

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-3 - FURBEARERS and SMALL GAME, EXCEPT MIGRATORY BIRDS

ARTICLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

#300 - Definitions

- A. "Canada Lynx Recovery Area"** means the area of the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests and associated lands above 9,000 feet extending west from a north-south line passing through Del Norte and east from a north-south line passing through Dolores and from the New Mexico state line north to the Gunnison basin (including Taylor Park east to the Collegiate Range). The GMUs included in the area are: 55, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 551, 681, 711 and 751.
- B. "Furbearers"** means those species with fur having commercial value and which provide opportunities for sport harvest including mink, pine marten, badger, red fox, gray fox, swift fox, striped skunk, western spotted skunk, beaver, muskrat, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, coyote, bobcat, opossum, ring-tailed cat and raccoon.
- C. "Live Trap (Cage or Box)"** means a mechanical device designed in such a manner that the animal enters the trap through an opening that prevents the animal from exiting.
- D. "Small game, except migratory birds,"** means:
 - 1. Game birds**, including dusky grouse, Greater Sage-grouse, Gunnison Sage-grouse, mountain sharp-tailed grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, pheasant, northern bobwhite, scaled and Gambel's quail, chukar partridge, Greater prairie-chicken and wild turkey; and
 - 2. Game mammals**, including cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, white-tailed and black-tailed jackrabbit, fox squirrel, pine squirrel, marmot, and Abert's squirrel; and
 - 3. Other small game**, including black-tailed, white-tailed and Gunnison prairie dogs, Wyoming (Richardson's) ground squirrel, prairie rattlesnake, and common snapping turtles.

NOTE: "Migratory Birds" is defined in regulation #500(A).

- E. "Traps specifically designed not to kill"** means padded, laminated, or off-set steel jawed foothold traps, enclosed foothold, box traps, and cage traps, as conditioned elsewhere in these regulations.

#301 - LICENSE FEES

A. Furbearer License Fee

- 1. Furbearer License Fee Reduction:**
In accordance with the provisions of §33-4-102, C.R.S., the following furbearer license fees shall be reduced to the fee specified herein, from the level set forth in §33-4-102, C.R.S.:

License Type	License Fee
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Nonresident Furbearer	\$81.03
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B. Resident senior combination fishing and small game hunting license fee

- 1. Resident senior combination fishing and small game hunting license fee reduction:**
 In accordance with the provisions of §33-4-102, C.R.S., the following combination license shall be created with a reduced fee specified herein, from the level set forth in §33-4-102, C.R.S.:

License Type	License Fee
Resident senior combination fishing and small game hunting license	\$28.00
Resident senior lifetime fishing upgrade to annual combination fishing and small game hunting license*	\$19.90

*Valid only for resident senior Lifetime Disability and Low Income Fishing license holders.

#302 - Hours

A. Hunting Hours:

1. Small Game - from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset.
2. Furbearers - from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset. Additionally; beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk, and swift fox may be hunted at night in accordance with Regulation #'s 303(E)(7) and (E)(8).

B. Trapping Hours:

1. Small game, except game birds; game reptiles, and furbearers - day or night.
2. All live traps (cage or box) must be visually checked on site at least once every day; except in the Canada lynx recovery area or on properties known to be occupied by Canada lynx, they must be checked every 24 hours.
 - a. Visual lures, fresh meat baits, fish oil, and anise oil lures meant to attract felids are not permitted in the Canada lynx recovery area or on properties known to be occupied by Canada lynx.

#303 - Manner of Take:

The following are legal methods of take for game species listed in this chapter. Any method of take not listed herein shall be prohibited, except as otherwise provided by Statute or Commission regulation or by 35-40-100.2-115, C.R.S.

A. Special Conditions

1. Contests involving black-tailed, white-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dogs, Wyoming (Richardson's) ground squirrel, or Furbearers are prohibited.
 - a. For the purpose of these regulations, a contest is any competitive event where money or other valuable prizes are awarded for the taking of such small game and furbearers. "Valuable prizes" shall not include certificates or other similar tokens of

recognition not having any significant monetary value.

- b. Commercial and noncommercial wildlife parks and field trials licensed by the Division are exempt from these provisions.

2. **Live Capture**

- a. Furbearers captured in live traps cannot be moved from the capture site and must be killed or released on site when the trap is checked.

3. **Accidental Capture** - Except for Canada lynx, which are subject to the provisions of Chapter 10, any person accidentally trapping any wildlife for which the trapping season is closed or for which trapping is not a legal manner of taking, shall, in the event of live capture of such wildlife, release such wildlife immediately. Nothing in this section permits the killing of such accidentally captured wildlife, unless the wildlife cannot be released without human endangerment. In the event of mortality resulting from such accidental capture, the carcass of such wildlife shall be delivered to a Division wildlife officer or office within five (5) days. Failure to deliver the carcass shall be prima facie evidence of unlawful possession of such wildlife. Provided further that any trapper who complies with this provision shall not be charged with illegal possession of such accidentally captured wildlife.

4. **Non-toxic shot requirements**

- a. Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge (Jackson County).

No person shall use or possess shot (either in shot-shells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than non-toxic shot while taking or attempting to take any resident small game species with a shotgun. "Non-toxic shot" - means any shot type approved for use to take migratory game birds by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as set forth in #500 of these regulations.

5. **Labeling of traps** - All live traps (limited to cage or box traps) placed on public lands must be labeled permanently and legibly with the trapper's Customer Identification Number (CID) in a location that is visible without having to manipulate the live trap in any way. If the trapper does not have a CID, all live traps placed on public lands must be labeled with the trapper's name. Live traps not properly labeled may be confiscated by any Wildlife Officer.

B. Game Mammals

1. Any rifle or handgun.
2. Any shotgun not larger than 10 gauge, incapable of holding more than three (3) shells in magazine and chamber combined.
3. Handheld bows and crossbows.
4. Air guns and slingshots.
5. Hawking

C. Game Birds, except Migratory Birds

1. Any rifle or handgun for dusky (blue) grouse, ptarmigan or turkey during the fall and late

seasons. Rifles and handguns used for the taking of turkeys shall use bullets of at least seventeen (17) grains in weight, with a manufacturer's energy rating of at least one-hundred ten (110) foot pounds at one-hundred (100) yards from the muzzle.

2. Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge not firing a single slug, and incapable of holding more than three (3) shells in the magazine and chamber combined. No shot (lead or steel) larger than size #2 shall be used to hunt turkey.
3. Handheld bows and crossbows.
4. Air guns and slingshots for dusky (blue) grouse and ptarmigan.
5. Hawking.
6. Artificial decoys and calls, except recorded or electrically amplified calls or sounds; for turkey.

D. Species listed in #300(D)(3).

1. Any method not otherwise prohibited.

E. Furbearers

1. Any rifle or handgun.
2. Any shotgun.
3. Handheld bows and crossbows.
4. Any air gun, except that for coyote or bobcat the air gun must be a pre-charged pneumatic air gun .25 caliber or larger.
5. Live traps, limited to cage or box traps. All live-trapped wildlife shall be released immediately or dispatched by any legal method of take for that species in regulations #303.E.1-4. If local ordinances or public safety prohibit all legal methods of take from being used, American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for Euthanasia of Free-Ranging Wildlife, as provided in S7.6 of the 2013 edition of the AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals, may alternatively be used to the extent allowable by law.
6. Electronic call devices.
7. **Artificial light** (private land) may be used at night to take beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk and swift fox on private land with written permission of the landowner, designated agent, lessee, or authorized employee.
8. **Artificial light** (public land) may be used at night to take beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk and swift fox on public lands by permit only, as follows:
 - a. Each permit shall be valid only for the time, species, and location specified on the permit. No permit will be valid during any deer, elk or pronghorn rifle season or during the 24-hour period prior to the opening weekend; nor during the opening weekend of any grouse, pheasant, quail, turkey or waterfowl season in those areas where such seasons are in progress.
 - b. An artificial light which is permanently attached to, or projected from within a vehicle is prohibited.

- c. Taking shall not be permitted within 500 yards of a dwelling, building, or other structure, or in any area of public concentration where human safety would be jeopardized.
- d. Such permit shall be carried while hunting and available for inspection upon demand.
- e. Area wildlife managers and district wildlife managers may deny a permit where there is a potential that night hunting activities may result in significant adverse impact on wildlife resources by causing movement of large numbers of big game or otherwise. Provided further that night hunting permits for bobcat will not be issued on public lands in the Canada lynx recovery area where Canada lynx are known to be present. When one Canada lynx has been taken by a bobcat hunter during the current year's hunting season no night hunting permits for bobcat will be issued for the remainder of the calendar year in the Canada lynx recovery area or in the area outside the Canada lynx recovery area where the Canada lynx was taken. In such instance, any night hunting permits for bobcat already issued under this provision shall be terminated.
- f. A permit shall not be required of any person, member of the person's family, lessee, designated agent, authorized employee, or identified designee with written authorization when necessary to protect such person's property. Refer to Chapter W-17, Damage Caused by Wildlife for applicable regulations.

9. Baits

- a. Furbearers may be taken with the aid of baiting. Where permitted, baits shall consist solely of material of animal or plant origin and shall not contain any materials of metal, glass, porcelain, plastic, cardboard or paper. Wildlife used as bait shall be the carcass, or parts thereof, of legally taken furbearers, carp, shad, white and longnose suckers, and nonedible portions of legally obtained game mammals, birds and game fish.

#304 - License Requirements

Except as provided in 33-6-107(9) C.R.S., the following license requirements shall apply:

- A. A small game license is required to take those species defined in #300(D) as small game, except wild turkey.
- B. Until March 1, 2021, Aa small game or a furbearer license is required to take those species defined in #300(BA) as furbearers. Beginning March 1, 2021, a youth small game license, a furbearer license, or a furbearer harvest permit in addition to any variation of a small game license or small game and fishing combination license is required to take those species defined in #300(B) as furbearers, except coyotes. Coyotes may be taken with a small game license, a furbearer license, or without a license during any big game season provided that the hunter has an unfilled big game license for that season and unit. Manner of take must be the same as that of the big game license. An annual furbearer harvest permit can be purchased for \$10.00.
- C. A turkey license is required to take wild turkey.
- D. Common snapping turtles may be taken with either a small game license or a fishing license.
- E. Each hunter must call 1-866-COLOHIP (1-866-265-6447) or register online (www.colohip.com) prior to their first hunting trip of the season to register their intent to hunt small game or furbearers. For the purposes of this regulation, "season" means the period September 1 through March 15.

#305 - Evidence of Sex/Species

Refer to General Provisions #003.

ARTICLE II - SMALL GAME SEASON DATES, UNITS (AS DESCRIBED IN CHAPTER 0 OF THESE REGULATIONS), BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS, LIMITED LICENSES AND PERMITS

#306 - Cottontail Rabbit, Snowshoe Hare, White-tailed & Black-tailed jackrabbit

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: October 1 - end of February annually.
2. Extended Falconry and Dog Pursuit Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Ten (10) cottontail rabbits, ten (10) snowshoe hares, ten (10) jackrabbits.
2. Possession Limit: Twenty (20) cottontail rabbits, twenty (20) snowshoe hares, and twenty (20) jackrabbits.

#307 - Abert's Squirrels

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: November 15 - January 15 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) squirrels.
2. Possession Limit - Four (4) squirrels.

#308 - Fox Squirrel and Pine Squirrels

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Statewide: October 1 - end of February annually.
2. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. Daily Bag Limit - Five (5) fox squirrels and five (5) pine squirrels.
2. Possession Limit - Ten (10) fox squirrels and ten (10) pine squirrels.

#309 - Wyoming (Richardson's) ground squirrel, and black-tailed, white-tailed, and Gunnison prairie dogs

A. Season Dates and Units

1. Wyoming ground squirrel:
 - a. Statewide: January 1 - December 31 annually.
2. Black-tailed, white-tailed and Gunnison prairie dogs:
 - a. Public Land: June 15 - end of February annually.
 - b. Private Land: January 1 - December 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

1. There shall be no bag or possession limit.

#310 - Common Snapping Turtle

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. Statewide: April 1 - October 31 annually.
- B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - 1. There shall be no bag or possession limit.

#311 - Marmot

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. Statewide: August 10 - October 15 annually.
- B. Daily Bag and Possession limits
 - 1. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) marmots.
 - 2. Possession limit - Four (4) marmots.

#312 - Prairie Rattlesnake

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. Statewide: June 15 - August 15 annually.
- B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - 1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) snakes.
 - 2. Possession Limit - Six (6) snakes.
- C. Nothing in this section is intended to interfere with or prohibit the lawful protection of life or property as provided for in Section 33-6-107(9), C.R.S.

#313 - Dusky (Blue) Grouse

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. West of U.S. Interstate 25.
 - a. September 1 - November 22, 2020.
 - b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - March 31 annually.
- B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - 1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) birds.
 - 2. Possession Limit - Nine (9) birds.

#314 - White-tailed Ptarmigan

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. Statewide except units 44, 45, 53, 54, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 444 and 751.
 - a. September 12 - October 4, 2020.

- b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - March 31 annually.
- 2. Units 44, 45, 53, 54, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 444 and 751.
 - a. September 12 - November 22, 2020.
 - b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - March 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

- 1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) birds.
- 2. Possession Limit - Six (6) birds.

#315 - Greater Sage-grouse

A. Season Dates, Units and Limits, Except North Park

- 1. Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 18 except that portion of unit 18 east of Colo 125 in Grand County, 27, 28 except that portion of GMU 28 north and east of Grand Co Rd 50 (Church Park Rd) and US 40, 37, 181, 201, 211, 301 and 441.
 - a. September 12 - September 18, 2020.
 - b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - January 31 annually.
- 2. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - a. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.
 - b. Possession Limit - Four (4) birds.

B. Season Dates, Units and Limits, North Park

- 1. Units 6, 16, 17, 161, and 171.
 - a. September 12 - September 13, 2020.
 - b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - January 31 annually.
- 2. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - a. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.
 - b. Possession Limit - Two (2) birds.

#316 - Gunnison Sage-grouse

A. Season Dates and Units

- 1. None.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

- 1. Daily Bag Limit - None.
- 2. Possession Limit - None.

#317 - Mountain Sharp-tailed Grouse

A. Season Dates and Units.

- 1. Closed statewide except: Units 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 131, 211, 214, and 441.
 - a. September 1 - September 20, 2020.
 - b. Extended Falconry Season: September 1 - January 31 annually.

B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

- 1. Daily Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.
- 2. Possession Limit - Four (4) birds.

#318 - Chukar Partridge

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. Statewide: September 1 - November 30, 2020.
 - 2. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.
- B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - 1. Daily Bag Limit - Four (4) birds.
 - 2. Possession Limit - Twelve (12) birds.

#319 - Pheasant

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. East of I-25: November 14, 2020 - January 31, 2021.
 - 2. West of I-25: November 14, 2020 - January 3, 2021.
 - 3. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 - March 31 annually.
- B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - 1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) cocks.
 - 2. Possession Limit - Nine (9) cocks.
- C. Extended Falconry Season Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - 1. Daily Bag Limit - Three (3) birds.
 - 2. Possession Limit - Nine (9) birds.

#320 - Quail (Northern Bobwhite, Scaled, Gambel's)

- A. Season Dates and Units
 - 1. East of U.S. Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70 from I-25 to Byers and U.S. Highway 36 from Byers to the Kansas line, and those portions of Pueblo, Fremont, Huerfano, El Paso and Las Animas counties lying west of I-25: November 14, 2020 - January 31, 2021.
 - 2. East of U.S. Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70 from I-25 east to Byers and U.S. Highway 36 from Byers to the Kansas line: November 14, 2020 - January 3, 2021.
 - 3. West of U.S. Interstate I-25, except Pueblo, Fremont, Huerfano, El Paso and Las Animas counties: November 14, 2020 - January 3, 2021.
 - 4. Extended Falconry Season - Statewide: September 1 through March 31 annually.
- B. Daily Bag and Possession Limits
 - 1. Daily Bag Limit - Eight (8) quail of each species.
 - 2. Possession Limit - Twenty-four (24) quail of each species.

#321 - Greater Prairie-Chicken

- A. Season Dates and Units.
 - 1. Closed statewide except: Units 93, 97, 98, 100, 101 and 102.

a. October 1, 2020 - January 3, 2021.

B. Annual Bag and Possession Limits

1. Annual Bag Limit - Two (2) birds.
2. Possession Limit - Two (2) birds.

Basis and Purpose:

Requiring the purchase of either a furbearer license, or a furbearer permit in addition to a small game license, for the avocational harvest of all furbearer species except coyotes

Previously avocational furharvesters could purchase several licenses to harvest furbearer species, including an annual furbearer license, an annual small game license, a daily small game license, or an annual small game and fishing combination license. This led to problems with furbearer harvest surveys, dual licensing purchases, refund requests and confusion with qualifying licenses. To address these problems, regulation #304.B was changed to require avocational furharvesters possess either a furbearer license or a small game license plus a furbearer permit to harvest all furbearer species, except coyotes. While the furbearer license already exists, the furbearer permit, which could be purchased in addition to a small game license, was created with a fee of \$10 to cover administrative costs and to discourage small game license purchasers who are not likely to harvest furbearers from obtaining a permit. This change will be implemented starting in the 2021 license year beginning March 1, 2021. Coyotes could continue to be taken with a small game license without a permit, a furbearer license, or an unfilled big game license. Youth small game license holders would be exempt from the requirement to purchase a furbearer permit.

Closing the 2020 hunting season for greater sage-grouse in Game Management Units (GMUs) 4 and 5 pursuant to thresholds set forth in the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan

The Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan recommends a 100-male minimum threshold based on a 3-year running average of the number of male grouse counted on leks for the management of sage-grouse hunting. The 3-year running average of male sage-grouse counted at leks in Northwest Colorado Management Zone 4a is 95 males, below the threshold of 100. In addition, this year's count of 116 males in this management zone represents approximately 70% of the long-term average for the zone. Game Management Units (GMUs) 4 and 5 overlap Management Zone 4a. As a result, regulation #315.A.1 was changed to close the 2020 hunting season for greater sage-grouse in GMUs 4 and 5.

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. The statements of basis and purpose are not available at the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters due to the closure of these facilities to the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 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 16TH DAY OF JULY, 2020.

APPROVED:
Marvin McDaniel
Chair

ATTEST:
Marie Haskett
Secretary

