

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-5. Taking Big Game.

R657-5-1. Purpose and Authority.

- (1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, 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.

R657-5-8. 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;
 - (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 crossbow used to hunt big game must 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 telescopic sight only during an any weapon hunt ~~But~~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.
- (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~~;~~ or 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 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
 - [\(a\) use muzzleloader equipment authorized in this section; and](#)
 - [\(b\) may use a variable or fixed power scope, including a magnifying scope](#) 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, a single lens, peep-mounted glass does not constitute a magnified 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.

R657-5-33. Limited Entry Bull Elk Hunts.

- (1) To hunt in a limited entry bull elk area, a hunter must obtain a limited entry bull elk permit for the area.
- (2)(a) A limited entry bull elk permit allows a person, using the prescribed legal weapon, to take one bull elk within the area and season specified on the permit, except as provided in Subsection (5) and excluding elk cooperative wildlife management units located within a limited entry unit. Spike bull elk restrictions do not apply to limited entry elk permittees.
- (3)(a) The Wildlife Board may establish a multi-season hunting opportunity in the big game guidebooks for selected limited entry bull elk units.
 - (b) A person that obtains a limited entry bull elk permit with a multi-season opportunity may hunt during any of the following limited entry bull elk seasons established in the Wildlife Board guidebooks for the unit specified on the limited entry bull elk permit:
 - (i) August and September archery seasons, using only archery equipment prescribed in Section R657-5-11 for taking elk;
 - (ii) muzzleloader season, using only muzzleloader equipment prescribed in Section R657-5-10 for taking elk;
 - (iii) any weapon season, using any legal weapon prescribed in Rule R657-5 for taking elk; and
 - (iv) multi-season permit holders may not hunt during late season, December archery limited entry bull elk seasons.
 - (c) A landowner association under Rule R657-43 is not eligible to receive a multi-season hunting opportunity for limited entry units nor late season, December archery limited entry bull elk seasons.

(4) A limited entry bull elk permit, including a permit with a multi-season opportunity, is valid only within the boundaries of the unit designated on the permit, excluding:

- (a) areas closed to hunting;
- (b) elk cooperative wildlife management units; and
- (c) Indian tribal trust lands.

(5) A person who possesses any limited entry archery bull elk permit, including a permit with a multi-season opportunity, may hunt bull elk within any extended archery area during the established extended archery season for that area, provided the person:

- (a) did not take a bull elk during the limited entry hunt;
- (b) uses the prescribed archery equipment for the extended archery area;
- (c) completes the annual Archery Ethics Course required to hunt extended archery areas during the extended archery season; and

(d) possesses on their person while hunting:

- (i) the limited entry bull elk permit; and
- (ii) the Archery Ethics Course Certificate of Completion.

(6) "Prescribed legal weapon" means for purposes of this subsection:

(a) archery equipment, as defined in Section R657-5-11, when hunting the archery season, excluding a crossbow, draw-lock, and airgun;

(b) muzzleloader equipment, as defined in Section R657-5-10, when hunting the muzzleloader season; and

(c) any legal weapon, including a muzzleloader [with a fixed or variable magnifying scope](#), crossbow with a fixed or variable magnifying scope or draw-lock, or airgun when hunting during the any weapon season.

(7)(a) A person who has obtained a limited entry or cooperative wildlife management unit bull elk permit must report hunt information within 30 calendar days after the end of the hunting season, whether the permit holder was successful or unsuccessful in harvesting a bull elk.

(b) Limited entry and cooperative wildlife management unit bull elk permit holders must report hunt information by telephone, or through the division's website.

(c) A person who fails to comply with the requirement in Subsection (a) shall be ineligible to apply for any once-in-a-lifetime, premium limited entry, limited entry, or cooperative wildlife management unit permit or bonus point in the following year.

(d) Late questionnaires may be accepted pursuant to Subsection R657-42-9(2).

(8) A person who has obtained a limited entry bull elk permit may not hunt during any other elk hunt or obtain any other elk permit, except as provided in Subsections (5) and R657-5-34(3).

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

(1) The Wildlife Board may 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 must:

- (i) 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~~];

(d) a legal shotgun consistent with Subsection R657-5-8(2), with the following restrictions:

(i) no attached scope; or

(ii) not semi-automatic.

(e) a rifle as detailed in Subsection R657-5-8(1), with the following restrictions:

(i) not semi-automatic;

(ii) no attached scope; and

(iii) 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) A Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Straight-walled Rifle-Only hunt is not a centerfire rifle hunt for purposes of Section 23A-11-205 or R657-5-48.

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

(7) Electronic communication to receive real-time information on hunter or game location to aid in the stalking of a specific big game animal is prohibited on a Handgun-Archery-Muzzleloader-Shotgun-Straight-walled Rifle-Only hunt.

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