

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-43. Landowner Permits.

R657-43-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, this rule provides the standards and procedures for landowners to qualify for and obtain big game hunting opportunities in recognition of the benefits their private properties provide to wildlife resources in Utah.

(2) The Private Landowners may apply for and obtain Vouchers from the division through one of the following three programs, and as further outlined in this rule:

(a) The division may provide one of the following permits to individual landowners for the General Season Landowner Permit Program:

(i) A General Season Landowner - Private Land - Buck Deer Permit may be provided for Landowners to use only on their private land; or

(ii) A General Season Landowner - Unit Wide - Buck Deer Permit that Landowners can seek through a draw process and is usable throughout the general season unit.

(b) The division may provide permits to individual Landowners on limited entry units with eligible lands that are not enrolled in a Landowner Association to hunt Buck Deer, Bull Elk, and Buck Pronghorn on their own private land.

(c) The division may provide Buck Deer, Bull Elk, and Buck Pronghorn permits to Landowner Associations through the Limited Entry Landowner Association Program that can be:

(i) used unit wide for a Landowner Association that allow public access; or

(ii) used only on private land within the Landowner Association if no public access is allowed.

(3) The Landowner permit programs are intended to:

(a) provide an incentive for private landowners to manage their lands as quality habitat for public wildlife;

(b) assist and support the division in managing big game populations;

(c) increase private Landowner tolerance of big game on their Private Lands;

(d) increase big game hunting opportunities;

(e) increase and secure public hunting access on participating Landowners' Private Lands;

(f) reduce the division's obligations in responding to and compensating for depredation events occurring on participating Private Lands;

(g) use objective criteria to determine how hunting opportunities are allocated under the programs; and

(h) allocate hunting opportunities in a manner that fluctuates in proportion to variations in public draw permit numbers.

R657-43-12. Criteria to Determine Landowner Tags for Elk in Limited Entry Units between 4,000 and 8,999 Acres.

(1) Landowners who own between 4,000 and 8,999 contiguous acres can receive between 0-2 vouchers a year.

(2) In order to receive fall hunting vouchers landowners will need to submit a qualifying application to the division before July 1st for the following three-year period.

(3) For successful applicants, the division will use the following criteria to determine the number of vouchers issued from 0-2.

(a) Landowner evaluation criteria:

(i) Historical contributions to elk and elk habitat;

(ii) Willingness to help manage the elk herd for population objectives, which may be necessary through private ranch antlerless harvest when population estimates are over objective and the division believes private land is hindering the ability to maintain population objectives;

(iii) Tolerance for wildlife on all landowner properties within the unit; and

(iv) Previous wildlife convictions of qualifying landowners.

(b) Property evaluation criteria:

(i) The property can maintain the harvest rate without negatively impacting hunt opportunities in the surrounding area;

(ii) The 3-year average bull harvest meets or exceeds the unit age objective; and

(iii) Harvest success rates are at or above the surrounding public land.

(4) Subsection 3(b) is used for data comparison between private and public lands within a unit for management purposes. The division is aware that discrepancies in data size samples between private and public lands could negatively affect landowners ability to meet the criteria in 3(b) and will consider those implications in the evaluation process.

(5) (a) An applicant may appeal the denial of an application, renewal application, or request for certificate of registration amendment by submitting an appeal to the division director.

(b) An appeal must be submitted to the division within 30 days of receiving the notice of denial.

KEY: wildlife, landowner permits, big game seasons

Date of Last Change: August 21, 2024

Notice of Continuation: February 1, 2022

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