

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.

R657-5-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.
- (2) In addition:
 - (a) "Antlerless deer" means a deer without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter.
 - (b) "Antlerless elk" means an elk without antlers or with antlers five inches or shorter.
 - (c) [\[2\]](#) "Antlerless elk control permit^[2]" means a permit allowing an individual to harvest an antlerless elk on an antlerless elk control unit.
 - (d) "Antlerless moose" means a moose with antlers shorter than its ears.
 - (e) "Arrow quiver" means a portable arrow case that completely encases all edges of the broadheads.
 - (f) "Buck deer" means a deer with antlers longer than five inches.
 - (g) "Buck pronghorn" means a pronghorn with horns longer than five inches.
 - (h) "Bull elk" means an elk with antlers longer than five inches.
 - (i) "Bull moose" means a moose with antlers longer than its ears.
 - (j) "Cow bison" means a female bison.
 - (k) "Doe pronghorn" means a pronghorn without horns or with horns five inches or shorter.
 - (l) "Draw-lock" means a mechanical device used to hold and support the draw weight of a conventional or compound bow at any increment of draw until released by the archer using a trigger mechanism and safety attached to the device.
 - (m) "Drone" means an autonomously controlled, aerial vehicle of any size or configuration that is capable of controlled flight without a human pilot aboard.
 - (n)
 - (i) [\[2\]](#) "Night Vision Device^[2]" means any device that enhances visible or non-visible light, including but not limited to: night vision, thermal imaging, infrared imaging, or electronics that enhance the visible or non-visible light spectrum.
 - (ii) [\[2\]](#) "Night Vision Device^[2]" does not include Trail Cameras as defined in Subsection (x).
 - (o) "Ewe" means a female bighorn sheep or any bighorn sheep younger than one year of age.
 - (p) "Hunter's choice" means either sex may be taken.
 - (q) "Immediate family member" means the landowner's or lessee's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild, grandchild, grandfather, and grandmother.
 - (r) "Limited entry hunt" means any hunt published in the hunt tables of the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game, which is identified as limited entry and does not include general or once-in-a-lifetime hunts.
 - (s) "Limited entry permit" means any permit obtained for a limited entry hunt by any means, including conservation permits, wildlife expo permits, sportsman permits, cooperative wildlife management unit permits and limited entry landowner permits.
 - (t) "Once-in-a-lifetime hunt" means any hunt published in the hunt tables of the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game, which is identified as once-in-a-lifetime, and does not include general or limited entry hunts.
 - (u) "Once-in-a-lifetime permit" means any permit obtained for a once-in-a-lifetime hunt by any means, including conservation permits, wildlife expo permits, sportsman permits, cooperative wildlife management unit permits and limited entry landowner permits.
 - (v) "Ram" means a male desert bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep older than one year of age.
 - (w) "Spike bull" means a bull elk which has at least one antler beam with no branching above the ears. Branched means a projection on an antler longer than one inch, measured from its base to its tip.
 - (x) [\[2\]](#) "Trail camera^[2]" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is ~~used to capture~~ [capable of capturing](#) images, video, or location data of wildlife using [heat^{\[2\]}](#) or motion to trigger the device.

R657-5-7. Prohibited Weapons.

- (1) A person may not use any weapon or device to take big game other than those expressly permitted in this rule.
- (2) A person may not use:
 - (a) a firearm capable of being fired fully automatic;
 - (b) any light enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light; or
 - (c) a firearm equipped with a computerized targeting system that marks a target, calculates a firing solution and automatically discharges the firearm at a point calculated most likely to hit the acquired target.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting laser range finding devices or illuminated sight pins for archery equipment.
- (4) Use of specialized hunting technologies and equipment.
 - (a) A person may not use any night vision device to locate or attempt to locate a big game animal from 48 hours before any big game hunt in the area through 48 hours after any big game hunt ends in the area;

(b)(i) A person shall not place, maintain, or use ~~[any]~~a trail camera ~~[or non-handheld device capable of capturing image, video, location, time, or date data in the field to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of big game between July 31 and December 31]~~as prohibited in Utah Code 23-13-18;

(ii) Engage in the sale ~~or~~of purchase of trail camera or other non-handheld device media, including images, video, location, time or date data to take, aid in the take or attempted take of big game; or

(iii) Engage in the storage and sale or purchase of stored media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, aid in the take or attempted take of big game.

~~[(e) The prohibition on the use of trail cameras does not apply to:]~~

~~[(i) private landowners monitoring or protecting their property from trespass:]~~

~~[(ii) monitoring active agricultural operations:]~~

~~[(iii) to aid in the take of bear and cougar depredating livestock; and]~~

~~[(iv) municipalities participating in the Urban Deer Program.]~~

~~[(d) trail cameras and other non-handheld devices described in Subsection 5-7(4)(b)(i) on private property cannot be used to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of big game between July 31 and December 31.]~~

KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game seasons

Date of ~~[Enactment or]~~ Last ~~[Substantive Amendment]~~[Change: [March]February 14, [2022]2023

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