



State of Utah

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 8, 2021
To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members
From: Justin M. Shannon, Chief of Wildlife
Subject: Proposed rule change to R657-41 (conservation permit rule)

The conservation permit rule (R657-41) has generated funds to help Utah's wildlife since the 1980s. In summer 2020, the Department of Natural Resources conducted an internal review on R657-41, and suggested changes to improve the program. Proposed changes are listed below.

Simplify Rule to Reduce Complexity:

- Combine the 1-year and 3-year programs into a single application process on a 3-year term
 - Allow up to 2 new conservation organizations to enter the conservation permit program once every 3 years on a probationary status
 - Provide new groups with 0.5% market share
 - Reduces competitive barrier for entry into the conservation permit program
 - Ensures the use of all eligible conservation permits

Prevent Areas of Potential Fraud

- Discontinue the ability for conservation organizations to trade draft positions
- Discontinue the ability for conservation organizations to trade conservation permits after the draft has been conducted
- Clarify that guiding fees must be separate from costs of conservation permits
- No actual fraud or wrong-doing was identified in the internal review, and recommendations are being made to protect and strengthen the conservation permit program

Clarify Portions of the Rule

- Conservation permits can be issued for specific units, subunits, and hunt areas
- Conservation permits are based on the number of public draw permits
- Add language on direct purchases made by conservation organizations



Housekeeping

- If season dates or boundary changes occur to an existing hunt within the 3-year term, DWR may cancel a conservation permit
- DWR may use an average sales price from previous years to estimate a market share for discontinued conservation permits
- Other minor changes were made during the rule revision

