

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE:	Should Adult Novice Outreach Licenses (AOL) and Ranching for Wildlife Adult Novice Outreach Licenses (RFW-AOL) be changed to list C licenses to match Youth Outreach licenses?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Currently all Adult Novice Outreach Licenses (AOL) and Ranching for Wildlife Adult Novice Outreach Licenses (RFW-AOL) are automatically list A licenses versus the Youth Outreach Licenses (YOL) that are automatically list C licenses. CPW's hunter outreach program is finding that some of the qualified novice adults they are trying to host as part of the hunter outreach program have purchased a list A tag prior to their outreach hunt. When this happens, the participant cannot purchase the program hunt vouchers without surrendering or returning their original license. Often times these participants come out of hunter education classes excited to start hunting and accidentally purchase a list A tag. Although CPW staff try to catch these A tag issues prior to the hunt, there have been several instances where the outreach program tag was unable to be issued due to a participant having purchased a leftover license after they were selected.</p> <p>In order to be selected for the AOL and RFW-AOLs a participant must be a Colorado resident 18 years of age or older, who has either: no big game license purchase history, only held a big game hunting license(s) in the previous year or has no big game license purchase history in the previous five years. These special outreach licenses may not be used in GMUs that have any hunt code requiring 6 or more preference points unless the request is for a hunt exclusively on private land or for Ranching for Wildlife properties.</p> <p>For the RFW-AOLs these licenses are written into the Ranching for Wildlife Plan on a few ranches and the tags are only used on CPW sponsored outreach hunts in partnership with the ranch. The CPW hunter outreach staff selects all of the novice participants for these hunts. The ranch cannot use these licenses as extra tags.</p> <p>The goals of the hunter outreach program aim to empower novice hunters to go hunting on their own putting their new skills to use and recruiting new hunters. In order to fulfill these goals, CPW proposes changing the AOL and RFW-AOL to be list C licenses to match the YOL. It will also be necessary to update the definition of a novice hunter in regulation. By making these changes, a participant would be able to keep their list A license they previously purchased as well as purchase their hunter outreach license.</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>[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Archers, Mule Deer Foundation, Caerus Oil & Gas, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are all in support. • Managers on these RFW NW properties: Deakins, Morgan Creek, Lay Creek, Snake, and Blue Sage are in support. 	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Add a line per species (Deer #205(A)(1)(C), Elk #205(A)(2)(C), and pronghorn #205 (A)(3)(C)) to include the AOL and RFW-AOL tags as list C.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Revise the definition of a novice hunter (#206(B)(4)(f) to be:</p>	

Novice Adult Outreach Hunting Licenses – The Director may make additional novice adult outreach program deer, elk and pronghorn licenses available to qualified organizations sponsoring novice adult hunting activities.

1. 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 big game license purchase history, only held a big game hunting license(s) in the current or previous year, or has no big game license purchase history in the previous five years.

Revise the definition of a novice hunter in (#322(B)(3)(d)(5) to be:

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.

2. **Add a line per species (Deer #205(A)(1)(C), Elk #205(A)(2)(C), and pronghorn #205(A)(3)(C)) to include the AOL and RFW-AOL tags as list B.**

Revise the definition of a novice hunter (#206(B)(4)(f) to be:

Novice Adult Outreach Hunting Licenses – The Director may make additional novice adult outreach program deer, elk and pronghorn licenses available to qualified organizations sponsoring novice adult hunting activities.

1. 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 big game license purchase history, only held a big game hunting license(s) in the current or previous year, or has no big game license purchase history in the previous five years.

Revise the definition of a novice hunter in (#322(B)(3)(d)(5) to be:

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.

3. Status Quo.

Issue Raised by:	Kathleen Mawhinney
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Zac Chrisman, Johnathan Lambert, Bryan Posthumus, Travis Black, Jacob Brey, Tracy Predmore, Pepper Canterbury, and Catherine Brons.
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
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	NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022

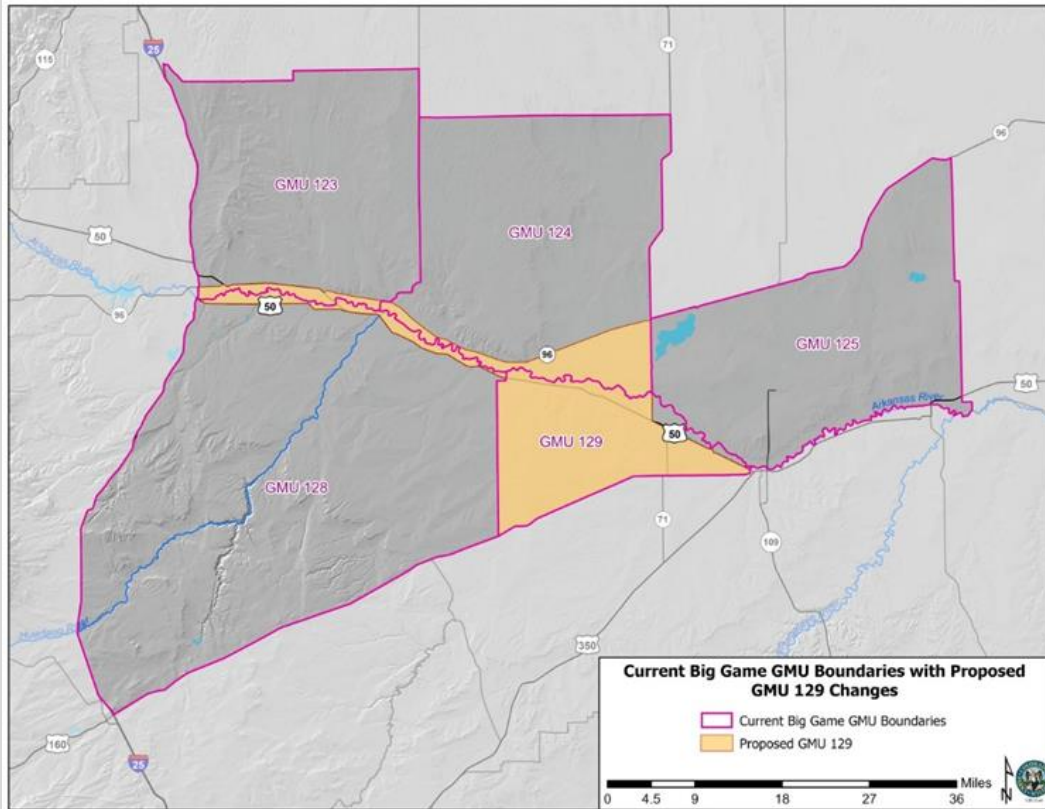
ISSUE:	Should the boundary of GMU 129 be changed to encompass the Arkansas River corridor from Pueblo to Highway 71?
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

GMU 129 is located in the plains of Southeast Colorado near La Junta. We propose a boundary change to GMU 129 to encompass the Arkansas River corridor from Pueblo to Highway 71, extending the current boundaries of GMU 129. The new GMU 129 would be bounded on the south by Hwy 50 Business, Hwy 50, and Hwy 10, on the west by I-25 and Hwy 167, on the east by Hwy 71, and on the north by Hwy 50 and Hwy 96. By extending GMU 129 to include the Arkansas River corridor to the west, there would be slight changes to the boundaries for GMUs 123, 124, 125, and 128.

We propose the boundary change for the following reasons:

- To allow hunters to hunt both sides of public and private properties that straddle the Arkansas River.
- To establish GMU boundaries better aligned with CPW management and inventory actions for deer herds. CPW is realigning the Arkansas River Deer Herd (D-28) boundaries and is in the approval/review process of a new Herd Management Plan for the amended DAU. The proposed GMU 129 would be included in D-28, allowing CPW to manage appropriately the deer along the Arkansas River from Pueblo to Kansas as a distinct deer herd.
- To treat the deer population along the Arkansas River corridor as one population. Currently, deer along this stretch of the Arkansas River are managed as two separate population segments, i.e., one north of the river and one south of the river. The river is no barrier to deer movement. Deer routinely cross this stretch of river. It is more suitable to have a management boundary that includes the riparian deer habitat on both sides of the river.
- The new GMU boundary would split areas predominated by white-tailed deer from areas predominated by mule deer. The split increases CPW's ability for species-specific management of white-tailed and mule deer.
- In addition, the north side of the river is included in the eastern plains OTC hunt. With the proposed GMU boundary changes, the narrow corridor between the south side of the Arkansas River and the Highway (i.e., the north edge of GMU 128) would also become a part of the eastern plains OTC elk license area resulting in consistent management on both sides of the Arkansas River corridor.



Map 1: Current GMU boundaries and the proposed “new” GMU 129. Note that the proposed GMU shown in yellow consists of the current GMU 129 with the addition of the river corridor from Pueblo to Hwy 71.

The GMU 129 boundary change primarily affects deer hunting and deer management. The following is a list of other species and the implications of the proposed change to those species:

- Turkey: The proposed boundary change will have no impact on turkey management or hunt codes. The statewide over-the-counter (OTC) license is valid on private lands in all impacted GMUs. The public land hunting is limited; with turkey, hunts offered for combined GMUs 124, 125, and 129. The 124/125/129 hunt codes currently cover all of the public lands in the area and will continue to do so after the boundary change.
- Pronghorn: Pronghorn are rarely found within the area being added to GMU 129. The proposed boundary change will not affect pronghorn management for pronghorn DAUs PH-7 or PH-8. GMU 129 is currently in DAU PH-7 and will remain in PH-7 following the realignment.
- Elk: Elk hunting is offered in GMUs 123, 124, 125, and 129 through the OTC eastern plains elk license. These licenses are either-sex list C and allow hunting from September 2 through January 31. In GMU 128, bull licenses are offered for archery with the statewide OTC license and for rifle with an OTC license with a season of Oct. 15-Nov. 27. GMU 128 cow licenses are limited and are List C. GMU 128 was excluded from the eastern plains OTC season because many of its hunters and landowners desired to limit elk harvest in the canyonlands in the southern portion of the unit, which is outside of the current GMU 128 boundaries that would be included in the new GMU 129 boundaries.

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:

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

Deer Hunters: In January of 2022, we sent notification emails to all hunters who had received a deer license in 2019, 2020, and/or 2021 for the areas impacted by the GMU boundary change. The email notified the ~1,200 deer hunters of the changes CPW was considering. Hunters were asked to email Jonathan Reitz if they had any questions or comments. Jonathan received seven emails and six phone calls from hunters. Most concerns from hunters were about future deer license allocation. Five hunters strongly supported the boundary change due to increased hunting access to both sides of the river. Four hunters shared concerns that included preference point increase, deer hunting from boats on the Arkansas River, and the perception that highway boundaries would be more confusing than the river boundary.

Landowners: Over two years, District Wildlife Managers reached out to many landowners who own over 160 acres within the Arkansas River corridor from Pueblo to Highway 71 to ask about the potential boundary change. Most landowners seemed to have no strong opinion about the change. Several landowners who owned land on both sides of the Arkansas River showed strong support for the change because they and/or their hunters would be able to hunt their entire property. One landowner expressed that they did not like the proposed change because they own land on Fountain Creek in GMU 124 and land along the Arkansas River, and the boundary change would prevent them from being able to hunt both properties with the same license.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Change the boundaries for GMUs 123, 124, 125, 128, and 129 so that GMU 129 would be bounded on the south by Hwy 50 Business, Hwy 50, and Hwy 10, on the west by I-25 and Hwy 167, on the east by Hwy 71, and on the north by Hwy 50 and Hwy 96.

2. **Status quo, no change.**

Issue Raised by:	Jonathan Reitz (Wildlife Biologist), Todd Marriott (Area 12 AWM), Mike Brown (Area 11 AWM)
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Mitch Martin (Acting SE RM), April Estep (SE DRM) Julie Stiver (SE Senior Wildlife Biologist), Brian Dreher (Terrestrial Section Manager)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
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	SE Terrestrial, Area 11, Area 12
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

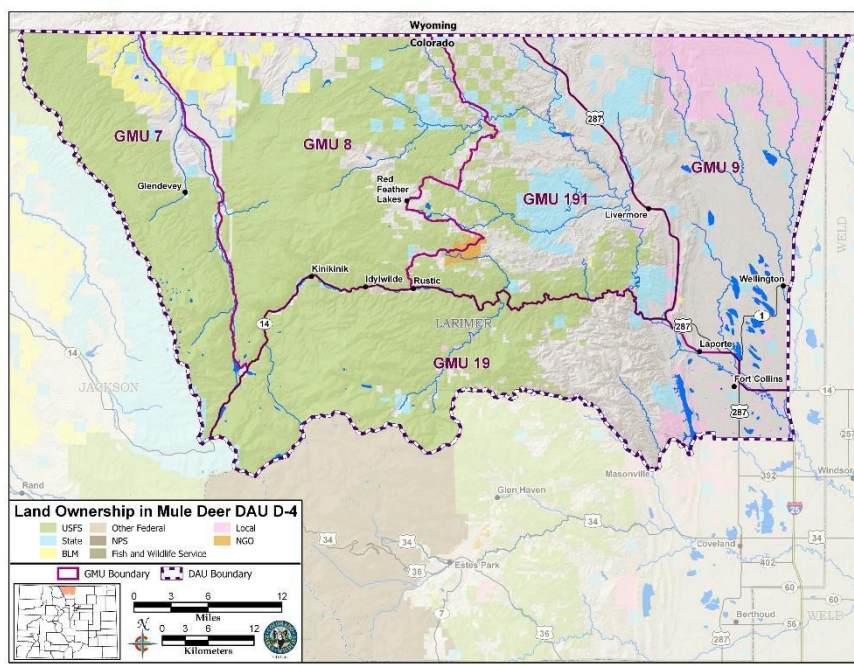
ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE: Should the boundary between Game Management Units (GMUs) 008 and GMU 191 be realigned?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

GMUs 008 and 191 are located in northern Larimer County, north and west of Fort Collins. The GMUs are north of highway 14 (Poudre Canyon) south of the Wyoming border, east of Laramie River Valley Road, and west of highway 287 (map 1). These two GMUs are part of Data Analysis Units (DAU) D-4, E-4, B-3, L-4, and M-2. GMU 8 is a part of DAU PH-36 and GMU 191 is part of DAU PH-33.



Map 1

The current boundary description for GMU 008 is bounded on the N by WY; on E by CRs 59, 80C, 179, 74E, 68C, & 69; on S by Colo. 14; on W by CR103. The current boundary description for GMU 191 is bounded on the N by WY; on E by U.S. 287; on S by Colo. 14; on W by CRs 69, 68C, 74E, 67J, 179, 80C & 59. See map 1.

Realignment of the boundary would not only simplify the boundary but also allow for greater hunting opportunities in GMU 191. The DAU M2 population has been increasing over the past few years, which has led to an increase in the number of moose licenses. Moose hunters in GMU 008 tend to hunt the Sand Creek and Creedmore Lakes area whereas in GMU 191 there is less moose habitat and public land available. Realigning the boundary would create more opportunities for moose hunters in GMU191 by providing more public land to those hunters. In 2022, there are 31 bull and 50 cow moose licenses available in DAU M2. Only 2 cow licenses are allocated to GMU 191. The proposed realignment would help increase moose harvest in GMU 191, which could lead to a greater license allocation in the future. This would mitigate hunter crowding in GMU 008 by redistributing hunters. The realignment would also benefit mule deer and elk hunters in GMU 191 by increasing opportunity for those species by adding more public land to GMU 191 to hunt. The boundary change should not have a significant change in the number of preference points required to draw licenses.

The existing boundary is also confusing to hunters, especially newer hunters to the area. The boundary was adapted many years ago in response to elk movements that are no longer relevant. The part of GMU

008 that staff would like to see become part of GMU191 was once an area where elk would move to from the rest of GMU 008. However, movement patterns have changed and this no longer applies.

There would be a net gain of 17.5 square miles to GMU 191 with a net loss of 17.5 square miles to GMU 8. See attached maps.

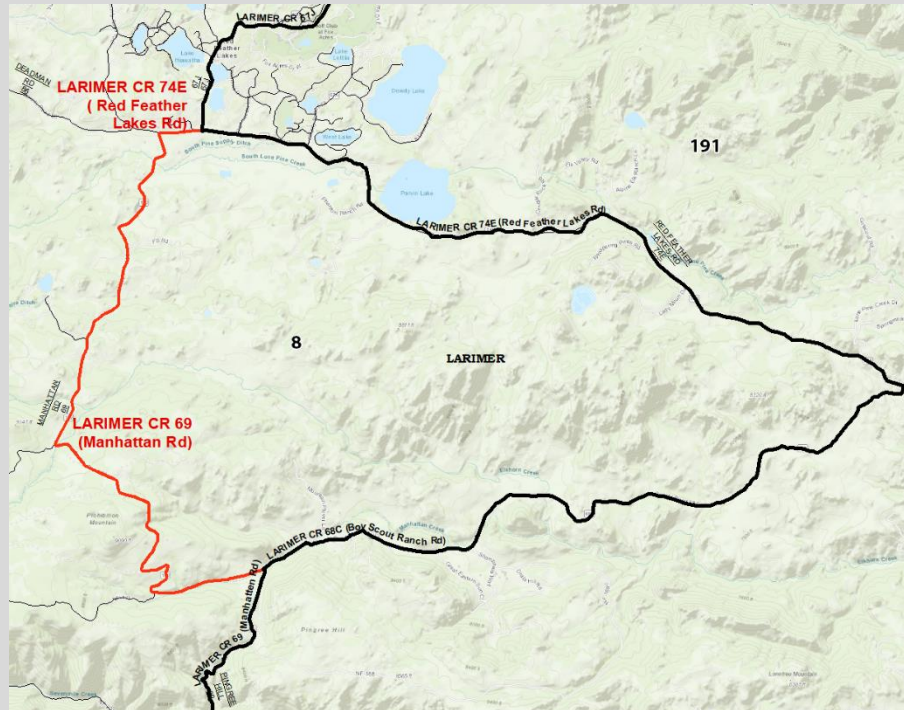
The boundary realignment would not result in or change the Herd Management Plan objectives for DAUs D-4, E-4, PH-33, PH-36 M-2, or B-3. Nor would it affect the L-4 limit in those GMUs.

We propose the new boundary descriptions for GMU 008 and GMU 191 to be (map 2):
008 LARIMER CO.

Bounded on the N by WY; on E by CRs 59, 80C (Cherokee Park Rd.), 67J (Prairie Divide Rd.), 74E (Red Feather Lakes Rd.), 69 (Manhattan Rd.), on S by Colo. 14; on W by CR103 (Laramie River Rd.).

191 LARIMER CO.

Bounded on the N by WY; on E by U.S. 287; on S by Colo. 14; on W by CRs 69 (Manhattan Rd), 74E (Red Feather Lakes Rd.), 67J (Prairie Divide Rd.), 80C (Cherokee Park Rd.) & 59.



Map 2 Red line denotes proposed new boundary. Black line is the existing boundary.

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:

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received

This issue has been discussed with NE Terrestrial, Area 4 staff. External publics are hunters, outfitters, and private landowners. There has been no formal input process, but DWMs have discussed this issue internally and with some hunters and landowners.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>*Preferred Alternative*: We purpose the new boundary descriptions for GMU 008 and GMU 191 to be: 008 LARIMER CO. Bounded on the N by WY; on E by CRs 59, 80C (Cherokee Park Rd.), 67J (Prairie Divide Rd.), 74E (Red Feather Lakes Rd.), 69 (Manhattan Rd), on S by Colo. 14; on W by CR103 (Laramie River Rd.).</p> <p>191 LARIMER CO. Bounded on the N by WY; on E by U.S. 287; on S by Colo. 14; on W by CRs 69 (Manhattan Rd), 74E (Red Feather Lakes Rd.), 67J (Prairie Divide Rd.), 80C (Cherokee Park Rd.) & 59.</p>	
2. Status quo, no change.	
Issue Raised by:	Angelique Curtis, Area 4 Staff
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Area 4, Surface, Carpenter, Dreher
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	NE Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE:	Should the current hunting closure on Mount Evans be adjusted to only prohibit hunting within 1/4 (one-quarter) mile of either side of Colo 5 from the intersection of Colo 103 to the summit of Mt. Evans, and all of the Summit Lake cirque, when Colo 5 is open to motorized vehicle traffic and prohibit hunting within 1/2 (one-half) mile of either side of Colo 5 at all times for ptarmigan? Current PWC Regulation # 020(E)(5)
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Background:

Mount Evans is a destination location for Colorado residents and visitors alike, providing year-round public access for outdoor recreation. The Mount Evans Highway (Colo 5) is an approximate 15-mile paved highway maintained by CDOT to the summit of Mount Evans in Clear Creek County. Colo 5 provides the only vehicle access on Mount Evans. Colo 5 is closed seasonally to motor vehicle traffic, but remains open year-round for non-motorized public access by foot, bike, and horseback. The area provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including: hiking, biking, rock climbing, snowshoeing, skiing, wildlife watching, fishing, and hunting. During most years, Colo 5 closes in two stages depending on weather conditions. Colo 5 generally closes at Summit Lake around the day after Labor Day in early September. Colo 5 then completely closes to all motorized traffic around the first of October when the entrance gates at the intersection of Colo 5 and Colo 103 are closed for the season. After Colo 5 closes to vehicle traffic for the season, the roadway is functionally a paved 15-mile foot and bike trail providing access to the Mount Evans wilderness.

During the 1990's, a regulatory hunting closure was put into effect along Colo 5 that prohibited hunting within 1/2 (one-half) mile from either side of Colo 5 from its intersection with Colo 103 to the summit of Mt. Evans, including the entire Summit Flats area and Summit Lake cirque. This hunting closure was in effect year-round, even when Colo 5 was closed to motor vehicle traffic and functioned as a trail instead of a road. This closure was put into effect to minimize possible conflicts between general recreational users/motorists and hunters. In 2012, CPW field staff reviewed the hunting closure and determined the closure was overly broad and was preventing hunting in areas, and at times, when conflicts were not likely and had not been observed by wildlife officers assigned to the area. Following CPW field staff recommendations, the hunting closure was changed to the current regulatory hunting closure. The hunting closure is lifted for all species except ptarmigan when Colo 5 is closed to motor vehicle traffic for the season. The hunting closure was left in effect year-round for ptarmigan because of concerns expressed by ptarmigan researchers regarding possible impacts of additional hunting pressure on long-term monitoring of ptarmigan populations on Mount Evans.

Current Hunting Closure Analysis:

The current 1/2 (one-half) mile hunting closure along either side of Colo 5 on Mount Evans remains more restrictive than is standard for hunting closures designed to reduce conflicts between general recreational users/motorists and hunters in Colorado. For example, hunting closures along the I-70 corridor, Highway 6, and Highway 40 only prohibit hunting within 1/4 (one-quarter) mile of either side of the road. CPW field staff and wildlife officers working in these areas have observed the standard 1/4 (one quarter) mile closure to be sufficient to address any potential for conflicts, even in those high use and high visibility areas where hunting occurs. CPW field staff have reviewed the current closure on Mount Evans and determined that a 1/4 (one-quarter) mile closure, consistent with closures being implemented in the above listed areas, is sufficient to prevent conflicts between general recreational users/motorists and hunters on Mount Evans when Colo 5 is open to motor vehicle traffic.

The closure on Mount Evans affects Game Management Units 39, S-03, S-04, and G-04 by prohibiting hunting in a large area of alpine habitat on the north side of Mt. Evans. The area experiences limited hunting pressure by small game hunters for marmots and ptarmigan. With regard to ptarmigan hunting the 1/2 (one-half) mile closure will remain in effect at all times on Mount Evans. The area is also popular with archery and muzzleloader elk and deer hunters in September. Elk hunters commonly wait several

years to draw a license for GMU 39. For bighorn sheep hunters (S-03, S-04) and mountain goat hunters (G-04), this hunt is generally considered a “hunt of a lifetime” in Colorado. Bighorn sheep hunters and mountain goat hunters commonly spend 10 to 20 years applying for the opportunity to draw a hunting license on Mount Evans. The current regulatory hunting closure reduces the quality of their hunt and accessibility of animals to hunt by precluding an approximate one-mile wide by 15-mile long section of wildlife habitat from being hunted. Moreover, the current regulatory hunting closure reduces CPW’s ability to achieve hunter harvest objectives for mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

With regard to public safety concerns and violation rates, wildlife officers have observed a low incidence of hunters violating the current hunting closure on Mount Evans. Almost without exception, all violations of hunting within the current 1/2 (one-half) mile closure involved illegal hunting activity that was also within 1/4 (one-quarter) mile of Colo 5. There have been a few complaints related to hunters harvesting mountain goats within the closure, however, prosecutable cases are minimal and no citations have been issued for mountain goats shot in the closure in the past ten years. Violations that created public alarm have most commonly involved the illegal take of marmots near the roadway and did not involve ptarmigan hunters or big game hunters. In many areas along Colo 5, the portions of the landscape that are between 1/4 (one-quarter) mile and 1/2 (one-half) mile from the road are also out of view of the road so there exists little potential for conflict. Furthermore, because the impacted hunting seasons are largely Colorado’s primitive weapon (archery and muzzleloader) big game seasons, and an extremely limited number of bighorn sheep and mountain goat hunters, conflicts remain minimal. In the event that any unlawful hunting activity endangers people, existing Title 18 and Title 33 statutes already provide enforcement options, which carry significant penalties.

Wildlife officers contacting hunters on Mount Evans over the past decade have also documented common confusion over the wording of the current hunting closure regulation for Mount Evans. As currently written, hunters commonly and mistakenly believe that when the Colo 5 gate at Summit Lake is closed in early September, the hunting closure between that location and the Summit of Mount Evans is lifted. The intent of the current regulation is for the hunting closure to remain in effect until Colo 5 is closed at its intersection with Colo 103. At that time, the entrance gates to Colo 5 are closed and physically block motorized vehicle traffic. The regulation requires rewording to prevent future confusion over this issue.

CPW Field Staff Recommendations:

CPW field staff recommend modifying the hunting closure on Mount Evans to include all areas within 1/4 (one-quarter) mile of either side of Colo 5, as well as all of Summit Lake cirque because of the high visibility and popularity of that location. The hunting closure shall remain in effect until Colo 5 is closed to motor vehicle traffic at the Colo 103 entrance gates. The 1/4 (one-quarter) mile closure will be consistent with hunting closures intended to reduce the likelihood of conflicts related to hunting activity in other areas. Furthermore, the proposed reduction from 1/2 (one-half) mile to 1/4 (one-quarter) mile will provide additional opportunity for big game hunters on Mount Evans without negatively affecting the experience of other recreational user groups. With regard to ptarmigan hunting, the closure shall remain at the 1/2 (one-half) mile on Mount Evans.

It should be specially noted that hunting shall continue to be prohibited in developed areas, including the Mount Goliath Natural Area, Summit Lake Parking Area, and the parking area and observatory at the summit of Mount Evans.

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:

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

U.S. Forest Service; Arapaho National Forest, Clear Creek Ranger District
 Colorado Department of Transportation
 Denver Mountain Parks
 Big Game/Small Game hunters
 Non-Consumptive Users (hikers, bird watchers, bikers, etc)
 Colorado Parks and Wildlife-Area 1 personnel and Terrestrial Staff
 Ptarmigan researchers – long term monitoring has been conducted on Mount Evans by past and current CPW employees and associates (Wildlife officer hunter contacts for past decade document low hunting pressure and harvest that does not impact routine population monitoring)

Hunters would be required to hike $\geq 1/4$ (one-quarter) mile before they could hunt or harvest an animal, consistent with other similar hunting closures intended to address concerns over possible conflicts with other recreational user groups.

Wildlife viewers and other recreational users on Mount Evans would not be negatively impacted or positively impacted by the closure based on CPW staff observations.

No public surveys were conducted regarding this issue. No formal input process has occurred at this time pending the direction received during Regional Regulation Review.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Hunting is prohibited on Mt. Evans Summit Lake cirque, and within 1/4 (one-quarter) mile of either side of the centerline of Mt. Evans Highway (Colo 5) while the road is open to motor vehicle traffic at its intersection with Colo 103. When Colo 5 is closed to motor vehicle traffic at the entrance gates at the intersection of Colo 5 and Colo 103, this hunting closure is lifted. Hunting is prohibited within 1/2 (one-half) mile of Colo 5 at all times for ptarmigan.
2. **Status Quo**

Issue Raised by:	Area 1 Staff
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Joe Nicholson, DWM, Evergreen, Area 1
CC:	Mark Lamb, AWM, Area 1 Joe Halseth, Wildlife Biologist, NE Region Lance Carpenter, Senior Wildlife Biologist, NE Region
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Mark Leslie
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	YES X NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial Section
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUE SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: 11/04/2022
ISSUE:	Should a fourth rifle antlered deer hunting season be established in Data Analysis Unit D-41?

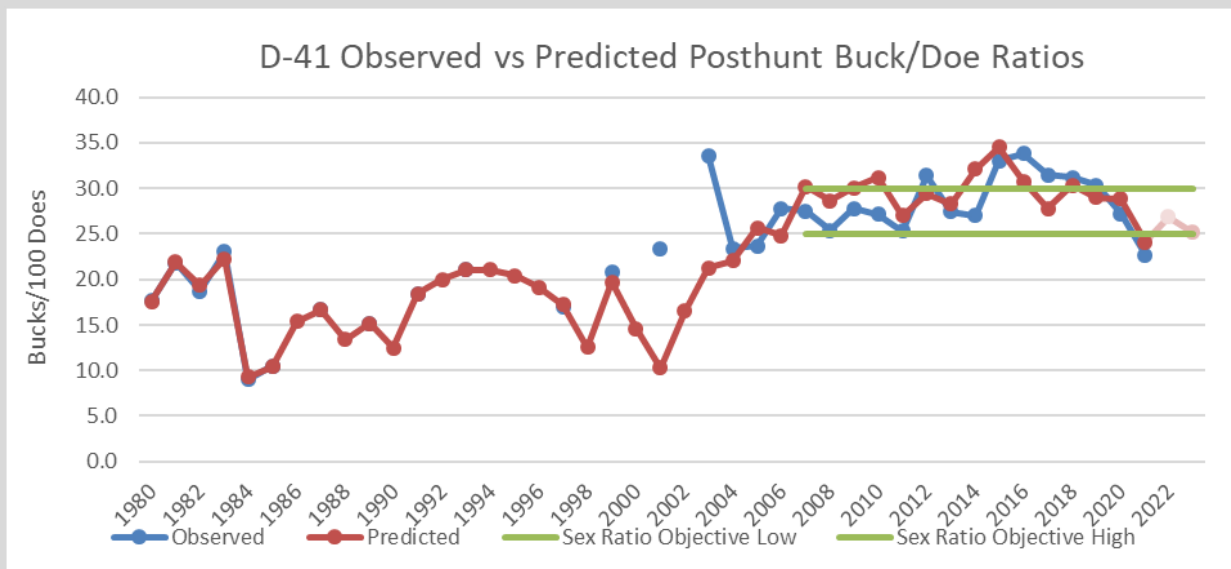
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Data Analysis Unit (DAU) D-41 is located on the northern portion of Area 7, and contains the communities of De Beque and Parachute. D-41 is composed of Game Management Units (GMUs) 31 and 32. D-41 consists of approximately 52 percent public land, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Approximately 48 percent of D-41 is privately owned agricultural land.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is found in deer herds throughout Colorado and Utah, including deer in D-41. The CWD prevalence rate for bucks in D-41 is 6%, which was determined by mandatory testing in the 2020 and 2021 seasons. A prevalence of 5% or greater in bucks within a DAU triggers management action as per the CPW Colorado Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan. Adding a 4th season buck hunt with a limited number of licenses could help suppress CWD by removing a few additional older aged bucks, which are more likely to carry and transmit the disease. CPW staff intend this fourth rifle season to be a useful tool to manage CWD in this herd.

DAU D-41 also 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 continues to create crowding issues during the earlier rifle seasons. Large parcels of public land exist at lower elevations in D-41, particularly in GMU 31, and are more conducive to mule deer winter range. Over the last few years, deer have begun using winter range later in the year. Creating a 4th season buck hunt would provide an additional hunting opportunity when deer are on more accessible public land.

The current three-year average buck to doe ratio in D-41 is 29.6 bucks per 100 does. The management objective for the DAU is 25 to 30 bucks per 100 does with a target objective of 27 bucks per 100 does. The current objective was chosen due to public demand for more deer, while maintaining the buck to doe ratios maintained since 2012.



CPW staff believe creation of a fourth rifle season will be a tool to help combat CWD. Addition of a fourth rifle season would also provide hunters more opportunities to hunt bucks on public land and experience little to no crowding

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:

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

No formal public comment has been submitted at this time. However, District Wildlife Managers regularly receive feedback from stakeholders throughout the year regarding deer management. Those stakeholders include:

- Hunters
- Landowners
- Outfitters
- The general public

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative***: Creation of a fourth rifle season antlered deer license in GMU 31 & 32.
2. No Change.

Issue Raised by:	Albert Romero - DWM De Beque Scott Hoyer - DWM Parachute Genevieve Fuller - Area 7 Terrestrial Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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	NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

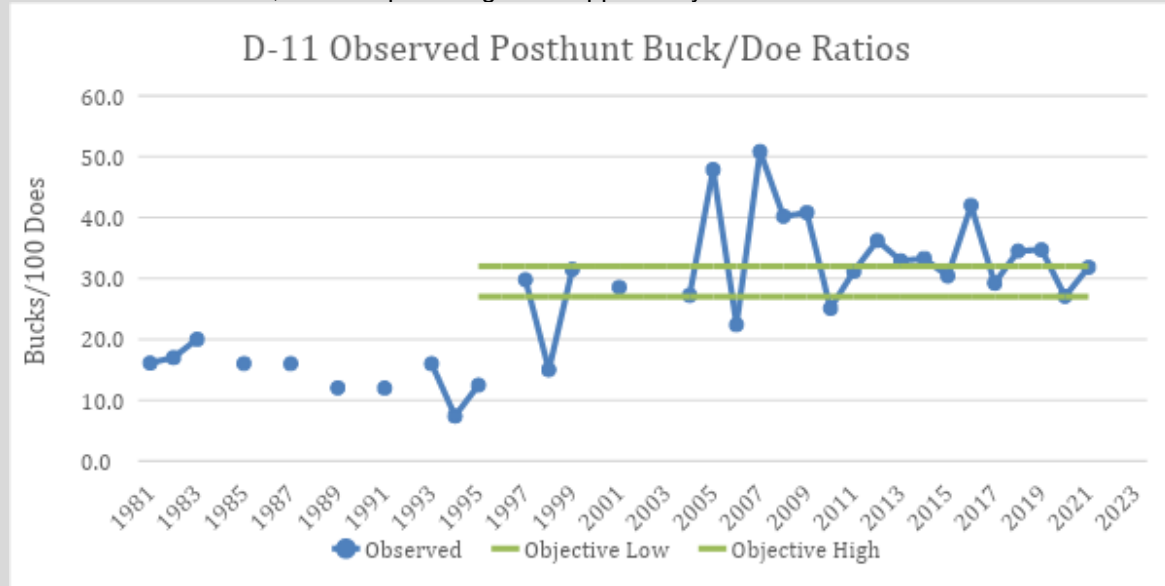
ISSUE SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: 11/04/2022
ISSUE:	Should a fourth rifle antlered deer hunting season be established in Game Management Unit 30?

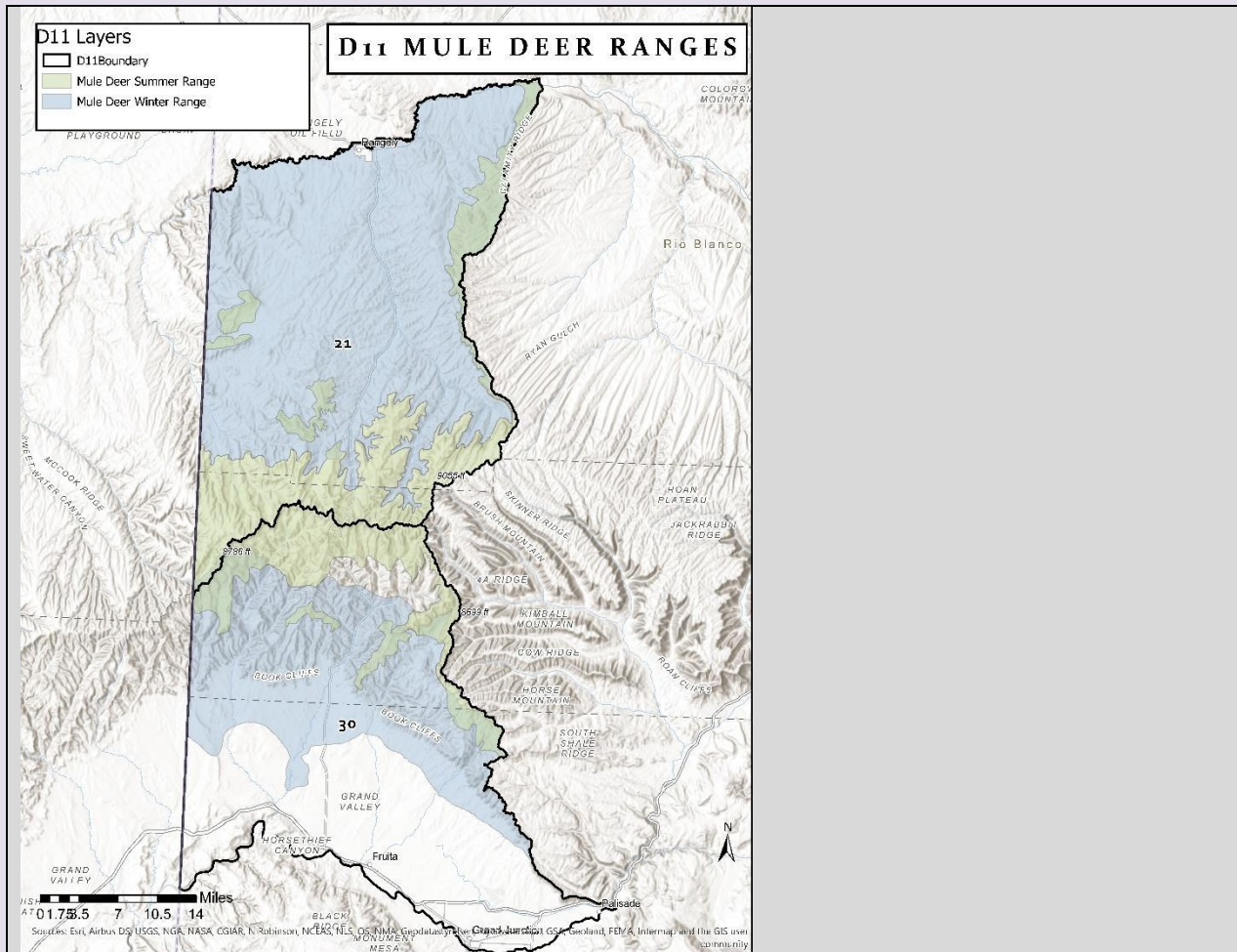
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Data Analysis Unit (DAU) D-11 is located in Areas 6 and 7, and contains the communities of Grand Junction and Rangely. D-11 is composed of Game Management Units (GMUs) 21 and 30 and straddles the north and south slopes of the Bookcliffs. D-11 consists of approximately 80 percent public land, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Approximately 20 percent of D-11 is privately owned land in a mix of irrigated croplands, creek bottoms and higher altitude rangelands.

The 2021 observed buck to doe ratio in D-11 was approximately 32 bucks per 100 does. From 2005 to 2021, the management objective has been 30 – 35 bucks per 100 does, but the most recent management objective for the DAU is 27-32 bucks per 100 does starting in 2021. This DAU has been at or above this new objective for the last 10 years or so. The current objective was chosen due to public demand for more deer, but also providing more opportunity to draw a license.

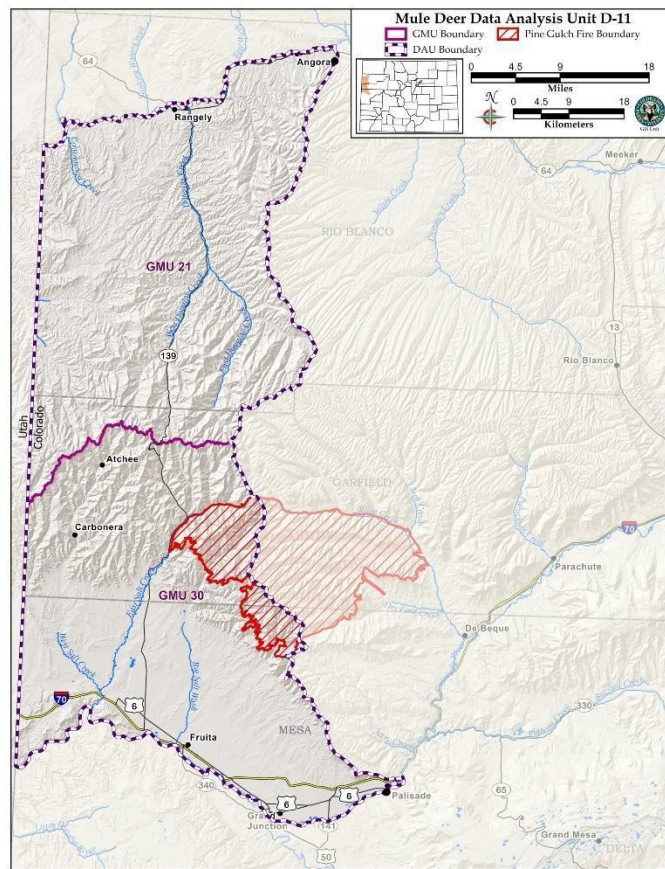


Overcrowding and access are both concerns to the public. Throughout most of the summer and fall, deer tend to be most available on boundaries between GMU 21 and 30 or GMU 30 and 31. In late fall and winter, deer tend to migrate to more accessible portions of GMU 30. Archery and muzzleloader licenses are valid in both GMUs 21 and 30, but are split to specific units during the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons.



Chronic Wasting Disease remains a concern for hunters, but mostly as it relates to future availability of deer. CWD prevalence in D-11 is estimated at 2.6%; however, two adjacent DAUs (D-7 and D-41) are above the 5% threshold requiring additional management actions. Adding a 4th season in GMU 30 could create additional recreation opportunity as well as helping suppress CWD by removing a few additional older aged bucks, which more likely to carry and transmit the disease.

The Pine Gulch Fire has created an attractive habitat condition for deer in GMU 30, concentrating deer in late fall and winter in and around the burn scars, which has also had the effect of concentrating hunter pressure and fueling hunter complaints of crowding. Virtually all deer in the winter classification flights in GMU 30 were located in this area.



In discussions with public hunters, there appears to be more support for a 4th season in GMU 30 than in GMU 21. Hunter concerns regarding quality buck hunting opportunities appear to be less in GMU 30 than in GMU 21 and is likely reflected in the demand for licenses as evidenced by the preference points required to draw each in 3rd season. GMU 21 requires a minimum of 9 points in 3rd season while GMU 30 requires 3 points. Adding a 4th season option may also reduce some of the hunter crowding complaints by redistributing some deer licenses from 2nd and 3rd season into 4th season and giving additional flexibility in management and hunter opportunity.

CPW staff believe the creation of a fourth rifle season would provide hunters more opportunities to hunt bucks on public land and reduce crowding. Addition of a fourth rifle season will also be a tool to help combat CWD.

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:

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

No formal public comment has been submitted at this time strictly related to 4th season hunting. However, District Wildlife Managers regularly receive feedback from stakeholders throughout the year regarding deer management. A public comment for the revised Herd Management Plan for D-11 gathered numerous comments from stakeholders and this Issue Paper reflects their concerns. Those stakeholders include:

- Hunters
- Landowners
- Outfitters

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general public 	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Preferred Alternative*: Creation of a fourth rifle season antlered deer hunt in GMU 30. No Change. 	
Issue Raised by:	Mark Richman - DWM Fruita Genevieve Fuller - Area 7 Terrestrial Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Kirk Oldham (AWM, Area 7), Bill DeVergie (AWM, Area 6), Darby Finley (Terrestrial Biologist, Meeker), Terry Wygant (DWM, Rangely)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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	NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE: Should a Private Land Only Antlerless Whitetail Deer season be established in DAU D3?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

The North Park deer herd Data Analysis Unit (DAU) D3 lies within Jackson County and is comprised of GMUs 6, 16, 17, 161, 171; all of which converge on the town of Walden. Our modeled post-hunt population estimate for 2021 was approximately 5,700 animals, which positions this herd within its objective range of 5,400-6,400. D3 is primarily comprised of mule deer; however, a small and generally isolated population of white-tailed deer (hereafter whitetails) has existed in D3 for many years. Although this whitetail population remains small relative to the overall herd size of D3, anecdotal evidence from classification flights and local residents suggest this sub-population is expanding.

During the late fall and winter months, whitetails congregate in areas in and around Walden. In recent years, there has been an increase in vehicle collisions and damage to residential landscaping and crops from whitetails in Walden. Additionally, increased deer densities during the winter months may increase the risk of disease transmission, including chronic wasting disease (CWD). Given recent results from mandatory CWD testing on harvested deer in D3 (approximately 10% prevalence, 2020 and 2021), wildlife managers and biologists are looking for additional management opportunities to reduce deer densities in some areas.

Currently, the D3 herd does not offer any antlerless hunting opportunity. During the statewide archery, muzzleloader, and regular rifle seasons, whitetails are typically scattered across central parts of DAU, with the majority of animals occupying river bottoms on private lands. Therefore, even if antlerless deer licenses were available during these seasons, achieving desired harvest on whitetails specifically would be difficult due to this dispersion and land access.

As winter approaches, the majority of whitetails in D3 travel along riparian corridors and congregate on private land near Walden, which provides sufficient winter range habitat. Unfortunately, the majority of public lands surrounding Walden do not have desirable habitat and hold very few whitetails. However, three State Wildlife Areas (SWA's) lie adjacent to Walden and are occupied by whitetails during this time: the Diamond J, Brownlee, and Murphey SWA's. These are private lands where CPW holds term access leases for fishing and small game hunting only. Although these SWAs do not currently allow unrestricted public access for big game hunting, big game hunters may still secure access from these landowners on a case-by-case basis. Further, local members of the public have expressed interest in the creation of a whitetail-only season in the DAU. Discussions with residents indicate that Walden area landowners are amenable to granting private access for whitetail harvest, especially for youth hunters.

As such, we propose the creation of a late, private land only, antlerless whitetail deer season in D3 that is valid in all 5 GMUs, with the intention of reducing vehicle collisions, damage to landscaping, potential CWD transmission, and providing additional hunting opportunity. We suggest 50% of the quota allocation be given to youth hunters.

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

Area 10 Staff, Northwest Region Staff, sportspersons, landowners/ranchers, CO highway 125/14 travelers.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Establish a list B, private land only, antlerless whitetail season valid for GMU'S 6, 16, 17, 161, and 171 from December 1st through December 31st, with a

<p>youth preference of 50%. A note should be included in the brochure stating, “Whitetails are in low density and inhabit the immediate area near the town of Walden”. Suggested hunt code: D-F-006-P5-R</p> <p>2. Establish a list B, private land only, antlerless whitetail season valid for GMU’S 6, 16, 17, 161, and 171 from December 1st through December 31st with the standard 15% youth preference. Suggested hunt code: D-F-006-P5-R</p> <p>3. Status Quo, no action.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Zach Weaver (DWM, Walden East), Jacob Way (DWM, Walden West)
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Kris Middledorf (AWM, Area 10), Josh Dilley (AAWM, Area 10), Eric VanNatta (Terrestrial Biologist, Steamboat), Brad Banulis (NW Senior Wildlife Biologist)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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, NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: 11/04/2022
ISSUE:	Should early season doe hunt codes be implemented in Data Analysis Unit D21 (GMU 54), and D22 (GMUs 55 and 551)?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The Gunnison Basin deer populations (D21, D22, and D25) are performing well given recent booms in fawn production and above average survival rates. Doe hunt codes have been used as a management tool as an attempt to curb the population from exceeding carrying capacity and to provide much needed hunter opportunity in a locality where buck hunting is very limited. Colorado resident buck hunters currently require approximately 5-15 preference points before drawing a tag, with some applicants expending over 20 points. Non-residents are usually spending 20+ points for a 4th season rifle buck tag. Currently, doe hunt codes are available for the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons only. In prior years, hunters with an average of three preference points have drawn these doe tags. Over the last three years, the number of doe and buck tags allocated have been increasing commensurate to the increase in the deer population. Doe tag allocation numbers for 2022 were set “at demand”, which means that most 1st choice applicants did receive a doe tag with only 0 to 1 preference points. While the implementation of doe tags has been extremely successful in helping satisfy demands of hunters looking for the opportunity to hunt, it has had some drawbacks. The main drawback is that the overall experience to other hunters can be reduced as doe tag allocation numbers increase, especially for buck hunters that have waited years for the opportunity to hunt bucks in the Gunnison basin.</p> <p>The 2nd and 3rd season rifle doe tags appear to be primarily used by public land hunters when deer are migrating from summer to winter ranges. However, deer numbers on private lands have perhaps grown at an even higher growth rate than public lands. This could naturally be due to the disproportionately higher amount of hunting pressure on public lands, which will ultimately suppress the component of the deer population utilizing public lands, more than the component utilizing private lands. If an increase in doe tags is needed to suppress this population and feed the demand of hunters, private lands will likely see a faster growing deer density if the status quo remains. The Gunnison Basin deer population is closely monitored via a long-term survival study of does and over-wintering fawns. Additionally, GPS collar location data has been collected on a large sample of does over the last 8 years. Approximately 20% of the Gunnison Basin is private land (~80% public). Based on GPS collar data, it currently appears that approximately 20% of the deer population is also using private lands in the early fall and late summer season. In many cases, deer may appear even habituated to these private lands. In several cases, deer are likely exceeding localized carrying capacity and potentially damaging some vegetation (e.g., Upper east river of GMU 55, Lower soap creek of GMU 54). Scientists from Rocky Mountain Biological Lab (Upper East River northwest of Crested Butte) are recognizing over-browsing of certain species in localized areas. While CWD has not yet been detected in the Gunnison Basin DAUs, localities with high deer concentrations on private lands near exurban development are predicted to be one of the drivers for CWD prevalence (Farnsworth and Miller 2005). During the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons, the deer congregating on private lands have moved off of the private land given the commencement of the fall migration. Therefore, the current 2nd and 3rd rifle season doe tags do little to nothing to curb the deer population’s private land utilization habits. A more targeted strategy is needed to help harvest deer proportional to the availability of deer on the landscape.</p> <p>In order to help release some hunting pressures on public lands during the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons and target a growing number of private land refuging deer, CPW staff is proposing early (September) doe hunt codes in Gunnison Basin GMUs 54 and 55. For the first year of implementation (fall 2023) it is anticipated that 35% of all doe tags, that would have been allocated to the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons in GMUs 54 and 55, be reallocated to these new hunt codes. For instance, if the 2023 doe license number allocations are similar to 2022; this would shift approximately 95 tags out of the GMU 55 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons. It is also important to note that antlerless licenses in these units are set at 50 percent for youth draw preference. In subsequent years, the distribution of licenses between the seasons will be adjusted after harvest success rates can be measured. Season dates would initially be concurrent with the regular</p>	

archery and muzzleloader seasons (e.g., September 2 - September 30, as determined by big game season structure).

Implementation of these new hunt codes will not only decrease hunting pressure in DAUs D21 and D22 (GMUs 54, 55, 551) during the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons, but increase the diversity of hunting opportunities available.

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:

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

Internal conversation has been on going based on input from hunters across seasons, and observations by staff during hunting seasons. This issue paper and alternatives were discussed with the Gunnison Wildlife Association; the concept of spreading out doe hunters across seasons to reduce crowding is generally supported. However, there is on-going concern about adding more early season hunting pressure (archery & muzzleloader), particularly in GMU 55. Early season deer license allocation is generally conservative in GMU 55 (2022: 60 archery, 50 muzzleloader licenses); the concern from some constituents has been that hunting pressure tends to be disproportionately concentrated in the area around Crested Butte diminishing the hunting experience. Managing hunter distribution is not possible using a single, unit-wide hunt code; therefore, it is challenging to address those specific concerns while providing a reasonable level of hunting opportunity for different manners of take. No concern was expressed for the potential PLO hunt codes.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

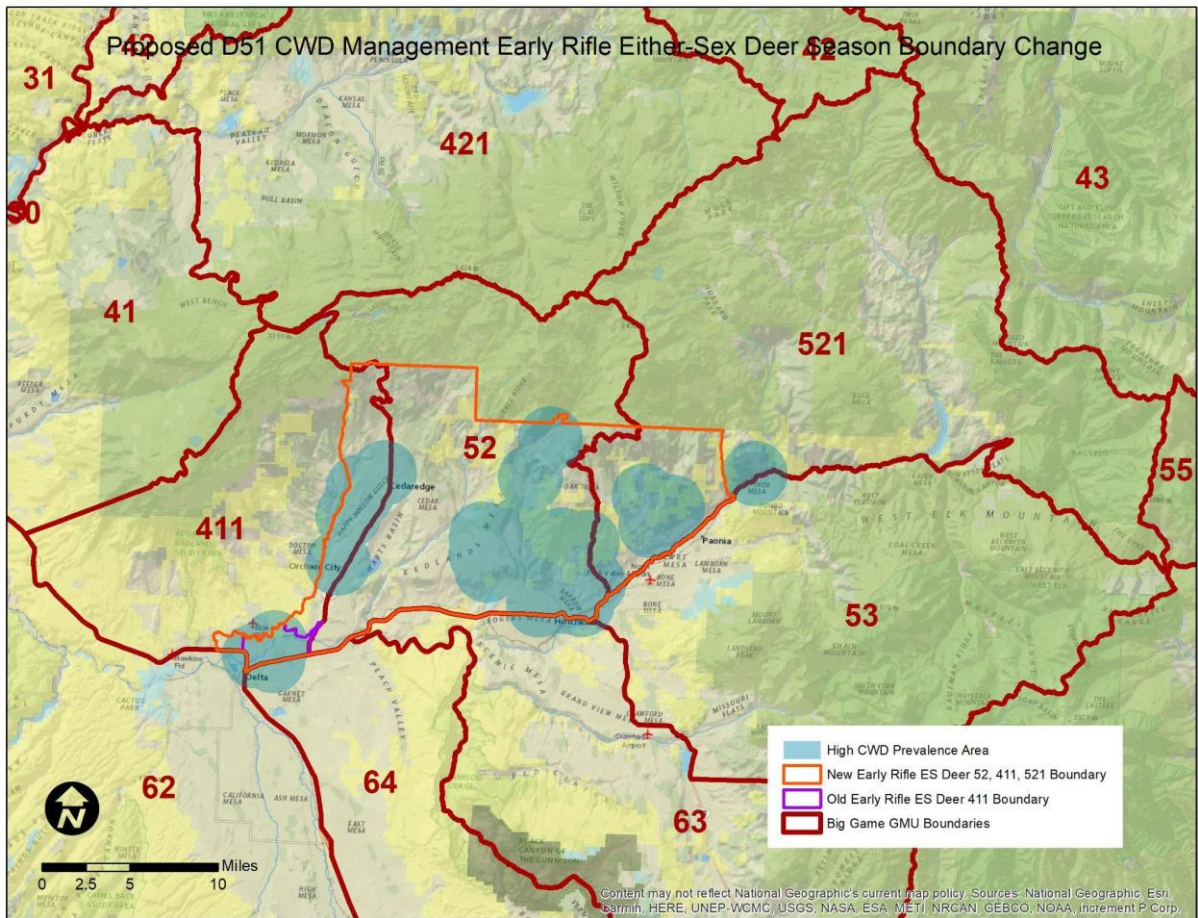
1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Implement private-land only doe hunt codes (DF054P5R, DF055P5R, and DF551P5R), AND archery doe hunt codes (DF054O1A, DF055O1A, and DF551O1A), AND muzzleloader doe hunt codes (DF054O1M, DF055O1M, and DF551O1M).
2. Implement private-land only doe hunt codes (DF054P5R, DF055P5R, and DF551P5R).
3. Implement archery doe hunt codes (DF054O1A, DF055O1A, and DF551O1A) AND muzzleloader doe hunt codes (DF054O1M, DF055O1M, and DF551O1M).
4. Status quo

Issue Raised by:	Area 16 staff, Kevin Blecha (SW Terrestrial Biologist)
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick, Matt Thorpe
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick
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	SW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: 11/04/2022
ISSUE:	Should the boundary for hunt code D-E-411-P6-R be expanded to include parts of Game Management Units (GMUs) 52 and 521 and changed to D-E-052-P6-R?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The hunt code D-E-411-P6-R was implemented with the 2020 hunting season in response to documenting Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positive deer in the southern portion of Game Management Unit (GMU) 411 in 2018. This area is directly adjacent to where high CWD prevalence hot spots were found in GMU 62 and 64 as a result of mandatory CWD sampling in those units in 2017. This early season, either-sex hunt code was designed with a small sub-GMU boundary and early season dates to focus harvest on resident, non-migratory deer in the agricultural lands in the valley bottom, given the best available information at the time. Similar seasons were also initiated in GMUs 62, 64, and 65 at the same time.</p> <p>In the years since this hunt code was implemented, deer data analysis unit (DAU) D-51 (GMUs 52, 411, and 521) was sampled for CWD using the mandatory sampling framework to test bucks harvested in the regular rifle seasons during both 2020 and 2021. After mandatory sampling those years, results show that CWD was more prevalent and more widespread in D-51 than previously known with 27 bucks that tested positive for CWD out of 381 mandatory sampled bucks with a prevalence rate of 7% (CI 5-10%). This prevalence rate is above the threshold set in the Colorado Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan (2018) that requires management actions be taken to reduce prevalence at rates above 5%.</p> <p>While CWD is more widespread in the DAU than previously thought, the harvest locations of CWD positive deer in D-51 still show a pattern of being located in areas that are mostly lower in elevation, primarily on private land, and where irrigated agriculture is the predominant land use. In these areas, deer are more often year-round residents and do not typically exhibit the same migratory patterns as the deer that move to higher elevations during the summer and return to lower elevation winter range in the fall.</p> <p>We propose to expand the boundaries of the D-E-411-P6-R season to include portions of GMU 52 and 521 and change the hunt code to D-E-052-P6-R.</p> <p>The new proposed boundary will be:</p> <p>Bounded on the south by the unit boundaries, on the west by 1400 Road, North Delta Canal, Trap Club Road (18.25 Drive), North Road, Tongue Creek, Ward Creek, on the north by the US Forest Service Boundary, and on the east by East Fork Terror Creek, and Terror Creek.</p> <p>The season dates of the new D-E-052-P6-R season will remain the same to target the non-migratory, resident segment of the deer population, with season dates running from August 15th to August 25th annually. This hunt code will also remain limited to private land only.</p> <p>GMU 52 and 411 currently each have private land only, antlerless hunt codes with season dates that run from September 1st to October 31st annually. The season dates for these hunts were also designed to target resident, non-migratory antlerless deer on private land in the DAU and help address game damage issues by reducing deer density on private lands. This longer PLO doe season overlaps archery, muzzleloader, and part of second rifle season and gives license holders flexibility on when to hunt. The expansion of the boundary and hunt code change to the new D-E-052-P6-R will complement the existing seasons and hunt codes by allowing the harvest of bucks with the either-sex license in a way that targets the resident, non-migratory deer that does not overlap with existing seasons. This is advantageous for enforcement of the targeted boundary and increased harvest of bucks in the CWD prevalent areas is beneficial as bucks tend to have higher rate of CWD infection than does.</p>	

This map shows the new proposed boundary, the old boundary and harvest locations of sampled deer.



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- Public meeting in Aug, 2019 (attended by 26 people)**
- Local landowners**
- Outfitters**
- Local Hunters**

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

This season, along with similar early rifle, either-sex deer seasons in GMUs 62, 64 and 65, limited to the low elevation agricultural areas, were implemented after conducting a public meeting that was held August 26th, 2019 in Montrose. This meeting was to provide the public with information about CWD, to collect input for the upcoming Herd Management Plan revisions, and to notify the public about the proposed early rifle PLO seasons. Twenty-six people attended the meeting including outfitters, meat processors, BHA representative, and hunters. There was a lot of support for the early PLO Valley season. After this meeting, public involvement has been limited to informal comments from hunters and

landowners contacted in the field, and all comments are generally supportive of the expanded area and hunting opportunity.	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: The boundary for D-E-411-P6-R will be expanded to include portions of GMUs 52 and 521 and the hunt code will be changed to D-E-052-P6-R. The new boundaries will be; GMU 52, bounded on south, west, and east by the unit boundaries, on the north by the US Forest Service boundary, GMU 411, bounded on south and east by the unit boundaries, on the west by 1400 Road, North Delta Canal, Trap Club Road (18.25 Drive), North Road, Tongue Creek, Ward Creek, on the north by the US Forest Service Boundary, GMU 521 bounded on south and west by unit boundary, on north by US Forest Service Boundary, on the east by East Terror Creek and Terror Creek.</p> <p>2. Status quo.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Evan Phillips, Wildlife Biologist; Andrew Taylor, DWM; Codi Inloes-Williams, DWM; Stuart Sinclair, DWM
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Jamin Grigg, Brandon Diamond, Rachel Sralla, Cory Chick
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick
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	SW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022	
ISSUE:	In GMU 38, should new hunt codes be created for deer and elk hunting that are only valid for Jefferson County's Centennial Cone Open Space property?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>In GMU 38, Centennial Cone Open Space is a Jefferson County Open Space (herein referred to as Jeffco) property that has allowed hunting for deer and elk since the early 2000s. Jeffco institutes an annual closure to all other forms of recreation in the months of December and January to facilitate this hunt and is allowing 55 elk hunters and 35 deer hunters an opportunity to hunt in 2021.</p> <p>Currently, in order for hunters to access this property they must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Draw the Late Season Jefferson County Portion Only license for Either-Sex Deer (D-E-038-L1-R), Doe (D-F-038-L1-R) or Cow Elk (E-F-038-L1-R) 2) Enter themselves into the Jeffco hosted lottery for Centennial Cone 3) Successfully draw the access permit in the lottery 4) Complete the required prerequisites such as an orientation video and liability forms (if required). <p>Both the deer and elk late season tags in this unit are valid for the months of December and January and access to Centennial Cone is valid for the entire season.</p> <p>https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/14435/CNT-Hunting-Application-Process</p> <p>Current workflow: The CPW DWM in Area 1 obtains the mailing addresses of successful license holders for these three late season elk and deer hunt codes and supplies them to Jeffco. Jeffco then sends a USPS letter to these license holders inviting them to apply, processes the applications, and awards the access permits. This process is time consuming and expensive. CPW staff must query the license holders and scrub personal identifiable information before sending it to Jeffco. Jeffco staff must mail the lottery invite letters (~900 in 2020, ~600 in 2021 & 2022). Jeffco staff will usually receive approximately 300-400 responses they have to process and then conduct the lottery.</p> <p>Currently the CPW IPAWS system does not have the ability to host a small-scale lottery for property specific hunting opportunities, which would allow CPW to facilitate equitably small-scale hunting opportunities in partnership with collaborating county or municipal open space agencies. Until this is changed, we propose to use new geographically bounded hunt codes. Three new late season hunt codes would be created for Either-Sex Deer (D-E-038-L2-R), Doe (D-F-038-L2-R), and Cow Elk (E-F-038-L2-R) for access only on Centennial Cone Open Space.</p> <p>Jefferson County is a strong partner with CPW and these new hunt codes would reduce their administrative burden by eliminating lottery solicitation mailing and the lottery itself. CPW staff would still need to query contact information for license holders (max of 90 hunters in 2022 assuming status quo access to Centennial Cone) and Jeffco would only need to contact them to ensure prerequisites are met. This would also make it easier for hunters to hunt this property as the drawn license would provide access (granted the hunter satisfactorily completes Jeffco liability prerequisites). These proposed changes could present challenges such as potential point creep and license allocation for hunt codes with restricted access. However, the change is not expected to negatively affect hunter opportunity on Centennial Cone.</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>[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received</p>	

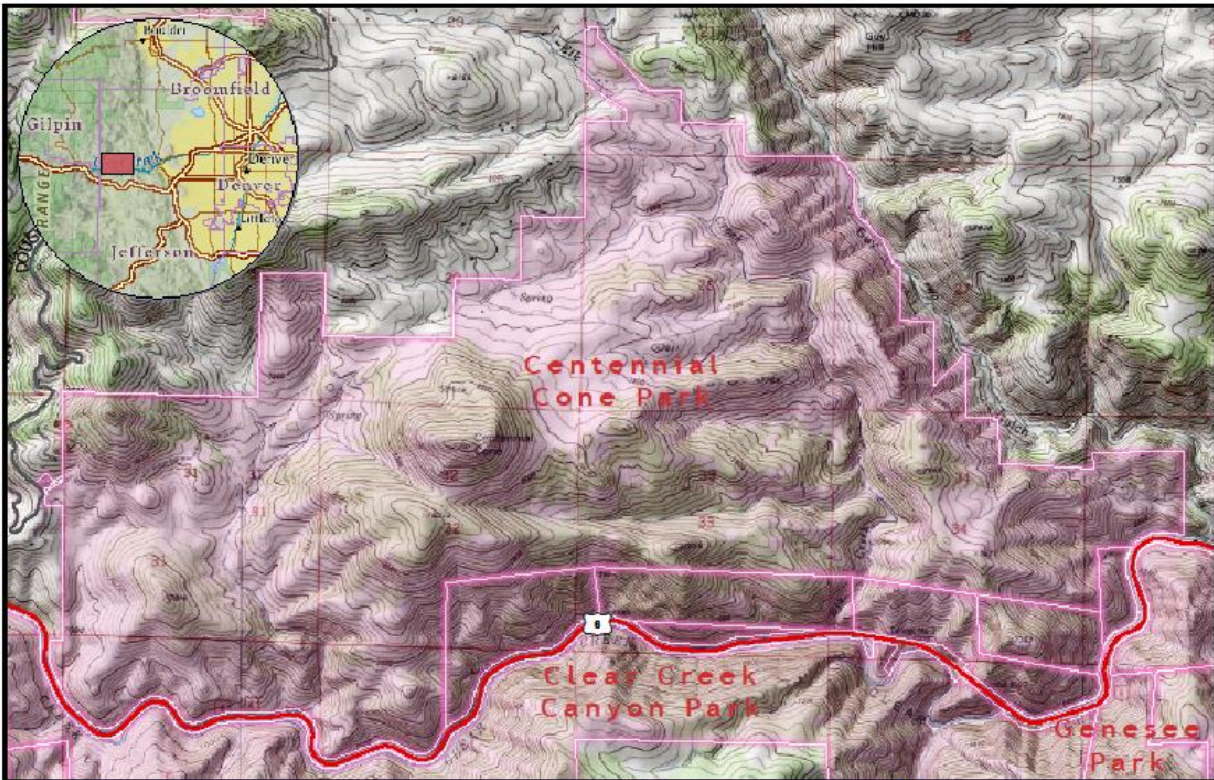
-This proposed change has been discussed in depth with CPW and Jeffco staff and all parties are in agreement.
 -Discussion and comments collected by the local DWM express appreciation for the opportunity to hunt Centennial Cone Open Space. This proposed change is not expected to negatively affect hunter opportunity on Centennial Cone.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative:** Create three new late season hunt codes for Either-Sex Deer (D-E-038-L2-R), Doe (D-F-038-L2-R), and Cow Elk (E-F-038-L2-R) valid only on Centennial Cone Open Space.

2. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Tim Woodward- DWM Central City
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Joseph Halseth
CC:	Leslie, Schaller, Cannon, Lamb, Carpenter
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Lance Carpenter
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO



 County Open Space Property

Centennial Cone Park



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 Colorado Parks & Wildlife, GIS Section
 6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216.

Information depicted herein is for reference purposes only and is compiled from best available sources. Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this map. Colorado Parks & Wildlife expressly disclaims responsibility for damages or liability that may arise from the use of this map.

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE: Should E10 Cow Elk Hunt Codes be Split Differently?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

The elk DAU E-10 has had an increasing population over the last several decades and despite efforts to increase cow harvest with license increases, the trend has continued. Hunter success on cow hunts in E10 has been on average 22% and fairly steady for the last 10 years despite changes in available cow licenses.

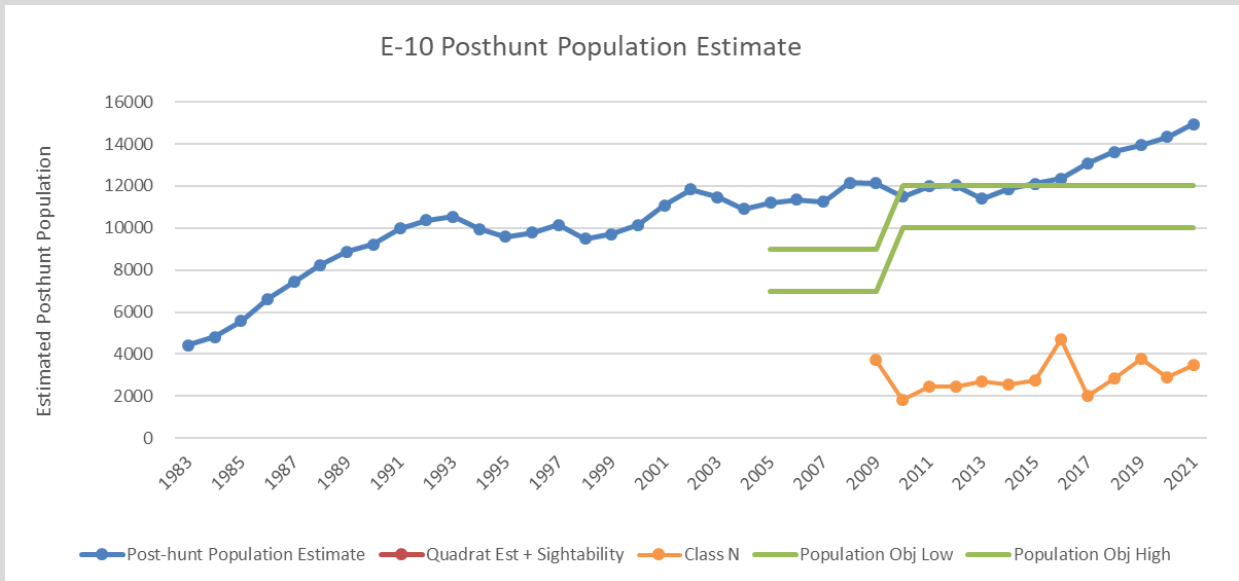


Figure 1. Population estimation of elk in DAU E10 1983 - 2021

The way the hunt codes are currently split do not allow managers to manage the distribution of hunters between the northern GMUs (21, 22) and the southern GMUS (30, 31, and 32) which have vastly different distributions of public land access and hunter densities. Many cow hunters in the third and fourth rifle seasons for some of the existing hunt codes reported in 2021 to feeling overcrowded by other hunters. In the southern GMUs there are large quantities of private, inaccessible land that act as refuge for elk. When there is increased hunting pressure from the northern GMUs it can cause elk to move over the ridge into the southern GMUs and increase populations on the inaccessible private land. By splitting up these hunt codes CPW would be better equipped to redistribute hunters improving the quality of hunt. In addition, the redistribution of hunters should help hold elk on public lands by reducing the hunting pressure that has historically led elk to move to private property.

As the elk disperse to either the northern GMUs or the southern GMUs there are different local issues and varied factors affecting the elk population and performance. These differences in issues and factors would benefit from unique management, which is hard to do with all of the GMUs managed together under the current, disparate design. Figure 2 shows the land management and distribution of elk in their summer and winter ranges. As shown on the map GMUs 21 and 22 contain 70% of elk winter range and 63% of elk summer range that is publicly accessible to hunters in the DAU.

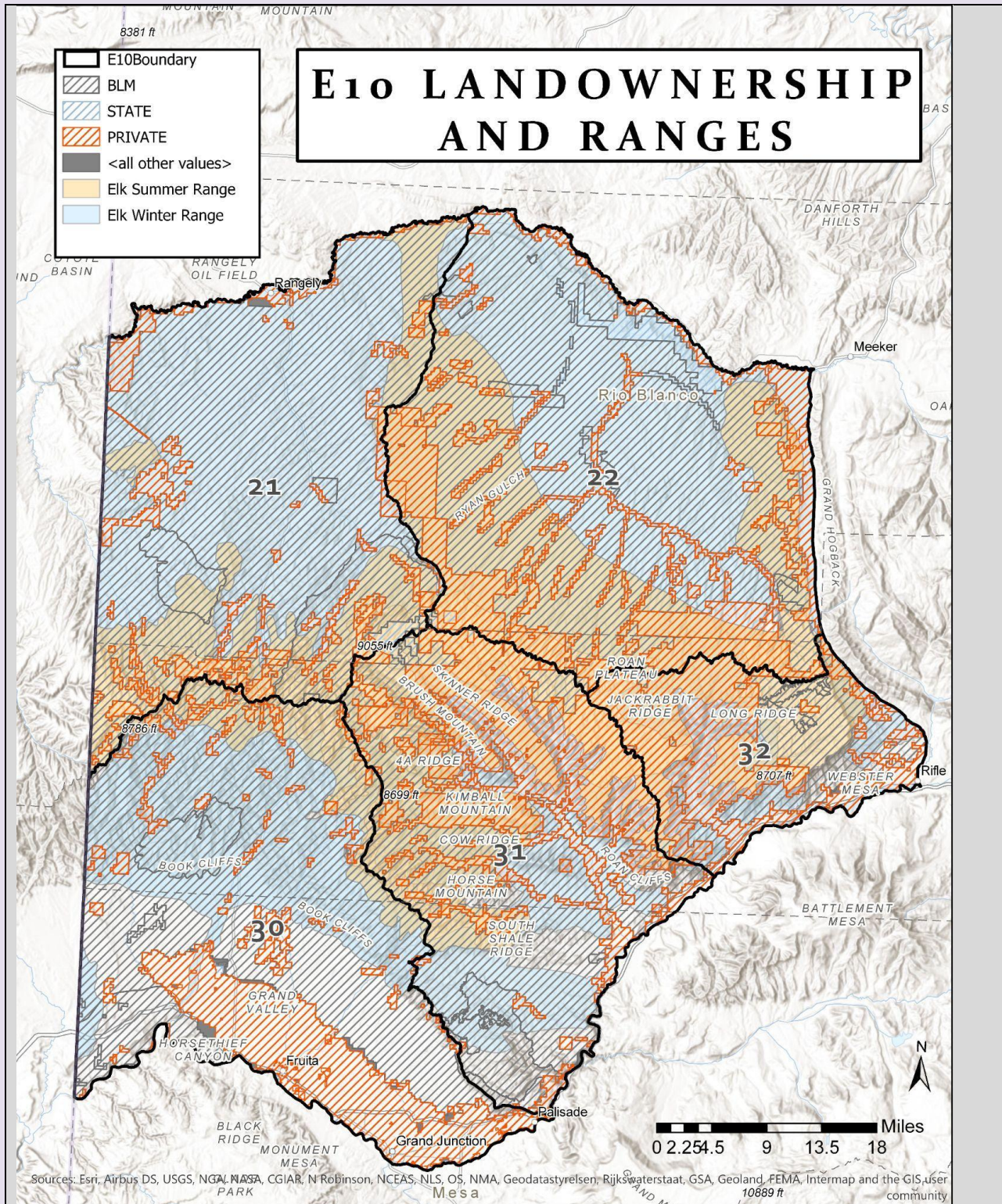


Figure 2. Map of E10 landownership and summer and winter ranges for elk.

GMUs 21 and 22 have also maintained over 52% of the cow hunters and 55% of the cow harvest in this DAU over the last 10 years.

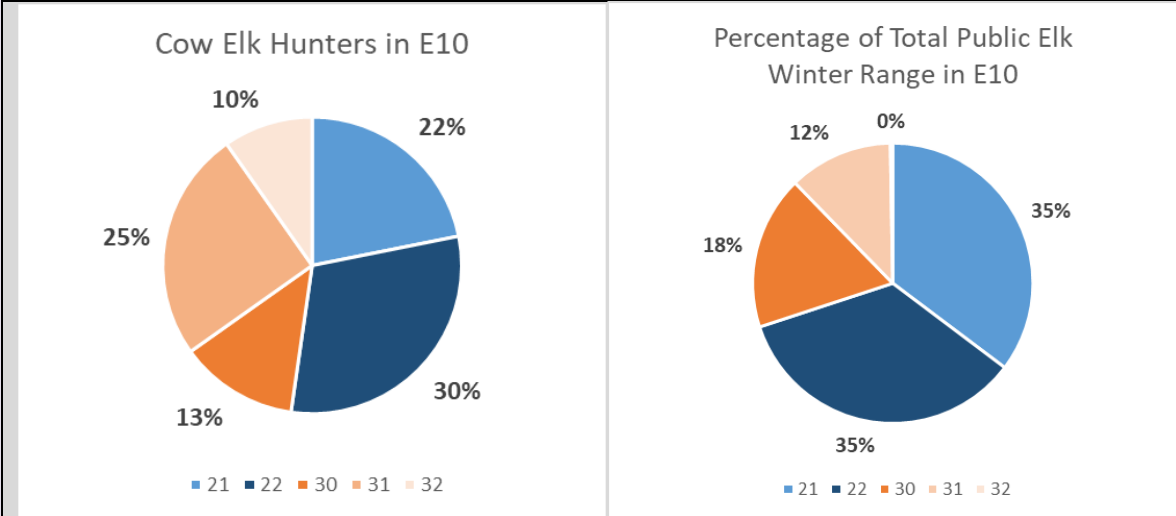


Figure 3. Percentage of total cow hunters in E10 per GMU 2011 - 2021

Figure 4. Percentage of total publicly accessible elk winter range in E10 per GMU

Given these concerns, it is proposed that cow elk licenses in E10 be consolidated and split by north and south for the 3rd and 4th rifle seasons. Splitting hunt codes in this way would allow for the flexible management of cow licenses between GMUs 21 and 22 and 30, 31, and 32, which show the largest difference in public land access, hunt success and hunter distribution. This proposed split makes more sense for management considering the way that these factors are distributed across the DAU. This change would also simplify the hunt codes for this area by moving from 12 hunt codes currently to 5 hunt codes.

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:

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

- *Preferred Alternative*:**
 Changing EF021O2R to include GMUs 21, 22, 30, 31 and 32
 Changing EF021O3R to only include GMUs 21 and 22
 Changing EF021O4R to only include GMUs 21 and 22
 Adding EF030O3R which would include GMUs 30, 31, and 32
 Adding EF030O4R which would include GMUs 30, 31, and 32
 Removing hunt codes EF022O2R, EF022O3R, EF022O4R, EF031O2R, EF031O3R, EF031O4R, EF032O2R, EF032O3R, EF032O4R
- Status Quo.

Issue Raised by:	Area 6 and 7 DWMs
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Genevieve Fuller - Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist, Grand Junction
CC:	Kirk Oldham (AWM, Area 7), Bill DeVergie (AWM, Area 6), Darby Finley (Terrestrial Biologist, Meeker), Tom Knowles

	(DWM, Meeker), Terry Wygant (DWM, Rangely), Mark Richman (DWM, Fruita), Albert Romero (DWM, DeBeque), Scott Hoyer (DWM, Parachute).
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
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 type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE: Should GMU-specific cow rifle licenses for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th seasons in E-16 and the extended Private Land Only (PLO) cow season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 444 be restored to allow for geographically targeted harvest management within the Data Analysis Unit (DAU)?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

E-16 is a geographically large elk DAU, covering 4 GMUs in the Roaring Fork and Eagle River watersheds south of I-70 and northeast of state highway 82. Issues of increasing recreation pressure and human population growth are common throughout the DAU, but its expansive size also means there are local issues and varied factors affecting elk population performance.

Because of concerns about the E-16 elk population declining and because the revised 2013 herd management plan set a higher population objective range aimed at increasing the population, cow elk quotas were reduced starting in 2014 (Figure 1), with two significant license reductions in 2016 and 2018. Since at least the mid-2000s through 2018, the 1st season cow rifle hunt code was valid across all GMUs in the DAU with relatively lower quota to allow for limited cow hunting with minimal hunter crowding. Meanwhile, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th season cow rifle hunt codes had been separated by individual hunt codes for each GMU within the DAU with higher quotas floated across those 3 seasons, allowing more hunter opportunity while also adjusting hunter distribution geographically at the GMU scale.

In 2019, all of the cow rifle hunt codes were compressed into a single hunt code per season for the entire DAU with a total quota of 10 floated over the 4 seasons. This allowed CPW to severely reduce cow licenses in E-16.

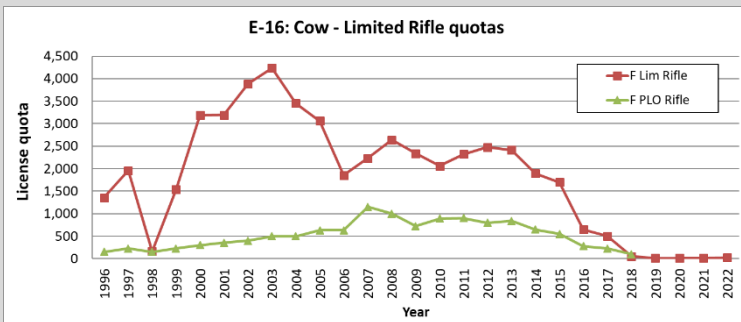


Figure 1. E-16 cow license quota history from 1996-2022.

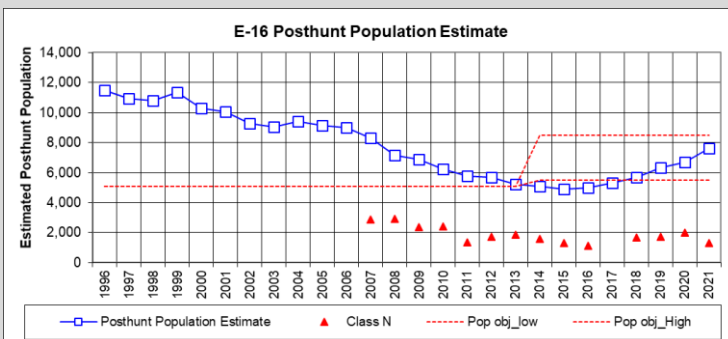


Figure 2. E-16 post hunt population estimates from 1996-2021.

In the last few years, E-16's elk population has been growing within the current objective range (Figure 2), but there are apparent geographic differences in elk population recovery: the GMUs in the Roaring Fork Valley are maintaining higher numbers and/or seeing more growth, while elk numbers in the GMUs in the Eagle River Valley continue to be stagnant. Some private ranches in GMU 444 have been seeing more

elk inhabiting these lower elevation properties year-round; at present, game damage has not been an issue, but could be in the future without more targeted management.

Now that E-16's population has increased but varies geographically within the DAU, we propose to restore the previous hunt code structure with GMU-specific 2nd, 3rd and 4th season cow hunt codes to allow for more local harvest management at the GMU scale.

We also propose to restore the GMU 444 cow private-land-only extended season to facilitate cow harvest on private ranches and avert game damage issues in the future.

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:

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[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received

Some hunters in recent years have expressed the desire for additional cow hunting opportunity. In addition, some landowners in lower/western end of GMU 444 were very supportive of increasing cow licenses because of growing resident groups of elk that are causing game damage, especially in the last 2 years.

Outfitter in mid-portion of GMU 444 does not want PLO tags for mid/upper end of the unit or prefers PLO season to end earlier, e.g., Dec 15; supportive of GMU-specific regular season cow tags but does not want a large increase in license quota.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Re-open GMU-specific hunt codes in E-16 for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cow rifle seasons (restoring EF045O2R/O3R/O4R, EF047O2R/O3R/O4R, and EF444O2R/O3R/O4R, and re-open GMU 444's extended cow elk PLO hunt code (EF444P5R).

2. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Julie Mao (Terrestrial Biologist) and Area 8
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brad Banulis (NW Sr. Terrestrial Biologist)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022	
ISSUE:	Should archery elk licenses be limited in Data Analysis Unit (DAU) E-14 and/or Game Management Unit (GMU) 521?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Game Management Unit (GMU) 521 is part of the Grand Mesa Data Analysis Unit (DAU) E-14, which includes GMUs 41, 42, 52, 411, 421, and 521. The 2010 Herd Management Plan for the Grand Mesa calls for maintaining a population in between 15,000-19,000. The E-14 elk herd has been intentionally reduced from a high of over 20,000 elk in the early 1990s to a 2021 post-hunt population estimate of approximately 14,300. Like many places in western Colorado, these reductions were made in an effort to mitigate agricultural conflicts across the DAU, and with consideration to overall carrying capacity across seasonal ranges. However, current sentiment by CPW staff, hunters, outfitters, some landowners, and some longtime residents of the communities surrounding the Grand Mesa indicates that the elk population in E-14 may be undesirably low. Furthermore, there is concern relative to elk distribution across the DAU; specific to GMU 521, constituents have indicated that the distribution of elk has changed noticeably over the last 10 years, with relatively few elk presently found on public land areas that used to have significant numbers. To help facilitate population growth, and achieve/maintain population objective, managers have been reducing the number of antlerless rifle and muzzleloader licenses over the last several years, with on-going reductions in GMU 521-specific antlerless rifle licenses beginning in 2017. Calf:cow ratios observed during winter classification surveys have generally declined over the last ten years; however, post-hunt 2021, a near record high calf:cow ratio of 55:100 was observed. Above average age ratios, have been observed in a number of Southwest Region DAUs over the last two years, likely the result of mild winters and timely rains that have promoted favorable range conditions.</p> <p>The Grand Mesa has traditionally been managed for maximum hunting opportunity. Until recently, many of the limited muzzleloader and rifle licenses in E-14 were valid across all six GMUs, aggregated within GMU 41 hunt codes. Hunters possessing an over-the-counter (OTC) or limited license had the flexibility to hunt any of the six GMUs, under the management assumptions that hunters would distribute themselves across the DAU, and that elk are well distributed across the DAU. These assumptions have not necessarily held true over time, and managers have observed an increasing and disproportionate level of hunting pressure in GMU 521 over the last 5-10 years. Concurrently, the elk population across the DAU has been decreasing and elk distribution has been changing (likely due in part to increased hunting pressure) which has collectively led to decreased hunter satisfaction. As part of the post-hunt 2021 Big Game Harvest Surveys (BGHS), respondents were asked a number of new “opt-in” questions. Approximately 53% of 2,450 respondents in E-14 indicated that they were ‘Very dissatisfied’ or ‘Somewhat dissatisfied’ with the total number of elk they saw during the 2021 season.</p> <p>E-14 is collaboratively managed between the Northwest and Southwest Regions. In an effort to increase the elk population in GMU 521 and hold elk on public lands, and partially to address hunter crowding issues, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has taken several significant regulatory steps in recent years. In addition to on-going antlerless license reductions, in 2020-21 the Parks and Wildlife Commission approved an issue paper that converted all antlerless licenses in GMU 521 from ‘List B’ to ‘List A’; precluded the use of ‘List B’ antlerless archery licenses in GMU 521; and created GMU 521 specific antlerless hunt codes for rifle and muzzleloader seasons. Affected hunt codes included:</p> <p>Antlerless archery: EF000U1A license no longer valid in GMU 521 Muzzleloader: removed GMU 521 from EF041O1M; created new EF521O1M, converted to List A Rifle: removed GMU 521 from EF041O1; created new EF521O1R, converted to List A Rifle: hunt codes EF521O2R, EF521O3R, EF521O4R, converted to List A</p> <p>Presently, the only limited hunt codes in E-14 that still aggregate with GMU 521 are EM041O1M, EM041O1R, EM041O4R, EE041P1R, and EE041P4R. Either-sex archery elk licenses and bull-only licenses for the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons are available to hunters on an unlimited, “Over-The-Counter” basis, and are valid in all six E-14 GMUs.</p>	

For several years, CPW has been receiving concerns and complaints from hunters, outfitters, and landowners in GMU 521 regarding hunter crowding, reduced overall elk numbers, and changes in elk distribution from public to private lands, with specific emphasis on archery season. Participation in the elk archery season has increased significantly in GMU 521, with the number of archery hunters approximately doubling over the last ten years, from around 700 hunters in 2012 to nearly 1,500 archery hunters in 2021. Increased crowding during the archery season paired with reduced elk numbers on public lands has led to discussion of limiting archery licenses in 521. Nearly 50% of OTC archery hunters in E-14 indicated in the BGHS that they felt 'Very Crowded' or 'Moderately Crowded' during their 2021 archery elk hunts. Nearly 50% expressed dissatisfaction with the total number of elk they saw in E-14 during their 2021 archery hunts.

The intent behind archery limitation is not quality bull management. Rather it is to address hunter crowding issues, provide an enhanced hunting experience, and acknowledge that elk distribution on both public and private lands is influenced by increasing hunting pressure. It is important to point out that managers are continuously assessing and attempting to preserve wildlife's access to the highest quality habitat in Colorado. Long-term elk population productivity and viability will depend on maximizing access to these habitat resources through hunting management as well as engagement in statewide land-use planning.

As outlined above, CPW has already been managing 521 somewhat independently from the rest of E-14 based on recent circumstances. Archery hunter numbers, in particular, have been trending upwards in 521 for over a decade, while relative growth in OTC rifle season participation has been markedly less (Figure 1).

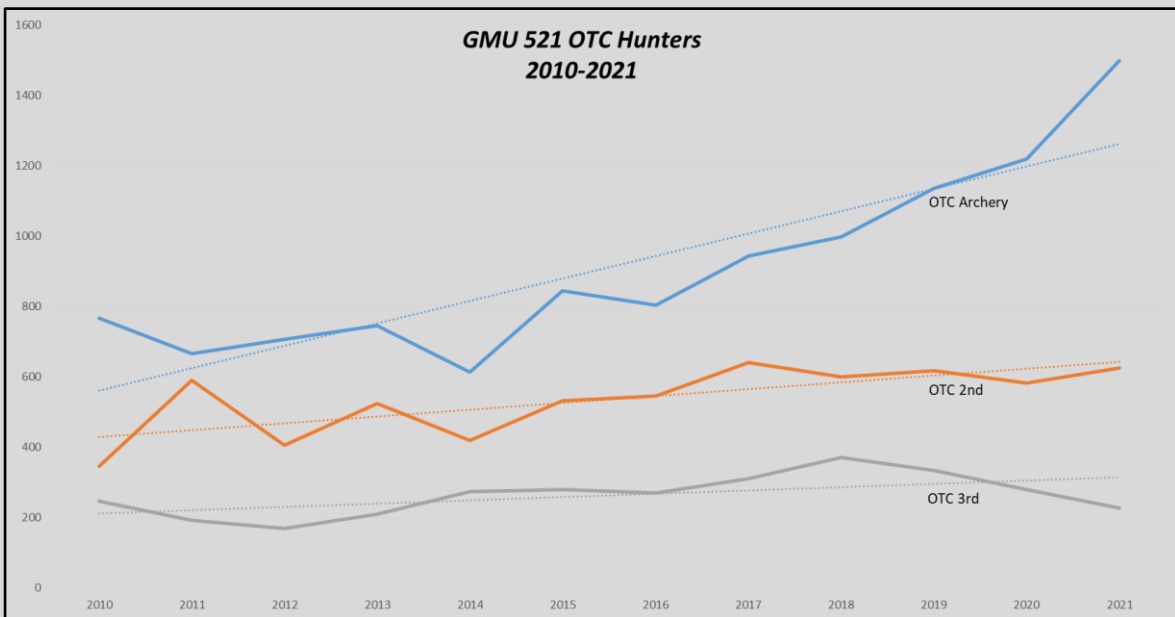


Figure 1.

When compared to other E-14 GMUs, 521 has seen the most significant increases in archery hunting participation over the last five years, with GMU 421 close behind (Figure 2).

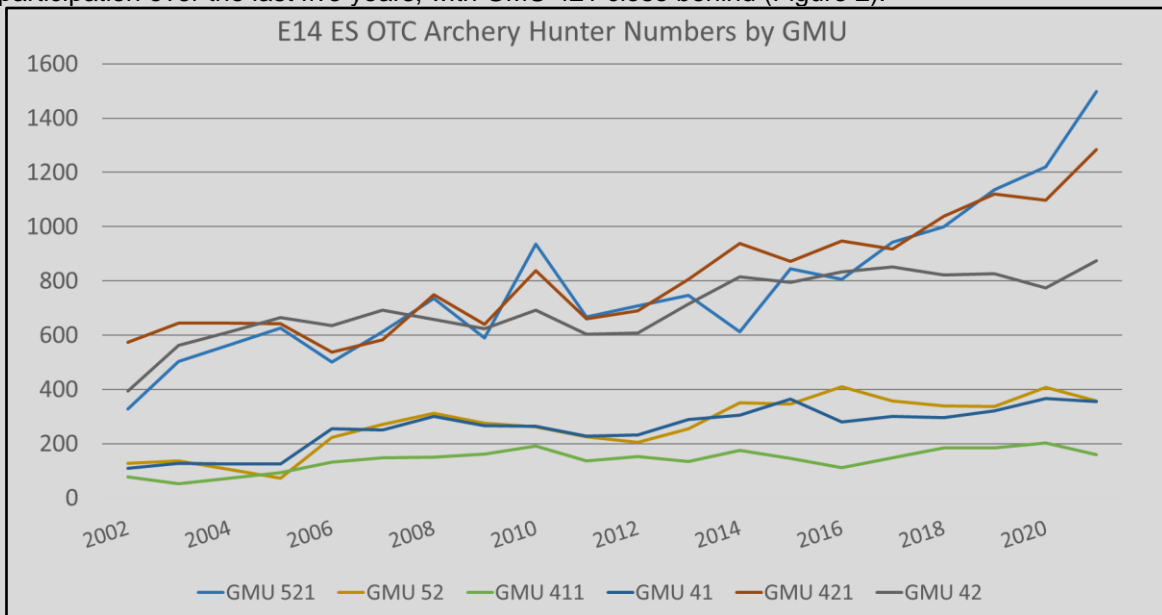


Figure 2.

In E-14, both resident and non-resident archery participation has been increasing, however participation was more proportional five to ten years ago. More recently, increased non-resident OTC archery participation in this DAU is significantly higher than resident; in 2021, non-residents accounted for more than 70% of total archery hunters (Figure 3). This is likely the result of several factors including increased interest in archery hunting, technological advances in archery equipment, season timing and length, as well as a number of Colorado archery units becoming totally limited over the last ten years.

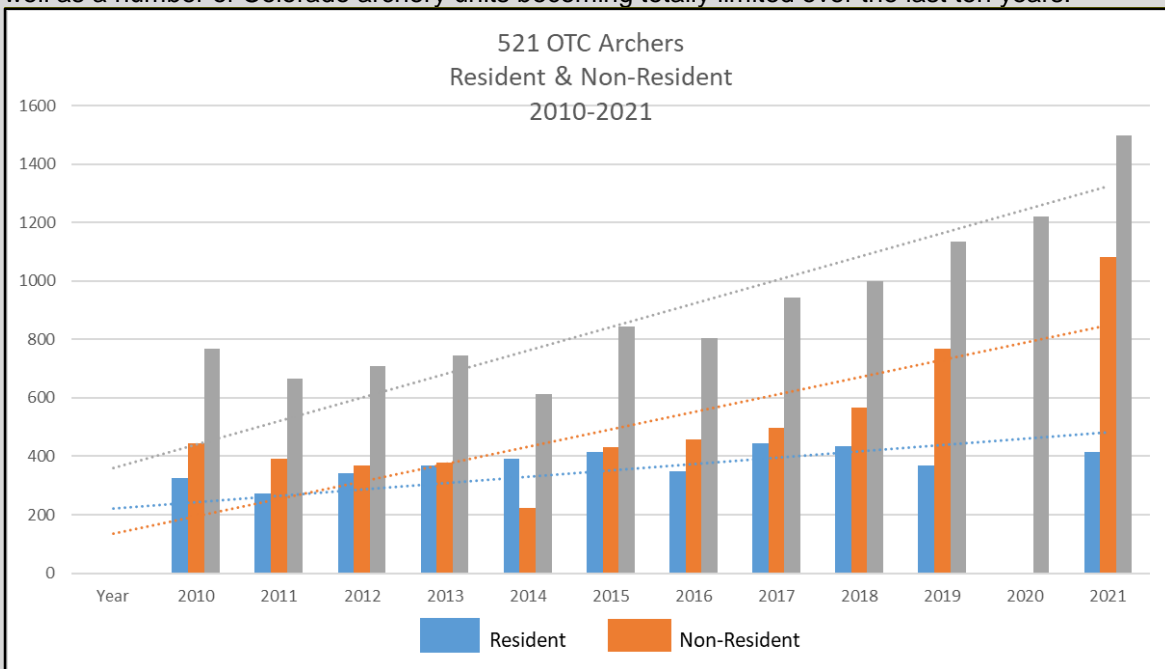


Figure 3.

As hunter participation has increased, E-14 archery success has decreased across the DAU (Figure 4).

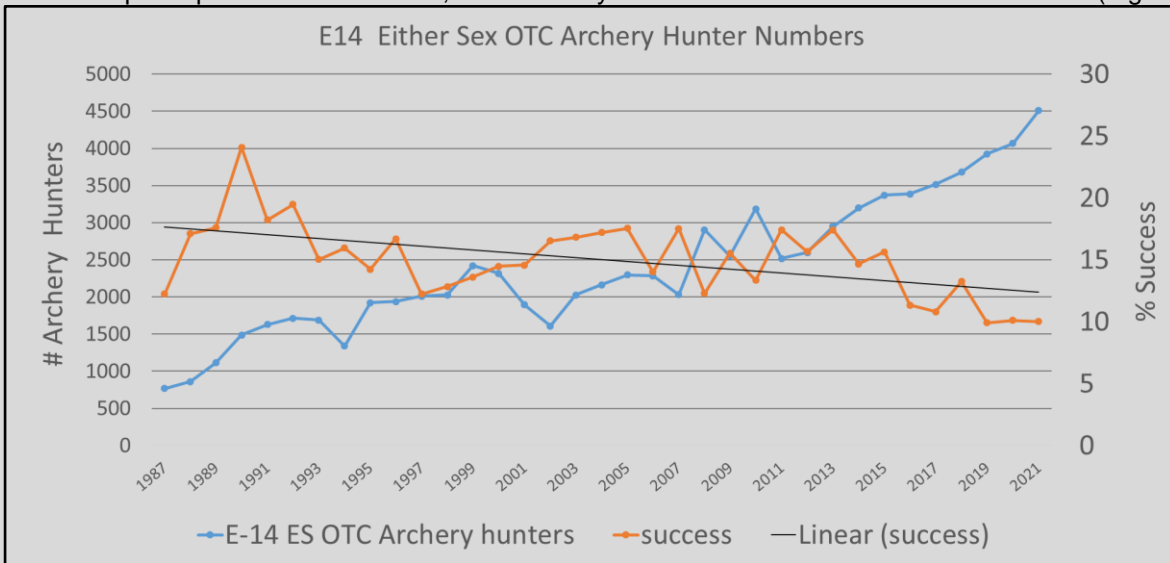


Figure 4.

GMU 521 is currently sustaining more than 30% of the overall archery hunting pressure in E-14, and has the highest hunter density during archery season when calculated as the number of hunters per GMU square miles (Figure 5).

GMU	GMU Sq Miles	3-yr Ave OTC ES Archery Hunters 2019-2021	E-14 Percent Total Archery Hunters	Hunter Density by GMU Archers/Sq Miles
41	328	347	8	1.06
42	605	824	20	1.36
52	264	367	9	1.39
411	229	182	4	.79
421	541	1167	28	2.16
521	507	1285	31	2.53

Figure 5.

In 2021, for a reported 13,670 hunters, the elk harvest in E-14 was estimated at 862 bulls and 937 cows (nearly 1,800 animals). Of that total harvest, GMU 521 accounted for an estimated 2,887 hunters that reported harvesting 230 bulls and 75 cows (27% and 8% of total DAU harvest).

For GMU 521 specifically, 1,498 OTC archers harvested approximately 102 bulls (44% of total 521 antlered harvest) and 54 cows (72% of total 521 antlerless harvest) in 2021. For comparison, 131 muzzleloader hunters reported harvesting six bulls and zero cows in 2021.

CPW staff do not believe the current trend in archery participation in GMU 521 is sustainable, and that the increased hunting pressure is impacting hunters, landowners, and elk distribution. Limiting archery licenses in 521 will result in increased regulatory complexity and will likely impact adjacent GMUs. We also recognize that these issues are not unique to GMU 521 or E-14, and that this may be part of more

global agency discussions related to hunter preferences, OTC licenses, allocation, and preference points. In addition to the status quo, we respectfully submit two alternatives for the PWC to consider:

Alternative 1:

Limit either-sex archery elk licenses across DAU E-14 and remove list B antlerless elk archery licenses. Based on the issues outlined in this paper, staff would like to achieve the ability to better distribute hunters across the DAU, while managing issues in GMU 521. Therefore, we propose creating three either-sex archery hunt codes that encompass the six GMUs in E-14. Three hunt codes will allow managers to adequately address the issues in GMU 521, while also ensuring that crowding/management issues are not created or exacerbated in adjacent GMUs. In addition, this alternative includes a provision to make existing OTC either-sex archery elk licenses valid for private lands only (PLO) in E-14. This model is currently being used in several NW elk DAUs. Specific to E-14, the primary management objective for these licenses would be to have a tool to maintain on-going and reciprocal hunting pressure on private lands to encourage elk use and fidelity to public lands. CPW staff are discussing additional public outreach.

Alternative 2:

Limit either-sex archery elk licenses in GMU 521; other E-14 GMUs remain open to OTC archery hunting.

Summary Considerations:

- Perpetual increases in archery season participation are not sustainable in GMU 521 or E-14
- Perpetual increases in archery season participation contribute to issues of hunter crowding, hunter experience, elk population management, elk behavior, elk distribution, and hunter success rates across all seasons
- Limitations give managers maximum ability to control and distribute hunters
- Limitations give managers maximum ability to control cow harvest when necessary; antlered and antlerless archery hunt codes could be created expeditiously with a limited license framework already in place
- Limited licenses give managers a potential tool (through a deliberate decrease in hunting pressure) to help encourage elk to remain on public lands longer during the fall
- Over time, limited licenses may require a first-choice and/or preference point(s) to draw, contributing to a reduction in statewide preference point creep
- Limiting archery licenses will not specifically address the current resident/non-resident allocation disparity in GMU 521, however the 65/35 split would immediately apply giving residents first choice preference up to 65%
- Elk hunter and harvest management must be evaluated in tandem with other land uses and issues across public and private lands

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:

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

External: CPW staff in the SW Region have been discussing the issue of limiting archery in GMU 521 for years. Several in-person meetings with constituents have occurred in the Paonia area during recent years, as well as on-going conversations throughout the year with interested parties. The issue was discussed during a virtual Southwest Sportspersons Roundtable meeting on July 25, 2022 with opportunities for questions and comments. On July 6, 2022, staff posted an on-line polling survey to the Gunnison and Montrose CPW Facebook pages. To date, the poll has received 101 responses from hunters in 13 states. Preliminary results of polling include, but are not limited to the following:

- Respondents listed affiliations with nine different conservation organizations
- 66% of respondents indicate archery as their preferred method of take
- More than 80% of respondents indicated that they were 'Very Dissatisfied' or 'Somewhat Dissatisfied' with their elk hunting experience in GMU 521 over the last five years

- 80% indicated they were 'Very Concerned' with crowding during archery season
- More than 80% of respondents indicated they would 'Strongly Support' or 'Somewhat Support' totally limiting archery licenses in GMU 521

Area's 16 & 7 are currently discussing additional public outreach that may include additional on-line polling and virtual meetings.

Internal: On-going communication with NW Region/Area 7, DWMs, AWMs, Area Biologists, Senior Biologists, SW Regional Staff.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Limit either-sex archery licenses in E-14; licenses would be valid on both public and private lands. Create three novel hunt codes:
 EE04101A (valid in GMUs 41, 42, 421)
 EE05201A (valid in GMUs 52, 411)
 EE52101A (valid in GMU 521)

- Add regulation that makes existing OTC either-sex and List B OTC antlerless archery elk licenses valid on private lands only in E-14; this model is currently used in several NW Region DAUs that include GMUs 4, 5, 441, 12, 23, 24, and 33

2. Limit either-sex archery licenses only in GMU 521; create hunt code EE52101A; other E-14 GMUs remain open to archers with OTC licenses

4. Status quo

Issue Raised by:	Brandon Diamond, AWM; Andrew Taylor, DWM; Evan Phillips, Terrestrial Biologist, Jamin Grigg, SW Senior Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Cory Chick, Travis Black, Kirk Oldham, Brad Banulis, Genevieve Fuller
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Jamin Grigg, Brad Banulis, Cory Chick, Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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	Southwest Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022	
ISSUE:	Should Private Land Only (PLO) hunt codes be created in the Haswell Pronghorn Data Analysis Unit (DAU) PH-5 to distribute pronghorn harvest more evenly across the DAU?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The Haswell Pronghorn (DAU) PH-5 is located in southeastern Colorado and encompasses parts of Lincoln, Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Bent, and Otero counties. The DAU includes Game Management Units 120, 121, 125, & 126 (see the Haswell PH-5 Pronghorn Herd Management Plan for more information). Between 2019 and 2021, CPW enrolled 140,000+ acres of State Land Board properties into the Public Access Program (PAP) in GMUs 125 and 126. GMUs 125 & 126 now have ~165,000 acres enrolled in PAP, including ~70% of GMU 125's pronghorn habitat and ~25% of GMU 126's pronghorn habitat.</p> <p>All rifle and muzzleloader pronghorn licenses in the PH-5 (Haswell) DAU are DAU-wide licenses, valid in all four GMUs within the DAU. Hunters are now concentrating in GMUs 125 and 126 with the addition of the PAP properties. Therefore, since 2020, a disproportionate amount of pronghorn harvest has occurred on those public lands. It has created a situation where pronghorn densities are now decreasing in GMUs 125 and 126 and are increasing in GMUs 120 and 121.</p> <p>This issue paper proposes the addition of PLO hunt codes to the GMU 120/121/125/126 hunt code group for all rifle pronghorn hunts. PLO hunt codes would increase CPW's ability to distribute pronghorn harvest appropriately within PH-5.</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:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]	
<p>Hunters: District Wildlife Managers have received high numbers of complaints from hunters who are hunting on the PAP properties. Hunters have complained about the significant reduction in pronghorn densities in GMUs 125 and 126.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Add PLO hunt codes A-F-120-P1-R and A-M-120-P1-R that would be valid only on private lands in GMUs 120,121, 125, and 126 for the primary pronghorn rifle season. Add PLO hunt code A-F-120-P5-R that would be valid only on private lands in GMUs 120, 121, 125, and 126 for the 9-day late pronghorn rifle season that starts on the first Saturday in December.</p> <p>2. Status quo</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Jonathan Reitz-SE Terrestrial, Area 12
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Julie Stiver (SE Senior Terrestrial Biologist), Todd Marriott (Area 12 AWM), Jordan DePriest (Area 12 DWM), Logan Wilkins (Area 12 DWM), Mitch Martin (Acting SE RM), April Estep (SE DRM), Brian Dreher (Terrestrial Section Manager)

APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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	SE-Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/04/2022	
ISSUE:	Should bull and cow moose hunting be opened in Game Management Units (GMUs) 33 and 34?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Moose sightings in GMUs 33 and 34 have been increasing over the past few years, likely due to expansion of moose numbers in adjacent GMUs 23, 24, and 25. There are now enough moose in these 2 GMUs to provide limited hunting opportunity. Moose sightings have become more common, including some reports within a mile of West Glenwood Springs, as well as in adjacent GMU 43 where a resident was injured outside her home during an encounter with a moose.</p> <p>To both provide hunting opportunity as well as to proactively manage the moose population and avoid future moose-human conflicts in/around Glenwood Springs/Interstate-70, USFS campgrounds, and other heavy recreational use areas in these GMUs, we propose opening bull and cow moose hunt codes MM033O1X and MF033O1A/M/R that will be valid in GMUs 33 and 34 starting in 2023.</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>[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received internal discussions at license setting meetings and DWM field contacts with hunters acknowledging increased moose sightings</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Open a season choice bull moose hunt code MM033O1X and floating quota cow hunt codes MF033O1A/M/R that will be valid in GMUs 33 and 34.</p> <p>2. Status Quo.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Dan Cacho (DWM-Glenwood Springs), Brian Gray (DWM-Rifle North)
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Julie Mao (Terrestrial Biologist, Glenwood Springs)
CC:	Matt Yamashita (AWM, Area 8), Kirk Oldham (AWM, Area 9), Genevieve Fuller (Terrestrial Biologist, Grand Junction), Darby Finley (Terrestrial Biologist, Meeker), Brad Banulis (NW Senior Terrestrial Biologist)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

		Date:	11/04/22
ISSUE:	Should cow moose hunting be opened in Game Management Units (GMUs) 44 and 45?		
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):			
<p>Moose hunting in GMUs 44 and 45 has been open to bull moose harvest since these 2 units opened in 2015. Moose numbers, and likewise moose-human conflicts, continue to grow in these units. A minimum of 5-6 moose road kills have occurred on Interstate-70 and State Highway 24 in recent years, There have also been various other incidents that have put both moose and people at risk of severe injury, including a moose trapped in an underground parking structure in Vail, aggressive encounters between cow moose and skiers on Beaver Creek Resort, moose getting entangled in fencing, and conflicts between moose and dogs/hikers. Adjacent GMUs 36, 37, 49, and 444 all offer cow moose hunting opportunity already.</p> <p>We propose adding cow hunt codes (floating quota over methods of take) that will be valid in GMUs 44 and 45 starting in 2023 to offer additional hunting opportunity to the public and to manage the moose population to reduce the potential for moose-human conflicts.</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:			
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.			
<p>The local chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers was solicited for input and was generally supportive of a cow moose hunting, and believed the new hunt would provide a beneficial opportunity for the hunting community without sacrificing the quality of moose hunting. Some hunters expressed concerns of harvesting cows with calves.</p> <p>Employees of CDOT and CSP were solicited for input and were generally supportive of the hunt.</p> <p>Random citizens of the Avon and Eagle-Vail area were solicited and were generally supportive, and expressed their awareness of the increase of moose in urban areas over the last couple of years.</p>			
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):			
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create cow moose hunt codes MF044O1A/M/R (quota will float among methods of take) that will be valid in GMUs 44 and 45.</p> <p>2. Status Quo.</p>			
Issue Raised by:	Area 8, Julie Mao (Terrestrial Biologist, Glenwood Springs)		
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):			
CC:	Devin Duval (DWM-Vail), Layton Stutsman (DWM-Edwards), Matt Yamashita (AWM, Area 8), Brad Banulis (NW Senior Terrestrial Biologist)		
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black		
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

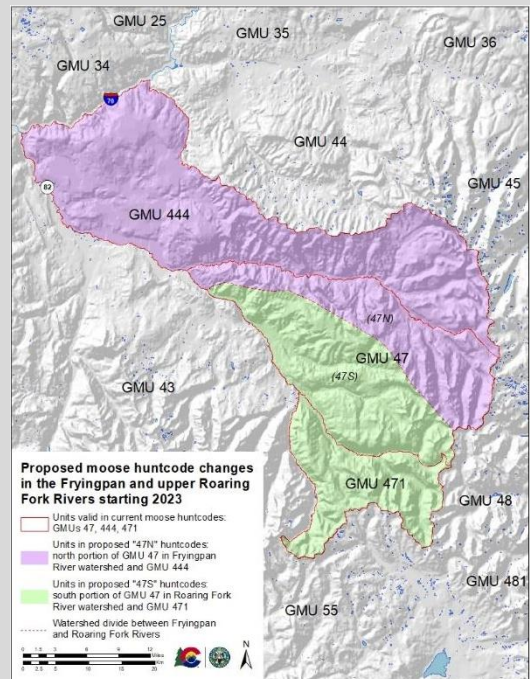
Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE: Should four separate hunt codes be created to replace the current two hunt codes for cow (MF047O1X) and bull (MM047O1X) moose in the Fryingpan and upper Roaring Fork Rivers?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Currently, hunt codes MF047O1A/M/R and MM047O1X for cow and bull moose are valid in GMUs 47, 444, and 471. Hunter success for the 1 cow and 2 bull licenses was 100% in 2021 but all of the harvests occurred in one portion of a single drainage on the boundary between GMUs 47 and 444 near Ivanhoe Lake/Ivanhoe Creek. This location is easily accessed and has fewer recreationists and residents than elsewhere in these 3 GMUs.

Other portions of these GMUs have much higher incidents of moose-human conflict, particularly the upper Roaring Fork River that divides GMUs 47 and 471. Several incidents in the upper Roaring Fork have required management actions such as hazing and/or tranquilizing and relocating the moose. In 2019, two encounters between moose and people in Aspen along the boundary of GMUs 47 and 471: in one case, a moose charged a cross-country skier, but he was able to fight off the moose with his ski poles. In the other case, CPW officers euthanized a bull moose that had charged and trampled a couple in a residential neighborhood. On Highway 82, there have also been moose road kills, which are detrimental to both moose and drivers. The upper Roaring Fork Valley would benefit from moose harvest to limit moose population growth and avoid future conflicts that could result in severe human injury.



In order to distribute some hunters toward the upper Roaring Fork, rather than having all harvest out of the Fryingpan/Ivanhoe area, we propose to split these hunt codes geographically along the watershed divide between the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork drainages in GMU 47:

- Hunt codes MF047O1A/M/R and MM047O1X would be valid for cow and bull moose harvest in GMU 444 and the portion of GMU 47 north of the Fryingpan-Roaring Fork River divide.
- Hunt codes MF047S1A/M/R and MM047S1X would be valid for cow and bull moose harvest in GMU 471 and the portion of GMU 47 south of the Fryingpan-Roaring Fork River divide.

Splitting the hunt codes along the two watersheds will allow for geographically specific harvest management based on the differing opportunities and management needs for moose harvest in each drainage.

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:

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received

Some residents in the Aspen/upper Roaring Fork area have expressed concern about potential for moose-human conflicts.
DWM Kurtis Tesch field contacts

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Split the moose hunt codes that are currently under the GMU 47 hunt codes geographically along the watershed divide between the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork drainages in GMU 47 to better distribute hunter harvest based on differing management needs in each drainage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunt codes MF047O1A/M/R and MM047O1X would be valid for cow and bull moose harvest in GMU 444 and the portion of GMU 47 north of the Fryingpan-Roaring Fork River divide. • Hunt codes MF047S1A/M/R and MM047S1X would be valid for cow and bull moose harvest in GMU 471 and the portion of GMU 47 south of the Fryingpan-Roaring Fork River divide. <p>2. Status Quo.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Area 8
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Julie Mao (Terrestrial Biologist, Area 8)
CC:	Matt Yamashita (AWM-Area 8), Peter Boyatt (DWM-Basalt), Kurtis Tesch (DWM-Aspen), Brad Banulis (NW Senior Terrestrial Biologist)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

		Date: 11/04/2022
ISSUE:	Should a ewe license be implemented in S-36?	
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):		
<p>Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis canadensis</i>) are indigenous to the Bellows Creek area on the western side of the San Luis Valley, including the S-36 herd in Area 17. CPW has managed the herd with a single ram license beginning in 2014, which increased to two licenses in 2020.</p> <p>S-36 is a bighorn sheep herd between South Fork and Creede, CO, that has been affected by respiratory disease issues in the past. The herd continues to have minor disease prevalence concerns; however, in the past few years, the herd appears to be increasing, with the public, Forest Service, and CPW personnel observing slow lamb and yearling recruitment. CPW believes the slow recruitment indicates that the herd is managing to overcome any remaining disease issues. However, given the size of the current estimated population (120 – 140 animals), CPW believes lamb recruitment should be more robust. While the population size is not exceptionally large for ungulate populations, the traditional areas used by the S-36 herd are relatively small, resulting in high densities. Most of the population spends the winter near Hwy 149 in the Pool Table region between Blue Creek and the lower Bellows Creek drainage, where available habitat is limited. It is difficult to predict what population size would result in density dependence causing lower juvenile survival and whether we are near or exceeding that threshold.</p> <p>From 2006 to 2013, there were no hunting licenses available in S-36, allowing the herd to recover from the respiratory issues plaguing the animals. In 2014, a single ram license was implemented, and CPW provided an additional ram license in 2020. CPWs provision of ram license has allowed hunters to successfully harvest animals in the herd while the herd continues to increase slowly. Nevertheless, while recruitment may occur, the ewes are aging without available harvest opportunities. The aging ewes could potentially be holding back respectable recruitment to strengthen the viability of the S-36 herd.</p> <p>Several studies of a bighorn sheep at Ram Mountain, Alberta, offer some of the best insights into bighorn population dynamics. Over 25 years, this herd was intensively studied, and the state manipulated population size with ewe harvest. Population size ranged from 95 to 210 (Jorgenson 1997). Lamb mass and winter survival decreased as density increased (Portier et al.1998). Jorgenson et al. (1997) found that yearling female survival was negatively affected by density. Age at first reproduction is also negatively correlated with population size. Density did not appear to affect adult female survival. Male mortality increased once rams began participating in the rut (at 4-6 years old), and adult ewe survival declined at ages greater than seven (Jorgenson et al. 1997).</p> <p>Increasing density and the resulting declining body condition may also increase susceptibility to disease. Historically, disease issues have been a major limiting factor for several Colorado bighorn sheep herds, with all-age die-offs having occurred in Pikes Peak (S6), Tarryall (S27), Kenosha Mountains (S23), Alamosa Canyon (S29), Big Thompson Canyon (S57), Trickle Mountain (S10), and Marshall Pass (S20) (George et al. 2009). Paradoxically, the better many of our bighorn herds perform, the more at risk they may become to density or disease-related issues.</p> <p>It is unclear if bighorn sheep in S-36 are at carrying capacity or if a disease epidemic will occur in the near future. A small number of ewe licenses may not make any noticeable difference. However, establishing conservative ewe harvest may reduce intraspecific competition, increase juvenile survival, lower age at first reproduction, provide hunter opportunity, increase hunter-attained herd information, encourage the use of new habitats and dispersal, and possibly reduce the risk and severity of disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Colorado currently has many bighorn units that provide ewe licenses. The ewe licenses have proven very popular, with many hunters using their preference points to apply for these hunts. CPW recommends implementing and providing a small number of ewe rifle licenses to S-36. To monitor the population, local CPW staff will use field observations of the bighorn sheep, harvest results, and classification flight data.</p>		

License numbers may be adjusted over time to maintain a viable population and sustainable harvest, provide an appropriate amount of hunter opportunity, and diminish disease pathogen prevalence.

Season dates will vary due to local conditions and management preferences:

S-36: CPW proposes the ewe rifle license start date beginning ten days following the opening date of the ram rifle seasons and ending on the same date as the end of the ram seasons, similar to the ewe season in S-53.

Literature Cited

George, J.L. R. Kahn, M. Miller, and B. Watkins Editors. 2009. Colorado bighorn sheep management plan 2010-2019. Colorado Division of Wildlife special report 81.

Jorgenson, J. T., M. Festa-Bianchet, and W. D. Wishart. 1993. Harvesting bighorn ewes: consequences for population size and trophy ram production. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 57:429-435.

Jorgenson, J. T., M. Festa-Bianchet, J. Gaillard, and W. D. Wishart. 1997. Effects of age, sex, disease, and density on survival of bighorn sheep. *Ecology*78(4): 1019-1032.

Portier, C., M. Festa-Bianchet, J. Gaillard, J.T. Jorgenson, and N.G. Yoccoz. 1998. Effects of density and weather on survival of bighorn sheep lambs (*Ovis canadensis*). *J. Zool.* 245: 271-278.

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:

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

Internal discussion within Area 17, hunter comments, local landowners and public citizens' concern for the herd's well-being.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

- *Preferred Alternative*:** Add an annual S36 bighorn sheep ewe hunt code for hunter opportunity and to potentially remove animals carrying pathogens that can cause respiratory disease.

The proposed new hunt code:

S-F-S36-O1R (starting 10 days after the ram season start date and ending the same day as the ram season end date).

- Status quo.**

Issue Raised by:	Brent Woodward, Jeremy Gallegos, Brent Frankland
Author of the issue paper (if different than the person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brent Woodward, Jeremy Gallegos, Rick Bassagoitia, Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick
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	SW Region, Area 17
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

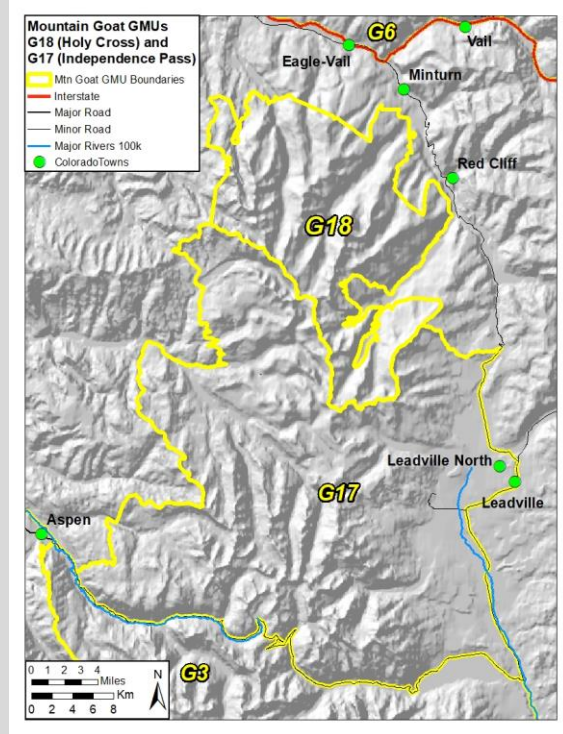
Date: 11/04/2022

ISSUE: Should the either-sex hunt code for mountain goat in Game Management Unit G18 (Holy Cross) be re-opened?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

G18 (Holy Cross) had been open for either-sex mountain goat harvest briefly from 2015-2017 with 1 license issued per year. At the time, there was a small population of goats (10 minimum) but no kids were seen, suggesting that these were likely dispersing adult goats coming from the adjacent GMU G17. One billy was harvested each in the 2016 and 2017 seasons, but goat sightings remained low and the 2017 aerial survey yielded no goats observed. The G18 hunt code was therefore closed in 2018.

However, in recent years, more sightings of goats have been reported in G18, anecdotally as many as 20+. In summer 2022, CPW staff have begun surveying G18 through ground observations and have seen a minimum of 17-32 individual goats, including all age and sex classes. Observations of nannies with yearlings and kids indicate that goats are beginning to establish in the range and achieve reproductive success. There is now a sufficient number of mountain goats to resume goat harvest in G18 in order to manage for a low mountain goat population size, which aligns with G17's low population density objective as well.



The primary reason for managing for a low mountain goat population in G18 is to maintain alpine habitat quality and to avoid future issues of habitat and forage competition between native bighorn sheep and non-native mountain goats. The Holy Cross and Sawatch mountain ranges historically had 2 bighorn populations (Hoover 1992), so CPW staff aim to ultimately re-establish self-sustaining bighorn sheep herds in this area. By the mid-1960s, bighorns were in decline due to unknown reasons (possibly disease and poaching), and were no longer observed by the 1970s (Hoover 1992). A transplant effort to reintroduce bighorns in 1999 into alpine habitat in the Holy Cross range failed due to severe winter conditions immediately after the transplant. Currently a small number (6-8) of rams reside in the Homestake drainage and are likely connected to the adjacent S66 herd to the south. There have also been recent springtime sightings of yearling or young adult bighorns of both sexes in the vicinity along Highway 24 and Interstate 70, but these are likely wandering young sheep from neighboring herds.

CPW staff recommend re-opening G18 as its own stand-alone hunt code, so that harvest can be specifically directed toward this unit. In future years, if the G18 population declines, then we recommend instead of closing the G18 hunt code as had been done in 2018, that the G17 hunt code (GEG1701R) be modified to allow goat hunting opportunity to be retained within the larger G17 unit with the option for tag holders to also hunt in G18. The season dates for G18 would be the standard dates, opening on the Tuesday after Labor Day for 31 days.

Literature Cited:

Hoover, R.L. 1992. Historical status of bighorn sheep in the Holy Cross area, Eagle and Pitkin Counties, Colorado. 43 pp.

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:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]	
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society and Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance are both supportive of reopening goat harvest in G18 with the same management objective of low population density as in G17.	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
1. *Preferred Alternative*: Re-open hunt code GEG18O1R as a stand-alone unit. The season dates for G18 would be the standard dates, opening on the Tuesday after Labor Day for 31 days.	
2. Status Quo.	
Issue Raised by:	Julie Mao (Terrestrial Biologist-Glenwood Springs), Devin Duval (DWM-Vail), Layton Stutsman (DWM-Edwards), Matt Yamashita (AWM-Glenwood Springs)
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brad Banulis (NW Senior Terrestrial Biologist), Bryan Lamont (Terrestrial Biologist-Salida), Zack Baker (Assistant AWM-Salida), Sean Shepherd (AWM-Salida), Peter Boyatt (DWM-Basalt)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO