



The Hybrid Drawing

What was the Colorado Wildlife Commission Thinking?

What is the Hybrid Draw?

Beginning in 2010, the Colorado Wildlife Commission adopted a hybrid draw system for allocating high demand deer, elk, pronghorn, and bear licenses through the limited license drawing. The hybrid draw only applies to those licenses that require at least 10 preference points for residents based on a 3 year average. The hybrid system allocates 80% of the available licenses for each qualifying hunt code to the preference point drawing and 20% of the licenses to a random drawing. Applicants must have at least 5 preference points to be entered into the random drawing and are automatically entered into the random drawing for their qualifying 1st choice hunt code if unsuccessful in the preference point drawing.

Why Use a Hybrid Draw?

The Wildlife Commission adopted the hybrid draw system to give more hunters a chance to draw a premier big game license. Under the current preference point system, some licenses require so many points that 95% of hunters, including those that already have up to 10 points and youth hunters, will likely never be able to draw one of these licenses in their lifetime. Hunters that began applying for preference points many years ago essentially “locked up” the highest demand hunts. The points required to draw premier licenses continually increase because hunters with large numbers of preference points greatly exceed the numbers of high demand licenses available and more hunters keep climbing the preference point ladder. For example, for every deer license that requires ≥ 10 points there are approximately 80 hunters with ≥ 10 deer preference points and this ratio becomes more disparate every year. In 2009, some hunt codes required a minimum of 19 points for a resident and 20 points for a non-resident.

The challenge faced by the Wildlife Commission was to provide more hunters a chance to draw a premier license without having undue impact on those hunters that were already highly vested in the preference point system. Other draw options were evaluated and rejected by the Commission, including a variety of weighted draw systems, because they were considered to be too unfair to hunters with large numbers of points. Although the hybrid draw does take some licenses out of the preference point drawing, the number of licenses is very small and draw simulations indicate minimal effect on preference point inflation. Overall, only about 100 licenses across all 4 species (out of approximately 320,000 licenses total) are expected to go into the hybrid draw in 2010. Realistically, this will do little to reduce draw opportunity for the great majority of hunters. For example, based on past trends, a resident hunter with 15 elk preference points in 2010 wanting to draw a Unit 201 early season either-sex rifle elk license (EE201E1R) would have to wait up to 20 more years to be in contention in a straight preference point draw because so many other hunters have 16 or more points in 2010 (assuming that half of these hunters want the same 201 license and continue in the draw). The hybrid draw would increase the 35 year wait by 3-4 additional years. In the meantime, the hybrid draw offers this hunter a chance to draw a 201 license.

Overall, the chances of drawing a license in the random portion of the hybrid draw are very small but at least a chance exists. The hybrid drawing is expected to have little if any effect on Division revenue but will add complexity to the drawing process for the Division. The Wildlife Commission considered the hybrid draw to be the fairest system to provide some balance in opportunity between the great majority of hunters and a small number of highly vested hunters.

More Information

Links to the documents below can be found on the Colorado Division of Wildlife website at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/BigGame/SeasonStructure/>.

2010 Hybrid Draw FAQ. *Explains the hybrid draw in more detail and includes a list of 2010 hybrid draw hunt codes.*

Hypothetical Hybrid Draw Quotas. *Provides a list of 2010 hybrid draw hunt codes with hypothetical hybrid draw quotas based on 2009 license numbers. Note that 2010 license quotas will not be adopted by the Wildlife Commission until May 2010.*

Hunter Numbers by Preference Point Level for Deer, Elk, Pronghorn and Bear. *Shows the number of hunters at each preference point level going into the 2010 draw.*

Example of Preference Point Inflation. *Graph showing preference point inflation for early rifle elk licenses in Unit 201 since 2000.*