

Sportsperson's Roundtable Meeting
March 2, 2024
Hybrid Meeting
Buena Vista Community Center
Meeting Summary

The Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable met at the Buena Vista Community Center on March 2nd, 2024. Eighteen Roundtable members, eighteen Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff, three Parks and Wildlife Commissioners, and the Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife participated in this meeting. This document summarizes the group's discussion.

Director's Update - Jeff Davis, CPW Director

CPW Director Jeff Davis responded to inquiries about the Division's ability to share factual information on wildlife management, and how that differs from CPW not taking a position on potential ballot initiatives. CPW is committed to informing members of the public about wildlife management.

A member asked about whether CPW has produced a fact sheet on lion management. Director Davis directed the member to the [FAQ about the Management of Bobcats, Mountain Lions, and Lynx](#). CPW's intention is to continue to update the FAQ as more questions come in.

A member requested more information on how CPW is using social media. CPW staff shared that they could present on the communication team's work and the upcoming launch of CPW's forthcoming new website at the next roundtable meeting.

Director Davis shared an update on relevant legislation at the General Assembly. Amendments to [HB 24-1117](#) (Invertebrates & Rare Plants) were adopted, with additional amendments being considered before the senate considers the bill soon. The Director added that [SB 24-171](#), Restoration of Wolverines, was just filed, with changes added to pursue a 10(j) for the reintroduction of wolverines, which will establish Colorado's wolverines as a nonessential, experimental population. The 10(j) will also help ensure management flexibility and will limit potential land use restrictions on key stakeholders including the mining and ski industries. CPW is also collaborating with other divisions on a renewable energy siting bill. The bill would streamline and standardize the siting of renewable energy projects in Colorado. There is interest in a bill which defines the state's role in renewable siting, protects wildlife resources, and maintains county siting authority.

Gray Wolf Restoration and Management - Reid DeWalt, Assistant Director, Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Natural Resources

Reid DeWalt gave an update on the release of ten wolves in Grand and Summit Counties, which successfully met the requirements of Proposition 114. The [10\(j\)](#) rule became effective December 8, and is being fully implemented in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

CPW followed the approved [Reintroduction Management Plan](#) so as to not capture chronic depredators. Historically, some members of the source pack were depredators but they had since been removed and the pack subsequently changed behavior, which is common practice in wolf management. Wolves were released in areas with strong elk and deer populations. All wolves are collared and are doing well.

No more wolves will be captured this capture season but CPW will continue to release wolves in coming years until 40-50 individuals are on the ground. CPW has established an agreement with the Colville Tribe to capture and release more animals. This process could have started this year, but CPW made a decision to pause at ten animals released so that community members can get used to their presence on the ground, and to allow for dialogue to address livestock producers' uncertainty before more animals are put on the landscape.

CPW created [Collared Gray Wolf Activity Maps](#) in response to public interest in collared wolf movements. The collars collect data every four hours and CPW receives a data download every 16 hours. A watershed scale is used for the maps to protect the wolves, and eventually CPW will transition to mapping pack territories as they become established. There have not been any depredations on livestock from the newly released wolves. CPW is also using collars on wild ungulates to capture pre-wolf, post-wolf conditions to guide adaptive management.

CPW is discussing clarifying the definition of chronic depredation. The Stakeholder Advisory Group deliberately recommended avoiding a definition, so this was not an oversight. CPW is also looking at addressing regulations concerning taking wolves at night during acts of depredation, and regulations on pooled livestock. CPW is continuing to learn, and will be hiring six more wolf staff positions who have prior experience working with this species.

A member asked whether money from the general fund is paying for new staff, or whether sportsperson's dollars are being used. Reid DeWalt clarified that there is a prohibition on sportsperson's dollars being used, so funds are coming from the general fund as well as new wolf license plate sales.

Northwest Severe Winter Zone Follow-Up - Darby Finley, Terrestrial Biologist

Darby Finley presented on the severe winter conditions experienced in Northwest Colorado last year (2022-2023). These conditions were unprecedented because of the long duration and persistent snow into April, which forced deer, elk and antelope into the same winter ranges with limited food availability. In the 2023 hunting season, CPW made significant reductions to both license numbers and season duration in affected areas.

CPW is gearing up to do elk captures this month. Comparing 2022 and 2023 post-hunt flights, CPW had a similar sample size of ~25,000 for elk. The sample size for deer and pronghorn were about half as much in 2023 as in 2022. Calf ratios are pretty similar for White River elk. Bear's Ears herd had good calf ratios and good calf survival. Deer ratios showed good

production on the fawn side, and buck ratios came up a little bit. Pronghorn ratios are down a little from the year prior. For the 2024 hunting season, CPW is closing pronghorn doe hunting for the Great Divide herd PH-9. CPW will go to the minimum number of licenses for all mule deer doe licenses. For elk, there will be limited 2nd and 3rd season public land bull licenses.

A member asked if there will be changes in CWD prevalence because of the severe winter. CPW did mandatory CWD testing in the Bear's Ears herd last year and prevalence was 20% versus 18% when sampled in 2018. It may take 10-15 years to see if what we are doing on the management side pushes the prevalence rate down.

Highline Lake Zebra Mussel Eradication Project - Ben Felt, Northwest Senior Aquatic Biologist; Robert Walters, Invasive Species Program Managers

Ben Felt spoke about CPW's fisheries management programs and other work performed by the CPW Aquatics section. Robert Walters provided an overview of CPW's invasive species program, which focuses on nonnative plants, animals or pathogens that do not have natural predators outside their native range.

In 2022, CPW detected zebra mussels in Highline Lake. Given that the Colorado River is Highline Lake's source, CPW surveyed the surrounding area and found that the mussels were isolated in Highline. The subsequent zebra mussel eradication effort at Highline aimed to achieve eradication without mortality of non-target species. In 2023, CPW implemented a containment effort to ensure that any boat on Highline Lake was decontaminated prior to leaving the location. In the summer of 2023, extensive monitoring of water quality identified zebra mussel veligers. Highline Lake closed to recreation on September 30 for its seasonal closure, allowing staff to pull buoys on October 1 and find five adult mussels. Over 100 were found in Fall 2023. Additional upstream plankton and eDNA sampling was performed upstream of the reservoir, with negative results. Additional molluscicide applications occurred November 3 and 6, with CPW doubling target concentration to improve its effectiveness.

Moving forward, CPW will take a two-pronged approach of applying molluscicides and draining the reservoir. Highline will be closed to boating in 2024, and the fishery will be lost but recovered as soon as possible. Education efforts will be expanded in 2024, targeting different water-users such as kayakers and paddle boarders.

Travis Black clarified that any water released from Highline Lake will contain a quantity of copper below agricultural levels. Ben Felt clarified that the human consumption standards are not exceeded by copper levels in the reservoir.

Bison Stakeholder Engagement - Travis Black, Northwest Regional Manager; Reid DeWalt

Travis Black discussed bison coming into Northwest Colorado from Utah over the past 25 years. In Utah, bison are listed under a dual classification status of livestock and wildlife, but Colorado only classifies them as domestic animals/livestock. In March 2022, CPW staff agreed

to put together a local outreach effort and working group to consider the species' status. The Bison Working Group has developed three options: Big Game Designation, Non-game Designation, or Status Quo.

A public outreach meeting was held by CPW in Rangeley on January 3, 2024, where local concerns compelled CPW to hold off on proposing changing bison to big game species status. The main stakeholder concerns were related to foraging conflict with livestock, deer and elk, the presence of wild horses, and the severe winter of 2022/2023. Stakeholders were also concerned about competition over water, the risks of disease transmission to domestic sheep, and fence damage. Travis Black presented this information to the Parks and Wildlife Commission in January and asked for time to continue working on this issue. The Commission requested to look more at a statewide level of how bison may be managed in the future.

A member asked whether disease transmission from bison might impact wild sheep, and Travis clarified that there is some concern for transmission of catarrhal fever to wild sheep.

Regional Caucus Reports & Updates

Northeast Region

A Northeast caucus delegate shared that the region held their caucus meeting at Weld County Facility on February 15. Sportspersons could preregister and gain access to presentations and Q&A. There was no virtual participation, though the meeting recording was posted on YouTube. The meeting started with a turkey calling seminar and a drawing for a book give-away. A Q&A period involved substantial conversation between members and CPW staff.

Mark Leslie noted that there is an ongoing conversation about how to increase participation at these meetings. A member noted the need to share these meetings on other social media platforms, suggesting that email fatigue makes using social media (e.g. Instagram stories) valuable for informing more sportspersons that the meetings exist.

Southeast Region

A Southeast caucus delegate shared that the region held their caucus on January 31, with 31 in-person attendees (non-CPW staff members) and 6-7 attendees on Zoom. Five people signed up to run for caucus delegate. Southeast region terrestrial and aquatic staff provided updates. CPW private land program staff also gave a presentation.

Northwest Region

Northwest caucus delegates shared that the region's caucus meeting was attended by at least a dozen people. The group discussed winter weather conditions from last year and wolf restoration. The need to understand how to increase sportsperson participation was

discussed. A Big Game Season Structure update was also presented. Much of the meeting was occupied by discussion around elections.

Southwest Region

A statewide representative from the Southwest region shared that there were approximately 30 people participating virtually at the Southwest caucus meeting, with updates from CPW staff including a legislative update.

A member asked if CPW social media staff could assist regional caucus meetings with publicity. Emma Hay noted that, with new website changes, regional caucus meetings may be added to EngageCPW site, with capacity for targeted email lists. The sportsperson's roundtable information will move to the new website, creating space for regional caucus meetings to be added to EngageCPW. Kelly Kamerer noted that Public Information Officers could support regional communication, and that statewide communications are not the only avenue.

Open Roundtable: Increasing Sportsperson Engagement and Participation

Members spoke about strategies to increase engagement with the sportspeople. A member suggested that partner stores like Bass Pro Shops or Sportsman's Warehouse could help spread information about meetings and other opportunities. Another member suggested that it would be valuable to request that hunting and fishing organizations like Pheasants Forever and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation publicize the roundtable or caucus meetings to their memberships. A member suggested that the format of the roundtable meeting could be changed slightly; the format is currently 90% CPW staff presenting, whereas we could invite representatives from organizations outside CPW like Pheasants Forever or Trout Unlimited. Representatives from outside organizations will bring members of their own groups as well.

A member shared that Utah DWR has a program where members receive incentives such as an additional preference point for volunteering to help projects. That member suggested that CPW looks at Utah's model for public participation. Another member asked whether the Wildlife Council can be used as an education arm to encourage meeting participation. Kelly Kaemerer noted that the council is focused on advertising currently, but she will bring this idea to the council.

A member noted the need for CPW to use information sharing and outreach to repair public relationships harmed by perception of politicization. Another member noted the need for CPW and sportspersons to use information to combat misinformation.

Wolverine Restoration - Brian Dreher, Terrestrial Section Manager

Brian Dreher presented on wolverines and why CPW is considering reintroducing them.

CPW has received many questions as to why wolverine restoration is being considered now. This has in fact been a longer-term consideration, but previous efforts were stalled by the potential federal listing of wolverines as threatened and prioritizing lynx restoration. With the recent listing of wolverines, CPW can work with the Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a 10(j) designation. Per state statute, a bill to move forward with restoration is going through under sponsorship of Senator Will and Senator Roberts.

A member asked where the funding would come from, and Brian clarified that funding would be obtained from the species conservation trust fund or other wildlife cash; no hunting and fishing revenues are being considered.

East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan - Brian Dreher

Brian Dreher presented on planning for the East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan. The proposed strategy for the East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan is to prescribe a stable management strategy, and to propose two independent metrics. These metrics concern total human-caused mortality and the number of adult females harvested. CPW will write the draft plan from March-April 2024, with the goal to post it on [EngageCPW](#) in May for a 30-day public input period. The final plan will be presented to the Parks and Wildlife Commission for adoption in late summer-early fall. It was noted that just because CPW is looking at the scale of the entire east slope to evaluate whether or not they are meeting management objectives, harvest limit groups will still be smaller-scale like they are today. The draft plan will include a proposal for how GMUs will be grouped.

Big Game Season Structure - Matt Eckert, Terrestrial Section Supervisor

Matt Eckert presented the 2025-2029 Big Game Season Structure (BGSS) Preliminary Alternatives and Recommendations. A [memo](#) including proposed changes and rationale is available on the CPW Commission website. Next is a three-step approval process, with step 1 being preliminary recommendations in March, step 2 being draft recommendations in May, and step 3 being final recommendations in June.

The early seasons recommendation was to retain the status quo with an optional additional stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season. Colorado Bowhunters Association recommended an alternative of moving the archery deer season to August 15, which was seriously considered, such that the added stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season is intended to be a compromise. This would add 18 days of archery buck opportunity, while alleviating hunter pressure in September.

The regular rifle seasons staff recommendation is to revert to the previous (2015-2019) season structure. The previous structure is more congruent with the current population management goals for elk and mule deer. This helps to address concerns around access and severe winter impacts, and removes the overlap with the Thanksgiving holiday.

With regard to the Limitation of Over-the-Counter Elk Licenses, Matt clarified that CPW is trying to address hunters' concerns about overcrowding, and also wanted to reassess the strategy of limiting OTC archery units geographically on a case-by-case basis. The draft alternatives proposed are based on multiple information sources, including public surveys and license data.

- For OTC archery, alternative 1 (the staff preferred alternative) proposes to limit all resident and nonresident archery elk licenses, which would allow managers to address the original problem of controlling hunter pressure in overcrowded units.
- The staff-preferred alternative for OTC rifle is the Status Quo. Although CPW heard significant support for limiting rifle hunting, more time is needed to consider how limiting rifle hunting would be implemented.

A member suggested that many hunters are false-reporting overcrowding just to reduce crowds. Matt noted that the opt-in survey is the best data for understanding hunter attitudes towards crowding with other hunters or recreationists.

A member expressed the need for clearer, specific descriptions and visuals of how these BGSS changes will play out in particular units. Matt clarified that the working group has created tables and graphs displaying the net changes in revenue relative to changes for residents and nonresidents to be shared at the March Commission meeting.

Big Game Draw Process Working Group - Amanda Biedermann, Policy and Planning Project Manager

Amanda Biedermann provided an update on the Draw Process Working Group (DWG) and its progress to date. The DWG holds one meeting roughly every month, with work sessions and Commission workshops alternating. Work sessions are open to the public to listen in via [CPW's YouTube page](#), and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment via [EngageCPW](#). The [first memo](#) covering the working group's recommendations on primary draw and preference points was released on March 4; comments can be emailed to the Parks and Wildlife [Commission inbox](#).

The Commission will hear the group's recommendations at the March Commission Meeting. There will be two more DWG work sessions and panel presentations on primary draw methods and preference points in the coming year. In all cases, these are simply recommendations and any proposals for regulatory changes would be brought forward separately at a later date. Every DWG group session and workshop will be recorded and presented on [CPW's YouTube channel](#). EngageCPW comments will be shared with DWG members prior to each working group session.

Open Roundtable

Roundtable discussion was opened to general questions and concerns from the group.

A member raised the topic of how the group feels about increases in OHV size, noise, and incursion into areas they are not intended for (e.g. expanding ATV trails or going off trail). Another member noted that land managers are not enforcing OHV regulations, with clubs being powerless to enforce them. A member asked whether funds contributed to CPW by OHV registration goes back to OHV management and what role CPW plays. The vast majority of the funds generated then fund grants for maintaining existing trails. CPW has instituted the Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind framework, and grant requirements ask potential grantees to address potential wildlife impacts. CPW also coordinates with federal agencies to encourage consideration of wildlife impacts when evaluating grants.

A member asked about the conflict reporting process for mountain lions and bears, and what areas of improvement exist for acquiring the most accurate data. Matt Eckert responded that staff use an internal app to report conflicts with bears, lions, and moose, with data primarily coming from District Wildlife Managers responding to calls. CPW will continue to reprogram the app to address challenges with syncing the data due to lack of connectivity.

A member asked whether there has been any consideration of using an app program for mandatory reporting of hunter harvests. Staff responded that CPW uses a stratified sample survey currently, which is justified by the literature. Many other states report minimum harvest, and will never know what was harvested and not reported unless they conduct a survey.

A member asked about pronghorn units 120, 121, 125 and 126 where a private land only hunt code was applied, though it was not stated how license numbers would change. It was clarified that staff cannot communicate what license numbers will be by hunt code by the time the brochure is published due to the timeline for publishing the brochure versus adopting license numbers. It was acknowledged that the timing issue comes down to the regulatory calendar and when herd data is collected. CPW could choose to delay the application deadline to May, but the downside is that this would delay hunters trying to make plans.

Aquatic Section Update

Sportsperson's Roundtable – 03/02/2024



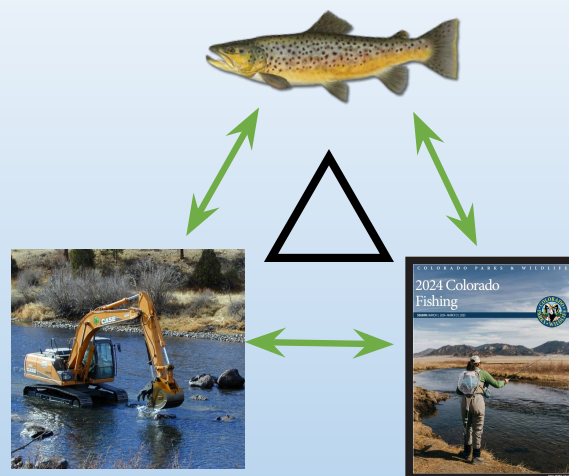
Ben Felt
Senior Aquatic Biologist – NW Region
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Robert Walters
Invasive Species Program Manager
Colorado Parks & Wildlife



Fisheries Management

- **Fishery:** system made up of three main interacting components
 - **Habitat:** environment in which fish live
 - **People:** users of fishery resources
 - **Biota:** living organisms in an ecosystem (e.g., fish, plankton, aquatic insects)
- **Fisheries Management:** manipulation of the three interacting elements to meet intended objectives for specific waterbodies



Habitat Improvement

- In-stream and reservoir habitat improvement
- Improving water quality and quantity (where possible)
- Building fish passage barriers to protect native fish from invasion from downstream non-native fish



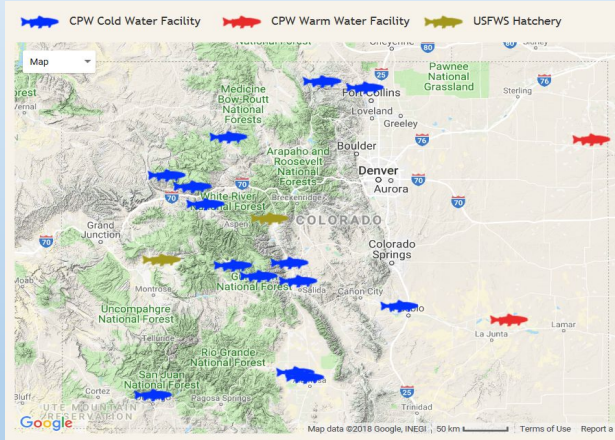
Working with People

- Education and Outreach
 - Youth fishing events
 - Angler surveys
 - Fishery management webpages
 - Education
- Fishing Regulations and Enforcement



Biota Management and Monitoring

- Directly manipulating fish populations in a waterbody
 - Stocking of desirable fish species



Biota Management and Monitoring

- Directly manipulating fish populations in a waterbody
 - Stocking of desirable fish species
 - Removal of undesirable fish species



Biota Management and Monitoring

- Directly manipulating fish populations in a waterbody
 - Stocking of desirable fish species
 - Removal of undesirable fish species
 - Fish population surveys



Fish Population Surveys

- Fish populations are surveyed by CPW Aquatic Biologists to monitor status relative to goals and objectives for a specific water
 - Goals often relate to fish abundance, angler satisfaction, fish body condition, etc.
 - Fish populations monitored using variety of techniques including electrofishing, gill netting, trap netting, and seining



What Are Invasive Species?

- Non-native plants, animals or pathogens
- No natural predators outside native range
- Harmful effect on natural resources and the human use of resources
- Economic, Cultural and Ecological Impacts
- Aquatic Nuisance Species = ANS



New Zealand Mudsnail



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Zebra Mussel



Rusty Crayfish



What ANS Are We Concerned About?



Animals

- Zebra Mussels
- Quagga Mussels
- New Zealand Mudsnails
- Rusty Crayfish
- Spiny Waterflea
- Fishhook Waterflea
- Asian Carp



Plants

- African elodea
- Brazilian egeria
- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Giant salvinia
- Water hyacinth
- Hydrilla
- Parrotfeather
- Yellow floating heart



What are Zebra & Quagga Mussels

- Freshwater bivalve mollusks
- Highly variable color patterns
- Triangular (Z) Rounded (Q)



Driessena rostriformis bugensis

Driessena polymorpha



Invasive Characteristics

- Rapid Reproduction
- Attach with Byssal Threads
- Filter Feeding

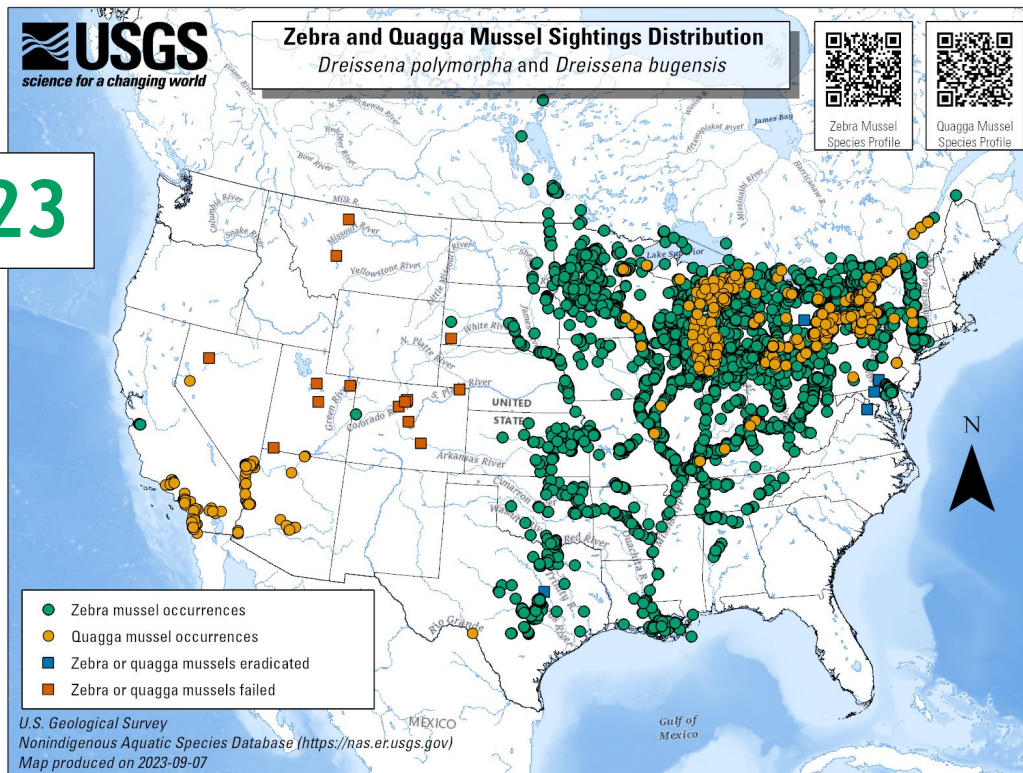


How did they get to USA?

- Transoceanic vessels from Europe carried larvae in ballast water and/or adults on anchors
- Initial discovery of zebra mussels was in the Great Lakes region near Lake St. Clair in 1988
- Initial discovery of quagga mussels was in the Erie canal and Lake Ontario in 1989



2023



Why Be Concerned? IMPACTS!

- Ecological Impacts
- Recreational Impacts
- Economic Impacts
- Spread Quickly!





Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination

CPW & Our Partners Operate 75 Boat Inspection Stations around Colorado

- **452,225 Inspections**
- **33,833 Decontaminations**
- **119 Mussel Fouled Watercraft Interceptions**

Roadside Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination Program

- HB21-1226 - Authorized 2 Year Pilot Program
 - Implemented in partnership with POE, CSP & CDOT
 - 116 Inspections
 - 70 Decontaminations
 - 28 Mussel Fouled Watercraft Intercepted
- CPW will implement an almost full-time program at the Loma & Trinidad Ports of Entry in 2024.
 - March - October; 5 Days Per Week



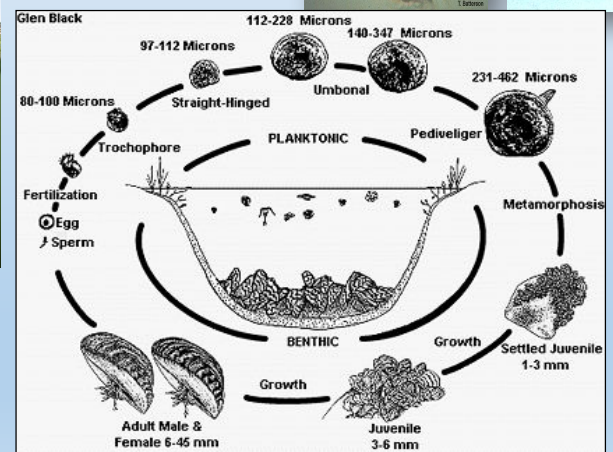
Early Detection Sampling and Monitoring

CPW Technicians

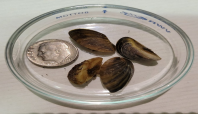
- Plankton tows
- Substrate checks
- Shoreline surveys
- Stream surveys
- Crayfish trapping
- Plant inventories

Frequency

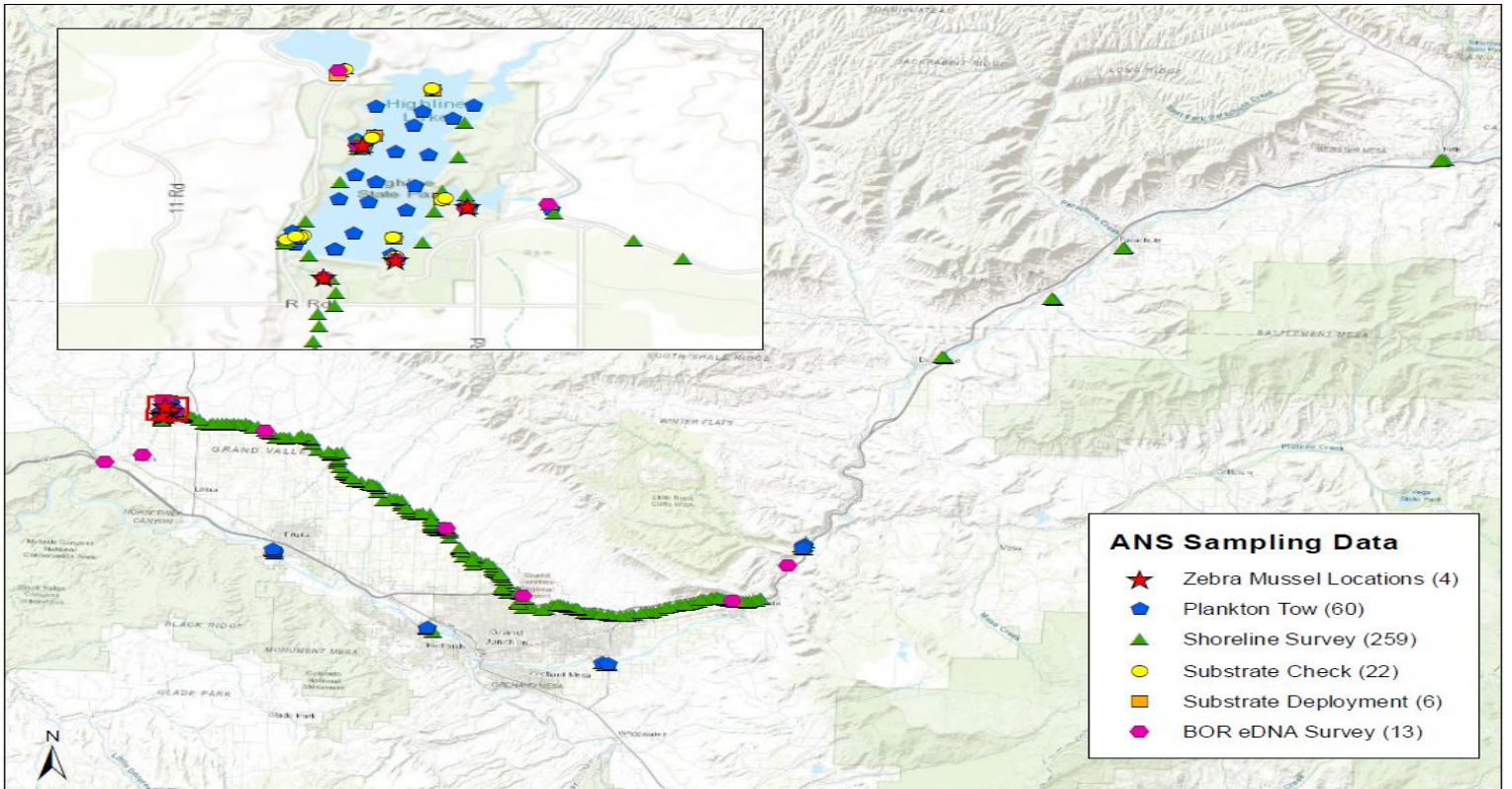
- Risk Dependent
- 1 time per year up to every 3 weeks



Zebra Mussel Eradication Effort at Highline Lake



2022 ANS Sampling Around Highline Lake Post Zebra Mussel Detection

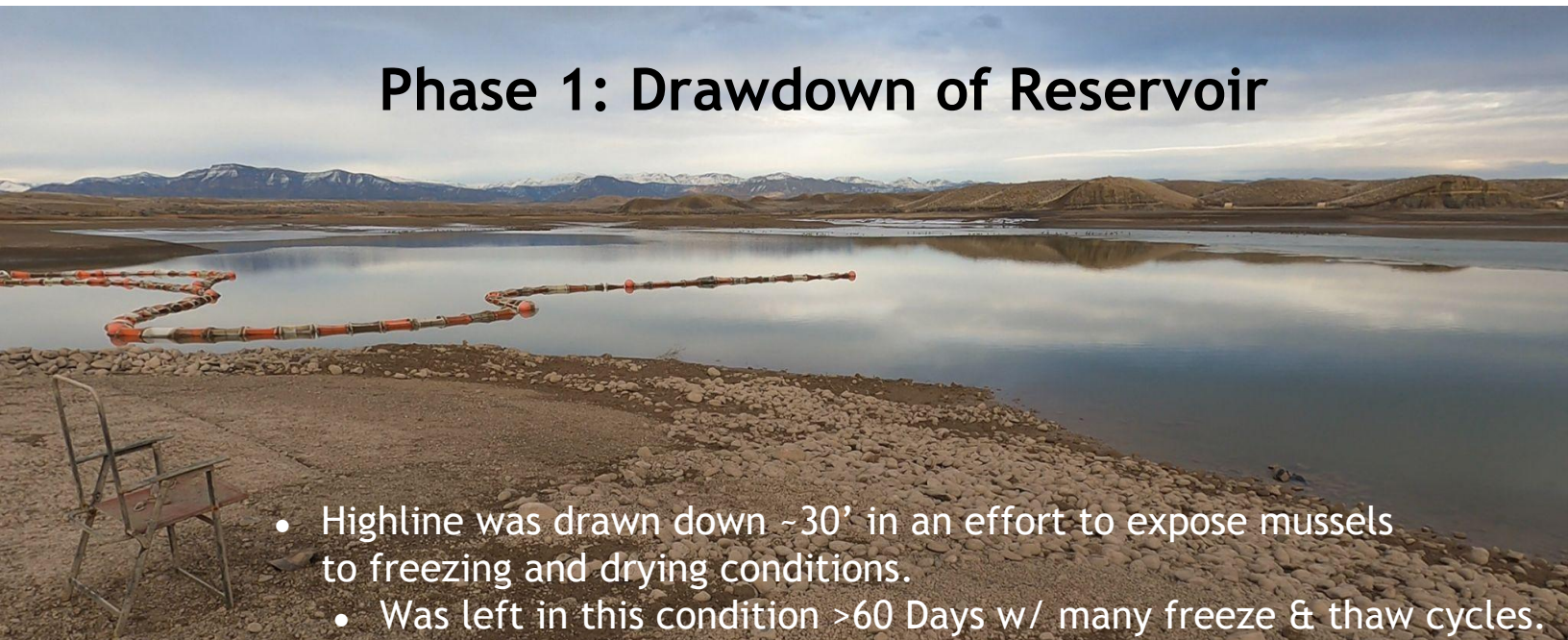


Eradication Effort @ Highline

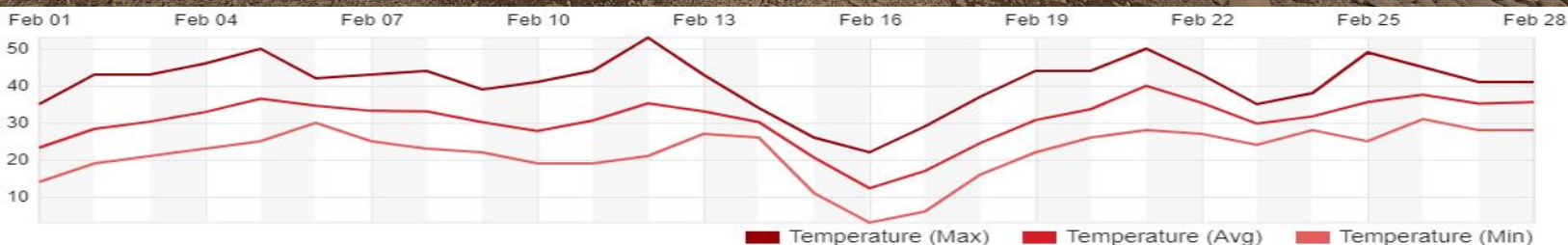
- Highline Lake presents a unique case where eradication may be possible during the time of year that the canal is not running.
 - Small Reservoir Size
 - No Water In or Out November - April
- The goal was to achieve eradication with minimal impacts on non-target species.



Phase 1: Drawdown of Reservoir



- Highline was drawn down ~30' in an effort to expose mussels to freezing and drying conditions.
 - Was left in this condition >60 Days w/ many freeze & thaw cycles.



Eradication Effort @ Highline

- Phase 2 - Application of EarthTec QZ Molluscicide.
 - EarthTec QZ is a copper-based EPA registered molluscicide.
 - 3 Treatments, 2 Weeks Apart.
 - Goal was to maintain toxic concentrations for a minimum of 30 days.
 - Application was performed by CPW Staff.
- This was the first attempt of its kind in Colorado and possibly first ever attempt that has combined a drawdown and pesticide application.



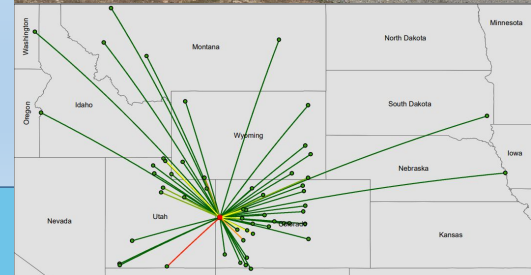
Phase 2: Spring Molluscicide Application

- A 25-person crew applied molluscicide in Highline Lake on March 1, March 15, and March 30
 - 4 jet boats, one raft, and backpack sprayers were used for the application
 - The crew consisted of personnel from NW Aquatics, Area 7, ANS, Highline Lake State Park, NW Region, Aquatic Research, and the Water Section
 - A total of 2,000 gallons of Earthtec QZ was applied

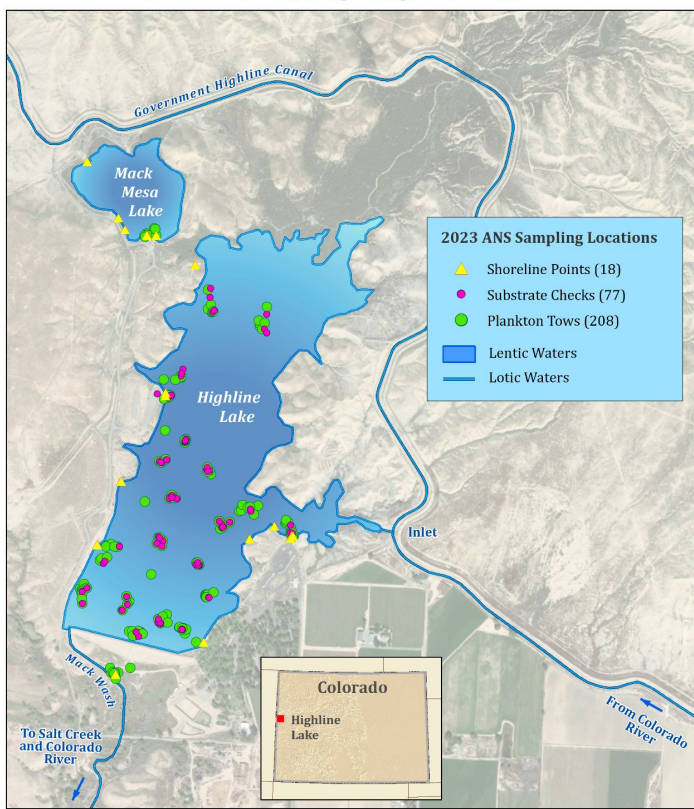


2023 Containment Effort

- Infrastructure Improvements
 - East Boat Ramp Closed To Trailered & Motorized Watercraft
 - Bollards Installed Across the Ramp - \$5,000
 - Temporary Decontamination Capacity Expansion @ West Boat Ramp
 - Off-Grid Portable On-Demand System - \$50,000
 - Concrete Pads For Decontamination - \$20,000
 - Water & Propane Tanks - \$10,000
 - Highline State Park Expansion Beginning In 2024 Will Include Significant ANS Related Upgrades
- Every Boat Leaving Highline in 2023 Has Been Decontaminated.
 - ~2,300 Outgoing Decontaminations To Date
 - Costs Associated With Outgoing Decontaminations
 - Additional Staffing - \$75,000 Annually
 - Water Delivery - \$5,000



2023 ANS Sampling - Highline Lake Area



Map Produced by:
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Invasive Species Program, 9/18/2023

2023 Monitoring Efforts

Water Quality Monitoring

- Water quality was monitored at 9 sites within Highline Lake
 - Temperature, copper, pH, and dissolved oxygen were monitored by ANS staff and the CPW Water Section

Zebra Mussel Monitoring

- Plankton Tows
 - 208 Split & Evaluated via PCR @ Aquatic Animal Health Lab
- Substrate Checks
 - 10 Substrates Checked 77 Times
- Shoreline Surveys
 - 18 Surveys



2023 Mussel Monitoring Findings



- Suspect veliger samples from Highline & Mack Wash via Microscopy in April, June, & July
 - Negative by PCR
- Suspect veliger samples from Highline & Mack Wash via Microscopy in August
 - **Confirmed via PCR on September 22nd**
- October 1st
5 Adult Mussels Found on buoys within the reservoir.
- October 16th
Additional zebra mussels found on work barge, boat docks and shoreline.
- Over 100 adult mussels have been found around the reservoir and one adult was found in Mack Wash in Fall of 2023.
- Additional upstream plankton and eDNA sampling was performed upstream in collaboration with BOR. Negative Results.



Response Plan Following Discovery of Additional Zebra Mussels

- Conducted molluscicide applications on November 3 and November 6
 - Water temperatures were warmer
 - Doubled target concentration to improve effectiveness (8,250 gallons of product applied)
 - Used boat and shore-based application techniques to treat at full pool
 - Extensive collaboration with GVVUA Canal Company and Bureau of Reclamation (Thanks!)
- Reservoir will be drained in 2024
 - Goal is to lower the lake 5 - 10 vertical feet prior to irrigation season beginning in early April
 - The fishery will be lost
 - Closed to boating in 2024 due to lake being down and also to reduce risk



Priority #1 - Education!



Education IS the Most Important Thing

- We can't be on every water body all the time.
- If each sportsperson can clean their boats and gear in between uses, we will stop the spread of ANS.



Appendix B: Bison Stakeholder Engagement Slides



Why are we here?

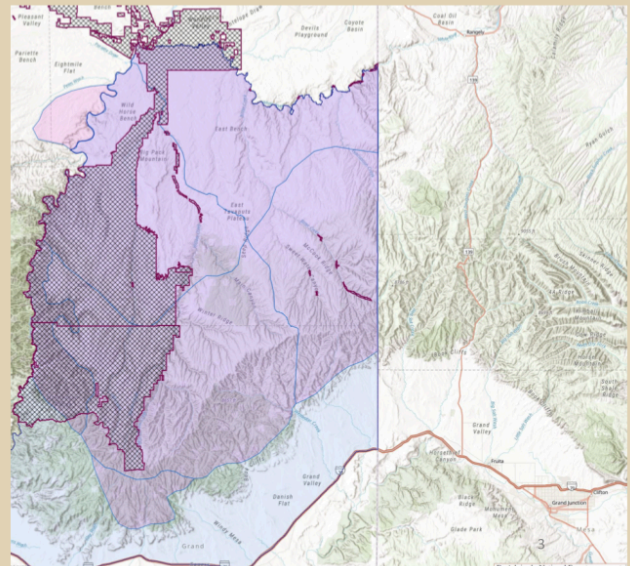
- **Bison moving into Colorado from Utah**
- **August 2021 - Citizen's Petition to reclassify bison as big game was heard and denied by CPW Commission**
 - **Bison are currently only classified as domestic animals/livestock in Colorado**
 - **Several states have bison listed as dual-classification status, classified as both livestock and wildlife**
- **March 2022 - CPW Staff agreed to put together a local outreach effort and working group**

UT/CO Stateline Area Map

Map shows:

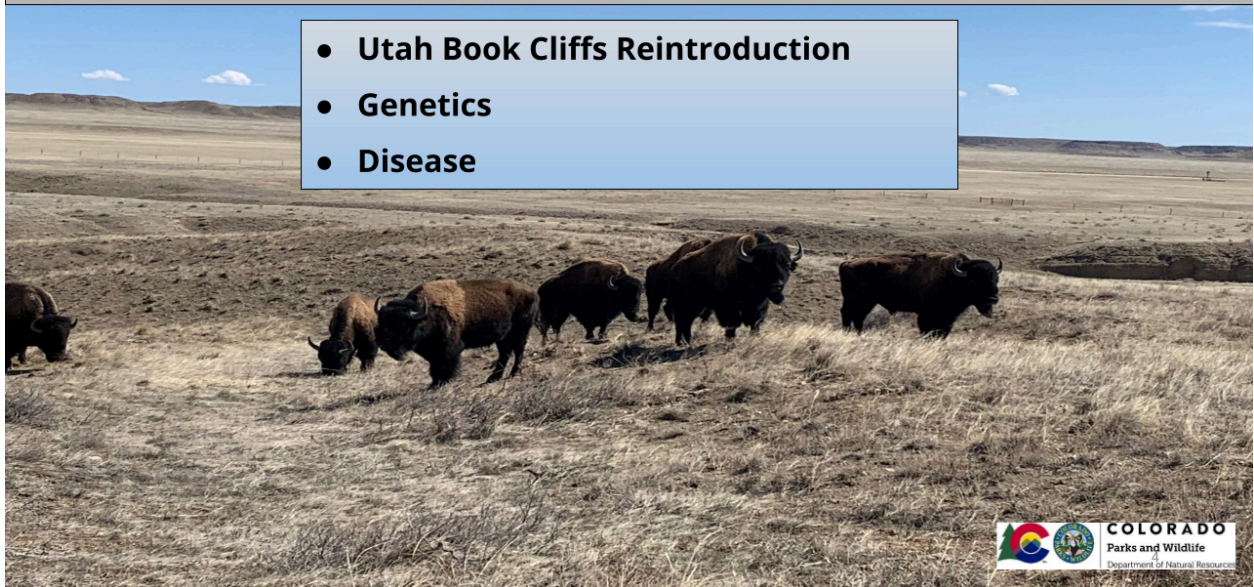
- Bison overall range (purple)
- Uintah and Ouray Tribal lands (crosshatched)
 - The lands between the tribal boundary and state line are largely owned by the State of Utah and BLM

(Courtesy of UTDWR hunt planner tool)



Utah Book Cliffs Bison Herd History

- Utah Book Cliffs Reintroduction
- Genetics
- Disease

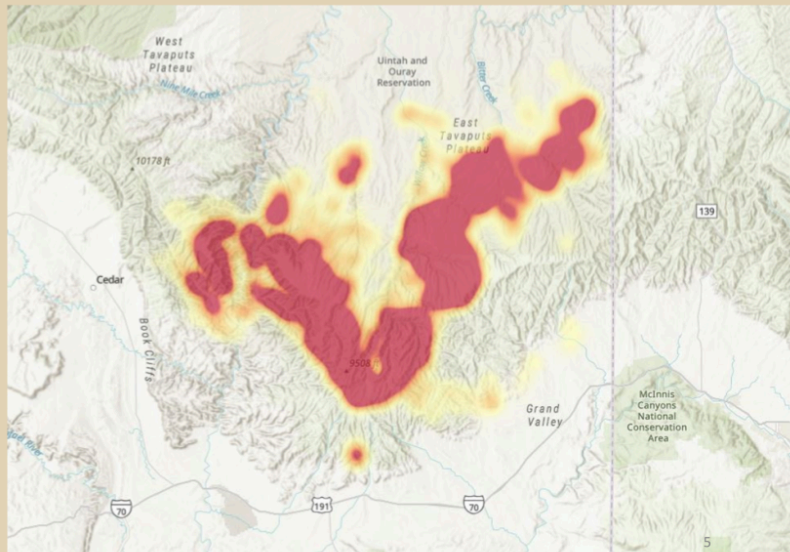


Book Cliffs Bison Habitat Use Map

Map shows:

- High habitat use areas from GPS satellite collared bison on UT side of state line

(Courtesy of UTDWR)



Primary Considerations with Bison Management

- Forage competition
- Range conditions and drought
- Fence damage
- Disease



Northwest Bison Working Group Update

- **August 2023 - CPW Staff hosts first outreach meeting with local stakeholders to explain the effort and identify local representation to serve on a local Northwest Colorado Bison Working Group (BWG)**
- **November 9, 2023 - BWG convened and held 1st meeting**
- **November 27, 2023 - CPW Staff met with Colorado DNR's Tribal Liaison Stacy Coleman.**
- **December 4, 2023 - BWG held 2nd meeting**
- **January 3, 2024 - CPW held local public outreach meeting in Rangely**



BWG Meeting #1

- **GOAL - Determine a recommendation for the active management status of wild free-ranging bison in Colorado through regulatory designations by the CPW Commission**
- **GOAL - Collaborate with CDA regarding joint status management of bison as livestock and wildlife**
- **Goal - Identify most supported bison management designation**



Bison Management Designations - 3 Options:

- **Option #1 - Big Game Designation**
- **Option #2 - Non-game Designation**
- **Option #3 - Status Quo**



BWG Meeting #2

- **Update BWG with any new updates**
 - DNR Tribal Liaison introduced
 - CDA Ag/Wildlife Program Manager introduced
- **Discuss BWG's concerns with recommending a regulatory designation of bison by CPW Commission**
 - Consensus for CPW to hold local public outreach meeting



Local Public Outreach Meeting:

- **Presentation about history and where we are now**
- **Management designation alternatives**
- **Addressed questions and listened to comments**
- **Stakeholder concerns:**
 - Forage conflict with livestock, deer, and elk
 - Public allotments and on private lands
 - Poor habitat condition
 - Prolonged drought, wild horses, severe winter 2022/23
 - Competition for water



Local stakeholder concerns continued:

- Disease transmission
- Fence damage and ability to fence bison out
- Genetics - hybridization with domestic cattle
- Private land rights
- Concern for outside influences affecting local community
- What would population objective be if managed as big game?
- What research has been done about bison impacts on landscape?
- Economic and social impact studies



Wolverine Restoration



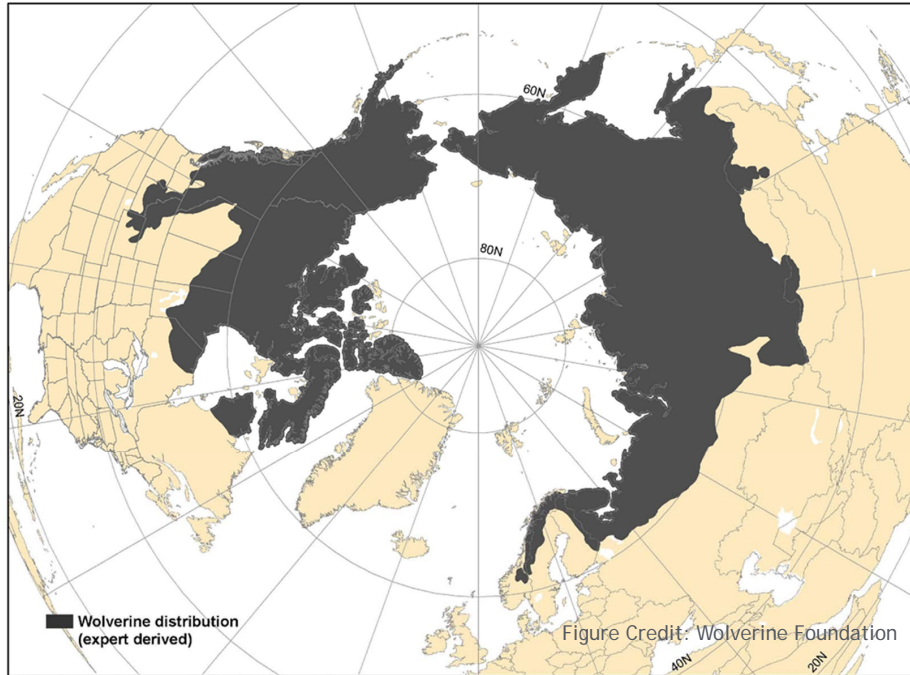
Wolverine Biology



- World's largest terrestrial weasel (15-40lbs)
- Solitary, large territory (20X bobcats & coyotes) (8X lynx)



Wolverine Biology



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

13

Wolverine Biology

- Well-adapted to cold, snowy environments
 - Food Storage
 - Denning



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

14

Wolverine Biology

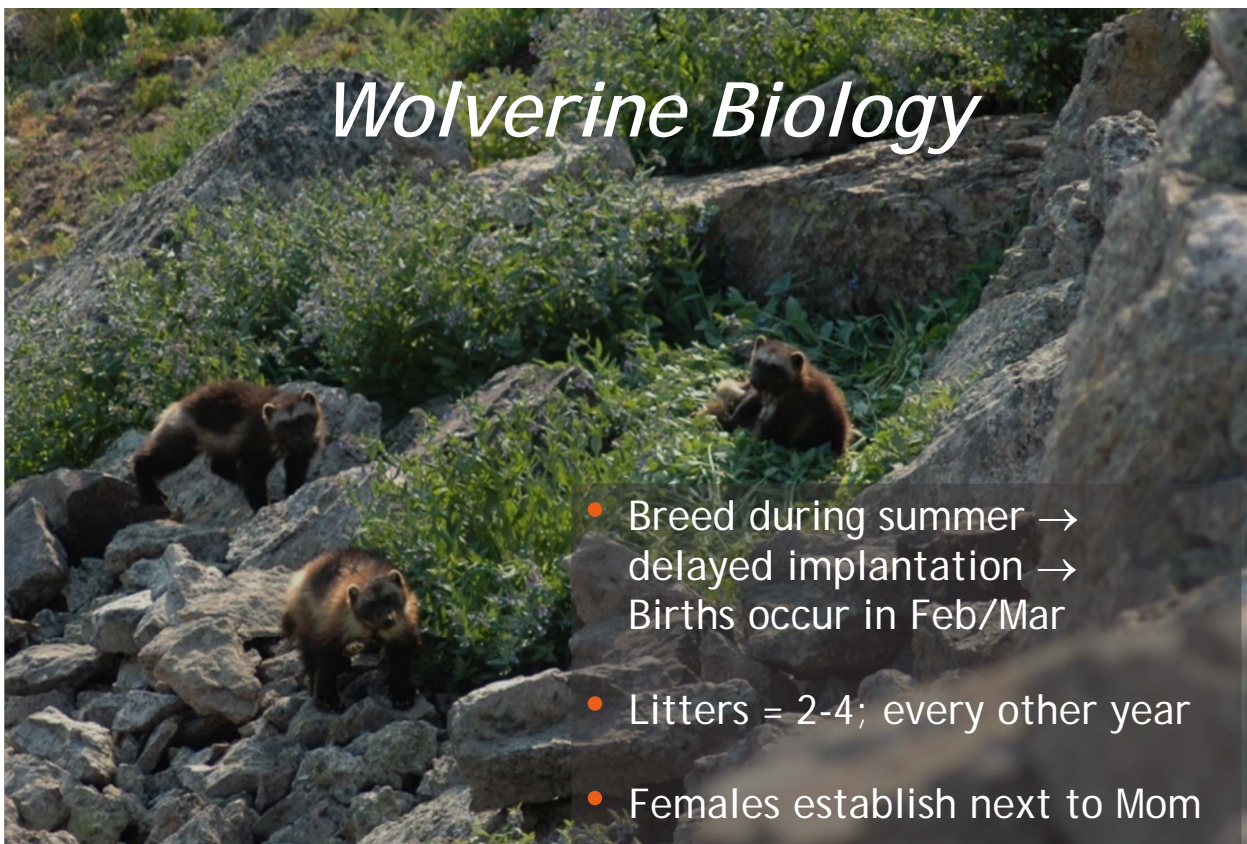


Photo Credit: National Geographic | Photo Credit: Canadian Geographic





LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

15



- Breed during summer → delayed implantation → Births occur in Feb/Mar
- Litters = 2-4; every other year
- Females establish next to Mom



LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

16

Wolverines Are NOT Wolves



- Weasel (bear-like, solitary)
- <40lbs
- Inhabits alpine & high elevation forest
- Feeds on carrion, small mammals, rarely livestock
- 300-400 in lower 48



- Canid (dog-like, packs)
- Up to 145lbs
- Inhabits mountains, deserts, grasslands
- Feeds on ungulates, sometimes livestock
- Over 7000 in lower 48

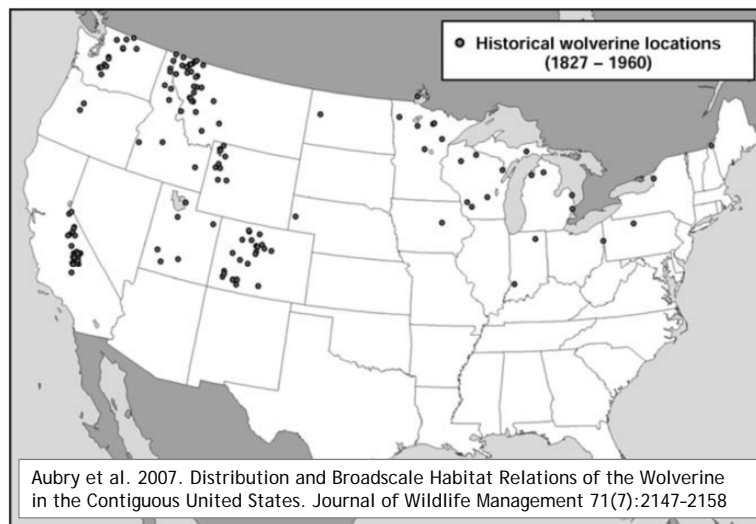


LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

17

History in Colorado

- This species occurred historically in Colorado



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

18

History in Colorado

- This species occurred historically in Colorado
- Extirpated ~1919 (unregulated trapping + predator poisoning)
- State Endangered (1973)

Aubry et al. 2007. Journal of Wildlife Management 71(7):2147-2158



19

History in Colorado

- This species occurred historically in Colorado
- Extirpated ~1919 (unregulated trapping + predator poisoning)
- State Endangered (1973)
- 12 surveys (1979-1996)
 - No confirmed presence

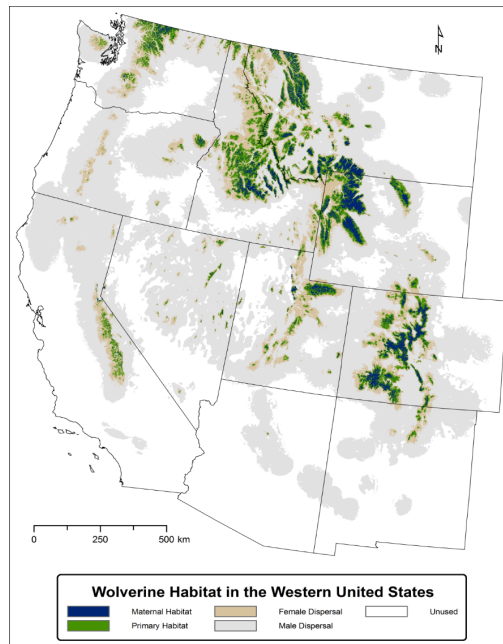
Aubry et al. 2007. Journal of Wildlife Management 71(7):2147-2158



20

Modeled Wolverine Habitat

- Colorado = largest remaining block of unoccupied habitat
- ~20% of estimated capacity of the western U.S.
- Isolated from other blocks of occupied habitat



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

21

How Many in Colorado?



140 (Range = 100 to 180)

Credit: William Wood



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

22

Benefits of Wolverines in CO



- Restore a native species to its historical range
- Increase wolverine population size in the lower 48, potentially by 20% or more
 - Improve Redundancy, Resilience, Representation
 - Improve genetic diversity in lower 48
- Establish a population in a potential climate refugium
 - Colorado high country is projected to weather climate change better than other parts of current range



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

23

Questions?



Photo courtesy Ray Rafiti ©



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

24

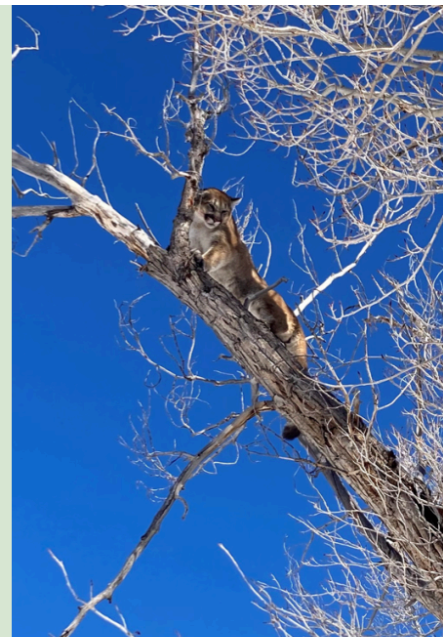
East Slope Mountain Lion Planning

Public Meetings
March 2024



Overview

- 1) Lion Biology & Management
- 2) Lion Management Plans
- 3) Why Update Our Current Plans
- 4) Proposed East Slope Plan Objectives
- 5) Proposed Timeline



Mountain Lion Biology



Why Lion Management is Challenging?



Lion Management in Colorado

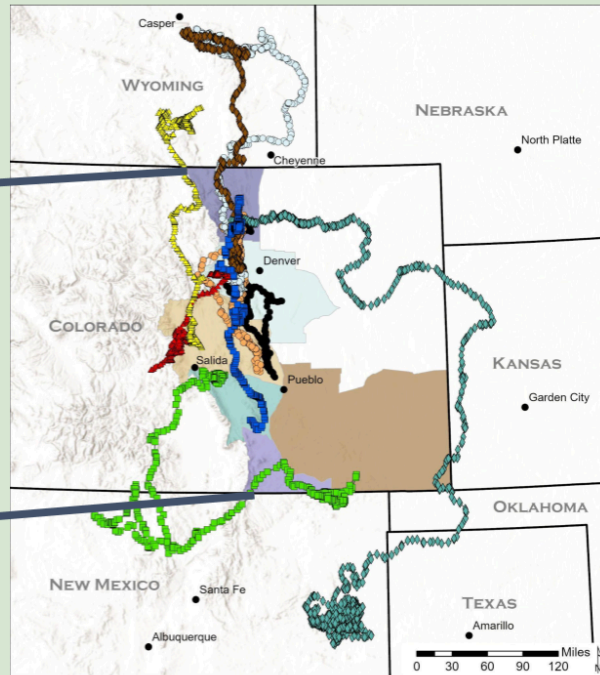
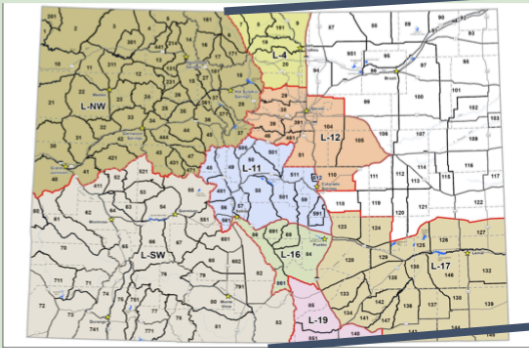


What goes into a Lion Management Plan?

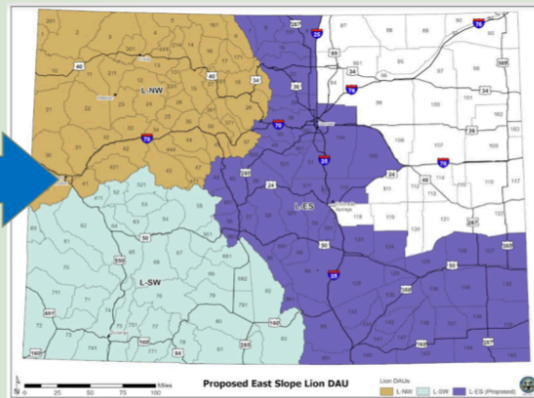
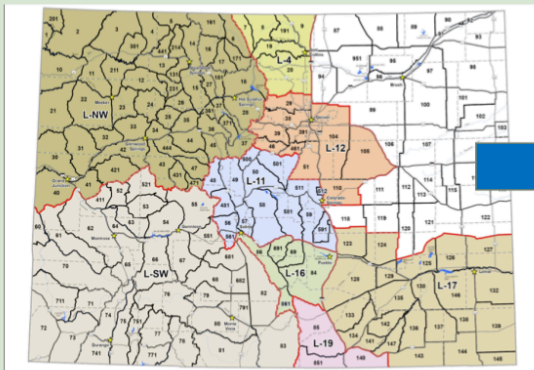
- Outlines Strategic Goal
- Outlines Management Challenges
- Best Available Science
- Public Process
- Approved by Commission



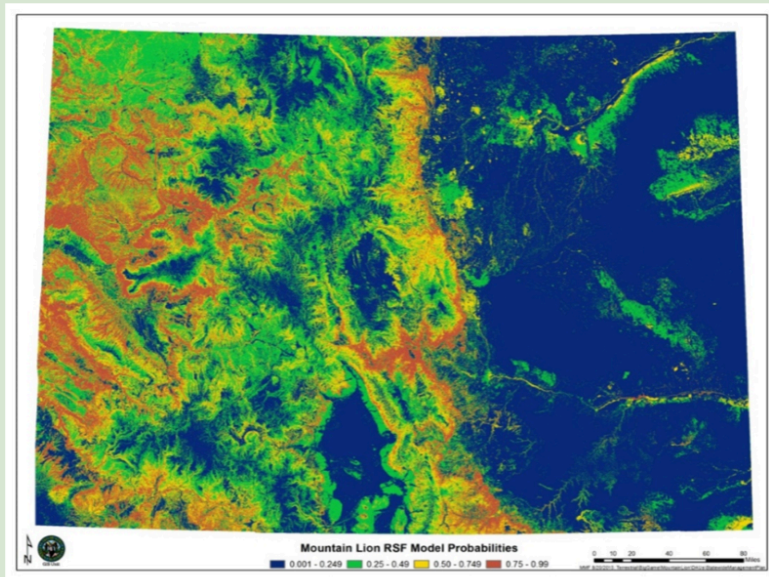
Why Update Plans?



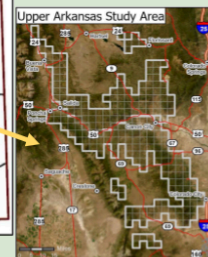
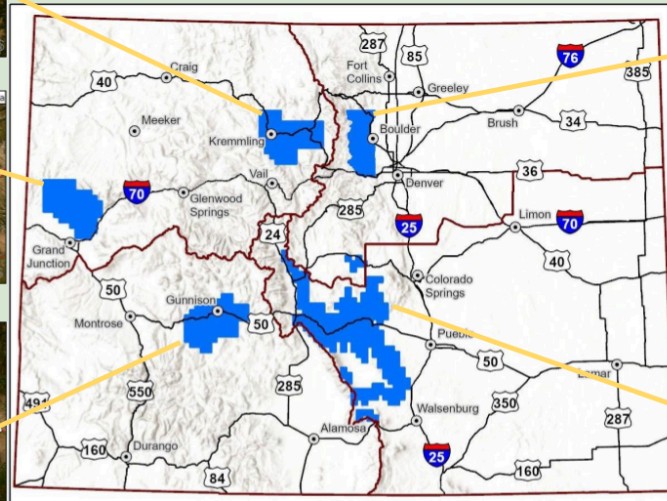
East Slope Lion Management Plan



Mountain Lion Habitat Use Map

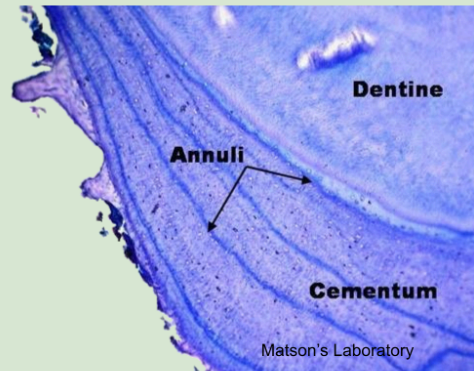


Study Areas with Density Estimates



Biological Data - Lion Mortalities

- Source of Mortality
- Location
- Lion Gender
- Tooth for Aging



East Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan

- Update plan with 20 years of research & science
- Proposed Strategy
 - Stable Management
- Two independent metrics
 - Total Human Caused Mortality
 - Adult Females in Harvest



Proposed Timeline

EngageCPW.org

- March-April 2024
 - Write Draft Plan
- May 2024
 - Draft Plan on CPW's website
 - 30-day Public Comment Period
- Late Summer-Early Fall 2024
 - Present Draft & Final Plan to Parks and Wildlife Commission



Appendix E: Big Game Season Structure Slides




2025-2029 BGSS Preliminary Alternatives and Recommendations

Sportspersons' Roundtable

March 2, 2024



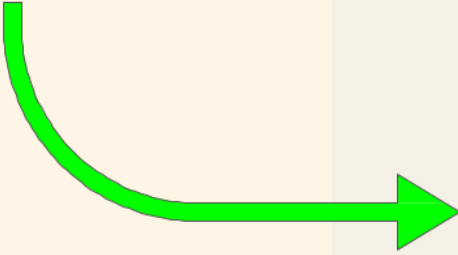


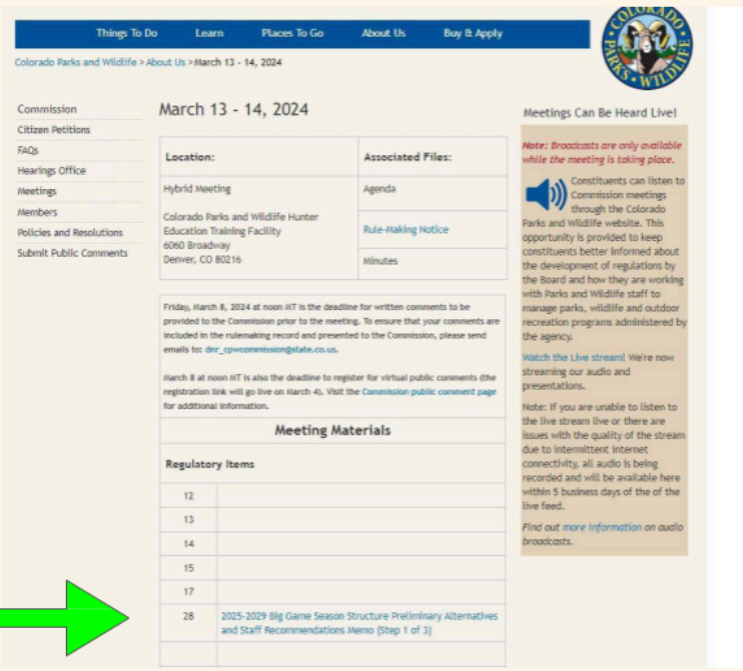


BGSS Memo Location:
CPW Commission Website

March Meeting

Regulatory Items

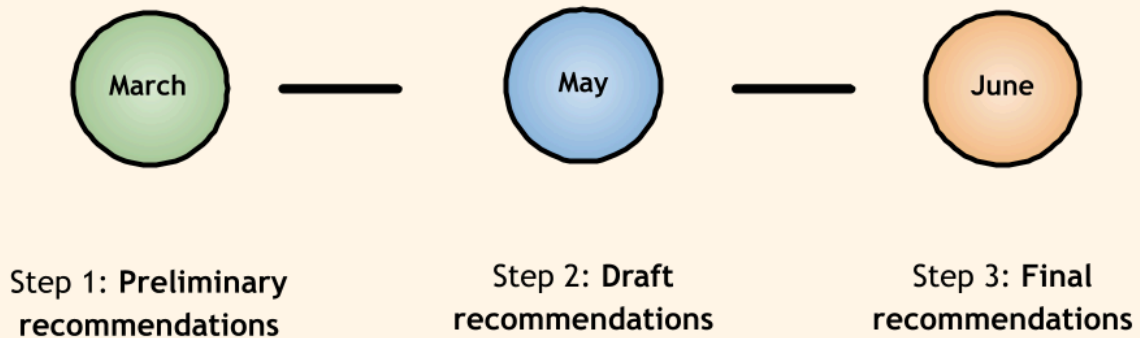




Meeting Materials

Regulatory Items	
12	
13	
14	
15	
17	
28	2025-2029 Big Game Season Structure Preliminary Alternatives and Staff Recommendations Memo (Step 1 of 3)

Three-Step Approval Process in 2024



BGSS Preliminary Recommendations - **The Quick Ones**

Administrative Topics:

Optional late cow moose season (MF*L1R hunt code)** that is additional to the regular moose rifle season

PLO rifle bear licenses are not required to be unlimited OTC for every population/DAU (managers could still choose an unlimited PLO OTC strategy).

BGSS Cycle Length to stay at 5 years



BGSS Preliminary Recommendations - The Quick Ones

Optional New Seasons:

Limited deer hunting during the first rifle season when necessary to meet biological objectives and/or social management objectives.

Second 9-day rifle pronghorn season starting the third Saturday in October when necessary to meet biological objectives and/or social management objectives.

* Optional additional seasons are determined on a herd-by-herd basis (DAUs), must pass through regulation approval process with Commission.



Early Seasons

Recommendation: Status Quo + optional additional stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season.

- Status Quo was the outcome of 2020-2024 BGSS process.
- Some concern over safety issues, but most hunters are content with Status Quo.
- Limited deer season could alleviate some hunter pressure in September and create what would likely be a highly-desirable opportunity.

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Optional Archery	Optional Archery
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery	Optional Archery
31						
Optional Archery						

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
	Optional Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery
28	29	30				
Regular Archery	Regular Archery	Regular Archery				



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Optional Archery	2 Regular Archery	3 Regular Archery	4 Regular Archery	5 Regular Archery	6 Regular Archery
7 Regular Archery	8 Regular Archery	9 Regular Archery	10 Regular Archery	11 Regular Archery	12 Regular Archery	13 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader
14 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader	15 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader	16 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader	17 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader	18 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader	19 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader	20 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader
21 Regular Archery + Muzzleloader	22 Regular Archery	23 Regular Archery	24 Regular Archery	25 Regular Archery	26 Regular Archery	27 Regular Archery
28 Regular Archery	29 Regular Archery	30 Regular Archery				

Regular Rifle Seasons

Recommendation: Revert to the previous (2015-2019) season structure, 5-9-9-5, opening on the first Saturday after Oct. 9.

- Split public support between current and previous BGSS.
- Previous BGSS is more congruent with the current population management goals for elk and mule deer.
- Helps to address access concerns.
- Removes overlap with Thanksgiving holiday.

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 1st Season
12 1st Season	13 1st Season	14 1st Season	15 1st Season	16	17	18 2nd Season
19 2nd Season	20 2nd Season	21 2nd Season	22 2nd Season	23 2nd Season	24 2nd Season	25 2nd Season
26 2nd Season	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 3rd Season
2 3rd Season	3 3rd Season	4 3rd Season	5 3rd Season	6 3rd Season	7 3rd Season	8 3rd Season
9 3rd Season	10	11	12 4th Season	13 4th Season	14 4th Season	15 4th Season
16 4th Season	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	<i>1st Season</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	<i>2nd Season</i>
<i>1st Season</i>	<i>1st Season</i>	<i>1st Season</i>	<i>1st Season</i>				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	<i>2nd Season</i>
<i>2nd Season</i>	<i>2nd Season</i>	<i>2nd Season</i>	<i>2nd Season</i>	<i>2nd Season</i>	<i>2nd Season</i>	<i>2nd Season</i>	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
<i>2nd Season</i>							

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	<i>3rd Season</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<i>3rd Season</i>
<i>3rd Season</i>	<i>3rd Season</i>	<i>3rd Season</i>	<i>3rd Season</i>	<i>3rd Season</i>	<i>3rd Season</i>	<i>3rd Season</i>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	<i>4th Season</i>
<i>3rd Season</i>			<i>4th Season</i>	<i>4th Season</i>	<i>4th Season</i>	<i>4th Season</i>	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	<i>4th Season</i>
<i>4th Season</i>							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

Limitation of Over-the-Counter Elk Licenses



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OUTSIDE

Over-the-Counter Archery Elk

Alternative 1 (Staff Preferred Alternative) <i>Alternative A6 in the OTC survey.</i>	Limit all resident and nonresident archery licenses - limited licenses available through the draw by management area (DAU or GMU).
Alternative 2 <i>Alternative A5 in the OTC survey.</i>	Limit nonresident archery licenses - limited licenses available through the draw by management area (DAU or GMU); status quo OTC for residents.
Status Quo <i>Alternative A1 in the OTC survey.</i>	No change.



Over-the-Counter Rifle Elk

Status Quo (Staff Preferred Alternative) <i>Alternative R1 in the OTC survey.</i>	No change.
Alternative 1 <i>Alternative R5 in the OTC survey.</i>	Limit nonresident rifle licenses - limited licenses available through the draw by management area (DAU or GMU); status quo OTC for residents.
Alternative 2 <i>Alternative A6 in the OTC survey + phased limitation</i>	Phased limitation of all resident and nonresident rifle licenses - limited licenses available through the draw by management area (DAU or GMU).



Draw Process Working Group Update

March 2, 2024 Sportsperson's Roundtable



Draw Process Working Group Topics

The topics to be covered during the Draw Process Working Group work sessions include:

1. Primary Draw/Draw Methods
2. Preference Points
3. Weighted Draw and Weighted Preference Points
4. Reissue Process



Draw Process Working Group Vision Statement

The Draw Working Group will:

1. simplify the draw process to be more readily understood by most hunters;
2. enable reasonable and transparent opportunities for current and future hunters to draw limited and highly-desirable licenses; and
3. continue to maintain a focus on wildlife conservation and sustainability.



Draw Process Working Group Members

Public Members:

- Austin Atkinson- NR
- Doug Ouren- R
- Jennifer Burbey- Outfitter
- John Legnard - R
- Peter Sardaczuk - R
- Steve Znamenacek- R
- Terry Meyers -S&G
- Zach Weller- R

Staff and Commissioners:

- Gabriel Otero
- Gary Skiba
- Marie Haskett

- Andy Holland
- John Frano
- Johnathan Lambert
- Lauren Berry
- Nolan Tappenden
- Danielle Isenhardt (non-voting)
- Amanda Biedermann (non-voting)



Meeting Schedule/Topics

October 2023: Draw Process Working Group kickoff meeting - **Complete**

January 2024: Work Session #1, **Primary Draw Methods** - January 31- **Complete**

February 2024: Work Session #2, **Preference Points** - February 7- **Complete**

March 2024: Commission Meeting Workshops #1 and #2 - **March 13 or 14th**

April 2024: Work Session #3, **Weighted Draw/Weighted Points** - April 4th

May 2024: Commission Meeting Workshop #3 - **Date TBD**

May 2024: Work Session #4, **Reissue Process** - May 29th

July 2024: Commission Meeting Workshop #4 - **Date TBD**

All meetings will be live streamed/recorded on CPW's YouTube Channel



Primary Draw and Preference Points Memo

Primary Draw:

- Describes recommendations on how to modify the existing primary draw methodology
- Outlines license allocation recommendations
- Includes group discussion on youth preference and the secondary draw

Preference Points:

- Describes proposed changes to how preference points are used
- Considers point banking and point averaging
- Details other preference point topics

Draw Season Structure

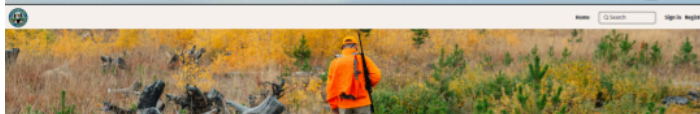


Next Steps

- **March Commission Meeting:** primary draw methods and preference points presentation
- Additional meetings on remaining topics (**April - July**)
- DWG is proposing **recommendations**; Commission may or not support
- Changes will **NOT be effective for the 2025 draws**



Public Engagement



Draw Process Working Group

At the May 2023 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting, the Commission requested Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff to form a Draw Process Working Group. The purpose of the Draw Process Working Group is to analyze the agency's current hunting draw rules and processes in order to identify ways to reduce complexity and find new solutions/alternatives to the current preference point and other draw-related issues. The Draw Process Working Group will also focus on addressing the biological and sociological concerns related to Colorado's limited season draw.

The Draw Process Working Group, representing a broad range of interests in hunting management and game conservation, will be composed of:

1. Provide input on the current draw rules and processes.
2. Identify ways to reduce complexity in the current system.
3. Formulate potential solutions and alternatives to address issues with the current system.

All Draw Process Working Group meetings will be broadcasted on the CPW YouTube Channel. For more information on these meetings, contact the web administrator at web@cpw.state.co.us.

**Check out our FAQs page on the right-hand side of this page for more information and updates.*

User Projects

Draw Process Working Group Meetings

FAQs - Read

How does the Draw Process Working Group work?

How can I be involved?

What is the schedule for the Draw Process Working Group meetings?

Guestbook

Share Your Thoughts with the Draw Process Working Group!

Share your ideas and comments concerning CPW's draw process with the Draw Process Working Group members and see what others are saying. (All comments are public and subject to review.)

Note: For all BGSS and OTC related feedback, please direct all comments to the [BGSS EngageCPW page](#).

