

## States Archery Minimum Draw Weight summary

**Oregon**, 40 lbs. except 50 lbs. for elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goat for bow; no crossbows allowed

**Nevada**, 40 lbs. for bow; 125 lbs. for crossbow

**Idaho**, 40 lbs. for bow; 150 lbs. for crossbow

**Arizona**, 30 lbs. except 40 lbs. for buffalo, for bow; 125 lbs. for crossbow

**Colorado**, 35 lbs. for bow; 125 for crossbow

**Montana**, no designated restriction on draw weights for bow or crossbow

**Utah**, 40 lbs. for bow; 125 for crossbow

**Wyoming**, 40 lbs. for the taking of antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, mountain goat, mountain lion, or gray wolf where designated as a trophy game animal, 50 lbs. for the taking of elk, grizzly bear or moose for bow; 90 lbs. for the taking of any big or trophy game animal for crossbow

**Washington**, 40 lbs. for bow; 125 for crossbow

## States Detailed language for archery equipment requirements

Cut and pasted from their regulation pamphlets

### Oregon archery regulations;

**40lbs except 50lbs for Elk, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat, see document**

- Broadhead blades must be fixed, unbarbed and at least 7/8" wide (except for western gray squirrel). It is illegal to hunt with or possess broadheads or arrows with mechanical or moveable blade when hunting game mammals, except western gray squirrel.
- No device secured to or supported by a bow may be used to maintain the bow at full draw.
- No electronic devices may be attached to bow or arrow, except lighted arrow nocks that have no function other than to increase visibility of the arrow.
- No device that supports or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow string when the bow is at rest (undrawn) may be secured to or supported by a bow's riser. Overdraws meeting this restriction are legal during archery seasons.

**See additional documents for crossbow regulation discussions**

### Nevada archery regulations;

NAC 503.143 Hunting with crossbow. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.150)

1. A crossbow may be used to hunt a big game mammal in a type of hunt that allows the use of any legal weapon if the crossbow has:

- (a) A minimum draw weight of 125 pounds;
- (b) A minimum power stroke of 14 inches from the front of the bow to the nocking point;
- (c) A stock that is at least 18 inches long; and
- (d) A positive mechanical safety mechanism.

2. Crossbow arrows or bolts used in hunting big game mammals must be at least 16 inches long, weigh at least 300 grains and have:

- (a) Fixed broadheads that are at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point; or

(b) Expandable, mechanical broadheads that are at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position.

3. It is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Hunt a big game mammal with a crossbow during a type of hunt restricted to the use of archery unless the person:

(1) Is the holder of an archery disability permit issued pursuant to NAC 503.1465; and

(2) Ensures that the permit is in his or her possession during any period in which he or she uses the crossbow to hunt a big game mammal.

(b) Hunt a big game mammal with a crossbow during a type of hunt restricted to the use of muzzle-loading firearms.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, carry a cocked crossbow containing an arrow or a bolt while in or on any motorized vehicle while the vehicle is on a public highway or other public right-of-way. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to a person who is a paraplegic, has had one or both legs amputated or has suffered a paralysis of one or both legs which severely impedes walking, if the motorized vehicle is not in motion.

(d) Hunt any wildlife with an arrow or bolt that has any chemical, explosive or electronic device attached.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Wildlife Comm. by R152-06, eff. 5-21-2007; A by R107-14, 12-22-2014)

NAC 503.144 Hunting with bow and arrow. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.150)

1. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of subsection 4, the bowstring of a bow used in hunting any game mammal or game bird must be moved or held entirely by the muscle power of the shooter through all points of the draw cycle until release and may only be released by direct and conscious action of the shooter, either by relaxing the tension of the fingers or by triggering the release action of a handheld release aid.

2. **A bow used in hunting a big game mammal must have a peak draw weight of at least 40 pounds** and, if the bow is a compound bow, a let-off of not more than 80 percent. Arrows used in hunting big game mammals must be at least 24 inches long, weigh at least 300 grains and have:

(a) Fixed broadheads that are at least 7/8-inch wide at the widest point; or

(b) Expandable, mechanical broadheads that are at least 7/8-inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position.

3. An arrow that is used in hunting any game mammal or game bird may be equipped with a nock that is illuminated electronically or chemically.

4. It is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Carry any rifle or musket or handgun equipped with a telescopic sight or with a barrel length of 8 inches or more in the field while hunting under archery regulations.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, carry a bow with an arrow nocked on the bowstring while in or on any motorized vehicle while the vehicle is on a public highway or other public right-of-way. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to a person who is a paraplegic, has had one or both legs amputated or has suffered a paralysis of one or both legs which severely impedes his or her walking, if the motorized vehicle is not in motion.

(c) Hunt any game mammal or game bird with a bow that uses any mechanical device that is capable of anchoring a nocked arrow at full draw or partial draw unless the person:

(1) Is the holder of an archery disability permit issued pursuant to NAC 503.1465; and

(2) Ensures that the permit is in his or her possession during any period in which he or she uses the bow to hunt any game mammal or game bird.

(d) Hunt any wildlife with an arrow that has any explosive, electronic tracking device or poison attached. As used in this paragraph, "poison" means any substance that, upon contact with the species of wildlife that is hunted, is capable of causing injury, illness or death.

5. As used in this section, "let-off" means the amount of decrease in the draw weight of a compound bow from the peak draw weight to the holding draw weight after the bow has reached full draw.

[Bd. of Fish & Game Comm., No. 25 § 7 + No. 26 § 7, eff. 12-4-79] — (NAC A by Bd. of Wildlife Comm., 5-9-88; R168-99, 1-19-2000; R176-03, 4-8-2004; R114-09, 4-20-2010; R107-14, 12-22-2014; R007-15, 10-27-2015)

NAC 503.145 Sight attached to firearm, bow or crossbow. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.150) The Commission hereby establishes the following exception to paragraph (f) of subsection 1 of NRS 503.150. Except as otherwise provided by paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NAC 503.142, a sight attached to a firearm or bow that is used to hunt a game mammal or game bird, or a sight attached to a crossbow that is used to hunt a big game mammal, may be illuminated or powered by:

1. A battery contained within the sight;
2. Light-gathering fiber optics;
3. A radioactive isotope such as tritium; or
4. Iridescent or fluorescent paint.

Ê It is unlawful for a person to hunt a big game mammal, a game mammal or a game bird with a weapon that is equipped with a sight that is capable of casting or projecting a beam of light that is visible to the unaided human eye from the sight to the animal.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Wildlife Comm. by R176-03, eff. 4-8-2004; A by R093-05, 10-31-2005; R152-06, 5-21-2007; R151-12, 12-20-2012; R107-14, 12-22-2014)

NAC 503.146 Scope permit for person with visual disability: Issuance; application; validity. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.150)

1. The Department may issue a scope permit to a person with a visual disability. The scope permit authorizes a person with a visual disability to hunt, during a type of hunt that is restricted to bows or muzzle-loading firearms, using a 1x magnification rifle scope that is mounted on a bow or muzzle-loading rifle. A person using such a permit shall present the permit upon the request of a law enforcement officer.
2. An application for a scope permit must:
  - (a) Be submitted to the Department on a form provided by the Department;
  - (b) Include a certificate issued by a licensed physician certifying that the applicant has a visual disability; and
  - (c) Include any other information required by the Department to issue the permit.
3. A scope permit issued pursuant to this section is valid for 1 year after the date it is issued.
4. As used in this section, "visual disability" means a visual impairment which substantially limits a major life activity and is not correctable by glasses or contact lenses.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Wildlife Comm. by R138-09, eff. 4-20-2010; A by R107-14, 12-22-2014)

NAC 503.1465 Archery disability permit for person with permanent disability: Issuance; application; expiration. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.150)

1. The Department may issue an archery disability permit to a person with a permanent disability. The permit authorizes a person with a permanent disability to hunt, during a hunt that is restricted to the

use of archery, using a crossbow or a bow that uses a mechanical device that is capable of anchoring a nocked arrow at full draw or partial full draw and complies with the requirements of subsection 2 of NAC 503.144.

2. A person using an archery disability permit shall present the permit upon the request of a law enforcement officer.

3. An application for an archery disability permit must:

(a) Be submitted to the Department on a form provided by the Department;

(b) Include a certificate issued by a licensed physician certifying that the applicant has a permanent disability; and

(c) Include any other information required by the Department to issue the permit.

4. An archery disability permit issued pursuant to this section does not expire.

5. As used in this section, "permanent disability" means a disability which prohibits a person from manually drawing and holding at full draw a bow that complies with the provisions of subsection 2 of NAC 503.144. (Added to NAC by Bd. of Wildlife Comm. by R107-14, eff. 12-22-2014)

## Idaho archery regulations

### Archery Equipment

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With arrows or bolts having broadheads measuring less than 7/8 inch in width and having a primary cutting edge less than 0.015 inch thick.
- **With any bow having a peak draw weight of less than 40 pounds up to or at a draw of 28 inches or any crossbow having a peak draw weight of less than 150 pounds.**
- With an arrow or bolt wherein the broadhead does not precede shaft and nock.
- With any chemicals or explosives attached to the arrow or bolt.
- With arrows or bolts having expanding broadheads.
- With arrows or bolts having barbed broadheads, which is a broadhead with any portion of which forms an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft or ferrule.
- With any electronic or tritium-powered device attached to an arrow, bolt or bow. Except disabled archery permit holders may use a non-magnifying sight with battery powered or tritium lighted reticles.
- With any bow capable of shooting more than one arrow at a time.
- With any compound bow set at more than 85 percent let-off.
- With an arrow or bolt, and broadhead with a combined total weight of less than 300 grains.
- With an arrow less than 24 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.
- With a bolt (crossbow) less than 12 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

### Archery Only Season

Any person hunting in an archery only season, including controlled hunts must have in their possession their license with archery permit validation. During an archery-only season, it is illegal for hunters to use any firearm or implement other than a longbow, compound bow or recurve bow in compliance with general archery equipment requirements, or:

- Any bow equipped with magnifying sights.
- Any device that holds a bow at partial or full draw. Except hunters possessing a disabled archery permit may use a device that holds a bow at partial or full draw. Applications for the use of devices holding a bow at partial or full draw by disabled hunters are available at Fish and Game offices.
- Any crossbow. Except disabled hunters possessing a permit may use a crossbow. Applications for the use of crossbows by disabled hunters are available at Fish and Game offices

## Arizona archery regulations;

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 when authorized by Commission Order and subject to the restrictions under R12-4-303 and R12-4-318.

1. **To take antelope:**

- a. Centerfire rifles;
- b. Muzzle loading 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. Pre-charged pneumatic weapons .35 caliber or larger;
- h. **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
- i. **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)(h) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.

2. **To take bear:**

- a. Centerfire rifles;
- b. Muzzle loading 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. Pre-charged pneumatic weapons .35 caliber or larger;
- h. **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;
- i. **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)(h) to be drawn and held with an assisting device; and
- j. Pursuit with dogs only between August 1 and December 31 provided the individual shall immediately kill or release the bear after it is treed, cornered, or held at bay. For the purpose of this subsection, "release" means the individual removes the dogs from the area so the bear can escape on its own after it is treed, cornered, or held at bay.

3. **To take bighorn sheep:**

- a. Centerfire rifles;
- b. Muzzle loading 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. Pre-charged pneumatic weapons .35 caliber or larger;
- h. **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

i. **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)(h) 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. Muzzle loading 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. Muzzle loading rifles, and

iii. All other rifles using black powder or synthetic black powder.

**5. To take deer:**

a. Centerfire rifles;

b. Muzzle loading 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. Pre-charged pneumatic weapons .35 caliber or larger;

h. **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

i. **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)(h) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.

**6. To take elk:**

a. Centerfire rifles;

b. Muzzle loading 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. Muzzle loading 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. Pre-charged pneumatic weapons .35 caliber or larger;
- h. **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;
- i. **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)(h) to be drawn and held with an assisting device;
- j. .22 rimfire magnum rifles; and
- k. 5 mm rimfire magnum rifles.

**8. To take mountain lion:**

- a. Centerfire rifles;
- b. Muzzle loading 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. Pre-charged pneumatic weapons .35 caliber or larger;
- h. **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;
- i. **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)(h) to be drawn and held with an assisting device;
- j. Artificial light, during seasons with day-long 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
- k. Pursuit with dogs, provided the individual shall immediately kill or release the mountain lion after it is treed, cornered, or held at bay. For the purpose of this subsection, "release" means the individual removes the dogs from the area so the mountain lion can escape on its own after it is treed, cornered, or held at bay.

**9. To take turkey:**

- a. Shotguns shooting shot;
- b. **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
- c. **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)(b) to be drawn and held with an assisting device.

B. An individual may only use the following methods to take small game, when authorized by Commission Order and 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. Slingshot;
- h. Hand-held projectiles; and
- i. Dogs.

3. **To take migratory game birds, except Eurasian Collared-doves:**

- a. **Bow and arrow;**
- b. **Crossbow;**
- c. Falconry;
- d. Dogs;
- e. Shotguns shooting shot:
  - i. Ten gauge or smaller, except that lead shot shall not be used or possessed while taking ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, common moorhens, or coots; and
  - ii. Incapable of holding more than a total of three shells, as prescribed under 50 CFR 20.21, published October 1, 2009.

The material incorporated by reference in this subsection does not include any later amendments or editions. The material is available at any Department office, online from the Government Printing Office web site [www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov), or may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, 732 N. Capitol St. N.W., Stop: IDCC, Washington, D.C. 20401.

C. An individual may take waterfowl from any watercraft, except a sink box, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The motor is shut off, the sail is furled, as applicable, and any progress from a motor or sail has ceased;
- 2. The watercraft may be:
  - a. Adrift as a result of current or wind action;
  - b. Beached;
  - c. Moored;
  - d. Resting at anchor; or
  - e. Propelled by paddle, oars, or pole; and
- 3. The individual may only use the watercraft under power to retrieve dead or crippled waterfowl; shooting is prohibited while the watercraft is underway.

D. **An individual may take predatory and furbearing animals** by using the following methods, when authorized by Commission Order and subject to the restrictions under R12-4-303 and R12-4-318:

- 1. Firearms;
- 2. Pre-charged pneumatic weapons .22 caliber or larger;
- 3. **Bow and arrow;**
- 4. **Crossbow;**
- 5. Traps not prohibited under R12-4-307;
- 6. 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;



7. Artificial light while taking coyote during seasons with day-long 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

8. Dogs.

E. An individual may **take nongame mammals and birds by any method authorized by Commission** Order and 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 no 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.

## Colorado archery regulations

### 5. HAND-HELD BOWS

A long bow, recurve bow or compound bow on which the string is not drawn mechanically or held mechanically under tension. String or mechanical releases are legal if they are hand-drawn or hand-held with no other attachments or connections to bow (except bowstring).

a. Hand-held bows, including compound bows, must use arrows with a broadhead having a minimum of 7/8-inch outside diameter (width) and a minimum of two steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in same plane for entire length of cutting surface.

b. Only legal, hand-held bows are allowed during archery seasons.

c. **A minimum draw weight of 35 pounds and a let-off maximum of 80 percent are required.**

d. No part of a bow's riser (handle) or track, trough, channel, arrow rest or other device (excluding cables and bowstring) that attaches to riser can contact, support and/or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height behind the undrawn string.

e. Bows can propel only a single arrow at a time. No mechanisms for automatically loading arrows allowed.

f. Scopes and electronic or battery-powered devices cannot be incorporated into or attached to bow or arrow, with the exception of lighted nocks on arrows. Recording devices such as cameras or video recorders attached to bows may be used as long as they do not cast light toward the target or aid in range finding, sighting or shooting the bow.

g. Hydraulic or pneumatic technology cannot be used to derive or store energy to propel arrows. Explosive arrows are prohibited.

### 6. CROSSBOWS

a. **Draw weight must be a minimum of 125 pounds.**

- b. Draw length must be a minimum of 14 inches from front of bow to nocking point of drawstring.
- c. Positive mechanical safety device required.
- d. Bolt must be a minimum of 16 inches long, have a broadhead that is a minimum of 7/8-inch wide and with a minimum of two steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in the same plane for entire length of cutting surface.
- e. Illegal during archery seasons.

## Montana Archery regulations

### Archery Equipment

- It is unlawful to use any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wildlife.
- The following criteria define Archery Equipment.

It is illegal to possess, while hunting big game during any Archery Only Season and in archery equipment only areas, archery equipment that does not meet the following criteria:

#### **Hunting Bow:**

A hunting bow for big game shall be a longbow, flat bow, recurve bow, compound bow, or any combination of these designs.

--The bow must be a device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs (includes bows with split limbs).

--The bow must be hand drawn by a single and direct uninterrupted pulling action of the shooter. The bowstring must be moved from brace height to the full draw position by the muscle power of the shooter's body. The energy used to propel the arrow shall not be derived from any other source such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, or similar devices. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams, so long as the available energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous, and direct pulling effort by the shooter.

--The bow must be hand-held. One hand shall hold the bow and the other hand draw the bowstring. The bowstring must be moved and/ or held at all points in the draw cycle entirely by muscle power of the shooter until release. The bowstring must be released as a direct and conscious action of the shooter, either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a hand-held release aid.

Exception: Physically disabled bowhunters certified by FWP with the Permit to Modify

Archery Equipment (PTMAE) is exempted from the requirement of holding or shooting the bow with their hands.

—A bow is considered legal if it is at least 28 inches in total length.

—The nominal percent of let-off for hunting bows shall be a maximum of 80 percent. It is recognized that variations in draw length and/ or draw weight can affect the percent of let-off on compound bows. For these reasons minor variations in let-off are acceptable.

Arrow: An arrow is a projectile at least 20 inches in overall length. The length of the arrow is measured from the rearward point of the nock to the tip of the broadhead.

—A broadhead is mounted on the fore end.

—The arrow shall weigh no less than 300 grains with the broadhead attached.

—Arrows must have broadheads with at least two cutting edges. Expandable broadheads are legal as long as when expanded they are at least 7/8 inches at the widest point, and weigh no less than 70 grains.

—Arrows equipped with lighted nocks are allowed.

- The following are not considered a hunting bow or legal archery equipment during the Archery Only Season or in an Arch Equip Only area or hunting district:

**Crossbow**

- Any device with a gun-type stock or incorporating any device or mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power.
- Any bow for which a portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, or other device that attaches directly to the bow's riser contacts, supports, and/or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height. This is not intended to restrict the use of standard overdraw systems.
- Electronic or battery-powered devices attached to a hunting bow.
- A bow sight which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics.

**Utah archery regulations**

Firearms and archery equipment

Prohibited weapons

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin., Rule R657-5-7

You may only use firearms and archery tackle that are expressly permitted in this guidebook.

While hunting big game, you may not use:

- A firearm that's capable of being fired fully automatic
- Any light-enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light
- A firearm equipped with a computerized targeting system that marks a target, calculates a firing solution and automatically discharges the firearm at a point calculated most likely to hit the acquired target

These restrictions do not apply to laser range-finding devices.

**Crossbows**

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin., Rule R657-5-11 You may only use a crossbow to take big game if you have any legal weapon permit. You may not use a crossbow to take big game if you have an archery or muzzleloader permit.

(Please see Utah Admin. Rule R657-12-8 and Utah Admin., Rule R657-5-11 for exceptions to this rule. )

**A crossbow used to hunt big game must have:**

- **A minimum draw weight of 125 pounds**
- A minimum draw length of 14 inches, measured between the latch (nocking point) and where the bow limbs attach to the stock
- An overall length of at least 24 inches, measured between the butt stock end and where the bow limbs attach to the stock
- A positive mechanical safety mechanism

A crossbow arrow or bolt used to hunt big game must be at least 16 inches long and have at least one of the following:

- Fixed broadheads that are at least 7/8- inch wide at the widest point
- Expandable, mechanical broadheads that are at least 7/8 inch wide at the widest point when the broadhead is in the open position

It is unlawful for any person to:

- Hunt big game with a crossbow during a big game archery hunt, except as provided in R657-12-8 and R657-5-11.
- Carry a cocked crossbow containing an arrow or a bolt while in or on any motorized vehicle on a public highway or other public right-of-way, except as provided in R657-12-4.

- Hunt big game with a crossbow bolt that has any chemical, explosive or electronic device attached.
- Hunt big game during the archery season with a crossbow that has an attached magnifying aiming device. However, you can use a crossbow to hunt big game during any legal weapon hunt

### **Archery equipment**

Utah Code § 23-20-3 and Utah Admin., Rule R657-5-11

Archery equipment may be used during any big game hunt except the muzzleloader hunt.

To hunt big game with archery equipment, your equipment must meet all of the following requirements:

- **Your bow must have a minimum pull of 40 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first.**
- Your arrowheads must have two or more sharp-cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring. If you're using expanding arrowheads, the arrowheads must have two or more sharp-cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring when expanded.

• Your arrows must be at least 20 inches long, from the tip of the arrowhead to the tip of the nock, and must weigh at least 300 grains.

You may not use any of the following archery equipment to take big game during the archery season:

- A crossbow (Please see Utah Admin. Rule R657-12 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5- 11 for exceptions to this rule.)
- Arrows with chemically treated or explosive arrowheads
- A mechanical device that holds the bow at any increment of draw (Please see Utah Admin. Rule R657-12 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-11 for exceptions to this rule.)
- A release aid that is not handheld or that supports the draw weight of the bow
- A bow with a magnifying-aiming device please remember, that your bow may be equipped with a range-finding device. Also, if you carry arrows in or on a vehicle, the arrows must be in an arrow quiver or a closed case. If you obtain an archery permit, you may use only the archery equipment authorized in this section to take the species listed on the permit.

You may not possess or be in control of a rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader while in the field during an archery hunt. For the purposes of this section, "field" means a location where you are likely to find the species listed on your permit. (You are not considered to be in the field if you are in an established camping area or traveling in a fully enclosed automobile or truck.)

This restriction does not apply to the following people:

- Hunters who are licensed to hunt upland game or waterfowl (You must comply with the regulations in the Upland Game & Turkey Guidebook or Waterfowl Guidebook, and you may possess only those firearms and archery equipment that are legal for taking upland game or waterfowl.)
- Hunters who are licensed to hunt big game species during rifle or muzzleloader hunts that coincide with the archery hunt
- Livestock owners who are protecting their livestock
- Individuals who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon (You may not use your concealed firearm to hunt or take protected wildlife.)

## **Wyoming archery regulations**

Section 6, Archery equipment that is legal for the taking of big or trophy game animals;

(a) **For the taking of antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, mountain goat, mountain lion, or gray wolf where designated as a trophy game animal, a hunter shall use a longbow, recurve bow or compound bow of not less than forty (40) pounds draw weight** and an arrow equipped with a fixed or expanding point broadhead that when fully expanded cannot pass through a seven-eighths (7/8) inch solid ring.

- (b) For the taking of elk, grizzly bear or moose, a hunter shall use a longbow, recurve bow or compound bow of not less than fifty (50) pounds draw weight and an arrow equipped with a fixed or expanding point broadhead that when fully expanded cannot pass through a seven-eighths (7/8) inch solid ring.
- (c) For the taking of any big or trophy game animal with a crossbow, a hunter shall use a crossbow having a peak draw weight of at least ninety (90) pounds and a bolt of at least sixteen (16) inches in length equipped with a fixed or expanding point broadhead that when fully expanded cannot pass through a seven-eighths (7/8) inch solid ring.

## Washington Archery Regulations

1. Rules pertaining to all archery hunting seasons:
  - a. Mechanical broadheads are legal to use for all archery hunting.
  - b. It is unlawful for any person to carry or have in his possession any firearm while in the field archery hunting, during an archery season specified for that area, except for modern handguns carried for personal protection. Modern handguns cannot be used to hunt big game or dispatch wounded big game during archery, big game hunting season.
  - c. It is unlawful to have any electrical equipment or electric device(s) except for illuminated nocks, attached to the bow or arrow while hunting.
  - d. It is unlawful to shoot a bow and arrow from a vehicle or from, across or along the maintained portion of a public highway.
  - e. It is unlawful to use any device secured to or supported by the bow for the purpose of maintaining the bow at full draw or in a firing position.
  - f. It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow or bolt that does not have a sharp broadhead and the broadhead blade or blades are less than seven-eighths inch wide.
  - g. It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with any bow equipped with a scope.
2. Rules pertaining to long bow, recurve bow, and compound bow archery:
  - a. It is unlawful for any person to hunt big game animals with a bow that does not produce a minimum of 40 pounds of pull measured at twenty-eight inches or less draw length.
  - b. It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow measuring less than 20 inches in length or weighing less than 6 grains per pound of draw weight with a minimum arrow weight of 300 grains.

### Crossbows:

1. It is illegal to hunt big game with a crossbow outside of a modern firearm season. Crossbows cannot be used during muzzleloader or archery season.
2. It is unlawful to hunt big game with a crossbow with a draw weight less than 125 pounds and a trigger safety that doesn't work properly.
3. It is illegal to hunt big game with any arrow or bolt weighing less than 350 grains.
4. It is illegal to hunt big game with any arrow or bolt that does not have a sharp broadhead and the broadhead blade or blades are less than seven-eighths inch wide.
5. It is unlawful to discharge a crossbow from a vehicle or from, across, or along the maintained portion of a public highway.
6. Exception, disabled hunters issued a Special Use Permit and in compliance with WAC 220-413-130 and 220-413-140. See page 89