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Youth Waterfowl Hunt
Moved to Sept. 19

Hunt held a week earlier this year

Utah's special Youth Hunting Day will be held on Sept. 19 this year.

That's two full weeks before the general waterfowl season begins on Oct. 3. It's also a week earlier than it's been held in the past.

"Last year, the Utah Wildlife Board moved the start of the chukar partridge hunt to the last Saturday in September. That was also the same day the youth waterfowl hunt was held," says Tom Aldrich, migratory game bird coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

"We want to give young hunters as many chances to hunt as possible, so we decided to move the youth hunt up one week," he says. "That way, kids can participate in it and also participate in the start of the general chukar hunt the following Saturday."

Who can participate?

The youth waterfowl hunt is open to hunters who will be 15 years of age or younger on Sept. 19. To qualify, you must complete the state's Hunter Education course, have a current hunting license and Harvest Information Program (HIP) number, and be accompanied by an adult.

You can start shooting at 6:42 a.m. on Sept. 19.

A fun day

"The youth hunt is a lot of fun," Aldrich says. "The marsh is usually filled with ducks that time of the year, and the kids get to have the marsh all to themselves. And, since adults can't hunt that day, the young hunter you take gets all of your attention."

"The youth waterfowl hunt is a great chance to introduce a young person to waterfowl hunting and to pass your skills along to him or her."

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Learn more

More information about the Youth Hunting Day is available on page 30 of the 2009 – 2010 Utah Waterfowl Guidebook. The guidebook is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

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Spike Bull Elk Permits Sell Out

Permits to hunt bull elk on spike-only hunting units in Utah sold out on Aug. 28. Last year, spike-only unit permits didn't sell out until Sept. 24.

Two options

If you want to hunt bull elk in Utah this fall, but you don't have a permit, you still have two options:

- On the morning of Sept. 3, a total of 3,678 permits were still available to hunt with a rifle on any-bull elk units in Utah.
- Plenty of permits are available to hunt elk with a bow and arrow. In fact, the number of general archery elk permits the Division of Wildlife Resources can sell isn't limited, so there's never a problem getting one.

The archery elk hunt started Aug. 15. It ends in September on most of the state's hunting units. However, on three extended archery areas in Utah, the archery hunt runs into December.

Extended archery areas are located along parts of the Wasatch Front, in parts of the Uintah Basin and in the Sanpete Valley.

2009 Big Game Guidebook

You can find more information about the extended archery areas on page 32 of the 2009 Utah Big Game Guidebook. The free guidebook is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks. You can also get a copy at DWR offices and from hunting license agents across Utah.

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Catch Fish, Shoot Guns

Wildlife Building open during Utah State Fair

Salt Lake City -- There will be plenty to do in and around the Wildlife Building at this year's Utah State Fair.

Kids can catch fish at a fishing pond. Pellet gun shooting will happen at a shooting trailer. You can see live animals. And, after a one-year hiatus, wild trout will be swimming in tanks inside the building!

"The Wildlife Building is almost 100 years old, and the fish tanks in the building have leaked for years," says Dean Mitchell, Conservation Outreach Section chief for the Division of Wildlife Resources. "They were leaking so much last year that we decided not to put fish in them."

Mitchell says visitors to the 2008 fair noticed. "'Where's the fish?' was the most common comment we received," he says. "The way they built the tanks in 1911 makes it difficult to repair them, but we did our best. They still aren't in great shape, but we feel better about having fish in them this year."

Mitchell says many of the trout species found in Utah will be swimming in the tanks. In addition, live kingsnakes, desert tortoises and tiger salamanders will be on display. And wildlife rehabilitators with live birds of prey will be at the building from time to time.

When it's open

The 2009 Utah State Fair runs from Sept. 10 – 20. The building will be open every day of the fair.

The fishing pond on the south side of the building will also be open from 4 to 8 p.m. each day of the fair. Anyone 13 years of age and younger can fish at the pond. Anglers who are 12 and 13 years old must have a fishing license, however.

The DWR puts the exhibit in the Wildlife Building together each year and staffs the building, the fishing pond and the shooting trailer.

The Utah State Fairpark is at 155 N. 1000 W. in Salt Lake City. More information about the 2009 fair is available at www.utah-state-fair.com/public_area.

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