



Arizona Deer Association

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January 27, 2021

Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Mr. Kurt Davis, Chairman
5000 W. Carefree Hwy.
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Re: Article Three Rule, banning the use of trail cameras for taking wildlife

Dear Chairman Davis,

I represent the 350 members of the Arizona Deer Association (ADA), a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to improve habitat and expand the populations of Arizona's mule deer and whitetail deer herds. At its most recent board of directors meeting, the ADA Board of Directors voted to support the Commission's position of banning the use of trail cameras for the taking of wildlife.

As the Commission goes through the Article Three rule making process, we urge you to completely investigate this issue. In 2018, when the Commission was considering a one-quarter mile restriction around man-made waters, the ADA felt that effort did not consider all of the facets of trail camera use on public lands. We hope this time all aspects of the trail camera issue will be considered, up to and including their ban for the taking wildlife.

A very important question is: what does the use of trail cameras do to wildlife populations? Any adverse effects for wildlife from the use of trail cameras should preclude their use for taking wildlife. This is particularly true with Arizona's arid landscape and cameras around water.

Our hunting heritage/legacy has been built without camera use. We feel it is extremely important that traditional values and techniques should be foremost in teaching young hunters. While trail cameras may be convenient, they are not what most of us value in the hunting experience.

For the Arizona Deer Association, Fair Chase is an extremely important part of hunting. We must ask ourselves what technology does to our concept of Fair Chase. What is acceptable and what technology simply does not fit with Fair Chase hunting? It may be a little different for each of us, but in the end it should not give us a tremendous advantage over our quarry. Do cameras give us too much of an advantage, with twenty-four hour surveillance, nighttime and daytime use, multiple

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cameras around waters in arid country, unlimited cameras on public lands, and a year-round 365-day season for camera use with no consideration for wildlife?

Commissioners, thank you for bringing this issue back to us. Let's hope the volume and quality of dialogue and input among hunters is robust, thoughtful, and considered. We are encouraging all our members to engage in this issue, not just a few.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don McDowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Don McDowell
President