

July 3, 2024

To: The Parks and Wildlife Commission

From: Matt Eckert, Deputy Terrestrial Section Manager

Subject: NW Elk Herd Management Plans Presentations for the July 18-19 PWC Meeting

At the July 18-19, 2024, Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting, Terrestrial staff will present the Northwest Region Draft Elk Herd Management Plans (HMPs) as an information item.

The elk plan is a compilation of 15 Data Analysis Units (DAUs) in the Northwest Region, and includes Cold Springs (E-1), Bear's Ears (E-2), North Park (E-3), White River (E-6), Gore Pass (E-7), Troublesome (E-8), Yellow Creek (E-10), Piney River (E-12), Williams Fork (E-13), Grand Mesa (E-14), Avalanche Creek (E-15), Fry Pan River (E-16), Glade Park (E-19), Rangely/Blue Mountain (E-21), and Green River (E-47) herds. Since 2020, the Commission approved two of these plans so we are now proposing 10-year extensions for those plans. The remaining 13 herd management plans are 10 years old or older, so we are proposing new management objectives for those plans.

For the Commission's convenience and efficiency, we have pre-recorded a presentation to introduce these plans. We split the elk presentation into parts, as it is a long presentation. The first part will cover the HMP planning process and management issues across the Region, while the second and third parts will cover the individual herd management plans. The pre-recorded presentation is available for viewing by both Commissioners and the public ahead of the Commission's July meeting. Staff will present a very brief overview during the Commission meeting and Commissioners and the public will have time ask questions or share comments.

If you have questions on the draft HMP or presentations, it would be helpful if you emailed NW Senior Wildlife Biologist Brad Banulis (brad.banulis@state.co.us) so he can work with staff to prepare a thorough response.

NW Elk Herd Management Plan Presentation

