

Use of Artificial Light to Hunt Raccoons

***Amending the Artificial Light
Permit System – (19-30-13 NMAC)***



Law Enforcement Division

Hunting Raccoons at Night

- There is public interest to hunt raccoons at night by properly licensed furbearer hunters.
- This will require utilizing artificial light.
- Any allowance should consider appropriate weapon type.



Law Enforcement Division

Currently Unlawful

- 17-2-31 D NMSA 1978 [Spotlighting] — unlawful to use artificial light except by permit or authorization from the Department.
- 19.32.2.10 (10)(a) NMAC [Trapping and Furbearers] — legal shooting hours for protected furbearers are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.



Proposed Solution

- Amend the Artificial Light Permit System Rule (19.30.13 NMAC) to create a Department Authorization to allow properly licensed Furbearer hunters to hunt raccoons at night using artificial light and specific weapon types.
- Correct minor typographical errors in the current rule.



Public Input

- Originally proposed at the November Commission meeting.
- A final draft amendment has been posted on the Department website.
- The Department has received 2 comments, both supporting this amendment.



Commission Direction

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicates a different course of action:

“Move to accept the Department’s recommendation and amend the Artificial Light Permit System rule (19.30.13 NMAC) as presented.”



COMMENTS



Law Enforcement Division