

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

