

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

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

#315 - Greater Sage-grouse

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

1. Units ~~2~~, 3, 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 10 - September 16, 2022.
 - 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 10 - September 11, 2022.
 - 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.

Basis and Purpose:

Closing the 2022-hunting season for greater sage-grouse in Game Management Unit 2 pursuant to thresholds set forth in the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan

The Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan (NWCO GRSG 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 current 3-year running average of male sage-grouse counted at leks in Northwest Colorado Management Zone 2 is 80 males, which is below the threshold of 100 stipulated in the plan. The total number of male sage-grouse counted at leks in Zone 2 has declined by 88% over the past five years from an all-time high count of 480 in 2017 (when the Northwest Colorado Population as a whole was at a recent high) to 57 in 2022. Game Management Unit 2 aligns with Management Zone 2 in the NWCO GRSG Conservation Plan. As a result, regulation #315.A.1 was modified to remove GMU 2 from the 2022 hunting season for greater sage-grouse. GMU 2 will remain temporarily closed until lek counts result in a 3-year average of male lek attendance that exceeds 100.

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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 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 21ST DAY OF JULY 2022.

APPROVED:
Carrie Besnette Hauser
Chair

ATTEST:
Marie Haskett
Secretary