

# OVERVIEW OF CURRENT METHOD OF TAKE TRENDS

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# SUPPRESSORS

- June 26, 1934 – The U.S. congress passed a law regulating the use of certain firearms under the National Firearms Act (NFA).
- February 11, 2016 – The NRC approved the use of suppressors as a legal hunting method of take.
- Michigan allows for NFA item ownership as long as the items are duly registered in accordance with federal law. They must file an Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) form-4 application (available on the ATF website), which includes:
  1. photograph,
  2. fingerprint cards, and
  3. \$200 transfer tax.



# SUPPRESSOR PROS

- In Michigan, you can use your suppressor for target shooting, home defense, hunting, or any other legal use.
- Helps protect against permanent hearing loss.
- May increase shot accuracy by reducing noise and felt recoil.
- Mitigates many of the hindrances associated with introducing newer generations to hunting.
- May lesson disruption of wildlife behavior with the use of suppressors.



# SUPPRESSOR CONS

- Suppressor cost: \$350 – \$1,500+
- Tax stamp: \$200, no matter what kind of suppressor you purchase.
- NFA gun trust: FREE – \$500+
- Barrel threading: \$50 – \$100



# CARTRIDGES - LIMITED FIREARMS DEER ZONE

- On June 12, 2014 – The NRC authorized a three year review to allow the use of straight-walled cartridges in the southern zone (limited firearm deer zone) for deer hunting. (Due to be rescinded on May 12, 2017)
- On May 11, 2017 – After the conclusion of the review process, the NRC approved the use of straight-walled cartridges permanently.
- Restricted the size of the cartridge to 1.80” (legal use) for the taking of deer.



# CARTRIDGES - LIMITED FIREARMS DEER ZONE

## FIREARMS CURRENTLY ALLOWED

- A shotgun with a smooth or rifled barrel and may be of any gauge.
- A .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight-walled cartridges.
- A .35 caliber or larger air rifle or pistol.
- A muzzle-loading rifle or black-powdered rifle.
- A .35 caliber or larger pistol capable of holding no more than nine shells at one time in the barrel and magazine combined and loaded with straight-walled cartridges.



# CARTRIDGE PROS

- Longer barrel rifle with straight-walled cartridges increases accuracy as compared to short-barreled firearms.
- Using rifles with straight-walled cartridges ensures that the firearm is sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of participants in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.
- Youth or small-statured hunters may prefer to use lighter rifles with less recoil than a shotgun.
- Paving the way for rifles such as the .45/70, 450 Bushmaster, and 350 Legend.



# CARTRIDGE CONS

- Increased hunters on public lands.
- Densely populated areas of hunters may increase the number of hunting incidents.
- May increase the potential of hunting incidents due to increased range of projectiles.







# TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES

- Some technologies available today have drastically impacted the way people hunt. In some cases, they also challenge the concept of fair chase.
- Over the last 30 years, probably no other piece of technology has changed the way we hunt deer, elk and bear in Michigan more than trail cameras.

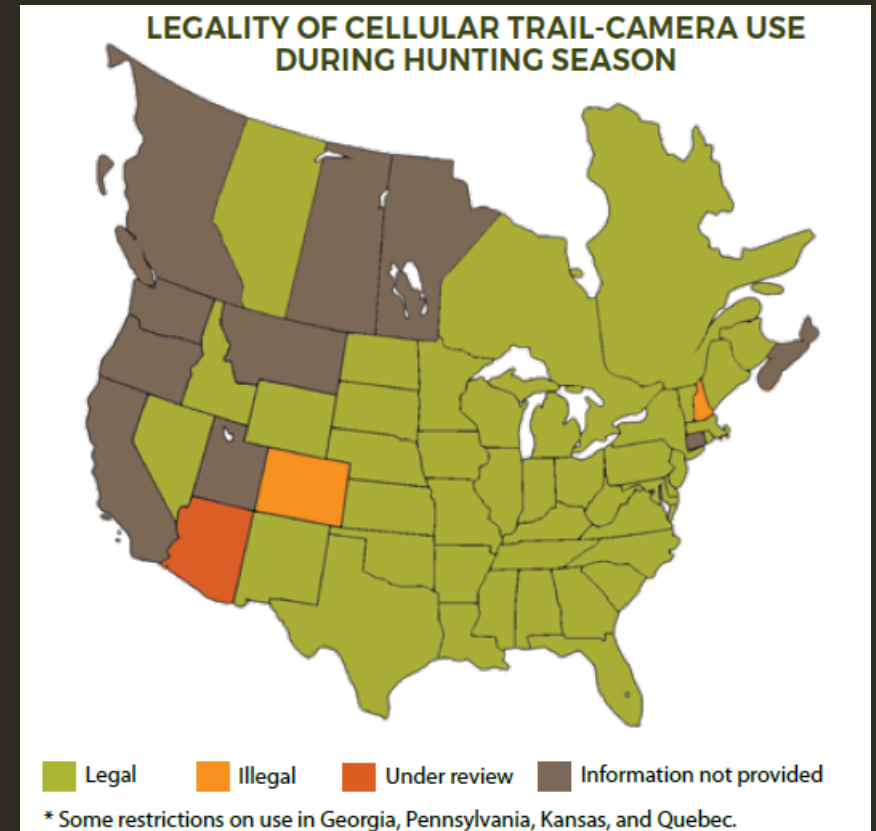
# STATE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

- Currently, Nevada and Arizona are the only states that have a full ban on the use of any trail cameras for hunting purposes.
- Montana, Utah, Kansas, New Hampshire, and Alaska have partial bans, prohibiting the use of cellular cameras during the hunting season.



# CELLULAR TRAIL CAMERAS

- Hunters can purchase cameras that instantly send pictures to them in the form of a text or e-mail (**cellular trail cameras**).
- There is some public thought that cellular cameras have the potential to give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage **under certain conditions.**



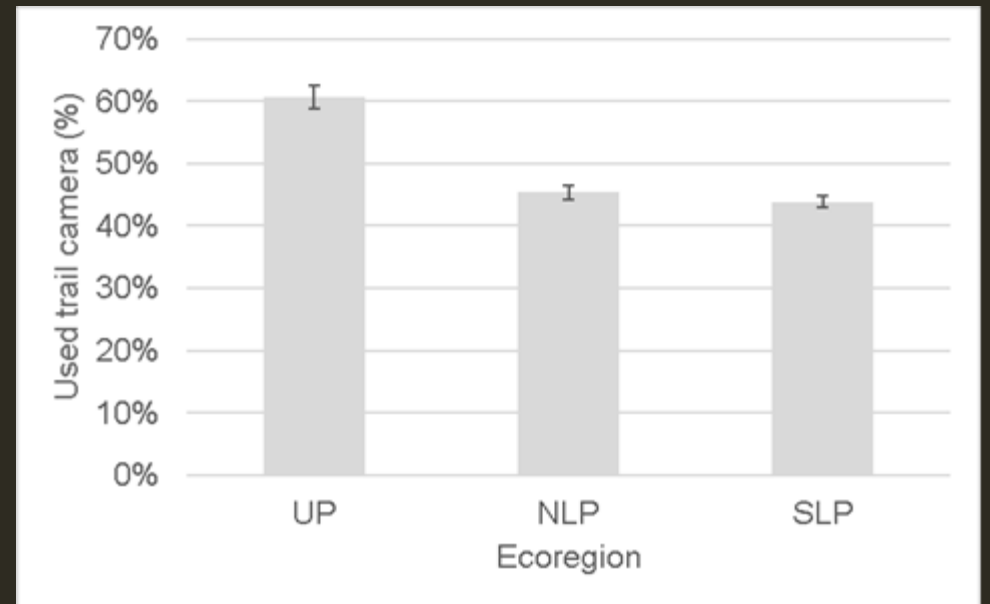
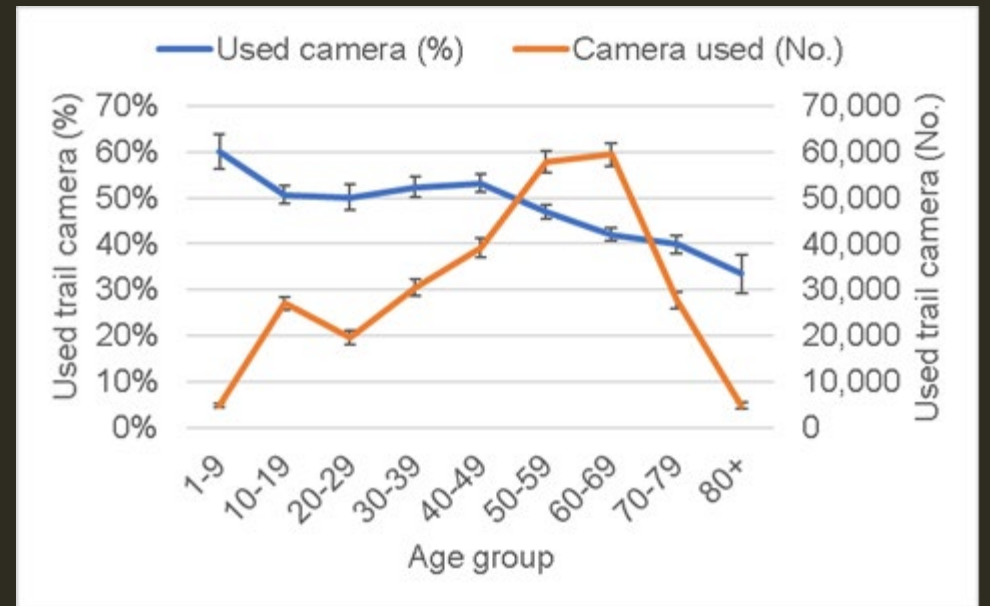


# DNR VIEWPOINT

- There are multiple techniques used for hunting that might be considered fair by one hunter and unfair from another.
- **The larger, more important questions:**
  1. Is the technique negatively impacting the resource?
  2. Is the technique negatively limiting opportunities for others to participate or be successful?
- If the answer is **yes** to either one of those questions, then the technique should be evaluated.

# TRAIL CAMERA USE

- In 2020, about **81% of bear** hunters and **47% of deer** hunters in Michigan used a trail camera.
- Among deer hunters, trail camera use is highest for the youngest hunters (**potential recruitment tool**).
- Deer hunters in the Upper Peninsula are more likely to use trail cameras than hunters in the Lower Peninsula.



# DEER HUNTING SUCCESS MONITORING

- During 2018-2020, deer hunter success was **7-10 percentage points higher** for hunters that used a trail camera for all seasons combined.
- Success specifically not linked to trail camera use.

Year	Season	Camera	No camera	Difference
2018	All seasons	53.4%	43.9%	10%
2019	All seasons	53.7%	46.2%	7%
2020	All seasons	55.9%	47.3%	9%
2018	Archery	34.0%	30.0%	4%
2019	Archery	35.2%	31.4%	4%
2020	Archery	37.7%	32.3%	5%



# BEAR HUNTING SUCCESS MONITORING

- During 2016-2020, bear hunters using cameras **generally** were more successful and more likely to take older bears than hunters that did not use a camera.
  - There is no evidence that this was related directly to trail camera use.
  - Small sample size of data
  - No statistically significant difference in success rate.





# DNR VIEWPOINT ON CAMERA USE

Quotes by Chad Stewart – Deer and elk program specialist:

“I think for most (deer) hunters, trail cameras provide (the) enjoyment of seeing animals that are in nature, when they are not”.

“Because the cameras operate 24/7, it often provides a glimpse of animals they wouldn’t otherwise see while hunting. They can also help individuals survey their individual deer herd to help inform their local management decisions.”

“There is no guarantee that putting a trail camera up will lead to a successful harvest.”



# CONCLUSIONS FOR MICHIGAN:

There is no evidence that the use of trail cameras is negatively impacting the resource.

There is no evidence that the use of trail cameras is negatively limiting opportunities for others to participate or be successful.



QUESTIONS ?

