



SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

RILEY PECK
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

DATE: July 14, 2025

**SUBJECT: Proposed rule amendments R657-42:
Surrenders
Proposed rule amendments R657-57:
Variances**

When it comes to surrenders, there's a few instances where draw results are posted less than 30 days before the hunt starts.

By rule, if a hunter is successful for a permit and chooses to surrender prior to the season starting, they can still be treated the same as if it was 30 days or more.

Current rule does not allow for the refund portion on limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits that fall into this category.

The DWR is recommending that if someone surrenders a permit that has season dates that start less than 30 days from the post date of an application, they will also qualify for the refund minus \$25 on limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits. Purpose of the proposal is to align this exception with our current surrender rule.

Surrendering a permit for medical reasons are accepted until the end of the hunt season if they have not hunted. A signed doctor statement from a MD, DO or PA must also be received within 90 days of the end of the season to have all of your bonus/preference points reinstated and waiting period waived. The DWR is recommending that all medical paperwork must be submitted within 30 days of the end of the season. This ensures all surrenders are processed prior to the next application period.

The DWR is recommending adding refund language for medical surrenders to align with State code (23a-4-207).

The DWR is proposing variance applications be submitted 30 days from the end of the season, instead of 120 days. This is to ensure that variance deadlines are not extending or overlapping into application periods, causing eligibility issues.

The DWR is also recommending to adding another qualification for approval on variances – court ordered subpoenas. The subpoena would have to be during their hunt season dates and substantially preclude them from hunting on their permit.

Lastly, the DWR is recommending removing COVID-19-related personal health concerns (or general public health restrictions) imposed by federal, state or local government as a qualifying event for which a variance or refund can be approved for.