

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: October 14, 2020
ISSUE:	Should the PWC regulation be changed to allow antlerless moose hunters to present the entire head or an incisor during a mandatory inspection?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Currently, both antlerless and antlered moose hunters are required to provide the entire head during a mandatory inspection. Historically, we required the entire head to be submitted for antlerless moose so that mandatory Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sampling could be completed. Regulation #270.C.2 currently states, "Any licensee who takes an antlerless moose shall personally present the head to any Division office."</p> <p>In addition, an incisor is removed from the lower jaw during inspection to estimate the age of the harvested animal. Recently, CWD testing was made voluntary and if the hunter does not select for CWD testing, only a tooth is gathered from the head of an antlerless moose during inspection. For antlered moose, hunters are required to present the head, with antlers attached, because antler measurements are recorded for biological purposes during inspection. Hunters also submit a completed mandatory harvest form with harvest information during inspection. If a hunter does not select CWD testing, they are required to take their moose heads after inspection. For some hunters, finding a suitable place to dispose of their moose head is problematic because they are in an urban setting near a CPW office. Negative feedback has been received from hunters about having to pack out the head and dispose of it after inspection; keeping the head of antlerless animals is generally not of interest to hunters.</p> <p>Requiring antlerless moose hunters to bring in an entire head for inspection is unnecessary when only the incisor is collected. The requirement to present the entire head is an added physical burden to remove from the field because moose heads can weigh in excess of 30 pounds.</p> <p>It is recommended to change the requirement for antlerless moose hunters to provide the entire head or a front incisor tooth for inspection rather than only the entire head. Antlerless hunters will be notified in the big game brochure and with a letter of the mandatory requirements. Hunters will be instructed on how to remove a front incisor in the field and reminded to bring the entire head if they select voluntary CWD testing. This recommended change will give hunters a physically and logistically easier option for meeting the mandatory requirements while maintaining CPW's ability to collect necessary biological data.</p>	
<p>STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:</p> <p>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</p> <p>Antlerless moose hunters are the primary stakeholder. Negative feedback has been received from antlerless hunters during inspections about the difficulties of head disposal post inspection. No formal feedback was solicited for this issue.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Change PWC Regulation #270.C.2 to read, "Any licensee who takes an antlerless moose shall personally present a front incisor tooth or the entire head to any Division office."</p> <p>2. Status quo.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Shannon Schaller, Senior Wildlife Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	

CC:	B. Dreher, M. Eckert, and A. Holland
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: October 14, 2020

ISSUE: Should the late season antlerless hunt code D-F-211-L1-R be invalidated?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Currently a December antlerless deer season exists in GMU 211 (Hunt Code: D-F-211-L1-R). Current season dates are December 1st – 31st. The current hunt code encompasses a portion of the unit known as the “Axial Basin Triangle” with a current boundary description as follows: *Bounded on the north and east by Moffat County Road 17; on south by Moffat County Road 32; on west by Moffat County Road 55* (Figure 1).

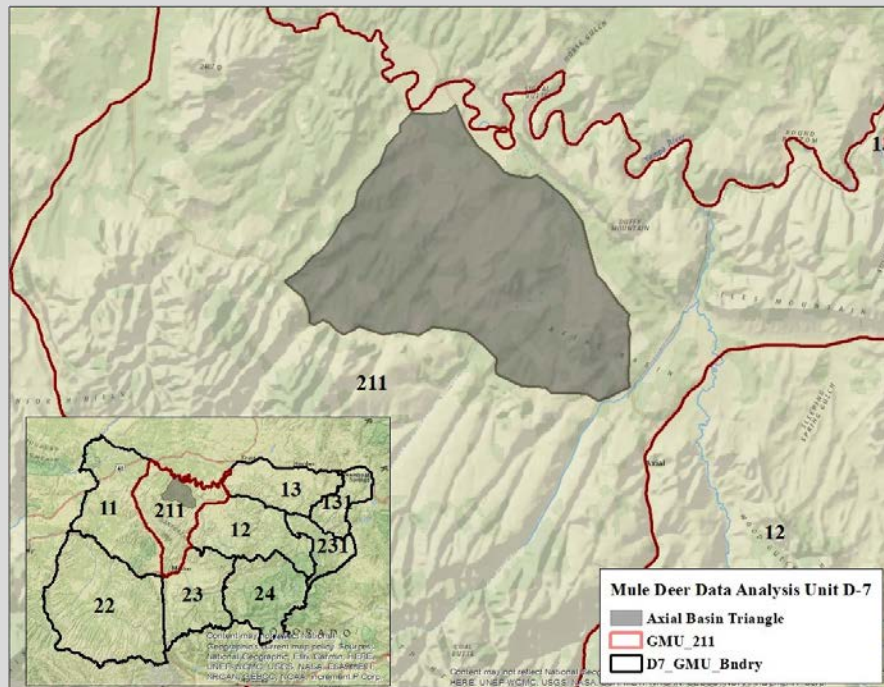


Figure 1. Axial Basin Triangle hunt area currently open to hunting in GMU 211 from December 1st - 31st.

The December hunt was originally established as part of the Axial Basin CRMP. The Axial Basin Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) included a grazing-public hunting access exchange agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CPW, and a private landowner. The late season hunt was intended to mitigate mule deer-livestock competition on winter range when mule deer populations within Axial Basin were much higher than they are today. Recently the Axial Basin CRMP was discontinued and the hunt code is no longer needed as a management tool as the landowner recently sold the ranch and livestock are no longer wintering in Axial Basin.

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***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

No stakeholder groups have been contacted. This issue paper is being submitted due to the discontinuation of the Axial Basin CRMP and a landowner selling the ranch.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative***: Invalidate hunt code D-F-211-L1-R
2. Status quo – maintain existing hunt code D-F-211-L1-R

Issue Raised by:	Area 6 staff
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	DWM Evan Jones, DWM Ross McGee, Terrestrial Biologist Darby Finley
CC:	AWM Bill deVergie, AAWM Mike Swaro, NW Senior Bio Brad Banulis
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	JT Romatzke
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

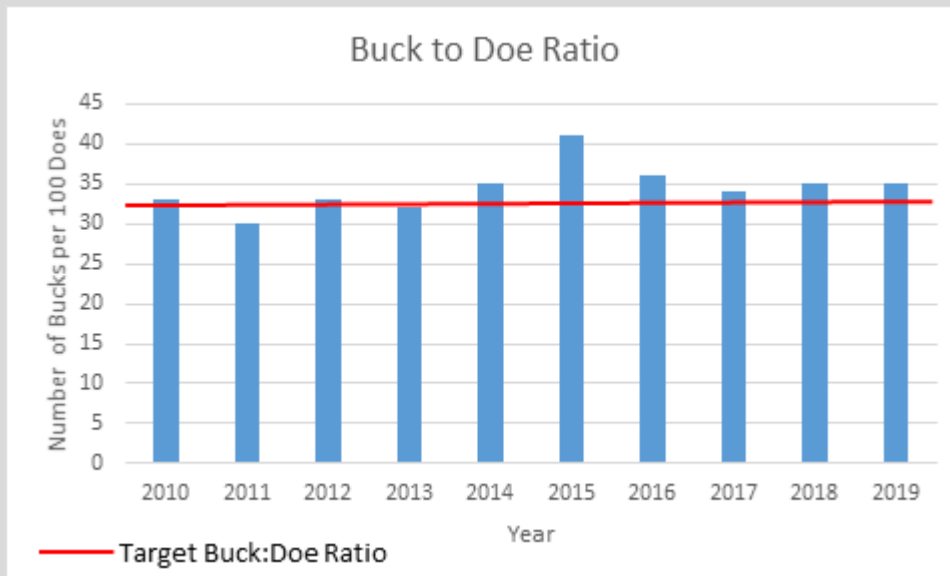
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Date: October 14, 2020

ISSUE: Should a fourth rifle season antlered deer hunt be established in Game Management Unit (GMU) 40 (Data Analysis Unit (DAU) D-18)?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Game Management Unit (GMU) 40 is located on the southwestern portion of Area 7, and contains the community of Glade Park and Pinon Mesa. The unit consists of approximately 60 percent public land including lands managed by the Colorado National Monument, Grand Mesa National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management. Approximately 40 percent of the unit is privately owned agricultural land or subdivisions. The deer in GMU 40 are managed under Data Analysis Unit (DAU) D-18.

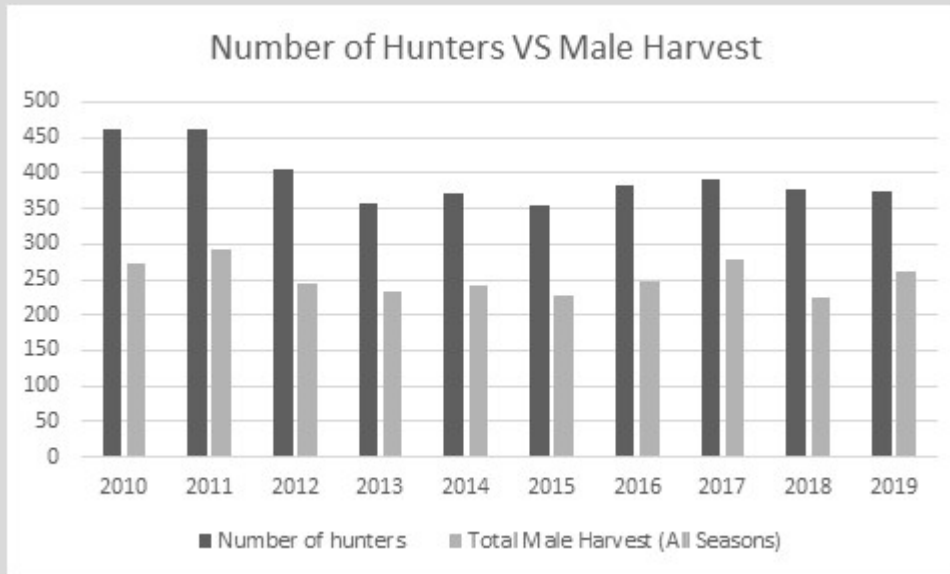


The current three-year average buck-to-doe ratio in GMU 40 is 38.3 bucks per 100 does. Since buck licenses became limited in 1995, the buck-to-doe ratio has generally increased. The management objective for the area is 30 to 35 bucks per 100 does with a target objective of 32 bucks per 100 does. The current objective was chosen to meet public demand for more bucks and older age class bucks. CPW also speculates the average buck to doe ratios are not accurately observed in this unit due to a large proportion of antlered animals, particularly older age class animals, wintering in Utah and not being classified during winter flights.

A public questionnaire from 2009 indicated the public wants to see more deer and older age class deer. There were roughly equal numbers of hunters who said they wanted to hunt every year versus wait multiple years to hunt an older animal.

Hunter crowding was also a concern with many of the hunters who were surveyed. GMU 40 contains large allotments of private land, many of which allow very limited hunter access or no hunter access. Public land that holds deer during the second and third rifle seasons is limited and difficult to access, which creates crowding issues during the rifle seasons. Large parcels of public land exist at lower elevations in GMU 40 and are more conducive to mule deer winter range. By creating a fourth season

buck hunt with a limited number of licenses, there would be an additional opportunity for harvesting older age class animals while limiting hunter crowding.



The number of hunters versus the number of bucks harvested is important to look at. Over the past ten years, approximately two thirds of hunters harvested a buck deer across all seasons. Even though success rates are good, the buck-to-doe ratio has continued to rise. With crowding being an issue, allocating more licenses will only frustrate hunters and lead to a decrease in hunter satisfaction. Allowing for another more limited deer season will likely increase success and satisfaction of hunters while maintaining a sustainable buck-to-doe ratio.

CPW staff believe the creation of a fourth rifle season would give hunters an opportunity to hunt older age class bucks on public land, experience little to no crowding, and assist in meeting sex ratio objectives.

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***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

CPW staff will continue solicited input from stakeholders in August/September 2020

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Creation of a fourth rifle season antlered deer license in GMU 40 (DM040O4R).
2. No change

Issue Raised by:	Kirk Oldham, AWM Area 7, Zac Chrisman, DWM Glade Park
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Zac Chrisman, DWM Glade Park

CC:	JT Romatzke, NW Regional Manager, Brad Banulis, NW Senior Terrestrial Biologist
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	JT Romatzke
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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Date: October 14, 2020

ISSUE: Should Game Management Units (GMUs) 105 and 106 be removed from the EF104P5R hunt code?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

GMUs 104, 105, and 106 are included in Data Analysis Unit (DAU) E-51 (Figure 1), and are composed, almost exclusively, of private land. Historically, cow harvest was achieved through the private land, List B, limited EF104P5R license which is valid in GMUs 104, 105, and 106. The introduction of the Plains, List C, either-sex, OTC rifle license (EE087U5R) gave hunters another easier option to rifle elk hunt GMUs 105 & 106. Based upon field staff observations and feedback from hunters, the majority of hunters wishing to rifle elk hunt on private lands in units 105 and 106 are now choosing the EE087U5R license for both cow and bull harvest.

The EF104P5R license is still effective for achieving cow harvest in GMU 104, as the Plains OTC either-sex license does not include GMU 104.

The EE087U5R license is an unlimited (OTC), either sex license that provides maximum flexibility for rifle elk hunters in GMUs 105 and 106. In general, the EF104P5R license is not being utilized in GMUs 105 and 106 and causes hunter confusion. It is recommended to simplify license availability and reduce confusion by removing GMUs 105 & 106 from the EF104P5R license. This change is not expected to restrict hunter opportunity or harvest.

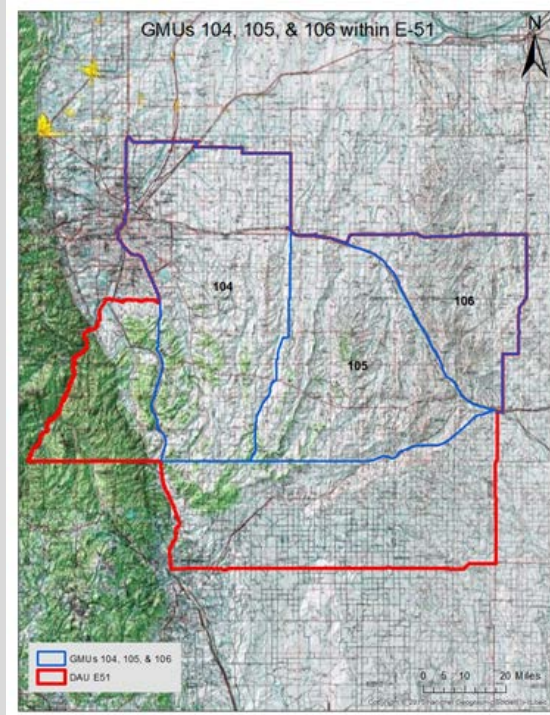


Figure 1: GMUs 104, 105, & 106

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STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

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Landowners whose properties overlap both GMUs 104 and 105. Field staff have contacted landowners, and they have indicated that they are not opposed to this change as it is expected to have minimal impact.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Remove GMUs 105 and 106 from hunt code EF104 P5R.
2. Status quo.

Issue Raised by:	Area 5 & Area 14 staff
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Kirstie Yeager, Wildlife Bio, Areas 1 & 5 Area 5 & Area 14 Staff
CC:	Matt Martinez, Shannon Schaller, and Mark Leslie
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Mark Leslie
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO