

**Effective 5/12/2020**

**Renumbered 7/1/2023**

**23-24-2 Livestock depredation.**

- (1) As used in this section:
  - (a) "Depredation" means an act causing damage or death.
  - (b) "Director" means the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources.
  - (c) "Division" means the Division of Wildlife Resources.
  - (d) "Livestock" means cattle, sheep, goats, horses, or turkeys.
  - (e) "Predator" means a mountain lion or bear.
  - (f) "Wildlife Board" means the board created in Section 23-14-2.
  - (g) "Wildlife Services Program" means a program of the United States Department of Agriculture that helps resolve conflicts with wildlife to protect agriculture, other property, and natural resources, and to safeguard human health and safety.
  - (h) "Wildlife specialist" means a United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services specialist.
- (2) If a predator harasses, chases, disturbs, harms, attacks, or kills livestock, within 96 hours of the act:
  - (a) in a depredation case, the livestock owner, an immediate family member, or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll and not specifically hired to take a predator, may take predators subject to the requirements of this section;
  - (b) a landowner or livestock owner may notify the division of the depredation or human health and safety concerns, who may authorize a local hunter to take the offending predator or notify a wildlife specialist; or
  - (c) the livestock owner may notify a wildlife specialist of the depredation who may take the depredating predator.
- (3) A depredating predator may be taken at any time by a wildlife specialist, supervised by the Wildlife Services Program, while acting in the performance of the wildlife specialist's assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.
- (4)
  - (a) A depredating predator may be taken by an individual authorized in Subsection (2)(a):
    - (i) with a weapon authorized by the division, pursuant to rules made by the Wildlife Board in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, for taking the predator; or
    - (ii) only using snares:
      - (A) with written authorization from the director;
      - (B) subject to the conditions and restrictions set out in the written authorization; and
      - (C) if the division verifies that there has been a chronic depredation situation when numerous livestock have been killed by a predator as described in rule made by the Wildlife Board in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
  - (b) An individual authorized in Subsection (2)(a) to take depredating predators may take no more than two bears per incident.
- (5)
  - (a) In accordance with Subsection (5)(b), the division may issue a depredation permit to take a predator on specified private lands and public land grazing allotments with a chronic depredation situation when numerous livestock have been killed by predators.
  - (b) The division may:

- (i) issue one or more depredation permits to an affected livestock owner or a designee of the affected livestock owner, provided that the livestock owner does not receive monetary consideration from the designee for the opportunity to use the depredation permit;
  - (ii) determine the legal weapons and methods of taking allowed; and
  - (iii) specify the area and season that the depredation permit is valid.
- (6)
- (a) A predator taken under Subsection (2)(a) or (5) remains the property of the state and shall be delivered to a division office or employee with 96 hours of the take.
  - (b) The division may issue a predatory damage permit to a person who has taken a depredating predator under Subsection (2)(a) that authorizes the individual to keep the carcass.
  - (c) An individual who takes a predator under Subsection (2)(a) or (5) may acquire and use a limited entry permit or harvest objective permit in the same year.
  - (d) Notwithstanding Subsections (6)(b) and (c), a person may retain no more than one predator carcass annually.
- (7) Money derived from the sale of a predator taken under this section shall be deposited into the Wildlife Resources Account created in Section 23-14-13.
- (8) Nothing in this section prohibits the division from permitting the removal of a bear causing damage to cultivated crops on cleared and planted land pursuant to rule made by the Wildlife Board in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- (9) Nothing in this section prohibits receiving compensation for livestock damage done by a bear, mountain lion, wolf, or eagle in accordance with Section 23-24-1.