



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

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TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission
FROM: Katie Lanter, Policy and Planning Supervisor, CPW
RE: Big Game License Allocation/Preference Point Process Options
DATE: April 23, 2021

In response to the Commission's request to consider changes to allocation and preference point policies and regulations, as well as recent citizen petitions and legislative proposals on these topics, below we outline two options with tentative timelines to consider changes to these policies and regulations for discussion at the May Commission meeting.

Option A: Consideration of allocation/preference point changes in conjunction with Big Game Attitude Survey (BGAS)

The majority of the process under Option A would take place in 2022, following the implementation of an updated BGAS with survey questions specifically designed to inform further discussions on allocation and preference point changes. In 2021, focus groups could be held to identify and refine potential BGAS topics that might include:

- Resident/nonresident allocation percentages for all big game species
- Use of a hard cap vs. a soft cap in determining allocation percentages
- 3-year average and point totals used to determine 80/20 deer and elk units
- Preference point banking
- Weighted preference points
- Hybrid draw
- Overall satisfaction with hunting opportunity and licensing

Stakeholder outreach and involvement would likely take place in early summer of 2022 and could take the form of public meetings and/or a stakeholder workgroup. These discussions would be informed by the results of the BGAS.

Between now and this fall, staff may bring forward potential interim measures with minimal complexity (if identified) to be considered through the Commission's regulatory process.

A tentative timeline for this option could include:

- July - November 2021 – Presentation of interim measures to the Commission (2-3-step regulatory process). Possible implementation of these changes for the 2022 draw depending on the scope and complexity of the approved changes.
- November - December 2021 - Focus groups to inform BGAS
- February - April 2022 – Implement BGAS
- June - July 2022 - Presentation of BGAS results and stakeholder outreach



- July-August 2022 – Draft recommendations
- September-November 2022 – Presentation and adoption of recommendations to the Commission (2-step regulatory process)
- Possible implementation for 2023 draw depending on the scope and complexity of the changes requested.

Option B: Phased Approach with Stakeholder Workgroup

Phase 1 of this option would take place in 2021 and would only consider the 3-year average and point totals used to determine 80/20 deer and elk units. This topic would be explored using a stakeholder workgroup composed of 10-12 people with representatives of resident hunters, non-resident hunters, resident outfitters, and local economic interests in counties.

A tentative timeline for this phase 1 could include:

- May 2021 – Applications for stakeholder workgroup
- June 2021 – 2-3 virtual meetings with stakeholder workgroup
- July-August 2021 – Draft recommendations
- September-November 2021 – Presentation and adoption of recommendations to the Commission (2-step regulatory process)
- Possible implementation for 2022 draw depending on the scope and complexity of the changes requested.

Phase 2 of this Option B would tentatively take place in 2022 and could consider other allocation topics and changes to preference point policies and regulations.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Option A because it allows for consideration of allocation and preference point issues together and provides for greater public engagement (including the use of an updated BGAS). A BGAS would also help inform the upcoming 2025-2028 Big Game Season Structure process.