



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Policy and Planning

6060 Broadway • Denver, CO 80216

TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission

FROM: Hilary Hernandez, Regulations Manager

RE: July 16-17, 2026 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting Regulatory Items

DATE: July 2, 2026

The regulatory and policy items detailed below are scheduled to be addressed at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission's July 16-17, 2026 meeting. If there are questions about any of the agenda items below, or if additional information is needed, please feel free to contact Hilary Hernandez at hilary.hernandez@state.co.us.

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 12: Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, Except Migratory Birds" 2
CCR 406-3 (Step 2 of 2)

Open for final consideration of regulations including the following:

- Adoption of bag limits for furbearer species. The commission will be provided with two alternatives for consideration.
 - Option 1: Apply a daily bag limit of 15 to all furbearer species.
 - Option 2: Apply a two-tiered approach of either 8 or 4, depending on the species. Bag limit of 8: Badger, bobcat, beaver, coyote, muskrat, striped skunk, western spotted skunk, raccoon, and red fox. Bag limit of 4: Mink, opossum, pine marten, ring-tailed cat, gray fox, swift fox, long-tailed weasel, and short-tailed weasel.

Agenda Item 14: Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, Except Migratory Birds" 2
CCR 406-3 (Step 2 of 2)



Laura Clellan, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: James 'Jay' Tutchton, Chair • Gabriel Otero, Vice-Chair

Jessica Beaulieu • Frances Silva Blayney • Tai Jacober • John Le Coq •

Peter Maguire • Dallas May • Jack Murphy • Rebecca 'Becky' Niemiec • Richard Reading

Open for final consideration of regulations including the following:

- Annual changes to game bird seasons, excluding turkey, and other small game seasons and related provisions, including season dates, and manner of take provisions. (Step 1 of 1)
- Adoption of mandatory check and sealing requirements for avocational beaver harvest.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

Agenda Item 21: Chapter W-0 - “General Provisions” 2 CCR 406-0 and those related provisions of Chapter W-3 (“Furbearers and Small Game, Except Migratory Birds”) 2 CCR 406-3 necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-0 (Step 1 of 2)

Open for consideration of regulations banning the sale of fur obtained from wild furbearer game species taken by avocational sportspersons in Colorado.

CONSENT AGENDA

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 25.1: Chapter P-1 - “Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands” 2 CCR 405-1 and those related provisions of Chapter W-9 (“Wildlife Properties”) 2 CCR 406-9 necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter P-1

Open for final consideration of permanent regulations to allow for the opening of campgrounds in and the use of the newly established Pikes Peak Recreation Area.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

Agenda Item 25.2: Chapter P-1 - “Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands” 2 CCR 405-1

Open for annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to,

- Updating property-specific regulations at Cameo Shooting and Education Complex to remain current with facility development.
- Updating property-specific regulations at Fishers Peak State Park to remain current with facility development.

CITIZEN PETITION

Agenda Item 25.3: Chapter W-0 - “General Provisions” 2 CCR 406-0

At its July meeting, the Parks and Wildlife Commission will consider whether it should adopt the Director's written recommendation to DENY a petition to prohibit the commercial sale, barter, and trade of insect and arachnid parts.

OPTION 1: FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-3 - FURBEARERS and SMALL GAME, EXCEPT MIGRATORY BIRDS

ARTICLE II - Small Game Season Dates, Units (as Described in Chapter 0 of These Regulations), Bag and Possession Limits, Limited Licenses and Permits

#323 – Mink, pine marten, badger, gray fox, red fox, swift fox, raccoon, ring-tailed cat, striped skunk, western spotted skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, opossum, and muskrat

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: November 1 - end of February annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - fifteen (15) mink, fifteen (15) pine marten, fifteen (15) badger, fifteen (15) gray fox, fifteen (15) red fox, fifteen (15) swift fox, fifteen (15) raccoon, fifteen (15) ring-tailed cat, fifteen (15) striped skunk, fifteen (15) western spotted skunk, fifteen (15) long-tailed weasel, fifteen (15) short-tailed weasel, fifteen (15) opossum, and fifteen (15) muskrat.
2. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

#324 – Bobcat

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: December 1 - end of February annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - fifteen (15) bobcat.
2. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

~~2.3.~~ Special Restrictions.

- a. All bobcat, or their pelts, shall be personally presented by the licensee for inspection and must be sealed within 30 days after take, or within 5 days after the close of the season, whichever is sooner, with a seal provided by the Division. Any bobcat hide/pelt not having a seal within 5 days after the close of the season shall be illegal and become property of the State. Seals will only be placed on bobcat legally taken in Colorado. No fee shall be required for the inspection and issuance of a legal possession seal, which shall remain attached to the hide until processed. Bobcat hides/pelts shall not be transported, shipped or otherwise taken out of Colorado until the hide(s)/pelt(s) are inspected and sealed. The legal possession seal, when attached to the bobcat or the pelt, shall authorize possession, transportation, and sale thereof. For the purposes of this regulation it is illegal to buy, sell, trade, or barter an untanned bobcat hide/pelt unless a permanent seal is affixed thereto. Only one legal possession seal shall be provided for each hide/pelt.

#325 – Coyote

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: January 1 - December 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - fifteen (15) coyote
2. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

#326 – Beaver

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: October 1 - April 30 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - fifteen (15) beaver.
2. ~~Unlimited bag and~~ possession.

Basis and Purpose:

Adopting bag limits for the avocational take of all 17 furbearer species

Prior to this rulemaking, Colorado regulations allowed for an unlimited daily bag limit for the avocational take of all 17 furbearer species, a policy that some stakeholders viewed as a regulatory gap inconsistent with small game management. While current harvest levels remain low due to existing method-of-take restrictions, there is a strong value-based sentiment from some members of the public that formal limits are necessary to prevent the potential for uncontrolled or unsustainable harvest. Additionally, the creation of bag limits is a priority of the Governor's Office.

The need to balance the concerns of stakeholders in a reasonable manner with CPW's organizational directive to provide the greatest possible variety of wildlife-related recreational opportunities while maintaining sound wildlife recreational programs, presents a complex challenge. This is particularly challenging in the absence of any data-based biological need for daily bag limits and when considering various statutes that guide the Commission's authority to regulate the take of furbearers.

In March of 2026, the Division proposed establishing a daily bag limit of 15 animals for all 17 hunted furbearer species. During the Commission's March meeting, commissioners raised concerns over whether unrestricted harvest is scientifically supported, given acknowledged gaps in the available data for furbearer species (e.g. lack of population abundance estimates, rigorous studies), and a perceived misalignment with how other small game are managed with bag limits. Further, some commissioners believed that a daily bag of 15 would not gain social acceptance, and absent a lower bag limit, just a few furharvesters could take enough animals to reduce opportunities for other trappers, hunters or wildlife viewers to encounter the targeted species within the same locality. The Commission requested Division staff return at a future meeting with a revised proposal that has daily bag limits of less than 15.

The Division developed a second alternative that responds to the commissioners' concerns raised at the March meeting. The second alternative applies a bag limit of 8 or 4, depending on the species.

Title 33 identifies some furbearers that have a higher propensity to cause damage to private property or agricultural resources. Section 33-6-107(9) illustrates this concern and allows private landowners and their agents to remove coyotes, bobcats, red foxes, raccoons, badgers, muskrats, beavers, striped skunks and western spotted skunks without a license "but only when such wildlife is causing damage to crops, real or personal property, or livestock."

Similarly, section 33-3-103(1) provides that "The state shall not be liable for: (a) Damage to livestock caused by coyotes, bobcats, or dogs. It is the intent of the general assembly that the division shall use whatever proper means are available to effectively minimize depredation to livestock by coyotes and bobcats."

Read together, these statutes demonstrate that control of depredating furbearer species is permissible, situationally beneficial and furthers the state's interest in protecting private property and agricultural resources from damage.

Section 33-6-107(9) and section 33-3-103(1) also supply the rationale for differentiating between species and whether to impose a bag limit of 8 or 4. Species identified in the statutes authorizing more liberalized take to protect against damage have been assigned a daily bag limit of 8. Species not so identified have been assigned a bag limit of 4.

Using this rationale, the two-tiered approach results in the following allowances:

- Bag limit of 8: Badger, bobcat, beaver, coyote, muskrat, striped skunk, western spotted skunk, raccoon, and red fox.

- Bag limit of 4: Mink, opossum, pine marten, ring-tailed cat, gray fox, swift fox, long-tailed weasel, and short-tailed weasel.

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 SEPTEMBER 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 6TH DAY OF JULY, 2026.

OPTION 2: FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-3 - FURBEARERS and SMALL GAME, EXCEPT MIGRATORY BIRDS

ARTICLE II - Small Game Season Dates, Units (as Described in Chapter 0 of These Regulations), Bag and Possession Limits, Limited Licenses and Permits

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C. Season Dates and Units

2. Statewide: November 1 - end of February annually.

D. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit — four (4) mink, four (4) pine marten, four (4) gray fox, four (4) swift fox, four (4) ring-tailed cat, four (4) long-tailed weasel, four (4) short-tailed weasel, four (4) opossum.
2. Daily Bag Limit — eight (8) badger, eight (8) red fox, eight (8) raccoon, eight (8) striped skunk, eight (8) western spotted skunk, and eight (8) muskrat.
3. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

#324 – Bobcat

C. Season Dates and Units

2. Statewide: December 1 - end of February annually.

D. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

~~3.4.~~ Daily Bag Limit - eight (8) bobcat.

5. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

~~4.6.~~ Special Restrictions.

- a. All bobcat, or their pelts, shall be personally presented by the licensee for inspection and must be sealed within 30 days after take, or within 5 days after the close of the season, whichever is sooner, with a seal provided by the Division. Any bobcat hide/pelt not having a seal within 5 days after the close of the season shall be illegal and become property of the State. Seals will only be placed on bobcat legally taken in Colorado. No fee shall be required for the inspection and issuance of a legal possession seal, which shall remain attached to the hide until processed. Bobcat hides/pelts shall not be transported, shipped or otherwise taken out of Colorado until the hide(s)/pelt(s) are inspected and sealed. The legal possession seal, when attached to the bobcat or the pelt, shall authorize possession, transportation, and sale thereof. For the purposes of this regulation it is illegal to buy, sell, trade, or barter an untanned bobcat hide/pelt unless a permanent seal is affixed thereto. Only one legal possession seal shall be provided for each hide/pelt.

#325 – Coyote

C. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: January 1 - December 31 annually.

D. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - eight (8) coyote
2. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

#326 – Beaver

C. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: October 1 - April 30 annually.

D. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - eight (8) beaver.
2. ~~Unlimited bag and~~ possession.

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