

**FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-11 - WILDLIFE PARKS AND UNREGULATED WILDLIFE**

**ARTICLE II - LICENSE REQUIREMENTS, LICENSE EXEMPTIONS, LICENSE TYPES, APPLICATION AND RECORD REQUIREMENTS, AND LICENSE RENEWAL**

**#1104 - LICENSE TYPES**

A. Commercial Wildlife Park License

Commercial Wildlife Park Licenses are issued to a person or persons for the operation of privately owned wildlife parks and for the related commercial use of such wildlife including: buying, selling, propagating, brokering or trading of lawfully acquired captive wildlife; charging customers to hunt on such a park; or, exhibiting wildlife for educational or promotional purposes.

1. Big Game Hunting Park - Issued for hunting privately owned big game animals on private property. No new big game hunting park licenses shall be issued after July 1, 1996, except when a change of ownership occurs on an existing Big Game Hunting Park. The new applicant(s) must comply with all regulations in place at the time of the change of ownership when applying for the new license.
  - a. Big Game Hunting Park Carcass tags will be provided by the Division at no cost. No hunting license is required for hunting captive wildlife within the park. Hunting can occur year-round. All wildlife removed from the park must be accompanied by a carcass tag, properly attached, showing number, sex, age, species, date taken, park number, hunter's name and address and, if available, eartag and/or tattoo number of each animal taken.
  - b. All wildlife released into the park must be marked with a USDA official identification device pursuant to 9 C.F.R. § 77.33 (effective July 29, 2014) and/or eartags provided or approved by the Division. All alternative livestock (fallow deer and elk) released into the park must be identified as provided by State Board of Livestock Inspection Commission regulations. CPW incorporates 9 C.F.R. § 77.33 (effective July 29, 2014) by reference, but not later amendments or editions. Such document can be viewed, and copies obtained from the Division as set forth in the "Incorporated References" section of Chapter 0 of these regulations or from the USDA at 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737.
  - c. No live wildlife may be removed from the park.
  - d. All big game killed on Big Game Hunting Parks will be subject to the "Slaughter Surveillance Program" for bovine tuberculosis testing as provided for in regulation #008, and to CWD testing requirements in #1110.
2. Wildlife Exhibitors Park - Issued for the exhibition of live wildlife (except birds) for educational or promotional activities.
  - a. Exhibition of animals in the families *Canidae Felidae*, or *Ursidae* outside the licensed Wildlife Exhibitors Park premises is prohibited except under the following conditions:
    1. Animals must be caged at all times, except as provided in 1104(A)(2)(a)(2). Cages must be made from a minimum of 9 gauge wire, completely enclosed, including a top and a bottom; and shall be large enough to allow the animal being caged to stand up and turn around.
    2. Animals may be exhibited out of cage only when the exhibitor is covered by a current and in-force insurance policy in the face amount of no less than \$500,000

coverage for general liability. Copies of the liability insurance policy shall be forwarded to the Special License Unit of the Division prior to the scheduled event.

3. Animals must remain caged during any exhibition in any educational institution.
  4. All incidents involving exhibited wildlife where injury to wildlife or people occurs must be reported to the Special Licensing Unit within 24 hours.
- b. Exhibition of any wildlife for educational purposes is permitted under the following conditions:
1. A copy of the authorization from the educational institution, if exhibited at an educational institution, must be submitted to the Special Licensing Unit prior to presentation.
  2. A copy of the lesson plan must be submitted on an annual basis to the Division Education Unit.
- c. Wildlife Exhibitors Parks must be AZA accredited prior to and maintain such accreditation as a condition of the issuance of a license. Facilities previously licensed by the Division prior to January 1, 2006 may continue to operate under wildlife parks requirements without obtaining AZA certification.
3. Non-Resident Temporary Exhibitors License - Issued for the importation and exhibition of live regulated wildlife for educational, training or entertainment purposes from a facility outside Colorado that is properly licensed by the state of origin.
    - a. Each Non-Resident Temporary Exhibitors license shall be valid for no more than 30 days within a calendar year.
    - b. All animals must be housed, transported, and displayed in a safe and humane manner. Any applicant who has been convicted of animal cruelty shall not be issued a license.
  4. Wildlife Producers Park - Issued for trading, selling, propagating, bartering, shooting, brokering, and transporting, live wildlife (except birds) and wildlife parts.
  5. Upland Bird and Waterfowl Hunting and Producers Park - Issued for the propagation and release of commercially raised upland game birds and waterfowl for preserve shooting.
    - a. Boundaries of licensed areas shall be clearly identified with fencing or other distinguishing features and shall be signed at intervals of not more than 400 yards. All hunting shall be limited to the area identified on the license.
    - b. Total harvest of any bird species released on a commercial wildlife park shall be limited to no more than the number of flight capable birds released in a calendar year.
    - c. Only the following wildlife species may be released and hunted under the authority of this license: Ring-necked pheasant, Gambel's, scaled, and bobwhite quail, chukar, gray partridge, and mallard ducks. Exceptions to this list may occur with the approval of the Director of the Division.
    - d. Wildlife taken under an Upland and Waterfowl Hunting and Producers Park may be taken within the licensed park without a hunting license, unless otherwise restricted

by Federal law and may be taken from January 1 through December 31. A receipt must be issued to any hunter leaving the park with wildlife stating numbers of wildlife taken, sex, species, park number and date.

6. Zoological Park License - Issued for the operation of facilities, other than AZA-accredited zoos, open to the public for wildlife exhibition. Zoological Park License ~~costs~~ \$172-55 fees found in Chapter W-0 General Provisions Appendix F as provided in 33-4-102 C.R.S.

- a. Zoological Parks must meet all criteria of 33-4-102(13)(a) C.R.S. as amended.

#### B. Non-commercial Wildlife Park License

Non-commercial Wildlife Park licenses are issued to a person or persons for the purpose of keeping birds other than raptors, or for species acquired in accordance with section 2 below.

1. A licensee may only buy, propagate, give, trade, exchange, release, import or export any lawfully acquired birds or eggs in accordance with Parks and Wildlife Commission regulations. Such license activity may not be engaged in for the purpose of generating a profit.
2. Persons in possession of a private non-commercial wildlife park license or in lawful non-commercial possession of exotic mammals prior to January 1, 1983 may continue to possess only those individual mammals and their progeny born after January 1, 1982, under a non-commercial wildlife park license.
3. Non-commercial Wildlife Park licenses are nontransferable and shall be valid for the life of the licensee. Any change in the location of the facilities for a noncommercial park must be approved as a license amendment, in advance, by the Division.

#### C. Wildlife Sanctuary Licenses

As provided in § 33-1-106, C.R.S., Wildlife Sanctuary licenses are issued to wildlife sanctuaries as defined in § 33-1-102, C.R.S.

##### 1. Types of Licenses

###### a. Provisional Wildlife Sanctuary

1. Issued to nonprofit entities for the conditional operation of a wildlife sanctuary as defined in 33-1-102, C.R.S. Provisional wildlife sanctuary licenses expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year issued and may be renewed for up to one additional year after which time the facility must meet the requirements to obtain and be issued a wildlife sanctuary license. In the event that a facility fails to meet this requirement, all wildlife in possession must be transferred from the facility according to the approved contingency plan and the facility must wait a minimum of 5 years before re-applying for a new provisional wildlife sanctuary license.
2. Except for the provisions of Reg # 1105.A.8, the Division shall determine that the applicant has met the following requirements prior to the issuance of a provisional wildlife sanctuary license:
  - aa. Documentation demonstrating experience in the care and handling of the type of wildlife for which the applicant is seeking authorization to possess on their license.

- bb. Letter of recommendation from a currently licensed Colorado wildlife sanctuary acknowledging the applicant's qualifications in the care and handling of captive wildlife.

b. Wildlife Sanctuary

1. Prior to the annual issuance or renewal of a wildlife sanctuary license, the Division shall determine that the applicant possesses a current provisional wildlife sanctuary license or a current wildlife sanctuary license issued by the Division.
2. All Wildlife Sanctuary licenses may be issued only to nonprofit entities.
3. Wildlife sanctuaries must comply with all requirements of § 33-1-102(52) and § 33-4-102(14), C.R.S.
4. Except as provided herein, wildlife sanctuaries must be an accredited or certified "related facility" by the AZA or accredited or verified by the GFAS prior to and maintain such certification as a condition of the issuance of a wildlife sanctuary license. Facilities previously licensed by the Division as a commercial wildlife park prior to January 1, 2001, and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit which functioned as wildlife sanctuaries may continue to operate as wildlife sanctuaries under the wildlife parks facility requirements set forth in Regulation No. 1108. In addition, these existing facilities may expand operation onto contiguous property owned by them under those same facilities requirements and without AZA certification. Provided further that, when one of these existing facilities is impacted by an act of nature (e.g. fire or flood) that prevents it from reasonably continuing its operation at the present location, the facility may, with the approval of the Director, move to a new location and continue its operation without being subject to the generally applicable AZA certification requirement, provided the relocated facility complies with the wildlife parks facility requirements set forth in #1108 of these regulations, and all wildlife sanctuary operations at the present locations cease.
5. Wildlife possessed by a wildlife sanctuary shall be surgically sterilized within thirty days of arrival, except that pregnant animals shall be surgically sterilized immediately following weaning and animals eligible for participation in the AZA's Species Survival Plan ("SSP") need not be sterilized. However, documents supporting such SSP eligibility must be provided to the Division within 30 days of arrival at the wildlife sanctuary.

Any nonprofit sanctuary facility previously licensed by the Division as a commercial wildlife park prior to January 1, 2001, shall submit a sterilization plan for wildlife possessed by such facility for approval by the Division. Such plan shall be submitted to the Division by January 1, 2006 and shall provide for surgical sterilization of all wildlife possessed at such facility as of November 1, 2005, in an expeditious manner, but in no event later than May 1, 2007. Wildlife brought onto such a facility after November 1, 2005, shall be surgically sterilized within thirty days of arrival, except that pregnant animals shall be surgically sterilized immediately following weaning.

In lieu of surgical sterilization, wildlife sanctuaries may submit a birth control plan for animals located on the facility for approval by the Division. Such plans may be approved if they provide sufficient assurances against propagation of animals at the facility.

- D. Except as provided herein, no wildlife taken from the wild shall be possessed by any commercial wildlife park, noncommercial wildlife park or wildlife sanctuary in Colorado. Wildlife taken from the wild outside of Colorado may be possessed by a wildlife sanctuary provided:

1. The wildlife has been determined by the wildlife management agency of the source state or country to be habituated and non-releasable and has otherwise authorized the export of the wildlife, and
2. The wildlife has been held in captivity in the source state or country for no less than 24 months. However, the Director may authorize the importation of wildlife that does not meet the captivity period requirement if he/she determines it is proper for management of the Division and otherwise beneficial to the management, preservation or conservation of wildlife resources. In making such determination, the Director shall consider:
  - a. other placement or wildlife management options available to the exporting state or country,
  - b. capacity and resources of the importing wildlife sanctuary,
  - c. impact to state wildlife management programs, and
  - d. any other wildlife management criteria.

Provided however, that no more than one such importation per calendar year (based on a three-year rolling average) may be approved for any wildlife sanctuary.

For the purposes of this regulation, wildlife born in captivity, even if born to wildlife taken from the wild, are not considered "taken from the wild."

Chapter W-11 - Wildlife Parks and Unregulated Wildlife

**Basis and Purpose:**

Following the passage of the Hunting, Fishing, and Parks for Future Generations Act (SB 18-143), the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission has the authority to adjust most wildlife licenses annually with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Consumer Price Indices for the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood metropolitan statistical area (successor to the Denver-Boulder-Greeley statistical area) are compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. CPI figures are reported bimonthly, in addition to the average CPI for the first half of the calendar year, the average CPI for the second half of the calendar year, and the average CPI for the entire calendar year. The chart below shows the average CPI for the first half of each year.

<b>Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers</b>	
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Metropolitan Area	
First Half 2018	260.790
First Half 2019	264.147
First Half 2020	271.264
First Half 2021	276.290
First Half 2022	300.002
First Half 2023	316.758
Annual Percentage Change (2023 Base Year)	5.6%
Cumulative Percentage Change (Rounded) (2018 Base Year)	21.5%

The CPI calculation above yields the following fees as adjusted in regulation. The fees shown in the highlighted column are the statutory caps for each license fee. The Parks and Wildlife Commission may reduce these as appropriate through the rule-making process.

License Type	Residency	2023	2023	2024	2024
		CPI Adjusted Statutory Lid	Actual Price*	CPI Adjusted Statutory Lid	Actual Price*
Zoological park license	N/A	\$172.55	\$172.55	\$182.19	\$182.19

\*excludes additional surcharges and fees

\*\*2018 base year

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager by emailing [dnr\\_cpw\\_planning@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us) or by visiting the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO, 80216.

**The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.**

**EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED, OR SUPERSEDED.**

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO ON THIS 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023.**

**APPROVED:**  
**Dallas May**  
**Chair**

**ATTEST:**  
**Karen Bailey**  
**Secretary**