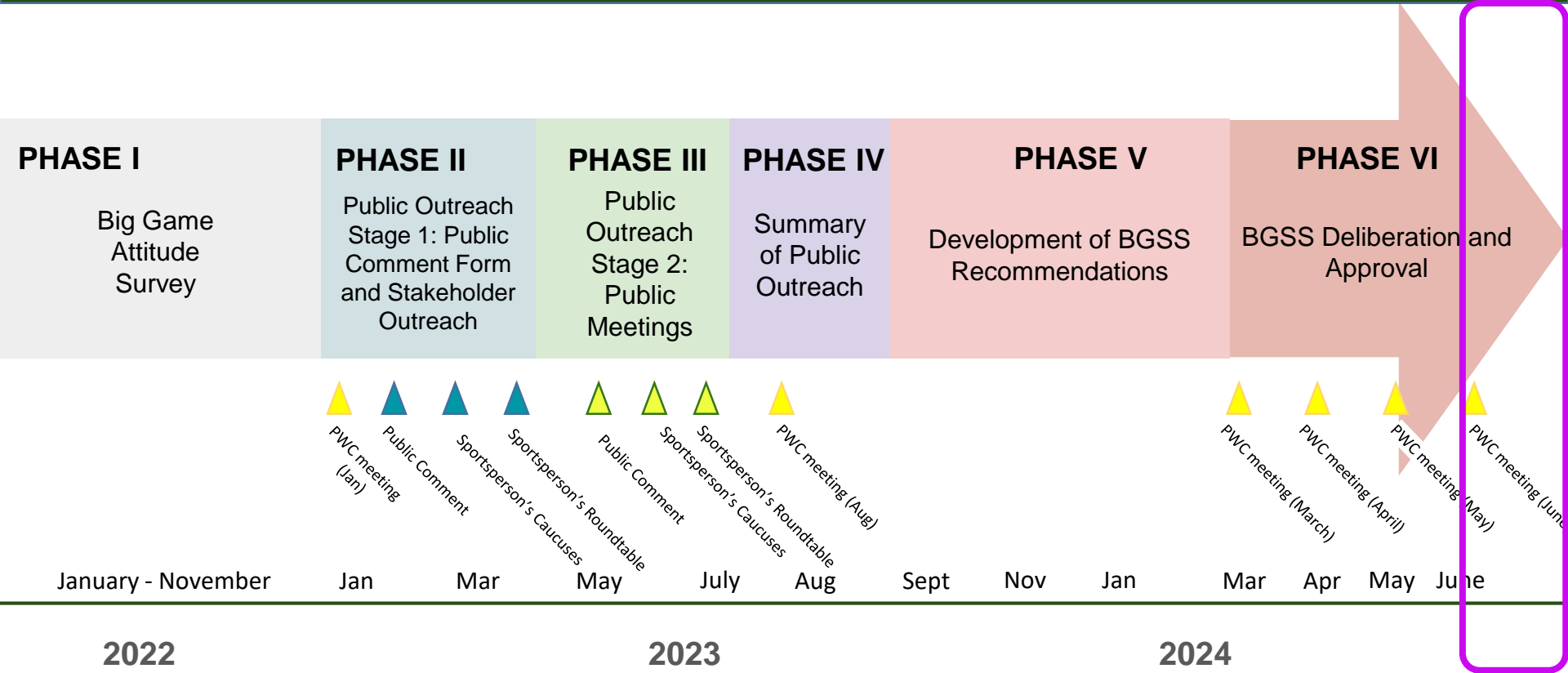


2025-2029 Big Game Season Structure Final Alternatives and Staff Recommendations

Parks and Wildlife Commission
June 2024



Big Game Season Structure Timeline



2025-2029 BGSS Topics: Review

Early Seasons

(Deer/ Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140)

Status quo; 29-day season starts September 2nd and closes September 30th, annually; ~~Optional stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season~~



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2025-2029 BGSS Topics: Review

<p>Early Seasons (Deer/ Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140)</p>	<p>Status quo; 29-day season starts September 2nd and closes September 30th, annually; Optional stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season</p>
<p>Rifle Seasons (Deer/ Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140)</p>	<p>Change to a 5-9-9-5 day season structure with 5-5-2 day breaks; 1st Season starts the first Wednesday after October 8th; Optional limited deer licenses in 1st Season</p>



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2025-2029 BGSS Topics: Review

Early Seasons (Deer/ Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140)	Status quo; 29-day season starts September 2nd and closes September 30th, annually; Optional stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season
Rifle Seasons (Deer/ Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140)	Change to a 5-9-9-5 day season structure with 5-5-2 day breaks; 1 st Season starts the first Wednesday after October 8 th ; Optional limited deer licenses in 1 st Season
Rifle Seasons (Pronghorn)	Status quo; Optional 9-day second rifle pronghorn season opening the third Saturday in October



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2025-2029 BGSS Topics: Review

Early Seasons (Deer/ Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140)	Status quo; 29-day season starts September 2nd and closes September 30th, annually; Optional stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season
Rifle Seasons (Deer/ Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140)	Change to a 5-9-9-5 day season structure with 5-5-2 day breaks; 1 st Season starts the first Wednesday after October 8 th ; Optional limited deer licenses in 1 st Season
Rifle Seasons (Pronghorn)	Status quo; Optional 9-day second rifle pronghorn season opening the third Saturday in October
Rifle Seasons (Moose)	Status quo; Optional additional late cow moose season that is concurrent with the regular deer and elk rifle seasons



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**Rifle License
Setting/ Distribution
Strategy**

(Black Bear)

PLO rifle bear licenses can be unlimited, OTC issued by DAU/GMU where the population management strategy is to reduce/suppress
PLO rifle bear licenses can be limited and issued by DAU/GMU where the population management strategy is to remain stable



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<p>Rifle License Setting/ Distribution Strategy (Black Bear)</p>	<p>PLO rifle bear licenses can be unlimited, OTC issued by DAU/GMU where the population management strategy is to reduce/suppress PLO rifle bear licenses can be limited and issued by DAU/GMU where the population management strategy is to remain stable</p>
<p>Archery License Setting/ Distribution Strategy (Elk West of I-25/GMU 140)</p>	<p>ALT 1: All archery elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw ALT 2: Resident and nonresident archery elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw; Unlimited OTC archery licenses can be made available for residents in certain units</p>



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<p>Rifle License Setting/ Distribution Strategy (Black Bear)</p>	<p>PLO rifle bear licenses can be unlimited, OTC issued by DAU/GMU where the population management strategy is to reduce/suppress PLO rifle bear licenses can be limited and issued by DAU/GMU where the population management strategy is to remain stable</p>
<p>Archery License Setting/ Distribution Strategy (Elk West of I-25/GMU 140)</p>	<p>ALT 1: All archery elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw ALT 2: Resident and nonresident archery elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw; Unlimited OTC archery licenses can be made available for residents in certain units</p>
<p>Rifle License Setting/ Distribution Strategy (Elk West of I-25/GMU 140)</p>	<p>ALT 1: Status quo; Limited elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw; Unlimited OTC bull licenses can be made available in certain units ALT 2a: All rifle elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw ALT 2b: Resident and nonresident rifle elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw; Unlimited OTC rifle bull licenses available for residents in certain units at the Data Analysis Unit scale</p>



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OTC Rifle Elk Licenses

Staff Recommendation:

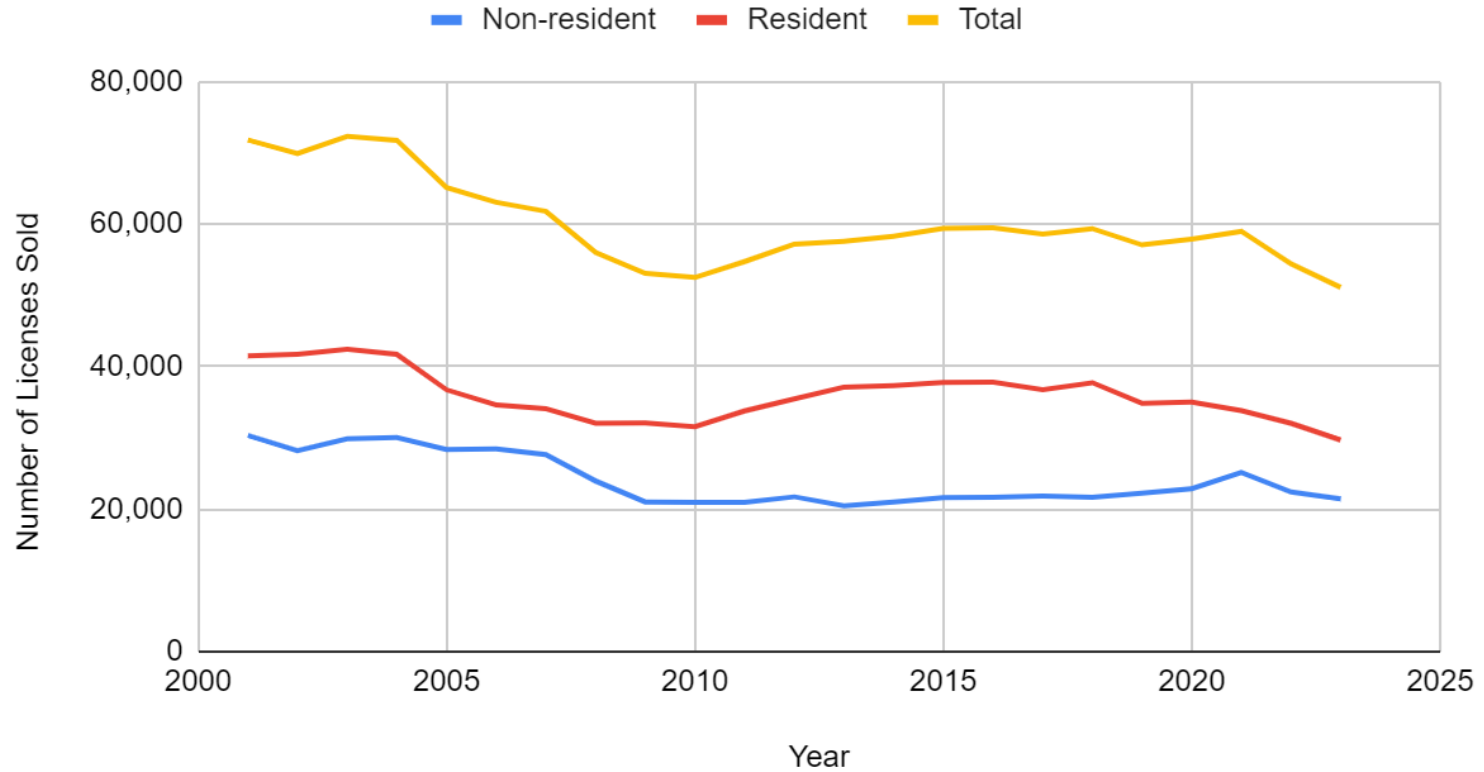
Alternative 1: Status quo

Rationale to support the staff recommendation:



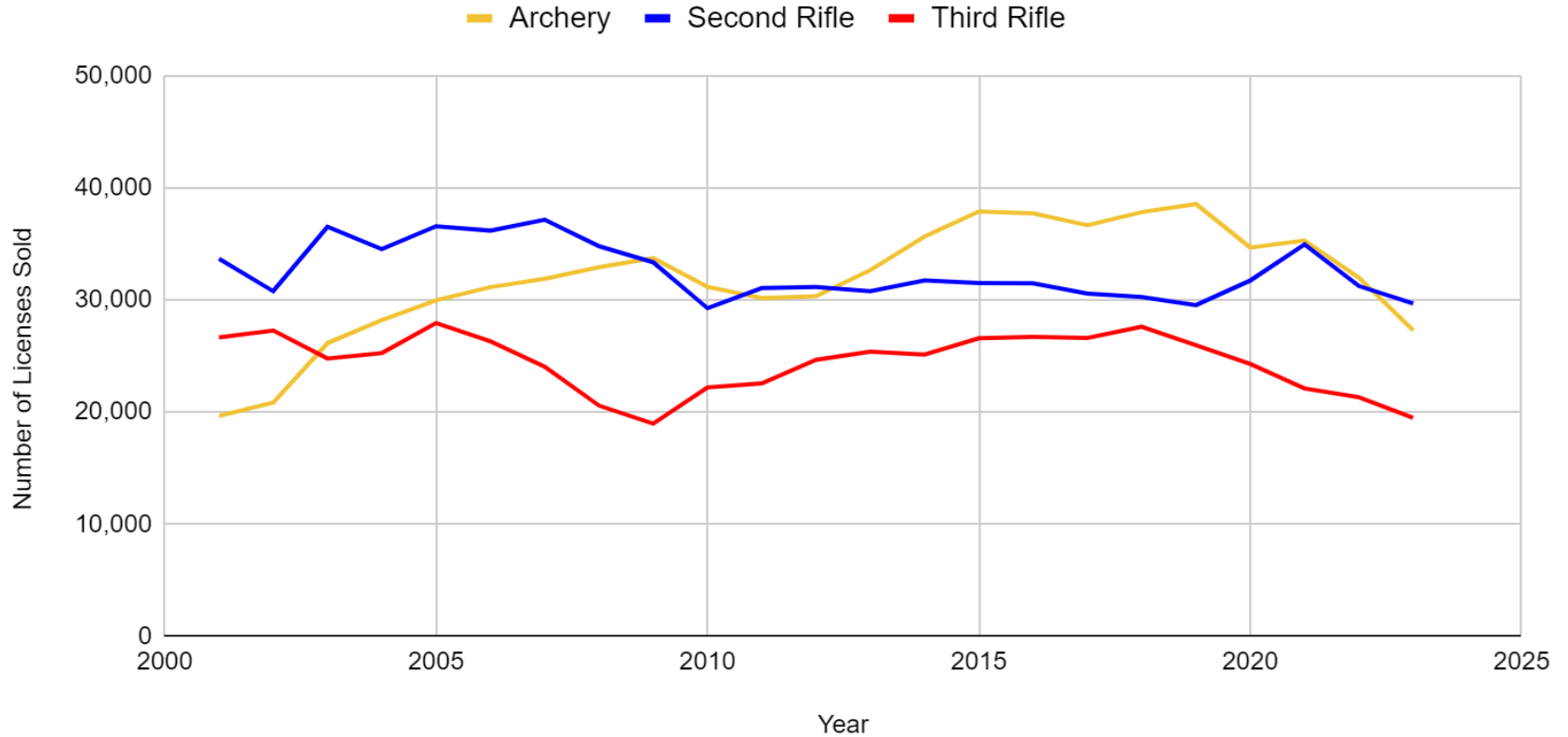
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Unlimited OTC Rifle Elk License Sales by Residency 2001-2023



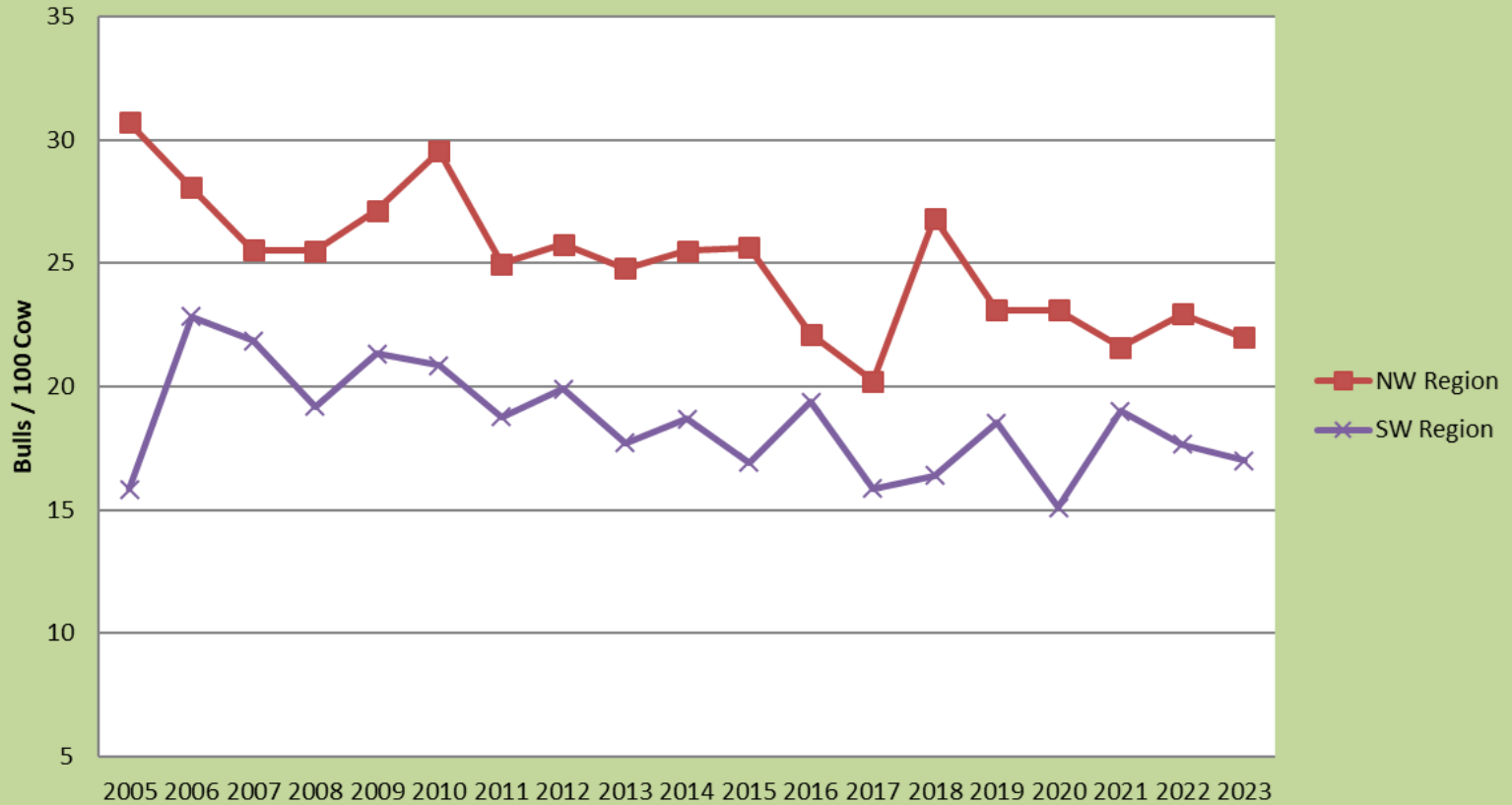
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Unlimited OTC Archery, OTC 2nd Rifle, and OTC 3rd Rifle Elk License Sales 2001-2023



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Elk Observed Post-hunt Sex Ratios 2005-2023



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OTC Rifle Elk Licenses

Staff Recommendation: *Alternative 1: Status quo*

Rationale to support the staff recommendation:

- Declining trend in OTC participation / rifle sales
- Crowding less of a concern than archery
- No biological concerns with maintaining OTC rifle
- Substantially less public engagement for OTC rifle compared to archery
- Fiduciary Impacts Potentially Severe

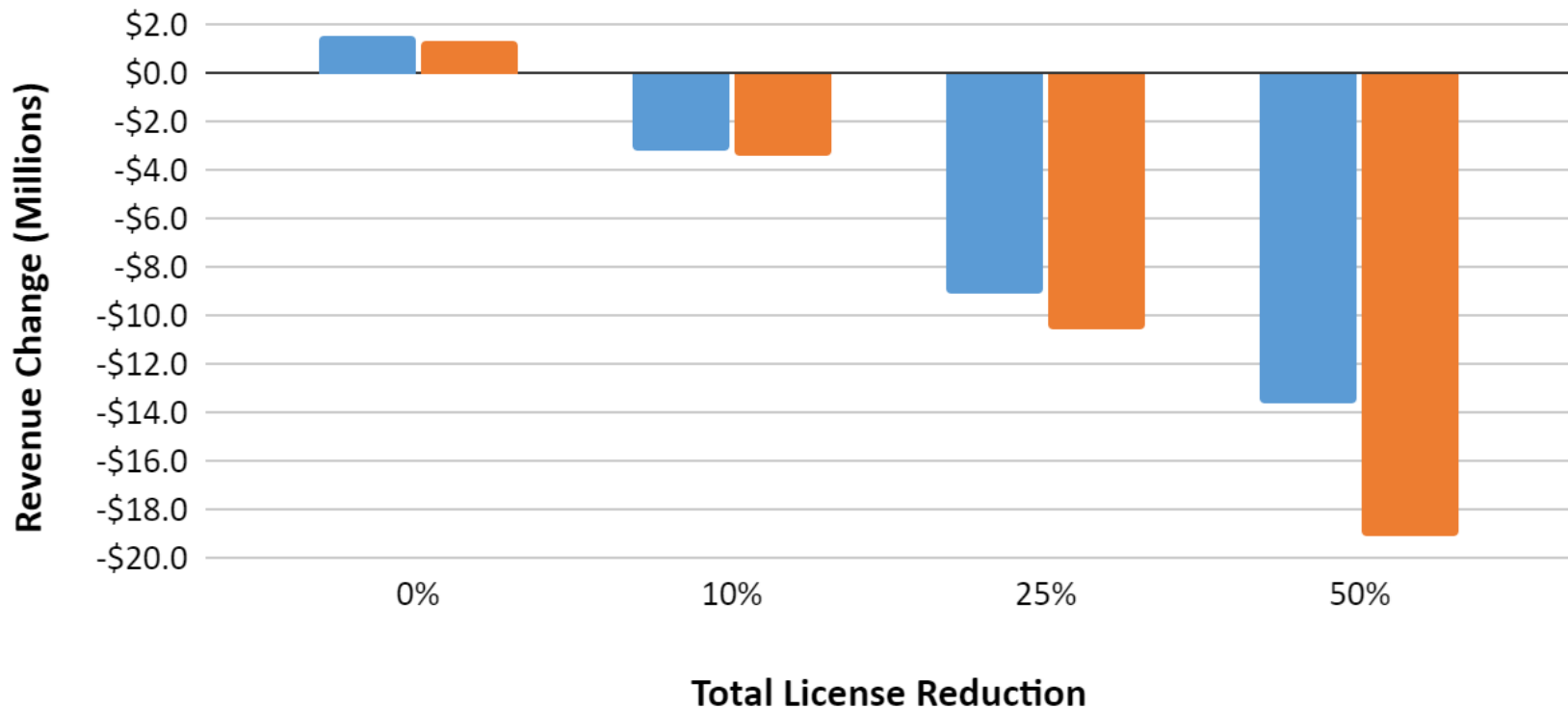


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Financial Impacts of Rifle OTC Limitation Alternatives

Elk Licenses plus Qualifying Licenses

■ R and NR Limited (75R:25NR) ■ R Status Quo, NR Limited



OTC Archery Elk Licenses

Staff Recommendation:

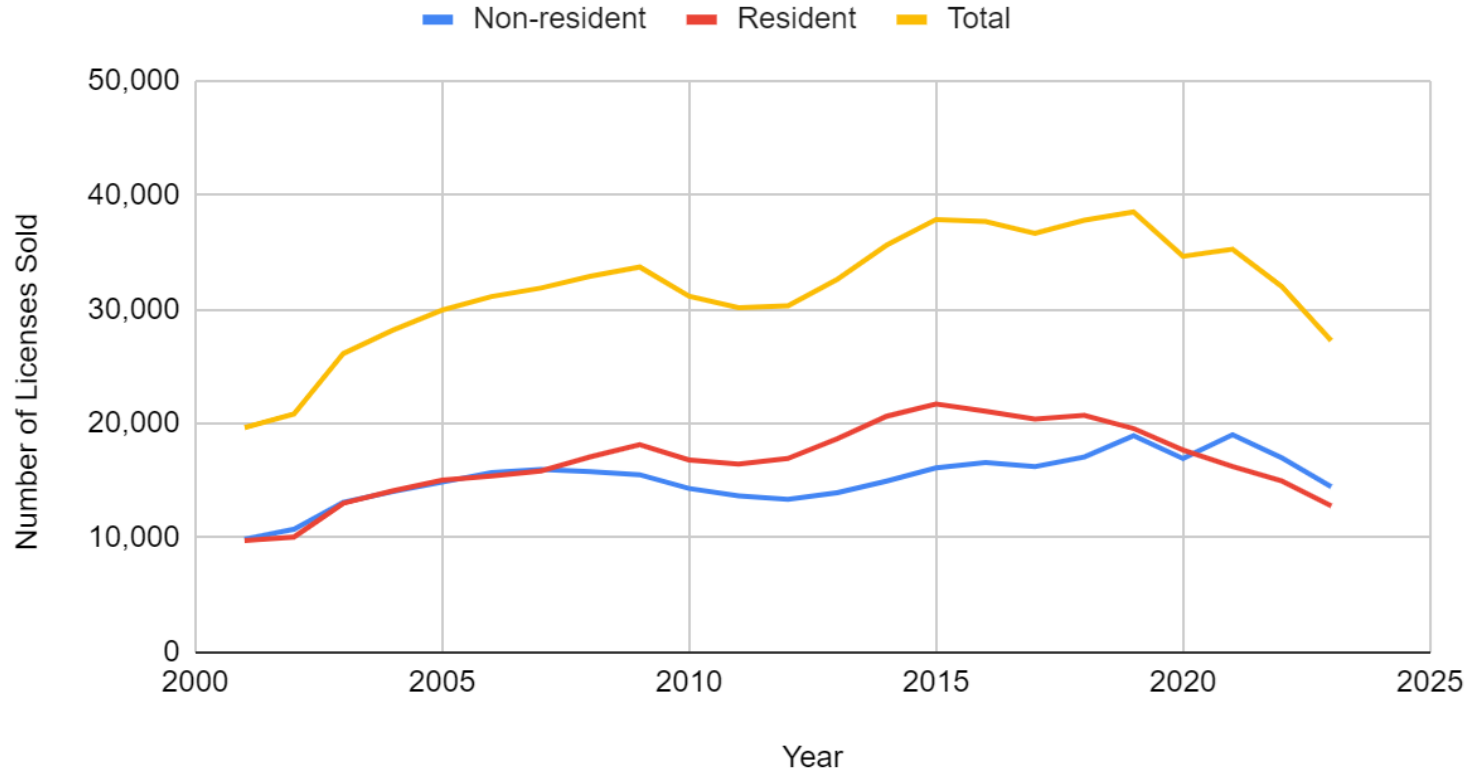
Alternative 2 - Resident and nonresident archery elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw; Unlimited OTC archery licenses available for residents only (statewide scale)

Rationale to support the staff recommendation:



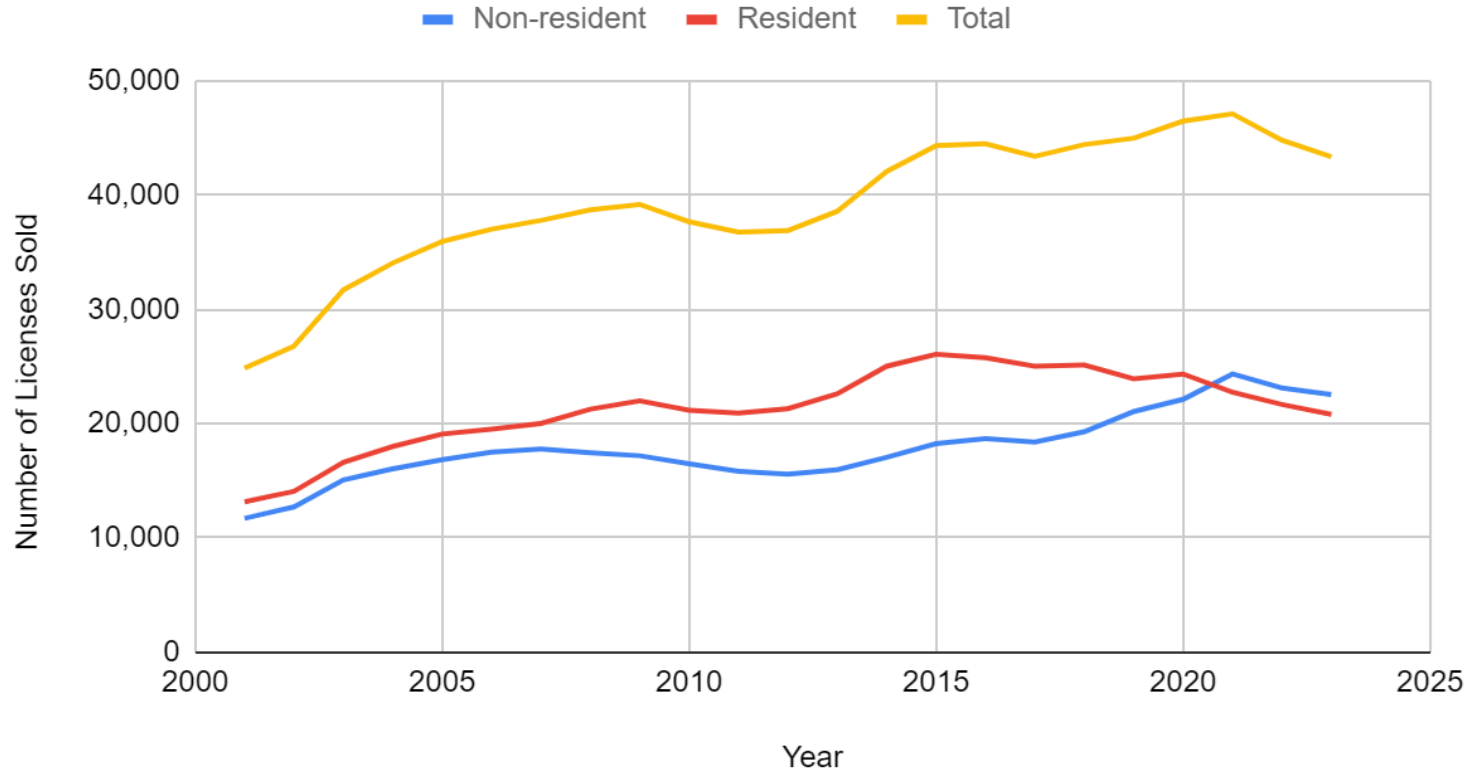
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Unlimited OTC Archery Elk License Sales by Residency 2001-2023



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Total Archery Elk License Sales by Residency 2001-2023

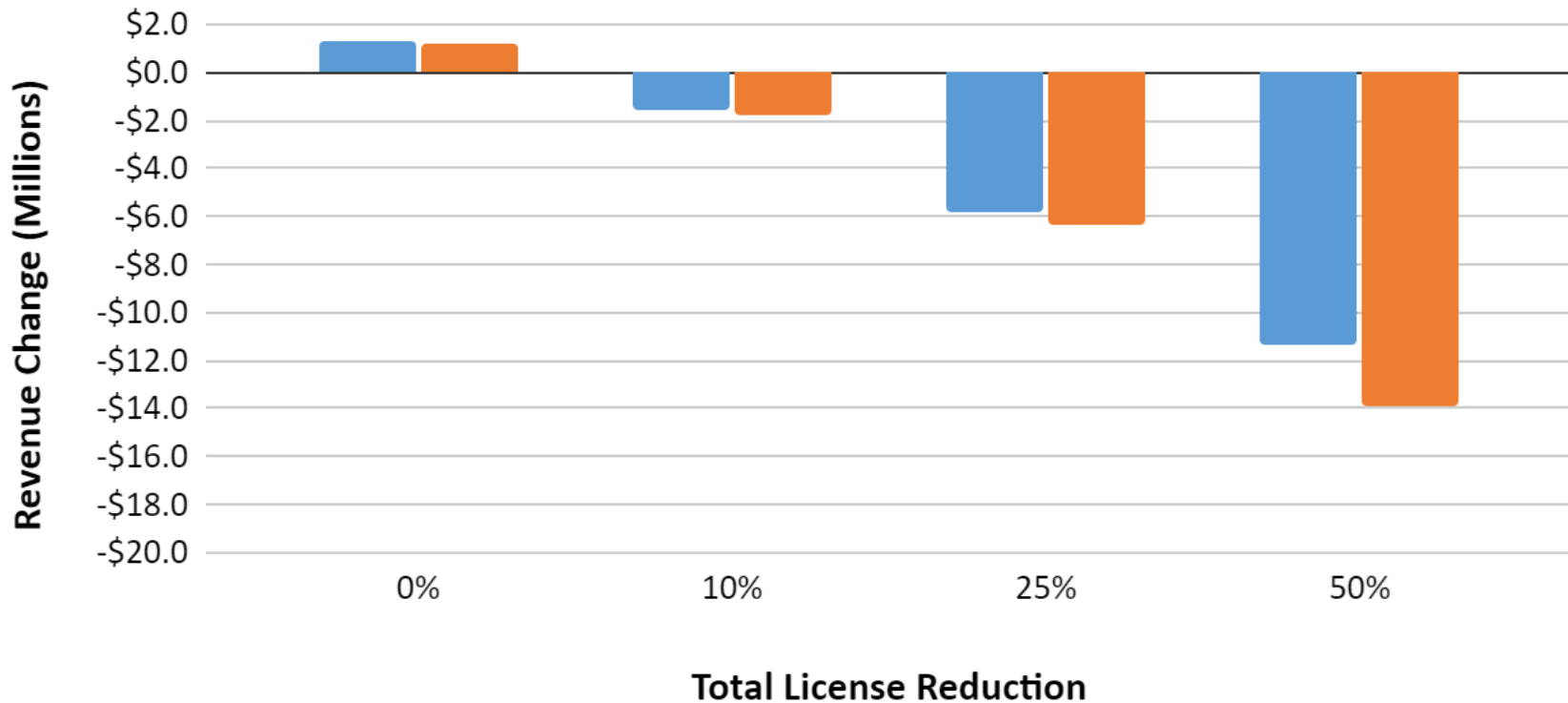


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Financial Impacts of Archery OTC Limitation Alternatives

Elk Licenses plus Qualifying Licenses

■ R and NR Limited (75R:25NR) ■ R Status Quo, NR Limited



OTC Archery Elk Licenses

Staff Recommendation:

Alternative 2 - Resident and nonresident archery elk licenses are limited and issued via the draw; Unlimited OTC archery licenses available for residents only (statewide scale)

Rationale to support the staff recommendation:

- Increasing trend in OTC archery participation / license sales
- Crowding a concern; likely higher than during 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons
- Substantial public engagement (10+ years)
- Incremental move towards limitation without going fully limited
- Fiduciary impacts can be absorbed
- CPW responded to resident hunters – importance of OTC, hunting heritage



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Closing Comments



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