1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this SOP is to outline procedures to be followed while hunting with the use of hunting dogs.

2. SCOPE. Includes procedures for field operations.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES.
   b. Natural Resource Management Staff: Execute Hunting Procedures in accordance with SOP.
   c. Failure to comply with this SOP may result in disciplinary action.

4. PROCEDURES.
   a. Handling
      (1) Always keep dogs restrained until in the actual hunting area.
(2) While in hunting area dog owner is responsible for control of dogs at all times.

b. Care

(1) Medical kits for dogs will be carried at all times while hunting by dog owner.

(2) Hunting Dogs will be equipped with Protective (cut) collars at all times while hunting.

(3) Adequate amounts of water will be provided for dogs while hunting.

c. Use

(1) Hunting Dogs are to be equipped with radio or GPS tracking devices to track their movements during the hunt.

(2) While hunting EXTREME CAUTION should be used while approaching dogs that are on a catch. Always approach from the rear and assess the situation from a safe distance if at all possible before proceeding. If unsure of the situation wait until dog owner or another staff member is at the scene before proceeding to dispatch catch. All ungulates will be dispatched with knife or firearm (rifle or handgun) at short distance. See SOP 26 covering fire arms usage.

(3) If a firearm is used to dispatch the animal EXTREME CARE should be taken to ensure all dogs and personnel are at a safe distance and out of the line of fire.

(4) While hunting it is very important to keep track of the dogs at all times as they can come and go at will. ALWAYS know the amount of dogs you are using on any given hunt.

(5) During hunting constant communication is to be kept at all times between the hunting crew(s).

d. Transportation

(1) Hunting dogs will be transported by truck using an approved cage mounted to the bed/cargo area.