

Hunting Coyotes with the Aid of Dogs: Draft Rule Stakeholder Input Meeting
January 10, 2023

Attendees: Joanne Bourbeau, Chris Bradley, Wesley Butler, Jamie Dragon, Josh Hungerford, Brenna Galdenzi, Butch Spear, Russ Pritting, Diane Hansen, David Robillard,
Virtual Attendees: Jane Fitzwilliam, Anthony Lemay, Todd Mack

Staff: Mark Scott, Maj. Sean Fowler, Chris Saunders, Catherine Gjessing, and David Sausville

No comment on proposed rules mentioned on act number 165.

1.1 – 1.3 No comments

1.4 Chris Bradley-remove either and replace with both.

2.0 No comments

3.1 No Comments

Question from Brenna Galdenzi. if language taken from bear hunting regulations.

3.2 Anthony, allow use of radios etc. for safety and control of dogs.

3.3 - 3.4 No Comments

3.5 Brenna Galdenzi will this required both a gps collar and an e-collar? Sean Fowler said essentially yes, it can be a combo collar or two collars. Brenna Galdenzi , gps and e-collars do not meet definition of control of dog. Diana Hansen, asked about what an e-collar is and she would add that visual control is needed. Joanne Bourbeau echoed Brenna Galdenzi 's comment on control. Jane Fitzwilliam, training collars are not adequate to control dogs. Anthony Lemay thinks collars are sufficient if dogs properly trained to collar tone and horn. Jeff Mack, only way to control dog is on a lease so not possible in this situation so animal has to be in sight of you. Handler has no idea what dog is doing remotely. Butch Spear, control is a work in play hear and all have different ideas of what control is. No one can keep up with the animal, so control is with gps tracking and e-collar devices. Jeff Mack, talked with dog trainer that has done it their whole life and said the only way to control dog is if in sight of you. Diana Hansen, adding visual aid because not all hounders are using well trained dogs at this point, so how do we make sure dogs have call back training? Brenna Galdenzi , visual aspect is needed if you don't know what your hounds are chasing, visual needs to be added into control part. Jamie Dragon, training is a big issue around this. If training dogs for one species the dog is trained for that species, maybe law should state that training is required. Brenna Galdenzi, what about dogs that hunt different species. Jamie Dragon, should have separate dogs for species. Russ Pritting, visual aid will eliminate coyote hunting with a dog, no practical way to see your dogs at all times. Chris Bradley, it is the same thing with rabbits and many birds. Butch Spear, any visual rule is saying we will eliminate hound hunting. Diana Hansen, in her mind maybe technology that allows visual on collar would work. Brenna Galdenzi , how is this definition going to meet legislative intent as currently written? Chris Bradley, legislative intent was abandoned to allow

modification by FW Board. Butch Spear, you need to scout lands ahead of time to know which properties a dog is on with technology. Jamie Dragon, asked if hound hunter use onX to track dogs. Brenna Galdenzi, does not feel private property part goes far enough, mentioned harassing people and animals anywhere.

3.6 – No comment

3.7 Russ Pritting questioned number of dogs on list for pack size, will be for number we finally decide on. Brenna Galdenzi, asked if it is the same tags as bear hounds use. Jeff Mack, how many dogs does it take to chase out a bear or coyote? Diana Hansen, these tags are connected to permit holder and permit? Tag should have contact information on it. Anthony Lemay, on gps collar the location can be put on a map to show route of animal to prove route.

3.8 Jeff Mack, believes gps collars should not be on dogs that are hunting should be in visual control. Anthony Lemay, on gps collar the location can be put on a map to show route of animal to prove route. Brenna Galdenzi, British Columbia study showed that collars don't work 40% time.

Second 3.8 No comments

3.9 Brenna asked about improving animal welfare as mentioned in the act. Is there anything about taking coyote with killer hound. no comments

3.10 Russ Pritting, pack of dogs should say allow six for coyotes same as for bear hunting. Brenna Galdenzi, she thinks four dogs is grossly unfair for one coyote so how do we justify. Russ Pritting, you don't know how many coyotes we are starting out on at first. Jeff Mack, used to be a hunter so wants to know how we can call hounding as hunting? Does not think people lined up to kill a coyote is hunting. Jane Fitzwilliam, four dogs with gps collars and men armed and possibly baited animal is unfair and is not hunting, just wantonly killing, one dog only. Butch Spear, number of dogs doesn't matter, need to train them with older dogs that know what they are doing. Need to train puppies. Thinks it should be more than four. David Robillard, do you have cases where coyotes bay? More dogs may decrease chase time and maybe decrease likelihood of crossing properties. Chris Bradley, asked for the Departments view on where number came from. Sean Fowler, a place to start and the average on the survey of participants. Brenna Galdenzi, dogs on multiple coyotes are not controllable by one hunter. Cannot control puppies that are untrained. Not testing of dogs to see if trained. Is not control of dogs. Diana Hansen, have no more than two dogs, one that is trained and one untrained. Joanna Bourbeau, HSUS opposed use of hound to hunt carnivores but will concede to one dog regardless of how many people are hunting together. Russ Pritting, most hunting parties have plenty of people to watch all dogs. Butch Spear, one dog will get mauled by a pack of coyotes. Jamie Dragon, we have hunter education, why not have a component of hunter ed on hound hunting for all hounding. Make it part of permit. Brenna Galdenzi, wants it for all dog hunting species. Chris Bradley, is there a manual nationwide on training, it seems like training is the main issue.

3.11 No comments

3.12 Chris Bradley, put in tone or sound.

3.13 No comments

4.1 Chris Bradley, landowner should be exempt from a permit need. Josh, landowners are exempt on their land. Russ Pritting, does a landowner need a bear permit to hunt their lands? Sean Fowle, yes. Joanne Bourbeau, same talk on BMP, thinks landowners should be held to same level as others for hunting coyotes.

4.2

a. Jane Fitzwilliam, take out bow and arrow and crossbows, only allow a gun. Joanne Bourbeau, only support gun shot. Butch Spear, all types of bows are as lethal as a firearm. Is dog killing a coyote a legal kill? Sean Fowler, not as written now. Chris Bradley, it says the person not the dog. Brenna Galdenzi, act says animal welfare is part of what needs to be discussed. Brenna Galdenzi, have attorney look at. Catherine Gjessing, definition of take is very broad, so it covers dogs not being used for kill. Diana Hansen, add that dogs need to be trained to remove them from a dangerous situation. Jamie Dragon, if we make it illegal for hounds to take coyotes, we need something for landowners and coyote on land and dog chases and kills. David Robillard, we need to look at intent, which is meant to be hunter taking coyote, not dogs. Brenna Galdenzi, said coyote hunters, hunt coyotes because they hate them unlike all other hunters. Will support humane take as written in act. Butch Spear, where do you reprimand animal for doing what you train them to? Anthony Lemay, huge grey areas and need to prove that it happened, not sure how you can enforce it. Jeff Mack, if you don't want dog in danger then don't put dogs out there go out and hunt yourself without dog. Brenna Galdenzi, if training dog on downed coyote why do you want the dogs to do bite dead animal to train it for the animal. Why encourage that behavior? Diane Hansen, train dogs to come off animal with horn. Jamie Dragon, comes back to ethics of individual hunters. Diana Hansen, agree but how do we correct that problem? Joanne Bourbeau, any reference of dog getting to coyote first what happens to hunter? Russ Pritting, we don't train dogs to kill coyotes, only train to chase, some dogs are more aggressive than others. Mouthing quarry. Butch Spear, to chase and catch are two different things. David Robillard, could make it that the dog used is a hound or only chase dogs, no kill dogs allowed. List breed of dogs allowed.

b. No comment

4.3

a. covered a lot above. Brenna Galdenzi, if hound is trained on multiple animals how do you keep dog off wrong animal? Butch Spear, dogs bay and hunters release them on only correct animal. Correct scent.

b. & c. Butch Spear, this answers question from past on tags needed.

d. No comment

e. Already gone over the number of dogs and no comment on combining packs.

5.1-5.2 Jane Fitzwilliam, dates are when they are raising pups and is intrusive to breeding pairs to take away from pups. Brenna Galdenzi, why are we allowing it at this time? Hounders train in snow, during legal hunting season. Jeff Mack, don't need training season at all, take out 5.1 altogether. Brenna Galdenzi, remove 5.1, 5.2 match hunting season to match trapping season. Diane Hansen, during

summer months constantly have bear and coon hunting that is disruptive to neighborhood, putting coyote hunting in addition seems so intense. Jamie Dragon, not having a training season defeats what we are trying to do here, need a training season and to figure out dates. Joanne Bourbeau, wants to change season to October to December. Russ Pritting, coyote hunters run hounds after deer season, need a training season, don't want training or running during deer season. Butch Spear, the more training the better, doesn't need year-round. Anthony Lemay, train dogs through summer and most people don't realize it is going on. No firearms involved; training is when teaching the dogs. Jane Fitzwilliam, what dates would hounders suggest?

5.3 No comments, Joanne Bourbeau, asked about when coyotes can be shot?

5.4 Are training hours different from hunting hours? Sean Fowler, yes there is a difference between hunting and training and with bears they have training hours also. Wes Butler, need to clarify what pursuit is.

6.1 Jeff Mack, no bait for any hunting. Joanne Bourbeau, should say taking not training. Should say taking with dogs. Anthony Lemay, if a landowner allows it, it is okay on own land.

6.2 Chris Bradley, what are we trying to solve here? Sean Fowler, taken from bear rule to match it. Brenna Galdenzi, so eliminates someone being able to guide service. Sean Fowler, correct. Jamie Dragon, can we change to allow landowner to invite hunters onto the property. Russ Pritting, language is fine and have been using this for years. Butch Spear, will go for free to train and hunt. Anthony Lemay, is good with it.

6.3 No comment

6.4 No comment

6.5 No comment

7.1 Brenna Galdenzi, do you plan on taking up the coyote petition covering all coyotes? Mark Scott, yes. All good with 7.1. Anthony Lemay, doesn't see need for it, depends on how reporting. Jane Fitzwilliam, thinks it is important. Jeff Mack, all coyotes should be taken in and data collected similar to deer in person. Brenna Galdenzi, NY wolf issue, some interest out there.

7.2 Jeff Mack, if we don't bring in coyotes to report where will we dump them?