

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date:	04/19/2024
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ISSUE:	Should language be added to P 100.D.13.b to specify the reservation process for daily hunter reservations at Golden Gate Canyon State Park?
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

The Hunting Reservation System (HRS) is a function of IPAWS through CPW’s licensing vendor, Aspira, through which the public can reserve limited opportunities to hunt on properties owned or managed by CPW. This system allows for efficient management of hunters on properties and a clear and consistent mechanism for hunters to secure a reservation. HRS is described in regulation in W-9 901.a and properties that utilize HRS identify this requirement in their property-specific regulations, referencing back to 901.a. While there are several properties that utilize HRS for small game reservations, only a handful of properties with access easements or agreements utilize HRS for big game reservations. Golden Gate Canyon State Park is the only state park to utilize HRS for big game hunting reservations.

Golden Gate Canyon State Park allowed hunting with a reservation on the Jefferson County portion of the park for several years, during which time hunters could make a reservation directly with the park for a single day at a time, and managers could limit the number of hunters each day. In 2021, the PWC adopted regulation 100.D.13.b in Chapter P-1 to change hunting reservations from the manual process with the park to using the HRS. The intent of the original issue paper and regulation change was to move the manual process into HRS without changing the opportunity to make a daily reservation, including and up to the day of the reservation. During the 2021 regulation review process the reference to Chapter W-9 #901.a was added to the preferred alternative. W-9 #901.a states that “Unless otherwise specified, reservations for big game hunting are valid throughout the season designated by the license,” and no specific language regarding daily reservations was included.

The preferred alternative in that 2021 issue paper was approved by the commission. As a result, per regulation, HRS at Golden Gate Canyon State Park cannot offer daily reservations and can only make available season-long reservations. An example is hunt code E-F-038-L1-R, valid September 1st-January 31st making a reservation with this license valid for 153 days. This is not how reservations operated in the past or how it was intended to operate when reservations were moved into HRS. To correct this oversight, it is recommended regulations be clarified to allow for daily reservations for big game hunting in Golden Gate Canyon State Park.

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]

Original outreach was done with hunters who use the park. Field staff have been responding to several phone calls and questions regarding the reservation system. Most hunters expressed confusion and many required additional assistance to make a reservation and understand the regulation (of 354 total reservations in 2023/2024 season, 207 (58%) required assistance from GGCSF staff to complete their reservation).

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*: Change P 100.D.13.b to read:**
 In Jefferson County, excluding the 160-acre parcel known as the Vigil Ranch and the posted strip of land along Gilpin County Road 2: During deer and elk seasons, any lawful method of hunting may be used for hunting such big game; and beginning the Tuesday after Labor Day and continuing through the Friday prior to Memorial Day, any lawful method of hunting may be used during hunting seasons for small game, in areas not posted as prohibiting such use or uses. Reservations for hunting are required and shall be limited in number. To make a reservation, hunters must already possess a valid big game license for the specific hunt code permitted on the property or a valid small game license. Reservations must be made through the Hunter Reservation System in accordance with regulation #901.A except that each reservation will be valid for a single day, within the season designated by the license, and made no more than 14 days in advance of the hunt date. Additionally, reservations may be made up to and including the reservation date regardless of species.

2. Second alternative: Remove Golden Gate State Park from the Hunting Reservation System and revert back to regulation language from before 2021.
 In Jefferson County, excluding the 160-acre parcel known as the Vigil Ranch and the posted strip of land along Gilpin County Road 2: During deer and elk seasons, any lawful method of hunting may be used for hunting such big game; and beginning the Tuesday after Labor Day and continuing through the Friday prior to Memorial Day, any lawful method of hunting may be used during hunting seasons for small game, in areas not posted as prohibiting such use or uses. Provided further that hunters must visit the designated check station to check in prior to hunting and check out after hunting.

3. Status quo.

Issue Raised by:	Kristin Cannon, NE Region Deputy Regional Manager Todd Farrow, Park Manager Golden Gate Canyon State Park
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Mark Leslie
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" 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	Northeast Region/LRCO
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO