

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-11 - WILDLIFE PARKS AND UNREGULATED WILDLIFE

Note: Amendments to the Rules are added in red text and deletions are in red text with strikethrough.

ARTICLE II - License Requirements, License Exemptions, License Types, Application and Record Requirements, and License Renewal.

#1103 – Exemptions from License Requirements:

- A. Domestic animals - The following animals are considered domestic and are exempted from the requirements of Parks and Wildlife Commission regulations:

Domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) including hybrids with wild canids
Domestic cat (*Felis catus*) including hybrids with wild felines
Domestic horse (*Equus caballus*) including hybrids with *Equus assinus*
Domestic ass, burro, and donkey (*Equus assinus*)
Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*)
Domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*)
Domestic goat (*Capra hircus*)
Domestic swine (*Sus scrofa domestica*)
Domesticated races of hamsters (*Mesocricetus* spp.)
Domesticated races of mink (*Mustela vison*)
Domesticated races of guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*)
Domesticated races of gerbils (*Meriones unguiculatus*)
Domesticated races of chinchillas (*Chinchilla laniger*)
Domesticated races of rats (*Rattus norvegicus* and *Rattus*)
Domesticated races of mice (*Mus musculus*)
Domesticated races of European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
Domesticated races of chickens (*Gallus*)
Domesticated races of turkey (*Meleagria gallopavo*) distinguished morphologically from wild birds
Domesticated races of ducks and geese (*Anatidae*) distinguishable morphologically from wild birds
Domesticated races of European ferret (*Mustela putorius*)
Domesticated races of pigeons) and feral pigeons (*Columba domestica* and *Columba livia*)
Domesticated races of guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*)
Domesticated races of peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)
~~Domestic Bison (*Bison*) including hybrids with domestic cattle,~~ meaning privately owned bison, bison legally reduced to captivity, bison that have escaped captivity, and bison owned by or lawfully reduced to captivity by an Indian tribe, including hybrids with domestic cattle.
Asian Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*)
Ostrich (*Struthio* spp.)
Llama (*Lama glama*)
Rhea (*Rhea* spp.)
Emu (*Dromiceius* spp.)
Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)
Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)
Yak (*Bos grunniens*)
Camels (*Camelus bactrianus* and *Camelus dromedarius*)

Basis and Purpose:

Implementation of SB25-053 Protect Wild Bison Act

On January 1, 2026, Colorado Senate Bill 25-053 will establish a dual classification system for bison in the state. This new law distinguishes between "wild bison," which are classified as big game wildlife, and "domestic bison," which are privately owned bison, bison legally reduced to captivity, bison that have escaped lawful captivity, and bison owned by or lawfully reduced to captivity by an Indian tribe, including hybrids with domestic cattle. This new framework aims at addressing bison crossing into Colorado from the Utah Book Cliffs herd and provides a proactive way to manage potential conflicts with landowners and other wildlife. The new rules include several updates to existing regulations, including adding new hunt code classifications, updating definitions, and adopting license fees.

The changes offer a balanced and responsible approach to a complex issue. Instead of immediately opening a general hunting season, the regulations establish a measured and controlled process for issuing licenses only if a need arises. If needed, hunting licenses will only be issued in three specific situations including for game damage (regulation #271), disease (regulation #272) or for population movement control (regulation #230). Since no diseases of concern have been detected in the Book Cliffs herd, these regulations are currently a preventative measure, ensuring that any future issues can be addressed with an established procedure.

There are now two ways to obtain a wild bison license and the process depends on the reason for the issuance of the license. For licenses issued by the Director pursuant to regulation #230, hunters must apply to be included on a bison roster. A random selection process from that roster will only be used if a need for these licenses arises, so it's likely that zero licenses will be issued in many years. For licenses issued pursuant to regulations #271, and #272, the normal issuing process for those types of licenses will be followed. To help with data collection, all successful hunters must present their harvested bison to the Division for inspection within five working days. While, unsuccessful hunters must complete a mandatory questionnaire within 30 days of the season's end. This data will provide valuable information on wild bison distribution and disease status. Lastly, the new regulations specify the potential damage amounts caused by wild bison for grazing, forage and crops. The changes aim to manage issues such as competition with livestock and other wildlife, as well as damage to private property.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager by emailing dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us or by visiting the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO, 80216.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED, OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO ON THIS 13TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.

APPROVED:
Richard Reading
Chair

ATTEST:
Eden Vardy
Secretary

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-0 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

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ARTICLE I - Definitions

#000 – The following definitions supplement the statutory definitions found in the Wildlife Act including, but not limited to, those definitions found in section 33-1-102, C.R.S.

A. General Definitions Including Manner of Take Definitions

1. **"Aggregate"** when applied to bag and possession limits, means the total number of species which are covered by such bag and possession limits. Any combination of the species may be possessed up to the total number established as the aggregate bag and possession limits.
2. **"Air gun"** means any rifle or handgun .177 caliber or larger firing pellets, slugs, or round ball ammunition powered by high pressure air or compressed inert gas. This includes devices referred to as pellet guns or pneumatic weapons.
3. **"Archery"** means the use of a hand-held bow.
4. **"Bag Limit"** means the maximum number of wildlife which may be taken in a single day during an established open season. This includes any wildlife which are consumed or donated during the same day they were legally taken. The terms "bag limit," "daily bag" and "bag" are considered to have the same meaning.
5. **"Baiting"** means the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of any salt, mineral, grain, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement for wildlife.
6. **"Bison"**
 - a. "Domestic bison" means privately owned bison, bison legally reduced to captivity, bison that have escaped lawful captivity, and bison owned by or lawfully reduced to captivity by an Indian tribe. Domestic bison, including hybrids with domestic cattle, are domestic animals pursuant to regulation #1103.
 - b. "Wild bison" means the big game species bison.
- ~~6.7.~~ **"Crossbow"** means a bow which is attached at a right angle to a stock with a mechanical mechanism for holding the bow string in a cocked position and fired from the shoulder.
- ~~7.8.~~ **"Feral Hog"** means any species or hybrid of species from the family Suidae (European boar, Eurasian boar, Russian boar, feral hog) or the family Tayassuidae (Javelina and peccary), which possesses one or more morphological characteristic distinguishing it from domestic swine including, but not limited to, an elongated snout, visible tusks, muscular shoulders with small hams and short loins, coarse hair, or a predominant ridge of hair along its back. For the purposes of these regulations, any swine running at large which possesses one or more of the above characteristics, may be presumed to be a feral hog, unless a person has received actual notice that the swine has escaped containment and its return is actively sought, in which case the person should report its location to the owner, if known, and the Division and the Department of Agriculture.
- ~~8.9.~~ **"Handgun"** means any pistol or revolver having no shoulder stock or attachment.

9.10. "Hand-held bow" means a long bow, recurved bow, or compound bow on which the string is not drawn mechanically or held mechanically under tension. String releases or mechanical releases which are hand-drawn and hand-held with no other attachment or connection to the bow other than to the bowstring are lawful devices.

40.11. Licenses

- a. **"Leftover license"** means a limited license, including an electronic limited license, which is leftover after the primary application and drawing process.
- b. **"Limited license"** means any license, including an electronic license, which is limited in number by regulation and which is issued through the drawing process.
- c. **"Over the counter license"** means a license, including an electronic license, that may be purchased at a license agent. Most over the counter licenses are unlimited in number, but some may have an established cap.
- d. **"Private Land Only license"** means a limited license, including an electronic limited license, valid only for use on private land and State Trust Lands not leased by the Division, excluding those limited licenses issued as part of the Ranching for Wildlife program. Contact the State Land Board for access restrictions.
- e. **"Unlimited license"** means a hunting license, including an electronic license, and carcass tag when appropriate which is not restricted in quantity and which is sold by license agents throughout the state and is not valid in any unit where licenses are available only through application and computer or hand drawn selection.

44.12. "Mentor" means a person eighteen years of age or older who holds a valid hunter education certificate or who was born before January 1, 1949, and accompanies a youth or apprentice while hunting. A person whose hunting and fishing license privileges are suspended can not be a mentor.

42.13. "Muzzle-loading rifle or musket" means a firearm fired from the shoulder, with a single barrel which fires a single patched round ball or bullet.

43.14. "Pre-charged pneumatic air gun" means an air gun that is charged from an external high compression source such as an air compressor, air tank, or external hand pump.

44.15. "Private use" means the possession of wildlife only for private enjoyment and not intended to be sold, traded, bartered, or entered into commerce.

45.16. "Privately-owned game birds" means game birds held in private ownership and otherwise acquired in accordance with Commission regulations.

46.17. "Processed meat" means those edible parts of wildlife which have been cut into normal portions and wrapped for storage. It does not include game meat that is whole, has been quartered, or has not been packaged into normally accepted butcher's portions including but not limited to steaks, roasts, loins, chops, and ground meat.

47.18. "Rifle" means a firearm fired from the shoulder, with a rifled bore, having a barrel length of sixteen (16) inches or more and a minimum overall length of twenty-six (26) inches.

48.19. "Shotgun" means a firearm fired from the shoulder with a smooth bore, having a barrel length of eighteen (18) inches or more and a minimum overall length of twenty-six (26) inches.

19.20. “**Slingbow**” means a hand-held device, not drawn or held mechanically, with the arms or attachment points to which an elastic band is attached for propelling an arrow. The term also includes string releases or mechanical releases which are hand-drawn and hand-held with no other attachment or connection to the slingbow other than to the bowstring. Wrist-brace attachments are considered normal components of a slingbow.

20.21. “**Slingshot**” means a hand-held device, not drawn or held mechanically, with the arms or attachment points to which an elastic band is attached for propelling small stones or metal projectiles. Wrist-brace attachments and non-elastic projectile pouches are considered normal components of a slingshot.

21.22. “**State Trust Lands**” means those lands owned or under the control of the State Board of Land Commissioners.

ARTICLE II - License Types and Requirements

#001 - Hunt Codes

A. Hunt Codes are a series of eight sequential letters and numbers which denote the species, sex of animal, unit number, season, and hunt type for each choice shown on the application:

1. Species - The first character of the hunt code is a letter denoting species:

A for pronghorn
B for black bear
C for desert bighorn sheep
D for deer
E for elk
G for mountain goat
H for small game or furbearer
L for mountain lion
M for moose
N for wild bison
P for greater prairie-chicken
S for rocky mountain bighorn sheep
T for wild turkey

#002 - License Requirements

O. Antler and Horn Collection

These regulations govern the collection of shed antlers, shed horns, or antlers or horns naturally attached to skull plates.

1. On any lands east of I-25, any person may, with lawful access, collect shed antlers or horns at any time. On private lands west of I-25, any person may, with lawful access, collect shed antlers or horns at any time. Public lands west of I-25 are closed to collection from January 1 through April 30, annually. On public lands west of I-25, any person may collect shed antlers or horns from May 1 through December 31, annually, except in GMUs 54, 55, 66, 67, and 551 where the collection of shed antlers or horns shall further be prohibited between legal sunset and 10:00 AM from May 1 through May 15 annually.

2. Possession of antlers or horns on public lands west of I-25 from January 1 through April 30 is prohibited. Possession of antlers or horns on public lands in GMUs 54, 55, 66, 67, and 551 between legal sunset and 10:00 AM from May 1 through May 15 annually is prohibited. Possession of antlers or horns on private property without lawful access is prohibited. Each antler or horn will be treated singularly for the purpose of this regulation, unless naturally attached together on a skull plate.
3. For the purpose of this regulatory provision, the following terms have the following definitions:
 - a. **“Antlers”** means the bony, deciduous appendages protruding from the heads of members of the deer family (Cervidae), including deer, elk, and moose.
 - b. **“Collect”** means to search for, locate, stockpile, or possess shed antlers, shed horns, or antlers or horns naturally attached to skull plates of big game animals on public land or attempt to search for, locate, stockpile, or possess shed antlers, shed horns, or antlers or horns naturally attached to skull plates of big game animals on public land.
 - c. **“Horns”** means the hard, permanent or deciduous appendages protruding from the heads of bighorn sheep, **wild bison**, mountain goats, or pronghorn.
 - d. **“Public land(s)”** means federal lands and lands owned or administered by the Division.
 - e. **“Shed antler”** or **“shed horn”** means one or more antlers and/or horns having become naturally separated from the skull.

ARTICLE III - Evidence of Sex/Species/Antler Point Compliance

#003 -

- A. Except as provided below, no person shall have in possession or transport the carcass, or portion of a carcass, of any game wildlife unless evidence of sex remains naturally attached thereto. The fact that a carcass or portion of a carcass is merely accompanied by an unattached head, horns, antlers, genitals, or other evidence of sex does not satisfy this requirement. If less than twenty (20) pounds of big game meat is possessed or transported with a donation certificate, evidence of sex is not required. Once the carcass is cut into processed meat (commercially or otherwise); cut, wrapped and frozen; or stored at the residence of the licensee, evidence of sex is no longer required.
- B. In those units, or portions thereof, where antler point or horn restrictions exist for deer, elk, mountain goats and bighorn sheep, any of the following must accompany the carcass as evidence of compliance with point restrictions:
 1. Deer and elk
 - a. Head or skull plate with antlers naturally attached.
 2. Mountain goats, ~~and~~ bighorn sheep, **and wild bison**
 - a. Head or intact skull with horns naturally attached.
- C. Any of the following, which must be naturally attached to the carcass or a portion of the carcass as described in paragraph A of this section, shall be considered evidence of sex:
 1. Deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, **and wild bison**
 - a. Male - head, including any antlers or horns, testicle, scrotum, or penis.
 - b. Female - head, udder (mammary), or vulva.

2. Black bear and Mountain Lion
 - a. Male - testicles or penis.
 - b. Female - vulva.
 3. Small game birds (except pheasant), migratory birds (except dove and band-tailed pigeons) and waterfowl.
 - a. The head or fully feathered wing.
 4. Pheasant - the head or fully feathered wing or foot with a visible spur.
 5. Wild Turkey - the beard is required during spring seasons only.
- D.** If a carcass is in more than one piece, evidence of sex need only be attached to one portion.
- E.** No evidence of sex is required for small game mammals or furbearers.

APPENDIX E - Species Scientific Name Index

- A. The following is a list of species referred to in Wildlife Commission Regulations (see Chapter 11 for domestic animals and unregulated wildlife.)

5. Mammals

Abert's squirrel	<i>Sciurus aberti</i>
American mink	<i>Mustela vision</i>
American pika	<i>Ochotona princeps</i>
Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>
Barbary sheep	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
Big Brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>
Big Free-tailed bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>
Bison	<i>Bison bison</i>
Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
Black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>
Black-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>
Botta's pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>
Brazilian free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>
Brush mouse	<i>Peromyscus boylii</i>
Bushy-tailed woodrat	<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>
California myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>
Canyon mouse	<i>Peromyscus crinitus</i>
Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>
Cliff chipmunk	<i>Neotamias dorsalis</i>
Colorado chipmunk	<i>Neotamias quadrivittatus</i>
Common hog-nosed skunk	<i>Conepatus mesoleucus</i>
Cottontail rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Crawford's desert shrew	<i>Notiosorex crawfordi</i>
Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
Desert bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>
Desert woodrat	<i>Neotoma lepida</i>
Dwarf shrew	<i>Sorex nanus</i>
Eastern mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Eastern pipistrelle	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>
Eastern red bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>
Eastern spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>
Eastern white-throated woodrat	<i>Neotoma leucodon</i>
Eastern woodrat	<i>Neotoma floridana</i>
Elliot's short-tailed shrew	<i>Blarina hylophaga</i>
Ermine (Short-tailed weasel)	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
European ferret	<i>Mustela putorius</i>
Fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>
Golden-mantled ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>
Gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>
Great Basin pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus parvus</i>
Grizzly bear	<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>
Gunnison's prairie dog	<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>
Hispid cotton rat	<i>Sigmodon hispidus</i>
Hispid pocket mouse	<i>Chaetopidus hispidus</i>
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>

Hopi chipmunk	<i>Tamias rufus</i>
Kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>
Least chipmunk	<i>Neotamias minimus</i>
Least shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>
Little brown myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>
Long-eared myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>
Long-legged myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>
Long-tailed vole	<i>Microtus longicaudus</i>
Long-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>
Marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>
Masked shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
Meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>
Meadow vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
Merriam's shrew	<i>Sorex merriami</i>
Mexican woodrat	<i>Neotoma mexicana</i>
Mogollon vole	<i>Microtus mogollonensis</i>
Montane shrew	<i>Sorex monticolus</i>
Montane vole	<i>Microtus montanus</i>
Moose	<i>Alces alces shirasi</i>
Mouflon	<i>Ovis orientalis orientalis</i>
Mountain goat	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>
Mountain lion	<i>Puma concolor</i>
Mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>
Nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>
North American porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
Northern grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>
Northern pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>
Northern river otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>
Northern rock mouse	<i>Peromyscus nasutus</i>
Olive-backed pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>
Ord's kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>
Pine marten	<i>Martes martes</i>
Pine squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
Pinyon mouse	<i>Peromyscus truei</i>
Plains harvest mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys montanus</i>
Plains pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus flavescens</i>
Prairie vole	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>
Preble's meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>
Pronghorn	<i>Antilocapra Americana</i>
Pygmy shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Ringtail	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>
Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>
Rocky Mountain elk	<i>Cervus elaphus canadensis</i>
Sagebrush vole	<i>Lemmiscus curtatus</i>
Short-tailed (Ermine) weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
Silky pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus flavus</i>
Silver-haired bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>
Snowshoe hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>
Southern plains woodrat	<i>Neotoma micropus</i>
Southern red-backed vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>

Spotted ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus spilosoma</i>
Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
Swift fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>
Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>
Uinta chipmunk	<i>Neotamias umbrinus</i>
Virginia opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
Water shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>
Western harvest mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>
Western heather vole	<i>Phenacomys intermedius</i>
Western jumping mouse	<i>Zapus princeps</i>
Western pipistrelle	<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>
Western small-footed myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>
Western Spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>
Western white-throated woodrat	<i>Neotoma albigula</i>
White-footed mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
White-tailed antelope squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus leucurus</i>
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
White-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>
White-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
Wyoming ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus elegans</i>
Yuma myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>

Basis and Purpose:

Implementation of SB25-053 Protect Wild Bison Act

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The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1106, C.R.S.

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APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF

COLORADO THIS 13TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.

**APPROVED:
Richard Reading
Chair**

**ATTEST:
Eden Vardy
Secretary**

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-2 - BIG GAME

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ARTICLE I – General Provisions

#203 – Manner of Take

See also #000 in Chapter 0 of these regulations for other applicable manner of take definitions.

- A. The following are legal methods of take for all species and seasons listed in this chapter, except as otherwise noted. Any method of take not listed herein shall be prohibited, except as otherwise provided by statute or these regulations:
1. Rifles using center-fire cartridges of .24 caliber or larger, having expanding bullets of at least seventy (70) grains in weight, except:
 - a. for elk and moose where the minimum bullet weight is eighty-five (85) grains, and with a rated impact energy one hundred (100) yards from the muzzle of at least one thousand (1000) foot pounds as determined by the manufacturer's rating,
 - b. for wild bison where the minimum caliber is .264 and minimum bullet weight is one hundred-forty (140) grains,
 - c. ~~and except~~ for mountain lion where any center-fire rifle using bullets of at least forty-five (45) grains and producing at least four hundred (400) foot pounds of energy at the muzzle may be used.
 - ~~a-d.~~ Provided further that any semiautomatic rifle used shall not hold more than six (6) rounds in the magazine and chamber combined. A fully automatic rifle is prohibited.
 2. Muzzle-loading rifles and smoothbore muskets, provided the minimum caliber shall be forty (.40) for all big game except for elk, ~~and~~ moose, ~~and wild bison~~ when hunting with conical bullets and fifty (.50) caliber when hunting with round ball bullets. The minimum caliber for elk, ~~and~~ moose, ~~and wild bison~~ shall be fifty (.50) when hunting with conical bullets and fifty-four (.54) when hunting with round ball bullets. All muzzle-loading rifles and smoothbore muskets from forty (.40) caliber through fifty (.50) caliber must use a bullet of at least 170 grains in weight. All muzzle-loading rifles and smoothbore muskets greater than fifty (.50) caliber must use bullets of at least 210 grains in weight.
 - a. During the muzzle-loading firearms seasons for deer, elk, pronghorn, bear, ~~and~~ moose, ~~and wild bison~~ only lawful muzzle-loaders and smoothbore muskets may be used by muzzle-loading license holders.
 - b. During the muzzle-loading firearm seasons for deer, elk, pronghorn, bear, ~~and~~ moose, ~~and wild bison~~ the following additional restrictions apply:

1. Propellant/Powders: The use of pelletized powder systems and smokeless powder are prohibited.
 2. Projectiles: Sabots are prohibited. For the purposes of this regulation cloth patches are not sabots.
 3. Loading: Firearms must load from the muzzle. Firearms which can be loaded from the breech are prohibited.
 4. Sights: Any muzzle-loading rifle or smoothbore musket with any sighting device other than open or "iron" sights is prohibited.
 5. Electronic or battery-powered devices cannot be incorporated into or attached to the muzzle-loading firearm.
3. Handheld bows, including compound bows, using arrows equipped with a broadhead with an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8ths of an inch with no less than two steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface.
- a. During the archery seasons for deer, elk, pronghorn, bear, sheep, goat, ~~and~~ moose, ~~and wild bison~~ only lawful hand-held bows may be used by archery license holders.
 - b. Bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds, ~~except for wild bison where the minimum draw weight is 50 pounds.~~
 - c. No portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, arrow rest or other device, excluding the cable(s) and bowstring, that attaches to the bow's riser can contact, support and/or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height.
 - d. Bows can propel only a single arrow at a time and no mechanism for automatically loading arrows is allowed.
 - e. Equipment using scopes, electronic or battery-powered devices cannot be incorporated into or attached to the bow or arrow, with the exception of lighted nocks on arrows and recording devices on bows that cast no light towards the target and do not aid in range finding, sighting, or shooting the bow.
 - f. Hydraulic or pneumatic technology cannot be used to derive or store energy to propel the arrow. Explosive arrows are prohibited.
4. Shotguns, no smaller than twenty (20) gauge and firing a single slug.
5. Crossbows, provided the minimum draw weight is at least one hundred twenty-five (125) pounds and has a minimum draw length of fourteen (14) inches as measured from the front of the bow to the nocking point of the draw string and contain a positive mechanical safety device. In addition, the bolt must be at least sixteen (16) inches in length equipped with a broadhead with an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8th of an inch with no

less than two steel cutting edges and each cutting edge must be in the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface.

- a. Crossbows are not legal during the archery seasons for deer, elk, pronghorn, bear, sheep, goat, ~~and~~ moose, ~~and~~ wild bison.

~~6. Handguns, provided they have a minimum barrel length of four (4) inches and ~~comply with the following criteria:~~~~

~~7.6. Except for mountain lion, use a .24 caliber or larger diameter expanding bullet with a rated impact energy of at least 550 ft. pounds at 50 yards as determined by the manufacturer, ~~except:-~~~~

- a. For mountain lion ~~only~~, use a centerfire handgun using bullets of at least 45 grains and producing at least 400 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle, as determined by the manufacturer.

~~a.b. For wild bison, use bullets of at least .429 caliber and a minimum case length of 1.285 inches, or any rifle caliber of .264 caliber and one hundred-forty (140) grains or larger used in a handgun.~~

#205 – Annual Bag Limits and Maximum Numbers of Licenses per Person

- A. Deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion, moose, rocky mountain bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, ~~and~~ wild bison.

The annual bag and possession limit for deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion, rocky mountain bighorn sheep, ~~and~~ mountain goat, ~~and~~ wild bison shall be the total number of animals taken on all licenses which can be legally obtained by the hunter for each species during that license year, as established in the following lists. Big game taken during a hunting season established as a portion of the preceding license year's hunting seasons shall be counted as part of the preceding year's bag limit. When a license allows hunting in more than one Game Management Unit, the unit listed in the hunt code on the license shall determine the maximum number of annual licenses a license holder may obtain for that species.

Notwithstanding the ("List A," "List B," "List C") license categories set forth in this regulation, any license that is administratively converted to a private-land-only license as part of the Landowner Preference Program will retain the ("List A," "List B," "List C") status of its original hunt code.

1. Deer

- a. One License - Any hunter may obtain one deer license.
- b. Two Licenses - A hunter may obtain two deer licenses if at least one of them is:
 - 1. a private land only antlered license for GMUs 29, 38, 51, 391 and 461,
 - 2. a private land only antlerless license,
 - 3. an over-the-counter either-sex whitetail only license,

4. an either-sex whitetail only license, except Ranching for Wildlife license, for GMUs 59, 69, 84, 581,
 5. an antlerless whitetail only license, except Ranching for Wildlife license, or
 6. an antlerless license, except for Ranching for Wildlife license, for GMUs 15, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 181, 361, 371, 421, 431, 444, 471.
 7. a license issued for hunt code DE087O2X, DE093O2X, DM009L1R, or DM951P5R.
- c. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may also obtain any number of the following deer licenses:
1. an auction license,
 2. a raffle license,
 3. a game damage license,
 4. a special population management license (except that a hunter may not purchase more than one extra antlerless Ranching for Wildlife license as provided in #271(A)(2)) , a special allocation Ranching for Wildlife license for donation to youths or hunters with mobility impairments,
 5. a disease management license,
 6. a replacement license for an animal found CWD positive,
 7. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J).
 8. an Outreach license, as provided in #206(B)(4)(f).
 9. a license issued for hunt code DF029P5R, DF038P5R, DF038L1R, DF056L1R, DF069L1R, DF085P5R, DF087O2X, DF091P5X, DF092P5X, DF093O2X, DF096P5X, DF096P6X, DF101O2X, DF104L3R, DF391P5R or DF481P5R.

2. Elk

- a. One License - Any hunter may obtain one elk license.
- b. Two Licenses - A hunter may obtain two elk licenses if at least one of them is
 1. a private land only antlerless license,
 2. an over the counter antlerless archery license,
 3. an antlerless license, except for Ranching for Wildlife license, issued for GMUs 1, 2, 6, 10, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 50, 52, 82, 85, 86, 133, 134,

140, 141, 142, 161, 171, 181, 201, 411, 421, 431, 471, 500, 501, 512, 682, 691, 791, 851, or 861,

4. a license issued for hunt codes EF009L1R, EM682P5R or EM682P6R.

c. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may also obtain any number of the following elk licenses:

1. antlerless private land only license for GMUs 104, 391 or 461,
2. any over the counter either-sex license, except archery license, issued for GMUs 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, or 951,
3. a license issued for hunt code, EF020L3R, or EF128L1R.
4. an auction license,
5. a raffle license,
6. a game damage license,
7. a special population management license (except that a hunter may not purchase more than one extra antlerless Ranching for Wildlife license as provided in #271(A)(2)) , a special allocation Ranching for Wildlife license for donation to youths or hunters with mobility impairments,
8. a disease management license,
9. a replacement license for an animal found CWD positive,
10. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J).
11. an Outreach license, as provided in #206(B)(4)(f).

3. Pronghorn

- a. One license - Any hunter may obtain one pronghorn license.
- b. Two licenses - A hunter may obtain two pronghorn licenses if at least one of them is:
 1. a private land only license,
 2. a doe license, except for Ranching for Wildlife license, issued for GMUs 105, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146 or 147,

- c. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may also obtain any number of the following pronghorn licenses:
 - 1. an auction license,
 - 2. a raffle license,
 - 3. a game damage license, if available,
 - 4. a special population management license, a special allocation Ranching for Wildlife license for donation to youths or hunters with mobility impairments,
 - 5. a disease management license, if available,
 - 6. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J).
 - 7. an Outreach license, as provided in #206(B)(4)(f).
- 4. Bear
 - a. One license - Any hunter may obtain one bear license.
 - b. Two licenses - A hunter may obtain two bear licenses if at least one of them is a private land only license or a bear license, except for a Ranching for Wildlife license, in GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 131, 161, 171, 201, 211, 214, 231, 301, 361, 391, 411, 421, 431, 441, 444, 461, 471, 481, 500, 501, 511, 521, 561, 581, 591, 711, 741, 751 or 771.
 - c. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may also obtain any number of the following bear licenses:
 - 1. a game damage license, if available,
 - 2. a disease management license, if available,
 - 3. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J),
 - 4. a special population management license, a special allocation Ranching for Wildlife license for donation to youths or hunters with mobility impairments.
 - 5. a license issued for hunt code BE087U6R.
 - 6. A private land only license in GMUs 14, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 104, 131, 361, 391, 411, 421, 431, 444, 461, 471, 481, 500, 501, 511, 521, 561, 581, 711, 741, 751, or 771.

5. Moose

- a. One License - Any hunter may obtain one moose license. The lifetime bag limit for antlered moose is one, except when taken on an auction or raffle license or a license issued in accordance with regulation #271 or #272. Any person who harvests an antlered moose shall be ineligible to draw either an antlered or either-sex license.
- b. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may also obtain any number of the following moose licenses:
 1. an auction license,
 2. a raffle license,
 3. a game damage license, if available,
 4. a special population management license, a special allocation Ranching for Wildlife license for donation to youths or hunters with mobility impairments,
 5. a disease management license, if available,
 6. a replacement license for an animal found CWD positive,
 7. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J)).

6. Mountain Lion

- a. One License - Any hunter may obtain one mountain lion license.
- b. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may also obtain any number of the following mountain lion licenses:
 1. a game damage license, if available,
 2. a disease management license, if available,
 3. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J)).

7. Bighorn Sheep

- a. One License - Any hunter may obtain one rocky mountain bighorn sheep license or one desert bighorn sheep license. The lifetime bag limit for desert bighorn sheep is one. Provided further that application restrictions in regulation #206 apply. The lifetime bag limit for a bighorn sheep ram is one for rams harvested after January 1, 2028, except when taken on an auction or raffle license or a license issued in accordance with regulation #271 or #272. Any person who harvests a ram, after January 1, 2028, shall be ineligible to draw a ram or either-sex license.

- b. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may obtain any number of the following bighorn sheep licenses:
 - 1. an auction or raffle license for rocky mountain bighorn sheep,
 - 2. a special bighorn sheep management license, a special allocation Ranching for Wildlife license for donation to youths or hunters with mobility impairments,
 - 3. a disease management license, if available,
 - 4. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J)).

8. Mountain Goat

- a. One License - Any hunter may obtain one mountain goat license. Provided further that application restrictions in regulation #206 apply. The lifetime bag limit for a mountain goat harvested with a male or either-sex license is one if harvested after January 1, 2028, except when taken on an auction or raffle license or a license issued in accordance with regulation #271 or #272. Any person who harvests a male goat, after January 1, 2028, shall be ineligible to draw a male or either-sex license.
- b. Any Number of Licenses - A hunter may obtain any number of the following mountain goat licenses:
 - 1. an auction or raffle license for mountain goat,
 - 2. a special mountain goat management license, if available,
 - 3. a disease management license, if available,
 - 4. a rewards program license (except that a hunter may not be issued more than one Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license per year, as provided in #002(J)).

9. Wild Bison

- ~~e.a.~~ One License – Any hunter may obtain one wild bison license. The lifetime bag limit for wild bison is one, except when issued in accordance with regulation #230, #271, or #272. Provided further that application restrictions in regulation #206 apply.

B. Exceptions to Bag Limit Calculation. The following big game animals shall not be counted against an annual bag and possession limit for that species:

- 1. Accidental Hunter Take: Any big game animal accidentally taken by a hunter, provided that prior to any further hunting the individual self-reports the incident to the Division as soon as practicable and the Division verifies the claim of accidental kill. For the purposes of this regulation an "accidental kill" means any unintentional taking of wildlife not resulting from carelessness or negligence on the part of the hunter.

- a. Determination of whether the taking involves carelessness or negligence shall be based on a consideration of the totality of circumstance surrounding the taking including but not necessarily limited to, number of shots fired, number of animals present, number of animals killed or wounded, type of firearm or ammunition used, angle and distance of shot, species of animal, topography, ground cover, and light or weather conditions.
2. Accidental Vehicle Kills: Any big game animal accidentally killed by a motor vehicle or train shall not be counted against an annual bag limit for that species.
3. Damage Kills: Any big game animal causing damage and taken under the authority of §33-3-106 C.R.S.
4. Southern Ute Tribal Lands: Any big game animal taken on a Southern Ute Tribal Lands permit.

#217 – Season Tables and Hunt Code Descriptions

- A. Big Game season tables are established by species (sheep, goat, bear, lion, deer, elk, pronghorn, **wild bison**, and moose) and hunt (archery, muzzle-loading, early, regular, plains, private land only, late, and Ranching for Wildlife). Tables contain general information describing the hunt type, season dates, unit(s) or portions thereof, hunt code, license types, and numbers.

ARTICLE IV – Mountain Goat

#230 – Special Management Licenses for Sheep, ~~and~~ Goat and Wild Bison

- A. The Director is authorized to issue special management licenses for bighorn sheep, ~~or~~ mountain goat **and wild bison** when necessary to:
 1. prevent exposure of a sheep, ~~or~~ goat, **or wild bison** population to disease which could result from sheep, ~~or~~ goats **or wild bison** having had contact with domestic livestock which present a disease transmission risk; either within or outside of an established game management unit; or to prevent the potential spread of disease by sheep, ~~or~~ goats **or wild bison** pioneering from units with such disease.
 2. allow for targeted surveillance of sheep, ~~and~~ goat **and wild bison** populations for management purposes.
 3. prevent unplanned expansion of sheep, ~~or~~ goats **or wild bison** outside of established game management units for the species.
- B. **Sheep and goat L**licenses will be offered to unsuccessful applicants for an adjacent or nearby unit for the same species, in the order in which they would have been drawn if successful. **Wild bison licenses will be distributed randomly from the wild bison roster.**
 1. **Applications for the bison roster must be submitted no later than midnight mountain time on January 31 annually.**

- ~~B.C.~~ Manner of Take will be rifle and associated methods.

~~C.D.~~ Mandatory check requirements are the same as for established seasons for sheep or goat, except that mandatory tissue submission requirements may be stipulated for individual targeted surveillance hunts. **Wild bison taken under these Special Management Licenses are required to be submitted for mandatory checks in accordance with regulation #274.**

~~D.E.~~ Such licenses will not use or generate preference points.

ARTICLE XII – Special Hunting Seasons/Licenses for Big Game

#271 – Big Game Animals Causing Damage and Big Game Populations Over Objective

A. Special Population Management Seasons for Big Game Ungulates

1. The Director shall have the authority to establish special management seasons for antlerless or female big game ungulates in specific game management units or portions thereof which significantly exceed the population objective, when the anticipated harvest from the current year's archery, muzzle-loading and regular rifle seasons did not occur. Provided further that the Director shall have the authority to establish these hunts between November 16 and February 28, to specify a time period for each of these hunts but not to exceed ten days each, and shall authorize hunters to use designated unfilled big game licenses for these hunts and units.
2. The Director shall have the authority to allocate antlerless deer and/or elk licenses on existing Ranching for Wildlife properties located in game management units where deer or elk populations significantly exceed the population objective. These licenses shall be in addition to the number of licenses allocated to each ranch pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement established in #210(A)(2). The additional allocation and use of the antlerless licenses provided for in this section shall be allocated by season(s) and quota(s) established in the ranch's respective Cooperative Agreement and subject to the following provisions:
 - a. No ranch shall be required to accept any additional antlerless licenses.
 - b. The public allocation of such additional antlerless licenses shall only be offered to hunters who have successfully drawn antlered, either-sex or antlerless licenses for the same species on the ranch. Public hunters who choose to purchase one additional antlerless license from the Division shall be required to use the additional license during the season established for the license for which they drew. No more than one additional antlerless license will be available to any public hunter.
 - c. The allocation of such additional antlerless licenses for private seasons shall be equal to, and not to exceed, the total number of additional antlerless licenses allocated to public hunters.

B. Special Game Damage Seasons for Big Game Ungulates

1. The Director shall have the authority to establish special hunting seasons for big game ungulates, ~~between August 15 and February 28,~~ when necessary to control damage to property. Seasons shall be for the taking of antlerless or female animals unless the Director has determined that the taking of antlered **or male** animals is necessary ~~in order~~ to alleviate the damage. **These seasons may occur year-round for male wild bison, between August 15**

and January 31 for female wild bison, and between August 15 and February 28 for other ungulates.

- a. Game damage hunts are limited to a maximum of 50 licenses per species per Game Management Unit or 30 percent of the antlerless, either-sex, or doe licenses issued for the DAU (whichever is greater), unless a distribution management plan establishing a different percentage has been approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission or additional permits are approved by the Director or his designee.
- b. On private lands and Russell Lakes, Rio Grande and Higel State Wildlife Areas, the Area Wildlife Manager (AWM) is authorized to conduct these seasons based upon the following criteria:
 1. The AWM finds that such a season would be consistent with the distribution management plan approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.
 2. When there is no approved distribution management plan, the AWM finds that a season will reduce or eliminate damage for which the Division is liable, and that holding a season would be desirable considering
 - a. The species and number of animals involved.
 - b. The number of animals that would have to be removed to reduce or eliminate damage.
 - c. The location of the damage problem.
 - d. The type and extent of damage.
 - e. The time of year and its relationship to the life history of the animals.
 - f. The length of time such damage will continue without big game removal.
 - g. Management closures, hunting seasons and other public use.
 - h. The effect on population objectives for the GMU and DAU.
 - i. Whether landowner operations (e.g., harvesting) or critical wildlife biological activities (e.g., fawning) would be interrupted.
 - j. Safety risks.
 - k. Any other pertinent factors.
 3. The Area Wildlife Manager shall provide the landowner with special application forms for distribution to individuals of their choice. Participants shall submit the completed application form with payment to the Division office indicated on the application.
 4. In the event the landowner cannot secure enough people to effect an adequate harvest the Division can assist in locating individuals.
- a. The Division shall

1. Verify that damage or conflicts are occurring or can reasonably be anticipated to occur.
 2. Designate what area shall be open to hunting.
 3. Determine the manner of hunting that will be permitted.
 4. Determine the number of hunters allowed to hunt in each designated area.
- b. Hunting will be done under the direction of a District Wildlife Manager, following approval by the owner of land where such damage is occurring.
 - c. Hunters shall hunt in designated areas and on the dates indicated on the license.
 1. A map or a written description of the designated area open to hunting (which would include, but would not be limited to landowner(s) name, game management unit, township, range and section(s) and/or identification of landmarks such as roads, rivers, or fence lines which coincide with boundaries), will be provided to each licensed hunter by the Division.
 - d. Any person who purchases a license for a game damage season shall be required to complete a Division harvest survey form and return it to the Area office that is nearest the location of the hunt no later than 5 days after the season ends.

C. Special Game Damage Licenses for Bear and Mountain Lion

1. The Director shall have the authority to establish special hunting licenses for mountain lion and bear, which allow for take in excess of the otherwise applicable limited license numbers or quotas, when necessary to control damage to private property.
 - a. AWMs are authorized to issue these bear and mountain lion licenses to address specific animals determined after an investigation to be causing damage to private property.
 1. Bear or mountain lion licenses above the established limited license numbers or quota for the area may be issued only where necessary to take specific animals determined after an investigation to be causing damage to private property.
 2. Bear hunting authorized under this provision will be conducted between September 2 and the end of the fourth regular rifle season annually.
 3. Mountain lion hunting authorized under this provision will be conducted during established lion seasons.
 4. Licenses will be issued only if licenses are not otherwise available for purchase under standard license distribution methods or where mountain lion quotas have been reached in the area.
 5. License will be restricted by manner of take, period of time within the dates specified above, and location within the GMU(s) or DAU(s) in question as necessary to ensure the offending animal is appropriately targeted.
 6. Hunting will be conducted under the direction of a District Wildlife Manager.

- b. Any person who purchases a license shall be required to complete a Division harvest survey form and return it to the Area office that is nearest the location of the hunt no later than 5 days after the end of the hunting period authorized by the license.
 - c. Bear and mountain lion taken pursuant to a license issued under this provision shall not be counted against the annual bag and possession limit for the species in question.
- D. Special Hunting Season In Game Management Unit 20 For Cow Elk Normally Not Available For Harvest During Regular Or Late Big Game Seasons:
 - 1. Season dates, license types, permit numbers will be established by the Director or his designee.
 - 2. The Division will designate the area open to hunting, manner of take, and season dates which are necessary to achieve its population management objective for this population of elk. Hunting shall occur only during the designated time periods indicated on the hunter's license and only in those areas specifically designated on the map provided by the Division. Special Unit 20 cow elk hunts shall be established based on the following criteria: (a) the hunt does not fall within the criteria established for game damage hunts; (b) snow ground cover and/or other conditions favor are expected to favor successful hunting; (c) elk must be available to hunters in portions of Unit 20 which are open to hunter access; and (d) no special season will be created under this regulation which would extend beyond February 15th.
 - 3. Eligible hunters will be selected in the following priority: a) from the list of hunters who applied for a Unit 20 limited elk license and were unsuccessful; and b) from a new list of hunters established by the Division Northeast Regional office pursuant to notice in local newspapers. Such list will be established on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - 4. Individuals who participate in this special hunt may also participate in any other season for elk if otherwise eligible to do so.
- E. Special Hunting Licenses and Seasons For Deer and Elk in Urbanized Areas:
 - 1. The Division Director (or designee) shall have the authority to establish special deer and elk hunting seasons between August 15 and February 28 annually to achieve population management objectives as specified in Division approved county or municipal management plans. Seasons shall be for the taking of antlerless animals unless the Director determines that the taking of antlered animals is necessary per the issues and goals brought forth in the Division approved management plan.
 - 2. Counties or municipalities must submit a proposed management plan to the Division, which includes the following:
 - a. Explanation of the need and scope of the issues (i.e. habitat degradation, human conflicts, human health and safety issues, etc);
 - b. Estimated population of deer or elk creating the issue and a target population number being sought post removal;
 - c. Season dates;
 - d. Manner of take;
 - e. Numbers of licenses and projected harvest;
 - f. Geographic location and description of hunting area(s); and

- g. Method for selecting eligible hunters.
- 3. Management plans will be evaluated on the merits of furthering goals for suburban deer or elk management and in relation to the appropriate Division Big Game Herd (DAU) Management Plan. The Director (or designee) shall provide the county or municipality with special application forms for distribution to individuals as specified within the submitted and approved management plan. Participants shall submit the completed application to the Division to obtain the appropriate hunting license.
- 4. The participating county or municipality will assume full responsibility for the plans and elements therein. The Division will be available to provide technical assistance to the county or municipality in preparing the management plan.
- 5. The county or municipality may not charge hunters a fee beyond what is required to cover their administrative costs to run the program.
- 6. All participating counties, municipalities and individuals are required to follow all applicable state statutes and regulations. No county or municipality will allow, encourage, or otherwise promote violations thereof.
- 7. The Division can unilaterally, without prior notification, terminate or void any applications given to a county or municipality prior to their redemption for a license for issues related to human health, safety, or any wildlife related violations associated with the management plan implementation, or documented deviation from the management plan as it was submitted to the Division. Management plans may be amended with Division approval.
- 8. Individuals who participate in these special hunts may also participate in any other season for deer or elk if otherwise eligible to do so.
- 9. Any county or municipality receiving licenses for a special hunting season for deer and elk in urbanized areas shall be required to complete a Division harvest survey form and return it to the Area office that is nearest to the location of the hunt no later than 5 days after the season ends.

#272 - Big Game Disease/Animal Health Seasons

- 1. Special Hunting Seasons for Disease Management in Big Game
 - a. The Director shall have the authority to establish special hunting seasons for big game, when hunting harvest has not been adequate to reduce the incidence of disease, to reduce emigration of infected animals, or to otherwise control expansion of the disease.
 - 1. No more than 200 licenses per species shall be issued annually per Game Management Unit (GMU) unless authorized by the Director
 - 2. Seasons shall be for the taking of antlerless or female animals unless the Director has authorized the issuance of male ~~(antlered)~~ licenses. No more than 10% of the licenses shall be issued for male ~~(antlered)~~ animals unless authorized by the Director.
 - 3. Licenses will be valid only in the unit(s) specified on the license. Licenses may be restricted to specific properties or areas as determined by the Area Wildlife Manager.

4. License fees may be reduced when authorized by the Director, when necessary to ensure sufficient hunter participation, provided that no license is to be sold for less than \$5.00. License fees shall be set to ensure recovery of the cost of the retail and system agent commissions.
5. Multiple carcass tags may be issued with each license, as authorized by the Director. Provided further that the payment of separate license fees shall be required if licenses for more than one species are to be sold.
6. Any licensee who takes deer or elk during any such season for the purpose of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management shall submit the head from all animals taken when required to do so as a condition of the license, to the testing site specified at the time the license is issued, within 5 days after harvest. Hunters must complete the special survey tag available at any head collection site and attach it to the animal's head. Antlers and capes from harvested deer may be removed by hunters before submitting heads for sampling.

ARTICLE XIII – ~~Vacant~~Wild Bison

#273 – Wild bison seasons are closed statewide except as authorized by the Director in accordance with regulations #230, #271, and #272.

#274 – Special Restrictions

- A. Licensed hunters who take wild bison must present the head with horns attached to any submission site for inspection by an employee of the Division on or before the 5th working day after the taking thereof.
- B. Any unsuccessful wild bison licensee must complete and return the mandatory questionnaire to the Division within thirty (30) days after the close of the season.
- C. At the time of the mandatory check, the Division shall be authorized to extract and retain the incisor teeth. If frozen, the Division may retain heads as necessary for thawing sufficient to extract the incisor teeth.

Basis and Purpose

Implementation of SB25-053 Protect Wild Bison Act

On January 1, 2026, Colorado Senate Bill 25-053 will establish a dual classification system for bison in the state. This new law distinguishes between "wild bison," which are classified as big game wildlife, and "domestic bison," which are privately owned bison, bison legally reduced to captivity, bison that have escaped lawful captivity, and bison owned by or lawfully reduced to captivity by an Indian tribe, including hybrids with domestic cattle. This new framework aims at addressing bison crossing into Colorado from the Utah Book Cliffs herd and provides a proactive way to manage potential conflicts with landowners and other wildlife. The new rules include several updates to existing regulations, including adding new hunt code classifications, updating definitions, and adopting license fees.

The changes offer a balanced and responsible approach to a complex issue. Instead of immediately opening a general hunting season, the regulations establish a measured and controlled process for issuing licenses only if a need arises. If needed, hunting licenses will only be issued in three specific situations including for game damage (regulation #271), disease (regulation #272) or for population movement control (regulation #230). Since no diseases of concern have been detected in the Book Cliffs herd, these regulations are currently a preventative measure, ensuring that any future issues can be addressed with an established procedure.

There are now two ways to obtain a wild bison license and the process depends on the reason for the issuance of the license. For licenses issued by the Director pursuant to regulation #230, hunters must apply to be included on a bison roster. A random selection process from that roster will only be used if a need for these licenses arises, so it's likely that zero licenses will be issued in many years. For licenses issued pursuant to regulations #271, and #272, the normal issuing process for those types of licenses will be followed.

To help with data collection, all successful hunters must present their harvested bison to the Division for inspection within five working days. While, unsuccessful hunters must complete a mandatory questionnaire within 30 days of the season's end. This data will provide valuable information on wild bison distribution and disease status. Lastly, the new regulations specify the potential damage amounts caused by wild bison for grazing, forage and crops. The changes aim to manage issues such as competition with livestock and other wildlife, as well as damage to private property.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager by emailing dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us or by visiting the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO, 80216.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF
COLORADO THIS 13TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025.**

**APPROVED:
Richard Reading
Chair**

**ATTEST:
Eden Vardy
Secretary**

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-17 – DAMAGE CAUSED BY WILDLIFE

Note: Amendments to the Rules are **added in red text** and **deletions are in red text with strikethrough**.

ARTICLE VI – Damage to Crops under Cultivation Caused By Big Game

#1762 – Evaluation and Settlement Procedure

- A. Damage to a growing hay crop shall be evaluated by one of the following three methods or any other method agreed upon in writing by the claimant and the Division.
1. If comparable undamaged areas are available, the method of comparing harvest yield on damaged versus undamaged areas, and adjusting for difference in production, if any, not due to big game use.
- Or:
2. Where comparable, undamaged areas are available the selection of comparative sample plots of the damaged and undamaged crop, and clipping, air drying, and weighing vegetation within each plot to determine the quantity and quality of forage removed by wildlife may be used as an option to the method described under #1762 a. 1.
- Or:
3. Where comparable damaged and undamaged areas are not available from which to obtain samples, damage shall be evaluated on a cured or air dried forage basis of 2.2 pounds per deer day use, 2.5 pounds per sheep day use, 8.8 pounds per elk day use, 1.6 pounds per pronghorn day use, 2.1 pounds per mountain goat day use, ~~and 15.3 pounds per moose day use~~, **and 19.5 pounds per wild bison day use**, or under conditions existing at the time or place of damage. If this method is used big game counts must be made at least once every ten days and no claim for damage by loss of livestock forage caused by big game shall be submitted for the same time period.
- B. Damage to a growing small grain crop shall be evaluated by comparing the harvest yield on damaged versus the most comparable undamaged areas in the vicinity, and adjusting for differences in production, if any, not due to big game use. Such damage may be evaluated by any other method agreed upon in writing by the claimant and the Division.
- C. Damage to a row crop, shall be determined by one of the following methods, whichever is most appropriate for the crops, type of damage, size of the area and other pertinent factors:
1. Selecting comparative sample areas from the damaged field and measuring the percentage of plants which have been damaged by big game and the estimated average percent of crop loss per damaged plant within each sampled area.
 2. Comparing harvest yield on damaged versus undamaged areas, and adjusting for differences in production, if any, not due to big game use.
 3. Any other method agreed upon in writing by the claimant and the Division.
- D. The value of alfalfa aftermath damaged by big game shall be based on the local market value of nearby comparable alfalfa fields, e.g. amounts paid for leasing nearby comparable alfalfa fields for grazing.

- E. Value of any crop under cultivation shall be the market value at the time and place of harvest less any normal harvesting costs that were not incurred.
- F. Where the Division has determined that consulting with a crop adjuster would facilitate resolution of issues raised as part of any claim for damage to crops under cultivation, including settlement of such claim, it may contract with a crop adjuster to evaluate and report on suspected damage to such crops. If the estimated amount of damage claimed reasonably exceeds \$10,000, the Division shall contract with a crop adjuster for an evaluation and report on the suspected damage. In all cases, the report prepared by the crop adjuster will be provided to the claimant for their review and information.

ARTICLE VII – Damage to Harvested Crops Caused By Big Game

#1772 – Evaluation and Settlement Procedure

- A. Damage to a harvested crop shall be evaluated as follows or by any other method agreed upon in writing by the claimant and the Division.
 - 1. Damage to stacked hay shall be evaluated by calculating the pounds of hay which have been damaged by big game through:
 - a. calculation of the volume of hay removed or damaged;
 - b. determining the number of bales damaged based on bailing wires or strings remaining or number of bales originally in the stack.
 - 2. Damage to harvested crops, other than haystacks, and crops being fed to livestock shall be evaluated on a cured or air dried forage basis of 2.2 pounds per deer day use, 2.5 pounds per sheep day use, 8.8 pounds per elk day use, 1.6 pounds per pronghorn day use, 2.1 pounds per mountain goat day use, ~~and~~ 15.3 pounds per moose day use, **and 19.5 pounds per wild bison per day**, or under conditions existing at the time and place of damage.
- B. Value of any crop shall be the market value at the time and place of damage.

ARTICLE IX – Damage to Livestock Forage in Hay Meadows, Pasture and Artificially Seeded Rangelands Caused By Big Game

#1792 – Evaluation and Settlement Procedure

- A. The amount of damage shall be the difference between the grazing capacity of the area and the amount of grazing actually realized by the claimant, provided that the amount of damage calculated in this way could have been caused by the number and kind of big game animals documented to have used the designated area or damage can be determined strictly on the basis of the number of big game animals counted on the property during the damage period. The amount of damage that could have been caused by big game shall be based on the following annual average livestock animal unit month (AUM) equivalents:

13.6 pronghorn months = 1 AUM

8.7 bighorn months = 1 AUM

9.9 deer months = 1 AUM

2.5 elk months = 1 AUM

1.4 moose months = 1 AUM

10.3 mountain goat months = 1 AUM

0.75 wild bison months = 1 AUM

Each AUM equivalent represents the average total amount of forage that could have been eaten by big game. Actual consumption is determined by establishing the proportion of the big game animals' daily forage intake that occurred on the damaged area and dividing the wildlife UM's by this fraction. In the event that these average equivalents are not applicable to the circumstances of an individual case either party may come before the Commission to request a change in regulation in that instance.

1. The Division may compensate landowners or lessees with the comparable amount of hay or feed or equivalent thereof in lieu of AUM equivalents of the wildlife causing damage where the loss of livestock forage required supplemental feeding.
- B. Grazing capacity shall be determined by forage measurement procedures which meet U.S. Soil Conservation Service standards, contained in the National Range Handbook published by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (July 13, 1976). (note: later amendments to these standards are not hereby incorporated). Copies of the SCS handbook may be obtained at cost by writing: Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.
- C. The amount of grazing actually realized by the claimant shall be determined by taking the actual number of animal unit months of livestock grazing which occurred on the area and adding the estimated amount of grazeable forage remaining after termination of grazing or subtracting the amount by which the area was overgrazed.
- D. Liability is limited to that proportion of the damage in excess of the historic big game use levels, and the state shall be liable for such damages only if they are more than ten (10) percent in excess of normal historic wildlife use levels. This proportion is obtained by subtracting the 1953 to 1973 average population from the current population for the species causing damage and dividing this difference by the current population. If the Division does not agree with the claimant on the historic levels of any species, or this proportion, it may be determined by arbitration. If a satisfactory solution cannot be established by arbitration then the proportion shall be determined by the legal process described in 33-3-104(1)(d) and 33-3-108, C.R.S.
- E. Value of grazing shall be the current market value at the time and place of the forage loss.

ARTICLE X - Damage to Livestock Forage on Grazing Land Which Is Deferred For Seasonal Use Caused By Big Game

#17103 – Evaluation and Settlement Procedure

- A. The amount of damage shall be the difference between the grazing capacity of the area and the amount of grazing actually realized by the claimant, provided that the amount of damage calculated in this way could have been caused by the number and kind of big game animals documented to have used the designated area during the deferral period. The amount of damage that could have been caused by big game shall be based on the following annual average livestock animal unit month (AUM) equivalents:

13.6 pronghorn months = 1 AUM

8.7 bighorn months = 1 AUM

9.9 deer months = 1 AUM

2.5 elk months = 1 AUM

1.4 moose months = 1 AUM

10.3 mountain goat months = 1 AUM

0.75 wild bison months = 1 AUM

If the deferred grazing land contains a substantial amount of herbage other than grasses and legumes, the AUM equivalents must be adjusted for the amount of herbage consumed by wildlife which is not livestock forage. This is accomplished by dividing the appropriate AUM equivalent from the list above, by the proportion of dietary overlap for the species of wildlife and livestock involved. This proportion shall be obtained from the following table unless some other figure can be shown to reflect more accurately the actual situation.

DEGREE OF DIETARY OVERLAP BETWEEN VARIOUS BIG GAME SPECIES AND DOMESTIC CATTLE AND SHEEP.

	COW	SHEEP
ELK	.91	.96
DEER	.50	.80
PRONGHORN	.80	.80
WILD BISON	.91	.91

Each AUM, as adjusted if necessary, represents the average total amount of forage that could have been eaten by big game. Actual consumption is determined by establishing the proportion of the big game animals' daily forage intake that occurred on the damaged area and dividing the wildlife UM's by this fraction. In the event that these average equivalents are not applicable to the circumstances of an individual case either party may come before the Commission to request a change of regulations in this instance.

- B. Grazing capacity shall be determined by forage or measurement procedures which meet U.S. Soil Conservation standards as set forth in #1792(b) of these regulations or as designated for the forage growth favorable class most representative of the actual growing conditions when forage was produced.
- C. The amount of grazing actually realized by the claimant shall be determined by taking the actual number of animal unit months of livestock grazing which occurred on the deferred area and adding the estimated amount of grazable forage remaining after termination of grazing or subtracting the amount of which the area was overgrazed.
- D. Liability is limited to the proportion of the damage in excess of the historic big game use levels and the state shall be liable for such damages only if they are more than ten (10) percent in excess of normal historic wildlife use levels. This proportion is obtained by subtracting the 1953 to 1973 average population from the current population for the species causing damage and dividing this difference by the current population. If the claimant and the Division cannot agree on this proportion it may be determined by arbitration. If a satisfactory solution cannot be established

by arbitration then the proportion shall be determined by the legal process described in 33-3-104(1)(d) and 33-3-108, C.R.S. (amended, 1984 by HB 1376).

- E. Value of grazing shall be the current market value at the time and place of the forage loss. Values computed for loss of dry standing forage shall be reduced by the amount which should have been required for purchase of necessary protein, and/or energy supplements if the forage had been used for grazing.

Basis and Purpose:

Implementation of SB25-053 Protect Wild Bison Act

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