

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

Draft Amendments to the Upland Game Rule (19.31.5 NMAC) and the Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) to Allow the Use of Pellet Guns for the Take of Grouse, Squirrels, and Eurasian Collared Doves



The Department has received several requests to amend Commission rules to allow for the use of modern pellet guns for taking certain small game species.



Field Operations Division

With the rising cost and limited availability of .22 caliber rim-fire ammunition, allowing the use of pellet guns will provide more hunting opportunity for grouse and squirrels



Field Operations Division

Eurasian collared dove, an exotic species, is increasing in many areas of New Mexico, and is competing with native species such as Mourning dove and White-wing dove.



Field Operations Division

The Department proposes
amending two
Commission Rules to
address these concerns



Field Operations Division

19.31.6—Hunting and Fishing – Migratory Game Birds:

The Eurasian collared dove will be removed from the Migratory Game Bird rule



19.31.5—Hunting and Fishing – Upland Game:

- The Eurasian collared dove will be added to the Upland Game rule.
- Season will be open year round, with no bag or possession limits.
- Identifiable wing must remain on bird.



19.31.5.7—Hunting and Fishing –Upland Game-Definitions:

P. “Pellet gun” shall mean a handgun or rifle that propels a single .177 caliber or larger pellet by means of compressed air or other gas.



19.31.5.7—Hunting and Fishing –Manner and Methods for Upland Game:

H. Legal sporting arms and ammunition:

(2) The following are legal sporting arms for dusky grouse, Eurasian collared dove, Abert's squirrels, Arizona gray squirrels, fox squirrels, eastern gray squirrels and red squirrels:

(a-e) shotguns firing shot, rim fire firearms, muzzle loading firearms, bows and arrows, crossbows.

(f). pellet guns



Field Operations Division

Public Involvement

These proposals have been posted on the Department's website. This item was discussed at the July Commission meeting. To date, 23 public comments have been received. 22 were supportive of pellet guns being allowed and of maximizing the opportunity to take Eurasian collared doves, one comment was opposed to the idea, citing concerns about crippling loss.





Discussion and Questions

