

# RAC AGENDA – August 2025



1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes  
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update  
- RAC Chair **INFORMATIONAL**
4. Regional Update  
- DWR Regional Supervisor **INFORMATIONAL**
5. Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57  
– Surrenders and Variances **ACTION**  
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
6. Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62  
– Sportsman draw and group applications **ACTION**  
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
7. Recommended changes R657-73  
– Tagging Requirements **ACTION**  
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

## Regional Presentations Only

**CR RAC** – July 29th, 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resource Conference Room  
1115 N. Main Street, Springville  
<https://youtube.com/live/gALMTYJIF2I>

**NR RAC** – July 30th, 6:00 PM  
Weber County Commission Chambers  
2380 Washington Blvd. #240, Ogden  
[https://youtube.com/live/3xRGm\\_rm4TY](https://youtube.com/live/3xRGm_rm4TY)

**SR RAC** – August 5th, 6:00 PM  
DNR Cedar City Complex  
646 N. Main St., Cedar City  
<https://youtube.com/live/3yg-4JZdcgA>

**SER RAC** – August 6th, 6:00 PM  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main St., Green River  
<https://youtube.com/live/MFmU0Km72fA>

**NER RAC** – August 7th, 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources Conference Rm  
318 North Vernal Ave, Vernal  
<https://youtube.com/live/ksyX6RvbH5g>

**Board Meeting** – August 21st, 9:00 AM  
Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 S. Waterfowl Way, Farmington  
<https://youtube.com/live/ycDc9mbAbLc>



SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

RILEY PECK  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

DATE: July 14, 2025

**SUBJECT: Proposed rule amendments R657-42:  
Surrenders  
Proposed rule amendments R657-57:  
Variances**

When it comes to surrenders, there's a few instances where draw results are posted less than 30 days before the hunt starts.

By rule, if a hunter is successful for a permit and chooses to surrender prior to the season starting, they can still be treated the same as if it was 30 days or more.

Current rule does not allow for the refund portion on limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits that fall into this category.

The DWR is recommending that if someone surrenders a permit that has season dates that start less than 30 days from the post date of an application, they will also qualify for the refund minus \$25 on limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits. Purpose of the proposal is to align this exception with our current surrender rule.

Surrendering a permit for medical reasons are accepted until the end of the hunt season if they have not hunted. A signed doctor statement from a MD, DO or PA must also be received within 90 days of the end of the season to have all of your bonus/preference points reinstated and waiting period waived. The DWR is recommending that all medical paperwork must be submitted within 30 days of the end of the season. This ensures all surrenders are processed prior to the next application period.

The DWR is recommending adding refund language for medical surrenders to align with State code (23a-4-207).

The DWR is proposing variance applications be submitted 30 days from the end of the season, instead of 120 days. This is to ensure that variance deadlines are not extending or overlapping into application periods, causing eligibility issues.

The DWR is also recommending to adding another qualification for approval on variances – court ordered subpoenas. The subpoena would have to be during their hunt season dates and substantially preclude them from hunting on their permit.

Lastly, the DWR is recommending removing COVID-19-related personal health concerns (or general public health restrictions) imposed by federal, state or local government as a qualifying event for which a variance or refund can be approved for.

**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 90~~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 ~~no less than~~ 30 days or more before the season opening date identified on the permit.

~~(ii)~~ (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.

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

(6) ~~The division~~ A person may ~~issue~~ receive full refund for ~~a wildlife document 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 statement;

(iii) the person does not actually 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 ~~was precluded from participating in the activity authorized by the wildlife document due to COVID-19 related personal health concerns or general public health restrictions imposed by the federal government, a state, or a local government.~~

( )  
(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: August 21, 2024**

**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.**

**R657-57. Division Variance Rule.**

**R657-57-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305 this rule is established to provide authority, standards and procedures for granting remedial relief to persons precluded from obtaining or using a wildlife document because of an event or condition beyond their control.

**R657-57-2. Definitions.**

- (1) The terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.
- (2) In addition:
  - (a) "CWMU" means cooperative wildlife management unit, as defined in Section 23A-7-102;
  - (b) "Event or condition" means a circumstance in a person's life beyond their control that precludes or substantially limits their ability to obtain or use a wildlife document;
  - (c) "Harvesting" means, for purposes of this rule, killing an animal;
  - (d) "Hunt day" means spending any time in the field hunting the permitted animal species in a single day, during lawful hunting hours, and within the prescribed season;
  - (e) "Immediate family member" means a person's spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, brother, sister, parent, stepparent, grandparent, mother-in-law, or father-in-law;
  - (f)(i) "Limited entry hunt" means any hunt identified in the proclamations and guidebooks of the Wildlife Board as:
    - (A) a premium limited entry or limited entry hunt; and
    - (B) that awards a bonus point to unsuccessful permit applicants pursuant to [Section R657-62-8](#).
  - (ii) "Limited entry hunt" further includes antlerless moose hunts and CWMU hunts available to the public through a Division administered drawing.
  - (g) "Once-in-a-lifetime hunt" means any hunt for which a wildlife document is issued to take a bull moose, bighorn sheep, bison, or mountain goat.
  - (h) "Substantially precluded" means participating in no more than one hunt day during the prescribed hunting season because of a qualifying event or condition set forth in [Section R657-57-6](#).
  - (i) "Variance" means remedial relief granted by the Division or Wildlife Board to restore a person's opportunity to obtain or use a wildlife document which is completely lost or substantially impaired because of an intervening event or condition; and
  - (j) "Wildlife document" means any license, permit, tag, certificate of registration, or wildlife permit voucher issued by the Division.

**R657-57-4. Division Variance Authority Scope.**

- (1)(a) The Division may grant a season extension variance extending the hunting season on an applicant's wildlife document to the same or substantially similar hunt in the following year, provided:
  - (i) the variance request involves a wildlife document for a:
    - (A) once-in-a-lifetime hunt under Rule R657-5;
    - (B) conservation permit hunt under Rule R657-41;
    - (C) limited entry landowner permit hunt under Rule R657-43;
    - (D) poaching-reported reward permit hunt under Rule R657-5;
    - (E) CWMU hunt obtained through the operator or landowner under Section R657-37-9; or
    - (F) a wildlife exposition permit under Rule R657-55;
  - (ii) the applicant was substantially precluded during the prescribed hunting season from using a wildlife document because of a qualifying event or condition set forth in Section R657-57-6;
    - (A) the qualifying event or condition was not the result of the applicant's willful misconduct or gross negligent acts or omissions; and
    - (B) the applicant was unsuccessful in harvesting an animal for which the wildlife document was issued;
  - (iii) the season extension occurs the following year and is restricted to the same species, gender, unit, weapon type, and season as the original wildlife document;
  - (iv) any changes in unit descriptions and season dates in the extension year are applied; and
  - (v) the variance is otherwise requested and issued in compliance with the standards, requirements and procedures set forth in this rule.
- (b) Any waiting period associated with a wildlife document for which a season extension variance is granted begins on the date the original wildlife document is obtained.
- ~~(c) Notwithstanding the limitations in Subsection (1)(a) on wildlife documents eligible for season extension variance relief, the division may grant a season extension variance for a limited entry hunt, provided:~~
- ~~(i) the applicant possessing the limited entry permit was substantially precluded from participating in the hunt for COVID-19 related personal health concerns or general public health restrictions imposed by the federal government, a state, or a local government;~~
- ~~(ii) the season for the limited entry hunt began on or after March 1, 2020 and ended on or before July 1, 2020; and~~
- ~~(iii) the variance relief sought and extended is otherwise in compliance with the provisions of this rule.~~

(2)(a) The Division may grant a variance by restoring forfeited bonus points and waiving an incurred waiting period, provided:

- (i) the variance request involves a wildlife document for a:
  - (A) limited entry hunt or once-in-a-lifetime hunt; or
  - (B) any other hunt that triggers a waiting period to participate in a Division administered drawing;
- (ii) the applicant was substantially precluded during the prescribed hunting season from using a wildlife document because of a qualifying event or condition set forth in Section R657-57-6; and
  - (A) the qualifying event or condition was not the result of the applicant's willful misconduct or gross negligent acts or omissions; and
  - (B) the applicant was unsuccessful in harvesting an animal for which the wildlife document was issued;
- (iii) the variance is otherwise requested and issued in compliance with the standards, requirements and procedures set forth in this rule.

(b) The Division may not restore a bonus point on a wildlife document that did not cause a bonus point forfeiture.

(3)(a) The Division may grant a variance by restoring forfeited preference points, provided:

- (i) the variance request involves a wildlife document obtained through a Division administered drawing and for which preference points are awarded to unsuccessful applicants and forfeited by successful applicants;
- (ii) the applicant was substantially precluded during the prescribed hunting season from using a wildlife document because of a qualifying event or condition set forth in Section R657-57-6; and
  - (A) the qualifying event or condition was not the result of the applicant's willful misconduct or gross negligent acts or omissions; and
  - (B) the applicant was unsuccessful in harvesting an animal for which the wildlife document was issued;
- (iii) the variance is otherwise requested and issued in compliance with the standards, requirements and procedures set forth in this rule.

(4)(a) The Division may grant a variance by awarding a bonus or preference point to a person who filed an untimely wildlife document application in a Division administered drawing, provided:

- (i) the variance request involves a wildlife document for any hunt identified in Subsections (2)(a)(i) or (3)(a)(i);
- (ii) the applicant was significantly impaired from filing a timely application in a Division administered drawing because of a qualifying event or condition set forth in Section R657-57-6;
- (iii) the untimely application was rejected and a bonus or preference point was not awarded for the selected species;
- (iv) the applicant would have been eligible to receive the bonus or preference point had the application been timely filed; and
- (v) the variance is otherwise requested and issued in compliance with the standards, requirements and procedures set forth in this rule.

(5)(a) An individual applying for a variance on a permit awarded through a Division administered drawing may only apply for and receive one season extension variance for each permit received.

(b) An individual applying for a variance on a Conservation permit, CWMU permit redeemed from a private voucher, or a Limited Entry Landowner Permit, may apply for and receive a maximum of two season extension variances for each permit received.

(c) An individual who has already been provided the maximum number of season extensions for their relevant permit, but who is still unable to hunt, is limited to restoration of preference or bonus points, a refund, or both, so long as they otherwise qualify.

(d) An individual receiving a variance for a CWMU permit or Limited Entry Landowner permit redeemed from a private voucher must receive permission from the CWMU Operator or respective landowner to hunt during the variance period.

(6)(a) A Division administered drawing for purposes of Subsections (2) and (5) does not include a drawing conducted at a wildlife exposition pursuant to Rule R657-55.

(b) Permits distributed through a wildlife exposition pursuant to Rule R657-55 are eligible for the same variance relief and are subject to the same variance restrictions as permits distributed via a Division administered drawing.

(7) The Division may not refund wildlife document fees, except as authorized in Sections 23A-4-207, 23A-4-301 and R657-42-5.

#### **R657-57-5. Group Applications.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), all members of a group successful in obtaining a wildlife document pursuant to [Section R657-62-7](#) are eligible to receive the same variance relief granted by the Division to any single member of the group under [Subsection R657-57-4\(2\)](#) or (3).

(2) Group members are not eligible to receive a refund of the wildlife document fee unless otherwise authorized by Sections 23A-4-207, 23A-4-301, and R657-42-5.

#### **R657-57-6. Qualifying Events and Conditions.**

(1) The Division's authority to grant a variance consistent with the requirements of this rule is limited to persons that are completely or substantially precluded during the prescribed season from participating in the hunting activity authorized by an eligible wildlife document, or precluded or substantially impaired from filing a timely wildlife document application in a Division administered drawing because of:

- (a) personal illness or injury;
- (b) the death, or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member;
- (c) mobilization or deployment under orders of the United States Armed forces, a public health organization, or public safety organization in the interest of national defense or a national emergency; or
- ~~(d) COVID-19 related personal health concerns or general public health restrictions imposed by the federal government, a state, or a local government.~~
- (d) A court ordered subpoena.

#### **R657-57-7. Variance Application.**

(1) A person may request a variance pursuant to the requirements of this rule by filing an application with the Division within 120 days of the:

- (a) last day of the hunting season for which a season extension variance is requested; or
- (b) drawing application deadline for which a bonus or preference point variance is sought.

(2) The Division may not grant a variance under this rule when the application is received beyond the ~~120~~30 days limitation period set forth in Subsection (1).

(3) An application for a season extension variance under Subsection R657-57-4(1), a bonus point restoration and waiting period waiver variance under Subsection R657-57-4(2), or a preference point restoration variance under Subsection R657-57-4(3) shall contain the following information and documentation:

- (a) name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
- (b) a brief statement of the variance relief sought;
- (c) the original wildlife document for which a season extension variance is sought with an undetached and unnotched tag;

- (d) a statement verifying the applicant was substantially precluded from participating in a qualified hunt because of:
  - (i) personal illness or injury;
  - (ii) the death, or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member;
  - (iii) mobilization or deployment under orders of the United States Armed Forces, or a public health or public safety organization in the interest of national defense or a national emergency; or

- ~~(iv) COVID-19 related personal health concerns or general public health restrictions imposed by the federal government, a state, or a local government; and~~
- (iv) a court ordered subpoena; and

- (e) corroborating documentation of the qualifying event or condition listed in Subsection (3)(d), in the form of:
  - (i) a physician's written statement describing and confirming the qualifying injury or illness of the applicant or an immediate family member;

- (ii) a photocopy of the deceased immediate family member's certified death certificate;
  - (iii) a photocopy of the military orders, or a letter from an employment supervisor on official public health or public safety organization letterhead stating;

(A) the branch of the United States Armed Forces, or name of the public health organization or public safety organization from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized; and

- (B) the nature and length of duty while deployed or mobilized; or

- ~~(iv)(A) a physician's written statement explaining and verifying that underlying health conditions place the applicant at risk of life threatening COVID-19 complications, if contracted, and that participation in the permitted activity will significantly increase the applicant's risk of contracting COVID-19; or~~

- ~~(B) a photocopy of the COVID-19 related federal, state, and local laws, orders, or directives substantially precluding the applicant from participating in the permitted activity.~~

- (iv) a photocopy of the court ordered subpoena.

(4) An application for a bonus or preference point variance under Subsection R657-57-4(4) shall contain the following information and documentation:

- (a) name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
- (b) a brief statement of the variance relief sought;
- (c) a description of the wildlife document application and permit type for which a bonus or preference point variance is sought, including the wildlife species and sex, season dates, and weapon type;

(d) a statement verifying the applicant was precluded or substantially impaired from submitting a wildlife document application because of:

- (i) personal illness or injury;
- (ii) the death, or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member; or
- (iii) mobilization or deployment under orders of the United States Armed Forces, or a public health or public safety organization in the interest of national defense or a national emergency;

- (iv) a court ordered subpoena.

- (e) corroborating documentation of the qualifying event or condition listed in Subsection (3)(d), in the form of:
  - (i) a physician's written statement describing and confirming the qualifying injury or illness of the applicant or an immediate family member;

- (ii) a photocopy of the deceased immediate family member's certified death certificate; or



(iii) a photocopy of the military orders, or a letter from an employment supervisor on official public health or public safety organization letterhead stating:

(A) the branch of the United States Armed Forces, or name of the public health organization or public safety organization from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized; and

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

(iv) a photocopy of the court ordered subpoena.

(5) The Division may reject an application that is incomplete or that contains false or misleading information.

(6) The Division may require the applicant to provide additional information, documentation, or clarification in conjunction with an application to determine eligibility for a variance.

(7) The Division should make its written decision within 30 days of receiving an application for variance and mail a copy of the decision to the applicant.

#### **R657-57-10. Wildlife Board Appeals.**

(1) A person may appeal the Division's decision on a variance application to the Wildlife Board pursuant to the requirements of this rule. The appeal request must be in writing and received by the Division within 30 calendar days of the issuance date on the Division's decision.

(2) The appeal shall contain the following information and documentation:

(a) name, address and telephone number of the petitioner;

(b) a statement of the variance relief sought and justification for the relief;

(c) a description of the wildlife document application for which the variance is sought, including the document number, species and sex, season dates, and weapon type;

(d) the original wildlife document for which the variance is sought;

(e) a statement describing the degree of lost opportunity because of an event or condition; and

(f) corroborating documentation of the event or condition listed in Subsections R657-57-7(3)(d) and (4)(d), which may include:

(i) a physician's written statement;

(ii) a certified death certificate photocopy;

(iii) a photocopy of the military orders;

(iv) a letter from an employment supervisor on official letterhead;

(v) court documentation; or

~~(vi) a photocopy of relevant COVID-19 laws, orders, or directives~~ the court ordered subpoena.

(3) The Wildlife Board may reject a variance appeal that is incomplete or that contains false or misleading information.

(4) The Wildlife Board may require the petitioner to provide additional information, documentation, or clarification in conjunction with the variance appeal.

(5) The Wildlife Board may set a time and date for a hearing on the variance appeal where the petitioner may be given an opportunity to address the Wildlife Board concerning the appeal.

(a) The Wildlife Board will provide the petitioner notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

(b) Failure to participate in the hearing may result in dismissal of the variance appeal.

(6) The Wildlife Board may sustain, overturn, or modify the Division's decision which is the subject of the variance appeal, provided the relief granted is consistent with the standards, limitations, requirements, and procedures in Sections R657-57-11 through R657-57-13.

(7) The Wildlife Board will prepare a written decision on the variance appeal and mail a copy to the petitioner.

#### **R657-57-11. Wildlife Board Variance Authority.**

(1) Except as provided otherwise in this rule, the Wildlife Board may grant a variance to any regulation promulgated in Title R657 of the Administrative Code or in proclamation concerning the acquisition or use of a wildlife document, provided the event or condition justifying the variance:

(a) is not the result of the applicant's willful misconduct or gross negligent acts or omissions;

(b) substantially precludes the applicant from participating in the activity authorized by the wildlife document; or

(c) completely or significantly impairs the applicant from filing a timely application in a Division administered drawing; and

(d) is of a nature that it deprives opportunity from the applicant in a substantially more severe manner than other similarly situated individuals.

(2) The Wildlife Board is limited to considering only those variance applications on which the Division has issued a letter indicating the variance relief sought is beyond its legal authority to grant.

(3) The Wildlife Board shall consider the Division's recommendation on a variance request.

(4) The Wildlife Board may grant a variance that extends a wildlife document season no more than one year into the future.

(5) The Wildlife Board may award a bonus or preference point pursuant to a variance request only when the applicant would have received such a point had the event or condition not intervened.

(6) The Wildlife Board may grant a variance:

(a) where the request is filed with the Division beyond the ~~420~~30 day deadline established in Subsection R657-57-7(1);

(b) where the applicant is not substantially precluded from participating in the prescribed wildlife activity;

(c) for a season extension on any hunt not identified in Subsection R657-57-4(1)(a)(i) as eligible for a season extension;

- (d) where the applicant was successful in harvesting an animal for which the wildlife document was issued; or
- (e) in direct conflict with any provision of the Wildlife Code or elsewhere in statute.
- (7) The Wildlife Board may not refund wildlife document fees, except as authorized in Sections 23A-4-207 and 23A-4-301.

**KEY: wildlife, permits**

**Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023**

**Notice of Continuation: July 19, 2023**

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



SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

RILEY PECK  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

DATE: July 14, 2025

**SUBJECT: Proposed rule amendments R657-41:**  
**Sportsman draw**  
**Proposed rule amendments R657-62:**  
**Group applications**

If you are one of the lucky applicants to draw out on a Sportsman permit, unfortunately the current rule does not allow you to purchase a point for a species that you are ineligible to hunt in the same year. The DWR recommends allowing successful applicants in the Sportsman's draw to be eligible to purchase a point for a species that they would have normally been ineligible to apply for.

If you are successful for one of these statewide (sportsman or conservation) permits, you have a different season than if you drew out in the regular drawings. These hunts start on a set date and if that set date falls on a Sunday, it needs to be adjusted.

The DWR recommends that for these statewide permits, if the hunt opens on Aug 1 and is a Sunday, the hunt would instead open on Aug 2. If the hunt opens on Sept 1 and is a Sunday, the hunt would instead open on Aug 31. For statewide turkey, if the hunt opens on April 1 and is a Sunday, the hunt would instead open on March 31.

The DWR is clarifying rule that an applicant may only draw out for one species within the Sportsman drawing.

The DWR is also recommending to allow group applications for all management buck deer hunts within the big game application.

**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-41. Conservation and Sportsman Permits.**

**R657-41-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, this rule provides the standards and procedures for issuing:

- (a) conservation permits to conservation organizations for auction to the highest bidder at fundraising events;
- (b) sportsman permits;
- (c) Special Antelope Island State Park Conservation Permits to a conservation organization for auction to the highest bidder at the annual wildlife exposition held pursuant to Rule R657-55; and
- (d) Special Antelope Island State Park Limited Entry Permits to successful applicants through a general drawing conducted by the division.

(2) The division and conservation organizations shall use all revenue derived from conservation permits under Subsections R657-41-9(4) and R657-41-9(5)(b) for the benefit of species for which conservation permits are issued, unless the division and conservation organization mutually agree in writing that there is a higher priority use for other species of protected wildlife.

**R657-41-2. Definitions.**

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.
  - (2) In addition:
    - (a) "Area Conservation Permit" means a permit issued for a specific unit, subunit or hunt area for a conservation permit species, and may include an extended season, or legal weapon choice, or both, beyond the season.
    - (b) "Conservation Organization" means a nonprofit chartered institution, foundation, or association founded and operated for promoting the protection, preservation, and recreational hunting of one or more conservation permit species and has established tax exempt status under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3), as amended.
    - (c) "Conservation Permit" means any harvest permit authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division for purposes identified in Section R657-41-1.
    - (d) "Conservation Permit Species" means the species for which conservation permits may be issued and includes deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bison, mountain goat, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, wild turkey, and black bear.
    - (e) "Retained Revenue" means 60% of the revenue raised by a conservation organization from auctioning conservation permits that the organization retains for eligible projects, including interest earned thereon less standard banking fees assessed on the account.
    - (f) "Special Antelope Island State Park Conservation Permit" means a permit authorized by the Wildlife Board to hunt bighorn sheep or mule deer on Antelope Island State Park which is issued pursuant to Section R657-41-12.
    - (g) "Special Antelope Island State Park Limited Entry Permit" means a permit authorized by the Wildlife Board to hunt bighorn sheep or mule deer on Antelope Island State Park which is issued by the division in a general drawing, requiring all applicants to pay an application fee and the successful applicant the cost of the permit.
    - (h) "Sportsman Permit" means a permit which allows a permittee to hunt during the applicable season dates specified in Subsection (i), and which is authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division in a general drawing, requiring all applicants to pay an application fee and the successful applicant the cost of the permit.
    - (i) "Statewide Conservation Permit" means a permit issued for a conservation permit species that allows a permittee to hunt:
      - (i) big game species on any open unit with archery equipment during the general archery season published in the big game guidebooks for the unit beginning before September 1;
      - (ii) big game species on any open unit during the following dates:
        - (A) bison from August 1 through January 31;
        - (B) pronghorn and moose from September 1 through November 15;
        - (C) bighorn sheep and mountain goats from September 1 through December 31; and
        - (D) deer and elk from September 1 through January 15;
      - (iii) two turkeys on any open unit from April 1 through May 31;
      - (iv) bear on any open unit during the season authorized by the Wildlife Board for that unit.
- (v) Hunts that would open on a Sunday in a given year will follow the adjusted dates below:
- (A) April 1 adjusted to March 31
  - (B) Aug 1 adjusted to Aug 2
  - (C) Sept 1 adjusted to Aug 31

| (iv) "Permit voucher" or "voucher" means an authorization issued by the division that entitles the designated holder to purchase the hunting permit specified in the authorization.

**KEY: wildlife, wildlife permits**

**Date of Last Change: August 21, 2024**

**Notice of Continuation: September 8, 2020**

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

## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-62. Drawing Application Procedures.**

#### **R657-62-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for drawing applications and procedures.

(2) Specific season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, number of permits and other administrative details that may change annually are published in the respective guidebooks of the Wildlife Board.

#### **R657-62-8. Bonus Points.**

(1) Bonus points are used to improve odds for drawing permits.

(2)(a) A bonus point is awarded for:

(i) each valid unsuccessful application when applying for limited-entry permits; or

(ii) each valid application when applying for bonus points.

(b) Bonus points are awarded by species for:

(i) limited-entry deer including cooperative wildlife management unit buck deer and management buck deer;

(ii) limited-entry elk including cooperative wildlife management unit bull elk and management bull elk;

(iii) limited-entry pronghorn including cooperative wildlife management unit buck pronghorn;

(iv) once-in-a-lifetime species including cooperative wildlife management units;

(v) limited-entry bear;

(vi) restricted bear pursuit;

(vii) antlerless moose;

(viii) ewe Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep;

(xi) ewe desert bighorn sheep; and

(x) turkey.

(3)(a) A person may not apply in the drawing for both a permit and a bonus point for the same species.

(b) A person may not apply for a bonus point if that person is ineligible to apply for a permit for the respective species.

(i) Except for when a person is successful in the Sportsman drawing, they may purchase a bonus point for the respective species they would have been ineligible for.

(c) Group applications may be accepted when applying for bonus points.

(d) A person may apply for bonus points only during the applicable drawing application for each species.

(4)(a) Fifty percent of the permits for each hunt unit will be reserved for applicants with the greatest number of bonus points.

(b) Based on the applicant's first choice, the reserved permits will be designated by a random drawing number to eligible applicants with the greatest number of bonus points for each species.

(c) If reserved permits remain, the reserved permits will be designated by a random number to eligible applicants with the next greatest number of bonus points for each species.

(d) The procedure in Subsection (c) will continue until reserved permits are issued or no applications for that species remain.

(e) Any reserved permits remaining and any applicants who are not selected for reserved permits will be returned to the applicable drawing.

(5)(a) Each applicant receives a random drawing number for:

(i) each species applied for; and

(ii) each bonus point for that species.

(6) Bonus points are forfeited if:

(a) a person obtains a permit through the drawing for that bonus point species including any permit obtained after the drawing; or

(b) a provision in a rule issued by the Wildlife Board specifically forfeits bonus points.

(7) Bonus points are not forfeited if:

(a) a person is successful in obtaining a conservation permit, expo permit, sportsman permit, or harvest objective bear permit;

(b) a person obtains a landowner or a cooperative wildlife management unit permit from a landowner; or

(c) a person obtains a poaching-reported reward permit.

(8) Bonus points are not transferable.

(9) Bonus points are averaged and rounded down when two or more applicants apply together on a group application.

(10)(a) Bonus points are tracked using social security numbers or division-issued customer identification numbers.

(b) The division shall retain electronic copies of applications from 1996 to the current drawings for researching bonus point records.

(c) Any requests for researching an applicant's bonus point records must be submitted within the time frames provided in Subsection (b).

(d) Any bonus points on the division's records shall not be researched beyond the time frames provided in Subsection (b).

(e) The division may void or otherwise eliminate any bonus point obtained by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or in violation of law.

#### **R657-62-9. Preference Points.**

(1) Preference points are used in the applicable drawings to ensure that applicants who are unsuccessful in the drawing will have first preference in the next year's drawing.

(2)(a) A preference point is awarded for:

(i) each valid, unsuccessful application applying for a general buck deer, antlerless deer, antlerless elk, doe pronghorn, Sandhill crane, sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse or tundra swan permit; or

(ii) each valid application when applying only for a preference point in the applicable drawings.

(b) Preference points are awarded by species for:

(i) general buck deer;

(ii) antlerless deer;

(iii) antlerless elk;

(iv) doe pronghorn;

(v) Sandhill crane;

(vi) Sharp-tailed grouse;

(vii) Greater sage-grouse; and

(viii) Tundra swan.

(3)(a) A person may not apply in the drawing for both a preference point and a permit for the species listed in Subsection (2)(b).

(b) A person may not apply for a preference point if that person is ineligible to apply for a permit.

(i) Except for when a person is successful in the Sportsman drawing, they may purchase a preference point for the respective species they would have been ineligible for.

(4) Preference points for the applicable species are forfeited if a person obtains a general buck deer, antlerless deer, antlerless elk, doe pronghorn, Sandhill crane, sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse or tundra swan permit, whether obtained through a division drawing or over the counter, except points are not forfeited if a person obtains one or more of the following:

(a) youth archery buck deer permit;

(b) mitigation permits issued to a landowner Rule R657-44, including mitigation permit vouchers;

(c) antlerless elk control permits;

(d) a general landowner buck deer permit or landowner appreciation permit issued pursuant to Rule R657-43; and

(e) private land only antlerless elk permits.

(5) Preference points are not transferable.

(6) Preference points are averaged and rounded down when two or more applicants apply together on a group application.

(7)(a) Preference points are tracked using social security numbers or division-issued customer identification numbers.

(b) The division shall retain copies of electronic applications from 2000 to the current applicable drawings for researching preference point records.

(c) Any requests for researching an applicant's preference point records must be submitted within the time frames provided in Subsection (b).

(d) Any preference points on the division's records shall not be researched beyond the time frames provided in Subsection (b).

(e) The division may eliminate any preference point obtained by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or in violation of law.

## **R657-62-18. Big Game.**

(1) Permit Applications

(a) Limited entry, Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit, Once-in-a-Lifetime, Management Bull Elk, Management Buck Deer, General Buck Deer, and Youth General Any Bull Elk permit applications.

(i) A person must possess or obtain a valid hunting or combination license to apply for or obtain a big game permit.

(ii) Applicants must meet age requirements, proof of hunter education requirements and youth restrictions as provided in Rule R657-5.

(iii) A person may obtain only one permit per species of big game, including limited entry, cooperative wildlife management unit, once-in-a-lifetime, conservation, landowner and general permits, except antlerless permits as provided in the Antlerless Addendum and permits as provided in Rule R657-42.

(b) A resident may apply in the big game drawing for the following permits:



- (i) only one of the following:
  - (A) buck deer - limited entry and cooperative wildlife management unit;
  - (B) bull elk - limited entry and cooperative wildlife management unit; or
  - (C) buck pronghorn - limited entry and cooperative wildlife management unit; and
- (ii) only one once-in-a-lifetime permit, including once-in-a-lifetime cooperative wildlife management unit permits.
- (c) A nonresident may apply in the big game drawing for the following permits:
  - (i) of the following:
    - (A) buck deer -limited entry;
    - (B) bull elk - limited entry;
    - (C) buck pronghorn - limited entry; and
    - (D) once-in-a-lifetime species.
  - (ii) Nonresidents may not apply for cooperative management units through the big game drawing.
- (d) A resident or nonresident may apply in the big game drawing for only one of the following type of permits:
  - (i) general-season buck deer;
  - (ii) dedicated hunter certificate of registration.
- (2) Youth
  - (a) For purposes of this section "youth" means any person 17 years of age or younger on July 31.
  - (b) Youth applicants who apply for a general buck deer permit.
  - (i) Youth will automatically be considered in the youth drawing based upon their birth date.
    - (ii) 20% of general buck deer permits in each unit are reserved for youth hunters.
    - (iii) After evaluating all youth hunt choices;
      - (A) any remaining youth permits will be converted to youth any legal weapon permits (regular season) and;
      - (B) the youth that were unsuccessful in drawing under Subsection (b)(i) will be re-evaluated, starting with the highest number of preference points and their first choice.
    - (iv) Any remaining youth reserved permits will be converted back to original weapon type and placed into the general buck deer drawing, and any youth applicants who were not selected for reserved permits shall be returned to the general buck deer drawing.
    - (v) Up to four youth may apply together for youth general deer permits.
    - (vi) Preference points shall be used when applying.
  - (3) Reserved
  - (4) Drawing Order.
    - (a) Permits for the big game drawing shall be drawn in the following order:
      - (i) limited entry, cooperative wildlife management unit and management buck deer;
      - (ii) limited entry, cooperative wildlife management unit and management bull elk;
      - (iii) limited entry and cooperative wildlife management unit buck pronghorn;
      - (iv) once-in-a-lifetime;
      - (v) general buck deer -- lifetime license;
      - (vi) general buck deer -- dedicated hunter;
      - (vii) general buck deer - youth;
      - (viii) general buck deer; and

(ix) youth general any bull elk.

(b) Any person who draws one of the following permits is not eligible to draw a once-in-a-lifetime permit:

(i) limited entry, Cooperative Wildlife Management unit or management buck deer;

(ii) limited entry, Cooperative Wildlife Management unit or management bull elk; or

(iii) a limited entry or Cooperative Wildlife Management unit buck pronghorn.

(c) If any permits listed in subsection (a)(i) through (a)(iii) remain after the big game drawing after choices have been evaluated separately for residents and nonresidents, a second evaluation will be done allowing cross-over usage of remaining resident and nonresident permit quotas.

(5) Groups

(a) Limited Entry

(i) Up to four people may apply together for limited entry deer, elk or pronghorn; or resident cooperative wildlife management unit permits.

(b) Group applications are not accepted for ~~management buck deer or bull elk permits.~~

~~(c) Group applications are not accepted for~~ Once-in-a-lifetime permits.

~~(d)~~ General season.

(i) Up to four people may apply together for general deer permits.

(ii) Up to four youth may apply together for youth general any bull elk permits.

(iii) Up to four youth may apply together for youth general deer permits.

(6) Waiting Periods

(a) Deer waiting period.

(i) Any person who draws or obtains a limited entry, premium limited entry, management, or cooperative wildlife management unit buck deer permit through the big game drawing process may not apply for or receive any of these permits again for a period of five seasons.

(ii) A waiting period does not apply to:

(A) general archery, general any weapon, general muzzleloader, conservation, sportsman, poaching-reported reward permits;

(B) cooperative wildlife management unit, limited entry, premium limited entry, or landowner buck deer permits obtained through the landowner; or

(C) buck deer wildlife expo permits, as provided in Section R657-55-6.

(b) Elk waiting period.

(i) Any person who draws or obtains a limited entry, management or cooperative wildlife management unit bull elk permit through the big game drawing process may not apply for or receive any of these permits for a period of five seasons.

(ii) A waiting period does not apply to:

(A) general archery, general any weapon, general muzzleloader, conservation, sportsman, poaching-reported reward permits;

(B) cooperative wildlife management unit or limited entry landowner bull elk permits obtained through the landowner; or

(C) bull elk wildlife expo permits, as provided in Section R657-55-6.

(c) Pronghorn waiting period.

(i) Any person who draws or obtains a buck pronghorn or cooperative wildlife management unit buck pronghorn permit through the big game drawing may not apply for or receive any of these permits thereafter for a period of two seasons.

(ii) A waiting period does not apply to:

- (A) conservation, sportsman, poaching-reported reward permits;
- (B) cooperative wildlife management unit or limited entry landowner buck pronghorn permits obtained through the landowner; or
- (C) buck pronghorn wildlife expo permits, as provided in Section R657-55-6.
- (d) Once-in-a-lifetime species waiting period.
- (i) Any person who draws or obtains a permit for any bull moose, bison, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep or mountain goat through the big game drawing or sportsman permit drawing may not receive another once-in-a-lifetime permit in the big game drawing or sportsman permit drawing in the same year.
- (ii) Except as provided in Subsection (iii), once-in-a-lifetime restrictions do not apply to obtaining:
  - (A) wildlife expo permits for once-in-a-lifetime species in the wildlife expo drawing, as provided in Rule R657-55; and
  - (B) Management bison permits, as provided in Subsection R657-5-38(7).
- (iii) Any person who obtains a wildlife expo permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species is subject to the once-in-a-lifetime restrictions applicable to obtaining a subsequent permit for the same species through a division application and drawing process, as provided in Rule R657-62 and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.
- (iv) A person who has been convicted of unlawfully taking a once-in-a-lifetime species may not apply for or obtain a permit for that species.
- (e) Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit and landowner permits.
- (i) Waiting periods and once-in-a-lifetime restrictions do not apply to purchasing limited entry landowner or cooperative wildlife management unit permits obtained through a landowner, except as provided in Subsection (ii).
- (ii) Waiting periods are incurred and applied when applying in the big game drawing as a result of obtaining a cooperative wildlife management unit bull moose permit through a landowner.

#### **R657-62-24. Sportsman.**

- (1) Permit applications.
    - (a) One sportsman permit is offered to residents for each of the following species:
      - (i) desert bighorn (ram);
      - (ii) bison (hunter's choice);
      - (iii) buck deer;
      - (iv) bull elk;
      - (v) Rocky Mountain bighorn (ram);
      - (vi) mountain goat (hunter's choice);
      - (vii) bull moose;
      - (viii) buck pronghorn;
      - (ix) black bear; and
      - (x) wild turkey.
    - (b) Bonus points shall not be awarded or utilized when applying for or obtaining sportsman permits.
- sportsman permits.
- sportsman permits.
- (c) Drawing Order.
- (a) Permits for the sportsman drawing shall be drawn in the following order:
- (i) limited-entry buck deer;

(ii) limited-entry bull elk;  
(iii) limited-entry buck pronghorn;  
(iv) once-in-a-lifetime bull moose;  
(v) once-in-a-lifetime bison;  
(vi) once-in-a-lifetime desert bighorn sheep;  
(vii) once-in-a-lifetime Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep;  
(viii) once-in-a-lifetime mountain goat;  
(ix) limited-entry black bear; and  
(x) limited-entry turkey  
(d) An applicant may not draw out for more than one species within the sportsman drawing.

- (2) Group applications are not accepted.
- (3) Waiting Periods
  - (a) Any person who applies for or obtains a Sportsman Permit is subject to all waiting periods and exceptions as applicable to the species pursuant to Rule R657-41.
  - (b) Once-in-lifetime waiting periods
    - (i) If a person has obtained a once-in-a-lifetime permit through the sportsman drawing they are ineligible to apply for that once-in-a-lifetime species through the big game drawing.
    - (ii) If a person has obtained a once-in-a-lifetime permit through the big game drawing they are ineligible to apply for that once-in-a-lifetime species through the sportsman drawing.
  - (c) Limited Entry waiting periods
    - (i) Waiting periods do not apply to Sportsman deer, elk, pronghorn, or bear.
    - (ii) Waiting period will not be incurred for receipt of a Sportsman deer, elk, pronghorn, or bear.

**KEY: wildlife, permits**

**Date of Last Change: February 7, 2025**

**Notice of Continuation: April 9, 2024**

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



SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

RILEY PECK  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

DATE: July 14, 2025

**SUBJECT: Proposed rule R657-73 – Tagging requirements**

The DWR would like to recommend creating a new rule R657-73 to consolidate tagging regulations into one rule and add language to allow electronic tagging.

Under the new rule, the hunter will need:

For **physically tagging** a carcass under this new rule, you must:

- Completely detach the tag from the permit
- Completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the animal was taken
- Attach the physical tag to the carcass so that the tag is securely fastened and visible

**Important:** You are no longer required to have the tag remain with the largest portion of the meat until the animal is entirely consumed.

For **electronically tagging** a carcass under this new rule, you must:

- Electronically notch the digital permit (in the Utah Hunting and Fishing app) to correspond with the date the animal was taken and to provide other required information.
- Keep the electronic harvest code in your possession

When hunting, you may **not**:

- Remove more than one notch indicating the date
- Tag more than one carcass using the same physical or electronic permit
- Hunt or pursue the species after:
  - Shooting and retrieving the animal you are hunting
  - Detaching the tag from the permit
  - Notching the tag, either physically or electronically

### **R657-73. Tagging Requirements.**

#### **R657-73-1. 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 tagging and electronic tagging of harvested animals.

#### **R657-73-2. Definitions.**

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

(2) In addition:

(a) "Electronic harvest code" means a code or authorization number issued after a hunter or trapper electronically tags their harvested animal.

(b) "Electronic permit" means an electronic document that grants authority to engage in specified activities.

(c) "Electronic tagging" means an electronic means of identification used to document harvest of protected wildlife.

#### **R657-73-3. Big Game Tagging.**

(1) A person that takes a big game species must tag the carcass, as provided in Sections 23A-4-709 and R657-5-17, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.

(2) To tag a carcass, a person shall:

(a) completely detach the tag from the permit;

(b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the animal was taken; or

(c) electronically notch the electronic permit appropriately to correspond with the date the animal was taken and other information required; and

(d) attach the physical tag to the carcass so that the tag is securely fastened and visible; or

(e) if e-tagging, must have electronic harvest code in your possession.

(3) A person may not:

(a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or

(b) tag more than one carcass using the same physical or electronic permit.

(4) A person may not hunt or pursue a big game species after:

(a) shooting and retrieving big game;

(b) the tag is detached from the permit;

(c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag; or

(d) the tag is electronically notched through a state issued application.

#### **R657-73-4. Upland Game Tagging.**

(1) A person that takes a greater sage-grouse or a sharp-tailed grouse must tag the carcass, as provided in Sections 23A-4-709 and R657-6-14, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.

(2) To tag a carcass, a person shall:

(a) completely detach the tag from the permit;

(b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the animal was taken; or

(c) electronically notch the electronic permit appropriately to correspond with the date the animal was taken and other information required; and

(d) attach the physical tag to the carcass so that the tag is securely fastened and visible; or

(e) if e-tagging, must have electronic harvest code in your possession.

(3) A person may not:

(a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or

(b) tag more than one carcass using the same physical or electronic permit.

(4) A person may not hunt or pursue greater sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse after:

(a) shooting and retrieving birds equal to the number of unused permits in possession, or daily bag limit;

(b) the tag is detached from the permit; or

(c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag; or

(d) the tag is electronically notched through a state issued application.

#### **R657-73-5. Tundra Swan and Sandhill Crane Tagging.**

(1)(a) A person that takes a tundra swan or sandhill crane must tag the carcass, as provided in Sections 23A-4-709 and R657-9-6, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass and reaching a location listed in Subsections (i) through (iii), that is closest to the place where the carcass was first retrieved by the hunter, another person, or a dog:

(i) the blind or fixed location in the field where the person taking the tundra swan was set up and from where they shot at the tundra swan;

(ii) a vessel available to the person; or

(iii) the first area of land free from standing water.

(b) "Vessel" means, any type of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

(2) To tag a tundra swan and sandhill crane carcass, a person shall:

(a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;

(b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the tundra swan or sandhill crane was taken;

or

(c) electronically notch the electronic permit appropriately to correspond with the date a tundra swan and sandhill crane was taken and other information required; and

(d) attach the physical tag to the carcass so that the tag is securely fastened and visible; or

(e) if e-tagging, must have electronic harvest code in your possession.

(3) A person may not:

(a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or

(b) tag more than one tundra swan or sandhill crane carcass using the same physical or electronic permit.

(4) A person may not hunt or pursue a tundra swan or sandhill crane after:

(a) shooting and retrieving the tundra swan or sandhill crane;

(b) the tag is detached from the permit; or

(c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag; or

(d) the tag is electronically notched through a state issued application.

#### **R657-73-6. Bobcat Tagging.**

(1)(a) Only a person who possesses a valid bobcat tag issued in their name and who is present upon discovery of a bobcat in their marked trapping device or the device of another under Subsection R657-11-9(6) may kill the animal.

(b) The person who kills a bobcat caught in a trapping device is required to attach their bobcat tag or electronic harvest code to the carcass, as provided in subsections (2) through (8).

(2) The pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat must be tagged in accordance with Sections 23A-4-709 and R657-11-5.

(3) To tag a bobcat carcass, a person shall:

(a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;

(b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the bobcat was taken; or

(c) electronically notch the electronic permit appropriately to correspond with the date a bobcat was taken and other information required; and

(d) attach the physical tag to the carcass so that the tag is securely fastened and visible; or

(e) if e-tagging, must have electronic harvest code in your possession.

(4) A person may not:

(a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or

(b) tag more than one bobcat carcass using the same physical or electronic permit.

(5) A person may not hunt or pursue a bobcat after:

(a) harvesting and retrieving the bobcat;

(b) the tag is detached from the permit; or

(c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag; or

(d) the tag is electronically notched through a state issued application.

(6) The tag or electronic harvest code must remain with the pelt or unskinned carcass until a permanent tag has been affixed.

(7) Possession of an untagged green pelt or unskinned carcass is prima facie evidence of unlawful taking and possession.

(8) The lower jaw of each bobcat taken must be removed and tagged with the numbered jaw tag corresponding to the number of the temporary possession tag affixed to the hide.

#### **R657-73-7. Black Bear Tagging.**

- (1) The carcass of a bear must be tagged in accordance with Sections 23A-4-709 and R657-33-15.
- (2) The carcass of a bear must be tagged with a temporary possession tag or electronic harvest code before the carcass is moved from or the hunter leaves the site of kill.
- (3) To tag a carcass, a person shall:
  - (a) completely detach the tag from the permit;
  - (b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the animal was taken; or
  - (c) electronically notch the electronic permit appropriately to correspond with the date the animal was taken and other information required; and
  - (d) attach the physical tag to the carcass so that the tag is securely fastened and visible; or
  - (e) if e-tagging, must have electronic harvest code in your possession.
- (4) A person may not hunt or pursue a black bear after:
  - (a) shooting and retrieving a black bear;
  - (b) the tag is detached from the permit;
  - (c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag; or
  - (d) the tag is electronically notched through a state issued application.
- (5) The temporary possession tag or electronic harvest code:
  - (a) must remain attached to the pelt or unskinned carcass until the permanent possession tag is attached; and
  - (b) is only valid for 48 hours after the date of kill.
- (6) A person may not possess a bear pelt or unskinned carcass without a valid permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass. This provision does not apply to a person in possession of properly tagged carcass or pelt within 48 hours after the kill, provided the person was issued and is in possession of a valid permit.

**R657-73-8. Wild Turkey Tagging.**

- (1) A person that takes a wild turkey must tag the carcass, as provided in Sections 23A-4-709 and R657-54a-11, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.
- (2) To tag a carcass, a person shall:
  - (a) completely detach the tag from the permit;
  - (b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with:
    - (i) the date the wild turkey was taken;
    - (ii) the sex of the wild turkey; or
  - (c) electronically notch the electronic permit appropriately to correspond with the date the animal was taken and other information required; and
  - (d) attach the physical tag to the carcass so that the tag is securely fastened and visible; or
  - (e) if e-tagging, must have electronic harvest code in your possession.
- (3) A person may not:
  - (a) remove more than one notch indicating the date or sex; or
  - (b) tag more than one carcass using the same physical or electronic permit.
- (4) A person may not hunt or pursue a wild turkey after:
  - (a) shooting and retrieving the bird;
  - (b) the tag is detached from the permit;
  - (c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag; or
  - (d) the tag is electronically notched through a state issued application.

KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game

Date of Last Change: New Rule

Notice of Continuation: New Rule

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



**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-5. Taking Big Game.**

**R657-5-1. Purpose and Authority.**

- (1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established:
- (a) this rule for taking deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat.
  - (b) appropriate weapons or devices to take big game and restrictions to weapons or devices to take big game.
- (2) Specific dates, areas, methods of take, requirements, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

**R657-5-17. Tagging.**

- (1) The carcass of any species of big game must be tagged in accordance with Section 23A-4-709- [and R657-73-3.](#)
- ~~(2) A person may not hunt or pursue big game after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from the permit.~~
- ~~(3) The tag must remain with the largest portion of the meat until the animal is entirely consumed.~~

**KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game seasons**

**Date of Last Change: ~~July 8~~[March 10](#), 2025**

**Notice of Continuation: September 8, 2020**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305; 23A-11-201; 23A-11-202**

**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-6. Taking Upland Game.**

**R657-6-1. Purpose and Authority.**

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

(2) Specific season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, number of permits and other administrative details that may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

**R657-6-14. Tagging Requirements.**

(1) A person that takes a greater sage-grouse or a sharp-tailed grouse must tag the carcass, as provided in Section 23A-4-709 ~~and R657-73-4~~, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (2) To tag a carcass, a person shall:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the animal was taken; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) attach the tag to the carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (3) A person may not:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) tag more than one carcass using the same tag.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (4) A person may not hunt or pursue greater sage grouse or sharp tailed grouse after:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) shooting and retrieving birds equal to the number of unused permits in possession, or daily bag limit;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) the tag is detached from the permit; or~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag.~~

**KEY: wildlife, birds, rabbits, game laws**

**Date of Last Change: March 11, 2025**

**Notice of Continuation: May 2025**

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

**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.

**R657-9-6. Tagging Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes.**

~~(1)(a) A person that takes a tundra swan or sandhill crane must tag the carcass, as provided in Section 23A-4-709, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass and reaching a location listed in Subsections (i) through (iii), that is closest to the place where the carcass was first retrieved by the hunter, another person, or a dog; and Section R657-73-5.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (i) the blind or fixed location in the field where the person taking the tundra swan was set up and from where they shot at the tundra swan;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) a vessel available to the person; or~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (iii) the first area of land free from standing water.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) "Vessel" means, for the purposes of this subsection, any type of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (2) To tag a tundra swan and sandhill crane carcass, a person shall:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the tundra swan or sandhill crane was taken; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) attach the tag to the tundra swan carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (3) A person may not:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) tag more than one tundra swan or sandhill crane carcass using the same tag.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (4) A person may not hunt or pursue a tundra swan or sandhill crane after:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) shooting and retrieving the tundra swan or sandhill crane;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) the tag is detached from the permit; or~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag.~~

**KEY: wildlife, birds, migratory birds, waterfowl**

**Date of Last Change: March 11, 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.**

**R657-11. Taking Furbearers and Trapping.**

**R657-11-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking furbearers and trapping.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

(3) Take of coyotes and raccoons is regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Food pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 23, Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Act. The division, through the Wildlife Board, is charged in Sections 23A-2-201 and 23A-2-305 to conserve protected wildlife and establish rules considered necessary to accomplish that directive, including regulating the means by which protected wildlife may be taken. The trapping device use regulations in this rule concerning coyotes and raccoons are intended solely to minimize take of nontargeted protected wildlife, maximize potential for successful release of nontargeted protected wildlife, detect illegal trap sets targeting protected wildlife, and protect compliant trappers from criminal liability otherwise applicable to taking nontargeted protected wildlife in a trapping device.

**R657-11-5. Tagging Bobcats.**

~~(1)(a) Only a person who possesses a valid bobcat tag issued in their name and who is present upon discovery of a bobcat in their marked trapping device or the device of another under Subsection R657-11-9(6) may kill the animal.~~

~~(b) The person who kills a bobcat caught in a trapping device is required to attach their bobcat tag to the carcass, as provided in subsections (2) through (5).~~

~~(2) The pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat must be tagged in accordance with Section 23A-4-709 and R657-73-6.~~

~~(3) The tag must remain with the pelt or unskinned carcass until a permanent tag has been affixed.~~

~~(4) Possession of an untagged green pelt or unskinned carcass is prima facie evidence of unlawful taking and possession.~~

~~(5) The lower jaw of each bobcat taken must be removed and tagged with the numbered jaw tag corresponding to the number of the temporary possession tag affixed to the hide.~~

**KEY: wildlife, furbearers, game laws, wildlife law**

**Date of Last Change: March 11, 2025**

**Notice of Continuation: June 1, 2025**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-1-204; 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305;**

**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-33. Taking Bear.**

**R657-33-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing bear.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

**R657-33-15. Tagging Requirements.**

~~(1) The carcass of a bear must be tagged in accordance with Section 23A-4-709.~~

~~(2) The carcass of a bear must be tagged with a temporary possession tag before the carcass is moved from or the hunter leaves the site of kill.~~

~~(3) A person may not hunt or pursue bear after the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from the permit.~~

~~(4) The temporary possession tag:~~

~~(a) must remain attached to the pelt or unskinned carcass until the permanent possession tag is attached; and~~

~~(b) is only valid for 48 hours after the date of kill.~~

~~(5) A person may not possess a bear pelt or unskinned carcass without a valid permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass. This provision does not apply to a person in possession of a properly tagged carcass or pelt within 48 hours after the kill, provided the person was issued and is in possession of a valid permit Section R657-73-7.~~

**KEY: wildlife, bear, game laws**

**Date of Last Change: March 11, 2025**

**Notice of Continuation: October 31, 2022**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-1-101; 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305;**

**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-54a. Taking Wild Turkey.**

**R657-54a-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305 and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 2003 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking wild turkey.

(2) Specific season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, number of permits and other administrative details that may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

**R657-54a-11. Tagging Requirements.**

(1) A person that takes a wild turkey must tag the carcass, as provided in Section 23A-5-309 [and R657-73-8](#), immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (2) To tag a carcass, a person shall:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (i) the date the wild turkey was taken;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) the sex of the wild turkey; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) attach the tag to the carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (3) A person may not:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) remove more than one notch indicating date or sex; or~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) tag more than one carcass using the same tag.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (4) A person may not hunt or pursue a wild turkey after:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) shooting and retrieving the bird;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) the tag is detached from the permit;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag.~~

**KEY: wildlife, wild turkey, game laws**

**Date of Last Change: Oct. 2024**

**Notice of Continuation: New Rule**

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