



Chairman Brendan and Members of the Committee:

I am Jerry Davis and I represent the Montana Bowhunters Association. There is no question that lighted nocks present an important decision point for the bowhunters of Montana. You have no doubt heard from many proponents and opponents of this bill, and clear answers may be difficult to discern. Today, we'd like to present an historical perspective to help provide clarity to the issue.

Proponents of the bill suggest that equipment regulations have been static for decades and that the MBA is attempting to block the advancement of bowhunting. In fact, the current regulations for archery equipment were very recently established in 1996 after careful consideration by bowhunters across the state and in collaboration with the Commission. At that time, compound bows were already very advanced, and bowhunters saw the need to limit further advancement which might change the close-range nature of bowhunting. The "no electronics" stance was established in the regulations in 1999, and all five Commissioners acknowledged it would assist in maintaining generous archery seasons. In many other aspects, the definition for archery equipment has remained very broad, allowing for many adaptations to equipment to aid bowhunters in ethical and effective hunting methods. We've attached the current regulations.

The statute is clear that authority for adopting rules regulating archery equipment lies with the Commission. In fact, it states they are charged with "taking into account applicable standards as technical innovations in archery equipment change." Proponents of the bill state that since the Commission has "failed to act" on lighted nocks, lawmakers must intervene in the decision. In point of fact, no proposal for lighted nocks has been submitted to the Commission in the past decade. The Commission has never had the opportunity to review the merits or negative aspects of lighted nocks. Instead, proposals have been presented during legislative sessions, unnecessarily squandering the time and efforts of legislators in dealing with a special interest bill which could be handled by the Commission.

In effect, this bill sets a precedent for other changes in future legislative sessions which may introduce additional electronic equipment. Once the first exception to the "no electronics" stance is allowed, others will inevitably follow. There will always be some group which believes

another addition to archery equipment is necessary. Interestingly, a review of other states' regulations where lighted nocks are allowed shows the inclusion of bow-mounted cameras and other electronic equipment. Once we open the "no electronics" door, other changes are inevitable. The MBA is not crying wolf, we are merely pointing out the reality which has already come to pass in other states.

The MBA takes its lead from national bowhunting organizations including the Pope and Young Club and Professional Bowhunters Society. Those organizations agree with us that increasing the technological reach into bowhunting seasons progressively undermines the close-range nature of bowhunting, and they do not support electronic equipment on bows or arrows. We offer all of these reasons to substantiate our position in opposing this bill and we urge you to vote "do not pass."

Thank you,

Jerry Davis

MBA Board of Directors

Evidence Required of Game Animal's Sex and Species

- It is illegal to possess or transport the carcass of any big game animal unless evidence of the animal's sex and species remains naturally attached to its carcass or a portion of the carcass.
- Evidence of an animal's sex and species must remain naturally attached until the carcass:
 - Is at the final place of storage; or
 - Cut and wrapped in serving size; or
 - Is at commercial meat processing facility; or
 - Is at licensed taxidermist
- If the head or antlers are removed, evidence of sex in the form of testicles, penis, scrotum, udder or vulva must remain naturally attached. For example, boned out or quartered animals need evidence of sex naturally attached to a portion of the meat.

Methods & Means of Hunting

Firearms

General Season

- There is no rifle or handgun caliber limitation for the taking of big game animals.
- Muzzleloaders, shotguns, archery equipment, and crossbows are legal.
- The possession of firearms with silencers while afield is illegal.

Archery & Crossbow Equipment

Archery Only Season and in areas limited to archery equipment only:

- It is unlawful to use any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wildlife.
- Lawful 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, flatbow, 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) are 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.

- The following are not considered a hunting bow or legal archery equipment during the Archery Only Season or in an ArchEquip 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 or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics.

Weapons Restriction Areas

Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range.

The following equipment restrictions apply to Weapons Restriction Areas:

• Muzzleloader

- must not be capable of being loaded from the breech of the barrel;
- may not be loaded with any pre-prepared paper or metallic cartridges;
- must be charged with black powder, pyrodex, or an equivalent;
- must be ignited by a percussion, flintlock, matchlock, or wheellock mechanism;
- must be a minimum of .45 caliber;
- may have no more than two barrels; and
- must only use plain lead projectiles, not sabots or similar projectiles.

• Traditional Handgun

- is not capable of being shoulder mounted;
- have a barrel length of less than 10 1/2 inches;
- chambers only a straight wall cartridge, not originally developed for rifles.

• Shotgun

- A shouldered, breech-loaded or muzzle-loaded firearm with a smooth bore and/or rifled barrel and/or rifled choke device designed to fire shot or slugs.

• Archery

- See legal archery equipment in the "Methods and Means of Hunting" section.

• Crossbows

- Legal in weapons restriction areas unless exception noted in specific hunting district regulations.

Be Legal - Be Safe

Montana Archery Equipment Timeline

- 1984 - Defeated bill allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- 1989 - Defeated an either/ or bill during the legislative session. The bill would have required hunters to choose a rifle or bow exclusively during the season.
- 1993 - MBA survey showed majority of respondents in favor of the adoption of a state broadhead law.
- 1994 - Members voted their support in favor of a broadhead law. Western Bowhunting Conference reported that 9 of 13 western states have a broadhead law.
- 1995 - Defeated bill allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- 1996 - FWP Commission reported on newly adopted rules prohibiting artificial light and electronics on bows, bow sights, and arrows during bow season. Electronic aids used in the taking or locating of game and transceiver used to located arrows are prohibited under this rule. The commission adopted a rule defining a broadhead. The Pope & Young Club upheld its long standing rule limiting let-off of compound bows to 65% and adopted a new ruling that defined bows for the purpose of entering a harvested animal in their records program.
- 1998 - Equipment discussion intensified due to the introduction of the Accu-Rest bow and dart it was capable of shooting. In the fall of 1998, the MBA submitted a tentatives proposal defining a legal hunting arrow. In the winter of 1998, the Accu-rest bow issue prompted an earnest dialog on potential negative impacts to bowhunting from unbridled technological advances in archery equipment. Discussion focused on the Pope & Young Club's definition of a hunting bow.
- 1999 - The Commission adopted the MBA's arrow definition into the regulations. The MBA Tentatives Committee reported to the MBA membership on Commission Chairman Stan Meyers' concerns regarding bowhunter reliance on technology taking the place of skill and persistence:

Stan Meyer: "If technology markedly improves archer's effectiveness, the season will have to be more restrictive."

Tim Mulligan: "We seem to be constantly behind the technology curve and it is my desire to put rules in place to keep bowhunting primitive by keeping technology at bay."

Charlie Decker: "Every time we set a season, we have a new gadget to contend with. Archers are getting better as the equipment gets better. Since you are having an impact, there may be changes coming down the pike."

Darlyne Dascher: A line on technology must be drawn if bowhunters want to maintain their liberal seasons."

Dave Simpson: "The net results is that today's archers, in addition to being more numerous, are more effective hunters than in years past when archery harvest was in fact inconsequential from a game management standpoint. It is therefore inevitable that there will be more restrictions imposed on archery hunting, whether in terms of season structure, equipment, or both."

Summer 1999: The Commission informs the MBA they have grown tired of dealing with new single equipment concerns each year in the tentatives process. The Commission indicates their awareness that technology advancements are not going to stop and this puts bowhunters at risk of losing bowhunting opportunity if the issue isn't addressed. The Board votes to draft a proposal that will define archery equipment. In the fall of 1999, a MBA member survey showed 92% of respondents supported a tentatives proposal for adoption of the P&Y equipment definition as Montana's bowhunting equipment standard. The Commission formed an Elk Archery Working Group to address the issue of archery equipment and its impact on the primitive nature of archery hunting.

- 2000 - The Archery Elk Working Group endorsed the MBA's equipment proposal, except they supported 80% let-off in favor of 65%. The MBA took an active role in the legislative session and supported legislation outlawing motion tracking devices, thermal imaging devices, and satellite devices used for hunting purposes. In the summer of 2000, the Commission passed the MBA's equipment recommendations.
- 2002 - Adoption of Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE), providing accommodations for persons with disabilities to modify archery equipment.
- 2003 - Defeated bill allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- 2009 - Defeated bill allowing crossbows during the archery season.
- 2011 - Defeated bill allowing lighted nocks during the archery season.

Examples Of Technological Equipment Available:

- **Bow-mounted range finders**

Marketing statements: "The new Leupold® Vendetta™ bow-mounted rangefinder will revolutionize the way you hunt and dramatically improve your chance of hanging meat on the pole. Not since the introduction of the compound bow has there been such a dramatic innovation in bow hunting. Vendetta gives you an instant and precise digital readout of your target range – at full draw – with no excessive movement and less busted game. Simply push the trigger pad and Vendetta continually adjusts distance, angles and elevation as your target moves. Shoot with stealthy confidence that's dead on."

<http://www.leupold.com/hunting-shooting/rangefinders/vendetta-bow-rangefinder/vendetta-archery-rangefinder/>

- **Laser and lighted sights**

"Marketing statements: This innovative sight gives you a clearer, more accurate sight picture at long distances. Get a wide field of view from the large aperture with a 1.8" inner diameter. Glow-in-the-dark ring for peep-sight alignment. Ultrafine click microwindage and microelevation adjustments."

http://www.cabelas.com/catalog/browse/hunting-archery/_/N-1100003?WTz_1=SBC%3BMMcat104791680

- **Laser broadhead**

Take aim at laser precision for the accuracy boost you need! The Spot-On™ Laser Broadhead features an internal micro-laser that activates at full-draw, projecting a daytime-visible beam. Every Spot-On Laser features an adjustable set screw that allows the beam to be adjusted 24" of elevation at 30 yards as well as for windage. This allows each broadhead and arrow to be 'sighted in' with deadly, pin-point accuracy out to 70 yards!

- Laser activates via a bow-mounted magnet
- **Up / down and left / right set screw allows you to adjust the laser beam for windage and elevation**
- Broadhead is 125 or 150-gr., depending on which of the included tips you use (includes standard and large tips)
- Cutting diameter is 1 1/4"
- Can be used with or without sight pins and will aid in set-up and calibration
- **Disposable battery, included, lasts up to 100 shots**



US 20110306447A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
McFatridge

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2011/0306447 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Dec. 15, 2011**

(54) **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR LOCATING
GAME SHOT WITH AN ARROW**

(52) **U.S. Cl. 473/578**

(76) **Inventor: Jeff McFatridge, Hillsboro, TX
(US)**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(21) **Appl. No.: 13/134,531**

(22) **Filed: Jun. 9, 2011**

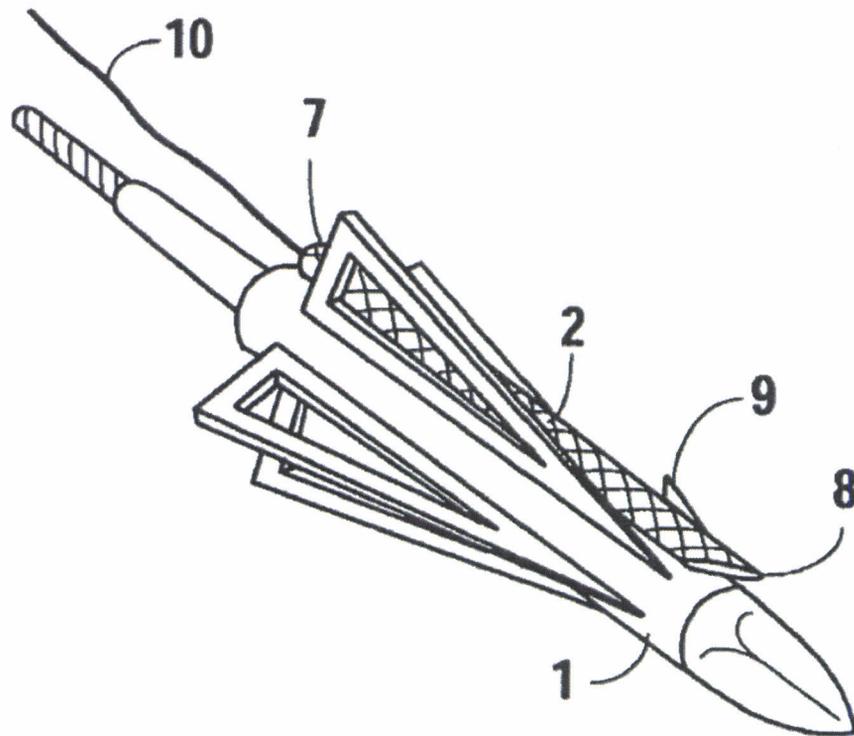
Related U.S. Application Data

(60) **Provisional application No. 61/397,334, filed on Jun.
10, 2010.**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl. F42B 6/04 (2006.01)**

The invention disclosed herein is a device and method to enable a bow hunter to track a game animal wounded with an arrow through brush or conditions of low light. The device disclosed herein is composed of a hollow cylindrical tube which is beveled to a sharp point on the end of the tube which enters the body of the animal first. Inside the hollow cylindrical tube is a battery and GPS microchip which, on impacting the animal's body makes contact so as to provide electrical power to the GPS microchip. The GPS microchip then emits a GPS signal which can be detected by a GPS receiver and direct the bow hunter to the wounded animal.





Press Release

April 2012

Recent history has seen the image of bowhunting as a challenging undertaking by individuals striving to harvest an animal utilizing one's wits and skills — in close quarters, with minimal equipment — morph into another sport of technological domination over the quarry, thereby rendering everything that attracted pioneers of the pastime and its simplistic pursuits to an almost unrecognizable shadow of its former self. Fueled by industry competition and fed by the natural tendencies of human nature to “solve” the inherent difficulties of its primitive practices, many fear bowhunting's future holds dim hope for any continuity of its original intent and the corresponding opportunities allowed as such.

In light of such concerns, three of the nation's most respected and premier bowhunting organizations have come together to remind and state to all just what bowhunting is supposed to be. Recently, in a joint effort, members of the Professional Bowhunters Society (PBS), the Pope and Young Club, and Compton Traditional Bowhunters crafted a mutually accepted definition of what constitutes bowhunting in its original intent.

“Bowhunting big game is an activity that, when compared to other big game hunting activities, offers the animal the greatest opportunity to escape. Therein bowhunting is considered a close range activity that necessitates entering into the proximity of an animal’s defensive senses, thereby risking the discovery of the hunter and so providing the greatest opportunity for the game animal to flee and escape. In concurrence with the teachings of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) and the field experiences of those who created its literature, shots should be limited to reasonable and responsible distances within the hunter’s personal limitations, keeping in mind that bowhunting is getting as close as possible before taking the shot. Under the umbrella of Fair Chase, we define bowhunting archery tackle to be selfbows, longbows, recurves, and compounds that are designed to be shot vertically and are held in the hand, and of which the string is drawn and held by the shooter’s own muscle power. Electronic devices attached to the bow or arrows are not bowhunting equipment.

We believe, for reasons of safety and responsible hunting, that arrows should be weighted and matched in relationship to the hunting bow’s draw weight in order to effectively transfer sufficient energy to the arrow so as to achieve good penetration and ensure quick and humane kills.”

In their roles as leaders among bowhunting’s finest organizations, and as role models to state organizations and game and fish departments across the country, these three organizations’ hope and intent is that this definition will help in guiding good management decisions and thoughtful considerations into what constitutes acceptable bowhunting equipment and practices. Furthermore, it should stand as an example to industry innovators and marketers, and advertisers and PR professionals alike, that bowhunting’s image must remain true in its focus and practice if it is to survive for future generations as the distinctly primitive, fair-chase endeavor it was intended to be, and not blur the boundaries that separate it from other hunting pursuits.