



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Hilary Hernandez, Regulations Manager
RE: Chapter W-3 Final Regulations for the November 2022 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting
DATE: November 4, 2022

Final regulatory changes for Chapter W-3 are summarized below. If there are questions about the agenda item below, or if additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me at hilary.hernandez@state.co.us.

Agenda Item 14: Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, Expect Migratory Birds" 2 CCR 406-3 (Step 2 of 2)

Revising the method of take for fall and late season turkey hunting

Air gun hunting has become more popular in the last 15 to 20 years. Colorado is an ideal state to expand turkey-hunting opportunities because of the opportunity to hunt two species of turkey within the same state. In Colorado, it is a legal method of take for small game mammals and furbearing species. Through the citizen petition process, air gun hunting has been expanded to now include turkey. The types of air guns allowed are the same as the ones allowed for hunting coyotes and bobcats to keep regulations consistent.

Expanding the Southwest Youth Extended Season to statewide

The Southwest Region has offered an extended youth turkey-hunting season for several years. The youth extended season for fall turkey gives youth hunters with unfilled fall licenses the opportunity to hunt the Saturday before Thanksgiving to the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Allowing youth hunters the opportunity to hunt when school is out and parents or other family members have taken vacation may help families avoid having to choose between school and hunting. As this has been a successful program in the southwest region, it will now be expanded to the statewide level.

Revising turkey quotas and season dates

Turkey regulations have been revised to update harvest limit quota numbers and season dates for 2023. Turkey harvest limit quotas and seasons are established to maintain healthy populations while at the same time providing recreational opportunity. Ongoing population analysis and management necessitates or makes possible reductions in turkey harvest in some Game Management Units and additional turkey hunting opportunity in others. These regulations have been modified to promote healthy turkey populations and provide for proper turkey management and recreational opportunity in accordance with the best available science. (These are step 1 of 1 changes.)



2. Fall Season				
Unit	Hunt Code	Date Opened	Date Closed	Licenses
				Either Sex
851 - Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area only	TE851L1R	<u>09/01/2023</u> 09/01/2022	<u>10/01/2023</u> 10/02/2022	2510
Total				<u>780605</u>

F. Special Licenses for Nuisance Turkeys

1. The Director shall have the authority to establish special hunting seasons for turkeys, between December 1 and March 31 on an annual basis, when necessary to control nuisance turkeys. The Area Wildlife Manager will determine the type of license(s) (either-sex or hen only) most appropriate to control the conflict.
 - a. Nuisance turkey hunts are limited to a maximum of 50 licenses per landowner, per year.
 1. The Area Wildlife Manager shall provide the landowner with special application forms for distribution to individuals of their choice. Participants shall submit the completed application form with payment to the Division office indicated on the application. Nuisance turkey licenses shall be sold at the fall season license price.
 - b. Prior to approving the hunt, the Division shall:
 1. Verify that conflicts are occurring.
 2. Designate what area shall be open to hunting.
 3. Determine the manner of hunting that will be permitted.
 4. Determine the number of hunters allowed to hunt in each designated area.
 - c. Hunting will be done under the direction of a District Wildlife Manager, following approval by the owner of land where such conflict is occurring.
 - d. Hunters shall hunt in designated areas and on the dates indicated on the license.
 1. A map or a written description of the designated area open to hunting (which would include, but would not be limited to landowner(s) name, game management unit, township, range and section(s) and/or identification of landmarks such as roads, rivers, or fence lines which coincide with boundaries), will be provided to each licensed hunter by the Division.
 - e. Any person who purchases a license for a nuisance turkey season shall be required to complete a Division harvest survey form and return it to the Area office that is nearest the location of the hunt no later than 5 days after the season ends.

Basis and Purpose:

Turkey regulations have been revised to update harvest limit quota numbers and season dates for 2023. Turkey harvest limit quotas and seasons are established to maintain healthy populations while at the same time providing recreational opportunity. Ongoing population analysis and management necessitates or makes possible reductions in turkey harvest in some Game Management Units and additional turkey hunting opportunity in others. These regulations have been modified to promote healthy turkey populations and provide for proper turkey management and recreational opportunity in accordance with the best available science.

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The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager by emailing dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us or by visiting the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO, 80216.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023, AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO ON THIS 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2022.

APPROVED:
Carrie Besnette Hauser
Chair

ATTEST:
Marie Haskett
Secretary