



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman, Room 111
Denver, CO 80203
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TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Krista Heiner, Regulations Manager
RE: May 2020 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting, Regulatory Items
DATE: April 28, 2020

The regulatory items detailed below are scheduled to be addressed at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission's May 6-7, 2020 virtual meeting.

If there are questions about any of the agenda items below, or if additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me at 303-866-3203 x4609.

CITIZEN PETITIONS (WILDLIFE):

Agenda Item 10 - Chapter W-2 - "Big Game" - 2 CCR 406-2

At its May meeting, the Parks and Wildlife Commission will consider a Citizen Petition for Rulemaking related to big game hunting, as follows:

- A Citizen Petition for Rulemaking requesting that the Commission allow crossbows as a method of take during archery big game seasons.

The Commission may accept all or a portion of this petition for final action, further consideration or otherwise reject the petition at the May Commission Meeting.

Agenda Item 11 - Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, except Migratory Birds" 2 CCR 406-3

At its May meeting, the Parks and Wildlife Commission will consider a Citizen Petition for Rulemaking related to small game and furbearers, as follows:

- A Citizen Petition for Rulemaking requesting that the Commission prohibit the use of non-lethal cage and box traps for recreational and commercial purposes.

The Commission may accept all or a portion of this petition for final action, further consideration or otherwise reject the petition at the May Commission Meeting.

Agenda Item 12 - Division Response to the Citizen Petition on Trapping

FINAL REGULATIONS (WILDLIFE):

Agenda Item 18 - Chapter W-9 - "Wildlife Properties" - 2 CCR 406-9

Open for final consideration of regulations, including but not limited to, the following:

- Adding new properties to the Public Access Program into Appendix B.2 of Chapter W-9 regulations.

Agenda Item 19 - Chapter W-2 - "Big Game" - 2 CCR 406-2



Open for final consideration of regulations, including but not limited to, the following:

- Adoption of all limited license numbers for black bear, deer, elk, pronghorn and moose for all Game Management Units in the state that have limited licenses for these species for the 2020 big game seasons. Mountain lion harvest limits are not considered at this meeting.

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION (PARKS and WILDLIFE):

Agenda Item 20 - Chapter P-3 - "River Outfitters" - 2 CCR 405-3

Open for consideration of regulations including, but not limited to:

- Increasing the fee for river outfitter licenses.

Agenda Item 21 - Chapter W-3 - "Furbearers and Small Game, except Migratory Birds"- 2 CCR 406-3

Open for consideration of regulations including, but not limited to:

- Removing the ability to take furbearers (with the exception of coyotes) with the small game license and creating a new upgrade to the small game license to allow the take of furbearers (other than coyotes).

CITIZEN-PROPOSED ISSUE PAPER

Date: March 21, 2020

ISSUE: THE LEGALIZATION OF CROSSBOWS DURING THE ARCHERY SEASON

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

If crossbows were legal in the archery season, then it would allow more people to hunt during the archery season, thus increase the revenue to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It would bring in more children, women, and people with physical limitations who cannot pull enough poundage on a vertical bow. The nationwide trend is toward legalization. There is no evidence that it hurts animal herds. Crossbows are not superior to vertical bows because you cannot re-load a second arrow as quickly as you can with a vertical bow. Both the crossbow and the vertical bow are very similar. Triggers are used with both the crossbow and the vertical compound bow. Most people that are shooting a vertical compound bow, are using a string loop with a mechanical trigger, which is called a release aid. Both the crossbow and the vertical compound bow shoot arrows, and each of the arrows has four distinct parts: shaft, fletching, broadhead, and nock. Merriam-Webster definition of archery: the sport or skill of shooting with a bow and arrow. The crossbow and the vertical bow are both bows that shoot an arrow. They both have limbs, and a string that attaches to either cam wheels, or directly to the limbs themselves.

WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE? HAVE YOU COMMUNICATED WITH ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES? WHAT INPUT HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

The people that might be interested in this are women, children, and people with physical limitations. There are also adults who have been shooting vertical bows for many years, and as they age, the sufficient poundage to put down big game becomes harder for them to draw back and hold. Yes, I have communicated with other interested parties, and the input was an excitement, that they would be able to bow hunt in the archery season using a crossbow, if it became legal. The other interest that I noted, was that they would be able to hunt during the early season when the weather was warmer, and they would probably not have to hunt in deep snow. Many of them had no interest in hunting with a rifle.

ALTERNATIVES: PLEASE INDICATE THE PROBABLE OUTCOME IF THIS PETITION IS ACCEPTED, AS WELL AS THE IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVES TO THIS PETITION:

A couple probable outcomes of this petition, if it is accepted, is that it could bring in a variety of new hunters into the sport. It could also bring in more revenue to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which is very important, because hunters and fisherman are the only ones paying for animal conservation. If this petition is not accepted, then everything remains the same, and hunting throughout the United States is at an all time low, according to "Outdoor Life" (October 15, 2019), and other major publications.

PETITION PROPOSED BY: John Dekruff

PETITION WRITTEN BY: John Dekruff

DATE SENT TO THE COMMISSION: March 21, 2020