

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023

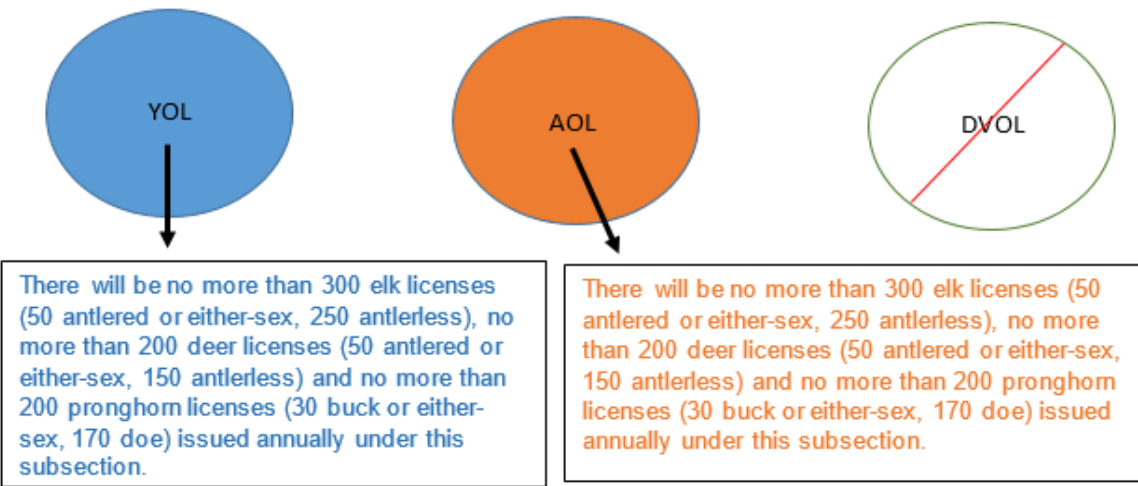
ISSUE: Should a Disabled Veteran outreach license opportunity be added and combined with the existing outreach hunting licenses (youth and novice adult)?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Issue:

Over the years, a number of qualified organizations who would like to host disabled veterans for big game hunts have contacted CPW. However, there are no licenses for this type of opportunity currently. The available outreach licenses offered are for youth and novice adults only. Without a Disabled Veteran outreach license, CPW is missing a prime opportunity to recruit, retain, and reactivate this group of individuals.

Current Outreach License Options:

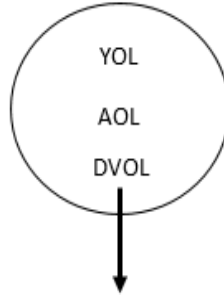


Solution:

To maximize recruitment, retention and reactivation through outreach licenses CPW proposes adding a Disabled Veteran outreach license option within the already structured outreach licenses. The qualifying criteria for the Independence Park Pass, found in Chapter P-7 regulations #701, 4.a. (1 & 2), would be used to determine eligibility for these licenses. Since a Veterans' service was for the entire country, both residents and nonresidents would be eligible to apply for these opportunities. Nonresidents would still need to purchase the licenses at the nonresident prices. The Disabled Veteran outreach license would be a list C license to remain consistent with youth outreach licenses (YOL) and novice adult outreach licenses (NAOL).

We also propose combining the YOL, NAOL and Disabled Veterans outreach licenses. This change would move the current separated pool of YOL and NAOL into one pool of licenses and then pull the Disabled Veteran opportunities from that pool. The current demand for the YOL and NAOL does not come close to the maximum number of licenses offered. Therefore there is no need to increase licenses allowed even with this additional opportunity pulling from the same pool. By combining these licenses, we can also simplify regulations and consolidate all outreach licenses into one section of the regulations instead needing three sections.

Proposed Outreach License Options:



There will be no more than 600 elk licenses (100 antlered or either-sex, 500 antlerless), no more than 400 deer licenses (100 antlered or either-sex, 300 antlerless) and no more than 400 pronghorn licenses (60 buck or either-sex, 340 doe) issued annually under this subsection.

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 staff: Statewide Hunter Outreach Coordinator, Regional Hunter Outreach Coordinators, Area 6 and 7 staff, NW Regional Manager, NW Senior Wildlife Biologist, Terrestrial Data Team, and Statewide AWMs.

External stakeholders: Base Camp 40, Grand Junction Veterans Affairs Recreational Therapy, and American Heroes in Action

- Basecamp 40 (based in Grand Junction) helped provide the language that is used for the definition of a Disabled Veteran. They also weighed in on criteria qualifying organizations that will be considered in the updated Administrative Directive once this is approved.
- Grand Junction Veterans Affairs Recreational Therapy Program is in support so we can continue our 16 year long Big Game Outreach hunts with them and local Disabled Veterans.
- Dave Proffitt from American Heroes in Action supports this proposal as written. He is willing to make comments if edits are made to the current proposal.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Change Chapter W-2 regulation #206.B.4.e to include both Novice Adult and (new) Disabled Veteran license opportunities and remove regulation #206.B.4.f. In addition, update the List C licenses in regulations #205.A.1.c, #205.A.2.c., and #205.A.3.c for the new title of these licenses.

- e. ~~Youth~~ Outreach Hunting Licenses – The Director may make additional ~~youth~~ outreach program deer, elk and pronghorn licenses available to qualified organizations sponsoring youth, novice adult or disabled veteran hunting activities.
1. There will be no more than ~~300-600~~ elk licenses (~~50-100~~ antlered or either-sex, ~~250-500~~ antlerless), no more than ~~200-400~~ deer licenses (~~50-100~~ antlered or either-sex, ~~150-300~~ antlerless) and no more than ~~200-400~~ pronghorn licenses (~~30-60~~ buck or either-sex, ~~170-340~~ doe) issued annually under this subsection.

2. Licenses in game management units with at least one hunt code requiring 6 or more resident preference points to draw, excluding Ranching for Wildlife properties, will not be authorized for use under this subsection unless the request is for a hunt exclusively on private land.
3. Licenses are issued on a first come, first served basis to qualified organizations. No more than 10 licenses may be issued per event to any single requesting organization.
4. Requested dates for hunting events must occur between August 15 and January 31 each year.
5. Organizations who wish to request an an Youth Outreach license must submit the request in writing to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Hunter Outreach Coordinator, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216 no later than 60 days prior to the planned hunting event.
6. Licenses are limited to youth hunters 12 to 17 years of age the following:
 - a. Youth Outreach Hunting Licenses - Limited to youth hunters 12 to 17 years of age.
 - b. Novice Adult Hunting Licenses - 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.
 - c. Disabled Veterans Outreach Hunting License - A disabled veteran for this purpose is defined as a honorably-discharged veteran with written proof to the Division of the following:
 - i. DD 214 Form or other documentation indicating the veteran received an Honorable Discharge from a branch of the Armed Services of the United States, AND
 - ii. A qualification letter, on official stationary/letterhead, from the Veteran's Administration, Department of Veteran's Affairs, or the branch of service from which the veteran is receiving compensation, that states one of the following:
 1. 50% or greater, service-connected permanent disability;
 2. Loss of use of one or both feet;
 3. Loss of use of one or both hands; or a
 4. Loss of vision in both eyes

- ~~f. 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.~~
 - ~~2. There will be no more than 300 elk licenses (50 antlered or either sex, 250 antlerless), no more than 200 deer licenses (50 antlered or either sex, 150 antlerless) and no more than 200 pronghorn licenses (30 buck or either sex, 170 doe) issued annually under this subsection.~~
 - ~~3. Licenses in game management units with at least one hunt code requiring 6 or more resident preference points to draw, excluding Ranching for Wildlife properties, will not be authorized for use under this subsection unless the request is for a hunt exclusively on private land.~~
 - ~~4. Licenses are issued on a first come, first served basis to qualified organizations. No more than 10 licenses may be issued per event to any single requesting organization.~~
 - ~~5. Requested dates for hunting events must occur between August 15 and January 31 each year.~~
 - ~~6. Organizations who wish to request a Novice Adult Hunter Outreach license must submit the request in writing to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Hunter Outreach Coordinator, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216 no later than 60 days prior to the planned hunting event~~

2. Alternative: Update Chapter W-2 regulation #206.B.4.f to read as the following:

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

1. For the purpose of these regulations:

- a. ~~a~~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.
- b. Disabled Veterans Outreach Hunting License- A disabled veteran for this purpose is defined as a honorably discharged veteran with written proof to the Division of the following:
- i. DD214 Form or other documentation indicating the veteran received an Honorable Discharge from a branch of the Armed Services of the United States, AND
 - ii. A qualification letter, on official stationary/letterhead, from the Veteran's Administration, Department of Veteran's Affairs, or the branch of service from which the veteran is receiving compensation, that states one of the following:
 1. 50% or greater, service-connected permanent disability;
 2. Loss of use of one or both feet;
 3. Loss of use of one or both hands; or a
 4. Loss of vision in both eyes
2. There will be no more than 300 elk licenses (50 antlered or either-sex, 250 antlerless), no more than 200 deer licenses (50 antlered or either-sex, 150 antlerless) and no more than 200 pronghorn licenses (30 buck or either-sex, 170 doe) issued annually under this subsection.
 3. Licenses in game management units with at least one hunt code requiring 6 or more resident preference points to draw, excluding Ranching for Wildlife properties, will not be authorized for use under this subsection unless the request is for a hunt exclusively on private land.
 4. Licenses are issued on a first come, first served basis to qualified organizations. No more than 10 licenses may be issued per event to any single requesting organization.
 5. Requested dates for hunting events must occur between August 15 and January 31 each year.
 6. Organizations who wish to request a Novice Adult Hunter Outreach license must submit the request in writing to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, State Hunter Outreach Coordinator, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216 no later than 60 days prior to the planned hunting event

3. Status Quo.

Issue Raised by:	Kathleen Mawhinney, Bryan Posthumus, and Kirk Oldham
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Kathleen Mawhinney, NW Hunter Outreach Coordinator
CC:	Jacob Brey, Travis Black, Cory Chick, Frank McGee, Mark Leslie, Area Wildlife Managers, Jennifer Anderson, Pepper Canterbury, Kristin Cannon, Cathy Brons, and Tracy Predmore
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black, NW Regional Manager
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	Hunter Outreach Program, Field Operations
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023

ISSUE: Should game management unit (GMU) 43 be split into two GMUs (GMUs 43 and 431) to more clearly define bear and moose hunt code geographic splits and to more strategically distribute bear and moose harvest to address differences in human-wildlife conflicts between the two portions of the existing unit?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Background and issues:

GMU 43 is a large game management unit covering over 745 sq. miles and encompassing 88% of the SW half of the Roaring Fork River watershed and the entire Crystal River watershed. Human development and recreation activity are higher in the Roaring Fork portion of the unit, particularly the upper (southeast) end of the valley, which includes the busy tourist towns of Aspen and Snowmass Village and the ever-increasingly popular Maroon Bells Scenic Area. In comparison, the mid- to lower portions of the Roaring Fork Valley and the Crystal Valley have more moderate (albeit still substantial) levels of human use and recreation. The high incidence of human-bear conflict in Aspen and Snowmass is well known. Moose-human conflict, although currently not a major issue, is expected to become a potential problem in the Maroon Bells Scenic area, on the 4 ski areas in Aspen/Snowmass, and along riparian corridors in the urbanized areas, as both the moose population and human recreation activities grow.

We propose splitting GMU 43 into a smaller GMU 43 and a new GMU 431 to enable us to manage the geographic distribution of bear and moose harvest separately in the Crystal River/lower Roaring Fork portion (new GMU 43) vs. the upper Roaring Fork portion (new GMU 431).

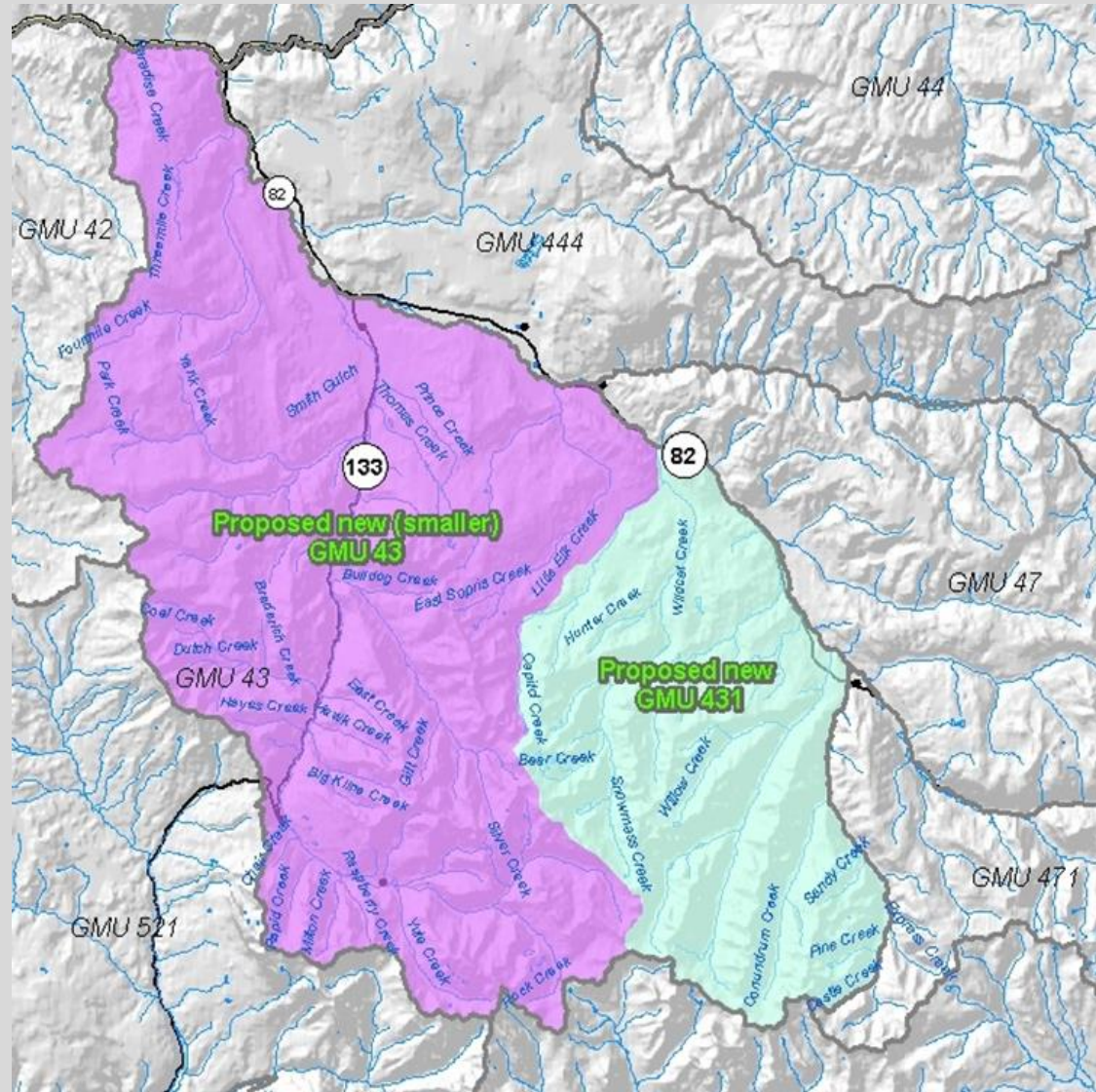
Since 2010, September bear hunt codes for GMU 43 have been split geographically within the GMU, divided along a boundary from Old Snowmass, going up along Capitol Creek and then southward along the ridgeline of the Elks from Capitol Peak to Snowmass Mtn. The split was done to be able to direct more harvest effort toward the upper Roaring Fork Valley where bear-human conflicts have been especially frequent. However, separate GMU designations were not made, but rather a description of the hunt code “boundaries” is shown in the Big Game Brochure with each of these hunt codes:

<p>■43 B-E-043-U1-A ■43 Hunting area boundaries: N and W of Capitol Creek and Capitol Peak; W and S of the Elk Mountains ridgeline between Capitol Peak and Snowmass Mountain; W of Pitkin-Gunnison Co. lines. ■43 Camping permit required for Conundrum Hot Springs area of Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness: www.recreation.gov</p>	<p>■43 B-E-043-U1-M ■43 Hunting area boundaries: N and W of Capitol Creek and Capitol Peak; W and S of the Elk Mountains ridgeline between Capitol Peak and Snowmass Mountain; W of Pitkin-Gunnison Co. lines. ■43 Camping permit required for Conundrum Hot Springs area of Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness: www.recreation.gov</p>	<p>■43 Sept. 2–30 Either B-E-043-01-R ■43 Hunting area boundaries: N and W of Capitol Creek and Capitol Peak; W and S of the Elk Mountains ridgeline between Capitol Peak and Snowmass Mountain; W of Pitkin-Gunnison Co. lines.</p>
<p>■43, 47, 471 B-E-047-U1-A ■43 Hunting area boundaries: S and E of Capitol Creek and Capitol Peak; E and N of the Elk Mountains ridgeline between Capitol Peak and Snowmass Mountain; E of Pitkin-Gunnison Co. lines. ■43 Camping permit required for Conundrum Hot Springs area of Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness: www.recreation.gov</p>	<p>■43, 47, 471 B-E-047-U1-M ■43 Hunting area boundaries: S and E of Capitol Creek and Capitol Peak; E and N of the Elk Mountains ridgeline between Capitol Peak and Snowmass Mt.; E of Pitkin-Gunnison Co. lines. ■43 Camping permit required for Conundrum Hot Springs area of Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness: www.recreation.gov</p>	<p>■43, 47, 471 Sept. 2–30 Either B-E-047-01-R ■43 Hunting area boundaries: S and E of Capitol Creek and Capitol Peak; E and N of the Elk Mountains ridgeline between Capitol Peak and Snowmass Mountain; E of Pitkin-Gunnison Co. lines.</p>

The lack of separate GMUs has created confusion for the hunting public because the current bear hunt code boundary split is not mapped in CPW’s hunting atlas or in the Big Game Brochure’s GMU map, nor is it available for display on GPS units or mobile mapping apps. This has been especially confusing for out-of-state hunters and/or newer hunters who may be less familiar with the local geography. Some hunters have purchased the wrong license and/or have hunted and harvested bears in the wrong portion of GMU 43.

Proposed new boundaries for GMU 43 and new GMU 431:

The GMUs would be divided in the same way that the September bear licenses are split within the current GMU 43, i.e., along Capitol Creek, the ridgeline of the Elk Mountains from Capitol Peak to Snowmass Mountain, and southward along the Pitkin-Gunnison County line. The new GMU 43 would include the Crystal River drainage and portions of the lower Roaring Fork River drainage, while the new GMU 431 would include portions of the upper Roaring Fork River drainage:



Hunt code and other data consequences of splitting GMU 43 into two separate GMUs:

Bear: Archery, muzzleloader, and September rifle bear hunt codes involving the current GMU 43 (BE043O1A/M/R and BE047O1A/M/R) would remain the same: GMU 43 (new) as its own hunt code, and the GMU 47 hunt code (which would also include the new GMU 431 and the existing GMU 471). But distinct GMUs would make it more clear to hunters when they look at the GMU map or at the hunting atlas to see where their tags are valid. This would help clarify valid license boundaries for 850 hunters, based on 2023 license quotas.

Moose: The proposed GMU 431 contains high-use recreation areas of the Maroon Bells Scenic Area where human-moose conflicts are more likely to occur compared to elsewhere in the current GMU 43. Splitting the GMU would allow us to manage for lower moose density and/or fewer human-moose conflicts on the upper Roaring Fork side (new GMU 431) and higher moose density and/or more moose hunting opportunity on the Crystal River side (new GMU 43). The existing moose hunt codes MF043O1A/M/R and MM043O1X would be valid in the updated GMU 43. The new GMU 431 would be added as a valid GMU to existing hunt codes MF047S1A/M/R and MM047S1X in order to group the moose on both sides of the upper Roaring Fork River valley within the same set of hunt codes.

Deer, elk, turkeys, bobcats, and lions: Hunt codes for these species would continue to use the GMU 43 hunt code designation, which would also include the new GMU 431 as a valid GMU. There is no need to split historic harvest data for any of these species, nor the inventory data for deer and elk, since there are no plans to change the DAUs or the valid GMU groupings for hunt codes for these species.

LPP program: Allocation for landowner licenses would be unaffected for deer licenses, since the deer hunt codes would not change. There are no LPP licenses for elk or pronghorn in this GMU.

CWD data: No deer or elk have been detected with CWD within the available CWD data years 2017-2022. The hunt code change would not affect historic CWD data in this unit.

In summary, creating two separate GMUs would:

- a. Be easier for the public to map the GMUs and understand where their licenses are valid. GMUs are mapped in the Colorado Hunting Atlas, in the Big Game Brochure map, and in popular mapping apps for mobile devices. A visual boundary on a map is easier to understand and to use for navigating in the field with GPS units or mobile apps.
- b. Allow us to set up separate and easy-to-understand hunt codes for moose to address different management issues, i.e., anticipated human-moose conflicts in the higher human-use areas of the upper Roaring Fork Valley vs. non-conflict related moose hunting opportunities in the lower Roaring Fork and Crystal Valleys.
- c. Not affect hunt codes for other species at this point. For deer, elk, turkey, and mountain lion, hunt codes currently including GMU 43 as a valid GMU would simply then also include GMU 431. These hunt codes would not change.

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]

Bear hunters in the current GMU 43 have expressed confusion about the geographic split in the September hunt codes and are supportive of creating separate GMUs for more clarity. There is confusion about the sub-GMU hunt codes annually with hunters hunting in the wrong portion of the GMU.

Potential moose hunters in the upper Roaring Fork valley have stated that they would like the option to hunt on both sides of the upper Roaring Fork, i.e., in GMUs 47, 471 and the proposed GMU 431, under one hunt code.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative***: Split the current GMU 43 into two GMUs 43 and 431. The new unit boundary descriptions would read:

GMU 43: GARFIELD, PITKIN, EAGLE & GUNNISON COs.

Bounded on N by Colorado River and Roaring Fork River; on E by Capitol Creek, ridgeline of Elk Mountains from Capitol Peak to Snowmass Mountain, and Pitkin-Gunnison Co. line; on S by divide between Crystal River-East River drainages; on S and W by Crystal River-Anthracite Creek divide; on W by McClure Pass, Muddy Creek-Crystal River divide, Divide Creek-Crystal River divide, Baldy Creek-Crystal River divide, and South Canyon Creek.

GMU 431: PITKIN CO.

Bounded on N by Roaring Fork River; on E by Castle Creek; on S by Pitkin-Gunnison Co. line; on W by Pitkin-Gunnison Co. line, ridgeline of Elk Mountains from Snowmass Mountain to Capitol Peak and Capitol Creek.

(a) Add GMU 431 to the list of valid GMUs in the following existing hunt codes:

AE000A1R	DE000R1R	DF043O1M	DM043O4R	EF000U1A	EM000U2R	MF047S1A
AE000R1R	DE043O1A	DF043O2R	EE000A1R	EF043O1M	EM000U3R	MF047S1M
AE000U1A	DE043P2R	DF043O3R	EE000R1R	EF043O1R	EM043O1M	MF047S1R
BE035O5R	DE043P3R	DM043E1R	EE000U1A	EF043O2R	LE000O1R	MM047S1X
BE035P1R	DF043K1M	DM043O1M	EE043O1R	EF043O3R	LE043O1R	TE000U2R
BE035P5R	DF043K2R	DM043O2R	EE043O4R	EF043O4R	ME000A1X	TE000U3R
DE000A1R	DF043K3R	DM043O3R	EE043P1R	EF043P5R	ME000R1X	TM043O1R

(c) Remove GMU 43 and add GMU 431 as valid GMUs for the following existing hunt codes:

BE047O1A	BE047O1M	BE047O1R
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(d) No change to the valid GMU list for the following existing hunt codes, but note in the big game brochure the change in GMU 43 boundaries:

BE043O1A	BE043O1M	BE043O1R	MF043O1A	MF043O1M	MF043O1R	MM043O1X
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(e) List A, B, or C status of the above hunt codes will not change. Add GMU 431 to the tables in the big game brochure where the list designation also already includes GMU 43.

(f) Add GMU 431 to the list of GMUs with bull elk antler point restrictions (Regulation 254.A).

2. **Status quo** No change in GMU 43 boundaries or hunt codes.

Issue Raised by:

Julie Mao (Wildlife Biologist, Area 8), Kurtis Tesch (DWM, Aspen), John Groves (DWM, Carbondale)

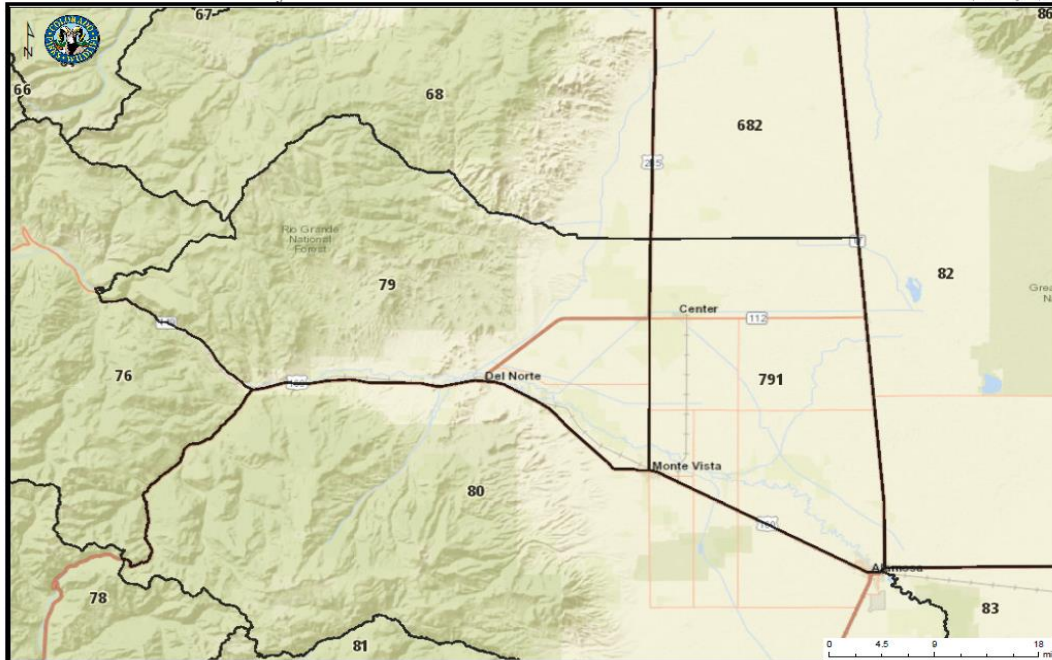
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brad Banulis (Sr. Wildlife Biologist), Matt Yamashita (AWM, Area 8), Karla Ferguson (Customer Service Representative, Area 8), Genevieve Fuller (Wildlife Biologist, Area 7)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black (NW Regional Mgr)
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date: 11/03/2023
ISSUE:	Should the portion of game management unit (GMU) 79 known as “the triangle” be moved from GMU 79 (data analysis unit (DAU) E-34) to GMU 791 (DAU E-55)?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Elk DAU E-34 consists of GMUs 76 and 79, while elk DAU E-55 consists of GMUs 682 and 791. E-34 has a population objective of 6,000 – 8,000 elk, while E-55 is managed for a population objective of zero to alleviate historic game damage issues occurring on high-value agricultural fields. In 2018, to address growing residential elk game damage conflicts on private land, along the Rio Grande River from Monte Vista to Del Norte, CPW raised the issue of allowing a portion of GMU 79 to mimic the hunts occurring in DAU E-55 to give landowners the increased flexibility to harvest elk causing damage. This portion of GMU 79 bounded by Highways 160, 285, and 112 is known as the “triangle”. Traditional elk licenses in GMU 79 were now only valid NW of HWY 112, and CPW managed licenses SE of HWY 112, like the valley floor elk hunts, with the additional harvest options available to those landowners.</p> <p>GMU 79 is limited for all rifle seasons for elk; therefore, landowners that meet the criteria for enrollment in CPW’s Landowner Preference Program (LPP) can register their property and receive vouchers to hunt elk. Part of the LPP program requires that hunters are allowed to hunt the property for the specific hunt as part of the transfer of the voucher from the landowner to the hunter. The voucher transfer has created an issue in the “triangle” where landowners are drawing rifle LPP elk vouchers that are not valid on their property and cannot give permission to hunt their property for the species as part of the voucher transfer. Initially, Area 17 personnel believed that these landowners should be disqualified for elk in the LPP program since they couldn’t use rifle elk LPP vouchers on their property. In addition, landowners had access to the valley floor elk vouchers.</p> <p>The best option is to move the “triangle” from GMU 79 and add it to GMU 791. GMU 791 has no limited rifle licenses available for elk; therefore, those landowners would no longer be eligible to draw rifle elk vouchers that are not valid on their property. This proposed change would affect a minimal number of elk and will have a negligible impact on historic E-34 data collection and the E-34 population model.</p> <p>The GMU 79/791 boundary change is being proposed primarily for elk management purposes. However the following is a list of other species and the implications of the proposed change to those species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Turkey: The proposed boundary change will have no impact on turkey management or hunt codes. The spring and fall statewide over-the-counter (OTC) licenses are valid in both 79 and 791. ● Pronghorn: The proposed boundary change will have no impact on pronghorn management or hunt codes. GMUs 79 and 791 are both within the A-14 DAU and managed under the same hunt codes. ● Deer: The proposed boundary change will have no impact on deer management or hunt codes. GMUs 79 and 791 are both within the D-36 DAU and managed under the same hunt codes. 	

Current GMU Boundary

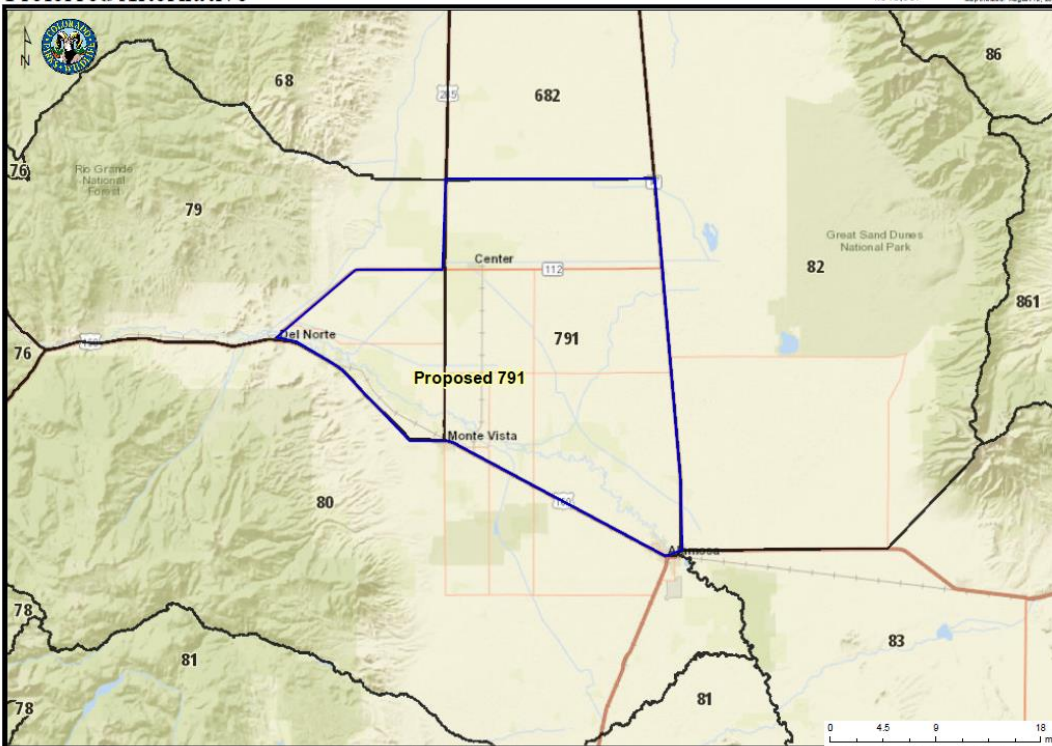
1:548,587 Map created August 12, 2022



This map was generated by the Colorado Mapping Atlas (<https://data.maps.net/colorado/mapping-atlas/>). Information depicted is for reference purposes only and is compiled from the best available sources. Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure accuracy. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife is not responsible for damages that may arise from the use of this map. Mapred property boundaries may or may not reflect actual legal holdings. It is the user's responsibility to know where private property exists. Colorado law does NOT require landowners to fence or mark property boundaries. For more detailed or missing information, please contact the Colorado Parks and Wildlife at (303)297-1112 (M-F 9am-5pm MST).

Preferred Alternative

1:548,587 Map created August 12, 2022



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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

The primary stakeholder group is landowners enrolled in elk LPP in the “triangle”. Landowners enrolled in LPP for elk in the “triangle” have been contacted by Area DWMs, and most appreciate the flexibility allowed to mitigate game damage by managing the area similar to the valley floor. One expressed the desire to receive the valley floor vouchers and draw elk LPP vouchers they can use on National Forest lands.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*: Designate the GMU boundary for GMU 791 to include the area known as the “triangle” and remove it from GMU 79 – specifically, the area bounded by Highways 160, 285, and 112. And update impacted hunt codes: EM079O1M, EF079O1M, EM079O1R, EF079O1R, EM079O2R, EF079O2R, EM079O3R, EF079O3R, and EF079O4R – remove NW of HWY 112 (designation would no longer be needed); EF682O1M – remove GMU 79 and S & E of HWY 112 (designation would no longer be needed).**

791 ALAMOSA, RIO GRANDE & SAGUACHE Counties. Bounded on N by CR G; on E by Colo. 17; on S by U.S. 160; on W by Colo. 112 and U.S. 285.

79 MINERAL, RIO GRANDE & SAGUACHE Counties. Bounded on N by USFS trails 787 & 796, USFS 676 & 675 and Saguache CRs 41G & G; on E by U.S. 285; on S by Colo. 112 and U.S. 160; on W by Colo. 149, USFS 600 & 600-3A and La Garita Stock Driveway (ATV trail).

2. Secondary Alternative – Create a new GMU 792 out of the area known as the “triangle”, and include GMU 792 into the valley floor hunts, as well as make the necessary changes to regulations for other impacted big game species.

792 RIO GRANDE County. Bounded on N by Colo. 112; on E by U.S. 285; on S by U.S. 160.

791 ALAMOSA, RIO GRANDE & SAGUACHE Counties. Bounded on N by CR G; on E by Colo. 17; on S by U.S. 160; on W U.S. 285.

79 MINERAL, RIO GRANDE & SAGUACHE Counties. Bounded on N by USFS trails 787 & 796, USFS 676 & 675 and Saguache CRs 41G & G; on E by U.S. 285; on S by Colo. 112 and U.S. 160; on W by Colo. 149, USFS 600 & 600-3A and La Garita Stock Driveway (ATV trail).

3. Status quo – no change.

Issue Raised by:	DWM Tyler Cerny, DWM Jeremy Gallegos, AWM Rick Basagoitia
Author of the issue paper (if different than the person raising the issue):	
CC:	Cory Chick, Jamin Grigg, Rick Basagoitia, John Flier

APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick, Jamin Grigg
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, Area 17
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023

ISSUE: Should there be a 4th season antlered mule deer rifle hunt added to Mule Deer Data Analysis Unit 12?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Deer Data Analysis Unit (DAU) 12 is a large mule deer DAU on the south side of the Colorado River between the communities of Parachute, Rifle, Silt, New Castle, and Collbran. This DAU is a popular and heavily hunted area containing a large herd referred to as the Grand Mesa herd. D-12 contains the GMU's 41, 42, and 421. The DAU land ownership approximately consists of 38% US Forest Service, 21% Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 1% State owned land, and 39% privately owned land.

Since 2014, total public rifle hunting success for mule deer buck hunters has averaged between approximately 35%-57% in the DAU. D-12 is currently managed as an opportunity DAU and is currently utilized by a lot of public rifle antlered mule deer hunters. While harvest in the DAU is good, a majority of bucks that are harvested are younger male animals. One of the common sentiments that field staff hear during the hunting seasons is that hunters want more opportunity to hunt mature bucks.

While the total number of hunters has decreased, hunters still have the common complaint of feeling crowded while hunting on public land. For both mule deer and elk hunters, staff have heard repeatedly that it is hard to get away from crowding. By creating a 4th season mule deer buck hunt in the DAU antlered mule deer hunters would have an additional opportunity for a mature antlered mule deer hunt with limited crowding issues from either mule deer hunters or elk hunters. Figures 1 and 2 represent hunter attitudes toward crowding in the DAU, this data was gathered from the Hunter Harvest Surveys in 2021 and 2022. In summary 66.8% of rifle hunters felt at least "slightly crowded" in 2021 and 74.8% of rifle hunters felt at least "slightly crowded" in 2022. Adding a 4th season rifle antlered mule deer hunt would add opportunity for hunters to escape the perceived hunter crowding.

FIGURE 1: Hunter Harvest Survey 2021

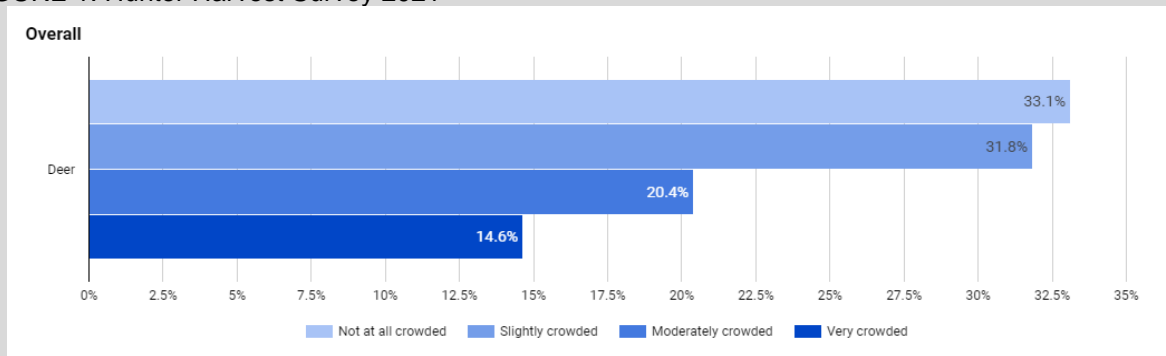
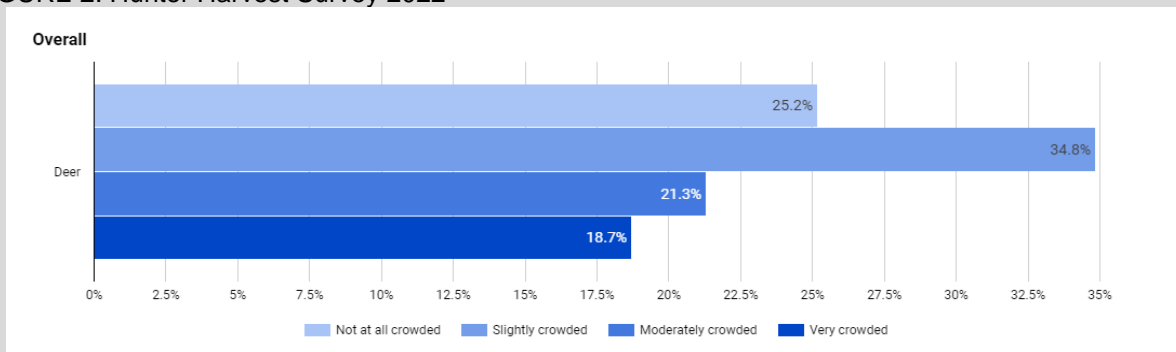
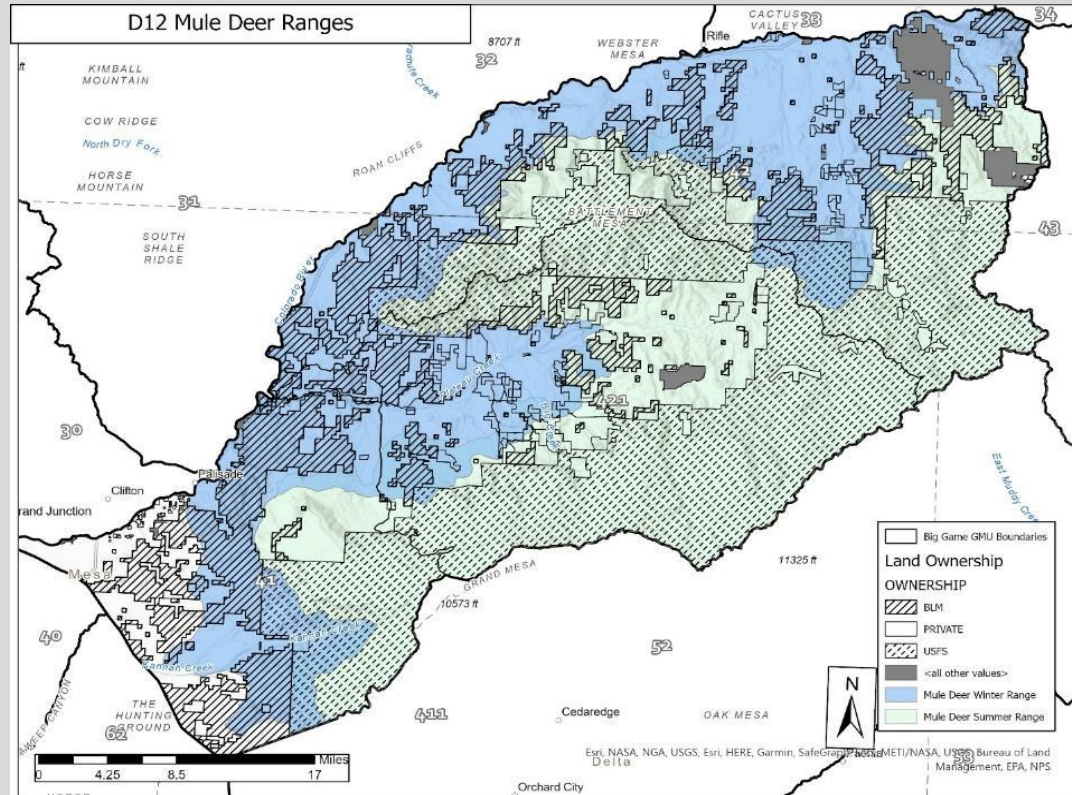


FIGURE 2: Hunter Harvest Survey 2022



D-12 contains a large amount of lower elevation public land, mainly BLM and State owned property, which is open to access during the early winter months as well as a large amount of privately owned agricultural properties. About 56% of total winter range for deer in D-12 is private land and not accessible to public hunters. Some of the public lands are locked to public access due to a lack of private land access. Deer move into winter ranges at different times each year depending on weather conditions in the late fall. When winter weather hits early, like in 2022, deer that are hunted in 2nd and 3rd seasons may be in winter ranges during those hunts. Adding a 4th rifle season can help distribute hunters temporarily and relieve some of the public land crowding in winter ranges. Figure 3 shows the available public land that can be found in mule deer winter range versus summer range.

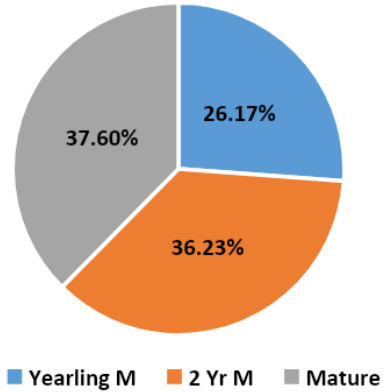
FIGURE 3:



CPW staff is not looking to change biological management of the herd through this hunt, just distribute hunters differently temporally to address hunter concerns and provide additional opportunity. Licenses would be allocated between the 2nd, 3rd and 4th rifle seasons to address biological management of the herd.

As of 2022, the buck to doe ratio of the Grand Mesa herd was within objective and the three-year average age class structure contained about 37.6% adult bucks. The total mule deer herd is also recently increasing and is currently at the bottom end of the population objective. Any changes to the allocation of rifle antlered mule deer licenses would have negligible impacts on the biological standing of the Grand Mesa mule deer herd, but it can maintain a higher proportion of harvest to affect mature bucks.

3 year average Buck Class Ratios



While the CWD prevalence in mule deer bucks is low, approximately 2%, in the Grand Mesa herd, having a 4th season antlered mule deer hunt would allow hunters to target and remove more mature bucks. If the CWD prevalence increases, CPW staff can use this season as a tool to combat the increase in CWD. CWD prevalence is 9% in the neighboring DAU, D-51 (South Grand Mesa).

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]

Antlered mule deer hunters in D-12: hunters have complained about the perceived crowding and the desire to hunt more mature mule deer bucks.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

- *Preferred Alternative*:** The creation of a 4th season antlered mule deer hunt in D-12 with the associated hunt code of DM041O4R valid in GMUs 41, 42, and 421.
- Status quo:** No change in D-12 hunting seasons.

Issue Raised by:	Genevieve Fuller (Wildlife Biologist, Area 7), Travis Bybee (DWM- Rifle South), Scott Hoyer (DWM- Parachute), Kyle Wilson (DWM-Collbran)
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Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
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CC:	Brad Banulis (Sr. Wildlife Biologist), Kirk Oldham (AWM, Area 7)
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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	Northwest Area 7/Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

		Date:	11/03/2023
ISSUE:	Should 4th season rifle buck hunting opportunities be added to game management units (GMUs) 85, 140, & 851?		
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):			
<p>Deer data analysis unit (DAU) D-32 is located in south central Colorado near the town of Trinidad. It includes GMUs 85, 140 and 851. The current population objective for the DAU is 9,800-10,800 deer and the sex ratio objective is 25-29 bucks per 100 does. The deer population has been increasing in D-32 and is within the population objective (2022 post-hunt estimate = 9,800 deer). The herd is above the DAU sex ratio objective (2022 post-hunt estimate = 45 bucks per 100 does). Deer hunting opportunities are currently offered during the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons. To allow for more opportunity to harvest bucks in the unit, we propose adding 4th season rifle buck licenses.</p> <p>There is a considerable amount of private land within the DAU so public hunting opportunities are limited. Additionally, much of the private land is leased by outfitters, which reduces buck harvest potential. Therefore, CPW needs additional opportunities to increase hunter harvest to meet buck to doe ratio objectives. Staff increased licenses for the 2nd & 3rd rifle seasons in 2023 but we are concerned about hunter crowding with the additional licenses. With the addition of the fourth season, staff will be able to increase buck harvest without adding additional hunters to the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons.</p> <p>We propose adding two new hunt codes: DM085O4R for GMUs 85 and 851 not valid on Bosque del Oso SWA and DM140O4R for GMU 140. Hunter success is expected to be high during the season and will allow CPW to maintain its sex ratio objectives in this DAU.</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]			
CPW staff has had several conversations with hunters, outfitters and landowners, all have expressed an interest in creating a 4th season.			
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):			
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create two hunt codes for a 4th season in Deer DAU D34, DM085O4R for GMUs 85 and 851 not valid on Bosque del Oso SWA and DM140O4R for GMU 140.</p> <p>2. Status quo: continue to hunt bucks only during the 2nd and 3rd seasons.</p>			
Issue Raised by:	Allen Vitt Terrestrial Biologist Pueblo		
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):			
CC:	AWM Brown, DWMs Holder, Friedel and Gerk, Senior Terrestrial Bio Stiver		
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher		
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

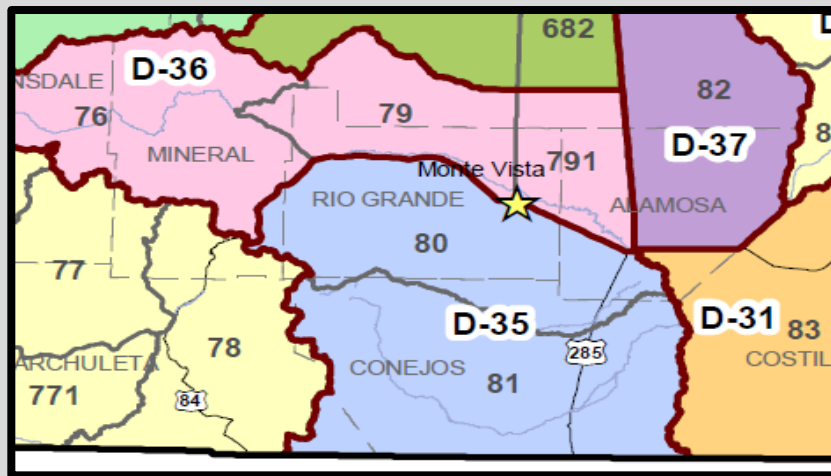
ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023

ISSUE: Should Limited Antlerless Deer Hunt Codes be added to data analysis unit (DAU) D-35?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

DAU D-35, the Lower Rio Grande Deer Management Herd, is located in the southwest portion of the San Luis Valley in Colorado. D-35 consists of game management units (GMUs) 80 and 81. This area is approximately 2,100 square miles (approximately 1,344,000 acres) and encompasses portions of Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, Mineral, and Archuleta Counties. Land ownership composition in the DAU is comprised of 35% private, 41% U.S. Forest Service (of which 88,000 acres are within the South San Juan Wilderness Area), 18% Bureau of Land Management, 1% National Wildlife Refuge, and 5% other.



CPW has managed both GMUs with limited antlered deer licenses since the statewide implementation in 1999. Since 1997, no antlerless deer licenses were allocated in either unit (with the exception of dispersal harvest for game damage). Currently, D-35 has an objective range of 5,500-6,500 animals, and a buck-to-doe ratio of 23-25 bucks per 100 does. The D-35 Lower Rio Grande Deer Model estimates the mule deer population to be increasing above the population objective range (2023 post-hunt predicted estimate = 6,800 deer). Model estimates predict the increasing trend to continue into the future.

Currently, the only option is to utilize antlered deer harvest to manage the deer population in D-35. Wildlife managers are utilizing some dispersal antlerless deer applications to help mitigate game damage to agriculture; however, these licenses are specific to private agricultural lands where damage occurs and are primarily focused on “resident” deer herds. The dispersal hunts seem to have minimal impacts on managing D-35 population objectives or offering public hunting opportunities.

Additionally, conservative antlerless deer harvest on public land will offer hunting opportunities for public hunters. Antlerless mule deer are highly visible in the DAU, and wildlife managers often receive inquiries from hunters asking when they will have an opportunity to harvest an antlerless deer.

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]

In the summer of 2017, two public meetings were held in the San Luis Valley (SLV), one in La Jara and one in Monte Vista. In addition, public opinion was gathered by using various survey instruments. A survey was sent out to randomly selected deer hunters to solicit feedback. More than two-thirds of the responses were Colorado residents, of which approximately half lived within the boundaries of GMUs 80 or 81. From the resulting weighted combination of these surveys, the consensus was to maintain the deer population at its present levels or allowing for a slight increase, allowing for potential future opportunity in restricted doe harvest, if population growth occurred.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Add “list A” hunt codes for limited antlerless deer harvest in D-35 for GMUs 80 and 81. These hunt codes would be valid for GMUs 80 and 81.

- DF08001A
- DF08001M
- DF08002R
- DF08003R

2. Status quo: Continue without public antlerless deer harvest in D-35.

Issue Raised by:	Area 17: Brian Bechaver (DWM, La Jara), Tyler Cerny (DWM, Monte Vista), Jeremy Gallegos (DWM, South Fork), Rod Ruybalid (DWM, Conejos), Brent Frankland (Terrestrial Biologist).
Author of the issue paper (if different than the person raising the issue):	
CC:	Rick Basagoitia (Area 17 AWM), Jamin Grigg (SW Senior Terrestrial Biologist), Cory Chick (SW Regional Manager)
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick, Jamin Grigg
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	SW Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

		Date:	11/03/2023
ISSUE:	Should existing either-sex hunt codes in data analysis unit (DAU) E-2 be replaced with antlered hunt codes?		
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):			
<p>Either-sex licenses are an effective management tool for increasing antlerless harvest. Either-sex licenses were employed to reduce elk populations in the Bear's Ears DAU E-2 from 2003 – 2012 and again from 2020 – 2022. Elk populations in the Bear's Ears herd were significantly over objective and the either-sex licenses were an extremely effective tool in helping to achieve antlerless harvest objectives. In fact, from 2003 – 2012, average antlerless harvest on either-sex licenses was 37% and 40% for the 1st and 4th seasons. From 2020 – 2022 average antlerless harvest was even higher at 44% for the 1st season and 64% 4th season.</p> <p>The current objective range is 15,000-18,000. The post-hunt 2022 population estimate was 15,360, which is at the lower end of the objective range and is expected to drop below objective post-hunt 2023 based on winter survival rates and 2023 harvest.</p> <p>Due to the severity of this past winter and the high elk mortality the Bear's Ears herd suffered it is staff's recommendation that all either-sex hunt codes within E-2 be replaced with antlered only hunt codes. This would replace existing hunt codes EE003O1R, EE003O4R, EE004O4R, and EE005O4R with hunt codes EM003O1R (valid in GMUs 3, 4, 5, 301, 441), EM003O4R (valid in GMUs 3, 301), EM004O4R (valid in GMUs 4, 441), and EM005O4R(valid in GMU 5). Changing these hunt codes to antlered only will allow for better management of antlerless harvest to help recover the herd to population objective levels.</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.			
There has not been public outreach conducted regarding this issue.			
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):			
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create hunt codes EM003O1R (valid in GMUs 3, 4, 5, 301, 441), EM003O4R (valid in GMUs 3, 301), EM004O4R (valid in GMUs 4, 441), and EM005O4R (valid in GMU 5) to replace existing hunt codes EE003O1R, EE003O4R, EE004O4R, and EE005O4R for DAU E-2.</p> <p>2. Status quo: no change to current hunt codes EE003O1R, EE003O4R, EE004O4R, and EE005O4R.</p>			
Issue Raised by:	Area 6 Terrestrial Biologist Darby Finley		
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	NW Senior Biologist Brad Banulis, A6 AWM Johnathan Lambert, A6 AAWM Mike Swaro, A10 AWM Kris Middledorf, A10 Terrestrial Biologist Eric Vanatta, affected A6 and A10 DWMs		
CC:			
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: 11/03/2023
ISSUE:	Should hunt code EF003E1R be removed from regulation?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Hunt code EF003E1R was created in 2008 primarily to address damage concerns from resident elk herds along the Little Snake river. The purpose was to address these issues with public hunters in a smaller defined area in GMUs 2, 3, and 11. Through the past several years staff have noted multiple issues with the hunt including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. difficult to understand hunt boundaries resulting in hunters hunting outside of the defined area, 2. hunters having difficulty accessing private property where elk are causing damage, 3. hunters expectations of the hunt not matching reality, 4. complaints regarding a rifle hunt prior to the archery season, and 5. continued game damage problems on privately owned hay fields in the area. <p>With the current situation of a complicated network of multiple landowners along the Little Snake river, with not all perceiving issues of game damage, there has been little benefit shown in recent years. Landowners who are involved in outfitting do not allow access to their property and provide elk that are causing damage a refuge. This subsequently causes hunter frustration when they do not have access and are required to hunt on BLM land that does not generally hold elk due to lack of feed and water in August. There is also currently means for landowners who are perceiving damage to more precisely deal with the issue at hand through the local HPP committee and game damage section.</p> <p>Currently this hunt code is listed as a list C license and requires a minimum of 3 preference points to draw for the 2023 hunting season. These draw statistics tend to misinform public hunters on the type of experience they can expect from the hunt. CPW proposes to remove the hunt code at this time.</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>Local landowners and public hunters who might apply for the hunt.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. *Preferred Alternative*: Remove hunt code EF003E1R from regulation starting in the 2024 hunting season. 2. Status quo: continue to offer hunter code EF003E1R through regulation. 	
Issue Raised by:	Garrett Smith, DWM-Rangely North; Jeff Goncalves, DWM-Maybell; Darby Finley, Terrestrial Biologist
Author of the issue paper	

(if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Travis Black, Johnathan Lambert, Brad Banulis
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: 11/03/2023
ISSUE:	Should CPW require an antler point restriction for all antlered elk taken on Ranching For Wildlife properties located in the Bear's Ears (E-02) and White River (E-06) elk herds for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>In 2023, CPW made unprecedented license reductions to account for high mortality rates experienced by mule deer, elk, and pronghorn from winter severity. These substantial reductions should allow the Bear's Ears and White River elk herds to recover as quickly as possible. However, recovery of these elk populations and age structure remain a great concern from constituents.</p> <p>Fifteen Ranching For Wildlife (RFW) ranches are located within the Bear's Ears and White River elk herds and contribute substantially to bull harvest and herd management objectives. In September and October 2023, these ranches expressed major concerns over elk survival and requested CPW to take additional action to restore the local elk populations and age structure. All RFW ranches contacted support regulating an antler point restriction for all antlered elk taken on these ranches for the next two hunting seasons.</p> <p>Per Regulation chapter W-02 #210 A, the Division Director is authorized to implement the Ranching for Wildlife program, including the authority to establish additional Ranching for Wildlife operating guidelines subject to the provisions listed in that regulation. The mandate of a term-limited antler point restriction falls within the authority of the Director.</p> <p>Regulation chapter W-02 #254 C. currently excludes Ranching for Wildlife properties from having an antler point restriction for elk during Ranching For Wildlife hunting seasons. CPW proposes to modify this regulation to require an antler point restriction for all antlered elk taken on Ranching For Wildlife properties located in the Severe Winter Zone for a couple of years. A four-point antler restriction would prohibit the harvest of younger age-class bulls. This restriction will help the population recover quickly and will protect the younger bull age classes. RFW licenses would continue to be either-sex licenses, which would allow hunters to harvest an antlerless elk or a mature antlered elk.</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.	
The proposed antler point restriction has been presented to 12 of the 15 Ranching for Wildlife ranches affected in the Severe Winter Zone and they are in support. The remaining 3 ranches will be contacted within 2 weeks.	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Modify regulation Chapter W-02 #254 C. as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C. There are no antler point restrictions for elk on Wildlife-Ranching For Wildlife properties during Wildlife-Ranching For Wildlife seasons, <u>except in those GMUs most impacted by the severe winter of 2022-2023. All antlered elk taken on any enrolled Ranching for Wildlife properties within GMUs 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 131, 211, 214, 231, 301, 441 shall have four (4) or more points or a brow tine on one antler, effective for all 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons.-</u></p> <p>2. <i>Status quo.</i></p>	
Issue Raised by:	Ray Aberle

Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Ray Aberle, Matt Eckert
CC:	Johnathan Lambert, Reid DeWalt
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial Section
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023

ISSUE: Should antlered rifle licenses valid on public land for the 2nd and 3rd seasons be limited within the Severe Winter Zone in DAU E-2 (Bears Ears) GMUs 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, and 214, and portions of DAU E-6 (White River) GMUs 11, 211, 12, 13, 131, 231, 23, and 24 for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

In the winter of 2022-2023 the northwest corner of Colorado experienced severe conditions, resulting in high elk mortality. Currently, antlered licenses during the second and third rifle seasons are unlimited in this area. This issue paper is proposing rifle antlered licenses be limited for hunting on public lands in Data Analysis Unit (DAU) E-2 (GMUs 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, 214) and the following Game Management Units (GMUs) within DAU E-6 (GMUs 11, 211, 12, 13, 131, 231, 23, 24) (Figure 1). The limitation of rifle antlered licenses on public lands will allow for license quotas to be set for the 2nd and 3rd rifle seasons and the ability to limit antlered harvest within the areas affected most by the severe winter conditions. High calf mortality during the 2022-2023 winter resulted in low yearling bull recruitment this fall. In addition, significant bull mortality occurred across all age classes last winter. The lack of yearling recruitment and general loss of 2-plus-year-old bulls has resulted in low bull-to-cow ratios. Limiting licenses for a two-year period in conjunction with the current 4-point antler restriction should allow for bull-to-cow ratios to recover as quickly as possible.

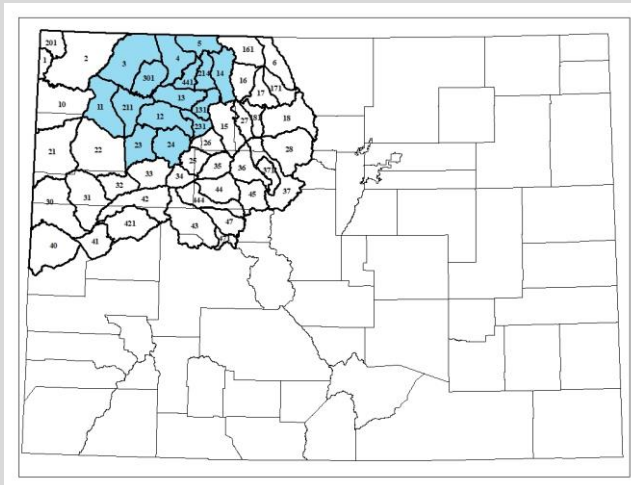


Figure 1. Severe winter zone, in blue, from 2022-2023 in which hunt codes are being proposed

Currently, unlimited 2nd and 3rd rifle season licenses in E-2 (GMUs 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, 214) and portions of E-6 (GMUs 11, 211, 12, 13, 131, 231, 23, 24) are valid on both public and private land. This issue paper proposes that hunt codes **EM003O2R**, **EM003O3R** (GMUs 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, 214) and **EM011O2R**, **EM011O3R** (GMUs 11, 211, 12, 13, 131, 231, 23, 24) be created to allow for limited antlered rifle licenses for the 2nd and 3rd seasons for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons. These licenses would be valid on public and private lands. Hunting of antlered elk on private lands within this area will still be unlimited for the 2nd and 3rd seasons with the existing unlimited antlered licenses (hunt codes EM000U2R and EM000U3R) that are

offered statewide, making this consistent with the current limited archery hunting opportunity in E-2 and E-6.

All of these GMUs will revert back to unlimited rifle antlered hunting on public and private lands for the 2026 hunting seasons.

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*.**

Elk hunters and landowners in the Bear’s Ears herd landscape and White River herd landscape

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create hunt codes EM003O2R, EM003O3R, EM011O2R, and EM011O3R valid on public and private lands.

Unit	Sex	Hunt Code
3, 4, 5, 14, 214, 301, 441	Antlered	EM003O2R
3, 4, 5, 14, 214, 301, 441	Antlered	EM003O3R
11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 131, 211, 231	Antlered	EM011O2R
11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 131, 211, 231	Antlered	EM011O3R

In addition, regulation #257 and the OTC valid in units map in the brochure will be modified.

#257 - RIFLE AND ASSOCIATED METHODS ELK SEASONS - ANY LAWFUL METHOD OF TAKE PERMITTED DURING THESE SEASONS

B. Regular Rifle Elk Seasons

1. Separate and Combined Rifle Seasons, Dates, Units (as described in Chapter 0 of these regulations), Limited License Numbers or Unlimited Licenses as shown by hunt code.

Unit(s)

~~3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14,~~ 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, ~~23, 24,~~ 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82 (public land only), 85, 86, ~~131,~~ 133, 134, 140, 141, 142, 161, 171, 181, ~~211, 214, 231, 301,~~ 361, 371, 411, 421, ~~441,~~ 444, 471, 511, 521, 551, 581, 591, 681, 691, 711, 741, 751, 771, 851 except Bosque del Oso SWA, 861
***see regulation 258, private land portions of 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 131, 211, 214, 231, 301, and 441**

2. Status quo: Continue with OTC antlered rifle licenses on public lands within DAU E2 (Bears Ears) and DAU E6 (White River)

Issue Raised by:	Brian Dreher
Author of the issue paper	Brian Dreher, Darby Finley, Brad Banulis, Andy Holland, and Johnathan Lambert

(if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Travis Black, Reid DeWalt, Garett Watson, Matt Yamashita, Kirk Oldham, Kris Middledorf, Julie Mao, Genevieve Fuller, Eric Vanatta, Matt Eckert, Ray Aberle, Sherri Huwer
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Travis Black and Reid DeWalt
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 and NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023	
ISSUE:	Should data analysis unit (DAU) PH-9 be closed for doe pronghorn hunting for all methods of take?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>DAU PH-9 is composed of 8 game management units (GMUs) 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 13, 14, and 214. The objective for PH-9 is 15,800. The severity of the 2022-23 winter had significant impacts on the pronghorn population in DAU PH-9. Field staff observed large groups of pronghorn that winter killed in various locations across the DAU and had reports from several landowners and other members of the public with similar observations. The number of pronghorn groups observed during 2023 pre-hunt classification flights were down 50% from 2022 with 60% fewer pronghorn classified. Observed fawn ratios were 52F:100D, below the 3-year average of 71F:100D. The post-hunt 2022 population was estimated at 11,500 pronghorn with a projected post-hunt estimate of 3,700.</p> <p>To address the significant losses suffered during the 2022-23 winter, buck license numbers in PH-9 were reduced by 90 percent and doe licenses were set at a minimum of 10 per hunt code for the 2023 hunting season. CPW now proposes to close the DAU to doe hunting to help recover the herd population.</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>	
<p>Internal: This issue has been discussed at the Area level (Areas 6 and 10) between the DWMs, Terrestrial Biologist, AWMs, Senior Biologist, RFW/Private Lands Coordinator, Regional Manager and Deputy Region Manager.</p>	
<p>External: No formal input process has occurred regarding this issue.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Close the DAU to antlerless hunting until the population starts to recover. Remove all female hunt codes: AF003O1A, AF004O1A, AF013O1A, AF131O1A, AF214O1A, AF003O1M, AF004O1M, AF013O1M, AF131O1M, AF214O1M, AF003O1R, AF004O1R, AF013O1R, AF214O1R, AF003P5R, AF004P5R, AF013P5R, AF131P1R, AF214P5R, and all Ranching for Wildlife public and private antlerless hunt codes.</p>	
<p>2. Status quo, maintain minimal antlerless license numbers and hunting opportunities in the DAU.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Darby Finley, Terrestrial Biologist
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	

CC:	AWM Johnathan Lambert, AWM Kris Middledorf, Senior Bio Brad Banulis, Eric VanNatta, Area 10 biologist, Travis Black, NW Regional Manager	
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: 11/03/2023
ISSUE:	Should we create private land only (PLO) pronghorn licenses for the regular rifle season in pronghorn data analysis unit (DAU) PH-20?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>PH-20 is located in South Central Colorado and encompasses game management units (GMUs) 69, 84, 86, 691 and 861. It is composed of approximately 74% private land and the 2022 estimated population was approximately 2,500 animals. With expected harvest the population could climb to about 2,600 animals in post-hunt 2023 (objective range 2,200-2,600 animals).</p> <p>Currently, licenses in the DAU are valid for both public and private land, which limits flexibility to increase license numbers due to hunter crowding potential on the limited public lands in the unit. Landowners have expressed concerns that they cannot draw licenses to hunt on their own land because they are competing for licenses with individuals who hunt on the few public land pieces within the DAU.</p> <p>To distribute pronghorn harvest better and to mitigate landowner concerns about game damage and the inability to draw licenses, staff proposes to create two hunt codes, AF069P1R and AM069P1R to allow PLO hunting opportunities in PH-20. This will give landowners additional opportunities to draw licenses and increase the ability for managers to manage harvest to achieve the population objectives for the DAU.</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]	
Staff has had several discussions with affected landowners along with proposing the PLO licenses during a public landowner meeting held in Hillside, CO on March 8, 2023.	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create hunt codes AF069P1R and AM069P1R, valid during the regular pronghorn rifle season (O1R).</p> <p>2. Status quo</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Hillside landowners and Areas 11 and 13
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Allen Vitt
CC:	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	
	Brian Dreher
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

	Date:	11/03/2023
ISSUE:	Should hunt code AF110L1R be split into four hunt codes to distribute harvest within pronghorn data analysis unit (DAU) PH-8?	
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):		
<p>The Yoder DAU PH-8 is in central Colorado and includes game management units (GMUs) 110, 111, 118, 119, 123, & 124. The DAU encompasses portions of El Paso, Elbert, Lincoln, Pueblo, and Crowley counties. CPW currently offers buck and doe licenses during the regular rifle season and doe licenses during the December late season. The late December season is 31 days, increasing doe harvest outside the regular rifle season. Licenses for the late December season (AF110L1R) are currently valid for all six GMUs within the DAU (Figure 1).</p> <p>CPW would like to split the DAU-wide December doe license into four hunt code groupings (Figure 2) for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide precise licensing approaches to address localized issues while maintaining awareness of local changes in the population and habitat. 2. Maintain hunting opportunities through increased license quotas in areas where the population is stable or expanding while decreasing licenses in areas where pronghorn are less productive. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Staff have noted increasing pronghorn numbers in the northern GMUs within PH-8 and a decrease in the southern units. 3. Recognize and manage accordingly when local population variables are not DAU-wide issues. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In GMU 110, CPW works with private landowners to mitigate game damage issues to crops. Staff has issued an average of 35 game damage permits over the past five years in GMU's 105 and 110 combined. Over the same period, on average, 13 of those 35 permits were used in 110 to reduce conflict. DAU-wide reductions may exacerbate the problem. <p>The majority of PH-8 is owned by private entities (81%) or by the State Land Board (17%). Most of the State Land Board properties are closed to hunting unless the lessee grants permission. In limited cases, CPW has acquired the recreational lease to allow hunting access on State Trust Lands through the State Trust Lands Hunting and Fishing Access Program. As of 2023, there are four properties, with a total of 71,459 acres, in PH-8 which are open to hunting access.</p> <p>The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the PH-8 Herd Management Plan (HMP) in July 2023. Management changes now need implemented to achieve the population objective. With acceptance of the new objective, CPW now aims to level the population off at its current estimate (7,590). Recent reductions in license numbers has led to a reduced rate of decline in the population, however additional license reductions are needed. In anticipation of the additional reductions to license quotas, CPW is proposing a restructuring of GMU groupings within the AF110L1R hunt code. The restructuring would create three new hunt codes for the late season doe only hunt (Figure 2). The goal of the recommended change is to meet the new population objective and manage within the objective range while seeking to maintain opportunities for hunting and a robust pronghorn population on the landscape.</p>		

Figure 1: Current GMU grouping for hunt code: AF110L1R

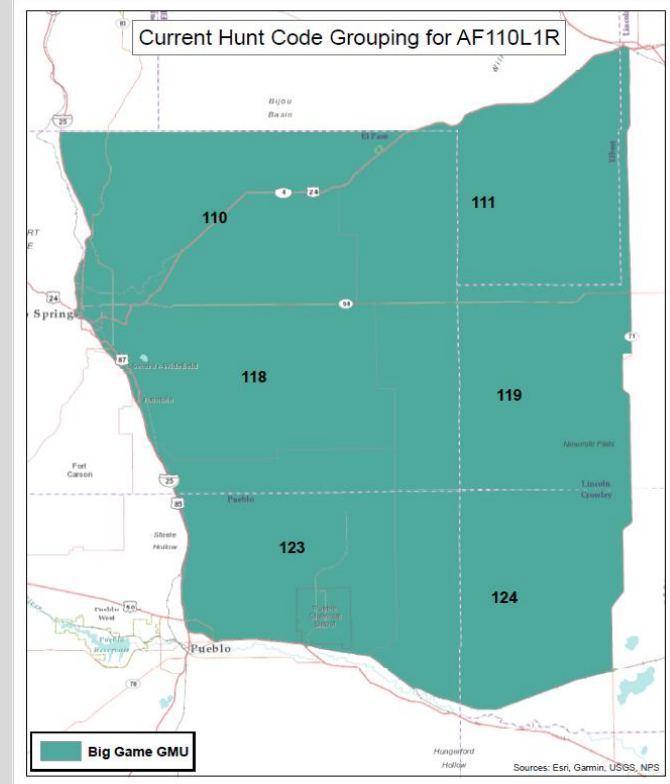
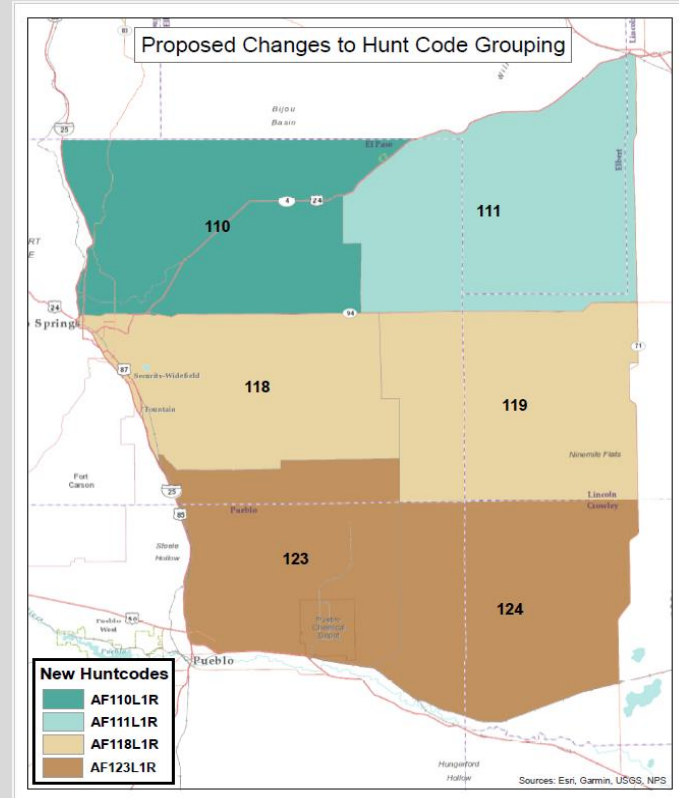


Figure 2: Proposed new hunt codes and GMU structure



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*.**

Stakeholder Outreach:

Landowners: Through the recently completed (2022) herd management planning process, CPW mailed surveys to 125 randomly selected landowners. 63 individuals responded. Landowners stated they have moderate issues related to hunters in PH-8. Approximately 30% (n=19) of respondents selected “Moderate” to “Major” problem. These issues include trespassing and property damage. In regards to pronghorn, landowners had minimal problems with damage to property and crops. Between 74-79% (n=43-45) of landowners selected “Not a Problem” when asked about damage to crops. Additionally, a majority of the landowners support the current population level, and would like to maintain the late season doe hunt.

Hunters: Hunter input gathered through the CPW Big Game Opt in Survey. In PH-8, 630 hunters opted to complete the survey. The majority of hunters (62%, n=330) indicated a desire to hunt more often rather than hunt more mature bucks. Of those who responded to the survey 49% (n=255) indicated they would prefer a slight to moderate increase in the population.

State Land Board: CPW reached out directly to Colorado State Land Board for input on the proposed changes, the following response was received.

“Thanks for giving the State Land Board the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. Our agency relies heavily on Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s professional judgment in managing game species across the state, and balancing the needs of public hunters, landowners and partner/stakeholders. We do not have any comments regarding the proposed change.”

Staff: These recommendations are the culmination of cooperation amongst staff from multiple sections of the agency. The ideas proposed are based on identified issues and needs which are repeatedly expressed at license setting meetings. Those staff which are charged with the management of the PH-8 pronghorn herd believe the proposed change in GMU groupings are a strategic regulatory change which will help provide the tools they need to meet the objectives set forth through the Herd Management Planning Process with input from local landowners, hunters, and the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: **Figure 2** Change the GMU grouping for hunt code AF110L1R, creating three new hunt codes for the late season doe only hunt. Season dates will be December 1-31 for all hunt codes. The resulting hunt code GMU grouping would be as follows:

AF110L1R-GMU 110

AF111L1R-GMU 111

AF118L1R-GMUs 118 and 119

AF123L1R-GMUs 123 and 124

2. Status quo: Maintain the current grouping and single hunt code: AF110L1R-GMUs 110, 111, 118, 119, 123, and 124.	
Issue Raised by:	Southeast Terrestrial, Area 14
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Ty Woodward
CC:	Julie Stiver, Tim Kroening, Aaron Berscheid, Sarah Watson, Phil Gurule, Dylan Allenback
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
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	Southeast Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023

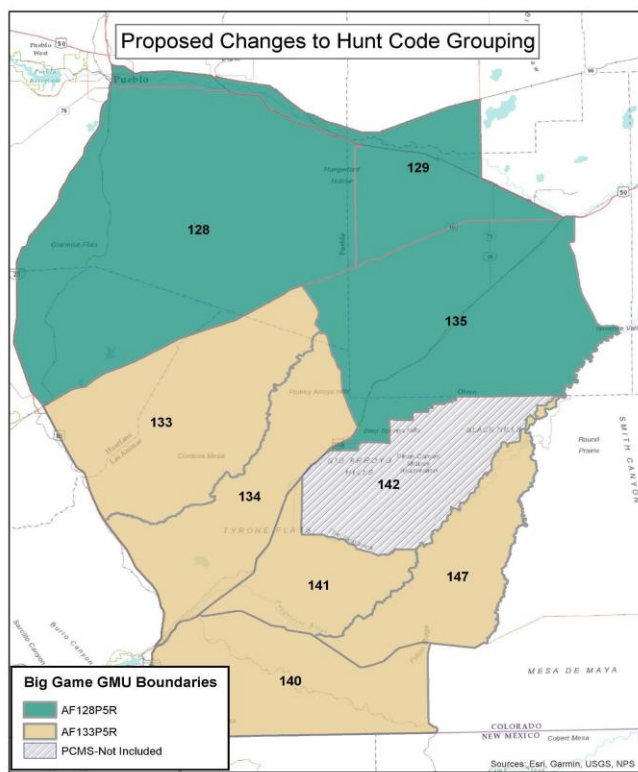
ISSUE: Should hunt code AF128P5R be split into two hunt codes to distribute harvest within pronghorn data analysis unit PH-7?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Pronghorn data analysis unit (DAU) PH-7 is located in South Central Colorado and comprises game management units (GMUs) 128, 129, 132, 133, 134, 135, 140, 141, 142 and 147. The 2022 post-season estimated population was approximately 8,000 animals and with estimated production and harvest is expected to grow to 8,400 after the 2023 hunting seasons. The population objective is 9,300 to 12,700 animals. There is currently a private land-only December doe rifle license in PH-7, which increases doe harvest outside of the regular rifle season. The license is valid from December 1-5 and is valid in all game management units except 142, which is the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

CPW has noticed that habitat conditions within the DAU are inconsistent across the entire DAU, with pronghorn production and survival consistently better in the southern portions of the DAU. This has facilitated higher densities of pronghorn in the southern portions of the DAU while experiencing lower densities in other portions of the DAU. CPW staff propose dividing the DAU into two different hunt code groupings for the December season to better distribute licenses and harvest to those areas where the population is doing better and limit harvest where the population is doing poorly. CPW propose changing the season dates to start the first Saturday in December, and lasting five days, so the season always includes a weekend.

CPW recommends modifying hunt code AF128P5R to include GMUs 128, 129, and 135 and creating hunt code AF133P5R to include GMUs 133, 134, 140, 141, and 147.



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]

Landowners and staff have had several conversations about the lack of pronghorn in the northern GMUs of pronghorn DAU PH-7, this was one of the ways that we agreed would give us flexibility to manage the herd. Staff also received numerous comments, including those received during the recently completed PH-7 herd management planning process, asking us to address the lack of pronghorn in the northern portions of the DAU.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create hunt codes AF128P5R (GMUs 128, 129, & 135) and AF133P5R (GMUs 133, 134, 140, 141, & 147) with season dates beginning on the first Saturday of December annually and lasting a total of 5 days.

2. Status quo

Issue Raised by:	Allen Vitt
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Stiver, Brown, Area 11
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
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: 11/03/2023	
ISSUE:	Should a late pronghorn doe season be created in pronghorn data analysis unit (DAU) PH-20?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>PH-20 is located in South Central Colorado and encompasses game management units (GMUs) 69, 84, 85, 86, 691, 851, and 861. It has approximately 74% private land and the 2022 estimated population was approximately 2,500 animals. With expected harvest the population should climb to almost 2,600 animals in post-hunt 2023 (objective range 2,200-2,600 animals). Given the amount of private land in the DAU, CPW has had difficulties achieving the female harvest necessary to manage the population to the Herd Management Plan objectives. In anticipation of this issue, CPW asked landowners during the PH-20 herd management planning process their opinion regarding a late doe pronghorn season in the area. Landowners supported the addition of a late season.</p> <p>Therefore, we would like to create a late private land-only pronghorn season in the DAU to allow another opportunity to harvest doe pronghorn outside of the regular rifle season without increasing licenses and hunter crowding during the regular season. Pronghorn within the Wet Mountain Valley portion of the DAU migrate out of the areas where they occur earlier in the year and become more concentrated as they do so.</p> <p>We propose to create an additional doe pronghorn license with season dates beginning on the third Saturday of October and lasting nine days. This proposed license would be list B. This additional pronghorn season will allow hunters and landowners additional hunting opportunities, reduce hunter crowding during the regular season, and help CPW meet harvest objectives for the pronghorn population in PH-20.</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>CPW staff sent 196 surveys to landowners who owned at least 160 acres within the DAU during the herd management planning process. We received 68 returns. 43% supported a late season, ~28% were neutral, and 30% opposed the season. We also held a public meeting with local landowners in March 2023 and received support for the proposed season, including the option of holding the season in October.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create hunt code AF069P5R (valid in GMUs 69, 84, 85, 86, 691, & 861) with season dates beginning on the third Saturday of October and lasting nine days.</p> <p>2. Status quo</p>	

Issue Raised by:	Allen Vitt, Terrestrial Biologist Area 11
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Area 11 personnel, Stiver, Z. Holder, Reiner, Shepard, Lamont
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
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:	11/03/2023
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ISSUE:	Should wilderness only moose hunt codes be added to data analysis unit (DAU) M-8 (Southpark)?
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DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

DAU M-8 is located in Lake, Chaffee, Park, Jefferson, Douglas and Clear Creek Counties. The DAU is comprised of game management units (GMUs) 39, 46, 49, 50, 500, and 501. Primary moose habitat is located along the riparian communities associated with the South Platte River, high elevation tributaries, and willow habitats above tree line. Additional habitat is provided by the spruce-fir-aspen complex surrounding the lower riparian areas. Elevations range from 14,293 feet at the highest point in the north central part of the DAU to 5,388 feet along the eastern edge near the foothills as the South Platte River enters Denver. The DAU covers much of the Pike National Forest and the southern portions of the Arapahoe/Roosevelt National Forest. The USFS wilderness areas within the national forests in M-8 encompass much of the available moose habitat in the DAU, but see lower harvest by moose hunters.

Over the past decade, the M-8 herd has been steadily increasing in population size and distribution across the landscape. Range expansion into some local communities has naturally resulted in increased human conflict and roadkill. Total annual licenses have increased from 8 in 2015 to 50 in 2023. Hunter success rates have remained high with three-year averages (2019-2021) of 97% and 64% for bull and cow (harvest/quota), respectively.

While success rates remain high in M-8, harvest consistently occurs in focal areas that are easier to access due to their proximity to roads representing a relatively small proportion of the available moose habitat (Table 1). A large proportion of moose habitat in areas harder to access see little to no moose hunting pressure. Generally, these areas with little hunting pressure are found in areas without roads in USFS designated wilderness areas in M-8. These areas present additional moose hunting opportunities for hunters who wish to experience a more remote backcountry moose hunt.

CPW proposes to create three wilderness-only moose hunts in M-8. These hunts will increase hunter opportunity by focusing additional hunting pressure on segments of moose habitat in M-8 that currently experience little hunting pressure. Currently in M-8, licenses are offered in 3 paired GMUs: 39 and 46, 50 and 501, and 500 and 49. CPW proposes wilderness area only moose hunts in three wilderness areas that each conveniently reside within a paired GMU grouping: Mount Evans Wilderness area in GMU's 39 and 46, Buffalo Peaks Wilderness area in GMU 49, and Lost Creek Wilderness area in GMU 501.

Table 1 - M-8 Moose Harvest 2015 - 2022 by land ownership

	Total Harvest	USFS Wilderness % of Harvest	USFS General % of Harvest	State/County/ other owned property % of Harvest	Private Property % of Harvest
GMUs 39 & 46	54 100%	15 27.7%	37 68.5%	1 1.8%	1 1.8%
GMUS 50 & 501	12 100%	5 41.6%	7 58.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
GMUs 49 & 500	116 100%	8 6.8%	100 86.2%	2 1.7%	6 5.1%

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 and Area 1 staff. External publics are hunters, outfitters, and the USFS. There has been no formal input process.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. **Preferred Alternative*:

Create 4 hunt codes for each of the 3 wilderness areas, 12 total hunt codes

GMU 39/46 – Mt. Evans Wilderness Area Only

M-M-039-S1-X (Season Choice)

M-F-039-S1-A

M-F-039-S1-M

M-F-039-S1-R

GMU 49 – Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Area Only

M-M-049-S1-X (Season Choice)

M-F-049-S1-A

M-F-049-S1-M

M-F-049-S1-R

GMU 501 - Lost Creek Wilderness Area Only

M-M-501-S1-X (Season Choice)

M-F-501-S1-A
M-F-501-S1-M
M-F-501-S1-R

2. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Area 1, NE Terrestrial
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Joe Halseth, Mark Fisher
CC:	Lamb, Carpenter, Dreher, Leslie
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Mark Leslie
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	NE TERR, Area 1
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023	
ISSUE:	Should private land-only (PLO) hunt codes in data analysis unit (DAU) B-7 be limited starting in 2024?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Bear DAU B-7 is located in South Central Colorado and includes game management units (GMUs) 69, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 140, 691, 851 and 861. Bear hunting opportunities in the DAU include 1) archery, muzzleloader, and rifle seasons available through CPW's limited license draw and 2) unlimited over-the-counter private-land-only (OTC PLO) licenses. The PLO licenses aim to target harvest on private lands, especially in areas with bear-human conflicts. The PLO licenses for B-7 are unlimited, over-the-counter licenses per the Parks and Wildlife Commission approved 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure (BGSS). Under that BGSS, all PLO bear licenses statewide were made unlimited OTC for all management strategies.</p> <p>We propose limiting PLO hunt codes in DAU B-7 to control harvest and manage the population towards the stable strategy prescribed in the B-7 bear management plan. The management strategy identified in the current B-7 plan was to be in a reduction phase for the first five years of the plan and then switch to a stable management strategy. We have completed the five years reduction phase and have reduced limited licenses to move harvest into the stable phase.</p> <p>Most harvest in the DAU is from the unlimited PLO OTC licenses, which currently cannot be limited to align with a stable population strategy. In B-7, the percentage of total DAU-wide bear harvest from PLO licenses was 104 of 135 (77%) bears harvested in 2020, 63 of 116 (54%) bears harvested in 2021, and 86 of 135 (57%) bears harvested in 2022. Due to the high harvest levels from the unlimited PLO licenses, we have been unable to reduce harvest by enough to stabilize the population.</p> <p>If approved, the following PLO hunt codes in bear DAU B-7 would be limited in 2024: BE086P1R, BE083P1R, BE069P1R, and BE084P1R. By limiting these hunt codes, CPW staff can make annual changes to the PLO license quota and actively manage the bear population toward stability.</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> <p>CPW Staff contacts landowners and hunters annually during the hunting seasons and the mandatory check process. Hunters, landowners, and members of the public are generally dissatisfied with the low number of bears that are observed. Other landowners, mainly livestock producers, have also mentioned that there are fewer bears in the population than we once had.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	

<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Modify bear hunt codes BE069P1R, BE083P1R, BE084P1R and BE086P1R to be limited, to better manage DAU B7 for a stable population.</p> <p>2. Status quo: Keep all PLO licenses in bear DAU as unlimited PLO licenses.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Area 11 and SE Terrestrial
Author of the issue paper (if different than the person raising the issue):	Allen Vitt Area 11 biologist
CC:	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
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

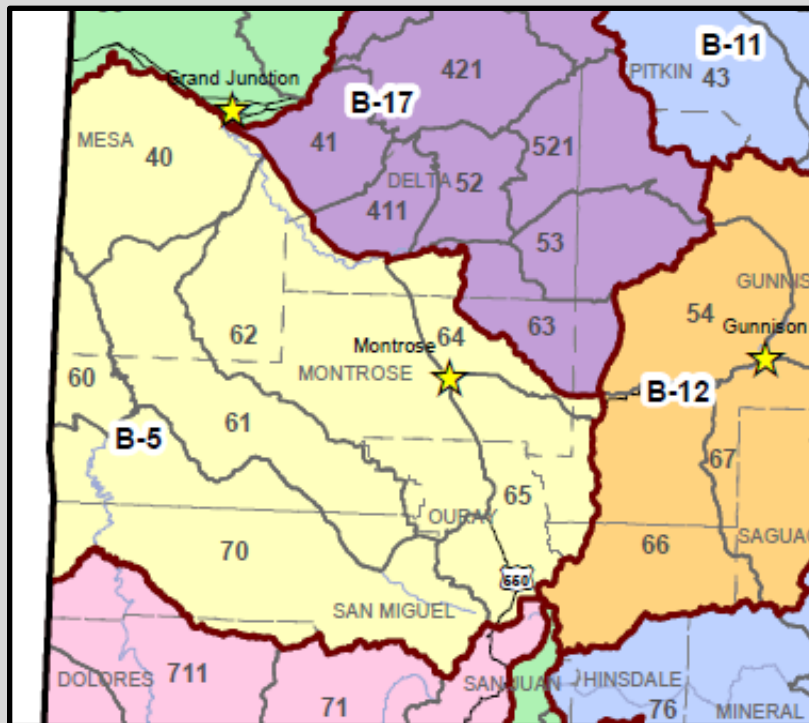
ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023

ISSUE: Should game management unit (GMU) 61 archery, muzzleloader, and early October rifle bear hunt codes be changed to add-on over-the-counter?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

GMU 61 contains high quality bear habitat and a robust bear population that provides ample bear hunting opportunities. It is also a popular unit for deer and elk hunters, resulting in concerns of hunter crowding within the unit. GMU 61 is part of the data analysis unit (DAU) B-5. B-5 also includes GMUs 40, 60, 62, 64, 65, and 70. Beginning with the 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure, the add-on over-the-counter (OTC) license strategy was applied to all GMUs in B-5 except GMU 61. GMU 61 operated under the limited license strategy instead. GMU 61 was not included in the add-on OTC strategy because at the time of implementation, the add-on OTC strategy included the provision for completely unlimited bear licenses being purchased on an OTC basis. This would allow anyone to purchase a license and pursue bear during the regular 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th rifle seasons. The concern with unlimited licenses is that too many hunters would purchase the license and add to crowding concerns with deer and elk hunters in the unit.



GMU 61 also has an early October bear season that runs from October 1-7 annually. This season corresponds to the early rifle either-sex elk hunt and the original intent, approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2016, was to provide hunters that drew an early rifle elk tag the opportunity to acquire a bear license with a like-license requirement without adding additional hunters in the field. The changes to bear licensing starting with the 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure with the limited license strategy applied to GMU 61, shifted this early October hunt to a limited license without a like-license requirement, which added additional hunters to the field and increased the issue of crowding.

Residents spent a minimum of 16 preference points and non-residents spent a minimum of 25-27 preference points to hunt for either sex elk during the archery season or bull elk with a muzzleloader in 2023. For the 1st rifle bull elk season, residents spent a minimum of 12 preference points and non-residents spent a minimum of 24 preference points to acquire a license in 2023. Our objective is to reduce hunter crowding to help maintain a quality elk and deer hunting experience in the unit. The three year average (2020-2022) number of bear licenses allocated in GMU 61 during the month of September in the archery, muzzleloader, and September rifle bear seasons is 270 licenses, however this was reduced to 220 total licenses for the 2023 season. The three-year average (2020-2022) of deer and elk licenses for GMU 61 for the same period in the archery and muzzleloader seasons is 250 licenses. The number of bear hunters in GMU 61 in addition to the elk and deer hunters has been a major source of conflicts for the past 10-15 years, and local wildlife managers have been evaluating potential methods to reduce the number of hunters and hunter crowding while still maintaining bear hunting opportunity and harvest in the unit.

Across all the GMUs in B-5 that have had add-on OTC bear licenses available (GMUs 40, 60, 62, 64, 65, and 70), there was an estimated three year average (2020-2022) 4,397 deer and elk archery and muzzleloader hunters per year that were eligible for an add-on OTC bear license to go with their deer or elk license. Of those, only 792 (18%) chose to purchase the add-on OTC bear license, resulting in a harvest of 33 bears. Applying this same rate to GMU 61 for the 250 available deer and elk archery and muzzleloader licenses, approximately 45 hunters would opt to purchase an add-on bear license, resulting in a projected harvest of 2 bears.

CPW proposes shifting the bear licensing strategy for several hunt codes in GMU 61 to align with the other GMUs within the DAU while reducing conflicts from crowding. The preferred alternative would create add-on OTC hunt codes for archery, muzzleloader, and early October rifle bear seasons in GMU 61. These hunt codes will have like-license or season participation requirements where a hunter must have a valid archery, muzzleloader, deer or elk or early rifle elk license prior to purchasing the bear license for the same season. This alternative would retain the limited license hunt codes for bear archery and muzzleloader seasons. Remove the limited hunt code for the early October bear season. These proposed changes will help achieve that goal by shifting hunters and harvest from the September bear season to hunters already in the field with add-on OTC licenses.

Similar to the current licensing, it is anticipated that licenses for the archery and muzzleloader limited hunt codes would be maintained at the minimum number of licenses of 10 per hunt code for 2024. Licenses for the September rifle bear season would be adjusted to make up for the additional licenses and harvest from the add-on OTC licenses sold. To begin with, in 2024, licenses for September rifle will be reduced by 50 based on the estimated 18% participation rate estimated above, but in future years will be based on GMU 61 archery and muzzleloader add-on OTC licenses sold in previous years.

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

[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

In preparation for the 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure, CPW conducted public involvement with stakeholders to develop and assess the “Add-on Over-The-Counter” strategy for bear licensing. CPW staff locally in Area 18 have received many complaints of crowding from elk hunters in all seasons in GMU 61, especially the early seasons in September. Staff in Area 18 have informally surveyed many elk, deer, and bear hunters in the field while checking licenses about their opinion on ways to address crowding in GMU 61. Most responses were favorable for a system like the add-on OTC license strategy for bear archery, muzzleloader, and the early October bear seasons. Feedback from hunters indicate that the majority are not in favor of unlimited regular rifle bear licenses in GMU 61.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Create add-on OTC hunt codes, BE061U1A, BE061U1M, BE061U2R, for archery, muzzleloader and the early October rifle seasons in GMU 61. These hunt codes will have like-license or season participation requirements where a hunter must have a deer or elk license prior to purchasing the bear license for the same season. Retain the limited license hunt codes, BE061O1A, BE061O1M available in GMU 61 for archery and muzzleloader. Remove the limited hunt code BE061O2R for the early October bear season. The regular concurrent rifle season, BE061O5R, and September rifle, BE061O1R, will remain limited. The September Private-Land-Only season, BE061P1R, will remain unlimited.

2. Status quo

Issue Raised by:	Tony Bonacquista, Kevin Duckett, Mark Caddy, Evan Phillips
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Rachel Sralla, Jamin Grigg, Cory Chick, Mark Vieira
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick, Jamin Grigg
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	Area 18, SW Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 11/03/2023	
ISSUE:	Should bighorn sheep game management unit (GMU) S-79 be opened to hunting?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Bighorn sheep GMU S-79 is located west of Pueblo. Most of the lands within the GMU are private, with the exception of Lake Pueblo State Wildlife Area and Lake Pueblo State Park. Currently, S-79 is not open to bighorn sheep hunting, but a small herd of bighorn sheep resides within the GMU, numbering approximately 35 animals. The herd has not grown beyond 35 bighorn sheep and CPW staff believe this is due to low lamb recruitment.</p> <p>In 2017, we established hunting in this population under the Bighorn Sheep Access Program (BSAP) where landowners, as an incentive to allow public hunting access, are given vouchers to hunt sheep on their property. Under this program, hunters harvested 4 rams (1 public ram tag holder, 2 private landowner vouchers, and 1 ram harvested utilizing the statewide Raffle tag). Hunting has not been allowed in S-79 since 2020.</p> <p>Currently there are several older age class rams in the GMU. Therefore, CPW proposes reauthorizing BSAP with the ranch and opening the rest of the unit to public ram hunting only, to allow additional harvest on the older ram segment of the population. We will closely monitor harvest to maintain the population.</p> <p>CPW staff intend to use this opportunity to test harvested rams for diseases that could be contributing to low lamb recruitment. We will mail a letter to every regular and BSAP license holder, raffle and auction license holder to explain that we would like to collect biological samples.</p> <p>The Lake Pueblo SWA is the only public land within GMU S-79 and the rams do travel along the Arkansas river on the SWA at various times of the year. Season dates will be from August 15th to December 31th annually to allow hunters the greatest opportunity to find the rams on Lake Pueblo SWA. Staff intend to include information in the Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Brochure, which will inform hunters that hunting on the SWA is limited to archery or shotgun only and inform hunters that the rams are not always on the SWA and it may take several days for them to be available for harvest.</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> <p>Staff has had numerous conversations with hunters, and the majority would like to have additional opportunities to hunt the rams on the SWA.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Create hunt code SMS79O1R to allow bighorn sheep hunting in GMU S-79 with season dates of August 15-December 31.</p> <p>2. Status quo: Do not open the general area to hunting, and only harvest rams under the BSAP program.</p>	

Issue Raised by:	Zach Holder and Allen Vitt
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brown, Stiver, Shepard, Lamont, Holschuh, McGee
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
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: 11/03/23

ISSUE: Should electronic calls be removed as a legal method of take for mountain lions statewide?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

In April 2021, electronic calls were legalized for hunting mountain lions in a small subset of Game Management Units (GMUs). This regulatory change was associated with the implementation of the West Slope Lion Management Plan and is found in *Chapter 0, Article IV, #004.A.3.b.2: Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, electronic calls may only be used as an aid in taking the following species: Starting April 1, 2021, mountain lions during open seasons only and for Game Management Units 43, 44, 45, 60, 61, 70 west of Colo 141, 72, 73, and 444 only. This same language is also found in Chapter 2, Article VI, #242.A.3.*

Adopted in the fall of 2020, the West Slope Lion Management Plan manages for stable lion populations across Colorado’s West Slope. One exception to that stable management strategy includes GMUs 43, 44, 45 and 444 that comprise the Glenwood Special Management Area (SMA). The goal in the SMA is to address human safety concerns by reducing human-lion conflicts, reduce lion occupancy in developed areas of high human use, and maximize hunting opportunity. The combination of small parcel private land ownership, relatively dense human housing, and high levels of winter recreation all make the GMUs within this SMA difficult to hunt with hounds, which limits the applicability of this primary tool and its contribution to harvest management. Therefore, electronic calls were legalized in the SMA to help achieve harvest goals under these specific circumstances.

Additionally, as part of the management tools evaluated in the West Slope Lion Plan, electronic calls were also legalized in 5 GMUs in southwestern Colorado (60, 61, 70W, 72 and 73). Low snowfall in these desert areas has limited the success of hound pursuit, as has access to small parcel acreages with consistent conflicts. Allowing the use of electronic calls in this area was hoped to better enable CPW to address conflict lions near residential areas by transferring lion mortality from APHIS/CPW to licensed hunters and to help reach harvest objectives in units that receive limited snowfall.

In the 2+ full lion seasons since this regulation has been in place (April 2021 – March 2022, April 2022- March 2023, April 2023 in SMA) only 3 lions have been harvested with electronic calls. One was harvested in the SMA and two were harvested in the open units northwest of Durango. As stated in the West Slope Lion Plan, CPW committed to assessing the efficacy of electronic calls in contributing to harvest. While electronic calls remain a possible tool for managers to consider, it appears at this time to not be a meaningful contributor to specific harvest goals laid out in the Plan in the two areas where it was legalized.

Therefore, CPW proposes to delete the regulation that legalizes use of electronic calls as an aid in taking mountain lions, which would make electronic calls illegal statewide for lion hunting.

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[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received]

Colorado Trappers and Predator Hunters Association (CTPHA) has been made aware of this issue.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Strike *Chapter 0, Article IV, #004.A.3.b.2* and *Chapter 2, Article VI, #242.A.3.* from regulations so that electronic call use for mountain lion hunting would not be legal anywhere statewide beginning in April 2024.

2. Status quo

Issue Raised by:	Terrestrial (Reid DeWalt, Brian Dreher, Matt Eckert, Mark Vieira)	
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Mark Vieira	
CC:	Regulations Managers	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Jeff Davis	
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	