AS APPROVED 03/05/2025

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

ARTICLE I - General Provisions

#300 – Definitions

A. **"Canada Lynx Recovery Area"** means the area of the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests and associated lands above 9,000 feet extending west from a north-south line passing through Del Norte and east from a north-south line passing through Dolores and from the New Mexico state line north to the Gunnison basin (including Taylor Park east to the Collegiate Range). The GMUs included in the area are: 55, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 551, 681, 711 and 751.

B. **"Furbearers"** means those species with fur having commercial value and which provide opportunities for sport harvest including mink, pine marten, badger, red fox, gray fox, swift fox, striped skunk, western spotted skunk, beaver, muskrat, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, coyote, bobcat, opossum, ring-tailed cat and raccoon.

C. **“Live Trap (Cage or Box)”** means a mechanical device designed in such a manner that the animal enters the trap through an opening that prevents the animal from exiting.

D. **"Small game**, except migratory birds," means:

1. **Game birds**, including dusky grouse, Greater Sage-grouse, Gunnison Sage-grouse, mountain sharp-tailed grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, pheasant, northern bobwhite, scaled and Gambel's quail, chukar partridge, Greater prairie-chicken and wild turkey; and

2. **Game mammals**, including cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, white-tailed and black-tailed jackrabbit, fox squirrel, pine squirrel, marmot, and Abert's squirrel; and

3. **Other small game**, including black-tailed, white-tailed and Gunnison prairie dogs, Wyoming (Richardson's) ground squirrel, prairie rattlesnake, and common snapping turtles.

NOTE: “Migratory Birds” is defined in regulation #500(A).

E. **“Traps specifically designed not to kill”** means padded, laminated, or off-set steel jawed foothold traps, enclosed foothold, box traps, and cage traps, as conditioned elsewhere in these regulations.

#301 – License Fees

A. Furbearer License Fee

1. **Furbearer License Fee Reduction:**
In accordance with the provisions of §33-4-102, C.R.S., the following furbearer license fees shall be reduced to the fee specified herein, from the level set forth in §33-4-102, C.R.S.:

a. Nonresident Furbearer …….$99.79

B. Resident senior combination fishing and small game hunting license fee

1. **Resident senior combination fishing and small game hunting license fee reduction:**
In accordance with the provisions of §33-4-102, C.R.S., the following combination license

shall be created with a reduced fee specified herein, from the level set forth in §33-4-102, C.R.S.:

a. Resident senior combination fishing and small game hunting licenses …….$34.47
b. Resident senior lifetime fishing upgrade to annual combination fishing and small game hunting license* …….$24.29

*Valid only for resident senior Lifetime Disability and Low Income Fishing license holders.

#302 – Hours

A. Hunting Hours:

1. Small Game - from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset.

2. Furbearers - from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset. Additionally; beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk, and swift fox may be hunted at night in accordance with Regulation #'s 303(E)(7) and (E)(8).

B. Trapping Hours:

1. Small game, except game birds; game reptiles, and furbearers - day or night.

2. All live traps (cage or box) must be visually checked on site at least once every day; except in the Canada lynx recovery area or on properties known to be occupied by Canada lynx, they must be checked every 24 hours.

   a. Visual lures, fresh meat baits, fish oil, and anise oil lures meant to attract felids are not permitted in the Canada lynx recovery area or on properties known to be occupied by Canada lynx.

#303 – Manner of Take:

The following are legal methods of take for game species listed in this chapter. Any method of take not listed herein shall be prohibited, except as otherwise provided by Statute or Commission regulation or by 35-40-100.2-115, C.R.S.

A. Special Conditions

1. Contests involving black-tailed, white-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dogs, Wyoming (Richardson's) ground squirrel, or Furbearers are prohibited.

   a. For the purpose of these regulations, a contest is any competitive event where money or other valuable prizes are awarded for the taking of such small game and furbearers. "Valuable prizes" shall not include certificates or other similar tokens of recognition not having any significant monetary value.

   b. Commercial and noncommercial wildlife parks and field trials licensed by the Division are exempt from these provisions.

2. **Live Capture**

   a. Furbearers captured in live traps cannot be moved from the capture site and must be killed or released on site when the trap is checked.

3. **Accidental Capture** - Except for Canada lynx, which are subject to the provisions of Chapter 10, any person accidentally trapping any wildlife for which the trapping season is closed or for which trapping is not a legal manner of taking, shall, in the event of live capture of such wildlife, release such wildlife immediately. Nothing in this section permits

the killing of such accidentally captured wildlife, unless the wildlife cannot be released without human endangerment. In the event of mortality resulting from such accidental capture, the carcass of such wildlife shall be delivered to a Division wildlife officer or office within five (5) days. Failure to deliver the carcass shall be prima facie evidence of unlawful possession of such wildlife. Provided further that any trapper who complies with this provision shall not be charged with illegal possession of such accidentally captured wildlife.

4. **Non-toxic shot requirements**

   a. Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge (Jackson County).

      No person shall use or possess shot (either in shot-shells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than non-toxic shot while taking or attempting to take any resident small game species with a shotgun. “Non-toxic shot” - means any shot type approved for use to take migratory game birds by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as set forth in #500 of these regulations.

5. **Labeling of traps** - All live traps (limited to cage or box traps) placed on public lands must be labeled permanently and legibly with the trapper’s Customer Identification Number (CID) in a location that is visible without having to manipulate the live trap in any way. If the trapper does not have a CID, all live traps placed on public lands must be labeled with the trapper’s name. Live traps not properly labeled may be confiscated by any Wildlife Officer.

B. Game Mammals

1. Any rifle or handgun.

2. Any shotgun not larger than 10 gauge, incapable of holding more than three (3) shells in magazine and chamber combined.

3. Handheld bows and crossbows.

4. Air guns and slingshots.

5. Hawking.

C. Game Birds, except Migratory Birds

1. Any rifle or handgun for dusky (blue) grouse, ptarmigan or turkey during the fall and late seasons. Rifles and handguns used for the taking of turkeys shall use bullets of at least seventeen (17) grains in weight, with a manufacturer's energy rating of at least one-hundred ten (110) foot pounds at one-hundred (100) yards from the muzzle.

2. Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge not firing a single slug, and incapable of holding more than three (3) shells in the magazine and chamber combined. No shot (lead or steel) larger than size #2 shall be used to hunt turkey.

3. Handheld bows and crossbows.

4. Air guns and slingshots for dusky (blue) grouse and ptarmigan. Pre-charged pneumatic air guns .25 caliber or larger during the fall or late seasons for turkey.

5. Hawking.

6. Artificial decoys and calls, except recorded or electrically amplified calls or sounds; for turkey.

D. Species listed in #300(D)(3).

1. Any method not otherwise prohibited.

E. Furbearers

1. Any rifle or handgun.

2. Any shotgun.

3. Handheld bows and crossbows.

4. Any air gun, except that for coyote or bobcat the air gun must be a pre-charged pneumatic air gun .25 caliber or larger.

5. Live traps, limited to cage or box traps. All live-trapped wildlife shall be released immediately or dispatched by any legal method of take for that species in regulations #303.E.1-4. If local ordinances or public safety prohibit all legal methods of take from being used, American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia of Free-Ranging Wildlife, as provided in S7.6 of the 2013 edition of the AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals, may alternatively be used to the extent allowable by law.

6. Electronic call devices.

7. **Artificial light** (private land) may be used at night to take beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk and swift fox on private land with written permission of the landowner, designated agent, lessee, or authorized employee.

8. **Artificial light** (public land) may be used at night to take beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk and swift fox on public lands by permit only, as follows:

    a. Each permit shall be valid only for the time, species, and location specified on the permit. No permit will be valid during any deer, elk or pronghorn rifle season or during the 24-hour period prior to the opening weekend; nor during the opening weekend of any grouse, pheasant, quail, turkey, or waterfowl season in those areas where such seasons are in progress.

    b. An artificial light which is permanently attached to, or projected from within a vehicle, is prohibited.

    c. Taking shall not be permitted within 500 yards of a dwelling, building, or other structure, or in any area of public concentration where human safety would be jeopardized.

    d. Such permit shall be carried while hunting and available for inspection upon demand.

    e. Area wildlife managers and district wildlife managers may deny a permit where there is a potential that night hunting activities may result in significant adverse impact on wildlife resources by causing movement of large numbers of big game or otherwise.

    f. Provided further that night hunting permits for bobcat will not be issued on public lands in the Canada lynx recovery area where Canada lynx are known to be present. When one Canada lynx has been taken by a bobcat hunter during the current year's hunting season no night hunting permits for bobcat will be issued for the remainder of the calendar year in the Canada lynx recovery area or in the area outside the Canada lynx recovery area where the Canada lynx was taken. In such instance, any night hunting permits for bobcat already issued under this provision shall be

terminated.

g. A permit shall not be required of any person, member of the person's family, lessee, designated agent, authorized employee, or identified designee with written authorization when necessary to protect such person's property. Refer to Chapter W-17, Damage Caused by Wildlife for applicable regulations.

9. Baits

a. Furbearers may be taken with the aid of baiting. Where permitted, baits shall consist solely of material of animal or plant origin and shall not contain any materials of metal, glass, porcelain, plastic, cardboard or paper. Wildlife used as bait shall be the carcass, or parts thereof, of legally taken furbearers, carp, shad, white and longnose suckers, and nonedible portions of legally obtained game mammals, birds and game fish.

#304 – License Requirements

Except as provided in 33-6-107(9) C.R.S., the following license requirements shall apply:

A. A small game license is required to take those species defined in #300(D) as small game, except wild turkey.

B. Until March 1, 2021, a small game or a furbearer license is required to take those species defined in #300(B) as furbearers. Beginning March 1, 2021, a youth small game license, a furbearer license, or a furbearer harvest permit in addition to any variation of a small game license or small game and fishing combination license is required to take those species defined in #300(B) as furbearers, except coyotes. Coyotes may be taken with a small game license, a furbearer license, or without a license during any big game season provided that the hunter has an unfilled big game license for that season and unit. Manner of take must be the same as that of the big game license. An annual furbearer harvest permit can be purchased for $10.00.

C. A turkey license is required to take wild turkey.

D. Common snapping turtles may be taken with either a small game license or a fishing license.

E. Each hunter must register their intent to hunt migratory birds, small game or coyotes by completing a Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey online (www.cpwshop.com) or by calling (1-855-521-3050) prior to their first hunting trip of the season. For the purposes of this regulation, “season” means the period March 1 through March 31 of the following year.

~~E.~~F. Beginning with the 2025 greater sage-grouse, mountain sharp-tailed grouse and ptarmigan hunting seasons, no hunter shall take any greater sage-grouse, mountain sharp-tailed grouse, or white-tailed ptarmigan unless at the time of such taking they have purchased one (1) greater sage-grouse, mountain sharp-tailed grouse, and white-tailed ptarmigan permit in addition to a small game license. An annual greater sage-grouse, mountain sharp-tailed grouse and white-tailed ptarmigan permit can be purchased for $5.00.

#305 – Evidence of Sex/Species

Refer to General Provisions #003.

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. There shall be no bag or possession limit.

#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 ~~24, 2024~~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 ~~14~~ 13 - October ~~6~~5, ~~2024~~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 ~~14~~ 13 - November ~~24, 2024~~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 ~~14~~ 13 - September ~~20, 2024~~19, 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 - Four (4) birds.

B. Season Dates, Units and Limits, North Park

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

a. September ~~14~~ 13 - September ~~15, 2024~~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 ~~15, 2024~~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 ~~9, 2024~~8, 2025 - January 31, ~~2025~~2026.

2. West of I-25: November ~~9, 2024~~8, 2025 - January ~~5, 2025~~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 ~~9, 2024~~8, 2025 - January 31, ~~2025~~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 ~~9, 2024~~8, 2025 - January ~~5, 2025~~4, 2026.

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

   November ~~9, 2024~~8, 2025 - January ~~5, 2025~~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, ~~O~~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.

~~1.~~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, ~~A~~applications ~~receiving~~ 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, ~~G~~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.

~~2.~~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, 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,	TM000U1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	Unlimited

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.				

2. 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	9/01/2025	10/05/2025 and 10/31/2025	Unlimited West of I-25 and GMU 140 and East of I-25 (excluding GMU 140)

3. 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	12/15/2025	01/15/2026	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	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	15
15, 27,37 and 361	TM015O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	15
21	TM021O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	15
23	TM023O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	20

1. Spring Season.				
Unit	Hunt Code	Date Opened	Date Closed	Licenses
				Bearded Turkey Only
23 – private land only	TM023P1R	04/14/2025	05/31/2025	40
25	TM025O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	40
34	TM034O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	40
35, 36	TM035O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	20
43, 431	TM043O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	60
44	TM044O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	80
47	TM047O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	15
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only	TM059O1R	04/12/2025	05/02/2025	5
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only	TM059O2R	05/03/2025	5/31/2025	10
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only – youth only	TM059K1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	10
80	TM080O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	10
81	TM081O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	20
91	TM091O1R	04/12/2025	05/02/2025	30
91, 92, 96, 101, 102-youth only	TM091K1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	150
91	TM091O2R	05/03/2025	05/31/2025	30
92	TM092O1R	04/12/2025	05/02/~~2024~~ 2025	30
92	TM092O2R	05/03/2025	05/31/2025	30
96	TM096O1R	04/12/2025	05/02/2025	50
96 - private land only	TM096P1R	04/12/2025	05/02/2025	75
96	TM096O2R	05/03/2025	05/31/2025	50
96 - private land only	TM096P2R	05/03/2025	05/31/2025	75
101, 102	TM101O1R	04/12/2025	05/02/2025	25
101, 102	TM101O2R	05/03/2025	05/31/2025	25
103, 107, and 109	TM103O1R	04/12/2025	05/02/2025	35
103,107, and 109	TM103O2R	05/03/2025	05/31/2025	35
103, 107, 109 - youth only	TM103K1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	35
124, 125, and 129	TM124O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	25
124, 125, and 129 - youth only	TM124K1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	15
127, 132	TM127O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	30
139	TM139O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	10
140 - Lake Dorothey State Wildlife Area only	TM140O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	30
140 - James John State Wildlife Area only	TM140O2R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	20
444	TM444O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	45

1. Spring Season.				
Unit	**Hunt Code**	**Date Opened**	**Date Closed**	**Licenses**
				Bearded Turkey Only
444 – Private Land Only	TM444P1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	30
851 - Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area only	TM851O1R	04/12/2025	05/31/2025	20
Total				**1315**

2. Fall Season				
Unit	**Hunt Code**	**Date Opened**	**Date Closed**	**Licenses**
				Either Sex
15, 27, 37 and 361	TE015L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	15
25	TE025L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	15
34	TE034L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	25
47	TE047L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	25
59 - Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area and Table Mountain State Trust Land Lease only	TE059L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	15
85 - Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area - Oberosler Tract only	TE085L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	10
85 - Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area – Dochter Tract only	TE085L2R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	10
85 -Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area - Sakariason Tract only	TE085L3R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	10
91	TE091L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	30
91, 92, 96, 101, and 102 – youth only	TE091K1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	35
92	TE092L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	30
96	TE096L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	75
101, 102	TE101L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	30
103, 107, and 109	TE103L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	5
103, 107, 109 - youth only	TE103K1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	5
124, 125 and 129	TE124L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	15
124, 125 and 129 - youth only	TE124K1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	15
126, 146	TE126L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	20
127, 132	TE127L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	20
139	TE139L1R	09/01/2025	10/31/2025	5
140 - Lake Dorothey State Wildlife Area only	TE140L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	10
140 - James John State Wildlife Area only	TE140L2R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	10
444	TE444L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	30

2. Fall Season				
Unit	**Hunt Code**	**Date Opened**	**Date Closed**	**Licenses**
				Either Sex
851 - Bosque del Oso State Wildlife Area only	TE851L1R	09/01/2025	10/05/2025	10
Total				**470**

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.

Basis and Purpose:

These regulations amend the season dates for the 2025 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 opportunity 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.

Creating a white-tailed ptarmigan, greater sage-grouse, and mountain sharp-tailed grouse permit required in addition to a small game license, to take these species

Currently, the annual harvest of white-tailed ptarmigan (WTPT), greater sage-grouse (GRSG), and mountain sharp-tailed grouse (CSTG) are generated through the Harvest Information Program (HIP). This system works well for some species, but unfortunately for species relatively fewer hunters pursue, such as these three, the process results in poor harvest data estimates. To improve the management of these three species, CPW will create a WTPT, GRSG, CSTG permit that hunters will need to purchase in addition to their small game license prior to hunting these species. The sale of this permit will allow CPW to more easily identify GRSG, CSTG, and WTPT hunters from within the huge number of small game license buyers and HIP registrants, resulting in higher quality harvest survey data for managers and increased survey efficiency for CPW.

Opening the greater sage-grouse hunting season in game management units 2, 4, 5 and 10

Greater sage-grouse hunting in northwestern Colorado has been conducted for several years in concert with recommendations in local conservation plans developed by CPW and a variety of local stakeholders. The Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan (completed by the Northwest Colorado Local Working Group in 2008) includes recommended thresholds for the management of sage-grouse hunting based on a 3-year average of the number of male grouse counted on leks. Since the late 1990s sage-grouse management zones and their associated game management units have been recommended for closure when the 3-year lek count average falls below 100 males and, conversely, recommended for opening when the average is above 100.

- Game Management Unit 2
  Greater sage-grouse hunting was closed in GMU 2 in 2022 when the three-year running average high male count fell below 100. Based on this year's (2024) lek counts the three-year average for this zone is currently 126 males, above the threshold set in the NWCO GRSG Management Plan that allows for an active hunting season. Given relatively low perceived hunting pressure in this unit, hunting mortality is not a major factor affecting the trend in annual lek counts in these units.

- Game Management Units 4 and 5
  Greater sage-grouse hunting was closed in GMUs 4 and 5 in 2020 when the three-year running average high male count fell below 100. That three-year average hovered near 100 males from 2021 to 2023 but then increased this year (in 2024) to 145, above the threshold set in the NWCO GRSG Management Plan that allows for an active hunting season. CPW chose not to recommend reopening the hunting season for greater sage-grouse in GMUs 4 and 5 in 2023 because the three-year average was hovering around 100. When grouse management zones hover around the 100 male mark under the current harvest management strategy it creates a situation where individual GMUs may be turned on/off in subsequent years creating confusion for hunters and enforcement issues for CPW. Given relatively low perceived hunting pressure, hunting mortality is not a major factor affecting the trend in annual lek counts in these units.

- Game Management Unit 10

Greater sage-grouse hunting was closed in GMU 10 in 2021 when the three-year running average high male count fell below 100. With an increase in lek attendance observed in 2023 and 2024 the current three-year average for this management zone is 234, well above the threshold set in the NWCO GRSG Management Plan that allows for an active hunting season. The current yearly count for this management zone (374 males) is above the long-term (1998 to 2023) average for this management zone, which is 286. CPW has robust lek count data for this management zone going back to 1998.

The current hunting season for greater sage-grouse in northwestern Colorado is 7 days with a bag limit of 2 birds and possession limit of 4 birds.

Opening the mountain sharp-tailed grouse hunting season in game management unit 23

Mountain sharp-tailed grouse (CSTG) are abundant in northwest Colorado and currently available for harvest in several GMUs in Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco counties. CPW's understanding of CSTG distribution and abundance continues to evolve with the discovery of additional known lek (breeding) locations and the known breeding distribution of CSTG has increased over the past six years to include a much larger area in eastern Rio Blanco County than previously thought. In the spring of 2024 CPW tallied >4,700 CSTG at 254 active leks in northwest Colorado, the most ever documented in >25 years of formal monitoring of this species.

The current hunting season for CSTG is September 1 through the 3rd Sunday in September each year with a daily bag limit of 2 and possession limit of 4. The current Conservation Plan for CSTG has one objective related to hunting and that is to "Provide a level of hunting recreation that does not adversely affect viability of CSTG populations in northwest Colorado." Since 2012 CPW has discovered, and continues to monitor, 10 additional CSTG leks in GMU 23 in eastern Rio Blanco County. These leks have been counted each year since their discovery and the total number of birds counted on these leks in GMU 23 has remained >100 in each year since 2018, indicating a CSTG population size suitable for harvest.

Draw 2028 changes

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 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. 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.

The group unanimously agreed that all draw recommendations for deer, elk, bear, and pronghorn should apply to turkey as well. This includes using a split draw method, applying a 75%/25% residency allocation, changes to preference points, and using an auto-reissue process for returned licenses.

Split draw

Two goals of the group were “simplicity” and “the ability for all current and future hunters to draw highly-desirable licenses”. With those goals in mind, the group gravitated towards a split draw methodology because it allows both groups of hunters (those with lots of accrued preference points as well as new/novice hunters) a chance at drawing highly desirable licenses. The group and the commission consensus was for a preference and bonus point split as it accounts for accrued preference points in both splits. This type of split system rewards customers who have been applying in the system for a long time, while also still having a random component for young and novice hunters during the bonus point (names in the hat) part of the draw. In addition, the new split model makes the draw more simplistic and easier to understand than the previous hybrid draw model by removing some of the existing complexities. The group and commission also approved using one draw method consistently for deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, and turkey. The percentage of licenses allocated to each split (preference vs. bonus) was approved so that a there was a 50/50 split. This will be the easiest for the public to understand and will ensure that even hunt codes with low quota will have a random draw component.

Allocation

The group and the commission also approved one residency allocation split across all deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, and turkey hunt codes (no high demand for big game). The commission approved a 75/25 split between residents and nonresidents. This change will be new for turkey licenses and will remove the high demand allocation split for big game, which will increase consistency and decrease complexity. In addition, the commission approved applying the allocation rules to the first and second choice hunt codes during the primary draw. This extends the soft cap into the second choice of the primary draw decreasing the number of hunt codes going over the soft cap to nonresidents during first choice.

Preference points

During the draw policy approval process the Commission and CPW both expressed concerns with the possible large revenue loss associated with applying the 75/25 resident/nonresident allocation to multiple choices in the primary draw. In order to offset those costs the commission approved a preference point fee for deer, elk, bear, pronghorn or turkey similar to what is done for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mountain goats and moose. The Commission approved a preference point fee with the price to be set later for deer, elk, bear, pronghorn, and turkey and similar to sheep, goat and moose a customer will be able to opt-out of paying for a point if they want to. The added fee will help recover lost revenue from other draw changes as well as reduce preference point creep if fewer people decide to purchase a point. Youth, lifetime licenses holders and Colorado resident military personnel on active duty outside of Colorado will be exempt from the preference point fee to be consistent with the preference point requirements for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, goat and moose.

In addition, the commission approved the removal of the preference point only hunt code in order to have customers choose whether they want to try to gain an additional preference point or try to draw a license to hunt during the primary draw. The group believed that allowing customers to easily draw a license and gain a point every year is only exacerbating preference point creep. Instead, the group recommended getting rid of the preference point hunt codes entirely and making customers choose upfront if they want a preference point only, or if they want a chance at drawing a license. When applying an applicant will mark that they either 1) want to purchase a point and not participate in the primary draw, or 2) they want to apply for a license in the primary draw. The group was conscious of the fact that this policy change could cause many applicants to change their application behavior by either choosing to not apply in the primary draw or applying for hunt codes that are traditionally more difficult to draw. Customers could still take their chance in the random secondary draw where no preference points are used, if they wanted an opportunity to hunt every year.

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 MAY 1, 2025, 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 5TH DAY OF MARCH 2025.

APPROVED:
Dallas May
Chair

ATTEST:
Karen Bailey
Secretary

Phil Weiser
Attorney General

Natalie Hanlon Leh
Chief Deputy Attorney General

Shannon Stevenson
Solicitor General

Tanja Wheeler
Associate Chief Deputy
Attorney General

STATE OF COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Ralph L. Carr
Colorado Judicial Center
1300 Broadway, 10th floor
Denver, CO 80203
Phone 720-508-6000

Office of the Attorney General

Tracking Number: **2025-00024**

OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RENDERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE Colorado Parks and Wildlife (406 Series, Wildlife) ON 03/05/2025

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

The above-referenced rules were submitted to this office on 03/07/2025 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.

March 25, 2025 08:31:16 MST

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