



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Regulation Review Managers and Agency Staff  
FROM: Danielle Isenhardt, License, Pass and Reservation Section Manager  
RE: September 2019 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting Regulations Summary  
DATE: September 10, 2019

At the September 5-6, 2019 meeting, the Parks and Wildlife Commission heard proposed changes to regulations as follows:

### CITIZEN PETITION (WILDLIFE):

#### Agenda Item 10 - Chapter W-1 - "Fishing" - (2 CCR 406-1)

The Commission denied a Citizen Petition for Rulemaking requesting that the Commission prohibit barbed hooks for fishing in established catch and release waters.

### FINAL REGULATIONS (PARKS and WILDLIFE):

#### Agenda Item 11 - Chapter P-1 - "Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands" (2 CCR 405-1)

The Commission finalized regulations in its two-step annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, the following:

- Removing the horsepower restriction for boaters at Blue Heron Reservoir, while keeping the reservoir limited to no wake operations.
- Requiring all persons swimming in designated whitewater parks in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area to wear a personal floatation device.
- Modifying regulations related to the maximum number of consecutive days visitors may stay at state parks to 14 days in any 28 day period at a single state park.
- Removing dog restrictions at Harvey Gap State Park.

#### Agenda Item 12 - Chapter P-7 - "Passes, Permits and Registrations" (2 CCR 405-7)

The Commission finalized regulations in its two-step annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, the following:

- Clarifying regulations related to the primary occupant rule for campsites. Exceptions have now been granted for group camping to not name a primary occupant of every site. However, if no primary occupant is named, the person making the reservation will be held responsible for all damages or law enforcement issues that arise at that site.
- Requiring pass holders that receive a senior discount on camping permits to be an occupant of the campsite reserved and to hold the eligible permit at time of occupancy. Additionally, limit senior discounts to one site per day, per pass holder.
- Clarifying what documents will be acceptable as qualifying documentation to prove a "total and permanent" disability for the Columbine Annual Parks Pass.
- Adopting regulations related to qualifying documentation to receive free parks passes for disabled first responders (aka the Blue Spruce Pass), pursuant to H.B. 19-1080.



### **Agenda Item 13 - Chapter W-0 - "General Provisions" (2 CCR 406-0)**

The Commission approved proposed regulations, including those necessary to comply with H.B. 19-1080 and statute 33-4-104.5. Specific changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Clarifying what documents will be accepted to prove a "total and permanent" disability for eligibility to receive lifetime resident fishing licenses.
- Adopting regulations related to qualifying documentation to receive free resident combination small game hunting and fishing licenses for disabled first responders, pursuant to H.B. 19-1080.
- Clarifying what documents will be accepted as qualifying documentation for veteran's lifetime combination small game hunting and fishing licenses.

### **EMERGENCY REGULATIONS (WILDLIFE):**

#### **Agenda Item 14 - Chapter W-9 - "Wildlife Properties" (2 CCR 406-9)**

The Commission approved emergency regulations necessary to establish property-specific regulations and permit requirements for Flanders Ranch State Wildlife Area. Additionally, the Commission approved adding Brett Gray Ranch, Queens and Pawnee Valley to the general State Trust Lands provisions index table.

### **DRAFT REGULATIONS (WILDLIFE):**

**Agenda Item 15 - Chapter W-17 - "Damage Caused by Wildlife" (2 CCR 406-17) and those related provisions of Chapter W-0 ("General Provisions" 2 CCR 406-0) and Chapter W-3 ("Furbearers and Small Game, except Migratory Birds" 2 CCR 406-3) necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-17**

The Commission heard and forwarded-on draft regulations including, but not limited to, the following:

- Establishing dispatch rules for live-trapped wildlife.
- Revising trapping regulations to maintain consistency with Colorado Department of Agriculture rules.
- Revising dog hazing of geese regulations to allow year round hazing as long as no geese or killed or injured in the process.

**Agenda Item 17 - Chapter W-0 - "General Provisions" (2 CCR 406-0), and those related provisions of Chapter W-2 ("Big Game" 2 CCR 406-2), Chapter W-15 ("License Agents" 2 CCR 406-15), and Chapter P-7 ("Passes, Permits and Registrations" - 2 CCR 405-7) necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-0**

The Commission heard and forwarded-on draft regulations including, but not limited to, adjusting wildlife license fees and license agent commission rates according to adjustments to the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Consumer Price Index.

### **ISSUE IDENTIFICATION (WILDLIFE):**

**Agenda Item 21 - Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, except Migratory Birds" (2 CCR 406-3)**

The Commission initiated its annual review of regulations regarding turkey hunting, including but not limited to, license areas, season dates, and manner of take provisions for the 2020 turkey hunting seasons. Specific considerations included the following:

- Extending the spring turkey season through May 31 annually.
- Converting spring turkey hunting licenses for GMU 30 from limited to unlimited
- Creating a new, private land only, limited spring turkey hunt code for GMU 23.

**Agenda Item 22 - Chapter W-1- "Fishing" (2 CCR 406-1) and those related provisions of Chapter W-0 ("General Provisions" 2 CCR 406-0) and Chapter W-9 ("Wildlife Properties" 2 CCR 406-9) necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-1**

The Commission initiated its annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, consideration of regulations regarding season dates, bag and possession limits, licensing requirements, manner of take provisions and special conditions or restrictions applicable to waters of the state. Specific considerations included the following:

- Extending the spring fishing closure from March 15 through May 31 on spawning tributaries along the middle Colorado River and lower Roaring Fork River; and establishing a spring and fall spawning closure on Elk Creek and its confluence with the Colorado River.
- Implementing a restrictive harvest fishing regulation on a section of the Uncompahgre River within the City of Montrose.
- Establishing a catch and release regulation for all bass and a bag and possession of one channel catfish on Valco Ponds #4-7 near Pueblo Reservoir.

**Agenda Item 23 - Chapter W-0 - "General Provisions" (2 CCR 406-0)**

The Commission considered proposed changes to regulations including, but not limited to, the following:

- Updating the annual license year in regulation to March 1-March 31<sup>st</sup> annually to address customers buying the previous year's annual license.
- Adding electronic licenses to the definition of a license, to set the stage for the future use of electronic licenses.
- Updating regulations to set the stage for the future use of electronic park passes, as well.

**OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Agenda Item 9 - Transferable Hang Tag Parks Pass Analysis**

The Commission heard an informational update and financial analysis on annual hang tag parks passes. A subcommittee of the Commission will be formed to further discuss parks passes, and the possibility of a truly transferable hang tag annual pass for final consideration in November.

**Agenda Items 18 and 19 - Big Game Season Structure**

The Commission considered final recommendations for the 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure framework. Commissioners approved keeping the status quo framework for the eastern plains deer season. Additionally, the Commission will give further consideration to limiting certain archery units, on a case by case basis, at future meetings. The Commission may approve limiting certain archery units in time for the 2020 big game seasons.