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MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Advisory Council Members and Wildlife Board

FROM: Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator

DATE: October 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed changes to the Dedicated Hunter Program and associated Administrative Rules R657-38, R657-62, and R657-42

In efforts to simplify the Dedicated Hunter program and maintain consistency with other general season buck deer hunting in the future, the UDWR is recommending some minor changes and clarifications to the program. The following changes are proposed:

Admin. Rule R657-38

The UDWR is proposing the following changes, additions and clarifications:

- All sections:
 - Updates to all Utah Annotated Code references
 - Minor corrections to spacing or other grammatical errors.
- Section 38-2 Definitions:
 - Addition of term “Enrollment” to list of definitions.
 - Modify definition of “Program Harvest” to accommodate reporting process change.
- Section 38-3 Dedicated Hunter Certificates of Registration:
 - Clarify a Dedicated Hunter may not switch hunting areas during the 3 year program. This concept was already in existing rule, but needed improved wording.
 - Clarify that changes such as shortened seasons, boundary adjustments, weapon restrictions, or other special regulations occurring on general season hunting areas also apply to Dedicated Hunters. This concept was already in existing rule, but needed improved wording.
 - Allow provision for Dedicated Hunters who drew in 2022 or 2023 an option to withdraw and receive a partial refund and partial reinstatement of preference points—if antler restrictions or restricted weapon regulations are implemented in 2024 or 2025.
- Section 38-9 Service Hour Requirement:
 - Redistribute minimum service hour requirement. The proposed minimums would be 6 hours for the 1st year permit; an additional 16 hours for the 2nd year permit; and an additional 10 hours for the 3rd year. The overall total remains unchanged (32 service hours).

- Section 38-10 Certificate of Registration Extension:
 - Revise the procedure for 1-year extensions given to Dedicated Hunters who draw a limited entry buck deer permit from the Utah Big Game drawing. This change would automatically apply a 1-year extension.
 - Minimum annual requirements would shift into the subsequent years.
- Section 38-11 Allowable Harvest and Reporting Requirements:
 - Remove the requirement for returning paper permits in order to report a non-harvest.
 - Dedicated Hunter harvest reporting would occur via online method.

Admin. Rule R657-42

The UDWR is proposing the following change:

- Section 42-5: Refunds
 - Add temporary provision for current Dedicated Hunters to be allowed to withdraw and receive partial refund and partial reinstatement of points if their hunting area is changed to a restricted weapon or antler restriction during 2024 or 2025.

Admin. Rule R657-62

The UDWR is proposing the following changes:

- Section 62-16 Dedicated Hunter Certificates of Registration:
 - Discontinue the online pre-application orientation/test for Dedicated Hunter applicants.
 - A single, simplified information page will replace the orientation within the Utah Big Game drawing application.