

**APPROVED REGULATION OF THE
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

LCB File No. R144-15

Effective February 27, 2018

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~(omitted material)~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 501.105, 501.181 and 503.150.

A REGULATION relating to hunting; deleting the prohibition against using smokeless powder in a muzzle-loading firearm while hunting a big game mammal; revising the circumstances under which a person may use a rifle or handgun to hunt a big game mammal; making it unlawful to use certain firearms and cartridges while hunting a big game mammal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations necessary to preserve, protect, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat and to establish the manner and means of taking wildlife. (NRS 501.105, 501.181) Existing law also makes it unlawful, except by Commission regulation, to hunt big game mammals in any manner other than with certain handheld rifles and longbows. (NRS 503.150) Existing regulations prohibit the use of smokeless powder in a muzzle-loading firearm while hunting a big game mammal during a type of hunt that is restricted to muzzle-loading firearms. Existing regulations also authorize a person to hunt big game mammals with a rifle if the rifle uses a centerfire cartridge of caliber .22 or larger or with a handgun if the handgun has a barrel length of 4 inches or more and uses certain centerfire cartridges of caliber .22 or larger or caliber .24 or larger. (NAC 503.142) This regulation: (1) deletes the prohibition against using smokeless powder; (2) revises the types of centerfire cartridges that are lawful to use in a rifle to hunt big game mammals; and (3) authorizes a person to hunt a big game mammal with a handgun if the handgun uses a centerfire cartridge of caliber .22 or larger and has a barrel length of 4 inches or more. This regulation also makes it unlawful to hunt a big game mammal with: (1) any firearm that is equipped with any sighting system using an electronically controlled or computer-controlled firing mechanism; (2) a rifle, if the rifle uses a centerfire cartridge that is smaller than caliber .22 or larger than caliber .50; or (3) a rifle that uses a centerfire cartridge with a case length of more than 3 inches.

Section 1. NAC 503.142 is hereby amended to read as follows:

503.142 The Commission hereby establishes the following exceptions to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 503.150:

1. During a type of hunt that is restricted to muzzle-loading firearms, a person may hunt a big game mammal only with a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket, and may use only a lead ball, a lead bullet, a semi-jacketed bullet or a metal alloy bullet that expands. ~~The use of smokeless powder is prohibited.~~ Only black powder or a black powder substitute may be used as a propellant. A sabot round may be used. The muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket must have the following characteristics:

(a) A wheel lock, matchlock or flintlock ignition system, or a percussion ignition system that uses a primer or percussion cap;

(b) A single barrel of caliber .45 or larger; and

(c) Except as otherwise provided in NAC 503.146, open sights or peep sights. The use of a sight that is operated or powered by a battery, electronics or a radioactive isotope such as tritium is prohibited.

↪ The muzzle-loading rifle or the muzzle-loading musket is deemed to be not loaded if the priming compound or element, such as the priming powder or the unfired primer or percussion cap, is removed.

2. During a type of hunt that is restricted to muzzle-loading firearms, it is unlawful for a person hunting under the authority of a tag for such a hunt to carry in the field a firearm or bow and arrow except for:

(a) A muzzle-loading rifle or a muzzle-loading musket with the characteristics set forth in subsection 1; or

(b) A flintlock or percussion handgun, except that it is unlawful to use such a handgun to hunt a big game mammal.

3. During a type of hunt in which the use of any legal weapon is authorized by a regulation of the Commission, a person may hunt a big game mammal with a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket only if:

(a) The muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket has:

- (1) A single barrel of caliber .45 or larger; and
- (2) Open sights, peep sights or a rifle scope.

(b) The person uses a lead ball, a lead bullet, a semi-jacketed bullet or a metal alloy bullet that expands. A sabot round may be used.

↪ The muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket is deemed to be not loaded if the priming compound or element, such as the priming powder or the unfired primer or percussion cap, is removed.

4. ~~[A]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, a* person may hunt big game mammals with a rifle if the rifle uses a centerfire cartridge ~~{of caliber .22 or larger.~~

~~—5. A person may hunt big game mammals}~~ *or* with a handgun if the handgun uses a centerfire cartridge ~~{ of caliber .22 or larger and~~ has a barrel length of 4 inches or more . ~~{and:~~

~~—(a) Uses a cartridge of caliber .22 or larger with an overall loaded length of 2 inches or more; or~~

~~—(b) Uses a cartridge of caliber .24 or larger with a case of length no less than the length of the case of a cartridge for a Remington magnum of caliber .44.~~

~~—6.}~~ *5. It is unlawful to hunt a big game mammal with:*

(a) Any firearm that is equipped with any sighting system using an electronically controlled or computer-controlled firing mechanism; or

(b) A rifle, if the rifle uses a centerfire cartridge that is smaller than caliber .22 or larger than caliber .50 or a centerfire cartridge with a case length of more than 3 inches.

6. A person may hunt deer and mountain lion with a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge. Only rifled slugs or shotgun rounds with sabots that contain a single expanding projectile may be used when hunting deer. A shotgun that is used to hunt deer or mountain lion pursuant to this subsection may be equipped with a smoothbore barrel or a barrel that is partially or fully rifled.