

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November and December 2021 RAC Proposals Feedback
November 25, 2021 3:58 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Hunters and outfitters with enough money have dozens even hundreds of cameras out there. It's become a game of who can spend the most on cameras gets the biggest animals. I completely support limiting trail cameras even eliminating them. I'm an avid hunter and there's nothing worse than a dozen cameras setup at watering holes and wallows. The drone and night vision prohibitions are a no-brainer also. Let's bring hunting back to more traditional methods. If you don't limit these technologies it will only favor those who can afford more and better surveillance devices.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November and December 2021 RAC Proposals Feedback
November 28, 2021 12:34 pm

Which best describes your position Somewhat disagree
regarding the recommended changes to
the big game rule?

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Let me first start by thanking the RAC members & the DWR. You all sacrifice your personal & family time to do an often thankless job. I recognize & appreciate the research, time, thought, & effort that is given to try to find the balance in managing the resources along with the opportunity.

I understand & for the most part don't disagree with with what the Division is trying to accomplish in the terms of ethics & fair chase specific to trail cameras. My biggest concern is regarding the wording used for the regulation of trail cameras. I also have some legal concerns of the proposed regulation.

Covy Jones specifically shows & gives the definition they use for a trail camera as "a device that is not hand held or operated by a person" followed by what those devices are typically used for. He then on the same slide shows & reads the proposed change. He brings attention by putting in bold the word "transmitting" but immediately leaves the door open to regulation on all trail cameras having a season by adding the verbiage "or non-hand held devices." I would recommend the regulation be re-worded to be more clear or the following added; "excluding non transmitting trail cameras."

Additionally I have the following concerns & comments around the enforcement for the following:

1. This will largely only affect the law abiding public land user. It's extremely difficult for the DWR to gain access to private lands from landowners to enforce this. Without proper evidence it would be extremely difficult & highly unlikely for them to ever obtain a warrant to gain access to enforce.
2. The division is already significantly lacking law enforcement man power & this is simply another thing to add to their list of things extremely difficult to near impossible to enforce. Unless someone shows them the location of a camera I'd be surprised if an officer goes trekking through the woods to find cameras during the hunting season. If they do find one it's highly unlikely they will ever be able catch & cite the owner of the camera. Ultimately you end up with a lot of resources used to gain nothing for the public except maybe the removal of a camera.
3. This significantly increases the likelihood of a conflict with armed citizens out in the field. You will have people that feel it's their right & duty to police this. Many of those people don't even fully know the regulation or law. I personally dealt with this from catching someone taking an SD card from one of my cameras this hunting season. Their reason was because of the confusion caused by the deceitful misleading of Casey Snider in his attempt to create a law & by the divisions first attempt to make these changes back in September. It led to a an extremely heated confrontation.
3. Taking photos on & of public space & property is Constitutionally protected. Some have argued that a leaving trail camera would be considered littering or abandoned property but in 2018 the precedent was set that isn't the case after a couple from Park City (the McClean's) were

arrested, charged, & plead guilty to stealing two tree stands, trail cameras, & other equipment. Ironically they were able to be identified by trail camera photos.

As I previously stated, I understand & don't necessarily disagree but it's a slippery slope with some potential unintended consequences as it's currently written.

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule? Somewhat disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule? Yes I strongly disagree with the trail cam rule, however I strongly agree with the stopping of selling trail cam photo and location. I also strongly agree with prohibiting the use of thermal imaging. I just don't understand why the transmission of the cell trail cam is such big deal.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2022–23 furbearer recommendations? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the 2022 black bear recommendations? I agree with almost everything minus the use of trail cam transmission. I do agree that people should not be selling photos and location to others however the use of trail cams for person hunting should be allowed.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2022–23 cougar recommendations? Somewhat disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the 2022–23 cougar recommendations? I agree with everything except the use of trail cameras. I agree with that you shouldn't be able to sell the pictures and location but the use of tram is soon cameras should be totally allowed.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2022 black bear recommendations? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule? Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule? The issue I have is the personal use of transmitting trail cams, I agree with everything else but that. The animals still the ability to go where they want because you can't bait so you aren't having them come in to that so I don't understand the problem with this use.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2022–23 furbearer recommendations? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the 2022 black bear recommendations? The issue I have is the personal use of transmitting trail cams, I agree with everything else but that. The animals still the ability to go where they want because you can't bait so you aren't having them come in to that so I don't understand the problem with this use.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2022–23 cougar recommendations? Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the 2022–23 cougar recommendations? The issue I have is the personal use of transmitting trail cams, I agree with everything else but that. The animals still the ability to go where they want because you can't bait so you aren't having them come in to that so I don't understand the problem with this use.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2022 black bear recommendations? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule?

I could use some clarification on night vision devices. It says a device that uses infrared imaging would that include a trail camera that uses infrared to take night pictures? That is great you are restricting cameras that transmit photos. The other thing you need to consider is making it illegal to put trail cameras on a man made water source like a guzzler. I am a firm believer in guzzlers they work well but when you put one in and then the next year there are 20 trail cameras around it the bucks just don't stand a chance when that may be there only water source that summer. I think now that you have made baiting illegal and transmitting cameras illegal, regular trail cameras will not make a significant difference for hunters on a unit like the Manti where there is a lot of feed and a lot of water sources. However on a dryer unit say the Oak creek or west desert where water sources are limited trail cameras still give hunters an unfair advantage unless you can restrict them on water sources.

We need to get rid of more technology. The long range hunting is an unfair advantage. An animal deserves the right to use its natural instincts to get away from the hunter. It does not have that ability at great distances. Muzzle loaders are now killing deer at 800 yards and more. A hunter could yell and scream at that distance and the deer or elk would not even look up. We need to give the animals a chance to survive I work in a retail store and have lots of hunter come in and tell there stories and its usually something like we drove around all hunt and couldn't find anything so we shot this 2 point at 900 yards just to try out our gun. They also tell how they shot 5 shots at one at 1000 yards and when i ask if they found any blood its oblivious they did not walk the distance to even check to see if they hit the animal. I know the survey said most people did not want restrictions on long range weapons but if you were to ask those same people if they would like to see big bucks again when they hunt they would answer yes. Sometimes you guys need to make unpopular decisions if it means a better and healthier deer and elk population.

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Look, you're trying to regulate something that doesn't need regulated. These cameras just came out and you don't have enough data, or an data, for that matter that makes this not "fair chase"... Is having Guns and Scopes on guns that shoot 800-1500 yards really "Fair Chase"... I don't think so. But a Motion Camera that sends pictures is much more Fair for an animal than a gun that shoots 1500 yards. Season dates for motion cameras is garbage too. You won't be able to regulate anything like that, and you should Allow motion cameras during hunting months.. The non-hunting months are worthless times to be taking pictures of animals. Focus on things of more importance than this issue. Leave the motion cameras alone.

Do you have any additional comments about the 2022 black bear recommendations?

Since 2000, DWR has been consistently ratcheting up the number of black bear hunting permits. In 2000, the combined hunter harvest and depredation take was ~100 animals, and last year it was nearly 600. I understand that the Division believes that the black bear population has consistently grown in the last 20-30 years, but on the other hand basic ecology tells us that a population should not exceed the natural carrying capacity of its habitat. Speaking of which, I am concerned about the current carrying capacity of our black bear habitat, with the very real effects of climate change we are now already seeing. This includes many more wildfires in the coming years that will occur in bear habitat. Now would seem like a good time for DWR to "press pause" on the steady increase of bear tags, and abide by the Precautionary Principle. As they do so, the Division should utilize its very capable wildlife biologists, who should team up with spatial analysts from USU or BYU and develop a predictive spatial model that looks 5, 15, and 25 years out and integrates the functional level of bear habitat combined with predicted climate change impacts on habitat. Until that happens I fear that, if the Division does not reduce bear harvest next year, it is playing fast and loose with our bear population.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2022 black bear recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November and December 2021 RAC Proposals Feedback
December 1, 2021 2:25 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule?

I have concern about the lack of definition for the "night vision" device recommendation. There are a lot of "non-transmitting" trail cameras that use infrared to take night time photos, the way this recommendation is worded those too would be illegal if passed as proposed. I feel it should include language that defines said "devices".

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is the voice for public lands, public waters, and wildlife and focuses its mission on three categories: 1) Access and Opportunity, 2) Public Lands and Waters, and 3) Fair Chase. The Utah Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports the Utah DWR's proposals surrounding fair chase including 1) the prohibition on transmitting trail cameras between July 31 and January 31 for the purposes of taking/aiding to take big game, 2) the prohibition of night vision devices to locate or attempt to locate a big game animal 48 hours before through 48 hours after any big game hunt in the area, 3) the requirement that muzzleloaders have both the bullet and powder loaded through the muzzle, and 4) the requirement for bison tag holders to review a shot placement article provided by the DWR. Regarding the trail camera discussion, BHA draws the line of fair chase with live-action trail cameras that have the ability to transmit data real-time to the hunter. BHA supports the ethical use of non-transmitting trail cameras and advocates for voluntary use of these tools. Our chapter particularly liked how the DWR's proposal kept the proposed rule (prohibiting the use of transmitting trail cameras to take or aide in the taking of big game) the same for public vs. private land - fair chase principles do not change based on the designation of land on which the hunter is standing.

Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the recommended changes to the big game rule?

Please follow suit with the Northern RAC. Having a season on ALL trail cameras. I am a hunter and a guide. I have seen the use of cameras completely change units like Boulder and the Paunsagaunt. Any desert unit with limited water source have multiple trail cameras on them. Arizona and Nevada did it. Now it is our turn to do the right thing. Believe it or not guide and outfitters are still employed in those states. Auction tags have went up in a lot of cases.

Let's put hunting back into hunting. We need to regulate ourselves. With emerging technologies we are getting better and better with taking upper age class animals. This would be the first step into doing this. Let's make sure there are animals on the landscape for future generations.

Thank you
