

Agenda Item #12
Manner and Method
Amendments to Prohibit
the Use of Aircraft for
Locating Protected
Wildlife



Field Operations Division

Current Rule

- **19.31.10.13 USE OF VEHICLES AND ROADS IN HUNTING:**

E. Hunting after air travel: It shall be unlawful for anyone to hunt for or take any protected species until after the start of legal hunting hours on the day following any air travel except by regularly scheduled commercial airline flights or legitimate direct flight to the final destination.

F. 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.

G. 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.



Proposed Rule cont.

- **E. Using aircraft to locate wildlife:**

(1) It shall be unlawful for any individual to locate or assist in locating a protected species from or with the aid of an aircraft or drone or to use information gained from the aid of an aircraft or drone in any game management unit during an open big game season. This restriction begins 48 hours prior to the opening of any big game season (except cougar season) in that game management unit and extends until the close of all big game seasons for that game management unit.

(2) Any individual who possesses an enhancement big game authorization or enhancement package authorization for a special season under commission rule or any individual who assists or will assist such a licensee shall not use information gained from or use an aircraft or drone to locate any protected species beginning 48 hours prior to or during the enhancement authorization special season dates.

(3) This Section shall not apply to regularly scheduled commercial airline flights or legitimate direct flights OR to any individual acting within the scope of their official duties as an employee or authorized agent of the state of New Mexico or the United States federal government.



Questions?



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