

Basis and Purpose:

Draw changes for preference points

At the May 2023 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting, the Commission directed staff to form a Draw Process Working Group (DWG or group). The purpose of the group was to reduce complexities within Colorado's draw system and address preference point issues, while keeping in mind biological and sociological concerns.

A DWG was formed which consisted of two Commissioners, eight members of the public (residents and nonresidents) and seven members of staff (two non-voting). The DWG held five meetings between October 2023 and May of 2024 to draft recommendations for the agency and Commission to consider. The focus topics included draw methods for the primary and secondary draws, preference points, the weighted draw for sheep, goat and moose, and the reissue process. Three Commission workshops also took place between January 2024 and July 2024 on these topics. All recommendations for change were discussed and considered by the Commission in a two-step policy approval process (November 2024 and January 2025). Adopted policies/regulations will not be implemented until the 2028 draws in order to allow time for draw reprogramming. These policies will also be re-examined every ten years, by implementing a Draw Season Structure, similar to the Big Game Season Structure. This cycle will run through the 2032 draws to allow for five years of implementation before the next cycle begins.

The commission approved the removal of the preference point only hunt code in order to have customers choose whether they want to try to gain an additional preference point or try to draw a license to hunt during the primary draw. The DWG believed that allowing customers to easily draw a license and gain a point every year is only exacerbating preference point creep. Instead the group recommended getting rid of the preference point hunt codes entirely and making customers choose upfront if they want a preference point only, or if they want a chance at drawing a license. This will be accomplished by having an applicant mark that they either 1) want to purchase a point and not participate in the primary draw, or 2) they want to apply for a license in the primary draw. The group was conscious of the fact that this policy change could cause many applicants to change their application behavior by either choosing to not apply in the primary draw or applying for hunt codes that are traditionally more difficult to draw. Customers could still take their chance in the random secondary draw where no preference points are used, if they wanted an opportunity to hunt every year.

Adopting discounted Ute Mountain Ute licenses valid on Pinecrest Ranch

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMU Tribe) owns the Pinecrest Ranch, an 18,862-acre ranch in Gunnison County located in game management unit (GMU) 66. The Pinecrest Ranch is enrolled in CPW's Landowner Preference Program pursuant to § 33-4-103, C.R.S. (LPP). Adopting a discounted UMU Tribe license enables nonresident, enrolled members of the UMU Tribe to redeem LPP vouchers yielded by the Pinecrest Ranch for hunting licenses valid only on the Pinecrest Ranch at a discounted price equivalent to the resident license fee. This change allows members to redeem a Pinecrest Ranch LPP voucher for either (1) a hunting license valid in all of GMU 66 and pay the nonresident license fee (status quo), or (2) a hunting license valid only on the Pinecrest Ranch and pay the equivalent of the resident license fee for the species.

The discount is authorized by § 33-4-102(1.6)(a), C.R.S., which enables the Commission to reduce license fees where it determines doing so is "proper for management of the division or otherwise beneficial to the management of state wildlife resources. Licenses so discounted may be limited to certain geographic areas, by sex of the animal, or as otherwise deemed appropriate by the commission." The discount is proper for the management of the Division because it is intended to improve the intergovernmental relationship between the UMU Tribe and the State.

Updating the income requirements for the income-eligible products

The income requirements for the income-eligible annual Colorado State Wildlife Area Pass have been updated to incorporate the most recent version of the income guidelines set forth in the Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines, 90 Fed. Reg. 5917 (January 15, 2025) issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These income requirements are consistent with the requirements of other income-eligible licenses and passes offered by the Division.

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 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 MAY 1, 2025 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 THIS 5TH DAY OF MARCH 2025.

**APPROVED:
Dallas May
Chair**

**ATTEST:
Karen Bailey
Secretary**