



**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

123-1

ISSUANCE

DATE 1/5/2023

EFFECTIVE

DATE 1/5/2023

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Order(s) Rescinded:

Cancellation Date:

SUBJECT: Unmanned Aircraft use for hunting

With the passage of [Public Act 102-837](#), effective 05/13/2022, multiple changes were made to Conservation Codes. One change which has been the subject of numerous questions from the public pertains to the use of Unmanned Aircraft, or drones, for hunting and tracking of deer. Unmanned Aircraft, as defined by the Illinois Aeronautics Act, can not be used to "take, pursue or intentionally harass or disturb in any manner any wild birds or mammals" under section 2.33(i). Tracking of deer is unique in the Wildlife Code; although it is part of "hunting" and falls under the definition of "take", tracking deer is specifically allowed at night and by the use of dogs in 520 ILCS 5/2.26. Unmanned Aircraft have not been authorized for tracking deer under the Wildlife Code and are specifically prohibited from being used to take or pursue under 520 ILCS 5/2.33(i).


Jed Whitchurch, Director
Office of Law Enforcement

JW:JM:sf

PERTAINS TO: All Law Enforcement Personnel