



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Policy and Planning

6060 Broadway • Denver, CO 80216

TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission

FROM: Hilary Hernandez, Regulations Manager

RE: January 14-15, 2026 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting Regulatory Items

DATE: January 2, 2026

The regulatory and policy items detailed below are scheduled to be addressed at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission's January 14-15, 2026 meeting. If there are questions about any of the agenda items below, or if additional information is needed, please feel free to contact Hilary Hernandez at hilary.hernandez@state.co.us.

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 20: Chapter W-0 - "General Provisions" 2 CCR 406-0 (Step 2 of 2)

Open for final review of the entire chapter, specific considerations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Modifying the culpable mental state for luring or attracting wildlife.
- Realigning the boundaries of game management units 97 and 99.

Agenda Item 21: Chapter W-2 - "Big Game" 2 CCR 406-2 (Step 2 of 2)

Open for final review of the entire chapter, including, but not limited to:
Statewide

- Annual changes to season dates, limited license areas, quotas and manner of take provisions for bighorn sheep and mountain goat (statewide). (Step 1 of 1)
- Annual changes to season dates, limited license areas, and manner of take provisions for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, moose and bear (statewide). (Step 1 of 1)

Deer

- Creating a first rifle season buck hunt code in data analysis unit D-30.
- Creating a private-land-only deer hunt code in game management unit 682.

Elk



Laura Clellan, Acting Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Richard Reading, Chair • James 'Jay' Tutchton, Vice-Chair • Eden Vardy, Secretary • Jessica Beaulieu • Frances Silva Blayney • John Emerick • Tai Jacober • Dallas May • Jack Murphy • Gabriel Otero

- Modifying second and third rifle season bull elk licenses from unlimited over-the-counter to limited in game management units 54, 55, and 551.
- Removing antler point restrictions in game management unit 82.
- Modifying hunt codes for the first and fourth rifle seasons in data analysis unit E-2.
- Creating a private-land-only hunt code in data analysis unit E-13.
- Creating private-land-only archery hunt codes in data analysis units E-20 and E-35.

Pronghorn

- Creating pronghorn licenses in data analysis unit A-22.
- Creating a second antlerless season in data analysis unit A-3.

Bighorn Sheep

- Removing hunt code SMS7901R.
- Closing hunting in game management unit S-35 due to low population size.
- Combining sheep hunt codes in game management units S1 and S18.

Agenda Item 22: Chapter W-2 - “Big Game” 2 CCR 406-2 (Step 2 of 2)

Open for final consideration of the following:

- Annual changes to season dates, and harvest limits for mountain lion (statewide). (Step 1 of 1)
- Updating the harvest limit groups to implement the East Slope Mountain Lion plan.
- Reorganizing the harvest limit groups for LE6001R and LE06201R.

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

Agenda Item 23: Chapter P-7 - “Passes, Permits and Registrations” 2 CCR 405-7 (Step 1 of 2)

Open for review of creating an out-of-state daily vehicle parks pass.

Agenda Item 24: Chapter W-5 - “Small Game - Migratory Game Birds” 2 CCR 406-5 (Step 1 of 2)

Open for consideration of annual changes to waterfowl and migratory bird hunting seasons and related provisions, including season dates, bag and possession limits, and manner of take provisions.

Agenda Item 25: Chapter W-7 - “Herpetofauna” - 2 CCR 406-7 and those related provisions of Chapter W-0 (“General Provisions” 2 CCR 406-0), Chapter W-1 (“Fishing” 2 CCR 406-1), Chapter W-3 (“Furbearers and Small Game, except Migratory Birds” 2 CCR 406-3), Chapter W-10 (“Nongame” 2 CCR 406-10), and Chapter W-11 (“Wildlife Parks and Unregulated Wildlife” 2 CCR 406-11) necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-7 (Step 1 of 2)

Open for the creation of a Herpetofauna regulatory chapter, including but not limited to, regulations pertaining to licensing, capture, collection, sale, purchase, possession, reporting, disposition, relocation and transportation of Herpetofauna.

Agenda Item 26: Chapter W-9 - “Wildlife Properties” 2 CCR 406-9 and those related provisions of Chapter W-0 (“General Provisions” 2 CCR 406-0) and Chapter P-1 (“Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands” 2 CCR 405-1) necessary to accommodate changes to or ensure consistency with Chapter W-9 (Step 1 of 2)

Open for annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, generally applicable and property-specific requirements for, or restrictions on use of wildlife properties controlled by the Division of Parks and Wildlife, including State Trust Lands leased by the Division. This includes regulations related to the requirements to access State Wildlife Areas and State Trust Lands leased by the Division. Specific changes include:

- Modifying property-specific regulations for Ralston Creek State Wildlife Area.

Agenda Item 28: Chapter W-17 “Damage Caused by Wildlife” 2 CCR 406-17 (Step 1 of 2)

Open for consideration of changes to game damage to compensate livestock owners for damages caused by wolverine.

CONSENT AGENDA

FINAL REGULATIONS

Agenda Item 30.3: Chapter W-2 - “Big Game” 2 CCR 406-2 (Step 2 of 2)

Open for final review of the entire chapter, including, but not limited to:
Statewide

- Expanding lifetime bag limits to include reward program licenses.

Deer

- Removing deer hunt codes DM004P5A and DF004P5A.
- Creating a private-land-only urban deer management hunt code in game management unit 84.
- Creating a limited fourth rifle season antlered hunt code in data analysis unit D-19.
- Creating a private-land-only doe hunt code in data analysis unit D-24.

Elk

- Modifying the antler point restrictions for Ranching for Wildlife enrolled ranches.
- Adding a cow late season to data analysis unit E-19.
- Converting antlerless hunt codes in data analysis unit E-16 to be list B.
- Converting bull rifle licenses to be either-sex licenses in data analysis unit E-10.
- Creating archery licenses in data analysis unit E-23 and converting antlerless licenses to be list B licenses.
- Creating new season dates for hunt code EF060P5R.

Pronghorn

- Creating muzzleloader private-land-only licenses in data analysis unit A-37.

Moose

- Creating a female-only moose hunt code in data analysis unit M-12.
- Creating a moose hunt code for game management unit 551 and splitting game management unit 55 into east and west subunits.
- Creating a bull-moose hunt code in game management unit 79.
- Adding wilderness only hunt codes to data analysis unit M-4.

Bear

- Creating a private-land-only bear hunt code in game management unit 211.

Bighorn

- Removing the second season ram hunt in Waterton Canyon.
- Adding a late season archery hunt to game management units S-23 and S-27.
- Adding archery licenses in game management unit S-03.
- Adding game management unit 67 to hunt codes SMS5901R and removing hunt code SMS6701R.
- Modifying the season dates for game management unit S-34.

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

Agenda Item 30.4: Chapter W-9 - “Wildlife Properties” 2 CCR 406-9 (Step 1 of 2)

Open for annual review of the entire chapter including, but not limited to, generally applicable and property-specific requirements for, or restrictions on use of wildlife properties controlled by the Division of Parks and Wildlife, including State Trust Lands leased by the Division. This includes regulations related to the requirements to access State Wildlife Areas and State Trust Lands leased by the Division. Specific changes include:

- Adopting property-specific regulations for the new Boreas Pass Ranch Hunting Easement.
- Adopting property-specific regulations for the new Collard Ranch State Wildlife Area.
- Adopting property-specific regulations for the Georgetown State Wildlife Area.
- Modifying property-specific regulations for the Knight-Imler State Wildlife Area.
- Adopting property-specific regulations for the new Michigan Creek State Wildlife Area.
- Formalizing Nakagawa’s SWA posted regulations and prohibitions in Chapter W-9.
- Removing Smith Lake SWA from Chapter W-9 regulations.
- Modifying the name of Teter-Michigan Creek SWA.

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-0 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Note: Amendments to the Rules are added in red text and deletions are in red text with strikethrough.

ARTICLE XI - Special Restrictions**#021 - Feeding or Attracting Wildlife**

- A. Except as provided in subsections (A)(1-4) of this regulation no person shall place, deposit, distribute, or scatter grain, hay, minerals, salt, or other foods ~~the person knows or reasonably should know so as to intentionally~~ constitute a lure, attraction or enticement for big game not lawfully held in captivity.
 - 1. Crops and crop aftermath, including hay, alfalfa and grains, produced, harvested, stored or fed to domestic livestock in accordance with normal agricultural practices shall not be subject to this regulation.
 - 2. When the Director determines it necessary to authorize feeding to prevent damage to private property.
 - 3. When the Director determines it necessary to authorize feeding to mitigate the population loss anticipated by a predicted winter mortality that will exceed 30 percent of the adult female segment of a big game ungulate population in any one Game Management Unit.
 - 4. When the Director determines it appropriate to feed big game as a part of a research or management program.
- B. ~~No person~~ shall ~~be unlawful to~~ place or deposit minerals or salt ~~the person knows or reasonably should know in an area so as to~~ constitute a lure or attractant for wildlife. Nothing in this regulation shall restrict the use of salt or mineral blocks in normal agricultural practices.
- C. Except as provided in subsections (A)(1-4) of this regulation no person shall place, deposit, distribute or scatter any food or other substance ~~the person knows or reasonably should know so as to intentionally~~ constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement for coyotes or fox in an area where the discharge of firearms is precluded by law. This regulation shall not apply to any person using any bait or other attractants for the purpose of luring coyotes and fox for take as otherwise authorized by law.
- D. No person shall fail to take remedial action to avoid contact or conflict with black bears, coyotes or fox, which may include the securing or removal of outdoor trash, cooking grills, pet food, bird feeders or any other similar food source or attractant, after being notified by the Division that black bears, coyotes or fox are in the area and advised to undertake such remedial action. Further, after an initial contact or conflict with a black bear, coyotes or fox, no person shall continue to provide, or otherwise fail to secure or remove, any likely food sources or attractants, including, but not limited to, outdoor trash, grills, pet food or bird feeders.

ARTICLE XIII - Game Management Unit Boundaries**#024 - Game Management Unit Boundary Descriptions for All Terrestrial Game Species, Except Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat****B. Unit descriptions**

- UNIT 97 Those portions of Logan, Washington and Morgan counties bounded on the north and east by Colo 61; on the south by US 34; and on the west by I-76 ~~Business/US 34 spur and I-76.~~

UNIT 98 Those portions of Logan, Phillips, Yuma, and Washington counties bounded on the north by Colo 6; on the east by the Colorado-Nebraska state line; on the south by US 34; and on the west by Colo 61.

UNIT 99 Those portions of Weld, Morgan, and Adams counties bounded on the north by I-76; on the east by I-76 Business/US 34 and Colo 71; on the south by US 36; on the west by Colo 79 and 144th Avenue; on the south and west by Adams Co Rd 25N, 152nd Avenue, and I-76; and on the west by I-76.

Basis and Purpose:

Modifying the culpable mental state for luring or attracting wildlife

Feeding wildlife, particularly big game, is a widespread issue in Colorado, especially near cities. This practice is prohibited because it can spread disease, harm animals with unnatural food, increase conflicts with people, and unnaturally inflate animal populations. While regulations prohibit this, it's currently very hard to enforce. Prosecutors must prove a person intended to attract wildlife, which is difficult to show. This high burden of proof means successful prosecutions are rare. To fix this, the proposed change would lower the mental state standard from "intentionally" to "knows or reasonably should know." This would make violations easier to prove and encourage people to stop feeding wildlife. The change aims to improve public safety, reduce disease spread, and create healthier, more manageable wildlife populations.

Realigning the boundaries of game management units 97 and 99

Previously, the boundary descriptions for the Southwest corner of GMU 97 and Northeast corner of GMU 99 were incomplete and missing a section. The net change from this realignment of the boundaries will result in shifting 1.3 sq. miles from GMU 97 to GMU 99. This GMU boundary realignment will have no impact to DAU objectives or any big game species within the respective GMUs and DAUs.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be viewed and copies obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager, Policy and Planning Unit, 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 MARCH 2, 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 14TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

APPROVED:
Richard Reading
Chair

ATTEST:
Eden Vardy
Secretary