

**Utah Wildlife News**  
**January 7, 2009**

**Mark Hadley, Editor**  
**(801) 538-4737**

**In this issue:**

**New big game guidebook**  
**Fish record changes**  
**Staying safe in cougar country**  
**Bear pursuit changes**

---

## **2010 Big Game Guidebook**

Everything you need to know to apply for a 2010 Utah big game hunting permit is available in the 2010 Utah Big Game Guidebook.

The guidebook is available at [www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks). You can also pick a copy up at Division of Wildlife Resources offices and sporting goods stores across Utah.

The DWR will accept applications for 2010 big game hunting permits starting Feb. 1.

For more information, call the nearest DWR 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

## **DWR Clarifies and Changes Record Fish Rules**

### *Six fish removed from the list*

Have you ever wondered what you'd do if you caught a fish that was a new Utah state record? How would you get it certified?

In the past, the procedure to get a record fish certified was a little vague. But not anymore. To help anglers, biologists with the Division of Wildlife Resources have spelled out the requirements on new record fish application forms. The forms became available on Jan. 1.

You can see the forms and learn the requirements at [www.wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/record-fish.html](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/record-fish.html).

"In addition to explaining the rules better, we also dropped six fish from the list," says Drew Cushing, warm water sport fisheries coordinator for the DWR.

(more)

**page 2**

Three nongame fish—Utah chub, Utah sucker and white sucker—are among the six fish that have been dropped from the list. Two hybrid trout species that the DWR hasn't produced in its hatcheries for years—brownbow and brake—have also been dropped. And albino rainbow trout, which now fall under the general rainbow trout category, have also been dropped from the list.

"Most states don't keep records for nongame fish," Cushing says. "We decided to drop nongame fish from Utah's list too."

Endangered June suckers were another reason to drop suckers from the list.

"Many anglers have a difficult time telling the different sucker species apart," Cushing says. "Removing suckers from the list should reduce the chance that an angler catches an endangered June sucker and then keep the fish, not realizing he or she has a fish that's listed on the federal Endangered Species list."

For more information, 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

## **Cougar Country -- Ten Tips to Stay Safe**

Dave Swenson has patrolled Utah's backcountry for almost 30 years. During that time, the veteran wildlife officer has seen a cougar only five times.

And each time, the cougar was running away from him.

"It's very, very rare to see or come in contact with a cougar," the Division of Wildlife Resources officer says. "Cougars usually go out of their way to avoid people."

Swenson says cougars are also secretive animals. And they usually come out only at night.

While it's very rare to see a cougar, if you do see one, it will probably be in the winter.

"Deer are the main animal that cougars prey on this time of the year," Swenson says. "In the winter, the snow covers the vegetation at higher elevations. That forces the deer to travel to lower elevations to find food. And the cougars come right down with them."

### **Tips**

If you live in cougar country, Swenson provides the following tips to lessen the chance that you come in contact with a cougar:

- Do not feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife attracts deer and other animals to your yard that cougars prey on.

(more)

### page 3

- Do not feed pets outside. The food could attract cougars to your yard. And keep your pets indoors at night. Pets are easy prey for cougars.
- Outdoor lighting and motion-sensitive lighting are a deterrent for the secretive cougar. Lights also make cougars that are approaching your home visible.
- Keep a close eye on your children when they're playing outside. And bring them in before dusk. That's when cougars begin to hunt.
- Make your yard deer-proof. If your landscaping is attractive to deer, cougars will follow the deer and stay close to your property.

Here are three things you can do if you encounter a cougar:

- Do not run from a cougar. Running can provoke a prey response in the cougar, and the cougar may pursue you.
- Make yourself look intimidating. Make yourself look big by opening your jacket, and raising your arms and waving them. Speak loudly and firmly.
- If you have children, pick them up. Try to pick children up before the children panic and run. When you're picking your children up, keep an eye on the cougar but avoid making direct eye contact with the animal. Try not to bend over too far or turn your back to the cougar.

Here are two things you can do to avoid encountering a cougar in the first place:

- Hike with other people and make noise. Cougars will not usually bother groups of people.
- If you're hiking with pets, keep them on a leash and close to your group. Roaming pets are open to cougar attacks, or they could irritate a cougar that's trying to avoid your group. A dog on a leash is also a good warning system that will let you know if a cougar is nearby.

### Free brochure

More tips about how to stay safe in cougar country are available in the DWR's "Living in Cougar Country" brochure. The free brochure is available at [www.wildlife.utah.gov/cougar/pdf/cougar\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/cougar/pdf/cougar_brochure.pdf).

"As Utah's population grows, more and more people are moving into areas where wildlife live," Swenson says. "If we're going to move into their homes, then it's important that we learn how to live with them. If we do that, both wildlife and people can have a good experience."

###

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

## Bear Pursuit Changes for 2010

*More hunting permits also approved*

Salt Lake City -- Three areas that are popular places to pursue bears with dogs should be quieter this summer.

On Jan. 6, the Utah Wildlife Board approved the following bear pursuit changes on the Book Cliffs, San Juan and La Sal units in eastern Utah:

\* The number of permits offered to pursue bears with dogs will be limited this summer. And the summer pursuit season has been split into an early season and a late season. The following number of permits will be available:

### Early season

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Season dates</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Book Cliffs	July 8 - 22	15	2
San Juan	July 8 - 22	18	2
La Sal	July 8 - 22	12	1

### Late season

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Season dates</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Book Cliffs	July 29 – Aug. 12	15	2
San Juan	July 29 – Aug. 12	18	2
La Sal	July 29 – Aug. 12	12	1

The season dates have been set so no pursuit takes place during the July 24 weekend, which is a state holiday in Utah. (There's a seven-day break between the two pursuit seasons.)

\* The number of hounds houndsmen can use to pursue bears on ANY unit in the state during the summer pursuit season will also be limited. Houndsmen may not use more than eight hounds to pursue a single bear in the summer.

This change applies to the summer pursuit season only. The number of dogs houndsmen can use during the spring and fall pursuit and hunting seasons is not limited.

Those changes—and more permits for bear hunts this spring and fall—are among changes the board approved at their meeting in Salt Lake City.

All of the changes the board approved will be available in the 2010 Utah Black Bear Guidebook. The guidebook should be available at [www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks) by late January.

(more)

page 5

### **A quieter summer**

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

“Last 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 Division of Wildlife Resources.

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

### **More hunting permits**

The board also approved more hunting permits for this year’s bear hunts.

In 2009, a total of 319 permits were available. The board approved 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.

### **First spot and stalk only hunt**

The board also approved Utah’s first spot and stalk only hunt. This hunt will be held in the Roadless area in the Book Cliffs. Hunters may not use hounds during the hunt.

“Very few bear hunters hunt this area,” Dolling says. “As a result, the bear population is growing. Horseback riders and big game hunters are encountering more and more bears in the area.”

The area’s small size is among the challenges houndsmen face in taking bears in the area. The hounds can chase bears off the unit before the hunters take the bears.

“That’s why we decided to go with a spot and stalk hunt,” Dolling says. “There are plenty of bears in the area, so there’s a good chance that spot and stalk hunters will find success. And the chance that a spot and stalk hunter chases a bear off the unit before he or she takes it is much lower than those hunting with hounds.”

For more information, 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