



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 3, 2023

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Derrick Ewell Wildlife Biologist

Subject: R657-5 Taking Big Game rule change, definitions for regular weapons, H.A.M.S.S hunts, and restricted weapons. As well other recommended technology regulations.

The DWR is recommending changes to Rule 657-5 to define changes to regular archery, muzzleloader, and any legal weapon (rifle) definitions, H.A.M.S.S. hunt definitions, and restricted weapons for archery, muzzleloaders, and rifles. The DWR is also recommending adding additional technology related regulations.

Regular weapons definitions by weapon type:

1. Archery:
 - Any currently legal bow without electronics, excluding illuminated nocks and cameras
2. Muzzleloader:
 - Any currently legal muzzleloader without electronics, except for illuminated reticles
3. Any Weapon:
 - Rifle-No electronics, except for illuminated reticle
 - Crossbow- Any currently legal crossbow without electronics, excluding illuminated nocks and cameras
 - Shotguns- No electronics, except for illuminated reticle
 - Handguns- No electronics, except for illuminated reticle
 - Airguns/airbows- No electronics, except for illuminated reticle

H.A.M.S.S. weapons definitions by weapon type:

1. Hand gun:
 - Have only open sights or peep sights (no scopes)
 - Be free of any electronic devices



- Have no more than a single barrel 15 inches or less in length, including the chamber
 - Have a single rear handgrip, without any form of a fixed, detachable, or collapsible buttstock
 - 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
 - Be no more than 24 inches in overall length
2. Archery:
 - Any currently legal bow without electronics, excluding illuminated nocks and cameras
 3. Muzzleloader:
 - Any legal muzzleloader without electronics and without a scope
 4. Shotgun:
 - Have only open sights or peep sights(no scopes)
 - Be free of any electronic devices
 - Be 20 gauge or larger
 - Fire only size 00 or larger buckshot or slug ammunition
 - No semi-automatics
 5. Straight-walled Cartridge Rifle:
 - Any straight-walled cartridge with a minimum bullet diameter of .35 caliber with a minimum case length of not less than 1.16 inches
 - No semi-automatics
 - No scopes

Restricted weapons definitions by weapon type:

1. Archery:
 - The bow must be a single-stringed recurve or a longbow
 - It must not have sights or any cables, pulleys, cams or attached electronic devices
 - Minimum 40 pound draw
2. Muzzleloader:
 - Be equipped only with a flint percussion cap or a musket cap (209 primers and all other modern ignition types are prohibited)
 - Be equipped with an ignition system in which any portion of the cap entirely exposed and visible when the hammer of the weapon is cocked and ready to fire
 - Be free of any electronic devices
 - Have only open sights or peep sights
3. Any Weapon (Rifle):
 - Have only open sights or peep sights
 - Be free of any electronic devices
 - Not be a semi-automatic rifle



Other recommended technology regulations

1. Prohibit the use of projectiles for which the path can be altered or electronically tracked after it has been sent in motion
2. Prohibit the use of electronic communication to receive real-time information on hunter or game location to aid in the stalking of a specific big game animal (includes two way radios, phones, etc...)
3. Prohibit the use of visual enhancement technology, such as nanotechnology, except for basic devices used solely for magnification
4. Prohibit the use of pattern recognition technology, such as artificial intelligence
5. Prohibit the use of live-feed aerial imaging
6. Prohibit the use of electronically amplified calls or sounds for the taking of big game
7. Prohibit the use of any type of aircraft, drone, or other airborne vehicle or device between July 31 and January 31st to locate, or attempt to observe or locate any protected wildlife
8. Prohibit the use of any type of night vision device between July 31 and January 31st to locate, or attempt to observe or locate any protected wildlife

See redline version of rule included in the RAC and Board packet.

