

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: October 13, 2021

ISSUE:	Should there be changes to season timing or daylight fluorescent orange/pink requirements to address conflict between archery and muzzleloader hunters?
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Current State Statute:

CRS 33-6-121. Hunters to wear fluorescent pink or daylight fluorescent orange garments

- (1) Unless otherwise provided by commission rule, it is unlawful for any person to hunt or take elk, deer, pronghorn, moose, or black bear with any firearm unless the person is wearing fluorescent pink or daylight fluorescent orange garments that meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Garments are solid fluorescent pink or daylight fluorescent orange colored material and are of sufficient brightness to be seen conspicuously from a reasonable distance.
 - (b) Garments shall be a minimum of five hundred square inches and shall be worn as an outer garment above the waist, part of which shall be a hat or head covering visible from all directions.
- (2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars and an assessment of five license suspension points.

Current Regulations:

#209 - SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

D. Fluorescent Orange or Pink Garments

- 1. Except for archers hunting during a limited bear season, archers with an auction or raffle deer, elk, pronghorn or moose license hunting outside of a regular rifle season, private hunters hunting with archery equipment under the Ranching for Wildlife program, and archers hunting with an archery bear, deer, elk, pronghorn, or moose license, all persons hunting bear, deer, elk, pronghorn or moose shall be required to wear daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink garments which comply with the requirements of §33-6-121, C.R.S.

Background

Archery and muzzleloader hunting seasons are considered primitive seasons in Colorado. Therefore, the types of technology that can be used during these seasons have been greatly restricted through regulation. Archery and muzzleloader hunters rely on hunting during the rut in order to call animals within range. This is especially true for archers. To accommodate this extra challenge, archers have historically requested a month-long season. Muzzleloader hunters also prefer to hunt during the rut. It is very challenging to completely separate the archery and muzzleloader seasons while also meeting the following three objectives: 1) providing the archers a full month to hunt during the rut; 2) offering the muzzleloader hunters two-full weekends to also hunt during the rut; and 3) giving animals a resting period before the rifle seasons begin to breed and redistribute out of refuges and remote areas. Archery and muzzleloader elk seasons have overlapped during the month of September in Colorado since 1977.

* Language greatly adapted from a December 2016 Issue Paper raised by Richard Thompson

Muzzleloader and Archery Hunter Conflicts in Colorado

Both muzzleloader and archery big game hunters continue to solicit CPW for the opportunity to hunt during the elk rut, roughly the 3rd and 4th week of September. Repeatedly, these stakeholder groups have voiced this strong preference, by and large showing satisfaction with the current season structure.

According to CPW Hunter Education records, since 1996, there have been 3 incidents related to muzzleloader hunters shooting at or near archery hunters that are mistaken for game during the overlapped seasons (roughly the third week of September). Two of these incidents have been fatal. This issue is emphasized by the recent incident in Dolores County, where a muzzleloader hunter appeared to have mistakenly identified an archery hunter for the bull elk that he was stalking, tragically killing him in the Lizard Head Wilderness Area.

Several solutions and recommendations have been brought to the table over the last twenty years to address this concern. However, none have been acceptable to all stakeholders. These solutions range from separating the archery and muzzleloader seasons to increasing the number of scenarios that hunters must wear daylight fluorescent orange or pink. This paper is being brought forward to continue the discussion of this issue and determine if there is currently a regulatory scenario that is acceptable to all stakeholders.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. **Preferred Alternative:** Require archery deer, elk, bear and moose hunters to wear solid daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink during the period of overlap during the September archery and muzzleloader seasons west of I-25 on **public land only**. This includes a minimum of 500 square inches of solid orange or pink that must be worn as an outer garment above the waist, part of which must be a head covering visible from all directions
2. Require archery deer, elk, bear and moose hunters to wear solid daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink during the period of overlap during the September archery and muzzleloader seasons west of I-25. This includes a minimum of 500 square inches of solid orange or pink that must be worn as an outer garment above the waist, part of which must be a head covering visible from all directions
3. Separate the regular archery and muzzleloader seasons by date (This may include shortening archery season days or extending muzzleloader season into October)
4. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Ty Petersburg
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	CPW Leadership Team
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Heather Dugan
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X- YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X- YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Field Services
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X- NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021

ISSUE:	Should the exchange fee (regulation #W-002.I) for wildlife licenses be reduced to \$5?		
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):			
<p>In 2021, an audit was performed looking at all additional fees customers may incur after they purchase a product from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The purpose of the audit was to determine which fees are still necessary and which could be eliminated or lowered to improve customer service. One fee that was identified is the wildlife license exchange fee, which is currently set at 50% of the cost of the original license, not to exceed \$25.00 (as established in regulation #W-002.I). Customers choose to exchange their licenses for a variety of reasons, including initially purchasing the wrong license, scheduling conflicts, or to obtain a more desirable license that has become available.</p> <p>Staff feel that the current exchange fee is unreasonably high, considering the customer is not wishing to return their license, just exchange it for another. Keeping the exchange fee low, further incentivizes the customer to do an exchange vs. request a refund. As exchanges can only be done at a CPW office or park (so they can surrender the original license), there is no additional fulfillment fee or agent commission that the agency would pay on the transaction. However, administering an exchange does require staff time. Therefore, the preferred alternative is to still charge an exchange fee on all exchanges, but lower the price point to \$5.00, which is still lower in all circumstances than the current fee charged.</p>			
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:			
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.			
All wildlife license holders. No formal outreach to stakeholder groups has occurred, as this is an added customer benefit.			
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Preferred Alternative*: Modify regulation #W-002.I to read: "All license exchanges will be charged a fee of \$5.00 per exchange." Status quo. No change. 			
Issue Raised by:	Lauren Truitt, IPAWS Business Team		
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Danielle Isenhart		
CC:			
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Danielle Isenhart		
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	LICR		
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: 10/13/2021
ISSUE:	Should new Deer hunt codes be established for GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 137, 138, 139, 143, 144, 145, and 146?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Deer Data Analysis Units (DAUs D28 and D33) are located in the plains of southeastern Colorado. They encompass portions of the Purgatoire River drainage, the Cimarron River drainage, Sand Creek, and the Lower Arkansas River Valley. CPW is in the process of changing the boundaries for both of these DAUs. As part of that process, we propose new hunt code groupings for the following GMUs: 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 137, 138, 139, 143, 144, 145, and 146 (Figures 1 and 2).</p> <p>We are proposing these hunt code changes for several reasons, which include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aligning hunt codes groups with planned DAU boundary amendments.• Pairing GMUs on either side of the Arkansas River, allowing hunters to hunt both sides of private and public properties that are split by the river.• Pairing GMUs on either side of the Arkansas River, so wildlife managers will no longer have to treat deer on either side of the river as separate population segments.• Combining GMUs that have shared habitats, drainages, and/or relatively distinct subpopulations.• Separating GMU groups that can feasibly and/or justifiably be surveyed by helicopter from those that cannot.• Separating GMU groups that can be successfully inventoried and modeled from those GMU groups that will be managed using alternative metrics. <p>If the changes are approved, there will no longer be whitetail-only archery or muzzleloader licenses valid in GMUs 137, 138, 143, and 144. There is minimal demand for archery or muzzleloader licenses in these units. Based on past license sales in these GMUs, we can meet demand for the archery and muzzleloader deer license quota through regular either-species licenses, making these whitetail-only hunt codes unnecessary.</p>	

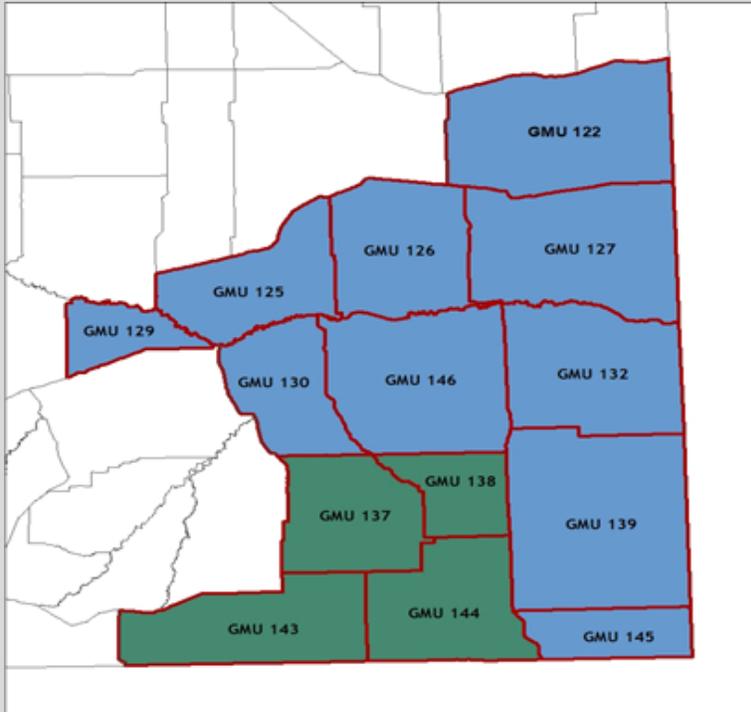


Figure 1: Hunt code groupings for Archery and Muzzleloader. Each color group of GMUs also show the planned DAU boundaries for D28 (blue) and D33 (green).

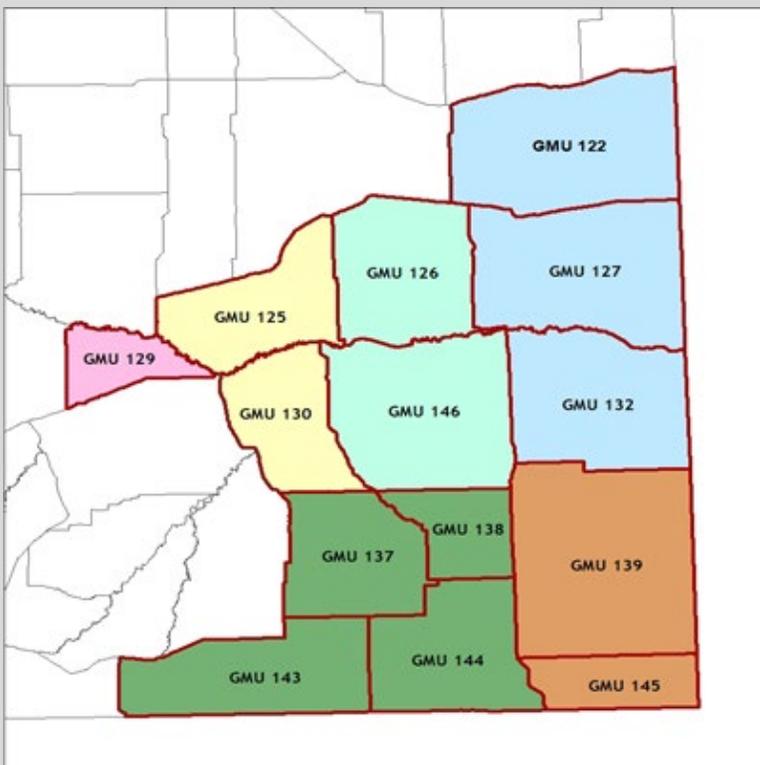


Figure 2: Hunt code groupings for Plains Rifle Season and Late Plains Rifle Season.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

CPW conducted extensive landowner and hunter surveys to determine the level of support for the proposed hunt code changes. We mailed surveys with postage-paid return envelopes to 800 of the landowners in D28 and D33. We had 193 completed landowner surveys returned to us. The survey responses showed that the majority (56%) of landowners had no preference as to whether the hunt code groupings should be changed as proposed. There were nearly identical numbers of landowners that indicated a preference for (23%) the proposed changes as landowners that indicated preference against (21%).

For the hunter survey, we mailed 750 surveys to hunters who have hunted in D33 and/or D28 in the last three years. We had 220 completed surveys returned. The majority of hunters (48%) supported the proposed hunt code changes. Close to equal numbers of hunters had no preference (25%) as those who preferred that the hunt code groupings remain as they currently are (27%).

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Change hunt code grouping for GMUs: 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 137, 138, 139, 143, 144, 145, and 146, as follows:

Archery hunt code groupings (Whitetail Only hunt codes are italicized):

- D-E-122-O1-A: (GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 145, 146)
- D-E-122-O3-A: (GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 145, 146)
- D-F-122-O3-A: (GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 145, 146)
- D-E-137-O1-A: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)

The following Archery hunt codes would no longer be valid: D-E-129-O3-A, D-F-129-O3-A, D-E-143-O3-A, D-F-143-O3-A, D-E-143-O1-A, and D-E-129-O1-A.

Muzzleloader hunt code groupings (Whitetail Only hunt codes are italicized):

- D-M-122-O2-M: (GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 145, 146)
- D-F-122-O2-M: (GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 145, 146)
- D-E-122-O3-M: (GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 145, 146)
- D-F-122-O3-M: (GMUs 122, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 139, 145, 146)
- D-M-137-O2-M: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)
- D-F-137-O2-M: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)

The following Muzzleloader hunt codes would no longer be valid: D-M-143-O2-M, D-F-143-O2-M, D-E-143-O3-M, and D-F-143-O3-M. Since GMU 129 will be added to the GMU 122 hunt code groupings, it

would need to be removed from the following hunt codes: D-F-128-O2-M, D-M-128-O2-M, D-E-128-O3-M, and D-F-128-O3-M.

Plains Rifle hunt code groupings (Whitetail Only hunt codes are italicized):

- D-M-122-O1-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-F-122-O1-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-E-122-O2-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-F-122-O2-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-M-125-O1-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-F-125-O1-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-E-125-O2-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-F-125-O2-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-M-126-O1-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-F-126-O1-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-E-126-O2-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-F-126-O2-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-M-129-O1-R: (GMU 129)
- D-F-129-O1-R: (GMU 129)
- D-E-129-O2-R: (GMU 129)
- D-F-129-O2-R: (GMU 129)
- D-M-139-O1-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-F-139-O1-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-E-139-O2-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-F-139-O2-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-M-137-O1-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)
- D-F-137-O1-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)
- D-E-137-O2-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)
- D-F-137-O2-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)
- D-M-137-P1-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)

- D-F-137-P1-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)

The following Plains Rifle hunt codes would no longer be valid: D-M-127-O1-R, D-F-127-O1-R, D-M-130-O1-R, D-F-130-O1-R, D-M-132-O1-R, D-F-132-O1-R, D-M-138-O1-R, D-F-138-O1-R, D-M-143-O1-R, D-F-143-O1-R, D-M-143-P1-R, D-F-143-P1-R, D-E-132-O2-R, D-F-132-O2-R, D-E-143-O2-R, and D-F-143-O2-R. GMU 129 would need to be removed from the following hunt codes: D-M-128-O1-R, D-F-128-O1-R, D-E-128-O2-R, and D-F-128-O2-R.

Late Plains Rifle hunt code groupings (Whitetail Only hunt codes are italicized):

- D-M-122-L1-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-F-122-L1-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-E-122-L2-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-F-122-L2-R: (GMUs 122, 127, 132)
- D-M-125-L1-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-F-125-L1-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-E-125-L2-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-F-125-L2-R: (GMUs 125, 130)
- D-M-126-L1-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-F-126-L1-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-E-126-L2-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-F-126-L2-R: (GMUs 126, 146)
- D-M-129-L1-R: (GMU 129)
- D-F-129-L1-R: (GMU 129)
- D-E-129-L2-R: (GMU 129)
- D-F-129-L2-R: (GMU 129)
- D-M-139-L1-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-F-139-L1-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-E-139-L2-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-F-139-L2-R: (GMUs 139, 145)
- D-M-137-L1-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)
- D-F-137-L1-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)

· D-E-137-L2-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)

· D-F-137-L2-R: (GMUs 137, 138, 143, 144)

The following Late Plains Rifle hunt codes would no longer be valid: D-M-127-L1-R, D-F-127-L1-R, D-M-130-L1-R, D-F-130-L1-R, D-M-132-L1-R, D-F-132-L1-R, D-M-138-L1-R, D-F-138-L1-R, D-M-143-L1-R, D-F-143-L1-R, D-M-144-L1-R, D-F-144-L1-R, D-M-145-L1-R, D-F-145-L1-R, D-E-132-L2-R, D-F-132-L2-R, D-E-143-L2-R, and D-F-143-L2-R.

2. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Jonathan Reitz (Terrestrial Biologist), Todd Marriott (AWM)	
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):		
CC:	Travis Black, Julie Stiver, Brett Ackerman, Area 12 DWMs, Mike Trujillo, Allen Vitt, Gretchen Holschuh, and Derek Brown	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brett Ackeman	
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial	
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/21

ISSUE:	Should 2nd and 3rd rifle season doe hunt codes DF054O2R and DF054O3R be added?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The population size of the Gunnison Basin deer herds are very dynamic. Since an extreme winter 14 years ago (2007 – 2008), the deer population has increased, with a minor population size retraction in 2016-2017. Doe licenses (female deer hunt codes) were created in recent years in response to this increasing population size in two of the three Gunnison Basin deer DAUs (D22 and D25). Between 2007 to 2017, the third deer DAU (D21; GMU 54) in the Gunnison Basin had not performed as well in terms of fawn production. However, D21 has demonstrated excellent production and recruitment over the past four years. The population has grown by ~60% over the last three years. The growth was spurred by: 1) record breaking post-hunt fawn ratios in 2020 and 2021, 2) higher than expected survival rates (annual doe and over-winter fawn in 2020 and over-winter fawn in 2021). The 2020 post-hunt population size estimate of 5,700 deer is just slightly above the current herd management plan (2013 commission approved) objective maximum of 5,500 deer. The 2021 post-hunt population size is projected (as of July 1, 2021 calculations) to be ~6,400 deer.</p> <p>Future increases in buck licenses will be needed to maintain the buck ratio objective if this population continues to grow, and thus increased hunter crowding of buck hunters will occur. Thus, curbing the population size now will also improve hunter satisfaction in a unit known for its hunting quality.</p> <p>Gunnison Basin-specific doe hunt codes provide an additional opportunity to youth hunters that otherwise would not be able to draw a Gunnison Basin buck license given the high number of preference points required. All prior regulations (Ch. W-2, Art I, #206, B, 4, d, 2) regarding the 50% allocation of antlerless deer licenses to youth would apply to this reinstated GMU 54 doe hunt code.</p> <p>These doe licenses are intended to maintain the herd management objectives established in the 2013 herd management plans. Allowing the mule deer population size to greatly increase over objective will lead to: 1) increased risk of degrading rangeland, 2) increased buck tag allocations in the future to maintain buck ratios that will have an unintended consequence of increasing hunter crowding, 3) increasing the risk of CWD becoming established in the Gunnison Basin, given that CWD has been detected in areas that GMU 54 does are known to utilize in the summer.</p> <p>The exact quota for these licenses will not be decided until the spring license-setting period, and should do so using the best available scientifically collected information on the herd's trend at that time. Past efforts to establish a conservative doe quota during this issue paper process for the neighboring GMUs 55 and 551 caused harvest-based management actions to respond too slowly to the current deer population rate of increase.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
Members of the Gunnison Wildlife Association. General support of management by objective process; interested in future communication and collaboration on specific license numbers.	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Preferred Alternative*: Add hunt codes DF054O2R and DF054O3R. Status quo 	
Issue Raised by:	Kevin Blecha (Area 16 Terrestrial Biologist), Clayton Bondurant (DWM), Brandon Diamond (AWM)
Author of the issue paper	Kevin Blecha

(if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brandon Diamond, Nick Gallowich, Lucas Martin, Cory Chick, Matt Thorpe, Jamin Grigg
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

		Date:	10/13/2021
ISSUE:	Should PLO doe hunt codes be added to GMU 72?		
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):			
<p>Game Management Unit (GMU) 72 is within Data Analysis Unit (DAU) D29 in far southwestern Colorado. Currently, the population is over objective within the DAU and a significant proportion of the increase in the deer population is occurring on private agriculture fields located near the small town of Pleasant View (within GMU 72). The number of deer on public lands has not changed noticeably. To address population management objectives and damage conflicts on private lands, it is recommended to create Private Land Only (PLO) antlerless hunt codes for second, third, and fourth rifle seasons in GMU 72.</p>			
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:			
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.			
<p>deer hunters private landowners wildlife managers</p>			
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):			
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: create PLO hunt codes in GMU 72 for second, third, and fourth rifle seasons 2. Status Quo</p>			
Issue Raised by:	Brad Weinmeister, Biologist, Matt Sturdevant, DWM		
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Brad Weinmeister		
CC:	Jamin Grigg, Adrian Archuleta, Becca De Vergie, Andy Brown		
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick		
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial		
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO		

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

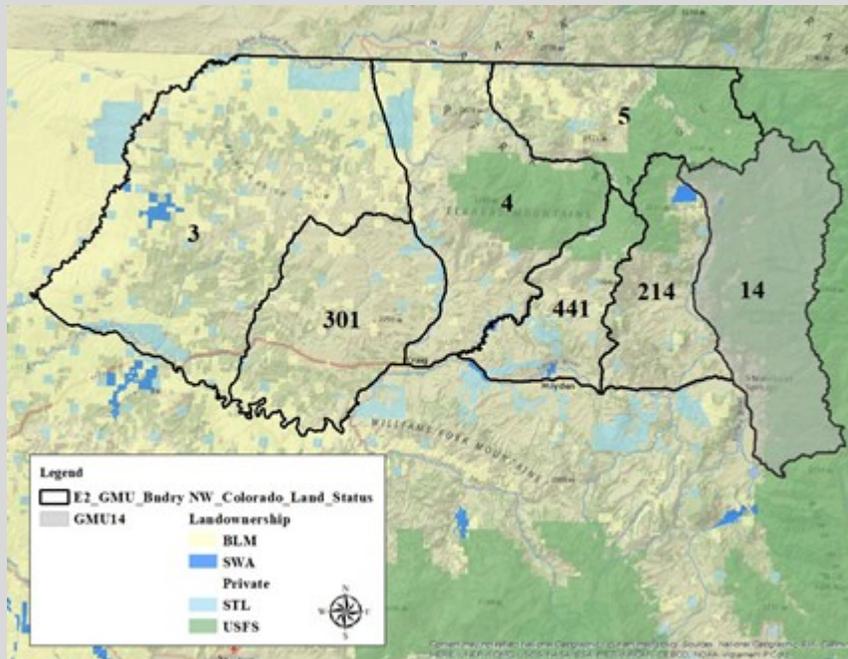
Date: 10/13/2021

ISSUE: Should Game Management Units (GMUs) 14 and 214 be removed from the valid units included in the EF000U1A hunt code?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Overview:

Game Management Units (GMUs) 14 and 214 are located within the Bears Ears Elk DAU E-2 and is comprised primarily of Routt National Forest situated west of the Continental Divide, north of Colorado Highway 40, east of Routt County Road 129, and south of the Little Snake River Divide. Big game species managed within GMUs 14 and 214 include elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, moose, and black bears.



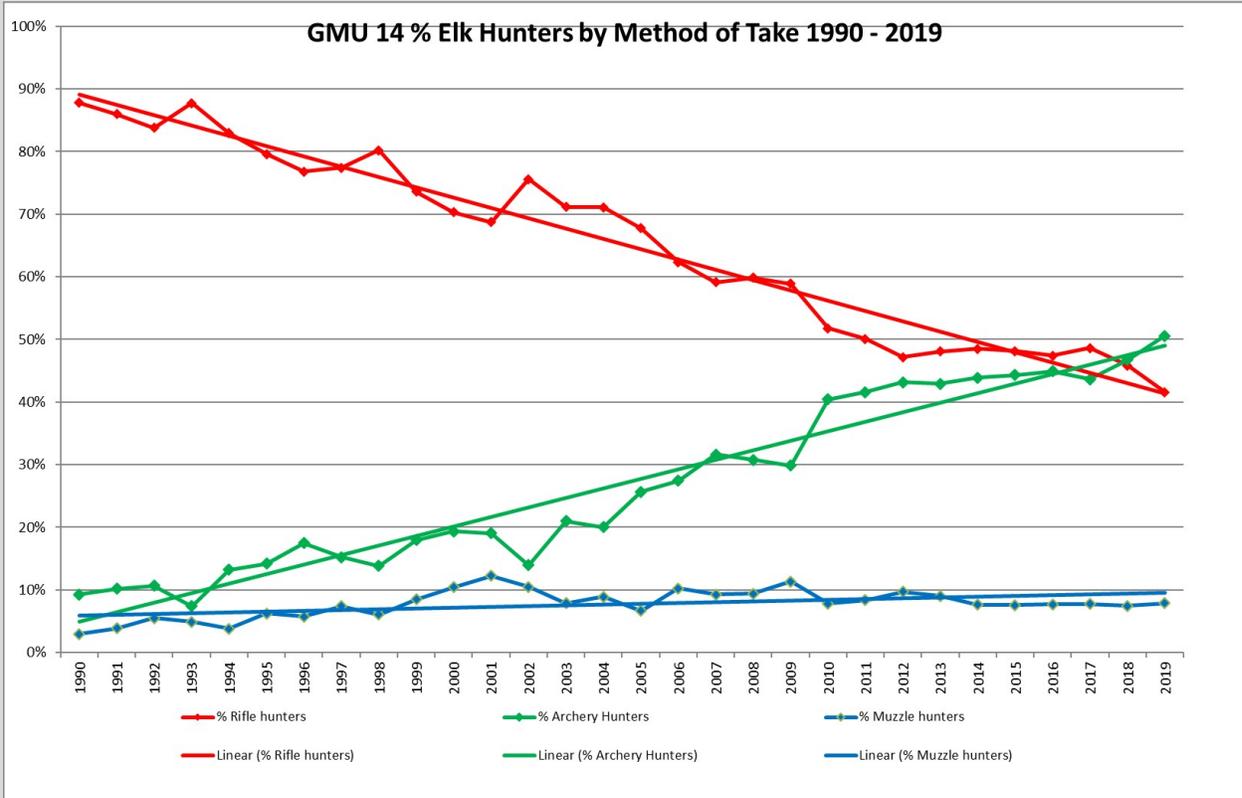
Currently, GMUs 14 and 214 are included in the hunt code EF000U1A which allows archers to purchase a List B antlerless elk license valid for multiple units across the state in unlimited numbers (over-the-counter; OTC). Due to increasing pressure from archery hunters and other outdoor recreationists, and decreasing harvest success, classification numbers, and calf to cow ratios, Area 10 staff would like to remove GMUs 14 and 214 from the valid units included in the EF000U1A hunt code.

Social Overcrowding:

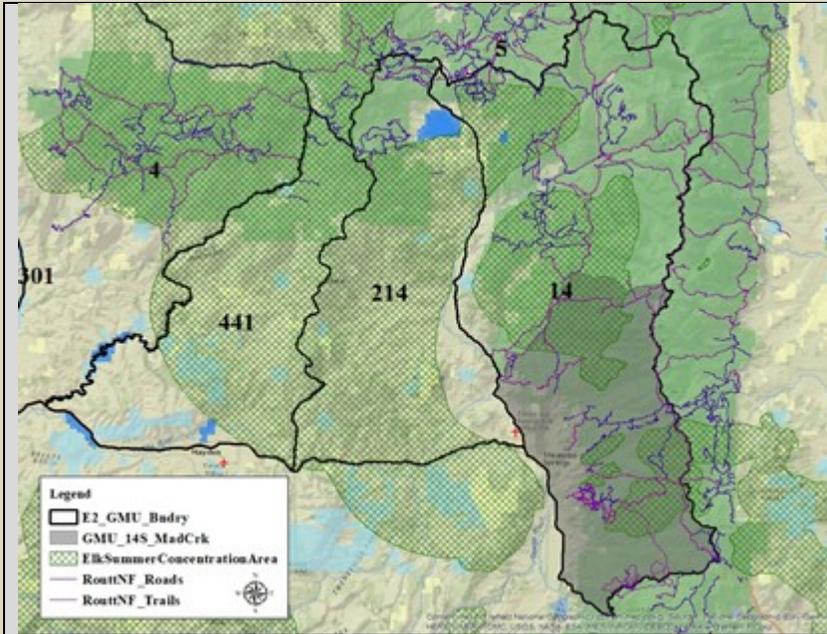
Archery hunting in GMU 14 has steadily gained in popularity over the past 30 years from approximately 307 archers in 1990 to 1,582 archers in 2019, an increase in participation of 415% (CPW harvest data). Conversely, participation in rifle hunting has decreased during the same timeframe from approximately 2,911 hunters in 1990, down to 1,302 in 2019, a 124% decrease in participation. In 2018, the number of archery hunters surpassed the number of rifle hunters (1,541 archers, 1,510 rifle hunters) and that trend

continued in 2019 with 1,582 archers and 1,510 rifle hunters. Muzzleloader numbers have remained generally static over that same timeframe comprising approximately 7% of total licenses in GMU 14.

In the 2020 hunting season, archers with OTC either-sex licenses in GMU 14 numbered approximately 1,506 with an additional 638 archers in GMU 214 (CPW harvest data). Additionally, archers with unlimited antlerless licenses in GMU 14 and 214 combined numbered approximately 202 (133 in GMU 14 and 69 in GMU 214).



Recreation in GMU 14 has also increased significantly during recent years, particularly in the lower portion of GMU 14 from Mad Creek south to Colorado Highway 40. Based on visual observations, mountain biking, hiking, trail running, and motorcycle use are occurring throughout the summer and well into fall. Further, U. S. Forest Service (USFS) campgrounds are now exceeding capacity and competition for any form of camping (USFS campgrounds and dispersed camping) is high. Similarly, winter recreation activities including snowmobiling, backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing have all increased.

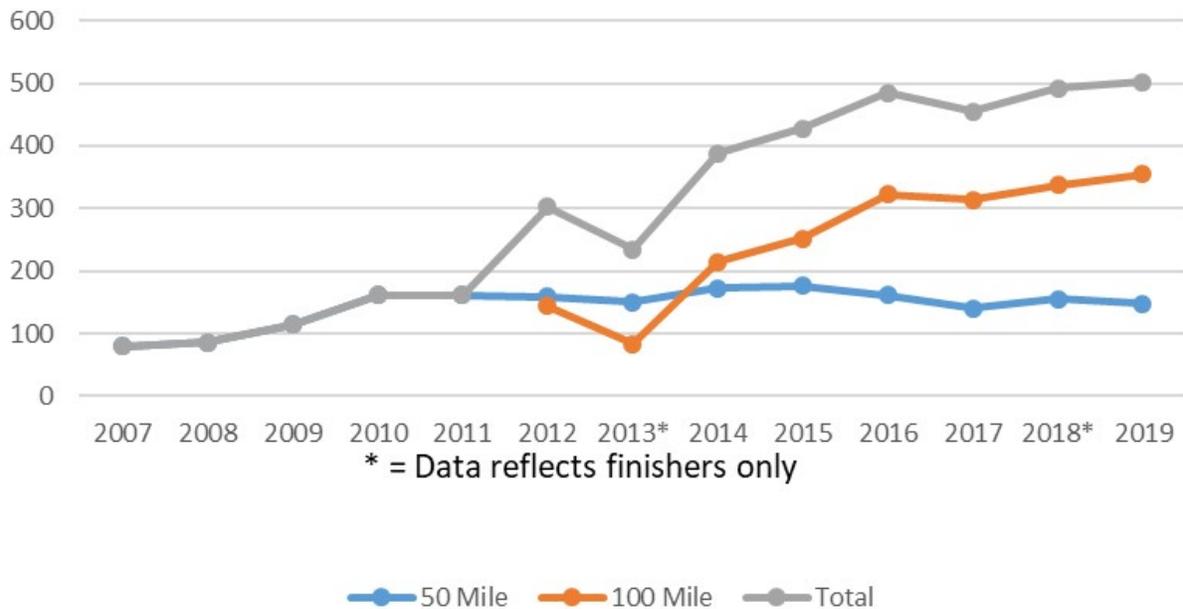


Of particular note is the annual Run Rabbit Run footrace that occurs primarily on Rabbit Ears Pass, Buffalo Pass, and Emerald Mountain (GMU 131) through miles of elk summer concentration areas. The race typically occurs in the third week of September, and over the past few years, has overlapped with both archery season and muzzleloader season. Area 10 staff have had multiple discussions with the USFS and event organizers in attempt to move the race to a less crowded time. Unfortunately, those discussions have not resulted in any changes due to the amount of events occurring in the Steamboat Springs area throughout the summer and into fall; there is no other time for this race to take place.

Beginning in 2007, the race was 50 miles in length and had 80 registered participants. In 2012, the race added a 100-mile course and participation increased to 303 runners. By 2019, total participation increased to 502 runners – an increase of 528% since 2007. The race is a 36-hour continuous footrace meaning that runners will be running through the night over a 100-mile course over the described area.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in Routt county in 2020, the race was cancelled. However, the race for 2021 resumed on September 17-18, which again overlaps with both the 2021 archery and muzzleloader seasons.

Run Rabbit Run Participation 2007-2019



Field Observations:

GMU 14 North of Soda Creek – GMU 14 is a busy unit during archery season due to the numbers of participants. Officers note that there are camps in nearly every dispersed camping location available. Of note is the large number of non-residents found in camping sites compared to resident hunters. Officers are also locating more hunters in remote areas, including the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area.

GMU 14 South of Soda Creek – The majority of field contacts (>80%) involve both resident and non-resident hunters unable to locate elk or fresh signs of elk. Further, archery and muzzleloader hunters are consistently disappointed by the amount of people present and the recreation occurring in the Buffalo Pass area including mountain biking, dirt biking, trail use with dogs off leash, dispersed camping, and the annual Run Rabbit Run race. Additionally, recreation is expected to increase in the area following the proposed expansion of the Steamboat Ski Resort (Pioneer Ridge), the Dry Creek Campground, and reconstruction of the Buffalo Pass Road. Currently, all proposals are engaged in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The current condition of Buffalo Pass road is poor and makes travel difficult; improving the road will improve access (and presumably increase visitation) to the Buffalo Pass area.

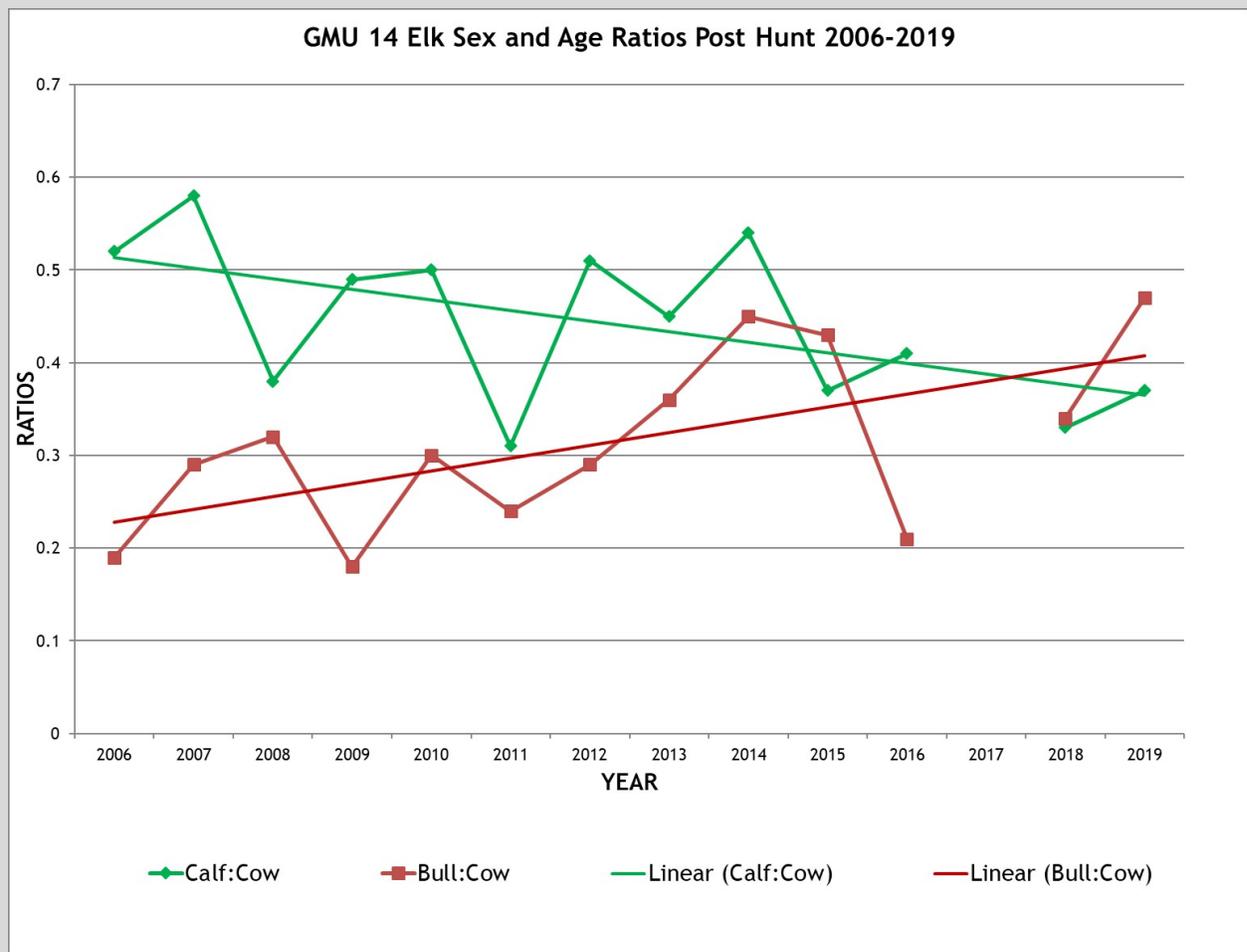
GMU 214 – GMU 214 is primarily private lands with a very small amount of publically accessible land. Given that GMU 214 is used by many of the same migratory and residential elk occupying GMU 14, and has the potential for excessive crowding on the small amount of available public land, staff have decided to remove GMU 214 from the EF000U1A hunt code as well.

5-Year Season Structure Feedback – During the Big Game Season Structure process in 2019, Area 10 staff in Steamboat Springs received feedback during a public meeting from approximately 60 citizens about their feelings towards overcrowding and current concerns. 12% of respondents were not

concerned with hunter crowding during the deer and elk archery season, while 12% were somewhat concerned, 14% moderately concerned, 40% very concerned, and 23% stated they do not hunt during the archery season. Additionally, when asked how archery season could be modified to address hunter crowding, 51% of respondents favored limiting archery in some form (33% desired limiting all archery licenses and 18% desired limiting all archery cow licenses).

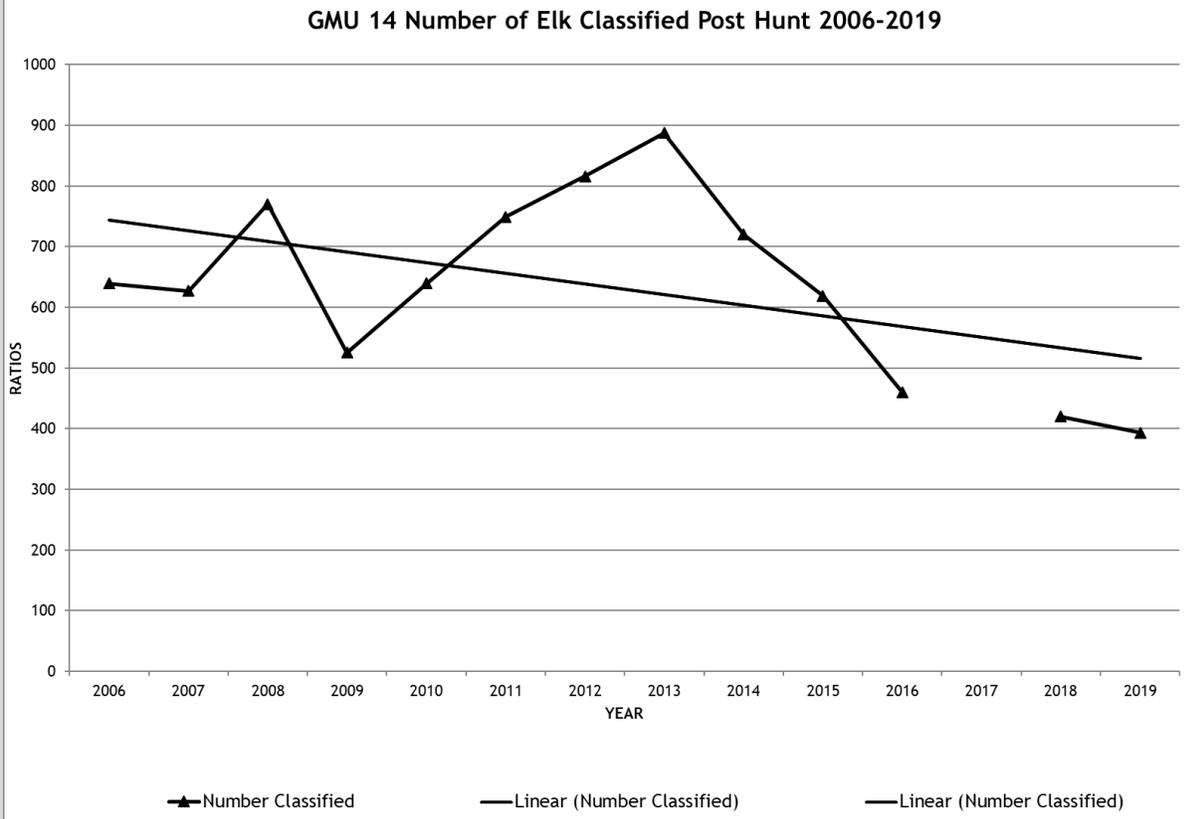
Biological Evidence:

Classification and Sex/Age Ratios – Between 2006 and 2019, GMU 14 has experienced decreasing trends in both number of elk classified and calf to cow ratios, while bull to cow ratios have steadily increased. The current objective for the E-2 (Bear’s Ears) bull to cow ratio is 0.20-0.25. The bull to cow ratio (0.47) for 2019 was higher than the calf to cow ratio (0.37). A bull to cow ratio that high may contribute to reduced calf survival when winter resources are limited.



GMU 14 Winter Elk Classification Flight Data 2006-2019

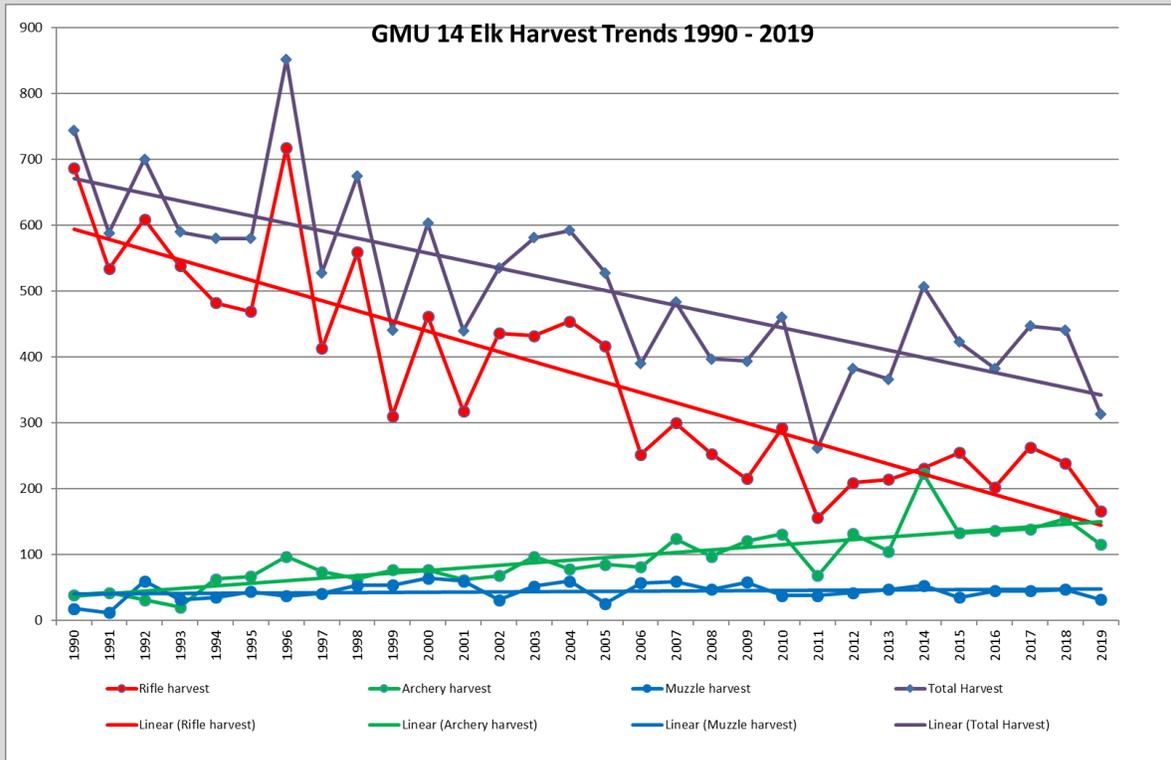
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
calf:cow	0.52	0.58	0.38	0.49	0.5	0.31	0.51	0.45	0.54	0.37	0.41		0.33	0.37
bull:cow	0.19	0.29	0.32	0.18	0.3	0.24	0.29	0.36	0.45	0.43	0.21		0.34	0.47
# classed	639	627	770	525	639	749	816	887	720	619	460		420	393



Harvest – Overall, harvest between 1990 and 2019 has decreased 58% (from 744 to 313) and overall success has decreased from 22% to 10%. Conversely, harvest between 2003 and 2012 was very aggressive, which was primarily aimed at reducing cow numbers. Since 2012, licensing has been more conservative and harvest has remained relatively static for all methods of take.

Objective Rationale:

Due to the increasing amount of year-round recreation and human presence on the landscape, an increasing trend in archery pressure, decreasing calf to cow ratios and number of elk classified, and citizen feedback, Area 10 staff believes that GMUs 14 and 214 should be removed from the valid units included in the EF000U1A hunt code in an effort to relieve some pressure and harvest on cow elk in the residential elk herd.



STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

A public meeting was held in Steamboat Springs (2020) to address the issue with declining cow to calf ratios and methods to reduce hunting pressure in GMU 14. CPW staff suggested limitations on archery OTC hunting at this meeting. Attendees at the meeting were reluctant to lose archery hunting opportunities without looking at other options including the removal of List B antlerless archery OTC licenses and reducing rifle season licenses. In spring of 2021, CPW staff made recommendations to reduce antlerless rifle licenses during the rifle seasons.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Remove GMUs 14 and 214 from the valid units included in the EF000U1A hunt code and move the rifle antlerless hunt codes specific to these GMUs to List A from List B.
2. Remove GMUs 14 and 214 from the valid units included in the EF000U1A hunt code.
3. Status quo.

Issue Raised by:

Area 10 staff

Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Kyle Bond, DWM	
CC:	Kris Middledorf, AWM JT Romatzke, NW Regional Manager Eric Vanatta, Terrestrial Biologist Darby Finley, Terrestrial Biologist Brad Banulis, NWSB	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:		Terrestrial, NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION		Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021	
ISSUE:	Should archery elk licenses in GMUs 80 and 81 (E-32) be limited?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Between 2001 and 2002, the E-32 elk herd (Lower Rio Grande) reached its biological and social carrying capacity peak of approximately 15,000 animals. During this time, the population estimate was above management objectives, and wildlife managers began increasing cow elk harvest by providing numerous antlerless, either-sex, and late-season licenses intending to bring the population to within the objectives. After several years of aggressive harvest, the population was successfully decreased to approximately 11,000 elk by 2005. However, as the elk population was rapidly reduced, many Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff and members of the public began expressing concerns that the population had been reduced to unacceptable levels. In 2006, wildlife managers began reducing antlerless rifle and muzzleloader elk licenses, attempting to stabilize and curb the downward population trend. Since 2005, CPW has reduced limited antlerless rifle and muzzleloader elk licenses from approximately 4,500 to approximately 390. In addition, antlerless elk harvest has been further reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elimination of either-sex first season rifle licenses (2007) (currently antlered only). ○ Elimination of the late-season (2019). ○ Antlerless licenses were changed from “List B” to “List A” licenses. ○ Antlerless Over-the-Counter (OTC) archery is not valid in the Data Analysis Unit (DAU). ○ Muzzleloader licenses (antlered and antlerless) went from a statewide license to a DAU-specific license and have been reduced. <p>Although the above-mentioned license reductions have been necessary to stabilize the decreasing population, they have come at the cost of a significant loss of opportunity for rifle and muzzleloader cow hunters. Currently, archery hunters have an unlimited opportunity to harvest antlerless elk and accounted for approximately 56% of the E-32 antlerless elk harvest in 2020, excluding special hunts. By contrast, most antlerless rifle and muzzleloader licenses in this DAU require an average of 1-2 preference points to successfully draw.</p> <p>From 2005 to 2020, the number of archery hunters has increased by approximately 116%, using the averages below (CPW Harvest Data; The participation ranged from a low of 1,290 in 2009 to a high of 3,751 in 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From 2005-2012, the average was 1,567 ○ From 2013-2018, the average was 2,245 ○ From 2019-2020, the average was 3,382 ○ From 2019-2020, the number increased by an additional 739 archery hunters <p>In 2020, the 3,751 hunters accounted for 28,054 recreation days (7.48 rec days/hunter; Statewide Elk Harvest Report https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Hunting/BigGame/Statistics/Elk/2020StatewideElkHarvest.pdf). In comparison, the 2020 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons combined had 3,726 hunters with 16,341 recreation days (4.4 rec days/hunter). It is significant to note that the focus of the increased archery hunting pressure in September coincides with the elk breeding season and exerts significant pressure on the elk during the reproductive time period.</p> <p>Calf ratios have averaged 30.8 calves per 100 cows in E-32 since 2005. The cause of the poor recruitment is unknown but has been experienced across much of southern Colorado in recent years. CPW is currently conducting research to evaluate the causes of low calf recruitment. In the meantime, the primary tool available to CPW Wildlife Managers attempting to increase elk numbers is via license management.</p>	

An important aspect to consider is the concern of overcrowding during the archery seasons. Although the perception of crowding is highly subjective and difficult to measure, the most common concerns officers hear from archery hunters in GMUs 80 and 81 are directly related to hunter crowding. Insight into public opinion about archery hunting in E-32 is provided in the E-32 Archery Elk Survey results (August 2-9, 2021) and the 2019 Big Game Season Structure Meeting results provided below. Most hunters express their willingness to accept license limitations to improve the satisfaction of their hunt.

There are compelling biological as well as social reasons to limit archery participation. Various management strategies were considered for their ability to control cow harvest, obtain more accurate harvest data, control overall hunter numbers and their impacts on other hunters, and maintain hunter opportunities across all seasons.

Alternatives include: 1) Limited Either-Sex Archery Licenses, 2) Limited Sex-Specific Archery Licenses, 3) Over-The-Counter (OTC) with Caps Either-Sex Archery Licenses

Local staff identified **Limited Either-Sex Archery Licenses** as the alternative that would best address both the biological and social issues.

- Our intentions regarding how much of a limitation to impose on licenses are not for purposes of severely limiting licenses to levels used in our “Quality” units. We intend to allocate the number of licenses that allow maximum sustainable hunting opportunities while balancing that opportunity with other methods of take and with the biological needs of the herd.

The following are key points that we feel are important to consider for each option and how they differ.

- **Limited Either-Sex Archery Licenses**
 - Limited licenses may require preference points to draw.
 - Limitations give managers the best ability to control hunter numbers.
 - Limitations give managers the ability to control cow harvest.
 - Compared to OTC with caps, offering licenses through the draw gives hunters greater predictability for getting a license and more fairly awards licenses if demand is higher than availability.
 - This option makes planning easier since hunters will know if they are successful in June instead of waiting for the OTC with Cap licenses to go on sale in August.
 - Going from OTC either-sex licenses to limited either-sex would require hunters to apply for a license through the draw and restrict them to a limited geographic area.
 - This option retains the either-sex option for hunters.
- **Limited Sex-Specific Archery Licenses**
 - This option includes the same points made for limited either-sex, with the exception of forcing hunters to choose the sex of the elk they wish to pursue.
 - Sex-specific licenses give devoted archery cow hunters that opportunity without competing against bull hunters for limited tags.
 - From an overall equity standpoint, sex-specific licenses would be consistent with current muzzleloader and rifle license allocations, allowing managers to distribute cow license changes among all methods of take.
- **Over-The-Counter (OTC) with Caps Either-Sex Archery Licenses**
 - OTC with caps is the same as “limited” mentioned above, with the exception of how the licenses are obtained by the public. These licenses go on sale later in the summer and are on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - OTC with caps does not require hunters to use preference points.
 - OTC with caps offer less predictability for hunters.
 - Allows hunters opportunity for antlered or antlerless elk harvest.
- **Over-The-Counter (OTC) with Caps Sex-specific Archery Licenses**
 - Sex-specific OTC with caps is the same as OTC with caps above but without the either-sex opportunity.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

Internal: DWMs, AWMs, Area Biologists, SW Senior Biologist, CSRs, SW Regional Staff

External: E-32 archery elk hunters, rifle elk hunters, muzzleloader elk hunters, landowners.

E-32 Archery Elk Survey

Aug. 2 -9, 2021

This survey was conducted via a Facebook poll by Area 17 staff to help inform an issue paper submitted in response to concerns regarding management of the E-32 elk herd. See the issue paper for more information regarding the biological background. This survey documents the social concerns and desires.

Respondents were asked about the following:

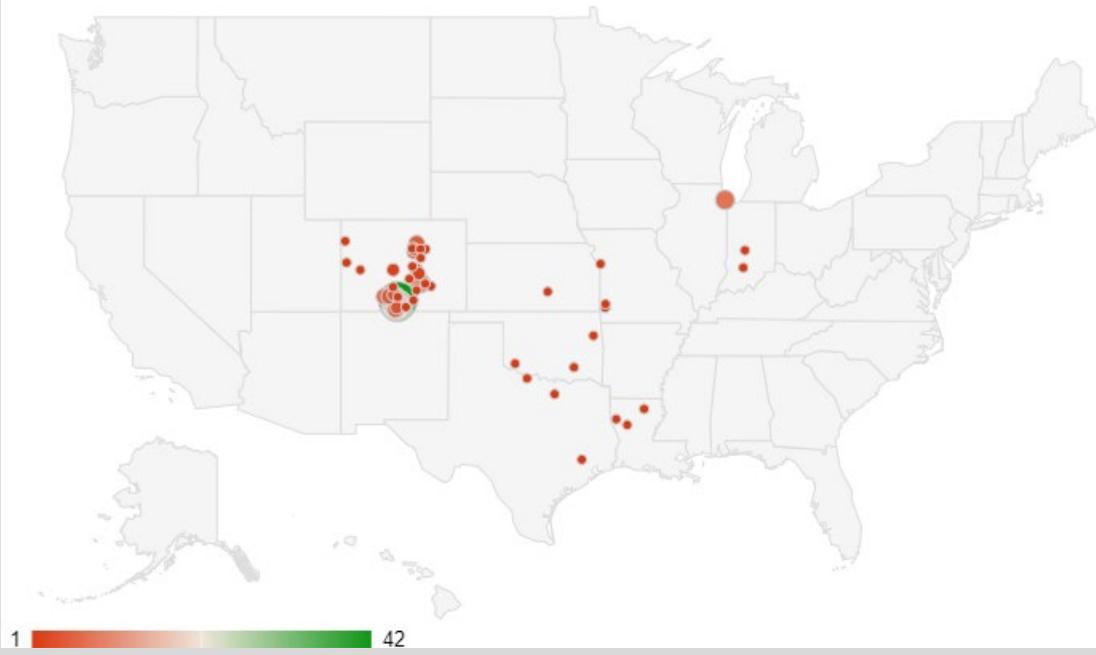
- Demographics.
- Satisfaction when hunting elk in E-32 (GMUs 80 and 81).
- Concern for crowding during the archery season.
- Support or opposition for no change, totally limited licenses, or OTC w/ caps.
- Method of taking preference.
- Conservation organization affiliation.

Summary of responses

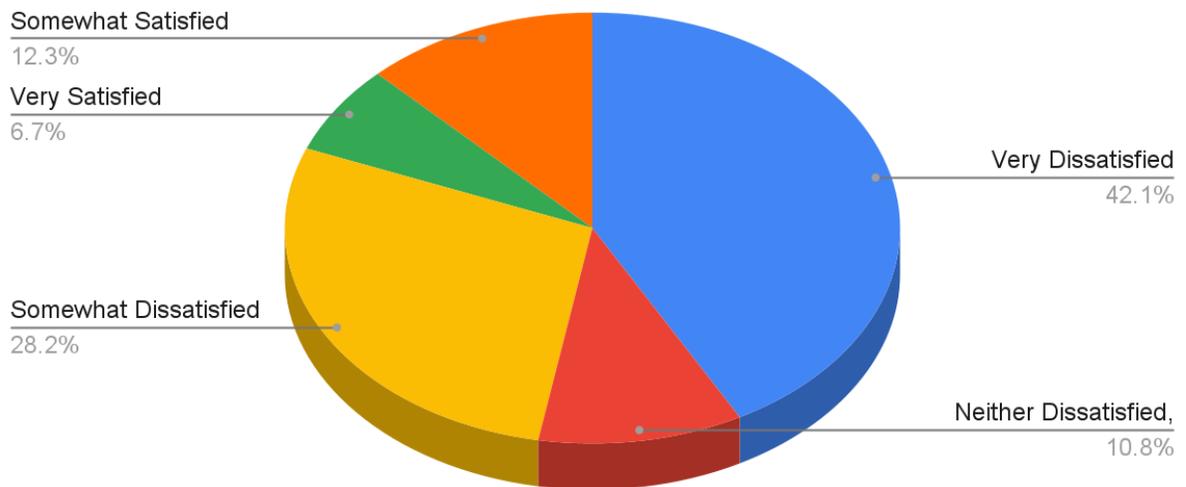
- Total number of respondents as of 5 pm, 8/9/21 - 208.
- Most respondents are archery hunters - 58%.
- The respondents represent numerous hunting conservation organizations.
- 72% are somewhat to very dissatisfied with their elk hunt in these units.
- 93% are concerned about crowding during the archery season; only 7% of respondents are not at all concerned with crowding.
- Approximately 63% support totally limited licenses.
- Approximately 64% support OTC with Caps (many understand that this option does not require the use of preference points).
- More than three-quarters (79%) of respondents **oppose** the No Change alternative; only 15.3% support keeping things the same.

See the following charts that are linked to the actual data from the responses.

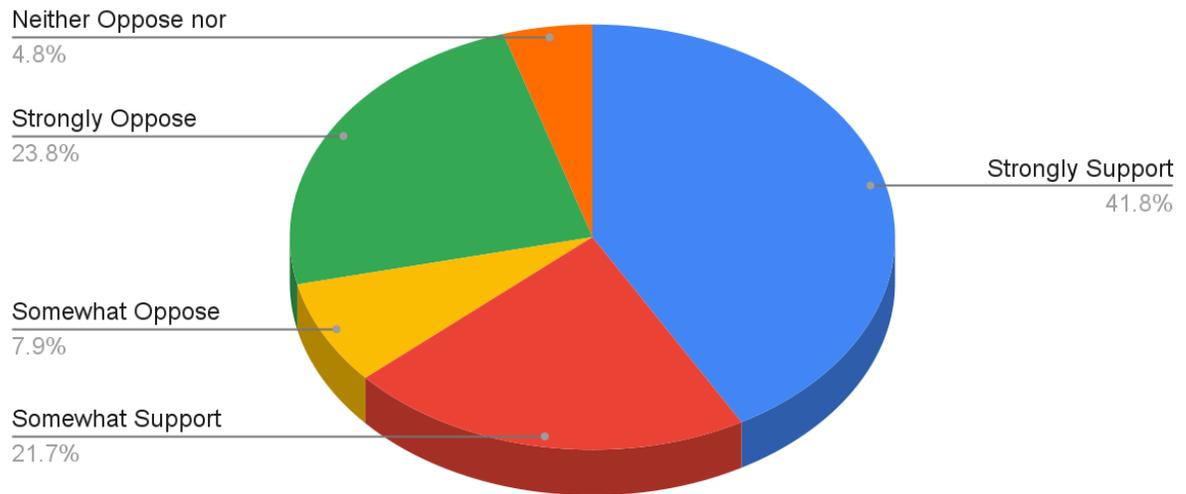
Respondent Locations



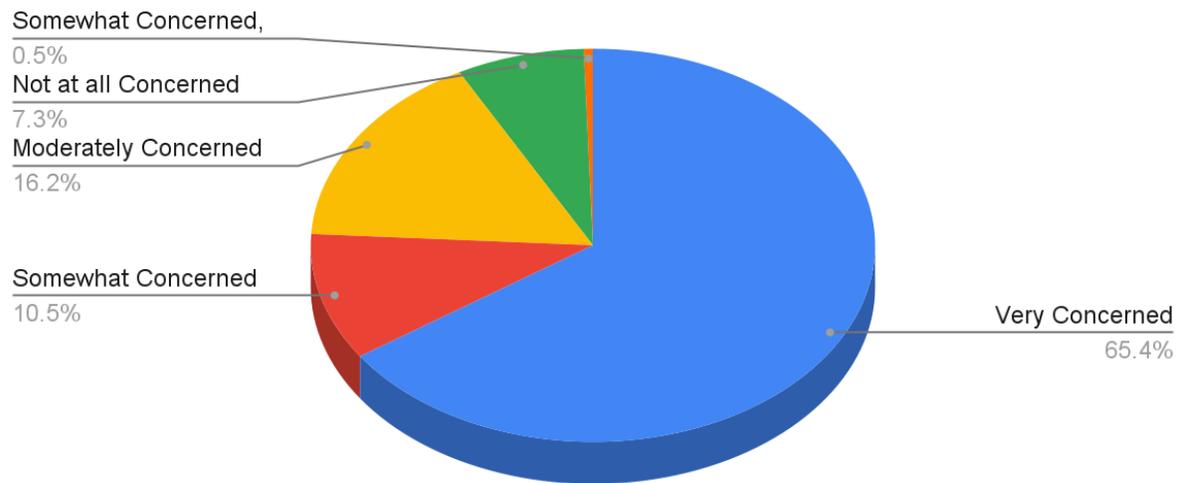
Satisfaction



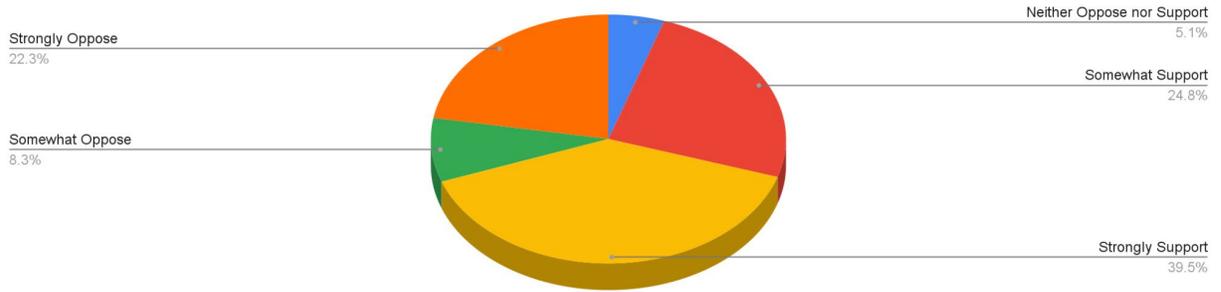
All archery elk licenses should be limited.



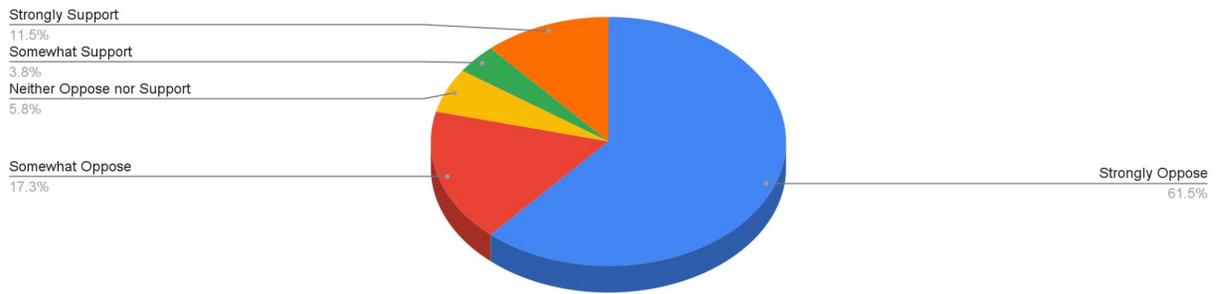
How concerned are you with hunter crowding during the archery season?



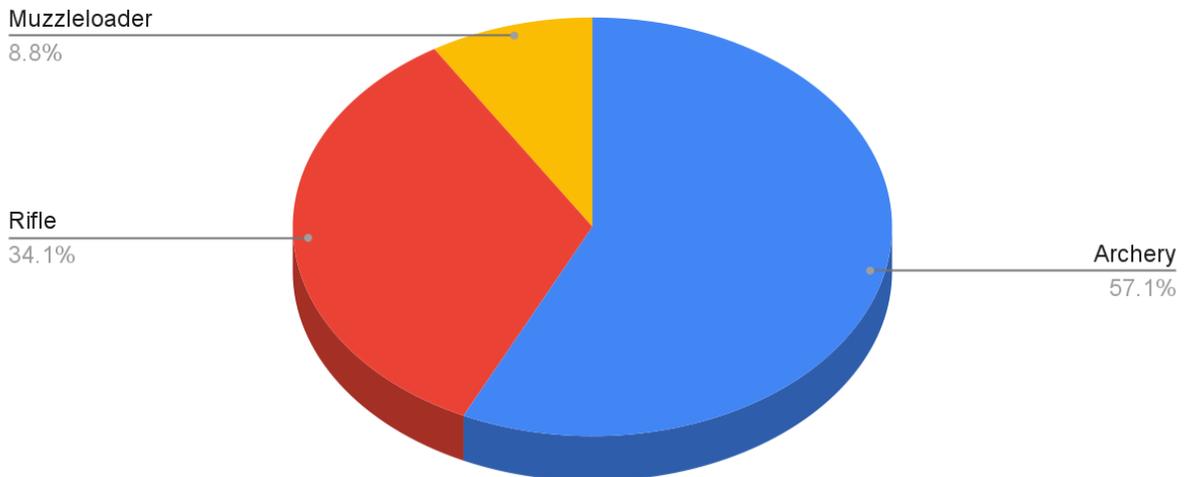
Archery licenses for elk should be changed to Over-the-Counter with caps.



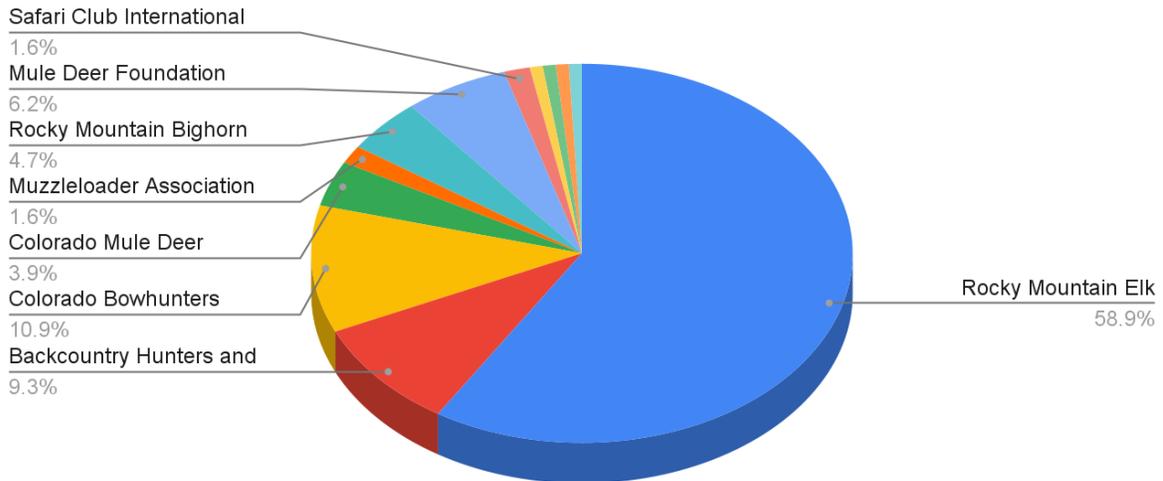
No changes made to the archery-hunting season.



Methods of Take



Organizations



2019 Big Game Season Structure (BGSS) Meeting - Monte Vista (MV)

In MV there were:

- 19 rifle hunters
- 5 archers
- 2 muzzleloader hunters

Archery crowding concerns in MV:

- 5 don't hunt archery
- 1 not concerned
- 5 somewhat concerned
- 6 moderately concerned
- 9 very concerned
- 20 of 21 who participate in the archery season have some level of concern with crowding

Archery season modification preferences

(this was weighted because it asked for the top 3 options per respondent):

- Total points possible - 78
- Limit all archery elk licenses - 41
- Limit all archery cow licenses - 4
- Modify over-the-counter (OTC), either-sex archery licenses to sex-specific licenses when below population objective - 5
- Make archery license OTC with cap - 22
- Create an earlier archery deer season - 4
- Make no changes - 2

- 63 of 78 points were given to total limitation options

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. **(PREFERRED) Limited, either-sex archery licenses issued for E-32 Lower Rio Grande**
E.g. Hunt Code: EE-080-O1A (GMUs 80 & 81)
2. Limited, sex-specific licenses issued for E-32 Lower Rio Grande
E.g. Hunt Codes: EM-080-O1A (GMUs 80 & 81)
EF-080-O1A (GMUs 80 & 81)
3. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Rick Basagoitia-AWM, Rod Ruybalid-DWM, Tyler Cerny-DWM, Jeremy Gallegos-DWM, Brian Bechaver-DWM, Brent Frankland-Area Terrestrial Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Area 17 staff
CC:	Cory Chick-RM, Jamin Grigg-Senior Terrestrial Biologist
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Field Ops/Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021	
ISSUE:	Should the DAU E-3 antlerless elk PLO season dates for hunt code EF006P5R be extended by changing the season ending date from September 30th to January 31st of the following year?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Elk Data Analysis Unit (DAU) E-3 consists of Game Management Units (GMUs) 006, 016, 017, 161, and 171. The current population objective in the E-3 Herd Management Plan is 4,000-4,500 animals. The current modeled population remains above this objective with a 2020 post-hunt population estimate of 6,016 animals, and a predicted 2021 pre-hunt population estimate of 6,847 animals. Elk damage on standing hay crops has been an issue in E-3 for many years. To address this issue, an early antlerless elk Private-Land-Only (PLO) season was established running from August 15 – September 30. During winters with average to above-average snowfall, agricultural producers within the DAU also experience game damage on stacked hay. Over the years, the North Park Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) Committee has been instrumental in assisting private landowners experiencing damage by building high-fenced stack yards. Despite this effort, many unprotected haystacks remain throughout North Park. Currently, when a producer is experiencing elk damage, District Wildlife Managers (DWM) may work to provide impacted producers with game damage panels and/or game damage vouchers to address the situation. However, either of these options require additional time and/or resources from both landowners and DWMs. As such, we seek to improve our management efficiency through the extension of pre-existing PLO hunt codes. By extending the current antlerless PLO elk season dates from the end of September through the end of January, licenses would be available for landowners to immediately address ongoing game damage issues during this time period. In addition, the hunter success rate for the current PLO license in question is 60%. The higher success of the hunters utilizing this license to harvest females may assist in reducing elk numbers and reaching the population objective over time.</p> <p>Currently, there are 300 licenses allocated to the August 15 - September 30 PLO hunt code. On average, approximately half of these licenses are sold. In addition to this PLO license, there are eleven antlerless elk PLO hunt codes spanning different GMU's within the DAU during the regular rifle seasons. There are 150 total licenses associated with these eleven hunt codes. By extending the season dates for the early PLO hunt code, hunter and harvest opportunity would be expanded while these eleven hunt codes could be eliminated, thus simplifying the brochure. If deemed necessary, licenses from the eliminated hunt codes could be added to the PLO hunt code in question.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
Internal- Area 10 Staff, NW Region Staff	
External- Sportspersons utilizing PLO Licenses, Private Landowners impacted by game damage	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
1. *Preferred Alternative*: Change the ending date for the antlerless elk PLO season (EF006P5R) from September 30 th to January 31 st of the following year. Remove the hunt	

<p>codes EF006P2R, EF006P3R, EF006P4R, EF016P3R, EF016P4R, EF017P3R, EF017P4R, EF161P3R, EF161P4R, EF171P3R, EF171P4R.</p> <p>2. Change the ending date for hunt code EF006P5R from September 30th to December 31st. Remove the hunt codes EF006P2R, EF006P3R, EF006P4R, EF016P3R, EF016P4R, EF017P3R, EF017P4R, EF161P3R, EF161P4R, EF171P3R, EF171P4R.</p> <p>3. Change the ending date for hunt code EF006P5R from September 30th to the last day of the fourth regular rifle season. Remove the hunt codes EF006P2R, EF006P3R, EF006P4R, EF016P3R, EF016P4R, EF017P3R, EF017P4R, EF161P3R, EF161P4R, EF171P3R, EF171P4R.</p> <p>4. Status quo</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Josh Dilley AAWM, Zach Weaver DWM, Jacob Way DWM, Eric VanNatta Terrestrial Biologist, Brad Banulis Senior Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Kris Middledorf, AWM, JT Romatzke, NWRM, Garrett Watson NWDRM, Brad Banulis, NWSB
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Terrestrial, NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial, NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021	
ISSUE:	Should an OTC PLO rifle bear season be created for GMUs 4, 5, 14, 214, and 441 from October 1 through the end of the concurrent 4th rifle season?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has been approached by private landowners within these units requesting a private-land-only (PLO) rifle bear season that would run concurrent with the PLO rifle cow elk season in order to allow additional bear harvest opportunities on private lands.</p> <p>Currently the bear hunting seasons within these Game Management Units (GMUs) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited and over-the-counter (OTC) archery seasons from September 2-30. • Limited and OTC muzzleloader season. • Limited rifle season from September 2-30. • OTC rifle seasons during the four regular rifle deer/elk seasons. <p>Therefore, there is currently no legal way to hunt bear within these GMUs from October 1 through the beginning of 1st rifle elk season. Creating a PLO bear season would allow more opportunity to harvest bears on private lands during the PLO antlerless elk season.</p> <p>Currently, there are several OTC, PLO bear hunt codes valid from October 1 – end of the concurrent 4th deer/elk rifle seasons across the state.</p> <p>Creating a PLO bear season with a separate license allocation for GMUs 4, 5, 14, 214, and 441, will provide for bear hunting opportunity on private lands where significant amounts of game damage occurs from the productive bear population.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
Stakeholders include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general public • private landowners – discussions have occurred which resulted in this issue paper 	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create an OTC, PLO rifle bear hunting season BE004P5R consistent with other PLO bear seasons from October 1 to the end of the 4th rifle season. 2. Status quo with the current limited and OTC bear hunting seasons. 	
Issue Raised by:	Area 6: Darby Finley and Johnathan Lambert
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	

CC:	JT Romatzke, NWRM, Garrett Watson NWRM, Bill deVergie A6 AWM, Mike Swaro A6 AAWM, Brad Banulis NWSB
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Terrestrial, NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial, NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021	
ISSUE:	Should an OTC, PLO rifle bear season be created for units 12, 13, 23, 24, and 33 from October 1 through the end of the concurrent 4th rifle season?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) currently offers a private land only (PLO) antlerless elk season within Game Management Units (GMUs) 11, 12, 13, 23, 24 and 211 from October 1 through November 30 (EF011P5R). CPW has been approached by private landowners within these units requesting a PLO rifle bear season that would run concurrent with this PLO rifle cow elk season in order to allow additional bear harvest opportunities on private lands.</p> <p>Currently the bear hunting seasons within these GMUs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited and over-the-counter (OTC) archery seasons from September 2-30. • Limited and OTC muzzleloader season. • Limited rifle season from September 2-30. • OTC rifle seasons during the four regular rifle deer/elk seasons. <p>Therefore, there is currently no legal way to hunt bear within these GMUs from October 1 through the beginning of 1st rifle elk season. Creating a PLO bear season would allow more opportunity to harvest bears on private lands during the PLO antlerless elk season.</p> <p>Currently, there are several OTC, PLO bear hunt codes valid, October 1 – end of the concurrent 4th deer/elk rifle seasons across the state, including the rest of the B-10 Data Analysis Unit (DAU).</p> <p>Creating a PLO bear season with a separate bear license allocation for GMUs 12, 13, 23, 24, and 33 will provide for bear hunting opportunity on private lands where significant amounts of game damage occurs from the productive bear population.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
<p>Stakeholders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general public • private landowners – discussions have occurred which resulted in this issue paper 	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create an OTC, PLO rifle bear hunting season BE012P5R consistent with other PLO bear seasons from October 1 to the end of the 4th rifle season valid in GMUs 12, 13, 23 and 24. Also, create BE033P5R for GMU 33, consistent with the other PLO bear seasons in the DAU from October 1 to the end of the 4th rifle season. 2. Status quo with the current limited and OTC bear hunting seasons. 	

Issue Raised by:	Area 6: Bailey Franklin and Darby Finley
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	JT Romatzke, NWRM, Garrett Watson NWARM, Bill deVergie A6 AWM, Mike Swaro A6 AAWM, Brad Banulis NWSB, Kirk Oldham A7 AWM
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Terrestrial, NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial, NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021

ISSUE: Should GMUs 51, 59, 511, & 581 be split from hunt codes MM050 and MF050? This action would maintain GMUs 50 & 501 in hunt codes MM(F)050 and create new moose hunt codes that would include GMUs 51, 59, 511, and 581.

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

In this issue paper, we propose changes to hunt codes MM(F)050 and the implementation of new hunt codes in the Southeast Region.

In recent years, moose have expanded their range into Game Management Units (GMUs) 51, 59, 511, and 581 prompting a desire to expand hunting opportunity and a need to provide tools to manage a growing population in areas where reports of human-moose conflicts are increasing. In 2020, an existing huntable unit (previously comprised of GMUs 49, 50, 500, and 501) was reorganized to separate GMUs 49 and 500 (now under hunt codes MM(F)049) and create hunt codes MM(F)050, which would include GMUs 50, 501, and four new GMUs (51, 59, 511, and 581). The resulting hunt codes included GMUs 50, 51, 59, 501, 511, & 581 (Figure 1). By including these six GMUs, it was predicted that hunter success would remain high while introducing moose harvest to four new GMUs.

Although four licenses (two bull and two antlerless) were issued in 2020 in MM(F)050 with the intention of dispersing harvest, all harvest occurred in GMU 501. Because the area along the US-285 corridor around Kenosha Pass is commonly known to have higher moose densities, it is likely that under the current hunt code structure, the majority of the harvest pressure will continue to occur in GMU 501. Therefore, to introduce hunters to an underutilized resource and provide new opportunity for a high-demand species, we propose the GMUs be reallocated to the following: MM(F)050 would include GMUs 50 & 501 and new hunt codes would be created to include GMUs 51, 59, 511, & 581 (Figure 2). In these newly created hunt codes, we anticipate a conservative allocation for the 2022 season to assess hunters' ability to locate and harvest animals in these lower density GMUs.

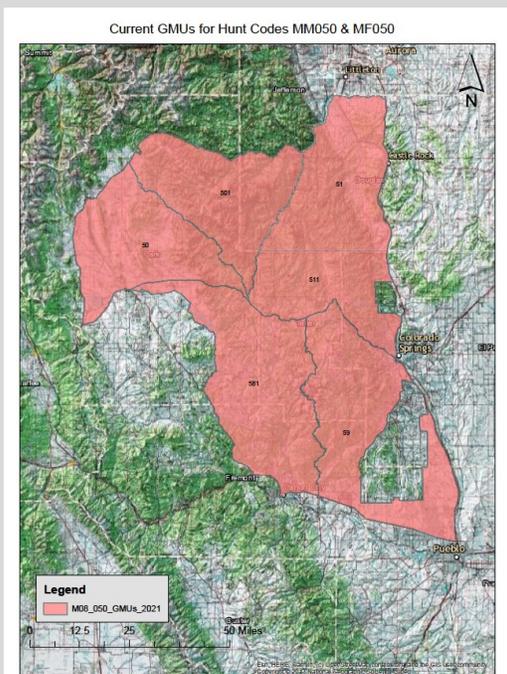


Figure 1. Current GMUs included in hunt codes MM050 and MF050 established in 2020.

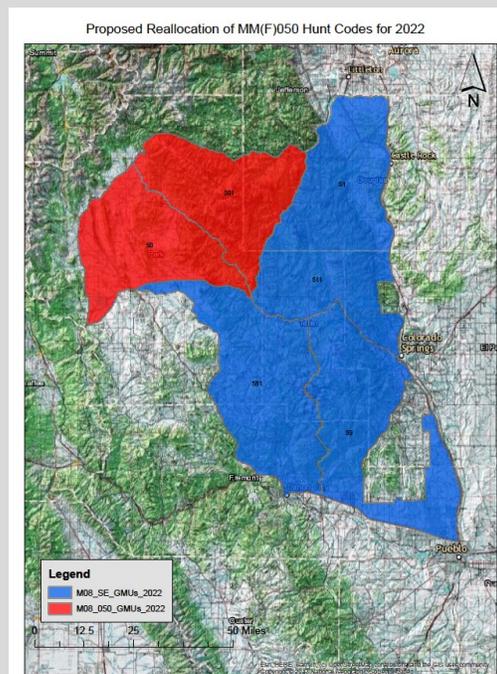


Figure 2. Proposed reallocation of GMUs in the creation of new hunt codes by removing 51, 59, 511, & 581 from MM(F)050.

511, & 581 from existing hunt codes MM050 and MF050.	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
M-08 moose hunters. Outreach efforts did not occur regarding this issue. We anticipate positive feedback by sportsmen as the proposed actions will ultimately provide more hunting opportunity.	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
1. *Preferred Alternative*: Remove GMUs 51, 59, 511, and 581 from hunt codes MM050O1X and MF050O1A, MF050O1M, MF050O1R. Create new hunt codes MM051O1X and MF051O1A, MF051O1M, MF051O1R valid in GMUs 51, 59, 511, and 581.	
2. Status Quo	
Issue Raised by:	Kirstie Yeager-Wildlife Biologist, Ian Petkash-DWM, Tyler Stotzfus-DWM, Dawson Swanson-DWM
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Kirstie Yeager
CC:	Areas 1, 5, 13, & 14, Woodward, Lamont, Lamb, Martinez, Kroening, Wigner, Schaller, Stiver
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Terrestrial, NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial and Area 1
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: 10/13/2021
ISSUE:	Should antlered moose hunting opportunity be offered in GMUs 4 and 5?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Low densities of moose have consistently been found in Game Management Units (GMUs) 4 and 5 for the past 12-15 years. GMUs 4 and 5 are located in the extreme northwest corner of Colorado, within the M-9 Data Analysis Unit (DAU). Moose have expanded into these GMUs from more established populations in North Park (M-1 DAU) and the Elk River Valley (M-9 DAU) north of Steamboat Springs. The consistent presence of a small resident moose population provides for an additional moose hunting opportunity in the state. Local CPW field staff proposes this moose hunting opportunity be offered in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add GMUs 4 and 5 to existing GMU 14 antlered moose hunt codes, offering this limited moose hunting opportunity. <p>The M-9 DAU plan will be developed in the near future. Previous moose translocations have indicated that it is important to initiate harvest early to successfully manage the population well below carrying capacity. In an effort to manage this population in the most effective manner and to continue to improve moose hunting opportunity in Colorado, we recommend instituting antlered moose harvest in GMUs 4 and 5 beginning in 2022. It is anticipated that a small number of licenses will be added to the existing antlered GMU 14 hunt code for the first few years, and that hunters will likely concentrate in areas where moose are more readily available, primarily GMU 14. We will use the first three years of harvest data to determine if it is necessary to institute any additional hunt codes to split up the GMUs, which would direct and disperse harvest and hunters.</p> <p>Based on field observations by District Wildlife Manager (DWM) Johnathan Lambert and former DWM Jack Taylor, hunters, outfitters, and landowners, the moose population in GMUs 4 and 5 is increasing based on annual observations of cow-calf pairs. However, it is difficult to estimate the known population within GMUs 4 and 5 at this time.</p> <p>Field observations of a variety of bull, cow, and calf moose by DWM Lambert in GMUs 4 and 5 the past six years include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple annual sightings within the Wilderness Ranch private mountain subdivision (Willow Creek, First Creek, and Second Creek drainages), along with receiving notifications/photos of occasionally found heads from deceased mature bull moose by residents of the subdivision (GMU 4). - Annual sightings within the Willow Creek, First Creek, Beaver Creek, and Cataract Creek drainages on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) public land (GMU 4). - Annual sightings within the Roaring Fork of Slater Creek and the West Prong of the South Fork of Slater Creek drainages on USFS public land (GMU 4). - Limited sightings and one moose relocation of a cow and two calves (from GMU 14) within the Slater Creek drainage (GMU 4). - Occasional sightings in the Four Mile Creek drainage on private land (GMU 4). - Limited sightings in and around the Black Mountain area on USFS public land (GMU 4). - Annual sightings within the South Fork of the Little Snake River drainage on private land (GMU 5) 	

- Limited sightings within the main stem Little Snake River drainage on private land (GMU 5)	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
Internal- Area 6 and 10 staff has discussed creating a moose hunting opportunity in the area.	
External- Informal discussions with the public, USFS, outfitters, and landowners.	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Preferred Alternative*: Add GMUs 4 and 5 to existing M-M-014-O1-X antlered moose hunt codes for GMU 14 in order to expand and increase hunting opportunity by increasing geographic area available to hunt and possibly increasing quotas. Adding the new GMUs will change the hunt code to M-M-004-O1-X. Survey and monitor moose success and hunting experience for a 3-5 year period and re-evaluate. Create antlered moose hunt code allowing for one or two licenses valid in both GMUs 4 and 5. Survey and monitor moose success and hunting experience for a 3-5 year period and re-evaluate. Include under hunt code in brochure that unit is low moose density. Status Quo- Do not create a moose hunting unit and continue to monitor moose population numbers in GMUs 4 and 5. 	
Issue Raised by:	Johnathan Lambert, DWM Craig North and former employee Jack Taylor, DWM Steamboat North
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Johnathan Lambert, DWM Craig North and Darby Finley, Terrestrial Biologist Area 6
CC:	Bill deVergie AWM Meeker, Kris Middledorf, AWM Steamboat Springs, Eric VanNatta, Terrestrial Biologist Area 10, JT Romatzke NWRM, Brad Banulis, NWSB
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Terrestrial, NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial, NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date:		10/13/2021
ISSUE:	Should a cow moose hunt code be opened in GMU 55?	
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):		
<p>The moose herd in the eastern portion of the Gunnison Basin is growing. The core of this herd appears to be in Taylor Park, and has been a self-sustaining moose herd for at least 20 years, with no moose reintroduction/augmentation efforts conducted within 50 linear miles. The Taylor Park moose herd may be exceeding carrying capacity given colonization and calving documented in nearby areas including the Slate River, East River, Tomichi Creek, and Quartz Creek, along with various smaller drainages with sub-marginal habitat.</p> <p>Bull moose hunting is currently open in all Game Management Units (GMUs) surrounding GMU 55. GMU 55 bull moose quota has been increasing over the past decade from 1 to 4 bull tags in the last 5 years. Age and antler size of bulls harvested has indicated a growing population size.</p> <p>We are thus proposing to introduce an antlerless moose hunt code to GMU 55, that follows the cow moose hunt code method of take and season dates outlined in the Big Game Season Structure (method-of-take choice: MF055O1A, MF055O1M, MF055O1R).</p> <p>While the current bull moose hunt code (MM055O1X) allows hunters to hunt in GMU 551 also, this proposed cow moose hunt code would only be valid in GMU 55.</p> <p>Given that moose require mandatory checks, additional biological data can be gathered from implementing this hunt code. It is likely that the female segment of the GMU 55 sub-herd is comprised of very old aged animals. Although exact quota is yet to be decided, two to three cow licenses seems to be a reasonable allocation the first year. Age of harvested cows would be closely monitored, with future license allocation adjusted based on the age metric, hunter feedback, and potentially agency aerial survey data.</p>		
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:		
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.		
Moose hunters		
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Preferred Alternative*: Establish a GMU 55 antlerless moose hunt code (MF055O1A, MF055O1M, MF055O1R). Status Quo 		
Issue Raised by:	Kevin Blecha - Area 16 Wildlife Biologist	
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):		
CC:	Brandon Diamond, Jamin Grigg, Nick Gallowich, Clayton Bondurant, Cory Chick, Matt Thorpe	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:		Cory Chick
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021	
ISSUE:	Should the individual ram bighorn sheep tag for S-19 (Never Summer Range) be replaced with an either sex tag?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The Never Summer bighorn sheep herd (S-19) is located along the northern and western edge of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), approximately at the intersection between Areas 2, 4, 9, and 10. Sheep in this herd primarily reside within RMNP and the Never Summer Wilderness Area. Total population estimates from the early 1900s until present have remained relatively stable at 100-120 animals. However, many of these animals spend the majority of their lives inside RMNP boundaries making them unavailable for hunter harvest. For management purposes, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) typically reports a huntable population for this Game Management Unit (GMU), accounting for the portion of this herd potentially outside of the park and available for harvest. The 2020 post-hunt available population estimate was 50, and 3-year averages for ram to ewe ratios are 83:100, and lamb to ewe ratios are 57:100.</p> <p>Currently, annual hunter opportunity for this herd is limited to one ram tag despite a slight increase in the estimated available population from 25 to 50 over the last 20 years. Though sheep occupying this herd are susceptible to legal harvest, high quality habitat in RMNP often prevents hunters from locating and subsequently harvesting a ram. For example, during coordinated August ground surveys (2001-2018) up to 70 bighorns have been observed with 20-40 ewes and lambs regularly observed outside of RMNP. However, few rams (if any) are observed outside of RMNP during this time. Since 2003, only 9 of 17 active hunters have successfully harvested a ram in this unit, leading to reduced hunter satisfaction. Further yet, CPW also lacks biological information for this herd, which is typically acquired through mandatory checks of harvested animals.</p> <p>For several years, wildlife managers and biologists from both CPW and RMNP have felt that S-19 can safely tolerate an annual conservative ewe harvest. Recent observations of adequate lamb to ewe ratios, connectivity with other sheep unavailable for hunter harvest, and proximity to multiple other sheep herds will likely support long-term viability of S-19. Replacing the existing S-19 ram license with an either-sex license would provide greater opportunity for hunters to fill their tag. Higher hunter success would also benefit CPW though increased rates of biological sampling of harvested animals.</p> <p>The S-19 herd does not have a population objective established, so this season is being proposed strictly for opportunity and not for population management. However, this modification could be used if (and when) a population objective is established for this endemic sheep herd.</p>	
<p>STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:</p> <p>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</p>	
<p>1) Sheep hunters</p> <p>2) Rocky Mountain National Park biologists – Are OK with a limited ewe season with low license numbers.</p>	

3) Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society – supports

4) Wildlife viewers and recreators

Internal parties are Area 2, 4, 9, 10 DWM's, biologists, and staff.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative***: Replace current S-19 ram sheep tag (S-M-S19-O1-R) with an either-sex tag (S-E-S19-O1-R) to provide greater opportunity for hunter success/satisfaction in a unit with limited availability and opportunity.
2. Add an S-19 ewe tag (S-F-S19-O1-R) to the existing ram-only tag. This alternative would provide more sheep hunting opportunity in this unit and may increase the number of sheep sampled during mandatory harvest checks. Similar to many other ewe tags in the state, preference would be for a separate set of season dates (i.e. Oct 17 – 30) following the ram hunt.
3. Status Quo.

Issue Raised by:	Area 9 and 10 staff
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Eric VanNatta, Wildlife Biologist
CC:	Zach Weaver, Area 10 DWM, Kris Middeldorf, Area 10 AWM Jeromy Huntington, Area 9 AWM Brad Banulis, NW Region Senior Wildlife Biologist JT Romatzke, NW Regional Manager
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Terrestrial, NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial, NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021	
ISSUE:	Should the S-54 hunt codes be modified by: 1) shifting archery season to be a later season (after the rifle season), 2) changing the rifle sub-unit boundary to match the West Elk Wilderness boundary?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The landscape of the S-54 bighorn GMU is comprised of very remote, rugged, and often high forest canopy cover. S-54 currently offers 1 archery ram license in August and 1 rifle ram license in September. Hunters have had difficulties locating bighorn sheep in recent years, despite a burgeoning and growing population size (2021 pop estimate = 90). No archery hunter has been successful in this unit over the last three years. The current archery season, which occurs prior to the rifle season, takes place in August when rams are still consolidated into large groups (15-30 rams in just 1 or 2 groups) and are difficult to locate. GPS collar data collected and analyzed in southwest Colorado indicates that as the rut approaches, bachelor ram groups tend to split up, with movement rates and geographic spread increasing as well. As rams become more active and vulnerable closer to the rut, the probability of a hunter encountering rams increases. Thus, moving the archery season to later dates, closer to the rut (which generally occurs during November and December) improves the odds of hunters locating and potentially harvesting rams. Success rates during a late (Oct 29 - Nov 30) archery season in nearby S-69 have averaged nearly 100% in recent years.</p> <p>The current sub-unit boundary for the rifle season is somewhat confusing and difficult for hunters to find on the ground. While it exists only as a straight township line on a map, it is not congruent with any landscape features. Wilderness boundaries are well marked, and well defined on most electronic mapping applications. Extending the rifle sub-unit boundary to include all of the West Elk Wilderness boundary also meets the objective of the current sub-unit rifle season boundary, which is to ensure rams are not harvested immediately off of the prime bighorn range overlooking Highway 50. Given the easy accessibility from Highway 50 and other county roads, these areas have been historically preserved for primitive (archery) hunting opportunities.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
S-54 hunters	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. *Preferred Alternative*: Substantially adjust the current S-54 archery hunt code (SMS54O1A) dates to occur after the S-54 rifle hunting season (SMS54O1R). Exact dates would mirror that of other nearby archery hunting seasons (SMS69O2A), which is typically a 30-day season lasting most of November. Additionally, adjust the S-54 GMU rifle sub-unit boundary to match that of the West Elk Wilderness (as managed by U. S. Forest Service). The specific description for the SM54O1R hunt code would thus read: <i>"hunting only allowed within the West Elk Wilderness Boundary"</i>. 2. Status Quo 	
Issue Raised by:	Kevin Blecha - Area 16 Wildlife Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Kevin Blecha

CC:	Clayton Bondurant, Brandon Diamond, Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick, Matt Thorpe
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021

ISSUE: Should there be two ram seasons in S-16?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

There are currently four ram licenses in S-16. The past several years all four hunters have hunted in the same general geographic area and created conflict among each other. It often takes ram hunters 15 or more years to draw a license to hunt these highly sought after animals. Being able to hunt them with minimal interference from other bighorn sheep hunters is an important aspect to the limited, high-demand hunt. To circumvent this issue while still maintaining a quality hunt, we propose creating two ram seasons in S-16. Licenses would be distributed in the two seasons while still maintaining hunter numbers in each season at a level that provides a quality hunt. The seasons would be set up to allow each season a two-week period without any overlap with the other season and then a two-week period of overlap. This would allow the maximum number of days for hunters.

The first season would be a split season with the first split starting the Saturday a week before Labor Day weekend and would run 12 days, ending on a Wednesday. The second split would begin the third Saturday after Labor Day and run 16 days, ending on Sunday.

The second season would start the Saturday after Labor Day and run 30 days, ending on Sunday (the same day as the second split of the first season).

This would provide approximately two weeks of hunting for each season without overlap with the other season and still provide each season with approximately four weeks. The last two weeks of both seasons would overlap and the seasons would conclude on the same day. Considering both seasons, ram hunting would occur a week before and a week after the opening and closing of the current season.

The creation of two seasons was done in this fashion in S-15, an adjacent unit, in 2020 and has been well received by hunters and outfitters.

Season dates for the next two years would be:

- 2022 - First season Aug 27 to Sept 7 and Sept 24 to Oct 9. Second season Sept 10 to Oct 9.
- 2023 - First season Aug 26 to Sept 6 and Sept 23 to Oct 8. Second season Sept 9 to Oct 8.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

- bighorn sheep hunters (RMBS has been consulted and supports this issue paper)
- local guides and outfitters
- wildlife managers

The creation of two seasons as proposed was done in S15 in 2020 and has been well received by hunters and outfitters.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*: Create two ram seasons**
2. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Brad Weinmeister, Biologist, Nate Martinez, DWM
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Jamin Grigg, Adrian Archuleta
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/13/2021	
ISSUE:	Should the boundary of mountain goat GMU G-12 be extended into the Upper Gunnison Basin (Upper Taylor and East River areas) to encompass the expanded range of mountain goats in the G-12 herd?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The southern boundary of the G-12 mountain goat herd is currently the Gunnison-Pitkin County line, running along the ridgeline of the Elk Mountains, and the headwaters of the Taylor River. Recent data collected via annual helicopter surveys has indicated a growing number of mountain goats, likely from G-12, using this area in Gunnison County. The current boundary, which runs along the divide of the Elk Mountains (ridgeline separating the Roaring Fork River, East River, and Upper Taylor River) is not biologically realistic for an alpine species. Mountain goat habitat is continuous over this ridge. Furthermore, recently collected GPS collar location data has indicated that the current boundary is not constricting the movements of the G-12 herd between Gunnison and Pitkin counties. Mountain goats are commonly found on the Teocalli and White Rock Mountain complexes in Gunnison County. The G-12 mountain goat population has generally been growing in recent years and is considered healthy. Heavy hunting pressure is needed to maintain the current G-12 population size.</p> <p>Hunters and outfitters in the Upper Gunnison Basin have expressed a desire to open up a hunting opportunity on this portion of the G-12 herd.</p> <p>The distribution of mountain goats spilling over from G-12 into the Upper Gunnison Basin closely mirrors the current southern boundary for the S-13 bighorn sheep herd. Extending this boundary to match the current S-13 southern boundary would be relatively simple. Clear linear geographic features exist to demarcate this proposed boundary delineation.</p> <p>Extending the G-12 southern boundary would likely provide immediate opportunity for 3-6 additional G-12 mountain goat hunters the first year, based on current G-12 productivity and on-ground observations.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
Mountain goat hunters	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Preferred Alternative*: Extend the G-12 game management unit (GMU) boundary southward to include the expanded mountain goat range, with the specific GMU description to read: <i>"bounded on the N and E by Roaring Fork River, Colo. 82; Pitkin CRs 14 (Aspen Mtn Summer Rd.) and 15 E (Richmond Hill Rd) and USFS 7761; on S by 761.1D (Taylor River Head Rd.), USFS Trail 400 (Brush Creek Trail), USFS Road 738.2B (East Brush Creek Rd.), USFS/Gunnison CR 738 (Brush Creek Rd.); on W by Colo 135, Gunnison Cr 317 (Gothic Rd.), USFS 317 (Schofield Pass Rd.), USFS 314 (Crystal River Rd, and Colo. 133.</i> Status Quo 	
Issue Raised by:	Kevin Blecha - Area 16 Wildlife Biologist, Brandon Diamond – Area 16 AWM
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Kevin Blecha

CC:	Julie Mao, Brad Banulis, Jamin Grigg, Jon Groves, Matt Yamashita, Kurtis Tesch, Cory Chick, Matt Thorpe
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO