



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Director's Office
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To: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission

From: Heather Dugan, Acting Director

Date: July 08, 2022

Re: The Division of Parks and Wildlife recommends denying the citizen petition to amend the rule that requires firearms carried on an OHV to be stored in a fully enclosed case

To promote safety and fair chase, the Parks and Wildlife Commission requires “[a]ll firearms, except pistols and revolvers, carried on an OHV during deer, elk, pronghorn or bear season [to] be fully unloaded (both the chamber and the magazine) and *fully enclosed* in a hard or soft case (no scabbards or cases with open ends or sides).” W-2, #209(C)(1) (emphasis added). For the second time in three years, Lee Bridgman petitions the Commission to change this rule to allow OHV users to carry firearms in cases that enclose only parts of a weapon—namely, the scope, action, and trigger—rather than the whole firearm. The Division of Parks and Wildlife recommends placing the petition on the consent agenda and denying it for the reasons below. If the Commission follows this recommendation and denies the petition via the consent agenda, this memo will express its rationale.

Mr. Bridgman first petitioned the Commission to change this rule in 2020. The Division recommended denying his petition because allowing OHV users to carry firearms in cases that are less than fully enclosed would frustrate the purpose of the rule, which is to promote safety and fair chase by making OHV users’ firearms less accessible. OHV users can cover more ground in less time than other hunters. Requiring them to carry firearms in fully enclosed cases slows them down, reduces their advantage over game animals, and makes hunting accidents less likely. For these reasons, the Commission followed the Division’s recommendation and denied Mr. Bridgman’s first petition.

Mr. Bridgman’s second petition just reiterates his first. He provides no new information that would support allowing OHV users to carry firearms in cases that aren’t fully enclosed. The Division therefore recommends denying Mr. Bridgman’s second petition for the same reasons.

