ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date:	October 23, 2026

ISSUE:	**Should the description of the boundary of GMU 31, GMU 30 and S75 be changed?**

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

The boundary descriptions for GMU 31 and S75 are the same in the W-0 regulations. Over the last few years, hunters have expressed confusion about the exact boundary location, as the current description suggests the southern boundary is at the Colorado River, which runs through the town of Palisade. This confusion has led hunters to believe that wildlife between the rim of the Bookcliffs and the Colorado River was fair game under tags issued for GMU 31 and S75. To avoid this confusion in the future, the following are recommended changes to the written description of the boundaries of GMU 31 and S75.

As stated in Chapter W-0 General Provisions Regulations Article VIII:
S75 and GMU 31 Description:
“Those portions of Mesa, Garfield and Rio Blanco counties bounded on the north by the Colorado River-White River divide; on the east by the Roan Creek-Parachute Creek divide and Kelly Gulch; on the south by the Colorado River; and on the west by the Bookcliffs, the Little Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, the Big Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, and the East Salt Creek-Roan Creek divide.“

Proposed change in bold:
“Those portions of Mesa, Garfield and Rio Blanco counties bounded on the north by Colorado River-White River divide; on east by Roan Creek - Parachute Creek divide and Kelly Gulch, on the south by the Colorado River **and the rim of the Bookcliffs;** and on the west by the **rim of the** Bookcliffs, the Little Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, the Big Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, and the East Salt Creek-Roan Creek divide.“

GMU 30 Description:
“Those portions of Garfield and Mesa counties bounded on the north by the West Salt Creek-Bitter Creek divide, Evacuation Creek-Salt Creeks divide and the Douglas Creek-Salt Creek divide; on the east by the East Salt Creek-Roan Creek divide, the Big Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, the Little Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide and the Bookcliffs; on the south by the Colorado River; and on the west by the Colorado-Utah State line.”

Proposed change in bold:
“Those portions of Garfield and Mesa counties bounded on the north by the West Salt Creek-Bitter Creek divide, Evacuation Creek-Salt Creeks divide and the Douglas Creek-Salt Creek divide; on the east by the East Salt Creek-Roan Creek divide, the Big Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, the Little Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide and the **rim of the** Bookcliffs; on the south by the Colorado River; and on the west by the Colorado-Utah State line.”

This proposed changes are NOT a boundary change; it's just a change in the description to clarify the regulatory boundary.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

Informal conversations with hunters has been had over the years. The issue paper was posted for public review on Engage CPW and 92.8% of respondents (n=250) support the proposed boundary clarification.

GIS was consulted as to the reasonableness of the changes.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*: Change the description of GMU 31 and sheep unit S75 to:**
   "Those portions of Mesa, Garfield and Rio Blanco counties bounded on the north by the Colorado River-White River divide; on the east by the Roan Creek-Parachute Creek divide and Kelly Gulch; on the south by the Colorado River and the rim of the Bookcliffs; and on the west by the rim of the Bookcliffs, the Little Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, the Big Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, and the East Salt Creek-Roan Creek divide."

   And would change the description of GMU 30 to:

   "Those portions of Garfield and Mesa counties bounded on the north by the West Salt Creek-Bitter Creek divide, Evacuation Creek-Salt Creeks divide and the Douglas Creek-Salt Creek divide; on the east by the East Salt Creek-Roan Creek divide, the Big Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide, the Little Salt Wash-Roan Creek divide and the rim of the Bookcliffs; on the south by the Colorado River; and on the west by the Colorado-Utah State line."

2. **Status quo**

Issue Raised by:	Genevieve Fuller, Terrestrial Biologist; Scott Hoyer, DWM - DeBeque; Katherine Brock, DWM Fruita; Albert Romero, AAWM Area 7; Travis Bybee, AAWM Area 7; Kirk Oldham, AWM Area 7
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brad Banulis, NW Senior Terrestrial Biologist, Travis Black, NW Regional Supervisor

APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	**NO**
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	**YES**
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	NW Terrestrial, Area 7
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	**YES**
COMPLIES WITH THE BIG GAME SEASON STRUCTURE	**YES**