

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.

R657-33-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.
- (2) In addition:
- (a) "Accompany" means at a distance within which visual contact and verbal communication are maintained without the assistance of any electronic device.
- (b) "Bait" means any lure containing animal, mineral or plant materials.
- (c) "Baiting" means the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of bait to lure, attract or entice bear on or over any area.
- (d) "Bear" means *Ursus americanus*, commonly known as black bear.
- (e) "Canned hunt" means that a bear is treed, cornered, held at bay or its ability to escape is otherwise restricted to allow a person who was not a member of the initial hunting party to arrive and take the bear.
- (f) "Compensation" means anything of economic value in excess of \$100 that is paid, loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a dog handler for or in consideration of pursuing bear for any purpose.
- (g) "Control permit" means a permit issued in response to bear depredation to commercial crops pursuant to Subsection R657-33-23(4).
- (h) "Cub" means a bear less than one year of age.
- (i) "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 attached to the device.
- (j) "Dog handler" means the person in the field that is responsible for transporting, releasing, tracking, controlling, managing, training, commanding and retrieving the dogs involved in the pursuit. The owner of the dogs is presumed the dog handler when the owner is in the field during pursuit.
- (k) "Evidence of sex" means the teats, and sex organs of a bear, including a penis, scrotum or vulva.
- (l) "Green pelt" means the untanned hide or skin of a bear.
- (m) "Harvest-objective hunt" means any hunt that is identified as harvest-objective in the hunt table of the guidebook for taking bear.
- (n) "Harvest-objective permit" means any permit valid on harvest-objective units.
- (o) "Harvest-objective unit" means any unit designated as harvest-objective in the hunt table of the guidebook for taking bear.
- (p) "Immediate family member" means a 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, and grandchild.
- (q)(i) "Limited entry hunt" means any hunt listed in the hunt table, published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear, which is identified as a limited entry hunt for bear.
- (ii) The Wildlife Board may authorize certain limited entry hunts that span multiple seasons, identified in the guidebook for taking bear as multi-season limited entry hunts.
- (iii) "Limited entry hunt" does not include harvest objective hunts or pursuit only.
- (r) "Limited entry permit" means any permit obtained for a limited entry hunt, including conservation permits, expo permits, and sportsman permits.
- (s) "Private lands" means any lands that are not public lands, excluding Indian trust lands.
- (t) "Public lands" means any lands owned by the state, a political subdivision or independent entity of the state, or the United States, excluding Indian trust lands, that are open to the public for purposes of engaging in pursuit.
- (u) "Pursue" means to chase, tree, corner or hold a bear at bay with dogs.
- (v) "Restricted pursuit unit" means a bear pursuit unit where pursuit is allowed only by a dog handler who:
- (i) possesses a pursuit permit issued for that particular pursuit unit;
- (ii) possesses or is accompanied by a person who possesses a limited entry bear permit for the unit, and the pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established for the limited entry bear permit; or
- (iii) is engaged in pursuit for compensation as provided in Subsection R657-33-26(2).
- (w) "Spot-and-stalk hunt" means a hunt prohibiting the use of bait or dogs to pursue or harvest a bear.
- (x) "Spot-and-stalk permit" means ~~any~~ bear permit available over the counter for seasons and units designated by the ~~Division~~ Director ~~as per Statute~~ under Section 23A-11-302. A hunter who obtains this permit may not use bait or dogs to take a bear.
- (y) "Trail Camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat or motion to trigger the device.
- (z)(i) "Valid application" means:
- (A) it is for a species for which the applicant is eligible to possess a permit;

- (B) there is a hunt for that species regardless of estimated permit numbers; and
- (C) there is sufficient information on the application to process the application, including personal information, hunt information, and sufficient payment.
- (ii) Applications missing any of the items in Subsection (i) may still be considered valid if the application is corrected before the deadline through the application correction process.
- (aa) "Waiting period" means a specified period that a person who has obtained a bear permit must wait before applying for any other bear permit.
- (bb) "Written permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private lands and must include:
 - (i) the name and signature of the owner or person in charge;
 - (ii) the address and phone number of the owner or person in charge;
 - (iii) the name of the dog handler given permission to enter the private lands;
 - (iv) a brief description of the pursuit activity authorized;
 - (v) the appropriate dates; and
 - (vi) a general description of the property.

R657-33-3. Permits for Taking Bear.

- (1)(a) To harvest a bear, a person must first obtain a valid limited entry bear permit, a harvest objective bear permit, a spot-and-stalk permit, or a bear control permit for a specified hunt unit as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (b) Any person who obtains a limited entry bear permit or a harvest objective bear permit which allows the use of dogs may pursue bear without a pursuit permit while hunting during the season and on the unit for which the take permit is valid, provided the person is the dog handler.
- (2)(a) A person may not apply for or obtain more than one bear permit per year, except:
 - (b) if the person is unsuccessful in the drawing administered by the division under Rule R657-62, the person may purchase a permit available outside of the drawing; and
 - (c) a person may acquire more than one bear control permit as described in Subsection R657-33-23(4).
- (3) Any bear permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase.
- (4) Residents and nonresidents may apply for and receive limited entry bear permits, and may purchase harvest objective bear permits and bear pursuit permits.
- (5)(a) A person must complete a mandatory orientation course before hunting in a limited entry, harvest objective season, or pursuing a bear using a bear pursuit permit.
- (b) A person must possess a certificate of completion of the mandatory orientation course while hunting ~~or~~ pursuing ~~black~~ bear.
- (c) The orientation course is not required to receive a bear control permit under Subsection R657-33-23(4).
- (d) The orientation course shall include training on hunter ethics.
- (6) To obtain a limited entry, harvest objective, spot-and-stalk permit, or bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license.

R657-33-4. Permits for Pursuing Bear.

- (1)(a) To pursue bear without a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit, the dog handler must:
 - (i) obtain a valid bear pursuit permit from a division office or through the drawing administered pursuant to [Rule R657-62](#); or
 - (ii) possess the documentation and certifications required in [Subsection R657-33-26\(2\)](#) to pursue bear for compensation.
- (b) A bear pursuit permit or exemption therefrom does not allow a person to kill a bear.
- (2) Residents and nonresidents may purchase bear pursuit permits consistent with the requirements of this rule and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board.
- (3) To obtain a bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license.

R657-33-5. Hunting Hours.

Bear may be taken or pursued only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.

R657-33-6. Firearms, Archery Equipment, Crossbows, and Airguns.

- (1) A person may only use weapons identified in Sections R657-5-8 through R657-5-11.
- (2) A person is prohibited from using weapons identified in Section R657-5-7.

R657-33-7. Traps and Trapping Devices.

- (1) Bear may not be taken with a trap, snare or any other trapping device, except as authorized by the division.
- (2) Bear accidentally caught in any trapping device must be released unharmed.
- (3)(a) Authorization must be obtained from a division representative to remove the carcass of a bear from any trapping device.

- (b) The carcass shall remain the property of Utah and must be surrendered to the division.

R657-33-8. State Parks.

- (1) Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas except for those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Division of [State Parks and Recreation in Rule under Section R651-614-4](#).
- (2) State laws regarding possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting.

R657-33-9. Prohibited Methods.

(1) Bear may be taken or pursued only during open seasons and using methods prescribed in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear. Otherwise, under [Title 23A](#), the Wildlife Resources [Code Act](#), it is unlawful for any person to pursue, possess, capture, kill, injure, drug, rope, trap, snare, or in any way harm or transport bear.

(2)(a) A person may not pursue a single bear in repeated pursuits such that it renders the bear physically unable to escape.

(b) After a bear has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered, legally baited or held at bay, a person may not, in any manner, restrict or hinder the animal's ability to escape.

(c) A person must make reasonable efforts to call dogs off a bear that has been cornered or held at bay.

(3) A person may not engage in a canned hunt.

(4) A person may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

(5)(a) A person may not place, maintain, or use a trail camera as prohibited in Section 23A-5-307;

(b) 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, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of bear; or

(c) engage in the storage and sale or purchase of stored media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of bear.

(6)(a) A person may not 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 bear or their parts.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a [recordsrecord](#) classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-305."

R657-33-10. Spotlighting.

(1) Except as provided in Section 23A-1-204:

(a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and

(b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is probable cause of attempting to locate protected wildlife.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(a) the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife; or

(b) a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.

R657-33-11. Party Hunting.

A person may not take a bear for another person.

R657-33-12. Use of Dogs.

(1) Dogs may be used to take or pursue bear only during authorized hunts as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(2) A dog handler may pursue bear in a unit and during a season permitting the use of dogs, provided he or she possesses:

(a) a valid limited entry or harvest objective bear permit issued to the dog handler;

(b) a valid bear pursuit permit; or

(c) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-33-26(2) to pursue bear for compensation.

(3) When dogs are used to pursue a bear, the licensed hunter intending to take the bear must be present when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.

(4) When dogs are used to take a bear during a restricted pursuit season or when there is not an open pursuit season, the dog handler must have:

(a) a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs issued to the dog handler for the unit being hunted;

(b)(i) a valid bear pursuit permit; and

(ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a hunter possessing a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs for the unit being hunted; or

(c)(i) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-33-26(2) to pursue bear for compensation; and

(ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a paying client possessing a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs for the unit being hunted.

(5) A dog handler may pursue bear under:

(a) a bear pursuit permit only during the season and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit;

(b) a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs only during the season and in the area designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook for that permit; or

(c) the pursuit for compensation provisions in this rule only during the seasons and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit.

(6)(a) An individual may not:

(i) release into the field more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit;

(ii) pursue a bear with more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit, regardless of whether the individual owns or controls the dogs encountered in the field; or

(iii) harvest a bear that was pursued using more than the allowable maximum number of dogs.

(b) An individual may not pursue or take a bear using more than:

(i) 16 dogs in a single pursuit for the spring restricted pursuit season;

(ii) 8 dogs in a single pursuit for the summer restricted pursuit season; and

(iii) 16 dogs in a single pursuit for all other bear hunts allowing the use of dogs.

(c) The maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit is cumulative across all members of a hunting party, even if multiple members of the hunting party possess authorization to use dogs to pursue bear.

(7)(a) A dog handler pursuing bear may retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler:

(i) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;

(ii) separates from the permit holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue bear during the retrieval process; and

(iii) immediately releases any bear incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.

(b) Dogs that separate from the pack continue to count towards the maximum number of dogs allowable in pursuit.

(c) A dog handler retrieving stray dogs under this subsection must still possess the documentation initially required to use dogs to pursue bear as provided in this rule.

R657-33-13. Certificate of Registration Required for Bear Baiting.

(1) A certificate of registration for baiting must be obtained before establishing a bait station.

(2) Certificates of registration for bear baiting are issued only to holders of limited entry permits authorizing the use of bait, as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(3) A certificate of registration may be obtained from the division office within the region where the bait station will be established by applying on the division website.

(4) A new certificate of registration must be obtained before moving a bait station. All materials used as bait must be removed from the old site before the issuing of a new certificate of registration.

(5) The following information must be provided to obtain a certificate of registration for baiting: a 1:24000 USGS quad map with the bait location marked, or the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) or latitude and longitude coordinates of the bait station, including the datum, type of bait used and written permission from the appropriate landowner for private lands.

(6)(a) Any person interested in baiting on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management must verify that the lands are open to baiting before applying for and receiving a certificate of registration for bear baiting.

(b) Information on areas that are open to baiting on National Forests must be obtained from district offices.

(c) Issuance of a certificate of registration for baiting does not authorize an individual to bait if it is otherwise unlawful to bait under the regulations of the applicable land management agency.

(7) A handling fee must accompany the application.

(8) A person may hunt over a bait station only if:

(a) the person is listed on the certificate of registration and possesses the certificate of registration in the field; or

(b) possesses written permission from the certificate of registration holder to hunt over the bait station.

(9) Any person tending a bait station must be listed on the certificate of registration for that bait station.

R657-33-14. Use of Bait.

(1)(a) A person who has obtained a limited entry bear permit for a season and hunt unit that allows baiting may use firearms and archery equipment as provided in Section R657-33-6.

(b) Bear lured to a bait station may only be taken using firearms and archery equipment approved by the Wildlife Board and described in the guidebook for taking bear.

(c) A person may establish or use no more than two bait stations. The bait stations may only be used during periods designated in the guidebook for taking bear.

(d) Bear lured to a bait station may not be taken with dogs.

(e) Bait may not be contained in or include any metal, glass, porcelain, plastic, cardboard, or paper- [except that a single metal container with a maximum size of 55 gallons may be used if securely attached at the bait site. Metal containers may not be used within designated federal wilderness areas.](#)

- (f) The bait station must be marked with a sign provided by the division and posted within 10 feet of the bait.
- (g) A dog handler may not intentionally run dogs off a bait station while pursuing bear.
- (2)(a) Bait may be placed only in areas open to hunting and only during the open seasons.
- (b) All materials used as bait [including metal containers, if used](#), must be removed within 72 hours after the close of the season or within 72 hours after the persons, who are registered for that bait station harvest a bear.
- (3) A person may:
 - (i) use nongame fish as bait, except those listed as prohibited in Rule R657-13 and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for Taking Fish and Crayfish;
 - (ii) not use other species of protected wildlife as bait; or
 - (iii) not use any chocolate or cocoa products as bait.
- (4)(a) Domestic livestock or its parts, including processed meat scraps, may be used as bait.
- (b) A person using domestic livestock or their parts for bait must have in possession:
 - (i) a certificate of brand inspection, bill of sale, or other proof of ownership or legal possession.
- (5) Bait may not be placed within:
 - (a) 100 yards of water or a public road or designated trail; or
 - (b) 1/2 mile of any permanent dwelling or campground.
- [\(6\) This Section does not authorize the violation of any rules or regulations set by private landowners or public land management agencies.](#)

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.

R657-33-16. Evidence of Sex and Age.

- (1) Evidence of sex must remain attached to the carcass or pelt of each bear until a permanent tag has been attached by the division.
- (2) The pelt and skull must be presented to the division in an unfrozen condition to allow the division to gather management data.
- (3) The division may seize any pelt not accompanied by its skull.

R657-33-17. Permanent Tag.

- (1) Each bear taken by the permit holder must be checked by a division representative within 48 hours after the date of kill to have a permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass.
- (2) A person may not possess a green pelt after the 48-hour check-in period, ship a green pelt out of Utah, or present a green pelt to a taxidermist if the green pelt does not have a permanent possession tag attached.
- (3) The location of harvest and a tooth sample must be provided to the division during the check-in process.

R657-33-18. Transporting Bear.

Bear that have been legally taken may be transported by the permit holder provided the bear is properly tagged and the permittee possesses a valid permit.

R657-33-19. Exporting Bear from Utah.

- (1) A person may export a legally taken bear or its parts if that person has a valid permit and the bear is properly tagged with a permanent possession tag.
- (2) A person may not ship or cause to be shipped from Utah, a bear pelt without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by an authorized division representative.

R657-33-20. Donating.

- (1) A person may donate protected wildlife or their parts to another person in accordance with Section 23A-1-205.
- (2) A written statement of donation must be kept with the protected wildlife or parts showing:
 - (a) the number and species of protected wildlife or parts donated;
 - (b) the date of donation;
 - (c) the permit number of the donor and the permanent possession tag number; and

- (d) the signature of the donor.
- (3) A green pelt of any bear donated to another person must have a permanent possession tag affixed.
- (4) The written statement of donation must be retained with the pelt.

R657-33-21. Purchasing or Selling.

- (1) Legally obtained tanned bear hides may be purchased or sold.
- (2) A person may not purchase, sell, offer for sale or barter a green pelt, gall bladder, tooth, claw, paw or skull of any bear.

R657-33-22. Waste of Wildlife.

- (1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts in accordance with Section 23A-5-314.
- (2) The skinned carcass of a bear may be left in the field and does not constitute waste of wildlife.

R657-33-23. Livestock and Commercial Crop Depredation.

(1) If a bear is harassing, chasing, disturbing, harming, attacking or killing livestock, or has committed such an act within the past 96 hours:

(a) the livestock owner, an immediate family member or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take bear, may kill the bear;

(b) a landowner or livestock owner may notify the division of the depredating bear and the division may:

(i) authorize a local hunter to take a bear using a valid permit; or

(ii) request that the offending bear be removed by [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist, supervised by the [USDA Wildlife Livestock Protection](#) Program; or

(c) the livestock owner may notify a [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist of the depredation, and that specialist or another agency employee may take the depredating bear.

(2) Depredating bear may be taken at any time by a [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist while acting in the performance of the person's assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.

(3) A depredating bear may be taken by those persons authorized in Subsection (1)(a) with:

(a) any weapon authorized for taking bear; or

(b) snares only with written authorization from the director of the division and subject to any conditions and restrictions set out in the written authorization.

(i) The option in Subsection (3)(b) may only be authorized in the case of chronic depredation verified by [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) or division personnel where numerous livestock have been killed by a depredating bear.

(4) A person authorized under Section (3) to take depredating bear may take no more than two bears per incident.

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

(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.

(6)(a) Any bear taken under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(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 bear depredation permit to a person who has killed a depredating bear under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) that authorizes the person to keep the carcass.

(c) A person that takes a bear under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) may acquire and use a limited entry permit or harvest objective cougar permit in the same year.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsections (6)(b) and (6)(c), a person may retain no more than one bear annually.

(7)(a) The division may issue one or more control permits to an owner or lessee of private land to remove a bear causing damage to cultivated crops on cleared and planted land provided the following conditions are satisfied:

(i) the landowner or lessee contacts the appropriate division office within 96 hours of the damage occurring or provides documentation of previous chronic damage incidents;

(ii) the damaged cultivated crop is raised and utilized by the landowner or lessee for commercial gain and with a reasonable expectation of generating a profit;

(iii) at least 5 acres of the private land is placed in agricultural use pursuant to Section 59-2-502 and eligible for agricultural use valuation as provided in Sections 59-2-503 and 59-2-504;

(iv) the division confirms that the private land where the cultivated crop occurs has experienced chronic recurring damage from bears, or that there will likely be chronic recurring damage if offending bears are not immediately removed;

(v) the landowner, an immediate family member, or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take bear, receives the control permit from the division to remove the bear prior to initiating such action; and

(vi) the bear removal is otherwise in accordance with Utah law.

- (b) The division may issue control permits described in Subsection (7)(a) to identify restrictions necessary and to balance the threat to commercial crops on cleared and planted land and the wildlife resource, such as:
- (i) locations on the landowner or lessee's private property where offending bears may be taken;
 - (ii) the total number of control permits that may be issued; and
 - (iii) reporting requirements to the division.
- (c) Nothing herein mandates the division to issue control permits for a landowner or lessee to remove bears from their private property in lieu of:
- (i) the landowner or lessee taking nonlethal preventative measures in protecting their private property; and
 - (ii) the division undertaking wildlife management techniques as they deem appropriate.
- (8)(a) Any bear taken pursuant to Subsections (1) and (7) shall:
- (i) be delivered to a division office or employee within 48 hours; and
 - (ii) remain the property of the state, except the division may sell a bear damage permit to a person who has killed a depredating bear if that person wishes to maintain possession of the bear.
- (b) A person may only retain one bear carcass annually under this Section.

R657-33-24. Questionnaire.

Each permittee who receives a questionnaire should return the questionnaire to the division regardless of success. Returning the questionnaire helps the division evaluate population trends, determine harvest success and other valuable information.

R657-33-25. Taking Bear.

(1)(a) A person who has obtained a bear permit, excluding limited entry archery bear permit, may use any legal weapon to take one bear during the season and within the hunt unit(s) specified on the permit.

~~(b) A person who has obtained a limited entry bear archery permit may use only archery tackle to take on bear during the season and within the hunt units(s) specified on the permit.~~

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

(2)(a) A person may not take or pursue a cub, or a sow accompanied by cubs.

(b) Any bear, except a cub or a sow accompanied by cubs, may be taken during the prescribed seasons.

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

(4) Season dates, closed areas, harvest objective permit areas and limited entry permit areas are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

(5) Multi-season permits may be obtained by following the application procedures provided in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear. Multi-season permit holders may also hunt any open harvest objective season(s) on the unit the multi-season permit is valid.

R657-33-26. Bear Pursuit.

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection R657-33-3(1)(b) and Subsection (2), bear may be pursued only by persons who have obtained a bear pursuit permit.

(b) The bear pursuit permit does not allow a person to:

(i) kill a bear; or

(ii) pursue bear for compensation.

(c) A person may pursue bear for compensation only as provided in Subsection (2).

(d) To obtain a bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a Utah hunting or combination license.

(2)(a) A person may pursue bear on public lands for compensation, provided the dog handler:

(i) receives compensation from a client or customer to pursue bear;

(ii) is a licensed hunting guide or outfitter under Title 58, Chapter 79, Hunting Guides and Outfitters Licensing Act and authorized to pursue bear;

(iii) possesses on their person the Utah hunting guide or outfitter license;

(iv) possesses on their person all permits and authorizations required by the applicable public lands managing authority to pursue bear for compensation; and

(v) is accompanied by the client or customer at all times during pursuit.

(b) A person may pursue bear on private lands for compensation, provided the dog handler:

(i) receives compensation from a client or customer to pursue bear;

(ii) is accompanied by the client or customer at all times during pursuit; and

(iii) possesses on their person written permission from all private landowners on whose property pursuit takes place.

(c) A person who is an employee or agent of the Division ~~of Wildlife Services~~ UDAF may pursue bear on public lands and private lands while acting within the scope of their employment.

(3) A pursuit permit is not required to pursue bear if the individual satisfies the requirements in Subsection (2).

(4)(a) A person pursuing bear for compensation under Subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) shall comply with all other requirements and restrictions in statute, rule and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board regulating the pursuit and take of bear.

(b) Any violation of, or failure to comply with Title 23A, Wildlife Resources Code, this rule, or the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board may be grounds for suspension of the privilege to pursue bear for compensation under this subsection, as determined by a division hearing officer.

(5) Except as provided in Subsection (6), a bear pursuit permit authorizes the holder to pursue bear with dogs on any unit open to pursuing bear during the seasons and under the conditions prescribed by the Wildlife Board in guidebook.

(6) The Wildlife Board may establish or designate in the guidebook restricted pursuit units as determined necessary or convenient to better manage wildlife resources, including to protect wildlife, curtail over-utilization of resources, reduce conflict with other recreational activities, reduce conflict with private and public land activities, and protect wildlife habitat.

(a) Bear may not be pursued on a restricted pursuit unit unless the dog handler:

(i) possesses a pursuit permit issued for the particular restricted pursuit unit;

(ii) possesses or is accompanied by a person who possesses a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit allowing the use of dogs, and the pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established by the respective permit; or

(iii) is engaged in pursuit for compensation as provided in Subsection (2), and pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established for the:

(A) paying client's limited entry or harvest objective bear permit allowing the use of dogs; or

(B) restricted pursuit unit.

(b) A pursuit permit issued for a restricted pursuit unit authorizes the holder to pursue bear on:

(i) the particular restricted pursuit unit for which the permit is issued; and

(ii) any other bear pursuit unit not designated as a restricted pursuit unit.

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (6)(a)(i), when two or more dog owners are in the field pursuing bear together, only one must possess a restricted pursuit unit permit, provided the dog owners accompany the person possessing the restricted pursuit unit permit at all times.

(i) A dog handler pursuing bear on a restricted pursuit unit may leave the pursuit permit holder to retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler;

(A) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;

(B) separates from the pursuit permit holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue bear during the retrieval process; and

(C) immediately releases any bear incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.

(ii) Maximum number of dogs in the field and pack sizes described in Section R657-33-12 remain applicable, even if there are multiple dog owners in the same hunting party.

(7) Pursuit permits may be obtained at division offices, through the internet and at license agents.

(a) The division may distribute pursuit permits for restricted pursuit units:

(i) through its offices, license agents, or online resources on a first-come, first-served basis; or

(ii) through a random drawing.

(8) A person may not:

(a) take or pursue a female bear with cubs;

(b) repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner or hold at bay the same bear during the same day; or

(c) individually or in combination with another person, use more than eight dogs in the field to pursue a bear during the summer pursuit season as established by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook.

(9) If eligible, a person who has obtained a bear pursuit permit may also obtain a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit.

(10) Season dates, closed areas and bear pursuit permit areas are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

R657-33-27. Limited Entry Bear Permit Application Information.

(1) Limited entry bear permits are issued pursuant to R657-62-19.

R657-33-28. Waiting Period.

(1) Any person who obtains a limited entry permit may not apply for a permit in a division drawing for a period of two years.

(2) Individuals who obtain a conservation permit, sportsman permit, control permit, or harvest objective permit for bear are not subject to a waiting period.

R657-33-29. Harvest Objective General Information.

(1) Harvest objective permits are valid only for the open harvest objective management units and for the specified seasons published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(2) Harvest objective permits are not valid in a specified unit after the harvest objective has been met for that harvest objective unit.

R657-33-30. Harvest Objective Permit Sales.

- (1) Harvest objective permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on the date published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (2) Any bear permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase.
- (3) A person must possess a valid hunting or combination license to obtain a harvest objective permit.

R657-33-31. Harvest Objective Unit Closures.

- (1) Before hunting in a harvest objective unit, a hunter must visit the division's website to verify that the bear hunting unit is still open. The website will be updated each day by 12 noon. Updates become effective the following day 30 minutes before official sunrise.
- (2) Harvest objective units are open to hunting until:
 - (a) the bear harvest objective for that harvest objective unit is met and the division closes the area; or
 - (b) the end of the hunting season as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (3) Upon closure of a harvest objective unit, a hunter may not take or pursue bear except as provided in Section R657-33-26.

R657-33-32. Harvest Objective Unit Reporting.

- (1) Any person taking a bear with a harvest objective permit must report to the division, within 48 hours, where the bear was taken and have a permanent tag affixed pursuant to Section R657-33-17.
- (2) Failure to accurately report the correct harvest objective unit where the bear was killed is unlawful.
- (3) Any conviction for failure to accurately report, or aiding or assisting in the failure to accurately report as required in Subsection (1) shall be considered probable cause evidence of a knowing, intentional or reckless violation for purposes of permit suspension.

R657-33-33. Fees.

The permit fees and handling fees must be paid pursuant to Rule R657-42-8(5).

R657-33-34. Drawings and Remaining Permits.

Remaining limited entry bear permits are issued pursuant to R657-62.

R657-33-35. Bonus Points.

Bonus points are accrued and used pursuant to R657-62-8 and R657-62-19.

R657-33-36. Refunds.

- (1) Unsuccessful applicants will not be charged for a permit.
- (2) The handling fees and hunting or combination license fees are nonrefundable.

R657-33-37. Duplicate License and Permit.

Whenever any unexpired license, permit, tag or certificate of registration is destroyed, lost or stolen, a person may obtain a duplicate in accordance with R657-42.

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