



## State of Utah

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## Department of Natural Resources

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## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 26, 2022

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Sergeant Gabe Patterson, Technologies Committee Co-Chair

Subject: R657-5 Taking Big Game rule change, definitions for restricted weapons and statement on current and emerging technologies

The DWR is recommending changes to Rule 657-5 to define a restricted weapons for archery, handguns, muzzleloaders, shotguns and rifles. These definitions would be merged with the definitions of the weapons allowed in HAMS (handgun, archery, muzzleloader, shotgun) hunts. This proposed change would create new definitions for restricted weapon and modify existing HAMS hunt weapon definitions. The DWR is also recommending the following:

### Restricted weapons definitions by weapon type:

1. Archery:
  - a. The bow must be a single-stringed recurve or a longbow
  - b. It must not have sights or any cables, pulleys, cams or attached electronic devices
2. Muzzleloader:
  - a. Be equipped only with a flint percussion cap or a musket cap (209 primers and all other modern ignition types are prohibited)
  - b. Be equipped with an ignition system in which any portion of the cap is clearly exposed and visible when the hammer of the weapon is cocked and ready to fire
  - c. Be free of any electronic devices
  - d. Have only open sights or peep sights
3. Any Weapon (Rifle):
  - a. Have only open sights or peep sights
  - b. Be free of any electronic devices
  - c. Not be a semi-automatic rifle



4. Handgun:
  - a. Have only open sights or peep sights
  - b. Be free of any electronic devices
  - c. Have no more than a single barrel 15 inches or less in length, including the chamber
  - d. Have a single rear handgrip, without any form of a fixed, detachable, or collapsible buttstock
  - e. Not have any apparatus or extension behind the rear grip capable of being used to steady the handgun against the body while firing; or a vertical foregrip
  - f. Be no more than 24 inches in overall length
5. Shotgun:
  - a. Have only open sights or peep sights
  - b. Be free of any electronic devices
  - c. Be 20 gauge or larger
  - d. Fire only size 00 or larger buckshot or slug ammunition

**Statement on current and emerging technologies:**

1. Utahans value wildlife and hunting, and they have a constitutional right to hunt.
2. Regulated hunting is the primary source of funding for conservation and wildlife management.
3. New and emerging technologies could present ethical challenges and negatively influence public support for hunting — and decrease conservation funding.
4. Technological advancements could also limit opportunity and influence experiences for future hunters.
5. The DWR is committed to evaluating the use of new and emerging technologies for hunting and believes in the benefits of common-sense regulations.

**See redline version of rule and full text of statement on current and emergency technologies included in the RAC and Board packet.**

