

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

Final Proposal Prohibiting the
Use of Drones for Hunting
(19.31.10 NMAC)



Field Operations Division

Drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), have become more available in recent years. The use of drones to locate or harass protected wildlife is not addressed in current commission rules.



The Department proposes
to amend 19.31.10
NMAC, Manner and
Method of Taking, to
address the use of drones



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19.31.10—Hunting and Fishing – Manner and Method of Taking:



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19.31.10.7 DEFINITIONS

Z. “Drone” is defined as any device used or designed for navigation or flight in the air that is unmanned and guided remotely or by an onboard computer. Drones may also be referred to as “Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)” or “Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems (UAVS)”



19.31.10.13 USE OF VEHICLES AND ROADS IN HUNTING

C. Harassing protected wildlife: It shall be unlawful, at any time, to pursue, harass, harr, drive, or rally any protected species by use of or from a motor-driven vehicle, powerboat, sailboat, drone or aircraft.



19.31.10.13 USE OF VEHICLES AND ROADS IN HUNTING

E. Use of aircraft for spotting game: It shall be unlawful to use aircraft or drone to spot or locate and relay the location of any protected species to anyone on the ground by any means of communication or signaling device or action.



19.31.10.13 USE OF VEHICLES AND ROADS IN HUNTING

F. Using information gained from air flight:

(1.) It shall be unlawful to hunt for or to take, or assist in the hunting for or taking of, any protected species with the use of information regarding location of any protected species gained from the use of any aircraft until 48 hours after such aircraft use.

(2.) It shall be unlawful to hunt for or to take, or assist in the hunting for or taking of, any protected species with the use of information regarding location of any protected species gained from the use of any drone at any time.



19.31.10.13 USE OF VEHICLES AND ROADS IN HUNTING

J. Aircraft, drone and vehicle exemptions to this rule: The Director may exempt a person from the prohibition of utilizing an aircraft, drone or vehicle for management purposes.



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Public Involvement

The Commission first raised this issue at the May 15, 2014 Commission meeting. Since that time, the Department has received 36 public comments, all in favor of prohibiting the use of drones to take or assist in the hunting of protected species.



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Public Involvement

- We did receive a public comment that may assist with any legal argument about the definition of a drone.
- You may want to consider changing the phrase "onboard computer" to "onboard control system" to more generically describe control systems for UAVs.



Discussion or Questions



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