

Agenda Item 9

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WAC 232-12-045 Hunting equipment restrictions

Supplemental Written Public Input

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
It appears that the rule as written would make it illegal to have radio collars on your hunting dogs.	The rule was written to ensure that transmitters and telemetry gear used on hunting dogs (for raccoon, upland birds, etc) would continue to be legal.
Two-way radios are used to locate lost hunters and provide safety.	Two-way radios are not affected by this rule.
We use radio equipment on our dogs to hunt raccoons, but also hunt deer and elk. As such, we usually possess radio equipment with our standard hunting equipment. It shouldn't be illegal just because I forgot to take my radio equipment out of my truck.	Enforcement of this rule would be problematic without making possession illegal. Catching someone in the act of using telemetry equipment would be very difficult. Hunters would need to pay close attention to equipment in their possession similar to other rules such as possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl.
Transmitters can be used to track young hunters older hunters or other hunters who might have medical issues. We shouldn't take away the opportunity to use transmitters to monitor lost or hurt hunters. The second sentence regarding possession should be eliminated.	There are several ways to address safety issues such as hand held radios, cell phones, and GPS units. As mentioned previously, it would be difficult to catch someone using telemetry equipment, therefore regulating possession is very important.