



# 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:** Jonathan Boydston, Public Involvement Planning Specialist  
**RE:** License Distribution Public Involvement - Process Update Proposal  
**DATE:** July 7, 2022

When Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff presented to the Commission in June about public engagement on big game limited license distribution, we planned to bring forward potential regulatory changes this fall. At the July Commission meeting, we would like the Commission's input on a proposal to extend the timeline for consideration of potential license distribution changes. Extending the timeline into 2023, such that regulatory changes are not brought forward this fall, would offer several benefits as described below.

**Completion of financial analyses.** After further staff discussion, it was clear that an important step towards identifying recommended regulatory changes is examining potential financial impacts to CPW and also to local communities as mentioned by several Commissioners in June. To that end, staff developed a list of over 15 different allocation scenarios that we are analyzing. We are working towards having the results of the financial analysis available to share with the Commission at your August workshop. We expect this data to help us narrow down which alternatives CPW staff feel have merit for further consideration.

**Gathering input from hunters, stakeholder organizations and local communities.** In the focus group discussions, questions were raised about financial impacts of potential license distribution changes. Having such information in hand will support informed conversations with hunters and stakeholder organizations. These conversations may also be more fruitful with a more concise list of proposed changes to focus the discussions. In addition, a narrowed field of possible changes will help us with outreach to local communities about what impacts, positive and negative, they think such changes could have on a local level.

**Commission and public education.** Extending the timeline would give the Commission and the public more time to become familiarized with our current license distribution systems and potential changes, enhancing discourse on this topic and strengthening the resulting decisions.

With this memo, we are providing some documents discussed in June that will be useful resources to the Commission and the public going forward:

- Summary of 2022 License Distribution Focus Groups
- Big Game Attitude Survey

Final results from the Big Game Attitude Survey are being compiled and will be shared with the Commission and the public prior to the September Commission meeting.





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### Summary of 2022 License Distribution Focus Groups Executive Summary

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) held public focus groups in April and May 2022 to discuss current big game license distribution systems and potential changes. Ten public focus groups were held. Half of the focus groups were dedicated to the topic of preference points and half were dedicated to the topic of license allocation. Members of the public volunteered to participate through a comment form. Participants with diverse interests and backgrounds were selected, including residents and nonresidents. Each focus group had 5-10 participants. In total, 67 individuals participated in the focus groups.

Questions were posed to participants to gauge what they consider when applying for limited licenses and what they are experiencing when hunting. An important consideration for hunters is the opportunity to draw licenses that have become increasingly difficult to obtain. Meanwhile, a majority of participants pointed to overcrowding as a concern that greatly affects their hunting experience.

Focus group participants shared their suggested changes that were then discussed by the group. After all of the ideas were shared, CPW facilitators then polled the group, asking them to indicate the top 3 ideas they wanted to discuss in greater detail. The full summary provides greater detail on the top ideas that were selected by multiple focus groups, and a list of top ideas and other possible changes mentioned is available in Appendix A.

Opinions on license allocation and limiting over-the-counter (OTC) licenses varied between residents and nonresidents. Among residents, there was support for adjusting license allocation to be more favorable to residents, though there was not complete consensus that license allocation should be adjusted. For example, many residents who are outfitters or guides felt that nonresidents should continue to be offered licenses at the current allocation levels. Likewise, nonresidents largely felt that the current OTC license model should remain in place while many residents voiced support for limiting OTC licenses, either for residents and nonresidents or just for nonresidents.

Participants in the preference point focus groups suggested several possible strategies to address preference point creep and other concerns. Many suggested changes focused on providing more opportunities for hunters to use their preference points to help reduce point creep. For example, CPW could require points to be used for more types of licenses (e.g., secondary draw licenses). Other ideas mentioned for reducing point creep were point banking and averaging group points. Finally, several focus groups suggested expanding CPW's existing hybrid draw or creating a split draw system like other states in order to improve hunter opportunity, particularly for lower point holders and new hunters.

Although several changes were suggested by multiple focus groups, there was an understanding that each idea has unintended consequences and that there is no single change that will address all concerns. Rather, a suite of changes may need to be implemented in tandem.



## Summary of 2022 License Distribution Focus Groups

### Introduction

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) held public focus groups in April and May 2022 to discuss current big game license distribution systems and potential changes. Ten public focus groups were held across the state and virtually. In order to discuss license distribution challenges and solutions in depth, half of the focus groups were dedicated to the topic of preference points and half were dedicated to the topic of license allocation. Staff conducted one focus group on preference points and one focus group on license allocation in each CPW region. Additionally, staff conducted one virtual focus group on preference points and one virtual focus group on license allocation with nonresidents.

Members of the public volunteered to participate in a focus group through an online comment form. Individuals were selected by staff to reflect diverse interests and backgrounds, including varying levels of hunting experience. Outfitters and guides were also selected for participation based on their unique viewpoint on nonresident license allocation. Each focus group had 5-10 participants. In total, 67 individuals participated in the focus groups.

Focus group participants were asked to discuss their experiences with license distribution, challenges with current systems, and potential changes. Participants had the opportunity to suggest and discuss potential changes. CPW facilitators did not ask participants to reach a consensus about potential changes, though we did identify ideas with the most support for further exploration. The effectiveness and tradeoffs of each of the group's top ideas were then discussed in more depth.

### Considerations and Challenges Discussed

#### *Preference Points*

Preference point focus group participants were asked discussion questions to gauge what they consider when applying for limited licenses. A common theme discussed was opportunity. Opportunity was often described as the chance to draw licenses that have become increasingly difficult to obtain. Additionally, hunters indicated that opportunity for new hunters, including youth, to draw sought-after licenses is also something to consider further.

Participants also discussed the importance of predictability and fairness when considering using or gaining preference points. Many focus groups discussed how predictability and fairness are linked, such that the fairest preference point system should also offer predictability and the ability to plan on acquiring certain licenses. However, several participants noted that increased opportunity often comes at the expense of predictability and fairness. For example, increasing the opportunity for new hunters to draw coveted licenses—which was suggested by participants—may make the preference point system less predictable for more experienced hunters who possess more points.

In addition to opportunity, predictability, and fairness, preference point focus group participants were also asked to consider how important the simplicity of the preference point system is when using or gaining points. Participants acknowledged that the current preference point system is not simple. However, the perceived complexity of the preference point system was not a substantial concern to the majority of participants. Many people noted that new hunters can easily learn about the preference point system by reviewing materials provided by CPW or by contacting a CPW office. The selection of focus group participants may have also impacted the feedback received about the

simplicity of license distribution systems. Although CPW staff sought participants with diverse hunting experience, including experienced hunters and newer hunters, participants initially volunteered to participate in a focus group through a comment form that they chose to complete. Therefore, focus group participants were possibly more experienced in navigating the preference point system, and less interested in simplifying the system, than other hunters.

### *License Allocation*

CPW facilitators asked license allocation focus group participants to describe how they typically hunt and what they are experiencing while hunting. Participants tended to be experienced in hunting multiple species, often using multiple methods of take. When asked whether they hunt in other states, many participants indicated that they hunt in several states in addition to Colorado.

A majority of participants pointed to overcrowding as a concern that greatly affects their hunting experience. Although many participants discussed crowding from other hunters there was also discussion about overcrowding associated with other recreation user groups. A common refrain heard was that hunters are encountering more people at trailheads and in the backcountry than at any time in the past. Resident participants often mentioned observing an increasing number of out-of-state license plates parked at trailheads. Several participants also mentioned overcrowding during archery season as a particular concern. Although such observations were anecdotal in nature, the similarity between such comments across focus groups was notable.

In addition to discussing the effect of overcrowding on hunter success there was also concern regarding the impact that increasing hunting and outdoor recreation pressure has on herd health and the environment. Many participants felt that the increasing number of hunters and other people recreating outdoors has coincided with more observations of unethical behavior, such as leaving trash at campsites or approaching wildlife.

### Potential Changes Discussed

Participants in both the preference point and license allocation focus groups were asked to share their ideas about potential changes to the license distribution system. Each participant had an opportunity to describe potential changes and why the change would be effective at addressing their concerns. Facilitators then encouraged discussion among participants with the goal of identifying how proposals would affect underlying issues, values, and desired outcomes.

A variety of potential changes were suggested and discussed by participants. Although participants had the opportunity to suggest their own unique changes there were many proposals heard at multiple focus groups. Oftentimes, separate focus groups suggested very similar changes that were slightly different but would have the same intended result. Although there was a wide variety of proposals most of the potential changes were suggested in order to address concerns related to preference point creep, opportunity (or resident opportunity specifically), and/or overcrowding.

The top ideas for potential changes identified by multiple focus groups will be described in the following section. For a more comprehensive list of top ideas and other potential changes that were proposed, see Appendix A.

### Top Ideas from Focus Groups

After all potential changes were shared by participants, CPW facilitators then polled the group, asking them to indicate the top three ideas they wanted to discuss in greater detail. The ideas described below were selected by multiple focus groups as one of their top ideas for potential changes.

### *Limiting OTC Licenses*

Limiting over-the-counter (OTC) licenses was discussed as a potential change in both the license allocation and preference point focus groups. There was significant debate about the benefits and drawbacks of eliminating or capping OTC licenses for both residents and nonresidents versus eliminating or capping OTC licenses for just nonresidents. Although several resident participants voiced support for eliminating or capping only nonresident OTC licenses, some residents also felt that resident OTC licenses should be eliminated or capped. Meanwhile, nonresident participants largely felt that OTC licenses should continue to be offered in the manner they are currently.

Potential benefits of limiting OTC licenses discussed included decreasing crowding in OTC units, reduction in point creep as more people use preference points to obtain licenses, increased opportunity for residents, and improved data on hunting pressure. A drawback of this strategy that was expressed would be less opportunity for those hunters who do not draw a limited license. Furthermore, limiting OTC licenses may reduce revenue for CPW and could have an economic impact on local communities if fewer hunters visit the area.

### *Preference Points*

Participants suggested several potential changes to the preference point system. One of the top ideas suggested at multiple focus groups was requiring preference points to be used for more licenses such as secondary draw and reissued licenses, landowner vouchers, and for second, third and fourth choices in the primary draw. This change was suggested as a way to improve point creep by requiring hunters to use more points more frequently. However, there was debate about how effective this change would be at improving point creep and it may only lead to an incremental improvement. Requiring preference points for more licenses may also have unintended impacts on harvest if less desirable licenses go unsold because hunters do not wish to use preference points on them.

Additionally, multiple focus groups raised the idea of expanding CPW's existing hybrid draw or creating a split draw system like other states. Several participants suggested expanding CPW's existing hybrid draw to include more hunt codes and/or increase the percentage of licenses allocated to the hybrid draw. Other participants voiced support for creating a separate split draw model like other states that would split the quota pool and allow different allocation strategies for each pool such as a random lottery pool and preference point pool. The main benefit of expanding CPW's hybrid draw or creating a split draw would be to improve hunter opportunity, particularly for lower point holders and new hunters. Although such a change would also allow high point holders to continue to benefit from their points, there was some concern that high point holders may draw fewer tags under this approach.

Point banking, which would allow hunters to use only the number of points needed to draw the license instead of all their points, was also discussed at several focus groups. Although point banking could help to address point creep by allowing high point holders to use some of their points each year it may also have an unintended consequence of causing more point creep for typically low to medium point hunt codes as more hunters apply for those hunt codes. Point banking was implemented in Colorado in 2006 for one year. Although many participants doubted the effectiveness of point banking to address

point creep many others felt that CPW should reinstate point banking for a longer period of time to fully assess the impact.

Lastly, multiple focus groups suggested that averaging group points would be another way to address preference point creep. This potential change would allow groups of family or friends with varying point levels to hunt together more easily and would provide a mechanism for high point holders to increase the draw odds for those in their group with fewer points. This would be another way to incentivize individuals to use their points. However, there were concerns voiced that this could create a market for buying people's points or increase the number of overall applications as more non-hunting family members would start applying to gain points to increase a group's average.

#### *License Allocation*

While there were similar suggestions made by nonresidents and residents in the preference point focus groups, there was greater disagreement between the two groups regarding changes to license allocation. Nonresidents strongly favored the status quo for license allocation split percentages between nonresidents and residents and for OTC license availability. Residents were more in favor of changing the allocation splits so that there is a greater portion of licenses guaranteed to residents, though there was some pushback from residents, particularly from outfitters and guides. Residents also expressed support for updating the years in the three-year average used to determine allocation.

While several participants supported changing the license allocation system to benefit residents, there was also a recognition of unintended consequences related to decreasing nonresident allocation. For example, participants noted the potential for economic impacts in communities that cater to nonresident hunters and decreased revenue for CPW from fewer purchases of nonresident licenses.

#### **Key Takeaways**

Most focus groups identified top ideas that were supported by a majority of participants but there was an understanding by participants that each idea had unintended consequences. There was also a recognition that there is no single change that will address all concerns. Rather, participants often proposed a suite of changes that would need to be implemented in tandem. Often, the suggestion to implement multiple changes at one time was to improve the effectiveness of the change. For example, point banking may need to be implemented at the same time as requiring points to be used for the second through fourth choices in the primary draw or in the secondary draw. Or a change might need to be implemented to offset the unintended impact on certain groups, such as creating an outfitter preference system if nonresident allocation decreases.

## Appendix A: List of Top Ideas and Other Proposed Changes

### Top Ideas from Focus Groups - selected by voting for in-depth discussion

#### *Over-the-Counter Licenses*

- Eliminate or cap all over-the counter (OTC) licenses for residents and nonresidents.
- Eliminate or cap OTC licenses for nonresidents.
- Status Quo (preferred by nonresidents).

#### *Preference Points*

- Require preference points to be used for more licenses such as secondary draw and reissued licenses, landowner vouchers, and for second choice in the primary draw.
- Allow hunters to indicate which choices on their primary draw application they'd be willing to use points for and which they would not use points for.
- Expand CPW's existing hybrid draw to include more hunt codes.
- Use a different split draw model to split the quota pool and allow different allocation strategies for each pool.
  - For example: Arizona model where both splits utilize points (i.e. 50% go to a straight preference draw and other 50% go through a bonus points (names-in-the-hat) draw).
- Point banking: hunters use however many points are needed to draw the license plus one to three additional points and retain the remainder of their points.
- Average points for group applications.

#### *License Allocation*

- Change the limited license draw allocation split(s) - more resident allocation, less nonresident allocation.
  - Possible splits mentioned:
    - 90% resident/10% nonresident
    - 80% resident/20% nonresident
    - 75% resident/25% nonresident
    - Change current 80% resident/20% nonresident for premium units to 90% resident/10% nonresident and 65% resident/35% nonresident for other units to 80% resident/20% nonresident
    - 85% resident/15% nonresident with 10% random
- Update the years in the 3-year preference point average used to determine the allocation split for a unit (not necessary if a single allocation split is used).
- Status Quo (preferred by nonresidents)

Other Proposed Changes from Focus Groups - not discussed in detail but suggested during focus group brainstorming

*Over-the-Counter Licenses*

- Restrict OTC licenses to more specific areas, units, etc.

*Preference Points*

- Status Quo
- Move to a 100% lottery system with a phased in approach giving people five years to use their points. No new points would be given.
- Point bidding: allow hunters to bid however many points they wish for a hunt code and if their bid is the best they spend those points and bank the rest.
- Eliminate the preference point hunt code—hunters could only gain a point for an unsuccessful first choice.
- Reduce the purge time for inactive hunters to lose their points.
- Return to a pay-before-you-draw big game application model.
- Require that at least one point be used for all male hunt codes.
- Implement a once-in-a-lifetime draw model for high demand units.
- Cap the number of preference points someone can possess.
- Implement a name-in-the-hat draw model for sheep, goat, and moose.
- Require that landowner tags be used only on the landowners property, or neighboring private land.

*License Allocation*

- Designating certain seasons or portions of seasons as resident only



# Big Game Attitude Survey

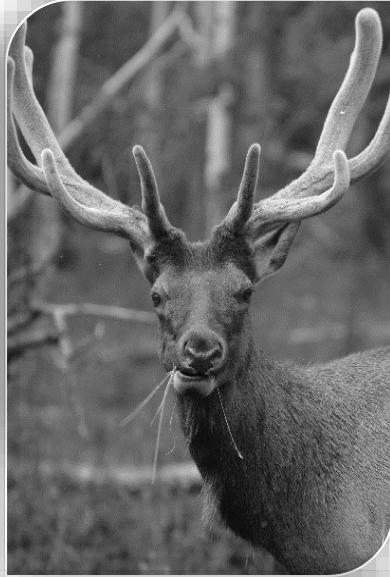


Photo Credit: Wayne Lewis



**Your Hunting Activities in Colorado.** We are interested in learning about your big game hunting experiences in Colorado including which species you prefer to hunt, why you hunt, and how satisfied you were with your hunting experiences. *For purposes of this survey, please consider elk, deer, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose to be big game.*

1. How many years, in total, have you hunted big game in Colorado? *(Please write in your response.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

2. Which of the following species have you hunted in Colorado between 2018 and 2021? *(Please check all that apply.)*

- <sub>1</sub> Elk
- <sub>2</sub> Deer
- <sub>3</sub> Pronghorn
- <sub>4</sub> Black bear
- <sub>5</sub> Mountain lion
- <sub>6</sub> Bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or moose

<sub>7</sub> I **did not hunt** these species in Colorado between 2018 and 2021 → **SKIP to question #4**

2a. Which species do you **most prefer** to hunt? *(Please check only one.)*

- <sub>1</sub> Elk
- <sub>2</sub> Deer
- <sub>3</sub> Pronghorn
- <sub>4</sub> Black bear
- <sub>5</sub> Mountain lion
- <sub>6</sub> Bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or moose

2b. For each species that you hunted in Colorado between 2018 and 2021, please indicate how dissatisfied or satisfied you were with your hunting experience. *(Please check one response for each species. If you did not hunt a certain species, please SKIP it or check "Not applicable.")*

<i>How satisfied were you with...</i>	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither dissatisfied, nor satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Not applicable
...your elk hunts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
...your deer hunts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
...your pronghorn hunts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
...your black bear hunts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
...your mountain lion hunts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
...your bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or moose hunts	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>

3. If you were dissatisfied with any of your hunts, please tell us why in the space below.

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4. Which method of take do you most prefer to use when hunting big game in Colorado? (*Please check one.*)

<sub>1</sub> Rifle

<sub>2</sub> Archery

<sub>3</sub> Muzzleloader

5. How important to you is each of the following reasons to hunt big game in Colorado?

(*Please check **one** response for **each** statement.*)

<i>Reasons to hunt</i>	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important
To spend time in nature	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
To spend time with family/friends	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
To harvest a mature game animal (e.g., >4 points on one side)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
To obtain wild game meat	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
To contribute to wildlife management	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
To contribute to local economies	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
To test/improve my skills	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
For physical exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

**License Distribution in Colorado.** CPW uses several methods to award big game licenses in areas where there is more demand than the number of licenses available. For most units, a drawing system that uses preference points determines who is awarded a license.

6. Which of the following alternatives would be the fairest way to determine how big game licenses should be allocated between Colorado resident and nonresident hunters? (*Please check one.*)

<sub>1</sub> 65% resident – 35% nonresident (*current allocation for most hunts*)

<sub>2</sub> 70% resident – 30% nonresident

<sub>3</sub> 75% resident – 25% nonresident

<sub>4</sub> 80% resident – 20% nonresident (*current allocation for high demand hunts*)

7. Which of the following methods do you think would be the fairest way to distribute licenses in units where demand is higher than the number of licenses available? (Please rank them with **1** being the **MOST fair** and **5** being the **LEAST fair** method.)

\_\_\_\_\_ *Hybrid* - A portion of the license quota is distributed through a random draw, and the remaining quota is issued to those with the most preference points.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Random* - The drawing should be random with no preference of any type.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Banking* - Accumulated preference points may be split up to be used in multiple draw years for multiple licenses. More points may be required to draw a particular license.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Weighted draw* - Is a random draw whereby an individual's position in the draw order statistically improves based on how many years they have applied to hunt that species.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Preference points* - Those with the most points are issued a license first.

8. Are there additional methods that you believe might also be a fair way to distribute licenses in units where demand is higher than the number of licenses available? (Please write in your response below.)

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9. Please indicate how much you would oppose or support the following alternatives if CPW modified license allocation rules and policies? (Please check one response for each option.)

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neither oppose, nor support	Somewhat support	Strongly support
Expanding the current hybrid draw to include all deer, elk, bear and pronghorn hunt codes	[ ] <sub>1</sub>	[ ] <sub>2</sub>	[ ] <sub>3</sub>	[ ] <sub>4</sub>	[ ] <sub>5</sub>
Developing a new hybrid draw that uses different requirements or ways to allocate licenses (e.g., different preference points needed, a lottery system, etc.)	[ ] <sub>1</sub>	[ ] <sub>2</sub>	[ ] <sub>3</sub>	[ ] <sub>4</sub>	[ ] <sub>5</sub>
Having one allocation split (a certain % to residents <u>and</u> nonresidents) for <u>all</u> deer, elk, bear, and pronghorn hunt codes					
(Currently, <u>high</u> demand hunts are allocated 80% to Colorado residents and 20% to nonresidents for hunts requiring at least 6 resident preference points; the remaining hunts are allocated 65% to Colorado residents and 35% to nonresidents, where less than 6 preference points are required.)	[ ] <sub>1</sub>	[ ] <sub>2</sub>	[ ] <sub>3</sub>	[ ] <sub>4</sub>	[ ] <sub>5</sub>

10. Have you or any of your hunting companions participated in the hybrid draw system? *(Please check one.)*

<sub>1</sub> Yes

<sub>0</sub> No

<sub>3</sub> I am not sure

11. Please indicate your preference below for each species that you hunt, specifically when demand for hunting opportunity is higher than the number of licenses CPW can supply.

*(Please check **one** for **each** species you hunt.)*

<b><u>I would prefer to hunt...</u></b>	<b>...every year, and</b> hunt smaller, younger animals. <i>(likely seeing more hunters and possibly fewer animals)</i>	<b>...every 2 to 4 years</b> with possibly more larger, older animals to hunt and less hunter crowding.	<b>...every 5+ years, with</b> an increased opportunity to hunt mature animals. <i>(likely seeing fewer hunters and possibly more animals)</i>	<b>Not applicable</b> <i>(I do not hunt this species)</i>
Elk...	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
Deer...	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
Pronghorn...	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
Black bear...	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

**Limited Licenses (and preference points).** In recent years, there has been a growing trend where demand for limited licenses is increasing or has outpaced the supply of these licenses. This creates a situation where more points are required to draw a limited license than were required previously and is often referred to as “preference point creep.”

12. Did you apply for a limited license (or purchase a leftover or reissued limited license) in Colorado for any big game species between 2018 to 2021? *(Please check one.)*

<sub>1</sub> Yes

<sub>0</sub> No *(If “No” → SKIP to #14)*

13. How satisfied were you with your ability to draw a limited license? *(Please check one.)*

Very dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	Somewhat dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	Neither dissatisfied, nor satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	Somewhat satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
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**Preference Points**

14. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way preference points are used to award deer, elk, bear, and pronghorn licenses to hunters through Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s limited license drawings? (*Please check one.*)

Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither dissatisfied, nor satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	I am not sure	I have never applied for a limited license ( <i>for these species</i> )
[ ] <sub>1</sub>	[ ] <sub>2</sub>	[ ] <sub>3</sub>	[ ] <sub>4</sub>	[ ] <sub>5</sub>	[ ] <sub>6</sub>	[ ] <sub>7</sub>

15. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way weighted preference points are used to award sheep, goat, and moose licenses to hunters through Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s limited license drawings? (*Please check one.*)

Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither dissatisfied, nor satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	I am not sure	I have never applied for a limited license ( <i>for these species</i> )
[ ] <sub>1</sub>	[ ] <sub>2</sub>	[ ] <sub>3</sub>	[ ] <sub>4</sub>	[ ] <sub>5</sub>	[ ] <sub>6</sub>	[ ] <sub>7</sub>

16. If you indicated being “somewhat” or “very” **dissatisfied** with the way preference points are used to award big game licenses in Colorado (for any species listed in questions 14 or 15 above), please tell us why in the space below.

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17. Which of the following are most important to you when considering gaining or using preference points? (*Please rank these options from 1 (most important) to 4 (least important).*)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Predictability (i.e., the ability to plan and predict when you could draw a particular license)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fairness (e.g., those who have waited in line the longest, should draw a particular license first)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Simplicity (i.e., the system used to draw preference points is clear and easy to understand)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Opportunity (e.g., every applicant has a realistic opportunity to draw a particular license in their lifetime)

**Over-the-counter licenses**

18. If CPW were to consider any of the following, how much would you oppose or support each?  
 (Please check **one** response for **each**.)

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neither oppose, nor support	Somewhat support	Strongly support
Limiting all over-the-counter elk licenses for archery seasons	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Limiting all over-the-counter elk licenses for rifle seasons	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Allowing only Colorado residents be eligible to obtain over-the-counter licenses	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

19. If CPW were only able to consider one of three options listed above (see question 18), which would you prefer the agency address first? (Please check **ONLY one**.)

- 1 Limiting all over-the-counter elk licenses for archery seasons
- 2 Limiting all over-the-counter elk licenses for rifle seasons
- 3 Allowing only Colorado residents be eligible to obtain over-the-counter licenses

**Fair Chase.** CPW is interested in understanding hunters’ perceptions about Fair Chase. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission’s Fair Chase Policy recognizes that technologies and practices may provide hunters or anglers with an improper or unfair advantage in the pursuit and taking of wildlife. Improper advantage includes conditions such as:

1. A technology or practice that allows a hunter or angler to locate or take wildlife without acquiring necessary hunting and angling skills or competency
2. A technology or practice that allows a hunter or angler to pursue or take wildlife without being physically present and pursuing wildlife in the field
3. A technology or practice that makes harvesting wildlife almost certain when the technology or practice prevents wildlife from eluding take

**20.** To what extent are you concerned with the following technologies or practices because you believe they provide hunters with an improper or unfair advantage according to the conditions listed in the Fair Chase Policy above? *(Please check one response for each.)*

	Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Very concerned
Hunting seasons that overlap with the rut	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Late hunting seasons that occur on winter ranges	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Electronic communications (such as texting, radios, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Game/trail cameras	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Advanced bow and firearm technologies used to take game at long distances	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Advanced thermal imaging equipment used to locate big game during legal hunting seasons	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Using electronic calls to hunt mountain lion	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

**21.** Are there additional conditions of improper advantage that you think the Parks and Wildlife Commission should consider adding to their Fair Chase Policy? *(Please write in your response below.)*



**Big Game Hunting Seasons in Colorado.** Hunters desire a variety of experiences in Colorado. Please help us understand what you would like in a hunting season by answering the following questions.

22. Which of the following options for the length of big game hunting seasons would you most prefer?  
(Please check one.)

- <sub>1</sub> Fewer, but longer hunting seasons spanning 1 or more weekends with more hunters in the field
- <sub>2</sub> More, but shorter hunting seasons (e.g., lasting 3 or 5 days) with fewer hunters in the field
- <sub>3</sub> I prefer to keep the length of hunting seasons as they are now
- <sub>4</sub> I am not sure

23. Please indicate your level of disagreement or agreement with the following statements describing aspects of **elk hunting seasons** in Colorado. (Please check **one** for **each** item.)

	Agree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree	I am not sure
a. Over-the-counter either-sex archery elk licenses should be replaced with over-the-counter antlered archery licenses	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
b. Over-the-counter antlered elk licenses should continue to be offered during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> rifle seasons	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

24. Please indicate your level of disagreement or agreement with the following statement describing aspects of **Pronghorn hunting seasons** in Colorado. (Please check **one** for **each** item.)

	Agree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree	I am not sure
a. Over-the-counter either sex pronghorn licenses should continue to be offered during archery seasons in units where they are currently offered	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

25. Please indicate your level of disagreement or agreement with the following statements describing aspects of **bear hunting seasons** in Colorado. (Please check **one** for **each** item.)

	Agree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree	I am not sure
a. During the September bear hunting seasons, the quality of bear hunting is affected by crowding	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
b. The September rifle bear hunting season should be broken up into multiple, shorter seasons	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
c. Hunters should be able to purchase a bear license and hunt bears without the requirement to also have a deer or elk license for the same season	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

**Archery-muzzleloader season overlap**

26. How concerned are you about hunter safety during the overlapping archery and muzzleloader seasons?  
(Please check one.)

Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Very concerned
<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>

27. If CPW were to consider making any of the following changes, which, if any, should the agency consider during the next big game season structure process?

(Please **rank** the following from **1** [MOST preferred] to **4** [LEAST preferred].)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Separate archery and muzzleloader seasons so there is no overlap, even if it affects the timing or number of days I can hunt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Separate archery and muzzleloader hunters geographically
- \_\_\_\_\_ Require archery and muzzleloader hunters to wear fluorescent orange/pink to make them more visible to other hunters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make no change to existing seasons or regulations (*i.e., archery hunters maintain the option to wear fluorescent orange/pink during the overlap*)

**Background Information.** The following questions will help us understand more about the people who hunt big game in Colorado. All responses are confidential.

28. Are you a resident of Colorado? (Please check one.)

- <sub>1</sub> Yes
- <sub>0</sub> No

29. With what gender do you identify? \_\_\_\_\_

30. How old are you? (Please write in your age as a whole number.) \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS OLD

31. How would you describe your racial or ethnic background? (*Please check all that apply.*)

<sub>1</sub> American Indian or Native Alaskan

<sub>2</sub> Asian

<sub>3</sub> Black or African American

<sub>4</sub> East or Southeast Asian

<sub>5</sub> Hispanic or Latinx

<sub>6</sub> Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab

<sub>7</sub> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

<sub>8</sub> South Asian

<sub>9</sub> White or Caucasian

<sub>10</sub> Biracial or Multiracial

<sub>11</sub> Other (*Please specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

<sub>12</sub> Prefer not to say

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have about big game hunting in Colorado.

**Thank you for sharing your perspectives with us!**