

TARGET SHOOTING REGULATIONS

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephen L. Whyte

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the regulation of target shooting in wildlife management areas.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms; and
- ▶ authorizes the Division of Wildlife Resources to close a wildlife management area to target shooting in certain circumstances and with certain conditions.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

23-21-2.6, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **23-21-2.6** is enacted to read:

23-21-2.6. Target shooting prohibitions.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "County sheriff" means the individual holding the office of county sheriff in the portion of a wildlife management area where target shooting will be, or is, prohibited under this section.

30 (b) "Director" means the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources.

31 (c) "Extremely hazardous" means categorized as "extreme" under a nationally
32 recognized standard for rating fire danger.

33 (2) Subject to Subsections (3) and (4), the division may prohibit the use of firearms for
34 target shooting within all or part of a wildlife management area if the director finds, and the
35 county sheriff agrees, that conditions in that portion of the wildlife management area are
36 extremely hazardous.

37 (3) A prohibition under this section:

38 (a) shall undergo a formal review by the director and the county sheriff every 14 days;

39 (b) may not prohibit an individual from legally possessing a firearm or lawfully
40 participating in a hunt; and

41 (c) may only remain in place for as long as extremely hazardous conditions exist in the
42 area that is subject to the prohibition.

43 (4) The director and the county sheriff shall:

44 (a) via a written document, agree to the terms of a prohibition under this section,
45 including:

46 (i) the exact area where target shooting is prohibited; and

47 (ii) the date when the prohibition becomes effective; and

48 (b) comply with Subsection (4)(a) at each formal review under Subsection (3)(a).