~~] beginning September 1 and ending on October 31; or

[~~(B) not exceed average hunter density exhibited on the surrounding deer wildlife management units;~~]

[~~(C) provide positive hunter satisfaction; and~~]

[~~(D) maintain a harvest success rate at least equal to the surrounding deer wildlife management units;~~]

[~~(E) designate the CWMU's sixty one consecutive day season in the application, or if the sixty one day consecutive season is not designated the season shall begin September 1;~~]

(B) beginning on September 11 and ending on November 10.

(iii) A landowner association or landowner operator that provides more than one buck deer permit per every 640 acres may only have season dates beginning September 1 and ending October 31.

(F)iv) A CWMU that elects for season dates extending into November under Subsection (1)(e)(ii)(2) must allow all public hunters the option to hunt in November;

(f) muzzleloader bull elk seasons may be established September 1 through October 31 annually, and during a bull elk season variance;

(g) antlerless elk seasons may be established August 1 through January 31;

(h) antlerless deer seasons may be established August 1 through December 31;

(i) doe pronghorn seasons may be established August 1 through October 31; and

(j) turkey seasons may be established the second Saturday in April through May 31.

(2)(a) The Wildlife Board may authorize bull elk hunting season variances only if the CWMU landowner association member or landowner association operator clearly demonstrates that November hunting is necessary on the CWMU.

(b) If a bull elk hunting season variance is authorized, the public hunters must be provided comparable hunting opportunity as private hunters.

(3) Notwithstanding the season length provisions in this section, any season described in Subsection (1) that begins on a Sunday will default to and commence the Saturday before.

KEY: wildlife, cooperative wildlife management unit

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