John,

I have received calls from our members over the yesterday concerned about the Erik Schnelle and NDA’s proposal to GPS and certify hunting dogs other than bird dogs. UPSA opposes this proposal for various reasons. Our club represents members from the entire State.

We have to be careful since we already have a public perception issue with predator hunting. Somehow we have to control the predators. We noted this in the increase in coyotes and the change in the year around hunting regs. Trapping is by far the most effective because the trap is working 24/7. Dog use is important because the dogs lock on to a track and many times is just as if not better than calling.

I do not know of a dog that knows where the property lines are. Even GPS’d dogs trespass. Think about beagles chasing rabbits, even bird dogs on a scent, will they stop at the property line? It only takes a couple of shocks and that dog will no longer hunt. Even certified blood dogs will become cautious if shocked all the at the property lines. Will coyote, coon and bear dogs stop at the property line?

This will be the end of dog hunting in the State. If we are going to certify all hunting dogs, the cost of entry will become prohibited and we can see more hunters pass by the wayside. Additionally, certification is only in the LP and if you live in Ironwood, a 10-14 hour drive will be required.

Property ownership varies through out the regions in the State, Urban and farms in the south, private including the “Country Club” and farms and State in the Northern Lower and in the UP large corporate, State and private ownership in lesser amounts.

How many hunting dog trespass tickets have been issued in the past year?