

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-5. Taking Big Game.

R657-5-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat.

(2) Specific dates, areas, methods of take, requirements, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

R657-5-47. Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only Hunt.

(1) The ~~[division]~~Wildlife Board may ~~[establish]~~prescribe Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only hunts for any big game species.

(2) An individual may only use the following weapons on a Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only hunt:

(a) a legal handgun for the species being hunted, consistent with Section R~~[657-5-9 and Subsection (5), with no attached scope]~~657-5-48(2);

(b) legal archery equipment consistent with Section R~~[657-5-11]~~657-5-48(3);

(c) a legal muzzleloader consistent with Section R~~[657-5-10, with no attached scope]~~657-5-48(4); or

(d) a legal shotgun consistent with Section R~~[657-5-8, with no attached scope]~~657-5-48(5).

(3) A person who has obtained a Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only permit may take one animal of the big game species identified on the permit.

(4) A person who has obtained a Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only permit may only hunt under that permit during the season dates and within the boundaries identified on the permit and in the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

(5) ~~[In addition to the requirements in Section R657-5-9, a handgun used to take a big game animal in a]~~A Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only hunt [must:]is not a centerfire rifle hunt for purposes of Section 23-20-31 or R657-5-49.

~~[—(a)]~~

(6) A Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only permit may not be used on an extended archery hunt.

R657-5-48. Restricted Weapons Hunt

(1)(a) The Wildlife Board may prescribe specific Restricted Weapon Type seasons on designated units.

(b) Restricted Weapon Type seasons may be designated for the following hunt types:

(i) general season;

(ii) limited entry;

(iii) premium limited entry; and

(iv) once in a lifetime

(c) A person who has obtained a Restricted Weapon Type permit may not hunt within Cooperative Wildlife Management unit areas.

(d) A person who has obtained a Restricted Weapon Type permit may only hunt within the unit specified on the permit and no other general season, limited entry, or premium limited units, except as provided by the Wildlife Board in the guidebooks for big game.

(e) A permit issued for a Restricted Weapon Type season identified in subsection (1)(a) allows a person to take a species designated on the permit within the area, during the season dates, and using the weapon type described in subsections (2) through (6) and specified on the permit.

(2) "Restricted Handgun Equipment" means a handgun as detailed in R657-5-9(1) and (2) with the following exceptions:

(a) Contains only open sights or peep sights;

(b) Has no attached electronics;

(c) have no more than a single barrel 15 inches or less in length, including the chamber;

(~~b~~)d) have a single rear handgrip without any form of a:

(i) fixed, detachable, or collapsible buttstock;

(ii) apparatus or extension behind the rear grip capable of being used to steady the handgun against the body while firing; or

(iii) vertical foregrip; and

(~~e~~)e) be no more than 24 inches in overall length.

~~[(6) A Handgun Archery Muzzleloader Shotgun-Only hunt is not a centerfire rifle hunt for purposes of Section 23-20-31 or R657-5-48.]~~

~~[(7) A Handgun Archery Muzzleloader Shotgun-Only permit may not be used on an extended archery hunt.]~~

(3) "Restricted Archery Equipment" means archery equipment as detailed in R657-5-11(1) and (2) with the following exceptions:

(a) Must be a single stringed long bow or recurve bow with no cables, pulleys or cams; and

(b) Has no sights or attached electronics.

(4) "Restricted Muzzleloader Equipment" means muzzleloader equipment as detailed in R657-5-10(1) and (2) with the following exceptions:

(a)(i) The ignition system is limited to traditional flintlock, musket cap, or percussion cap which must be entirely visible when the hammer is drawn back; and

(ii) all other ignition systems, including 209 primers, are prohibited;

(b) Contains only open sights or peep sights; and

(c) Has no attached electronics.

(5) "Restricted Shotgun Equipment" means a shotgun as detailed in R657-5-8(3) with the following exceptions:

(a) Contains only open sights or peep sights; and

(b) Has no attached electronics.

(6) "Restricted Rifle Equipment" means a rifle as detailed in R657-5-8(1) with the following exceptions:

(a) Contains only open sights or peeps sights;

(b) Has no attached electronics; and

(c) Cannot be semi-automatic.

(7) Restricted Archery permits may not be used on an extended archery hunt.

(8) A person who has obtained an any weapon permit for big game may use any

[restricted weapon authorized in this section to take the species authorized in the permit.](#)

R657~~[-5-48]~~-5-49. Hunter Orange Exceptions.

(1) A person shall wear a minimum of 400 inches of hunter orange material on the head, chest, and back while hunting any species of big game, with the following exceptions:

(a) Hunters participating in a once-in-a-lifetime, statewide conservation, or statewide sportsmen hunt;

(b) Hunters participating in an archery or muzzleloader hunt outside of an area where an any weapon general season bull elk or any weapon general season buck deer hunt is occurring;

(c) Hunters participating in a Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only hunt outside of an area where an any weapon general season bull elk or any weapon general season buck deer hunt is occurring;

(d) Hunters hunting on a cooperative wildlife management unit unless otherwise required by the operator of the cooperative wildlife management units;

(e) Hunters participating in a nuisance wildlife removal hunt authorized under a certificate of registration by the division; and

(f) Hunters participating in an archery hunt with unit boundaries and season dates that overlap the unit boundaries and season dates for the youth any bull elk hunt.

R~~[657-5-49]~~657-5-50. Authorization to Remove Bighorn Sheep from Domestic Sheep Operations.

(1) The division may issue a certificate of registration to the owner of a domestic sheep operation allowing for the removal of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep or desert bighorn sheep found to have physical contact with domestic sheep.

(2) If a domestic sheep grazing operation wishes to acquire a certificate of registration, it must submit an application to the division.

(3) In evaluating the application, the division may consider:

(a) the size and location of the domestic sheep operation;

(b) past efforts to maintain spatial separation between wild and domestic sheep;

(c) the ability of state officials to respond to potential commingling events in a timely manner;

(d) future plans to improve spatial separation between wild and domestic sheep;

(e) historical disease status of the wild sheep population; and

(f) management priorities for the wild sheep population.

(4) The division may deny an application for a certificate of registration if, in the opinion of the division, there are other means available to respond to a commingling event.

(5) The division shall require any certificate of registration holder to comply with the following provisions:

(a) the grazing operation shall immediately notify the division if a wild bighorn sheep is found within 1 mile of any domestic sheep;

(b) the grazing operation shall utilize all reasonable means to notify the division of the threatened commingling event prior to undertaking any lethal removal action;

(c) a wild bighorn sheep may only be lethally removed if it is within 1 mile of a domestic sheep;

(d) the grazing operation will inform the division within 24 hours of a lethal removal

effort, or as soon as practical thereafter, considering access and logistical limitations;

(e) all lethally removed wild bighorn sheep will be field-dressed and preserved in a manner so as to allow donation for human consumption;

(f) the entire carcass of each lethally removed bighorn sheep shall be relinquished to division personnel, including intact head, horns and cape; and

(g) only legal weapons identified in R657-5 may be used in lethal removal activities.

(6)(a) Owners, employees, and immediate family members may be named as authorized individuals to act under the authority of a certificate of registration.

(b) Any individual acting under the authority of a certificate of registration must be specifically named on the certificate of registration.

(7)(a) The division may establish a term for the validity of a certificate of registration.

(b) The division may revoke a certificate of registration where the certificate of registration holder, an individual named on the certificate, or someone acting under their direct authority violated any provision of this rule, the Wildlife Resources Code, or the certificate of registration.

(8) The procedures and rules governing any adverse action taken by the division or the Wildlife Board against a certificate of registration or an application for certificate of registration are set forth in Rule R657-2.

KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game seasons

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: March 14, 2022

Notice of Continuation: September 8, 2020

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19; 23-16-5; 23-16-6