

In this issue:

Shed antler changes
Elk killed, left under tree limbs

**Want to Gather Shed Antlers in Utah?
You Must Complete a New Online Course First**

If you enjoy gathering antlers that deer, elk and moose shed in the winter, one of your favorite times of the year is almost here.

But before you head outdoors to gather antlers, you need to head to this Web page first—wildlife.utah.gov/shedantler.

At the page, you'll find a free shed antler gathering course. You must complete the course—and print a course completion certificate—before you gather shed antlers in Utah this year.

"Make sure you carry your certificate with you," says Mike Fowlks, Law Enforcement Section chief for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

"By law, you must have your certificate with you while you're gathering shed antlers."

If you have young children, and you've completed the course, your children don't need to complete it. As long as you've completed the course, your certificate will cover your kids too.

You can gather antlers across Utah

Fowlks says if you complete the course, you can gather antlers across Utah. This includes in northern Utah, where shed antler gathering has been closed for much of the winter and spring the past few years.

"As you're gathering antlers, please remember that many of the state's wildlife management areas are closed in the spring and the winter to protect wildlife," Fowlks says.

You must complete the course if you want to gather shed antlers before April 15. If you wait until April 15 or later to start gathering antlers, you don't need to complete the course.

Helping deer, elk and moose

The antlers of deer, elk and moose drop off their heads each winter. During the summer, the animals grow a new set of antlers.

"Gathering shed antlers is a fun activity that's very popular in states across the country, including in Utah," Fowlks says.

(more)

page 2

“The challenge with shed antler gathering is that it happens during the worst time of the year for the animals and the places the animals live in the winter. The animals are stressed at the end of the winter. And the habitat they rely on in the winter is wet and can be easily damaged.

“Fortunately, you can have fun gathering shed antlers without stressing the animals and damaging their habitat. This new online course will show you how.”

For more information about the new shed antler gathering rules, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR’s Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

###

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

Bull Elk Shot, Hidden and Left to Rot

Book Cliffs -- A five-point bull elk was shot, hidden and left to rot in the Book Cliffs in east central Utah recently.

Now wildlife officers are looking for help to solve the case.

“On Feb. 1, I responded to a call from our poaching hotline,” says Clint Sampson, a Utah Division of Wildlife Resources conservation officer.

“The caller said they [were in the Book Cliffs and] noticed a flock of crows and a bald eagle feeding on something. When they got closer, they discovered the birds were eating an elk carcass buried under a pile of old tree limbs.”

That’s when the caller called Utah’s Turn In a Poacher hotline at 1-800-662-DEER (3337).

“The dead bull, a five point, was shot and then hidden under some old tree limbs,” Sampson says. “We found the elk on McCook Ridge, about half a mile south of the junction of the McCook Ridge and Indian Ridge roads.

“No meat was taken. The bull was just shot and left for the scavengers.”

The elk was shot about a month ago. If you know anything about this shooting, please call the UDWR’s Northeastern Region office at (435) 781-9453.

###

Contact: Ron Stewart, DWR Northeastern Region Conservation Outreach Manager (435) 781-9453