

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

TITLE: Hunting and Fishing Fair Chase Policy

Effective Date: June 10, 2016

I. PURPOSE

This policy is intended to establish guidelines to facilitate continuous review of evolving technologies and practices to ensure the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit of free-ranging wild game animals is done in a manner which does not give the hunter, angler, or trapper an improper or unfair advantage.

II. AUTHORITY

Colorado Revised Statutes

- A. 33-1-104 General duties of the commission
- B. 33-1-106 Authority to regulate taking, possession, and use of wildlife-rules

III. POLICY STATEMENT

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission defines Fair Chase as the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of free-ranging Colorado wildlife in a manner that does not give a hunter or angler improper or unfair advantage over such wildlife. The Commission recognizes that public support for the manner in which wildlife is pursued and taken is of critical importance to the future of hunting and angling. The Commission affirms that hunting and angling are the cornerstones of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and are the primary source of funding for conservation efforts in North America. Accordingly, it is the Commission's policy that the pursuit and taking of wildlife be managed to conform to the highest ethical standards of Fair Chase.

The Commission recognizes that new or evolving technologies and practices may provide hunters or anglers with an improper or unfair advantage in the pursuit and taking of wildlife. Improper advantage includes conditions such as:

1. A technology or practice that allows a hunter or angler to locate or take wildlife without acquiring necessary hunting and angling skills or competency.
2. A technology or practice that allows a hunter or angler to pursue or take wildlife without being physically present and pursuing wildlife in the field.

3. A technology or practice that makes harvesting wildlife almost certain when the technology or practice prevents wildlife from eluding take.

The Commission recognizes that development of new or improved technologies and practices can provide multiple benefits to hunters, anglers, businesses, and the economy. In its effort to preserve hunting and angling the Commission will weigh the Fair Chase implications of a new technology or practice against the benefits the technology or practice may provide to improving competency or increasing participation in hunting or angling. These tradeoffs must be carefully considered in an open public process before determining whether a given technology or practice should be limited or prohibited in the interests of preserving Fair Chase.

By this policy the Commission directs Colorado Parks and Wildlife to monitor and evaluate emerging and evolving technologies and practices and, with due regard for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or to enhance the safety of persons and/or property, make recommendations to the Commission for rule changes to preserve Fair Chase standards for the taking of wildlife in Colorado.