NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TITLE 12. NATURAL RESOURCES CHAPTER 4. GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

PREAMBLE

1. Article, Part, or Section Affected (as applicable) Rulemaking Action

R12-4-303 Amend

2. Citations to the agency's statutory authority to include the authorizing statute (general) and the implementing statute (specific):

Authorizing statute: A.R.S. § 17-231(A)(1)

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

3. Citations to all related notices published in the *Register* as specified in R1-1-409(A) that pertain to the record of the proposed rule:

Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening: 25 A.A.R. (to be filled in by the Register Editor), April 12, 2019

4. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the rulemaking:

Name: Celeste Cook, Rules and Policy Manager

Address: Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway

Phoenix, AZ 85086

Telephone: (623) 236-7390

E-mail: CCook@azgfd.gov

Please visit the AZGFD website to track the progress of this rule; view the regulatory agenda and all previous Five-year Review Reports; and learn about any other agency rulemaking matters at https://www.azgfd.com/agency/rulemaking/.

5. An agency's justification and reason why the rule should be made, amended, repealed, or renumbered, to include an explanation about the rulemaking:

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission proposes to adopt rules to regulate hunting activities consistent with the guiding principles governing the Commission's duty to preserve wildlife for the beneficial use of the public. The proposed rulemaking will designate a predator/fur-bearing hunt contest, as defined by the rule, an unlawful manner and method of take for predator/fur-bearing species. A rule that provides clear instruction about the legal hunting of predator/fur-bearing species provides for the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of wildlife under the jurisdiction of the State for the benefit of all the citizens.

This proposed rulemaking contains rule language included in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, see 24 A.A.R. 529, March 16, 2018, which was approved by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council on February 5, 2019 and becomes effective on June 1, 2019.

An exemption from Executive Order 2019-01 was provided for this rulemaking by Hunter Moore, Natural

Resource Policy Advisor, Governor's Office, in an email dated February 15, 2019.

- 6. A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and proposes to either rely on or not rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:

 The agency did not rely on any study in its evaluation of or justification for the rule.
- 7. A showing of good cause why the rulemaking is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:

 Not applicable
- 8. The preliminary summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact:

The Commission's intent in adopting the rule is to address social concerns associated with predator/fur-bearing contests, and to proscribe the manner and method of take for participants to a predators/fur-bearings contest. Wildlife predator/fur-bearing hunting contest that link economic gain to the greatest number or variety of animals killed are contrary to the important principle that the take of wildlife should not be allowed to go to waste or taken for economic gain. The Commission believes the rulemaking will benefit the State and persons regulated by the rule by reducing regulatory uncertainty, and strengthening consistency with the principles that guide the Commission's public trust responsibility to conserve wildlife for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona. Extensive public controversy exists about predator/fur-bearing contests that award prizes to participants who kill the largest number or variety of predator/fur-bearing animals or the contest is based on the combined weight of animals a participant kills. To the extent these contests reflect on the overall hunting community, public outrage with these events has the potential to threaten hunting as a legitimate wildlife management function. Regulated hunting fundamentally supports wildlife conservation efforts in North America. The loss of hunting would equate to a measurable loss in conservation efforts, and would represent a failure of the Commission in its duty to preserve wildlife for the beneficial use of present and future generations. The Commission anticipates the rulemaking will impose a burden on persons regulated by the rule by prohibiting wildlife predator/furbearing contests. The Commission anticipates the rulemaking will result in no impact to agencies or political subdivisions of this State, private and public employment in businesses, or State revenues. The Commission has determined the rulemaking will not require any new full-time employees. The Commission has determined that there are no less intrusive or costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the rulemaking. The Department will incur costs related to the cost of rulemaking and implementing the rule. The Commission has determined that the benefits of the rulemaking outweigh any costs.

9. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the economic, small business, and consumer impact statement:

See item #4.

10. The time, place, and nature of the proceedings to make, amend, repeal, or renumber the rule, or if no proceeding is scheduled, where, when, and how persons may request an oral proceeding on the proposed rule:

Date: June 21, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: 5000 W Carefree Highway

Phoenix, Arizona 85086

Close of record: To be determined

- 11. All agencies shall list other matters prescribed by statute applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. Additionally, an agency subject to Council review under A.R.S. §§ 41-1052 and 41-1055 shall respond to the following questions:
 - a. Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used, and if not, the reason why a general permit is not used:

The rule does not require the issuance of a regulatory permit, license, or agency authorization.

- b. Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than federal law, and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of federal law:
 Federal law is not directly applicable to the subject of the rules. The rules are based on state law.
- c. Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule's impact of the competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:

The agency has not received an analysis that compares the rule's impact of competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states.

12. A list of any incorporated by reference material as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1028 and its location in the rules:

Not applicable

13. The full text of the rules follows:

TITLE 12. NATURAL RESOURCES CHAPTER 4. GAME AND FISH COMMISSION ARTICLE 3. TAKING AND HANDLING OF WILDLIFE

Section

R12-4-303. Unlawful Devices, Methods, and Ammunition

ARTICLE 3. TAKING AND HANDLING OF WILDLIFE

R12-4-303. Unlawful Devices, Methods, and Ammunition

- **A.** In addition to the prohibitions prescribed under A.R.S. §§ 17-301 and 17-309, the following devices, methods, and ammunition are unlawful for taking wildlife in this state:
 - 1. A person shall not use any of the following to take wildlife:
 - a. Fully automatic firearms, including firearms capable of selective automatic fire.
 - b. Tracer or armor-piercing ammunition designed for military use.
 - c. Any smart device as defined under R12-4-301.
 - d. Any self-guided projectiles.
 - 2. A person shall not take big game using full-jacketed or total-jacketed bullets that are not designed to expand upon impact,
 - 3. A person shall not use or possess any of the following while taking wildlife:
 - a. Poisoned projectiles or projectiles that contain explosives or a secondary propellant.
 - b. Pitfalls of greater than 5-gallon size, explosives, poisons, or stupefying substances, except as permitted under A.R.S. § 17-239 or as allowed by a scientific collecting permit issued under A.R.S. § 17-238.
 - c. Any lure, attractant, or cover scent containing any cervid urine.
 - d. Electronic night vision equipment, electronically enhanced light-gathering devices, thermal imaging devices or laser sights projecting a visible light; except for devices such as laser range finders projecting a non-visible light, scopes with self-illuminating reticles, and fiber optic sights with self-illuminating sights or pins that do not project a visible light onto an animal.
 - 4. A person shall not by any means:
 - a. Hold wildlife at bay other than during daylight hours, unless authorized by Commission Order.
 - b. Injure, confine, place, or use a tracking device in or on wildlife for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife.
 - c. Place any substance, device, or object in, on, or by any water source to prevent wildlife from using that water source.
 - d. Place any substance in a manner intended to attract bears.
 - e. Use a manual or powered jacking or prying device to take reptiles or amphibians.
 - f. Use dogs to pursue, tree, corner or hold at bay any wildlife for a hunter, unless that hunter is present for the entire hunt.
 - g. Take migratory game birds, except Eurasian collared-doves:
 - i. Using a shotgun larger than 10 gauge, a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the shotgun so that its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
 - ii. Using electronically amplified bird calls or baits.
 - iii. By means or aid of any motordriven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the

- purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- iv. Activities described under subsections (g)(i) through (g)(iii) are prohibited under 50 C.F.R. 20.21, revised October 1, 2015. The material incorporated by reference in this Section does not include any later amendments or editions. The incorporated material is available at any Department office, online from the Government Printing Office website www.gpoaccess.gov, or may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000.
- h. Discharge any of the following devices while taking wildlife within one-fourth mile (440 yards) of an occupied farmhouse or other residence, cabin, lodge or building without permission of the owner or resident:
 - Arrow or bolt.
 - ii. Hybrid device, or
 - iii. Pneumatic weapon .35 caliber or larger.
- i. Participate in, organize, promote, or solicit participation in a contest where a participant uses or intends to use any device or implement to capture or kill predatory animals or fur-bearing animals as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101. For the purposes of this subsection, "contest" means a competition among participants where participants must register or record entry and pay a fee and prizes or cash are awarded to winning or successful participants.
- 5. A person shall not use a live-action trail camera, or images from a live-action trail camera, for the purpose of:
 - a. Taking or aiding in the take of wildlife, or
 - b. Locating wildlife for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife.
- 6. A person shall not use images of wildlife produced or transmitted from a satellite or other device that orbits the earth for the purpose of:
 - a. Taking or aiding in the take of wildlife, or
 - b. Locating wildlife for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife.
 - c. This subsection does not prohibit the use of mapping systems or programs.
- 7. A person shall not use edible or ingestible substances to aid in taking big game. The use of edible or ingestible substances to aid in taking big game is unlawful when:
 - a. A person places edible or ingestible substances for the purpose of attracting or taking big game, or
 - b. A person knowingly takes big game with the aid of edible or ingestible substances placed for the purpose of attracting wildlife to a specific location.
- 8. Subsection (A)(7) does not limit Department employees or Department agents in the performance of their official duties.
- 9. For the purposes of subsection (A)(7), edible or ingestible substances do not include any of the following:
 - a. Water.
 - b. Salt.
 - c. Salt-based materials produced and manufactured for the livestock industry.

- d. Nutritional supplements produced and manufactured for the livestock industry and placed during the course of livestock or agricultural operations.
- **B.** It is unlawful for a person who is a prohibited possessor to take wildlife with a deadly weapon or prohibited weapon.
- ${\bf C}_{ullet}$ Wildlife taken in violation of this Section is unlawfully taken.
- **D.** This Section does not apply to any activity allowed under A.R.S. § 17-302, to a person acting within the scope of their official duties as an employee of the state or United States, or as authorized by the Department.