

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-2 - BIG GAME

#206 - APPLICATIONS AND DRAWINGS FOR LIMITED LICENSES

A. Exceeding of Quota: The Division shall only exceed the number of licenses authorized by the Commission:

- 1. If there is proof of Division error in the application for or issuance of a limited license, provided that the director or his designee determines there will be no detrimental impact to the subject wildlife population.
- 2. To issue licenses to hunters with mobility impairments or United States Armed Services Wounded Warrior hunters, who qualify for such licenses in accordance with regulation #206(B)(4)(e) or #206(B)(4)(f), provided there is no detrimental impact to the established herd population and sex ratio objectives. For each of these two programs:
 - no more than 100 limited antlerless deer, 100 limited doe pronghorn, and 200 limited antlerless elk licenses may be issued each year.
 - no more than 100 total antlered or either-sex licenses for deer or elk and buck pronghorn licenses in the aggregate may be issued each year.
 Provided further, that limited license numbers for wildlife ranching properties cannot exceed the levels established by the Division and the landowner on the Ranching for Wildlife Seasons Form.

B. Application and Drawing Provisions and Restrictions—:

- 1. General Provisions and Restrictions
 - a. Number of Applications: No person may submit more than one application per year for the regular drawing process for a limited license for any big game species, nor more than one application per year for a leftover limited license for any species.
 - b. Additional Choice Applications: Any additional choice on any application must be for the same species as the first choice.
 - c. Valid Applications: Only complete and correct application forms will be accepted. Any forms involved in a violation of (a) or (b) above will be considered to be incorrect. Any incorrect application by one member of a group will invalidate the entire application.
 - d. Group Applications: Group applications are accepted for the regular drawing for all species except moose and desert bighorn sheep, with no limit on the number of applicants per group except as follows:

Bighorn Sheep	2 applicant maximum
Mountain Goat	2 applicant maximum

 Provided further that residents and nonresidents may not apply for the sheep or mountain goat on same group application.
 - e. Ranching for Wildlife: Non-residents are not eligible to apply for public Ranching for Wildlife licenses for any big game species.

f. Bighorn Sheep Access Program: Non-residents are not eligible to apply for public Bighorn Sheep Access Program licenses.

2. Restrictions by Species

- a. Bighorn Sheep: Any person who harvests a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ram, one-half (½) curl or larger, except one taken on an Division auction or raffle license, ~~a special sheep management license, a private ram license that was not obtained through the public draw and for which the landowner has a contract or agreement with the Division,~~ or a license issued in accordance with regulation #271 or #272, shall not be eligible to apply for, or participate in the drawing for a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ram license for the five years following the year in which the harvest occurred. During this five year period a person may apply for a ewe license, but if unsuccessful will not receive preference points or chances. Any person who harvests a desert bighorn sheep, shall never again be eligible to apply for or participate in a desert bighorn sheep license drawing.
- b. Mountain Goat: Any person who harvests a mountain goat, except one taken on an auction or raffle license, a special goat management license, or a license issued in accordance with regulation #271 or #272, shall not be eligible to apply for or participate in the drawing for a mountain goat license for the five years following the year in which the harvest occurred.
- c. Moose: Any person who harvests an antlered moose, except one taken on an auction or raffle license, or a license issued in accordance with regulation #271 or #272 shall never again be eligible to apply for or participate in an antlered or either-sex moose license drawing.

5. Drawing Processes

- a. Applications using landowner preference and youth preference shall be drawn, in that order, prior to drawing general public applications for the same species.
- b. Except as otherwise provided, applicants who applied properly for deer, elk, or pronghorn in the regular drawing and are unsuccessful will be given an option to: Apply for a leftover drawing. Request a refund. Donate that refund to the Division's nongame or Operation Game Thief fund. No such donation may be split between the two funds. Request an unlimited antlered elk license.
- c. Unsuccessful applicants for bear, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or moose will receive a refund check.
- d. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of their accumulated preference points and chances on their refund check stub, on their leftover drawing letter, or on their carcass tag, whichever is applicable.
- e. Nonresident hunter drawing limitations (first choice applications only)
 1. Nonresidents hunters shall receive no more than 10% of available moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat licenses for all hunt codes. In the event there are an insufficient number of nonresident applications for the allocated number of moose, bighorn sheep or mountain goat licenses in any hunt code, the excess nonresident licenses will be issued to residents through the regular drawing process. These drawing limitations

do not apply to the issuance of Bighorn Sheep Access Program (BSAP) licenses.

2. Unless there is an insufficient number of resident applications, nonresident hunters shall receive no more than 35% of available deer and elk licenses for hunt codes requiring fewer than six preference points for resident hunters to draw in the regular drawing, and no more than 20% of available deer and elk licenses for hunt codes requiring six or more preference points for resident hunters to draw in the regular drawing as calculated using a three-year average for the 2007, 2008, and 2009 limited license draws. These drawing limitations do not apply to the issuance of Private Land Only and Ranching for Wildlife licenses.

6. Leftover Licenses, Drawing Provisions and Restrictions

- a. Elk, deer, pronghorn and bear licenses which are not issued through the regular drawing will be issued as "leftover" licenses, (through one "leftover" drawing process if the number of "leftover" licenses is sufficient to justify the administrative cost).
- b. Only persons who apply for a limited license and who are unsuccessful are eligible for the leftover license drawing. Applicants for the leftover drawing may only apply for the same species that they applied for in the initial drawing.
- c. Any eligible hunter, ages 12 – 17 shall receive preference for leftover deer and elk licenses.
- d. Any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces stationed at any military facility in Colorado and actively deployed outside the United States, or any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is a Colorado resident and is deployed outside the United States, shall be allowed a preference for the purchase of leftover licenses prior to their sale to the general public.
- e. Group applications are not accepted for leftover licenses.
- f. Applicants must respond on the forms provided to the individuals by the Division following the regular drawing.
- g. Applications must be postmarked no later than the first Tuesday in July, annually.
- h. Applications not postmarked by the first Tuesday in July, annually, will receive a refund.
- i. Leftover Ranching for Wildlife licenses will not be available through the standard over-the-counter leftover process. For information regarding the availability of these licenses on a first-come, first-served basis, please refer to the big game drawing brochure or call the Division at (303) 297-1192.

#210 - RANCHING FOR WILDLIFE – DEER, ELK, PRONGHORN, BLACK BEAR, MOOSE, AND BIGHORN SHEEP

A. Implementation Authority

1. The Director is authorized to implement the Ranching for Wildlife program, including the authority to determine ranch enrollment status, enter into cooperative agreements with

ranches, establish and modify public and private season dates on each ranch, and establish and modify license allocations to each ranch including the subsequent distribution of licenses to the public and private share annually, and may establish additional Ranching for Wildlife operating guidelines subject to the following provisions.

B. Ranch Entry and Maintenance

1. Ranches must have a minimum of 10,000 acres of privately owned land in one contiguous unit. Ranches that meet this 10,000-acre minimum requirement may include privately owned non-contiguous parcels in the program if the Director determines that their inclusion will contribute to meeting the performance standards for the ranch.
2. Ranches must develop a Ranching for Wildlife Management Plan that includes goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving such goals and objectives for wildlife habitat management, species management, and public hunting management. The Management Plan shall identify the Tier category in which the ranch seeks to be placed and what specific actions the ranch will take to achieve the appropriate Tier placement criteria. The Management Plan must be approved by the Division prior to execution of a Cooperative Agreement for Ranching for Wildlife.
3. Ranches may not charge public hunters an access fee for hunting.
4. Except as agreed to in writing by the Division when necessary to meet the ranch performance standards or as mutually agreed and contained in the Management Plan, ranches must provide for equality of access in terms of geographical area and mode of transportation for both public and private hunters. No closure or restriction of land or roads shall apply to public hunters that do not also apply to private hunters.
5. Public hunts must be established at a time when the species to be hunted are present and available for harvest. No public seasons shall be established during times when normal winter conditions would prevent access to most of the ranch, nor when normal migration patterns of the species to be hunted result in the species having migrated off the ranch.
6. Ranches that establish coinciding or overlapping public and private hunts may not exclude public hunters from any portion of the ranch due to the presence of private hunters.
7. The Ranch and the Division will mutually agree to ranch rules regarding access to and hunting on the ranch by public hunters. The ranch rules will be provided to hunters prior to seasons on the ranch in accordance with other provisions contained in this regulation.
8. Enrolled ranches shall not be eligible for game damage payments or materials for those species hunted in the program when damage occurs within the boundaries of the enrolled portions of the ranch.
9. The Division may, at its sole discretion, require ranches with public bighorn sheep hunting seasons to provide scouting access to those hunters and their companions prior to such seasons. Provisions for this scouting access shall be contained in the Management Plan.

C. Cooperative Agreements, Enrollment, Denial of Enrollment, Termination of Enrollment

1. The Division is authorized to enter into Cooperative Agreements with ranches.

2. Ranches may appeal enrollment decisions to the ~~Wildlife~~ Commission.
3. Cooperative Agreements shall incorporate approved Ranching For Wildlife Management Plans as part of the Cooperative Agreement.
4. The Division shall periodically evaluate ranches for enrollment, contract performance, and Tier placement, and shall establish minimum performance standards for ranches enrolled in the program, including wildlife habitat management and improvement, public recreation opportunity and experience, and any factors intended to contribute to meeting Data Analysis Unit (DAU) management objectives. Such performance standards shall be incorporated into the Cooperative Agreement with the ranch.

D. Season Structures, Manner of Take, License Restrictions

1. Public and private seasons opening and closing date parameters
 - a. Deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep seasons may not begin before the first day of the statewide archery season for that species, nor extend beyond January 31.
 - b. Black bear season may not begin before September 2, nor extend beyond October 31.
2. Private season length
 - a. Deer, elk, or pronghorn private seasons are restricted to a maximum of ninety (90) days.
 - b. Moose or bighorn sheep private seasons are restricted to a maximum of 30 days.
3. Public season length
 - a. Deer and elk public season length
 1. Antlered or either sex public hunting seasons shall be a minimum of ten (10) days in length for every licensed public hunter, either as a minimum of ten (10) consecutive days in length or divided into two (2) or more five (5) day periods.
 2. Ranches must offer a total of at least ten (10) days of antlerless public hunting. The season may run a minimum of ten (10) consecutive days; or may be split into two (2) or more five (5) day periods in which a hunter's license is valid in each period; or may be split into two (2) or more five (5) day seasons in which a hunter's license is valid in one but not any other five (5) day season. Ranches electing to split seasons and limit hunter participation to a single five (5) day season must assure that total public hunter harvest and licenses available are as much or more than would be achieved in the other two antlerless season alternatives.
 3. All public seasons or periods will include one full weekend, but seasons need not open on weekend days.
 - b. Pronghorn public season length

1. Buck or doe hunting seasons shall be a minimum of five (5) days in length. All public seasons shall include one full weekend, but seasons need not open on weekend days.
 - c. Black Bear public season length
 1. Shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) days in length.
 - d. Moose public season length
 1. Antlered or antlerless public hunting seasons shall be a minimum of ten (10) days in length. Antlered seasons shall include a minimum of five (5) consecutive days without overlapping any antlerless moose hunting season on the ranch.
 - e. Bighorn sheep public season length
 1. Public hunting seasons for rams shall be a minimum of thirty (30) days in length and shall include a minimum of fifteen (15) consecutive days of hunting without overlapping any ewe hunting season on the ranch.
 2. Public hunting seasons for ewes shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) days in length.
 - f. Additional primitive weapon seasons may be established provided that the season is structured so there is a minimum of 5 days of opportunity in which the method of take is restricted to archery or muzzleloading rifles.
 1. These seasons shall be in addition to the previously mentioned minimum season lengths. Hunters drawing licenses for these seasons shall be allowed to hunt in the season with the restricted method of take and also in at least 10 additional days of opportunity with rifle method of take for moose, or antlered or either sex deer, elk, or black bear licenses; at least 5 additional days of opportunity with rifle method of take for pronghorn, or antlerless deer or elk licenses; at least 30 additional days of opportunity with rifle method of take for ram bighorn sheep licenses; and at least 15 additional days of opportunity with rifle method of take for ewe bighorn sheep. Additional primitive weapon seasons will include one full weekend.
4. Manner of Take
 - a. Rifle hunting shall be the designated manner of take. Provided further that additional public hunting seasons beyond the previously mentioned minimum levels may be established with more restricted manner of take. Any such seasons and licenses allocated to those seasons are additional public hunting opportunity and shall not reduce licenses that would otherwise be allocated for the rifle seasons.
5. License Restrictions
 - a. Ranching for Wildlife licenses are the only licenses valid for hunting of species under contract on the ranch, except that auction and raffle licenses may be used when there is not a public season for the same species in progress on the ranch

and antlerless deer or elk licenses may be used on a ranch when authorized in writing by the Division, subject to the following provisions:

1. There is an established season in which such licenses would be valid in the Game Management Unit (GMU) in which the ranch is located.
2. Such licenses shall not be used concurrently with any Ranching For Wildlife season, or at any other time when the Division determines that it would result in elk, deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, moose, or black bear not being available to Ranching For Wildlife public hunters.
3. The Division determines that any resulting harvest achieved will contribute to achieving DAU management objectives.

E. License Allocation

1. A maximum of 1,000 licenses of each species and sex for deer, elk, and pronghorn, a maximum of 30 black bear licenses, a maximum of 20 licenses of each sex for bighorn sheep, and a maximum of 50 licenses of each sex for moose may be allocated to each ranch annually, and subsequently distributed to the public and private share according to the distribution table established in this regulation.
2. Division staff recommendations regarding license allocations for each ranch shall be forwarded to and approved by the Director based upon Data Analysis Unit harvest objectives, relative ranch land base and occupied habitat for each species on the ranch to that of the Data Analysis Unit, hunter crowding, enhancement of hunter harvest, and relative densities of the species on the ranch.
3. Substitution of licenses of one species or sex for licenses of another species or sex shall not be permitted.
4. For purposes of determining distribution of licenses allocated to each ranch, either sex licenses will be treated as antlered licenses for deer and elk and buck licenses for pronghorn.
5. Landowner preference shall not be used for any public or private Ranching For Wildlife license. In addition, Ranching for Wildlife property may not be used to qualify for or receive landowner preference pursuant to §33-4-103, C.R.S.
6. The public share of the licenses in the following distribution tables represents the minimum for each species. Fractions of licenses shall be rounded up for public distribution licenses.

DEER, ELK, AND PRONGHORN				
Private Share of Licenses			Public Share of Licenses	
% of total allocation to each ranch			% of total allocation to each ranch	
Tier	Buck, Antlered, or Either Sex	Doe or Antlerless	Buck, Antlered, or Either Sex	Doe or Antlerless
A	90	0	10	100
B	85	0	15	100
C	80	0	20	100

BLACK BEAR			
Private Share of Licenses		Public Share of Licenses	
% of total allocation to each ranch		% of total allocation to each ranch	
Either Sex		Either Sex	
60		40	
BIGHORN SHEEP			
Private Share of Licenses		Public Share of Licenses	
% of total allocation to each ranch		% of total allocation to each ranch	
Ram	Ewe	Ram	Ewe
50	0	50	100

MOOSE			
Private Share of Licenses		Public Share of Licenses	
% of total allocation to each ranch		% of total allocation to each ranch	
Antlered, or Either Sex	Antlerless	Antlered, or Either Sex	Antlerless
50	0	50	100

F. Youth Licenses

1. The Division and the ranch may formulate and implement youth hunting opportunities on any ranch through Division approved youth hunting programs. The Division must approve the youth hunting program on the ranch prior to any season or license allocation for such youth hunts.

2. A maximum of 15% of the total number for deer, elk, pronghorn, or black bear licenses allocated for a ranch may be allocated as youth hunting licenses on each ranch, over and above the total number of licenses allocated for a ranch.
3. Youth hunting seasons may occur at any time within the broad parameters for seasons within the Ranching For Wildlife program.
4. Youth licenses shall be distributed to individual youth hunters by mechanisms of the approved youth hunting program on the ranch. Youth licenses shall not count as either private or public licenses for purposes of calculating the relative share of other licenses allocated for the ranch.

G. License Distribution

1. Applications
 - a. Applications for private hunter licenses stamped with the ranch name and season dates shall be available to the landowner for distribution.
 - b. Public hunter licenses shall be available through application and selection from the Division during the annual limited license drawing process, except as provided in this regulation.
 - c. Leftover Ranching for Wildlife Licenses: Ranching for Wildlife licenses which are not issued through the regular drawing will be issued as "leftover" licenses, only through the "leftover" drawing process, rather than through the over-the-counter leftover license process.
2. Trinchera Ranch - One hundred percent (100%) of the limited antlered public licenses and eighty percent (80%) of the limited antlerless public licenses shall be available through the Division's annual limited license drawing process. Twenty percent (20%) of the limited public antlerless licenses will be allocated by public drawing at 1:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday in August, annually, at the San Luis Community Center, San Luis, CO. Applications will be accepted between 9:00 am and noon, on the second Wednesday in August, annually.

H. Special Restrictions

1. Unless otherwise provided in these Ranching for Wildlife regulations all hunters must comply with other applicable regulations, including, but not limited to, manner of take (except that private hunters may use any legal weapon during private seasons), hunting hours, application requirements and deadlines, bag limits, season participation, mandatory checks, OHV restrictions, and other generally applicable regulations for big game hunting.
2. A copy of the mutually agreed upon ranch rules will be provided to all public hunters prior to their hunting season. All public hunters will be required to sign a statement acknowledging that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with all ranch rules, before the hunter is allowed access to the ranch.
 - a. Compliance with ranch rules is a specific condition of the Ranching For Wildlife public licenses and subsequent access to the ranch. In addition to criminal penalties, non-compliance with ranch rules constitutes grounds for suspension and revocation of the license and/or being prohibited from further participation in

hunting on the ranch, and/or in the Ranching For Wildlife program as a public hunter.

- b. Final determination on any legal action taken towards hunters found in non-compliance with ranch rules shall be made solely by officers of the Division. This includes any citation that may be issued for non-compliance with the provisions of a license, or directing a hunter to leave a ranch. Ranch personnel may not direct a hunter to leave a ranch without specific authorization of a Division officer.

#211- BIGHORN SHEEP ACCESS PROGRAM

A. Implementation Authority

- 1. The Director is authorized to implement the Bighorn Sheep Access Program (BSAP), including the authority to determine private land enrollment status, enter into cooperative agreements with legal landowners, establish and modify public and private season dates on each property, and establish and modify license allocations to each property including the subsequent distribution of licenses to the public and private share, and may establish additional BSAP operating guidelines subject to the following provisions. All new or renewed contracts must be signed by the Director by October 15 in order to participate in the program the following year.**

B. Property Enrollment Constraints

- 1. Properties must have a minimum of 5,000 acres of privately owned land.**
- 2. There must be a sustainable population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep that are predictably present on the private lands and at times for which public hunting seasons may be set. All sheep on the property must be a part of a single bighorn sheep herd (DAU). Land under contract may not cross sheep herd boundaries. At least 60% of the sheep herd within the bighorn sheep game management unit to be hunted must be located on private land or State Trust Land.**
- 3. Properties may not charge public hunters an access fee for hunting.**
- 4. Except as agreed to in writing by the Division, enrolled properties must provide for equality of access in terms of geographical area and mode of transportation for both public and private hunters. No closure or restriction of land or roads shall apply to public hunters that do not also apply to private hunters.**
- 5. Public hunts must be established at a time when sheep are present and available for harvest. No public seasons shall be established during times when normal winter conditions would prevent access to most of the property, nor when normal migration patterns would result in sheep having migrated off the property.**
- 6. Ranches that establish coinciding or overlapping public and private hunts may not exclude public hunters from any portion of the property due to the presence of private hunters.**
- 7. The private landowner(s) will provide to each public hunter a property information packet which includes, but is not limited to, property maps showing access routes and camping areas, and landowner contact information,**

8. Enrolled properties shall not be eligible for game damage payments or materials for damage caused by Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

C. Cooperative Agreements, Enrollment, Termination of Enrollment

1. The Division is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with private property owners. Multiple private property owners may participate in the program under a single contract as long as all legal owners agree to the same terms and requirements.

2. The Division shall establish minimum performance standards or requirements for properties enrolled in the program. Such performance standards shall be incorporated into the cooperative agreement with each property owner(s). Each cooperative agreement will include an option to renew at the end of the contract period if agreed to by both the Division and private landowner.

3. Each cooperative agreement will also contain a termination clause. Potential termination will be based on public hunter satisfaction that is within the control of the property owner or manager. No future private ram licenses will be allocated to a property after their contract is terminated.

D. Season Structures, Manner of Take, License Restrictions

1. Public and private seasons opening and closing date parameters

a. Ram seasons may not begin before August 1 and may not extend beyond December 31.

b. Ewe seasons may not begin before September 1 and may not extend beyond January 15.

c. Public ram seasons shall always precede private ram seasons. When necessary for private and public seasons to be conducted in the same year, public ram seasons will occur prior to private seasons.

2. Private season length

a. Private ram seasons shall not be less than 20 days nor greater than 60 days.

3. Public season length

a. Public ram seasons shall be equal or greater in length to the private ram seasons, but not less than 30 days nor greater than 60 days. If multiple ram seasons are necessary to spread out hunting pressure, then season length may be shortened to not less than 20 days per season.

b. Ewe seasons shall be not less than 10 days in length with no more than a 5 day overlap with public ram seasons.

4. Method of take for ram hunting will be hunter's choice in accordance with regulation #203 of this chapter. Method of take for ewe hunting will be determined by contract negotiation.

5. License Restrictions

- a. BSAP licenses are the only licenses valid for hunting sheep on the property, except that auction and raffle licenses may be used when there is not a public season in progress on the property.

E. License Allocation

- 1. Division staff recommendations regarding license allocations for each property shall be approved by the Director.
- 2. All ewe licenses allocated are public licenses. The Division shall determine if ewe hunting is needed or desired for sheep management on the property.
- 3. The public share of the licenses in the following distribution table represents the minimum number of licenses provided to the public. Fractions of licenses shall be rounded up for public distribution licenses.

<u>ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP</u>				
<u>Private Share of Licenses</u>			<u>Public Share of Licenses</u>	
<u>Option</u>	<u>% of total allocation to each enrolled property</u>		<u>% of total allocation to each enrolled property</u>	
	<u>Ram</u>	<u>Ewe</u>	<u>Ram</u>	<u>Ewe</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>100</u>

- 4. Enrolled properties will have the choice between two license distribution options. In order to receive the license allocation percentages listed in option B, a competent, skilled guide will be provided for free to the public ram hunter. The guide must be competent and knowledgeable of the property and of bighorn sheep behavior and use patterns on the property. The guide provided to the public ram hunter must be the same guide provided to the private ram hunter, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Division. In order to receive the license allocation percentages listed in option A, each public sheep hunter will receive free access to the property and a free area for camping if the property is located 40 minutes or more from public accommodations. No free guiding services are provided under option A.
- 5. Public ram hunters will be allowed to bring a maximum of two additional non-hunting persons with them onto the property during their hunt. Ewe hunters will be allowed to bring a maximum of one additional non-hunting person with them onto the property during their hunt.
- 6. Landowners are not required to provide pre-draw or pre-season scouting access in either license allocation option.

G. License Distribution

- 1. Applications
 - a. Applications for private ram licenses stamped with the ranch name and season dates shall be available to the landowner for distribution.

b. Public hunter licenses shall be available through application and selection from the Division during the annual limited license drawing process.

Basis and Purpose:

Bighorn Sheep Access Program

A new private land access program for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep has been created, entitled the Bighorn Sheep Access Program (BSAP). The BSAP will eventually replace the current RFW bighorn sheep habitat and management partnership program once the public ram license allocations for the two participating ranches (Kiowa Creek and Purgatoire) have been fulfilled.

The bighorn sheep component of the RFW program has not been particularly effective at incentivizing access to private land bighorn sheep herds. In the Culebra Range and lower Purgatory River area there are abundant Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep herds that remain inaccessible to public hunting. In addition, the Trinchera Ranch bighorn sheep contract (a non-RFW contract) will expire 12/31/2015. Like several other landowners in the Culebra Range, Trinchera has indicated that they are not interested in participating in the RFW bighorn sheep program with its current provisions.

The provisions of the BSAP will hopefully incentivize more landowners to allow public access to bighorn sheep hunting on their property. The BSAP contains no requirements for participating landowners to conduct habitat management actions, but is strictly a program to obtain public access for bighorn sheep hunting on private land through license incentives. It is anticipated that this new program could provide public access to about 150,000 acres in the Culebra Mountains and at least 50,000 acres on the lower Purgatory River in SE Colorado. The BSAP may also serve to replace the expiring Trinchera Ranch sheep contract. Implementation of this program will result in a net increase in the public draw opportunity for ram licenses in Colorado.

As requested by the public, the BSAP will be evaluated by the Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2019 to ensure it is performing and providing opportunity as expected.

Regulatory amendments also reverse the changes made to regulation No. W-206(B)(2)(a) in January of 2015 which exempted private land ram hunters who didn't obtain their license through the public draw from the 5 year waiting period. Now the only exemptions to this wait period will be for Division auction and raffle licenses, disease health seasons, and damage hunts.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2015 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2015.

**APPROVED:
Robert W. Bray
Chairman**

**ATTEST:
Jeanne Horne
Secretary**