

August 8, 2016

**Carrying a Firearm While Bowhunting**

The National Rifle Association supports the right of archery hunters to carry a firearm for personal protection for numerous reasons, including:

* Hunters do not surrender their right to self-defense when they enter the field. The U.S. Constitution, the constitutions of 44 states, and the common law recognize the right to use firearms for protection.
* In 2008, the Supreme Court of the United States observed, in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, that the Second Amendment protects “the individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation.”
* Along the U.S. border with Mexico and elsewhere, Americans face the threat of running into criminals engaged in drug trafficking and other illegal activity on private and public land.
* Hunters may need a firearm for protection from predator animals in certain areas.
* Right-to-Carry laws are in effect in 42 states, and people who carry firearms for protection under such laws are more law-abiding than the rest of the public.
* As the number of Right-to-Carry states has risen to an all-time high, the nation’s violent crime rate has been cut by more than half, to a 44-year low in 2014.
* Thirty-seven states have recognized the right of bowhunters to protect themselves by permitting them to carry a firearm while archery hunting.
* State laws and regulations permitting bowhunters to carry a firearm often prohibit the taking of game with the firearm. The purpose for carrying is limited to self-defense.