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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Councils

FROM: Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

DATE: April 3, 2023

SUBJECT: **Amendments to Utah Admin. Rule R657-5 (Taking Big Game rule) related to mandatory harvest reporting for antlerless hunters, game animal retrieval, game meat salvage, and wildlife health and disease considerations.**

The DWR is recommending changes to R657-5 to maintain quality harvest data, to ensure hunters recover harvested animals and game meat, and to safeguard wildlife health.

Below is a summary of the recommended changes to R657-5:

1. Mandatory harvest reporting for antlerless hunters
 - a. Require harvest reporting within 30 days after their season ends for hunters with permits for antlerless deer, antlerless elk, doe pronghorn, antlerless moose and bighorn ewe.
 - b. Hunters who fail to submit their antlerless big game harvest report within 30 days would be ineligible to apply for the antlerless hunt drawing the next year.
 - c. To reinstate antlerless hunt drawing eligibility, permit holders must pay a late fee and file their harvest report.
2. Game retrieval and meat salvage requirements
 - a. After shooting at a big game animal, a hunter must physically check the spot where the animal was located during the shot to see if it was wounded or killed.
 - b. Hunters must take the following meat from harvested animals:
 - i. Front quarters, above the knee
 - ii. Hind quarters, above the hock

- iii. Along the backbone, between the neck and hind quarters, including the loins and tenderloins (does not include rib or neck meat)
3. Wildlife health considerations
- a. The DWR may designate units or hunts where all or some hunters with valid permits may be required to participate in chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing
 - b. Discontinuing the practice of issuing free replacement permits to hunters who harvest a CWD-positive animal
 - c. Prohibit the sale of “inedible byproducts” taken from big game carcasses

For additional details, please see the redline version of proposed rule changes included in the RAC packet.