

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

— 2017 UTAH —

# BIG GAME FIELD REGULATIONS GUIDEBOOK



## CONTACT US

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### Division offices

Offices are open 8 a.m.–5 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday.

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Box 146301  
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#### Northern Region

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#### Southeastern Region

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#### Southern Region

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Hurricane, UT 84737  
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## WHAT'S NEW?

### Boundaries no longer on permits:

Starting this year, hunting unit boundary descriptions will no longer be printed on big game permits. Unit maps and boundary descriptions will be available at [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner).

**New Utah Hunt Planner:** The Utah Hunt Planner is a new online tool you can use to be better prepared for your next Utah hunt. It contains in-depth information on Utah's big game hunting units, including notes from the managing biologists and details about the units' big game populations, accessibility, habitat, safety and weather. To use the hunt planner, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner).

**Antlerless hunt information:** Starting May 18, 2017, you can find all of the information you need to research Utah's antlerless hunts—including application dates, rules, hunt tables, boundaries and maps—at [wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks). The Division is not producing a printed guidebook. The antlerless application period runs from May 25–June 15, 2017.

### Changes to antlerless elk-control

**hunts:** In 2017, antlerless elk-control hunts will be discontinued on all spike bull elk hunting units. For more information about these hunts, see page 33 or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/elkcontrol](http://wildlife.utah.gov/elkcontrol).

### New management buck deer hunts:

Starting in 2017, there will be new archery and muzzleloader management buck deer hunts on the Henry Mtns unit. For more information, see page 18.

### Opportunity for youth any bull elk

**hunters:** If you drew a youth any bull elk permit, you have the option of harvesting either a bull elk or an antlerless elk. For details, see page 22.

## KNOW THE LAWS

This guidebook summarizes Utah's big game hunting laws and rules. Although it is a convenient quick-reference document for Utah big game regulations, it is not an all-encompassing resource.

For an in-depth look at the state's big game hunting laws and rules, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/rules](http://wildlife.utah.gov/rules).

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-24 and Utah Code § 23-20-25—to search the Division's website for the detailed statute or rule that underpins the guidebook summary.

If you have questions about a particular rule, call or visit the nearest Division office.

### Who makes the rules?

The Utah Wildlife Board passes the rules and laws summarized in this guidebook.

There are seven board members, and each serves a six-year term. Appointed by the governor, board members are not Division employees.

The Division's director serves as the board's executive secretary but does not have a vote on wildlife policies.

Before board members make changes to wildlife rules, they listen to recommendations from Division biologists. They also receive input from the public and various interest groups via the regional advisory council (RAC) process.

If you have feedback or suggestions for board members, you can find their contact information online at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov).

### Wildlife Board members

Byron Bateman  
Calvin Crandall  
Steve Dalton  
Donnie Hunter  
Michael King

John Bair, *Chair*  
Kirk Woodward, *Vice Chair*  
Gregory Sheehan,  
*Division Director*  
& *Executive Secretary*

**New limited-entry deer hunts on general-season units:** In 2017, there will be a total of 15 late-season, limited-entry muzzleloader deer hunts on general-season units. See page 18 for more information.

**New limited-entry elk hunts:** In 2017, there will be new limited-entry bull elk hunts that overlap the general-season spike elk hunt on six units. See page 22 for more information.

**Unit boundary and name changes:** Many hunt unit boundaries and names have changed this year for both big game and antlerless hunts. To find unit maps and verify boundaries, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner).

## And keep in mind

**Buy general-season permits:** Starting at 8 a.m. MDT on July 11, all general-season bull elk permits will be available at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices. If any general-season buck deer permits remain available, they will be available through the same channels on July 13 at 8 a.m. MDT. For details, see page 12.

**Trial hunting program:** People who haven't hunted big game may be able to try it for the first time without taking Hunter Education. See page 8 for more information.

**Mentoring program for youth:** Hunters can choose to share their big game permits with their children, stepchildren, grandchildren and legal wards—and with terminally ill youth—while mentoring them in the field. For details, see the information box on page 10 or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring](http://wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring).

**Hunting in Salt Lake County:** Before you hunt deer or elk in Salt Lake County, learn about special restrictions. See page 41 for more information.

**Mandatory reporting:** Many big game hunters must report hunt information within 30 calendar days after the end of the hunting season (even if they did not harvest an animal). See page 17 for more information or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/harvestreporting](http://wildlife.utah.gov/harvestreporting).

**Check for closures:** There may be late-season road closures on federal and state lands. Before heading into the field, please check with the managing agency for the area you plan to hunt.

**Flexibility in using antlerless elk permits:** If you obtain two antlerless elk permits for the same area, but the permits are for different seasons, you may harvest both elk during the same season. See page 29 for more information.

**Obtain up to three elk permits:** You may obtain up to three elk permits—as long as at least two of the permits are for antlerless elk—but you can only apply for or obtain one antlerless elk permit in the drawing. See page 29 for more information.

**Private-lands-only antlerless elk permits:** This year, the Division will again offer private-lands-only antlerless elk permits. These permits are only valid on private lands on select hunting units. Do **not** purchase a permit without knowing the laws that regulate hunting on private lands. For details, see page 32.

**Wearing hunter orange:** You must wear hunter orange if you are in an area where a centerfire rifle hunt is occurring. For more information, see page 36.

**National parks closed to hunting:** All of Utah's national parks and monuments—except the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments—are closed to hunting.

## Don't lose your hunting and fishing privileges

If you commit a wildlife violation, you could lose the privilege of hunting and fishing in Utah. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources can suspend the license of anyone who knowingly, intentionally or recklessly violates wildlife laws. Your license can be suspended for a wildlife violation if:

- You are convicted.
- You plead guilty or no contest.
- You enter a plea in abeyance or diversion agreement.

Suspension proceedings are separate and independent from criminal prosecution. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources may suspend your license privileges whether or not the court considers suspension in your criminal case. You will be notified of any action against your privilege after criminal proceedings conclude. And remember, if your license is suspended in Utah, you may not be permitted to hunt or fish in most other states. (Visit [wildlife.utah.gov/know-the-consequences.html](http://wildlife.utah.gov/know-the-consequences.html) to see a map of participating states.)



**Review application guidebook:** If you have questions about the 2017 big game application period, hunt drawing or limited-entry season dates, please see the 2017 *Utah Big Game Application Guidebook* at [wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks). That guidebook was printed in December 2016 and is a companion to this book.

**Guidebook corrections:** If errors are found in this guidebook after it is printed, the Division will correct them in the online copy. Visit [wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks) to view digital versions of all the Division's guidebooks.

**Protection from discrimination:** The Division receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race,

color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please visit [www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights.cfm).

**Private lands:** The Division cannot guarantee access to any private land. Under certain circumstances, you must obtain written permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting on private lands. For more information, please see *Trespassing* on page 42.

**Division funding:** The Division is mostly funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and through federal aid made possible by an excise tax on the sale of firearms and other hunting- and fishing-related equipment.

## 2017 SEASON DATES

### General-season dates

Hunt	Dates
General archery deer	Aug. 19–Sept. 15
General muzzleloader deer	Sept. 27–Oct. 5
General any legal weapon (rifle) deer	Oct. 21–29
General archery any bull elk (hunter's choice)	Aug. 19–Sept. 15
General archery spike elk (hunter's choice)	Aug. 19–Sept. 8
General any legal weapon (rifle) spike and any bull elk	Oct. 7–19
General muzzleloader elk	Nov. 1–9
Youth general (rifle) any bull elk	Sept. 16–24

### CWMU season dates

The Utah Wildlife Board has established timeframes for hunting on Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs). Hunters should expect to hunt at least five days for bucks/bulls and three days for antlerless big game within these timeframes.

To see the timeframes and learn more about the CWMU program, see the article on page 34 or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu).

### Extended archery season dates

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-23*

You do not need to purchase an additional permit to hunt during the extended archery seasons. As long as you obtain an archery deer or elk permit in 2017—and you complete the required extended archery ethics course—you may also hunt any of Utah's extended archery areas during the seasons listed below.

The online archery ethics course is an annual requirement for all archers who want to hunt the extended areas and seasons. To take the course, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery) before you hunt. After you successfully complete the course, print your completion certificate and keep it with you while hunting.

Limited-entry deer and elk archery hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will also be allowed to hunt extended archery areas. However, you must still remember to complete your harvest survey questionnaire within 30 days after your limited-entry hunt ends.

To see maps and boundaries for all of the extended archery areas, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner).

Hunt	Dates
Extended archery deer (hunter's choice) in the Cache Laketown, Ogden, Uintah Basin, Wasatch Front and West Cache extended archery areas	Sept. 16–Nov. 30
Extended archery elk (hunter's choice) in the Uintah Basin extended archery area	Sept. 16–Dec. 15
Extended archery elk (hunter's choice) in the Wasatch Front extended archery area	Aug. 19–Dec. 15

### Sportsman, statewide conservation permit season dates

Hunt	Dates
Deer, elk and pronghorn on any open unit with archery equipment*‡	Aug. 19–31, 2017
Deer and elk on any open unit with any legal weapon*‡	Sept. 1, 2017–Jan. 15, 2018
Pronghorn and moose on any open unit with any legal weapon	Sept. 1–Nov. 15, 2017
Bighorn sheep, mountain goat and bison on any open unit with any legal weapon*‡#	Sept. 1–Dec. 31, 2017

\* You may not take an elk or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep on the Pilot Mountain hunting unit.

‡ Antelope Island is not an open unit. There are only a couple of permits that authorize hunting on the island. In order to hunt on Antelope Island, you must have a permit valid for Antelope Island.

# The Central Mtns, Nebo/Wasatch Mtns, West and Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin bighorn sheep units are open to the sportsman permit holder on even-numbered years and open to the statewide conservation permit holder on odd-numbered years.

### License fees

#### Resident license fees

License	Fee
365-day hunting license (age 13 and under)	\$11
365-day hunting license (ages 14–17)	\$16
365-day hunting license (ages 18–64)	\$34
365-day hunting license (age 65 and older)	\$25

License	Fee
Multi-year hunting license (age 18 and older)	\$33 per year, up to five years
365-day combination** license (ages 14–17)	\$20
365-day combination** license (ages 18–64)	\$38
365-day combination** license (age 65 and older)	\$29
Multi-year combination** license (age 18 and older)	\$37 per year, up to five years

#### Nonresident license fees

License	Fee
365-day hunting license (age 17 and younger)	\$25
365-day hunting license (age 18 and older)	\$65
Multi-year hunting license (age 18 and older)	\$64 per year, up to five years
365-day combination** license (age 17 and younger)	\$29
365-day combination** license (age 18 and older)	\$85
Multi-year combination** license (age 18 and older)	\$84 per year, up to five years

\*\* A combination license allows you to hunt or fish in Utah. It also allows you to fish with a second pole.

#### Permit fees

Permit	Resident	Nonres.
General deer	\$40	\$268
General any bull elk or spike bull elk	\$50	\$393



## BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Are you planning to hunt big game in Utah this year? Before you apply for or obtain a permit, make sure you meet Utah's age, hunter education, license and permit requirements.

### Are you old enough?

*Utah Code § 23-19-22*

To hunt big game in Utah, you must be at least 12 years old.

Utah passed a law in 2016 that set a minimum application age for all big game permits.

Starting this year, if you are least 11 years old, you can apply for or obtain any big game permits for which you are eligible, including limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits. Any 11-year-olds who apply must be 12 by Dec. 31, 2017.

**Remember, you cannot hunt until you are 12 years old.**

If you're 12 to 17 years old, you can participate in the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program. For details on the program, see the information box on page 10.

If you're 12 years old or older, you can also participate in the Trial Hunting Program. For details, see the box below.

### Utah's Trial Hunting Program

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-68*

Have you ever wanted to bring your spouse, child or friend along on a hunt and give them a chance to try hunting? Now, they can join you on your next big game hunt.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program allows anyone over the age of 12 to try hunting for a few years—while accompanied by a licensed hunter over the age of 21—before taking a Hunter Education course.

The program applies to hunts for many different species, including general-season deer and elk. To sign up for the program or to learn more about it, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/trial](http://wildlife.utah.gov/trial).

### Accompanying young hunters

*Utah Code § 23-20-20*

While hunting big game, a person under 16 years old must be accompanied by his or her parent, legal guardian or other responsible person who is 21 years of age or older and who has been approved by the parent or guardian.

The Division encourages adults to be familiar with hunter education guidelines or to complete the hunter education course before accompanying youth into the field.

While in the field, the youth and the adult must remain close enough for the adult to see and provide verbal assistance to the young hunter. Using electronic devices, such as walkie-talkies or cell phones, does not meet this requirement.

### Is hunter education required?

*Utah Code § 23-19-11 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-23*

If you were born after Dec. 31, 1965, you must provide proof that you've passed a hunter education course approved by the Division before you can apply for or obtain a hunting license or a big game permit.

The only exception to this law is for individuals who are participating in the Division's Trial Hunting Program. You can find details about the program in the information box to the left or by visiting [wildlife.utah.gov/trial](http://wildlife.utah.gov/trial).

### Proof of hunter education

You can prove that you've completed hunter education by obtaining a hunter education card (called a "blue card" in Utah) or by using a hunting license from a previous year with your hunter education number noted on the license.

### Residency

*Utah Code §§ 23-13-2(37) & 23-13-2(13)*

Before you apply for a big game hunt, it's important to know whether you are a legal resident of the state of Utah. See the definition of Resident on page 59 to determine whether you are a resident or a nonresident.

### How to take hunter education

To get started, you should visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation). You'll see links to a complete list of traditional or online hunter education courses. Follow the instructions on the website to sign up for a course.

If you need assistance, please contact your local Division office or call 801-538-4727.

When you complete the course, your instructor will sign your course certificate, which will then become your hunting license. With a valid hunting license, you can also apply for or obtain permits in the Division's hunt drawings.

Approximately four to six weeks after you complete the course, you will receive your blue card by mail.

You should also keep the following in mind:

- Hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
- All hunting regulations, including season dates and bag limits, will apply.
- Hunters who are planning to hunt out of state should allow enough time for their hunter education card to arrive in the mail.

### New to Utah?

If you become a Utah resident, and you've completed a hunter education course in another state, province or country, you must obtain a Utah blue card before you can buy a resident hunting license. You can obtain a Utah blue card at any Division office by providing

### Keep your license on your phone or tablet

We've made it easier for you to keep track of your hunting or combination license and know when it's about to expire.

With our convenient mobile app, you can now download your license to a smartphone or tablet.

If a conservation officer asks to see your license, you can produce the digital copy, which is just as valid as a paper license.

If you use the app, you will be able to easily see when your license expires.

The app is available for both Apple and Android devices. You can download it at [wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp](http://wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp).

Please remember that licenses are different from permits. If you have a permit for a big game hunt, you must carry it with you while hunting.

proof that you've completed a hunter education course approved by the Division.

### Do you have a license?

*Utah Code §§ 23-19-1, 23-19-22 and 23-20-3*

You must have a current Utah hunting or combination (hunting and fishing) license before you can apply for any big game permits, bonus points or preference points. Licenses are available at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices.

As long as your license was valid on the date you submitted your permit application, you don't have to purchase a new license for the actual hunt.

For example, assume that your license expires on June 21, 2017. If you applied for permits on March 1, 2017, then you do not have to purchase a new license for your hunt in the fall. All hunting and combination licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase.

## Utah Hunter Mentoring Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-67

The Utah Hunter Mentoring Program allows eligible adults to share their big game hunting permits with eligible minors. Acting as a mentor, the adult is required to accompany the youth into the field.

Here's a quick look at how the program works:

- All big game permits are eligible for sharing.
- To qualify for the program, a minor must be a Utah resident between the ages of 12 and 17; possess a Utah Hunter Education number or trial hunting authorization; and be either

the child, stepchild, grandchild or legal ward of the mentor—or be suffering from a life-threatening medical condition.

- The mentor may be either a resident or a nonresident, but must be at least 21 years of age and able to legally possess a firearm.
- The mentor may not receive any form of compensation for participating in the program.
- Both the mentor and the participating minor can carry a firearm in the field. However, only one animal may be taken per permit.

For detailed program information, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring](http://wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring).

## Do you have a permit?

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-18

To participate in any of Utah's big game or antlerless hunts, you need to obtain a hunting permit.

Most of the big game permits have already been issued through the big game drawing, but some will be available for over-the-counter

purchase in July 2017. For more information about permit sales dates, see the article on page 12.

Many of Utah's antlerless permits will be issued through the antlerless drawing. You can begin applying for those permits on May 25, 2017. For more information about application deadlines and how to apply for antlerless permits, see page 11.

## Carry your permit

If you are successful in obtaining a big game or antlerless permit, you must have it on your person while hunting. You cannot alter your license or permit, nor can you sell, transfer or loan either of them to another person.

## When to apply for a sportsman permit

Long season dates—and the ability to hunt almost every hunting unit in Utah—make sportsman permits the most sought-after permits offered to Utah's public hunters.

The application period for 2018 will run from Oct. 25 to Nov. 15, 2017. Only Utah residents can apply for sportsman permits.

For more information about these permits, and the few restrictions that apply, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) in late October 2017.

## APPLY FOR AN ANTLERLESS PERMIT

Looking for Utah's antlerless field regulations? You'll find them in this guidebook (see page 28).

If you're looking for the information you need in order to apply for an antlerless permit, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks), starting May 18, 2017. There, you'll find application dates, rules, hunt tables, maps, boundaries and other essential information.

If you are planning to apply for a 2017 antlerless permit, please be aware of the following dates and deadlines.

### May 18: Review online antlerless hunt resources

Beginning May 18, 2017, you can visit [wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks) to review all of the application rules, hunt tables, season dates, maps, boundaries and other information you'll need in order to apply for an antlerless permit.

The antlerless application information will be available online only—there will not be a separate printed Antlerless guidebook.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please visit or call a Division office.

## Depredation hunts

When big game animals cause damage to agricultural crops, the Division may hold hunts that are not listed in this guidebook. These hunts are called depredation hunts. They may occur on short notice, involve small areas and are often limited to only a few hunters.

To apply for the depredation hunter pool, submit an online application at [wildlife.utah.gov/depredation](http://wildlife.utah.gov/depredation).

### May 25: Apply online for an antlerless permit

Starting May 25, 2017, you can visit [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) to apply for the following items:

- Antlerless hunting permits
- An antlerless moose bonus point
- Antlerless preference points

You can also apply by calling any Division office.

### June 15: Deadline for antlerless permit applications

You must apply online or by phone no later than June 15, 2017. There's an 11 p.m. MDT deadline for online applications and a 5 p.m. MDT deadline for phone applications. To apply, simply visit [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) or call any Division office.

### July 6: Antlerless drawing results available

You'll be notified of your drawing results by email on or before July 6, 2017. You can also learn your drawing results by visiting [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) or by calling 1-800-221-0659.

## Boundary descriptions only available online

Starting this year, boundary descriptions will no longer be printed on Utah's hunting permits.

You'll find detailed maps and boundary descriptions online. Visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner) to download and print your boundaries today.

## WHEN PERMITS GO ON SALE

Some big game permits for the 2017 season are available online and over the counter. If you're interested in purchasing one of these permits, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov), a license agent or a Division office on the dates listed below.

A variety of big game permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis in July. Please keep in mind that you may only have one buck deer permit and one bull elk permit per year.

A list of remaining permits will be posted at [wildlife.utah.gov/remaining-permits.html](http://wildlife.utah.gov/remaining-permits.html) by May 31 at the latest.

You must have a valid hunting license or a combination license to buy one of these permits. A license agent list is available at [wildlife.utah.gov/licenseagents](http://wildlife.utah.gov/licenseagents). Before you visit any of the agents, contact them to verify their hours of operation.

### July 11: Remaining limited-entry permits available

Any limited-entry permits remaining after the big game drawing will be available

### Poaching-reported reward permits

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-22*

It pays to report big game poachers in Utah.

If you provide information that leads to the successful prosecution of another person for the wanton destruction (poaching) of any big game species—on any once-in-a-lifetime or limited-entry hunt area in the state—you may receive a permit to hunt the same species on the same area where the violation occurred.

To learn more, please see Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-22 at [wildlife.utah.gov/rules](http://wildlife.utah.gov/rules).

beginning July 11 at 8 a.m. MDT. You can buy permits at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and at license agent locations and Division offices.

### July 11: General-season bull elk permits available

General-season bull elk permits may be purchased beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on July 11 at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices.

### July 13: Remaining general-season buck deer permits available (all weapon types)

Any general-season buck deer permits remaining after the drawing may be purchased beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on July 13 at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices.

If you purchase one of the archery permits, you may also use it on any of the extended-season archery areas after the general season ends, as long as you first complete the Division's Archery Ethics Course, located at [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery).

### July 13: Youth archery deer permits available

Youth archery deer permits may be purchased beginning at 8 a.m. MDT on July 13 at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices.

### July 18: Antlerless permits available

Antlerless elk-control permits and any antlerless permits remaining after the antlerless drawing will be available beginning July 18 at 8 a.m. MDT. You can buy the permits at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and at license agent locations and Division offices.

### Permit refunds and exchanges

*Utah Code § 23-19-38 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-42*

#### Obtaining a refund

The Division rarely issues refunds for permits, licenses or certificates of registration, but there are some exceptions. To see if you're eligible for a refund, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/refund](http://wildlife.utah.gov/refund).

#### Permit exchanges

You may exchange your general-season buck deer permit for one that's available in another unit, but it must be for the same species and sex. For example, you cannot exchange a buck deer permit for a bull elk permit.

You may also exchange your general-season bull elk permit for another available general-season bull elk permit. For example, you could exchange an any bull elk

permit for a spike bull elk permit, if a spike bull permit was available.

You may also exchange a general-season bull elk permit to obtain an available bull elk permit for a different weapon type. For example, you could exchange a general-season any legal weapon bull elk permit for a general-season archery bull elk permit.

Any exchange must occur at a Division office, before the season opening date on the permit you originally obtained.

You must also pay a \$10 handling fee to exchange a permit.

### Duplicate licenses

*Utah Code § 23-19-10 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-5*

If your unexpired license or permit is destroyed, lost or stolen, you can obtain a duplicate from a Division office or a license agent for \$10 or half of the price of the original license or permit, whichever is less.

### July 18: Private-lands-only permits available

Private-lands-only permits to hunt antlerless elk will be available beginning July 18 at 8 a.m. MDT. You can buy the permits at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and at license agent locations and Division offices. Under certain circumstances, you must obtain written permission **before** you can use one of these permits. For details, see the article on page 32.

### September 18: Unsold general-season archery deer permits convert to muzzleloader permits

If any general-season archery deer permits remain unsold at the end of the general archery season, they will convert to general-season muzzleloader deer permits on Sept. 18, 2017. You can buy these permits, if available, beginning at 8 a.m. MDT at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices.

### October 10: Unsold general-season muzzleloader deer permits convert to any legal weapon permits

If any general-season muzzleloader deer permits remain unsold at the end of the general muzzleloader season, they will convert to general-season any legal weapon (rifle) deer permits on Oct. 10, 2017. You can buy these permits, if available, beginning at 8 a.m. MDT at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices.

## MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG HUNTERS

If you are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2017, you may have more opportunities to hunt this fall. It all depends on what type of permit you obtain.

### Any legal weapon deer permits

If you are a youth and you obtain a general-season any legal weapon deer permit, you may use archery tackle to archery hunt the unit listed on your permit from Aug. 19–Sept. 15, 2017.

If you haven't harvested a deer by the time the archery season ends, you may hunt the same unit during the general muzzleloader and general any legal weapon deer seasons, using the appropriate equipment.

You also have the option of hunting in the extended archery areas, starting September 16, 2017. To do so, you must complete the archery ethics course available at [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery), carry your course-completion certificate in the field and use the appropriate archery tackle. For more information on the extended archery hunt, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery).

### Definition of youth

For the purposes of big game hunting, a youth is someone who is 17 years old or younger on July 31 of any given year.

This year, you will be considered a youth if you are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2017.

### Muzzleloader deer permits

If you obtain a general-season muzzleloader deer permit, you may hunt *only* during the general muzzleloader season, which runs from Sept. 27–Oct. 5, 2017. You must use muzzleloader equipment and hunt the unit listed on your permit. You may not hunt during the general archery or any legal weapon seasons.

### Archery deer permits

If you obtain a general-season archery deer permit, you may hunt *only* during the general archery deer season and the extended archery deer season.

During the general season—which runs from Aug. 19–Sept. 15, 2017—you may hunt in the unit printed on your permit.

During the extended season, you may hunt in any of the extended archery areas after completing the online archery ethics course. For more information on the extended archery hunt, or to take the course, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery).

Additional youth archery permits will be available at 8 a.m. MDT on July 13 at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices. The Utah Wildlife Board has approved an additional 20 percent of the archery quota for each unit to provide additional permits and opportunity for young archers.

For more information, please call the nearest Division office.

## STOP AT CHECKSTATIONS

If you harvest a deer this fall, please take a few minutes to stop by a Division checkstation. We will assess the age of your deer, collect some biological information and possibly take a small tissue sample to test for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

CWD is a relatively rare disease that attacks the nervous system and brain of infected deer, elk and moose.

The Division has been monitoring for CWD since 1998. Over the past 18 years, only 76 mule deer and 2 elk have tested positive for CWD in Utah.

The first positive mule deer in Utah was identified in 2002 as a result of a Division testing effort near Vernal. Since that time, CWD has also been found on the La Sal Mountains near Moab, on the San Juan Mountains near Monticello, and in central Utah near Fountain Green.

In these areas (and a few others), Division biologists collect samples from harvested deer, elk and moose during the fall hunts. To see which units the Division is sampling, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/cwd](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwd).

If you harvest an animal, please stop at a checkstation. A biologist may take a small sample from the head of your harvested animal and send it to the lab for CWD testing. You may also visit a regional office to have a sample collected.

If the Division tests your animal, you can find the results online within six to eight weeks at [wildlife.utah.gov/cwdtesting](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwdtesting). If your animal tests positive for CWD, the Division will contact you directly.

To learn more about CWD, the testing process and precautions you can take, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/cwd](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwd). To find checkstation locations, please call your local Division office before the hunt begins.



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## BIG GAME HUNTS

Utah offers several different big game hunts each year. Depending on the permit you obtain, you could hunt deer, elk, pronghorn, bison, bighorn sheep, moose or mountain goat. The following section describes the species you can hunt, the weapons you can use and the types of permits that are available.

### Buck deer hunting



A “buck deer” is a deer with antlers that are longer than five inches (R657-5-2(2)(e)).

Utah has three general-season buck deer hunts:

- Archery hunt
- Muzzleloader hunt
- Any legal weapon (rifle) hunt

Please see [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner) for all hunt boundaries.

### Regulations for all buck deer hunts

The following regulations apply to all of Utah’s buck deer hunts.

#### Hunter orange

*Utah Code § 23-20-31*

You must obey Utah’s hunter orange regulation (see page 36) if a centerfire rifle hunt is happening in the area where you’re hunting. Archery and muzzleloader hunters are not required to wear hunter orange if the only other hunt in the area is for a once-in-a-lifetime species.

#### CWMU buck deer hunts

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-37*

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt buck deer on a CWMU unless you obtain a buck deer permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting buck deer on CWMUs, read the article on page 34 and visit [wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu).

#### Special restrictions

If you participate in Utah’s buck deer hunt, please keep in mind that some areas are closed to hunting or have special restrictions. For a list of those areas, see page 41.

#### Obtaining other deer permits

If you obtained a buck deer permit of any kind, the only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.

### General-season archery buck deer hunt

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-23*

Utah’s general-season archery buck deer hunt runs from Aug. 19 to Sept. 15, 2017.

If you obtained a general-season archery buck deer permit, you may use archery equipment to take one buck deer in the hunting unit listed on your permit.

### Extended archery deer hunts

If you haven’t taken a deer by the time your archery buck hunt ends, you can continue your archery hunting in the state’s extended archery areas.

In the Cache Laketown, Ogden, Uintah Basin, Wasatch Front and West Cache extended archery areas, you may use archery equipment to take a deer of either sex (hunter’s choice) from Sept. 16–Nov. 30, 2017.

Before hunting any of the extended archery areas, you must complete the Division’s archery ethics course. For more information, see page 6 or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery).

### General-season muzzleloader buck deer hunt

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-25*

Utah’s general-season muzzleloader buck deer hunt runs from Sept. 27 to Oct. 5, 2017.

If you obtained a general-season muzzleloader buck permit, you may use a muzzleloader to take one buck deer in the hunting unit listed on your permit.

### General-season any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer hunt

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-24*

The general-season any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer hunt runs from Oct. 21–29, 2017.

If you obtained a general-season any legal weapon buck permit, you may use any legal weapon to take one buck deer in the hunting unit listed on your permit. You may also choose to use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

### Premium limited-entry and limited-entry buck deer hunts

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-26*

Utah’s premium limited-entry and limited-entry deer units are managed for older, bigger bucks.

A premium limited-entry buck deer permit allows you to hunt on one of the best limited-entry buck deer units in Utah—the Henry Mtns unit or the Paunsaugunt unit.

### Mandatory reporting

If you obtained a premium limited-entry, limited-entry, management buck deer, CWMU, conservation, sportsman, expo or once-in-a-lifetime permit, you must complete a harvest survey questionnaire within 30 days after your hunt ends. This information is required even if you didn’t harvest an animal.

**Attention limited-entry archers:** Although you do not need to submit a survey for the extended archery season, you must submit your limited-entry harvest survey within 30 days of the final day of your limited-entry season.

If you harvested an animal, this is also an ideal time to return your tooth packet. Returning your tooth packet does not fulfill the harvest survey requirement.

You can report information about your hunt at [wildlife.utah.gov/harvest](http://wildlife.utah.gov/harvest) or by calling 1-800-221-0659.

Reporting your hunt information is important. If you don’t report your hunt information within 30 days of the end of the hunt, you won’t be allowed to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime, premium limited-entry, limited-entry, management buck deer or CWMU permits, or bonus points in 2018.

A limited-entry buck deer permit allows you to hunt on a high-quality unit that is managed for a higher buck-to-doe ratio than general-season units are managed for.

If you obtained a premium limited-entry or limited-entry buck deer permit, you may use the weapon listed on your permit to take one buck deer within the area and the season specified on your permit.

### Late-season muzzleloader deer hunts

This year, late-season limited-entry muzzleloader deer hunts will occur on a total of 15 general-season units. These hunts will occur at the same time as the general-season muzzleloader elk hunts, which run from Nov. 1–9, 2017.

The purpose of late-season muzzleloader hunts is to increase limited-entry deer hunting opportunities. These hunts occur on general-season units that exceed 18 to 20 bucks per 100 does.

### Multi-season hunts

Multi-season hunts allow the permit holder to hunt buck deer during all three seasons (archery, muzzleloader and any legal weapon) on select limited-entry or premium limited-entry units.

If you have obtained a permit for one of these hunts, you must use the appropriate weapon type for the season.

### More opportunity for archers

Limited-entry archery deer hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will be allowed to hunt the extended archery areas after completing the online extended archery course. For details, see page 6 or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery).

**And don't forget:** You must submit your harvest survey within 30 days of the final day of your limited-entry season. You do not need to submit a survey for the extended archery season.

## Management buck deer hunt

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-46*

Management buck deer hunts are designed to remove excess bucks on premium limited-entry units (Henry Mtns and Paunsaugnt), while protecting the larger bucks in the herds. These two units are managed for the highest buck-to-doe ratios in Utah.

Harvesting smaller-antlered bucks on these units will preserve trophy-class bucks and provide more room for does. Having more does in the herds will result in more fawns being born. Having more fawns will help ensure that these herds remain strong and healthy into the future.

A "management buck" is a buck deer with 3 points or less on at least one antler, above and including the first fork, but not including the eye guard. The eye guard does not count as a point. A point is a projection that's longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip, including damaged or broken antlers.

### Obtaining and using a permit

Management buck deer permits are distributed through the big game drawing process. If you were successful in drawing a management buck deer permit, you must complete an online orientation course before you will receive your permit. This course is also open to anyone who wants to learn more about what a management buck looks like. To take the online course, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/biggame](http://wildlife.utah.gov/biggame).

A management buck deer permit allows you to take one management buck deer. You must use the weapon listed on your permit to hunt within the unit and season specified on your permit. This year, there are new archery and muzzleloader management buck deer hunts on the Henry Mtns unit.

After taking your buck deer, you must bring its head and antlers to a Division office for inspection no later than 72 hours after the date of kill.

Please keep in mind that bringing your deer to a Division office does not meet your harvest survey requirement. Visit [wildlife.utah.gov/harvest](http://wildlife.utah.gov/harvest) and complete the harvest survey questionnaire within 30 days after the end of your hunt.

**Important:** If you obtain a management buck deer permit, you will lose your bonus points and incur a waiting period of two years. The only other deer permit you can obtain is an antlerless deer permit. Please see page 28 for more information on antlerless deer hunts.

## Utah hunters helping condors

Each year for the past six years, more than 1,500 hunters have joined the Division in a voluntary program to help California condors survive in southern Utah. Condors, some of the world's rarest and largest birds, feed on dead animals, including the remains of harvested game species — both large and small. Unfortunately, lead ammunition found in these remains can sicken and kill condors.

To keep condors from consuming lead as they scavenge game remains, the Division has partnered with The Peregrine Fund, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce lead on the landscape. Together, we offer incentives for hunters to voluntarily use non-lead ammunition in the Zion hunt unit, where condors spend most of their time.

If you obtain a Zion unit big game permit for 2017, we will contact you with more information about this program and how you can participate. There will also be more information available at [wildlife.utah.gov/hunters-help-condors.html](http://wildlife.utah.gov/hunters-help-condors.html) by the end of July 2017.



## Bull elk hunting



A “bull elk” is an elk with antlers that are longer than five inches (R657-5-2(2)(g)).

A “spike bull” means a bull elk which has at least one antler beam with no branching above the ears. Branched means a projection on an antler longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip (R657-5-2(2)(r)).

Utah has three general-season elk hunts:

- Archery hunt
- Any legal weapon hunt
- Muzzleloader hunt

These hunts are held on two types of units: any bull elk units and spike bull elk units.

If you obtain an archery permit, you can hunt on all of the open any bull and spike bull units in the state.

If you obtain a general-season any legal weapon or muzzleloader permit, you must hunt on the type of unit specified on your permit. For example, if you obtain an any bull elk permit, you may hunt only on any bull elk units. If you obtain a spike bull permit, you may hunt only on spike bull units.

Permits for most of the general-season elk hunts are available beginning July 11—on a first-come, first-served basis—from Division offices, license agents and [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov).

## Regulations for all bull elk hunts

The following regulations apply to all of Utah’s bull elk hunts.

### Hunter orange

*Utah Code § 23-20-31*

You must obey Utah’s hunter orange regulation (see page 36) if a centerfire rifle hunt is happening in the area where you’re hunting. Archery and muzzleloader hunters are not required to wear hunter orange if the only other hunt in the area is for a once-in-a-lifetime species.

### CWMU bull elk hunts

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-37*

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt bull elk on a CWMU unless you obtain a bull elk permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting bull elk on CWMUs, read the article on page 34 and visit [wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu).

### Special restrictions

If you participate in Utah’s bull elk hunt, please keep in mind that some areas are closed to hunting or have special restrictions. For a list of those areas, see page 41.

### Obtaining other elk permits

If you obtained a bull elk permit of any kind, the only other elk permits you can obtain are antlerless elk permits. Please see page 29 for more information on antlerless elk hunts.

## General-season archery elk hunt

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-28*

In 2017, Utah’s general-season archery spike elk hunt runs from Aug. 19 to Sept. 8. The general-season archery any bull elk hunt runs

from Aug. 19 to Sept. 15, except on the state’s extended archery areas, where the season runs later into the year.

If you obtain a general-season archery elk permit, you may use archery equipment to take only one of the following animals:

- One elk of either sex on a general-season any bull elk unit
- An antlerless elk or a spike bull elk on a general-season spike bull elk unit
- Only a spike bull on the Book Cliffs unit
- One elk of either sex on the extended archery elk areas (see details below)

## Extended archery elk hunts

If you haven’t taken an elk by the time your archery hunt ends, you may continue hunting in the Wasatch Front and Uintah Basin extended archery elk areas during the extended archery seasons. You may use archery equipment to take one of the following animals:

- One elk (either any bull or antlerless) within the Wasatch Front extended archery area from Aug. 19–Dec. 15
- One elk (either any bull or antlerless) within the Uintah Basin extended archery area from Sept. 16–Dec. 15

To hunt any of the extended archery areas, you must complete the Division’s archery ethics course and carry your archery ethics course certificate of completion with you while you’re hunting. For more information, see page 6 or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery).

## General-season any legal weapon (rifle) bull elk hunt

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-29*

Utah’s general-season any legal weapon elk hunt consists of the any bull elk hunt and the spike bull elk hunt. These hunts run from Oct. 7 to Oct. 19.

To hunt during the general-season elk hunt, you must obtain either a spike bull permit or an any bull permit.



*Legal in a spike bull unit.*



*Legal in a spike bull unit.*



*Legal in a spike bull unit.*



*NOT legal in a spike bull unit.*



If you obtain a general-season any legal weapon bull elk permit, you may use any legal weapon to take your bull elk.

You may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

If you obtain a spike bull elk permit, you may take a spike bull elk on a general-season spike bull elk unit. You may **not** hunt on the any bull elk units.

If you obtain an any bull elk permit, you may take a bull elk of any size, including a spike bull, on a general-season any bull elk unit. You may **not** hunt on spike bull units.

Please keep in mind that some limited-entry bull elk hunts overlap the general-season spike elk hunt.

See the general-season bull elk hunt reference map on page 54, and the boundary descriptions at [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner), to learn where spike bull units and any bull elk units are located in the state.

## General-season muzzleloader elk hunt

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-30*

The general-season muzzleloader elk hunt runs from Nov. 1 to Nov. 9 within the general-season elk units.

To hunt during the general season for muzzleloader elk, you must obtain either a muzzleloader spike bull elk permit or a muzzleloader any bull elk permit.

If you obtain a muzzleloader any bull elk permit, you may use a muzzleloader to take a bull elk of any size, including a spike bull, on a general-season any bull elk unit. You may **not** hunt on spike bull elk units.

If you obtain a muzzleloader spike bull elk permit, you may use a muzzleloader to take a spike bull elk on a general-season spike bull elk unit. You may **not** hunt on the any bull elk units.

Please see the general-season bull elk hunt reference map on page 54 and the boundary descriptions at [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner) to learn where spike bull units and any bull elk units are located in the state.

## Youth bull elk hunts

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-31*

If you'll be 17 years of age or younger on July 31, 2017, you may be eligible to participate in the state's youth general-season any bull elk hunt. **Remember, you cannot hunt until you are 12 years old.**

The youth general-season any bull elk hunt runs from Sept. 16 to Sept. 24 on general-season any bull elk units across Utah. If you obtained a permit for this hunt in the big game drawing, you may use any legal weapon to take a bull elk or antlerless elk of any size on any general-season any bull elk unit in Utah.

Please remember that although you may take a spike bull elk during this hunt, you may **not** hunt on a spike bull elk unit.

You may obtain only one youth any bull elk permit in your lifetime, and preference points do not apply to this hunt.

## Limited-entry bull elk hunts

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-32*

A limited-entry bull elk permit allows you to use the weapon listed on your permit to take one bull elk of any size within the area and season specified on your permit.

Utah's limited-entry elk permits are among the state's most prized big game permits.

## New limited-entry hunts during the spike bull hunt

Starting in 2017, there will be two new limited-entry bull elk hunts that overlap the general-season spike elk hunt. These hunts will be held on the following units:

- Central Mtns, Manti
- Wasatch Mtns

The goal of the hunts is to move some permits out of the early rifle hunt, where demand for permits is highest, and place them in a hunt that might provide better drawing odds.

These hunts will occur at the same time as many antlerless elk hunts and the general-season spike bull elk hunt, which runs from Oct. 7–19.

## Multi-season hunts

There are multi-season hunts (formerly known as premium limited-entry hunts) that allow the permit holder to hunt bull elk during all three seasons (archery, muzzleloader and any legal weapon) on select limited-entry units.

## Obtain up to three elk permits

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-33*

A hunter can obtain up to three elk permits in Utah each year.

- A maximum of one permit can be for a bull elk.
- A maximum of one antlerless elk permit can be obtained through the antlerless drawing.
- A maximum of two antlerless elk permits can be obtained over the counter. These might include antlerless elk-control permits, private-lands-only permits, mitigation and CWMU vouchers or any permits that remain available after the antlerless drawing.

For the purposes of obtaining multiple elk permits, an archery elk permit (hunter's choice) is considered a bull elk permit. Likewise, general-season archery permits are also considered bull elk permits. Antlerless

If you have obtained a permit for one of these hunts, you must use the appropriate weapon type for the season.

## More opportunity for archers

Limited-entry archery elk hunters who don't harvest during the limited-entry season will be allowed to hunt the extended archery areas after completing the online extended archery course. For details, please see page 6 or visit [wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery](http://wildlife.utah.gov/extendedarchery).

**And don't forget:** You must submit your harvest survey within 30 days of the final day of your limited-entry season. You do not need to submit a survey for the extended archery season.

elk-control or private-lands-only permits are considered antlerless permits.

If you obtain two antlerless elk permits for the same area—but the permits are for different seasons—you may harvest both elk during the same season.

And don't forget: you may harvest an antlerless elk while hunting general-season buck deer or bull elk, as long as your permits are for the same area and you use the weapon type listed on your general-season permit.

General-season bull elk permits will be available starting July 11, 2017 at 8 a.m. MDT. Antlerless elk permits and private-lands-only permits will be available a week later, on July 18, 2017 at 8 a.m. MDT.

All of these elk permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and from license agents and Division offices.



## Buck pronghorn hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-34



"Buck pronghorn" means a pronghorn with horns that are longer than five inches (R657-5-2(2)(f)).

To hunt buck pronghorn, you must possess a buck pronghorn permit. If you obtain a buck pronghorn permit, you may **not** obtain any other pronghorn permit.

If you obtained a buck pronghorn permit, you may use the weapon listed on your permit to take one buck pronghorn within the area and season specified on your permit.

You may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the any legal weapon (rifle) hunt.

**Note:** Only archery equipment may be used during the buck pronghorn archery hunt. If you'd like to hunt from a blind, please contact the public agency that manages the land you'll be hunting on to learn about any regulations you must follow to construct a blind.

### Hunter orange

Utah Code § 23-20-31

You must obey Utah's hunter orange regulation (see page 36) if a centerfire rifle hunt is happening in the area where you're hunting. Archery and muzzleloader hunters are not required to wear hunter orange if the only other hunt in the area is for a once-in-a-lifetime species.

## CWMU buck pronghorn hunts

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a small number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt on a buck pronghorn CWMU unless you obtain a buck pronghorn permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting buck pronghorn on CWMUs, read the article on page 34 and visit [wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu).

### Avoid harvesting collared wildlife

The Division has placed radio and GPS collars on bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goats and pronghorn in various areas across the state. The Division is monitoring these animals in a handful of ongoing studies.

If possible, please avoid harvesting a collared animal. It is an expensive and time-consuming process to capture and collar replacement animals.

If you do harvest a collared animal, please remove the collar without cutting it, pull the front two incisors (for aging purposes) and contact your local Division office for information on how to return the collar.

## ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME HUNTS

All of Utah's bison, bull moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat permits are considered once-in-a-lifetime permits. That's because you can draw a permit for each of these species only once in your lifetime.

### Bison hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-38



To hunt bison, you must possess a bison permit.

You may use the weapon listed on your permit to take one bison within the limited-entry unit and the season specified on your permit. You may obtain a bison permit through the big game drawing only once in your lifetime.

If you obtained a hunter's choice permit, you may take a bison of either sex. If you obtained a cow bison permit, you may take only a cow bison.

**Note:** You may obtain only one bison permit—of any kind—during the 2017 season.

### Online orientation course

If you drew a cow bison permit, you must complete the online orientation course located at [wildlife.utah.gov/biggame](http://wildlife.utah.gov/biggame). You'll receive your permit after you successfully complete the course.

### Antelope Island

If you drew an Antelope Island bison permit, the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (Utah State Parks) may require you to complete a course before you can hunt.

Before the hunt begins, Utah State Parks will notify you about the date, time and location of the course. You'll receive your permit after you successfully complete the course.

Because the Antelope Island hunt is administered by Utah State Parks, your hunt will include some extra park-related fees. For more information, please call 801-209-4678.

### Bull moose hunting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-37



A "bull moose" is a moose that has antlers that are longer than its ears (R657-5-2(2)(h)).

To hunt bull moose, you must possess a bull moose permit. You may obtain a bull moose permit through the big game drawing only once in your lifetime.

### Weapon options for once-in-a-lifetime hunters

Don't forget: if you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species, you have additional weapon options for your hunt. You can use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope.

Your bull moose permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one bull moose on the limited-entry unit and during the season specified on your permit.

**Note:** You may obtain only one moose permit—of any kind—during the 2017 season.

### CWMU bull moose hunts

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-37*

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) are private lands that the landowners have opened to a limited number of public and private hunters. You may not hunt on a bull moose CWMU unless you obtain a bull moose permit for that CWMU.

To learn more about hunting bull moose on CWMUs, read the article on page 34 and visit [wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu).

## Desert bighorn and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunting

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-39*



A “ram” is a male desert bighorn sheep or a male Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (R657-5-2(2)(q)).

To hunt desert bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, you must possess a permit for the species you wish to hunt (i.e., a desert bighorn sheep permit to hunt desert bighorn sheep, or a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit to hunt Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep).

# Prevent wildfires!

Make sure campfire ashes are cold.  
Always use a shovel and a bucket of water.

[UtahFireInfo.gov](http://UtahFireInfo.gov)



Desert bighorn sheep hunts and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunts are considered separate once-in-a-lifetime hunts. For example, if you obtain a desert bighorn sheep permit, and you’ve never obtained a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit before, you can continue applying for a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permit the following year.

A bighorn sheep permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one ram within the area and the season specified on your permit. Any ram is legal to take, but the Division encourages you to take a mature ram.

After taking your ram, you must bring its horns to a Division office within 72 hours of leaving your hunting area. When you come to the office, a Division staff person will permanently affix a numbered plug to the horn. This plug certifies that the sheep was taken legally.

**Note:** You may obtain only one bighorn sheep permit—of any kind—during the 2017 season.

## Mountain goat hunting

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-40*



To hunt mountain goats, you must possess a mountain goat permit.

You may use the weapon listed on your permit to take one mountain goat within the area and the season specified on your permit.

You may obtain a mountain goat permit through the big game drawing only once in your lifetime.

If you obtained a hunter’s choice permit, you may take a goat of either sex, but the Division encourages you to take a mature goat. If you obtained a female goat permit, you may take only a female goat.

If you drew a female mountain goat permit, you must complete the online orientation course located at [wildlife.utah.gov/biggame](http://wildlife.utah.gov/biggame). You’ll receive your permit after you successfully complete the course.

**Note:** You may obtain only one mountain goat permit—of any kind—during the 2017 season.

Utah  
**RIDE ON**  
DESIGNATED ROUTES

RESPECTED ACCESS  
IS OPEN ACCESS

Please tread lightly and travel only on routes and in areas designated open for motor vehicle use. Remember, Respected Access is Open Access.

tread lightly!  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT IS POWERED BY

## ANTLERLESS HUNTS

Utah offers antlerless hunts each year. These hunts serve two purposes: they help ensure that populations remain at sustainable, manageable levels, and they remove animals that pose depredation problems. Depending on the permit you obtain, you could hunt antlerless deer, elk or moose, or doe pronghorn. The following section describes the species you can hunt, the weapons you can use and the types of permits that are available.

### Antlerless deer hunting

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-27*



*An “antlerless deer” is a deer without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter (R657-5-2(2)(a)).*

To hunt antlerless deer, you must possess an antlerless deer permit. A person may obtain only one antlerless deer permit or one two-doe antlerless deer permit through the antlerless drawing.

An antlerless deer permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one antlerless deer in the area and season specified on your permit.

A two-doe antlerless deer permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take two antlerless deer in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

You may not hunt antlerless deer on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain an antlerless deer permit for that CWMU.

You may obtain only one antlerless deer permit for the 2017 antlerless season.

### Additional opportunity

There is some flexibility if you are an antlerless deer permit holder who also possesses a permit to hunt any one of the following seasons:

- General-season buck deer (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- General-season bull elk (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- Premium limited-entry buck deer (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Limited-entry buck deer (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Limited entry bull elk (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Antlerless elk

If your antlerless deer permit is for the same area as one of the permits listed above—and you use the appropriate weapon type specified for your current hunting season—you may use your antlerless deer permit during the season listed on your other permit.

If you harvest a buck deer, bull elk or antlerless elk—and you have an unfilled antlerless deer permit—you may continue hunting antlerless deer during the buck deer, bull elk or antlerless elk season listed on your other permit. However, you may not use a permit for a buck deer or bull elk during the antlerless season, unless it’s during the timeframe when the two seasons overlap.

## Antlerless elk hunting

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-33*



*An “antlerless elk” is an elk without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter (R657-5-2(2)(b)).*

To hunt antlerless elk, you must possess an antlerless elk permit. This permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one antlerless elk in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

You may not hunt antlerless elk on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain an antlerless elk permit for that CWMU.

### Obtain three elk permits

You can now obtain up to three elk permits in Utah each year.

- A maximum of one permit can be for a bull elk.
- A maximum of one antlerless elk permit can be obtained through the antlerless drawing.
- A maximum of two antlerless elk permits can be obtained over the counter.

For the purposes of obtaining multiple elk permits, an archery elk permit (hunter’s choice) is considered a bull elk permit. Likewise, general-season archery permits are also considered bull elk permits. Antlerless elk-control or private-lands-only permits are considered antlerless permits.

You may apply for only one antlerless elk permit in the antlerless drawing.

If you do not obtain an antlerless elk permit in the drawing, you may be eligible to purchase up to two antlerless elk permits over the counter.

Over-the-counter antlerless elk permits include all of the following:

- Antlerless elk-control permits (for detailed information about these permits, see the article on page 33)
- Private-lands-only permits (for detailed information about these permits, see the article on page 32)
- Mitigation vouchers
- CWMU vouchers
- Any general-season permits that remain available after the antlerless drawing

Please keep in mind that both antlerless elk-control and private-lands-only permits have special usage requirements. Do **not** purchase either of the permits until you understand and can meet those requirements. For more information, see the detailed article on page 32.

### Additional opportunity

There is some flexibility if you are an antlerless elk permit holder who also possesses a permit to hunt any one of the following seasons:

- General-season buck deer (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- General-season bull elk (archery, muzzleloader or any legal weapon)
- Premium limited-entry buck deer (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Limited-entry buck deer (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Limited entry bull elk (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon or multi-season)
- Antlerless deer or elk



If your antlerless elk permit is for the same area as one of the permits listed above—and you use the appropriate weapon type specified for your current hunting season—you may use your antlerless permit during the season listed on your other permit. However, you may not use a permit for a buck deer or bull elk during the antlerless season, unless it's during the timeframe when the two seasons overlap.

If you obtain two antlerless elk permits for the same area—but the permits are for different seasons—you may harvest both elk during the same season.

## Doe pronghorn hunting

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-35



A “doe pronghorn” is a pronghorn without horns or with horns five inches or shorter (R657-5-2(2)(j)).

To hunt a doe pronghorn, you must possess either a doe pronghorn permit or a two-doe pronghorn permit. A person may obtain only one doe pronghorn permit or one two-doe pronghorn permit through the antlerless drawing.

A doe pronghorn permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take one doe pronghorn in the area and season specified on your permit.

A two-doe pronghorn permit allows you to use the legal weapon listed on your permit to take two doe pronghorn in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit, you may use a crossbow, a draw lock or a muzzleloader with a magnifying scope during the rifle hunt.

If you already have a 2017 pronghorn permit, you may not apply for or obtain a doe pronghorn permit or preference point.

You may not hunt doe pronghorn on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain a doe pronghorn permit for that CWMU.

**Note:** You may only obtain one pronghorn permit—of any kind—during the 2017 season.

## Antlerless season dates online

To review the 2017 antlerless season dates—as well as information about antlerless hunting options, permit numbers, application dates, maps and hunt boundaries—visit [wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks). These tools and resources will be available online by May 18, one week before the antlerless application period begins.

You can apply for antlerless permits from May 25 to June 15, 2017.

For more information on the antlerless application period, see page 11.

## Antlerless moose hunting

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-36



An “antlerless moose” is a moose without antlers or with antlers shorter than its ears (R657-5-2(2)(c)).

Moose populations are increasing in many units, which allows for antlerless hunting opportunities.

To hunt antlerless moose, you must first obtain an antlerless moose permit. This permit allows you to use any legal weapon to take one antlerless moose in the area and season specified on your permit.

If you already have a 2017 moose permit, you may not apply for or obtain an antlerless moose permit or bonus point.

You may not hunt antlerless moose on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) unless you obtain an antlerless moose permit for that CWMU.

**Note:** You may only obtain one moose permit—of any kind—during the 2017 season.

## Report your harvest

If you obtain an antlerless permit this year, don't forget to complete a harvest report after your hunt ends.

Visit [wildlife.utah.gov/harvest](http://wildlife.utah.gov/harvest) and click the harvest-report button at the top of the page. Then, you can log in and complete your harvest report.

If you prefer to complete your harvest report over the phone, call 1-800-221-0659. The line is staffed 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

HELPING WILDLIFE  
MAKES YOU LOOK GOOD.



( Now your  
car wants  
a turn. )





## HUNTS TO MANAGE UTAH'S ELK HERDS

What you need to know about the antlerless elk-control and private-lands-only hunts.

Utah holds antlerless elk hunts for a variety of reasons. The hunts help keep elk populations in check and also provide a great opportunity for hunters who want to fill their freezers. Right now, Utah has an estimated population of 77,730 elk, with a statewide herd objective of 78,215.

### Why objectives matter

The population objectives aren't just random numbers wildlife managers can ignore or disregard—they are set in the state's elk unit management plans and approved by the Utah Wildlife Board. These numbers also affect other stakeholders who use public lands or who have private lands where elk herds roam.

In order to meet its management obligations, Utah needs to increase cow elk harvest on hunting units that have more elk than their objectives allow. The state targets cow elk because they produce offspring, and curbing their numbers is the fastest way to bring population numbers in line with objectives.

### Studies reveal elk movement

Recent elk-collaring studies have revealed that elk routinely move to private lands when public-land hunts are underway.

While this annual move to private lands helps cow elk survive, it can be frustrating for hunters who are trying to harvest animals and equally frustrating for landowners who do not want additional elk on their properties.

That's why the Utah Wildlife Board approved the private-lands-only hunts that went into effect for the first time in 2016.

### Private-lands-only hunts

A private-lands-only permit allows the harvest of an antlerless elk on private land within a specific hunting unit.

### How do the permits work?

Private-lands-only permits are valid on private property in select units from Aug. 1, 2017 to Jan. 31, 2018. Before you use one of these permits to hunt on private property, please determine if you need to obtain written permission from the landowner. Ideally, you should have permission before you obtain a permit.

With a private-lands-only permit, you may use any legal weapon to harvest an antlerless elk. The goal of these hunts is to harvest cow elk and to apply strategic pressure on private lands that pushes elk back on to public lands.

### Who should obtain the permits?

It's important to note that these hunts might not be for everyone.

Although private-lands-only permits will be available online and from license agents and Division offices, we strongly encourage you to obtain written permission before purchasing one of these permits or using it to hunt on private land. **You do not want to purchase a permit you may not be able to use.**

If you have friends or family who own private property on a participating unit, obtain their permission and then purchase a permit. The Division does not have—and cannot provide—the names of landowners who will allow access to their properties. This is a hunt that requires you to do some pre-hunt research and to make your own arrangements for access to private land.

If those arrangements aren't feasible, we encourage you to apply for or purchase elk permits that you can use to hunt on public land.

It is also your responsibility to work with the landowner and know the boundaries of the property you are hunting.

### Why is written permission important?

Utah's trespassing laws are very specific about what private lands you may and may not access. And by obeying those laws, you will avoid citations, fines, the loss of your harvested animal and other legal penalties.

Before you purchase or use a private-lands-only permit, please take time to carefully review Utah's trespassing regulations on pages 42–43.

You can find a printable permission card online at [wildlife.utah.gov/permission](http://wildlife.utah.gov/permission).

Please keep in mind that you will not be eligible for a refund if you purchase a private-lands-only permit and then cannot use it because you don't have access to private land.

If necessary, you may surrender a private-lands-only permit before the season begins and then purchase a new private-lands-only permit for a different unit. You will not be eligible for a refund if you choose to surrender a permit.

### What lands are eligible for these hunts?

A limited number of private-lands-only permits will be available for 20 hunting units. Please keep in mind that private-lands-only permits may not be used in the following areas:

- Federal, state, SITLA, county or municipality lands
- Tribal lands
- Lands enrolled in an elk CWMU
- Land where public access for big game hunting has been secured (e.g., Walk-in Access areas)

For more information about private-lands-only hunts, including a list of participating units and how many permits are available, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/private-lands-elk.html](http://wildlife.utah.gov/private-lands-elk.html).

## Antlerless elk-control hunts

In addition to offering the private-lands-only hunts, the Division will continue to offer antlerless elk-control hunts on 12 hunting units.

### How do the hunts work?

These hunts provide more hunting opportunities on units where it is difficult to harvest antlerless elk.

You may only obtain an antlerless elk-control permit if you have a buck, bull or once-in-a-lifetime permit for areas that overlap antlerless elk-control hunting units.

**Example 1:** If you have a permit to hunt buck deer on the Pine Valley unit, you may purchase an antlerless elk-control permit and harvest an antlerless elk on the Pine Valley unit during your deer hunt.

**Example 2:** If you have an any bull elk permit and you're hunting on the South Slope unit, you can obtain an antlerless elk-control permit. You can harvest a bull elk anywhere on the unit, but you may only harvest an antlerless elk within the South Slope, Yellowstone elk-control unit.

The weapon you use and the season dates you hunt must be those listed on your buck, bull or once-in-a-lifetime permit.

### New hunt and reminder

You can see a map of Utah's 12 antlerless elk-control units on page 56. This year, there will be a new antlerless elk-control hunt on the Kamas unit.

Antlerless elk-control permits are not valid statewide. Please verify all hunt boundaries before heading into the field.

For detailed information about how elk-control permits work and when you may use one, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/elkcontrol](http://wildlife.utah.gov/elkcontrol). To learn more about Utah's antlerless elk-control units, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner).

## COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-37

More than 60 percent of the rangelands that Utah's big game animals rely on in the winter are on private land. Utah's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) program works with landowners to preserve these lands, to make them good habitat for wildlife and to provide more access to public hunters.

### How the program works

The CWMU program provides landowners with an economic incentive to keep their private range and forest lands as wildlife habitat instead of developing them.

CWMUs comprise more than two million acres of land in Utah. They'll provide more than 5,000 big game and antlerless hunting permits in 2017. Approximately one-third of those permits are available to the general public through the state's big game drawing.

Hunting on CWMUs provides both public and private hunters with several advantages. Among those advantages are a better chance to take an animal and fewer hunters to compete with.

### Obtaining a CWMU permit

If you're a Utah resident, there are two ways to obtain a CWMU permit: you can apply for one in the state's public drawing, or you can obtain a permit voucher from the landowner or operator of the CWMU you want to hunt.

If you're not a resident of Utah, you cannot apply for a CWMU permit in the public drawing. You can, however, obtain a permit voucher directly from the CWMU landowner or operator.

If you obtain a CWMU voucher, you can redeem the voucher for a permit by mailing the voucher to:

CWMU Front Desk  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
P.O. Box 146301  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301  
(Please allow 10 to 14 days for processing.)

You can also redeem the voucher at any Division office.

If you obtain a CWMU permit, you may hunt only on the CWMU that's specified on your permit. You may take only one animal of the species and sex listed on the permit. You'll also incur a waiting period for the species you obtained a permit for. (Please see pages 18–19 in the *2017 Utah Big Game Application Guidebook* for more information about waiting periods.)

You may not obtain more than one pronghorn, one moose, one buck deer or one bull elk permit in a year. But you can obtain antlerless deer and antlerless elk permits. More information about antlerless permits is available on page 12.

**Important:** CWMU landowner association members and operators—and their spouses and dependent children—cannot apply for their own CWMU permits in the public drawing.

### How to participate

If you draw a permit to hunt a CWMU, you must contact the CWMU operator to obtain the following:

- The dates you'll be allowed to hunt within the legal CWMU hunting season framework. Both you and the operator must schedule around each of your individual needs—please be realistic and patient.
- A map of the CWMU, including access points. The CWMU will provide public hunters access to the entire CWMU,

except for areas that are closed to both public and private hunters. If you feel that you haven't received equal treatment, please contact your regional Division office.

- A copy of the CWMU's rules. CWMUs are allowed to develop rules of conduct for their unit. Examples of these rules may include: no preseason scouting; checking into and out of the unit daily; limited vehicle access; no overnight camping; a marksmanship test; and limiting the number of hunting companions. If you fail to abide by these rules, you might be asked to leave the CWMU. You can also review these rules online at [wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwmu).

### Season dates

The Utah Wildlife Board has established timeframes for hunting on CWMUs (see chart below). Within these timeframes, hunters should expect to hunt at least five days for bucks/bulls and three days for antlerless big game.

Please remember that Sunday does not count as part of the established hunting timeframe unless mutually agreed upon by both the hunter and the CWMU operator.

The CWMU operator may also allow you to hunt additional days within the listed timeframes.

Before you apply for a CWMU permit, contact the operator to obtain general information about hunt dates, permitted weapons and other rules. If you draw a permit, you **must** contact the CWMU operator to confirm your season dates.

Hunt	Dates
Archery buck deer	Aug. 19–Oct. 31
Archery buck pronghorn	Aug. 19–Oct. 31
Archery bull elk	Aug. 19–Oct. 31

Hunt	Dates
Any legal weapon (rifle) buck deer	Sept. 1–Oct. 31
Any legal weapon (rifle) bull elk	Sept. 1–Oct. 31
Any legal weapon buck pronghorn	Sept. 1–Oct. 31
Any legal weapon bull moose	Sept. 1–Oct. 31
Muzzleloader buck deer	Sept. 1–Oct. 31
Muzzleloader bull elk	Sept. 1–Nov. 10

Some deer and elk CWMUs have hunting seasons outside of these timeframes. For more information, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU](http://wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU).

### Reporting your harvest success

If you obtain a CWMU permit for an antlered animal, you must report information about your hunt within 30 days after it ends. Please see page 17 for more information about this important requirement.

### Complaint process

If you wish to lodge a complaint against a CWMU, you should contact the Division of Wildlife Resources immediately. Biologists and conservation officers can supply you with a complaint form, or you can make the complaint in person or over the telephone. You and the operator should make every effort to resolve your issues before they escalate to the Division level.

If your problem cannot be resolved locally, it may be passed on to a CWMU Advisory Committee for review and possible action.

### Learn more

To learn more about the CWMU program or to view maps of CWMU properties, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU](http://wildlife.utah.gov/CWMU).

## FIELD REGULATIONS

Several rules have been established to regulate big game hunting in Utah. These rules exist to ensure big game animals are hunted ethically and to help keep you safe in the field. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using firearms and archery tackle. You should also know the different types of hunting methods that may and may not be used and what you're required to do with any big game animal you take.

### Hunting hours

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-6*

You may take big game animals from 30 minutes before official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset.

### Requirement to wear hunter orange

*Utah Code § 23-20-31*

If you're hunting in an area where a centerfire rifle hunt is occurring, you must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange material on your head, chest and back.

A camouflage pattern in hunter orange meets this requirement.

There are some exceptions to the hunter orange rule. You're not required to wear hunter orange if you're participating in a bighorn sheep hunt, a bison hunt, a moose hunt or a mountain goat hunt—or a hunt that requires you to possess a statewide conservation permit or a statewide sportsman's permit—unless a centerfire rifle hunt is in progress in the same area.

### Checkpoints and officer contacts

*Utah Code §§ 23-20-25 and 77-23-104*

To help the Division fulfill its responsibility as trustee and custodian of Utah's wildlife, Division conservation officers and biologists monitor the taking and possession of big game animals and the required permits, firearms and equipment used for hunting. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and

biologists checking hunters in the field and at checkpoints.

If you're contacted by a conservation officer, you must provide the officer with the items he or she requests, including any licenses and permits required for hunting, any devices used to participate in hunting and any game you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about Utah's big game animals.

### Firearms and archery equipment

#### Prohibited weapons

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7*

You may only use firearms and archery tackle that are expressly permitted in this guidebook.

While hunting big game, you may not use:

- A firearm that's capable of being fired fully automatic
- Any light-enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light
- A firearm equipped with a computerized targeting system that marks a target, calculates a firing solution and automatically discharges the firearm at a point calculated most likely to hit the acquired target

These restrictions do not apply to laser range-finding devices.

#### Rifles and shotguns

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-8*

You may use a rifle or shotgun to take big game, but your firearm and ammunition must meet the following requirements:

- Your rifle must fire centerfire cartridges and expanding bullets.
- Your shotgun must be 20 gauge or larger, and you may use only slug ammunition or buckshot that's .00 or larger in size.

### Handguns

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-9*

You may use a handgun to take big game animals, but the handgun must be a minimum of .24 caliber and must fire a centerfire cartridge with an expanding bullet.

If you're hunting deer or pronghorn, the handgun must develop at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle. If you're hunting elk, moose, bison, bighorn sheep or mountain goat, the handgun must develop at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards.

### Crossbows

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11*

You may only use a crossbow to take big game if you have an any legal weapon permit. You may **not** use a crossbow to take big game if you have an archery or muzzleloader permit. (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12-8* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)

A crossbow used to hunt big game must have:

- A minimum draw weight of 125 pounds
- A minimum draw length of 14 inches, measured between the latch (nocking point) and where the bow limbs attach to the stock
- An overall length of at least 24 inches, measured between the butt stock end and where the bow limbs attach to the stock
- A positive mechanical safety mechanism

A crossbow arrow or bolt used to hunt big game must be at least 16 inches long and have at least one of the following:

- Fixed broadheads that are at least 7/8-inch wide at the widest point

### Are you allowed to possess a weapon?

*Utah Code §§ 76-10-503 and 76-10-512*

It is illegal under Utah Code §§ 76-10-503 and 76-10-512 to possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader or any other dangerous weapon if you have been charged or convicted of certain offenses.

The purchase or possession of any hunting license, permit, tag or certificate of registration from the Division does not authorize the holder to legally possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader or any other dangerous weapon while hunting if they are otherwise restricted from possessing these weapons under Utah Code.

To determine whether you are allowed to possess a weapon, please review the Utah Code sections listed above or contact the law enforcement agency that oversees your case.

- Expandable, mechanical broadheads that are at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position

It is unlawful for any person to:

- Hunt big game with a crossbow during a big game archery hunt, except as provided in *R657-12-8* and *R657-5-11*.
- Carry a cocked crossbow containing an arrow or a bolt while in or on any motorized vehicle on a public highway or other public right-of-way, except as provided in *R657-12-4*.
- Hunt big game with a crossbow bolt that has any chemical, explosive or electronic device attached.
- Hunt big game during the archery season with a crossbow that has an attached magnifying aiming device. However, you can use a crossbow to hunt big game during an any legal weapon hunt.

## Muzzleloaders

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-10*

Muzzleloaders may be used during any big game hunt—except the archery hunt. To hunt big game with a muzzleloader, your muzzleloader must meet all of the following requirements:

- It can be loaded only from the muzzle.
- It may have open sights, peep sights or a variable- or fixed-power scope, including a magnifying scope.
- It can have only one barrel, and the barrel must be at least 18 inches long.
- It cannot be capable of firing more than once without being reloaded.
- The powder and bullet—or powder, sabot and bullet—cannot be bonded together as one unit for loading.
- It must be loaded with black powder or a black powder substitute. The black powder or black powder substitute cannot contain smokeless powder, but may contain some nitrocellulose.

## Hunters with disabilities

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-12*

Utah provides special hunting accommodations for people with disabilities. These accommodations include the opportunity to hunt with a companion, use a crossbow, hunt from a vehicle, use a draw lock and use a scope on archery equipment.

Hunters with disabilities may also apply for an extension to their season if they have a 2017 big game hunting permit in their possession and they meet certain criteria.

To learn more about hunting accommodations for people with disabilities, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/disabled](http://wildlife.utah.gov/disabled) or call any Division office.

- To hunt big game, you must use a lead or expanding bullet or projectile that's at least 40 caliber in size.
- If you're hunting deer or pronghorn, your bullet must be 130 grains or heavier, or your sabot must be 170 grains or heavier.
- If you're hunting elk, moose, bison, bighorn sheep or mountain goat, you must use a 210-grain or heavier bullet, or a sabot bullet that's at least 240 grains.

If you obtain a muzzleloader permit, you may use only the muzzleloader equipment authorized in this section to take the species listed on the permit.

You may not possess or be in control of a rifle or shotgun while in the field during the muzzleloader hunt. For the purposes of this section, "field" means a location where you are likely to find the species listed on your permit. (You are not considered to be in the field if you are in an established camping area or traveling in a fully enclosed automobile or truck.) This restriction does not apply to the following people:

- Hunters who are licensed to hunt upland game or waterfowl (You must comply with the regulations in the *Upland Game & Turkey Guidebook* or *Waterfowl Guidebook*, and you may possess only those firearms and archery equipment that are legal for taking upland game or waterfowl.)
- Hunters who are licensed to hunt big game species during archery or rifle hunts that coincide with the muzzleloader hunt
- Livestock owners who are protecting their livestock
- Individuals who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon (You may not use your concealed firearm to hunt or take protected wildlife.)

## Archery equipment

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11*

Archery equipment may be used during any big game hunt except the muzzleloader hunt.

To hunt big game with archery equipment, your equipment must meet all of the following requirements:

- Your bow must have a minimum pull of 40 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first.
- Your arrowheads must have two or more sharp-cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring. If you're using expanding arrowheads, the arrowheads must have two or more sharp-cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring when expanded.
- Your arrows must be at least 20 inches long, from the tip of the arrowhead to the tip of the nock, and must weigh at least 300 grains.

You may not use any of the following archery equipment to take big game during the archery season:

- A crossbow (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)
  - Arrows with chemically treated or explosive arrowheads
  - A mechanical device that holds the bow at any increment of draw (Please see *Utah Admin. Rule R657-12* and *Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11* for exceptions to this rule.)
  - A release aid that is not handheld or that supports the draw weight of the bow
  - A bow with a magnifying-aiming device
- Please remember that your bow may be equipped with a range-finding device. Also, if you carry arrows in or on a vehicle, the arrows must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case.
- If you obtain an archery permit, you may use only the archery equipment authorized in

this section to take the species listed on the permit.

You may not possess or be in control of a rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader while in the field during an archery hunt. For the purposes of this section, "field" means a location where you are likely to find the species listed on your permit. (You are not considered to be in the field if you are in an established camping area or traveling in a fully enclosed automobile or truck.)

This restriction does not apply to the following people:

- Hunters who are licensed to hunt upland game or waterfowl (You must comply with the regulations in the *Upland Game & Turkey Guidebook* or *Waterfowl Guidebook*, and you may possess only those firearms and archery equipment that are legal for taking upland game or waterfowl.)
- Hunters who are licensed to hunt big game species during rifle or muzzleloader hunts that coincide with the archery hunt
- Livestock owners who are protecting their livestock

## State-licensed guides and outfitters

Guides and outfitters must be licensed with the State of Utah before they can legally take hunters onto public land to hunt big game, cougars or black bears.

Before you use a guide or an outfitter, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/guides](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guides) to determine if he or she is licensed in Utah.

The Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing is the regulatory agency for this law. For more information, please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/DOPL](http://wildlife.utah.gov/DOPL).



- Individuals who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon (You may not use your concealed firearm to hunt or take protected wildlife.)

## Loaded firearms in a vehicle

Utah Code §§§§ 76-10-502, 76-10-504, 76-10-505 and 76-10-523

You may not carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle unless you meet all of the following conditions:

- You own the vehicle or have permission from the vehicle's owner.
- The firearm is a handgun.
- You are 18 years of age or older.

A pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun is considered to be loaded when there is an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile in the firing position.

## Utah's Walk-in Access Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-56-13

If you enjoy using Utah's Walk-in Access (WIA) program and you are 14 years old or older, you must obtain a free WIA authorization number in order to access any WIA properties.

The Division is using the authorization numbers to track who's using WIA properties throughout the year and to assess the program's value to the public.

To obtain your authorization number, visit [wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess](http://wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess) and click "Get an authorization number" at the top of the page. Follow the instructions and obtain your number. You can also request a number by calling 1-800-221-0659.

Visit [wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess](http://wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess) for detailed information on all WIA properties.

Pistols and revolvers are also considered to be loaded when an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile is in a position whereby the manual operation of any mechanism once would cause the unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile to be fired.

A muzzleloading firearm is considered loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or shot in the barrel or cylinders.

The firearm restrictions in this section do not apply to concealed firearm permit holders, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

## Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-12

You may not discharge a dangerous weapon or firearm under any of the following circumstances:

- From a vehicle
- From, upon or across any highway
- At power lines or signs
- At railroad equipment or facilities, including any sign or signal
- Within Utah state park camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps or developed beaches
- Without written permission from the owner or property manager, within 600 feet of:
  - A house, dwelling or any other building
  - Any structure in which a domestic animal is kept or fed, including a barn, poultry yard, corral, feeding pen or stockyard

## Carrying a dangerous weapon while under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Utah Code § 76-10-528

You may not carry a dangerous weapon or hunt big game while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please see Utah Code § 76-10-528 at [wildlife.utah.gov/rules](http://wildlife.utah.gov/rules) for more information.

## Areas with special restrictions

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-12

The following areas have certain restrictions. Please be familiar with them before heading into the field.

## Counties and local municipalities

Please check county and local municipality ordinances regarding firearm restrictions before hunting in these areas.

## State waterfowl management areas

In 2017, you may hunt big game during the archery season on the following waterfowl management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, Browns Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Locomotive Springs and Redmond.

All of Utah's other waterfowl management areas—except the Stewart Lake Waterfowl Management Area—are closed to big game hunting.

## State parks

Utah Admin. Rule R651-614

Hunting any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Utah Admin. Rule R651-614-4.

Hunting with rifles, handguns or muzzleloaders in park areas designated open

to hunting is prohibited within one mile of all park facilities, including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps and developed beaches.

Hunting with shotguns or archery tackle is prohibited within one-quarter mile of the above areas.

## National parks and monuments

All of Utah's national parks and monuments—except the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments—are closed to hunting.

## Native American trust lands

To hunt on Native American trust lands, you must obtain a permit from the Native American tribe that owns the land. You must also observe all of the tribe's wildlife regulations while hunting on these trust lands.

## Military installations

All of the military installations in Utah, including Camp Williams, are closed to hunting and trespassing unless you have authorized permission.

## Salt Lake County

In Salt Lake County, you may not do any of the following:

- Hunt big game within one-half mile of Silver Lake in Big Cottonwood Canyon
- Hunt on the Red Butte Research Natural Area, which is closed to public access
- Hunt in Emigration Township with a rifle or muzzleloader. This area is restricted to archery tackle only. Visit [wildlife.utah.gov/maps](http://wildlife.utah.gov/maps) to view a map of the archery-only area in Emigration Township.
- Hunt within the portion of Alta that is closed to hunting. Please contact the town of Alta for hunt boundaries and other information.

- Hunt buck deer or bull elk with a rifle or muzzleloader south of I-80 and east of I-15 (see map online at [wildlife.utah.gov/maps](http://wildlife.utah.gov/maps)).

Also, before hunting in the Salt Lake County area, please check the Salt Lake County and local municipality ordinances regarding firearm and hunting restrictions.

### CWMUs and limited-entry units

There are a few restrictions that apply to CWMUs and limited-entry hunting units:

- You may not hunt on a CWMU unless you obtain a permit to hunt a particular species on that CWMU.
- If you have an any legal weapon (rifle) permit for bull elk, you may not hunt the Monroe unit during the spike bull elk hunt.
- Archery hunters may not kill a cow elk on the Book Cliffs hunting unit.

### Obtain permission to hunt private property

The Division cannot guarantee access to private land, and the agency does not have the names of landowners who own property where hunts occur.

Under certain circumstances, you must obtain written permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting or trapping on private lands. Ideally, you should have permission **before** you apply for or obtain a permit.

If you obtain written permission in advance, you know you'll be able to use the permit if you draw it.

You can download a landowner permission card at [https://wildlife.utah.gov/law/pdf/landowner\\_permission\\_card.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/law/pdf/landowner_permission_card.pdf).

### Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve

You may use only archery equipment, muzzleloaders or shotguns while hunting on the Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve.

### Green River—Jensen, Utah

You may not discharge a firearm, except a shotgun or a muzzleloader, from, upon or across the Green River near Jensen, Utah (from the bridge on US-40 upstream to the Dinosaur National Monument boundary).

### Motorized vehicle access on wildlife management areas

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-14*

Motorized vehicle travel on state wildlife management areas is restricted to county roads, parking areas, and areas marked or posted open to motorized vehicle travel. Seasonal closures may occur.

### Trespassing

*Utah Code §§ 23-20-14 and 23-20-3.5*

While taking wildlife or engaging in wildlife-related activities, you may not—without written permission—enter or remain on privately owned land that is:

- Cultivated
- Properly posted
- Fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders

In addition, you may not:

- Enter or remain on private land when directed not to do so by the owner or a person acting for the owner
- Obstruct any entrance or exit to private property

“Cultivated land” is land that is readily identifiable as land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops, land used for the raising of crops, or a pasture that is artificially irrigated.

“Permission” means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private land that is cultivated or properly posted. Permission must include all of the following details:

- The signature of the owner or person in charge
- The name of the person being given permission
- The appropriate dates
- A general description of the land

You can find an authorization form online at [wildlife.utah.gov/permission](http://wildlife.utah.gov/permission).

“Properly posted” means that signs prohibiting trespass—or bright yellow, bright orange or fluorescent paint—are clearly displayed at all corners, on fishing streams crossing property lines, and on roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land. Or, they are displayed in a manner that is visible to a person in the area.

You may not post private property you do not own or legally control or land that is open to the public as provided by Utah Code § 23-21-4. In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or its parts while trespassing in violation of Utah Code § 23-20-14.

You are guilty of a class B misdemeanor if you violate any provision described in this section. Your license, tag or permit privileges may also be suspended.

### Prohibited hunting methods

*Utah Code §§ 23-20-3, 76-10-504, 76-10-523 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-13*

### Spotlighting

You may not use a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to take or locate any protected wildlife (including big game) if you have any of the following weapons in your possession:

- Rifle
- Shotgun

- Archery equipment
- Crossbow
- Muzzleloader

The use of a spotlight or other artificial light in any area where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife. (Prima facie evidence means that if you're spotlighting, the burden of proof falls on you to prove that you were not attempting to locate protected wildlife.)

The provisions of this section do not apply to the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife.

In addition, the above restrictions do not apply to concealed firearm permit holders, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

### Use of vehicle or aircraft

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-14*

You may not use an airplane, drone or any other airborne vehicle or device, or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle (except a vessel)—including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles—to take protected wildlife, including big game.

Also, you may not take protected wildlife that are being chased, harmed, harassed, rallied, herded, flushed, pursued or moved by an aircraft or any other vehicle or transportation device.

In addition, you may not use any type of aircraft, from 48 hours before any big game hunt begins through 48 hours after any big game hunting season ends, to perform any of the following activities:

- Transport a hunter or hunting equipment into a hunting area
- Transport a big game carcass
- Locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife

Flying slowly at low altitudes, or hovering, circling or repeatedly flying over an area where protected wildlife is likely to be found, may be used as evidence that you've violated the restrictions above.

### Use of dogs

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-15*

Dogs may not be used to take, chase, harm or harass big game. You may, however, use one blood-trailing dog—controlled by leash—to track wounded animals and aid in recovery. You may only use the tracking dog within 72 hours of shooting a big game animal and during lawful hunting hours.

### Party hunting

*Utah Code § 23-19-1 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-15*

You may not take a big game animal for another person. For example, you cannot kill a big game animal, and then tag the animal with a tag that belongs to one of your hunting companions. This practice is called “party hunting,” and it's illegal.

The only exception to this rule is if a mentor shares a permit and tag with a minor as part of the Hunter Mentoring program. For details on this program, please see the box on page 10.

### No drones allowed

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-14*

Although drones are growing in popularity, it is illegal to use them while scouting or hunting protected wildlife in Utah.

### Big game contests

*Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-16*

You may not enter a contest or hold a contest that is based on big game or its parts and that offers cash or prizes totaling more than \$500.

### Tagging, transporting and exporting big game

#### Tagging requirements

*Utah Code § 23-20-30 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-17*

After you've taken a big game animal, you must tag the animal before moving the carcass or leaving the site of the kill.

To tag a big game animal, completely detach the tag from your big game permit and completely remove the three notches that indicate the date the animal was taken and

the sex of the animal. Then, attach the tag to the animal so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating the date or sex, or tag more than one animal, using the same tag. Also, you may not hunt or pursue big game after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from your permit.

Your tag must remain with the largest portion of the animal's meat until all of the meat has been eaten.

### Transporting big game within Utah

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-18*

You must obey the following rules to transport big game in Utah:

- The head or sex organs of the animal you've taken must remain attached to the largest portion of its carcass.
- If you take an elk on a spike bull unit, the antlers must remain attached to the animal's skull plate, and you must transport the skull plate and antlers with the carcass.
- You must accompany the carcass of any big game animal you've harvested, and you must have a valid permit that corresponds to the tag that's attached to the carcass.

There is one exception to this rule: you may transport a big game animal you did not take if you obtain a shipping permit or a disposal receipt from the Division, or you have a donation slip. You may not donate big game in the field.

For more information, please see *Donating big game* on page 46.

### Transporting big game out of Utah

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-19*

You may transport big game or its parts out of Utah if you accompany the big game

animal you harvested and you have a valid permit that corresponds to the tag on the animal. The tag must be attached to the largest portion of the carcass.

If you didn't harvest the animal, you must obtain a shipping permit from the Division before taking the animal or its parts out of Utah.

### Bringing big game into Utah

*Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-42*

If an elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer or moose has been taken from an area that has been diagnosed with Chronic Wasting Disease, the following are the only parts of the animal you may bring into Utah:

- Meat that is cut and wrapped, either commercially or privately
- Quarters or other portions of meat (no part of the spinal column or head may be attached to the meat)
- Meat that is boned out
- Hides with no heads attached
- Skull plates with antlers attached, but the skull plates must be cleaned of all meat and tissue
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached
- Upper canine teeth (also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories)
- Finished taxidermy heads

You can learn which areas in North America have been diagnosed with Chronic Wasting Disease by visiting [wildlife.utah.gov/cwd](http://wildlife.utah.gov/cwd) or any Division office.

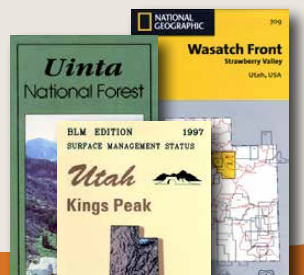
If you're not a resident of Utah, you can transport harvested elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer from areas that have CWD. However, you may not leave any part of the harvested animal in Utah, and you may not stay more than 24 hours in the state. In addition, your deer or elk may not be processed in Utah.

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## Possession and use of big game

### Donating big game

Utah Code § 23-20-9

The following are the only places you may donate, or give, a big game animal or its parts to another person:

- The residence of the donor
- The residence of the recipient
- A meat locker
- A storage plant
- A meat-processing facility

A written statement of donation must be kept with the animal or its parts. The statement must show:

- The number and species of the wildlife or parts donated
- The date of donation
- The permit number of the donor
- The signature of the donor

There is one exception to these rules. You may donate the hide of a big game animal to another person or organization at any location, and a donation slip is not required.

### Waste of game

Utah Code § 23-20-8

You may not waste any big game animal or permit it to be wasted or spoiled. (Waste means to abandon a big game animal or allow it to spoil or be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use. For example, using the meat as fertilizer or for trapping bait is not considered a beneficial use of the meat.)

In addition, you may not kill or cripple a big game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it. You must immediately kill any animal you wound and tag the animal.

### Purchasing or selling big game or its parts

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-20

You may not buy, sell or offer, or possess for sale, barter, exchange or trade, any big game animal or its parts. The only exceptions are the following:

- Antlers, heads and horns of legally taken big game may be bought or sold from Feb. 15 through July 31.
- Untanned hides of legally taken big game may be bought or sold from Aug. 1 through Feb. 14.

- Inedible byproducts of legally possessed big game—except for hides, antlers and horns—may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- Tanned hides of legally taken big game may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- Shed antlers and horns may be bought or sold any time of the year.
- Protected wildlife that the Division obtains may be sold or donated by the Division or its agents (usually Utah State Surplus) any time of the year. Also, you may purchase or receive protected wildlife from the Division any time of the year.

If you sell or buy antlers, heads, horns or untanned hides, you must keep a record that states all of the following information:

- The name and address of the person who harvested the animal
- The date you sold or bought the items
- The permit number of the person who harvested the animal

There is one exception to this rule: scouting programs and other charitable organizations do not need to keep a transaction record if they're using untanned hides.

### Possession of antlers and horns

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-21

You may possess antlers or horns—or parts of antlers or horns—that were obtained:

- From lawfully harvested big game
- By lawfully meeting the requirements listed in the *Purchasing or selling big game or its parts* section on page 46
- From lawfully gathered antlers or horns shed by big game animals

You may gather shed antlers or horns—or parts of shed antlers or horns—statewide, but there are a couple of seasonal requirements.

From Feb. 1 to April 15, you need an antler-gathering certificate on your person while collecting shed antlers or horns. You can obtain this certificate free of charge by visiting [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) and completing an online education course. You do not need an antler-gathering certificate at any other time of the year.

**Important:** Do not trespass on closed areas or private lands to collect shed antlers or horns.

"Shed antlers" are antlers that a big game animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual life cycle. Shed antlers have a rounded base that's commonly called an antler button or burr.

A "shed horn" is the sheath from the horn of a pronghorn that the animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual life cycle. Pronghorn are the only big game animals that shed their horns.

### Finding a skull with antlers or horns attached

If you find a skull with the antlers or horns still attached, it's possible the animal was poached. **Do NOT pick up or move the skull, or disturb any footprints or other evidence.** Instead, we encourage you to take the following steps:

- Take photos of the skull from a couple of angles
- Pinpoint the location of the skull (preferably its GPS coordinates)
- Call or visit a Division office to report your find
- Provide key details in your report

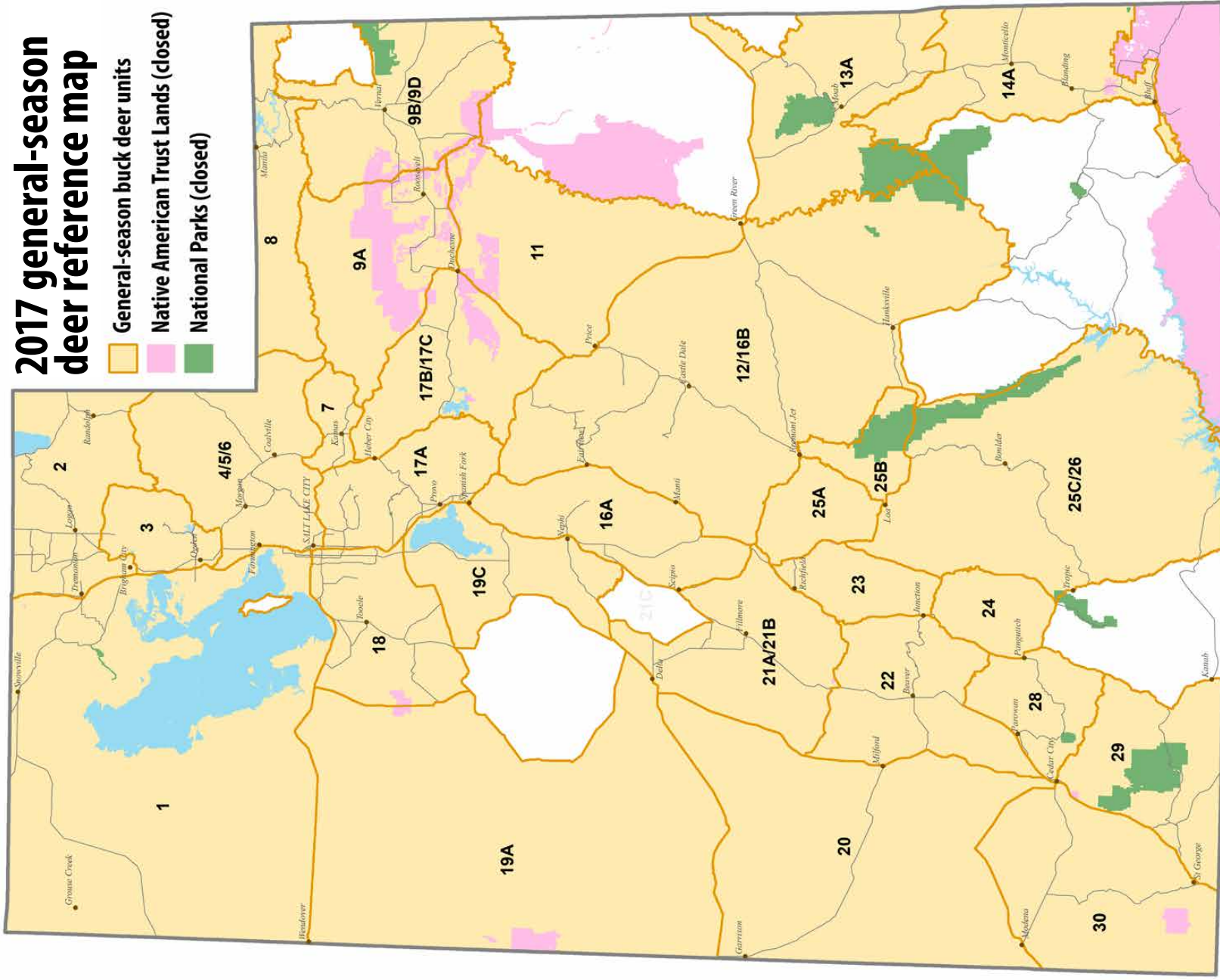
The Division will send a conservation officer to investigate if the animal was poached. If it's clear that the animal died of natural causes, we may allow you to keep your find.



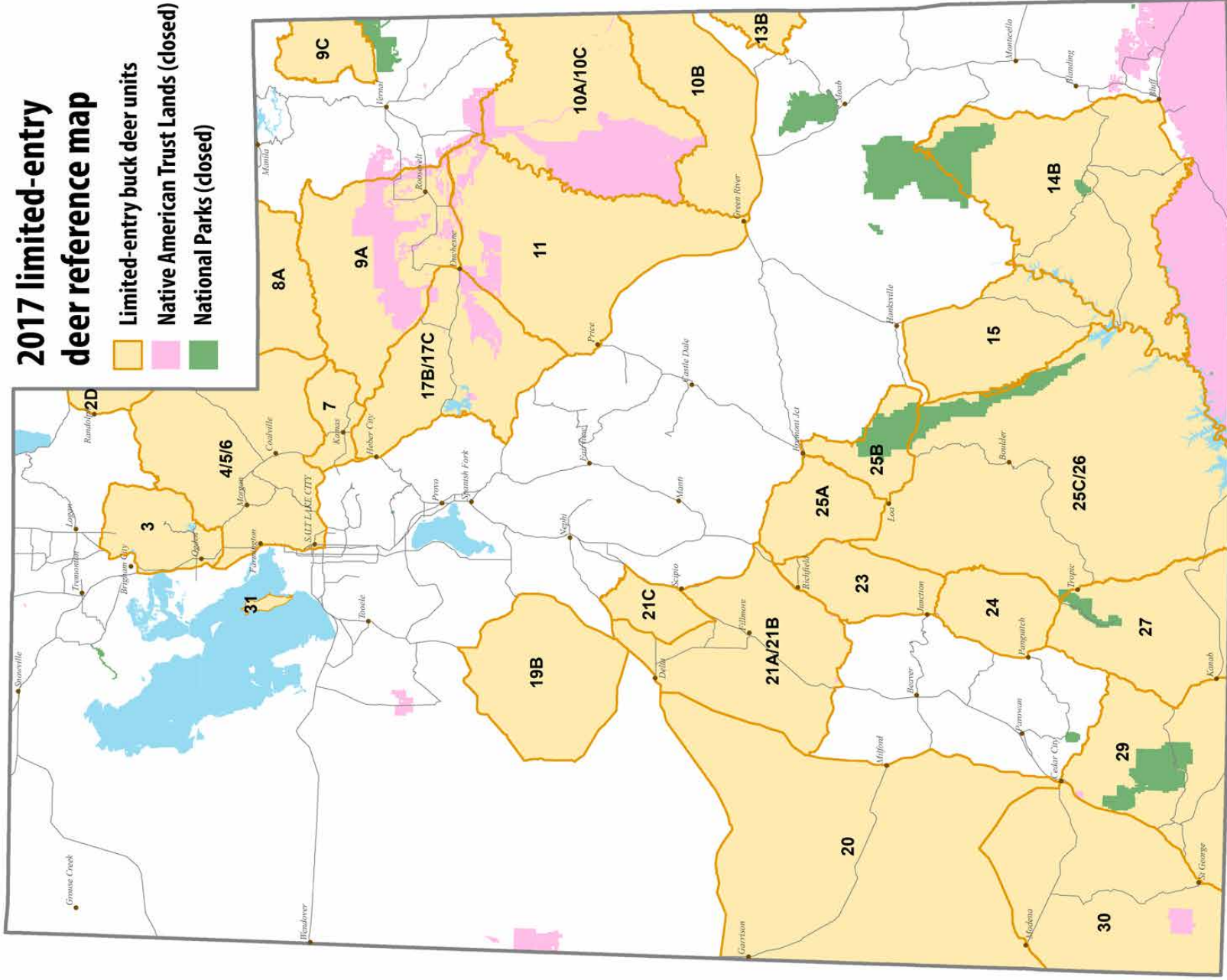


# 2017 general-season deer reference map

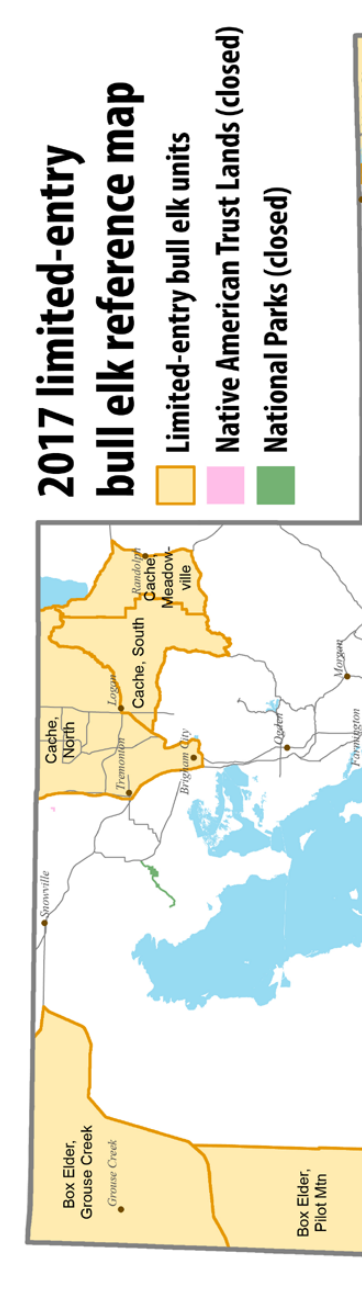
- General-season buck deer units
- Native American Trust Lands (closed)
- National Parks (closed)



**This map is for general reference only.** Please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner) for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** deer CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.



**This map is for general reference only.** Please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner) for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** deer CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.

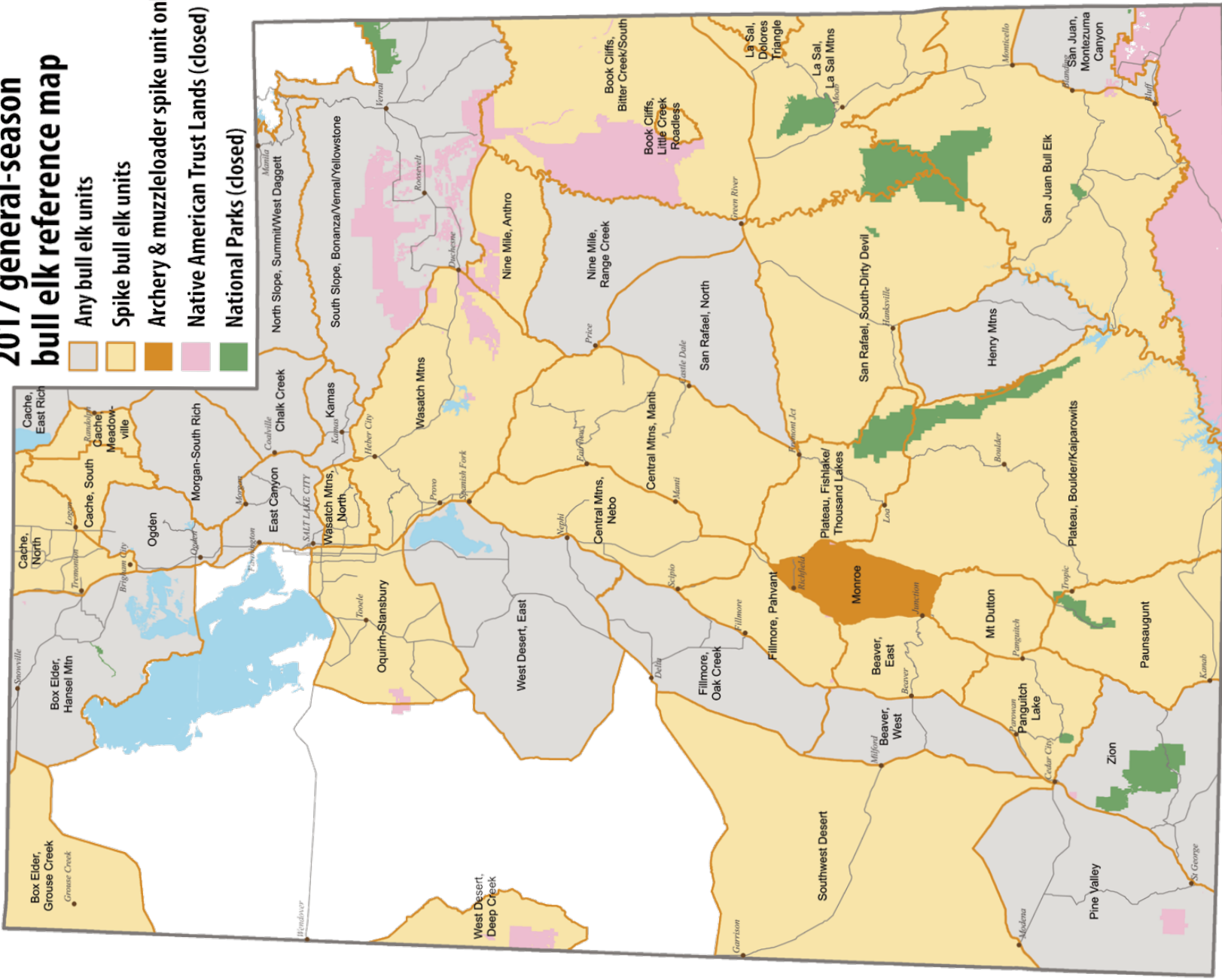


**This map is for general reference only.** Please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner) for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** elk CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.



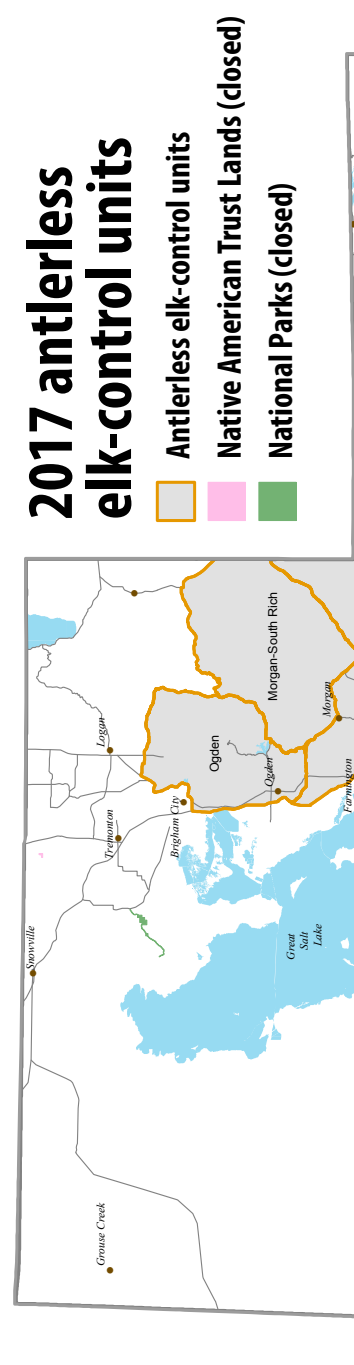
## 2017 general-season bull elk reference map

- Any bull elk units
- Spike bull elk units
- Archery & muzzleloader spike unit only
- Native American Trust Lands (closed)
- National Parks (closed)



**This map is for general reference only.** Please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner](http://wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner) for detailed boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** elk CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.





**This map is for general reference only.** Please visit [wildlife.utah.gov/ElkControl](http://wildlife.utah.gov/ElkControl) for more information about the program, and to see detailed maps and boundary descriptions. All hunt units **exclude** elk CWMUs, Native American Trust Lands, National Parks and other areas closed to hunting.

## DEFINITIONS

*Utah Code § 23-13-2 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-2 & R657-37*

**Any legal weapon** means the weapons described under *Firearms and archery equipment* on page 36.

**Arrow quiver** means a portable arrow case that completely encases all edges of the broadheads.

**Big game** means species of hoofed protected wildlife.

**Buck deer** means a deer with antlers longer than five inches.

**Buck pronghorn** means a pronghorn with horns longer than five inches.

**Bull elk** means an elk with antlers longer than five inches.

**Bull moose** means a moose with antlers longer than its ears.

**Carcass** means the dead body of an animal or its parts.

**Certificate of registration** means a document issued under any rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board granting authority to engage in activities not covered by a license, permit or tag.

**CWMU** means Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit.

**Domicile** means the place:

- where an individual has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment;
- to which the individual if absent, intends to return; and
- in which the individual and the individual's family voluntarily reside, not for a special or temporary purpose,

but with the intention of making a permanent home.

To create a new domicile an individual must:

- abandon the old domicile; and
- be able to prove that a new domicile has been established.

**Draw lock** means a mechanical device used to hold and support the draw weight of a conventional or compound bow at any increment of draw, until released by the archer using a trigger mechanism and safety attached to the device.

**Highway** means the entire width between property lines of every way or place of any nature when any part of it is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for vehicular travel.

**Hunter's choice** means either sex may be taken.

**Hunting** means to take or pursue a reptile, amphibian, bird or mammal by any means.

**Limited-entry hunt** means any hunt that is identified as limited-entry and listed in the hunt table of this guidebook, and that does not include general or once-in-a-lifetime hunts.

**Limited-entry permit** means any permit obtained for a limited-entry hunt by any means, including multi-season permits, conservation permits, expo permits, sportsman permits, CWMU permits and limited-entry landowner permits.

**Nonresident** means a person who does not qualify as a resident.

**Once-in-a-lifetime hunt** means any hunt that is identified as once-in-a-lifetime and listed in the hunt table of this guidebook, and that does not include general or limited-entry hunts.

**Once-in-a-lifetime permit** means any permit obtained for a once-in-a-lifetime hunt by any means, including conservation permits, expo permits, sportsman permits, CWMU permits and limited-entry landowner permits.

**Permit** means a document, including a stamp, which grants authority to engage in specific activities under the Wildlife Resources Code or a rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board.

**Possession** means actual or constructive possession.

**Private lands** means, for the purposes of this guidebook, any land owned in fee by an individual or legal entity, **excluding the following types of lands:** land owned by the state or federal government; land owned by a county or municipality; land owned by a Native American tribe; land enrolled in a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit under R657-37; and land where public access for big game hunting has been secured.

**Ram** means a male desert bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

**Resident** means a person who has a domicile (fixed permanent home and principal establishment) in Utah for six consecutive months immediately preceding the purchase of a license or permit, AND DOES NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

An individual retains Utah residency if he or she leaves Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States, or for religious or educational purposes, and does NOT claim residency

for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

Members of the armed forces of the United States and dependents are residents as of the date the member reports for duty under assigned orders in Utah, if:

- the member is NOT on temporary duty in Utah and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- the member presents a copy of his or her assignment orders to a Division office to verify the member's qualification as a resident.

A nonresident attending an institution of higher learning in Utah as a full-time student may qualify as a resident if the student has been present in Utah for 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the purchase of the license or permit and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

A Utah resident license or permit is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing or trapping is purchased in any other state or country.

An individual DOES NOT qualify as a resident if he or she is an absentee landowner paying property tax on land in Utah.

**Sell** means to offer or possess for sale, barter, exchange or trade, or the act of selling, bartering, exchanging or trading.

**Shed antlers** are antlers that a big game animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual lifecycle.

**Shed horns** are the sheaths from the horns of a pronghorn that the animal has dropped naturally as part of its annual lifecycle. Pronghorn are the only big game animals that shed their horns.

**Spike bull** means a bull elk which has at least one antler beam with no branching above the ears. Branched means a projection on an antler longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip.

**Spoiled** means impairment of the flesh of wildlife which renders it unfit for human consumption.

**Tag** means a card, label or other identification device issued for attachment to the carcass of protected wildlife.

**Take** means to:

- hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or
- attempt any of the above actions.

**Vessel** means every type of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

**Waste** means to abandon protected wildlife or to allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use.

**Youth** means someone who is 17 years old or younger on July 31 of any given year.