

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Regulations for the Ranching for Wildlife (RFW) Program have been adopted in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is directed to develop these additional guidelines and minimum ranch performance standards for implementation of this program. These guidelines must be read and implemented in conjunction with Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, Cooperative Agreement and RFW Ranch Management Plan.
- B. **PURPOSE:** To steward Colorado's wildlife resources to the benefit of the sportspersons and citizens of the State of Colorado in partnership with private landowners and producers of the State towards the following outcomes:
 - 1. Provide public hunter access and unique opportunity.
 - 2. Conserve, improve and enhance wildlife habitat.
 - 3. More effectively implement wildlife management plans & goals.

II. RANCH PROPERTY AND ENROLLMENT

- A. **Property Ownership** - Record title to the enrolled property must be held by:
 - 1. an individual; or
 - 2. more than one individual by joint tenancy, tenancy in common, or tenancy by the entirety; or
 - 3. a corporation, partnership, trust, or association empowered to own real property; provided that such entity has met all legal requirements to conduct business in Colorado. Copies of legal papers must be submitted to the CPW with the application for enrollment.
 - 4. Provided, however, several parcels of land titled in different individuals or entities may be considered as a single ranch to meet the 10,000 acre minimum requirement if all owners have associated into a single business entity under which management of all the enrolled ranch property is controlled for the purposes of RFW.
 - 5. Ranches shall designate a single point of contact for communications relating to licensing and season setting, hunter packets and annual performance reports to CPW.
- B. **Non-contiguous Parcels** - Inclusion or addition of non-contiguous parcels is not preferred due to logistical and management complications. Inclusion or addition of such parcels will be considered if inclusion significantly improves program implementation for CPW and for an individual ranch. In consideration of the foregoing, ranches may enroll non-contiguous parcels that are at least 640 contiguous acres in size, under the following conditions:
 - 1. The parcel is located in the same Data Analysis Units (DAUs) encompassing the main parcel for all contract species.
 - 2. Harvest on the parcel will assist the CPW in meeting its management goals for the DAU.

3. All conditions that apply to the base property shall apply to the non-contiguous parcel, including but not limited to hunting season dates and access terms or conditions.
 4. Enrollment of all non-contiguous parcels shall be determined on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the CPW, and shall be included only upon written approval of the RFW Coordinator. Factors considered by CPW may include, but are not limited to, achieving DAU management objectives, logistics and pragmatic aspects of managing habitat and hunting access on the parcel and in relation to the main parcel, and recovery of or habitat management for Threatened or Endangered species or species of special concern.
 5. For purposes of determining contiguous or non-contiguous status, road rights-of-way's shall not be considered to divide parcels and corner to corner connected parcels shall not be considered contiguous.
 6. For currently enrolled ranches, existing non-contiguous parcels will be assumed included in their operations. If such inclusion is of concern to CPW managers, they should submit a briefing paper outlining relevant issues to their Region Manager for decision.
- C. Federal and State Lands** - Ranches may include Federal land in-holdings if they are completely surrounded by the enrolled ranch lands and there is no public access. Ranches may also include contiguous or in-holding State Land Board (SLB) lands, not exceeding 10% of the private deeded contiguous land base of the ranch lands enrolled in RFW. Federal or SLB land included in the program will not be counted toward the 10,000 acre minimum. Ranches including Federal or SLB land must submit a letter from the Federal land manager stating this land may be included in the RFW contract, or a copy of their SLB Recreation Lease authorizing the use of the land for RFW. Road rights-of-way's shall not be considered to divide parcels. Corner to corner connected parcels shall not be considered contiguous.
- D. Voluntary Addition or Removal of Parcels** - Ranches may add parcels of land to an existing contract, provided that the parcels meet all program regulations and guidelines; or may remove parcels from an existing contract, provided that removal will not reduce private ownership to less than 10,000 contiguous acres; under the following conditions:
1. Amended land ownership legal description of the added or removed parcels is submitted in writing to the District Wildlife Manager (DWM) and RFW Coordinator.
 2. Amended partnership or association documents signed by the individual or entity being added or removed are submitted to the DWM and RFW Coordinator.
 3. Digital GIS data, ESRI compatible or Google Earth compatible and digital or paper map with new ranch boundaries clearly marked and showing PLSS are submitted to the DWM and RFW Coordinator.
 4. Ranches shall submit an amendment to the current RFW Management Plan to DWM and RFW Coordinator. The amendment shall address changes to habitat management, wildlife species management, and public hunting management as a consequence of the addition or removal. Additionally, ranches will indicate what percentage of the new addition is considered habitat for each contract species.

5. All required documentation for the addition or written request to remove parcels must be submitted by December 1 of the year preceding enrollment or removal from enrollment.
 6. Addition of land shall not be considered for enrollment if its enrollment will take effect in the final year of a contract.
 7. Tracts of land proposed for addition shall be included only upon written approval of the RFW Coordinator.
- E. Sale of Enrolled Ranches** - Ranches that are sold during the term of the RFW contract are required to meet all conditions of that contract through all public hunting seasons for which licenses have been allocated for that year. New owners will be required to submit a new application for enrollment consideration for future hunting seasons.
- F. Enrollment Application** - Interested landowners must submit an application to the appropriate DMW and RFW Program Coordinator by February 1 prior to the year in which the program is to be initiated, amended, or renewed. A Draft RFW Management Plan must be prepared by the landowner and submitted to the DWM and RFW Coordinator by May 1. The Final RFW Management Plan must be prepared by the landowner and submitted to the DWM and RFW Coordinator by August 15. The Cooperative Agreement must be signed by the landowner or the landowner's legal agent and returned to the DWM and RFW Coordinator by November 1.

III.COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS & PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

A. Contract Length -

1. Initial Contract - 3-year term, provided for initial enrollment of new ranches.
2. Standard Contract - 10-year term, provided for previously enrolled ranches, re-enrolling under a new management plan, currently in compliance with program standards and who have submitted documentation of long-term habitat improvement efforts.

B. RFW Management Plan and Public Hunter Information Packets

1. A RFW Management Plan shall be prepared by the landowner in a format prescribed by CPW for all applications and renewals, and shall become part of the Cooperative Agreement. The management plan shall be reviewed by RFW evaluation team members and other CPW personnel during the course of the Tier placement, enrollment and review processes. At the discretion of CPW, the management plan shall be accepted for incorporation as part of the Cooperative Agreement.
2. Public hunter information packets shall be mutually developed and agreed to by the ranch and the DWM. The packet shall contain a welcome cover letter, directions and/or directional maps to the ranch, maps of ranch boundaries, roads, parking, and any areas closed to both public and private hunters or areas with restricted access, ranch hunting rules of conduct and behavior, any liability waivers the ranch may require, and any harvest reporting forms that may be required. The packet shall identify any additional services the ranch may provide to public hunters including which services are free, which are for a fee and what the fee is for the service. Ranches may not charge for services not identified in the hunter information packet.

- C. Program Species** - RFW contracts will only be valid for deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, turkey, moose, and bighorn sheep, except that no contract shall be made solely for turkey, bear, moose or bighorn sheep.

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- D. Contract Modification** - Contracts may be modified during the term of the contract by written mutual agreement of the CPW and the authorized ranch representative.
- E. Program Termination** - If the Parks and Wildlife Commission rescinds the regulations or otherwise terminates the RFW Program, then all RFW contracts will be terminated within 90 days of Commission action and contracts shall so provide.
- F. Tier Level Placement** - The Director or designee shall determine the most appropriate Tier placement for all ranches based upon their performance. New enrolling ranches shall enter the program at Tier C and may advance to other Tier levels based upon their plans and performance in subsequent contracts. Enrolling ranches may be considered at a higher Tier level if they have a conservation easement of 5,000 acres or greater, the easement is created to safeguard wildlife concerns as agreed upon by CPW, the easement is in perpetuity, and is established prior to enrollment. Ranches whose performance is evaluated by the CPW evaluation team at any formal evaluation shall remain at the evaluated Tier level until such time as the next formal evaluation determines that the performance of the ranch meets the qualifications of another Tier level. Regardless of Tier level, all participating ranches in RFW must meet the Mandatory Performance Standards.
- G. Annual Ranch Performance Reports** - Ranches must submit a written Annual Performance Report by February 1 of each year to the Area Wildlife Manager, DWM, Area Terrestrial Biologist, and RFW Coordinator. The report shall be in a format approved by the CPW and shall contain hunter harvest and success, habitat accomplishments for the previous year and plans for the next year, report of accomplishments towards Tier placement criteria, annual monitoring report of conservation easement if applying easement by-pass, and a list of private hunters and dates hunted.
- H. Evaluations** - Ranches will be evaluated for program inclusion, contract performance, Tier placement, and program continuation or program renewal by a team, including but not limited to CPW personnel, selected by the RFW Coordinator. The RFW Coordinator will solicit review and comments from the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society on evaluations of ranches that include bighorn sheep.

Evaluation of a ranch may be conducted by CPW at any time during the term of the contract, but shall be conducted prior to enrollment, at about the midpoint of the contract, and in the final year of the contract. Failure to comply with Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, RFW operating guidelines, RFW management plan, or the RFW contract will result in termination of the contract. The RFW Coordinator will, as part of Formal Evaluations, submit a report to the ranch and local CPW personnel. The report will contain documentation of past performance (if applicable), recommendations for improvement of RFW Management Plans, and may include required actions to meet contract performance expectations.

Mid-term evaluation reports will contain recommendations from the Evaluation Team to the Director or his designee regarding Tier placement and continuation or termination of the RFW contract. Upon receipt of a Final RFW Management Plan, the Evaluation Team will notify the ranch in writing of its recommendations to the Director or his designee regarding Tier placement and continuation or termination of the RFW contract.

- 1. Non-Compliance** - Three years of non-compliance with the minimum performance standards at any point in the cooperative agreement term requires Ranch submission of a written plan to remedy issue(s) prior to license setting for subsequent year and demonstrated evidence of effort to remedy to remain in the program. Non-compliance at the end of the cooperative agreement term will result in either non-renewal in the

program or a one-year probationary period to rectify non-compliance. Ranches must provide a written plan to remedy prior to license setting for subsequent year and demonstrate efforts toward improvement. This determination will be made by CPW local staff and the RFW Coordinator in conversation with the Ranch. Upon completion of the probationary period, non-renewal will take place if significant and demonstrated efforts have not been undertaken.

2. **Appeals** - A ranch may appeal recommendations of the Evaluation Team. A ranch choosing to do so should seek resolution first at the local level with the DWM, Area Wildlife Manager, and RFW Coordinator. If not resolved at this level, ranches should submit a written appeal to the Regional Manager, Terrestrial Section Supervisor, and RFW Coordinator. The appeal should describe areas of dispute, provide supporting documentation and explain what relief is being sought by the appeal. If not resolved at this level, resolution may be pursued with the Director and/or the Parks and Wildlife Commission.
3. **Pre & Re-enrollment Evaluations** - During May, June, July, or August local CPW personnel and the RFW Evaluation team will meet with ranch owners/representatives to review the Draft RFW Management Plan and to tour the ranch, discuss management actions, and provide interchange of ideas and recommendations for improving upon the Plan. If the ranch is seeking re-enrollment, this evaluation will also include review of past performance using Evaluation Standards and Criteria to help formulate the recommendation to the Director, or his designee. Pre-enrollment evaluations will also consider CPW assessment of how well the applicant ranch will help CPW achieve program purpose and outcomes.
4. **Mandatory Performance Standards** - There are three categories of mandatory performance: Habitat Management, Public Hunter Success and Satisfaction, and Wildlife Management. All ranches regardless of Tier placement must achieve an acceptable evaluation rating for each of the three rating categories. Tier C ranches must meet only the mandatory criteria, whereas Tier A and B ranches must meet the mandatory criteria and additional high performance criteria as further defined in Section III. (J), below. The rating period for evaluation of ranch performance in relation to these criteria is the period from the start date of a cooperative agreement to the date of any formal mid-term or end-term evaluation. Data used for quantitative-based criteria shall be annual or averaged data derived during the rating period.

a. Habitat Management Category

Evaluation of this criteria is completed via established habitat objectives outlined in the RFW Ranch Management plan. The management plan will include quantifiable efforts (acres, miles, numbers) as well as subjective analysis conducted via input from CPW Area employees and habitat experts, performance to date, review of documents, ranch inspection, and interviews with ranch staff towards meeting identified habitat outcomes. Efforts will be taken for both contract and non-contract species.

Minimum Standard [Acceptable] [Unacceptable]

Determined by attaining the identified quantifiable efforts in the Ranch Management Plan and the following:

- i. Habitat management is designed to help reduce or mitigate game damage to the ranch and/or nearby lands.

ii. Habitat management is designed to enhance ability to meet Data Analysis Unit (DAU) objectives and efforts are taken towards habitat management for species of concern where present.

iii. The management plan and implementation integrate livestock management with wildlife management goals and objectives, including: a grazing system is in place with articulated habitat management goals and objectives; management provides for adequate regrowth for wildlife, intensity and utilization meet generally accepted grazing standards, and adequate monitoring is in place to provide for modification of grazing to meet the foregoing elements.

iv. The plan and implementation contains management actions to gradually and incrementally improve conditions for wildlife habitat in deteriorated condition, either through specific habitat treatments and/or through livestock grazing management.

v. Habitat management efforts are informed by recognized best practices in achieving the determined goals of the treatment and wildlife benefit.

b. Public Hunter Satisfaction and Success Category

The following factors in this category are evaluated on the basis of annual public hunter satisfaction surveys conducted by CPW and from harvest data provided by Ranches. Survey questions are related to hunter responses regarding harvest/success, the level of ranch assistance, overall experience, and an opportunity to comment on issues, concerns or suggestions for improvement. The ranch assistance and communication and overall experience questions are rated on a 1-5 scale. In all cases the higher the number, the higher the rating. The rating averages hunter responses for each species over the rating period. The combined average of all questions and all years for each species is used to form the evaluation rating. This will result in a rating for deer hunters, elk hunters, etc. Hunter comments, suggestions and concerns are incorporated into ranch mid & end reviews. The following questions are asked:

Did you Harvest? [Yes, No]

Perceived Level of Ranch Assistance [1-5 scale]: This rates public hunter perception of the level of assistance ranch personnel offered to hunters for making their hunt a good experience.

Overall Experience Satisfaction [1-5 scale]: This rates the overall satisfaction of hunters with their experience on the ranch.

Minimum Standard [Acceptable] [Unacceptable] Determined by the following:

i. The average of responses for overall experience satisfaction across all survey years for the rating period for each species hunted is greater than 3.0.

ii. Average public hunter success rate shall be at least 10 percentage points above the DAU regular rifle season hunter success rates in which the ranch is located, during the time of the cooperative agreement.

iii. Public hunter perception of ranch assistance and communication, comments, issues, and concerns does not illustrate a pattern of actions detrimental to public hunter success or satisfaction.

c. Wildlife Management Category

The following factors will be evaluated on the basis of completion of the efforts identified in the RFW Ranch Management Plan and demonstrated cooperation with agency personnel on management actions. Efforts are to be undertaken for game and nongame species.

- i. Average actual female harvest for each species is within 15% plus or minus of the agreed upon ranch harvest objective.

When a species is near to or under DAU herd objective then under-achievement of the antlerless harvest shall not be considered unacceptable, and when a species is near to or over DAU herd objective then over-achievement of the antlerless harvest shall not be considered unacceptable.

Minimum Standard [Percentages met or exceeded]

- ii. Where applicable and where CPW agrees there are significant game damage concerns, habitat and harvest management strategies are designed to effectively and significantly reduce or mitigate game damage conflict on nearby lands.

Minimum Standard [Reduced Game Damage Applications and Complaints in Area of Ranch]

- iii. The ranch collaborates with CPW on projects and research related to wildlife such as collar studies, capture efforts, trans-locations, & species of special concern in a collaborative manner through granting reasonable access and information sharing.

Minimum Standard [Ongoing Demonstrated Collaboration]

- I. **Tier Placement Standard** - Tier A, B, or C must meet the minimum performance standards listed above at the acceptable level.
 1. **Tier A Qualification** - Ranches seeking placement within or maintenance of placement within Tier A must meet at least 3 of the following groupings of high performance criteria. All elements of the selected high performance group must be met. Ranches must identify the elements or actions they plan to implement within their plan, and must annually identify Tier A criteria they plan to achieve in their annual report to CPW.
 - a. **Conservation Easement Bypass** - A ranch that has established a perpetual conservation easement on a significant portion of the ranch 5,000 acres in size or greater that has outstanding wildlife values, and which by existence of the conservation easement provides protection and active management of the habitat and integrity of its contribution to the existence of species on the ranch, then implementation of additional criteria may be bypassed and the ranch may be placed in Tier A. The ranch must continue to meet mandatory performance standards. Ranches choosing this option are required to submit their annual monitoring report from the easement holder with their RFW Annual Performance Report and the report shall indicate compliance with the terms of the easement agreement.
 2. **Tier B Qualification** - Ranches seeking placement within or maintenance of placement within Tier B must meet at least 2 of the following groupings of high performance criteria. All elements of the selected high performance group must be met. Ranches must identify

the elements or actions they plan to implement within their plan, and must annually identify Tier B criteria they plan to achieve in their annual report to CPW.

3. High Performance Criteria Menu

a. Premier Public Hunt Timing/Opportunity Group

Public male or either sex deer, elk and pronghorn hunting seasons are established with at least 5 days of opportunity during premier hunting opportunity periods and a low hunter density. These periods may be closely associated with peak rut periods for the species or periods when there are seasonal concentrations of male animals available for hunter harvest. This may also include additional seasons and license allocations for primitive weapons method of take hunting opportunity.

Seasonal concentration and rut periods are determined by local CPW Managers and Biologists and incorporated into the Ranch Management Plan. This criterion shall be considered met if half or more of the species under contract have premier season timing (rut or concentration period) or premier opportunity (primitive weapon seasons) and hunter densities do not exceed 1 hunter per every 3000 acres for these male and either sex hunts.

b. Exceptional Services and Hunter Success Group

Services are provided to the public without charge that are designed to provide public hunters with a hunt of exceptional experience and quality or provide engagement with the public through educational opportunities. Examples of services include: guiding, pre-season scouting, game retrieval services, caping, angling or small game access, planned activities associated with public natural resources trainings or public events, ranch provided free camping or other lodging, etc.

Successful achievement of this standard occurs when the combined hunter overall satisfaction survey rating for the rating period on the ranch meets or exceeds 3.5 on the hunter survey, at least one of the above mentioned services is provided and Ranch success rates are at least 20% above DAU averages for all seasons and contract species as averaged across the evaluation period.

c. Youth/Novice Adult/Donated Hunt Group

The Ranch dedicates licenses for youth, novice adult, and/or donated hunts through one of the following three methods.

i. Youth/Novice Adults hunts must be used within a CPW outreach program or through a limited draw public season designated for this special group.

ii. Dedicated licenses shall be granted to a non-profit entity of good standing (Wounded Warrior, Make-a-Wish, local 4-H, NWTF, or similar entity approved by CPW). Licenses shall be deemed private allocation licenses for purposes of license assignment flexibility, though licenses are not counted in calculating the distribution of license percentages.

iii. Licenses donated from the allocation of private vouchers to the ranch may only be counted when meeting the standards identified in section ii. above and are donated annually. Supporting documentation of who received these donated licenses shall be included in the ranch annual performance report as evidence of meeting this criterion.

d. Exceptional Contribution to Herd Management Objectives Group

- i. For species within 15% of or over the upper end of the herd objective, average actual female harvest is 10% or more over the agreed upon ranch harvest objective. This can be accomplished via adjusted season setting, use of “special population management licenses” and non-RFW licenses (per regulation W2-#210,D.5.), addition of youth/novice/donated hunt group hunts, or exceptional services or hunter success group efforts or combination of these efforts.
- ii. For species within 20% of the lower end of the herd objective, average actual harvest is 10-20% less than the agreed upon ranch harvest objective.
- iii. Where desirable and applicable as an aid in distributing elk, the ranch allocates a number of hunts equivalent to 50% or more of the private license allocation concurrent with regular rifle seasons, with a relatively equivalent number of licenses across seasons.

This criterion shall be considered met if one or more of deer, elk or pronghorn meets one of the foregoing standards.

IV. LICENSE ALLOCATION AND LICENSE DISTRIBUTION THROUGH SEASONS STANDARDS

- A. RFW partner ranches and CPW should view the license allocation as an opportunity to significantly help achieve DAU herd objectives, and in doing so will help improve land health and vegetative conditions that support livestock and wildlife. License allocations should be determined at the start of the cooperative agreement and only adjusted as necessary to meet herd health and objectives. Additionally, changes to license allocations should be in-line with DAU trends for Non-RFW public license allocations.
1. The total number of deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bighorn sheep, or total black bear licenses (public and private) allocated to a RFW operation shall be calculated as follows, and with adjustments made as described in paragraphs 2 through 5, below. Furthermore, the 3-year average used for calculating the ranch harvest objective is a 3-year running average.

$$\left\{ \frac{\text{Ranch acres occupied species habitat}}{\text{DAU acres occupied species habitat}} \right\} \times \text{3-yr Avg. Harv. Obj. (species \& sex in DAU)} = \text{Proportional Harvest Objective}$$

$$\left\{ \frac{\text{Proportional Harvest Objective (species and/or sex)}}{\text{Historic or predicted harvest success rate on the Ranch by license type}} \right\} = \text{Number of licenses for the Ranch}$$

2. Occupied species habitat shall be defined with the most current CPW species habitat maps produced by CPW GIS staff as a starting point and incorporate both ranch and local CPW knowledge. Determined occupied habitat acres are incorporated into the RFW Ranch Management Plan.
3. The above formula represents the proportional license allocation number for those species in areas with limited licenses. Female harvest objectives on a ranch will also be set in alignment using the male harvest as a proportion of the DAU male harvest objective (e.g. if Ranch male harvest is 3.5% of the DAU male harvest objective then the female harvest objective on a ranch may be calculated by multiplying the DAU female harvest objective by 3.5%) License allocations will not exceed this number,

though may be reduced when agreed upon by CPW and Ranch. Any adjustment to the proportional license allocation will be applied at the same rate to both private and public allocations across the species and sexes.

4. Ranches in areas where unlimited (OTC) licenses are used during regular rifle seasons, or where populations are over management objectives, with respect to/for a contract species, starting with the above formula, may apply up to, but not exceed, a 2.0 multiplier for such species. For those species for which there are OTC rifle licenses, the total number of public licenses will be equal to the total number of private licenses.
5. For those ranches seeking private license numbers under the above proportional license allocation, ranches must annually provide a minimum of thirty (30) public licenses, in total, of all species for which there is a public season established, except as follows. Exceptions are at the sole discretion of CPW and are incorporated into the RFW Ranch Management Plan.
 - a. Ranches may offer a minimum of twenty (20) public licenses in total for all species, if no female licenses for deer, or pronghorn are allocated for the ranch and elk are not a contract species.
 - b. Public license allocations may be reduced to not less than fifteen (15) public licenses in total for all species, if:
 - i. In the event of catastrophic changes in game densities, license allocations must be reduced for a period not expected to last more than 3 years. If greater than 3 years, then removal as a contract species should be pursued.
 - ii. Single species ranches.
 - iii. Ranches less than 15,000 acres.
6. In addition to the original RFW license allocation, where the species may be determined to be substantially over herd objective, or as a means to assist a ranch with meeting harvest objectives, CPW and RFW operations should make use of "Special Population Management" and "non-RFW" antlerless/doe licenses (see W2-#210,D.5. for restrictions), but not as a substitute for the original RFW license allocation.

B. Number of Seasons - Parks and Wildlife Commission regulations establish the minimum number of days allowed for public hunting seasons. These are minimum levels and in order to accommodate the number of public hunters licensed to hunt on a ranch, then establishing split seasons, or multiple season blocks may be needed to adequately distribute hunters and maintain reasonable hunting opportunity without excessive crowding.

C. In areas where there has been an expressed concern about elk movements onto and off of Ranches, the Ranch and CPW will strive to distribute hunters over seasons in order to achieve harvest, elk movement, and hunter satisfaction objectives. Ranches shall be expected to have some seasons (private and/or public) and licenses appropriately allocated to run concurrent with regular rifle deer and elk seasons. Furthermore, these seasons may be private or public and the amount of licenses allocated to these concurrently run seasons shall approximately equal or exceed 25% of the total sold private deer and elk licenses for the ranch calculated on a three year running average. These hunts may be composed of either private or public licensed hunters or both.

D. Licenses are valid only on the property of the ranch covered with a Cooperative Agreement with the State of Colorado as designated on the license. Under the following circumstances

CPW may authorize some licenses to be valid on multiple ranches with separate Cooperative Agreements.

1. All ranches must be Tier A and have current valid Cooperative Agreements. All ranches must be wholly owned and operated by the same person or corporation.
2. Public hunter satisfaction levels must meet high performance standard (meet or exceed 3.5 on hunter survey) in the RFW program on all ranches.
3. All ranches must be in the same DAU.
4. One of the ranches shall be designated as the Primary Limiting Ranch. This will typically be the ranch that can sustain the least amount of harvest or hunting pressure in comparison to other involved ranches. The maximum number of licenses (public and private) that are valid on multiple ranches shall not exceed the amount of licenses necessary to achieve maximum desired harvest amounts on the Primary Limiting Ranch and shall not harm the quality of public hunting conditions and public hunter service provided by the ranch.
5. The maximum number of public licenses valid on multiple ranches is equal to or less than the public share of licenses on the Primary Limiting Ranch.
6. The number of private licenses valid on multiple ranches shall not exceed the number of public licenses valid on multiple ranches. However, as may be negotiated, more licenses may be allocated for the public than for private distribution.

V. ENFORCEMENT OF RANCH RULES

A. Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulation #002-G provides that any person that hunts pursuant to a permit (license) issued by the CPW shall comply with the terms and conditions of that permit. Furthermore, CRS 24-4-104 (4) provides for the immediate suspension of a license where the licensee commits a deliberate and willful violation or where public health, safety and welfare require emergency action. RFW regulations require that as a provision for access and using their license, public hunters must sign a statement that they have been provided ranch rules, have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules.

B. As long as the ranch has consistently required the signature of such a statement for all public hunters, then CPW officers may cite hunters for failing to comply with the provisions of a license, and/or require hunters to immediately leave the ranch.

C. It is not the intent of the CPW that hunters be cited or dismissed from a ranch for minor or unintentional violations of ranch rules. Therefore, officers should use the lowest level of enforcement action that will gain compliance with ranch rules. If more serious actions are warranted due to deliberate and willful acts, or acts that jeopardize public health, safety, or welfare, then before or as soon as possible after such enforcement action is taken, officers should contact the Attorney General's Office, Counsel for CPW for assistance in developing a finding to support the action taken by an officer.

VI. SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR MOOSE & BIGHORN SHEEP

A. Access and Assistance - Ranches enrolled for moose or bighorn sheep shall provide:

1. Properly licensed moose or sheep hunters to be accompanied by up to two unarmed, non-hunting companions.
2. Except as provided by these guidelines, ranches shall provide all of the following services and the services provided must be described in the Ranch Management Plan.

- a. Scouting access to properly licensed bighorn sheep hunters and up to two companions per hunter for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive days within three (3) weeks preceding the opening of public bighorn sheep hunting season. Scouting access shall not prohibit the use of motor vehicles on any ranch road or four-wheel drive trail, except that the use of motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles may be prohibited or restricted.
 - b. Lodging or areas for camping in self-contained camping units on the ranch free of charge, if the hunt areas containing moose or bighorn sheep are more than 40 minutes of night driving time from nearby towns with lodging or legal camping areas.
 - c. Use of primitive "spike" camps within the ranch if the hunter has located bighorn sheep and determines that such a camp is needed for successful completion of the hunt.
 - d. Ranches with public bighorn sheep hunting seasons will not be required to meet the foregoing guideline if they provide at least all of the following services and such services are identified in the Management plan. Up to 7 days of preseason scouting mutually arranged between the hunter and the ranch, lodging or camping locations on the ranch property free of charge, allowance for hunters to use primitive "spike" camps on the ranch for up to 4 days at a time, and a knowledgeable hunting escort for familiarization with ranch boundaries and bighorn sheep herd locations on the ranch.
3. If ranches require the presence of ranch personnel or guides for public sheep or moose hunters, guide services shall be free of charge, and hunters will not be required to actually use the service or knowledge of guides or ranch personnel.

B. Seasons and License Distribution

- 1. Moose and bighorn sheep public seasons shall be negotiated between CPW and the Ranch in order to provide public hunters with high quality hunting opportunity and significant chance for successful harvest, if CPW and the Ranch do not agree on season structure, then the default season shall be as follows:
 - a. If the population size of moose or bighorn sheep can sustain only one bighorn ram or antlered moose or either-sex moose license per season, then the first license issued shall be a public license, the second license issued shall be a private license, the third license issued shall be a public license, and so forth.

These Ranching for Wildlife Guidelines are approved this date, to effectively implement the RFW program, and in accordance with Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations for Big Game and Turkey.



Reid DeWalt, Assistant Director
Aquatic, Terrestrial and Natural Resources

November 19, 2021

Date