



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Director's Office
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216
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To: Joey Brown, Colorado Bowhunters Association
From: Krista Heiner, Regulations Manager
Date: January 25, 2022
Re: Denial of petition to change the maximum allowable let-off percentage for handheld compound bows

At the January 12, 2022 meeting of the Parks and Wildlife Commission (Commission), the Commission voted to deny your petition dated June 4, 2021 regarding the handheld bow let-off percentage. This memo conveys the Commission's rationale.

The Division recommended eliminating the maximum handheld compound bow let-off restriction entirely, instead of just increasing it from 80% to 85% as the petition outlined, for the following reasons:

1. Most other states, including the neighboring states of Wyoming, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, do not have restrictions on the maximum hand-held compound bow let-off percentage. As the petition outlines, Colorado remains one of only four states that specify any let-off percentage maximum.
2. Removing the restriction would give hunters additional flexibility when selecting gear and reduce confusion for out-of-state hunters. It also gives vendors of archery equipment in the state the ability to sell more types of equipment.
3. The Pope & Young Club has removed any let-off restrictions for hand-held, hand-released bows in their guidelines. And, the Archery Trade Association supports the elimination of the maximum bow let-off percentage.
4. It is uncommon to enforce the 80% let-off restriction. Officers in the field rarely have the tools necessary to measure the let-off for a bow, and very few, if any, citations have been written regarding this regulation.
5. Having a maximum bow let-off restriction could be considered a potential barrier to participation since individual strength varies across users and higher relief values may facilitate earlier entry, longer participation by certain individuals, and greater shot accuracy.

The Commission approved the Division's recommendation, eliminating the maximum handheld compound bow let-off restriction. The approved regulations will be effective March 2, 2022.

