



RAC AGENDA – July/August 2019

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| 1. | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair | |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair | ACTION |
| 3. | Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair | INFORMATIONAL |
| 4. | Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. | Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020
- Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. | Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020
- Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |

Regional Presentations Only

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| SERO | SE Manti Update
Guy Wallace, Regional Wildlife Program Manager | INFORMATIONAL |
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Meeting Locations

- | | |
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| <p>NR RAC – July 30th, 6:00 PM
Brigham City Community Center
24 N. 300 W., Brigham City</p> | <p>SER RAC – August 7th, 6:30 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River</p> |
| <p>CR RAC – July 31st, 6:30 PM
Wildlife Resources CR Office
1115 N. Main Street, Springville</p> | <p>NER RAC – August 8th, 6:30 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave, Vernal</p> |
| <p>SR RAC – Aug.6th, 7:00 PM
Sevier School District Office
180 E. 600 N., Richfield</p> | <p>Board Meeting – August 22nd, 9:00 AM
DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, SLC</p> |



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Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAL D. FOWLKS
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Predatory Mammals and Furbearer Program Coordinator

DATE: July 21, 2019

SUBJECT: 2018-19 BOBCAT AND FURBEARER RECOMMENDATIONS

Bobcat populations are managed according to the Utah Bobcat Management Plan. The plan lists three parameters that we look at each year to determine the number of bobcat permits to issue that season. These parameters are percent juveniles in the harvest, percent adult survival, and percent females in the harvest. As long as two of the three parameters remain within management targets, baseline permit numbers are maintained at 6 per individual trapper with no cap on total permits sold. The season is also set at the most liberal length from mid-November to March 1st. If two of these parameters fall outside of management parameters, indicating a declining bobcat population, permits issued to individuals are adjusted down and the season is shortened to begin later in the year. If three parameters indicate a declining population, total permits sold are capped at 80% of sales from the previous year.

This year, all three parameters fall outside of the plan guidelines and indicate that bobcat numbers are declining. For this reason we are recommending lowering the number of permits per individual trapper from 6 to 5, shortening the season by one week to begin later in November (November 20, 2019 – March 1, 2020), and capping the total number of permits available at 6,460 (80% of last year's total sales).

All other furbearer seasons are as follows:

Beaver and Mink – September 21, 2019 – April 1, 2020

Marten, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk, and Weasel
September 21, 2019 – March 1, 2020



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TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Predatory Mammals and Furbearer Program Coordinator

DATE: July 21, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019-2020 COUGAR PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Division of Wildlife Resources is recommending 34 additional cougar permits this year. The attached table summarizes our recommended limited entry, split and harvest objective permit allocations for the 2019-2020 cougar-hunting season. We have made these recommendations taking into consideration cougar harvest data from 2016-2019, prey population dynamics for mule deer and bighorn sheep, and using the Utah Cougar Management Plan. Adjustments to permits are within the parameters set out in the Utah Cougar Management Plan, and will help ensure healthy cougar populations while addressing local issues of concern including impacts to specific prey populations, livestock depredation and maintaining cougar hunting opportunities across the State.

The recommendation table includes several categories of management actions that a cougar unit can fall into depending on how the three-year average of harvest parameters aligns with the management goals for the unit. The table divides cougar units into those categories, and indicates under the "Management Plan Action for Permits/Quota" column the options for permit or quota changes spelled out in the plan. You will also find a column for last year's permits/quota and this year's recommended permits/quota. The table also shows the hunt strategy for the unit.

Recommended season dates are as follows:

Limited entry November 6, 2019 through May 31, 2020

Split

Limited entry: November 6, 2019 through February 23, 2020

Harvest objective: February 29, 2020 through May 31, 2020

Paunsaugunt: February 29, 2020 through November 3, 2020

Harvest objective and unlimited: November 6, 2019 through November 3, 2020

La Sal and San Juan, Mountains: no dogs September 14 – 22, 2019
(This restriction mirrors the restriction for bear hunters at the same time)

Pursuit season: November 6, 2019 through May 31, 2020

We are also recommending that these recommendations remain in place for a three-year cycle as we have done with bear recommendations. We are making this recommendation for several reasons. Cougar recommendations are always based on the three preceding years of harvest data. Population reconstruction models rely on harvest pressure remaining constant in order to return the best estimates of population trend over time. Predator management plans are implemented for three-year periods and evaluated at the end of that time. Cougar populations are dynamic and detecting changes and trying to react from year to year is difficult, using a three-year cycle is biologically more sound. The Division would continue to monitor data during this period, and if it were deemed necessary to make an emergency change to address concerns with cougar or prey populations, we would bring those proposed changes to the RACs and Wildlife Board during the three-year cycle. The Division would also continue to report annually on cougar related issues and status.

We are recommending two changes to cougar rule (R657-10). First, we recommend changing the legal weapons definitions to mirror those legal for taking big game. Second, we are recommending that the location of harvest be reported for each cougar taken. This information will be required when the animal is presented for check in to the Division.

Unit Number	Unit Name	Percent Females in Harvest	% 5 Years and Older	2018 Permits/Quota	2019 Permits/Quota	Hunt Strategy	Management Plan Action for Permits/Quota	
16b2	Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	45%	26%	16	16	Split	maintain	PMP in Place, Meets Plan Guidelines (% females >40%)
13	La Sal	40%	5%	15	15	HO	maintain	
11a	Nine Mile, North	41%	13%	25	25	HO	maintain	
8ab	North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	42%	16%	10	10	HO	maintain	
3	Ogden	49%	18%	12	12	HO	maintain	
17a2	Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	50%	8%	4	4	HO	maintain	
17a1	Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	47%	13%	5	5	HO	maintain	
1b	Box Elder, Desert	47%	29%	10	9	HO	decrease	No PMP in place, Exceeds plan guidelines (% females > 40%)
2	Cache	44%	13%	25	23	HO	decrease	
20	Southwest Desert	46%	19%	13	12	HO	decrease	
22a	Beaver, East	14%	45%	10	15	Split	maintain or increase	PMP in place, Below Target for Females in Harvest (% females <40%)
10a	Book Cliffs, East	39%	28%	29	29	Split	maintain or increase	
16a	Central Mtns, Nebo (excludes West Face)	24%	10%	12	15	Split	maintain or decrease	
16a1	Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	24%	20%	15	18	Split	maintain or increase	
16b1	Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	36%	8%	11	12	Split	maintain or increase	
18b	Oquirrh-Stansbury, West	25%	50%	4	8	HO	maintain or increase	
14a	San Juan, Mountains	37%	21%	25	25	HO	maintain or increase	
9bcd	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	33%	23%	24	24	HO	maintain or increase	
9a	South Slope, Yellowstone	38%	27%	10	10	HO	maintain or increase	
17c	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin-Wildcat	27%	18%	20	30	HO	maintain or increase	
17b	Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek-North	0%	25%	15	15	LE	maintain or increase	
29	Zion	37%	26%	23	26	HO	maintain or increase	
6	Chalk Creek (New for 2020)	21%	8%	--	15	HO	New Hunt	No PMP in place, Meets Female Harvest Criteria, Age Under Objective (% 5yrs < 15%)
7	Kamas (New for 2020)	21%	8%	--	5	LE	New Hunt	
24	Mt Dutton	38%	13%	15	15	Split	maintain or decrease	
25a	Plateau, Fishlake	35%	3%	16	12	Split	maintain or decrease	
17a3	Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry	15%	12%	11	11	LE	maintain or decrease	
16c1	Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	32%	16%	18	15	LE	biologist discretion	No PMP in place, Meets Female Harvest Criteria, Age within Plan Range (% 5 yrs 15% - 20%)
4	Morgan-South Rich	21%	15%	15	15	Split	biologist discretion	
28	Panguitch Lake	25%	18%	12	12	Split	biologist discretion	
30b	Pine Valley, South	37%	19%	12	13	HO	biologist discretion	
19a	West Desert, Mtn Ranges	33%	17%	8	8	HO	biologist discretion	
1a	Box Elder, Raft River	15%	22%	10	10	Split	maintain or increase	No PMP in Place, Meets Female Harvest Criteria, Age exceeds Plan Range (% 5 yrs > 20%)
16c2	Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	20%	23%	20	22	Split	maintain or increase	
5	East Canyon	32%	30%	10	10	Split	maintain or increase	
21b	Fillmore, Pahvant	26%	28%	19	19	Split	maintain or increase	
23	Monroe	25%	21%	15	15	Split	maintain or increase	
18a	Oquirrh-Stansbury, East	22%	22%	8	8	LE	maintain or increase	
30a	Pine Valley, North	23%	23%	14	16	HO	maintain or increase	
25c	Plateau, Boulder	29%	23%	16	16	Split	maintain or increase	
22b	Beaver, West	40%	20%	3	6	HO	biologist discretion	Units where harvest sample size is low. Biologist use best professional opinion for recommendations.
1c	Box Elder, Pilot Mtn	0%	0%	6	6	HO	biologist discretion	
5a	East Canyon, Davis	33%	9%	5	5	Split	biologist discretion	
21a	Fillmore, Oak Creek	42%	17%	12	12	HO	biologist discretion	
15	Henry Mtns	43%	14%	12	12	HO	biologist discretion	
8c	North Slope, Three Corners	50%	14%	10	10	HO	biologist discretion	
27	Paunsaugunt	17%	17%	10	10	Split	biologist discretion	
25b	Plateau, Thousand Lakes	80%	20%	4	4	Split	biologist discretion	
17a4	Wasatch Mtns, Salt Lake	0%	0%	6	6	HO	biologist discretion	
19b	West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	40%	10%	12	12	Split	biologist discretion	
10b/11b	Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/Nine Mile, South	100%	0%	Unlimited	Unlimited	HO	Unlimited	Bighorn sheep only mngt. units
26	Kaiparowits	60%	33%	Unlimited	Unlimited	HO	Unlimited	
14b	San Juan, Desert	100%	50%	Unlimited	Unlimited	HO	Unlimited	
12	San Rafael	50%	50%	Unlimited	Unlimited	HO	Unlimited	

Decision Criteria:

- 1) Is the percentage of females in the harvest <40% or >40%
- 2) Is there a Predator Management Plan in place
- 3) Is the percentage of adult animals 5 years and greater between 15% and 20%

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-10. Taking Cougar.

R657-10-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, 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.

R657-10-6. ~~[Authorized Weapons]~~ Firearms, Archery Equipment, Crossbows, and Airguns.

[A] (1) For limited entry and harvest objective hunts identified in the Wildlife Board's guidebook for taking cougar, a person may use the following to take cougar:

~~[(1)]~~ (a) any firearm not capable of being fired fully automatic, except a firearm using rimfire cartridge;

~~[(2) a bow and arrows, including a draw-lock; and]~~

(b) archery equipment meeting the following requirements:

(i) the minimum bow pull is 30 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first;

(ii) arrowheads used have two or more sharp cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch

ring;

(iii) expanding arrowheads cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring when expanded; and

(iv) arrows must be a minimum of 20 inches in length from the tip of the arrowhead to the tip of

the nock;

~~[(3)]~~ (c) a crossbow meeting the following requirements:

(i) a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds;

(ii) a positive mechanical safety mechanism; and

(iii) an arrow or bolt that is at least 16 inches long with:

(A) a fixed broadhead that is at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point; or

(B) an expandable, mechanical broadhead that is at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point when

the broadhead is in the open position; and

(d) an airgun used to hunt bear must:

(i) be pneumatically powered;

(ii) be pressurized solely through a separate charging device; and

(iii) may only fire a bolt or arrow:

(A) no less than 16 inches long;

(B) with a fixed or expandable broadhead at least 7/8 inch wide at its widest position; and

(C) traveling no less than 400 feet per second at the muzzle.

(2) Arrows and bolts carried in or on a vehicle where a person is riding must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case.

R657-10-15. Permanent Tag.

(1)(a) Each cougar must be taken by the permit 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.