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Utah Wildlife Board Approves Five-day Rifle Hunt

Hunters who are 18 and under can hunt for nine days

Salt Lake City -- For most hunters, Utah's most popular hunt—the general rifle buck deer hunt—will be shorter in 2010.

By a 4-to-2 vote, the Utah Wildlife Board approved a recommendation to shorten Utah's general rifle buck deer hunt from nine days to five days for hunters who are 19 years of age or older on Aug. 21. (Aug. 21 is the first day of the state's 2010 general archery buck deer hunt.)

Hunters who are 18 years of age or younger on Aug. 21 can hunt for nine days.

The following are the dates the board approved:

<u>Hunter age</u>	<u>Season dates</u>
19 years of age or older	Oct. 23 – 27
18 years of age or younger	Oct. 23 – 31

Also, on five units where buck-to-doe ratios are lower than 15 bucks per 100 does—the Cache; Ogden; Oquirrh-Stansbury; South Slope, Vernal; and Monroe units—the rifle hunt will run for three days:

<u>Hunter age</u>	<u>Season dates</u>
All ages	Oct. 23 – 25

The Division of Wildlife Resources had recommended to the board a nine-day rifle hunt for all hunters in the state, regardless of their age.

The only exception the DWR recommended to the nine-day hunt was limiting the hunt to five days on the five units that have buck-to-doe ratios that are below 15 bucks per 100 does.

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The board did approve a DWR proposal to allow general archery hunters to hunt across the state during the entire general archery season in 2010. (In 2009, general archery hunters had to choose which region they wanted to hunt in during the first two weeks of the hunt.)

All of the changes the board approved at its Dec. 3 meeting will be available in the 2010 Utah Big Game Guidebook. The guidebook should be available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks by late December.

Archery hunting across Utah

For years, hunters in southern Utah have expressed concerns about how crowded the area appears to be during the general archery buck deer hunt.

To gather information about the number of archers who hunt in each region, last year the DWR recommended, and the board approved, a change for the 2009 season: archery hunters would have to choose which region they wanted to hunt in during the first two weeks of the hunt.

Based on the regions hunters chose, and the acres of public land that have deer habitat, the DWR has determined that the Southern Region is actually the least crowded region in the state. "The data shows that archery hunters are not the main reason the Southern Region seems crowded during the archery hunt," says Anis Aoude, big game coordinator for the DWR.

The data Aoude is referring to is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/info/09-11-08.pdf.

Aoude says southern Utah is a very popular place to camp and hike in late summer. That may be the main reason the Southern Region seems crowded during the archery hunt. "We don't feel we should restrict and penalize archery hunters because other people enjoy being in the woods too," he says.

Aoude says archers can be part of the crowding in the region, but that situation isn't unique to the Southern Region—it happens in every region in Utah. "There are certain areas in every region that are popular and draw a lot of hunters," he says.

A committee helped the DWR draft its statewide archery recommendation. The committee included three archery hunters from southern Utah, two members of the Utah Bowhunter's Association, two members of Bowhunters of Utah and Bill Fenimore, a member of the Utah Wildlife Board.

For more information, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

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Contact: Mark Hadley, DWR Relations with the Public Specialist (801) 538-4737

Fishing and Hunting Licenses Make Great Christmas Gifts

License dollars used to conserve Utah's wildlife

Looking for that perfect gift for the angler or hunter on your Christmas list? If so, a Utah fishing or hunting license might be the answer. These licenses make great Christmas gifts. And they're easy to buy!

The easiest way to buy one is at the Division of Wildlife Resources' Web site (wildlife.utah.gov). They're also available at DWR offices and from more than 350 fishing and hunting license agents across Utah.

Combination licenses—which allow the license holder to fish and hunt small game—are also available at the same locations and at the Web site.

They're good for 365 days

In addition to enjoying the outdoors in 2009, the person you give the license to will receive an added bonus—they won't have to wait until Jan. 1 to use it. These licenses are 365-day licenses. That means they're good for 365 days from the day you buy them.

For example, if you buy the license on Dec. 12, 2009, the person you give it to can use it immediately. And they can continue using it until Dec. 11, 2010.

One note: hunting and combination licenses do not include a deer or elk permit and do not allow someone to hunt deer or elk.

Hunters can apply for a 2010 general buck deer permit in February. General elk permits will be available in June on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the three licenses, two-pole fishing permits, setline fishing permits and permits that allow people to chase cougars with hounds are also available.

Order early

If you buy a license or permit at the Web site (wildlife.utah.gov), you can have it mailed to you (so you can wrap it and give it as a gift), or you can have the license mailed directly to the person you're buying it for. It usually takes about five days for the license to arrive in the mail.

Costs

Utah resident license and permit costs are as follows:

Combination license	\$30
Fishing license (14 - 64 years old)	\$26

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Fishing license (65 years old and older)	\$21
Fishing license (12 and 13 years old)	\$5
Two-pole permit	\$15
Setline permit	\$15
Hunting license (under 14 years of age)	\$11
Hunting license (14 years old and older)	\$26
Cougar pursuit permit	\$30

They're easy to buy

"It's easy to buy a license for someone," says Judi Tutorow, wildlife licensing coordinator for the DWR. "About the only information you need to provide is the person's name, height, weight, eye color, hair color, date of birth, address and phone number."

If you buy a hunting or combination license from a license agent or the DWR's Web site, you must also supply the person's "blue card" number. This number verifies that the person you're buying the license for has completed a DWR-approved hunter education course. The course is required for anyone born after Dec. 31, 1965 who wants to hunt in Utah.

"Using the computers at our offices, we can verify that the person you're buying the permit for has completed hunter education," Tutorow says. "License agents don't have a way to do that. If you buy a hunting or combination license from a license agent, you'll have to supply the agent with the person's blue card number."

Two-pole and setline permits

Two-pole permits allow anglers—who must also possess a fishing license—to fish with two fishing poles at any water that's open to fishing in Utah.

Setline permits allow anglers to fish with one setline at Utah Lake; in the Bear River proper downstream from the Idaho state line, including Cutler Reservoir and the outlet canals; the Little Bear River below Valley View Highway (SR-30); and the Malad River.

Just like with two-pole permits, anglers must also possess a fishing license to fish with a setline. Anglers may not use setlines that contain more than 15 hooks.

For more information about Utah fishing and hunting licenses, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

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Contact: Mark Hadley, DWR Relations with the Public Specialist (801) 538-4737

Bear Pursuit and Hunting Changes

DWR recommends limiting the number of dogs houndsmen can use

Three areas that are popular places to pursue bears with dogs might be quieter next summer.

Division of Wildlife Resources biologists want to limit the number of people who pursue bears on the Book Cliffs, San Juan and LaSal units in summer 2010. All three units are in eastern Utah.

The biologists also want to limit the number of dogs that can be used to hunt or pursue bears on any unit in Utah.

Those changes—and more bear hunting permits in Utah—are among changes the DWR is recommending for Utah's 2010 black bear pursuit and hunting seasons.

Learn more, share your ideas

You can review all of the DWR's bear hunting and pursuit proposals at www.wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings. Once you've read the proposals, you can share your thoughts and ideas one of two ways:

RAC meetings

Five Regional Advisory Council meetings will be held across Utah. Citizens representing the RACs will take the input received at the meetings to the Utah Wildlife Board. Board members will use the input to help them set rules for Utah's 2010 bear hunt and pursuit seasons. They'll set those rules at their Jan. 7 meeting in Salt Lake City.

You can participate and provide your input at any of the following meetings:

Southern Region

Dec. 8
7 p.m.
Cross Hollows Intermediate School
2215 W. Royal Hunte Dr.
Cedar City

Central Region

Dec. 15
6:30 p.m.
Central Region Conference Center
1115 N. Main St.
Springville

Southeastern Region

Dec. 9
6:30 p.m.
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St.
Green River

Northern Region

Dec. 16
6 p.m.
Brigham City Community Center
24 N. 300 W.
Brigham City

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Northeastern Region

Dec. 10
6:30 p.m.
Vernal UBATC
450 N. 2000 W.
Vernal

E-mail

You can also provide your comments to your RAC via e-mail. E-mail addresses for your RAC members are available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings.

The group each RAC member represents (sportsman, non-consumptive, etc.) is listed under each person's e-mail address. You should direct your e-mail to the people on the RAC who represent your interest.

Pursuit and hunting changes

The Book Cliffs, San Juan and LaSal units are among the most popular places in Utah to pursue bears with trained hounds. Unfortunately, that popularity has caused some problems.

"This past summer, we received more than 150 complaints from campers, hikers and others who were recreating in the area," says Justin Dolling, game mammals coordinator for the DWR.

"Some of the houndsmen were using as many as 20 hounds to pursue a single bear," Dolling says. "When hounds get on a bear's track, they bark a lot, and they're extremely noisy. The noise and the commotion the hounds and the houndsmen were causing bothered some of the people who were camping and hiking in the area."

To quiet things down, DWR biologists are recommending two changes:

- Limit the number of permits offered to pursue bears on the Book Cliffs, San Juan and LaSal units in the summer. The DWR is recommending that the following number of pursuit permits be available for the summer pursuit season:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Book Cliffs	25	3
San Juan	30	3
LaSal	20	2

- Limit the number of hounds houndsmen can use to pursue or hunt bears on any of the state's bear units. Biologists are recommending that houndsmen not be allowed to use more than eight hounds to pursue a single bear.

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More hunting permits

Biologists are also recommending that the number of hunting permits be increased for next year's black bear hunts.

In 2009, a total of 319 permits were available. The DWR is recommending a total of 368 permits for 2010.

Based on an average success rate of just over 40 percent, the extra 49 permits should result in hunters taking about 21 additional bears in 2010.

In 2009, hunters took 147 bears in Utah.

For more information about the meetings, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

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