AS APPROVED 07/16/2026

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

#306 – Cottontail Rabbit, Snowshoe Hare, White-tailed & Black-tailed jackrabbit

A. Season Dates and Units

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

2. Extended Falconry and Dog Pursuit Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Ten (10) cottontail rabbits, ten (10) snowshoe hares, ten (10) jackrabbits.

2. Possession Limit: Twenty (20) cottontail rabbits, twenty (20) snowshoe hares, and twenty (20) jackrabbits.

#307 – Abert's Squirrels

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: November 15 - January 15 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) squirrels.

2. Possession Limit - Four (4) squirrels.

#308 – Fox Squirrel and Pine Squirrels

A. Season Dates and Units

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

2. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Five (5) fox squirrels and five (5) pine squirrels.

2. Possession Limit - Ten (10) fox squirrels and ten (10) pine squirrels.

#309 – Wyoming (Richardson's) ground squirrel, and black-tailed, white-tailed, and Gunnison prairie dogs

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Wyoming ground squirrel:

a. Statewide: January 1 - December 31 annually.

2. Black-tailed, white-tailed and Gunnison prairie dogs:

    a. Public Land: June 15 - end of February annually.

    b. Private Land: January 1 - December 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. There shall be no bag or possession limit.

#310 – Common Snapping Turtle

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: April 1 - October 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) turtles.

2. Possession Limit - Six (6) turtles.

#311 – Marmot

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: August 10 - October 15 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) marmots.

2. Possession Limit - Four (4) marmots.

#312 – Prairie Rattlesnake

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: June 15 - August 15 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) snakes.

2. Possession Limit - Six (6) snakes.

C. Nothing in this section is intended to interfere with or prohibit the lawful protection of life or property as provided for in Section 33-6-107(9), C.R.S.

#313 – Dusky (Blue) Grouse

A. Season Dates and Units

1. West of U.S. Interstate 25.

    a. September 1 - November 22, 2026~~23, 2025~~.

    b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) birds.

2. Possession Limit - Nine (9) birds.

#314 – White-tailed Ptarmigan

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide except units 44, 45, 53, 54, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 444 and 751.

a. September 12~~13~~ - October 4, 202~~5, 2025~~.

b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - March 31 annually.

2. Units 44, 45, 53, 54, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 444 and 751.

a. September 12~~13~~ - November 22, 202~~23, 2025~~.

b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) birds.

2. Possession Limit - Six (6) birds.

#315 – Greater Sage-grouse

A. Season Dates, Units and Limits, Except North Park

1. Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 18 except that portion of unit 18 east of Colo 125 in Grand County, 27, 28 except that portion of GMU 28 north and east of Grand Co Rd 50 (Church Park Rd) and US 40, 37, 181, 201, 211, 301 and 441.

a. September 12~~13~~ - September 18, 202~~19, 2025~~.

b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - January 31 annually.

1. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

a. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.

b. Possession Limit - Four (4) birds.

B. Season Dates, Units and Limits, North Park

1. Units 6, 16, 17, 161, and 171.

a. September 12~~13~~ - September 13, 202~~14, 2025~~.

b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - January 31 annually.

2. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

a. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.

b. Possession Limit - Two (2) birds.

#316 – Gunnison Sage-grouse

A. Season Dates and Units

1. None.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - None.

2. Possession Limit - None.

#317 – Mountain Sharp-tailed Grouse

A. Season Dates and Units.

1. Closed statewide except: Units 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 23, 131, 211, 214, and 441.

a. September 1 - September 20, 2026~~21, 2025~~.

b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - January 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.

2. Possession Limit - Four (4) birds.

#318 – Chukar Partridge

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: September 1 - November 30 annually.

2. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Four (4) birds.

2. Possession Limit - Twelve (12) birds.

#319 – Pheasant

A. Season Dates and Units

1. East of I-25: November 14, 2026~~8, 2025~~ - January 31, 2027~~2026~~.

2. West of I-25: November 14, 2026~~8, 2025~~ - January 3, 2027~~4, 2026~~.

3. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) cocks.

2. Possession Limit - Nine (9) cocks.

C. Extended Falconry Season Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) birds.

2. Possession Limit - Nine (9) birds.

#320 – Quail (Northern Bobwhite, Scaled, Gambel's)

A. Season Dates and Units

1. East of U.S. Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70 from I-25 to Byers and U.S. Highway 36 from Byers to the Kansas line, and those portions of Pueblo, Fremont, Huerfano, El Paso and Las Animas counties lying west of I-25:

   November 14, 2026~~8, 2025~~ - January 31, 2027~~2026~~.

2. East of U.S. Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70 from I-25 east to Byers and U.S. Highway 36 from Byers to the Kansas line:

   November 14, 2026~~8, 2025~~ - January 3, 2027~~4, 2026~~.

3. West of U.S. Interstate I-25, except Pueblo, Fremont, Huerfano, El Paso and Las Animas counties:

   November 14, 2026~~8, 2025~~ - January 3, 2027~~4, 2026~~.

4. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 through March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Eight (8) quail of each species.

2. Possession Limit - Twenty-four (24) quail of each species.

#321 – Greater Prairie-Chicken

A. Season Dates and Units.

1. Closed statewide except: Units 93, 97, 98, 100, 101, 102, 103, 109, all of Morgan County, and those portions east of Colorado State Highway 71 and south of Colorado State Highway 14 and U.S. Highway 138.

   a. October 1 - January 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.

2. Possession Limit - Six (6) birds.

#322 – Wild Turkey

A. Season Bag and Possession Limits

1. The bag and possession limit for each season annually shall be as provided below.

   a. Spring Season - The limit shall be two bearded turkeys in the spring for those persons who possess a limited spring license. One turkey must be harvested on the limited license and in the limited area. The additional bearded turkey must be harvested with an over-the-counter license.

   b. Fall Season - The limit shall be one turkey of either sex.

c. Late Season - The limit shall be two beardless turkeys.

2. In addition to the above bag and possession limits, a hunter may obtain any number of nuisance turkey licenses as provided in #322(F).

3. In addition to the above bag and possession limits, a hunter may take one additional turkey with a Turn In Poachers (TIPS) license as provided in #002(H)(11)(b).

B. Applications for Limited Licenses

1. Application requirements

a. No person shall submit more than one (1) application per season.

b. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

c. Applications not submitted by the deadline date and time are void.

2. Drawing applications submittal

a. Applications will be accepted by phone or internet only through the Division's electronic licensing system.

b. Each drawing application shall include payment of a non-refundable application fee for residents or a non-refundable application fee for nonresidents, found in Chapter W-0 Appendix F. Individuals successful in the draw will be charged for the limited license as well as applicable surcharges found in Chapter W-0 Appendix F.

c. Spring season

1. Applications for limited licenses must be received by phone or online no later than 8:00 PM Mountain Time, on the first Tuesday in February annually.

d. Fall season

1. Applications for limited licenses must be received by phone or online no later than 8:00 PM Mountain Time, on the last business day in May annually.

e. Beginning January 1, 2028, unless there is an insufficient number of resident applications, nonresident hunters shall receive no more than 25% of available turkey licenses per hunt code in the spring and fall drawings during the first and second choices of both the draws.

3. Preference systems

a. Preference Points: Preference will be given for correct applications for first choice hunt codes only and shall be subject to the following provisions:

1. Until January 1, 2028, one preference point will be awarded to each person who qualifies for and fails to draw a limited license as a first choice in the drawing or who applies using a first choice hunt code established for the purpose of accumulating a preference point only. However, no applicant may accumulate more than two turkey preference points per calendar year.

Beginning January 1, 2028, one preference point will be awarded to each person who qualifies for and fails to draw a limited license as a first choice in the drawing or who applies for a preference point only (no hunt codes). However, no applicant may accumulate more than two turkey preference points per calendar year. Residents unsuccessful in drawing a first choice license or those applying for a preference point only (no hunt codes) will be assessed a $X preference point fee to receive a preference point. Nonresidents unsuccessful in drawing a first choice license or those applying for a preference point only (no hunt codes) will be assessed a $Y preference point fee to receive a preference point. If the applicant chooses not to pay the preference point fee, the applicant will not receive a preference point for that application. If an applicant accepts a first choice license that has been returned and reissued all accumulated preference points for that species become void. No preference points are required for purchasing a returned license placed on the leftover list.

Youth as defined by 33-4-117 C.R.S., lifetime license holders, and Colorado resident military personnel on active duty outside Colorado are exempt from these preference point fees.

2. Preference points will be used in future drawings for the same species and will continue to accumulate until the applicant draws a license as a first choice. If an applicant both fails to apply for a turkey license and has not purchased a turkey license during any given 10-year period, all accumulated preference points for turkey become void.

3. Until January 1, 2028, applications with higher preference points will be given priority over all applications with fewer points.

   Beginning January 1, 2028, a split draw will be used for both the spring and fall season draws where the quota for each hunt code will be divided, with half of the quota going to a preference point draw, and half going to a bonus draw. If the quota can't be evenly split, the extra license will go to the preference point draw. If there is only a single license available, it will be issued through the preference point draw. In the preference point split half of the draw applications with higher preference points will be given priority over all applications with fewer points. In the bonus draw, for every species preference point an applicant holds, the applicant will have one application entered into the bonus drawing, plus one. Each drawing shall be run processing all first choice applications for the preference point draw first, followed by all first choice applications for the bonus draw before moving to second choice applications. The drawing will continue in that order, until all choices are processed.

4. Until January 1, 2028, group applications will receive preference at the level of the group member with the fewest accumulated points.

   Beginning January 1, 2028, in the preference point half of the draw, group applications will receive preference at the level of the group member with the fewest accumulated preference points, and, where applicable, the fewest accumulated chances, except that group applications will not be successful, regardless of preference point level or number of chances, when there are fewer licenses remaining in the hunt code quota than the number of applicants in the group.

5. Unsuccessful and successful applicants in the drawing can check their current accumulated preference point totals online.

b. Hunting Licenses for Hunters with Mobility Impairments - The Director may make licenses valid in certain GMU's available to qualified hunters with mobility impairments.

    1. Applicants for hunting licenses for hunters with mobility impairments must have a mobility impairment resulting from permanent medical conditions, which makes it physically impossible for them to hunt without the assistance of an attendant. Evidence of an impossibility to participate in the hunt without the assistance of an attendant may include, but is not limited to, prescribed use of a wheel chair; shoulder or arm crutches; walker; two canes; or other prescribed medical devices or equipment.

    2. Applications for hunting licenses for hunters with mobility impairments shall be made on the form, available from and submitted with the applicable license fee to, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Limited License Office, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216. Hunters may apply from the Monday after the November Commission meeting through the last day of the spring season.

    3. Applications for hunting licenses for hunters with mobility impairments shall contain a statement from a licensed medical doctor or a certified physical, occupational, or recreational therapist describing the applicant's mobility impairment and the permanent medical condition which makes it impossible for the applicant to hunt without the assistance of an attendant. Additional documentation may be required, if necessary to establish the applicant's eligibility for a hunting license for hunters with mobility impairments. Once certified by the Division as mobility-impaired according to these regulations, applicants will not be required to submit the medical statement.

    4. Ten (10) hunting licenses for hunters with mobility impairments will be available for the spring season, valid only on private lands in units 91, 92, and 96. The licenses will be valid for the season dates established for the authorized hunt code. Licenses for hunters with mobility impairments may not be issued for Ranching for Wildlife properties unless otherwise provided in the ranch contract.

c. Youth Outreach Hunting Licenses – The Director may make additional youth outreach program turkey licenses available to qualified organizations sponsoring youth hunting activities.

    1. There will be no more than 200 licenses issued annually under this subsection.

    2. Licenses will be approved by the applicable Regional Manager on a case-by-case basis.

    3. Licenses are issued on a first come, first served basis to qualified organizations.

    4. Organizations who wish to request a Youth Outreach license must submit the request in writing to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Hunter Outreach Coordinator, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216 no later than 60 days prior to the planned hunting event.

    5. Licenses are limited to youth hunters under 18 years of age.

d. Novice Outreach Hunting Licenses- The Director may make additional outreach program turkey licenses available to qualified organizations sponsoring novice adult hunting activities.

1. There will be no more than 200 licenses issued annually under this subsection.

2. Licenses will be approved by the applicable Regional Manager on a case-by-case basis.

3. Licenses are issued on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified organizations.

4. Organizations who wish to request an Outreach License must submit the request in writing to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Hunter Outreach Coordinator, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216 no later than 60 days prior to the planned hunting event.

5. Licenses are limited to novice hunters. For the purpose of these regulations a novice adult hunter is defined as a Colorado resident 18 years of age or older, who has either: no turkey license purchase history, only held a turkey license(s) in the current or previous year, or has no turkey license purchase history in the previous five years.

C. Special Restrictions

1. Tagging Requirements

a. When any person kills a turkey, that person must immediately detach, sign, and date the carcass tag. Such tags must be attached to the carcass of the bird while it is transported in any vehicle, while in camp, at a residence, or other place of storage.

b. Such tags, when dated, signed and attached to the turkey lawfully taken or killed and lawfully in possession, authorizes the possession, use, storage, and transportation of the carcass, or any part thereof, within the state.

c. If the carcass tag is inadvertently or accidentally detached from the license or is lost or destroyed, the licensee must obtain a duplicate carcass tag before he can lawfully hunt with such license. The duplicate carcass tag may be obtained upon furnishing satisfactory proof as to the inadvertent or accidental nature of the detachment, loss, or destruction to Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

2. Spanish Peaks SWA

a. Hunting during the spring turkey season shall be permitted only on Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays on the Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area, except as provided in subparagraph b of this subsection.

b. For hunters with mobility impairments, hunting during the spring turkey season shall be permitted after the second weekend of the season on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, by special access permit only. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the following restrictions shall apply:

1. Applicants for access permits for hunters with mobility impairments must have a mobility impairment resulting from permanent medical conditions, which makes it physically impossible for them to hunt without the assistance of an attendant. Evidence of an impossibility to participate in the hunt without the assistance of an attendant may include, but is not limited to, prescribed use of a wheelchair; shoulder or arm crutches; walker; two canes; or other prescribed medical devices or equipment. Applications will be accepted until the last day of the spring turkey season. Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be

limited to two (2) individuals during each Wednesday through Friday time period during the spring season.

2. Applications for access permits for hunters with mobility impairments shall be made on the form available from, and submitted to, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Limited License Office, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216.

3. Applications for access permits for mobility-impaired hunters shall contain a statement from a licensed medical doctor or a certified physical, occupational, or recreational therapist describing the applicant's mobility impairment and the permanent medical condition which makes it impossible for the applicant to hunt without the assistance of an attendant. Additional documentation may be required if necessary to establish the applicant's eligibility for an access permit for hunters with mobility impairments. Once certified by the Division as mobility-impaired according to these regulations, applicants will not be required to submit the medical statement.

3. Higel and Rio Grande SWAs

a. Turkey hunting access during the spring turkey season requires an access permit. Access permits will be issued for each property, from the Division Office in Monte Vista through a hand drawing. Permit applications may be obtained from CPW, 0722 S. Road 1E, Monte Vista, CO 81144. Group applications will be accepted. No more than two (2) applicants per group. Application deadline is March 31 of each year. Successful applicants will be notified by email. The date, time and location of the drawing will be included on the application.

4. Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area

a. Turkey hunting access is limited to the spring turkey season and is restricted to youth mentor turkey hunting only, by access permit only. Mentors are not allowed to hunt. Permit applications are available from Colorado Parks and Wildlife Northwest Region Service Center at 711 Independent Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81505, 970-255-6100. The application deadline is March 31. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

5. Youth Turkey Extended Season

Youths under 18 years of age may hunt turkey from the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the Sunday after Thanksgiving, provided they possess an unfilled youth fall turkey license (including, but not limited to, hunt code TE000U3R). Youths may only hunt in the GMU their original unfilled license was valid in; youths with unfilled OTC licenses may hunt in any OTC GMU but may not hunt in a limited unit that the original OTC license was not valid in. All hunters must comply with applicable regulations for the hunt in which they participate, and are accompanied by a mentor. A mentor must be at least 18 years of age and comply with hunter education requirements. The mentor may not hunt.

D. Season Dates and Units - Unlimited Licenses.

1. Spring Seasons

Units	Hunt Code	Date Open	Date Closed	Licenses
001, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020, 022, 024, 028, 029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 038,	TM000U1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	Unlimited

Units	Hunt Code	Date Open	Date Closed	Licenses
039, 040, 041, 042, 046, 048, 049, 050, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059 except on the Beaver Creek SWA and the Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease, 060, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077, 078, 079, 082, 083, 084, 085, 086, 087, 088, 089, 090, 093, 094, 095, 097, 098, 099, 100, 104, 105, 106, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 126, 128, 130, 131, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140 except on James M. John and Lake Dorothey State Wildlife Areas, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 161, 171, 181, 191, 211, 214, 231, 301, 391, 411, 421, 441, 461, 481, 500, 501, 511, 512, 521, 551, 561, 581, 591, 681, 682, 691, 711, 741, 751, 771, 791, 851 except the Bosque del Oso SWA, 861, 951, and private land portions of 91, 92, 101, 102, 103, 107, 109, 124, 125, 127, 129, 132, 139.				

1. Fall Seasons

Unit	Hunt Code	Open Date	Close Date	Licenses
001, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020, 022, 023, 024, 028, 029, 031, 032, 033, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 046, 048, 049, 050, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059 except on the Beaver Creek SWA and the Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease, 060, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077, 078, 079, 082, 083, 084, 085 except on the Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area, 086, 087, 088, 094, 104, 105, 110, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 121, 122, 123, 128, 130, 131, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140 except on the James M. John and Lake Dorothey State Wildlife Areas, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 161, 171, 181, 191, 211, 214, 231, 301, 391, 411, 421, 431, 441, 461, 481, 500, 501, 511, 512, 521, 551, 561, 581, 591, 681, 682, 691, 711, 741, 751, 771, 791, 851 except on the Bosque del Oso SWA, 861, 951, and private land portions of 101, 102.	TE000U2R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026 AND 10/23/2026	Unlimited West of I-25 and GMU 140 and East of I-25 (excluding GMU 140)

2. Private Land Only Late Seasons

   a. Private land only licenses are valid on all private land within the game management unit upon which the license holder has permission to hunt.

Unit	Hunt Code	Open Date	Close Date	Licenses

112, 113	TF000U2R	12/15/2026	01/15/2027	Unlimited

E. Season Dates and Units **-** Limited Licenses and Limited License Areas. Limited licenses shall be valid only for the time period and game management unit(s) or area(s) indicated on the license.

1. Spring Season.

Unit	Hunt Code	Date Opened	Date Closed	Licenses
				Bearded Turkey Only
2	TM002O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	10
15, 27,37 and 361	TM015O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	15
21	TM021O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	25
23	TM023O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	25
23 – private land only	TM023P1R	04/13/2026	05/30/2026	35
25	TM025O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	40
34	TM034O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	40
35, 36	TM035O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	30
43, 431	TM043O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	60
44	TM044O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	80
47	TM047O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	15
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only	TM059O1R	04/11/2026	05/01/2026	5
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only	TM059O2R	05/02/2026	05/31/2026	10
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only – youth only	TM059K1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	10
80	TM080O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	10
81	TM081O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	20
91	TM091O1R	04/11/2026	05/01/2026	25
91, 92, 96, 101, 102-youth only	TM091K1R	04/11/2026	5/31/2026	125
91	TM091O2R	05/02/2026	05/31/2026	25
92	TM092O1R	04/11/2026	05/01/2026	25
92	TM092O2R	05/02/2026	05/31/2026	25
96	TM096O1R	04/11/2026	05/01/2026	50
96 - private land only	TM096P1R	04/11/2026	05/01/2026	75
96	TM096O2R	05/02/2026	05/31/2026	50
96 - private land only	TM096P2R	05/02/2026	05/31/2026	50
101, 102	TM101O1R	04/11/2026	05/01/2026	25
101, 102	TM101O2R	05/02/2026	05/31/2026	25
103, 107, and 109	TM103O1R	04/11/2026	05/01/2026	35
103,107, and 109	TM103O2R	05/02/2026	05/31/2026	35
103, 107, 109 - youth only	TM103K1R	04/11/2026	5/31/2026	35

1. Spring Season.				
Unit	Hunt Code	Date Opened	Date Closed	Licenses
				Bearded Turkey Only
124, 125, and 129	TM124O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	25
124, 125, and 129 - youth only	TM124K1R	04/11/2026	5/31/2026	15
127, 132	TM127O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	30
139	TM139O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	10
140 - Lake Dorothey State Wildlife Area only	TM140O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	30
140 - James John State Wildlife Area only	TM140O2R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	20
444	TM444O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	55
444 – Private Land Only	TM444P1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	30
851 - Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area only	TM851O1R	04/11/2026	05/31/2026	20
Total				**1270**

2. Fall Season				
Unit	Hunt Code	Date Opened	Date Closed	Licenses
				Either Sex
15, 27, 37 and 361	TE015L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	15
25	TE025L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	15
34	TE034L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	25
47	TE047L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	25
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only	TE059L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	15
85 - Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area - Oberosler Tract only	TE085L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	10
85 - Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area – Dochter Tract only	TE085L2R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	10
85 -Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area - Sakariason Tract only	TE085L3R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	10
91	TE091L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	25
91, 92, 96, 101, and 102 – youth only	TE091K1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	35
92	TE092L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	25
96	TE096L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	60
101, 102	TE101L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	30
103, 107, and 109	TE103L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	10
103, 107, 109 - youth only	TE103K1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	10
124, 125 and 129	TE124L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	15
124, 125 and 129 - youth only	TE124K1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	15

2. Fall Season				
Unit	**Hunt Code**	**Date Opened**	**Date Closed**	**Licenses**
				Either Sex
126, 146	TE126L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	20
127, 132	TE127L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	20
139	TE139L1R	09/01/2026	10/23/2026	5
140 - Lake Dorothey State Wildlife Area only	TE140L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	10
140 - James John State Wildlife Area only	TE140L2R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	10
444	TE444L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	30
851 - Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area only	TE851L1R	09/01/2026	10/04/2026	10
Total				**455**

F. Special Licenses for Nuisance Turkeys

1. The Director shall have the authority to establish special hunting seasons for turkeys, between December 1 and March 31 on an annual basis, when necessary to control nuisance turkeys. The Area Wildlife Manager will determine the type of license(s) (either-sex or hen only) most appropriate to control the conflict.

   a. Nuisance turkey hunts are limited to a maximum of 50 licenses per landowner, per year.

      1. 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. Nuisance turkey licenses shall be sold at the fall season license price.

   b. Prior to approving the hunt, the Division shall:

      1. Verify that conflicts are occurring.

      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.

   c. Hunting will be done under the direction of a District Wildlife Manager, following approval by the owner of land where such conflict is occurring.

   d. 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.

e. Any person who purchases a license for a nuisance turkey 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.

#322.5 – Ranching for Wildlife – Turkey

A. Implementation Authority

1. The Director is authorized to implement the Ranching for Wildlife program, including the authority to determine ranch enrollment status, enter into cooperative agreements with ranches, establish and modify public and private season dates on each ranch, and establish and modify license allocations to each ranch including the subsequent distribution of licenses to the public and private share annually, and may establish additional Ranching for Wildlife operating guidelines subject to the following provisions.

B. Ranch Entry and Maintenance

1. Ranches must have a minimum of 10,000 acres of privately owned land in one contiguous unit. Ranches that meet this 10,000-acre minimum requirement may include privately owned non-contiguous parcels in the program if the Director determines that their inclusion will contribute to meeting the performance standards for the ranch.

2. Ranches must develop a Ranching for Wildlife Management Plan that includes goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving such goals and objectives for wildlife habitat management, species management, and public hunting management. The Management Plan must be approved by the Division prior to execution of a Cooperative Agreement for Ranching for Wildlife.

3. Ranches may not charge public hunters an access fee for hunting.

4. Except as agreed to in writing by the Division when necessary to meet the ranch performance standards or as mutually agreed and contained in the Management Plan, ranches must provide for equality of access in terms of geographical area and mode of transportation for both public and private hunters. No closure or restriction of land or roads shall apply to public hunters that do not also apply to private hunters.

5. Public hunts must be established at a time when the species to be hunted are present and available for harvest. No public seasons shall be established during times when normal winter conditions would prevent access to most of the ranch, nor when normal migration patterns of the species to be hunted result in the species having migrated off the ranch.

6. Ranches that establish coinciding or overlapping public and private hunts may not exclude public hunters from any portion of the ranch due to the presence of private hunters.

7. The ranch and the Division will mutually agree to ranch rules regarding access to and hunting on the ranch by public hunters. The ranch rules will be provided to hunters prior to seasons on the ranch in accordance with other provisions contained in this regulation.

C. Cooperative Agreements, Enrollment, Denial of Enrollment, Termination of Enrollment

1. The Division is authorized to enter into Cooperative Agreements with ranches.

2. Ranches may appeal enrollment decisions to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

3. Cooperative Agreements shall incorporate approved Ranching for Wildlife Management Plans as part of the Cooperative Agreement.

4. The Division shall periodically evaluate ranches for enrollment and contract performance, and shall establish minimum performance standards for ranches enrolled in the program, including wildlife habitat management and improvement, public recreation opportunity and experience, and any factors intended to contribute to meeting turkey management objectives. Such performance standards shall be incorporated into the Cooperative Agreement with the ranch.

D. Turkey Season Structures

1. Public and private spring season opening and closing date parameters.

   a. Private seasons may not begin before April 1, nor extend beyond June 1.

   b. Public seasons may only be established within the opening and closing dates of the regularly established spring season.

   c. Public hunting seasons shall be a minimum of ten (10) consecutive days.

2. Public and private fall season opening and closing date parameters.

   a. Public and private seasons may not begin before September 1, nor extend beyond November 1.

   b. Public hunting seasons shall be a minimum of ten (10) consecutive days.

3. Manner of Take

   c. The manner of take for spring or fall RFW turkey seasons shall be the same as that for regularly established spring or fall seasons.

E. License Allocation

1. A maximum of 100 bearded turkey licenses in the spring season and 100 either-sex turkey licenses in the fall season may be allocated to each ranch annually, and subsequently distributed to the public and private share according to paragraph b of this regulation.

2. The public shall receive a minimum of forty percent (40%) of the total number of licenses allocated for each turkey season on each ranch.

3. License allocation for each ranch shall be approved by the Division and recommended to the Director, based upon harvest objectives for the ranch jointly determined by the Division and the ranch, hunter crowding, enhancement of hunter harvest, and relative densities of the species on the ranch.

4. Substitution of licenses of one species or sex for licenses of another species or sex shall not be permitted.

5. Landowner preference shall not be used for any public or private Ranching for Wildlife license.

F. Youth Licenses

1. The Division and the ranch may formulate and implement youth hunting opportunities on any ranch through Division approved youth hunting programs. The Division must approve the youth hunting program on the ranch prior to any season or license allocation for such youth hunts.

2. A maximum of 15% of the total number of turkey licenses allocated for a ranch may be allocated as youth hunting licenses on each ranch, over and above the total number of licenses allocated for a ranch.

3. Youth hunting seasons may occur at any time within the broad parameters for seasons within the Ranching for Wildlife program.

4. Youth licenses shall be distributed to individual youth hunters by mechanisms of the approved youth hunting program on the ranch. Youth licenses shall not count as either private or public licenses for purposes of calculating the relative share of other licenses allocated for the ranch.

G. License Distribution

1. Applications

a. Applications for private hunter licenses stamped with the ranch name and season dates shall be available to the landowner for distribution.

b. Public hunter licenses shall be available through application and selection from the Division during the annual limited license drawing process, except as provided in this regulation.

H. Special Restrictions

1. Unless otherwise provided in these Ranching for Wildlife regulations all hunters must comply with other applicable regulations, including, but not limited to, manner of take (except that private hunters may use any legal weapon during private seasons), hunting hours, application requirements and deadlines, bag limits, season participation, mandatory checks, OHV restrictions, and other generally applicable regulations for big game hunting.

2. A copy of the mutually agreed upon ranch rules will be provided to all public hunters prior to their hunting season. All public hunters will be required to sign a statement acknowledging that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with all ranch rules, before the hunter is allowed access to the ranch.

a. Compliance with ranch rules is a specific condition of the Ranching for Wildlife public licenses and subsequent access to the ranch. In addition to criminal penalties, non-compliance with ranch rules constitutes grounds for suspension and revocation of the license and/or being prohibited from further participation in hunting on the ranch, and/or in the Ranching for Wildlife program as a public hunter.

b. Final determination on any legal action taken towards hunters found in non-compliance with ranch rules shall be made solely by officers of the Division. This includes any citation that may be issued for non-compliance with the provisions of a license, or directing a hunter to leave a ranch. Ranch personnel may not direct a hunter to leave a ranch without specific authorization of a Division officer.

#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 - two (2) mink, two (2) pine marten, two (2) badger, two (2) gray fox, two (2) red fox, two (2) swift fox, two (2) raccoon, two (2) ring-tailed cat, two (2) striped skunk, two (2) western spotted skunk, two (2) long-tailed weasel, two (2) short-tailed weasel, two (2) opossum, and two (2) 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 - two (2) 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 - two (2) coyote

2. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

#326 – Beaver

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: October 1 - March 31~~April 30~~ annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - two (2) beaver.

2. Unlimited ~~bag and~~ possession.

C. Presentation and Sealing

1. Licensees shall personally present beaver pelts or hides to the Division for sealing within 30 days of take or within 5 days of the end of the season, whichever is sooner. Seals will only be placed on beaver legally taken in Colorado. Beaver legally harvested in other jurisdictions will not be sealed. No fee shall be required for the inspection and issuance of a legal possession seal.

2. The seal shall remain attached to the pelt or hide until processed. Unprocessed pelts and hides may not be transported, shipped or otherwise taken out of Colorado until they are inspected and sealed.

3. An attached legal possession seal shall authorize possession, transportation and sale of unprocessed pelts and hides. Only one legal possession seal shall be provided for each beaver pelt or hide. It is illegal to buy, sell, trade, or barter an unprocessed pelt or hide unless a permanent seal is affixed thereto.

4. Exceptions. The presentation and sealing requirements of this rule only apply to beaver taken in Colorado after October 1, 2026 by avocational sportspersons. The presentation and sealing requirements of this rule do not apply to beaver taken by (1) owners of agricultural products or resources and their families, employees, agents and identified designees who have removed beavers as authorized by the Predatory Animal Control Act, § 35-40-100.2, CRS, or (2) persons who have lawfully removed beavers pursuant to section 33-6-107(9), CRS. However, beaver pelts or hides can be sealed by CPW, upon request by such persons.

Basis and Purpose:

These regulations amend the season dates for the 2026 hunting seasons for game birds (except migratory birds), and all other species considered small game in Colorado and are the result of an annual review. These regulations are necessary to provide small game hunting opportunities and properly manage small game wildlife in Colorado. Small game populations are managed primarily for hunting and wildlife watching opportunities, and to prevent or minimize damage to private property.

Adopting mandatory check requirements for avocational beaver harvest

In 2026, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) completed its statewide Beaver Conservation and Management Strategy (BCMS). One of the management objectives in the BCMS includes the setting and monitoring of allowable beaver harvest caps at the major drainage scale. To achieve this objective, CPW will require avocational beaver harvesters to personally present pelts or hides to CPW for physical sealing and providing more accurate location information than what is currently collected during the annual harvest survey. Sealing aids enforcement by helping determine whether a furharvester has complied with the mandatory check requirement. The new regulations will also shorten the beaver season by one month, ending March 31 to streamline the annual data collection cycle.

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 understands, based on the discussion held at the March 2026 Commission meeting, that the Commission's purpose in seeking to adopt bag limits for furbearer species is to:

1. Maintain social acceptance of the hunting and trapping of furbearers by addressing the perception of a regulatory gap in furbearer management.
2. Maintain social acceptance of the hunting and trapping of furbearers by addressing the perceptions that unlimited take is unethical and may deplete furbearer populations.
3. Prevent a small group of furharvesters from taking so many animals in such a short period of time that other trappers, hunters, or wildlife viewers are deprived of the opportunity to encounter furbearer species in any specific habitat or geographic area. Localized overharvest undermines the opportunity for other avocational hunters and trappers to take a limited furbearer resource and decreases opportunities for non-consumptive users to enjoy wildlife-related recreational opportunities, including furbearer viewing and photography.

The revised rules are intended to promote CPW's sound programs of hunting and trapping of furbearers and a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities for future generations.

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 16TH DAY OF JULY, 2026.

Phil Weiser
Attorney General

Natalie Hanlon Leh
Chief Deputy Attorney General

Shannon Stevenson
Solicitor General

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Associate Chief Deputy
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Tracking Number: **2026-00237**

OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RENDERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE Colorado Parks and Wildlife (406 Series, Wildlife) ON 07/16/2026

2 CCR 406-3
CHAPTER W-3 - FURBEARERS AND SMALL GAME, EXCEPT MIGRATORY BIRDS

The above-referenced rules were submitted to this office on 07/17/2026 as required by section 24-4-103, C.R.S. This office has reviewed them and finds no apparent constitutional or legal deficiency in their form or substance.

July 31, 2026 11:22:57 MST

Philip J. Weiser
Attorney General
by Russell D. Johnson
Deputy Solicitor General