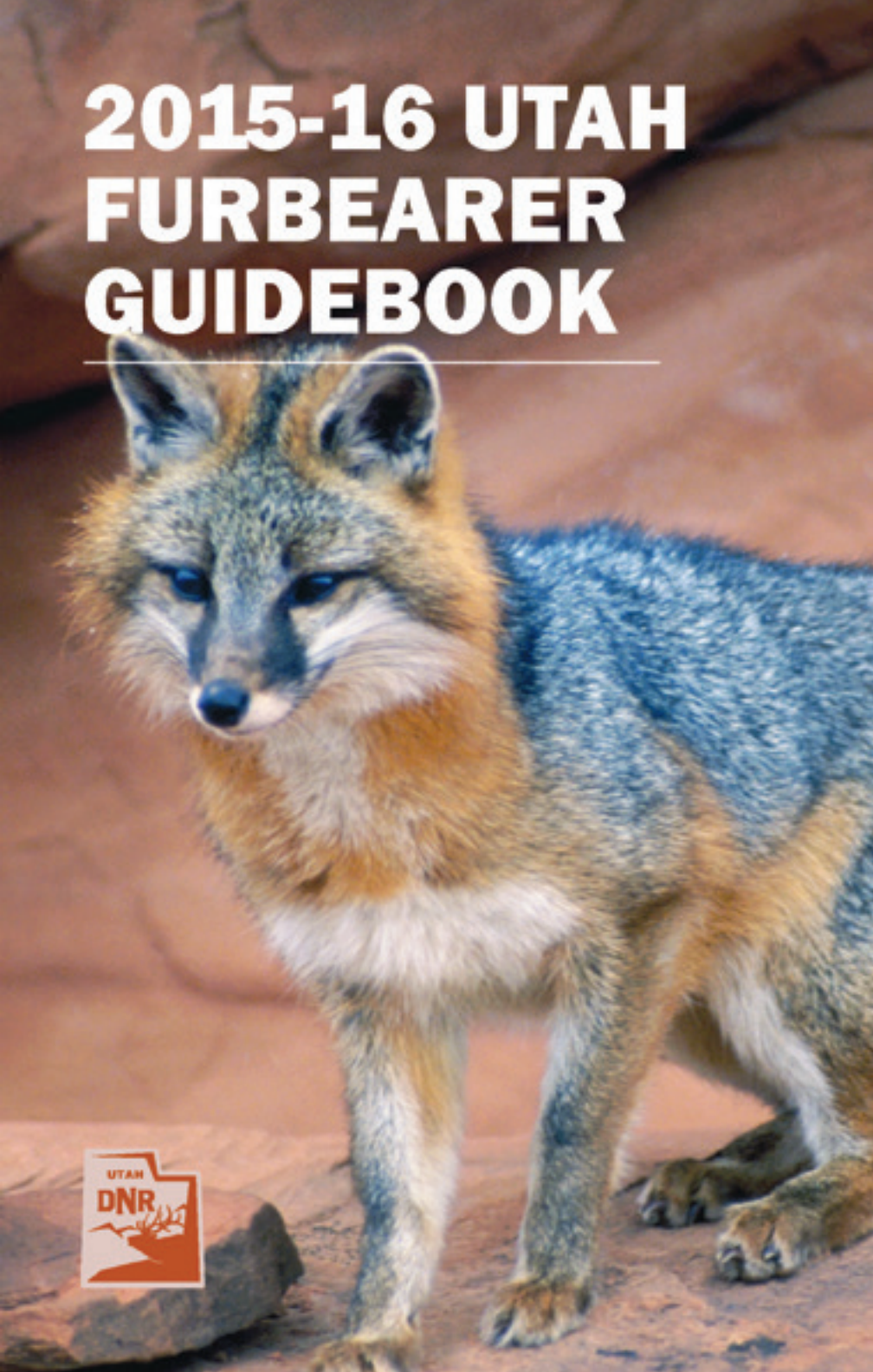
2015-16 UTAH FURBEARER GUIDEBOOK



CONTACT US

Turn in a poacher

Phone: 1-800-662-3337
Email: *turninapoacher@utah.gov*
Online: *wildlife.utah.gov/utip*

Division offices

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

Salt Lake City
1594 W North Temple
Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
801-538-4700

Central Region
1115 N Main Street
Springville, UT 84663
801-491-5678

Northeastern Region
318 N Vernal Avenue
Vernal, UT 84078
435-781-9453

Northern Region
515 E 5300 S
Ogden, UT 84405
801-476-2740

Southeastern Region
319 N Carbonville Road, Ste A
Price, UT 84501
435-613-3700

Southern Region
1470 N Airport Road
Cedar City, UT 84721
435-865-6100

Washington County Field Office
451 N SR-318
Hurricane, UT 84737
435-879-8694

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HIGHLIGHTS

Bobcat permits available: There is no cap on the total number of bobcat permits available for the 2015–2016 season. From Oct. 6–Nov. 6, 2015, you can purchase bobcat permits at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices . For more information, see page 9.

Higher fee for bobcat permits: Starting this year, the fee for a bobcat permit has increased to $15 for residents and $45 for nonresidents.

Maximum of six bobcat permits: This year, you may obtain no more than six bobcat permits. For more information on obtaining a permit, see page 9.

Bobcat permit/tag format: Bobcat temporary possession tags and jaw tags are attached to bobcat permits. For more information on how to attach these tags to a bobcat, please read *Tagging bobcats* on page 10.

Trapping muskrats on WMAs: The Division has changed its process for selecting which trappers can remove muskrats from state-owned wildlife management areas (WMAs). You can learn more about that process at *wildlife.utah.gov/WMAtrapping*, starting in the middle of October.

Obtain permanent tags: You may obtain permanent marten and bobcat tags—by appointment only—at any Division office. Marten tags will be available Sept. 26, 2015 through March 4, 2016. Bobcat tags will be available Nov. 18, 2015 through March 4, 2016. You can also obtain permanent tags at the Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale on Feb. 13–14, 2016.

Restrictions to protect river otters: Some rivers have trapping restrictions. See page 14 to learn more.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE RULES

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

For an in-depth look at the state's furbearer hunting laws and rules, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/rules*.

You can use the references in the guidebook—such as Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Administrative Rule R657-11-4—to search the Division's website for the detailed statute or rule that underpins the guidebook summary.

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

Who makes the rules?

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

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

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

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

If you have feedback or suggestions for board members, you can find their contact information online at *wildlife.utah.gov*.

Wildlife Board members

Byron Bateman
Calvin Crandall
Steve Dalton
Donnie Hunter
Michael King

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

Checking traps after dark: A trapper on foot may use a flashlight to check traps after dark, and furbearers caught in these traps may be harvested by shooting at any time. Harvesting furbearers by methods other than trapping remains restricted to 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Please read *Setting and checking traps* on page 14 for details and restrictions.

Accidental trapping of protected species: Black-footed ferret, lynx and wolf are protected species under the Endangered Species Act, and river otters and wolverines are state-protected species. If you accidentally trap or capture one of these species, you must report it to the Division within 48 hours.

Native American trust lands and national wildlife refuges: If you want to trap on Native American trust lands and national wildlife refuges in Utah, you should first check with the respective tribal authority or refuge manager.

Corrections: If errors are found in this guidebook after it is printed, the Division will correct them in the online copy. Visit *wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks* to view all of the Division's guidebooks.

Trappers Association Reward Program

Every year, Utah trappers lose hundreds of traps to thieves.

The Utah Trappers Association is offering a reward—up to $500—for individuals who report trap theft to the Division, which results in a successful prosecution. If you see someone stealing a trap, report it through the Division's poaching hotline at 1-800-662-3337.

If you encounter traps while outdoors, you have a legal obligation to respect that private property. At the same time, trappers have an ethical obligation not to set traps in areas where they are likely to be encountered by the general public or their pets.

Protection from discrimination: The Division receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please visit *www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights.cfm*.

Don't lose your hunting and fishing privileges

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

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

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

Private lands: The Division cannot guarantee access to any private land. If you plan to hunt or trap—or engage in any other wildlife-related activities—on private lands, you must obtain WRITTEN permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative. To learn more, please see *Trespassing* on page 20.

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

KEY DATES AND FEES

Marten permits available	Sept. 10, 2015
Permanent marten tags available	Sept. 26, 2015–March 4, 2016
Bobcat permits and temporary possession tags available	Oct. 6–Nov. 6, 2015
Permanent bobcat tags available	Nov. 18, 2015–March 4, 2016
Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale	Feb. 13–14, 2016

Season dates

Badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk and weasel	Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
Beaver and mink	Sept. 26, 2015–April 6, 2016
Bobcat	Nov. 18, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
Marten	Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
Muskrat, red fox and striped skunk	Year round

Fees

Furbearer

Resident license*	$29
Nonresident license*	$154

Bobcat permits

Resident permit	$15 each (up to 6)
Nonresident permit	$45 each (up to 6)

Marten permits

Marten permit	No charge

Trap registration number

Resident	$10 (payable once)
Nonresident	$10 (payable once)

Certificates of registration

Fur dealer	$160
Fur dealer's agent	$160
Fur dealer renewal	$40
Fur dealer's agent renewal	$40

** Furbearer licenses are valid for 365 days from the day you buy them.*

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Utah Code §§§§ 23-18-2, 23-18-6, 23-19-1, 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-3

Are you planning to hunt or trap bobcats, martens or other furbearers in Utah this year? Before you can obtain any necessary permits, you must meet a few basic requirements.

Are you old enough?

In Utah, there are no age restrictions for individuals who can hunt and trap furbearers.

However, if you're under the age of 16—and hunting with any weapon—you must be accompanied in the field by your parent, a legal guardian or a responsible person 21 years of age or older (see below).

Adults must accompany young hunters

Utah Code § 23-20-20

While hunting with any weapon, a person under 14 years old must be accompanied by his or her parent, legal guardian or other responsible person who is 21 years of age or older and who has been approved by the parent or guardian.

A person at least 14 years old and under 16 years old must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older while hunting with any weapon.

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

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

Have you passed furharvester education?

Utah Code § 23-19-11.5

If you were born after Dec. 31, 1984, you must provide proof that you've passed a furharvester education course approved by the Division before you can:

- Obtain a furbearer license
- Obtain a bobcat permit
- Obtain a marten permit

This proof can be a certificate of completion from your furharvester education course or your previous year's furbearer license that lists your furharvester education number.

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When a Division employee or license agent issues your furbearer license, he or she will include your furharvester education number on the license.

If you are applying for a resident furbearer license for the first time—and you completed furharvester education in another state or country—you must provide a valid furharvester education number and the name of the state, province or country that issued the number. The Division may research this number to verify that the course you completed meets Utah's standards for safe and responsible trapping.

For more information on how to complete Utah's furharvester education course, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation*.

Do you have a license?

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-3

You must have a current Utah furbearer license before you can:

- Hunt, trap or harvest most furbearers
- Obtain or use a bobcat permit
- Obtain or use a marten permit

Furbearer licenses are available at *wildlife.utah.gov* and from license agents and Division offices.

You do not need a license to hunt, harvest or trap coyote, muskrat, raccoon, red fox or striped skunk.

Carry your license and permit

You must have your furbearer license—and any bobcat or marten permits—on your person while in the field. You cannot alter your license or permits, nor can you sell, transfer or loan them to another person.

OBTAINING PERMITS

If you want to hunt or trap bobcat or marten in Utah, you'll need a permit in addition to your furbearer license. This section describes how to obtain bobcat and marten permits.

If you were born after Dec. 31, 1984, you must have proof of furharvester education before you can purchase a bobcat or marten permit. For more information, see page 7 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation*.

You must also have a current furbearer license in order to obtain either permit.

Bobcat permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-4

Beginning Oct. 6, 2015 at 8 a.m. MDT, you may purchase bobcat permits at *wildlife.utah.gov* or from any license agent or Division office. You may purchase no more than six permits.

Bobcat permits will be sold until 11 p.m. MST on Nov. 6, 2015. There is no cap on the total number of permits that will be sold.

You must have both your furbearer license and bobcat permit on your person while hunting or trapping.

If you obtain a bobcat permit in 2015, it is valid for the entire 2015–2016 bobcat season.

Marten permits

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-6

Marten permits are available free of charge from any Division office, beginning Sept. 10, 2015. (Please keep in mind that you only need one marten permit in order to trap marten during the 2015–2016 season.)

Residency

Utah Code § 23-13-2(37)

Before you purchase a furbearer license, it's important to know whether you are a legal resident of the state of Utah. See the definition of residency on page 26 to determine whether you are a resident or a nonresident.

You must have a current furbearer license and a marten-trapping permit on your person when you trap a marten or have a marten in your possession.

Duplicate license or permit

Utah Code § 23-19-10 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

If your valid furbearer license is destroyed, lost or stolen, you may obtain a duplicate from a Division office or license agent. To obtain a duplicate bobcat or marten permit, you must visit a Division office.

The duplicate will cost $10, or half of the price of the original license or permit, whichever is less.

Sales final: Exceptions and refunds

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

Some hunters and trappers successfully obtain licenses or permits and then realize—for one reason or another—that they won't be able to use them.

In most cases, the Division cannot refund the cost of the license or permit, but there are some exceptions. To determine whether you are eligible for a refund or to download a refund-request form, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/refund*.

OBTAINING AND USING TAGS

As soon as you harvest a bobcat or marten, you need to attach the temporary possession tags. Then, you should plan a time to have a Division employee attach the permanent tag.

Tagging bobcats

Utah Code §23-20-30 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-5

Before you move the bobcat's carcass or leave the site of the kill, you must tag the pelt with a temporary possession tag. (See the illustration on the next page to review the two tags attached to the permit—one for the pelt and one for the jaw.) The tagging process requires you to:

- Completely detach the tags from the permit
- Remove the notches that correspond with the harvest date and the animal's sex
- Complete the required county and license number information at the bottom of the tag
- Attach the temporary possession tag to the unskinned carcass or green pelt so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible

Later, you can remove the lower jaw of the bobcat and tag it with the numbered jaw tag that corresponds to the number on the pelt tag.

While tagging a bobcat, you may not remove more than one notch indicating date or sex, nor can you tag more than one bobcat using the same tag.

The temporary possession tag must remain attached to the green pelt or unskinned carcass until a permanent bobcat tag has been affixed.

You may not use a bobcat permit to hunt, trap or pursue bobcat after any of the notches have been removed from the temporary possession tag or the tag has been detached from the permit. Possession of an untagged green pelt or unskinned carcass is prima facie evidence of unlawful taking and possession.

Permanent possession tags for bobcat and marten

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-7

If you harvest a bobcat or marten, you must have a Division employee attach a permanent possession tag to the pelt no later than the first Friday in March.

You may not buy, sell, trade or barter a green pelt from a bobcat or marten that does not have a permanent tag affixed.

Obtaining permanent tags

When you bring bobcat and marten pelts to a Division office, a Division employee will attach a permanent tag and take possession of the lower jaw. You can also have a permanent possession tag attached at the Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale.

Bring any marten pelt to one of the following locations:

- A Division office listed on page 2. Visits are by appointment only from Sept. 26, 2015 through March 4, 2016.
- The Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale on Feb. 13–14, 2016.

If you have bobcat pelts, bring them to one of the following locations:

- A Division office listed on page 2. Visits are by appointment only from Nov. 18, 2015 through March 4, 2016.
- The Utah Trappers Association Fur Sale on Feb. 13–14, 2016.
- There is no fee for the permanent tags. You will receive them after the employee verifies the bobcat was tagged with the temporary possession tag that corresponds to your bobcat permit. The employee will also review your furbearer license.

Bring clean bobcat jaws and pelts

Before you bring the lower jaw and pelt of a bobcat to a Division office for permanent tagging, please remove as much flesh as possible.

You should also allow the jaw and pelt to dry in the open air. Do not use a storage or transport container made of plastic—use a paper bag or cardboard box instead. This will help prevent the jaw from decaying.

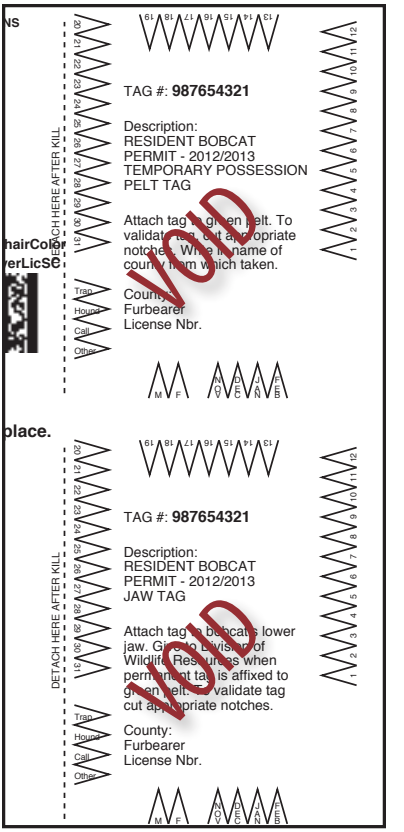
Transporting pelts to obtain tags

Bobcats and martens that were legally harvested may be transported by someone other than the furharvester to have the permanent tag affixed.

If you transport a bobcat or marten for another person, you must have written authorization that includes all of the following information:

- Date of kill
- Location of kill
- Species and sex of animal being transported
- Origin and destination of transportation
- The name, address, signature and furbearer license number of the furharvester
- The name of the individual transporting the bobcat or marten
- The furharvester's marten permit number, if marten is being transported

You can download an authorization form at *wildlife.utah.gov/furbearer* that makes it easy to collect all of the required information.



Animals harvested outside of Utah

Green pelts of bobcats and martens that were legally harvested outside of the state may not be possessed, bought, sold, traded or bartered in Utah unless one of the following conditions applies:

- A permanent tag has been affixed.
- The pelts are accompanied by a shipping permit issued by the wildlife agency of the state where the animal was harvested.

FIELD REGULATIONS

Several rules govern furbearer hunting and trapping in Utah. These rules exist to help keep you safe and to ensure an ethical hunt. Please be familiar with the requirements for safely using trapping devices and firearms. You should also know the different types of hunting methods you may use and what you're required to do with any furbearer you harvest.

Checkpoints and officer contacts

Utah Code §§ 23-20-25 and 77-23-104

Division conservation officers and biologists monitor the harvest and possession of furbearers. They may also stop hunters and trappers to ensure they have the required permits, firearms and trapping equipment. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking hunters in the field and at checkpoints.

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

Participating in surveys

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-24

If the Division contacts you about your furharvesting experience, please participate in the survey regardless of your success. Your participation helps the Division evaluate population trends, assess harvest success and collect other valuable information.

Aiding or assisting in violations

Utah Code § 23-20-23

You may not aid or assist another person to violate any provisions of the Wildlife Resources Code, rule or guidebook.

The penalty for aiding or assisting is the same as that imposed for the primary violation.

Hunting and trapping methods

Harvest methods and shooting hours

Utah Code §§ 23-20-3, 23-20-12 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-13

You may harvest all furbearers—except for bobcats and marten—by any means, excluding explosives and poisons. While hunting and trapping, you may not use the illegal spotlighting methods described on page 17.

Bobcats may be taken only by shooting or trapping, or with the aid of dogs.

Marten may be taken only with an elevated, covered set in which the maximum trap size shall not exceed 1½ foothold or 160 Conibear.

Harvesting furbearers by means other than trapping is restricted to 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, unless you have a permit from the county to spotlight coyote, red fox, striped skunk or raccoon. For more information on spotlighting, see page 17.

Furbearers caught in a trapping device may be taken by shooting at any time.

You may check traps and remove animals at any time, except on certain waterfowl management areas. For more information, see page 21.

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

Avoiding nontarget species

The following recommendations from the Division and the Utah Trappers Association can help you avoid catching cougars, domestic animals and other nontarget species in traps set for bobcats and other furbearers.

- Use traps with smaller jaw spreads. For example, a number 2 trap is big enough to catch bobcats, but the larger foot of a cougar may spring the trap without getting caught.
- Avoid using 4-coiled traps. A 2-coiled trap is sufficient to hold bobcats and coyotes, but larger animals like cougars or domestic animals should be able to pull out of the trap.
- Anchor foothold traps solidly to the ground and avoid using drags. A cougar or other large animal will have a better chance of pulling out of a trap that is solidly anchored.
- When using a cable device, reduce the loop size and set it about eight inches off the ground. A smaller loop size won't fit around a cougar's head, and if the loop is set low, it will likely miss the heads of most large nontarget animals. You may not use a drag with a cable device—they are prohibited.
- If you catch a cougar kitten, remove traps from the area to avoid catching additional kittens.
- If you know that cougars are in a particular area, find another place to trap. Cougars usually displace bobcats from areas that they frequent.
- Avoid setting traps near trails that are frequently used by people and dogs.
- Avoid using baits that are likely to attract pets or other nontarget species.

Trap registration numbers

Utah Admin. Rules R657-11-9 & R657-11-10

Before you can use a trap in the field, you must permanently and legibly mark it with your trap registration number.

You can obtain your trap registration number at any Division office for a one-time $10 registration fee.

You will be assigned only one registration number. This is your permanent number, and you should mark it on each of your traps.

You may not have more than one registration number on your traps.

You must notify the Division within 30 days if you change your address or if your traps are stolen.

Traps

Utah Code § 23-13-4 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-10

All long-spring, jump or coil-spring traps must have spacers on the jaws that leave an opening of at least 3/16 of an inch when the jaws are closed. The only exceptions to this requirement are the following types of traps:

- Rubber-padded jaw traps
- Traps with jaw spreads less than 4 ¼ inches
- Traps that are completely submerged under water when set

All cable devices (snares, for example), except those set in water or with a loop size less than three inches in diameter, must be equipped with a breakaway lock mechanism

Trap restrictions to protect river otters

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-10

To protect Utah's river otter populations, there are trapping-device restrictions for the following areas:

- Colorado River, between the Utah-Colorado state line and Lake Powell
- Escalante River, between Escalante and Lake Powell
- Green River, between Flaming Gorge Dam and the Utah-Colorado state line
- Middle section of the Provo River, between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir

If you are trapping within 100 yards of either side of these four rivers—or their tributaries—and up to one-half mile from their confluences, you may use only the following devices:

- Nonlethal-set foothold traps with a jaw spread less than 5 1/8 inches, and nonlethal-set padded foothold traps. Drowning sets with these traps are prohibited.
- Body-gripping, killing-type traps with body-gripping area less than 30 square inches (i.e., 110 Conibear).
- Nonlethal dry-land cable devices equipped with a stop-lock mechanism that prevents it from closing to less than a six-inch diameter.
- Size 330, body-gripping, killing-type traps (i.e., Conibear) 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 (see figure on the next page).

that will release when any force greater than 300 pounds is applied to the loop. Breakaway cable devices must be fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground. The use of drags is prohibited.

Setting and checking traps

You may not set any trap or trapping device on posted private property without the landowner's permission. Landowners have the right to spring any traps set on their property without their permission.

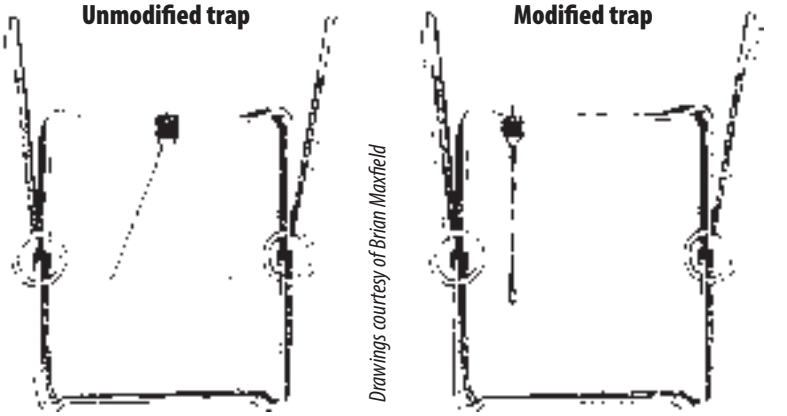
If you see an illegally set trap or trapping device, notify a conservation officer as soon as possible. While performing their duties, conservation officers may seize all traps, trapping devices and wildlife used or held in violation of the rules in this guidebook.

All traps and trapping devices must be checked, and any animals removed, at least once every 48 hours. The only exception is if you are using the following types of traps, which must be checked, and have any animals removed, every 96 hours:

- Killing traps that strike the top and bottom of the animal simultaneously
- Drowning sets
- Lethal cable devices that are set to capture on the neck, that have a nonrelaxing lock without a stop, and that are anchored to an immovable object

If you are unable to check your own traps, you may authorize another person to check them for you. Only someone who possesses a valid furbearer license—and the necessary permits to check traps and remove protected wildlife—may check your traps in your absence. See *Removing traps and trapped wildlife* in the next section for all wildlife-removal requirements.

You may not transport or possess live protected wildlife. Any animal found in a trap



Drawings courtesy of Brian Maxfield

Unmodified and modified Conibear traps

Standard V-trigger assemblies on Conibear traps (shown on the left) are not legal on certain parts of the Colorado, Green, Escalante and Provo rivers (see page 14 for locations). The modification shown on the right (one top side-parallel trigger assembly) is now required to protect river otters (see page 14 for more on required modifications).

or trapping device must be killed or released immediately by the trapper or the person authorized to check the trap.

Removing traps and trapped wildlife

You may not disturb or remove any trapping device—nor can you kill or remove wildlife caught in a trap—unless you meet all of the following conditions:

- You possess a current furbearer license.
- You possess the appropriate permits or tags.
- You have been issued a trapper registration number, which is permanently marked or attached to the trapping device.

There is one exception to the above law. A person, other than the owner, may possess, disturb or remove a trapping device—or possess, kill or remove wildlife caught in a trap—as long as that person has all of the following:

- A current furbearer license
- The appropriate permits or tags
- Written authorization from the owner of the trapping device that includes all of the following items:
  - The date written authorization was obtained
  - The name and address of the owner
  - The owner's trap registration number
  - The name of the individual being given authorization
  - The owner's signature

Nothing in this section allows you to use the license, tag or permit of another person.

While you're hunting and trapping, you may not possess any trapping device that is not permanently marked or tagged with your registered trap number unless you have received written permission as described above.

Artificial cubby set

This manufactured container has an opening on one end that houses a trapping device. Bait must be 8 inches from the opening.

Tilt the trap so bait cannot be seen from above.

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.

If your registered trap number is on a trapping device, you can be held liable for any violations committed with that device. This rule still applies if you've authorized someone else to use the device. That's why it's important to report stolen traps to the Division as soon as possible.

You must also keep a record of the individuals who have written authorization to remove your traps, and supply a copy of that record to a conservation officer, upon request.

Use of bait

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-11

You may not use any protected wildlife or their parts—except for white-bleached bones with no hide or flesh attached—as bait. However, you may use parts of legally taken furbearers and nonprotected wildlife as bait.

You may not set traps or trapping devices within 30 feet of any exposed bait.

If you use bait, you can be held responsible if it becomes exposed for any reason.

White-bleached bones with no hide or flesh attached may be set within 30 feet of traps.

Loaded firearms in a vehicle

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

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

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

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

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

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

The firearm restrictions in this section do not apply to concealed firearm permit holders,

No drones allowed

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

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

provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508

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

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

Spotlighting

Utah Code §§§ 23-20-3, 76-10-504, 76-10-523 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-14

You may not use spotlighting to hunt or harvest protected wildlife.

You may not use a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate any protected wildlife while having in your possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife.

Are you allowed to possess a weapon?

Utah Code §§ 76-10-503 and 76-10-512

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

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

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

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

The provisions of this section do not apply to the following individuals:

- A person who uses 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.
- A trapper who uses an artificial light to illuminate the path and trap sites for the purpose of conducting the required trap checks. In this instance, the trapper must carry the artificial light. It cannot be a motor vehicle headlight or a light

attached to or powered by a motor vehicle. And while checking traps with an artificial light, the trapper may not occupy or operate any motor vehicle.

Some counties allow spotlighting if a hunter is trying to harvest coyote, red fox, striped skunk or raccoon. See Utah Code § 23-13-17 and your county laws and ordinances for more information.

Even if your county's laws do not permit spotlighting, you may still use spotlighting to hunt coyote, red fox, striped skunk or raccoon if you are one of the following individuals:

- A landowner (or his agent) who is protecting crops or domestic animals from predation by those animals
- A Wildlife Services agent, acting in an official capacity under a memorandum of understanding with the Division.

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

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

Utah Code § 76-10-528

You may not carry a dangerous weapon or hunt furbearers while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please see *wildlife.utah.gov/rules* for more information.

Use of dogs

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-15

You may use dogs to pursue or harvest furbearers from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, and only during the open seasons listed in this guidebook. See page 24 for season dates and bag limits.

Did it get wet? Decontaminate it!

Before you leave a trapping area and step into another water, rinse all the mud and other debris off of your waders, boots and wetted trapping gear or equipment. Then, generously spray all of it—especially the felt soles of waders—with a 10-percent bleach solution, which will kill any whirling disease spores.

If you are the owner or handler of the dogs, you must have a valid furbearer license in your possession while you are pursuing or harvesting a furbearer.

When dogs are used to pursue furbearers, the licensed hunter who intends to take the furbearer must be present when the dogs are released. Then, the licensed hunter must continuously participate in the hunt until it ends.

Use of weapons on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-9

You may only discharge a shotgun (with non-toxic shot) or archery tackle on the following waterfowl management areas and other Division-managed properties during the specified waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division:

- Box Elder County—Harold S. Crane, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek
- Daggett County—Brown's Park
- Davis County—Farmington Bay, Howard Slough and Ogden Bay
- Emery County—Desert Lake
- Juab County—Mills Meadow
- Millard County—Clear Lake and Topaz Slough
- Sanpete County—Manti Meadows

Areas closed to beaver and mink harvest

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-26

The following areas are closed to beaver and mink harvest at all times:

- Beaver County—Pine Creek
- Box Elder County—Basin Creek drainage
- Cache County—Right Hand Fork and Temple Fork drainages (tributaries of the Logan River), Rock Creek and Curtis Creek drainages (tributaries of Blacksmith Fork River) and Beaver Creek
- Emery County—San Rafael River
- Garfield County—Hunt Creek (west of U.S. Forest Service boundary)
- Grand County—Willow Creek, Bitter Creek and Sweetwater drainages
- Garfield and Kane counties—Swains Creek (above the confluence with Asay Creek), the East Fork of Sevier River and tributaries above Blue Fly Creek
- Garfield and Iron counties—Bear Creek drainage and the following creeks above Panguitch Lake: Blue Springs Creek, Bunker Creek and Deer Creek
- Rich County—Big Creek (above ranches), Randolph Creek, Woodruff Creek (above Woodruff Reservoir) and Pine Creek, Dip Hollow and Peggy Hollow within the U.S. Forest Service boundary
- Summit County—All lands east of SR-150 and south of U.S. Forest Service roads 017, 058, 072 and 077 (commonly known as the North Slope Road)
- Uintah County—Willow Creek, Bitter Creek and Sweetwater drainages

There are also trapping-device restrictions on parts of the Colorado, Escalante, Green and Provo rivers, including their tributaries and some of the surrounding land. You can read more about these restrictions in the information box on page 14.

- Tooele County—Blue Lake and Timpie Springs
- Uintah County—Stewart Lake
- Utah County—Powell Slough, Utah Lake Wetland Preserve
- Wayne County—Bicknell Bottoms
- Weber County—Ogden Bay and Harold S. Crane

You may not discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle on any of the areas listed above any time of the year except during the specified waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division.

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

State parks

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-16 and R651-614-4

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

Hunting with rifles, handguns or muzzleloaders in park areas designated open to hunting is prohibited within one mile of all park facilities, including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps and developed beaches.

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

Prohibited species

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-25 and R657-11-12

If you accidentally trap a bear, cougar, river otter, wolverine or any other protected wildlife at any time of year, you must release the animal unharmed.

You must also release any furbearers unharmed if you trap them out of season or without the appropriate permit.

You may not intentionally hunt, trap or harvest black-footed ferret, lynx, river otter, wolf or wolverine. If you accidentally trap or capture any of these species, you must report it to the Division within 48 hours.

If the animal perishes, you must obtain written permission from a Division representative to remove its carcass from the trap. The carcass remains the property of the state and must be turned over to the Division.

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 23-20-14 and 23-20-3.5

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

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

In addition, you may not:

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

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

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

Trapping on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-27

The Division uses trapping on state waterfowl management areas (WMAs) to protect wildlife populations and to limit burrowing damage to the dikes.

This year, the Division will use a different application process to determine who can trap muskrats and other furbearers on these WMAs. That process will be finalized in the next month, and you can learn more about it at *wildlife.utah.gov/WMAtrapping*, starting in the middle of October.

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

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

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

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

Special regulations at Layton–Kaysville marshes

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-32

Trapping is allowed only from Feb. 8–March 15, 2016 on the state-administered lands along the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake in Davis County (an area commonly known as the Layton–Kaysville marshes). A portion of the above area may also be closed to trapping. If it is closed, the area will be posted and marked.

Restricted areas

Utah military installations (including Camp Williams) and federal wildlife refuges are closed to hunting, trapping and trespassing, unless otherwise authorized.

If you are hunting on Native American trust lands, you must observe the tribe's wildlife regulations.

Wildlife management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-33

Most Division-owned wildlife management areas (WMAs) are closed to motor vehicles. You may only access one of these areas in a motor vehicle if you have already obtained written authorization from the appropriate Division regional office.

For the purpose of coyote trapping, the Division may authorize limited motor vehicle access to certain WMAs. In this case, the motor vehicle access must not interfere with wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Goshen Warm Springs WMA is closed to all hunting.

Wolf management in Utah

Wolves are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act throughout most of Utah. In a small portion of northern Utah (north of I-80 and east of I-84), wolves have been removed from the Endangered Species List, and the state has authority to manage them.

Under Utah's Wolf Management Plan, the general public may not hunt, kill or trap wolves.

To learn more about wolf management in Utah, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/wolf*.

Possession, sale and transportation

Transporting furbearers

Utah Code § 23-13-4 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-17

You may only transport the green pelts of furbearers if you possess the appropriate license and permits. If you have harvested bobcat or marten, they must be correctly tagged. For more information on attaching temporary and permanent tags, see page 10.

A registered Utah fur dealer—or that person's agent—may transport or ship green pelts of furbearers within Utah.

No one may transport or possess live protected wildlife, except as permitted by Utah Admin. Rule R657-3.

You do not need a furbearer license in order to transport green pelts of coyote, muskrat, raccoon, red fox or striped skunk.

Exporting furbearers from Utah

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-18

You may not export or ship the green pelt of any furbearer from Utah without first obtaining a valid shipping permit from the Division.

You do not need a furbearer license in order to export green pelts of coyote, muskrat, raccoon, red fox or striped skunk from Utah.

Sales

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-19

If you possess a valid furbearer license, you may sell, offer for sale, barter or exchange only those species you were licensed to take and that you legally harvested.

Any person who obtains a valid fur dealer or fur dealer's agent certificate of registration may buy, sell or trade green pelts or parts of furbearers within Utah.

Fur dealers (or their agents and taxidermists) must keep records of all transactions dealing with green pelts of furbearers. Those records must contain all of the following information:

- The transaction date
- The name, address, license number and tag number of each seller

If the ownership of a pelt changes, the above information must be listed on a receipt issued to the new owner.

You may possess legally acquired furbearers and tanned hides—without possessing a furbearer license—as long as you can provide proof of legal ownership.

A furbearer license is not required to sell or possess coyote, muskrat, raccoon, red fox or striped skunk or their parts.

If you want to hunt it tomorrow,
help us protect it today.

UTiP

1-800-662-3337

Turn In a Poacher

Wasting wildlife

Utah Code § 23-20-8 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-20

You may not waste—or permit to be wasted or spoiled—any protected wildlife or its parts.

You may, however, leave the skinned carcass of a furbearer in the field. This action does not constitute waste of wildlife.

Depredation

Badger, weasel and spotted skunk

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-21

If a badger, weasel or spotted skunk is creating a nuisance or causing damage, you may harvest it at any time—without a license—as long as you do not sell or trade the animal or its parts.

Bobcat

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-22

A Wildlife Services agent may remove or harvest a depredating bobcat as long as the agent is supervised by the USDA Wildlife Services program and following Division-approved procedures.

A livestock owner or the owner's employee may take bobcats that are harassing livestock. The employee must be on a regular payroll and not hired specifically to take furbearers.

Any bobcat harvested by a livestock owner or an employee must be surrendered to the Division within 72 hours.

Beaver

Utah Code § 23-18-4 & Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-23

If a beaver is causing damage or exhibiting other nuisance behavior, you may harvest or remove it during closed seasons, but you must first obtain a nuisance permit from a Division office or conservation officer.

SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-26

Badger

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit

Beaver

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–April 6, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*, **except the areas listed in the information box on page 19**.
- Bag limit: No limit
- Notes: There are trapping-device restrictions on and near sections of the Colorado, Escalante, Green and Provo rivers. See the information box on page 14 for more information.

Bobcat

- Season dates: Nov. 18, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: One per permit, up to a maximum of six
- Possession limit: One per permit, up to a maximum of six
- Notes: Bobcats may be taken only by shooting, trapping or with the aid of dogs.

Coyote

- Participants in Utah's predator control program receive compensation for removing coyotes. To learn more about this program, see the information box on page 25 or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/predators*.

Gray fox

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit

Kit fox

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit

Kit fox voluntary release

Kit fox are native to the arid regions of Utah and are on Utah's sensitive species list.

The Division encourages trappers to release all kit fox unharmed and to continue trapping coyotes in desert regions of the state.

Marten

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Daggett, Duchesne, Summit and Uintah counties, except where special regulations may apply on Native American trust lands
- Bag limit: No limit

Mink

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–April 6, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*, **except the areas listed in the information box on page 19**.

** National wildlife refuges, Native American trust lands and waterfowl management areas may have special regulations*

- Bag limit: No limit
- Notes: There are trapping-device restrictions on and near sections of the Colorado, Escalante, Green and Provo rivers. See the information box on page 14 for more information.

Muskrat

- Season dates: Year round
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit
- Notes: You do not need a license to harvest muskrat. You will need a special permit if you plan to trap muskrat on a Waterfowl Management Area. For more information, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/WMAtrapping* in the middle of October.

Raccoon

- The Department of Agriculture regulates the possession of live raccoons. To learn more, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/UDAF*.

Red fox

- Season dates: Year round
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit
- Notes: You do not need a license to harvest red fox.

Ringtail

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit

Spotted skunk

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit

Utah's predator control program

The Utah Legislature passed the Mule Deer Protection Act in 2012. The law directed the Division to reduce coyote populations for the benefit of mule deer, particularly in areas where predation occurs.

To comply with this law, the Division implemented a predator control program that provides incentives for members of the public to remove coyotes. Participants in the program receive $50 for each properly documented coyote that they kill in Utah.

For more information on this program, visit *wildlife.utah.gov/predators*.

Striped skunk

- Season dates: Year round
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit
- Notes: You do not need a license to harvest striped skunk.

Weasel

- Season dates: Sept. 26, 2015–Feb. 14, 2016
- Areas open: Statewide*
- Bag limit: No limit

** National wildlife refuges, Native American trust lands and waterfowl management areas may have special regulations*

DEFINITIONS

Utah Code § 23-13-2 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-11-2

Artificial cubby set means any manufactured container with an opening on one end that houses a trapping device. Bait must be placed inside the artificial cubby set at least eight inches from the opening. 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. See the illustration on page 16.

Bait means any lure containing animal parts larger than one cubic inch—or eight cubic inches, if used in an artificial cubby set—with the exception of white-bleached bones with no hide or flesh attached.

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

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

Exposed bait means bait that is visible from any angle, except when used in an artificial cubby set.

Furbearer means species of the *Bassariscidae, Canidae, Felidae, Mustelidae* and *Castoridae* families, except coyote and cougar.

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.

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

Green pelt means the untanned hide or skin of any furbearer.

Livestock means cattle, sheep, goats and turkeys.

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

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

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Protected wildlife means the animals defined in the "wildlife" definition below. It does not include coyote, field mouse, gopher, ground squirrel, jackrabbit, muskrat and raccoon.

Pursue means to chase, tree, corner or hold a furbearer at bay.

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

An individual retains Utah residency if he or she leaves Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States, or for religious or educational purposes, and does NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

An abandoned mine may look like a ready-made adventure. Don't be fooled. More often than not an abandoned mine promises only injury or death. Cave-ins, toxic gases, dangerous snakes and other animals, deep vertical shafts and undetonated explosives can cost you your life. There are an estimated 20,000 abandoned mines scattered across Utah. If you come across one, heed our advice—stay out and stay alive!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Take means to hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or to attempt any of the aforementioned actions.

Trapping means taking protected wildlife with a trapping device.

Wildlife means crustaceans—including brine shrimp and crayfish—and all vertebrate animals living in nature, except feral animals.

Prevent wildfires!

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

UtahFireInfo.gov