

## **Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable**

Saturday, July 22nd, 2023

10:30am - 4:15pm

Breckenridge

### **Meeting Summary**

The Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable met in Breckenridge on July 22nd, 2023. Twenty Roundtable members, sixteen CPW staff, the Executive Director for the Department of Natural Resources, and the Director for Colorado Parks and Wildlife participated in this meeting. This document summarizes the group's discussion.

#### **DNR Executive Director's Welcome**

Dan Gibbs, the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), began with a brief overview of recent events at CPW. The DNR is in the process of filling multiple positions across the department, and recently submitted budget proposals for the coming fiscal year. The Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) met in Gunnison the previous week and welcomed its new commissioners.

One Roundtable member asked the Executive Director about the direction of wildlife management in Colorado. The state is balancing outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation in response to the high traffic Colorado's natural areas are seeing. It is DNR's goal to bring both sportspeople and non-consumptive outdoor recreationalists into the conversation, and to promote collaboration in wildlife management.

The Executive Director discussed the new Commissioners on the PWC, and encouraged members to engage with them. The Executive Director is confident in the newly appointed Commissioners' ability to represent the sportspeople of Colorado. The new commissioners will need to be approved by the state senate, and the Executive Director encouraged members to reach out to the new Commissioners to learn more about their qualifications. Although the date for the state senate hearing has not yet been set, it will occur in the next legislative session (January-May, 2024).

#### **CPW Director's Welcome**

The new Director for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Jeff Davis, introduced himself to the group. He has been in his position for four months, and is excited to continue growing into his role.

Director Davis recently attended the Pathways Conference in Fort Collins, which was an excellent opportunity to engage with human dimensions of wildlife experts from around the world. He feels it is important to bring all voices and values into the conversation on wildlife management, including sportspeople, who he acknowledged are critical partners for CPW.

One member asked about non-consumptive recreationalists and wildlife management. Director Davis expressed his belief that hearing from multiple perspectives is valuable, and that new voices can be heard without relegating traditional wildlife user groups.

One member asked about Director Davis' experience hunting and fishing. The Director described his background in hunting and fishing from an early age as well as his bowhunting experience. As a lifelong fisherman and hunter, the Director acknowledged the sentiments of some members and the importance of ongoing collaboration between sportspeople and CPW.

### **Member Departures and New Member Applications**

Three Roundtable members are finishing their terms: Brian Braaten; Steve Schake; and Mark Scofield. The three departing members were recognized for their four years on the roundtable.

The application period for new members will open soon. The Roundtable will have openings for two representatives from the southeast region and one for the northwest region. Loren Williams will represent the northwest region for a second two-year term.

Any member finishing a term on the Roundtable is encouraged to keep attending regional caucus meetings. CPW will send out more information on the application for the three open seats, and members are encouraged to refer potential applicants.

### **Wolf Reintroduction Update**

Reid DeWalt gave an update on wolf reintroduction in Colorado. The finalized Wolf Restoration and Management Plan was approved by the PWC in May. CPW is working with other states to identify where the source wolves will originate from. To promote genetic diversity in wolves, it would be beneficial to import wolves from multiple sources, which may take time. Colorado does not want wolves with any medical or behavioral issues, and will examine all potential wolves accordingly.

CPW is also investigating potential release sites around Colorado, with a focus on the suitable northern areas identified by the plan. The first release will take place in December, 2023.

A license plate bill was recently passed which will help fund preventative measures for livestock producers.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposed rule and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for gray wolf reintroduction and management in Colorado. The finalized EIS will be released sometime in August. Additionally, Colorado is in ongoing talks with Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona, to ensure that the Mexican wolf population will not be impacted by the reintroduction of gray wolves.

In response to questions about the impact on big game from wolves, CPW staff discussed using new research to better understand elk cow/calf survival and overall herd population trends. This additional research, which was made possible in large part due to the Future Generations Act, will help to properly manage adjacent ungulate and wolf populations.

One member asked about the fourth phase initially included in the draft wolf plan, which outlined the possibility of gray wolves being managed as a game species after population targets are met and staff confirmed that such language was removed from the final plan approved by the Commission.

### **Big Game Season Structure**

CPW gathered public comments concerning the 2025-2029 Big Game Season Structure (BGSS), both through in-person meetings and via Engage CPW. 642 participants provided feedback throughout the engagement period. The main topics being discussed are possible over-the-counter (OTC) elk license limitation, season dates and timing for regular rifle and early seasons, and potential additional season opportunities for deer and pronghorn.

During the Roundtable meeting, members were asked to complete the same polling questions as public meeting participants. Please see **Appendix 2 and 3** for the results of the feedback. Results from Roundtable members were then compared against the results received from public meetings and through Engage CPW to aid discussion among Roundtable members. A complete summary of public involvement, including public meeting results, will be available online in advance of the August PWC meeting. The summary of BGSS public involvement will also include a short summary of the feedback received from the Roundtable.

One member asked about the frequency of nonresident responses in the survey results. In an earlier stage of the BGSS process, the Big Game Attitude Survey, the population sample was representative of the hunting community and therefore included many nonresidents. For later comment forms, including the most recent public meeting polling questions, CPW encourages any hunter to respond regardless of residency. However, the public meeting polling data was skewed towards residents as most responses were captured at in-person meetings around Colorado.

A member also suggested that respondents may be answering questions about topics for which they have little experience; for example, a rifle hunter answering questions concerning early season dates.

Several members noted the low level of public participation shown in this round of BGSS public involvement, and expressed disappointment in the turnout from the Sportsperson's community. CPW's communications team and regional staff used several methods to advertise the public meetings and polling, including news releases, contacting stakeholder groups, and engaging regional public information officers to push information through their local networks. Additionally, multiple public meetings were held in each region as well as two

virtual meeting options to accommodate those who could not attend in person. Roundtable members were encouraged to reach out to their networks to encourage higher participation from their community at future meetings. Members and CPW staff discussed how the hunting community could be fatigued with recent big game public engagement. It is possible that hunters are “burned out” from providing feedback through recent BGSS, license allocation, and preference point discussions.

Roundtable members made several suggestions concerning elk OTC licenses. Suggestions included capping OTC licenses by DAU or GMU, basing any license caps on historic data of resident/nonresident hunting numbers, and setting some OTC licenses aside for private land only. The Colorado Bowhunters Association recently put out a survey concerning OTC and other archery related questions (**Appendix 4**).

Roundtable members had a mixed level of support for the current BGSS rifle dates. About half expressed their satisfaction with the current structure, while others expressed their desire for some change in dates.

Members were more generally supportive of the current early season dates. The overlap between muzzleloader and archery season has been brought into question by members of the public, and one Roundtable member suggested shortening muzzleloader from nine days to seven. Another member suggested moving muzzleloader to the first rifle season, while removing the current restrictions on muzzleloader equipment. Modern muzzleloader gear allows for more accurate shots at greater distances.

Roundtable members were very supportive of the second pronghorn season proposal for late October, with some members from the northeast and southeast regions indicating that their local hunting communities were highly supportive due to crowding during first pronghorn season, particularly on opening day.

Regarding the potential addition of deer hunting opportunities to the first rifle season, members had mixed opinions, but were generally more supportive of the idea than public meeting attendees. One member commented that hearing from CPW biologists about the optional nature of the proposal, which would only be implemented in those units where it would help to reach deer herd objectives, made them more supportive.

### **Draw Working Group**

Danielle Isenhardt gave a presentation on a new CPW big game draw working group that will aim to improve and streamline the draw and preference point process.

The working group was approved by the PWC at their July meeting. It will be composed of eight members of the public, and applications will open sometime in August. Membership will be finalized by October. Three commissioners – Marie Haskett, Gabriel Otero, and Gary Skiba – will also participate. The group will meet for five required full-day meetings, beginning in

November, and will attend a number of PWC workshops. The group will identify three to four major discussion topics, which will not include BGSS-related topics such as OTC. Weighted points will possibly be one of the major discussion topics. Changes decided by the group will be reviewed by the PWC for possible implementation by 2025.

More information will be available through CPW's website, and the working group's meetings will be publicly noticed and open to the public.

Many roundtable members suggested that the weighted point draw for moose, sheep, and goat should become more equitable, as high-point holders often do not draw despite spending significant resources to raise their chances. Soon, many of these hunters will age out and lose their opportunity. Although weighted points mathematically improve a hunter's chances, the large influx of new hunters in lower point tiers have been taking many of the high demand tags.

The working group will look at ways of possibly resolving some concerns related to the difficulty of drawing some high demand licenses. One option mentioned would be to limit applicants to choose one of the "big three" – moose, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep – to apply for per year, which could reduce application numbers. It is unlikely that CPW will return to requiring a license fee up-front. The up-front fee presented a barrier to participation, and also created unsustainable costs for CPW in issuing refunds.

### **Big Game Calendar**

Matthew Eckert and Brian Dreher presented on the Big Game Calendar that CPW uses for setting annual license numbers (**Appendix 5**).

The annual big game license setting timeline begins in winter when hunting seasons are still ongoing. The harvest survey is sent out to 80,000 hunters at the end of the season. By March and April, CPW biologists are receiving and processing data to begin population modeling on which to base next year's license quotas. In mid-April, a sneak peek is made publicly available and in early May, big game draft quotas are presented to the PWC for public input and finalization. In short, it is a quick timeline, with little room to release quotas earlier in the year.

CPW would like to give hunters as much notice as possible to plan their hunts. However, due to the compressed timeline, the current system provides the most notice that biologists and managers can give. License numbers cannot be drafted until May. Mandatory reporting would push the timeline later and CPW data analysts must work with the data before sending it to the biology team. The process is mainly slowed by the timing of late season data.

Currently, 80% of hunters respond to the harvest survey. Moving to a mandatory survey would not improve CPW's data – for example, New Mexico receives an 85% response rate, but then must try to assess non-responses.

## **Spawning Closures**

Josh Nehring, CPW's Assistant Aquatic Section Manager gave a presentation on spawning closures in Colorado (**Appendix 6**).

Closures are determined by aquatic biologists at the area field level. Factors for these decisions include the natural recruitment that fisheries depend on, the angling pressure during and after spawning, and if the needs of fisheries have changed over time. However, changes to closures are rare. A new closure is added every five to ten years.

Regulation and enforcement of closures is generally successful. Peer pressure from the angler community assists in ensuring that rivers remain free from angling, although one Roundtable member added that increased signage would be beneficial. Another member added that Colorado has temperature-related fishing closures, and increased education would be beneficial to ensure anglers are aware of the times and areas that closures occur.

Biologists sample each river every two to three years. Larger systems are sampled every year. CPW tries not to limit angling opportunities, unless there are population drops or other issues shown by biologists' data collection. In that case, aquatic biologists will create an issue paper to be submitted to the PWC and reviewed by the public.

One member commented that angling has increased over the past few years, and requested more enforcement to ensure that new anglers are not exceeding size or bag limits. Another member asked about the high number of spawning closures in Montana. This is not a result of migrations or different species – Colorado relies more heavily on its natural spawning resources, rather than the artificial spawns that Montana prefers.

## **Regional Caucus Reports**

Regional caucus delegates each gave a report on their regional meetings and the topics discussed.

### *Southeast Region*

About fifteen members of the public attended the southeast regional meeting. The meeting began with a brief introduction from both Director Davis and Deputy Director Heather Disney Dugan. This was followed by a terrestrial update and caucus members discussed BGSS issues. The meeting continued with an aquatics update before the floor was opened for discussion from the public. Topics discussed included preference points and the five-year BGSS cycle.

The southeast region has been holding outreach events, including a CPW fishing derby that took place in Colorado Springs. On the 11th and 12th of August, there will be a film showing, followed by a fundraising dinner.

### *Northwest Region*

The northwest region strongly advertised their meeting and had good attendance. CPW presented terrestrial and aquatics updates including proposed changes for Lake Dillon fishing regulations. Attendees discussed resident allocation and the number of resident hunters in Colorado. Northwest caucus delegates recommended that Colorado resident hunters not exclude nonresidents from the conversation while also encouraging higher resident hunter numbers.

### *Northeast Region*

The Northeast region has been using e-news to keep their members up-to-date and the Northeast delegates recommended that other regions adopt this method. At their caucus meeting, Rocky Mountain National Park sent a representative to deliver a presentation on elk management in the park. There was also a presentation on angling and fisheries in northeast Colorado. In addition, members discussed turkey populations, the BGSS cycle, and resident/nonresident license allocation.

Delegates noted that mostly males were in attendance at the meeting, and emphasized the need to keep involvement equitable between genders.

### *Southwest Region*

The southwest region discussed many of the same BGSS topics as were discussed at the Roundtable meeting. CPW regional staff Jamin Grigg and Brandon Diamond both gave presentations, which included discussion on the Grand Mesa and leftover license tags from that area. Members also discussed fossil fuels, urban development, and their impacts on wildlife and habitat.

Members also discussed the secondary draw. There is a percentage of hunters who no longer wish to participate in this draw, due to the youth priority rules (youths receive 100% preference on all four choices). Members suggested that youth receive preference on their first two choices, rather than all four, or perhaps the draw working group could look at the issue. Members also discussed Gold Metal Waters, as well as wolves and their potential impact on other predator species.

At the last Roundtable meeting, members discussed the possibility of presenting to the PWC. That suggestion will be revisited for a future PWC meeting now that there is a new PWC chair, Dallas May.

### **Open Roundtable**

The floor was opened for discussion on any topic not previously addressed.

On the topic of preference points, one member suggested a senior preference system that would not compromise the youth program.

Members and CPW representatives discussed electronic calls and the regulations regarding their use for mountain lion hunting. Electronic calls have a fairly low success rate, but may improve hunter safety. They are allowed in the area around Glenwood Springs, but it would require a regulation change to allow their use in other areas. Since they were approved for use around Glenwood Springs, only two lions were successfully harvested using electronic calls.

A member raised the idea of requiring some type of license for shed antler collection during the approved season. CPW initially considered a shed antler collecting license when originally regulating shed collection, but the idea was not suggested to the PWC at the time.

Members discussed remote game cameras and their legality in Colorado. In other states, remote game cameras have been prohibited on some lands. In Colorado, hunters are allowed to use remote cameras under certain restrictions.

Members also discussed youth big game hunting opportunities, particularly in terms of youth preference. Some members feel that nonresident youth have a high success rate in the draw in relation to resident youth.

A member suggested a future agenda item related to CPW's communication strategy, which will be considered for the Roundtable's next in-person meeting.

The Roundtable may have a virtual meeting before the legislative session begins next year. More details will be available in the coming months. The application for new Roundtable members will also be made available soon. Members were encouraged to submit any discussion topics for the next in-person meeting to Jonathan Boydston or Emma Hay.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:15PM**



## Appendix 1: Sportsperson’s Roundtable Meeting Attendee List

Roundtable Members	CPW/DNR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paul Navarre, NE Caucus Del.</li> <li>● Brian Soliday, NE Cacus Del.</li> <li>● Roger Cesario, SW Caucus Del.</li> <li>● Ron Goodrich, SE Caucus Del.</li> <li>● Larry McCormack, SE Caucus Del.</li> <li>● Bob Terwilliger, NW Caucus Del.</li> <li>● Dave Dillon, SW Rep.</li> <li>● Shannon Roy, SW Rep.</li> <li>● Kim Kokesh, SW Rep.</li> <li>● Aaron Jones, SW Rep.</li> <li>● Chloe Lomprey ,SE Rep.</li> <li>● Willie Kalaskie, SE Rep.</li> <li>● Brian Braaten, SE Rep.</li> <li>● Mark Scofield, SE Rep.</li> <li>● Trent Peterson, NE Rep.</li> <li>● Erik Myhre, NE Rep.</li> <li>● Liz Rose, NE Rep.</li> <li>● Loren Williams, NW Rep.</li> <li>● Andrew Smith, NW Rep.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dan Gibbs, Executive Director (DNR)</li> <li>● Jeff Davis, Director</li> <li>● Heather Disney Dugan, Deputy Director</li> <li>● Katie Lanter, Acting Assistant Director, Research, Policy and Planning</li> <li>● Reid DeWalt, Assistant Director, Aquatics, Terrestrial, and Natural Resources</li> <li>● Mark Leslie, NE Regional Manager</li> <li>● Travis Black, NW Regional Manager</li> <li>● Cory Chick, SW Regional Manager</li> <li>● Kelly Kaemerer, Assistant Director, Information and Education</li> <li>● Jonathan Boydston, Public Involvement Specialist</li> <li>● Emma Hay, Public Involvement Specialist</li> <li>● Shana Waldman, Policy and Planning Associate</li> <li>● Matt Eckert, Terrestrial Program Supervisor</li> <li>● Mike Lloyd, Draw Coordinator</li> <li>● Danielle Isenhardt, License, Reservation and Customer Operations Manager</li> <li>● Brian Dreher, Terrestrial Section Manager</li> <li>● Josh Nehring, Assistant Aquatics Section Manager</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2: Sportsperson's Roundtable BGSS 2025-2029 Polling Results

### 1) Do you think Over-The-Counter (OTC) Elk licenses should be limited?

- Yes, limit both OTC rifle and archery licenses (76% - 13/17)
- No, do not limit either OTC rifle or archery licenses (6% - 1/17)
- Limit just OTC archery licenses (0% - 0/17)
- Limit just OTC rifle licenses (18% - 3/17)

### 2) If OTC elk licenses go completely limited, which license distribution method do you most prefer?

- Alternative 1: Limited license issued through draw with applicable residency allocation rules (59% - 10/17)
- Alternative 2: Limited license available as OTC with caps, residency allocation rules do not apply (41% - 7/17)

### 3) Which alternative are you most likely to support regarding OTC Archery Elk?

- Statewide limitation; limited for both resident and nonresidents; distributed according to relevant license allocation (18% - 3/17)
- Statewide limitation; limited for non-residents only (59% - 10/17)
- OTC for private land only (12% - 2/17)
- Status Quo: continue to evaluate limiting individual DAUs (12% - 2/17)

### 4) Which alternative are you most likely to support regarding OTC Rifle Elk?

- Statewide limitation; limited for both resident and nonresidents; distributed according to relevant license allocation (41% - 7/17)
- Statewide limitation; limited for non-residents only (47% - 8/17)
- OTC for private land only (6% - 1/17)
- Status Quo: continue to evaluate limiting individual DAUs (0% - 0/17)

### 5) How strongly do you support or oppose adding deer rifle hunting opportunities to the first regular rifle season, which is currently elk only?

- Strongly Oppose (1) (18% - 3/17)
- Somewhat Oppose (2) (6% - 1/17)
- Neither Oppose nor Support (3) (6% - 1/17)
- Somewhat Support (4) (41% - 7/17)
- Strongly Support (5) (29% - 5/17)

6) How strongly do you support or oppose adding a 2nd regular buck and doe pronghorn season? [10/25-10/31 (the last seven days of October)]

- Strongly Oppose (1) (0% - 0/17)
- Somewhat Oppose (2) (0% - 0/17)
- Neither Oppose nor Support (3) (6% - 1/17)
- Somewhat Support (4) (47% - 8/17)
- Strongly Support (5) (47% - 8/17)



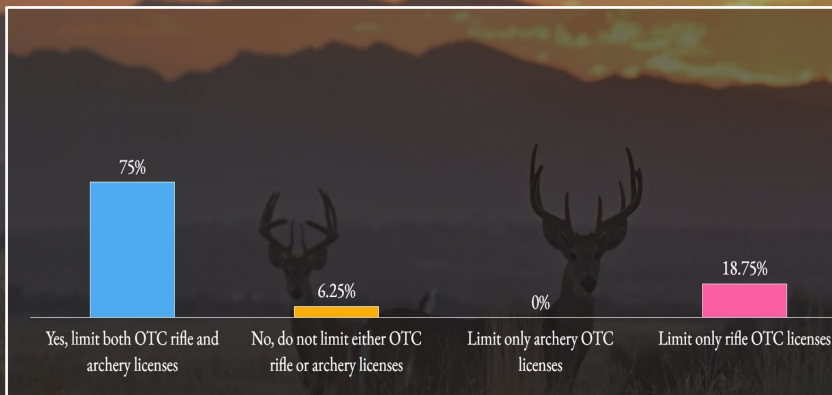
# BGSS 2025-2029 SRT Polling Results

Sportsperson's Roundtable  
Data Collected: July 22nd, 2023

Do you think Over-The-Counter (OTC) Elk licenses should be limited?



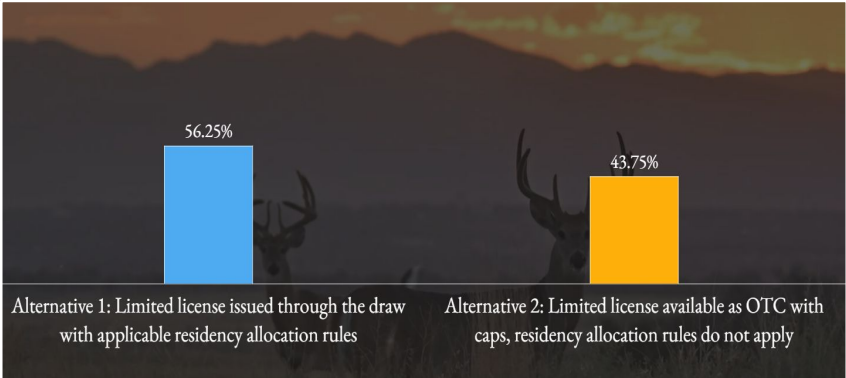
## SRT Results





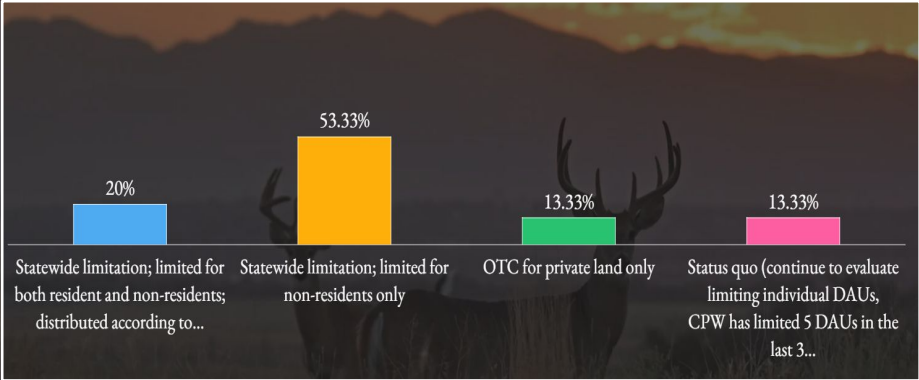
# If OTC elk licenses go completely limited, which license distribution method do you most prefer?

## SRT Results



# Which alternative are you most likely to support regarding OTC Archery Elk?

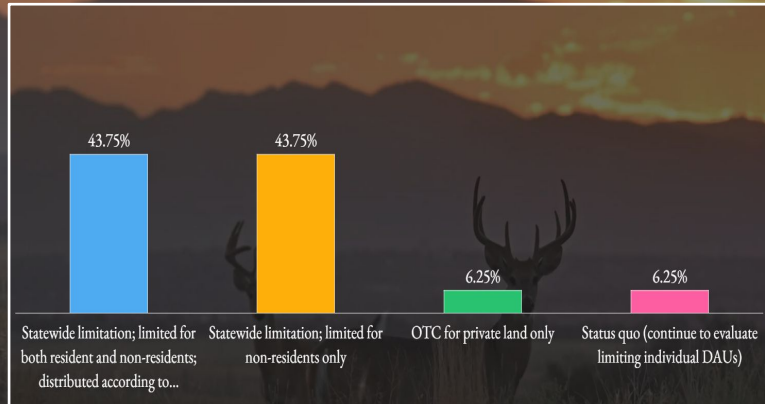
## SRT Results





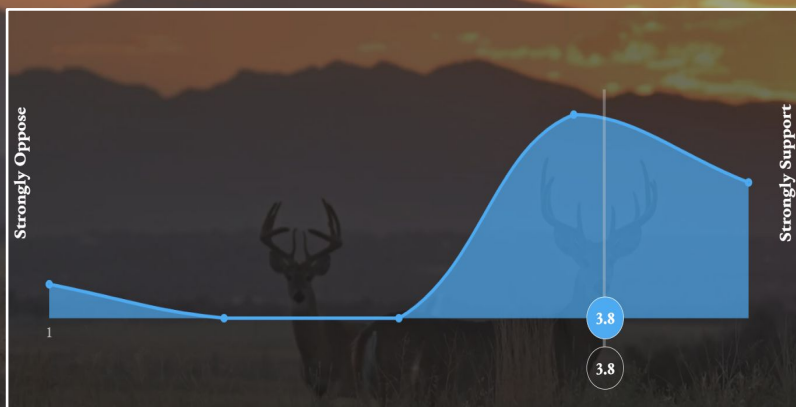
## Which alternative are you most likely to support regarding OTC Rifle Elk?

### SRT Results



## How strongly do you support or oppose adding rifle deer hunting opportunities to the first regular rifle season?

### SRT Results





How strongly do you support or oppose adding a 2nd regular rifle buck and doe pronghorn season [10/25-10/31]?

SRT Results



## Appendix 4

### Colorado Bowhunter Association BGSS Survey

March 15, 2023

\*The CBA survey, unlike the CPW BGSS survey which targeted rifle, ML rifle and bow hunters, this survey only targeted bow hunters, i.e., resident, nonresident, CBA members, and CBA nonmembers. The goal was to receive their opinions concerning archery, OTC elk licenses and license distribution.

\*The CBA chose to give bow hunters-only, a voice regarding the CPW BGSS recent survey/questioner so they asked similar questions as the CPW BGSS survey.

\*3,083 bow hunters responded to the survey from the CBA membership ranks, and other related social media platforms.

\*BREAKDOWN: 60.6% of respondents (3,076) were residents of Colorado, 39% were nonresidents. Of those, 84% were resident CBA members vs, 26% being nonresident CBA members. Of the non-members of the CBA, 52% were Colorado residents. Important to note that a wide range of responders were sought and achieved.

\*Survey Question 1. Are you ok with CPW eliminating OTC archery (elk) licenses for both non-residents and residents?

ANSWER: with 3,074 responses

19.9 % stated "YES"

Vast majority, 80.1 % stated "NO, not OK with eliminating OTC elk licenses."

\*Survey Question 2. Of the three choices present, what is your preferred alternative?

ANSWER: with 3,060 responses



- A. 47.8 % stated, keep resident OTC elk licenses, while nonresidents move to draw only.
- B. 25.7% stated, keep both resident and nonresident OTC elk license, but nonresidents are capped by DAU
- C. 25.7% stated, keep resident OTC elk licenses, but nonresidents, move to OTC with caps.

It can then be surmised, that the majority of bow hunters who hunt elk in Colorado believe that OTC elk license should remain, and that Colorado residents should be given top priority in acquiring OTC elk licenses. This same consideration of top priority distribution of OTC licenses to residents needs to be considered and approved, as was recently, the increase in percentages, per, the R/NR License Allocations.

So how do we do this? The CBA BOD, CBA membership, other resident and nonresident bow hunters have confidence in the CPW staff, collaborating with bowhunter user groups, can present a fair remedy to the overcrowding issue and OTC license distribution. This CBA survey indicated that Colorado residents should maintain and to have top priority in OTC elk license distribution and that a way to reduce the “overcrowding” issue, is to limit the number of nonresident bow hunters during the Early Season. How many nonresidents are there to be limited? CPW historic data and DAU needs can surely be a source of information, and over time, adjusted as regional elk management plans indicate.

The CBA is more than willing to meet and work with CPW staff to finalize a positive outcome and to present that recommendation to the CPW Commission for approval.

**CONCLUSION:** There is no doubt, based on this CBA survey, resident and nonresident bow hunters prefer OTC elk licenses. The majority of the responders believe that resident OTC (elk) license should be maintained, and nonresident OTC (elk) licenses should be capped or changed to all draw.

IN addition, the subject of “over -crowding” in some DAUs, during the 29-day Early Archery elk season, may be a driving force and seeking a remedy. That remedy may be to limit nonresident bow hunters during the Early archery elk season, as is concluded in this survey. During the past two Early Seasons, nonresidents account for over half, 52% of those archery OTC elk licenses as well as accounting for over half of all bow hunters during the early season. Also, since 2009, resident OTC archery elk license sales have gone down 9%, while nonresident OTC archery elk license have gained 24%. As surrounding states are limiting more and more nonresident bow hunters and giving more preference to resident hunters, Colorado is feeling in increase in nonresident hunters, as Colorado as done well in advertising, come one-come all with unlimited nonresident OTC elk licenses.

**\*FOR CONSIDERATION of maintaining OTC license:**

+Without OTC archery elk licenses, Colorado youth hunters will not be able to hunt elk in a timely fashion.

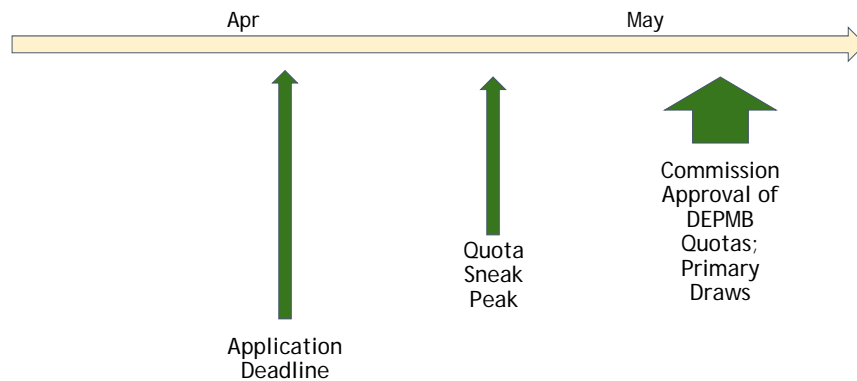
+Without OTC archery elk licenses, Colorado families will not be able to hunt together on a yearly basis.

+Without OTC elk licenses, Colorado archery elk hunters who have a number of Preference Points for a high demand unit, and are not willing to cash them in on a less desirable unit, will not be able to hunt on a yearly basis.

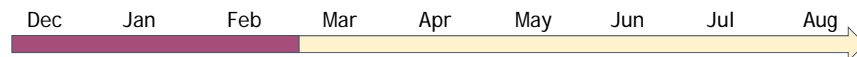
+Without OTC archery elk licenses, Colorado hunters may have to hunt other units outside of their home range.

## Appendix 5

SR Question: "Why can't we have a list for the primary draw like we have for the secondary draw that shows how many licenses are available for each hunt code? CPW adding hunt codes to a unit with no explanation on what the quota is for each code."



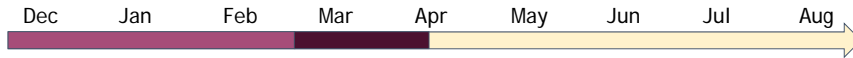
## Biologist Timeline



Hunting Seasons Continue  
Flights: Big Game Captures, Inventory, Classification  
Big Game Harvest Survey  
Preparing for the new data year



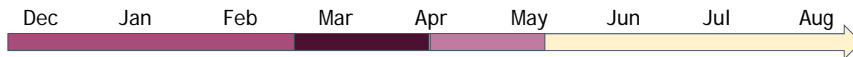
## Biologist Timeline



BG Harvest Estimates  
Population Modeling  
Internal Quota Setting (Area and Regional Meetings)



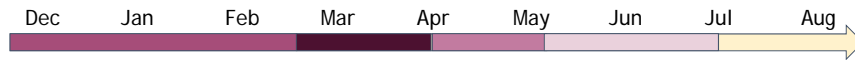
## Biologist Timeline



Statewide rollup of quota recommendations - Regulations  
CPW Internal Quota Setting/Regulations Meeting (Statewide)  
Sneak Peak Mid April: First Commission (Fri), then public (Mon)  
Preparation of information for May Commission Meeting  
Production of public reports



## Biologist Timeline



Draws  
Sanity check



If we continue using  
current data to inform  
quotas, we cannot produce  
quotas any earlier

Move the application deadline?

Move the draws?



## Appendix 6

### Spawning Related Fishing Closures

Josh Nehring  
Assistant Aquatic Section Manager



### Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- How many are in place in Colorado?
- How are they determined/declared?
- How often does CPW change them?
- How is enforcement going?
- Is there a need to expand these?
- When populations are suffering, how does CPW consider or implement new closures?



## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- How many are in place in Colorado?
  - 2 that specifically call out spawning.
  - 33 that do not specifically call out spawning.
  - 7 that are involved with CPW fish spawning operations



## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- How are they determined or declared?
  - At the aquatic biologist/Area field level
    - Is the fishery dependent on natural recruitment (wild trout)?
    - What is the angling pressure during and after spawning
      - Conduct Creel Surveys / Field Observations
    - Has the fishery changed over time?
      - Year class strength
      - recruitment



## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- How often does CPW change them?
  - Fairly rare to remove one
  - Maybe add one every 5-10 years?



LIVE LIFE  
OUTSIDE

## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- How is enforcement going?



LIVE LIFE  
OUTSIDE



## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- Is there a need to expand these?
  - In general we try not to limit angling opportunities
  - If there is a need and the data shows us fishing is having a high enough impact on recruitment



## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- When populations are suffering, how does CPW consider or implement new closures?
  - Typically field level aquatic biologists or Area staff raise issues
  - Issue Paper Drafted



## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- When populations are suffering, how does CPW consider or implement new closures?



- Public input at angler roundtables & fishing groups
- Internal & External Support >> Internal Regulation Review Committee
- The commission hears it and makes a ruling

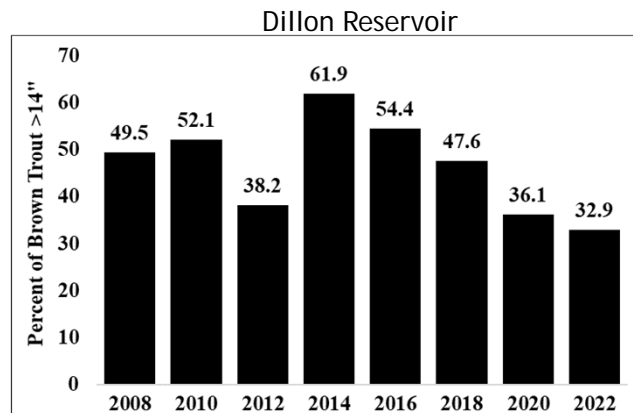


LIVE LIFE  
OUTSIDE

## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- 2023 Example

- Dillon Reservoir including the Blue River and Tenmile Creek

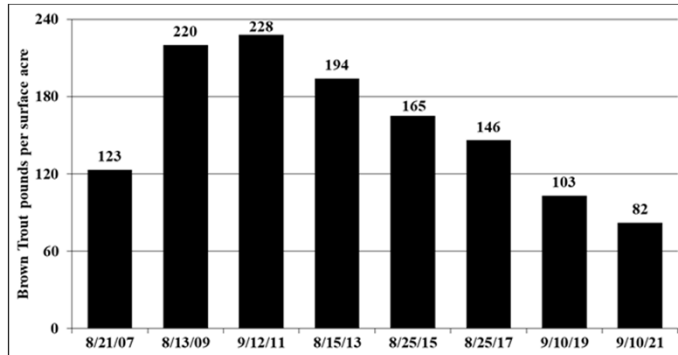


LIVE LIFE  
OUTSIDE

## Spawning Related Fishing Closures

- 2023 Example
  - Dillon Reservoir including the Blue River and Tenmile Creek

Blue River



## 2023 Proposed Regulation Changes

- NW - Dillon Reservoir - All brown trout over 14" must be returned to the water
- NW - Blue River - All trout over 14" returned to the water and fishing closure from September 1 - December 1.
- NW - Tenmile Creek - All trout over 14" returned to the water and fishing closure from September 1 - December 1.
- SE - Arkansas River - removal of artificial flies and lures and restrictive bag and possession on two sections of the upper Arkansas.



## 2023 Proposed Regulation Changes

- NE - Square Top and Duck Creek (greenback recovery) - Artificial flies and lures, all trout must be returned immediately
- NE - Williams Gulch (greenback recovery) - Artificial flies and lures, all trout must be returned immediately
- NE - West Fork of Clear Creek (greenback recovery) - Artificial flies and lures, all trout must be returned immediately
- SW - Hermosa Confluence Barrier Fishing Closure/Exclusion Zone 100' upstream and downstream of the barrier



## Questions?

