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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Predatory Mammals and Furbearer Program Coordinator

DATE: September 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Cougar Conservation and Expo Permit Request

Because many cougar units in the State of Utah are being managed as predator control units, hunt strategies on some conservation and expo permit units has changed.

Conservation permits and groups affected:

Unit	Organization
Plateau, Boulder	MDF
Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	MDF
Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	MDF
Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	MDF
Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek-North	NWTF
Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	SCI
Fillmore, Pahvant	SCI
Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	SFW

We have reached out to the organizations and they will offer refunds to their permit buyers. These units can now be hunted with a harvest objective permit that can be obtained over the counter or online and do not hold the value they did when they were limited entry opportunities.

Expo permits affected:

Species	Original unit area	Change to unit
Cougar	Plateau, Boulder	Plateau, Fishlake
Cougar	Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry
Cougar	Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	Central Mtns, Nebo (excludes West Face)
Cougar	Fillmore, Pahvant	Monroe

We are recommending that for the expo permits listed here, the person who drew the permit be awarded a permit for alternate units near the original unit that are still split hunting units. This will increase the number of permits available for the alternate unit by one. DWR feels that these units can sustain the potential additional harvest.

In addition to these changes, DWR recommends that no cougar unit permits be marketed and offered for sale next year to avoid having to make similar changes if other units fall under predator management plans.