

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow use of integrated bow sights\laser range finders for hunting big game with bows as follows:

The existing equipment regulations from page 20 of the 2018-2019 regulations for weapons restricted hunts. My proposal would read as follows with my changes listed in bold and underlined:.

Equipment:

You MAY NOT hunt big game with a bow, UNLESS:

- the bow is at least:
 - 40 pounds peak draw weight when hunting black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep, and caribou;
 - 50 pounds peak draw weight when hunting mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox, and bison;
- the arrow is at least 20 inches in overall length, tipped with a broadhead, and at least 300 grains in total weight;
- the broadhead is a fixed, replaceable or mechanical/retractable blade type and not barbed.
- **an integrated bow sight\laser rangefinder may be used providing the device does not provide an optical advantage as listed in the restrictions below and does not provide an illumination on the animal being hunted (laser sight).**

You MAY NOT use electronic devices or lights attached to the bow, arrow, or arrowhead with the exception of a nonilluminating camera or a lighted nock on the end of the arrow or a battery-powered sight light **or an integrated bow sight\laser range finder as specified in the previous paragraph.**

You MAY NOT use scopes or other devices attached to the bow or arrow for optical enhancement.

You MAY NOT use any mechanical device that anchors a nocked arrow at full or partial draw unaided by the bowhunter.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? On page 19 of the 2018-2019 regulations, under the general hunt guidelines for archery hunting equipment, an integrated bow sight\laser range finder mounted to the bow is allowed for use. On page 20 of the same regulation year, under the weapons restricted hunts guidelines, this same piece of equipment is not allowed because it is considered an “electronic device”. I am asking the Board of Game (board) to consider allowing an integrated bow sight\laser range finder be used in a weapons restricted hunt, providing

the equipment meets the other restrictions listed in the regulations, specifically no optical advantage and visible light projected onto the game animal.

There are several reasons why I am asking the board to allow use of integrated bow sights\laser range finders, which meet the other restrictive measurements, for use in weapons restricted hunts.

Handheld range finders are already allowed for use in weapons restricted hunts for archery.

The International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) training certification program for archery hunters encourage range finders to be used. Specifically, they are encouraged for use to keep the hunter informed of ethically shooting within the range of their equipment. The idea is the hunter will not take shots that would most likely result in the injury of an animal vs the killing of an animal.

By allowing the integrated bow sight\laser range finder to be mounted on the bow, the hunter has the ability to dynamically track the distance to the animal while holding the bow in the drawn position ready to shoot. This would allow the hunter to be more informed during their shot process and allow them to shoot more accurately because they would know the exact distance to their target. At best, it would deter unethical long-distance shots that would most likely end up injuring an animal versus killing the animal.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Brown

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