

HB0202S03 compared with HB0202

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0202 but was omitted in HB0202S03

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0202 but was inserted into HB0202S03

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Private Landowner Big Game Revisions

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the hunting of big game.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
 - establishes the criteria for a landowner draw;
 - provides procedures to become an applicant for a landowner draw;
 - addresses the redeeming of a voucher;
 - guarantees vouchers under certain circumstances;
 - requires compliance with other laws; {and}
 - addresses rulemaking{-} ;
 - provides for the creation of reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management units;
- and
- addresses limits placed on reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management units.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

HB0202

HB0202 compared with HB0202S03

19 None

20 None

23 ENACTS:

24 **23A-4-711** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

25 **23A-7-213 , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953**

26

27 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

28 Section 1. Section 1 is enacted to read:

29 **23A-4-711. Private landowner vouchers.**

26 (1) As used in this section:

31 (a)

27 ~~{(a)}~~ (i) "Applicant" means a person who:

28 ~~{(i)}~~ (A) holds a fee simple ownership interest in at least 640 contiguous acres but not more than 8,999
contiguous acres of private land in Utah within a limited entry elk unit; and

31 ~~{(ii)}~~ (B) has submitted an application ~~{and proof of huntable}~~ to the division to participate in a
landowner draw to hunt bull elk ~~{approved under Subsection (4)}~~ .

37 (ii) "Applicant" does not include a person who is a landowner or a landowner association under a
reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit created in Section 23A-7-213.

32 (b) "Block" means 640 contiguous acres that are not excluded under Subsection (2).

33 ~~{(c)}~~ "Region" means one of the regions with boundaries established for administrative purposes by the
division under Section 23A-2-303.}

35 ~~{(d)}~~ (c) "Voucher" means ~~{a right to hunt}~~ an authorization issued by the division that entitles
a person to purchase a bull elk ~~{that is obtained pursuant to this section and redeemed for one~~
~~permit to hunt bull elk on}~~ permit valid for the ~~{contiguous private property used to qualify as an~~
~~applicant}~~ private land submitted in the application.

38 (2)

. (a) An applicant may enter an annual landowner draw for ~~{one}~~ a bull elk voucher for every complete
block owned by the applicant.

40 (b) The private land that is the basis for determining whether there is a block for an application to
qualify for a landowner draw shall have at least one common owner throughout the private land.

43

HB0202 compared with HB0202S03

- (c) In order for an applicant to qualify for a landowner draw, all the owners of the private land described in Subsection (2)(b) shall agree to the applicant applying for a landowner draw.
- 51 (d) Multiple applicants may not submit an application for the same block and the division may reject all applications for a block if more than one application is received for a single block.
- 46 ~~{(d)}~~ (e) The following private land is not eligible for purposes of determining a block:
- 47 (i) private land within a cooperative wildlife management unit under Chapter 7, Cooperative Wildlife Management Units; or
- 49 (ii) private land within a landowner association program established by the Wildlife Board by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 60 (3)
- 52 ~~{(3)}~~ (a) The division shall determine the number of vouchers in a bull elk landowner draw under this section by allocating an additional 5% of the total number of limited entry bull permits available in the public draw within a limited entry elk unit.
- 63 (b) The division shall allocate:
- 64 (i) 50% of the vouchers in a landowner draw to applicants with 4,000 contiguous acres but not more than 8,999 contiguous acres; and
- 66 (ii) 50% of the vouchers in the landowner draw to applicants with at least 640 contiguous acres but less than 4,000 acres.
- 68 (c) If there is an odd number of vouchers in a landowner draw, the division shall allocate the one extra voucher to:
- 70 (i) applicants described in Subsection (3)(b)(i) in years ending in odd numbers; and
- 71 (ii) applicants described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii) in years ending in even numbers.
- 72 (d) If a limited entry elk unit only has only one voucher available for the bull elk landowner draw described in Subsection (3)(a), the division shall allocate that voucher to an applicant with acreage of at least 640 contiguous acres but not more than 3,999 contiguous acres of private land.
- 55 (4)
- . (a) To qualify as an applicant under Subsection (2), a person shall obtain approval of the information described in Subsection (4)(b) by the ~~{biologist of the region in which a block used in an application is located}~~ division.
- 58 (b) To seek approval, a person shall file an application with the division that includes:
- 59

HB0202 compared with HB0202S03

- {(i) {an application to a division office located in the region in which the block used in an application is located that includes:}}
- 61 {(A)} (i) the name of the person;
- 62 {(B)} (ii) the date of the application;
- 63 {(C)} (iii) the number of blocks in which the person holds an ownership interest;
- 64 {(D)} (iv) proof of the ownership interest in the private land for which the person is seeking a voucher;
- 66 {(E)} (v) proof of the number of contiguous acres owned by the person within a limited entry elk unit;
- and
- 68 {(F)} (vi) the location of the private land for which the person is seeking a voucher{~~and~~};
- 87 (c) The division shall:
- 88 (i) review an application; and
- 69 (ii) {proof} verify that {the biologist of the region in which a block used} property submitted in {the} an application is {located has determined that there are huntable} capable of harboring bull elk {in the private land} during the {bull elk} hunting seasondescribed in Subsection (5)(b).
- 72 {(e)} (d) Once a person is approved as an applicant for a landowner draw, the applicant is automatically approved each year and does not need to reapply unless there is a change in land ownership {or} , acreage , or habitat quality that would affect the person's level of participation in the landowner draw. If there is a change in ownership or acreage, the person shall file the information required under Subsection (4)(b) to be eligible for the next landowner draw.
- 78 (5)
- . (a) An individual may redeem a voucher to obtain a permit to hunt bull elk:
- 79 {(i) {for use by one of the following:}}
- 80 {(A) {if the applicant is an individual, the applicant or an immediate family member of the applicant;}}
- 82 {(B) {if the applicant is an entity that is not a trust, an individual holding an ownership interest in the entity or an immediate family member of that individual;}}
- 85 {(C) {if the applicant is a trust, an individual who is an original trustee or beneficiary of the trust or an immediate family member of that individual; or}}
- 87 {(D)} (i) if the individual is the applicant or is an individual to whom the applicant sells, donates, or otherwise transfers the voucher; and
- 89 (ii) conditioned on the individual:
- 90 (A) being otherwise authorized to hunt big game under this title; and

HB0202 compared with HB0202S03

- 91 (B) only hunting under that permit on the contiguous acres of private land owned by the applicant
within a limited entry elk unit.
- 93 (b) ~~{ Notwithstanding a season for hunting bull elk designated by the Wildlife Board, an }~~ An individual
who hunts on the applicant's private land pursuant to a voucher redeemed under Subsection (5)(a)
may:
- 106 (i) hunt with one type of legal weapon, as defined by the Wildlife Board by rule made in accordance
with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and
- 96 ~~{(i)}~~ (ii) {use archery equipment from the start date} hunt during one of the corresponding season
dates for the type of {the archery} legal weapon used by the individual that is established by the
Wildlife Board for a bull elk hunt on the corresponding limited entry elk unit{ ; and } .
- 98 ~~{(ii) {convert to any weapon starting on September 1 and ending on October 31.} }~~
- 99 (6)
- . (a) Except as provided in Subsection (6)(f), an applicant that qualifies for a landowner draw under
Subsections (2) through (5) and who owns at least 4,000 contiguous acres of private land but not
more than 8,999 contiguous acres of private land within a limited entry elk unit shall annually
receive two bull elk vouchers.
- 103 (b) An individual may redeem a voucher obtained under this Subsection (6) in accordance with
Subsection (5).
- 105 (c) An applicant described in Subsection (6)(a) may sell, donate, or otherwise transfer a voucher
received under Subsection (6)(a).
- 107 (d) A voucher under this Subsection (6) is in addition to and not taken from the 5% additional bull elk
permits that are designated for the landowner draw under Subsection (3).
- 110 (e) An applicant that receives a voucher under this Subsection (6) may also enter a landowner draw for
a bull elk voucher in accordance with Subsection (2).
- 112 (f) An applicant may receive only one voucher under this Subsection (6) for any year in which the
average age of the harvested bull elk {population} in the limited entry elk unit where the voucher
applies is lower than the age objective in the applicable elk management plan. The limitation of
only one voucher under this Subsection (6)(f) applies until the average age of the harvested bull
elk {population} for that limited entry elk unit in a year equals or exceeds the age objective in the
applicable elk management plan.

118

HB0202 compared with HB0202S03

(7) ~~{An}~~ During the fiscal year in which an applicant ~~{who participates in a landowner draw}~~ receives a bull elk voucher, the applicant may not receive a depredation bull elk permit or submit a claim for compensation for wildlife damage to the applicant's private land used to qualify for ~~{the}~~ a landowner draw.

121 (8) An individual who redeems a voucher under this section shall comply with the other applicable provisions of this title and rules or proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

136 (9)

123 ~~{(9)}~~ (a) The Wildlife Board may ~~{not}~~ make rules ~~{under this section but may enforce rules}~~, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that ~~{otherwise would be applicable to hunting bull elk}~~ are necessary to administer this section.

138 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (9)(a), a rule made by the Wildlife Board shall be consistent with this section.

140 Section 2. Section 2 is enacted to read:

141 **23A-7-213. Reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit.**

142 (1)

. (a) The Wildlife Board may issue a certificate of registration for a reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit to a landowner association that owns at least 4,000 contiguous acres of private land but not more than 8,999 contiguous acres of private land.

146 (b) A reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit may only authorize the hunting of elk.

148 (2)

. (a) The Wildlife Board shall establish season dates and boundaries for a reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit.

150 (b) In accordance with Subsection 23A-2-305(3), if season dates specified in this Subsection (2) start on a Sunday, the season date shall begin on the Saturday before.

152 (c) Season dates specified in this Subsection (2) may differ from statewide season dates.

153 (3) A reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit shall offer at least 50% of the reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit authorizations for hunting elk to the general public at the times and places designated on the application for a certificate of registration.

157 (4) A reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit is governed by the other provisions of this chapter.

159

HB0202 compared with HB0202S03

(5) A landowner or an organization of owners of private lands that operate under a certificate of registration for a reduced acreage elk cooperative wildlife management unit may not apply for or obtain a voucher to purchase a bull elk permit under Section 23A-4-711.

163 Section 3. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

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