COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

TO: Parks and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Andrea Gess, Licensing Deputy and Danielle Isenhart, LRCO Section Manager
DATE: August 20,2026
SUBJECT: Proposed Preference Point Fee for Deer, Elk, Bear, Pronghorn and Turkey

For each of CPW's big game and turkey limited license draws, customers submit an application for each species they would like to hunt (or receive a preference point for). On each species application, customers apply for specific hunt codes, inputting up to four hunt code choices per species application, with the first choice being their most preferred. When CPW runs the draws, the draws are run by hunt code with the first choice going first through all submitted applications for that hunt code, and all other first choice hunt codes before moving to second, third and fourth choices.

For limited licenses, CPW also has allocation rules dictating what percentage of the approved hunt code quota should be drawn by residents vs. nonresidents. This percentage is sometimes referred to as a nonresident cap because it sets limits on the percentage of licenses that nonresidents can obtain. If there is not sufficient resident demand, these licenses can be issued to nonresidents for deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, and turkey (starting in 2028). Currently those allocation rules only apply to first choice license hunt codes. Once we get to the second choice, residents receive no preference over nonresidents and caps do not apply. Starting in 2028 with the implementation of the Draw Working Group changes, the allocation rules will apply to the first **and second** choice hunt codes.

This policy change will result in more residents drawing limited licenses than they do currently once the second choice hunt codes also have a nonresident cap. As nonresidents pay more per license than residents, this will lead to a revenue loss for CPW. What is unknown is how much exactly that revenue loss will be. Using the 2025 Draw results, in the table below we illustrate the ***maximum*** amount of revenue CPW could lose by having a resident allocation percentage applied *to all four choices*. Existing draw reports do not allow us to calculate how much revenue we could lose after only the first two choices.

2025 Data	NR LicensesOver NR Cap	NR Price	R Price	Difference in Price	Potential loss (if NR Lic. over cap x Price Difference)
Elk	5792	$825.03	$67.86	$757.17	$4,385,528.64
Deer	1338	$494.47	$49.15	$445.32	$595,838.16
Pronghorn	14	$494.47	$49.15	$445.32	$6,234.48
Bear	83	$294.75	$61.62	$233.13	$19,349.79
				Total	$5,006,951.07

Potential to lose 5 million annually

To help offset this range of revenue loss, the Commission asked for new preference point fees to be implemented for deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, and turkey. Currently, preference points for these species are free of charge, unlike the $50 and $100 residents and nonresidents pay, respectively, for moose, sheep, and goat preference points. It is important to note that **preference point fees are optional fees that customers can opt-out of paying if they do not wish to obtain an additional species preference point for the year.**

In the table below we have completed a financial analysis of how much annual revenue we could potentially bring in to help off-set the potential five million in revenue lost from the allocation change with different resident and nonresident preference point fee amounts, at different opt-in rates.

Potential Revenue From PP Fees 2025 Data	90% Opt In	75% Opt In	50% Opt In
$5 R/ $10 NR	$1,400,715.00	$1,167,262.50	$778,175.00
$8 R/ $16 NR	$2,241,144.00	$1,867,620.00	$1,245,080.00
$10 R/ $20 NR	$2,801,430.00	$2,334,525.00	$1,556,350.00

*Youth excluded, only for PP gained/lost on first choice

We cannot precisely predict opt-in rates for purchasing a preference point fee for each of these species. An opt-in rate of 90% for these five species is likely unrealistic as it is anticipated that the opt-in rate will be lower than for sheep, goat and moose (around 90% currently) and the participation (or opt-in) rate will be driven, in part, by the dollar amount established for this new fee. As there are many unknowns at this time, including the precise amount of revenue loss from the allocation change, application impacts from the other 2028 draw changes, and willingness to pay for these new preference point fees, the agency would like to begin with a lower preference point fee. These preference point fees will be re-evaluated and adjusted in subsequent years especially if the revenue loss proves to be too financially significant.

Other Western States that have Preference Point Fees:

**Please note that each state operates differently on how points are awarded and used, and many require a qualifying license or something similar.*

Montana-$100 for nonresidents, no preference points for residents.
South Dakota-$5 for residents and $20 for nonresidents
Wyoming-$7 for moose and bighorn sheep for residents, nonresident prices vary-$31 pronghorn, $41 deer, $52 elk, $150 for moose or bighorn.