

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Funding the Future: Public Engagement Report



Summer-Fall 2016 - Policy and Planning Unit



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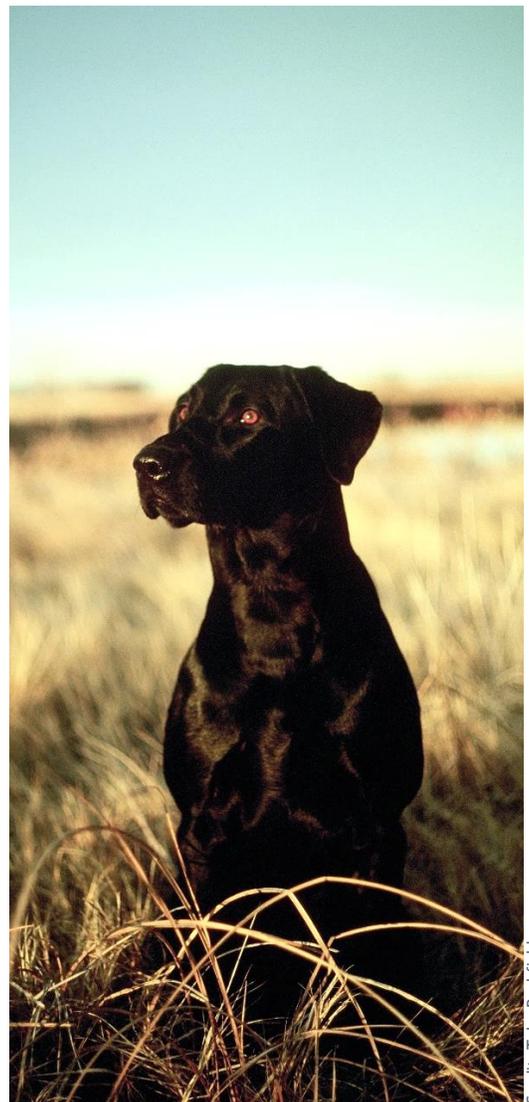


Executive Summary

Recognizing increasing strain on Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) ability to manage wildlife and maintain the current level of outdoor recreation services, CPW started reaching out to the public in 2014 to inform them about CPW's financial situation and ask for feedback. In 2015, the [CPW Strategic Plan](#), informed by extensive public outreach, identified Financial Sustainability as one of six top priority goals for the Division. In the spring of 2016, sportsmen and legislators convened at Sportsmen's Day at the Capitol and called on CPW to increase awareness among license holders about the agency's financial future. CPW was encouraged to seek input on how to address the projected budget shortfall -- whether to increase license fees or scale back current wildlife management programs and services.

Over the summer of 2016, CPW collected public input from over 3,000 people through a variety of means including public meetings, comments and a survey.

- **Public Meetings:** CPW held 18 public meetings across the state to present its financial situation and discuss whether CPW should look to raise resident license fees or make more cuts to wildlife programs. The strongest levels of support for increasing license prices came from meeting attendees, as they had been educated about projected financial needs and options for addressing needs through fee increases or service cuts.
 - Over 85% of meeting attendees voiced support for a resident license fee increase.
 - 58% of attendees were willing to double the cost of hunting licenses and 63% were willing to double fishing licenses.
- **Survey:** CPW developed and administered a survey to a random sample of 3,000 resident sportsmen. The primary purpose of the survey was to inform CPW's communications when talking to sportsmen about raising fees. The survey found that over half of respondents (53%) are in favor of an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses.
- **Public Comments:** Another 2,500 people commented through CPW's website and nearly half backed an increase in the cost of a resident hunting license (49%) and a fishing license (47%).



Credit: Tyler Baskfield

Several common themes emerged from comments and public meeting discussions. These were:

- **Resident license fees should be tied to inflation** as is the case with nonresident licenses. Meeting participants questioned why CPW waits so long in between fee increases creating a large lag period where the increasing costs of doing business diminish the revenue power of resident license fees.
- **Support for reinstating a senior fishing license fee** as the public feels resources are being undervalued by offering a free license and respondents suggested seniors are willing to pay for a license to contribute to the management and conservation of wildlife in Colorado. Over \$15 million of license revenue and Dingell-Johnson (federal aid) match has been lost since free senior fishing licenses were instated in 2006.
- **CPW should explore alternative funding sources** to pay for wildlife conservation and management. Ideas that developed included fees on other users, such as hikers, bikers, and wildlife watchers and a fee that all Colorado residents pay, such as a tax.
- **Questions about financial management** after the merger of Colorado State Parks and Colorado Division of Wildlife. Some participants were unaware that funding from parks and wildlife sources must remain completely separate as mandated in state and federal law. CPW is subject to independent audits of financial information to ensure compliance with these laws by the State, Federal Government, and other entities.



CPW is thankful to everyone who took the time to fill out a survey, submit a public comment form, send an email, or attend a public meeting. In recent years, CPW has eliminated over 50 positions and \$40 million from the wildlife portion of CPW's budget because of financial shortfalls. Looking ahead, the Division is faced with a choice between raising revenues and making more cuts to vital programs. The Division benefits when more of the public understands the Division's financial situation and the trade-offs faced in fulfilling CPW's mission while being financially sustainable into the future.

Introduction

By the year 2023, [financial projections](#) show Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) could face a wildlife budget shortfall that exceeds 20% annually. The primary reason for this shortfall is that the costs of doing business are rising while much of CPW's revenue—drawn primarily from hunting and fishing license sales—stays the same year after year. As an enterprise agency, CPW does not receive money from the state general fund and rather relies on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting to provide 80% of the agency's wildlife funding.

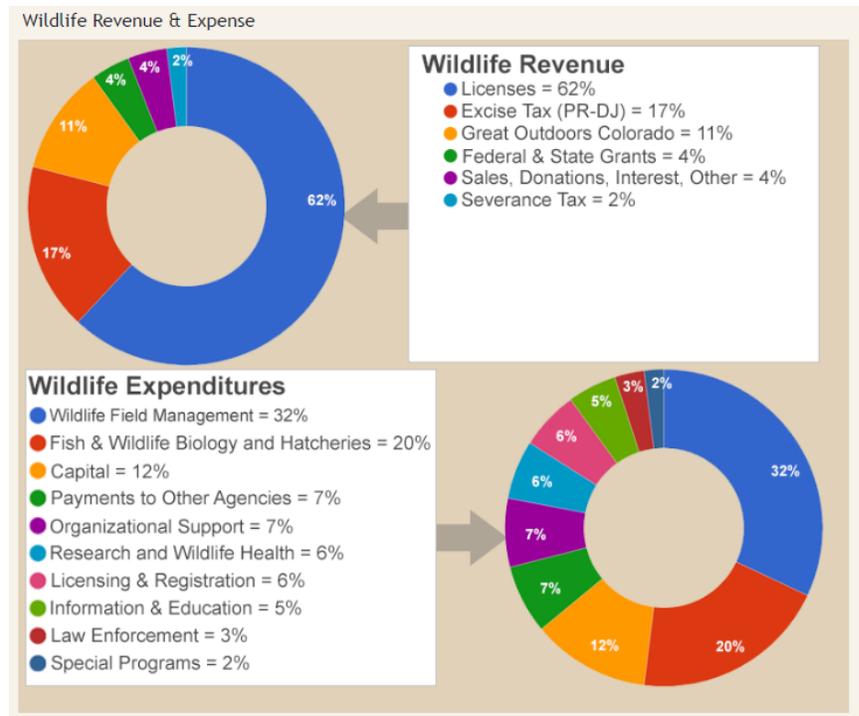
The price for Colorado resident hunting and fishing licenses has not changed since 2005. During that time, the cost of managing wildlife while providing for hunting and fishing opportunities has increased. According to the Consumer Price Index, prices have gone up about 20% since 2005. At the same time costs increased, Colorado's population increased by one million, putting additional pressure on wildlife habitat and CPW resources.

Wild is not free—managing wildlife is expensive. Wildlife funding generated by sportsmen goes towards:

- Protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat
- Providing hunting opportunities and access
- Sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations
- Operating fish hatcheries to make sure that our lakes and rivers provide diverse fishing opportunities
- Returning and restoring wildlife populations to our state.

Sportsmen's license fees are spent entirely on wildlife management. As mandated by federal and state laws, sportsmen's license revenue is not spent on parks.

Wildlife is valued by Coloradans and visitors and is an important feature of Colorado's love for outdoor recreation. Wildlife contributes over \$5 billion to Colorado's economy through hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. These economic benefits directly support rural communities across the state.





Historically, Colorado fishing and hunting fees have been increased every 7-10 years. The last resident price increase was passed by the legislature in 2005. Non-resident big game licenses have been tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since 2000, meaning those licenses increase in price slightly in most years, helping keep revenue in line with costs to a degree. However, as a result of the CPI, resident big game hunters are paying proportionally less now than they have historically when compared to their non-resident counterparts. A resident elk hunter in 1964 paid the today's equivalent of \$88; the current resident elk license cost is \$45. Colorado's prices are also typically below the average when looking at our neighboring western states. For example, a nine-state average¹ for bull elk resident licenses is \$106.

Without increasing revenues, CPW will have to cut more staff and core services. These reductions could include cuts to wildlife and property management, biological research, access for hunting and fishing, as well as the closure of some reservoirs and fish hatcheries.

Sportsmen provide support for the management and conservation of all wildlife in Colorado. Their opinions on management and license fees are extremely valuable to the Division. Confronting the possibility of either increasing the price of resident licenses or further scaling back vital wildlife programs, CPW reached out to sportsmen to get their input. The following summary offers a general overview of what CPW heard. Every comment that CPW received was read, considered, and incorporated into this report.

¹ Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

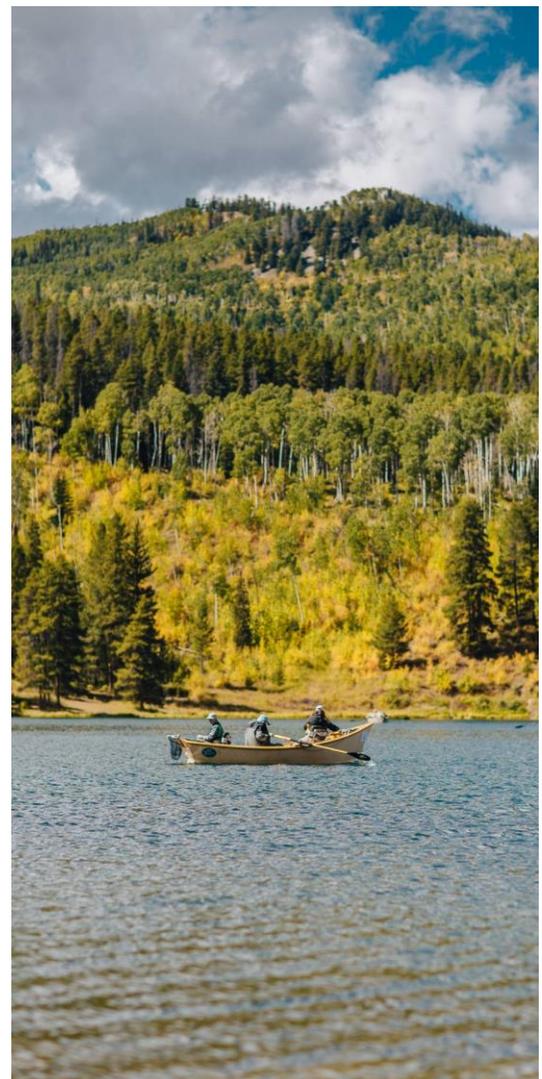
Methodology

CPW sought to increase awareness and gather input from sportsmen and other interested public through multiple channels. These included online, print, and in-person outreach strategies designed to reach as many sportsmen in Colorado as possible.

Website: This effort launched at the beginning of summer 2016. CPW created a webpage, [“Funding the Future”](#) that was featured on the Division’s homepage. This page lists public meeting locations and details, provides a video explaining how CPW is funded, and features the PowerPoint that CPW presented at public meetings. It also includes a link to CPW’s [financial sustainability page](#) which provides details about the Division’s budget and how resources are allocated.

Public Meetings/Comments: CPW held 18 public meetings around the state from Bayfield to Sterling, and Meeker to Lamar, including several meetings in population centers along the Front Range (see Appendix A). At public meetings and online, a one-page factsheet (Appendix B) and comment form (Appendix C) were shared. These materials were also made available online. Public comments were accepted for a two-month period that ended September 15, 2016. CPW promoted public meetings and the opportunity to comment through numerous channels including press releases, website announcements, emails, and social media.

Survey: Early in the process, CPW developed and administered an online survey to help inform CPW communications with sportsmen about potential for a fee increase (Appendix D). The survey was sent to a randomized list of 3,000 Colorado residents (half hunters and half anglers) who regularly purchase licenses. An initial postcard with the survey link was sent, along with a second reminder postcard. The survey response rate was 15%² (with 429 responses received). The large majority of respondents identified as both hunters and anglers. Between 75% and 90% of respondents purchased hunting or fishing licenses each year between 2012 and 2016, indicating that these are consistent users of CPW products. About 50% of respondents were from metro, urban or suburban areas. 78% were over the age of 50.



² The online survey link was distributed via a mailed postcard. The final number of survey recipients was 2,880 due to returned postcards with incomplete or obsolete addresses.

Media: Public meetings and press releases generated media interest from across the state. There were over 30 print articles including pieces in major newspapers, such as the Denver Post, Grand Junction Sentinel and Pueblo Chieftain. Several TV new stations featured CPW’s public meetings. CPW posted to 10,500 Twitter followers and reached 85,000 people through Twitter feeds. These were in conjunction with several Facebook posts to over 170,000 followers and a blog post that was shared with over 30,000 readers.

CPW’s presentation to the public (made [available with audio on CPW’s YouTube channel](#) and Funding the Future webpage) explains the agency’s financial situation, including cuts that have been made and efficiencies that have been achieved. Slides walk through the impact that increasing costs of doing business have on the budget and how resident license fees have failed to keep pace with inflation. The different sources of CPW’s wildlife revenue are depicted, with hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting providing 80% of the agency’s wildlife funding and state general fund taxes contributing essentially nothing. The PowerPoint finishes by presenting three options to sportsmen:

- Leave license fees at their current levels and make further cuts to wildlife programs.
- Raise resident license fees enough to maintain the current level of service and programs in order to avoid more cuts.
- Raise resident license fees a greater amount that would allow CPW to restore some of the cuts we have already made, increase access, and maintain state wildlife areas (sportsmen have communicated that all of these items are important to them).



Credit: David Hannigan

Outcomes

Public meetings

The 18 public meetings had 266 people in attendance. The most well attended meeting was in Fort Collins with 84 participants. About 35% of meeting participants submitted a written comment form at a meeting.

Of all the outreach conducted, the strongest support for license fee price increases came from people who attended a public meeting and were educated about CPW's financial outlook. These comments showed 86% support for fee increases. 58% of those respondents were willing to double the cost of hunting licenses and 63% were willing to double fishing licenses.

Several common themes came out of public meetings. These included the following:

- **Gaps between license price increases:** Participants questioned why so much time has elapsed between resident license price increases. They felt it made more sense to make small adjustments regularly over time in order to avoid dramatic price increases (sticker shock) and to keep pace with increasing costs of doing business.
- **Paying for senior fishing licenses:** In general, participants communicated support for reinstating a senior fishing license fee. Many seniors who attended meetings spoke out in favor of paying for a license and contributing to the management and conservation of wildlife in Colorado.
- **Diversifying funding:** Participants feel that sportsmen should not be the only ones paying for wildlife conservation and management in Colorado. They asked CPW to explore alternative funding sources, such as fees on hikers, bikers, and wildlife watchers; a tax; or an additional charge on license plate registrations to pay for wildlife conservation and management. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission has a subcommittee examining this issue and CPW Director Bob Broscheid is leading discussions on this topic with interested stakeholders.
- **Separation of funds:** Despite CPW informing meeting attendees that parks and wildlife funds must be separate according to state and federal law, participants are concerned that wildlife funds are being used to support state parks. CPW is subject to independent audits of financial information to ensure compliance with these laws by the State, Federal Government, and other entities.



Sportsmen’s Survey

CPW developed and conducted a survey of 3,000 randomly selected resident license holders, half hunters and half anglers, to inform CPW’s communications when talking to sportsmen about raising fees and funding the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado. The survey found that about 53% of resident license holders support increasing the price of hunting and fishing licenses. After reading a series of educational messages designed to assess which information was most important to license holders, 65% of the survey respondents answered that they are willing to pay more than the current price for a resident elk license and 61% are willing to pay more for a fishing license. The survey found that the most compelling message to support a fee price increase was that without an increase, CPW will have to cut staff and services which in turn would reduce wildlife and property management, biological research, access for hunting and fishing, and closure of some reservoirs and hatcheries. Noteworthy is that even among respondents who were unlikely or very unlikely to support a fee increase, 40% indicated a willingness to pay more for a resident elk license (Figure 1) and a fishing license (Figure 2).



How much would you be willing to pay for a resident elk hunting license in Colorado?

	% likely
Current price - \$45	35%
\$60	37%
\$75-\$120	28%
Total willing to pay more	65%

Resident Elk License

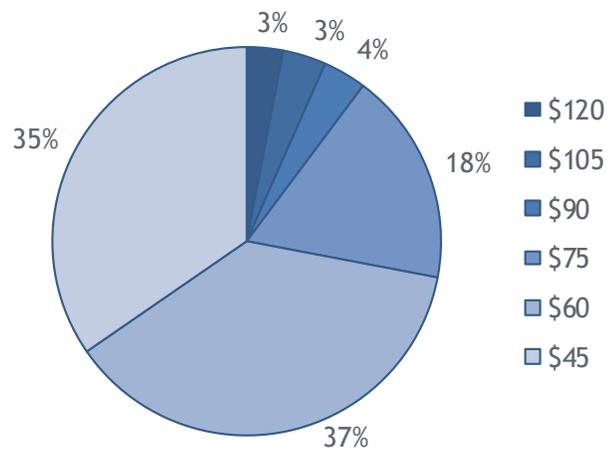
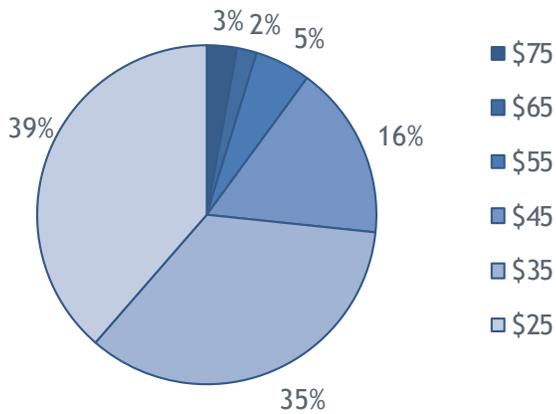


Figure 1: Willingness to pay for a resident elk hunting license.

Resident Annual Fishing License



How much would you be willing to pay for a resident annual fishing license in Colorado?

	% likely
Current price - \$25	39%
\$35	35%
\$45-\$75	26%
Total willing to pay more	61%

Figure 2: Willingness to pay for a resident fishing license.

Of the respondents who were 64 years of age or older (i.e., “seniors”), 81% indicated they were willing to pay \$25 or more for an annual fishing license (\$25 is the present resident license price) and 49% indicated they were willing to pay \$35 or more for a fishing license. Currently, seniors receive a free fishing license and pay only \$1 for the search and rescue fees and the wildlife management education fund.

The survey also found that the three areas of CPW’s work that are most important to respondents are (Figure 3):

- 1) Protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat
- 2) Maintaining and improving access to private and public land for hunting and fishing
- 3) Enhancing management of game species



Credit: Dennis McKinney

Importance of CPW Work Areas: Ranked as a “Top 3” Priority

Category		Survey	Comment Form
1	Protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat	52%	69%
2	Maintaining and improving access to private and public land for hunting and fishing	51%	54%
3	Enhancing management of game species (mule deer, elk, pheasants, ducks, etc.)	50%	51%
4	Protecting water quality	38%	32%
5	Maintaining and improving state wildlife areas	29%	28%
6	Maintaining and improving our ability to stock fish in lakes and streams	25%	24%
7	Keeping invasive species out of important land and water wildlife habitats	31%	20%
8	Preventing the federal listing of species as endangered or threatened	21%	19%
9	Developing and enhancing shooting ranges close to home	13%	14%
10	Repairing and maintaining dams that create lakes for fishing, boating, camping	14%	13%

Figure 3: In the survey and on the public comment form, respondents were asked to rank ten areas of CPW’s work in order of importance. Figure shows work areas in the order they were ranked as a “Top 3” priority.



Public Comments

By the end of the comment period, CPW received 2,612 public comments via electronic and paper comment forms [N=2,512] and public meeting attendees [N=100]. Overall, of the public who completed a comment form, 49% support a hunting license increase and 47% support a fishing license increase. About one-third of respondents expressed willingness to pay double for a hunting or fishing license and the other two-thirds were unwilling to do so (see Figure 4).



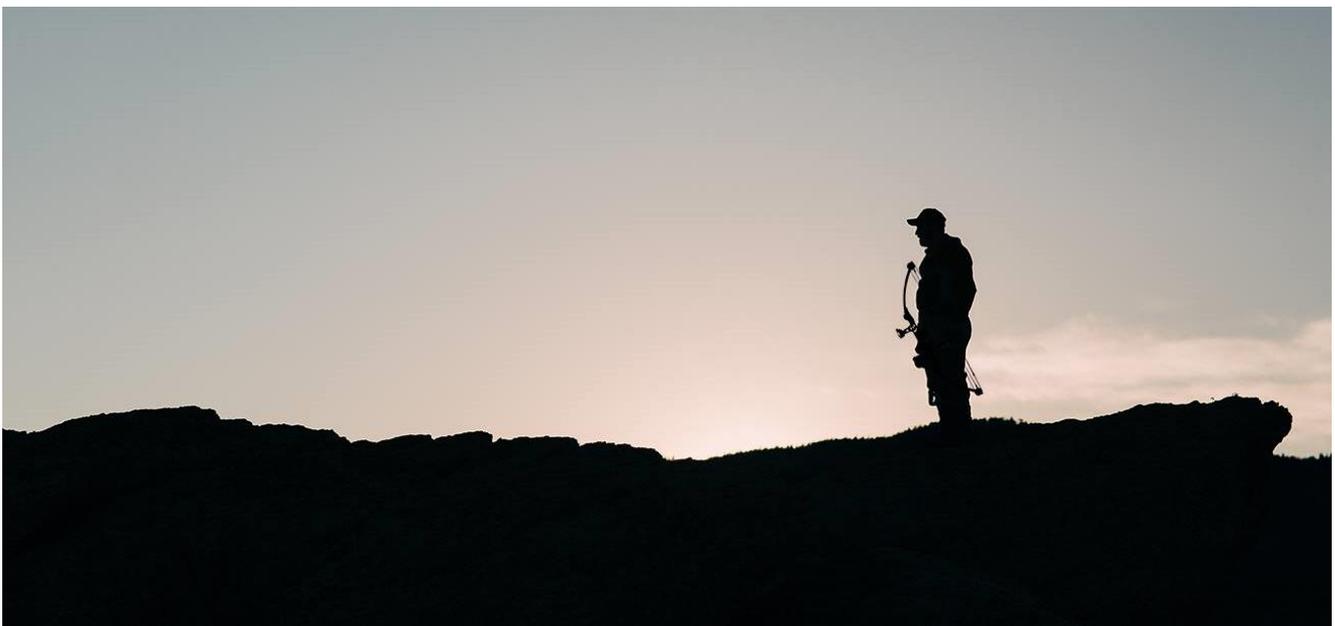
When asked if willing to pay more for a hunting and/or fishing license:

Answer	All Respondents		Public Meetings	
	Hunting	Fishing	Hunting	Fishing
Somewhat → Very Willing	49%	47%	86%	86%
Somewhat → Very Unwilling	51%	53%	14%	14%

When asked if willing to consider paying double for a hunting and/or fishing license:

Answer	All Respondents		Public Meetings	
	Hunting	Fishing	Hunting	Fishing
Somewhat → Very Willing	33%	32%	58%	63%
Somewhat → Very Unwilling	67%	68%	42%	37%

Figure 4: Willingness to pay more/double for hunting and fishing licenses.



Of all respondents, 63% wrote open-response comments where 13% stated moderate support for a fee increase and 12% were unsupportive. Out of the unsupportive comments [N=320], the most common comments stated:

- Others should pay (hikers, bikers, etc.) and/or an alternative source of funding, such as taxes, is needed.
- Doubling prices is too expensive.
- CPW should become more efficient and make cuts.
- The CPW merger and sharing funds between parks and wildlife is a problem.

The public comment form asked which programs are most important to sportsmen (Figure 3). Similar to the findings in the sportsmen’s survey, respondents answered that the three areas of CPW’s work that are most important are:

- 1) Protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat
- 2) Maintaining and improving access to private and public land for hunting and fishing
- 3) Enhancing management of game species



In addition to the comment forms, eight letters were received via email from individuals commenting on CPW’s financial sustainability. The themes derived from these letters coincided with the public comment form responses including references to the Parks and Wildlife merger; stating non-sportsmen should monetarily contribute; and concern that fee increases will cause sportsmen to purchase fewer tags per year. Three of the letters were unsupportive of a fee increase and three recommended increasing senior fishing license fees.

A detailed letter was received from the Board Chair and President of Colorado Wildlife Federation (CWF). CWF recommends working with sportsmen’s groups leading up to the next legislative session to develop consensus recommendations for resident license fee increases. CWF believes sportsmen would generally support a fee increase up to 50% and possibly more if a bill specifies a multi-year phase-in formula as well as a reasonable charge for senior fishing licenses.

Independently from CPW, the Colorado Trappers and Predator Hunters Association, the Colorado Bowhunters Association, and CWF conducted surveys of their members and found that 70% of respondents (or more in some surveys) would support an increase in resident hunting license prices.

Conclusion

In order to better understand the interests of Colorado sportsmen on the question of resident license prices, CPW undertook an extensive outreach effort. As described in this report, the Division used a variety of tools to engage sportsmen and gather input. The varied but complementary data collection methods used provides for better understanding of sportsmen's opinions in Colorado.

Almost 50% of respondents supported increasing hunting and fishing license prices. CPW found that once informed about the financial strain CPW is facing, the actions taken thus far, and the implications of further reductions in spending, most sportsmen are willing to pay more for a resident hunting and fishing license, with support for a fee increase above 85%.

Public information is critical to informing important decisions that impact hunters and anglers in Colorado. CPW thanks everyone who participated in this process and will keep the public informed as we continue to seek sustainable means for funding wildlife management and conservation into the future.



Appendix A - Public Meeting Schedule

2016 Funding the Future Public Meeting Schedule

<u>City/Town</u>	<u>Date of Meeting</u>
Grand Junction	July 13
Colorado Springs	July 14
Meeker	July 18
Eagle	Aug. 2
Gunnison	Aug. 2
San Luis Valley	Aug. 3
Durango area	Aug. 9
Steamboat Springs	Aug. 10
Denver	Aug. 10
Salida	Aug. 12
Montrose	Aug. 16
Lamar	Aug. 17
Longmont	Aug. 18
Pueblo	Aug. 22
Sterling	Aug. 22
Kremmling	Aug. 24
Fort Collins	Aug. 30
Evergreen	Aug. 31

Appendix B - Fact Sheet

Funding the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado



Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) relies on your hunting and fishing license dollars to conserve Colorado's wildlife populations. **The agency does not receive general tax dollars.** In order to protect habitat and maintain healthy populations of wildlife, including abundant fish in rivers and reservoirs across the state, license fees must rise to match the rising costs of doing business. License fee increases require an act of the Colorado legislature.

The last resident license fee increase occurred in 2005; meanwhile, costs of wildlife management have increased and the number of people living in Colorado has grown rapidly, putting more pressure on wildlife and habitat. Since 2009, CPW has cut or defunded 50 positions and sliced \$40 million from the wildlife budget. Without new revenue, more cuts are inevitable.



Wildlife conservation & management

Colorado Parks and Wildlife provides the foundation for wildlife related recreation in Colorado, including:

- Access for hunting and fishing - CPW provides over 3 million acres of public and private land for hunting and fishing, including over 300 state wildlife areas.
- A fishing destination - clean water and 90 million sportfish hatched and stocked in Colorado waters annually.
- Nationally renowned big game hunting. Over 400,000 deer and 250,000 elk roam Colorado - the largest herd in North America.
- Ongoing habitat protection and nationally-recognized biological science benefiting 960 species, including threatened and endangered species.

Choices for Colorado Sportsmen

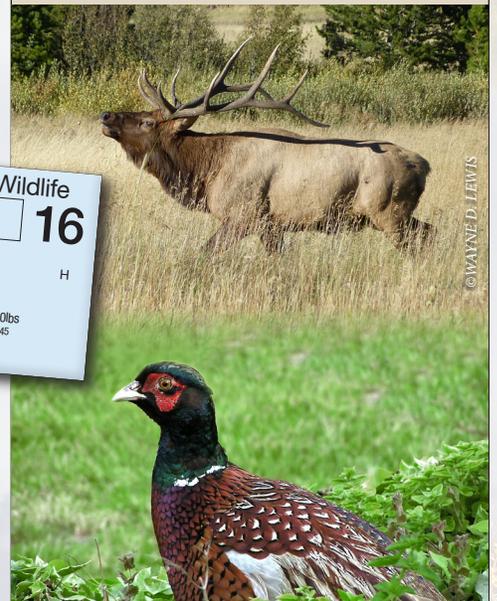
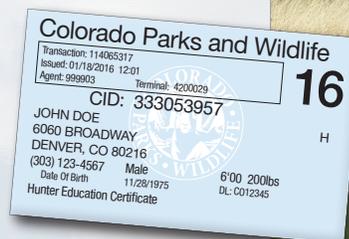
► **NO INCREASES** - CPW must continue to cut, potentially including:

- Closing hatcheries and reducing fish stocks in waters across the state
- Reducing access to State Land Board lands
- Eliminating funding for Aquatic Nuisance Species programs which could lead to closing lakes to boaters and fishermen
- Conserving less habitat
- Reducing maintenance on State Wildlife Areas

► **MODEST INCREASE** in fees to keep programs and services at their current levels.

► **LARGER INCREASES** to fund the things we've heard are important to sportsmen:

- Improving access to private and public land for hunting and fishing.
- Maintaining and improving state wildlife areas and important habitat.
- Implementing the Mule Deer Strategy to help improve deer populations on the west slope.
- Developing and enhancing recreational shooting ranges close to home.
- Maintaining dams and hatcheries to keep current opportunities available



Elk License Fee Comparison

• CO Resident in 2016	\$45
• CO Resident in 1955 (When adjusted for inflation)	\$88
• 9 State Average*	\$106

2005
Year of last fee increase

We want to hear from you!

Hunters and anglers like you have always been strong supporters of wildlife and habitat conservation, but we understand that this doesn't make these choices easy.

What choice would you make regarding the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado? For more information and to provide us with your comments, please go to:

cpw.state.co.us/fundingthefuture

*AZ, ID, KS, MT, NE, NM, NV, UT, WY

Appendix C - Public Comment Form



Colorado Parks & Wildlife - Public Comment Form Funding Wildlife Management and Conservation

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) relies on your hunting and fishing license dollars to conserve Colorado's wildlife populations. The agency does not receive general state tax dollars. The last resident license fee increase occurred in 2005; meanwhile, costs of wildlife management have increased and the number of people living in Colorado has grown rapidly, putting more pressure on wildlife and habitat. Since 2009, CPW has eliminated 50 positions and cut \$40 million from its wildlife budget. In 2023, CPW forecasts that the wildlife budget will fall short by as much as 20 percent or another \$25 million. Without new revenue, more cuts are inevitable. Please provide input to help inform a statewide conversation about funding the future of wildlife management and conservation. Please return this form no later than **September 15, 2016** to 1313 Sherman St, Denver CO 80203. Your contribution to this process is vital; thank you for taking part.

1. Do you feel informed about how CPW is funded and how revenues are spent?

- Very informed
 Somewhat informed
 Somewhat uninformed
 Very uninformed

2. Please rank the following areas of CPW's work in the order in which you think they are most important with 1 being the most important for CPW to work on and 10 being the least important:

- _____ Protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat
- _____ Maintaining and improving access to private and public land for hunting and fishing
- _____ Maintaining and improving our ability to stock fish in lakes and streams
- _____ Developing and enhancing shooting ranges close to home
- _____ Maintaining and improving state wildlife areas
- _____ Repairing and maintaining dams that create lakes for fishing, boating, camping
- _____ Enhancing management of game species (mule deer, elk, pheasants, ducks, etc.)
- _____ Keeping invasive species out of important land and water wildlife habitats
- _____ Preventing the federal listing of species as endangered or threatened
- _____ Protecting water quality

3. Would you be willing to pay more for a hunting and/or fishing license in order to maintain the existing level of fish and wildlife management in Colorado?

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Somewhat unwilling	Very unwilling	Need more information
Hunting license	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fishing license	<input type="checkbox"/>				

4. Would you be willing to consider paying double for a hunting and/or fishing license (\$90 for an elk tag/ \$50 for a fishing license) if it meant CPW could maintain existing programs plus provide additional services, such as increased access for hunting and fishing, recreational sport shooting facilities and improving State Wildlife Areas?

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Somewhat unwilling	Very unwilling	Need more information
Hunting license	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fishing license	<input type="checkbox"/>				

5. If license prices are not increased, CPW will have to cut programs. From the list provided below, are there programs that you would support CPW scaling back? (Check all that apply)

- _____ Access to State Land Board lands
- _____ Hatcheries and stocking in waters across the state
- _____ Funding for Aquatic Nuisance Species or dam maintenance
- _____ Conserving habitat
- _____ Maintenance on State Wildlife Areas

6. Do you belong to any sportsmen's organizations? (Please select all that apply. If not listed please list in "Other".)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry Hunters and Anglers | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasants Forever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Bowhunters Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Trappers and Predator Hunters Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ducks Unlimited | <input type="checkbox"/> Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mule Deer Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Trout Unlimited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Wild Turkey Federation | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Sheep Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

7. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have in regard to funding the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado.

If you would like to receive updates on the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado, please enter your name and email address below:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Please mail to Policy and Planning Section, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, 1313 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203. Also online: <https://www.research.net/s/CPW-Wildlife-Funding-Public-Comment>

Appendix D - Sportsmen's Survey

Introduction

Your input is important to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The focus of this survey is funding the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado.

Your input will be utilized along with other comments, research and planning efforts to inform future choices CPW will make in regard to wildlife conservation and management. Please complete this survey no later than August 15, 2016. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

Your responses will remain confidential and at no time will your name be associated with any of your responses.

If you have any questions or comments about this survey or CPW's financial sustainability, please contact us at dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us or (303) 866-3203 Ext. 4609

Thank you,
Policy and Planning Unit, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

1. What years did you purchase the following license types in Colorado? (Please check all that apply.)

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Have in the past, but not in the past 5 years.	Have NEVER bought this type of license in Colorado before.
Any hunting license	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Fishing license	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

2. Overall, how satisfied were you with your hunting/fishing experiences in Colorado the past 5 years?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	N/A
Hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Please rank the following areas of CPW's work in the order in which you think they are most important with 1 being the most important for CPW to work on and 10 being the least important (you may select one number for each area or drag/drop it to the desired position on the list):

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Maintaining and improving access to private and public land for hunting and fishing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Maintaining and improving our ability to stock fish in lakes and streams
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Developing and enhancing shooting ranges close to home
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Maintaining and improving state wildlife areas
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Repairing and maintaining dams that create lakes for fishing, boating, camping
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Enhancing management of game species (mule deer, elk, pheasants, ducks, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Keeping invasive species out of important land and water wildlife habitats
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Preventing the federal listing of species as endangered or threatened
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Protecting water quality

4. How likely are you to support a price increase for the following types of licenses?

	Very likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	N/A
Hunting license	<input type="radio"/>				
Fishing license	<input type="radio"/>				

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

5. Colorado Parks and Wildlife relies on hunting and fishing licenses to pay for wildlife management and conservation in Colorado. We receive no general tax dollars to support our programs. Increased license revenue means greater investment in wildlife management and conservation in Colorado.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

6. The last time CPW raised the price of hunting and fishing licenses was in 2005. Since 2005, have your living expenses (e.g. cell phone, rent, groceries, healthcare, etc.) increased? Likewise, the costs for CPW to provide hunting and fishing opportunities have increased, outpacing available funding.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

7. Colorado's population is expected to double over the next 25 years, putting more pressure on wildlife habitat. CPW needs additional financial resources to continue to protect habitat and maintain healthy wildlife into the future.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

8. Wild is not free—managing wildlife is expensive. Wildlife funding provided by sportsmen goes towards: providing hunting opportunities while sustaining healthy populations; operating fish hatcheries to make sure that our lakes and rivers provide diverse fishing opportunities; preserving important wildlife areas and access; as well as returning and restoring overall wildlife populations to our state.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

9. CPW's work supports outdoor recreation opportunities that create jobs and other economic benefits, especially in rural communities. \$5 billion dollars feeds Colorado's economy every year from hunting, fishing and wildlife watching alone.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

10. In recent years, CPW has faced substantial budget shortfalls which resulted in the elimination of over 50 positions and \$40 million from wildlife budgets. In 2023, the shortfall could exceed 20% annually unless the price of resident licenses increase.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

11. Non-resident elk licenses account for 51% of CPW's annual license revenue, with a 2016 non-resident elk hunter paying \$625 for an antlered license. Non-resident license prices are adjusted annually with inflation. Resident elk licenses generate only 9% of CPW's annual license revenue at \$45, even though many more of these licenses are sold. Resident licenses are not adjusted annually with inflation.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of resident elk license?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

12. By raising the price of resident licenses, CPW will be able to maintain and potentially increase programs to provide access on public and private lands for fishing and hunting.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

13. Without a fee increase, CPW will have to cut staff and core services, which could include reductions to wildlife and property management, biological research, access for hunting and fishing, as well as the closure of some reservoirs and fish hatcheries.

How compelling is this message for you to support an increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses?

- Extremely compelling
- Very compelling
- Moderately compelling
- Slightly compelling
- Not at all compelling

Part 1: Funding wildlife management and conservation

14. How much would you be willing to pay for a resident elk hunting license in Colorado?

- \$45
- \$60
- \$75
- \$90
- \$105
- \$120
- N/A

15. How much would you be willing to pay for a resident fishing license in Colorado?

- \$25
- \$35
- \$45
- \$55
- \$65
- \$75
- N/A

16. Do you belong to any sportsmen's organizations? (Please select all that apply. If not listed please list in "Other".)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry Hunters and Anglers | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasants Forever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Bowhunters Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Trappers and Predator Hunters Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ducks Unlimited | <input type="checkbox"/> Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mule Deer Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Trout Unlimited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Wild Turkey Federation | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Sheep Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

17. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have in regard to funding the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado.

Part 2: Demographics

As a reminder, all questions below are optional and may be left blank.

18. How old are you?

- 18-34
- 35-49
- 50-63
- 64+

19. What is the zip code of your current residence?

20. How would you describe the area where you currently live? (Please check one.)

- Rural setting, on a farm/ranch
- Rural setting, **not** on a farm/ranch
- Rural subdivison
- Within a village (Population less than 5,000)
- Suburban area on the edge of a town or city
- Within a small town (Population between 5,000 and 25,000)
- Within an urban area (Population between 25,000 and 100,000)
- Within a metropolitan area (Population more than 100,000)

End of Survey!

Thank you for your time and your contribution to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's management and conservation of wildlife. Your input is greatly appreciated. To learn more about CPW's budget and finances, please visit [CPW's Financial Sustainability webpage](#).

21. Would you like to receive updates on the future of wildlife management and conservation in Colorado?
If yes, please enter your email address below: