



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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To: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission

From: Bob Broscheid, Director

Subject: Implementation of the Future Generations and Mussel Free Colorado Acts as well as other relevant 2018 Legislation: Timeline for Related Policy and Regulatory Decisions

With the passage of the Hunting, Fishing, and Parks for Future Generations Act and the Mussel Free Colorado Act, exciting new opportunities exist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to increase its revenue in order to fulfill its mission and the goals and objectives outlined in the bills. The Future Generations Act (*for short*) allows not only for the adjustment of most wildlife license prices annually with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), but also allows the Commission to make other policy and regulatory decisions to help raise additional revenue, implement new outreach efforts and properly manage Colorado's parks, wildlife, and natural resources. Similarly, the Mussel Free Colorado Act will provide a more stable funding source for our Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program which helps protect Colorado waters from invasive species.

While it is a time to celebrate, there is also much work to be done. This memo summarizes the potential policy and regulatory decisions that staff are contemplating and the Commission will begin to consider once these Acts become effective August 8, 2018. Several of these items will require more immediate attention for implementation in 2019 (Tier 1), while others can be considered over a longer time frame (Tier 2).

### Pending Policy and Regulatory Decisions:

#### Tier 1 - Requires Attention Now for 2019

- Wildlife License Prices
  - Keep hunting, fishing, and other wildlife license prices static for 2018.
  - For 2019, adjust all hunting, fishing, and other wildlife license prices to be the price listed in state statute.
  - For 2020 and beyond, determine which license prices should be adjusted annually with CPI (all licenses included in Articles 1-6 are now eligible for adjustment annually with CPI).



- Should certain license prices be discounted?
- Should CPI-adjusted license prices continue to be rounded down? If so, by how much (large fiscal impact)?
- Should the Wildlife Council surcharge be raised initially to the maximum \$1.50?
- Park Passes, Camping, and Registrations Prices
  - Should park pass fees be increased? If so, by how much (full \$1 increase for daily passes and \$10 increase for annual passes)? If so, when should the increase become effective? Does the Commission want to increase the prices for camping and registrations as well?
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Sticker
  - Should the resident and nonresident Aquatic Nuisance Species sticker prices be adjusted annually with the CPI?

## Tier 2 - Potential Considerations for the Future

- Preference Points
  - Should the terminology of the “pay-to-play fee” be changed to a preference point fee or should a preference point fee be established in addition to pay-to-play?
  - If changed to a preference point fee, should the price be increased? The Commission can now charge up to \$100 for a preference point fee per species vs. the \$40/\$30 (depending on species) that is currently charged under pay-to-play.
- Application/Processing Fees
  - Should the application/processing fees be raised from the current \$3 up to the full cap of \$10 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents?
  - Should application/processing fees be discounted for youth or turkey licenses based on the lower price of these licenses?
- Discounted Licenses
  - Should the Commission create new discounted licenses, including:
    - A resident low-income license?
    - Outreach licenses?
    - New license combinations?
    - New license categories for young adult hunters and anglers? This will also require a new regulatory definition of young adult, within statutory constraints (under 22).
  - Should any of the current \$40 licenses established in regulation be raised to the new \$100 cap?
- Park Passes
  - What does an annual transferable park pass look like? Staff is working on this.
  - Does the Commission want to charge for replacement park passes and registrations (up to 50% of the cost of the original document)?
  - The Commission will need to develop regulations, daily and annual fees, and exemptions pertaining to park entrance by users entering by other means than a motor vehicle.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission will address keeping wildlife license prices static for 2018 at this June Commission Meeting. Potential adjustments to wildlife license prices for 2019 will be addressed in September and November of 2018. Parks passes, camping and registration fees can be addressed as early as the July 2018 Commission Meeting, but may require more time to fully vet alternatives. Additional regulatory proposals will likely continue into the near future to address different components of this important legislation.

The Future Generations Act also outlines goals and objectives for CPW and the Commission to achieve by 2025. CPW is putting in place methods to track and report on these goals annually, both to the Commission and state legislature.

### **Other Important Legislation**

Senate Bill (SB) 18-243 also passed this legislative session, allowing for the consumption of “any fermented malt beverage or malt, vinous, or spirituous liquor” on State Parks and State Wildlife Areas, if approved by Commission regulation. Since this legislation becomes effective January 1, 2019, this will be another topic to add to the Tier 1 list. Staff discussions are just beginning on this topic.

Lastly, SB 18-066 was passed which extended operation of the State Lottery Division. While this legislation does secure future funding for CPW through July 1, 2049, it does not require any regulatory or policy changes on the part of CPW or the Commission.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding implementing these important legislative measures.

