

# AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

## Discussion on the Use of Technology While Hunting.

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Field Operations Division

# Technological advances have raised some concerns about the use of certain devices for hunting.

Recent developments in remote imaging technology have raised concerns about the use of certain technology while hunting:

- Trail cameras
- Cellular enabled devices
- Wi-Fi enabled imaging devices



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# What's Next?

- Address Technology concerns with Commission rules regarding Manner and Method of take?
- Develop a Commission and Department statement on Fair Chase / Hunting Ethics?
- Status Quo?



# Questions – Suggestions - Guidance



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# DRAFT Fair chase statement

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish always has promoted the practice of “fair chase,” a philosophy among hunters that encourages respect for wildlife, the land and the law. The department also realizes that “fair chase” is a personal, ethical preference among sportsmen and sportswomen – and that in some cases, what is legal may not be considered ethical or moral. Today’s many technological advances in equipment can make hunters’ choices about “fair chase” difficult. Is it “fair chase” to attempt to shoot game beyond your personal effective range? Is it acceptable to monitor game on real-time trail cameras, wait for a trophy and then move in and harvest the animal? Is it “fair chase” to use high-tech devices such as rifle scopes that digitally track distant animals and even pull the trigger at the precise moment?

Traditionally, “fair chase” has been defined as the ethical and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging game species in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over the animal. Hunter-conservationists have always embraced the concept and taught hunter ethics to new hunters for decades. It is a fairness code of mostly unwritten rules, defined and practiced by individual hunters. Today, as technology continues to test those limits of fairness, the New Mexico State Game Commission counts on hunters, over establishing new regulations to decide whether conduct in the field and the use of this advanced equipment represents “fair chase,” even if it is legal.

The department plans to continue discussions with the public about evolving technologies, “fair chase,” and hunting practices as it evaluates future hunting rules. Sportsmen, sportswomen and everyone concerned with wildlife conservation are encouraged to engage in those conversations.



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