

CITIZEN-PROPOSED ISSUE PAPER

Date: 09/18/2019

ISSUE:	Should returned and reissued hunting licenses be available for sale online and from license Agents After a Season Has Started?
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Pursuant to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regulations in Chapter 16, Article IV, #1670 returned limited hunting licenses are reissued by this process;

***ALL** reissued licenses are still subject to annual bag limits and refund/preference point restoration regulations.*

Sheep, goat, moose, and public Ranching for Wildlife male and either-sex licenses continue to be reissued to the next person in the draw order as in years past.

***Note:** Due to contractual obligations, Public Ranching for Wildlife licenses can no longer be reissued less than 30 days prior to the start of the season for which the hunt code is valid.*

5 or More Preference Points

Returned deer, elk, pronghorn and bear hunt codes that took 5 or more resident preference points to draw, in the current years draw, will be reissued to the next person in the draw order.

- *These reissued licenses **will require the use of preference points** as per regulation if accepted.*
- *If one of the first 5 customers contacted, per returned license, do not accept it, the license will then be reissued utilizing the current leftover and leftover OTC with cap lists.*

4 or Less Preference Points

All other returned limited and over-the-counter (OTC) with caps licenses, excluding public Ranching for Wildlife, will be available to any of the public, who meet licensing and education requirements.

- *These returned limited and OTC with caps licenses reissued utilizing the current leftover and leftover OTC with cap lists **will NOT require the use of preference points.***
- *Limited and OTC with caps licenses will continue to be reissued as long as a sufficient number of licenses are returned or unsold.*

The Reissue Process

The reissue of big game limited licenses begins on August 13, 2019.

1. *All returned licenses that take 4 or less Preference Points in the current years draw will be available for purchase the week after processing is complete.*
2. *Hunt codes will **randomly** be placed on the current leftover and leftover OTC with cap lists Tuesday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM MST.*

Exchange Fee

ALL license exchanges will be charged 50% of the cost of the original license, not to exceed \$25.00.

CASE STUDIES

The problem we see with the current process is that it does not allow licenses to be reissued online or from license agents once the season for that license has started. This provision is based off of regulation #W-208.A. Two examples of case studies pertaining to this citizens petition are;

CASE STUDY #1

A Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep rifle ram license gets returned on July the 10th and is processed in the coming weeks to become available to the public for sale before the September 3rd opening day occurs. In this case the license will be available for sale to the public at all licensing vendors as well as to online customers.

CASE STUDY #2

The same Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep rifle ram license gets returned on August the 14th. Given the time constraints and volume of work that Colorado Parks and Wildlife employees experience at this time of the year the license is not processed in time to become available to the public until after the September 3rd opening day. At the time of its release to the public, after the season has started, the license will only be available for purchase at a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office.

The issue that this citizens petition is attempting to resolve is that of Case Study #2. This summarizes the situation for the majority of the highly coveted sheep, goat, and moose licenses that were reissued by the agency along with a number of high preference point elk, deer and pronghorn licenses during the 2018-2019 hunting season. In these cases, the overwhelming majority of public sportsmen and women who do not spend their business working hours in close geographic proximity to a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office, had no access to these incredibly high demand licenses.

INTENT

By limiting the sale of hunting licenses to **only** be available at a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office after their respective season has started, the agency has effectively limited a very specific type of poaching case. A case study would be;

On September 5th there are 156 Over the Counter with Caps rifle bear licenses still available for a given unit after the season had opened. While out driving a man sees a bear and without having previously purchased a license, harvests the bear knowing that he can still purchase a valid license the same day. In this case the man was confident that he would still be able to present a license at a Parks and Wildlife office when he obtained the necessary seal to maintain possession of the bear with the knowledge that 156 licenses were still available for purchase.

With the need to purchase the tag in person, a trained and knowledgeable staff member of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife would have the opportunity to visually inspect the man for signs of already having harvested an animal such as blood on clothing etc. While the State biologists would like to see harvest quotas met, it must be done under strict regulation to ensure the proper health of the herds. Fortunately, the agency has enacted this regulation to minimize the confidence of would be poachers.

SIDE EFFECTS

By limiting the sale of these **randomly** reissued tags, the agency has unnecessarily, geographically made these opportunities **unavailable** to the majority of the public. The spirit of the regulation is meant to curb potential poaching cases where persons **know** that a license will

still be available for purchase at the time a crime is to be committed.

Given the nature of reissued tags becoming available in a **random** fashion, it is impossible to know when one of these licenses might become available. This solves the same problem the current method addresses by removing the knowledge of an available tag **prior** to the crime being committed.

One more factor to take into consideration is the timeframe in which these reissued licenses are purchased. Considering that the demand far outnumbers the supply of these limited license, the amount of time that a previously sold out reissued limited licenses remains available before it is purchased by a member of the public can be measured in a matter of seconds and at the most minutes. While persons may discover the availability of a specific hunting license, they will not have the time to commit crimes without purchasing the license directly.

Essentially, we believe the public at large deserves the best opportunity at these highly coveted hunting licenses whenever the agency can provide those opportunities. The alternatives listed in this petition are presented as additional opportunities to all constituents that will not infringe upon the spirit of the existing regulations, while at the same time removing the **geographic limitations** to these licenses for **all** sportsmen and women.

WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE? HAVE YOU COMMUNICATED WITH ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES? WHAT INPUT HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

ALTERNATIVES: PLEASE INDICATE THE PROBABLE OUTCOME IF THIS PETITION IS ACCEPTED, AS WELL AS THE IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVES TO THIS PETITION:

1. ***Preferred Alternative***: The sale of all reissued hunting licenses that randomly become available for purchase to the public pursuant to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regulation Chapter 16, Article IV, #1670 will be available for purchase at all licensing vendors, as well as online through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website after their respective season has started.

The impact of this alternative would be that all licenses reissued by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, regardless of timing, would be available for purchase to all sportsmen and women that would like to hunt Colorado via all licensing vendors both in person and online.

2. The sale of reissued hunting licenses taking 5 or more preference points as well as Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose hunting licenses that randomly become available for purchase to the public pursuant to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regulation Chapter 16, Article IV, #1670 will be available for purchase at all licensing vendors, as well as online through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website after their respective season has started.

The impact of this alternative would be that licenses taking 5 or more preference points along with Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose licenses reissued by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, regardless of timing, would be available for purchase to all sportsmen and women that would like to hunt Colorado via all licensing vendors both in person and online. Licenses taking 4 or fewer preference points would only be available for purchase at a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office once the season has started.

3. The sale of reissued Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose hunting licenses that randomly become available for purchase to the public pursuant to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regulation Chapter 16, Article IV, #1670 will be available for purchase

at all licensing vendors, as well as online through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website after their respective season has started.

The impact of this alternative would be that Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose licenses reissued by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, regardless of timing, would be available for purchase to all sportsmen and women that would like to hunt Colorado via all licensing vendors both in person and online. All other licenses would only be available for purchase at a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office.

4. Status quo. The sale of all reissued hunting licenses that randomly become available for purchase to the public pursuant to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regulation Chapter 16, Article IV, #1670 will be available for purchase at Colorado Parks and Wildlife offices only after their respective season has started.

The impact of this alternative would be that all licenses reissued by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, regardless of timing, would be available for purchase to all sportsmen and women that would like to hunt Colorado only at a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office.

PETITION PROPOSED BY:	Justin Moore
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DATE SENT TO THE COMMISSION:	9/18/2019