

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-10. Taking Cougar.

R657-10-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing cougar.

(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 cougar.

R657-10-3. Permits for Taking Cougar.

(1)(a) To harvest a cougar, a person must first obtain a valid limited entry cougar permit, harvest-objective cougar permit, or cougar control permit, for the specified management units as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(b) Any person who obtains a limited entry cougar permit, harvest objective cougar permit, or cougar control permit, may pursue cougar on the unit for which the permit is valid.

(2) A person may not apply for or obtain more than one cougar permit for the same season, except:

(a) as provided in Subsection R657-10-25(3);

(b) as provided in Subsection R657-10-33; ~~or~~

(c) if the person is unsuccessful in the limited entry drawing, the person may purchase a harvest objective or cougar control [permit; or](#)
[\(d\) a person may acquire and use a permit issued pursuant to Utah Code Section 23-16-10 in addition to another lawfully acquired cougar](#) permit.

(3) Any cougar permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase.

(4) To obtain a cougar limited entry permit, harvest objective permit, cougar control permit, or pursuit permit, a person must possess a Utah hunting or combination license.

R657-10-6. Firearms, Archery Equipment, Crossbows, and Airguns.

(1) For ~~[limited entry and harvest objective hunts]~~ [cougar hunt](#) identified in the Wildlife Board's guidebook for taking [cougar that allow harvest of a](#) cougar, a person may use the following to take cougar:

(a) any firearm not capable of being fired fully automatic, except a firearm using rimfire cartridge;

(b) archery equipment meeting the following requirements:

(i) the minimum bow pull is 30 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first;

(ii) arrowheads used have two or more sharp cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring;

(iii) expanding arrowheads cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring when expanded; and

(iv) arrows must be a minimum of 20 inches in length from the tip of the arrowhead to the tip of the nock;

- (c) a crossbow meeting the following requirements:
 - (i) a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds;
 - (ii) a positive mechanical safety mechanism; and
 - (iii) an arrow or bolt that is at least 16 inches long with:
 - (A) a fixed broadhead that is at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point; or
 - (B) an expandable, mechanical broadhead that is at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position; and
- (d) an airgun used to hunt cougar must:
 - (i) be pneumatically powered;
 - (ii) be pressurized solely through a separate charging device; and
 - (iii) may only fire a bolt or arrow:
 - (A) no less than 16 inches long;
 - (B) with a fixed or expandable broadhead at least 7/8 inch wide at its widest position; and
 - (C) traveling no less than 400 feet per second at the muzzle.
- (2) Arrows and bolts carried in or on a vehicle where a person is riding must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case.

[\(3\) A cougar hunt authorized pursuant to Utah Code Section 23-16-10 does not constitute a centerfire rifle hunt for the purposes of hunter orange requirements on any overlapping big game hunt in the area.](#)

R657-10-21. Livestock Depredation and Human Health and Safety.

- (1) If a cougar is harassing, chasing, disturbing, harming, attacking or killing livestock, or has committed such an act within the past 96 hours:
 - (a) in depredation cases, the livestock owner, an immediate family member or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take cougar, may kill the cougar;
 - (b) a landowner or livestock owner may notify the division of the depredation or human health and safety concerns, who shall authorize a local hunter to take the offending cougar or notify a USDA, Wildlife Services specialist; or
 - (c) the livestock owner may notify a USDA, Wildlife Services specialist of the depredation who may take the depredating cougar.
- (2) Depredating cougar may be taken at any time by a USDA, Wildlife Services specialist, supervised by the Wildlife Services program, while acting in the performance of the person's assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.
- (3)(a) A depredating cougar may be taken by those persons authorized in Subsection (1)(a) with:
 - (i) any weapon authorized for taking cougar; or
 - (ii) with the use of snares only with written authorization from the director of the division and subject to each condition and restriction set out in the written authorization.
- (b) The option in Subsection (3)(b) may only be authorized in the case of a chronic depredation situation where numerous livestock have been killed by a depredating cougar and must be verified by Wildlife Services or division personnel.

(4)(a) The division may issue depredation permits to take cougar on specified private lands and public land grazing allotments with a chronic depredation situation where numerous livestock have been killed by cougar.

(b) The division may:

(i) issue one or more depredation permits to the affected livestock owner or a designee, provided the livestock owner does not receive monetary consideration from the designee for the opportunity to use the depredation permit;

(ii) determine the legal weapons and methods of take allowed; and

(iii) specify the area and season that the permit is valid.

(5)(a) Any cougar taken under Subsection (1)(a) or (4)(a) shall remain the property of the state and must be delivered to a division office or employee within 96 hours.

(b) The division may issue a cougar damage permit to a person who has killed a depredating cougar under Subsection (1)(a) that authorizes the person to keep the carcass.

(c) A person that takes a cougar under Subsection (1)(a) or (4)(a) may acquire and use a limited entry permit or harvest objective cougar permit in the same year.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c), a person may retain no more than one cougar annually taken with a cougar depredation permit.

(6)(a) Hunters interested in taking depredating cougar as provided in Subsection (1)(b) may contact the division.

(b) Hunters will be contacted by the division to take depredating cougar as needed.

R657-10-23. Taking Cougar.

(1)(a) For each permit issued, a person may only take one cougar during the season and from the area specified on the permit.

(b) Limited entry permits may be obtained by following the application procedures provided in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(c) Harvest-objective permits may be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis as provided in guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(d) Cougar control permits may be purchased as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(2) A person may not:

(a) take or pursue a female cougar with kittens or kittens with spots; or

(b) repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner, or hold at bay, the same cougar during the same day after the cougar has been released.

(3) Any cougar may be taken during the prescribed seasons, except a kitten with spots[,] or any cougar accompanied by kittens[, ~~or any cougar accompanied by an adult~~].

(4) A person may not take a cougar wearing a radio or gps collar [~~from~~]on any [~~areas that are published~~]unit identified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar as being closed to the take of collared animals.

(5) The division may authorize hunters who have obtained a valid cougar permit to take cougar in a specified area of the state in the interest of protecting wildlife from depredation.

(6) Season dates, closed areas, harvest objective permit areas, unlimited quota units, and limited entry permit areas are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(7)(a) A person who obtains a limited entry cougar permit on a split unit may hunt on all harvest objective units after the date split units transition into harvest objective units. The split unit transition date is provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(b) A person who obtains a limited entry cougar permit on a split unit and chooses to hunt on any harvest objective unit after the transition date is subject to all harvest objective unit closure requirements provided in Sections R657-10-29.

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