

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 11/04/2022

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the PLO Mule Deer Only antlered rifle licenses be changed to general PLO antlered licenses in the subunit of Game Management Unit (GMU) 951?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>In 2019, a Private-Land-Only (PLO) mule deer only antlered rifle license was created for a subunit in GMU 951 to increase harvest of mule deer bucks and address high CWD prevalence in mule deer along the western portion of the South Platte River corridor in northeast Colorado. Since the implementation of this new subunit and hunt code in 2020, the proportion of mule deer being classified and harvested has significantly decreased, making this hunt code ineffective. Mule deer percentages of the population have fallen to less than 10%, with most of those deer accruing outside of this subunit. During 2021 classification flights along the South Platte River in the subunit only 27 deer of the 361 deer counted where Mule Deer, with 5 being bucks.</p> <p>CWD prevalence for GMU 951 is estimated to be at 25% triggering management actions in Colorado's Statewide CWD Response Plans. The 2021 observed buck to doe ratio for GMU 951 is 34:100 and is 37 within the subunit. Additional buck harvest is needed to achieve CWD management goals within this subunit. In addition, white-tailed deer have continued to expand in this GMU and additional whitetail buck hunting opportunities are available in this subunit of GMU 951.</p> <p>Because the majority of the South Platte River corridor in GMU 951 is occupied by white-tailed deer, continuing to use this mule deer only buck license to obtain additional mule deer buck harvest is no longer a reliable management option. Therefore, we propose to change the PLO mule deer buck only rifle licenses to general PLO rifle buck licenses in the subunit in GMU 951. This change would continue to provide additional buck hunting opportunities for both deer species. This new license would remain a List B license and valid during the regular and late plains rifle seasons</p>	
<b>WHO ARE THE EXTERNAL PUBLICS IMPACTED BY THIS ISSUE? WHAT PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED, IF ANY?</b>	
<p>- Landowners and deer hunters in the subunit of GMU 951.  <b>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</b></p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	
<p>1. <b>*Preferred Alternative*:</b>                  Change the PLO Mule Deer Only rifle buck license to general PLO buck license in the specified subunit within GMU 951. Licenses would be List B and valid during the regular and late plains rifle seasons. The hunt code for this subunit DM951P7R will not change.</p> <p>2. <b>Alternative 2:</b>                  Status Quo</p>	
<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Marty Stratman-Wildlife Biologist, Brandon Muller-AAWM, Jackson Davis-DWM
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	Marty Stratman
<b>CC:</b>	Surface, Curtis, Area 4, Carpenter, Eckert, Cannon, Leslie
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	Mark Leslie
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION</b>	Terrestrial
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

## GMU 951 Subunit

Bounded on the north by Riverside Inlet canal, south bank of Riverside Reservoir, and Riverside Outlet canal, on the east by Morgan CR 2 and Colo. 144, on the south by I-76, and on the west by Weld CR 388, U.S. 34, Weld CRs 68, 380 and 50.



**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 11/04/2022	
<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should GMU 83 mule deer and pronghorn license PLO status be removed?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>Game Management Unit (GMU) 83 presents a unique challenge for managing wildlife. Over 99% of the unit is privately owned. This ownership ranges from large private ranches encompassing the entire mountain range on the east side of the unit to subdivision tracts made up of thousands of small individually owned lots. These subdivisions contain nearly two thousand miles of publicly maintained county roads. Most of the properties in the unit are owned by absentee landowners, which are not signed, posted, or patrolled.</p> <p>For many years, CPW has designated elk, deer and pronghorn licenses as PLO (Private Land Only) licenses because of the unit's lack of public land hunting opportunities. However, CPW recently partnered with Costilla County to manage over 17,000 acres as a State Wildlife Area (San Luis Hills SWA). The partnership provides a unique opportunity in GMU 83 for hunters to access public land to hunt.</p> <p>In 2018, CPW went through the process of limiting all elk licenses in the unit during the regular rifle seasons. As part of that process, we removed the PLO designation on all elk licenses valid in GMU 83. However, we did not remove that designation on Mule Deer and Pronghorn licenses, which was an oversight at the time. This issue paper intends to correct that. Under the current system, PLO licenses would not be valid in San Luis Hills State Wildlife Area. In order to facilitate hunters who wish to hunt there, the PLO designation would need to be removed from Mule Deer and Pronghorn licenses. Removing the PLO designation maintains consistency of license status designation across all species.</p> <p>CPW proposes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Remove PLO designation from all Mule Deer and Pronghorn licenses in GMU 83.</li> </ol>	
<b>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:</b>	
<p>CPW staff discussion at the Area level.  Hunters and local landowners.  Communication with hunters and landowners in the unit; no opposition to this proposal has been brought forward.</p> <p><b>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</b></p> <p><b>[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]</b></p>	
<b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>*Preferred Alternative*:</b> Remove PLO designation from all Mule Deer and Pronghorn licenses in GMU 83.</li> </ol> <p>Deer hunt codes to be added:  DM083O1A  DM083O1M  DM083O2R  DM083O3R  DM083O4R</p>	

**Deer hunt codes to be deleted:**

DM083P1A  
DM083P1M  
DM083P2R  
DM083P3R  
DM083P4R

**Pronghorn hunt codes to be added:**

AM083O1A  
AM083O1R

**Pronghorn hunt codes to be deleted:**

AM083P1A  
AM083P1R

**2. Status quo**

<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Brian Bechaver; Conrad Albert
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than the person raising the issue):</b>	
<b>CC:</b>	Jamin Grigg, Rick Basagoitia; Brent Frankland
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION</b>	SW Region
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 11/04/2022

**ISSUE:** Should regulation #211.E.5 Bighorn Sheep Access Program Options C be modified to clarify the expectations for entering the program and executing the contract?

**DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):**

The Bighorn Sheep Access Program (BSAP) improves public access for bighorn sheep hunting on private lands in Colorado through the formation or continuation of partnerships with private landowners. Three options for providing hunting options are currently available. The first two options (A & B) are for properties, which already have bighorn sheep. The third option, Option C, is for properties with the potential for, or has received bighorn sheep transplants under an agreement with CPW.

Current regulation #211.E.5 states: "Option C is available for property owners who would like their land evaluated for bighorn sheep transplant or augmentation for inclusion in the BSAP under option C. Notice of interest must be submitted in writing to the local district wildlife manager by April 1 annually. If the Division approves the transplant and property enrollment, the Division and landowner will share the costs of the trap and transplant operation. When the Division and property owner determine that the transplanted herd can sustain harvest, the property will be opened to hunting under option C. Properties enrolled in BSAP under option C will be enrolled for a 10-year period with bighorn sheep ram licenses being issued at a 1:1 public/private ratio during that period. After 10 years of hunting, the landowner may choose to withdraw from the program or re-enroll in a new contract under option A or B."

This leads to confusion regarding 1) the terms of an initial cooperative agreement that does not include hunting 2) the number of hunts that take place during the 10 years once hunting commences. The initial option C ranches enrolled in BSAP are nearing the time where hunting will commence. We are proposing a change in the regulatory language to clarify the intent of the program, which is to have a minimum of 10 ram licenses once hunting is initiated distributed on a 1:1 Public/Private ratio.

**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\*.**

**[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]**

**Proposed and Current Option C Ranches. This assists in clarity of program intent and more clearly defines the expectations for program entry and fully executing terms of Option C.**

**ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):**

**1. \*Preferred Alternative\*: Change of regulation #211.E.5 to:**

Option C is available for property owners who would like their land evaluated for bighorn sheep transplant or augmentation for inclusion in the BSAP under option C. Notice of interest must be submitted in writing to the local district wildlife manager by April 1 annually.

If the Division approves the transplant and property enrollment, the Division and landowner will share the costs of the trap and transplant operation. Prior to the transplant, the Division and the ranch will enter a cooperative agreement under option C. The cooperative agreement will extend 10 years beyond the time of transplant. The cooperative agreement may be amended to extend it for additional years if hunting was not initiated within the 10-year cooperative agreement period. When the Division and property owner determine that the ~~transplanted~~ herd can sustain hunting harvest, the original cooperative agreement will be amended to include provisions for season dates, licenses and any bighorn sheep habitat management plans agreed to by the landowner and the Division. the property will be opened to hunting under option C. Properties enrolled in BSAP under option C will be enrolled for a 10-year period with bighorn sheep ~~When hunting is initiated,~~ ram licenses ~~being will be~~ issued at a 1:1 public/private ratio during that period for 10

hunting seasons. After ~~the 10 years of~~ hunting seasons, the landowner may choose to withdraw from the program or re-enroll in a new contract under option A or B.”

**2. Status quo:**

<b>Issue Raised by:</b>	Ray Aberle, SE Region
<b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b>	Ray Aberle, Jonathan Reitz, Allen Vitt
<b>CC:</b>	
<b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b>	Brian Dreher
<b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION</b>	Terrestrial Programs, SE Region
<b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO