

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-38. Dedicated Hunter Program.

R657-38-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under the authority of Section 23A-2-305, this rule provides the standards and requirements for qualified deer hunters to participate in the Dedicated Hunter Program by obtaining a certificate of registration.

(2) The Dedicated Hunter Program is a program that:

- (a) provides expanded hunting opportunities;
- (b) requires participation in wildlife conservation projects; and
- (c) provides educational training in hunter ethics and wildlife management principles.

R657-38-3. Dedicated Hunter Certificates of Registration.

(1)(a) To participate in the Dedicated Hunter Program, a person must apply for, and be issued, ~~and sign~~ a certificate of registration as prescribed by the division.

(b) Certificates of registration for a designated hunt area are issued by the division through a drawing as prescribed in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game and Rule R657-62.

(c) Certificates of registration are valid for three consecutive years, except as provided by Sections R657-38-10 and R657-38-13, beginning on the date the big game drawing results are released and ending on the last day of the general season hunt for the third year of enrollment.

(d) The quantity of certificates of registrations for the Dedicated Hunter Program available in the big game drawing is limited to:

(i) 15% of the total annual general season buck deer quota for each respective hunt area, inclusive of those certificates of registration that are within active enrollments; or

(ii) one resident and one nonresident certificate of registration if the 15% total on that hunt area is met or exceeded.

(e) Certificates of registration remaining unissued from the Dedicated Hunter portion of the big game drawing shall be redistributed as general single-season permits for their respective hunt areas in the general buck deer drawing.

(2) The division may deny issuance of a certificate of registration for the Dedicated Hunter Program for any of the reasons identified as a basis for suspension in Subsection 23A-4-1106 (7) and Section R657-38-15.

(3)(a) A certificate of registration for the Dedicated Hunter Program conditionally authorizes the participant to obtain a Dedicated Hunter permit, which may be used to hunt deer within the area listed on the permit, during the general archery, general muzzleloader and general any legal weapon buck deer seasons according to the dates and boundaries established by the Wildlife Board.

(b) When available, the certificate of registration may also authorize the Dedicated Hunter permit to include the general deer archery extended area during the extended season dates.

(c) The person must use the appropriate weapon type specified by each season and boundary.

(4) The participant may not change to a different hunt area during the enrollment.

(5)(a) The division may make changes including, season opportunity, season length, boundaries, allowable weapon types, or other special restrictions to all or any portion of a hunt area or management unit, when in the interest of the wildlife resource or as necessary for the division to accomplish its management objectives, and may not guarantee each hunt area remains unchanged during the Dedicated Hunter's enrollment period.

(b) Dedicated Hunters shall be subject to any changes subsequently made to this or other rules pertaining to the hunt area they have drawn.

(6) The Division may change a hunt area designation if the Division cancels the hunt or the unit is discontinued, and if there is another hunt unit with available Dedicated Hunter permit quota.

R657-38-7. Refunds.

(1) A refund for the Dedicated Hunter certificate of registration may not be issued, except as provided in Sections 23A-4-207 and 301 and R657-42.

(2) Any eligible refund of a certificate of registration fee may be issued pro rata, based on the number of years in which any portion of a hunt may have occurred during the enrollment period.

(3) Drawing application fees are nonrefundable.

(4) A refund shall not be issued under any circumstance if a participant's harvest record indicates two program harvests.

(5) Purchased service hours are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

R657-38-9. Service Hour Requirement.

(1)(a) A participant must complete the minimum annual required service hours as a volunteer on division -approved wildlife conservation projects to obtain a Dedicated Hunter permit.

(b) A participant must complete a minimum of 6 service hours before receiving a Dedicated Hunter permit in the first year of the program.

(c) A participant must complete a minimum total of 22 service hours before receiving a Dedicated Hunter permit in the second year of the program.

(d) A participant must complete a minimum total of 32 service hours before receiving a Dedicated Hunter permit in the third year of the program.

(e) If the participant has two program harvests, the full 32 hours must be completed before the expiration of the certificate of registration.

(f) If a participant having two program harvests fails to complete the required hours of service before expiration of the certificate of registration, the participant is ineligible to apply for or obtain any Utah hunting license or permit until the remaining service hours have been completed.

(g) After a certificate of registration has expired, incomplete service hours may be completed through division approved projects or by payment at the established purchase rate.

(2) A participant who has not been issued any Dedicated Hunter permits during the enrollment may not be required to complete the service hour requirement.

(3)(a) Residents and nonresidents may complete service hour requirements through service, purchase, or a combination of the two options.

(b) Wildlife conservation projects may be provided by the division, or any other individual or entity, but must be pre-approved by the division.

(c) Goods or services donated to the division by a participant may be, at the discretion of the division, substituted for service hours based upon current market values or comparative state contract rates for the goods or services, and the approved service hour purchase rate.

(d) The division shall publicize the dates, times, locations and description of approved wildlife conservation projects and activities on the division's Website.

(4)(a) Service hours performed before an enrollment may ~~not~~ be accepted as service credit if:

(i) the service is completed through the Division's approved project opportunities;
(ii) the person registered for the service project through the Division's website; and
(iii) the service occurred in the time period from January 1 in the year of the application to join the Dedicated Hunter Program, up until the date of the results notifications for the annual Big Game Drawing in that same year.

(b) Approved service hour credit, which occurs prior to joining the program, is not extendable, accumulated or stored for future years or enrollments beyond the year of the application to join the program.

(b) Service hours exceeding the ~~minimum requirement may~~ program requirements are not ~~be~~ applicable beyond the enrollment period and may not be credited to any subsequent certificate of registration.

(5)(a) Participants are required to perform their own service hours.

(b) Service hours are not transferable to other participants or certificates of registration.

R657-38-14. Certificate of Registration Surrender.

(1) A participant may request to withdraw from the Dedicated Hunter Program by surrendering the Dedicated Hunter certificate of registration pursuant to Rule R657-42, provided the participant does not have two program harvests within the enrollment period.

(2) A participant who has two program harvests during the program enrollment may not withdraw from the program and shall complete the program minimum requirement of 32 service hours.

(3) The division may reinstate preference points for a participant successfully surrendering in the first year of the enrollment period, provided the surrender occurs before the start of the general deer season and meets all relating conditions set forth in Rule R657-42.

(4) Service hours which have been purchased or otherwise completed are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

KEY: wildlife, hunting, recreation, wildlife conservation

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