

# COLORADO WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

Title: **Drawing License Limitations for Non-Residents**  
Effective Date: July 2000  
Approved Date: July 2000  
Revised Date: September 10, 2009

## I. PURPOSE

In 2005, the five year review of the big game season structure led to further discussion of the license allocation process. In addition, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the **Reaffirmation of State Regulation of Resident and Non-Resident Hunting and Fishing Act of 2005** (the Reid bill), which clearly established that the decision regarding license distribution is a responsibility of each state. The Colorado Wildlife Commission revised this policy consistent with that authority.

## II. STAFF AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife appointed a committee of fifteen stakeholders to discuss various aspects of the big game license allocation process and make recommendations for improvement. This committee included sportsmen, landowner/agricultural representatives, outfitters, representatives of local government, and business people. Division of Wildlife employees were involved as non-voting representatives from the four regions to provide technical assistance as needed. The group met several times over a five month period.

Eight public meetings were then held around the state to present the committee's recommendations and alternatives, and to obtain public input. Citizens were able to respond to a written public input form, and/or send comments by fax, e-mail, or letter. In addition, public testimony about the recommendations was accepted during three Wildlife Commission meetings.

After taking into consideration the recommendations of the stakeholders group, as well as the extensive public comment, the Division of Wildlife staff presented a proposal to the Wildlife Commission that led to the policy revisions contained herein.

## III. STATUORY AUTHORIZATION

As established in 33-1-104(1), C.R.S., the Commission "is responsible for all wildlife management, for licensing requirements, and for the promulgation of rules, regulations, and orders concerning wildlife programs." In addition, 33-1-106, C.R.S., establishes the Wildlife Commission authority to regulate taking, possession, and use of wildlife.

## IV. POLICY

The Colorado Wildlife Commission has weighed the desire to afford Colorado residents increased access to big game licenses with the economic concerns of local communities and individual businesses that depend upon the non-resident hunter. The result is the following: It shall be the policy of the Colorado Wildlife Commission that the resident/non-resident percentage distribution of male, either sex, and female deer and

elk licenses will be 65/35 of the licenses available through the regular limited license draw in hunt codes requiring fewer than six resident preference points. The resident/non-resident allocation in those hunt codes requiring residents to have six or more preference points to draw a license will be 80/20 for male and either sex deer and elk licenses. V. IMPLEMENTATION

By this policy revision, the Commission intends that the following will occur:

- In most limited hunt codes, at least 65% of the male, either sex, and female deer and elk licenses will be available to residents on first choice. In those hunt codes that require six or more preference points for residents to draw a license in the regular limited license draw, at least 80% of male and either sex deer and elk licenses will be available to residents. These allocation ratios apply to the first choice draw only.
- This allocation will be by individual hunt codes.
- The Division will use an average of the preference points required to draw for individual hunt codes in the regular limited license draw between the years 2007-2009 to determine which hunt codes fall above or below the six point threshold.
- This policy will be implemented for the 2010 big game season and thereafter
- The principle impact of this policy revision is to ensure that residents have the opportunity to receive at least 65% of the available licenses in most limited hunt codes, or at least 80% of available licenses in select hunt codes, if first choice resident demand exists to that level. Resident first choice applicants may receive licenses within the remainder if non-resident first choice is met using less than the maximum amount OR if a first choice resident applicant has more preference points. *Stated otherwise: Under some circumstances, residents may receive more than the fixed percentage of the available licenses, and non-residents will receive less than the non-resident percentage of the limited licenses available. It is possible for non-residents to receive less than the non-resident percentage of available licenses when one of these two conditions exist: first, if there is insufficient first choice non-resident demand for those licenses; and second, if a resident hunter holds more preference points for a first choice hunt code than the next eligible non-resident hunter does for the same hunt code. Non-residents are not guaranteed the minimum percentage of available licenses. Resident hunters will receive a smaller percentage than stated of the available licenses ONLY if there is insufficient first choice resident demand. A resident with fewer preference points may, in situations where non-residents have already drawn the designated percentage of all available licenses for a particular hunt code, draw a license ahead of a non-resident who holds more preference points.*
- The public license component of Ranching for Wildlife would remain restricted to residents only as per the Commission decision of January 2000. Private Land Only (PLO) licenses will not be included.
- Landowner preference applicants will be treated as a separate pool under the landowner preference system.