

## RAC AGENDA – December 2024



1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes  
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update  
- RAC Chair **INFORMATIONAL**
4. Regional Update  
- DWR Regional Supervisor **INFORMATIONAL**
5. Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027  
- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator **ACTION**
6. Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations  
- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator **ACTION**
7. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator **ACTION**
8. Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator **ACTION**
9. Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator **ACTION**
10. Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64  
- Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist III **ACTION**
11. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations  
- Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator **ACTION**
12. West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans  
- Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist – Tooele District **ACTION**

### Meeting Locations

**CR RAC** – Dec. 10th 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources Conference Room  
1115 N. Main St., Springville  
<https://youtube.com/live/uiNEunTx8OQ>

**SER RAC** – Dec. 18th 6:00 PM  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main St., Green River  
<https://youtube.com/live/TidNSIV8o94>

**NR RAC** – Dec. 11th 6:00 PM  
Weber County Commission Chambers  
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden  
<https://youtube.com/live/4Eg1lvWSL0w>

**NER RAC** – Dec. 19th 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources NER Office  
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal  
<https://youtube.com/live/QMBwPXeQu9A>

**SR RAC** – Dec. 17th 6:00 PM  
DNR Richfield City Complex  
2031 Industrial Park Road, Richfield  
<https://youtube.com/live/1U6-wGJ1LIA>

**Board Meeting** – January 9th 9:00 AM  
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay  
<https://youtube.com/live/Ow4MtC-4Nz8>



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

## Department of Natural Resources

Joel Ferry  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY  
Division Director

# MEMORANDUM

Date: October 28, 2024

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Jason Jones, Migratory Game Bird and Falconry Programs Coordinator

Subject: **2025-2027 WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY UPLAND SPECIES HUNT RECOMMENDATIONS**

This year the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is recommending combing migratory upland species with migratory waterfowl as “migratory game birds”. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is also recommending a 3-year cycle for “migratory game birds” hunting regulations. The following proposed season dates, bag limits and other changes would apply for the Waterfowl and migratory upland species (i.e., migratory game birds) Guidebook for a 3-year cycle:

#### Youth Day

Northern and Southern Area: Two weeks before the waterfowl season opening day

#### Duck/Coot/Merganser/Snipe (Max. Season, Bag and Possession allowed; 2 wood duck bag)

Northern Area: First Saturday in October

Southern Area: Ends the last Saturday in January

#### Dark Goose (Max. Season, Bag and Possession allowed)

Eastern Box Elder Area: Same dates as duck hunt

Northern Area: First eight days of waterfowl season – Split – Oct 26 to Jan 31

Wasatch Front Area: First eight days of waterfowl season – Split – Nov 10 to Feb 15

Southern Area: Same dates as duck hunt

- If opening day is a Sunday, the hunt will open one day later

#### White-fronted Goose Season

Same season dates and hunt areas as dark goose areas

(Max. Season, Bag and Possession allowed)



Light Goose (Max. Season, Bag and Possession allowed)

Eastern Box Elder, Northern and Wasatch Front Area: October 15 – December 22.

February 1 – March 10

- If Oct 15 or Feb 1 is a Sunday or leap year, the hunt will open one day later

Southern Area: October 25 – December 15; January 15 – March 10

- Closed in Millard County from February 15 – February 28
- If Oct 25 or Jan 15 is a Sunday or leap year, the hunt will open one day later

Tundra Swan season (permits allocated through flyway process; 2,750)

- First Saturday in October – Second Sunday in December
- Great Salt Lake Hunt Area

Proposed Rule Change 657-9

- Proposal: combining Waterfowl, Snipe, Coot, Cranes, Doves, Band-tailed Pigeon, American Crow under 657-9a as “Migratory Game birds”
- Rationale: Streamline all HIP (Harvest Information Program) birds into one regulation guide to reduce confusion for the public (increase customer service & simplify regulation)
- These species are already managed under the Migratory Game Bird Coordinator’s program, with Federal government having ultimate oversight.

American Crow

Area: Statewide: Season dates: Sept. 1–30, and Dec. 1st–Feb. 28

- Bag limit is: 10 birds daily - Possession limit: 3 times the bag limit
- If the opener is on a Sunday, the hunt will open one day later

Band-tailed Pigeon

Area: Statewide - Season dates: Sept. 1–14

- Free permit required
- Bag limit: 2 daily-Possession limit: 3 times the bag limit
- If the opener is on a Sunday, the hunt will open one day later

Mourning and white-winged dove Area: Statewide – Season dates: Sept. 1-Oct30

- Bag limit: 15 daily (in any combination): Possession is 3 times the bag limit
- If the opener is on a Sunday, the hunt will open one day later

Sandhill Crane

Crane allocations are set annually through the Flyway process and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Hunt areas are defined by federal hunting frameworks. The daily bag limit is one bird, and permits are distributed through a draw. There are five different hunts, each with its own season dates (Uintah Co. hunts run consecutively):

- Rich co., Cache Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in Sept. -2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. in Sept. – 10 day
- Box Eder Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in Sept. – 60-day season



- Uintah Co. (early) Sat. closet to Oct. 1 – 20-day season
- Uintah Co (Mid) 20-day season (late Oct. -Mid Nov.)
- Uintah Co (Late) 20-day season (Mid Nov. – early Dec.)

Falconry:

Area: Statewide

Falconry seasons align with traditional waterfowl hunting. Here are the bag and possession limits:

Falconry Waterfowl (Snipe, Ducks, Mergansers, Geese, Coots, Scaup):

- Daily bag: 3 birds (singly or in combination)
- Possession limit: 9 birds

Falconry Upland Migratory Game Birds:

- If Sept. 1 falls on a Sunday, the season opens the following day.

Falconry Band-tailed Pigeon, Doves:

- Season: Sept. 1 – Dec. 16
- Daily bag: 3 birds (in combination)

Falconry American Crow:

- Seasons: Sept. 1–30 & Dec. 1–Feb. 28
- Daily bag: 3

Falconry Sandhill Crane:

- Same season as the traditional hunt.
- Permit required, daily bag: 1 bird.

Proposed Rule Change 657-9-2 Definitions

- "Migratory game bird" means, for the purposes of this rule, waterfowl, snipe, coot, American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, and Sandhill crane.
- "Retrieval Zone" means areas adjacent to rest areas where game retrieval is allowed but hunting is restricted "BlackHawk is identified as a waterfowl management area
- "Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area" is identified as a waterfowl management area

R657-9-3. Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program

- Updated to include "migratory game birds", and remove instructions to call a phone number for HIP registration (HIP registration is exclusively online)

R657-9-5. Permit Applications for Tundra Swan

- Updated to include band-tailed pigeon, and Sandhill Crane
- R657-9a-6. Tagging Tundra Swans Updated to include tagging requirements for Sandhill Cranes

R657-9-7. Return of Tundra Swan Harvest and Hunt Information.



- Updated to reflect that Tundra swan permit holders must present any harvested swan (except trumpeter swans) or its head for measurement, along with harvest details, to DWR within three days, but if a trumpeter swan is taken, the entire bird must be presented to DWR.

R657-9-9. Nontoxic Shot.

- Updated to include Sandhill Crane
- Updated to include the BlackHawk; Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area

R657-9-10. Use of Weapons on State Waterfowl Management Areas.

- Updated to include the following waterfowl or wildlife management areas: BlackHawk and Provo River Delta

R657-9-13. Airboats

- Updated to include BlackHawk and the Provo River Delta

R657-9-142. Motorized Vehicle Access.

- Streamlines the rule by Removing line (6) concerning electric assisted bicycles to instead reference R657-28-4 which outlines prohibited activities on waterfowl and wildlife management areas.

R657-9-30. Use of Dogs.

- Updated to add “BlackHawk”
- Updated to add that the Skipper Bay Trail of the Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area is managed by Utah County Trail Department, and the Utah County trail system leash ordinance applies.

R657-9-302. Rest Areas and No Shooting Areas.

- Updated to extend the Rest area at Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area north to the Unit 1 dike for safety purposes.
- Updated to add a retrieval zone and extend the rest lake at Salt Creek Waterfowl management area. Hunters have been setting up so close to the rest lake that birds are avoiding the area, and it therefore does not serve it’s purposes as a rest lake. This change should help mitigate this issue.
- Updated to add the areas at the Provo River Delta that hunters must be 600’ from to discharge a firearm.

R657-9-33. Falconry

- Updated to add that falconers must obtain a band-tailed pigeon permit before taking band-tailed pigeon and a sandhill crane permit before taking sandhill crane.

R657-9-34. Waterfowl Blinds on Waterfowl Management Areas

- Updated to Waterfowl management and “Wildlife Management Areas”



## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-6. Taking Upland Game.**

#### **R657-6-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305 and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 2004 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking upland game.

(2) Specific season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, number of permits and other administrative details that may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

#### **R657-6-2. Definitions.**

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Bait" means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices upland game.

(b) "Baiting" means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for upland game to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

(c) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations.

(d) "Falconry" means the sport of taking quarry by a trained raptor.

(e) "Landowner" means any individual, family or corporation who owns property in Utah and whose name appears on the deed as the owner of eligible property or whose name appears as the purchaser on a contract for sale of eligible property.

~~(f) "Migratory game bird" means, for the purposes of this rule, American crow, mourning dove, white-winged dove, band-tailed pigeon, and Sandhill crane.~~

~~(g)~~

~~(f)~~ "Night vision device" means any device that enhances visible or non-visible light, including: night vision, thermal imaging, infrared imaging, or electronics that enhance the visible or non-visible light spectrum.

~~(h)~~ "Pre-charged pneumatic air rifle" means a rifle that fires a single projectile with compressed air released from a chamber:

(i) built into the rifle; and

(ii) pressurized at a minimum of 2,000 pounds per square inch from an external high compression device or source, such as a hand pump, compressor, or scuba tank firing a single:

(A) broadhead tipped bolt or arrow; or

(B) pellet or slug during fall turkey season that:

(I) is .25 caliber or larger;

(II) weighs 18 grains or more; and

(III) is fired at a velocity to produce at least 30 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

~~(h)~~ "Transport" means to ship, carry, export, import, receive or deliver for shipment, conveyance, carriage, exportation or importation.

~~(i)~~ "Upland game" means pheasant, California quail, Gambel's Quail, chukar partridge, gray partridge, greater sage-grouse, ruffed grouse, dusky grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, white-tailed ptarmigan, American crow, mourning dove, white-winged dove, band-tailed pigeon, and Sandhill crane.

(j) "Youth group" means any organization in which youth are enrolled; FFA, Scouts, 4H.

#### **~~R657-6-3. Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program.~~**

~~(1) A person must obtain a Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number to hunt migratory game birds.~~

~~(2)(a) A person may register online as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey to obtain their HIP registration number.~~

~~(b) A person must write their HIP registration number on their current valid hunting license.~~

~~(3) Any person obtaining a HIP registration number will be required to provide their:~~

~~(a) hunting license number;~~

~~(b) hunting license type;~~

~~(c) name;~~

~~(d) address;~~

~~(e) phone number;~~

~~(f) birth date; and~~

~~(g) information about the previous year's migratory game bird hunts.~~

~~(4) Lifetime license holders will receive a sticker every three years from the Division to write their HIP number on and place on their lifetime license card.~~

~~(5) Any person hunting migratory game birds will be required, while in the field, to possess a hunting or combination license with the HIP registration number recorded on the license, demonstrating they have registered and provided information for the HIP program.~~

**R657-6-4. Permits for Band-tailed Pigeon, Greater Sage-grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse and White-tailed Ptarmigan.**

- (1)(a) A person may not take or possess:
- (i) Band-tailed pigeon without first obtaining a band-tailed pigeon permit;
  - (ii) Greater sage-grouse without first obtaining a greater sage-grouse permit;
  - (iii) Sharp-tailed grouse without first obtaining a sharp-tailed grouse permit; or
  - (iv) White-tailed ptarmigan without first obtaining a white-tailed ptarmigan permit.
- (b) A person may obtain only one permit for each species listed in Subsection (1)(a), except a falconer with a valid Falconry Certificate of Registration may obtain one additional two-bird greater sage-grouse permit beginning on the date published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey, if any permits are remaining.
- (2)(a) A limited number of two-bird greater sage-grouse permits are available in the areas published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.
- (b) A Greater sage-grouse permit may only be used in one of the open areas as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.
- (c) Greater sage-grouse permits will be issued pursuant to Section R657-62-21.
- (3)(a) A limited number of two-bird, sharp-tailed grouse permits are available.
- (b) A sharp-tailed grouse permit may only be used in one of the open areas as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.
- (c) Sharp-tailed grouse permits will be issued pursuant to Section R657-62-21.
- (4) Band-tailed pigeon and white-tailed ptarmigan permits are available from Division offices, through the mail, and through the Division's internet address by the first week in August, free of charge.

**R657-6-5. Application Procedure for Sandhill Crane.**

- ~~(1)(a) Sandhill crane permits will be issued pursuant to R657-62-21.~~
- ~~(b) Residents and nonresidents may apply.~~
- ~~(c) The application period for Sandhill crane is published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.~~
- ~~(2) A person may obtain only one Sandhill crane permit each year.~~

**R657-6-64. Authorized Weapons.**

- (1) A person may not use any weapon or device to take upland game except as provided in this section.
- (2) Upland game may be taken with archery equipment, including a draw-lock, a crossbow, a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge, or a handgun. Loads for shotguns and handguns must be one-half ounce or more of shot size ranging between no. 2 and no. 9, except:
- ~~(a) migratory game birds may not be taken with a handgun, or a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells;~~
- ~~(b) \_\_\_\_\_~~
- ~~(a) cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare may be taken with:~~
- ~~(i) any firearm not capable of being fired fully automatic; and~~
  - ~~(ii) Aa pre-charged pneumatic air rifle.~~
- ~~(3) Sandhill crane may be taken with any size of nontoxic shot.~~
- ~~(4) A person may not use:~~
- ~~(a) a firearm capable of being fired fully automatic; or~~
  - ~~(b) any light enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light; or,~~
  - ~~(c)(i) any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve upland game or their parts.~~
- ~~(ii) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a records classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-305."~~

**R657-6-75. Nontoxic Shot.**

- ~~(1) Only nontoxic shot may be used to take Sandhill crane.~~
- ~~(2) Except as provided in Subsection (32), nontoxic shot is not required to take any species of upland game, except Sandhill crane.~~
- ~~(32) A person may not possess or use lead shot or any other shot that has not been approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while on federal refuges or the following state waterfowl or wildlife management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Lee Kay Dog Training Area, Locomotive Springs, Manti Meadows, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve, Stewart Lake, Timpie Springs, and Utah Lake Wetland Preserve.~~

**R657-6-86. Use of Firearms, Crossbows and Archery Tackle on State Wildlife Management Areas.**

(1) A person may not discharge a firearm, crossbow, or archery tackle on the Bear River Trenton Property Parcel, Browns Park, Bud Phelps, Huntington, James Walter Fitzgerald, Kevin Conway, Manti Meadows, Montes Creek, Nephi, Pahvant, Redmond Marsh, Roosevelt, Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve, Stewart Lake, Vernal, and Willard Bay Wildlife Management areas during any time of year, except:

- (a) the use of authorized weapons as provided in [Utah Admin. Code Section R657-6-64](#) during open hunting seasons for lawful hunting activities;
- (b) as otherwise authorized by the Division in special use permit, certificate of registration, administrative rule, proclamation, or an order of the Wildlife Board; or
- (c) for lawful purposes of self-defense.

**R657-6-97. Use of Firearms, Crossbows, and Archery Tackle on State Waterfowl Management Areas.**

(1) A person may not discharge a firearm, crossbow, or archery tackle on the Bicknell Bottoms, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Stewart Lake, Timpie Springs and Topaz Waterfowl Management areas, and Utah Lake Wetland Preserve, during any time of the year, except:

- (a) the use of authorized weapons as provided in Section R657-9-7 during open waterfowl hunting seasons for lawful hunting activities;
- (b) as otherwise authorized by the Division in special use permit, certificate of registration, administrative rule, proclamation, or an order of the Wildlife Board; or
- (c) for lawful purposes of self-defense.

**R657-6-108. Shooting Hours.**

- (1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), ~~shooting hours for upland game are as follows:~~
  - ~~(i) American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, and Sandhill crane may be taken only between one-half hour before official sunrise through official sunset.~~
  - ~~(ii) Greater sage-grouse, ruffed grouse, dusky grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, chukar partridge, gray partridge, pheasant, California quail, Gambel's quail, cottontail rabbit, and snowshoe hare may be taken only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.~~
- (b)(i) A person must add to or subtract from the official sunrise and sunset depending on the geographic location of the state.
  - (ii) Specific shooting hours shall be provided in a time zone map in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game ~~and wild turkey.~~
- (2) A person may not discharge a firearm on state owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, state waterfowl management areas or on federal refuges between official sunset through one-half hour before official sunrise.

**R657-6-119. State Parks.**

- (1) Hunting of any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those areas designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks in Section R651-614-4.
- (2) Hunting with rifles and handguns in park areas designated open is prohibited within one mile of all park facilities including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps, and developed beaches.
- (3) Hunting with shotguns, crossbow, or archery tackle is prohibited within one-quarter mile of the above stated areas.

**R657-6-1210. Falconry.**

- (1) Falconers must obtain an annual hunting or combination license and a valid Falconry Certificate of Registration or license to hunt upland game and must also obtain:
  - ~~(a) a band-tailed pigeon permit before taking band-tailed pigeon;~~
  - ~~(b) a greater sage-grouse permit before taking greater sage-grouse;~~
  - ~~(c) a sharp-tailed grouse permit before taking sharp-tailed grouse;~~
  - ~~(d) a white-tailed ptarmigan permit before taking white-tailed ptarmigan; or~~
  - ~~(e) a Sandhill crane permit before taking Sandhill crane.~~
- (2) Areas open and bag and possession limits for falconry are provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game ~~and wild turkey.~~

**R657-6-1311. Baiting.**

- (1) A person may not hunt upland game by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.
- (2) An area is considered baited for 10 days after bait is removed, or 10 days after all bait in an area is eaten. ~~This section does not prohibit~~



~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) (3) This section does not prohibit:~~ the taking of any ~~migratory game bird on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (i) standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatics, standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation, flooded harvested croplands, or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (iii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (iv) standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) The taking of any upland game, except Sandhill crane,~~ on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

#### **R657-6-~~1412~~. Use of Motorized Vehicles.**

Motorized vehicle travel on all state wildlife management areas is restricted to county roads and improved roads that are posted open.

#### **R657-6-~~1513~~. Possession of Live Protected Wildlife.**

It is unlawful for any person to hold in captivity at any time any protected wildlife, except as provided by Title 23A, [the Wildlife Resources Code Act](#) or any rules of the Wildlife Board. Every upland game animal wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become part of the daily bag limit.

#### **R657-6-~~1614~~. Tagging Requirements.**

(1) A person that takes a ~~Sandhill crane~~, greater sage-grouse, or a sharp-tailed grouse must tag the carcass, as provided in Section 23A-4-709, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.

(2) To tag a carcass, a person shall:

- (a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;
- (b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the animal was taken; and
- (c) attach the tag to the carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

(3) A person may not:

- (a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or
- (b) tag more than one carcass using the same tag.

(4) A person may not hunt or pursue a ~~Sandhill crane~~, greater sage-grouse, or sharp-tailed grouse after:

- (a) shooting and retrieving birds equal to the number of unused permits in possession, or daily bag limit;
- (b) the tag is detached from the permit; or
- (c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag.

#### **R657-6-~~1715~~. Identification of Species and Sex.**

One fully feathered wing must remain attached to each upland game bird and migratory game bird taken while it is being transported to allow species identification.

#### **R657-6-~~1816~~. Waste of Upland Game.**

(1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts.

(2) A person shall not kill or cripple any upland game without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the upland game animal.

#### **R657-6-~~1917~~. Utah Pheasant Project.**

(1) Youth groups may collect and rear pheasants from eggs in nests destroyed by normal hay mowing operations. The administrator of the youth group shall first apply for and obtain a certificate of registration for this activity.

(2) Landowners or operators of mowing equipment may collect the eggs and possess them for no more than 24 hours for pick up by a person with a certificate of registration.

(3) Pheasants must be released by 16 weeks of age.

(4) These pheasants remain the property of the state.

#### **R657-6-~~2018~~. Use of Dogs.**

(1) An individual may not use or permit a dog to harass, pursue, or take protected wildlife unless otherwise allowed for in Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources [Code of Utah Act](#), or the rules outlined in a guidebook of the Wildlife Board.

(2) Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve upland game during open upland game hunting seasons.

(3) Dogs are generally allowed on state wildlife management and waterfowl management areas, subject to the following conditions.

(a) dogs are not allowed on the following state wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas between March 10 and August 31 annually or as posted by the division:

- (i) Annabella;
- (ii) Bear River Trenton Property Parcel;
- (iii) Bicknell Bottoms;
- (iv) Blue Lake;
- (v) Browns Park;
- (vi) Bud Phelps;
- (vii) Clear Lake;
- (viii) Desert Lake;
- (ix) Farmington Bay;
- (x) Harold S. Crane;
- (xi) Hatt's Ranch;
- (xii) Howard Slough;
- (xiii) Huntington;
- (xiv) James Walter Fitzgerald;
- (xv) Kevin Conway;
- (xvi) Locomotive Springs;
- (xvii) Manti Meadows;
- (xviii) Mills Meadows;
- (xix) Montes Creek;
- (xx) Nephi;
- (xxi) Ogden Bay;
- (xxii) Pahvant;
- (xxiv) Public Shooting Grounds;
- (xxv) Redmond Marsh;
- (xxvi) Richfield;
- (xxvii) Roosevelt;
- (xxviii) Salt Creek;
- (xxix) Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve;
- (xxx) Steward Lake;
- (xxxi) Timpie Springs;
- (xxxii) Topaz Slough;
- (xxxiii) Utah Lake Wetland Preserve;
- (xxxiv) Vernal; and
- (xxxv) Willard Bay.

(b) the division may establish special restrictions for Division-managed properties, such as on-leash requirements and temporary or locational closures for dogs, and post them at specific division properties and at Regional offices;

(c) organized events or group gatherings of 25 or more individuals that involve the use of dogs, such as dog training or trials, that occur on Division properties may require a special use permit as described in Rule R657-28;

(d) dog training may be allowed in designated areas on Lee Kay Center and Willard Bay WMA by the Division without a special use permit; and

(e) dogs are only allowed on the Nature Trail within they Hasenyager Nature preserve, and must be on a leash.

(4) A person may train a dog on live wild game birds provided:

(a) the dog, or the person training the dog, may not harass, catch, capture, kill, injure, or at any time, possess any wild game birds, except during legal hunting seasons as provided in the Upland Game or Waterfowl proclamations of the Wildlife Board;

(b) the use of dogs complies with Rules R657-6-~~2~~, R657-9, and R657-~~54a~~54;

(c) the person training a dog on live wild game birds, except during legal hunting seasons:

(i) must comply with city and county ordinances pertaining to the discharge of any firearm; and

(ii) must obtain written permission from the landowner for training on properly posted private property.

(5) The firearm restrictions set forth in this section do not apply to a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Section 53-5-701, et seq., provided the person is not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.

(6) A person may not train dogs or otherwise harass game birds within ½ mile of sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse leks, or other concentrations of sage-grouse or sharp-tailed grouse from March 1 to May 31.

(7) Dogs may be used to locate upland game as part of Division sanctioned survey efforts.

#### **R657-6-~~24~~19. Closed Areas.**

A person may not hunt upland game in any area posted closed by the Division or any of the following areas:

(1) The Salt Lake International Airport boundaries as posted.

(2) Wildlife Management Areas:

(a) Waterfowl management areas are open for hunting upland game only during designated waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division, including: Blue Lake, Clear Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough,

Locomotive Springs, Manti Meadows, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve, Stewart Lake, and Timpie Springs.

(b) All National Wildlife Refuges unless declared open by the managing authority.

(c) The Goshen Warm Springs.

(3) Military installations, except as otherwise provided under Rule R657-66, are closed to hunting and trespassing.

**R657-6-~~2220~~. Live Decoys and Electronic Calls.**

A person may not take any upland game birds by the use or aid of live or robotic decoys, night vision devices, drones, recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

**R657-6-~~2321~~. Shipping or Exporting.**

(1) No person may transport upland game by the Postal Service or a common carrier unless the package or container has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds contained therein clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside of the container.

(2) A shipping permit issued by the Division must accompany each package containing upland game within or from the state.

(3) A person may export upland game or their parts from Utah only if:

(a) the person who harvested the upland game accompanies it and possess a valid license or permit corresponding to the tag, if applicable; or

(b) the person exporting the upland game or its parts, if it is not the person who harvested the upland game, has obtained a shipping permit from the Division.

**R657-6-~~2422~~. Spotlighting.**

(1) Except as provided in Section 23A-1-204:

(a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm, falconry bird, or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and

(b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife.

(2) 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.

**R657-6-~~2523~~. Purchasing or Selling Upland Game Parts.**

(1) A person may only purchase, sell, offer or possess for sale, barter, exchange or trade any upland game or its parts as follows:

(a) Untanned or tanned hides, feather, bone, nail, or beak of legally taken upland game or turkey may only be sold by the hunter who harvested the individual animals.

(b) An individual hunter may only sell one possession limit as defined by the Wildlife Board and guidebook for upland game and turkey per year.

(c) Resale may only occur as derivative products such as artificial fishing flies.

(2) A person selling or purchasing untanned or tanned hides, feather, bone, nail, or beak of legally taken upland game shall keep transaction records stating:

(a) the name and address of the person who harvested the animal;

(b) the transaction date; and

(c) the hunting license number of the person who harvested the animal.

**R657-6-~~2624~~. Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits, and Areas Open.**

Season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, and number of permits for taking upland game are provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

**KEY: wildlife, birds, rabbits, game laws**

**Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023**

**Notice of Continuation: May 18, 2020**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305**

**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-9. Taking Migratory Game Birds - Waterfowl, Snipe, Coot, American Crow, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Winged Dove, and Coot/Sandhill Crane.**

**R657-99a-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 50 CFR 32.64 and 50 CFR 27.21, 2004 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking waterfowl, snipe, and coot/certain migratory game birds.

(2) Specific dates, areas, limits, requirements and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot/certain migratory game birds.

**R657-9-2. Definitions.**

(1)(a) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.

(b) The terms provided in Subsections 58-79-102(1) through (7) are incorporated by reference.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Bait" means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

(b) "Baiting" means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

(c) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations.

(d) "Daily Bag Limit" means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination, aggregate, of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

(e) "Dark geese" means the following species: cackling, Canada, and brant.

(f) "Light geese" means the following species: snow, blue and Ross'.

(g) "Live decoys" means tame or captive ducks, geese or other live birds.

(h) "Migratory ~~bird~~" means any bird that migrating-game bird, such as "means" waterfowl, snipe, coot, American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, and Sandhill crane.

(i) "Off-highway vehicle" means any motor vehicle designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain.

(j) "Permanent waterfowl blind" means any waterfowl blind that is left unattended overnight and that is not a portable structure capable of immediate relocation.

(k) "Possession limit" the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

~~(l)~~ (l) "Retrieval Zone" means areas adjacent to rest areas where game retrieval is allowed but hunting is restricted.

~~(m)~~ (m) "Sinkbox" means any type of low floating device, having a depression, affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

~~(n)~~ "Snipe" means the following species: common, Jack, pin-tailed, solitary, Swinhoe's and Wilson's snipe.

~~(o)~~ "Transport" means to ship, export, import or receive or deliver for shipment.

~~(p)~~ "Waterfowl" means ducks, mergansers, geese and tundra swans.

~~(q)~~ "Waterfowl blind" means any manufactured place of concealment, including boats, rafts, tents, excavated pits, or similar structures, which have been designed to partially or completely conceal a person while hunting waterfowl.

~~(r)~~ "Waterfowl Management Area" means the following properties owned or managed by the division primarily for the conservation, production, or recreational harvest of ducks, mergansers, geese, tundra swans, and other waterfowl:

(i) Bicknell Bottoms;

(ii) ~~Blue Lake; Black Hawk~~

~~(iii)~~ Blue Lake;

~~(iv)~~ Brown's Park;

~~(v)~~ Clear Lake;

~~(vi)~~ Desert Lake;

~~(vii)~~ Farmington Bay;

~~(viii)~~ Fitzgerald;

~~(ix)~~ Harold Crane;

~~(x)~~ Howard Slough;

~~(xi)~~ Locomotive Springs;

~~(xii)~~ Mallard Springs;

~~(xiii)~~ Manti Meadows;

~~(xiv)~~ Mills Meadows;

~~(xv)~~ Ogden Bay;

~~(xvi)~~ Powell Slough;

~~(xvii)~~ Provo River Delta;

- ~~(xviii)~~ Public Shooting Grounds;
- ~~(xvix)~~ Redmond Marsh;
- ~~(xxix)~~ Rock Island;
- ~~(xxix)~~ Salt Creek;
- ~~(xxix)~~ Stewart Lake;
- ~~(xxix)~~ Timpie Springs;
- ~~(xxix)~~ Topaz;
- ~~(xxix)~~ Warm Springs; and
- ~~(xxix)~~ Willard Spur.

**R657-9-3. Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program.**

- (1) A person must obtain a Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number to hunt migratory game birds.
- (2) A person may register online as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking migratory game birds to obtain their HIP registration number. A person must write their HIP registration number on their current valid hunting license.
- (3) Any person obtaining a HIP registration number will be required to provide their:
  - (a) hunting license number;
  - (b) hunting license type;
  - (c) name;
  - (d) address;
  - (e) phone number;
  - (f) birth date; and
  - (g) information about the previous year's migratory game bird hunts.
- (4) Lifetime license holders will receive a sticker every three years from the Division to write their HIP number on and place on their lifetime license card.
- (5) Any person hunting migratory game birds will be required, while in the field, to possess a hunting or combination license with the HIP registration number recorded on the license, demonstrating they have registered and provided information for the HIP program.

**R675-9-4. Stamp Requirements.**

- (1) Any person 16 years of age or older must obtain a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp before hunting waterfowl, and must have the physical stamp or proof of electronic stamp in possession when hunting waterfowl.
- (2) A physical federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp must be validated by the hunter's signature in ink across the face of the stamp.
- (3) A electronic federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp does not need to be signed.
- (4) A federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp is not required for any person under the age of 16.
- (5) Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps are non-transferrable.

**R657-9-45. Permit Applications for Tundra Swan, Band-tailed pigeon, and Sandhill Crane.**

- (1) A person must obtain a permit prior to taking any migratory game bird, except for:
  - (a) American Crow;
  - (b) Mourning Dove; and
  - (c) White-winged Dove.
- (2) Tundra swan permits are issued pursuant to Section R657-62-22.
- (3) Band-tailed pigeon permits may be obtained from Division offices, through the mail, and through the Division's internet address by the first week in August, free of charge.
- (4)(a) Sandhill crane permits will be issued pursuant to Section R657-62-21.
  - (b) Residents and nonresidents may apply.
- (c) The application period for Sandhill crane is published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking Waterfowl and migratory game birds.
- (d) A person may obtain only one Sandhill crane permit each year.

**R657-9-56. Tagging Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes.**

- (1)(a) A person that takes a tundra swan or sandhill crane must tag the carcass, as provided in Section 23A-4-709, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass and reaching a location listed in Subsections (i) through (iii), that is closest to the place where the carcass was first retrieved by the hunter, another person, or a dog:
  - (i) the blind or fixed location in the field where the person taking the tundra swan was set up and from where they shot at the tundra swan;
  - (ii) a vessel available to the person; or
  - (iii) the first area of land free from standing water.

(b) "Vessel" means, for the purposes of this subsection, any type of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

(2) To tag a tundra swan ~~and sandhill crane~~ carcass, a person shall:

(a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;  
(b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the tundra swan ~~or sandhill crane~~ was taken; and

(c) attach the tag to the tundra swan carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

(3) A person may not:

(a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or  
(b) tag more than one tundra swan ~~or sandhill crane~~ carcass using the same tag.

(4) A person may not hunt or pursue a tundra swan ~~or sandhill crane~~ after:

(a) shooting and retrieving the tundra swan ~~or sandhill crane~~;  
(b) the tag is detached from the permit; or  
(c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag.

#### **R657-9-67. Return of Tundra Swan Harvest and Hunt Information.**

(1) Tundra swan permit holders who do not hunt or are unsuccessful in taking a tundra swan must respond to the tundra swan questionnaire through the division's internet address, or by telephone, within 30 calendar days of the conclusion of the prescribed tundra swan hunting season.

~~(2) Within~~(a) Except for as provided in subsection (b), within three days of harvest, any tundra swan permit holders ~~successful in taking a tundra swan, or who incidentally take another~~ successfully harvest any swan species; must personally present the swan or its head ~~for measurement~~ to the division or the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge ~~for measurement~~ and ~~further~~ provide all ~~requested~~ harvest information ~~requested by~~.

~~(b) Anyon who takes a trumpeter swan must bring the entire swan to~~ the division or ~~Bear River Migratory Bird~~ Refuge.

(3) Hunters who fail to comply with the requirements of Subsection (1) or (2) shall be ineligible to:

(a) obtain a tundra swan permit the following season; and  
(b) obtain a tundra swan permit after the first season of ineligibility until the swan orientation course is retaken.

(4) Late tundra swan questionnaires may be accepted pursuant to Subsection R657-42-9(3). Tundra swan permit holders are still required to present the swan or its head for measurement to a division office.

#### **R657-9-78. Authorized Weapons.**

(1) Migratory game birds may be taken with a shotgun, crossbow or archery tackle, including a draw lock.

(2) Migratory game birds may not be taken with a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

(3) Migratory game birds may not be taken with a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells, except as authorized by the Wildlife Board and specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

~~(4)(a) It is unlawful to use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve migratory birds or their parts.~~

~~(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a records classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-305."~~

#### **R657-9-89. Nontoxic Shot.**

(1) Only nontoxic shot may be in possession or used while hunting waterfowl, snipe, ~~coot~~; and ~~coots~~ sandhill crane.

(2) A person may not possess or use lead shot:

(a) while hunting waterfowl, snipe ~~or~~ coot, ~~or~~ sandhill crane in any area of the state;

(b) on federal refuges;  
(c) on the following waterfowl management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, ~~BlackHawk~~, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Manti Meadow, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, ~~Provo River Delta~~, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Stewart's Lake, Timpie Springs, Willard Spur; or

(d) on the Scott M. Matheson or Utah Lake Wetland Preserve~~;~~.

#### **R657-9-910. Use of Weapons on State Waterfowl Management Areas.**

(1) A person may not discharge a firearm, crossbow, or archery tackle on the ~~following Waterfowl or Wildlife Management Areas~~: Bicknell Bottoms, ~~BlackHawk~~, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Stewart's Lake, Timpie Springs ~~and~~ Topaz ~~Waterfowl Management areas or~~ Utah Lake Wetland Preserve, ~~and~~ ~~Provo River Delta~~ during any time of the year.

(2) The following exceptions apply to Subsection (1):

- (a) the use of authorized weapons as provided in Section R657-9-~~78~~ during waterfowl hunting seasons for lawful hunting activities;
- (b) as otherwise authorized by the division in a special use permit, certificate of registration, rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board; or
- (c) for lawful purposes of self-defense.

**R657-9-~~10~~11. Shooting Hours.**

(1) A person may not hunt, pursue, or take wildlife, or discharge any firearm or archery tackle on state-owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, on division-controlled waterfowl management areas, or on federal refuges between official sunset and one-half hour before official sunrise.

(2) Legal shooting hours for taking or attempting to take migratory game birds are provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking migratory game birds.

**R657-9-12. Airborne, Terrestrial, and Aquatic Vehicles.**

- (1) Migratory game birds may not be taken:
  - (a) from a motorboat or other craft having a motor attached;
  - (b) from a sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off or sails furled and its progress has ceased; or
  - (c) by means or aid of any motor driven land, water or air conveyance, or any sailboat used to or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- (2) A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power.

**R657-9-~~11~~13. Airboats.**

(1) Air-thrust or air-propelled boats and personal watercraft are not allowed in designated parts of the following areas for the purposes of waterfowl hunting:

(a) Box Elder County: Box Elder Lake, Bear River, that part of Harold S. Crane within one-half mile of all dikes and levees, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek, that part of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge north of "D" line dike, and outside Units 1, 3, 4 and 5 as posted.

(b) Daggett County: Brown's Park;

(c) Davis County: Howard Slough, Ogden Bay and Farmington Bay within diked units or as posted;

(d) Emery County: Desert Lake;

(e) Millard County: Clear Lake, Topaz Slough;

(f) Salt Lake County: BlackHawk;

(g) Tooele County: Timpie Springs;

(g) Uintah County: Stewart's Lake;

(h) Utah County: Powell Slough;

(i) Utah County: Provo River Delta;

(k) Wayne County: Bicknell Bottoms; and

(j) Weber County: Ogden Bay within diked units or as posted and the portion of Harold S. Crane Waterfowl Management Area that falls within the county line.

(2) "Personal watercraft" means, for purposes of this section, a motorboat that is:

(a) less than 16 feet in length;

(b) propelled by a water jet pump; and

(c) designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than sitting or standing inside the vessel.

**R657-9-~~12~~14. Motorized Vehicle Access.**

(1) "Motorized vehicle" means, for purposes of this section, a vehicle that is self-propelled or possesses the ability to be self-propelled. This does not include vehicles moved solely by human power, motorized wheelchairs, or an electric personal assisted mobility device.

(2) Except as provided below, Section R657-28-4 outlines prohibited activities on waterfowl and wildlife management areas.

(a) Motorized vehicle travel is restricted to county roads, improved roads, and parking areas.

(b) Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on state waterfowl management areas, except as marked and posted open.

(c) Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

(d) Motorized vehicle use is restricted on waterfowl management and wildlife management areas as specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

(6) Electric assisted bicycles propelled in part by electrical assistance are only permitted on state waterfowl management areas if they meet the Class 1 definition provided in Subsections 41-6a-102(8) and (17).

**R657-9-~~4315~~. Sinkbox.**

A person may not take migratory game birds from or by means, aid, or use of any type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

**R657-9-~~4416~~. Live Decoys.**

A person may not take migratory game birds with the use of live birds as decoys or from an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been, for a period of ten consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.

**R657-9-~~4517~~. Amplified Bird Calls.**

A person may not use recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds except as authorized by the Wildlife Board and specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

**R657-9-~~4618~~. Baiting.**

(1) A person may not take migratory game birds by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

(2) This section does not prohibit the following:

(a) The taking of any migratory game bird on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

(i) standing crops or flooded standing crops including aquatics, standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation, flooded harvested croplands, or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;

(ii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;

(iii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or

(iv) standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds.

(3) The taking of any migratory game bird, except waterfowl, coots and cranes, is legal on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

**R657-9-~~4719~~. Possession During Closed Season.**

No person shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds during the closed season.

**R657-9-~~4820~~. Live Birds.**

(1) Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become part of the daily bag limit.

(2) No person shall at any time, or by any means possess or transport live migratory game birds.

**R657-9-~~4921~~. Waste of Migratory Game Birds.**

(1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or any part of them.

(2) No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this rule without making a reasonable effort to immediately retrieve the bird and include it in that person's daily bag limit.

**R657-9-~~2022~~. Termination of Possession.**

Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when the birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

**R657-9-~~2123~~. Tagging Requirement.**

(1) No person shall put or leave any migratory game bird at any place other than at that person's personal abode, or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transporting or storing, including temporary storage, or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed unless there is attached to the birds a disposal receipt, donation receipt or transportation slip signed by the hunter stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, the date such birds were killed and the Utah hunting license number under which they were taken.

(2) Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

**R657-9-~~2224~~. Donation or Gift.**



No person may receive, possess or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds taken, the date such birds were taken and the Utah hunting license number under which taken.

**R657-9-~~2325~~. Custody of Another Person's Migratory Game Bird.**

No person may receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required by Section R657-9-~~2423~~.

**R657-9-~~2426~~. Species Identification Requirement.**

No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each bird while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

**R657-9-~~2527~~. Marking Package or Container.**

(1) No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of species of birds contained therein clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

(2) A Utah shipping permit obtained from the division must accompany each package shipped within or from Utah.

**R657-9-~~2628~~. Migratory Bird Preservation Facilities.**

(1) "Migratory bird preservation facility" means, for purposes of this section:

- (i) Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration;
- (ii) Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
- (iii) Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory

game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

(2) No migratory bird preservation facility shall:

(a) receive or have in custody any migratory game bird unless accurate records are maintained that can identify each bird received by, or in the custody of, the facility by the name of the person from whom the bird was obtained, and show:

- (i) the number of each species;
  - (ii) the location where taken;
  - (iii) the date such birds were received;
  - (iv) the name and address of the person from whom such birds were received;
  - (v) the date such birds were disposed of; and
  - (vi) the name and address of the person to whom such birds were delivered; or
- (b) destroy any records required to be maintained under this section for a period of one year following the last entry on

record.

(3) Record keeping as required by this section will not be necessary at hunting clubs that do not fully process migratory birds by removal of the head and wings.

(4) No migratory bird preservation facility shall prevent any person authorized to enforce this part from entering such facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where such operations are being carried out.

**R657-9-~~2729~~. Importation.**

A person may not:

- (1) import migratory game birds belonging to another person; or
- (2) import migratory game birds over the following importation limits:

(a) From any country except Canada and Mexico, during any one calendar week beginning on Sunday, not to exceed ten ducks, singly or in the aggregate of all species, and five geese, singly or in the aggregate of all species;

(b) From Canada, not to exceed the maximum number to be exported by Canadian authorities;

(c) From Mexico, not to exceed the maximum number permitted by Mexican authorities in any one day: provided that if the importer has a Mexican hunting permit date-stamped by appropriate Mexican wildlife authorities on the first day the importer hunts in Mexico, the importer may import the applicable Mexican possession limit corresponding to the days actually hunted during that particular trip.

**R657-9-~~2830~~. Use of Dogs.**

(1) An individual may not use or permit a dog to harass, pursue, or take protected wildlife unless otherwise allowed for in the Wildlife Code, administrative rules issued under Wildlife Code, or a guidebook of the Wildlife Board.

(2) Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve turkey during open turkey hunting seasons.

(3) Dogs are generally allowed on state wildlife management and waterfowl management areas, subject to the following conditions:

(a) dogs are not allowed on the following state wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas between March 10 and August 31 annually or as posted by the division:

- (i) Annabella;

- (ii) Bear River Trenton Property Parcel;
- (iii) Bicknell Bottoms;
- (iv) ~~Blue Lake;~~[BlackHawk](#)
- (v) [Blue Lake](#);
- (vi) Browns Park;

- ~~(vii)~~ Bud Phelps;
- ~~(viii)~~ Clear Lake;
- ~~(ix)~~ Desert Lake;
- ~~(x)~~ Farmington Bay;
- ~~(xi)~~ Harold S. Crane;
- ~~(xii)~~ Hatt's Ranch;
- ~~(xiii)~~ Howard Slough;
- ~~(xiv)~~ Huntington;
- ~~(xv)~~ James Walter Fitzgerald;
- ~~(xvi)~~ Kevin Conway;
- ~~(xvii)~~ Locomotive Springs;
- ~~(xviii)~~ Manti Meadows;
- ~~(xix)~~ Mills Meadows;
- ~~(xx)~~ Montes Creek;

~~(xx) Nephi;~~

(xxi) [Nephi](#);

~~(xxii)~~ Ogden Bay;

~~(xxiii)~~ Pahvant;

(xxiv) Public Shooting Grounds;

(xxv) Redmond Marsh;

(xxvi) Richfield;

(xxvii) Roosevelt;

(xxviii) Salt Creek;

(xxix) Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve;

(xxx) Steward Lake;

(xxxi) Timpie Springs;

(xxxii) Topaz Slough;

(xxxiii) Utah Lake Wetland Preserve;

(xxxiv) Vernal; and

(xxxv) Willard Bay.

(b) the division may establish special restrictions for division-managed properties, such as on-leash requirements and temporary or locational closures for dogs, and post them at specific division properties and at Regional offices;

(c) organized events or group gatherings of 25 or more individuals that involve the use of dogs, such as dog training or trials, that occur on division properties may require a special use permit as described in Rule R657-28;

(d) dog training may be allowed in designated areas on Lee Kay Center and Willard Bay WMA by the division without a special use permit; and

(e) dogs are only allowed on the Nature Trail within the Hasenyager Nature Preserve; and must be on a leash; and

(f) the Skipper Bay Trail of the Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area is managed by the Utah County Trail Department, and the Utah County trial system leash ordinance applies.

#### **R657-9-~~2931~~. Season Dates and Bag and Possession Limits.**

(1) Season dates and bag and possession limits are specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking ~~waterfowl, snipe and coot~~[migratory game birds](#).

(2) A youth duck hunting day may be allowed for any person 17 years of age or younger on July 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the youth hunting day is held, as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

#### **R657-9-~~302~~. Rest Areas and No Shooting Areas.**

(1) A person may only access and use state waterfowl management areas in accordance with state and federal law, state administrative code, and proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

(2)(a)- The division may establish portions of state waterfowl management areas as "rest areas" for wildlife that are closed to the public and trespass of any kind is prohibited.

(b) In addition to any areas identified in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe, and coot, the following areas are designated as rest areas:

(i) that portion of Clear Lake Waterfowl Management Area known as Spring Lake;

(ii) that portion of Desert Lake Waterfowl Management Area known as Desert Lake;

(iii) that portion of Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area that lies above and adjacent to the Hull Lake Diversion Dike known as Duck Lake;

- (iv) that portion of Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area known as Rest Lake;
- (v) that portion of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area that lies in the northwest quarter of unit one; and
- (iv) that portion of Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area known as North Bachman- and extending north to the Unit one dike road and east to the spillways of South run road.
- (c) Maps of all rest areas will be available at division offices, on the division's website, and to the extent necessary, marked with signage at each rest area.
- (3)(a)- The division may establish portions of state waterfowl management areas as "No Shooting Areas" where the discharge of weapons for the purposes of hunting is prohibited.
  - (b) No Shooting Areas remain open to the public for other lawful activities.
  - (c) In addition to any areas identified in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe, and coot, the following areas are No Shooting Areas:
    - (i) all of Antelope Island, including all areas within 600 feet of the upland vegetative line or other clearly defined high-water mark;
    - (ii) within 600 feet of the north and south side of the center line of Antelope Island causeway;
    - (iii) within 600 feet of all structures found at Brown's Park Waterfowl Management Area;
    - (iv) the following portions of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area:
      - (A) within 600 feet of the Headquarters;
      - (B) within 600 feet of dikes and roads accessible by motorized vehicles;
      - (C) within the area designated as the Hasenyager Nature Preserve; and
      - (D) within the 300 foot ~~buffer~~retrieval zone around the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area rest area;
      - (v) within the 200 foot retrieval zone extending east from the southeast signed and posted corner of Rest Lake at Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area north to the intersection with Salt Creek bypass canal and signed and posted northeast corner of Rest Lake;
      - (vi) the following portions of Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area:
        - (A) within 600 feet of Lakeview Parkway;
        - (B) within 600 feet of Boat Harbor Drive;
        - (C) within 600 feet of the Provo River Delta parking lot; and
        - (D) within 600 feet of the Provo River Delta trail;
      - (vii) within 600 feet of the headquarters area of Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area;
      - (~~xviii~~) within the boundaries of all State Parks except those designated open by appropriate signage as provided in Section R651-614-4;
      - (~~xix~~) within 1/3 of a mile of the Great Salt Lake Marina;
      - (~~xxix~~) below the high-water mark of Gunnison Bend Reservoir and its inflow upstream to the Southerland Bridge, Millard County;
      - (xi) any property within the boundary of the Salt Lake International Airport; and
      - (~~xii~~) any property within the boundaries of federal migratory bird refuges, unless hunting waterfowl specifically authorized by the federal government.
    - (4) The division reserves the right to manage division lands and regulate its use consistent with Section 23A-6-404~~and 404~~ and Rule R657-28.

**R657-9-31. Shooting Hours.**

- ~~(1) A person may not hunt, pursue, or take wildlife, or discharge any firearm or archery tackle on state owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, on division controlled waterfowl management areas, or on federal refuges between official sunset and one half hour before official sunrise.~~
- ~~(2) Legal shooting hours for taking or attempting to take waterfowl, snipe, and coot are provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.~~

**R657-9-3233. Falconry.**

- (1) Falconers must obtain a valid hunting or combination license, a federal migratory bird stamp and a falconry certificate of registration to hunt waterfowl- and must also obtain:
  - (a) a band-tailed pigeon permit before taking band-tailed pigeon; and
  - (b) a sandhill crane permit before taking sandhill crane.
- (2) Areas open and bag and possession limits for falconry are specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking ~~waterfowl, snipe and coot~~migratory game birds.

**R657-9-33. Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP).**

- ~~(1) A person must obtain an annual Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number to hunt migratory game birds.~~
- ~~(2)(a) A person must call the telephone number published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot, or register online at the address published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot to obtain their HIP registration number.~~

- ~~(b) A person must write their HIP registration number on their current year's hunting license.~~
- ~~(3) Any person obtaining a HIP registration number will be required to provide their:~~
- ~~(a) hunting license number;~~
- ~~(b) hunting license type;~~
- ~~(c) name;~~
- ~~(d) address;~~
- ~~(e) phone number;~~
- ~~(f) birth date; and~~
- ~~(g) information about the previous year's migratory bird hunts.~~
- ~~(4) Lifetime license holders will receive a sticker every three years from the division to write their HIP number on and place on their lifetime license card.~~
- ~~(5) Any person hunting migratory birds will be required, while in the field, to prove that they have registered and provided information for the HIP program.~~

**R657-9-34. Waterfowl Blinds on Waterfowl Management and Wildlife Management Areas.**

(1) Waterfowl blinds on division waterfowl management and wildlife management areas may be constructed or used as follows:

- (a) waterfowl blinds may not be left unattended overnight, except for blinds constructed entirely of non-woody, vegetative materials that naturally occur where the blind is located;
- (b) trees and shrubs on waterfowl management and wildlife management areas that are live or dead standing may not be cut or damaged except as expressly authorized in writing by the division;
- (c) excavating soil or rock on waterfowl management and wildlife management areas above or below water surface is strictly prohibited, except as expressly authorized in writing by the division;
- (d) rock and soil material may not be transported to waterfowl management and wildlife management areas for purposes of constructing a blind; and
- (e) waterfowl blinds may not be constructed or used in any area or manner, which obstructs vehicular or pedestrian travel on dikes.

(2) The restrictions set forth in Subsection (1)(a) through Subsection (1)(c) do not apply to the following waterfowl management areas:

- (a) Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area - West and North of Unit 1, Turpin Unit, and Doug Miller Unit;
- (b) Howard Slough Waterfowl Management Area - West and South of the exterior dike separating the waterfowl management area's fresh water impoundments from the Great Salt Lake;
- (c) Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area - West of Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3; and
- (d) Harold Crane Waterfowl Management Area - one half mile North and West of the exterior dike separating the waterfowl management area's fresh water impoundments from Willard Spur.

(3)(a) The restrictions set forth in Subsection (1)(a) through Subsection (1)(c) do not apply to blinds on Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area.

(b) The placement or use of any permanent blind on Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area requires written permission from UDWR and FFSL the division and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

(4) Waterfowl blinds constructed or maintained on waterfowl management areas in violation of this section may be removed or destroyed by the division without notice.

(5) Any unoccupied, permanent waterfowl blind located on state land open to public access for hunting may be used by any person without priority to the person that constructed the blind. It being the intent of this rule to make such blinds available to any person on a first-come, first-serve basis.

(6) Waterfowl blinds or decoys cannot be left unattended overnight on state land open to public access for hunting in an effort to reserve the particular location where the blinds or decoys are placed.

(7) A person may not construct a new permanent blind on a waterfowl management area after June 3, 2021.

**KEY: wildlife, birds, migratory birds, waterfowl**

**Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023**

**Notice of Continuation: July 2, 2021**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305; 50 CFR part 20**



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
*Governor*

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## Department of Natural Resources

Joel Ferry  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY  
*Division Director*

# MEMORANDUM

Date: October 28, 2024

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Jason Jones, Migratory Game Bird and Falconry Programs Coordinator

**Subject: 2025 FALCONRY RECOMMENDATIONS**

This year the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is recommending updating reporting requirements in the falconry rule. This change streamlines falconry reporting, making reporting requirements easier and clearer for falconers.

#### Proposed Rule change R657-20-21 Reporting Requirements

- U.S FWS requires falconers to submit 3-186 forms to the federal database, which DWR helps administer.
- This change simplifies the process by removing the requirement for falconers to submit 3-186 forms to **both** the Division of Wildlife and to the federal database separately.
- Falconers would now submit 3-186 forms only to the federal database, eliminating duplicate state submissions.
- Falconers will report capture data directly on the DWR website (already standard practice).
- Updates language to reflect that annual reports are submitted online through the DWR website, replacing language about mailed forms.



**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-20. Falconry.**

**R657-20-21. Reporting Requirements.**

(1) All activities, including wild take, acquisition, transfer, exchange, band or reband or microchip implant, loss of bird if not recovered within 30 days, recapture, injuries, and theft of any falconry raptor must be reported to the ~~Division~~[Federal database](#) within 10 business days of the date of the event, as follows:

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) Submit to the Division a completed paper Form 3-186a by mail or email at [falconry@utah.gov](mailto:falconry@utah.gov); and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) Enter the required information in the electronic database located at <http://epermits.fws.gov/falcp/falcHome>~~

(2) A permittee must retain copies of all electronic database submissions documenting take, transfer, loss, rebanding or micro chipping or any other transaction for each falconry raptor for up to five (5) years after the given transaction or event has taken place.

(3)(a) Date of capture, sex of the raptor, and location of the capture in UTM or latitude/longitude must be recorded on the Raptor Capture Permit for all species. [Falconry capture reports must be submitted to https://wildlife.utah.gov/hunting/main-hunting-page/falconry.html](https://wildlife.utah.gov/hunting/main-hunting-page/falconry.html) (Falconry capture report) within 10 business days of the event.

(b) Nest locations are held for use by the Division and are subject to state records laws.

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (4) By December 31 of each year, the Division will provide each resident falconer with an annual report form.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (4) All Resident falconers holding a valid falconry COR must submit a completed falconry Annual Report to the Division by January 31 of each year at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/falconry-annual-report.html>.~~

**KEY: wildlife, birds, falconry**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: October 1, 2023**

**Notice of Continuation: December 6, 2016**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-17-7; 50 CFR 21**



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

DATE: Nov 11, 2024

SUBJECT: 2025-27 BLACK BEAR PERMIT/QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMMENDMENTS.

2025-26 FURBEARER SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS AND COUGAR RULE AMMENDMENTS

2025 will be the first year of the next three year bear management cycle. We are recommending permits and quotas for the various black bear seasons for that time frame. We are recommending the following permit/quota recommendations and season dates.

SPRING BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON				
Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7000	9	1	March 29 - May 26
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7001	49	5	March 29 - May 26
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7224	14	1	March 29 - May 26
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7012	20	2	March 29 - May 26
Cache/Ogden	BR7017	2	0	March 29 - May 26
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7015	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7007	1	0	March 29 - May 26
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7013	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7018	5	0	March 29 - May 26
La Sal	BR7008	40	3	March 29 - May 26
Manti-North	BR7003	17	2	March 29 - May 26
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7004	18	2	March 29 - May 26
Monroe	BR7020	1	0	March 29 - May 26
Mt Dutton	BR7009	4	0	March 29 - May 26

Nebo	BR7005	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7010	9	0	March 29 - May 26
Paunsaugunt	BR7011	4	0	March 29 - May 26
San Juan	BR7014	35	3	March 29 - May 26
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7016	36	4	March 29 - May 26

**SUMMER BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON (No dogs allowed, bait allowed)**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7100	9	1	May 26 - June 29
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7101	14	1	May 26 - June 29
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7102	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7114	13	1	May 26 - June 29
Cache/Ogden	BR7121	4	0	May 26 - June 29
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7117	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7124	2	0	May 26 - June 29
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7115	7	0	May 26 - June 29
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7123	6	0	May 26 - June 29
La Sal	BR7108	25	2	May 26 - June 29
Manti-North	BR7104	17	1	May 26 - June 29
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7105	18	2	May 26 - June 29
Monroe	BR7125	1	0	May 26 - June 29
Mt Dutton	BR7109	3	0	May 26 - June 29
Nebo	BR7106	8	0	May 26 - June 29
Nine Mile	BR7110	18	2	May 26 - June 29
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7111	1	0	May 26 - June 29
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7112	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Paunsaugunt	BR7113	3	0	May 26 - June 29
San Juan	BR7116	22	2	May 26 - June 29
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7119	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7120	22	1	May 26 - June 29
Yellowstone	BR7118	5	0	May 26 - June 29

**FALL BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON**



Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates	Comments
Beaver	BR7200	9	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7201	18	2	Aug. 2 - Aug. 15 & Oct. 3 - Nov. 16	No Bait
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7215	9	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Cache/Ogden	BR7228	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7218	7	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7207	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7216	5	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7229	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
La Sal	BR7208	6	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Manti-North	BR7203	10	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7204	18	2	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Monroe	new hunt	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Mt Dutton	BR7210	3	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Nebo	BR7205	5	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Nine Mile	BR7211	26	3	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7212	2	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7213	9	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Paunsaugunt	BR7214	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
San Juan	BR7217	6	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7220	9	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7221	18	2	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Yellowstone	BR7219	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait

**BLACK BEAR HARVEST OBJECTIVE**

Unit	Harvest Objectives	2025 Season Dates	
Beaver	5	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	20	Aug. 16-Oct. 2	No Bait/No Dogs
Boulder/Kaiparowits	22	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Cache/Ogden	10	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	9	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Fillmore, Pahvant	1	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	5	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	5	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
La Sal	12	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Manti-North	15	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	25	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Mt Dutton	2	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Nebo	10	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Nine Mile	25	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Nine Mile	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	5	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	3	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Panguitch Lake/Zion	3	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
San Juan	12	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	15	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	20	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Yellowstone	10	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Yellowstone	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs

**BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SPOT AND STALK SEASON**

Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7225	5	0	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9
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**MULTI-SEASON BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON (Public draw)**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7318	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7300	9	1	All limited-entry seasons
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7301	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7310	10	1	All limited-entry seasons
Cache/Ogden	BR7320	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	new hunt	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7313	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7311	3	0	All limited-entry seasons
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7321	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
La Sal	BR7307	13	1	All limited-entry seasons
Manti-North	BR7303	13	1	All limited-entry seasons
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7304	18	2	All limited-entry seasons
Mt Dutton	BR7322	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Nebo	BR7305	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Nine Mile	BR7317	9	1	All limited-entry seasons
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7308	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7309	4	0	All limited-entry seasons
Paunsaugunt	BR7323	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
San Juan	BR7312	11	1	All limited-entry seasons
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7315	3	0	All limited-entry seasons
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7316	14	1	All limited-entry seasons
Yellowstone	BR7314	3	0	All limited-entry seasons

**BLACK BEAR PURSUIT SEASONS**

Spring pursuit season: March 29 - May 26, 2025

General summer pursuit season: July 5 - August 3, 2025

Fall pursuit season: November 3 - 9, 2025

**RESTRICTED BLACK BEAR SUMMER PURSUIT SEASON**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Non-Res Permits	2025 Season Dates
Book Cliffs (early)	BR1008	26	2	July 5 - 16
Book Cliffs (late)	BR1011	26	2	July 19 - July 31
La Sal (early)	BR1009	14	1	July 5 - 16
La Sal (late)	BR1012	14	1	July 19 - July 31
San Juan (early)	BR1010	14	1	July 5 - 16
San Juan (late)	BR1013	14	1	July 19 - July 31
Book Cliffs (spring)	BR1015	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26
San Juan (spring)	BR1016	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26

La Sal (spring)	BR1017	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26
Spring pursuit season not restricted for Utah residents				

We are also recommending the following changes to black bear rule (R657-33):

1. Allow the use of a metal container to hold bait during seasons where bait is legal.
  - a. Maximum size of the container can not exceed 55 gallons
  - b. May not be used in areas designated wilderness by federal land management agencies
  - c. Must be removed within 72 hours of harvest or the end of the season.
2. Allow people that draw a multi-season bear permit to hunt any open harvest objective seasons on the unit they draw in addition to the limited entry seasons.

Recommendations for 2025-26 Furbearer include the following seasons:

- Bobcat
  - Six permits for individual
  - November 15, 2025 – March 1, 2026
  - No permit cap
- Beaver and Mink
  - September 15, 2025 – April 1, 2026
- Marten, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk and Weasel
  - September 15, 2025 – March 1, 2026
- Close the following areas to protect habitat restoration projects using beaver transplants
  - Threemile Creek (Garfield County)
  - Little Creek (Iron County)
  - Reservoir Canyon (Washington County)
- Open the following areas to trapping of beaver
  - Pine Creek (Beaver County)
  - Hunt Creek (Garfield County)

We are also recommending the following changes to cougar rule (R657-10)

1. Allow the sale of green cougar pelts
  - a. Currently a person may sell a cougar pelt but it must be tanned first. We don't feel like that needs to be a prerequisite any longer.
2. Allow the use of rimfire cartridges and ammunition to take cougars caught in traps.
  - a. trappers often carry these firearms when checking traps and this would allow them to use them to take cougars as well. Because cougars will be constrained by the trapping device, we feel a safe and humane kill can be achieved with these firearms and ammunition. This change will not allow the use of these firearms and ammunition to take cougars that are not constrained in traps.

Quick reference table for permit and quota recommendations for 2025-27

Unit #	Unit Name	Spring Dog Resident	Spring Dog Nonres	Summer Bait Resident	Summer Bait Nonres	Fall Resident	Fall Nonres	Other Fall Resident	Other Fall Nonres	Multiseason Resident	Multiseason Nonres	TOTAL PERMITS
22	Beaver	9	1	9	1	9	1	5	quota	1	0	36
10AB	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	49	5	14	1	18	2	20	quota	9	1	120
10C	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	14	1	5	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	30
25C/26	Boulder/Kaiparowits	20	2	13	1	9	1	22	quota	10	1	80
2/3	Cache/Ogden	2	0	4	0	1	0	10	quota	1	0	18
4/5/6	Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	quota	7	0	20	quota	20	quota	1	0	68
9BCD	Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	7	0	5	0	7	0	9	quota	5	0	34
21B	Fillmore, Pahvant	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	quota	0	0	5
25AB	Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	7	0	7	0	5	0	5	quota	3	0	27
7/8A	Kamas/North Slope, Summit	5	0	6	0	4	0	5	quota	5	0	25
13	La Sal	40	3	25	2	6	0	12	quota	13	1	104
16B	Manti-North	17	2	17	1	10	1	15	quota	13	1	78
16C/12A	Manti-South/San Rafael, North	18	2	18	2	18	2	25	quota	18	2	105
23	Monroe	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
24	Mt Dutton	4	0	3	0	3	0	2	quota	1	0	13
16A	Nebo	7	0	8	0	5	0	10	quota	5	0	36
11	Nine Mile	25	quota	18	2	26	3	10	quota	9	1	95
8BC	North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	5	quota	1	0	2	0	3	quota	1	0	12
28/29	Panguitch Lake/Zion	9	0	5	0	9	0	3	quota	4	0	30
27	Paunsaugunt	4	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	12
14	San Juan	35	3	22	2	6	0	12	quota	11	1	94
17BC	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	15	quota	5	0	9	0	10	quota	3	0	42
17A	Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	36	4	22	1	18	2	20	quota	14	1	120
9A	Yellowstone	10	quota	5	0	4	0	10	quota	3	0	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>360</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1219</b>

Unit Name	Harvest data			2022-2024 Strategy	Recommended Strategy 2025-2027	% Adult Male	% adult male range	% Female	%Female Range	Harvest Variable Assessment	Adjustment direction	2024 Permits	Adjustment %	adjustment Min ±	adjustment Max ±	Prof Judgment	Recommended Permits
	3-yr harvest	% permits filled (2024)	Nuisance to sport ratio														
Beaver	50	52.9	0.02	liberal	liberal	17.5	<25%	42.9	40-45%	Within range	Increase	34	20%	0	7	no	36
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	67	23.1	0.01	light	liberal	37.1	<25%	19.4	40-45%	New strategy	Increase	91	50%	0	46	no	120
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	18	8.3	0.00	light	moderate	18.8	25-35%	44.4	30-40%	New strategy	Increase	24	50%	0	12	no	30
Boulder/Kaiparowits	50	21.3	0.02	moderate	liberal	14.0	<25%	48.0	40-45%	New strategy	No change	80	50%	0	40	no	80
Cache/Ogden	6	44.4	0.83	moderate	liberal	25.0	<25%	50.0	40-45%	New strategy	Increase	9	50%	0	5	yes	18
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	34.8	0.30	liberal	liberal	25.0	<25%	20.0	40-45%	One in one out	Increase	23	20%	0	5	no	28
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	47	24.4	0.34	moderate	moderate	11.6	25-35%	61.7	30-40%	Both out same	No change	41	20% to 40%	8	17	no	34
Fillmore, Pahvant	3	33.3	0.00	moderate	moderate	66.7	25-35%	0.0	30-40%	Both out opposite	Increase	3	20%	0	1	yes	5
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	30	45.0	0.00	light	moderate	18.5	25-35%	36.7	30-40%	New strategy	Increase	20	50%	0	10	no	27
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	16	31.8	0.13	moderate	moderate	18.2	25-35%	43.8	30-40%	Both out opposite	Increase	22	20%	0	5	no	25
La Sal	157	55.8	0.00	moderate	moderate	27.5	25-35%	45.2	30-40%	One in one out	No change	104	20%	0	21	no	104
Manti-North	67	29.0	0.07	light	liberal	4.9	<25%	41.8	40-45%	New strategy	Increase	69	50%	0	35	no	78
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	100	40.0	0.04	moderate	liberal	16.7	<25%	32.0	40-45%	New strategy	Increase	70	50%	0	35	no	105
Monroe	3	50.0	0.33	moderate	moderate	66.7	25-35%	0.0	30-40%	Both out same	Increase	2	20% to 40%	0	1	yes	3
Mt Dutton	10	30.0	0.10	moderate	moderate	57.1	25-35%	20.0	30-40%	Both out same	Increase	10	20% to 40%	2	4	yes	13
Nebo	43	43.8	0.02	moderate	moderate	15.8	25-35%	53.5	30-40%	Both out opposite	Decrease	32	20%	0	7	no	26
Nine Mile	69	22.2	0.12	moderate	liberal	24.2	<25%	42.0	40-45%	New strategy	Increase	90	50%	0	45	no	95
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	12	37.5	0.33	liberal	liberal	16.7	<25%	50.0	40-45%	One in one out	No change	8	20%	0	2	no	12
Panguitch Lake/Zion	30	31.0	0.13	moderate	moderate	24.0	25-35%	13.3	30-40%	One in one out	Increase	29	20%	0	6	no	30
Paunsaugunt	6	9.1	0.00	moderate	moderate	40.0	25-35%	20.0	30-40%	One in one out	Increase	11	20%	0	3	yes	12
San Juan	132	44.2	0.02	moderate	moderate	22.9	25-35%	42.7	30-40%	Both out opposite	Decrease	104	20%	0	21	no	94
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	52	50.0	0.10	liberal	liberal	11.6	<25%	29.4	40-45%	One in one out	Increase	40	20%	0	8	no	52
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	108	28.0	0.06	liberal	liberal	17.5	<25%	43.5	40-45%	One in one out	No change	100	20%	0	20	no	100
Yellowstone	26	40.9	0.08	liberal	liberal	32.0	<25%	30.8	40-45%	One in one out	Increase	22	20%	0	5	no	32

## Interpreting this table.

3-yr harvest is the total number of bears taken from the unit over the last three-year cycle. This data is compiled and used to evaluate plan parameters and to make permit or quota adjustments for the next three years.

% Permits Filled is the average success rate for the unit over the last three years.

Nuisance to Sport Ratio gives an indication of the ratio of bears taken because they were involved in conflict with people. This could be aggressive behavior, livestock depredation or crop damage. Higher ratios may indicate a need to lower bear populations to lessen conflict situations on a unit.

Harvest Strategy columns show the harvest strategy for the last three-year cycle and the recommended strategy for the next three years. The strategy determines the range of adjustment to permits or quotas to meet plan objectives.

% Adult Male and % Female are the plan parameters that determine how much and in what direction to modify permit numbers or quotas to meet plan objectives.

% Adult Male and % Female Ranges are the management objective ranges for the unit based on the harvest strategy chosen by the biologist. The biologist looks at the % Adult Male and % female data and determines if they fall within the range required in the plan for the strategy they chose.

Harvest Variable Assessment. Using the ranges for the two management parameters (% adult male and % female) the biologist indicates if the observed data fall within the range or is outside the range. If the unit is changing harvest strategy this will also be indicated here.

Adjustment Direction indicates the direction to adjust permit numbers or quotas based on how the observed data compares to the management strategy objectives.

% Adjustment and Min/Max Adjustment. These columns show the amount of permit or quota adjustment spelled out in the management plan. If a unit has harvest objective hunts (quotas) a biologist may exceed these adjustment ranges and consider success rates and likely harvest for those hunts.

Professional Judgement indicates if a unit has a small enough sample size (low bear harvest) that the biologist can use their best professional judgment to make permit or quota adjustments.

RAC Members. If you have questions about any of this, please feel free reach out and I can walk you through it. I would also be happy to meet in person and do a refresher on the bear plan and how we make recommendations.

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## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-33. Taking Bear.**

#### **R657-33-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing bear.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

#### **R657-33-2. Definitions.**

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.
- (2) In addition:
- (a) "Accompany" means at a distance within which visual contact and verbal communication are maintained without the assistance of any electronic device.
- (b) "Bait" means any lure containing animal, mineral or plant materials.
- (c) "Baiting" means the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of bait to lure, attract or entice bear on or over any area.
- (d) "Bear" means *Ursus americanus*, commonly known as black bear.
- (e) "Canned hunt" means that a bear is treed, cornered, held at bay or its ability to escape is otherwise restricted to allow a person who was not a member of the initial hunting party to arrive and take the bear.
- (f) "Compensation" means anything of economic value in excess of \$100 that is paid, loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a dog handler for or in consideration of pursuing bear for any purpose.
- (g) "Control permit" means a permit issued in response to bear depredation to commercial crops pursuant to Subsection R657-33-23(4).
- (h) "Cub" means a bear less than one year of age.
- (i) "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 attached to the device.
- (j) "Dog handler" means the person in the field that is responsible for transporting, releasing, tracking, controlling, managing, training, commanding and retrieving the dogs involved in the pursuit. The owner of the dogs is presumed the dog handler when the owner is in the field during pursuit.
- (k) "Evidence of sex" means the teats, and sex organs of a bear, including a penis, scrotum or vulva.
- (l) "Green pelt" means the untanned hide or skin of a bear.
- (m) "Harvest-objective hunt" means any hunt that is identified as harvest-objective in the hunt table of the guidebook for taking bear.
- (n) "Harvest-objective permit" means any permit valid on harvest-objective units.
- (o) "Harvest-objective unit" means any unit designated as harvest-objective in the hunt table of the guidebook for taking bear.
- (p) "Immediate family member" means a landowner's or lessee's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild, and grandchild.
- (q)(i) "Limited entry hunt" means any hunt listed in the hunt table, published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear, which is identified as a limited entry hunt for bear.
- (ii) The Wildlife Board may authorize certain limited entry hunts that span multiple seasons, identified in the guidebook for taking bear as multi-season limited entry hunts.
- (iii) "Limited entry hunt" does not include harvest objective hunts or pursuit only.
- (r) "Limited entry permit" means any permit obtained for a limited entry hunt, including conservation permits, expo permits, and sportsman permits.
- (s) "Private lands" means any lands that are not public lands, excluding Indian trust lands.
- (t) "Public lands" means any lands owned by the state, a political subdivision or independent entity of the state, or the United States, excluding Indian trust lands, that are open to the public for purposes of engaging in pursuit.
- (u) "Pursue" means to chase, tree, corner or hold a bear at bay with dogs.
- (v) "Restricted pursuit unit" means a bear pursuit unit where pursuit is allowed only by a dog handler who:
- (i) possesses a pursuit permit issued for that particular pursuit unit;
- (ii) possesses or is accompanied by a person who possesses a limited entry bear permit for the unit, and the pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established for the limited entry bear permit; or
- (iii) is engaged in pursuit for compensation as provided in Subsection R657-33-26(2).
- (w) "Spot-and-stalk hunt" means a hunt prohibiting the use of bait or dogs to pursue or harvest a bear.
- (x) "Spot-and-stalk permit" means ~~any~~ bear permit available over the counter for seasons and units designated by the ~~Division~~ Director ~~as per Statute~~ under Section 23A-11-302. A hunter who obtains this permit may not use bait or dogs to take a bear.
- (y) "Trail Camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat or motion to trigger the device.
- (z)(i) "Valid application" means:
- (A) it is for a species for which the applicant is eligible to possess a permit;



- (B) there is a hunt for that species regardless of estimated permit numbers; and
- (C) there is sufficient information on the application to process the application, including personal information, hunt information, and sufficient payment.
- (ii) Applications missing any of the items in Subsection (i) may still be considered valid if the application is corrected before the deadline through the application correction process.
- (aa) "Waiting period" means a specified period that a person who has obtained a bear permit must wait before applying for any other bear permit.
- (bb) "Written permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private lands and must include:
  - (i) the name and signature of the owner or person in charge;
  - (ii) the address and phone number of the owner or person in charge;
  - (iii) the name of the dog handler given permission to enter the private lands;
  - (iv) a brief description of the pursuit activity authorized;
  - (v) the appropriate dates; and
  - (vi) a general description of the property.

#### **R657-33-3. Permits for Taking Bear.**

- (1)(a) To harvest a bear, a person must first obtain a valid limited entry bear permit, a harvest objective bear permit, a spot-and-stalk permit, or a bear control permit for a specified hunt unit as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (b) Any person who obtains a limited entry bear permit or a harvest objective bear permit which allows the use of dogs may pursue bear without a pursuit permit while hunting during the season and on the unit for which the take permit is valid, provided the person is the dog handler.
- (2)(a) A person may not apply for or obtain more than one bear permit per year, except:
  - (b) if the person is unsuccessful in the drawing administered by the division under Rule R657-62, the person may purchase a permit available outside of the drawing; and
  - (c) a person may acquire more than one bear control permit as described in Subsection R657-33-23(4).
- (3) Any bear permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase.
- (4) Residents and nonresidents may apply for and receive limited entry bear permits, and may purchase harvest objective bear permits and bear pursuit permits.
- (5)(a) A person must complete a mandatory orientation course before hunting in a limited entry, harvest objective season, or pursuing a bear using a bear pursuit permit.
- (b) A person must possess a certificate of completion of the mandatory orientation course while hunting ~~or~~ pursuing ~~black~~ bear.
- (c) The orientation course is not required to receive a bear control permit under Subsection R657-33-23(4).
- (d) The orientation course shall include training on hunter ethics.
- (6) To obtain a limited entry, harvest objective, spot-and-stalk permit, or bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license.

#### **R657-33-4. Permits for Pursuing Bear.**

- (1)(a) To pursue bear without a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit, the dog handler must:
  - (i) obtain a valid bear pursuit permit from a division office or through the drawing administered pursuant to [Rule R657-62](#); or
  - (ii) possess the documentation and certifications required in [Subsection R657-33-26\(2\)](#) to pursue bear for compensation.
- (b) A bear pursuit permit or exemption therefrom does not allow a person to kill a bear.
- (2) Residents and nonresidents may purchase bear pursuit permits consistent with the requirements of this rule and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board.
- (3) To obtain a bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license.

#### **R657-33-5. Hunting Hours.**

Bear may be taken or pursued only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.

#### **R657-33-6. Firearms, Archery Equipment, Crossbows, and Airguns.**

- (1) A person may only use weapons identified in Sections R657-5-8 through R657-5-11.
- (2) A person is prohibited from using weapons identified in Section R657-5-7.

#### **R657-33-7. Traps and Trapping Devices.**

- (1) Bear may not be taken with a trap, snare or any other trapping device, except as authorized by the division.
- (2) Bear accidentally caught in any trapping device must be released unharmed.
- (3)(a) Authorization must be obtained from a division representative to remove the carcass of a bear from any trapping device.

- (b) The carcass shall remain the property of Utah and must be surrendered to the division.

**R657-33-8. State Parks.**

- (1) Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas except for those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Division of [State Parks and Recreation in Rule under Section R651-614-4](#).
- (2) State laws regarding possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting.

**R657-33-9. Prohibited Methods.**

(1) Bear may be taken or pursued only during open seasons and using methods prescribed in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear. Otherwise, under [Title 23A](#), the Wildlife Resources [Code Act](#), it is unlawful for any person to pursue, possess, capture, kill, injure, drug, rope, trap, snare, or in any way harm or transport bear.

(2)(a) A person may not pursue a single bear in repeated pursuits such that it renders the bear physically unable to escape.

(b) After a bear has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered, legally baited or held at bay, a person may not, in any manner, restrict or hinder the animal's ability to escape.

(c) A person must make reasonable efforts to call dogs off a bear that has been cornered or held at bay.

(3) A person may not engage in a canned hunt.

(4) A person may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

(5)(a) A person may not place, maintain, or use a trail camera as prohibited in Section 23A-5-307;

(b) engage in the sale or purchase of trail camera or other non-handheld device media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of bear; or

(c) engage in the storage and sale or purchase of stored media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of bear.

(6)(a) A person may not use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve bear or their parts.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a [recordsrecord](#) classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-305."

**R657-33-10. Spotighting.**

(1) Except as provided in Section 23A-1-204:

(a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and

(b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is probable cause of attempting to locate protected wildlife.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(a) 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; or

(b) a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.

**R657-33-11. Party Hunting.**

A person may not take a bear for another person.

**R657-33-12. Use of Dogs.**

(1) Dogs may be used to take or pursue bear only during authorized hunts as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(2) A dog handler may pursue bear in a unit and during a season permitting the use of dogs, provided he or she possesses:

(a) a valid limited entry or harvest objective bear permit issued to the dog handler;

(b) a valid bear pursuit permit; or

(c) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-33-26(2) to pursue bear for compensation.

(3) When dogs are used to pursue a bear, the licensed hunter intending to take the bear must be present when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.

(4) When dogs are used to take a bear during a restricted pursuit season or when there is not an open pursuit season, the dog handler must have:

(a) a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs issued to the dog handler for the unit being hunted;

(b)(i) a valid bear pursuit permit; and

(ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a hunter possessing a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs for the unit being hunted; or

(c)(i) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-33-26(2) to pursue bear for compensation; and

(ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a paying client possessing a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs for the unit being hunted.

(5) A dog handler may pursue bear under:

(a) a bear pursuit permit only during the season and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit;

(b) a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs only during the season and in the area designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook for that permit; or

(c) the pursuit for compensation provisions in this rule only during the seasons and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit.

(6)(a) An individual may not:

(i) release into the field more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit;

(ii) pursue a bear with more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit, regardless of whether the individual owns or controls the dogs encountered in the field; or

(iii) harvest a bear that was pursued using more than the allowable maximum number of dogs.

(b) An individual may not pursue or take a bear using more than:

(i) 16 dogs in a single pursuit for the spring restricted pursuit season;

(ii) 8 dogs in a single pursuit for the summer restricted pursuit season; and

(iii) 16 dogs in a single pursuit for all other bear hunts allowing the use of dogs.

(c) The maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit is cumulative across all members of a hunting party, even if multiple members of the hunting party possess authorization to use dogs to pursue bear.

(7)(a) A dog handler pursuing bear may retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler:

(i) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;

(ii) separates from the permit holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue bear during the retrieval process; and

(iii) immediately releases any bear incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.

(b) Dogs that separate from the pack continue to count towards the maximum number of dogs allowable in pursuit.

(c) A dog handler retrieving stray dogs under this subsection must still possess the documentation initially required to use dogs to pursue bear as provided in this rule.

#### **R657-33-13. Certificate of Registration Required for Bear Baiting.**

(1) A certificate of registration for baiting must be obtained before establishing a bait station.

(2) Certificates of registration for bear baiting are issued only to holders of limited entry permits authorizing the use of bait, as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(3) A certificate of registration may be obtained from the division office within the region where the bait station will be established by applying on the division website.

(4) A new certificate of registration must be obtained before moving a bait station. All materials used as bait must be removed from the old site before the issuing of a new certificate of registration.

(5) The following information must be provided to obtain a certificate of registration for baiting: a 1:24000 USGS quad map with the bait location marked, or the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) or latitude and longitude coordinates of the bait station, including the datum, type of bait used and written permission from the appropriate landowner for private lands.

(6)(a) Any person interested in baiting on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management must verify that the lands are open to baiting before applying for and receiving a certificate of registration for bear baiting.

(b) Information on areas that are open to baiting on National Forests must be obtained from district offices.

(c) Issuance of a certificate of registration for baiting does not authorize an individual to bait if it is otherwise unlawful to bait under the regulations of the applicable land management agency.

(7) A handling fee must accompany the application.

(8) A person may hunt over a bait station only if:

(a) the person is listed on the certificate of registration and possesses the certificate of registration in the field; or

(b) possesses written permission from the certificate of registration holder to hunt over the bait station.

(9) Any person tending a bait station must be listed on the certificate of registration for that bait station.

#### **R657-33-14. Use of Bait.**

(1)(a) A person who has obtained a limited entry bear permit for a season and hunt unit that allows baiting may use firearms and archery equipment as provided in Section R657-33-6.

(b) Bear lured to a bait station may only be taken using firearms and archery equipment approved by the Wildlife Board and described in the guidebook for taking bear.

(c) A person may establish or use no more than two bait stations. The bait stations may only be used during periods designated in the guidebook for taking bear.

(d) Bear lured to a bait station may not be taken with dogs.

(e) Bait may not be contained in or include any metal, glass, porcelain, plastic, cardboard, or paper- [except that a single metal container with a maximum size of 55 gallons may be used if securely attached at the bait site. Metal containers may not be used within designated federal wilderness areas.](#)

- (f) The bait station must be marked with a sign provided by the division and posted within 10 feet of the bait.
- (g) A dog handler may not intentionally run dogs off a bait station while pursuing bear.
- (2)(a) Bait may be placed only in areas open to hunting and only during the open seasons.
- (b) All materials used as bait [including metal containers, if used](#), must be removed within 72 hours after the close of the season or within 72 hours after the persons, who are registered for that bait station harvest a bear.
- (3) A person may:
  - (i) use nongame fish as bait, except those listed as prohibited in Rule R657-13 and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for Taking Fish and Crayfish;
  - (ii) not use other species of protected wildlife as bait; or
  - (iii) not use any chocolate or cocoa products as bait.
- (4)(a) Domestic livestock or its parts, including processed meat scraps, may be used as bait.
- (b) A person using domestic livestock or their parts for bait must have in possession:
  - (i) a certificate of brand inspection, bill of sale, or other proof of ownership or legal possession.
- (5) Bait may not be placed within:
  - (a) 100 yards of water or a public road or designated trail; or
  - (b) 1/2 mile of any permanent dwelling or campground.
- [\(6\) This Section does not authorize the violation of any rules or regulations set by private landowners or public land management agencies.](#)

**R657-33-15. Tagging Requirements.**

- (1) The carcass of a bear must be tagged in accordance with Section 23A-4-709.
- (2) The carcass of a bear must be tagged with a temporary possession tag before the carcass is moved from or the hunter leaves the site of kill.
- (3) A person may not hunt or pursue bear after the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from the permit.
- (4) The temporary possession tag:
  - (a) must remain attached to the pelt or unskinned carcass until the permanent possession tag is attached; and
  - (b) is only valid for 48 hours after the date of kill.
- (5) A person may not possess a bear pelt or unskinned carcass without a valid permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass. This provision does not apply to a person in possession of a properly tagged carcass or pelt within 48 hours after the kill, provided the person was issued and is in possession of a valid permit.

**R657-33-16. Evidence of Sex and Age.**

- (1) Evidence of sex must remain attached to the carcass or pelt of each bear until a permanent tag has been attached by the division.
- (2) The pelt and skull must be presented to the division in an unfrozen condition to allow the division to gather management data.
- (3) The division may seize any pelt not accompanied by its skull.

**R657-33-17. Permanent Tag.**

- (1) Each bear taken by the permit holder must be checked by a division representative within 48 hours after the date of kill to have a permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass.
- (2) A person may not possess a green pelt after the 48-hour check-in period, ship a green pelt out of Utah, or present a green pelt to a taxidermist if the green pelt does not have a permanent possession tag attached.
- (3) The location of harvest and a tooth sample must be provided to the division during the check-in process.

**R657-33-18. Transporting Bear.**

Bear that have been legally taken may be transported by the permit holder provided the bear is properly tagged and the permittee possesses a valid permit.

**R657-33-19. Exporting Bear from Utah.**

- (1) A person may export a legally taken bear or its parts if that person has a valid permit and the bear is properly tagged with a permanent possession tag.
- (2) A person may not ship or cause to be shipped from Utah, a bear pelt without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by an authorized division representative.

**R657-33-20. Donating.**

- (1) A person may donate protected wildlife or their parts to another person in accordance with Section 23A-1-205.
- (2) A written statement of donation must be kept with the protected wildlife or parts showing:
  - (a) the number and species of protected wildlife or parts donated;
  - (b) the date of donation;
  - (c) the permit number of the donor and the permanent possession tag number; and

- (d) the signature of the donor.
- (3) A green pelt of any bear donated to another person must have a permanent possession tag affixed.
- (4) The written statement of donation must be retained with the pelt.

**R657-33-21. Purchasing or Selling.**

- (1) Legally obtained tanned bear hides may be purchased or sold.
- (2) A person may not purchase, sell, offer for sale or barter a green pelt, gall bladder, tooth, claw, paw or skull of any bear.

**R657-33-22. Waste of Wildlife.**

- (1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts in accordance with Section 23A-5-314.
- (2) The skinned carcass of a bear may be left in the field and does not constitute waste of wildlife.

**R657-33-23. Livestock and Commercial Crop Depredation.**

- (1) If a bear is harassing, chasing, disturbing, harming, attacking or killing livestock, or has committed such an act within the past 96 hours:
  - (a) the livestock owner, an immediate family member or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take bear, may kill the bear;
  - (b) a landowner or livestock owner may notify the division of the depredating bear and the division may:
    - (i) authorize a local hunter to take a bear using a valid permit; or
    - (ii) request that the offending bear be removed by [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist, supervised by the [USDA Wildlife Livestock Protection](#) Program; or
  - (c) the livestock owner may notify a [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist of the depredation, and that specialist or another agency employee may take the depredating bear.
- (2) Depredating bear may be taken at any time by a [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist while acting in the performance of the person's assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.
- (3) A depredating bear may be taken by those persons authorized in Subsection (1)(a) with:
  - (a) any weapon authorized for taking bear; or
  - (b) snares only with written authorization from the director of the division and subject to any conditions and restrictions set out in the written authorization.
- (i) The option in Subsection (3)(b) may only be authorized in the case of chronic depredation verified by [Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) or division personnel where numerous livestock have been killed by a depredating bear.
- (4) A person authorized under Section (3) to take depredating bear may take no more than two bears per incident.
- (5)(a) The division may issue depredation permits to take bear on specified private lands and public land grazing allotments with a chronic depredation situation where numerous livestock have been killed by bear.
  - (b) The division may:
    - (i) issue one or more depredation permits to the affected livestock owner or a designee, provided the livestock owner does not receive monetary consideration from the designee for the opportunity to use the depredation permit;
    - (ii) determine the legal weapons and methods of take allowed; and
    - (iii) specify the area and season that the permit is valid.
- (6)(a) Any bear taken under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) shall remain the property of the state and must be delivered to a division office or employee within 96 hours.
  - (b) The division may issue a bear depredation permit to a person who has killed a depredating bear under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) that authorizes the person to keep the carcass.
  - (c) A person that takes a bear under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) may acquire and use a limited entry permit or harvest objective cougar permit in the same year.
  - (d) Notwithstanding Subsections (6)(b) and (6)(c), a person may retain no more than one bear annually.
- (7)(a) The division may issue one or more control permits to an owner or lessee of private land to remove a bear causing damage to cultivated crops on cleared and planted land provided the following conditions are satisfied:
  - (i) the landowner or lessee contacts the appropriate division office within 96 hours of the damage occurring or provides documentation of previous chronic damage incidents;
  - (ii) the damaged cultivated crop is raised and utilized by the landowner or lessee for commercial gain and with a reasonable expectation of generating a profit;
  - (iii) at least 5 acres of the private land is placed in agricultural use pursuant to Section 59-2-502 and eligible for agricultural use valuation as provided in Sections 59-2-503 and 59-2-504;
  - (iv) the division confirms that the private land where the cultivated crop occurs has experienced chronic recurring damage from bears, or that there will likely be chronic recurring damage if offending bears are not immediately removed;
  - (v) the landowner, an immediate family member, or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take bear, receives the control permit from the division to remove the bear prior to initiating such action; and
  - (vi) the bear removal is otherwise in accordance with Utah law.

- (b) The division may issue control permits described in Subsection (7)(a) to identify restrictions necessary and to balance the threat to commercial crops on cleared and planted land and the wildlife resource, such as:
- (i) locations on the landowner or lessee's private property where offending bears may be taken;
  - (ii) the total number of control permits that may be issued; and
  - (iii) reporting requirements to the division.
- (c) Nothing herein mandates the division to issue control permits for a landowner or lessee to remove bears from their private property in lieu of:
- (i) the landowner or lessee taking nonlethal preventative measures in protecting their private property; and
  - (ii) the division undertaking wildlife management techniques as they deem appropriate.
- (8)(a) Any bear taken pursuant to Subsections (1) and (7) shall:
- (i) be delivered to a division office or employee within 48 hours; and
  - (ii) remain the property of the state, except the division may sell a bear damage permit to a person who has killed a depredating bear if that person wishes to maintain possession of the bear.
- (b) A person may only retain one bear carcass annually under this Section.

#### **R657-33-24. Questionnaire.**

Each permittee who receives a questionnaire should return the questionnaire to the division regardless of success. Returning the questionnaire helps the division evaluate population trends, determine harvest success and other valuable information.

#### **R657-33-25. Taking Bear.**

(1)(a) A person who has obtained a bear permit, excluding limited entry archery bear permit, may use any legal weapon to take one bear during the season and within the hunt unit(s) specified on the permit.

~~(b) A person who has obtained a limited entry bear archery permit may use only archery tackle to take on bear during the season and within the hunt units(s) specified on the permit.~~

(c) Harvest objective permits may be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(2)(a) A person may not take or pursue a cub, or a sow accompanied by cubs.

(b) Any bear, except a cub or a sow accompanied by cubs, may be taken during the prescribed seasons.

(3) Limited entry permits may be obtained by following the application procedures provided in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

(4) Season dates, closed areas, harvest objective permit areas and limited entry permit areas are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

(5) Multi-season permits may be obtained by following the application procedures provided in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear. Multi-season permit holders may also hunt any open harvest objective season(s) on the unit the multi-season permit is valid.

#### **R657-33-26. Bear Pursuit.**

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection R657-33-3(1)(b) and Subsection (2), bear may be pursued only by persons who have obtained a bear pursuit permit.

(b) The bear pursuit permit does not allow a person to:

(i) kill a bear; or

(ii) pursue bear for compensation.

(c) A person may pursue bear for compensation only as provided in Subsection (2).

(d) To obtain a bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a Utah hunting or combination license.

(2)(a) A person may pursue bear on public lands for compensation, provided the dog handler:

(i) receives compensation from a client or customer to pursue bear;

(ii) is a licensed hunting guide or outfitter under Title 58, Chapter 79, Hunting Guides and Outfitters Licensing Act and authorized to pursue bear;

(iii) possesses on their person the Utah hunting guide or outfitter license;

(iv) possesses on their person all permits and authorizations required by the applicable public lands managing authority to pursue bear for compensation; and

(v) is accompanied by the client or customer at all times during pursuit.

(b) A person may pursue bear on private lands for compensation, provided the dog handler:

(i) receives compensation from a client or customer to pursue bear;

(ii) is accompanied by the client or customer at all times during pursuit; and

(iii) possesses on their person written permission from all private landowners on whose property pursuit takes place.

(c) A person who is an employee or agent of the Division ~~of Wildlife Services~~ [UDAF](#) may pursue bear on public lands and private lands while acting within the scope of their employment.

(3) A pursuit permit is not required to pursue bear if the individual satisfies the requirements in Subsection (2).

(4)(a) A person pursuing bear for compensation under Subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) shall comply with all other requirements and restrictions in statute, rule and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board regulating the pursuit and take of bear.

(b) Any violation of, or failure to comply with Title 23A, Wildlife Resources Code, this rule, or the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board may be grounds for suspension of the privilege to pursue bear for compensation under this subsection, as determined by a division hearing officer.

(5) Except as provided in Subsection (6), a bear pursuit permit authorizes the holder to pursue bear with dogs on any unit open to pursuing bear during the seasons and under the conditions prescribed by the Wildlife Board in guidebook.

(6) The Wildlife Board may establish or designate in the guidebook restricted pursuit units as determined necessary or convenient to better manage wildlife resources, including to protect wildlife, curtail over-utilization of resources, reduce conflict with other recreational activities, reduce conflict with private and public land activities, and protect wildlife habitat.

(a) Bear may not be pursued on a restricted pursuit unit unless the dog handler:

(i) possesses a pursuit permit issued for the particular restricted pursuit unit;

(ii) possesses or is accompanied by a person who possesses a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit allowing the use of dogs, and the pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established by the respective permit; or

(iii) is engaged in pursuit for compensation as provided in Subsection (2), and pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established for the:

(A) paying client's limited entry or harvest objective bear permit allowing the use of dogs; or

(B) restricted pursuit unit.

(b) A pursuit permit issued for a restricted pursuit unit authorizes the holder to pursue bear on:

(i) the particular restricted pursuit unit for which the permit is issued; and

(ii) any other bear pursuit unit not designated as a restricted pursuit unit.

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (6)(a)(i), when two or more dog owners are in the field pursuing bear together, only one must possess a restricted pursuit unit permit, provided the dog owners accompany the person possessing the restricted pursuit unit permit at all times.

(i) A dog handler pursuing bear on a restricted pursuit unit may leave the pursuit permit holder to retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler;

(A) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;

(B) separates from the pursuit permit holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue bear during the retrieval process; and

(C) immediately releases any bear incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.

(ii) Maximum number of dogs in the field and pack sizes described in Section R657-33-12 remain applicable, even if there are multiple dog owners in the same hunting party.

(7) Pursuit permits may be obtained at division offices, through the internet and at license agents.

(a) The division may distribute pursuit permits for restricted pursuit units:

(i) through its offices, license agents, or online resources on a first-come, first-served basis; or

(ii) through a random drawing.

(8) A person may not:

(a) take or pursue a female bear with cubs;

(b) repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner or hold at bay the same bear during the same day; or

(c) individually or in combination with another person, use more than eight dogs in the field to pursue a bear during the summer pursuit season as established by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook.

(9) If eligible, a person who has obtained a bear pursuit permit may also obtain a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit.

(10) Season dates, closed areas and bear pursuit permit areas are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

#### **R657-33-27. Limited Entry Bear Permit Application Information.**

(1) Limited entry bear permits are issued pursuant to R657-62-19.

#### **R657-33-28. Waiting Period.**

(1) Any person who obtains a limited entry permit may not apply for a permit in a division drawing for a period of two years.

(2) Individuals who obtain a conservation permit, sportsman permit, control permit, or harvest objective permit for bear are not subject to a waiting period.

#### **R657-33-29. Harvest Objective General Information.**

(1) Harvest objective permits are valid only for the open harvest objective management units and for the specified seasons published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(2) Harvest objective permits are not valid in a specified unit after the harvest objective has been met for that harvest objective unit.

#### **R657-33-30. Harvest Objective Permit Sales.**

- (1) Harvest objective permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on the date published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (2) Any bear permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase.
- (3) A person must possess a valid hunting or combination license to obtain a harvest objective permit.

**R657-33-31. Harvest Objective Unit Closures.**

- (1) Before hunting in a harvest objective unit, a hunter must visit the division's website to verify that the bear hunting unit is still open. The website will be updated each day by 12 noon. Updates become effective the following day 30 minutes before official sunrise.
- (2) Harvest objective units are open to hunting until:
  - (a) the bear harvest objective for that harvest objective unit is met and the division closes the area; or
  - (b) the end of the hunting season as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (3) Upon closure of a harvest objective unit, a hunter may not take or pursue bear except as provided in Section R657-33-26.

**R657-33-32. Harvest Objective Unit Reporting.**

- (1) Any person taking a bear with a harvest objective permit must report to the division, within 48 hours, where the bear was taken and have a permanent tag affixed pursuant to Section R657-33-17.
- (2) Failure to accurately report the correct harvest objective unit where the bear was killed is unlawful.
- (3) Any conviction for failure to accurately report, or aiding or assisting in the failure to accurately report as required in Subsection (1) shall be considered probable cause evidence of a knowing, intentional or reckless violation for purposes of permit suspension.

**R657-33-33. Fees.**

The permit fees and handling fees must be paid pursuant to Rule R657-42-8(5).

**R657-33-34. Drawings and Remaining Permits.**

Remaining limited entry bear permits are issued pursuant to R657-62.

**R657-33-35. Bonus Points.**

Bonus points are accrued and used pursuant to R657-62-8 and R657-62-19.

**R657-33-36. Refunds.**

- (1) Unsuccessful applicants will not be charged for a permit.
- (2) The handling fees and hunting or combination license fees are nonrefundable.

**R657-33-37. Duplicate License and Permit.**

Whenever any unexpired license, permit, tag or certificate of registration is destroyed, lost or stolen, a person may obtain a duplicate in accordance with R657-42.

**KEY: wildlife, bear, game laws**

**Date of Last Change: March 13, 2024**

**Notice of Continuation: October 31, 2022**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-1-101; 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305;**





State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

DATE: Nov 11, 2024

SUBJECT: 2025-27 BLACK BEAR PERMIT/QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMMENDMENTS.

2025-26 FURBEARER SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS AND COUGAR RULE AMMENDMENTS

2025 will be the first year of the next three year bear management cycle. We are recommending permits and quotas for the various black bear seasons for that time frame. We are recommending the following permit/quota recommendations and season dates.

SPRING BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON				
Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7000	9	1	March 29 - May 26
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7001	49	5	March 29 - May 26
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7224	14	1	March 29 - May 26
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7012	20	2	March 29 - May 26
Cache/Ogden	BR7017	2	0	March 29 - May 26
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7015	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7007	1	0	March 29 - May 26
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7013	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7018	5	0	March 29 - May 26
La Sal	BR7008	40	3	March 29 - May 26
Manti-North	BR7003	17	2	March 29 - May 26
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7004	18	2	March 29 - May 26
Monroe	BR7020	1	0	March 29 - May 26
Mt Dutton	BR7009	4	0	March 29 - May 26

Nebo	BR7005	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7010	9	0	March 29 - May 26
Paunsaugunt	BR7011	4	0	March 29 - May 26
San Juan	BR7014	35	3	March 29 - May 26
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7016	36	4	March 29 - May 26

**SUMMER BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON (No dogs allowed, bait allowed)**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7100	9	1	May 26 - June 29
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7101	14	1	May 26 - June 29
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7102	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7114	13	1	May 26 - June 29
Cache/Ogden	BR7121	4	0	May 26 - June 29
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7117	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7124	2	0	May 26 - June 29
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7115	7	0	May 26 - June 29
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7123	6	0	May 26 - June 29
La Sal	BR7108	25	2	May 26 - June 29
Manti-North	BR7104	17	1	May 26 - June 29
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7105	18	2	May 26 - June 29
Monroe	BR7125	1	0	May 26 - June 29
Mt Dutton	BR7109	3	0	May 26 - June 29
Nebo	BR7106	8	0	May 26 - June 29
Nine Mile	BR7110	18	2	May 26 - June 29
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7111	1	0	May 26 - June 29
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7112	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Paunsaugunt	BR7113	3	0	May 26 - June 29
San Juan	BR7116	22	2	May 26 - June 29
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7119	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7120	22	1	May 26 - June 29
Yellowstone	BR7118	5	0	May 26 - June 29

**FALL BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates	Comments
Beaver	BR7200	9	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7201	18	2	Aug. 2 - Aug. 15 & Oct. 3 - Nov. 16	No Bait
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7215	9	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Cache/Ogden	BR7228	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7218	7	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7207	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7216	5	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7229	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
La Sal	BR7208	6	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Manti-North	BR7203	10	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7204	18	2	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Monroe	new hunt	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Mt Dutton	BR7210	3	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Nebo	BR7205	5	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Nine Mile	BR7211	26	3	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7212	2	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7213	9	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Paunsaugunt	BR7214	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
San Juan	BR7217	6	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7220	9	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7221	18	2	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Yellowstone	BR7219	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait

**BLACK BEAR HARVEST OBJECTIVE**

Unit	Harvest Objectives	2025 Season Dates	
Beaver	5	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	20	Aug. 16-Oct. 2	No Bait/No Dogs
Boulder/Kaiparowits	22	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Cache/Ogden	10	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	9	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Fillmore, Pahvant	1	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	5	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	5	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
La Sal	12	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Manti-North	15	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	25	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Mt Dutton	2	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Nebo	10	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Nine Mile	25	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Nine Mile	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	5	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	3	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Panguitch Lake/Zion	3	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
San Juan	12	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	15	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	20	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Yellowstone	10	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Yellowstone	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs

BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SPOT AND STALK SEASON				
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7225	5	0	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9

**MULTI-SEASON BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON (Public draw)**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7318	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7300	9	1	All limited-entry seasons
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7301	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7310	10	1	All limited-entry seasons
Cache/Ogden	BR7320	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	new hunt	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7313	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7311	3	0	All limited-entry seasons
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7321	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
La Sal	BR7307	13	1	All limited-entry seasons
Manti-North	BR7303	13	1	All limited-entry seasons
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7304	18	2	All limited-entry seasons
Mt Dutton	BR7322	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Nebo	BR7305	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Nine Mile	BR7317	9	1	All limited-entry seasons
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7308	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7309	4	0	All limited-entry seasons
Paunsaugunt	BR7323	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
San Juan	BR7312	11	1	All limited-entry seasons
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7315	3	0	All limited-entry seasons
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7316	14	1	All limited-entry seasons
Yellowstone	BR7314	3	0	All limited-entry seasons

**BLACK BEAR PURSUIT SEASONS**

Spring pursuit season: March 29 - May 26, 2025

General summer pursuit season: July 5 - August 3, 2025

Fall pursuit season: November 3 - 9, 2025

**RESTRICTED BLACK BEAR SUMMER PURSUIT SEASON**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Non-Res Permits	2025 Season Dates
Book Cliffs (early)	BR1008	26	2	July 5 - 16
Book Cliffs (late)	BR1011	26	2	July 19 - July 31
La Sal (early)	BR1009	14	1	July 5 - 16
La Sal (late)	BR1012	14	1	July 19 - July 31
San Juan (early)	BR1010	14	1	July 5 - 16
San Juan (late)	BR1013	14	1	July 19 - July 31
Book Cliffs (spring)	BR1015	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26
San Juan (spring)	BR1016	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26

La Sal (spring)	BR1017	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26
Spring pursuit season not restricted for Utah residents				

We are also recommending the following changes to black bear rule (R657-33):

1. Allow the use of a metal container to hold bait during seasons where bait is legal.
  - a. Maximum size of the container can not exceed 55 gallons
  - b. May not be used in areas designated wilderness by federal land management agencies
  - c. Must be removed within 72 hours of harvest or the end of the season.
2. Allow people that draw a multi-season bear permit to hunt any open harvest objective seasons on the unit they draw in addition to the limited entry seasons.

Recommendations for 2025-26 Furbearer include the following seasons:

- Bobcat
  - Six permits for individual
  - November 15, 2025 – March 1, 2026
  - No permit cap
- Beaver and Mink
  - September 15, 2025 – April 1, 2026
- Marten, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk and Weasel
  - September 15, 2025 – March 1, 2026
- Close the following areas to protect habitat restoration projects using beaver transplants
  - Threemile Creek (Garfield County)
  - Little Creek (Iron County)
  - Reservoir Canyon (Washington County)
- Open the following areas to trapping of beaver
  - Pine Creek (Beaver County)
  - Hunt Creek (Garfield County)

We are also recommending the following changes to cougar rule (R657-10)

1. Allow the sale of green cougar pelts
  - a. Currently a person may sell a cougar pelt but it must be tanned first. We don't feel like that needs to be a prerequisite any longer.
2. Allow the use of rimfire cartridges and ammunition to take cougars caught in traps.
  - a. trappers often carry these firearms when checking traps and this would allow them to use them to take cougars as well. Because cougars will be constrained by the trapping device, we feel a safe and humane kill can be achieved with these firearms and ammunition. This change will not allow the use of these firearms and ammunition to take cougars that are not constrained in traps.

## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-10. Taking Cougar.**

#### **R657-10-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing cougar.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

#### **R657-10-2. Definitions.**

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Canned hunt" means that a cougar is treed, cornered, held at bay or its ability to escape is otherwise restricted to allow a person who was not a member of the initial hunting party to arrive and take the cougar.

(b) "Compensation" means anything of economic value over \$100 that is paid, loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a dog handler for or in consideration of pursuing cougar for any purpose.

(c) "Cougar" means Puma concolor, commonly known as mountain lion, lion, puma, panther or catamount.

(d) "Dog handler" means the person in the field that is responsible for transporting, releasing, tracking, controlling, managing, training, commanding and retrieving the dogs involved in the pursuit. The owner of the dogs is presumed the dog handler when the owner is in the field during pursuit.

(e) "Evidence of sex" means the sex organs of a cougar, including a penis, scrotum or vulva.

(f) "Green pelt" means the untanned hide or skin of any cougar.

(g) "Harvest objective" means an identified limit on the number of cougars that may be harvested during the season on a particular unit.

(h) "Immediate family member" means a livestock owner's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild and grandchild.

(i) "Kitten" means a cougar that has obvious spots on its sides or its back or has obvious leg barring coloration.

(j) "Location of Harvest" means the exact location that the cougar is killed. GPS coordinates are preferred.

(k) "Private lands" means any lands that are not public lands, excluding Indian trust lands.

(l) "Public lands" means any lands owned by the state, a political subdivision or independent entity of the state, or the United States, excluding Indian trust lands, that are open to the public for purposes of engaging in pursuit.

(m) "Pursue" means to chase, tree, corner or hold a cougar at bay.

(n) "Trail Camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat or motion to trigger the device.

(o) "Written permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private lands and must include:

(i) the name and signature of the owner or person in charge;

(ii) the address and phone number of the owner or person in charge;

(iii) the name of the dog handler given permission to enter the private lands;

(iv) a brief description of the pursuit activity authorized;

(v) the appropriate dates; and

(vi) a general description of the property.

#### **R657-10-3. License for Taking Cougar.**

Pursuant to Title 23A, Chapter 19 Licenses, Permits, and Tags, any person who first obtains a valid hunting or combination license may hunt, pursue, or trap cougar during the time period for which the license is valid.

#### **R657-10-4. Hunting Hours.**

Except as provided in Rule R657-11, [Taking Furbearers and Trapping](#), Cougar may be taken or pursued only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.

#### **R657-10-5. Firearms, Archery Equipment, Crossbows, and Airguns.**

           (1) A person may only use weapons identified in Sections R657-5-8 through R657-5-11 or;

           (2) [Rimfire firearms may be used as legal weapons if the cougar has been trapped and remains held in the trapping device.](#)

#### **R657-10-6. Traps and Trapping Devices.**

Cougar may be taken by trapping ~~provided a person complies in compliance~~ with ~~all rules set forth in~~ Rule R657-11, [Taking Furbearers and Trapping](#).

#### **R657-10-7. State Parks.**

(1) Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas except for those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Division of State Parks in Section R651-614-4.

(2) State laws regarding possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting.

#### **R657-10-8. Prohibited Methods.**

(1) Cougar may be taken or pursued only during open seasons and using methods prescribed in this Rule, [Rule R657-11, Taking Furbearer and Trapping](#), and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar. Otherwise, under [Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Code Act](#), it is unlawful for any person to pursue, possess, capture, kill, injure, drug, rope, trap, snare or in any way harm or transport cougar.

(2)(a) A person may not pursue a single cougar in repeated pursuits such that it renders the cougar physically unable to escape.

(b) After a cougar has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered or held at bay, a person may not, in any manner, restrict or hinder the animal's ability to escape if the person does not intend to harvest the cougar.

(c) A person must make reasonable efforts to call dogs off of a cougar that has been cornered or held at bay.

(3) A person may not engage in a canned hunt.

(4) A person may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

(5) Electronic locating equipment may not be used to locate cougars wearing electronic radio devices.

(6)(a) A person may not place, maintain, or use a trail camera as prohibited in Section 23A-5-307;

(b) engage in the sale or purchase of trail camera or other non-handheld device media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of cougar; or

(c) engage in the storage and sale or purchase of stored media, including image, video, location, time or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of cougar.

(7)(a) A person may not use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve cougar or their parts.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a [recordsrecord](#) classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-305."

#### **R657-10-9. Spotlighting.**

(1) Except as provided in Section 23A-1-204:

(a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and

(b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife.

(2) This section does 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.

#### **R657-10-10. Party Hunting.**

A person may not take a cougar for another person.

#### **R657-10-11. Use of Dogs.**

(1) Dogs may be used to take or pursue cougar only during open seasons as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(2) A dog handler may pursue cougar provided they possesses:

(a) a valid hunting or combination license issued to the dog handler; or

(b) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-10-25(2) to pursue cougar for compensation.

(3) When dogs are used in the pursuit of a cougar, the licensed hunter intending to take the cougar must be present when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.

(4) When dogs are used to take a cougar and there is not an open pursuit season, the dog handler must have:

(a) a valid hunting or combination license; or

(b)(i) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-10-25(2) to pursue cougar for compensation;

and

(ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a paying client possessing a hunting or combination license.

(5) A dog handler may pursue cougar under:

(a) a valid hunting or combination license during the season and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit; or

(b) the pursuit for compensation provisions in this rule only during the seasons and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit.

(6)(a) An individual may not:

(i) release into the field more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit;



- (ii) pursue a cougar with more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit, regardless of whether the individual owns or controls the dogs encountered in the field; or
- (iii) harvest a cougar that was pursued using more than the allowable maximum number of dogs.
- (b) An individual may not pursue or take a cougar using more than 16 dogs in a single pursuit.
- (c) The maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit is cumulative across all members of a hunting party, even if multiple members of the hunting party possess authorization to use dogs to pursue cougar.
- (7)(a) A dog handler pursuing cougar may retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler:
  - (i) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;
  - (ii) separates from the license holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue cougar during the retrieval process; and
  - (iii) immediately releases any cougar incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.
- (b) Dogs that separate from the pack continue to count toward the maximum number of dogs allowable in pursuit.
- (c) A dog handler retrieving stray dogs under this subsection must still possess the documentation initially required to use dogs to pursue cougar as provided in this rule.

**R657-10-12. Tagging Requirements.**

A person may not possess a cougar pelt or unskinned carcass without a valid permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass. This provision does not apply to a person in possession of a properly tagged carcass or pelt within 48 hours after the kill, provided the person was issued and is in possession of a valid hunting or combination license.

**R657-10-13. Evidence of Sex and Age.**

- (1) Evidence of sex must remain attached to the carcass or pelt of each cougar until a permanent tag has been attached by the division.
- (2) The pelt and skull must be presented to the division in an unfrozen condition to allow the division to gather management data.
- (3) It is mandatory that a tooth (PM1) be removed by the division at the time of permanent tagging to be used for aging purposes.
- (4) The division may seize any pelt not accompanied by its skull or not having sufficient evidence of biological sex designation attached.

**R657-10-14. Permanent Tag.**

- (1)(a) Each cougar must be taken by the license holder to a conservation officer or division office within 48 hours after the date of kill to have a permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass and for the removal of a tooth.
- (b) After regular business hours, on weekends, or on holidays, a conservation officer may be reached by contacting the local police dispatch office.
- (2) A person may not possess a green pelt after the 48-hour check-in period, or ship a green pelt out of Utah, or present a green pelt to a taxidermist if the green pelt does not have a permanent possession tag attached.
- (3) The location of harvest and a tooth sample must be provided to the division during the check-in process.

**R657-10-15. Transporting Cougar.**

- (1) Within 48 hours of legally harvesting a cougar, a person may ~~be~~ transport the cougar if they possess a valid license.
- (2) A person transporting a cougar beyond 48 hours after legally harvesting a cougar, ~~they~~ must possess a valid license and a permanent possession tag described in Section R657-10-13.

**R657-10-16. Exporting Cougar from Utah.**

- (1) A person may export a legally taken cougar or its parts if that person has a valid license and the cougar is properly tagged with a permanent possession tag.
- (2) A person may not ship or cause to be shipped from Utah, a cougar pelt without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by an authorized division representative.

**R657-10-17. Donating.**

- (1) A person may donate protected wildlife or their parts to another person as provided in Section 23A-1-205.
- (2) A green pelt of any cougar donated to another person must have a permanent possession tag affixed.
- (3) The written statement of donation must be retained with the pelt.

**R657-10-18. Purchasing or Selling.**

- (1) Legally obtained, green or tanned cougar hides may be purchased or sold.
- (2) A person may not purchase, sell, offer for sale, or barter a tooth, claw, paw, or skull of any cougar.

**R657-10-19. Waste of Wildlife.**

- (1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts.

- (2) The skinned carcass of a cougar may be left in the field and does not constitute waste of wildlife.

**R657-10-20. Livestock Depredation and Human Health and Safety.**

(1) If a cougar is harassing, chasing, disturbing, harming, attacking or killing livestock, or has committed such an act within the past 96 hours:

(a) in depredation cases, the livestock owner, an immediate family member or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take cougar, may kill the cougar;

(b) a landowner or livestock owner may notify the division of the depredation or human health and safety concerns, who shall authorize a local hunter to take the offending cougar or notify a [USDA, Wildlife ServicesUtah Department of Agriculture and Food \(UDAF\)](#) specialist; or

(c) the livestock owner may notify a [USDA, Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist of the depredation who may take the depredating cougar.

(2) Depredating cougar may be taken at any time by a [USDA, Wildlife ServicesUDAF](#) specialist, supervised by the [Wildlife ServicesLivestock Protection](#) program, while acting in the performance of the person's assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.

(3)(a) A depredating cougar may be taken by those persons authorized in Subsection (1)(a) with:

(i) any weapon authorized for taking cougar; or

(ii) with the use of traps or snares

(4)(a) Any cougar taken under Subsection (1)(a) or (4)(a) shall remain the property of the state and must be reported to a division office or employee within 96 hours.

(b) The division may issue a cougar damage permit to a person who has killed a depredating cougar under Subsection (1)(a) that authorizes the person to keep the carcass.

(c) A person that takes a cougar under Subsection (1)(a) or (4)(a) may acquire and use a hunting or combination license in the same year.

**R657-10-21. Survey.**

Each license holder who is contacted for a survey about their cougar hunting experience should participate in the survey regardless of success. Participation in the survey helps the division evaluate population trends, harvest success and collect other valuable information.

**R657-10-22. Taking Cougar.**

(1) A person may not:

(a) take or pursue a female cougar with a kitten; or

(b) repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner, or hold at bay, the same cougar during the same day after the cougar has been released.

(2) Any cougar may be taken during the prescribed seasons, except a kitten or any cougar accompanied by one or more kittens.

(3) A person may not take a cougar wearing a radio or GPS collar on any unit identified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar as being closed to the take of collared animals.

**R657-10-23. Wildlife Management Areas.**

(1) A person may not use motor vehicles on division-owned wildlife management areas closed to motor vehicle use during the winter without first obtaining written authorization from the appropriate division regional office.

(2) The division may, in its sole discretion, authorize limited motor vehicle access to its wildlife management areas closed to such use during the winter provided:

(a) the person seeking access to retrieve a cougar in the area;

(b) motor vehicle access is necessary to effectively hunt or pursue a cougar; and

(c) motor vehicle access will not interfere with wintering wildlife or wildlife habitat.

**KEY: wildlife, cougar, game laws**

**Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023**

**Notice of Continuation: July 2, 2021**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305**



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Game Mammals Program Coordinator

DATE: Nov 11, 2024

SUBJECT: 2025-27 BLACK BEAR PERMIT/QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMMENDMENTS.

2025-26 FURBEARER SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS AND COUGAR RULE AMMENDMENTS

2025 will be the first year of the next three year bear management cycle. We are recommending permits and quotas for the various black bear seasons for that time frame. We are recommending the following permit/quota recommendations and season dates.

SPRING BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON				
Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7000	9	1	March 29 - May 26
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7001	49	5	March 29 - May 26
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7224	14	1	March 29 - May 26
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7012	20	2	March 29 - May 26
Cache/Ogden	BR7017	2	0	March 29 - May 26
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7015	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7007	1	0	March 29 - May 26
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7013	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7018	5	0	March 29 - May 26
La Sal	BR7008	40	3	March 29 - May 26
Manti-North	BR7003	17	2	March 29 - May 26
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7004	18	2	March 29 - May 26
Monroe	BR7020	1	0	March 29 - May 26
Mt Dutton	BR7009	4	0	March 29 - May 26

Nebo	BR7005	7	0	March 29 - May 26
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7010	9	0	March 29 - May 26
Paunsaugunt	BR7011	4	0	March 29 - May 26
San Juan	BR7014	35	3	March 29 - May 26
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7016	36	4	March 29 - May 26

**SUMMER BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON (No dogs allowed, bait allowed)**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7100	9	1	May 26 - June 29
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7101	14	1	May 26 - June 29
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7102	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7114	13	1	May 26 - June 29
Cache/Ogden	BR7121	4	0	May 26 - June 29
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7117	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7124	2	0	May 26 - June 29
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7115	7	0	May 26 - June 29
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7123	6	0	May 26 - June 29
La Sal	BR7108	25	2	May 26 - June 29
Manti-North	BR7104	17	1	May 26 - June 29
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7105	18	2	May 26 - June 29
Monroe	BR7125	1	0	May 26 - June 29
Mt Dutton	BR7109	3	0	May 26 - June 29
Nebo	BR7106	8	0	May 26 - June 29
Nine Mile	BR7110	18	2	May 26 - June 29
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7111	1	0	May 26 - June 29
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7112	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Paunsaugunt	BR7113	3	0	May 26 - June 29
San Juan	BR7116	22	2	May 26 - June 29
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7119	5	0	May 26 - June 29
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7120	22	1	May 26 - June 29
Yellowstone	BR7118	5	0	May 26 - June 29

**FALL BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates	Comments
Beaver	BR7200	9	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7201	18	2	Aug. 2 - Aug. 15 & Oct. 3 - Nov. 16	No Bait
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7215	9	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Cache/Ogden	BR7228	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7218	7	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Fillmore, Pahvant	BR7207	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7216	5	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7229	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
La Sal	BR7208	6	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Manti-North	BR7203	10	1	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7204	18	2	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Monroe	new hunt	1	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Mt Dutton	BR7210	3	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Nebo	BR7205	5	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Nine Mile	BR7211	26	3	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7212	2	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7213	9	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Paunsaugunt	BR7214	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
San Juan	BR7217	6	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7220	9	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7221	18	2	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Yellowstone	BR7219	4	0	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait

**BLACK BEAR HARVEST OBJECTIVE**

Unit	Harvest Objectives	2025 Season Dates	
Beaver	5	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	20	Aug. 16-Oct. 2	No Bait/No Dogs
Boulder/Kaiparowits	22	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Cache/Ogden	10	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31 & Nov 3 - Nov. 9	No Bait
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	20	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	9	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Fillmore, Pahvant	1	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	5	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	5	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
La Sal	12	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Manti-North	15	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	25	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Mt Dutton	2	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Nebo	10	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Nine Mile	25	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Nine Mile	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	5	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	3	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Panguitch Lake/Zion	3	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
San Juan	12	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	15	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	20	July 5 - 31 & Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs
Yellowstone	10	March 29 - May 26	No Bait
Yellowstone	10	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	No Bait/No Dogs

**BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SPOT AND STALK SEASON**

Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7225	5	0	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9
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**MULTI-SEASON BLACK BEAR LIMITED ENTRY SEASON (Public draw)**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Nonresident Permits	2025 Season Dates
Beaver	BR7318	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	BR7300	9	1	All limited-entry seasons
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	BR7301	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Boulder/Kaiparowits	BR7310	10	1	All limited-entry seasons
Cache/Ogden	BR7320	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich	new hunt	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Diamond Mtn/Vernal/Bonanza	BR7313	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	BR7311	3	0	All limited-entry seasons
Kamas/North Slope, Summit	BR7321	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
La Sal	BR7307	13	1	All limited-entry seasons
Manti-North	BR7303	13	1	All limited-entry seasons
Manti-South/San Rafael, North	BR7304	18	2	All limited-entry seasons
Mt Dutton	BR7322	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Nebo	BR7305	5	0	All limited-entry seasons
Nine Mile	BR7317	9	1	All limited-entry seasons
North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	BR7308	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
Panguitch Lake/Zion	BR7309	4	0	All limited-entry seasons
Paunsaugunt	BR7323	1	0	All limited-entry seasons
San Juan	BR7312	11	1	All limited-entry seasons
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	BR7315	3	0	All limited-entry seasons
Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	BR7316	14	1	All limited-entry seasons
Yellowstone	BR7314	3	0	All limited-entry seasons

**BLACK BEAR PURSUIT SEASONS**

Spring pursuit season: March 29 - May 26, 2025

General summer pursuit season: July 5 - August 3, 2025

Fall pursuit season: November 3 - 9, 2025

**RESTRICTED BLACK BEAR SUMMER PURSUIT SEASON**

Unit	Hunt	Resident Permits	Non-Res Permits	2025 Season Dates
Book Cliffs (early)	BR1008	26	2	July 5 - 16
Book Cliffs (late)	BR1011	26	2	July 19 - July 31
La Sal (early)	BR1009	14	1	July 5 - 16
La Sal (late)	BR1012	14	1	July 19 - July 31
San Juan (early)	BR1010	14	1	July 5 - 16
San Juan (late)	BR1013	14	1	July 19 - July 31
Book Cliffs (spring)	BR1015	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26
San Juan (spring)	BR1016	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26

La Sal (spring)	BR1017	See Below	2	March 29 - May 26
Spring pursuit season not restricted for Utah residents				

We are also recommending the following changes to black bear rule (R657-33):

1. Allow the use of a metal container to hold bait during seasons where bait is legal.
  - a. Maximum size of the container can not exceed 55 gallons
  - b. May not be used in areas designated wilderness by federal land management agencies
  - c. Must be removed within 72 hours of harvest or the end of the season.
2. Allow people that draw a multi-season bear permit to hunt any open harvest objective seasons on the unit they draw in addition to the limited entry seasons.

Recommendations for 2025-26 Furbearer include the following seasons:

- Bobcat
  - Six permits for individual
  - November 15, 2025 – March 1, 2026
  - No permit cap
- Beaver and Mink
  - September 15, 2025 – April 1, 2026
- Marten, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk and Weasel
  - September 15, 2025 – March 1, 2026
- Close the following areas to protect habitat restoration projects using beaver transplants
  - Threemile Creek (Garfield County)
  - Little Creek (Iron County)
  - Reservoir Canyon (Washington County)
- Open the following areas to trapping of beaver
  - Pine Creek (Beaver County)
  - Hunt Creek (Garfield County)

We are also recommending the following changes to cougar rule (R657-10)

1. Allow the sale of green cougar pelts
  - a. Currently a person may sell a cougar pelt but it must be tanned first. We don't feel like that needs to be a prerequisite any longer.
2. Allow the use of rimfire cartridges and ammunition to take cougars caught in traps.
  - a. trappers often carry these firearms when checking traps and this would allow them to use them to take cougars as well. Because cougars will be constrained by the trapping device, we feel a safe and humane kill can be achieved with these firearms and ammunition. This change will not allow the use of these firearms and ammunition to take cougars that are not constrained in traps.



## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-11. Taking Furbearers and Trapping.**

#### **R657-11-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking furbearers and trapping.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

(3) Take of coyotes and raccoons is regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Food pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 23, Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Act. The division, through the Wildlife Board, is charged in Sections 23A-2-201 and 23A-2-305 to conserve protected wildlife and establish rules considered necessary to accomplish that directive, including regulating the means by which protected wildlife may be taken. The trapping device use regulations in this rule concerning coyotes and raccoons are intended solely to minimize take of nontargeted protected wildlife, maximize potential for successful release of nontargeted protected wildlife, detect illegal trap sets targeting protected wildlife, and protect compliant trappers from criminal liability otherwise applicable to taking nontargeted protected wildlife in a trapping device.

#### **R657-11-2. Definitions.**

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Artificial cubby set" means any artificially manufactured container with an opening on one end that houses a trapping device.

(b) "Bait" means any lure containing animal parts larger than one cubic inch with the exception of white-bleached bones with no hide or flesh attached.

(c) "Cage trap" means any enclosure containing a one-way door triggered by a treadle or pan that prevents escape of an animal after the door closes.

(d) "Exposed bait" means bait which is visible from any angle, except when used in an artificial cubby set.

(e) "Foothold trap" means any underspring or jump trap, longspring trap or coil-spring trap with two smooth arms or jaws that come together when an animal steps on a pan in the center of the trap.

(f) "Fur dealer" means any individual engaged in, wholly or in part, the business of buying, selling, or trading skins or pelts of furbearers within Utah.

(g) "Fur dealer's agent" means any person who is employed by a resident or nonresident fur dealer as a buyer.

(h) "Good condition" means the carcass is fresh or frozen and securely wrapped to prevent decomposition so that the tissue remains suitable for analysis.

(i) "Green pelt" means the untanned hide or skin of any furbearer.

(j) "Owner" means the person who has been issued a trap registration number associated with one or more trapping devices.

(k) "Pursue" means to chase, tree, corner, or hold a furbearer at bay.

(l) "Scent" means any lure composed of material of less than one cubic inch that has a smell intended to attract animals.

(m) "Trapping device" means any apparatus used to remotely capture or kill an animal, including a cage trap, foothold trap, snare wire, or any other body gripping mechanism.

#### **R657-11-3. License, Permit and Tag Requirements.**

(1) A person who has a valid furbearer license may take furbearers during the established furbearer seasons published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

(2) A person who has a valid furbearer license and valid bobcat permits may take a bobcat during the established bobcat season published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

(3) A person who has a valid furbearer license and valid marten trapping permit may take marten during the established marten season published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

(4) A person who has a valid trap registration license may use a trapping device to take furbearers, cougars, coyotes, or raccoons, as authorized in the Wildlife Code, this rule and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board.

(5) Any license, permit, or tag that is mutilated or otherwise made illegible is invalid and may not be used for taking or possessing furbearers.

#### **R657-11-4. Bobcat Permits.**

(1) Bobcat permits can only be obtained and are only valid with a valid furbearer license.

(2)(a) A person may obtain up to the number of bobcat permits authorized each year by the Wildlife Board.

(b) Permit numbers shall be published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

(3) Bobcat permits will be available during the dates published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers and may be obtained by submitting an application through the division's [Internet address website](#).

(4) Bobcat permits are valid for the entire bobcat season.

#### **R657-11-5. Tagging Bobcats.**

(1)(a) Only a person who possesses a valid bobcat tag issued in their name and who is present upon discovery of a bobcat in their marked trapping device or the device of another under Subsection R657-11-9(6) may ethanize/kill the animal.

(b) The person who ethanizes/kills a bobcat caught in a trapping device is required to attach their bobcat tag to the carcass, as provided below.

(2) The pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat must be tagged in accordance with Section 23A-4-709.

(3) The tag must remain with the pelt or unskinned carcass until a permanent tag has been affixed.

(4) Possession of an untagged green pelt or unskinned carcass is prima facie evidence of unlawful taking and possession.

(5) The lower jaw of each bobcat taken must be removed and tagged with the numbered jaw tag corresponding to the number of the temporary possession tag affixed to the hide.

#### **R657-11-6. Marten Permits.**

(1) A person may not trap marten or have marten in possession without having a valid furbearer license and a marten trapping permit in possession.

(2) Marten trapping permits are available free of charge from any division office.

#### **R657-11-7. Permanent Possession Tags for Bobcat and Marten.**

(1) A person may not:

(a) possess a green pelt or unskinned carcass from a bobcat or marten that does not have a permanent tag affixed after the second Friday in March;

(b) possess a green pelt or the unskinned carcass of a bobcat with an affixed temporary bobcat possession tag issued to another person, except as provided in Subsections (5) and (6); or

(c) buy, sell, trade, or barter a green pelt from a bobcat or marten that does not have a permanent tag affixed.

(2) Bobcat and marten pelts must be delivered to a division representative to have a permanent tag affixed and to surrender the lower jaw for each harvested bobcat.

(3) Bobcat and marten pelts may be delivered to the following division offices, by appointment only, during the dates published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers:

(a) Cedar City - Regional Office;

(b) Ogden - Regional Office;

(c) Price - Regional Office;

(d) Salt Lake City - Salt Lake Office;

(e) Springville - Regional Office; and

(f) Vernal - Regional Office.

(4) There is no fee for permanent tags.

(5) Bobcat and marten which have been legally taken may be transported from an individual's place of residence by an individual other than the furharvester to have the permanent tag affixed; bobcats must be tagged with a temporary possession tag and accompanied by a valid furbearer license belonging to the furharvester.

(6) Any individual transporting a bobcat or marten for another person must have written authorization stating the following:

(a) date of kill;

(b) location of kill;

(c) species and sex of animal being transported;

(d) origin and destination of such transportation;

(e) the name, address, signature and furbearer license number of the furharvester;

(f) the name of the individual transporting the bobcat or marten; and

(g) the furharvester's marten permit number if marten is being transported.

(7) Green pelts of bobcats and marten legally taken from outside the state may not be possessed, bought, sold, traded, or bartered in Utah unless a permanent tag has been affixed or the pelts are accompanied by a shipping permit issued by the wildlife agency of the state where the animal was taken.

(8)(a) Furharvesters taking marten are required to present the entire skinned carcass to the division in good condition when brought for permanent tagging.

#### **R657-11-8. Trap Registration Numbers.**

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(a)(ii), a person must possess a valid trap registration license before using any trapping device to take a furbearer, coyote, or raccoon.

(i) A trap registration license is required in addition to any other license, permit, or tag required by this rule to take a furbearer.

(ii) A trap registration license is not required for trapping a coyote, or raccoon when the trapping device is set within 600 feet of a building or structure occupied or utilized by humans or domestic livestock, provided the trapping device is set with the landowner's or lessee's permission.

(b) To obtain a trap registration license, a person must:

(i) provide the following information when requested by the division:

(A) full name;

- (B) complete home address;
- (C) email address;
- (D) phone number;
- (E) date of birth; and
- (F) any other information requested by the division; and
- (ii) pay a \$10 license fee.
- (c) The division may deny issuing a trap registration license if the applicant;
  - (i) is subject to an administrative or judicial order suspending any hunting, trapping or fishing privilege;
  - (ii) has violated any provision in Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Code of Utah Act, or rules or guidebooks of the Wildlife Board; or
  - (iii) fails to pay the one-time \$10 license fee.
- (d) The division may suspend a trap registration license, as provided in Sections 23A-4-1106, 23A-2-504, and 23A-2-505.
  - (e) The trap registration license must be carried on the person of the individual it is issued to while setting, checking or moving trapping devices.
  - (f) A trap registration license shall include a unique trap registration number printed on its face that is permanently assigned to the licensee.
- (2)(a) Each trapping device used to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote, or raccoon must be permanently, legibly, and indelibly marked or tagged with the trap registration number of the owner.
  - (b) A trap registration number is not required on a trapping device set within 600 feet of a building or structure occupied or utilized by humans or domestic livestock, provided the trapping device is set:
    - (i) to capture a coyote or raccoon; and
    - (ii) with the landowner's or lessee's permission.
  - (3) No more than one trap registration number may be on a single trapping device.
  - (4) Each individual is issued only one trap registration number.
  - (5) Except as provided in Section R657-11-9, a person may not take a furbearer, coyote, or raccoon with any trapping device marked with the trap registration number of another person.
  - (6) A person may not lend, transfer, sell, give, or assign a trap registration license or trap registration number to another person or entity.
  - (7) Any person who has obtained a trap registration number must notify the division within 30 days of any:
    - (a) change in address; or
    - (b) theft of trapping devices.

**R657-11-9. Trapping Devices.**

- (1) Any foothold traps used to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote, or raccoon must have spacers on the jaws which leave an opening of at least 3/16 of an inch when the jaws are closed, except;
  - (a) rubber-padded jaw traps;
  - (b) traps with jaw spreads less than 4.25 inches; and
  - (c) traps that are completely submerged under water when set.
- (2)(a) Any cable devices, (such as snares, used to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote, or raccoon, except those set in water or with a loop size less than 3 inches in diameter, must be equipped with a breakaway lock device that will release when any force greater than 300 lbs. is applied to the loop.
  - (b) Breakaway cable devices must be fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground.
  - (c) The use of drags is prohibited.
- (3) On the middle section of the Provo River, between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir, the Green River, between Flaming Gorge Dam and the Utah Colorado state line; the Colorado River, between the Utah Colorado state line and Lake Powell; and the Escalante River, between Escalante and Lake Powell, trapping for a furbearer, coyote, or raccoon within 600 yards of either side of these rivers, including their tributaries from the confluences upstream 1/2 mile, is restricted to the following devices:
  - (a) Nonlethal-set foot hold traps with a jaw spread less than 5 1/8 inches, and nonlethal-set padded foot hold traps. Drowning sets with these traps are prohibited.
  - (b) Body-gripping, killing-type traps with body-gripping area less than 30 square inches.
  - (c) Nonlethal dry land cable devices equipped with a stop-lock device that prevents it from closing to less than a six-inch diameter.
  - (d) Size 330, body-gripping, killing-type traps modified by replacing the standard V-trigger assembly with one top side parallel trigger assembly, with the trigger placed within one inch of the side, or butted against the vertical turn in the Canadian bend.
- (4) A person may not disturb or remove any trapping device, except:
  - (a) the owner of the trapping device;
  - (b) peace officers in the performance of their duties;
  - (c) the landowner where the trapping device is set;
  - (d) the owner of a domestic pet caught in the device may disturb the device to remove the domestic pet; or

- (e) as provided in Subsection (6).
- (5) A person may not kill or remove wildlife caught in any trapping device, except:
  - (a) the owner of the trapping device who possesses the permit, license, tag, or legal authorization required for the species that is captured;
  - (b) a peace officer in the performance of their duties;
  - (c) as provided in Subsection (6); or
  - (d) as provided in Section R657-11-11.
- (6)(a) A person, other than the owner, may possess, set, disturb or remove a trapping device; or temporarily possess, kill or remove wildlife caught in a trapping device provided:
  - (i) the trapping device is appropriately marked with the owner's trap registration number;
  - (ii) the person possesses a valid furbearer license and appropriate permits or tags when working with furbearer sets;
  - (iii) the person's trap registration license or furbearer license are neither denied nor suspended; and
  - (iv) the person has obtained written authorization from the owner of the trapping device with the following information printed on the authorization in permanent ink:
    - (A) date written authorization was obtained;
    - (B) name, address, and phone number of the owner;
    - (C) owner's trap registration number;
    - (D) the name of the individual being given authorization; and
    - (E) signature of owner.
- (b) Nothing in Subsection (6)(a) authorizes a person to use the owner's trap registration license, furbearer license, permit or tag.
- (7) The owner of any trapping device providing written authorization to another person under Subsection (6) may be criminally liable and civilly responsible under Section 23A-4-~~1106~~1106 for any violations of Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Code of Utah Act, this rule, or applicable guidebooks resulting from the use of the trapping device by the authorized person.
- (8) The owner of any trapping device providing written authorization to another person under Subsection (6) must keep a record of all persons obtaining written authorization and furnish a copy of the record upon request from a conservation officer.
- (9)(a) A person may not set any trapping device on posted private property without the landowner's or lessee's written permission.
- (b) Wildlife officers should be informed as soon as possible of any illegally set trapping devices.
- (10) Peace officers in the performance of their duties may seize all trapping devices and wildlife used or held in violation of this rule.
- (11) Except as provided in Subsection (6), a person may not possess any trapping device that is not permanently marked or tagged with that person's trap registration number while setting, checking, or moving a trapping device targeting a furbearer, coyote, or raccoon.
- (12) All trapping devices used to take a furbearer, coyote, or raccoon must be checked and animals removed at least once every 48 hours, except:
  - (a) killing traps striking dorso-ventrally;
  - (b) drowning sets; and
  - (c) lethal cable devices that are set to capture on the neck, that have a nonrelaxing lock, without a stop, and are anchored to an immovable object; which must be checked every 96 hours.
- (13)(a) A person may not remove from a trapping device and thereafter transport or possess:
  - (i) live protected wildlife; or
  - (ii) a live coyote or raccoon in violation of Section 4-23-111.
- (b) Any live animal found in a trapping device must be:
  - (i) euthanized/killed and removed from the device by the trapper within the 48-hour trap check period in Subsection R657-11-9(12); or
  - (ii) released immediately by the trapper unharmed.
- (14) The trapping restrictions in Subsections (1), (2), and (3) do not apply to a trapping device set within 600 feet of a building or structure occupied or utilized by humans or domestic livestock, provided the trapping device is set:
  - (a) to capture a coyote or raccoon; and
  - (b) with the landowner's or lessee's permission.

**R657-11-10. Use of Bait.**

- (1) A person may not use protected wildlife or its parts as bait or scent to take a furbearer, cougar, coyote, or raccoon, except for the following:
  - (a) White-bleached bones of protected wildlife with no hide or flesh attached; and
  - (b)(i) parts of legally taken furbearers; and
  - (ii) nonprotected wildlife.
- (2) Trapping devices used to take furbearer, cougar, coyote, or raccoon;
  - (a) may not be set within 30 feet of any exposed bait;

(b) may be placed near carcasses of protected wildlife provided the carcass has not been moved for trapping and the trapping device is not located within 30 feet of the carcass.

(3) White-bleached bones with no hide or flesh attached may be set within 30 feet of a trapping device.

(4)(a) Bait used inside an artificial cubby set must be placed at least eight inches from the opening.

(b) Artificial cubby sets must be placed with the top of the opening even with or below the bottom of the bait so that the bait is not visible from above.

(c) A person using bait is responsible if it becomes exposed for any reason.

(5) The trapping restrictions in Subsections (2) and (4) do not apply to a trapping device set within 600 feet of a building or structure occupied or utilized by humans or domestic livestock, provided the trapping device is set;

(a) to capture a coyote, or raccoon; and

(b) with the landowner's or lessee's permission.

#### **R657-11-11. Accidental Trapping.**

(1)(a) Any protected wildlife accidentally caught in a trapping device that is alive must be immediately released unharmed by a person authorized in [Subsections R657-11-9\(5\) and \(6\)](#).

(b) All incidents of accidental trapping of protected wildlife must be reported to the division within 48 hours.

(2)(a) Permission must be obtained from a division representative to remove from a trapping device the carcass of any protected wildlife accidentally caught.

(b) The carcass remains the property of the state and must be turned over to the division.

(3) Black-footed ferret, lynx and wolf are protected species under the Endangered Species Act. Accidental trapping or capture of any federally protected species must be immediately reported to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the division.

(4) A person that captures or kills an unauthorized species of protected wildlife in a trapping device is not criminally liable under state law for that take, provided the person:

(a) was not attempting to take the unauthorized species;

(b) possesses a valid trap registration license or a valid written authorization from the owner of the trapping device as provided in [Subsection R657-11-9\(6\)](#);

(c) possesses the licenses, permits and tags required to trap the targeted wildlife species; and

(d) otherwise complies with the provisions of [Title 23A](#), the [Wildlife CodeResources Act](#), this rule, and guidebooks applicable to trapping the targeted wildlife species.

#### **R657-11-12. Methods of Take and Shooting Hours.**

(1) Furbearers, except bobcats and marten, may be taken by any means, excluding explosives and poisons, or as otherwise provided in Section 23A-2-208.

(2) Bobcats may be taken only by shooting, trapping, or with the aid of dogs as provided in Section R657-11-26.

(3) Marten may be taken only with an elevated, covered set in which the maximum trap size shall not exceed 1 1/2 foothold or 160 Conibear.

(4) Taking furbearers by shooting or with the aid of dogs is restricted to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, except as provided in Section 23A-1-204.

(5) A person may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

(6)(a) A person may not use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve furbearers or their parts.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a ~~records~~[record](#) classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-305."

#### **R657-11-13. Spotlighting.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (3):

(a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and

(b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland, or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is probable cause of attempting to locate protected wildlife.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(a) 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; or

~~(b) a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.~~

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply to the use of an artificial light when used by a trapper to illuminate his path and trap sites for the purpose of conducting the required trap checks, provided that:

(a) any artificial light must be carried by the trapper;

(b) a motor vehicle headlight or light attached to or powered by a motor vehicle may not be used; and

(c) while checking trapping devices with the use of an artificial light, the trapper may not occupy or operate any motor vehicle.

(4) Spotlighting may be used to hunt coyote, red fox, striped skunk, or raccoon where allowed by a county ordinance enacted pursuant to Section 23A-1-204.

(5) The ordinance shall provide that:

(a) any artificial light used to spotlight coyote, red fox, striped skunk, or raccoon must be carried by the hunter;

(b) a motor vehicle headlight or light attached to or powered by a motor vehicle may not be used to spotlight the animal;

and

(c) while hunting with the use of an artificial light, the hunter may not occupy or operate any motor vehicle.

(6) For purposes of the county ordinance, "motor vehicle" shall have the meaning as defined in Section 41-6-1.

(7) The ordinance may specify:

(a) the time of day and seasons when spotlighting is permitted;

(b) areas closed or open to spotlighting within the unincorporated area of the county;

(c) safety zones within which spotlighting is prohibited;

(d) the weapons permitted; and

(e) penalties for violation of the ordinance.

(8)(a) A county may restrict the number of hunters engaging in spotlighting by requiring a permit to spotlight and issuing a limited number of permits.

(b) A fee may be charged for a spotlighting permit.

(9) A county may require hunters to notify the county sheriff of the time and place they will be engaged in spotlighting.

(10) The requirement that a county ordinance must be enacted before a person may use spotlighting to hunt coyote, red fox, striped skunk, or raccoon does not apply to:

(a) a person or his agent who is lawfully acting to protect his crops or domestic animals from predation by those animals;

or

~~(b) a wildlife service's agent~~ (b) a Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) livestock protection agent acting in his official capacity under a memorandum of agreement with the division.

#### **R657-11-14. Use of Dogs.**

(1) Dogs may be used to take furbearers only from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset and only during the prescribed open seasons.

(2) The owner and handler of dogs used to take or pursue a furbearer must have a valid, current furbearer license in possession while engaged in taking furbearers.

(3) When dogs are used in the pursuit of furbearers, the licensed hunter intending to take the furbearer must be present when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.

#### **R657-11-15. State Parks.**

(1) Taking any wildlife is ~~prohibited~~ allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas except those designated as ~~open~~ closed by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Section R651-614-4.

(2) Hunting with a rifle, handgun, or muzzleloader on park areas designated open is prohibited within one mile of all park facilities including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps, and developed beaches.

(3) Hunting with shotguns, crossbows, and archery equipment is prohibited within one quarter mile of the above stated areas.

#### **R657-11-16. Transporting Furbearers.**

(1)(a) A person who has obtained the appropriate license and permit may transport green pelts of furbearers. Additional restrictions apply for taking bobcat and marten as provided in Section R657-11-6.

(b) A registered Utah fur dealer or that person's agent may transport or ship green pelts of furbearers within Utah.

(2) A furbearer license is not required to transport red fox or striped skunk.

#### **R657-11-17. Exporting Furbearers from Utah.**

(1) A person may not export or ship the green pelt of any furbearer from Utah without first obtaining a valid shipping permit from a division representative.

(2) A furbearer license is not required to export red fox or striped skunk from Utah.

#### **R657-11-18. Sales.**

(1) A person with a valid furbearer license may sell, offer for sale, barter, or exchange only those species that person is licensed to take, and which were legally taken.

(2) Any person who has obtained a valid fur dealer or fur dealer's agent certificate of registration may engage in, wholly or in part, the business of buying, selling, or trading green pelts or parts of furbearers within Utah.

(3) Fur dealers or their agents and taxidermists must keep records of all transactions dealing with green pelts of furbearers.

(4) Records must state the following:

- (a) the transaction date; and
- (b) the name, address, license number, and tag number of each seller.
- (5) A receipt containing the information specified in Subsection (4) must be issued whenever the ownership of a pelt changes.
- (6)(a) A person may possess furbearers and tanned hides legally acquired without possessing a license, provided proof of legal ownership or possession can be furnished.
- (b) A furbearer license is not required to sell or possess red fox or striped skunk or their parts.

**R657-11-19. Wasting Wildlife.**

- (1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or its parts as provided in Section 23A-5-314.
- (2) The skinned carcass of a furbearer may be left in the field and does not constitute waste of wildlife.

**R657-11-20. Depredation by Badger, Weasel, and Spotted Skunk.**

- (1) Badger, weasel, and spotted skunk may be taken anytime without a license when creating a nuisance or causing damage, provided the animal or its parts are not sold or traded.
- (2) Red fox and striped skunk may be taken any time without a license.

**R657-11-21. Depredation by Bobcat.**

- (1) Depredating bobcats may be taken at any time by duly appointed Wildlife Services UDAF agents, employed by Wildlife ServicesUDAF, while acting in the performance of their assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.
- (2) A livestock owner or his employee, on a regular payroll and not hired specifically to take furbearers, may take bobcats that are molestingdepredating livestock.
- (3) Any bobcat taken by a livestock owner or his employee must be surrendered to the division within 72 hours.

**R657-11-22. Depredation by Nuisance Beaver.**

- (1) Beaver doing damage or other nuisance behaviors may be taken or removed during open and closed seasons with either a valid furbearer license or a nuisance permit.
- (2) A nuisance permit to remove beaver must first be obtained from a division office or conservation officer.

**R657-11-23. Survey.**

Each permittee who is contacted for a survey about their furbearer harvesting experience should participate in the survey regardless of success. Participation in the survey helps the division evaluate population trends, harvest success and collect other valuable information.

**R657-11-24. Reserved.**

Reserved.

**R657-11-25. Season Dates and Bag Limits.**

Season dates, bag limits, and areas with special restrictions are published annually in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

**R657-11-26. Approval to Trap on State Waterfowl Management Areas.**

- (1)(a) Trapping wildlife, including nonprotected species, on state waterfowl management areas is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the division. Trapping is a property management tool used to protect waterfowl populations and infrastructure improvements found on the property.
- (b) The authorization to trap on state waterfowl management areas shall be provided through a certificate of registration that is awarded to an individual or individuals through a competitive proposal solicitation process.
- (c) On or before October 1 of each year, the division shall publicly notice which state waterfowl management areas are available for proposal by publishing the notice on its website and by publishing a notice in a newspaper of general circulation at least once a week for two consecutive weeks.
- (d) The notification and advertising shall include:
  - (i) the deadline for applying for the certificate of registration;
  - (ii) the wildlife species authorized for trapping;
  - (iii) a general description of the trapping area authorized under the certificate of registration;
  - (iv) the desired form of compensation to the division, whether monetary, in-kind, or both;
  - (v) the division's management objectives for the state waterfowl management area; and
  - (vi) any special considerations or limitations the division will require of the trapper or trappers while they are on the state waterfowl management area.
- (2)(a) Applications must include the following:
  - (i) a nonrefundable application fee;

- (ii) the name of the state waterfowl management area being applied for;
  - (iii) a description of the applicant's familiarity with the state waterfowl management area being applied for;
  - (iv) a list of the individuals who will conduct trapping activities under the certificate of registration;
  - (v) a description of each individual's experience trapping and their ability to utilize removal of targeted species to protect waterfowl and wildlife populations and infrastructure found at state waterfowl management areas;
  - (vi) the projected number of animals, specifically muskrat, that may be removed via trapping;
  - (vii) how the proposal accomplishes the identified management objectives for the waterfowl management area;
  - (viii) how the proposal conforms with any special considerations or limitations identified by the division in its public notice; and
  - (viii) a bid amount to be paid to the Division in exchange for the authorization to trap on the state waterfowl management area.
- (c) All individuals listed on the application who will conduct trapping activities under the certificate of registration must:
- (i) possess a trap registration license;
  - (ii) use traps marked with the owner's trap registration number; and
  - (iii) meet all age, proof of hunter education and furharvester requirements, including youth restrictions as provided in [Utah Code Sections 23A-4-706, 23A-4-1001 and 708](#) , and [23A-4-7081001](#) .
- (d) The bid amount described in Subsection (vi) above may include non-monetary, in-kind contributions.
- (3)(a) Late or incomplete applications may be rejected.
- (b) A separate application must be submitted for each state waterfowl management area the applicant wishes to trap on.
- (c) In the event that there is more than one application for a certain state waterfowl management area, the division will analyze each application and select a successful applicant or applicants whose proposal best accomplishes the division objectives identified in the public notice.
- (4) The selected applicant will be issued a certificate of registration authorizing trapping activities on the state waterfowl management area for a period of up to two years.
- (5) A certificate of registration issued pursuant to this Part may be revoked, suspended, or terminated consistent with the terms of [Utah Code Section 23A-4-1106](#) and [Utah Admin. Code 1106](#) and [Rule R657-26](#).

**R657-11-27. Trapping Fees on State Waterfowl Management Areas.**

- (1) Upon verified payment of required fees, certificates of registration will be mailed to successful applicants granted trapping privileges on state waterfowl management areas.
- (2) If a successful applicant fails to make full payment within 14 days of the results posting date, an alternate trapper will be selected.
- (3) Certificates of registration are not valid until signed by the superintendent in charge of the area to be trapped.

**R657-11-28. Vehicle Travel on State Waterfowl Management Areas.**

Vehicle travel is restricted to developed roads. However, written permission for other travel may be obtained from the waterfowl management area superintendent.

**R657-11-29. Trapping Hours on State Waterfowl Management Areas.**

On waterfowl management areas traps may be checked only between one-half hour before official sunrise to one-half hour after official sunset.

**R657-11-30. Trapper Responsibilities on State Waterfowl Management Areas.**

- (1) All trappers are directly responsible to the waterfowl management area superintendent.
- (2) Violation of management or trapping rules, including failure to return a trapping permit within five days of cessation of trapping activities, or failure to properly trap an area, as determined and recommended by the superintendent, may be cause for cancellation of trapping privileges, existing and future, on all waterfowl management areas.

**R657-11-31. Reserved.**

Reserved.

**R657-11-32. Wildlife Management Areas.**

A person may not use motor vehicles on division-owned wildlife management areas closed to motor vehicle use without first obtaining written authorization from the appropriate division regional office.

**KEY: wildlife, furbearers, game laws, wildlife law**

**Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023**

**Notice of Continuation: June 1, 2020**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-1-204; 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305;**





State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

## Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY

### MEMORANDUM

Date: October 31, 2024

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist

Subject: Recommended changes to R657-64, Predator Control Incentives

In response to legislative feedback the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources recommends an increased predator control incentive for coyotes taken in areas that are critical to mule deer survival. The Division also recommends removal of the ear and pelt submission and marking requirements in response to feedback from program participants who wish to maintain the quality of their coyote pelts. Other minor changes to R657-64 are proposed to reflect procedural updates and to improve the organization and clarity of the rule. A summary of the recommendations is as follows:

1. Change language to allow increased payments for coyote removal in crucial mule deer habitat while maintaining \$50 compensation elsewhere.
  - a. Projections based on past data show that increasing the bounty to \$75 per coyote in crucial mule deer habitat will not exceed the allocated \$250,000 per fiscal year.
  - b. The map of increased bounty locations will be published on the Utah Hunt Planner.
2. Remove the ear and pelt check-in requirement and provide alternative ways to prevent duplicate submissions such as removing both premolar teeth or keeping the jaw.
3. Add language to reflect the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food taking on the targeted predator control of coyotes that was previously performed by the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services.
4. Update language to reflect changes in certificate of registration and compensation form requirements due to electronic certification and mobile app implementation.
5. Update existing language to improve rule organization and clarity.

Further context and details can be found in the [latest coyote annual report](#) and in the redline version of the rule in the RAC and Board packet.



**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-64. Predator Control Incentives.**

**R657-64-1. Purpose and Authority.**

- (1) This rule is promulgated under authority of Section 23A-11-402 to establish procedures for:
- (a) targeted predator control and general predator control programs administered by the division for the benefit of mule deer; and
  - (b) creation and distribution of educational and training materials related to mule deer protection.

**R657-64-2. Definitions.**

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-11-401 and 23A-1-101.
- (2) In addition:
  - (a) "Division" means the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.
  - (b) "Fiscal year" means July 1st through June 30th of the following calendar year.
  - (c) "General predator control" means a predatory animal removal effort by the division, which uses the public to remove predators for the benefit of mule deer.
  - (d) "GPS" means Global Positioning System location in ~~either~~ the form of either Latitude-Longitude coordinate or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate.
  - (e) ~~"Marked" means the permanent clipping or punching of ears on the predatory animal carcass or pelt.~~
  - (f) ~~"Predatory animal" means a coyote.~~
  - (g) ~~"Preserved" means drying, freezing, drying, or chemically treating the pelt or scalp with ears attached and the lower jaw of a coyote so it is not decomposed or spoiled when presented to the division for reimbursement under Section R657-64-4.3.~~
  - (h) ~~"Targeted area" means an area within the State of Utah specifically identified for predatory animal removal during a specified season.~~
  - (i) ~~"Targeted predator control" means a predatory animal removal effort by the division or its contractors:~~
    - (i) to remove predatory animals in an area where high predation on mule deer occurs; and
    - (ii) that focuses on specific locations and certain times.
  - (j) ~~"State" means State of Utah.~~

**R657-64-3. Predatory Animal Control Programs.**

- (1) Two predatory animal control programs are created within the division to provide financial incentive to participants for the removal of coyotes detrimental to mule deer production.
  - (a) The General Predator Control Program provides a financial incentive to any participant with a predator control certificate of registration to remove coyotes within the ~~State~~state.
    - (i) The financial incentive to participate in the program and remove coyotes under the conditions prescribed in this rule and by the division is \$50 compensation per animal, unless otherwise reduced or increased by the division pursuant to Subsections (ii) and (iii).
    - (ii) Compensation for coyotes in any given fiscal year is limited to the annual legislative appropriation for the program, and no further compensation will be paid once the funding allocation is exhausted.
    - (iii) Beginning July 1, 2019, compensation amounts may be adjusted by the division as follow.
      - (A) When annual compensation claims exceed the program funding allocation appropriated by the Legislature in a fiscal year, the compensation amount for each animal in the coming year will be reduced by \$5 from that paid in the previous year.
      - (B) When annual compensation claims are less than the program funding allocation appropriated by the Legislature in a fiscal year, the compensation amount for each animal in the coming year ~~will~~can be increased by \$5 from that paid in the previous year, ~~provided compensation never exceeds \$50 per animal.~~
      - (C) Compensation amounts may be increased by the division for coyote removal in defined areas that offer the greatest benefit to mule deer protection.
  - (b) The Targeted Predator Control Program focuses coyote removal efforts within prescribed areas of the ~~State~~state and during specified times of the year where predation on deer is most prevalent by:
    - (i) using personnel hired and employed by the division to undertake targeted removal efforts; or
    - (ii) contracting with vendors to undertake targeted removal efforts.
  - (2) Participants in either program are not granted special authority to take coyotes beyond that available to non-participants, and each shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
  - (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), participants in both programs are required to follow all relevant rules and regulations related to trapping and firearm use, as detailed in ~~state code~~the Utah State Code and ~~rule~~Rule R657-11, "Taking Furbearers."
    - (b) The division may exempt a participant in the Targeted Predator Control Program from specified provisions of Rule R657-11 Taking Furbearers, which the division determines necessary to effectively control coyotes in a targeted area that are detrimental to mule deer production.

**R657-64-4. General Predator Control Program -- Certificate of Registration Required.**

(1) A person must possess a valid predator control certificate of registration issued by the division to participate in the General Predator Control Program.

(2) To receive a predator control certificate of registration, a person must;

~~(a) complete an online application, including the applicant's:~~

~~(i) full name;~~

~~(ii) mailing address;~~

~~(iii) phone number;~~

~~(iv) e-mail address;~~

~~(v) date of birth; and~~

~~(vi) social security number;~~

~~(b) (a) pay any required application and certificate of registration fees;~~

~~(b) complete an annual online orientation and training and registration course;~~

~~(c) agree to the requirements of this rule and any additional terms and conditions specified by the division for program participation on its webpage;~~

~~(e) (d) agree to complete and submit all necessary federal and state documents, and~~ acknowledge and agree to the division submitting an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 each calendar year where compensation totals require reporting under federal law;

~~(f) acknowledge and agree to verify that all coyotes submitted for compensation are killed by the applicant within the Statestate.~~

~~(g) acknowledge and agree to collect and submit accurate GPS data through the division-approved mobile app documenting the precise location where each coyote is killed; and~~

~~(h) acknowledge and agree to not interfere with USDA Wildlife Services or Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) employees conducting similar coyote removal efforts in the area.~~

(3) The division may deny an application for a predator control certificate of registration for any of the following reasons:

(a) the ~~application registration~~ is incomplete or filled out incorrectly;

(b) the ~~application registration~~ contains false or misleading information;

(c) the applicant fails to complete or otherwise comply with any of the requirements in Subsection (2);

(d) the applicant has previously violated any of the terms of this rule or participation requirements imposed by the division;

(e) the applicant's hunting or trapping privileges are suspended in Utah or any other state;

(f) the applicant has been convicted of or entered a plea in abeyance to any crime of dishonesty in the previous five years; or

(g) the applicant has committed any other crime, or violation of law or contract that bears a reasonable relationship to their reliability in accurately reporting the locations and times that predatory animals are killed.

(4)(a) Upon approval of the application, the division will issue a predator control certificate of registration to the applicant authorizing their participation in the program.

(b) The certificate of registration will remain valid for 365 days from the date of issuance, unless earlier suspended pursuant to Section R657-64-11.

(c) Upon expiration of a predator control certificate of registration, a new certificate of registration must be obtained under the criteria and conditions set forth in Subsections (2) and (3) to participate in the program.

**R657-64-4.3. General Predator Control Program -- Compensation.**

(1)(a) Program participants with a valid predator control certificate of registration will be eligible to receive from the division \$50 for each qualifying coyote presented, unless compensation is otherwise reduced or increased by the division pursuant to Subsection R657-64-3(1)(a).

(b) Requests for payment shall be made only on the designated check-in dates and at the locations identified by the division.

(2) Receipt of compensation is further subject to the following conditions:

(a) The claimant seeking compensation for a coyote must:

(i) personally kill the animal presented for payment;

(ii) possess a valid predator control certification of registration at the time the animal is killed and at the time it is presented to the division for payment;

(iii) complete and submit a signed division-approved compensation form in electronic ~~or written~~ format containing the following information:

(A) the claimant's name and ~~certificate of registration~~ division customer ID number;

(B) the date and exact GPS location where each coyote was killed; ~~and~~

~~(C) (C) a clear picture of the coyote at the kill site; and~~

~~(D) verification that the claimant personally killed the coyotes, the information provided is accurate, and all program terms and conditions have been complied with;~~

(iv) present to the division at a designated check-in event the fresh or preserved;

- ~~(A) full pelt or scalp of each coyote with both ears attached; and~~  
~~(B) entire lower jaw or front two-thirds of the jaw including canines and premolars~~ of each coyote--removed from the carcass with canine and molar teeth intact; and
- (v) link or associate the ~~pelt, scalp, and~~ jaw of each coyote presented for reimbursement to the corresponding entry for that coyote on the division-approved compensation form.
- (b) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a claimant may not seek or obtain an incentive payment under this rule for any coyote that is:
- (i) killed by someone or something other than the claimant;
  - (ii) killed outside ~~the State~~ of Utah;
  - (iii) presented to the division for payment more than 365 days from the date it was killed;
  - (iv) marked as previously redeemed for payment; or
  - (v) presented to the division in a condition where the ~~pelt, scalp or~~ lower jaw:
    - (A) is spoiled or rotten;
    - (B) has maggots or other carrion organisms;
    - (C) is in a frozen state that impedes division processing; or
    - (D) is damaged or otherwise in a condition where the species cannot be reliably verified, or the absence or presence of markings cannot be ascertained.
- (3) Program participants may designate a third party to check-in their coyotes with the division at the designated times and locations, provided:
- (a) the compensation form referred to in Subsection (2)(a)(iii) is completed and signed by the program participant that killed the coyotes;
  - (b) the lower jaw ~~and either the full pelt or the scalp (with both ears attached)~~ of each coyote is presented to the division, as required in Subsections (2)(a)(iv) and (2)(b), with the compensation form; and
  - (c) the compensation form identifies and authorizes the person that will present it to the division for compensation.
- (4) Program participants are not authorized to trespass or take coyotes ~~on tribal trust lands without written tribal authorization.~~
- (a) on tribal trust lands without written tribal authorization;
  - (b) other private lands without written permission of the landowner; or
  - (c) restricted government lands without written permission from the appropriate authorities.
- (5) Employees and contractors of USDA Wildlife Services or UDAF are ineligible to receive compensation for coyotes taken within the scope of their employment or contractual responsibilities.
- (6) Compensation for qualified coyotes will be documented by written receipt at the time of submission to the division and payment by check will be mailed at a later date.
- (7) Participants shall be responsible for disposing of coyote pelts ~~and ears~~ presented to the division for compensation, but the division may retain the lower jaw.
- (8) The division ~~will mark~~may mark each coyote or keep the jaw or teeth of each coyote redeemed for payment to ensure compensation is paid only once for each animal.

#### **R657-64-4.7. General Predator Control Program -- Electronic Certification.**

- (1) Beginning on July 1, 2019, program participants seeking compensation for coyotes under Section R657-64-4.3 must comply with the following electronic certification requirements:
- (a)(i) Download the division's electronic certification application to a personal electronic device with photograph and location services capabilities.
  - (ii) The application will automatically record the date and GPS location of each photograph and link that data to the photograph.
  - (b) Using the electronic certification application, claimants must enable the location services on their electronic device and photograph each coyote at the exact location it is trapped or killed.
  - (c) The photographic image must:
    - (i) show the entire coyote carcass so it fills the frame of the image;
    - (ii) be uploaded to the division's designated database; and
    - (iii) be sufficiently clear and detailed to match a pelt or scalp presented to the division for compensation with the coyote carcass in the photographic image.
- (2) Compensation will not be paid for any coyote presented to the division that has not been electronically certified by the claimant consistent with the requirements of Subsection (1).

#### **R657-64-5. Targeted Predator Control Program.**

- (1) The division may hire employees or award contracts to vendors for targeted coyote removal services.
- (2) Targeted predator control contracts will be solicited and awarded through the Division of Purchasing and General Services consistent with the procurement requirements in Title 63G, Chapter 6a of the Utah Code.

#### **R657-64-6. Trap and Hunting Locations.**

(1) Program participants and contract vendors are required to provide GPS data documenting the precise location where each coyote is taken.

(2) To the extent GPS data discloses the location of trap lines or hunting areas, and public disclosure of that data exposes the traps to the possibility of theft and damage or the hunting area to exploitation by others, the data may be classified as "protected" under [Section Subsection 63G-2-305\(2\)](#) and restricted from public disclosure pursuant to Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act, provided the requirements of Subsection (3) are satisfied.

(3) Any person desiring to protect GPS data from public disclosure that locates trap lines or hunting areas must submit to the division a written claim of confidentiality explaining:

- (a) the financial and commercial harm reasonably expected to occur if the data is subject to public disclosure; and
- (b) why the person submitting the data has a greater interest in prohibiting access than the public in obtaining access.

**R657-64-7. Coordination.**

(1) The division will coordinate with the Department of Agriculture and Food and the Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board created in Section 4-23-4 to:

- (a) minimize unnecessary duplication of predatory animal control efforts;
- (b) prevent interference between predatory animal control programs administered under Title 4, Chapter 23, Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Act and this rule; and
- (c) enhance the effectiveness of predatory animal control efforts and maximize the benefit to both mule deer and livestock.

**R657-64-8. Education and Training.**

The division may conduct and administer training, education, and outreach activities related to mule deer protection and predator control.

**R657-64-9. Appropriation of Funds.**

- (1) Funding for the predatory animal control programs in this rule is appropriated annually by the Legislature.
- (2) Should appropriated funding be reduced or eliminated, funds available for compensation in the two predatory animal control programs may be ended without prior public notice.
- (3) Once the annual funding allocation for coyote removal is expended for the general or targeted control programs in a given year, no further payments will be made for that year, regardless of pelts ~~or ears~~ that may be held by program participants.

**R657-64-10. Liability.**

(1)(a) Any person who participates in either predatory animal control program under this rule assumes full and complete liability and responsibility for their acts and omissions while engaged in removing coyotes or redeeming them for compensation.

(b) To the extent provided under the Utah Governmental Immunity Act and the liability limitations in this rule, the division shall not be liable in any civil action for any act or omission of a program participant while removing coyotes or redeeming them for compensation.

(2) It is the responsibility of program participants to read, understand and comply with this rule and all other applicable federal, state, county, and municipal laws, regulations, and ordinances.

**R657-64-11. Violations.**

(1)(a) The division may suspend, terminate, or deny any certificate of registration or other authorization issued under this rule to participate in either or both predatory animal control programs for any of the violations listed in [Subsection R657-64-4\(3\)](#) ~~or R657-64-5(3)(b)~~.

(b) Suspension proceedings involving predator control certificates of registration will be initiated and adjudicated consistent with the procedures set forth in [Rule R657-26](#).

(2) Providing false information to the division or otherwise violating the provisions of this rule may be criminally prosecuted under applicable offenses defined in the Utah Code.

**KEY: wildlife, predators, game laws, wildlife laws**

**Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023**

**Notice of Continuation: June 13, 2022**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-11-401; 23A-11-402; 23A-1-204**



## State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

## Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

Date: November 13, 2024  
To: Utah Wildlife Board  
From: Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator  
Subject: Shed Antler Gathering Committee Update and Revised Recommendations

In May 2024, the DWR made shed antler gathering recommendations that included establishing a nonresident shed hunting season that begins May 1 and maintaining no season dates for residents. The Utah Wildlife Board did not adopt the nonresident recommendation and approved the following motion:

*I move that we ask the Shed Antler Gathering Committee to reconvene and to recommend shed antler gathering season dates for residents that matches the non-resident dates. The division should report back with a new recommendation from the committee during the December 2024 RAC meetings/January 2025 Wildlife Board meeting. This is to be placed on the Action Log.*

In response to this action log item, the Shed Antler Gathering Committee met in July to discuss resident and nonresident shed hunting season structure and strategies, among other topics.

The committee voted unanimously to maintain the current structure of no shed hunting season dates for Utah residents.

Consensus could not be reached on a nonresident season strategy.

### DWR recommendations

- The DWR recommends **no season dates for shed antler gathering at this time.**
- The DWR will continue to track resident and nonresident shed hunting participation and evaluate trends.
- The DWR will follow emergency shed closure protocols during extreme winter weather conditions.





## State of Utah

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## Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY  
*Division Director*

## MEMORANDUM

Date: November 15, 2024

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Jason Robinson, Tooele District Biologist, UDWR

Subject: West Desert Deer and Elk Unit Management Plans

The attached documents summarize the DWR's recommended changes to the West Desert deer and elk unit management plans.

### Recommended changes by species:

#### Deer

1. Manage the West Desert area as a single West Desert Deer Complex (units 18 & 19) with 4 management units:
  - a. West Desert, Swasey
  - b. Cedar/Stansbury
  - c. Oquirrh/Tintic
  - d. West Desert, Vernon (no change)
2. No proposed change in overall deer population objectives. Arrange current population objectives according to the new proposed unit boundaries.

#### Elk

1. Manage the West Desert area as a single West Desert Elk Complex (units 18 & 19) with 4 management units:
  - a. West Desert, Deep Creek (no change)
  - b. Cedar/Stansbury
  - c. Oquirrh
  - d. House/Tintic
2. An overall proposed population objective increase of 150 elk within the West Desert Complex.



**DEER HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**Deer Herd Unit # 18 & 19**  
**(West Desert Complex)**  
**December 2024**

**WEST DESERT COMPLEX BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**Tooele, Salt Lake, Utah, Juab, and Millard counties** - Boundary begins at the Utah-Nevada state line and I-80 in Wendover; east on I-80 to I-15; south on I-15 to Exit 207 and Mills Road; west on this road to the Sevier River; north along this river to SR132; west on SR132 to US-6; south on US-6 to its junction with US-50 at Delta; west on US-50/US-6 to the Utah-Nevada state line; north along this state line to I-80 at Wendover. EXCLUDING ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LAND WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY.

This boundary has four units including:

Unit 18a – Cedar/Stansbury – Tooele and Juab counties — Boundary begins on I-80 and exit 41 (Knolls); east on I-80 to exit 99 and SR-36, south on SR-36 to the Pony Express road, west on this road to the Dugway Mountain Road, north on this road to the north tip of the Dugway range, north cross country to exit 41 (Knolls) on I-80. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY.

Unit 18b – Oquirrh/Tintic – Tooele, Salt Lake, Utah, and Juab counties — Boundary begins at the junction of I-80 and SR-36; east on I-80 to I-15; south on I-15 to Exit 207 and Mills Road; west on this road to the Sevier River; north along this river to SR132; west on SR-132 to US-6; north on US-6 to SR-36; north on SR-36 to I-80.

Unit 19d – West Desert, Swasey – Tooele, Juab, and Millard counties — Boundary begins at the Utah-Nevada state line and I-80 in Wendover; east on I-80 to exit 41 (Knolls), south cross country to the north tip of the Dugway range, southeast cross country to the Dugway mountain road, southeast on this road to the Pony Express road, east on this road to the 14-mile road, south on this road to the Delta road, southeast on this road to SR-174 (IPP/Brush Highway road), southeast on this road to US-6, south on US-6 to its junction with US-50 at Delta; west on US-50/US-6 to the Utah-Nevada state line; north along this state line to I-80 at Wendover. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY.

Unit 19b – West Desert, Vernon – Tooele, Juab, and Millard counties — Boundary begins at SR-36 and the Pony Express road; south on SR-36 to US-6; southwest on US-6 to SR-174 (IPP/Brush Highway road); northwest on SR-174 to the Delta road, northwest on this road to the 14-mile road; north on this road to the Pony Express road; northeast on this road to SR-36.

**LAND OWNERSHIP – WEST DESERT COMPLEX**

**RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP**

Ownership	YEARLONG RANGE		SUMMER RANGE		WINTER RANGE		TOTAL ACRES
	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%	
Forest Service	0	0	96,854	25.5	41,551	5.2	138,405
Bureau of Land Management	541,579	87.8	161,876	42.6	500,468	62.7	1,203,923
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands	46,914	7.6	14,213	3.7	53,035	6.6	114,162



Native American Trust Lands	0	0	10,739	2.8	12,754	1.6	23,493
Private	5,776	0.9	92,138	24.3	172,862	21.6	270,776
Department of Defense	22,299	3.6	3,969	1.0	17,951	2.2	44,219
USFWS Refuge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bankhead Jones	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah State Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	616,568	100%	211,614	100%	543,114	100%	1,794,978

### **UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS**

- Manage for a realistic and attainable population level that is at or below biological carrying capacity to maintain a robust and productive deer population.
- Manage the deer population at a level capable of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and viewing.
- Balance deer herd objectives with impacts on human needs, such as private property rights, agricultural crops and local economies.

### **POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

Achieve a target population size of 22,800 wintering deer during the five-year planning period.

#### **West Desert Complex (Units 18 & 19)**

2017 – 2024 Objective            11,200 & 11,600  
2025 – 2029 Objective            22,800  
Objective Difference:            no change

5-year Winter Herd Size –Manage for a 5-year target population of 22,800 wintering deer during the five-year planning period unless range conditions become unsuitable, as evaluated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR). Range Trend data coupled with browse monitoring will be used to assess habitat condition. If habitat damage by deer is occurring due to inadequate habitat, actions will be taken to reduce the population to sustainable levels.

#### **Unit Target Winter Herd Size**

Cedar/Stansbury:            5,600 deer  
Oquirrh/Tintic:                8,800 deer  
Swasey:                         6,200 deer  
Vernon:                         2,200 deer

Herd Composition - Maintain the West Desert Complex for a three-year average postseason buck to doe ratio according to the statewide deer plan.

- The Cedar/Stansbury and Swasey are managed for a three-year average postseason buck to doe ratio ranging from 15-17 bucks per 100 does, or a three-year average hunter success rate between 20 - 35%.

- The Oquirrh/Tintic is managed for a three-year average postseason buck to doe ratio ranging from 18-20 bucks per 100 does.
- The Vernon is managed for a three-year average postseason buck to doe ratio ranging from 25-30 buck per 100 does.

Harvest – General Buck Deer hunt regulations, using Archery, Rifle, and Muzzleloader on the Cedar/Stansbury, Oquirrh/Tintic and Swasey units. Limited Entry hunt regulation for Archery, Rifle and Muzzleloader on the Vernon unit.

Table 1 – Current Population Status

Year	Buck Harvest	Post-Season fawn/100 Does*	Post-Season buck/100 Does*	Post-Season Population Estimate	Population Objective	Percent of Objective
2021	1,127	35.6	19.3	18,900	22,800	83
2022	1,149	63.0	28.0	19,400	22,800	85
2023	1,183	44.0	30.5	20,250	22,800	89
<b>3 year Avg.</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>85.7</b>

\*Based on data collected from the Stansbury, Oquirrh, and Vernon areas

## **POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

### **Monitoring**

Population Size - Utilizing harvest data, postseason sex and age classifications, and survival estimates in a population model to estimate winter population size. The 2023 post-season estimate of the population is 20,250 deer. Based on harvest data and available habitat, the 2023 population estimate for the Swasey is approximately 5,800 deer. Based on population model, harvest data and available habitat, the 2023 population estimate for the Cedar/Stansbury unit is approximately 4,850 deer. The 2023 population model estimates the Vernon population at 2,150 deer. Based on harvest data and available habitat, the 2023 population estimate for the Oquirrh/Tintic subunit is approximately 7,450 deer. Because of low deer densities resulting in inadequate classification on the Swasey and Cedar/Stansbury units, harvest data will play a more significant role in characterization of that part of this population. If harvest data proves inadequate, the region could request helicopter time for Swasey and Cedar/Stansbury.

Harvest - The primary means of monitoring harvest will be through the statewide uniform harvest survey. Achieve the target population size by use of antlerless harvest using a variety of harvest methods and seasons, as needed.

Research - Continue to collect annual adult and fawn survival rates, body condition scores, and cause-specific mortality on this unit from GPS collared deer as resources allow. Support continued research efforts to identify migration corridors and limiting factors for deer herd growth.

### **Limiting Factors (may prevent achieving management objectives)**

Crop Depredation - Take all steps necessary to minimize depredation as prescribed by state law and DWR policy.

Habitat - At present, the availability of high quality summer range may be more limiting to this deer population than winter range. Condition of winter ranges is a long-term problem. Fire and encroachment by pinyon and juniper trees results in the loss of forage production, diversity and quality.

Predation – Manage predators according to the predator management policy where habitat is not limiting and predators are demonstrated to have negative impacts on the population. Indices such as doe and fawn survival, population growth rate, body condition scores, ingesta-free body fat, fawn production, and cause-specific mortality will be used to determine if predator management is deemed necessary. Cougar harvest will be managed according to 2023 Utah House Bill 469.

Highway Mortality - Cooperate with the Utah Dept. Of Transportation in construction of highway fences, passage structures and warning signs etc. as needed.

Illegal Harvest - If illegal kill becomes an identified and significant source of mortality, attempt to develop specific preventive measures within the context of an action plan developed in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Section.

Disease Management – Investigate and manage diseases that threaten mule deer populations and continue monitoring for chronic wasting disease (CWD) as stated in the Statewide Deer Plan. The Oquirrh is a CWD positive unit (<0.05% prevalence).

#### CWD Strategies

- Utilize rotational hunter harvest surveillance, targeting this unit once every several years.
- Consider compulsory testing of hunter-harvested deer to increase sample size.
- Consider managing the unit toward the lower end of the buck/doe objective to minimize increase of the disease.
- Consider late season buck hunts in focal hotspots on the unit to minimize disease transmission.
  - Educate public and enforce rules regarding carcass importation and disposal from CWD positive areas.

Urban Deer Management – Continue working with municipalities on localized urban deer control management actions. Work cooperatively with municipalities in developing urban deer management plans, within the guidelines set by state law and agency rules and policy.

## **HABITAT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- Maintain and protect existing critical deer ranges sufficient to support the population objectives.
- Seek cooperative projects to improve the quality and quantity of deer habitat.
- Promote enhancement of habitat security and escapement areas for deer.

## **HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

### **Monitoring**

Determine trends in habitat condition through permanent range trend studies, range assessments, pellet transects, and field inspections. Land management agencies will similarly conduct range monitoring to determine vegetative trends, utilization and possible forage conflicts.

Range trend studies will be conducted by DWR to evaluate deer habitat health, trend, and carrying capacity using the deer winter range Desirable Component Index (DCI) and other vegetation data. The DCI was created as an indicator of the general health of deer winter ranges. The index incorporates shrub cover, density and age composition as well as other key vegetation variables. Changes in DCI suggest changes in winter range capacity. The relationship between DCI and the changes in deer carrying capacity is difficult to quantify and is not known.

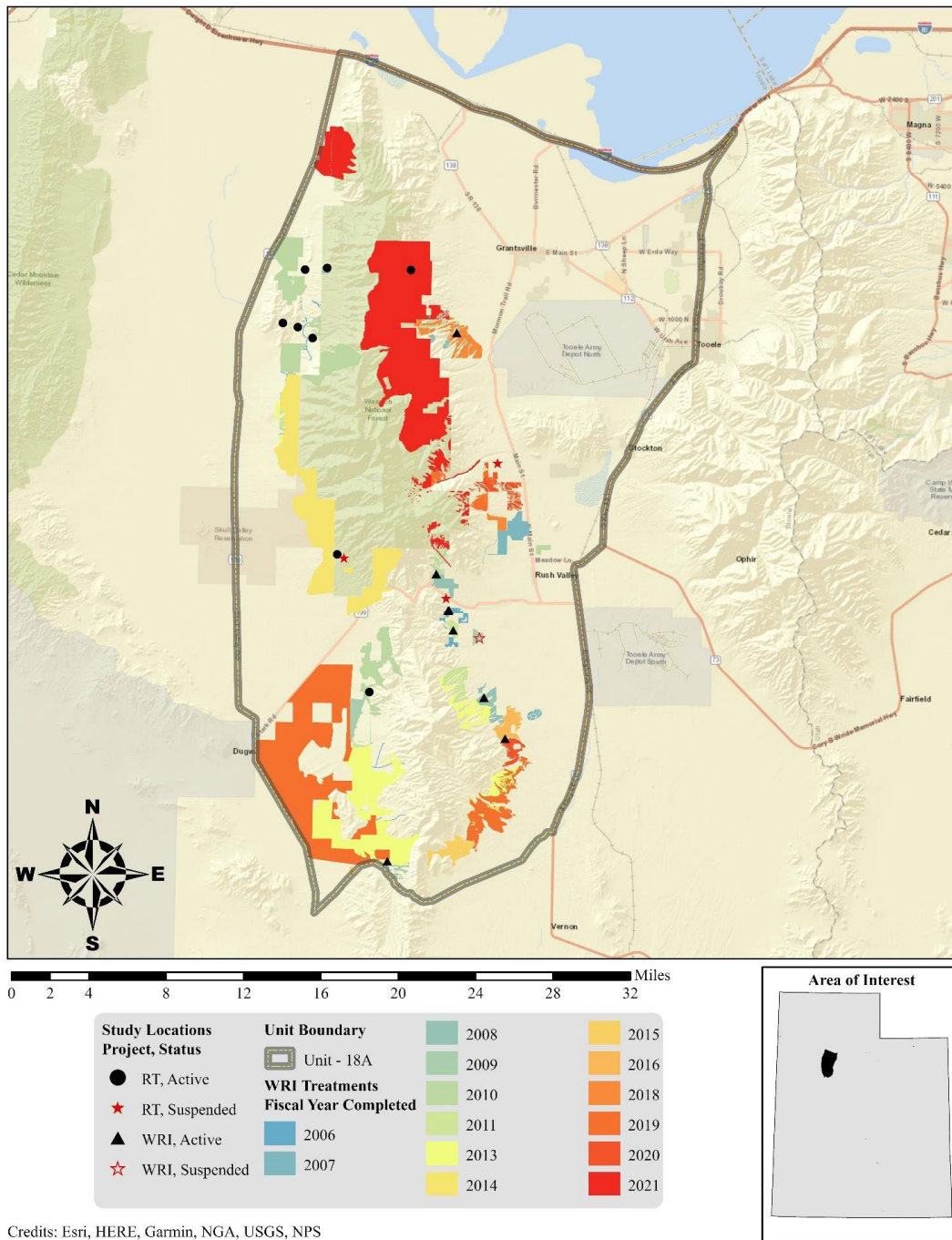
### **Habitat Protection and Maintenance**

- Work with public land management agencies to develop specific vegetative objectives to maintain the quality of important deer use areas.
- Continue to coordinate with land management agencies in planning and evaluating resource uses and developments that could impact habitat quality.
- Work toward long-term habitat protection and preservation through the use of agreements with land management agencies and local governments, and through the use of conservation easements, etc. on private lands.

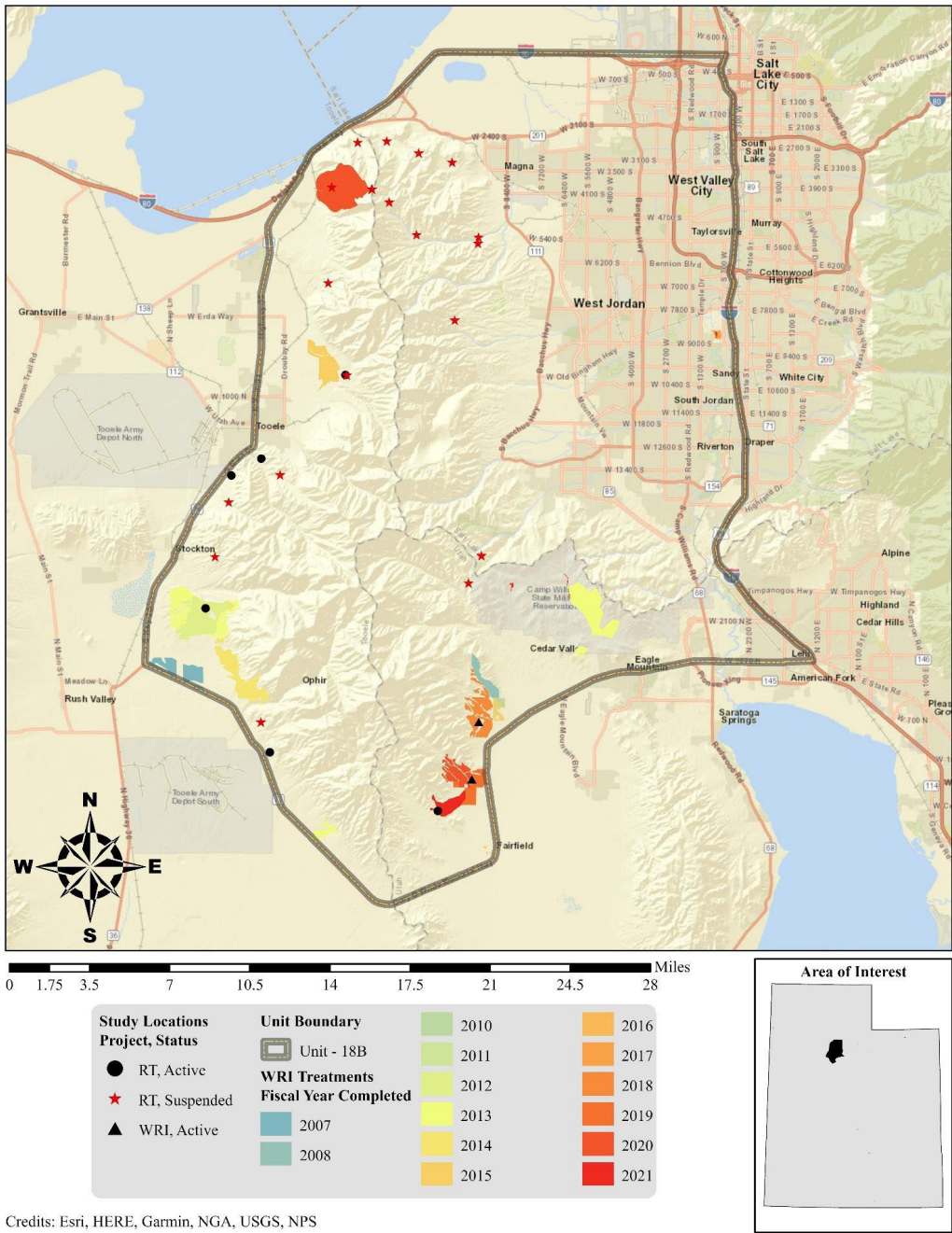
### **Habitat Improvement**

- Cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvement projects. Protect deer winter ranges from wildfire by reseeding burned areas, creating fuel breaks and vegetated green strips and reseed areas dominated by cheatgrass with desirable perennial vegetation.
- Reduce expansion of Pinyon-Juniper woodlands into sagebrush habitats and improve sagebrush habitats dominated by Pinyon-Juniper woodlands by completing habitat restoration projects like lop & scatter, bullhog and chaining.
- Work with partners to increase the amount of available water resources (e.g. guzzlers).
- Cooperate with federal land management agencies and local governments in developing and administering vehicle access management plans for the purposes of habitat protection and escape or security areas.

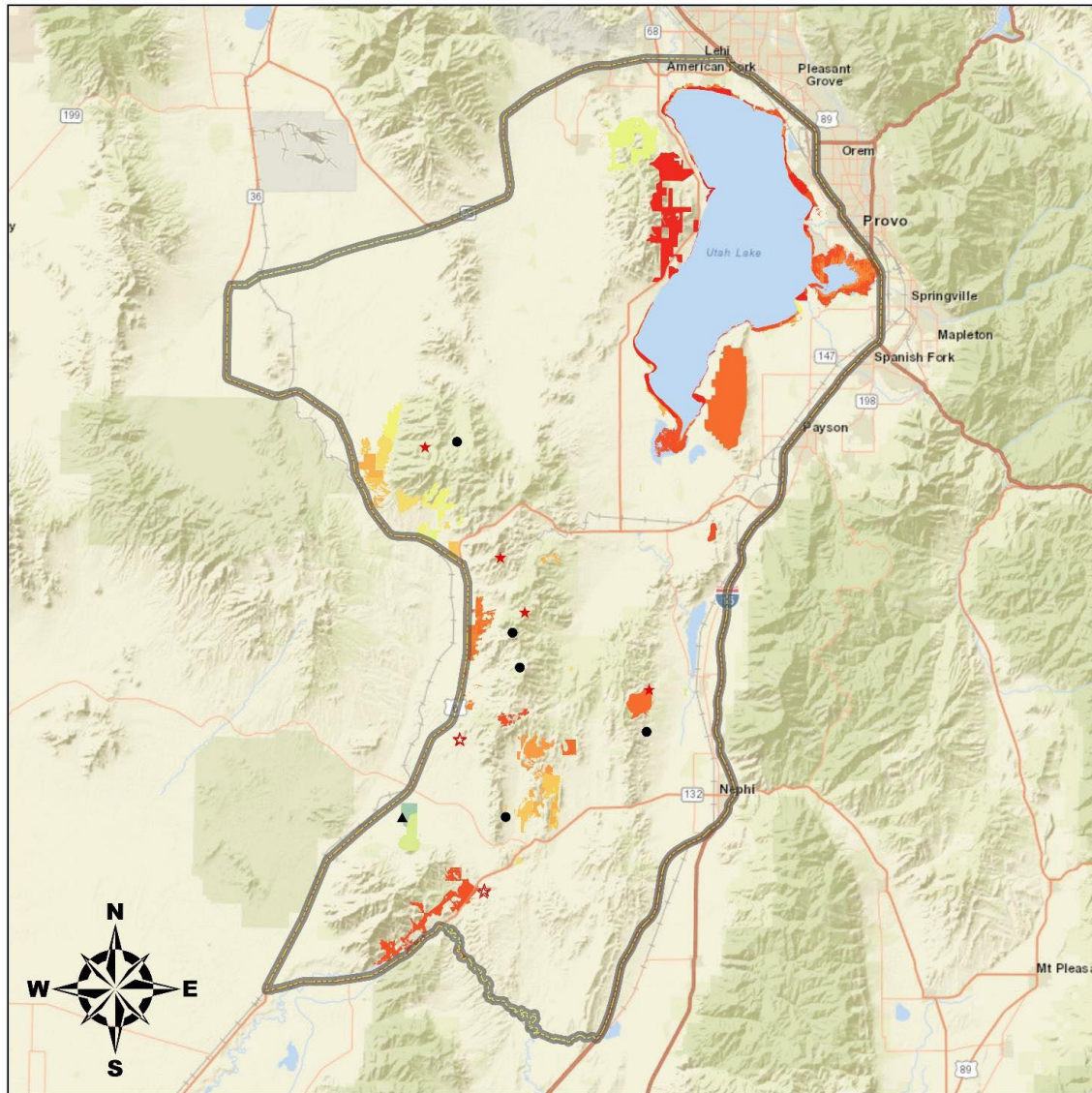
## Habitat Projects within the West Desert Complex



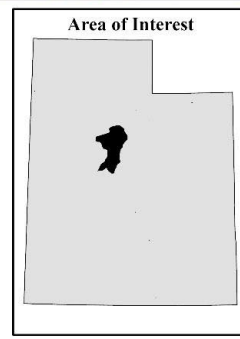
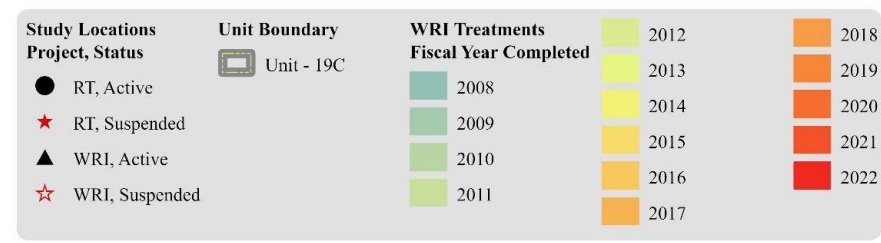
**Map 1:** WRI treatments by fiscal year completed for Stansbury Mountain.



**Map 2:** Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) treatments by fiscal year completed for Quirrh.

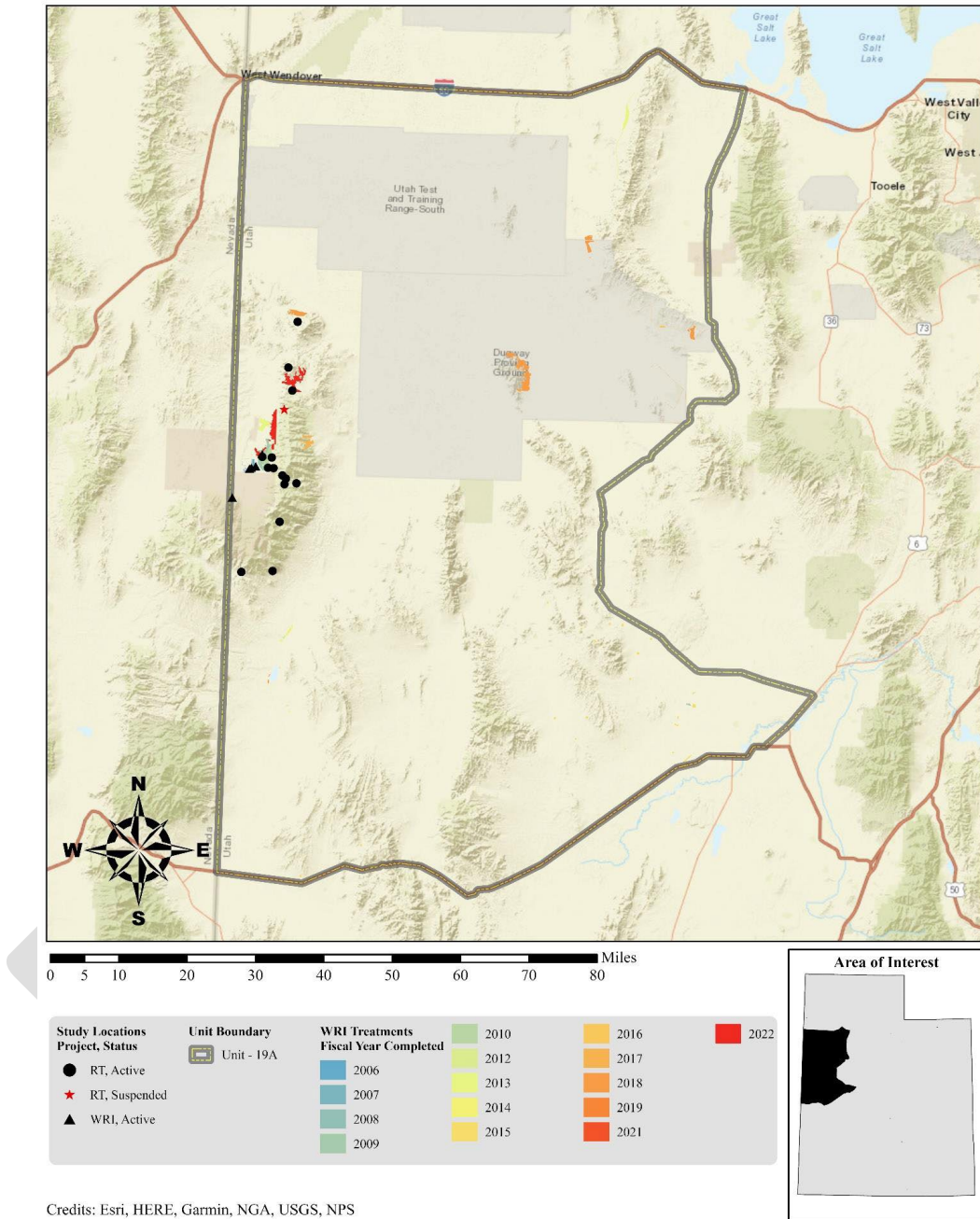


0 3 6 12 18 24 30 36 42 48 Miles



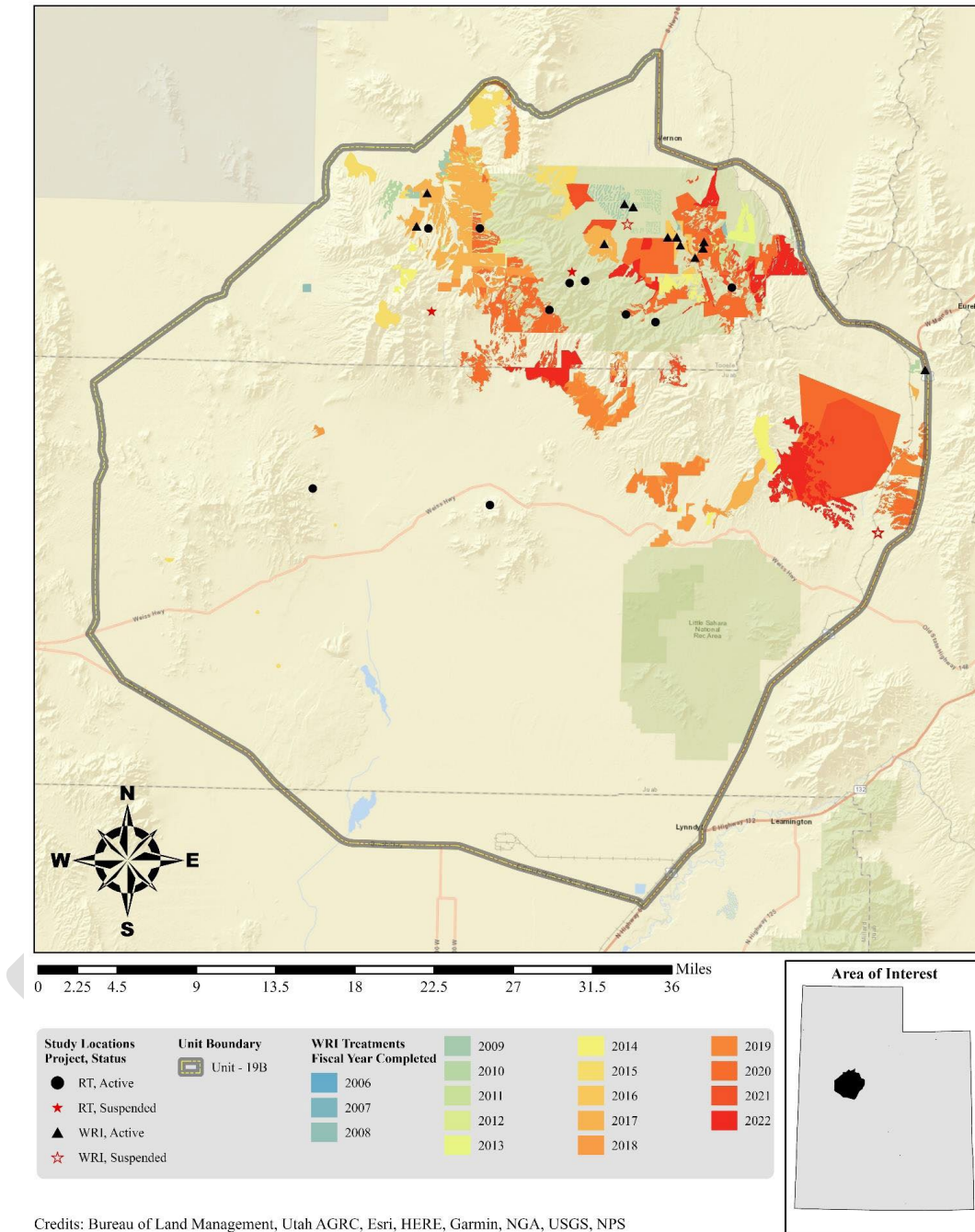
Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS

**Map 3:** WRI treatments by fiscal year completed for Tintic.



**Map 4:** Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) treatments by fiscal year completed for Swasey and Cedar.





**Map 5:** WRI treatments by fiscal year completed for Vernon

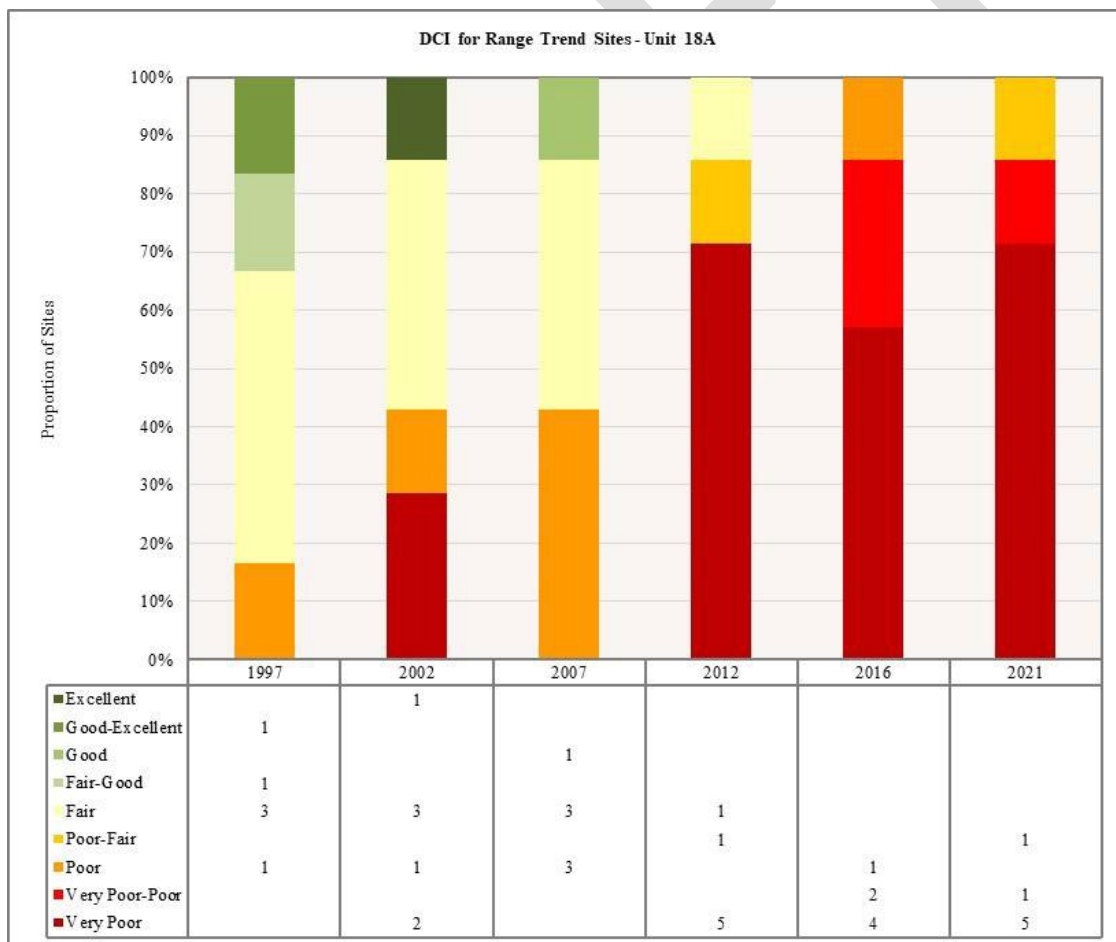
**PERMANENT RANGE TREND SUMMARIES**

**DWR Winter Range Trend Assessment - 2021**

**Stansbury Mountain Range**

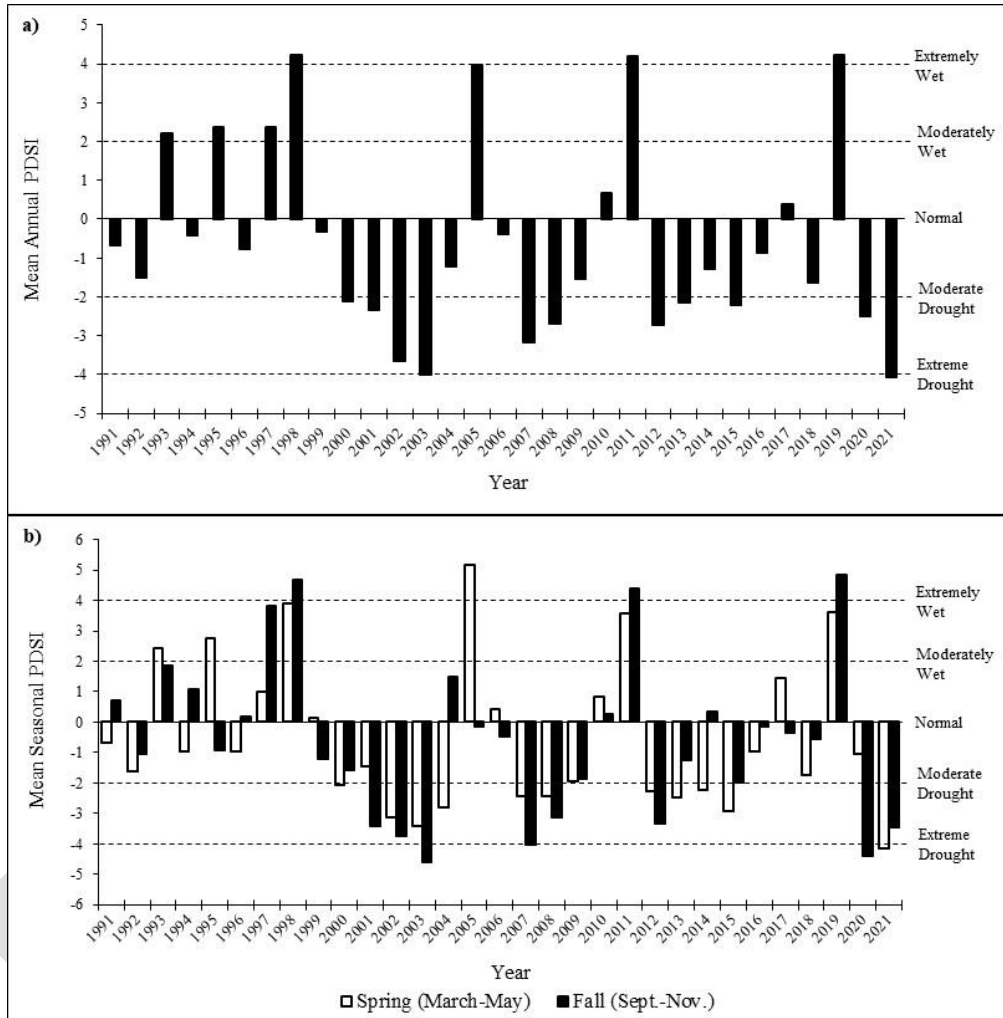
The condition of deer winter range within the Stansbury management unit, as a whole, has decreased from fair in 1997 to very poor wintering habitat in 2021. This decreasing trend was driven by the 2009 Big Pole wildfire with South Palmer Point, Salt Mountain Stock Pond, Below Chokecherry Spring, Salt Mountain, and South of Broons Canyon all being affected by the burn. Deadman Canyon was affected by the Patch Springs wildfire in 2013. Deer winter range on the east aspect of the Stansbury Mountains was negatively affected by the removal of much of the preferred browse populations. Some augmentation has been beneficial with the seeding of perennial grasses, but most sites have been negatively impacted by invasive annual grass.

The overall deer winter range assessment in 2021 for Stansbury mountain was very poor. Much of this can be attributed to the lack of preferred browse across the unit, with most of the sites sampling the west aspect of the Stansbury Mountains. Improvement to deer winter range will come with the addition of preferred browse species to the community.



**Figure 1:** Stansbury Mountains deer winter range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2021.

## Drought Index – Stansbury Mountains

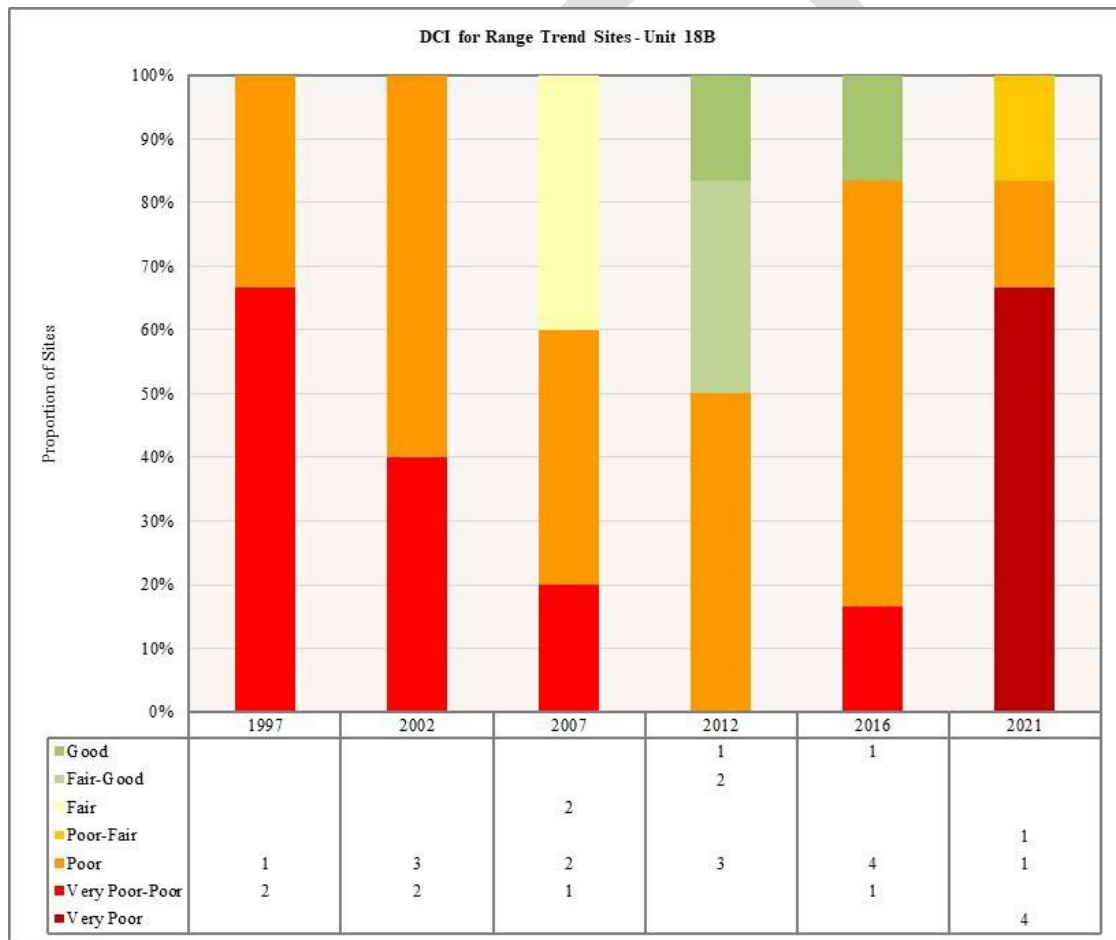


**Figure 2:** The 1991-2021 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the Western division (Division 1). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2021. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. a) Mean annual PDSI. b) Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) (Time Series Data, 2022).

## Oquirrh Mountain Range

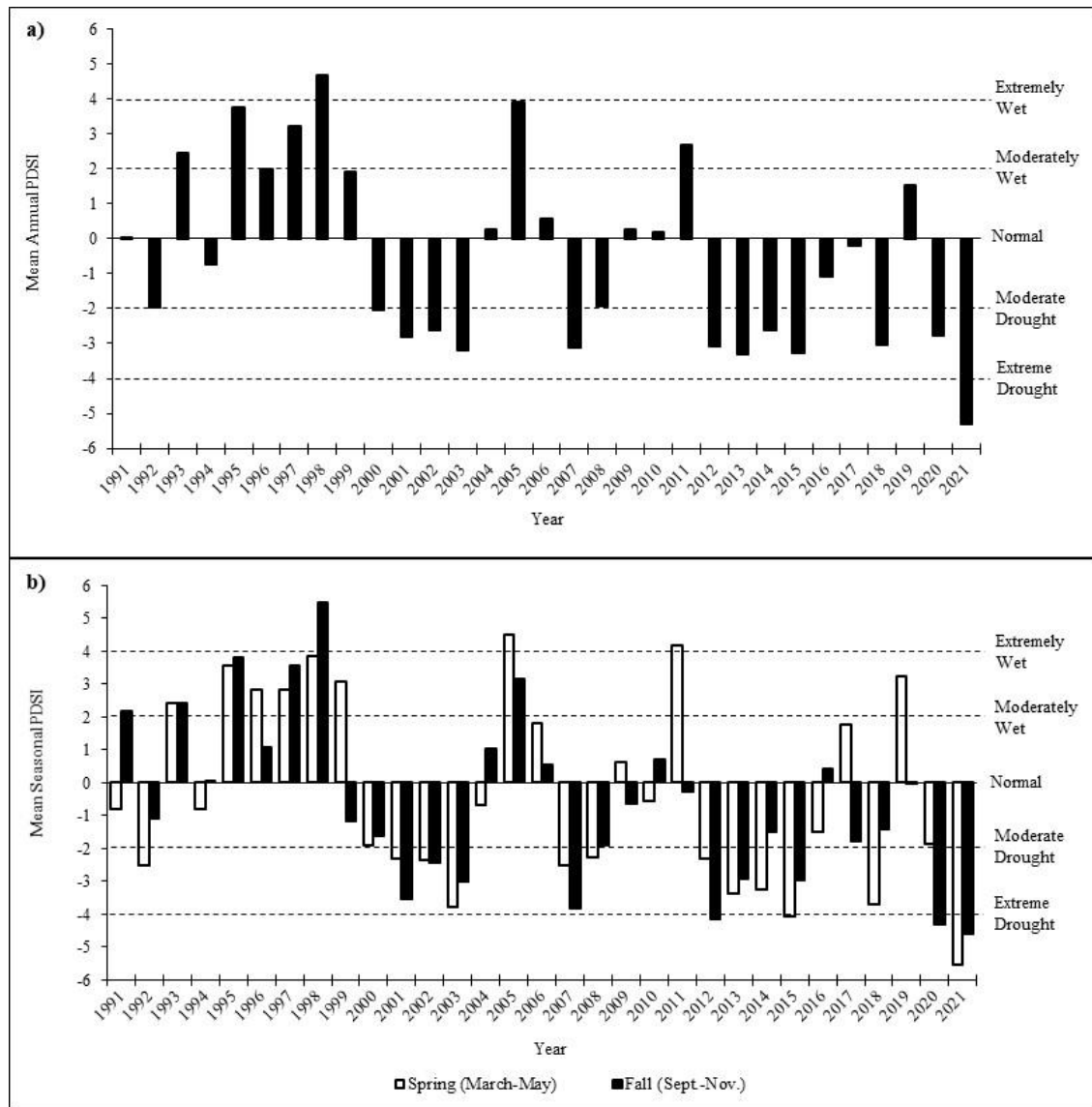
The condition of deer winter range within the Oquirrh Mountains management unit has generally remained poor in most sample years, except in 2012, where average conditions were considered to be fair. Most Range Trend sites in the Oquirrh portion (Manning Canyon, Big Dip Gulch, South of Soldier Canyon, Three O'Clock, and Settlement Canyon Reservoir) have generally remained in poor condition and are considered to be the main drivers for the unit's overall winter condition. Contributing to the poor condition of these sites are deficient browse, and perennial grass and forb populations. Carr Fork 2 is a more recent study that was added to the sampling rotation in 2012, and has a tendency to be in states that are between fair and good condition for wintering deer: much of this favorable condition is due to a notable presence of antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), though cover has steadily decreased. Efforts to improve winter range on Carr Fork 2 should begin by preserving the browse community. Most sites show a proclivity to remain in poor condition and may not be the best candidates for rehabilitation.

The overall deer winter range assessment in 2021 for Oquirrh Mountain was very poor. Much of the poor condition can be attributed to a lack of preferred browse, perennial grasses, and forbs.



**Figure 3:** Oquirrh Mountains deer winter range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2021.

## Drought Index – Oquirrh Mountains

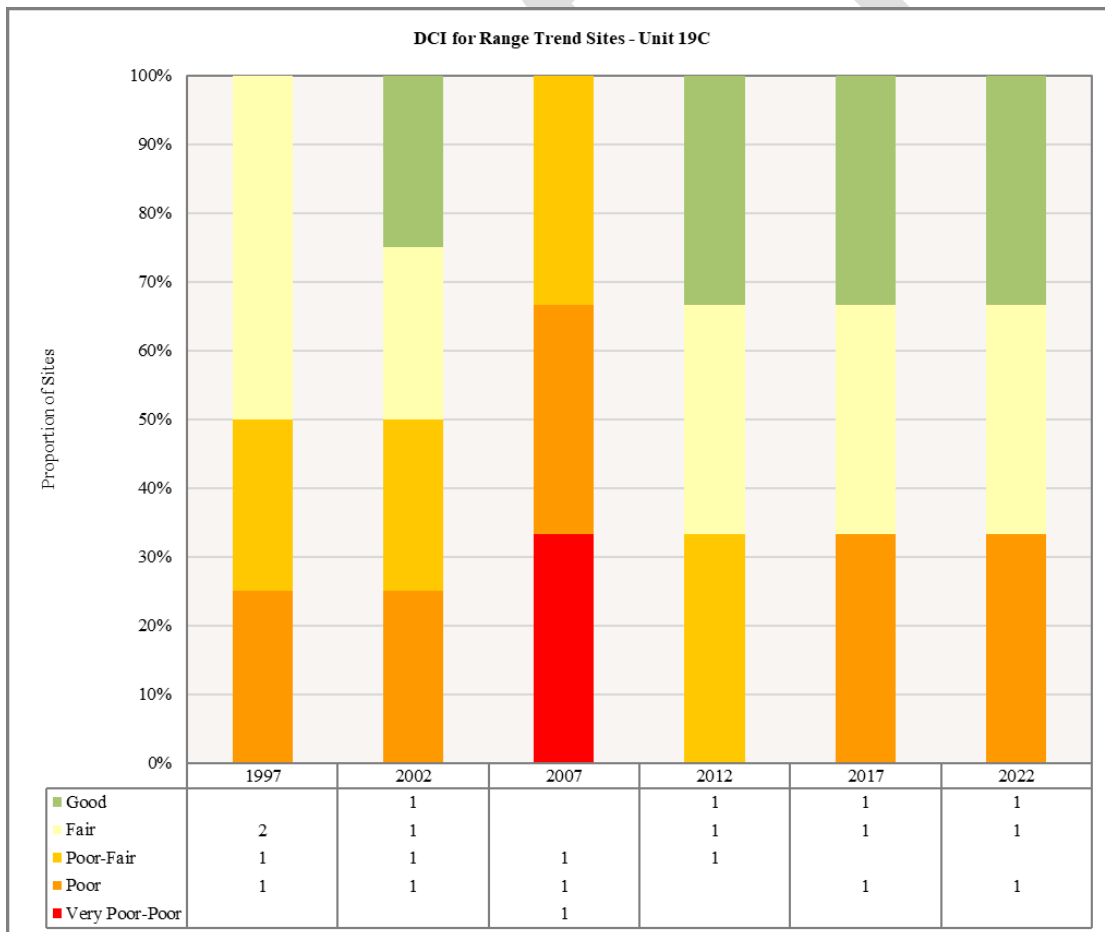


**Figure 4:** The 1991-2021 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the North Central division (Division 3). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2021. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. a) Mean annual PDSI. b) Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) (Time Series Data, 2022).

**Tintic**

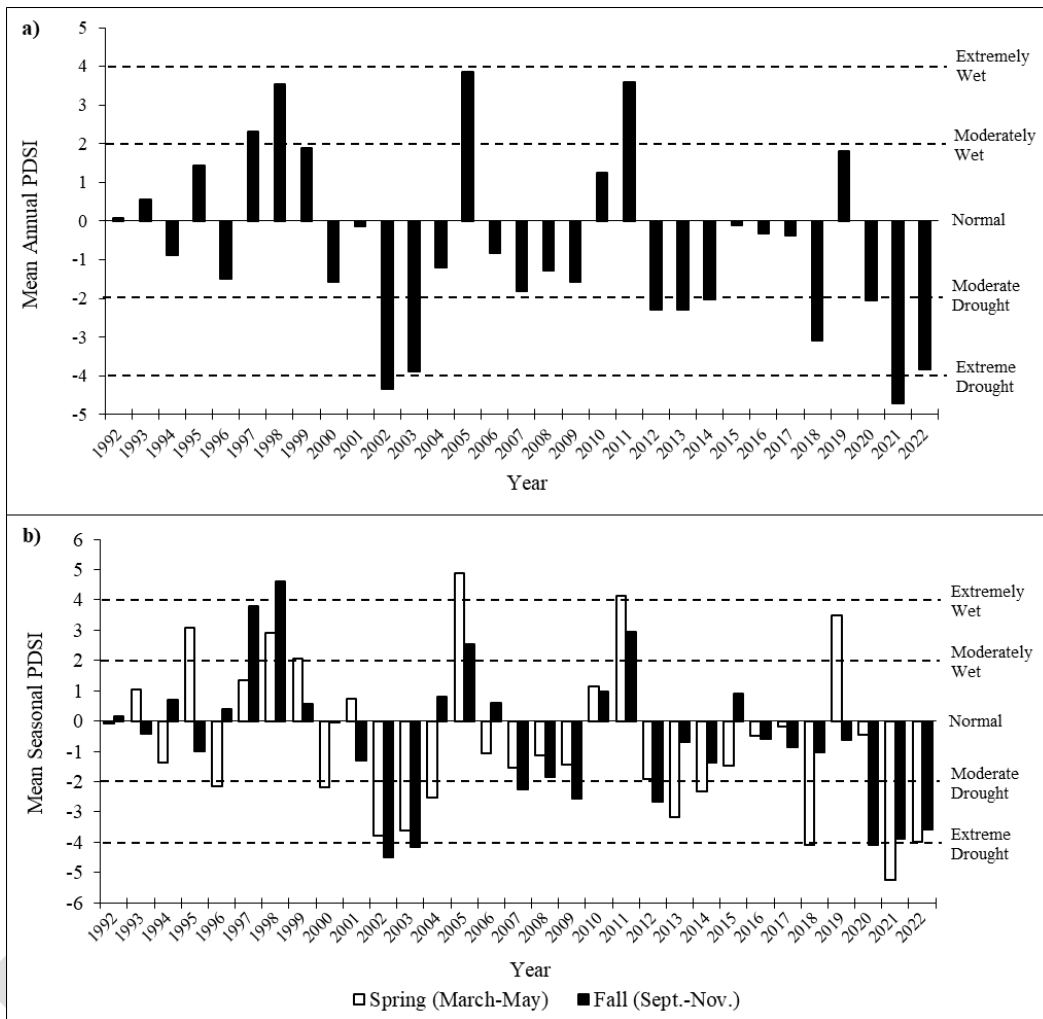
The condition of deer winter range within the Tintic management unit has modestly improved overall from very poor-fair averaged conditions in 1997 to fair averaged conditions in 2022. Sunrise Canyon is the main driver for the unit’s wintering habitat stability and quality, and averages between fair and good for deer winter range conditions. Sioux Pass, Nephi Dump, and Furner Valley are considered to have poor conditions consistently from year to year, which suppresses the unit’s overall quality of winter habitat; as of 2007, however, Sioux Pass has not influenced the winter range conditional trend. Furner Valley tends to have higher variability in deer winter habitat, and appears to have the highest degree of potential winter range improvement: the immediate area may benefit and respond the most to improvement projects. Areas of improvement may include a reduction in pinyon and juniper tree cover, and/or cheatgrass.

The overall deer winter range assessment in 2022 for Tintic was in fair condition. Factors contributing to fair conditions are the presence of annual grass, low abundance of perennial grasses and forbs, and a lack of preferred shrub recruitment. However, Nephi Dump has a notable perennial grass community present.



**Figure 5:** West Desert, Tintic deer winter range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2022.

## Drought Index – Tintic

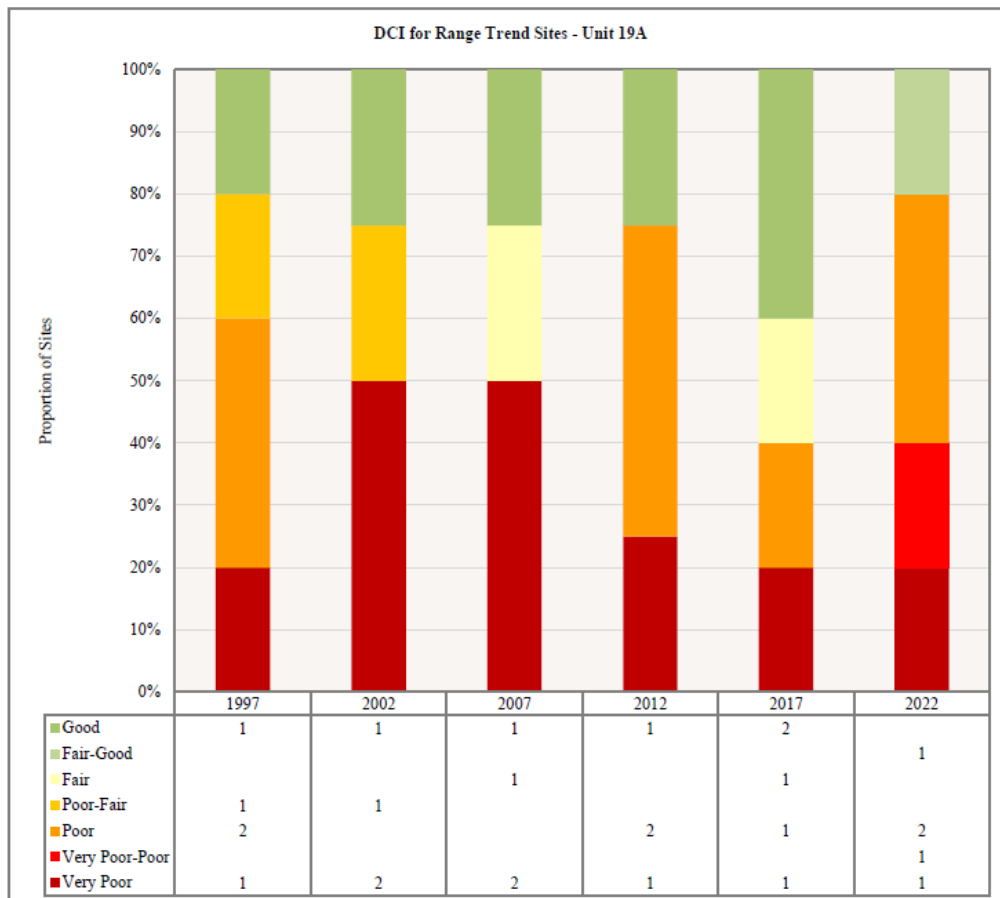


**Figure 6:** The 1992-2022 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the South Central division (Division 4). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2022. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. **a)** Mean annual PDSI. **b)** Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) PDSI Time Series Data, 2023.

**Swasey**

The averaged condition of deer winter range within the West management unit has generally remained poor since the 1997 sampling. The Range Trend sites in Swasey that have generally remained in good condition are The Basin and Rocky Canyon, and are the main drivers for the unit’s stability as good deer winter range. Trail Gulch, Ochre Mountain, Sevy Mountain, Wood Canyon, and Clifton Flat all have a proclivity to remain as very poor to poor deer winter range. Of these sites, Ochre Mountain and Wood Canyon have more variability in deer winter range condition: this variability may be an indicator that these sites may respond well to future habitat improvement projects.

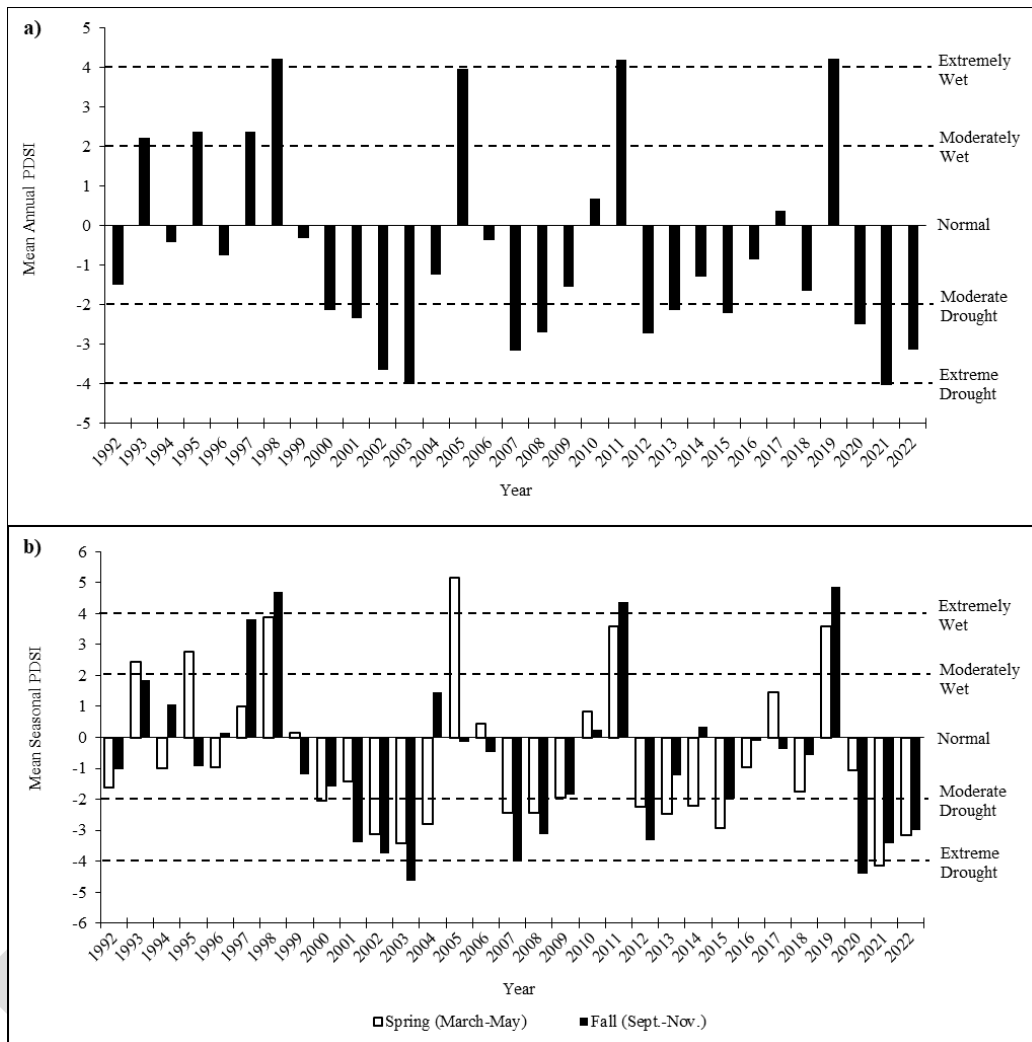
The overall deer winter range assessment in 2022 for Swasey was that the unit was in poor condition; all sites except for The Basin were ranked as poor or worse. These conditions are mainly driven by an abundance of annual grass and a lack of preferred browse and/or a lack of diversity in preferred shrub age classes. Ochre Mountain and its surroundings would benefit the most from habit improvements made in these areas.



**Figure 7:** West Desert, West deer winter range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2022.



## Drought Index – Swasey

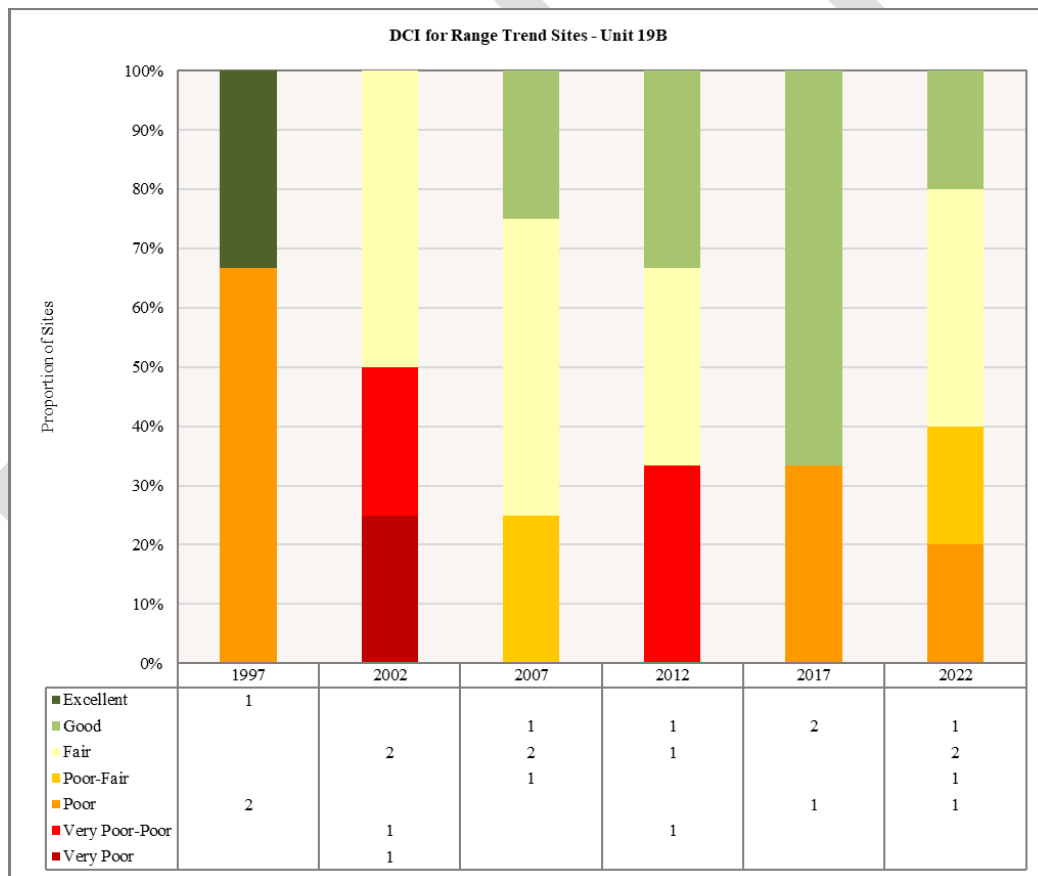


**Figure 8:** The 1992-2022 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the Western division (Division 1). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2022. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. **a)** Mean annual PDSI. **b)** Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) PDSI (Time Series Data, 2023).

## Vernon

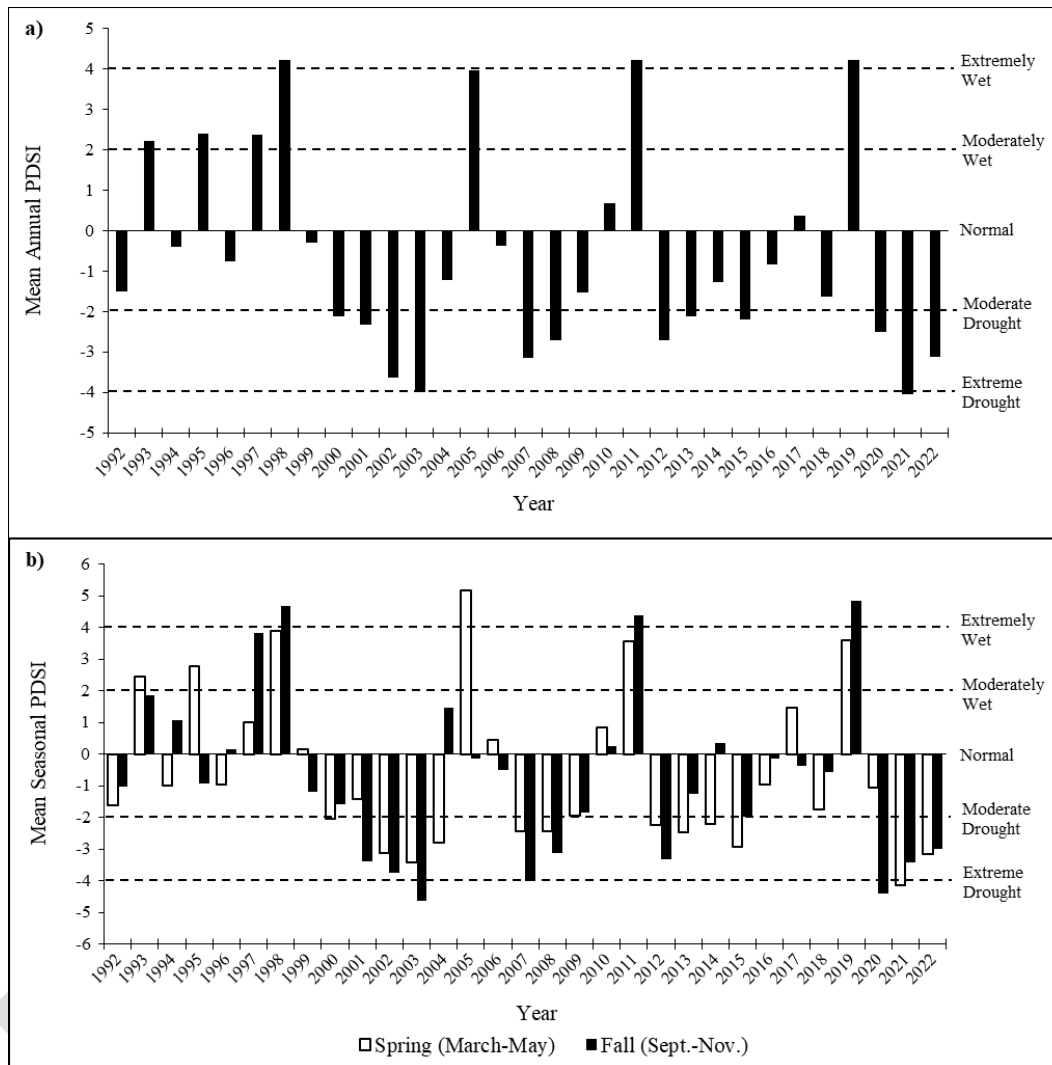
The condition of deer winter range within the Vernon management unit has generally remained stable since the 1997 sampling. Mean wintering conditions on Vernon have remained between poor-fair to fair condition from 1997 to 2022. West Government Creek and Lee's Creek are the main drivers for the unit's stability and average within good and fair deer winter range conditions, respectively. Range Trend sites in this WMU tend to have low variability in deer winter habitat, meaning that sites experience little change in their respective habitat qualities from year to year.

The overall deer winter range assessment in 2022 for Vernon was that sites were in poor-fair condition. However, West Government Creek was considered to be in good condition due to an abundance of perennial grasses, forbs, and preferred browse cover. A suggested habitat improvement that would address deer winter range condition on this site would be diversifying the age class component for preferred shrubs by decreasing decadence and increasing young populations. South Pine Canyon and the newly added Keg Mountain site are rated, respectively, as poor and fair winter range in 2022. Concerns identified are reduced perennial grass and forb abundance, and preferred browse, but annual grass is an additional issue. Addressing these areas as a focus for habitat rehabilitation would improve winter conditions for deer.



**Figure 9:** Vernon deer winter range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2022.

## Drought Index – Vernon



**Figure 10:** The 1992-2022 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the Western division (Division 1). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2022. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. **a)** Mean annual PDSI. **b)** Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) PDSI (Time Series Data, 2023).

### DURATION AND AUTHORITY OF PLAN

This unit management plan was approved by the Utah Wildlife Board January 9, 2025 and will be in effect for five years, or until amended. Unit deer plan goals, objectives and strategies are constrained within the sideboards set in the statewide deer plan, which supersedes unit plans. It is possible that changes to the statewide deer plan may affect unit plans. Additionally, changes to Utah State Code and/or Administrative Rules may also affect deer unit plans.

**ELK HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
Elk Herd Unit # 18 & 19  
(West Desert Complex)  
December 2024**

**WEST DESERT COMPLEX BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**Tooele, Salt Lake, Utah, Juab, and Millard counties** - Boundary begins at the Utah-Nevada state line and I-80 in Wendover; east on I-80 to I-15; south on I-15 to Exit 207 and Mills Road; west on this road to the Sevier River; north along this river to SR132; west on SR132 to US-6; south on US-6 to its junction with US-50 at Delta; west on US-50/US-6 to the Utah-Nevada state line; north along this state line to I-80 at Wendover. EXCLUDING ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LAND WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY.

This boundary has four units including:

Unit 18a – Cedar/Stansbury – Tooele and Juab counties — Boundary begins on I-80 and exit 41 (Knolls); east on I-80 to exit 99 and SR-36, south on SR-36 to the Pony Express road, west on this road to the Dugway Mountain Road, north on this road to the north tip of the Dugway range, north cross country to exit 41 (Knolls) on I-80. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY.

Unit 18b – Oquirrh – Tooele, Salt Lake, Utah, and Juab counties — Boundary begins at the junction of I-80 and SR-36; east on I-80 to I-15; south on I-15 to US-6; east on US-6 to SR-36; north on SR-36 to I-80.

Unit 19a – West Desert, Deep Creek – Tooele and Juab counties — Boundary begins at the Nevada-Utah state line and the Blue Lakes road; southeast on this road to the Gold Hill road; southwest on this road to the Pony Express road; south on this road to the Snake Valley road; south on this road to the Pleasant Valley road; northwest on this road to the Nevada-Utah state line; north on this state line to the Blue Lakes road. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LAND WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY.

Unit 19d – House/Tintic – Tooele, Juab, and Millard counties — Boundary begins at the Utah-Nevada state line and I-80 in Wendover; east on I-80 to exit 41 (Knolls), south cross country to the north tip of the Dugway range, southeast cross country to the Dugway mountain road, southeast on this road to the Pony Express road, east on this road to SR-36, southeast on this road to US-6, east on this road to I-15, south on I-15 to Exit 207 and Mills Road; west on this road to the Sevier River; north along this river to SR132; west on SR132 to US-6; south on US-6 to its junction with US-50 at Delta; west on US-50/US-6 to the Utah-Nevada state line; north along this state line to the Pleasant Valley road; southeast on this road to the Snake Valley road; north on this road to the Pony Express road; northwest on this road to the Gold Hill road; north on this road to the Blue Lakes road; northwest on this road to the Utah-Nevada state line, north on the Utah-Nevada state line to I-80 at Wendover.

**LAND OWNERSHIP – WEST DESERT COMPLEX**

Ownership	Yearlong range		Summer Range		Winter Range	
	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%
Forest Service	41,763	5.4	49,275	21.5	46,475	6.9
Bureau of Land Management	579,243	75.4	118,458	51.7	457,730	68.0
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands	54,272	7.1	9,262	4.0	38,572	5.7

Native American Trust Lands	0	0	10,711	4.7	13,414	2.0
Private	69,228	9.0	41,423	18.1	114,625	17.0
Department of Defense	23,687	3.1	0	0	2,688	0.4
USFWS Refuge	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah State Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	151,625	100	17,515	100	130,390	100

### **UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS**

- Manage for a realistic and attainable population level that is at or below biological carrying capacity to maintain a robust and productive elk population.
- Manage the elk population at a level capable of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and viewing.
- Balance elk herd impacts on human needs, such as private property rights, agricultural crops and local economies.
- Strive for consistency and simplicity in elk management programs.

### **POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

Target Winter Herd Size – Maintain a wintering elk population of 2,150 elk, based on aerial counts. Elk will be distributed among the following populations:

<u>Wintering Area (counting unit)</u>	<u>Target Population</u>
Oquirrh	650
House/Tintic	650
Cedar/Stansbury	650
West Desert, Deep Creek	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,150</b>

5-year Winter Herd Size – Manage for a 5-year target population of 2,150 wintering elk during the five-year planning period, unless range conditions become unsuitable as evaluated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR). Range Trend data coupled with browse monitoring will be used to assess habitat condition. If habitat damage by elk is occurring due to inadequate habitat, actions will be taken to reduce the population to sustainable levels. The elk population objective will be evaluated each time the unit management plan is up for renewal.

Herd Composition – Manage herd composition as described in the Statewide Elk Plan, using a General Season Any Bull hunting strategy for the Oquirrh, House/Tintic, and Cedar/Stansbury units. These units will not be managed to an age objective. Utilize a limited entry September archery only and an October/November Handgun, Archery, Muzzleloader, Shotgun, Straight-walled rifle (HAMSS) hunt strategy with a 6.0 age objective for the Deep Creek unit.

Harvest – General season any bull hunt regulations, using Archery, Rifle, and Muzzleloader, and youth hunting opportunities as described in the Statewide Plan. A limited entry Archery only and HAMSS hunt

strategies for the Deep Creek Subunit. Utilize antlerless harvest strategies to maintain elk populations at or below population objectives. Antlerless harvest will be governed by depredation concerns and potential range conditions attributable to elk.

## **POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

### **Monitoring**

Population Size - Utilizing aerial counts every 3-years, supplemented with available harvest data, pre-season sex and age classifications, and survival estimates to estimate winter population size. The 2023 winter estimate of the population is 1,450 elk.

Harvest - The primary means of monitoring harvest will be through the statewide uniform harvest survey. Achieve the target population size by use of antlerless harvest using a variety of harvest methods and seasons, as needed. Whenever possible, harvest recommendations will be crafted to simultaneously manage overall population size, age class and address concerns in specific areas such as depredation problems or localized range overuse by elk.

Translocation – Translocate elk to locations where population densities are low in accordance with the Statewide Elk Plan.

Research - Continue research efforts to identify migration corridors and limiting factors for elk herd growth, as funding and personnel allow.

### **Limiting Factors (May prevent achieving management objectives)**

Crop Depredation - Take all steps necessary to minimize depredation as prescribed by state law and DWR policy.

Drought - Drought is the primary factor that influences elk populations within the West Desert Complex. Forage production and vigor is severely limited during drought years.

Habitat - At present, the availability of high quality summer range may be more limiting to this elk population than winter range. Condition of summer ranges is a long-term concern with increasing temperatures and reduced precipitation. Fire and encroachment by pinyon and juniper trees results in the loss of forage production, diversity and quality.

Urban Expansion - Current and future urban expansion will continue to fragment existing elk habitat and displace elk to less productive areas.

## **HABITAT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- Maintain and protect existing critical elk ranges sufficient to support the population objectives.
- Seek cooperative projects to improve the quality and quantity of elk habitat.
- Promote enhancement of habitat security and escapement areas for elk.

## **HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

### **Monitoring**

Determine trends in habitat condition through permanent range trend studies, range assessments, pellet transects, and field inspections. Land management agencies will similarly conduct range monitoring to determine vegetative trends, utilization and possible forage conflicts.

Range trend studies will be conducted by DWR to evaluate elk habitat health, trend, and carrying capacity using the elk winter range Desirable Component Index (DCI) and other vegetation data. Range trend studies will be evaluated for the units independently. The DCI was created as an indicator of the general health of winter ranges. The index incorporates shrub cover, density and age composition as well as other key vegetation variables. Changes in DCI suggest changes in winter range capacity. The relationship between DCI and the changes in elk carrying capacity is difficult to quantify and is not known.

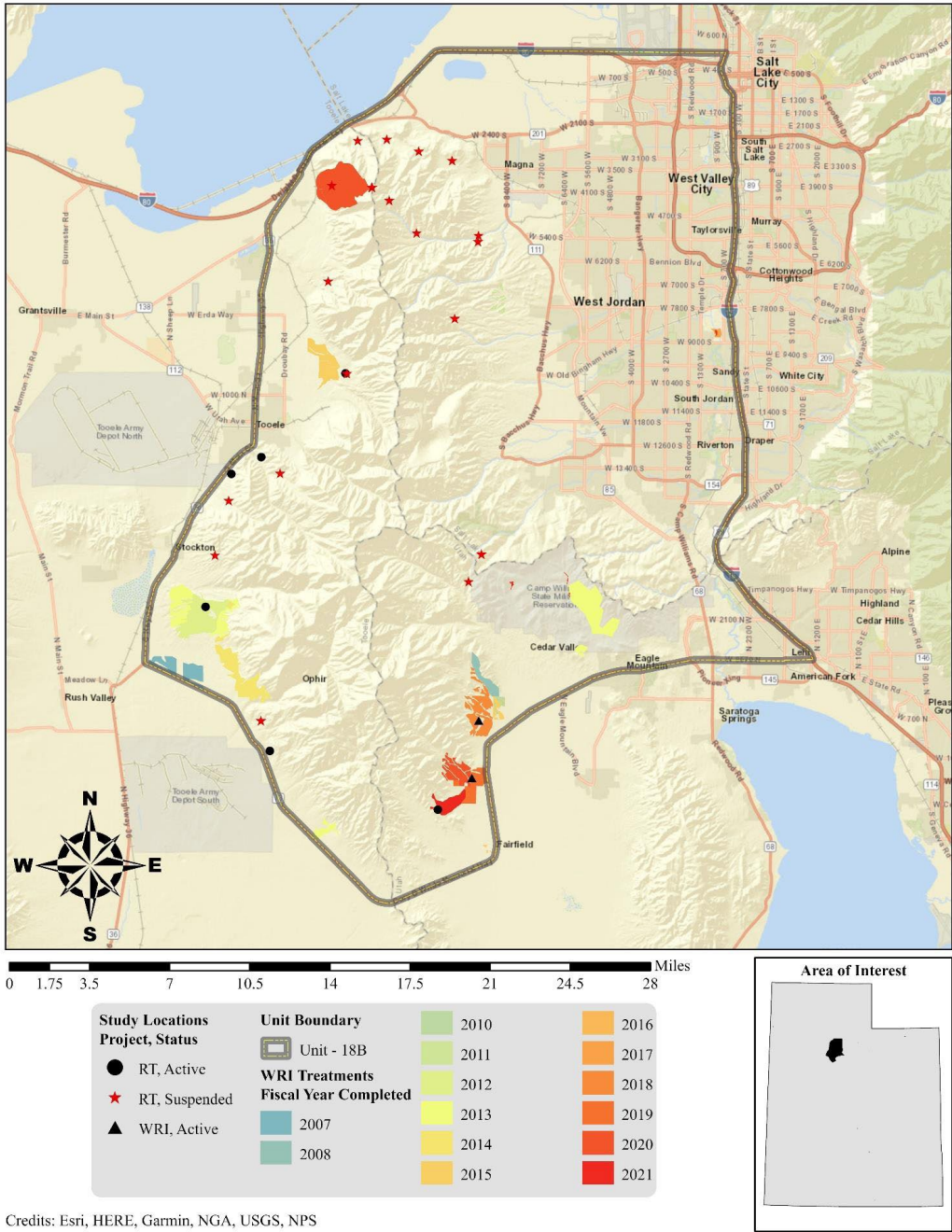
### **Habitat Protection and Maintenance**

- Work with public land management agencies to develop specific vegetative objectives to maintain the quality of important elk use areas.
- Continue to coordinate with land management agencies in planning and evaluating resource uses and developments that could influence habitat quality.
- Work toward long-term habitat protection and preservation using agreements with land management agencies and local governments, and with conservation easements, etc. on private lands.

### **Habitat Improvement**

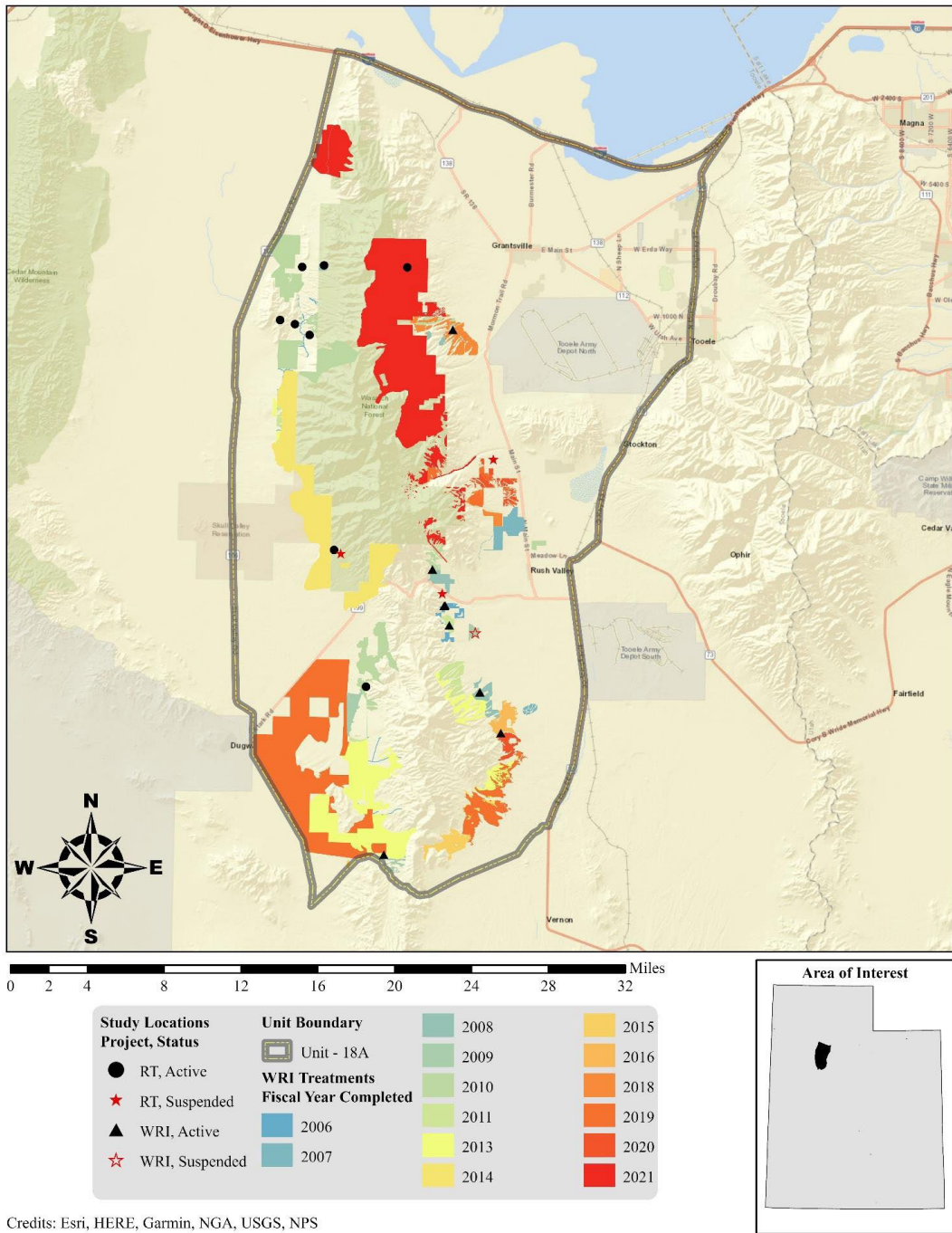
- Cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvement projects. Protect elk ranges from wildfire by reseeding burned areas, creating fuel breaks and vegetated green strips and reseed areas dominated by cheatgrass with desirable perennial vegetation.
- Reduce expansion of Pinyon-Juniper woodlands into sagebrush habitats and improve sagebrush habitats dominated by Pinyon-Juniper woodlands by completing habitat restoration projects like lop & scatter, bullhog and chaining.
- Work with partners to increase the amount of available water resources (e.g. guzzlers).
- Cooperate with federal land management agencies and local governments in developing and administering vehicle access management plans for the purposes of habitat protection and escape or security areas.
- Cooperate with federal agencies to assure a diverse age structure of aspen communities on summer habitats.

### **Habitat Projects within the West Desert Complex**

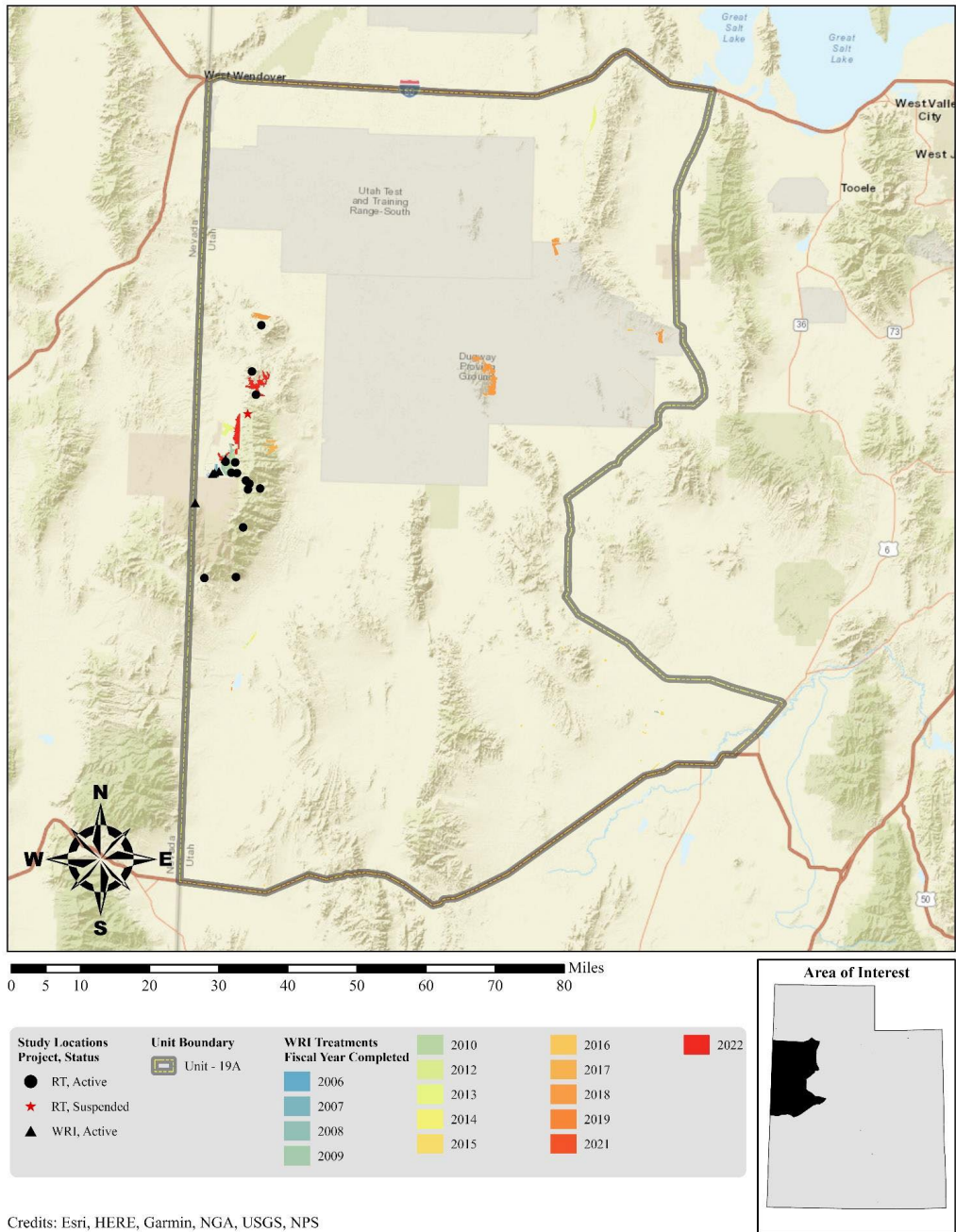


**Map 1: Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) treatments by fiscal year completed for Oquirrh.**

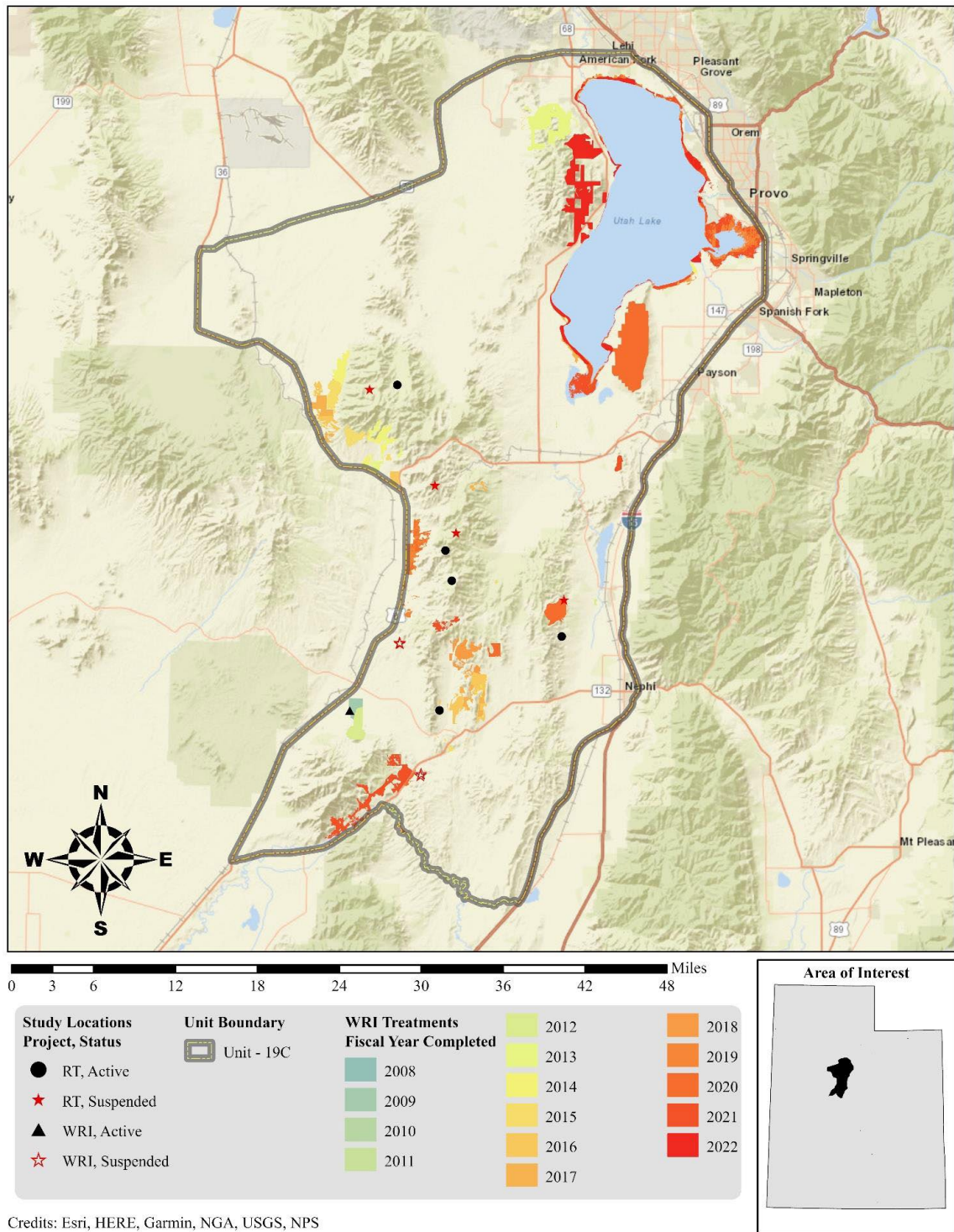




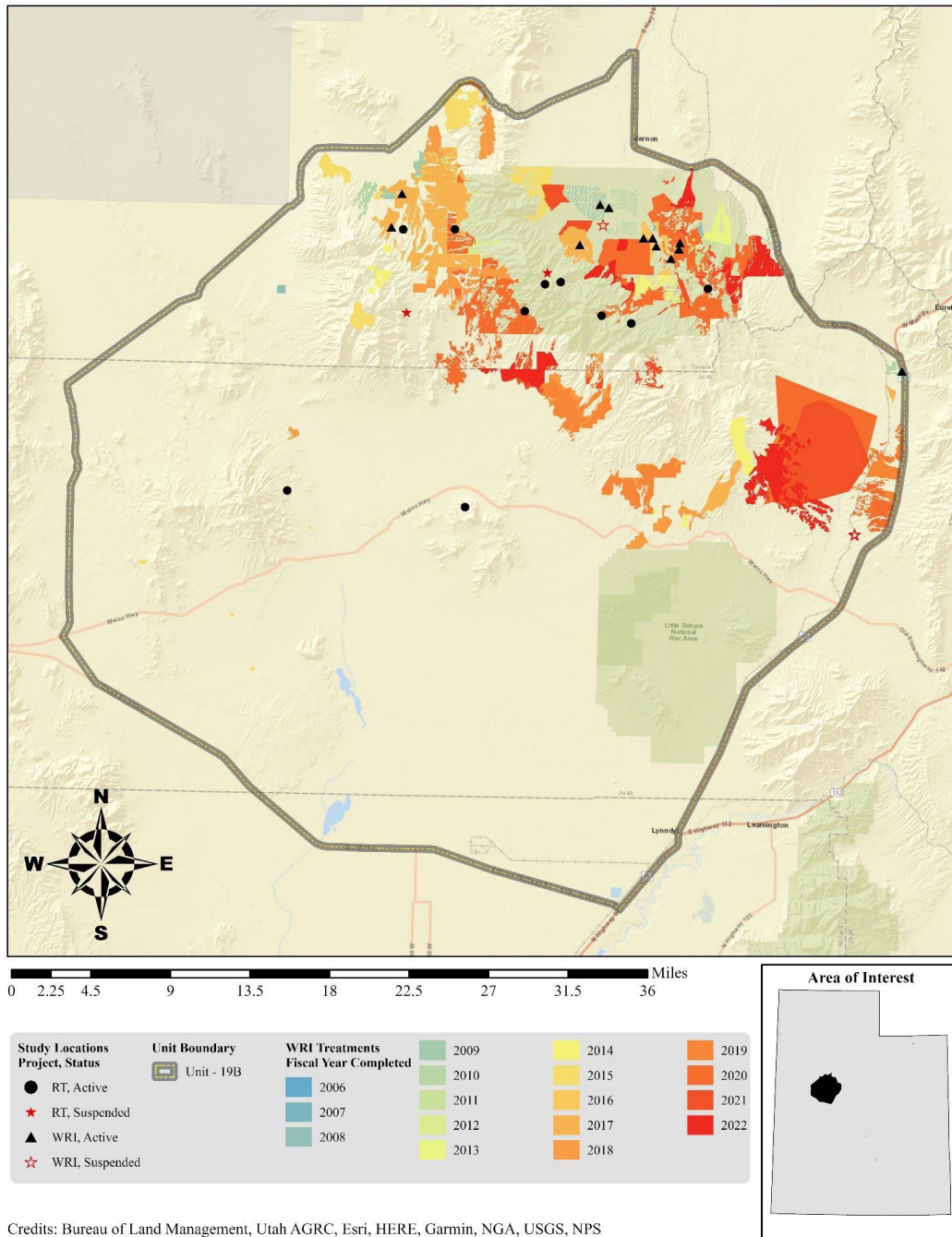
**Map 2:** WRI treatments by fiscal year completed for Stansbury Mountains.



**Map 3:** Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) treatments by fiscal year completed for Deep Creek and House.



**Map 4:** WRI treatments by fiscal year completed for Tintic.



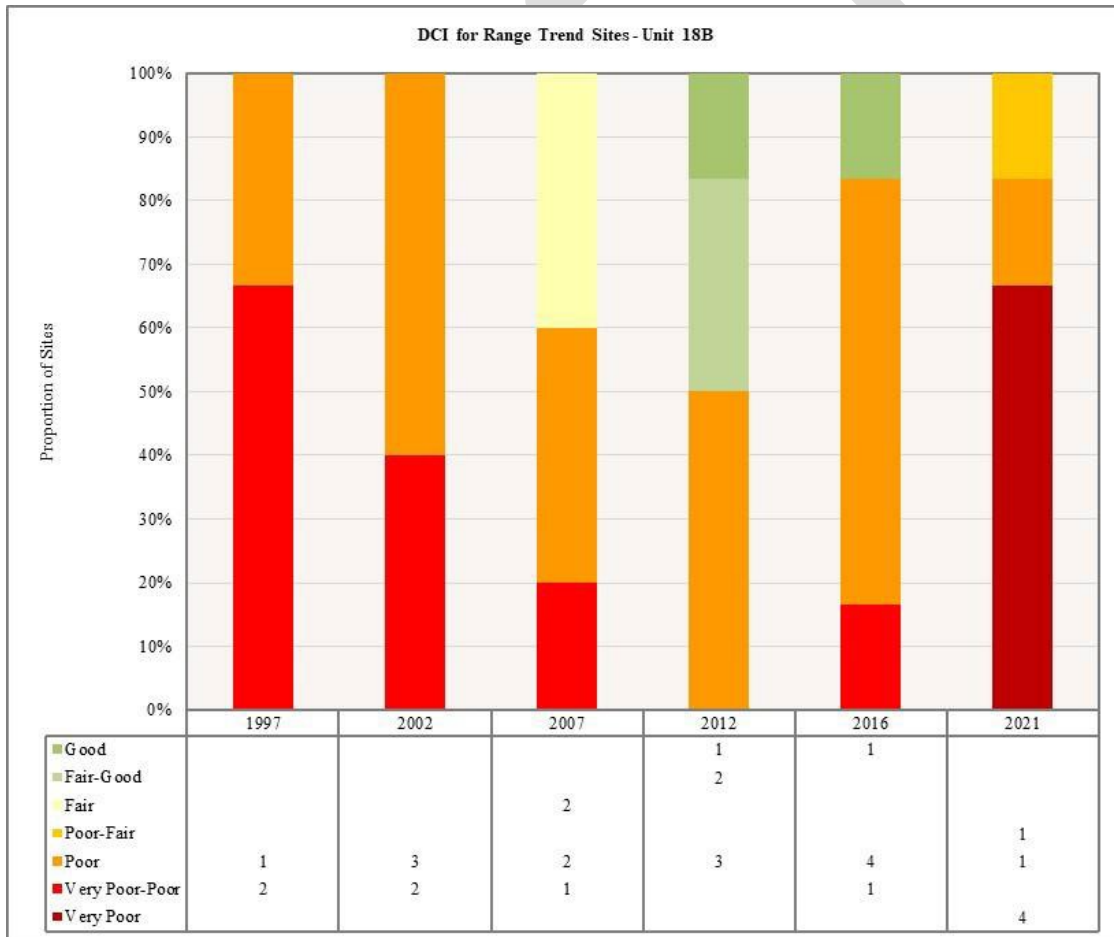
**Map 5:** WRI treatments by fiscal year completed for Tintic (Vernon portion).

**DWR Winter Range Trend Assessment - 2021**

*Oquirrh*

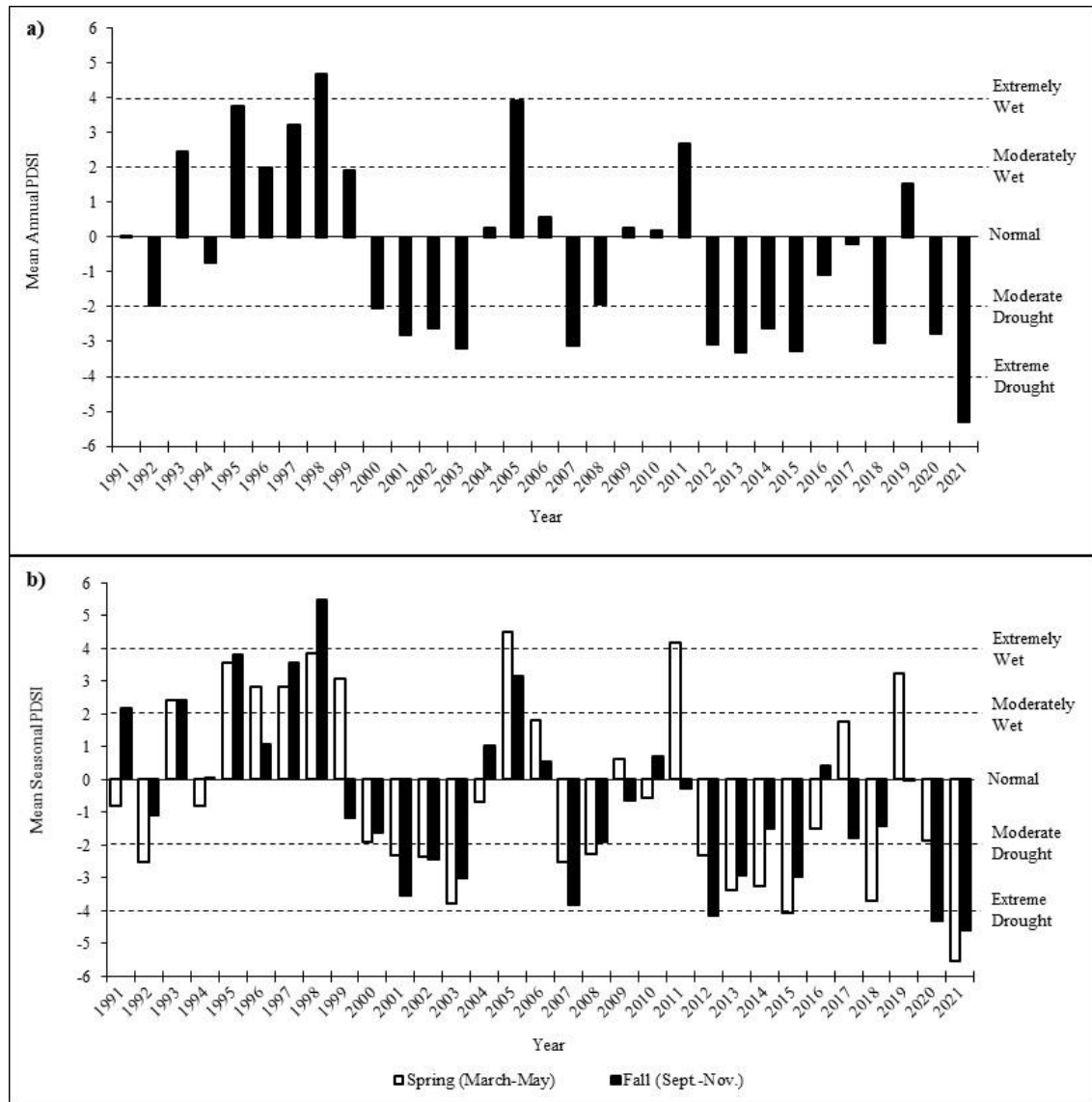
The condition of elk range within the Oquirrh management unit has generally remained poor in most sample years, except in 2012, where average conditions were considered to be fair. Most Range Trend sites in Oquirrh, Manning Canyon, Big Dip Gulch, South of Soldier Canyon, Three O’Clock, and Settlement Canyon Reservoir have generally remained in poor condition and are considered to be the main drivers for the unit’s overall winter condition. Contributing to the poor condition of these sites are deficient browse, and perennial grass and forb populations. Carr Fork 2 is a more recent study that was added to the sampling rotation in 2012, and has a tendency to be in states that are between fair and good condition for elk: much of this favorable condition is due to a notable presence of antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), though cover has steadily decreased. Efforts to improve winter range on Carr Fork 2 should begin by preserving the browse community. Most sites show a proclivity to remain in poor condition and may not be the best candidates for rehabilitation.

The overall elk range assessment in 2021 for Oquirrh was very poor. Much of the poor condition can be attributed to a lack of preferred browse, perennial grasses, and forbs.



**Figure 1:** Oquirrh elk range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2021.

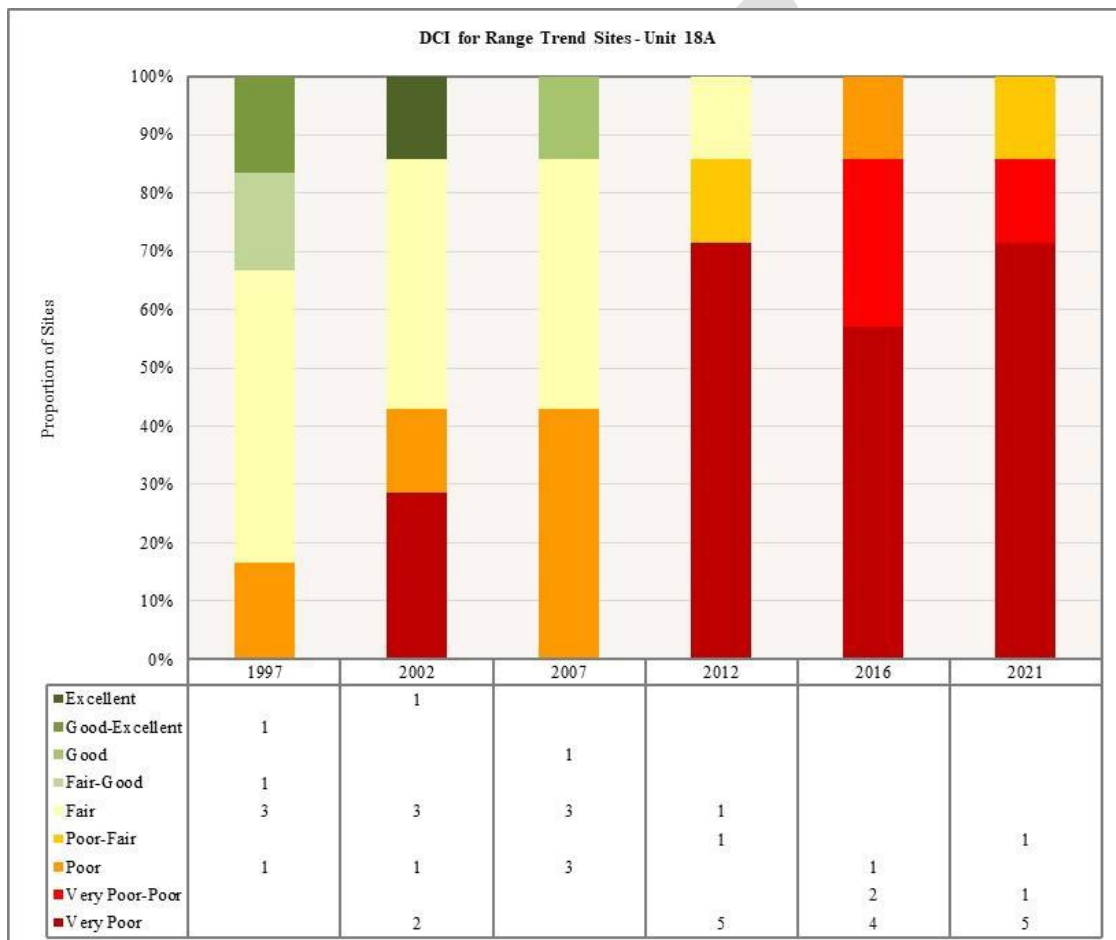
## Drought Index – Oquirrh



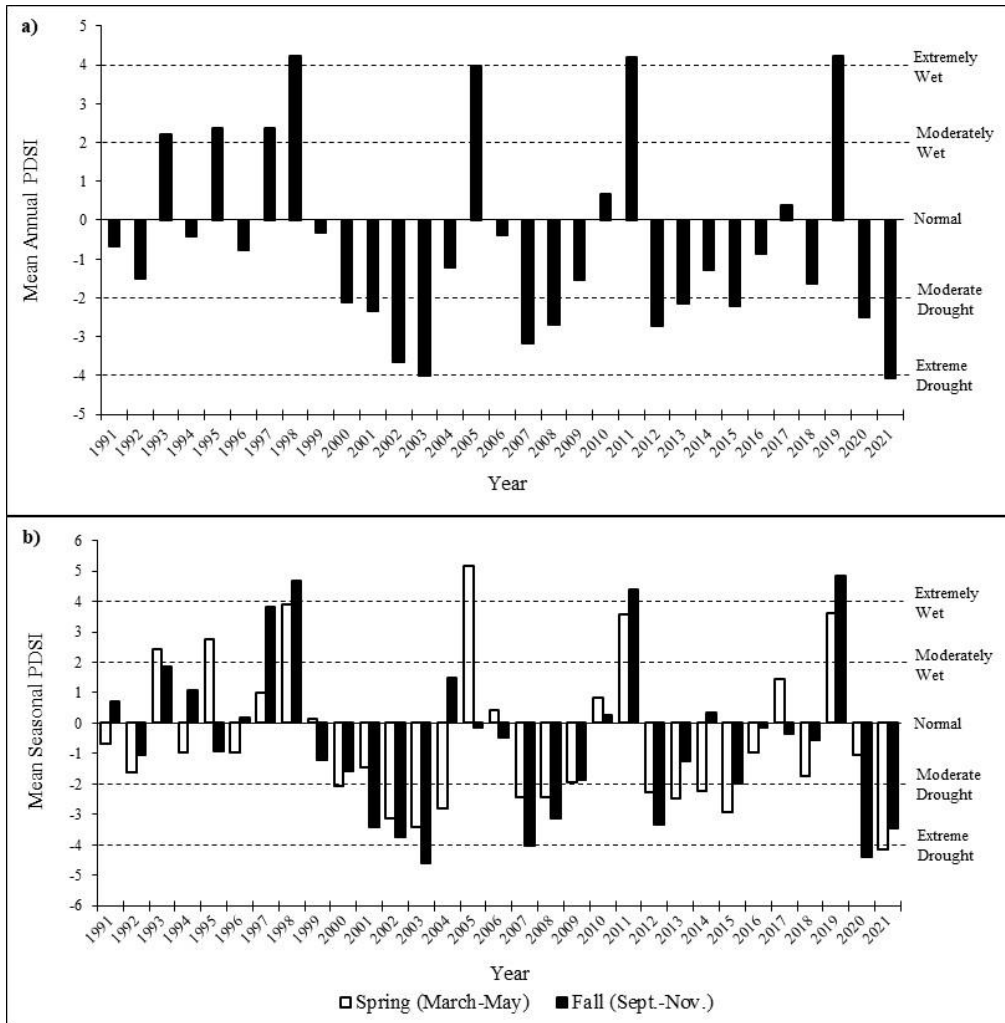
**Figure 2:** The 1991-2021 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the North Central division (Division 3). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2021. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. a) Mean annual PDSI. b) Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) (Time Series Data, 2022).

The condition of elk range within the Stansbury management unit, as a whole, has decreased from fair in 1997 to very poor habitat in 2021. This decreasing trend was driven by the 2009 Big Pole wildfire with South Palmer Point, Salt Mountain Stock Pond, Below Chokecherry Spring, Salt Mountain, and South of Broons Canyon all being affected by the burn. Deadman Canyon was affected by the Patch Springs wildfire in 2013. Elk range on the east aspect of the Stansbury Mountains was negatively affected by the removal of much of the preferred browse populations. Some augmentation has been beneficial with the seeding of perennial grasses, but most sites have been negatively impacted by invasive annual grass.

The overall elk range assessment in 2021 for Stansbury was very poor. Much of this can be attributed to the lack of preferred browse across the unit, with most of the sites sampling the west aspect of the Stansbury Mountains. Improvement to elk range will come with the addition of preferred browse species to the community.



**Figure 3:** Stansbury Mountains elk range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2021.

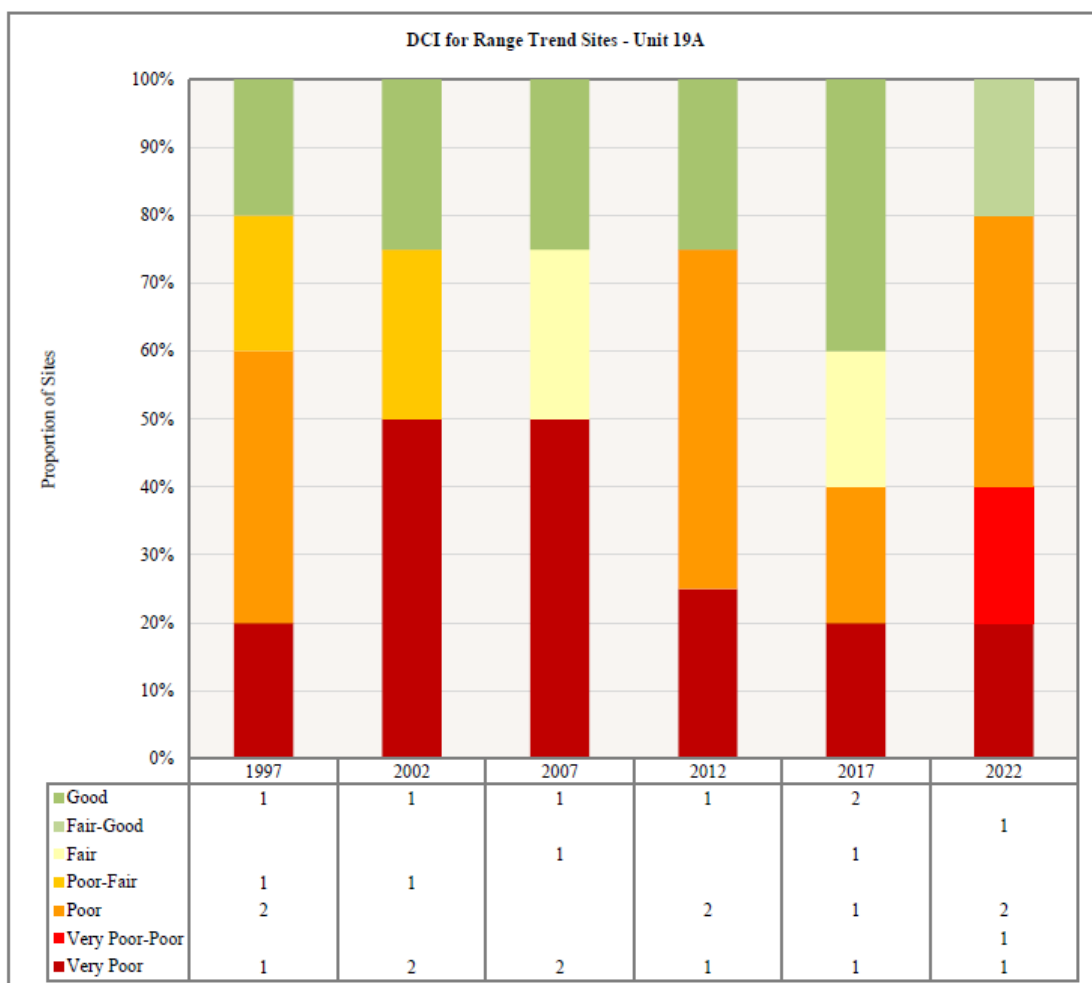


**Figure 4:** The 1991-2021 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the Western division (Division 1). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2021. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. a) Mean annual PDSI. b) Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) (Time Series Data, 2022).

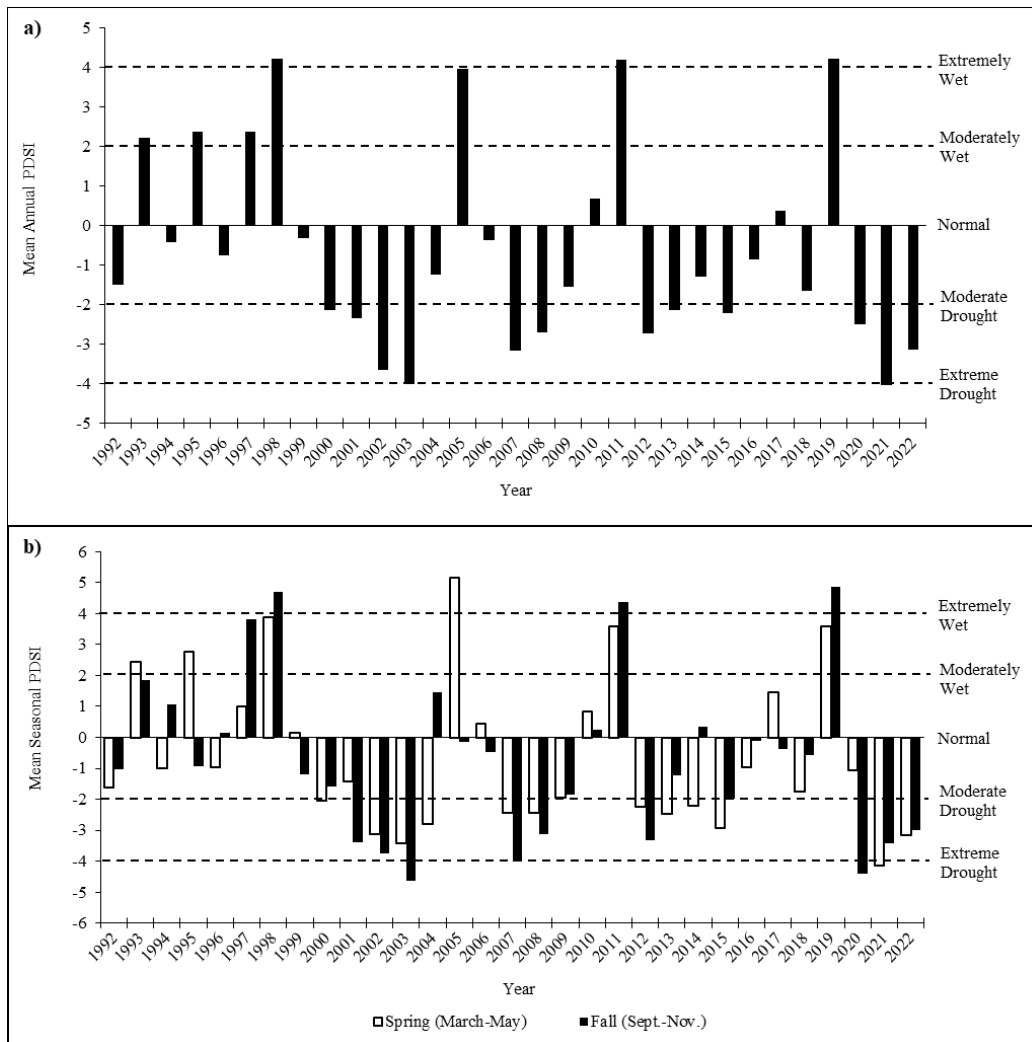


The averaged condition of elk range within the Deep Creek management subunit has generally remained poor since the 1997 sampling. The Range Trend sites in Deep Creek that have generally remained in good condition are The Basin and Rocky Canyon, and are the main drivers for the unit's stability as good elk range. Trail Gulch, Ochre Mountain, Sevy Mountain, Wood Canyon, and Clifton Flat all have a proclivity to remain as very poor to poor elk range. Of these sites, Ochre Mountain and Wood Canyon have more variability in elk range condition: this variability may be an indicator that these sites may respond well to future habitat improvement projects.

The overall elk range assessment in 2022 for Deep Creek was that the subunit was in poor condition; all sites except for The Basin were ranked as poor or worse. These conditions are mainly driven by an abundance of annual grass and a lack of preferred browse and/or a lack of diversity in preferred shrub age classes. Ochre Mountain and its surroundings would benefit the most from habit improvements made in these areas.



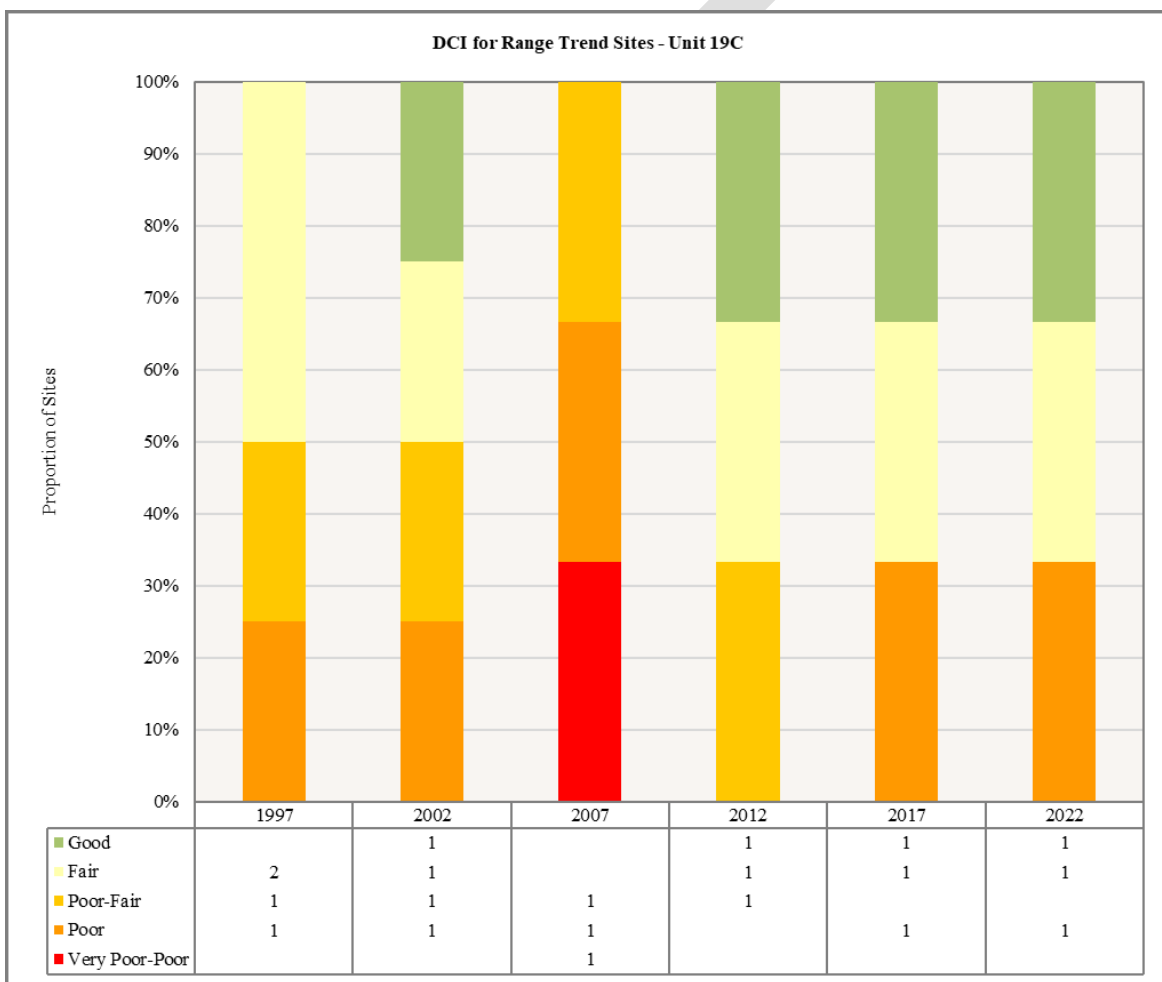
**Figure 5:** Deep Creek elk range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2022.



**Figure 6:** The 1992-2022 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the Western division (Division 1). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2022. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. **a)** Mean annual PDSI. **b)** Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) PDSI (Time Series Data, 2023).

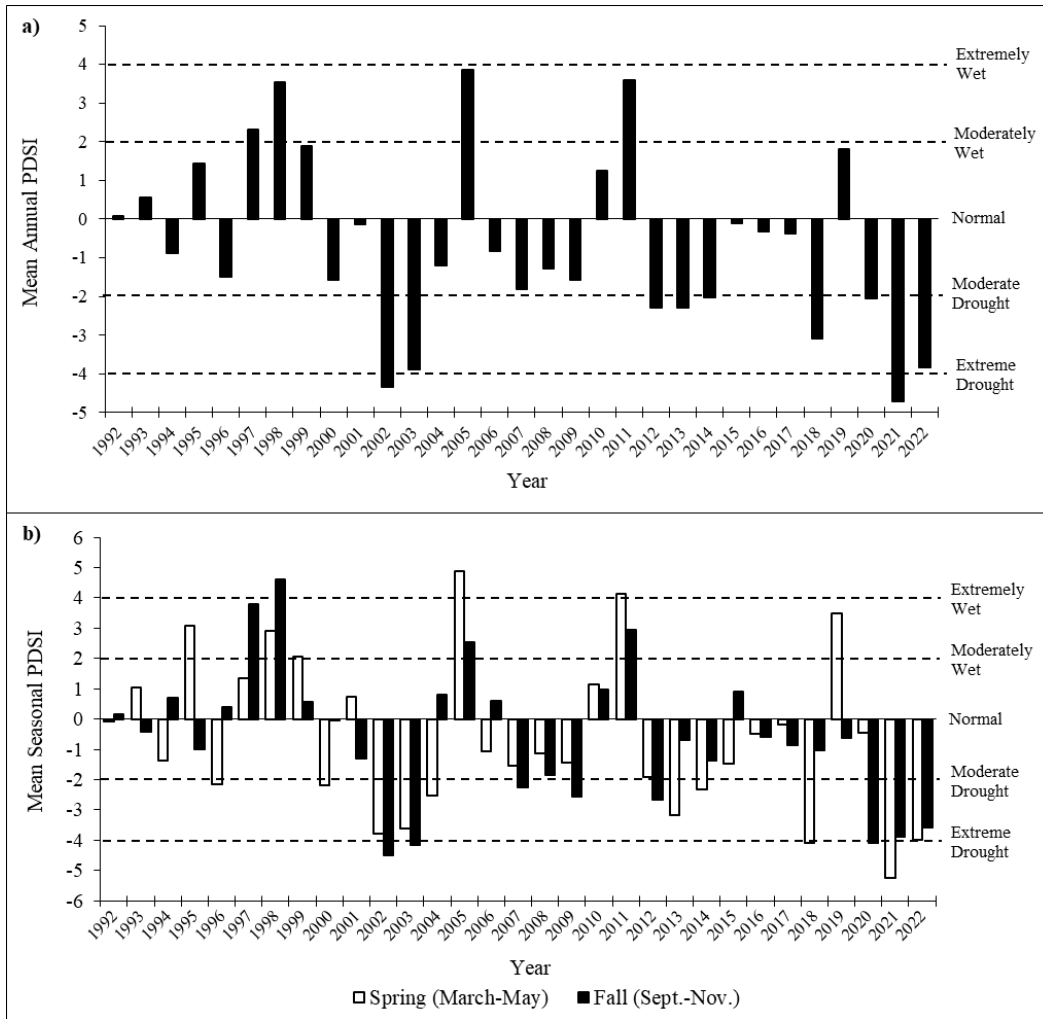
The condition of elk range within the Tintic management subunit has modestly improved overall from very poor-fair averaged conditions in 1997 to fair averaged conditions in 2022. Sunrise Canyon is the main driver for the unit's wintering habitat stability and quality, and averages between fair and good for elk range conditions. Sioux Pass, Nephi Dump, and Furner Valley are considered to have poor conditions consistently from year to year, which suppresses the subunit's overall quality of winter habitat; as of 2007, however, Sioux Pass has not influenced the winter range conditional trend. Furner Valley tends to have higher variability in elk habitat, and appears to have the highest degree of potential winter range improvement: the immediate area may benefit and respond the most to improvement projects. Areas of improvement may include a reduction in pinyon and juniper tree cover, and/or cheatgrass.

The overall elk range assessment in 2022 for Tintic was in fair condition. Factors contributing to fair conditions are the presence of annual grass, low abundance of perennial grasses and forbs, and a lack of preferred shrub recruitment. However, Nephi Dump has a notable perennial grass community present.



**Figure 7:** Tintic portion elk range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2022.

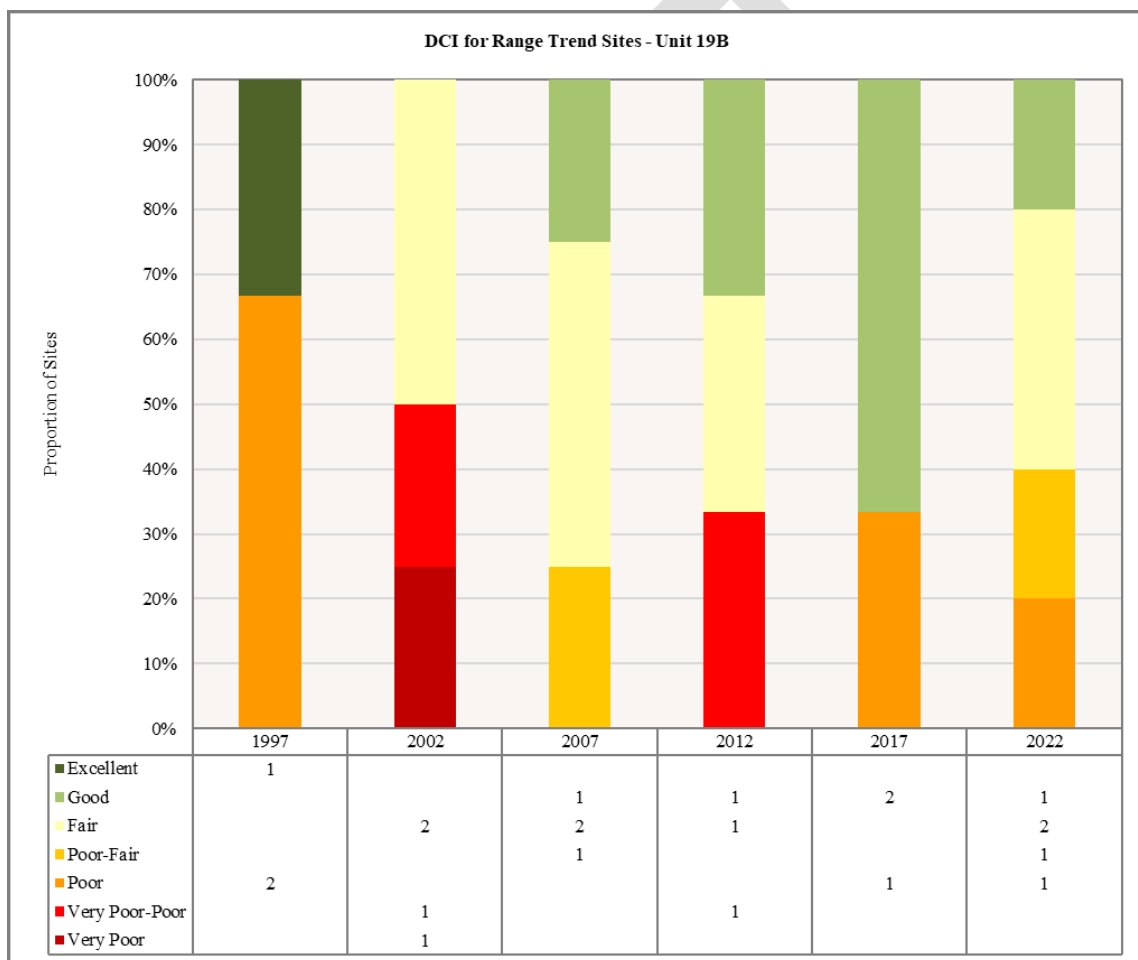
Drought Index – Tintic



**Figure 8:** The 1992-2022 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the South Central division (Division 4). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2022. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. **a)** Mean annual PDSI. **b)** Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) PDSI Time Series Data, 2023).

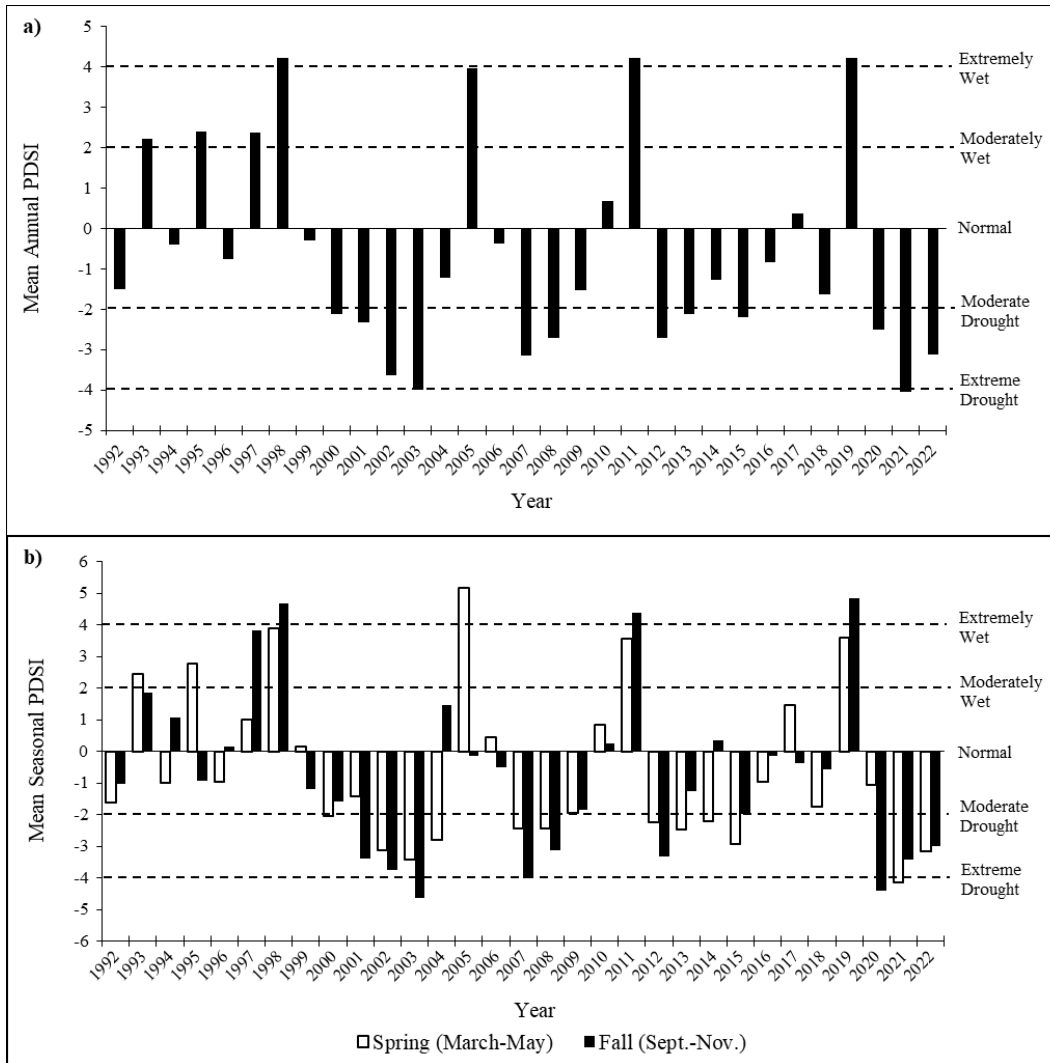
The condition of elk range within the Vernon management subunit has generally remained stable since the 1997 sampling. Mean wintering conditions on Vernon have remained between poor-fair to fair condition from 1997 to 2022. West Government Creek and Lee's Creek are the main drivers for the unit's stability and average within good and fair elk range conditions, respectively. Range Trend sites in this WMU tend to have low variability in elk habitat, meaning that sites experience little change in their respective habitat qualities from year to year.

The overall elk range assessment in 2022 for Vernon was that sites were in poor-fair condition. However, West Government Creek was considered to be in good condition due to an abundance of perennial grasses, forbs, and preferred browse cover. A suggested habitat improvement that would address elk range condition on this site would be diversifying the age class component for preferred shrubs by decreasing decadence and increasing young populations. South Pine Canyon and the newly added Keg Mountain site are rated, respectively, as poor and fair winter range in 2022. Concerns identified are reduced perennial grass and forb abundance, and preferred browse, but annual grass is an additional issue. Addressing these areas as a focus for habitat rehabilitation would improve conditions for elk.



**Figure 9:** Vernon portion elk range Desirable Components Index (DCI) showing proportions of range sites in each condition class (Poor, Fair, Good, etc.), 1997-2022.

Drought Index – Tintic (Vernon portion)



**Figure 10:** The 1992-2022 Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the Western division (Division 1). The PDSI is based on climate data gathered from 1895 to 2022. The PDSI uses a scale where 0 indicates normal, positive deviations indicate wet, and negative deviations indicate drought. Classification of the scale is >4.0 = Extremely Wet, 3.0 to 3.9 = Very Wet, 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderately Wet, 1.0 to 1.9 = Slightly Wet, 0.5 to 0.9 = Incipient Wet Spell, 0.4 to -0.4 = Normal, -0.5 to -0.9 = Incipient Dry Spell, -1.0 to -1.9 = Mild Drought, -2.0 to -2.9 = Moderate Drought, -3.0 to -3.9 = Severe Drought and <-4.0 = Extreme Drought. **a)** Mean annual PDSI. **b)** Mean spring (March-May) and fall (Sept.-Nov.) PDSI (Time Series Data, 2023).

### **Duration of Plan**

This unit management plan was approved by the Utah Wildlife Board January 9, 2025 and will be in effect for five years or until amended. Unit elk plan goals, objectives and strategies are constrained within the sideboards set in the statewide elk plan, which supersedes unit plans. It is possible that changes to the statewide elk plan may affect unit plans. Additionally, changes to Utah State Code and/or Administrative Rules may also affect elk unit plans.