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# 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: Oct 21, 2025

**SUBJECT: Amendments to R657-42 - Natural Disaster Relief**

Recent natural disasters, particularly wildfires, have prompted the division to consider relief options to hunters impacted by these types of events, both locally and nationally.

The DWR recommends adding language to R657-42 that allows the division to offer relief options to hunters when natural disasters affect their ability to hunt or access to their hunting unit.

For the purpose of this rule, natural disasters will be defined as:

- Wildfire
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Land/mudslide
- Hurricane
- Tornado
- Tsunami
- Volcanic eruption

If a natural disaster displaces a hunter from their home or significantly impedes their travel, the division may offer them the following options:

- Reinstatement of their bonus or preference points
- Waive their waiting period, if applicable
- Refund their permit fee, minus a \$25 processing fee

To be eligible, the permit holder must be completely or substantially precluded (or prevented) from participating in the hunting activity and must:

- Fill out an application
- Submit the application to the Division within 30 days of the last day of the hunting season listed on their permit
- And include the following supporting documentation with their application:
  - Documentation of the natural disaster
  - A notarized statement with supporting documents, explaining how the disaster resulted in the hunter's displacement or inability to travel, or how it substantially precluded them from hunting



- The wildlife document (hunting permit, etc.) related to the relief request

If a natural disaster affects a hunting unit, the division director will be authorized to grant relief if all of the following criteria are met:

- More than 50% of hunting opportunities are unavailable
- Access to more than 50% of public land within an individual hunt unit has been closed due to administrative actions of the state or federal government

If these criteria are met, the division director is authorized to offer one or more of the following types of relief:

- Reinstate bonus or preference points
- Waive the waiting period, if applicable
- Refund the permit fee, minus the \$25 processing fee
- Extend the hunting opportunity (for the same season and unit) to the subsequent year