

ARTICLE 3. TAKING AND HANDLING OF WILDLIFE

R12-4-304. Lawful Methods for Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles

- A.** An individual may only use the following methods to take big game, subject to the restrictions under R12-4-303 and R12-4-318.
1. To take antelope:
 - a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - d. Centerfire handguns;
 - e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs, only;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges; and
 - h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(1)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.
 2. To take bear:
 - a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - d. Centerfire handguns;
 - e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs, only;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges;
 - h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(2)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device; and
 - i. Pursuit with dogs between August 1 and December 31, only.
 3. To take bighorn sheep:
 - a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;

- d. Centerfire handguns;
 - e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs, only;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges; and
 - h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(3)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.
4. To take buffalo:
- a. State-wide, except for the game management units identified under subsection (A)(4)(b):
 - i. Centerfire rifles;
 - ii. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - iii. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - iv. Centerfire handguns no less than .41 Magnum or centerfire handguns with an overall cartridge length of no less than two inches;
 - v. Bows with a standard pull of 40 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads of no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges; and
 - vi. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(4)(a)(v) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.
 - b. In game management units 5A and 5B:
 - i. Centerfire rifles;
 - ii. Muzzleloading rifles; and
 - iii. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder.
5. To take deer:
- a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - d. Centerfire handguns;
 - e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs, only;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges; and

- h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(5)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.
6. To take elk:
- a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - d. Centerfire handguns;
 - e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs, only;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges; and
 - h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(6)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.
7. To take javelina:
- a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - d. Centerfire handguns;
 - e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs, only;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 40 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges;
 - h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(7)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device;
 - i. .22 rimfire magnum rifles; and
 - j. 5 mm rimfire magnum rifles.
8. To take mountain lion:
- a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - d. Centerfire handguns;

- e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs or shot;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges;
 - h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(8)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device;
 - i. Artificial light, during seasons with daylong hours, provided the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail; and
 - j. Pursuit with dogs.
9. To take turkey:
- a. Centerfire rifles;
 - b. Muzzleloading rifles;
 - c. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - d. Centerfire handguns;
 - e. Handguns using black powder or synthetic black powder;
 - f. Shotguns shooting slugs or shot;
 - g. Bows with a standard pull of 40 30 or more lbs, using arrows with broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges;
 - h. Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, using bolts with a minimum length of 16 inches and broadheads no less than 7/8 inch in width with metal cutting edges or bows as described in subsection (A)(9)(g) to be drawn and held with an assisting device;
 - i. .22 rimfire magnum rifles;
 - j. 5 mm rimfire magnum rifles; and
 - k. .17 rimfire magnum rifles.
- B.** An individual may only use the following methods to take small game, subject to the restrictions under R12-4-303 and R12-4-318.
1. To take cottontail rabbits and tree squirrels:
- a. Firearms,
 - b. Bow and arrow,
 - c. Crossbow,
 - d. Pneumatic weapons,
 - e. Slingshots,

- f. Hand-held projectiles,
 - g. Falconry, and
 - h. Dogs.
2. To take all upland game birds and Eurasian Collared-doves:
 - a. Bow and arrow;
 - b. Falconry;
 - c. Pneumatic weapons;
 - d. Shotguns shooting shot, only;
 - e. Handguns shooting shot only;
 - f. Crossbow;
 - g. Hand-held projectiles; and
 - h. Dogs.
 3. To take migratory game birds, except Eurasian Collared-doves:
 - a. Bow and arrow;
 - b. Crossbow;
 - c. Falconry;
 - d. Shotguns shooting shot, except that lead shot shall not be used or possessed while taking ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, common moorhens, or coots;
 - e. Shotguns shooting shot and incapable of holding more than two shells in the magazine, unless plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun that limits the magazine capacity to two shells; and
 - f. Dogs.
- C.** An individual may take waterfowl from a watercraft except a sinkbox, subject to the following conditions:
1. The motor, if any, is shut off, the sail, if any, is furled, and any progress from a motor or sail has ceased;
 2. The watercraft may be drifting as a result of current or wind action; may be beached, moored, or resting at anchor; or may be propelled by paddle, oars, or pole; and
 3. The individual may use the watercraft under power to retrieve dead or crippled waterfowl, but no shooting is permitted while the watercraft is underway.
- D.** An individual may take predatory and furbearing animals by using the following methods, subject to the restrictions under R12-4-303 and R12-4-318:
1. Firearms;
 2. Bow and arrow;

3. Crossbow;
 4. Traps not prohibited under R12-4-307;
 5. Artificial light while taking raccoon provided the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail; and
 6. Artificial light while taking coyote during seasons with daylight hours, provided the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail; and
 7. Dogs.
- E.** An individual may take nongame mammals and birds by any method not prohibited under R12-4-303 or R12-4-318, subject to the following restrictions. An individual:
1. Shall not take nongame mammals and birds using foothold traps;
 2. Shall check pitfall traps of any size daily, release non-target species, remove pitfalls when no longer in use, and fill any holes;
 3. Shall not use firearms at night; and
 4. May use artificial light while taking nongame mammals and birds, if the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail.
- F.** An individual may take reptiles by any method not prohibited under R12-4-303 or R12-4-318 subject to the following restrictions. An individual:
1. Shall check pitfall traps of any size daily, release non-target species, remove pitfalls when no longer in use, and fill any holes;
 2. Shall not use firearms at night; and
 3. May use artificial light while taking reptiles provided the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail.
- G.** For the purposes of Commission Orders authorized under this Section, “day-long” means the 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.

Authorizing Statute

General: A.R.S. § 17-231(A)(1)

Specific: A.R.S. §§ 17-102, 17-231(A)(3), 17-235, and 17-301

Historical Note

Amended effective May 21, 1975 (Supp. 75-1). Amended effective May 3, 1976 (Supp. 76-3). Amended effective October 20, 1977 (Supp. 77-5). Amended effective January 11, 1978 (Supp. 78-1). Amended effective September 7, 1978 (Supp. 78-5). Amended effective November 14, 1979 (Supp. 79-6). Amended effective July 22, 1980 (Supp. 80-4). Former Section R12-4-53 renumbered as Section R12-4-304 without change effective August 13, 1981 (Supp. 81-4). Amended effective May 12, 1982 (Supp. 82-3). Amended effective April 7, 1983 (Supp. 83-2). Amended subsection (I) effective June 7, 1984 (Supp. 84-3). Amended effective February 28, 1985 (Supp. 85-1). Amended effective September 16, 1985 (Supp. 85-5). Amended effective June 4, 1987 (Supp. 87-2). Former Section R12-4-304 repealed, new Section R12-4-304 adopted effective December 30, 1988 (Supp. 88-4). Correction, former Historical Note should read "Former Section R12-4-304 repealed, new Section R12-4-304 adopted effective January 1, 1989, filed December 30, 1988" (Supp. 89-2). Amended effective January 1, 1993; filed December 18, 1992 (Supp. 92-4). Former Section R12-4-304 repealed, new Section R12-4-304 adopted effective February 9, 1998 (Supp. 98-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 8 A.A.R. 1702, effective March 11, 2002 (Supp. 02-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 10 A.A.R. 850, effective April 3, 2004 (Supp. 04-1). Amended by exempt rulemaking at 17 A.A.R. ##, Effective December 9, 2011.