

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 12/05/2014

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should permanent regulations for the Bannister Property access easement be created?</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>		
<p>The Bannister Property is located in Yuma County, 7 miles east and 8 miles south of Wray, Colorado. The Property is currently owned by Richard Bannister. Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission approved a 10 year access easement on the property. Current uses on the property include a cow calf ranching operation and recreational hunting. The access easement on the Bannister property was acquired for the purposes of increasing public access for hunting and wildlife viewing. The property will be primarily used for hunting mule deer, white-tailed deer, and Rio Grande turkeys. The property will also provide limited hunting opportunities for other small game species including bobwhite quail, doves, and rabbits. A portion of the property is also being proposed for youth and mentor hunting only.</p> <p>These regulations will function to control public access in a way to ensure that it does not adversely impact the current ranching operations of the owner and to protect the conservation values of the property. They are also consistent with other public access easements in the GMU.</p>		
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>		
<p>Internal publics include Customer Service Agents, Public Services, Licensing Agents, Limited Licensing, Terrestrial, Area, and Regional personnel. External publics include hunters in GMU 102 and the owner of the property. Input has been gathered internally through meetings and discussions. No external comments have been gathered at this time.</p>		
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>		
<p>1. <b>*Preferred Alternative* Arikaree State Wildlife Area - Yuma County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Public access is prohibited from June 1 through August 31.</li> <li>b. Public access is restricted to foot traffic only.</li> <li>c. Camping is prohibited.</li> <li>d. Fires are prohibited.</li> <li>e. Dog training is prohibited.</li> <li>f. Target practice is prohibited, except when authorized by the Area Wildlife Manager.</li> <li>g. Public access for horseback riding is prohibited.</li> <li>h. Hunting is limited to youth mentor hunting only in designated areas. No more than one mentor per youth hunter may engage in hunting in these designated areas.</li> </ul> <p>2. Status Quo.</p>		
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Josh Melby	
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>		
<b>CC:</b>	Yamashita, Kroening, Chick, Taylor, Area 3	
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>STEVE YAMASHITA</b>	
<b>THIS REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<b>YES</b>	
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>	<b>NO</b>	
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<b>NO</b>	

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 12/1/2014

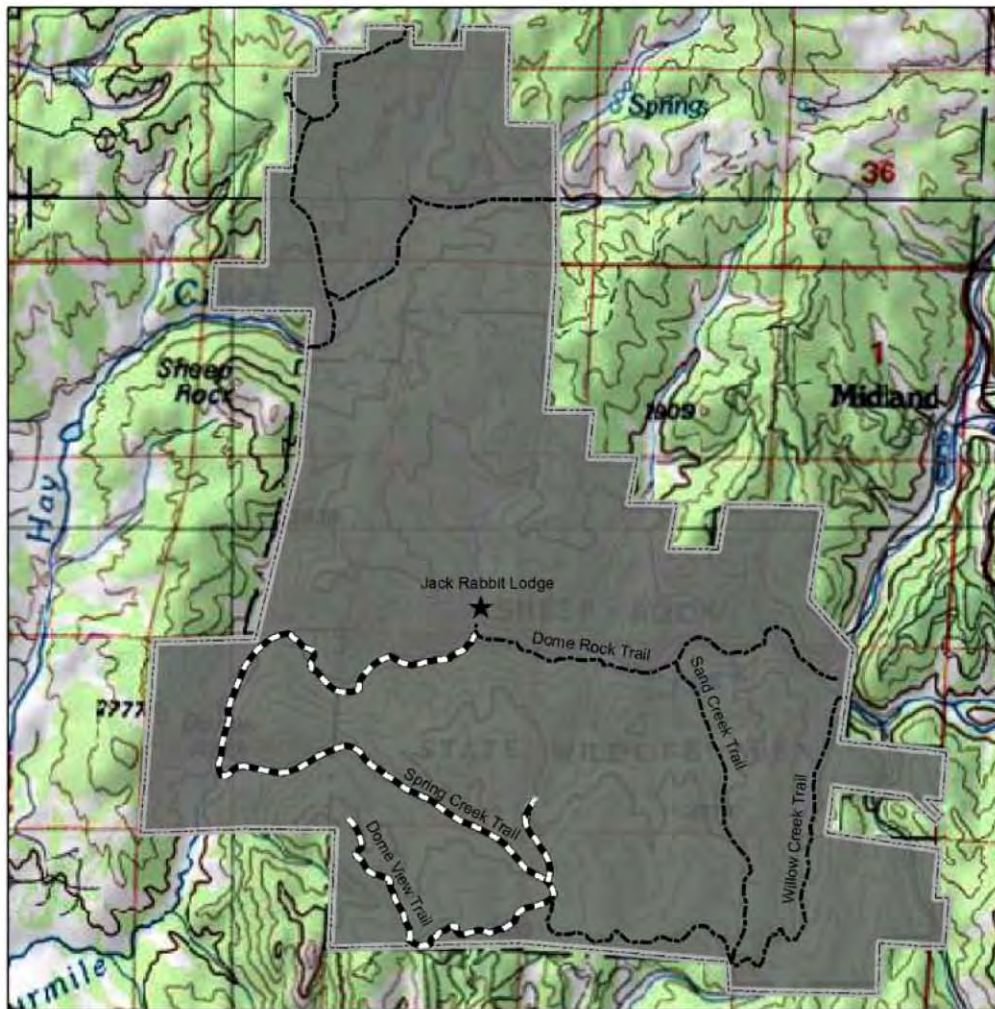
<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should Centennial State Wildlife Area have a prohibition on entry/access from December 1 through June 30, similar to prior regulations for this SWA?</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>		
<p>Centennial State Wildlife Area in GMU 54 in the Gunnison Basin had a seasonal closure limiting all public access to/through the SWA to protect wintering big game (deer/elk) prior to 2008. The property was acquired as mitigation for the construction and subsequent flooding of Blue Mesa Reservoir for the loss of big game critical winter range. The SWA also hosts an active Gunnison sage grouse lek complex and nesting and early brood rearing habitat. The original closure regulation was from Dec. 1 through June 30. This was to minimize access and disturbance to wintering big game and lekking, nesting and early brood rearing sage grouse. The property is readily accessible from US Highway 50 along the northern portion of Blue Mesa Reservoir and it regularly over winters hundreds of elk and deer.</p> <p>During the 2008 season, regulations were changed to allow access to and through the SWA to assist late season (December 1-31) elk hunters and help CPW achieve an objective of reducing total elk numbers in GMU 54. This was due to the elk herd being over population objective and there being game damage conflicts in, primarily the eastern, portions of the unit. The objective of reducing total elk numbers has been achieved and subsequently CPW has recommended changes to the license availability including elimination of the late season hunt in GMU 54 for the western portion of the unit including everything west of West Antelope Creek and Centennial SWA (see separate issue paper for removal of hunt code EF-054-L2-R). CPW has also previously reduced license availability, changed list C licenses to List B and made other adjustments to avoid driving the elk herd below the population objective range's lower limit.</p> <p>Current wording of regulation 901-B-36-a is "Public access is prohibited from December 1 through June 30, except that elk hunting is allowed through December 31."</p>		
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS AS OCCURRED?</b>		
<p>Area 16 staff including Terr. Biologist, sportsmen/women attending annual license recommendation meeting in Gunnison (March 2014) were advised of possible changes/reductions to late seasons and additional (list C) licenses due to reductions in elk numbers in GMU 54 and reduced conflicts with elk on private lands in the Ohio Creek valley of GMU 54.</p>		
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>		
<p><u>Alternative A Status Quo</u> - Continue to allow access to/through Centennial SWA which is limited to late season elk hunters. This hunt code has been recommended for removal to prevent driving the elk population below objective so there would not be elk hunting during this time frame in this GMU.</p> <p><u>Alternative B- Preferred Alternative</u> – Change the regulation to read "Public access is prohibited from December 1 through June 30". This would return the property to a status similar to its original regulations and protect wintering deer/elk and Gunnison sage grouse through a variety of its critical timeframes and activities.</p>		
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	AWM J Wenum, DWM Brandon Diamond	
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	J Wenum	
<b>CC:</b>	Patt Dorsey	
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>PATT DORSEY</b>	
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>		<b>NO</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>		<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>		<b>NO</b>

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 11/13/2014

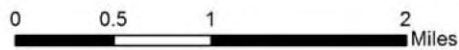
<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the regulation wording for Dome Rock State Wildlife Area (DRSWA) #901 (B) 67(e) be replaced with specific locations to prohibit travel off trail during the closed season by wildlife area users.</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>Bighorn sheep utilize both private and state wildlife area land in and around DRSWA for over wintering and lambing. Current regulations close Spring Creek, Dome View and Dome Rock trails in DRSWA from December 1 until July 15 to reduce disturbance of wildlife by wildlife area users. Wording in Chapter 9 regulations, on trail head signs and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) brochures use the word "trails". This specific word allows wildlife area users to walk off trail and not be in violation of this regulation. By replacing the original phrase with a more inclusive regulation, the original purpose of limiting disturbance to lambing and wintering sheep can be accomplished.</p> <p>The current regulation and signs posted at trail heads on DRSWA now read: Public access is prohibited from December 1 through July 15 on Spring Creek and Dome View trails and Dome Rock trail from Jackrabbit Lodge.</p> <p>The proposed new wording would read: Public access is prohibited from December 1 through July 15 in the area bounded on the east by the Sand Creek Trail, on the north by the Dome Rock Trail, and on the west and south by the property boundaries. The Dome Rock Trail west of the Jack Rabbit Lodge is closed from December 1 to July 15.</p> <p>On other CPW properties with seasonal closures for important wildlife habitat it is common to simply close the entire property to public access for the nesting, lambing, or wintering time frame. Radio and satellite telemetry data from collared animals show that sheep use the entire Dome Rock SWA, and this type of all inclusive closure would be justified. Staff believes however that it is most important to prevent access in the area described by the preferred alternative.</p> <p>If any changes are made to this regulation, it will require changes to be made to the signs posted on the property and to the SWA map available on CPW's website.</p> <p>See attached maps for more information about the current closure and the proposed closure of the Dome Rock SWA.</p>	
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>	
<p>CPW staff are the internal publics. Wildlife watchers, hunters, equestrians and hikers are the external publics.</p> <p>Past and present staff have agreed that the wording should to be changed to help protect Bighorn sheep from harassment and undue stress from wildlife area users.</p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>* Preferred Alternative *:</b> 901(B)(67)(e) Public access is prohibited from December 1 to July 15 on <del>Spring Creek and Dome View Trails and Dome Rock Trails from Jackrabbit Lodge.</del> <b>in the area bounded on the east by the Sand Creek Trail, on the north by the Dome Rock Trail, and on the west and south by the property boundaries. The Dome Rock Trail west of the Jack Rabbit Lodge is closed from December 1 to July 15.</b></li> <li>Status Quo</li> </ol>	
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Bret Mathers Wildlife Technician

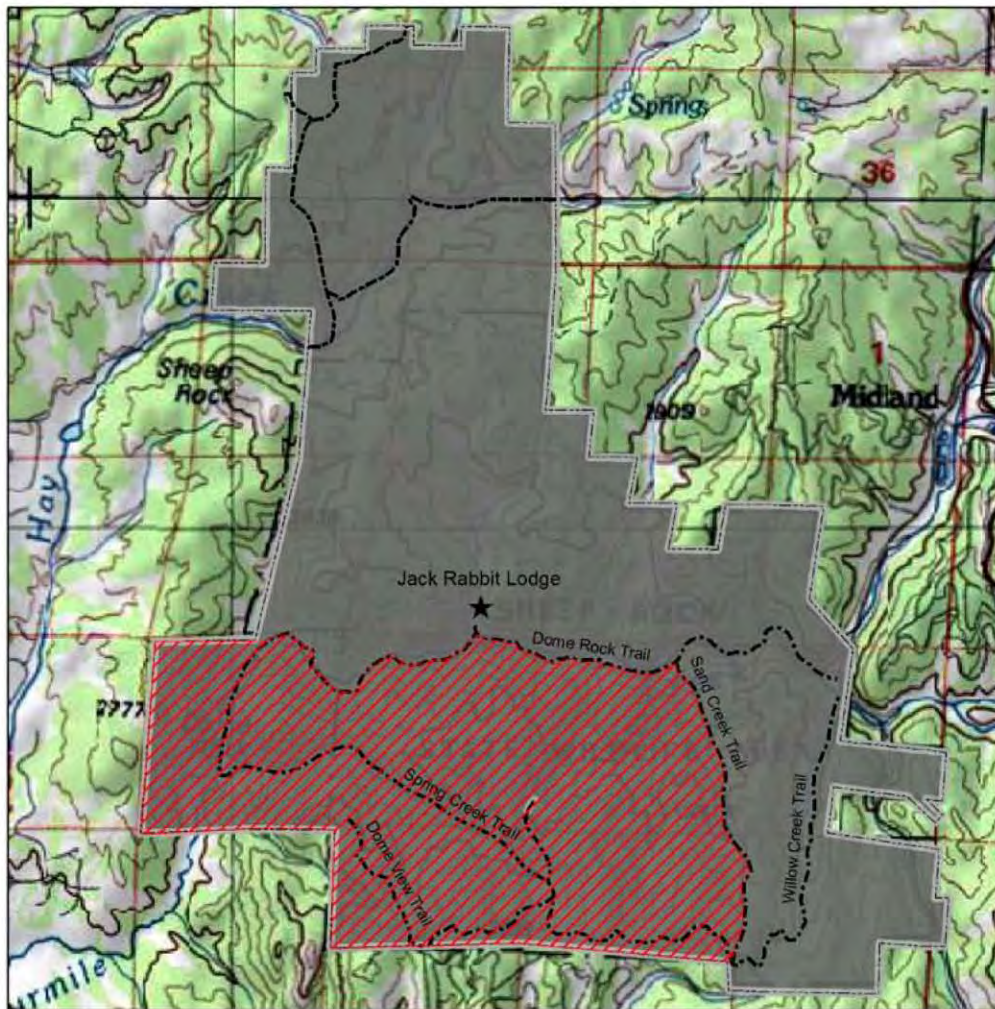
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	
<b>CC:</b>	Frank McGee, Julie Stiver and Brian Dreher
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>DAN PRENZLOW</b>
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<b>NO</b>





**DOMEROCK STATE WILDLIFE AREA  
Current Closures Under Regulation #901 (B) 67(e)**

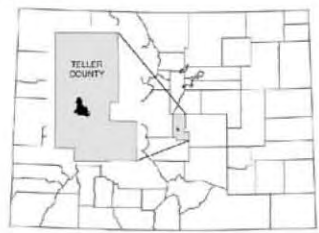
-  Seasonal Trail  
(Closed 12/1 thru 7/15)
-  Trail  
(Open Year Round)
-  Dome Rock SWA Boundary





**DOMEROCK STATE WILDLIFE AREA**  
*Proposed Seasonal Closure*

- Dome Rock SWA Trails
-  Proposed Seasonal Closure  
(Closed 12/1 thru 7/15)
-  Dome Rock SWA Boundary



**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 11/24/2014

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the Frank State Wildlife Area be closed to public access north of the Poudre River and should the entire SWA be closed to hunting?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>Colorado Parks and Wildlife holds and maintains five conservation easements for hunting, fishing and wildlife related public access on the Frank State Wildlife Area. The underlying property is owned by several different landowners, one of which is Bestway Concrete Company owned and operated by Hall-Irwin Company. In the fall of 2013, Hall-Irwin approached CPW and notified us of their intent to mine gravel east of the Weld-Larimer County line and north of the Poudre River. CPW agreed that because of safety issues the property should be closed to public access beginning September 1, 2014 which was the anticipated start date for mining operations. The Frank SWA was closed to public access under the authority of a letter from CPW Director Brocheid and this issue paper will formally close the property through the Parks and Wildlife Commission process to public access. The anticipated duration of mining and reclamation activity could be as long as several years, so this issue paper will close the property indefinitely. CPW is also moving forward with the process to turn over the management of the conservation easements and the Frank SWA to the Town of Windsor and to that end the Town of Windsor has obtained DORA certification to be able to accept and monitor the conservation easements. The goal is for CPW to turn over the management of the entire Frank SWA to the Town of Windsor and to maintain and enhance public fishing and watchable wildlife activities on the property.</p> <p>Due to safety concerns and the changing landscape around the Frank SWA due to land use and development, the Frank SWA will also be permanently closed to hunting with this closure. The Frank SWA has been under the reservation system for waterfowl hunting for several years and was open for all types of small game hunting on the Weld County portion. With the construction of the Poudre Trail along the Poudre River and proposed subdivisions south of the Poudre River on the Weld County portion, hunting is no longer feasible on the Frank SWA due to the potential safety issues and user conflicts that are likely.</p>	
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>	
<p>CPW- Area and Regional staff, field biologists, front desk staff, CPW Regulations Manager.          External- Town of Windsor, Hall Irwin, users of the Frank SWA, home owners associations, landowners where the conservation easements exist.</p> <p>CPW has had several meetings with Hall-Irwin to discuss the property management and gravel operations as well as with the Town of Windsor to work through the process of the conservation easement transfer. CPW has also met with the local home owner associations whose members utilize the Frank SWA for recreation and we have also worked with the Town of Windsor regarding press releases for the closure and impending transfer of the conservation easements.</p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. * <b>Preferred Alternative*</b>: Close the Frank SWA to all public use north of the Poudre River for an indefinite time period effective retroactively from September 1, 2014, and close the entire Frank SWA to hunting.*</li> <li>2. Status Quo</li> </ol>	
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Mark Leslie AWM
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	
<b>CC:</b>	Tom Kroening, Margaret Taylor
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>STEVE YAMASHITA</b>

<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<b>NO</b>



**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 9/16/2014

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should bow fishing be allowed at Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p><b>General Issue:</b> Bow fishing is currently prohibited at Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas in the San Luis Valley and has been prohibited for over 20 years. Reasoning for the prohibition are largely unknown, however during the time these regulations were created, there was more of an interest in fly fishing for carp on the Rio Grande River and bow fishing had not gained the popularity in the San Luis Valley that it currently has. The San Luis Valley currently has little bow fishing opportunities, mostly on private parcels along the Rio Grande River outside of State Wildlife Areas.</p> <p><b>Supporting Information:</b> Over the last decade, bow fishing has become increasingly popular in many areas of Colorado, including the San Luis Valley. Allowing the public bow fishing opportunities at Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas would attract more anglers to these SWA's and serve as an effective carp management tool to prevent over populations of carp. While beneficial as a tool to control noxious aquatic weeds and algae, carp have been known to reproduce rapidly and grow quickly and if allowed to reproduce without management, may also disrupt native aquatic ecosystems of the Rio Grande River and its associated slough and wetland areas where carp are known to frequent in high numbers. Carp over-population has been documented at San Luis Lakes in (2005-2007) and Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area (2010-2014) where thousands of carp have been observed dead along the banks. Populations also continue to rise at Rio Grande and Higel State Wildlife Areas.</p> <p><b>Conflicts:</b> Conflict may occur between anglers fly fishing and bow fishing but it is highly unlikely, as fly fishing for carp on State Wildlife Areas along the Rio Grande River attracts little interest among fly fisherman. Bow fishing can also be somewhat disruptive, often scattering fish in areas where they are congregated for a short period of time.</p> <p><b>Pros and Cons:</b> The benefit of continuing to prohibit bow fishing on Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas is greatly out-weighed by the positive benefits and opportunities bow fishing would provide the general public and the overall aquatic ecosystem. Currently, these State Wildlife Areas do not allow the public any bow fishing opportunities and anglers do not actively target carp while fishing in these areas. If bow fishing is allowed on these State Wildlife Areas, anglers may more actively target carp and pike which should control the population more effectively and provide the public with additional fishing opportunities.</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> A new regulation to allow bow fishing at Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas is being proposed to allow the public bow fishing opportunities on State Wildlife Areas and to control the carp and pike populations more effectively.</p>	
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>	
<p><b>Internal:</b> Discussions have occurred over the last year within Area 17 regarding allowing bow fishing at Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas. New signs were also installed at these State Wildlife Areas to reflect the new signage standards and the bow fishing regulation was not added to the signs.</p> <p><b>External:</b> No external publics at large are known at this time. A public meeting may be held, depending on the level of interest.</p>	

<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	
<b>Option 1: * Preferred Alternative *:</b> Allow the public to legally bow fish at Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas. This option is preferred by Area 17.	
<b>Option 2:</b> Status Quo; continue to prohibit bow fishing at Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, Russell Lakes, and Higel State Wildlife Areas.	
<b>Option 3:</b> Allow bow fishing only along the Rio Grande River State Wildlife Areas (Rio Grande, Shriver-Wright, and Higel SWA's). This option would not include Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area, as it is outside of the Rio Grande River corridor. This would not allow for bow fishing opportunities or additional carp management at Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area.	
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Luke Hoffman/Phil Ehrlich
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	
<b>CC:</b>	Patt Dorsey, Rick Basagoitia, John Alves, Ben Feldt
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>PATT DORSEY</b>
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<b>NO</b>

## ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/25/2014

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should access restrictions be imposed at Mount Evans State Wildlife Area?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>Mount Evans State Wildlife Area (SWA) was purchased in the 1940's for the specific reasons of providing habitat for wildlife and providing an area for sportsmen to hunt and fish. Mount Evans served as a transplant area for elk brought to Colorado from Wyoming in 1916, and Mount Evans SWA, which is still referred to by many locals and labeled on some maps as the "Mount Evans Elk Management Area," became an important parcel and refuge for elk becoming re-established in the upper Bear Creek drainage and greater Mount Evans area.</p> <p>Historically, Mount Evans SWA has been an excellent hunting area for both deer and elk, and has provided anglers with a bountiful brook trout fishery. Mount Evans SWA also contains several trailheads that provide access into adjacent Arapahoe and Pike National Forests, as well as the Mount Evans Wilderness Area. Currently, Mount Evans SWA is closed to the public from January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> annually. During the winter months the property provides a refuge for wintering elk. During the later spring months, the property provides an important elk calving area.</p> <p>Since its acquisition, Division of Wildlife (DOW) / Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) personnel have established a long history of allocating significant resources and manpower to improve and enhance wildlife habitat on Mount Evans SWA. The strategic application of prescribed fire plans has been a joint effort of CPW with the Colorado State Forest Service on the property. Similarly, CPW personnel have strategically utilized thinning and small scale clear cuts, and established food plots to enhance habitat and promote increased elk use of the property. All of these efforts occur on a regular basis, as part of CPW's continued efforts to manage the property for its intended purpose of providing critical wildlife habitat and a place for hunters and anglers to recreate. In recent years, these habitat improvement projects have become increasingly important to elk management in the greater Evergreen area, as part of an effort to attract elk away from populated areas of Evergreen, where there is currently a growing resident herd of elk and increasing urban elk conflicts.</p> <p>With increasing populations and the resulting increase in persons recreating outside along the front range, Mount Evans SWA has become a more popular destination point for non-consumptive users. Hikers, bird watchers, mountain bikers, campers, and most significantly, dog walkers, utilize the property on a daily basis. Vehicles are often lined up at daylight, waiting at the gates when the property opens to the public on June 15<sup>th</sup> each year. On weekends and holidays, CPW personnel regularly observe parking lots overfull with vehicles. CPW personnel have noticed the overwhelming majority of these outdoor recreationists are non-consumptive users. One of the unintended consequences of this increasing popularity and use of the property by the non-consumptive user groups is decreased use of the property by elk and deer. Areas on the property, such as Grass Creek, that hold significant numbers of elk prior to the June 15<sup>th</sup> opening will be void of elk within a week of the property opening to the public. The same trend has been observed at other areas on the property, where elk and deer will not remain with any amount of regularity until the weather turns in the fall or the gates close and human traffic is once again limited.</p> <p>The increased use of Mount Evans SWA by non-consumptive users is a trend that is persistent throughout the summer and into the fall months. At one time, hunters would represent the majority of users on the property in the fall. However, CPW personnel now observe an overwhelming majority of the fall users are also non-consumptive users. Hunters have been greatly impacted by the non-consumptive users during the fall months. On some opening weekends of hunting seasons, there is no parking availability for hunters hoping to utilize Mount Evans SWA. CPW personnel regularly field complaints from hunters about the increased use of the property by non-consumptive users. Hunters continually cite conflicts with dog walkers, dogs off-leash and other users. During some hunting seasons there is little or no harvest of deer or elk on the property, a sharp contrast to the more historic high quality hunting opportunity that the property once provided. The paradigm shift in use, from hunter and angler groups to an overwhelming majority of non-consumptive users, is such that CPW personnel now field regular complaints from non-consumptive users' reference their concerns and unrest about hunters using the property during the fall</p>	

months.

Mount Evans SWA is part of a larger elk management strategy to improve and enhance elk habitat outside of the town of Evergreen, in an effort to attract elk away from town and decrease the number of non-migratory, residential elk. Benefits from habitat improvement and enhancement on the property have been minimized by the significant increase in non-consumptive recreational use. In addition, this use has contributed to significant declines in elk and deer harvest on the Mount Evans SWA and declining hunter satisfaction. Mount Evans SWA is located in Game Management Unit (GMU) 39, a completely limited unit for elk and deer hunting in Colorado. Use of the property by consumptive users (i.e. hunters) is greatly managed by the current limited licensing system in place for GMU 39. CPW personnel have observed that the current limited elk and deer licensing systems have helped maintain desired levels of use of the property by big game hunters.

CPW currently is unable to manage the amount of use by non-consumptive users on Mount Evans SWA. In addition to the SWA providing several trails, the property also provides access to several US Forest Service (USFS) trailheads. During the summer months, CPW personnel estimate that approximately 80% of recreational use is directed through Mount Evans SWA to those USFS trailheads. However, when vehicle access is restricted from the Tuesday after Labor Day until the 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Rifle Season, most of the recreational impact is directed to Mount Evans SWA because of the decreased accessibility to those USFS trailheads (i.e. additional three to five mile hike along closed roads to access USFS trailheads). When vehicle access resumes for rifle elk and deer seasons, CPW personnel have observed continued high non-consumptive use of Mount Evans SWA as opposed to USFS trails. This is likely due to the weather being colder and/or wetter and people deciding to stay closer to their vehicles and better roads.

As previously mentioned, the current limited licensing structure for elk and deer hunting in GMU 39 has been effective at maintaining desired levels of big game hunter use on the property. CPW personnel have observed that use by small game hunters and fishermen are nominal, as compared to the overwhelming majority of use by non-consumptive users. CPW personnel are proposing a preferred alternative of restricting access to Mount Evans SWA to only fishing and hunting activities from the Tuesday after Labor Day through the 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Rifle Season.

CPW Commission Policy states “it is the intent of the Commission that, in accordance with state law, State Wildlife Areas (SWA) be acquired and managed for the preservation and conservation of wildlife and their habitat; and to also provide wildlife-related recreational opportunities to the public, so long as such uses are compatible with wildlife and habitat management goals”. It further clarifies that “non-wildlife related activities may be allowed when they will not interfere with or prevent the property from being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired”. This proposed change to regulation is enforcing Commission Policy.

Furthermore, the negative impact on non-consumptive, recreational users by limiting access to only fishing and hunting activities during the fall months should be minimal. In the immediate Evergreen Area, there are numerous Jefferson County Open Space Properties, including Elk Meadows, Alderfer/Three Sisters, and the Flying J Ranch, and Denver Mountain Park properties, including Bergen Park, O’Fallon Park, Corwina Park and others. Jefferson County Open Space has a specifically designated “dog park” on Stagecoach Boulevard, one of the main routes into Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area. These Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Park properties do not allow hunting, therefore providing already existing destinations for persons wishing to avoid hunters in the fall months. In addition, there is plentiful national forest access and Evergreen Lake for recreation. During the busier summer months, these non-consumptive users would continue to have full access to the property and would not be impacted.

The positive impacts for wildlife, licensed hunters and anglers by limiting access to Mount Evans SWA during the fall months are expected to be significant. The resulting reduced disturbance on the property should help encourage elk and deer to take full advantage of habitat improvements made by CPW. Mount Evans SWA will hopefully serve as a holding property for local elk and deer, and provide greater hunter opportunity. In addition, this should minimize conflicts between users on the property and re-prioritize the use of Mount Evans SWA to its original intent.

<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>	
<p><u>Internal Publics:</u> Local DWMs, Mt. Evans Technician, Biologists  <u>External Publics:</u> GMU 39 Deer, Elk and Small Game Hunters  Non-Consumptive, Recreational Users (hikers, mountain bikers, dog-walkers, Etc.).  US Forest Service managers, Jefferson County Open Space managers  <u>Input Process:</u> Yes – user surveys advertised in local media, CPW website, postcard mailings to GMU 39 hunters, signs posted on property, and personal contact with CPW employees. Coordination meetings were held with the Clear Creek Ranger District of the Arapahoe National Forest and Jefferson County Open Space to discuss possible impacts. Public comments were also received during the DAU planning process for E39 during spring of 2014.</p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>*Preferred Alternative*:</b> Use of Mount Evans SWA is restricted to only fishing and hunting activities from the Tuesday after Labor Day through the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Rifle Season.</li> <li>2. Status Quo: Full Access to Mount Evans SWA while the property is open to the public, regardless of recreational use or license status.</li> </ol>	
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Area 1 Field Staff
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	Joe Nicholson, Will Spence, Ty Petersburg
<b>CC:</b>	Reid DeWalt, Tom Kroening, Margaret Taylor
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>STEVE YAMASHITA</b>
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<b>NO</b>

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 12/1/2014

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the seasonal closure dates on Perins Peak SWA be adjusted?</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>		
<p>Currently, CPW regulation #901(B)(178)(d) states the following: Public access is prohibited east of La Plata Co Rd 208 and north of US 160 from April 1 through July 15.</p> <p>A peregrine falcon nest site occurs on Perins Peak, a mountain located on BLM lands. This area is administered under a special wildlife management emphasis area by BLM. CPW owns surrounding land that is part of the Perins Peak SWA and the two agencies have a management agreement in place.</p> <p>Due to their close proximity to town, these lands receive high levels of non-wildlife related recreation that can have detrimental impacts on their value to wildlife. Human activity can be especially disruptive to nesting peregrines. CDOW documented nest failure during the mid-1980s during the same time human activity was noted on Perins Peak above the eyrie.</p> <p>BLM has a closure around the peregrine nest area that does not allow human activity within ½ mile of the cliffs from March 15 through July 31. This closure follows the “Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors” issued by CDOW in 2008.</p> <p>Durango area trail advocates, including the City of Durango, have proposed trail connections that would cross portions of the peregrine cliff complex on BLM lands. During meetings to discuss the proposed trail, the trail advocates questioned why BLM lands were closed for a longer period than the adjoining state wildlife area. Area staff has also received questions from wildlife biologists with BLM.</p> <p>It is proposed that the peregrine nest closure on the east side of Perins Peak SWA be extended through July 31. These dates would bring the closure in line with CPW’s 2008 Raptor Guidelines and make the closure dates consistent with the adjoining BLM lands. Extending the closure to March 15<sup>th</sup> is not necessary due to another wintering big game closure on the property that runs through March 31<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>This proposed change should increase compliance from the public by having a more easily understood closure that is consistent for that entire area.</p>		
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>		
<p>External: BLM Field Staff- Tres Rios Field Office, City of Durango staff, area trail users.                  Internal: Local CPW biologist, DWMs and Wildlife Technicians. Internal review at the area level has occurred and resulted in this issue paper.</p>		
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>		
<p>1. * <b>Preferred Alternative</b> *: Change CPW regulation #901(B)(178)(d) to state: Public access east of La Plata Co Rd 208 and north of US 160 is prohibited from April 1 through <b>July 31</b>.</p> <p>2. Status Quo.</p>		
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Steve McClung-DWM & Bob Watson-Wildlife Technician	
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	Matt Thorpe – Area 15 AWM	
<b>CC:</b>	Patt Dorsey – SW Regional Manager	
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>PATT DORSEY- SW REGION MANAGER</b>	
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>		<b>NO</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>		<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>		<b>NO</b>

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 12/1/2014

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the seasonal closure dates on Perins Peak SWA be adjusted to better protect wintering big game?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>Currently, CPW regulation #901(B)(178)(c) states the following: Public access is prohibited from the last day of the established deer and elk seasons through March 31.</p> <p>The city of Durango has important wintering areas for big game adjacent to the city limits. Some of these lands are managed by BLM and others are managed by CPW as part of the Perins Peak SWA. Due to their proximity to town, these lands receive high levels of non-wildlife related recreation that can have detrimental impacts on their value to wildlife.</p> <p>BLM manages the lands adjacent to Perins Peak SWA as a special wildlife management emphasis area. Until recently, BLM used a conditions based closure of the area with “soft” opening and closing dates that varied each year based on snow levels. This created confusion from the public from year to year, so BLM switched to a “hard” or set opening/closing dates as part of their new resource management plan. BLM is using CPW’s big game winter range recommendations, using the dates of December 1 – April 15 for their winter closure.</p> <p>CPW has conducted radio collar monitoring of mule deer use of lands in the Durango area. Most collared deer are moving off winter range in May with a few starting in late April, even during more moderate winters. Most would agree that the last month, when body reserves are at their lowest, is the most important for individual survival.</p> <p>Based on that data, the current March 31 end date on the SWAs is too early to capture the full wintering season. CPW asked the BLM to keep their lands closed until mid-April to protect wintering big game under the conditions-based closure scenario. Some members of the public have questioned why BLM lands should remain closed to recreation while state wildlife areas that are lands dedicated for wildlife are being opened.</p> <p>It is proposed that the winter closure on the Perins Peak SWA be from December 1 through April 15. These dates would provide more protection for wintering wildlife by shifting the closure back about 15 days. This proposal would shift the closure dates and would not result in the wildlife area being closed for a longer period. It would also benefit the public by having specific dates that will not change from year to year and that are applicable across most public lands adjacent to Durango.</p> <p>This later closure date would close the wildlife area to turkey hunters, possibly for the first week of the season. It is proposed that turkey hunters with a valid license for that unit be allowed to enter the wildlife area to turkey hunt. Because of the way that they hunt (camouflage clothing, quiet movements, etc.), turkey hunters would be less likely to impact late wintering wildlife than a dog walker for example. There are several properties across the state that exempt turkey hunters from area closures, so this type of exception is not a new concept.</p>	
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>	
<p>External: BLM Field Staff- Tres Rios Field Office, City of Durango staff, area trail users.          Internal: Local CPW biologist, DWMs and Wildlife Technicians. Internal review at the area level has occurred and resulted in this issue paper.</p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	

1. <b>* Preferred Alternative *</b> : Change CPW regulation #901(B)(178)(c) to state: Public access is prohibited from <b>December 1 through April 15, except turkey hunters possessing a valid, unfilled turkey license in GMU 74.</b>	
2. Status Quo.	
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Matt Thorpe – Area 15 AWM
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	
<b>CC:</b>	Patt Dorsey – SW Regional Manager
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>PATT DORSEY- SW REGION MANAGER</b>
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<b>NO</b>



**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 12/1/2014

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the seasonal closure dates on Bodo SWA be adjusted to better protect wintering big game?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>Currently, CPW regulation #901(B)(22)(a) states the following: Public access is prohibited from December 1 through March 31, except that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Small game hunting is allowed south of CR 210.</li> <li>2. The Smelter Mountain Trail is open for foot access from only 10 am – 2 pm. Dogs are prohibited from access under this provision.</li> </ol> <p>The city of Durango has important wintering areas for big game adjacent to the city limits. Some of these lands are managed by BLM and others are managed by CPW as part of the Bodo SWA. Due to their proximity to town, these lands receive high levels of non-wildlife related recreation that can have detrimental impacts to wildlife.</p> <p>CPW has conducted radio collar monitoring of mule deer use of lands in the Durango area. Most collared deer are moving off winter range in May with a few starting in late April, even during more moderate winters. Most would agree that the last month, when body reserves are at their lowest, is the most important for individual survival.</p> <p>Based on that data, the current March 31 end date on Bodo SWA is too early to capture the full wintering season. CPW has asked the BLM to keep their lands closed until mid-April to protect wintering big game under a conditions-based closure scenario. Based on CPW input, BLM has started using set dates of December 1 – April 15 for their winter closure. Some members of the public have questioned why BLM lands should remain closed to recreation while state wildlife areas that are lands dedicated for wildlife are being opened.</p> <p>It is proposed that the winter closure on the Bodo SWA be from December 1 through April 15. Based on locally obtained radio collar data, this proposal would provide more protection for wintering wildlife by adding 15 days. Public access to the Smelter Mountain trail would not be changed under this proposal. Along with a similar proposal for Perins Peak SWA, this proposal would benefit the public by standardizing the closure dates for all Durango wildlife areas. It will also make them consistent with wildlife closures that are in place for most public lands adjacent to Durango.</p> <p>This later closure date would close the northern portion of the wildlife area to turkey hunters, possibly for the first week of the season. However, the southern portion south of CR 210 would remain open to small game hunting so turkey hunters would have access to that area.</p>	
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>	
<p>External: BLM Field Staff- Tres Rios Field Office, City of Durango staff, area trail users.          Internal: Local CPW biologist, DWMs and Wildlife Technicians. Internal review at the area level has occurred and resulted in this issue paper.</p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>* Preferred Alternative *</b>: Change CPW regulation #901(B)(22)(a) to state: Public access is prohibited from <b>December 1 through April 15, except that....</b></li> <li>2. Status Quo.</li> </ol>	

<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Matt Thorpe – Area 15 AWM	
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>		
<b>CC:</b>	Patt Dorsey – SW Regional Manager	
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>PATT DORSEY- SW REGION MANAGER</b>	
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>		<b>NO</b>
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>		<b>YES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>		<b>NO</b>

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 11/23/2013

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should hunting for big game be allowed on Meeker Pasture SWA with muzzleloaders and high powered rifles?</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>		
<p>Meeker Pasture SWA does not currently have any special restrictions listed in Chapter 9 of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regulations relative to hunting of wildlife of any kind on the property. This small 40-acre property along the White River east of Meeker is popular for waterfowl hunting and coldwater fishing. Special catch and release only and fly and lure only fishing regulations for trout have been established by CPW for the short section of the White River which runs through Meeker Pasture SWA.</p> <p>However, a small number of big game (primarily deer) also cross through the small property during the regular rifle seasons which is tempting for a few big game hunters. Due to the extremely small size of Meeker Pasture SWA property and the fact that the property is within very close proximity to RBC Road 8, multiple rural residential homes, and multiple livestock ranching operations, CPW staff and adjacent private ranchers/landowners have expressed concerns about whether it is safe to allow hunting of big game on Meeker Pasture SWA with muzzleloaders and high powered rifles.</p> <p>Archery hunting of big game and waterfowl hunting with shotguns on Meeker Pasture SWA pose no safety issues or conflicts, although the small size of the property is certainly not ideal for hunting of any kind.</p>		
<b>WHO ARE THE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL PUBLICS IN THIS ISSUE? WHAT INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED?</b>		
CPW Area 6 staff and adjacent private landowners near Meeker Pasture SWA have discussed potential human and livestock safety concerns of allowing big game hunters to hunt on Meeker Pasture SWA with high powered rifles and muzzleloaders.		
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. * <b>Preferred Alternative</b> *: Create a special regulation within Chapter 9 which prohibits hunting of any big game with any rifle or muzzleloader on Meeker Pasture SWA.</li> <li>2. Status Quo with no special restrictions relative to hunting on Meeker Pasture SWA</li> </ol>		
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Bailey Franklin, Area 6	
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>		
<b>CC:</b>	Bill DeVergie, Ron Velarde, Terry Ivie	
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	<b>RON VELARDE</b>	
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<b>YES (But only in the SWA brochure)</b>	
<b>ISSUE PAPER HAS BEEN EMAILED TO REG REVIEW MGRS GROUP?</b>	<b>YES</b>	
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<b>NO</b>	