

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:

(a) this rule for taking deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat.

(b) appropriate weapons or devices to take big game and restrictions to weapons or devices to take big game.

(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) "Antlerless elk control permit" 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) "Night Vision Device" 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) "Night Vision Device" 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) "Stalking" means when game has been located and the hunter engages in deliberate movements, on foot, in an effort to harvest the located game.

(y) "Trail camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat, or motion to trigger the device.

R657-5-7. Prohibited Weapons and Devices.

(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 the following prohibited weapons or devices to take big game:

(a) a firearm capable of being fired fully automatic;

(b) any light enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light;[

of]

(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;

(d) a projectile for which the path can be altered or electronically tracked after it is sent in motion; or

(e) electronic communication to receive real-time information on hunter or game location to aid in the stalking of a specific big game animal.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting laser range finding devices or illuminated sight pins for archery equipment.

(4) [Use]The following restrictions are placed on the 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]~~between July 31 and January 31;

(b)(i) A person shall not place, maintain, or use any 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;

(ii) Engage in the sale or 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.

(c) 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.

(e) A person may not use visual enhancement technology, such as nanotechnology, except for basic devices used solely for magnification;

(f) A person may not use pattern recognition technology, such as artificial intelligence;

(g) a person may not use live feed aerial imagery; or

(h) a person may not use electronically amplified calls or sounds.

R657-5-8. Rifles, Shotguns, Airguns, and Crossbows.

(1) A rifle used to hunt big game must :

(a) fire centerfire cartridges and expanding bullets; and

(b) have no attachment capable of electronic function, other than illuminated reticles.

(2) A shotgun used to hunt big game must :

(a) be 20 gauge or larger[, firing];

(b) fire only 00 or larger buckshot or slug ammunition; and

(c) have no attachment capable of electronic function, other than illuminated reticles.

(3) An airgun used to hunt big game must:

(a) be pneumatically powered;

(b) be pressurized solely through a separate charging device; and

(c) may only fire a bolt or arrow:

(i) no less than 16 inches long;

(ii) with a fixed or expandable broadhead at least 7/8 inch wide at its widest position;

and

(iii) traveling no less than 400 feet per second at the muzzle; and

(d) have no attachment capable of electronic function, other than illuminated reticles.

- (4)(a) A crossbow used to hunt big game must :
- (a) have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and a positive mechanical safety mechanism[.];
 - (b) A crossbow arrow or bolt used to hunt big game must be at least 16 inches long and have:
 - (i) fixed broadheads that are at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point; or
 - (ii) expandable, mechanical broadheads that are at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position; and
 - (iii) no electronic function other than an illuminated nock.
 - (c) Unless otherwise authorized by the division through a certificate of registration, it is unlawful for any person to:
 - (i) hunt big game with a crossbow or airgun during a big game archery hunt;
 - (ii) carry a cocked crossbow containing an arrow or a bolt while in or on any motorized vehicle on a public highway or other public right-of-way; or
 - (iii) hunt any protected wildlife with a crossbow utilizing a bolt that has any chemical, explosive or electronic device attached.
- (5) A crossbow used to hunt big game may have a ~~[fixed or variable magnifying scope]~~telescopic sight only during an any weapon hunt But no other attachment capable of electronic function, other than illuminated reticles.

R657-5-9. Handguns.

- (1) A handgun used to take big game may not have an attachment capable of electronic function, other than illuminated reticles.
- (2) A handgun may be used to take deer and pronghorn, provided the handgun:
- (a) is a minimum of .24 caliber;
 - (b) fires a centerfire cartridge with an expanding bullet; and
 - (c) develops 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.
- (~~2~~3) A handgun may be used to take elk, moose, bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat, provided the handgun;
- (a) is a minimum of .24 caliber;
 - (b) fires a centerfire cartridge with an expanding bullet; and
 - (c) develops 500 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards.

R657-5-10. Muzzleloaders.

- (1) A muzzleloader may be used during any big game hunt, except an archery hunt, provided the muzzleloader:
- (a) has both the powder and bullet loaded from the muzzle;
 - (b) has open sights, peep sights, or a variable or fixed power scope, including a magnifying scope;
 - (c) has a single barrel;
 - (d) has a minimum barrel length of 18 inches;
 - (e) is capable of being fired only once without reloading;
 - (f) powder and bullet, or powder, sabot and bullet are not bonded together as one unit for loading;
 - (g) is loaded with black powder or black powder substitute, which must not contain smokeless powder; and

(h) has no attachment capable of electronic function, other than illuminated reticles.

(2)(a) A lead or expanding bullet or projectile of at least 40 caliber must be used to hunt big game.

(b) A bullet 130 grains or heavier, or a sabot 170 grains or heavier, must be used for taking deer and pronghorn.

(c) A 210 grain or heavier bullet must be used for taking elk, moose, bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat, except sabot bullets used for taking these species must be a minimum of 240 grains.

(3) A person who has obtained a muzzleloader permit for a big game hunt may use only muzzleloader equipment authorized in this Subsections (1) and (2) to take the species authorized in the permit.

(4) A person who has obtained an any weapon permit for a big game hunt may use muzzleloader equipment authorized in this Section to take the species authorized in the permit.

R657-5-11. Archery Equipment.

(1) Archery equipment may be used during any big game hunt, except a muzzleloader hunt, provided:

(a) the minimum bow pull is 30 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first;

(b) arrowheads used have two or more sharp cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring;

(c) expanding arrowheads cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring when expanded, and

(d) arrows must :

(i) be a minimum of 20 inches in length from the tip of the arrowhead to the tip of the nock; and

(ii) have no electronic function other than illuminated nocks; and

(iii) the bow does not include, have attached ,or use any electronic device other than:

(A) illuminated sight pins; or

(B) a device capable of capturing picture or video data provided the given device cannot aid in the take of a big game animal.

(2) The following equipment or devices may not be used to take big game:

(a) a crossbow, except as provided in Subsection (5) and Rule R657-12;

(b) arrows with chemically treated or explosive arrowheads;

(c) a mechanical device for holding the bow at any increment of draw, except as provided in Subsection (5) and Rule R657-12;

(d) a release aid that is not hand held or that supports the draw weight of the bow, except as provided in Subsection (5) and Rule R657-12;

(e) a bow with a magnifying aiming device; or

(f) an airgun, except as provided in Subsection (5).

(3) Arrows carried in or on a vehicle where a person is riding must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case.

(4) A person who has obtained an archery permit for a big game hunt may only use archery equipment authorized in Subsections (1) and (2) to take the species authorized in the permit.

(5) A person who has obtained an any weapon permit for a big game hunt may use archery equipment authorized in this section to take the species authorized in the permit, and may also use a crossbow, draw-lock, or airgun satisfying the minimum requirements of this rule.

(6) A person hunting an archery-only season on a once-in-a-lifetime hunt may only use archery equipment authorized in Subsections (1) and (2) to take the species authorized in the permit.

R657-5-14. Use of Vehicle or Aircraft.

(1)(a) A person may not use an airplane, drone, or any other airborne vehicle or device, or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles, except a vessel as provided in Subsection (c), to take protected wildlife.

(b) A person may not take protected wildlife being chased, harmed, harassed, rallied, herded, flushed, pursued or moved by any vehicle, device, or conveyance listed in Subsection (a).

(c) Big game may be taken from a vessel provided:

(i) the motor of a motorboat has been completely shut off;

(ii) the sails of a sailboat have been furled; and

(iii) the vessel's progress caused by the motor or sail has ceased.

(2) A person may not use any type of aircraft, drone, or other airborne vehicle or device ~~[from 48 hours before any big game hunt begins in the area where they are flying through 48 hours after any big game hunting season ends in the area where they are flying]~~ between July 31 and January 31 to locate, or attempt to observe or locate any protected wildlife.

(3)(a) The provisions of this section do not apply to the operation of an aircraft, drone, or other airborne vehicle or device used for the purposes of transporting hunters, equipment, or legally harvested wildlife, provided the aircraft takes off and lands only from an improved airstrip, where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife.

(b) Hunters that are transported by aircraft into an area may not hunt protected wildlife until the following day.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "improved airstrip" means a take-off and landing area with a graded or otherwise mechanically improved surface free of barriers or other hazards that is traditionally used by pilots for the purposes of air travel.

R657-5-47. Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Straight-walled Rifle-Only Hunt.

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

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

(a) a legal handgun for the species being hunted, consistent with Section R657-5-9 ~~[and Subsection]~~ must:

(i) ~~[5]~~ have no attached scope;

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

- (iii) be no more than 24 inches in overall length; and
- (iv) have a single rear handgrip without any form of:
 - (A) a fixed, detachable, or collapsible buttstock;
 - (B) an apparatus or extension behind the rear grip capable of being used to steady the handgun against the body while firing; or
 - (C) a vertical foregrip;
- (b) legal archery equipment consistent with Section R657-5-11;
- (c) a legal muzzleloader consistent with Section R657-5-10, with no attached scope; or
- (d) a legal shotgun consistent with Section R~~657-5-8~~657-5-8(2), with the following restrictions:
 - (i) no attached scope; and
 - (ii) not semi-automatic.
 - (e) a rifle as detailed in R657-5-8(1), with the following restrictions:
 - (i) not semi-automatic; and
 - (ii) utilizes a straight-walled cartridge with a minimum bullet diameter of .35 caliber and a minimum case length of not less than 1.16 inches.

(3) A person who has obtained a Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Straight-walled Rifle-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-Straight-walled Rifle-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 Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Only hunt must:]~~

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

~~[(b) 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]~~

~~[(c) be no more than 24 inches in overall length.]~~

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

R657-5-48. Restricted Weapons Hunt.

(1)(a) The Wildlife Board may prescribe Restricted Weapon Type hunts for any big game species.

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

(c) 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.

(d) 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 Archery Equipment" means archery equipment as detailed in R657-5-11(1) through (3) with the following restrictions:

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

(b) has no sights; and

(c) has a draw weight of 40 pounds or more.

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

(a) the ignition system is limited to traditional flintlock, musket cap, or percussion cap which must be entirely visible when the hammer is drawn back. All other ignition systems, including 209 primers, are prohibited; and

(b) contains only open sights or peep sights.

(4) "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; and

(b) cannot be semi-automatic.

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

(6) 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 on the permit.

R657-5-49. 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-Straight-walled Rifle-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 before 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 logistic 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 Rule 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 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.

R[~~657-5-50~~657-5-51. Game Retrieval and Meat Salvage Minimum Requirements.

(1)(a) No person shall wound or kill big any game animal without making a

reasonable effort to retrieve it and take it into possession.

(b) For the purpose of this subsection, making a reasonable effort shall include a person physically going to the nearest location where the big game animal was when a person attempted to take the big game animal in order to search for any sign the big game animal was wounded or killed, and take the big game animal into possession and properly tag it as per rule R657-5-17.

~~(1)~~(2) Any hunter who harvests a big game animal shall salvage the meat from the front quarters as far down as the knees, meat from the hindquarters as far down as the hocks, and the meat along the backbone between the neck and hindquarters including the loins and tenderloins, excluding meat on the ribs and neck.

KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game seasons

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