



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Policy and Planning
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Hilary Hernandez, Regulations Manager
RE: July 18-19, 2024 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting Regulatory Items
DATE: July 3, 2024

The regulatory items detailed below are scheduled to be addressed at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission's July 18-19, 2024 meeting. If there are questions about any of the agenda items below, or if additional information is needed, please feel free to contact Hilary Hernandez at hilary.hernandez@state.co.us.

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

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

Open for annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, generally-applicable and property-specific requirements for, or restrictions on use of, parks properties controlled by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Specific regulatory changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Adopting a permanent timed entry reservation system at Eldorado Canyon State Park.
- Updating the property specific hunting regulations for Fishers Peak.
- Adopting regulations for a limited spring turkey hunting opportunity at Lone Mesa State Park.

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

Open for annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, regulations pertaining to eligibility requirements and fees for individual and vehicle park passes, use permits, vessel, snowmobile and off-highway vehicle registrations and license agent requirements. Specific regulatory changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Removing Harmsen Ranch House from the Guest House Program at Golden Gate Canyon State Park.
- Modifying the Aspen Leaf Lifetime pass program.
- Extending the Keep Colorado Wild pass refund opportunity for accidental purchases.

Agenda Item 13: Chapter W-16 - "Parks and Wildlife Procedural Rules" 2 CCR 406-16 and those related provisions of Chapter P-1 ("Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands" 2 CCR 405-1), Chapter P-7 ("Passes, Permits and Registrations" 2 CCR 405-7), Chapter W-8 ("Field Trials and Training of Hunting Dogs" 2 CCR 406-8), and Chapter W-9 ("Wildlife Properties" 2 CCR 406-9) necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-16



Open for consideration of changes to commercial use on state parks and state wildlife areas.

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 18.b: Chapter W-10 - “Nongame Wildlife” 2 CCR 406-10

Open for final consideration of a cleanup to regulation #1000.D.2 to align it with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services’ 10(j) rule, 88 FR 77014.

CONSENT AGENDA

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 25.1: Chapter P-1 - “Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands” 2 CCR 405-1

Open for final consideration of changes to the hunter reservation system at Golden Gate Canyon State Park.

Agenda Item 25.2: Chapter W-9 - “Wildlife Properties” 2 CCR 406-9

Open for final consideration of changes necessary to:

- Ensure hunting access continuity on indemnity lands transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the State Land Board.
- Remove Richard State Wildlife Area from regulation after a new owner purchased the land and terminated the lease.

Agenda Item 25.3: Chapter W-0 - “General Provisions” 2 CCR 406-0

Open for final consideration of increasing the fee for the Federal Waterfowl Stamp.

Agenda Item 25.4: Chapter W-16 - “Parks and Wildlife Procedural Rules” 2 CCR 406-16

Open for final consideration to modify the procedure to request a public presentation be added to a commission meeting agenda.

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

Agenda Item 25.5: Chapter W-14 - “Wildlife Rehabilitation” 2 CCR 406-14

Open for consideration to modify license distribution timing for wildlife rehabilitation.

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 07/03/2024

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| ISSUE: | Should the Timed Entry Reservation System Pilot Project at Eldorado Canyon State Park continue as regular management? |
| DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE): | |
| <p>The Timed Entry Vehicle Reservation System Pilot was implemented at Eldorado Canyon State Park beginning in 2022. It ran from July 23 to September 15, 2022, from May 15 to September 15, 2023, and is currently running from May 15 to September 15, 2024. The reservation system has shown positive results in reducing vehicle congestion while providing guaranteed access and a predictable arrival time to park visitors while overall, recreational experience remained high.</p> <p>Staff will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the reservation system. Effectiveness was measured by whether the reservation system reduced traffic volume, speed, and illegal parking in the town of Eldorado Springs; reduced the time visitors waited in capacity lines to enter the park; and reduced health and safety hazards to residents and park visitors by regulating the number of vehicles on the road in timed intervals. Based on these metrics, staff determined that the pilot reservation system was effective and successful.</p> <p>Education and outreach for the Timed Entry Vehicle Reservation System began in 2022 through community events, signage at the park, social media posts, contacts with visitors, engagement with partner agencies, and local and regional newsprint and media outlets. This outreach has been ongoing and will continue while the Timed Entry Vehicle Reservation System is in use.</p> <p>During the period when timed entry vehicle reservations were not required, Eldorado Canyon reached vehicle capacity approximately 19 weekends out of 30 for an average of 4 hours each day. Capacity operations generally lasted between 10 am and 2 pm and occurred between Sunday, September 17, 2023, and Sunday, April 14, 2024. Over 255 vehicles were turned away from the entrance station during that timeframe. The weather during these days was sunny, warm, and 60-70 degrees on average.</p> <p>Based on the pilot project's success in addressing resident concerns and improving the visitor experience, staff recommends that it be continued in regulation with no end date.</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>As part of the ongoing monitoring, staff surveyed just under 500 visitors and residents about their satisfaction regarding timed entry as a capacity management strategy. Of the 491 visitors surveyed, 92% made a reservation to enter the park; 80% did not have to wait to enter the park, with an additional 15% waiting up to 10 minutes; and 95% of visitors surveyed agreed that they were likely to visit again on a day when reservations were required.</p> <p>Residents of Eldorado Springs were also surveyed with 21 responses out of 60 surveys sent. Of the responses, 20 agreed that timed entry has helped relieve traffic pressure in Eldorado Springs and were supportive of the requirement becoming permanent. An additional question was asked about extending</p> | |

the time frame reservations were required to April 15 to October 15 and 18 respondents felt that was necessary.

Eldorado Canyon State Park also received a Director's Innovation Fund Grant in 2023 to facilitate a focus group with Latinx and Spanish-speaking community members to evaluate whether the Time Entry Vehicle Reservation System created barriers to park users and explore how to remove them. From this effort, several recommendations were made, and park staff and the online system (IPAWS) will implement them.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative***: The Timed Entry Vehicle Reservation System for Eldorado Canyon State Park continues into 2025 and beyond as regulation with the modification that reservations be required from May 1 through October 1.
 P#100-D.10.d
 During the period beginning on May 1 through October 1 on every Saturday, Sunday and federal or state holiday, no motorized vehicle shall enter, park or use any facilities of Eldorado Canyon State Park from 5:30 am until 5:30 pm unless such use is by the authority of a valid day use reservation issued through the approved reservation system by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

2. The Timed Entry Vehicle Reservation System at Eldorado Canyon State Park will end on September 15, 2024, with the conclusion of the Pilot Project, and regulation P#100-D.10.d will be removed.

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| Issue Raised by: | N. E. Region CPW Staff |
| Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue): | John Carson PMIV Eldorado Canyon State Park |
| CC: | |
| APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY: | Mark Leslie |
| 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 | NE Region |
| RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

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| Date: 07/03/2024 | |
| ISSUE: | Should Chapter P-1, parks regulation #100.D.12.g.4 be removed to increase hunting opportunity and flexibility in setting hunter quotas? |
| DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE): | |
| <p>Fishers Peak State Park is located along Interstate 25 south of Trinidad. It is a 19,200-acre state park with robust wildlife populations.</p> <p>Hunting was implemented in the park's first year (2020) on a limited basis to allow CPW to establish park personnel and develop park infrastructure.</p> <p>CPW staff would like to increase hunting opportunities within the state park and want increased flexibility to change hunter access numbers to meet park management goals, hunted species population goals, maintain quality hunting experiences, and adapt to species population changes. We propose to remove the park's regulation 100.D.12.g.4 to allow staff to adjust hunter access to meet these management goals.</p> <p>As has been done since 2020, information regarding these hunting opportunities will be available on the Fishers Peak State Park webpage.</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*. | |
| [List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received] | |
| <p>The Master Plan for Fishers Peak State Park was concluded and approved in 2022. Stakeholder engagement during the master planning process included a core group of CPW staff, 3 work groups, an Equity and Inclusivity Panel, 15 interest groups (including a Hunting Interest Group), Tribal Consultation, a public survey and four public meetings. The recurring comments from these various groups was the desire to balance recreation with conservation so that the natural resources of the park are protected and enhanced, and while providing quality recreation opportunities to the public.</p> | |
| ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS): | |
| <p>1. * Staff Preferred Alternative*: Modify the Parks regulation to the following:</p> <p>g. Hunting access is prohibited-except permitted for licensed big game (deer, elk, mountain lion, and bear) or turkey hunters with a hunting access permit only in accordance with parts (1) through (43) below:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(1) A Special Activity Permit authorizing access will be issued to successful applicants through a drawing as provided in these regulations. Failure to comply with the conditions stated in the permit, statutes or regulations may result in permit revocation.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(2) Only thea successful Special Activity Permit holder and one nonhunting companion are allowed on the property.</p> | |

(3) Vehicles involved in hunting use of the park are required to have a valid Colorado State Parks Pass, unless the vehicle displays a Disabled Veteran license plate or Purple Heart license plate.

~~(4) Access is prohibited, except during the following hunting seasons:~~

~~a. One (1) properly licensed LE000O1R license holder will be provided access to hunt mountain lion during the regular mountain lion season until the hunter harvests a lion or until the combined harvest limit for Game Management Units 85, 140, and 851 is filled, whichever comes first.~~

~~b. Up to five (5) properly licensed TM000O1R unlimited over the counter turkey license holders for the spring turkey season will be provided access to hunt turkeys.~~

~~c. One (1) properly licensed September limited archery, muzzleloader, or rifle bear license holder will be provided access.~~

~~d. One (1) properly licensed limited deer archery or muzzleloader license holder will be provided access.~~

~~e. One (1) properly licensed archery or muzzleloader elk license holder will be provided access.~~

~~f. One (1) properly licensed 1st regular rifle elk season license holder will be provided access to hunt elk during the 1st rifle season.~~

~~i. The successful Special Activity Permit holder may hunt bear during the 1st rifle season on Fishers Peak State Park if they hold a valid bear license.~~

~~g. One (1) properly licensed 2nd combined regular rifle season elk license holder will be provided access to hunt elk during the 2nd rifle season.~~

~~i. The successful Special Activity Permit holder may hunt bear during the 2nd rifle season on Fishers Peak State Park if they hold a valid bear license.~~

~~h. One (1) properly licensed 3rd combined regular rifle season deer license holder will be provided access to hunt deer during the third rifle season.~~

~~i. The successful Special Activity Permit holder may hunt bear during 3rd rifle season on Fishers Peak State Park if they hold a valid bear license.~~

~~i. One (1) properly licensed 4th combined regular rifle season elk license holder will be provided access to hunt elk during the fourth rifle season.~~

~~i. The successful Special Activity Permit holder may hunt bear on Fishers Peak State Park during the 4th rifle season if they hold a valid bear license.~~

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| 2. Status quo: make no changes to the current regulation | |
| Issue Raised by: | Park Manager Dreiling, DWM Friedel, AWM Brown, Terrestrial Biologist Vitt |
| Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue): | |
| CC: | Stiver, Estep |
| APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY: | Frank McGee |
| 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 | SE Region |
| RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 07/03/2024

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| ISSUE: | Should Lone Mesa State Park open for a spring turkey hunting opportunity? |
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Lone Mesa State Park currently allows hunting in the fall for big game outlined in regulation #710 - Lone Mesa State Park Hunting Special Use Permit. Current regulation allows for Archery, Muzzleloader, 1st rifle, 2nd rifle, 3rd rifle, and 4th rifle access. The special use permits are limited in number and highly coveted. Lone Mesa State Park provides a quality experience and access to a unique Colorado Parks and Wildlife property but is not utilized in the spring. Local field staff, the public, and stakeholders have expressed an interest in the new utilization of the resource that is currently unavailable. Adding a spring turkey hunt would allow general access to the park for those individuals who hold an over the counter spring turkey license, GMU 711 is an over the counter unit.

Lone Mesa was purchased as one of Colorado’s “Crown Jewels” in 1999 and opened to hunting in 2002. Lone Mesa’s remoteness and ruggedness lend it well to a hunting program. Distance from population centers, resources, amenities, and its out of the way location have kept it in its undeveloped natural state.

Merriam’s turkey frequent the park and opening Lone Mesa State Park to a spring turkey season would add opportunity for the public. Lone Mesa’s quality turkey habitat supports a viable population of turkeys, and there is demand for high quality hunting opportunities. Lone Mesa State Park is nearly 12,000 acres and is between 7,200 to 9,000 feet in elevation. Considerations to limit access to protect the resource could include a May 1st opening dependent on weather conditions, USFS gate openings, road conditions leading to the park and within the park. The park’s gates being opened and signage at the gates would indicate that the park is open for spring turkey hunting. This mirrors the Dolores Ranger District of the United States Forest Services’ typical road opening dates. Vehicle traffic within Lone Mesa State Park would be limited to established roadways and existing parking areas, the same routes allowed in the fall. Adding a May opportunity in the spring would add access and not interfere with park operations or those who drew a big game permit and Lone Mesa permit for the big game seasons.

A grazing lease is also present at Lone Mesa State Park but starts mid-June so adding access in May will not overlap user groups. Adding spring turkey access on a conditions-allow basis would give staff the tools to manage and open for the spring season on changing conditions that vary yearly such as snow pack. Lone Mesa falls under T-M-000-U1-R and is in a GMU that is over the counter. Hunters would need a OTC spring turkey license and valid park pass to enter the park. I anticipate 20+ people to take advantage of this opportunity, based on the uniqueness of the area and game potential. Lone Mesa’s large acreage can spread out visitation from hunters. Access to Lone Mesa for spring turkey season will be at the discretion of park management and can be rescinded due to park conditions, game violations, or habitat degradation.

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]

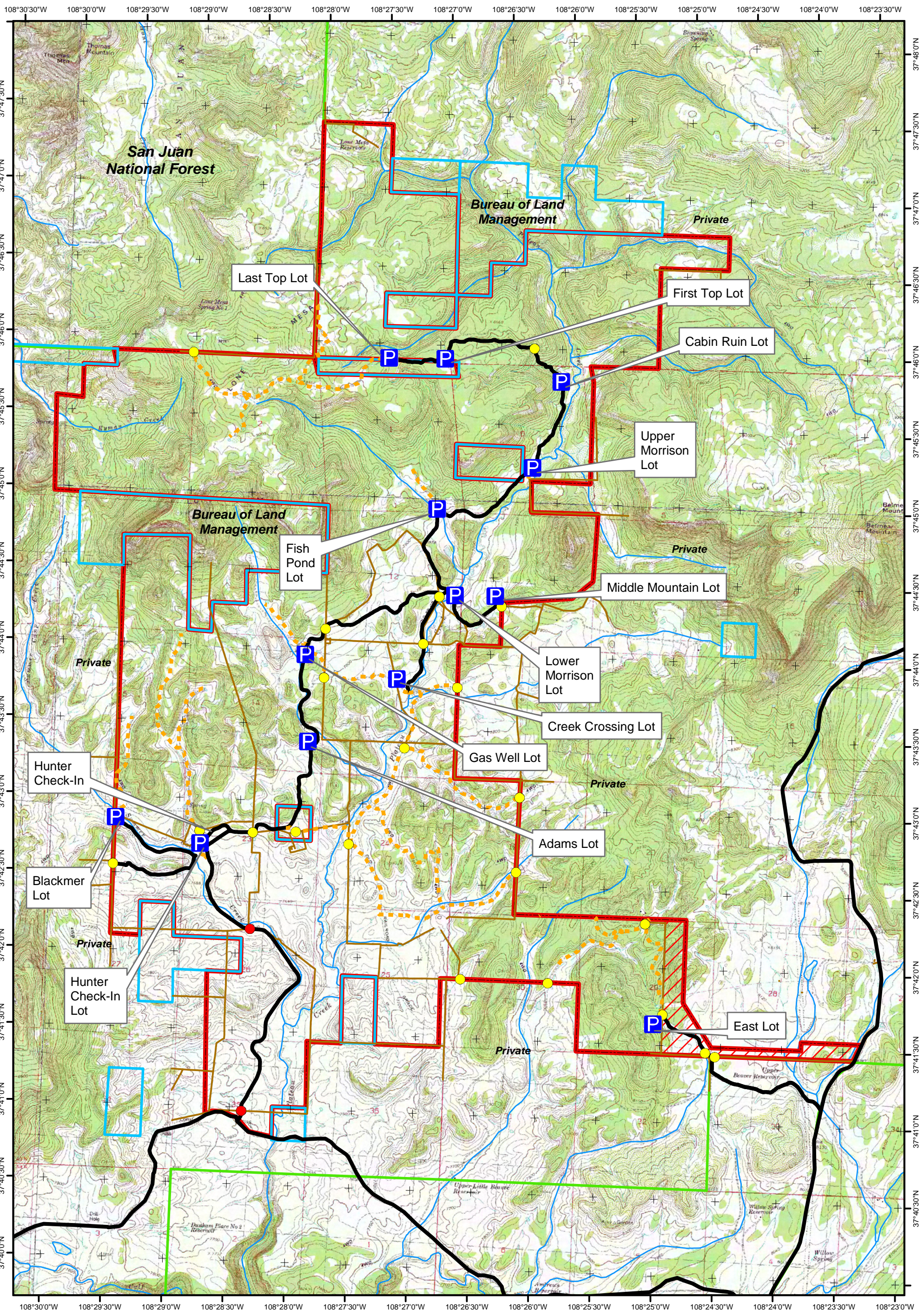
Public comment during field operations at Lone Mesa State Park.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife received a letter of support from the National Wild Turkey Federation.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative* Adopt P-1. #100(D)(22)(b) as follows**
 Hunting is permitted in the spring only in accordance with parts (1) through (3) below:
 - (1) Individuals must hold a TM000U1R turkey license.
 - (2) Vehicles involved in hunting use of the park are required to have a valid Colorado State Parks Pass, unless the vehicle displays a Colorado Disabled Veteran license plate or Colorado Purple Heart license plate.
 - (3) Only established roads and parking areas defined on the Lone Mesa hunting map may be used. Game retrieval roads are excluded from the spring season and are only for use in the fall big game seasons.
2. Status Quo.

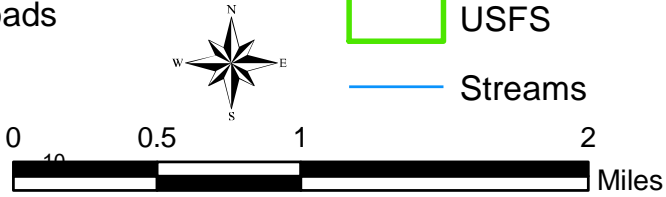
| | |
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| Issue Raised by: | Nolan Tappenden (PM, Navajo State Park Complex) |
| Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue): | |
| CC: | Adrian Archuleta (AWM, Area 15), Matt Sturdevant (DWM, Dolores) |
| APPROVED FOR FURTHER 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 | Southwest Region, Lone Mesa State Park Manager |
| RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA? | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |



Lone Mesa State Park

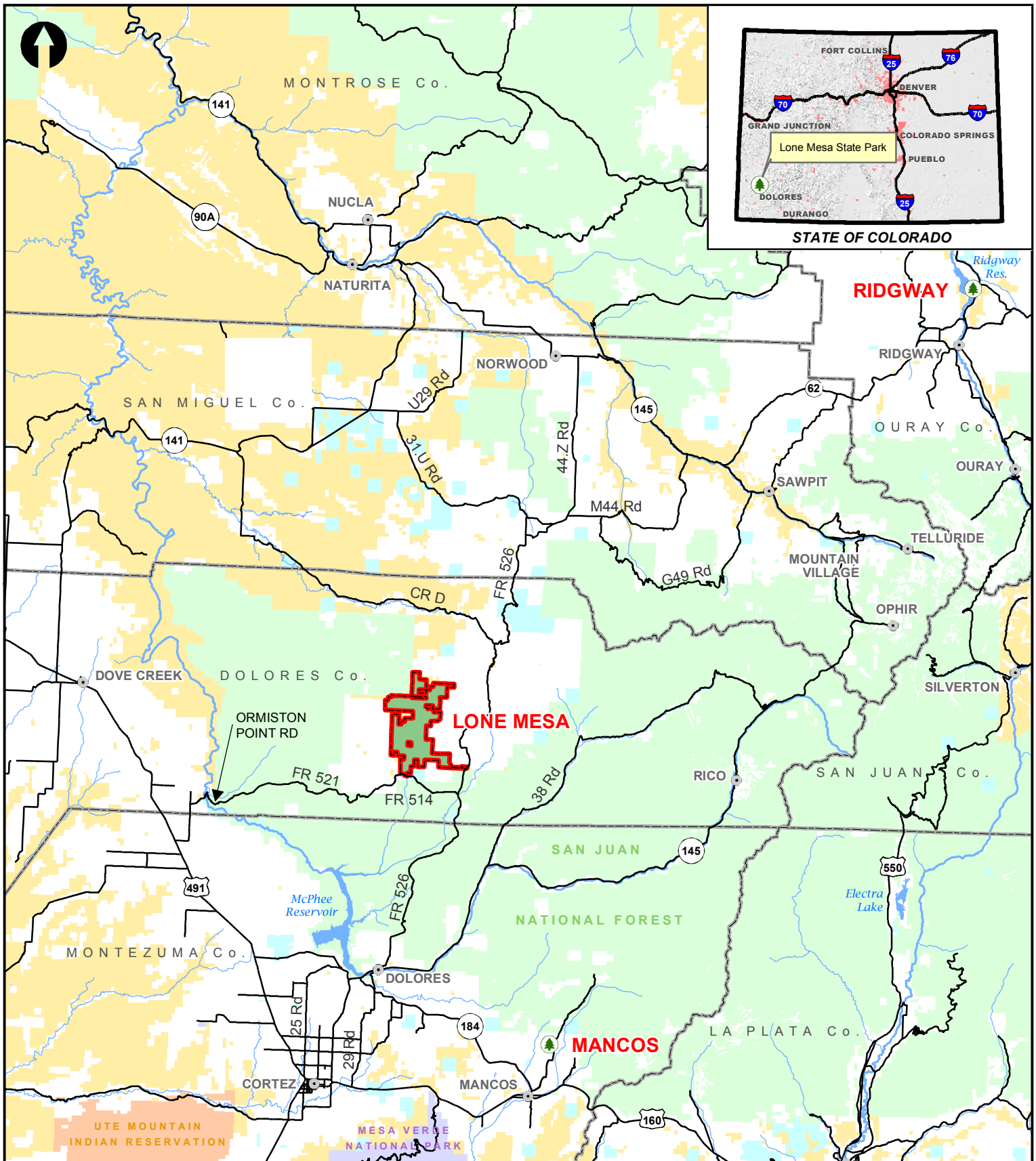
Hunter Map

- Park Boundary
- Closed Area
- Gate
- Cattle Guard
- Restricted to Game Retrieval
- Open Roads
- P Parking
- Fences
- BLM
- USFS
- Streams

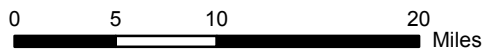


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Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Lone Mesa State Park
 Regional Map



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Map Document - LoneMesa_RegionalMap_20140303.mxd
 Adobe PDF - LoneMesa_RegionalMap_20140303.pdf
 Map prepared by - Colorado Parks and Wildlife GIS
 Date prepared - 3/11/2014
 Data Sources - Colorado State Parks, CDOT, USGS
 Additional Information - Cartographic Information -
 Map Datum: NAD83
 Map Projection: UTM
 Units: Meters
 UTM Zone: 13 North



Mr. Nolan Tappenden (Park Manager – Navajo, Mancos, Lone Mesa)
Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Southwest Region
415 Turner Drive
Durango, CO 81303

10 April 2024

Dear Mr. Tappenden:

The National Wild Turkey Federation is a national membership organization with a dual mission: to conserve wild turkeys and turkey habitat; and to preserve our hunting heritage. We are writing to support the proposed issue to open Lone Mesa State Park to turkey hunting.

In the past, managed hunting at Lone Mesa has provided elk hunters with a quality experience. Adding turkey hunting to the mix, helps fulfill Colorado Parks and Wildlife's mandate, helps build support for the outdoors and the conservation of open, wild spaces and increases the awareness and appreciation of the wild turkey.

Historically, southwest Colorado played a huge role in wild turkey restoration. Devil Creek State Wildlife Area provided source Merriam's wild turkeys for many parts of the West, creating a successful wildlife restoration story. While the wild turkey is relatively common today, there were once only about 200,000 birds in the entire United States. It is said that some of the purest Merriam's wild turkeys can be found in southwest Colorado.

It is fitting for Lone Mesa State Park to continue that restoration story. Lone Mesa Lone Mesa State Park is nearly 12,000 acres, is located within the ponderosa pine zone, and has actively managed the forest for resilient conditions. In short, the park provides excellent wild turkey habitat and would provide a unique wild turkey hunting opportunity in southwest Colorado.

Please include the NWTF as this moves forward in your process. We would like to remain engaged and may be able to provide volunteer support in the future.

Thank you,

Bob McGrew, Chapter President
La Plata County Guajalotes

Mike Lewellen, State Chapter President
Colorado