PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 92.085(10)(A). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow electronic range finders mounted on bows be used for hunting big game as follows:

Update 5 AAC 92.085(10)(A) to read:

~~(10) with the following archery equipment or devices in a restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking by bow and arrow:

(A) any type of electronic device, or light attached to the bow, arrow, or arrowhead, except a non-illuminating camera, **range finding device,** or a lighted nock on the end of an arrow;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to add an exception to the definition of "electronic device" which would allow the use of an electronic range finder to be mounted to the bow. The use of a laser range finder is currently allowed and a normal practice of most bow hunters when determining yardage. Using a range finder gives a more accurate yardage determination than just a visual estimation and provides for a more ethical harvest. However, often times an archer will make a yardage determination using a range finder, draw his/her bow, and see that the animal has moved. The archer must then either visually estimate the yardage change or let down from the shot and re-range the animal using a handheld range finder, which can lead to allowing the animal to move farther away and a longer shot distance. Several companies, including Garmin and Burris, have recently developed range finders which are incorporated into a bow's sighting system. This allows the archer to continuously range the animal throughout the entire shot sequence, up to and including right before the release of the arrow. This method doesn't allow the archer to do anything that isn't already allowed under law, but merely makes it easier and allows for more ethical and humane harvests of game by giving the archer the best and most accurate range estimation possible when making a shot determination.

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