

2023 - 2032 Draw Season Structure

At the May 2023 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting, the Commission directed staff to form a Draw Process Working Group (DWG or group). The purpose of the group was to reduce complexities within Colorado's draw system and address preference point issues, while keeping in mind biological and sociological concerns.

A Draw Working Group was formed which consisted of two Commissioners, eight members of the public (residents and nonresidents) and seven members of staff (two non-voting). The DWG held five meetings between October 2023 and May of 2024 to draft recommendations for the agency and Commission to consider. The focus topics included draw methods for the Primary and Secondary draws, preference points, the weighted draw for sheep, goat and moose, and the reissue process. Three Commission workshops also took place between January 2024 and July 2024 on these topics.

This policy document summarizes all of the approved changes which will be implemented starting in the 2028 draw. Policies that were recommended to remain status quo are not included in this policy document.

All recommendations for change were discussed and considered by the Commission in a two-step policy approval process (November 2024 and January 2025). Adopted policies/regulations will not be implemented until the 2028 draws in order to allow time for draw reprogramming. These policies will also be re-examined every ten years, by implementing a Draw Season Structure, similar to the Big Game Season Structure. This cycle will run through the 2032 draws to allow for five years of implementation before the next cycle begins.

Deer, Elk, Bear, Pronghorn, and *Turkey

a. Primary Draw Methods (*Applies to both the spring and fall limited turkey draws)

i. Draw Type - Split Draw

- A split draw methodology will be used in the Primary Draw for **all** deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, and turkey licenses. The quota for each hunt code will be divided 50/50, with half of the quota going to a preference point draw, and half going to a bonus draw. If the quota cannot be evenly split, the extra license will go to the preference point draw.
- The previous hybrid draw is removed and replaced with the above split draw methodology.

ii. Allocation

First Change:

- The nonresident allocation for **all** deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, and turkey licenses is 25%, unless there is insufficient demand to reach the 75% resident allocation.
- All hunt codes for these species will have the same residency allocation. No continued differentiation between high-demand and low-demand hunt codes (using resident preference point and three-year averages).

Second Change:

- Allocation rules apply to **the first and second choices** in the Primary Draw. If there is insufficient resident demand after going through **the first and second choices**, any excess quota may go to nonresidents (soft cap).
- No more than half of the nonresident cap will be included in the preference point half of the split draw.

b. Preference Points

i. Obtaining Points - Preference Points are species-specific. With the exception of turkey, only one point per species can be accrued per draw year. For turkey, a point can be accrued per draw application season (spring and fall), so a maximum of two per draw year.

- Points are accrued in two ways; 1) by purchasing a point during the Primary Draw application period, or 2) if unsuccessful in drawing a **first choice license** during the Primary Draw.
- The first choice preference point only hunt code for each species is eliminated.

ii. Point Fees

- Residents will be charged a \$15 fee and nonresidents a \$30 fee to receive a preference point for deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, or turkey (per species). Applicants can select to opt-out of paying the preference point fee if unsuccessful, but they will not gain a preference point for that species for that year.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose

a. **Primary Draw Methods**

i. **Draw Type - Bonus Draw**

- A 100% bonus draw will be used for all Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mountain goat and moose license hunt codes. This new draw method will replace the previous weighted draw for these species.

ii. **Waiting Periods**

- Applicants must hold a minimum of three species-specific preference points to be eligible to draw a ram Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, bull moose, or either-sex mountain goat license. There are no minimum point thresholds in order to draw an antlerless moose, ewe Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, or nanny only license.

iii. **Group Applications**

- Group applications are allowed, but are restricted to two members in the group and both must have the same residency. *This is status quo for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and mountain goats, but expanded to moose and desert bighorn sheep applicants for consistency.*

iv. **Once in a Lifetime Harvest**

- License holders who **harvest** any antlered moose, bighorn sheep ram, or mountain goat on an either-sex license, will not be eligible to draw another male or either-sex license for the same species in the future. Exceptions to this policy include auction and raffle licenses, private land tags issued under the Bighorn Sheep Access Program, and control/special management licenses approved by the Division. This policy change is not retroactive, but applies to license holders moving forward.
- License holders who **harvest** any antlered moose, bighorn sheep ram, or mountain goat, must wait a minimum of 5 years before they are eligible to reapply for points or for a female license for the same species.

b. **Preference Points**

i. **Obtaining Points** - Preference Points are species specific. Only one point per species can be accrued per draw year.

- Points are accrued in two ways; 1) by purchasing a point during the Primary Draw application period, or 2) if unsuccessful in drawing a **first choice license** during the Primary Draw.
- The first choice preference point only hunt code for each species is eliminated.

ii. **Points are Points**

- The differentiation between preference points and weighted preference points is eliminated. All points are considered normal preference points moving forward. All preexisting weighted preference points are added to the number of preexisting preference points for that species to get the updated point value for each customer.

Desert Bighorn Sheep

a. Primary Draw Methods

i. Draw Type - Random Draw

- **Status Quo.** Fully random draw. No preference points are gained or used for this species.
- *This is the proposed draw type for any new limited species draw added in the future.*

ii. Application Restrictions

- **Group Applications.** Group applications are allowed, but are restricted to two members in the group and both must have the same residency.

Reissue Process

a. Auto-reissue

First Change:

- The reissue process is automated and is used to resell **any** license that is surrendered, not paid for by the payment deadline, or returned *up to two weeks prior to the start of the season*.
- Licenses are automatically reissued to the next eligible applicant in the draw order (by residency based on the next up report) that has opted-in to accept auto reissues.
- Applicants can opt-in to accept auto reissues by hunt code during the application process. They can also change their opt-in status at any time, prior to being issued a license for that hunt code.
- When a license is auto-reissued, the system charges the customer for the license.

Second Change:

- If the hunt code was applied for as a first choice during the Primary Draw, then all preference points for that species also become void with the auto reissue. If the hunt code was applied for as a second, third, or fourth choice or during the Secondary Draw, then no points are used.

b. Weekly reissues

- Any deer, elk, bear, pronghorn or turkey licenses that are returned *two weeks or less prior to the start of the season* or returned at any time but do not have any eligible applicants to auto-reissue the license to, will be placed on the weekly reissue list.
 - Those licenses will be released at 11:00 am MT on Wednesdays weekly, with a preview list posted the Tuesday prior.
 - Licenses purchased during the weekly reissue release are treated as leftover licenses and do not require the use of preference points to purchase.

c. Manual reissues

- Any Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, mountain goat or moose license *returned two weeks or less prior to the start of the season*

will be manually reissued to the applicant next up in the draw order (by residency based on the next up report). This is done manually by CPW staff, not automatically by the system. The customer must approve the manual reissue.

- When a license is manually reissued, the customer is charged for the license and all preference points for that species become void.
- If there are no eligible applicants to manually reissue the license to or if none of the next five applicants in line accept the license, the license becomes available as a part of the next weekly reissue process.

d. Fail to Pays

- If a customer draws a license during any limited license draw, but the license is not paid for by the payment deadline, the license is removed from the customer's account and auto-reissued (as described above) to the next applicant in the draw order. If preference points were used to obtain the license, those preference points are restored to the pre-draw level.