

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.

R657-5-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.
- (2) In addition:
 - (a) "Antlerless deer" means a deer without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter.
 - (b) "Antlerless elk" means an elk without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter.
 - (c) "Antlerless elk control permit" means a permit allowing an individual to harvest an antlerless elk on an antlerless elk control unit.
 - (d) "Antlerless moose" means a moose with antlers shorter than its ears.
 - ~~(e)~~ (e) "Antler Point Restriction" or "APR" means "a restriction of hunt to a minimum of antler points required for a buck deer to be legally harvested."
 - ~~(f)~~ (f) "Arrow quiver" means a portable arrow case that completely encases all edges of the broadheads.
 - ~~(g)~~ (g) "Buck deer" means a deer with antlers longer than five inches.
 - ~~(h)~~ (h) "Buck pronghorn" means a pronghorn with horns longer than five inches.
 - ~~(i)~~ (i) "Bull elk" means an elk with antlers longer than five inches.
 - ~~(j)~~ (j) "Commercial Antler Buyer" means an individual or entity that buys antlers or horns for reselling for financial gain.
 - ~~(k)~~ (k) "Bull moose" means a moose with antlers longer than its ears.
 - ~~(l)~~ (l) "Cow bison" means a female bison.
 - ~~(m)~~ (m) "Doe pronghorn" means a pronghorn without horns or with horns five inches or shorter.
 - ~~(n)~~ (n) "Draw-lock" means a mechanical device used to hold and support the draw weight of a conventional or compound bow at any increment of draw until released by the archer using a trigger mechanism and safety attached to the device.
 - ~~(o)~~ (o) "Drone" means an autonomously controlled, aerial vehicle of any size or configuration that is capable of controlled flight without a human pilot aboard.
 - ~~(p)~~ (i) "Night Vision Device" means any device that enhances visible or non-visible light, including: night vision, thermal imaging, infrared imaging, or electronics that enhance the visible or non-visible light spectrum.
 - (ii) "Night Vision Device" does not include trail cameras as defined in Subsection (x).
 - ~~(q)~~ (q) "Ewe" means a female bighorn sheep or any bighorn sheep younger than one year of age.
 - ~~(r)~~ (r) "Hunter's choice" means either sex may be taken.
 - ~~(s)~~ (s) "Immediate family member" means the landowner's or lessee's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild, grandchild, grandfather, and grandmother.
 - ~~(t)~~ (t) "Limited entry hunt" means any hunt published in the hunt tables of the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game, which is identified as limited entry and does not include general or once-in-a-lifetime hunts.
 - ~~(u)~~ (u) "Limited entry permit" means any permit obtained for a limited entry hunt by any means, including conservation permits, wildlife expo permits, sportsman permits, cooperative wildlife management unit permits and limited entry landowner permits.
 - ~~(v)~~ (v) "Once-in-a-lifetime hunt" means any hunt published in the hunt tables of the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game, which is identified as once-in-a-lifetime, and does not include general or limited entry hunts.
 - ~~(w)~~ (w) "Once-in-a-lifetime permit" means any permit obtained for a once-in-a-lifetime hunt by any means, including conservation permits, wildlife expo permits, sportsman permits, cooperative wildlife management unit permits and limited entry landowner permits.
 - ~~(x)~~ (x)(i) "Point" means "a projection longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip."
 - (ii) The eye guard is not counted as a point.
 - ~~(y)~~ (y) "Ram" means a male desert bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep older than one year of age.
 - ~~(z)~~ (z) "Shed antler" means an antler that:
 - (a) has been dropped naturally from a big game animal as part of the big game animal's annual life cycle; and
 - (b) has a rounded base commonly known as the antler button or burr attached which signifies a natural life cycle process.
 - ~~(aa)~~ (aa) "Shed horn" means:
 - (a) the sheath from a pronghorn that has been dropped naturally as part of the animal's annual life cycle; or
 - (b) a bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or bison horn naturally detached from the horn core.
 - ~~(ab)~~ (ab) "Spike bull" means a bull elk which has at least one antler beam with no branching above the ears. Branched means a projection on an antler longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip.

(~~aabb~~) "Stalking" means when game has been located and the hunter engages in deliberate movements, on foot, in an effort to harvest the located game.

(~~bbcc~~) "Trail camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is capable of capturing images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat, or motion to trigger the device.

R657-5-7. Prohibited Weapons and Devices.

- (1) A person may not use any weapon or device to take big game other than those expressly permitted in this rule.
 - (2) A person may not use the following prohibited weapons or devices to take big game:
 - (a) a firearm capable of being fired fully automatic;
 - (b) any light enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light;
 - (c) a firearm equipped with a computerized targeting system that marks a target, calculates a firing solution and automatically discharges the firearm at a point calculated most likely to hit the acquired target; or
 - (d) a projectile for which the path can be altered or electronically tracked after it is sent in motion.
 - (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting laser range finding devices or illuminated sight pins for archery equipment.
 - (4) The following restrictions are placed on the use of specialized hunting technologies and equipment.
 - (a) A person may not possess any night vision device, or a device capable of night vision, while taking, locating, or attempting to locate any big game animal between July 31 and December 31;
 - (b) A person may not:
 - (i) place, maintain, or use a trail camera as prohibited in Section 23A-5-307;
 - (ii) engage in the sale or purchase of trail camera or other non-handheld device media, including images, video, location, time or date data to take, aid in the take or attempted take of big game; or
 - (iii) engage in the storage and sale or purchase of stored media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, aid in the take or attempted take of big game.
 - (c) A person may not:
 - (i) use visual enhancement technology, such as nanotechnology, except for basic devices used solely for magnification;
 - (ii) use pattern recognition technology, such as artificial intelligence;
 - (iii) use live feed aerial imagery; ~~or~~
 - (iv) use electronically amplified calls or sounds; ~~or~~
 - (v) use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve big game or their parts.
- (B) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a records classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-305."

R657-5-45. Management Buck Deer Hunt.

- (1) For the purposes of this section "management buck" means any buck deer with three points or less on at least one antler above and including the first fork in the antler. ~~A point means a projection longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip. The eye guard is not counted as a point.~~
- (2) Management buck deer permits shall be distributed pursuant to Rule R657-62.
- (3) Management buck deer permit holders may take one management buck deer during the season, in the area and with the weapon type specified on the permit. Management buck deer hunting seasons, areas, and weapon types are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.
- (4)(a) A person who has obtained a management buck deer permit must report hunt information within 30 calendar days after the end of the hunting season, whether the permit holder was successful or unsuccessful in harvesting a management buck deer.
- (b) Management buck deer permit holders must report hunt information by telephone, or through the division's website.
- (5) Management buck deer permit holders may not retain possession of any harvested buck deer that fails to satisfy the definition requirements in Subsection (1)(a).
- (6) A person who has obtained a management buck deer permit may not hunt during any other deer hunt or obtain any other deer permit, except as provided in Section R657-5-27.

R657-53. Antler Point Restrictions on Buck Deer Hunts.

- (1) The Wildlife Board may implement antler point restrictions on buck deer hunts.
- (2)(a) The Wildlife Board may set the APR as either a 3-point or 4-point antler restriction, where the buck deer has 3 or 4 points on at least one antler above or including the first fork in the antler.
- (b) the eye guard on a buck deer does not qualify as a "point" as described in subsection (2)(a).
- (3) An APR must be implemented prior to the application process for permits, specified in R657-62.

- (4) The Wildlife Board may elect to implement an APR for:
- (i) specific buck deer hunting unit;
 - (ii) a specific buck deer hunting season or seasons;
 - (iii) a specific weapon type;
 - (iv) either adults or youth, or both; or
 - (v) any combination of subsections (4)(i)-(iv) above.
- (5) The division may require person who has obtained a buck deer permit subject to an APR and has successfully harvested a buck deer may be required to submit photographic evidence that their harvested buck complies with the APR.
- (6) a person who has obtained a buck deer permit subject to an APR may not hunt during any other deer hunt or obtain any other deer permit, except as provided in Section R657-5-27.
- (7) Any APR implemented by the Wildlife Board shall be published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game seasons

Date of Last Change: ~~September 24~~August 21, 2024

Notice of Continuation: September 8, 2020

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