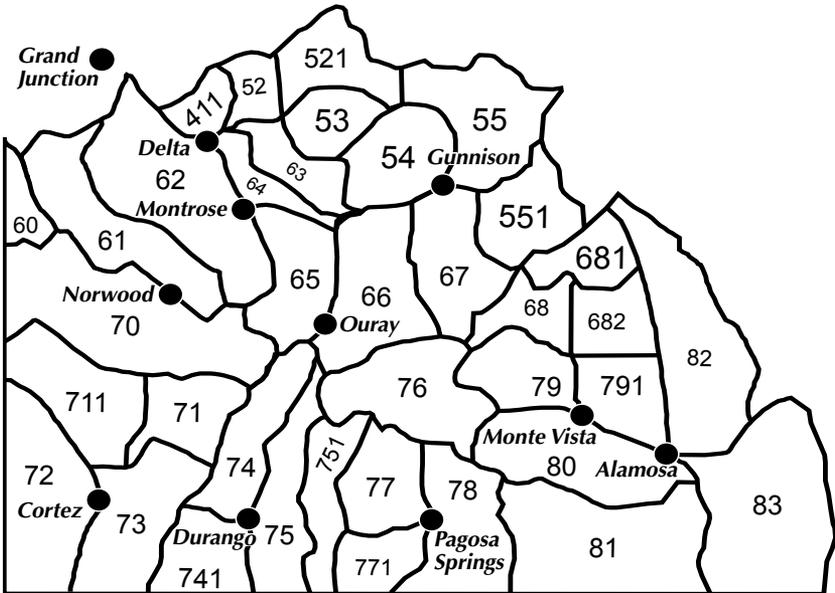


2019 Big Game Hunting in Southwest Colorado



Contents:

- Hunting tips and outlook
- 2018 season harvest statistics
- Camping information
- Travel information
- Important phone numbers and web sites



2019 Elk & Deer Season Information

Season Dates	Deer	Elk	License Fees*		Deer Buck/Doe	Elk	
						Bull/ Either-sex	Cow
Archery	Aug. 31 - Sept. 29		Resident	Adult	\$39.75	\$54.75	\$54.75
Muzzle	Sept. 14 - 22			Youth	\$10.50	\$15.50	\$15.50
1st Rifle		Oct. 12 - 16					
2nd Rifle	Oct. 19 - 27		Non-Resident	Adult	\$396.75	\$661.75	\$496.75
3rd Rifle	Nov. 2 - 10			Youth	\$101.50	\$101.50	\$101.50
4th Rifle	Nov. 13 - 17						
<p>Over-the-counter licenses on sale Aug. 8, 9 a.m.; leftover licenses Aug. 6 at license agents and by phone 1-800-244-5613 or on-line.</p>			<p>Prices include 25 cent search/rescue fee, \$1.50 cent wildlife education fund fee; Non-residents also receive a fishing license. Prices do not include \$10 habitat stamp fee.</p>				

Keep Your Wheels Where They Belong™



For info and tips visit
www.staythetrail.org

New for 2019 - cpw.state.co.us for details

FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT: Thanks to all hunters and anglers who helped pass this bill through the Colorado Legislature. The act is a huge step to sustain funding for wildlife conservation.

CWD TESTING FOR DEER: Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected in southwestern Colorado. There is no mandatory testing for the Southwest Region but hunters are encouraged to have their animals checked; take your harvested animals to any CPW office. The charge is \$25.

Colorado State Park camping opportunities

Four state parks in the Southwest Region offer outstanding camping facilities close to good hunting areas. Campgrounds include showers and electricity. Some also offer cabins and yurts. For information, call: Mancos State Park, 970-882-2213; Ridgway State Park, 970-626-5822; Crawford State Park, 970-921-5721; Navajo State Park, 970-882-2208. Or go to the web site at cpw.state.co.us. for information and to make reservations.

State Park offers exclusive hunting experience in GMU 711

For a unique hunting opportunity, anyone who draws a license for GMU 711 is eligible for a chance to hunt at the 12,000-acre Lone Mesa State Park. Located northwest of Dolores, the park is undeveloped and currently only open to the public for big game hunting. The number of hunters is limited, from 12 to 25 depending on the season. The access fee is \$100 or \$200 for residents, and \$200 or \$300 for non-residents depending on the type of license. The park is located in prime big game habitat and hunter success is high. For more information, go to the Lone Mesa State Park page on the CPW web site, cpw.state.co.us, or call 970-882-2213.

Know the Rules for off-highway vehicles (OHVs)

Inappropriate and illegal use of OHVs causes conflicts among hunters and can cause resource damage to public lands. Hunters must be aware of the laws and regulations governing OHV use.

All OHVs must be registered and permitted annually in Colorado. Permits cost \$25.25. Non-residents using OHVs must obtain a Colorado permit. Permits and regulations can be found on-line at cpw.state.co.us., or call 1-303-791-1920 for information.

Federal "Travel Management Plans" are written to ensure protection of resources. If you are hunting on public land, contact the local U.S. Forest Service or BLM office to obtain current regulations. Phone numbers are on the inside back cover of this booklet.

Colorado wildlife officers, USFS officers, BLM rangers and other local law enforcement agencies are authorized to ticket OHV users who violate rules. Those riding in unauthorized areas face fines and penalties of \$100 from CPW, and \$250 from federal agencies. Hunters, anglers or trappers

using OHVs illegally will receive 10 penalty points against their hunting and fishing privileges. The fine for riding in federal wilderness areas is \$500 and 15 penalty points. Please, observe these rules and guidelines:

- **Rifles carried on OHVs must be in a case and completely unloaded.**
- Be considerate of other hunters. OHV noise disturbs big game animals.
- OHVs cannot be driven into designated wilderness or roadless areas.
- OHVs are generally prohibited from most streets in towns and on some county roads. Check local regulations.
- Explain these rules to young hunters and those unfamiliar with using these vehicles on public lands.

OHV game retrieval in GMU 711

An OHV may be driven off road for one mile to retrieve game in a section of GMU 711 as described on the San Juan National Forest travel map. The hunter who killed the animal must be in the retrieval party. Vehicles must be no more than 50 inches wide. Two OHVs may be used, but they must travel together and can only make one trip in. If one OHV is used, two trips are allowed. Avoid passing over the same track twice. Avoid wet area, cross streams slowly, don't spin tires, avoid other hunters. To obtain a map, call the Dolores Public Lands office, 970-882-7296.

Beware of dead timber

Fire and beetles have killed timber in some areas of southwest Colorado. Trees can fall without warning. Exercise caution in areas of dead-standing timber, especially when it's windy and during heavy rain.

Hunting Q & A

Do I need a Hunter Education Card? Hunters born after 1948 must present a hunter education card to buy a license. License agents will accept cards issued by other states, but won't accept a previous year's license or photocopies. CPW's apprentice license allows a one-year waiver of hunter education requirements for those who hunt with a mentor. An opt-out option based on a test is available for those over 50 and for U.S. military personnel. For information on hunter ed classes, apprentice licenses and the opt-out program, go to the Safe Hunting section on the CPW web site.

Where do I buy my Colorado hunting license? Licenses are available at CPW offices, at licensing agents, by telephone at 1-800-244-5613, and on-line.

Can I hunt both deer and elk? Yes, and you no longer need to hunt them during the same season. See the Big Game Brochure or the web site.

Can I have more than one elk and deer license? Yes, but only in specific GMUs. See the web site or the Big Game Brochure for details.

Where can I hunt with an unlimited rifle license? Unlimited licenses are sold only for bull elk hunting during the second and third seasons. The licenses can be used in any GMU in Colorado, except those listed on page 36 of the Big Game brochure. Excluded Southwest Region units are: 61, 66, 67, 682, 76, 79 and 791.

What are “Private Land Only” licenses? Also called PLO licenses, they require the holder to hunt in a specific GMU and are valid only on private land. You must obtain permission from a landowner. It is recommended that you secure permission from a landowner before purchasing the license. For more information, go to the CPW web site: cpw.state.co.us.

Hunting ethically

Hunting is an integral part of wildlife management in Colorado. Remember, you are not only participating in a recreational activity, you also play an important role in managing big-game herds. With your license comes a responsibility to hunt and conduct yourself in an ethical manner. Please, take a few moments to answer the following questions. It’s up to you to remember the answers when you are out in the field:

- Are your hunting actions providing a “fair chase” scenario for the animal?
- Would you behave the same way if you were hunting with a wildlife officer or being videotaped for the news?
- Do you know exactly where you are hunting?
Are you in the right GMU?
- Do you know the habits of the animal you are hunting?
- When you take aim at an animal do you know for certain that it is the right sex and species?
- Are you physically able to hunt in mountainous terrain and retrieve a harvested animal?
- Do you know how to properly field dress a big-game animal?
- Do you minimize the impacts of your camp on the landscape?
- Do you pack out all of your trash?
- Will you report rule violations—yours and others—to a Colorado wildlife officer?
- Have you read the Colorado Big Game Brochure to check for specific regulations for the GMU in which you are hunting?

Ethical behavior is critical to the future of hunting. Please, consider how your actions impact wildlife, fellow hunters and the general public.

If you make a mistake

Every year people make mistakes while hunting. Hunters occasionally: shoot the wrong animal, accidentally kill more than one animal, hunt in the wrong GMU, etc. Many errors can be prevented by carefully reading this publication and the Colorado Big Game brochure, by obtaining a good map of your hunting area and by being diligent in the field. Hunters who make errors can be penalized with fines, suspension points, felonies and misdemeanors, loss of meat, license suspension or confiscation of equipment. Penalties can be much more severe for those who purposefully attempt to hide mistakes from wildlife officers.

If you make a mistake while hunting, the best course of action is to report the incident to the closest CPW office immediately. Be prepared to explain to a wildlife officer what happened and why. While you still may be subject to penalties, they could be less severe if the officer determines that you are cooperative, the error was not intentional, or it was unavoidable given the circumstances. Follow the officer's orders on caring for the meat, leaving the animal at the scene or bringing it to an agreed upon location, etc. If you are unable to contact an officer immediately, field dress the animal on the spot and don't move it.

Know where you're hunting!

It is your responsibility to know exactly where you are hunting. If you harvest an animal in the wrong GMU you will be subject to penalties, and you will not be allowed to keep the animal. Location descriptions of each GMU can be found starting on page 61 of the Big Game brochure.

Buy a high-quality topographic map, read the boundary description in the brochure carefully and outline the boundaries on your map. If you have questions, call the CPW office in the area where you are hunting.

In Colorado, landowners are not required to post or fence their land. It is your responsibility to know the location of private property. You must obtain permission to hunt on private land. If you hunt on private land without permission you may be charged with trespassing, be required to appear in court and fined.

Simple rules for hunting safely

Hunting accidents have declined significantly since the passage of two laws in 1970 that require hunter education for all hunters born on or after January 1, 1949, and require rifle hunters to wear at least 500-square-inches of fluorescent orange or pink clothing above the waist—including a head covering visible from all directions. **“Camouflage” orange or pink is not legal.**

Hunters should review safety rules each time they go into the field.

Remember: One moment of carelessness can mean a lifetime of consequences.

Before the season, go to a shooting range to sight-in your rifle and practice. You'll get re-acquainted with your gun and you'll improve your chances of success.

Most accidents occur near vehicles. Load and unload your gun at least 100 feet from your car, truck or camp.

No matter how long you've been hunting, always observe these basic safety rules:

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded and keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Be sure of your target - what is in front of it and what is beyond it. Once you take a shot, you can't take it back.

If you are in doubt, don't shoot.

- Keep the safety on and your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Never place your hand over the muzzle of a gun.
- Don't hurry while loading or unloading.
- Talk about safety with youngsters and inexperienced hunters.
- Stop to rest when you are out of breath; fatigue often contributes to accidents.

Lead bullets and game meat

Concerns have been raised about potential health risks of exposure to lead from eating wild game harvested with lead bullets. Children under 6 and pregnant women should avoid this meat.

Because lead bullets fragment, the lead can scatter beyond the wound. Trim meat liberally when processing an animal. Discard damaged meat, meat that is discolored or bruised, and that shows dirt, hair or bone fragments. Lead is soft and can be spread when meat is ground.

Lead fragments can also sicken birds, such as eagles and hawks, that scavenge on gut piles.

More and more hunters are using copper bullets. They are accurate and deadly. Copper bullets cost a little more, but hunters can use lead bullets of similar weight at the range to sight-in their rifles and to practice.

A challenge for hunters: Bears

Black bear populations are healthy throughout the Southwest Region. Colorado Parks and Wildlife encourages hunters to try their hand at stalking the native ursines. In late summer and into the fall, bears are gorging on berries and acorns in order to fatten up for winter hibernation. Bears are most likely to be found in patches of scrub oak brush, and in moist areas where there are berry bushes.

Archers and muzzleloaders can purchase a license to hunt only bears.

During the rifle seasons, however, bear hunters must also have a deer or elk license in the GMU where they're hunting. All licenses are sold over-the-counter. But there is a cap on these licenses so they are sold on a first come-first served basis

Those who harvest a bear must personally present the carcass for inspection and sealing at a CPW office within five working days of harvest. Carcasses must not be frozen. Agency staff will also remove a premolar tooth for research purposes.

Tips for hunting mule deer

A large mule deer buck can reach 400 pounds; however, most mule deer range from 200-300 pounds. It is estimated that Colorado is home to about 433,000 deer. During the 2017 seasons, for all manners of take, 84,000 hunters harvested 38,000 mule deer for a 43 percent success rate.

In the mountains and foothills, mule deer don't spend much time in heavy timber. They are primarily browsers and prefer aspen and forest edges where there are plenty of low shrubs, small trees, oak brush and varied vegetation types.

Mule deer are most active at night and can often be found in meadow areas during low-light hours. During the day they'll bed down in protective cover.

In warm weather, look for deer along ridge lines where wind is consistent and helps to keep them cool.

During the low-light hours of evening and morning, hunt in openings at the edge of thick cover. If you see where they are feeding during times of low-light, it's likely they'll move into nearby timbered areas to rest for part of the day. Deer tend to move during the middle of the day toward the areas where they feed in the evening.

A slow stalk is recommended. Spend a lot of time scanning slowly with binoculars - a deer can appear at any time.

Pay attention to the wind direction. If the wind is blowing in the direction you are moving, a deer will likely pick up your scent. Deer avoid going to creeks in daylight so there is no advantage to hunting near moving water sources during the day.

One advantage mule deer give to hunters is their curiosity. When mule deer are spooked they'll often run a short distance then turn to determine if they are being pursued. That may give you one good chance for a shot.

A small amount of snow will get deer moving quickly out of high-altitude areas. Usually by late October, migrating herds will move to winter range areas even if there is no snow.

Hunters should aim at the vital organ area which presents a small target - about the size of a dinner plate - just behind and low on the front quarter. Hunters, no matter how good they are at the range, should never try to make a head shot. Many animals are injured and die slowly because of attempted head shots.

Tips for hunting elk

The popular hunting magazines often display colorful photographs of huge bull elk standing in open meadows presenting easy targets. The reality in the mountains of Colorado, however, is far different.

Stalking these animals is challenging and most hunters won't get easy shots. You're more likely to find elk on a steep hillside, in a dark ravine or in thick timber than out in the open.

The hunter success rate for all manners of take in Colorado during the 2017 seasons was 19 percent, and an estimated 43,292 elk were harvested. A total of 224,000 hunters stalked elk last season. It's estimated that there are about 286,000 elk in Colorado, the most of any state.

If weather is warm, elk stay spread out over vast areas at high elevations at and above timberline. In those conditions hunters need to work extra hard. When snow falls, elk start to move, bunch up, and look for food sources at lower elevations or on slopes where vegetation is exposed. Elk movement will start in earnest when a foot or more snow falls.

Hunters must get off their OHVs and hunt slowly and quietly far from any road. Elk are very smart, move quickly at any hint of danger and hide in rugged terrain. Compounding the challenge for hunters is the fact that elk typically gather in groups of 10 or more. If one is spooked they all move and they can run easily for a half-mile or more.

Elk are most active at night and are likely to be grazing in transition areas - meadows and openings next to heavy timber where different types of vegetation meet, and just above or below ridge lines. Hunters should watch these areas at first light and at dusk.

During the day, hunters need to move into the dark timber and not be hesitant to hunt in difficult areas. Hunters should move as quietly as possible for short distances and then scan the woods for 10 minutes or more before moving again. Even in dense forest it's a good idea to use binoculars so you can discern subtle movement or colors in the trees.

If you find the areas where animals graze at night it's likely that you'll find them in adjacent areas during the day.

Line up your shot carefully because elk are difficult to knock down. The best shots are delivered in the critical area of the lungs and heart just behind and below the front quarters.

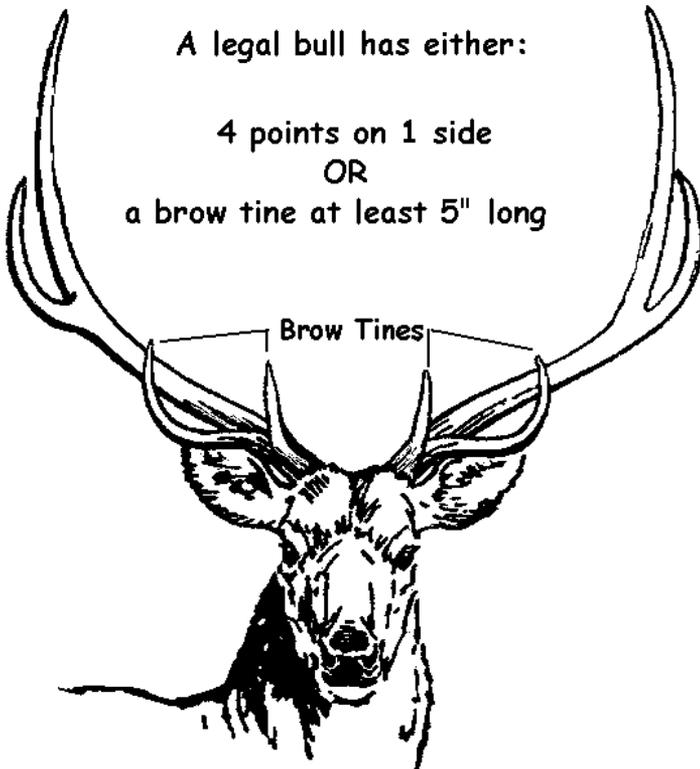
Safe Hunting is No Accident!

Antler requirements

To allow bull elk and mule deer bucks to reach maturity, animals must grow to an acceptable size before they can be harvested. Size is determined by the antlers. Be sure to clearly identify the size of the antlers of a bull or a buck.

Mule deer bucks -- No antler point restrictions; but antlers must be at least 5 inches long.

Bull elk -- For all GMUs in the southwest region except 61 and 76: A legal bull must have antlers with at least 4 points on one side OR brow tines that are 5 inches or longer. In GMUs 61 and 76 a legal bull must have antlers that are at least 5 inches long. There are no point restrictions. If you are unsure while taking aim, do not shoot. Be aware that the spikes of young bulls are difficult to see. If you have an antlerless permit be sure the animal is indeed antlerless. Mistakes often occur in the low light hours at dawn and dusk.



Know your physical limits

Hunting in the mountains of Colorado is physically demanding. Even if you are in good shape you will still feel the effects of the altitude. Consider these tips as you head to the high country:

- To acclimate, plan to arrive at your hunting area a couple of days before you start hunting.
- Drink lots of water. Dehydration can cause severe headaches, muscle cramps and loss of energy. Carry water purification tablets so that you can refill your bottles at creeks. Limit alcohol--it causes dehydration.
- If you experience severe headaches or difficulty breathing, move to lower altitude immediately. These symptoms could be signs of pulmonary edema or cerebral edema, both of which can be fatal.
- When hunting, move slowly and stop to rest often. Accidents are more likely to occur when you're tired. If you are feeling very tired and you are far from camp, unload your gun before continuing to walk.
- Discuss any health issues with your hunting partners.

Caring for your campsite

Camping can cause significant impacts on public lands. Minimize impacts with advanced planning. Please, follow these guidelines:

- When possible, use established camping areas. Occupy as small of an area as possible.
- Campsites must be at least 100 feet from streams, lakes or riparian areas. Minimize trampling of grass and shrubs.
- Do not dig a trench around your tent site.
- Check for public-land fire restrictions; keep fires small, put fires out every night; burn only paper trash items.
- Use a stove for cooking to reduce impacts.
- Collect all cooking grease and carry it out. Do not dump on ground.
- Collect deadfall for campfires. Do not cut down trees.
- When you leave camp for the day, store all food and garbage securely inside a vehicle. Food and garbage attracts animals, including bears.
- Strain dish water before throwing it out and put debris in the trash. Small bits of food accumulate significantly over time.
- Pack out human feces. Sanitary products are available in which waste can be deposited and then disposed of properly in town.
- If you must, dig a latrine. Dig a hole about three-feet deep; be sure that it is at least 100 feet from the nearest water source. Spread soil on top after each use. Restore area to natural condition when you break camp.
- Pack out all trash. Do not bury trash.
- Inspect your camp carefully after it is packed up. Leave your camp cleaner than how you found it.

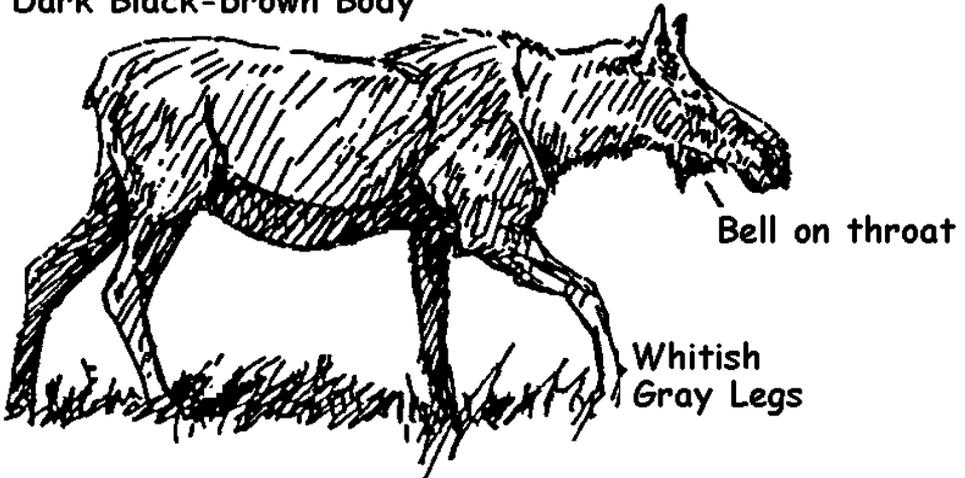
Don't shoot a moose!

Moose are present throughout the Southwest Region. Moose favor wetlands -- but they can be found in any terrain where elk live.

Too often, hunters mistake moose -especially cows- for elk. Please, be sure of your target. Moose are much darker in color than elk but their antlers can look similar from a distance. The fine for accidentally killing a moose is \$1,370. If the animal is killed illegally and the carcass abandoned, the shooter can be charged with a Class 5 felony.

Cow Moose

Dark Black-brown Body



Hunter's Checklist

Preparing for a hunting trip is a major effort. Be sure to leave information about where you'll be hunting and camping, license plate numbers and cell phone numbers with folks at home.

Listed below are a few common items that hunters often forget as they get ready to go into the backcountry.

- First-aid kit, sunscreen, toilet paper, water bottles.
- Hunting license, compass and maps.
- Flashlight, lantern, extra batteries.
- Rain gear, tire chains.
- Knife sharpener, bone saw, game bags.
- Blaze orange or pink vest and cap. Extra camp-stove fuel, cleaning supplies, trash bags, shovel.
- List of family/friends with contact information.

Are you using horses?

If you plan to use horses on your hunting trip, please be aware of the following:

- You must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian 30 days prior to entry into Colorado. Include the physical address of where the horse is kept in your state and the location where the horse will be in Colorado.
 - A negative equine infectious anemia test is required 12 months prior to entry. Date of the test, results, the lab and the accession number must be listed on the veterinary inspection form. For questions, contact the State Veterinarian's Office, 1-303-239-4161.
 - Horses are required to have a brand inspection when transported over 75 miles totally within the boundaries of Colorado, and every time they leave the state. Contact the Brands Office at 1-303-869-9160.
 - Hay, straw and mulch must be certified as "weed free." Only the following products are allowed on national forests in Colorado: cubed and pelletized hay, steamed grain, treated/steamed mulch from tree fibers. For information, call the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 1-303-239-4149; or for a list of regulations and vendors, see www.colorado.gov/ag.
 - Don't tie horses to trees in camp. This causes tree damage and vegetation around the tree to be trampled.
 - Highline or picket your stock. If you use a highline, please use tree-saver straps to avoid damaging trees.
 - Move horses often to keep them from trampling vegetation or overgrazing an area.
 - Keep stock 100 feet or more from lakes, streams, wetlands and trails.
 - Restrictions on horse travel in wilderness areas are often greater than in other areas. Be sure to read notices at trailheads. Many wilderness areas carry maximum group size limits which regulate the number of livestock and people that are allowed to travel together.
- Contact the U.S. Forest Service or BLM in the area where you are hunting for complete information.

Pack Animals

Some people use animals other than horses to pack in gear to hunt camps. **Please, do not use goats.** These animals can spread disease to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Llamas, however, are acceptable.

Report Hunting Violations: 1-877-265-6648

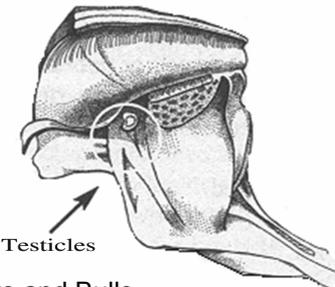
Evidence of sex

After harvest, evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass. You can use either the head or sex organs, but they **must** be naturally attached to the carcass.

Leaving the evidence attached to one-quarter of the carcass is acceptable--so long as all four quarters are being transported together.

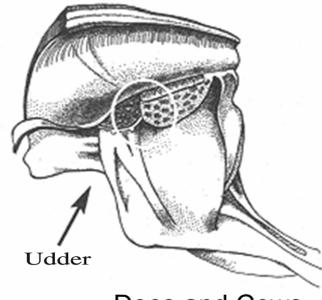
The head or skull plate with both antlers naturally attached must accompany the carcass of a buck or bull while it is in camp or being transported--even when the testicles are used to meet proof of evidence of sex.

If you are working with a taxidermist, obtain a written receipt from the taxidermist before transporting the carcass home or to a meat processor. The receipt must list the following: date delivered and description of antlers.



Bucks and Bulls

Attached head with antlers or attached testicle, scrotum or penis



Does and Cows

Attached head or udder

Tagging the carcass

Improperly attaching the carcass tag is a common violation and can result in a fine. Make sure that everyone in your hunting party knows how to properly attach the tag. You can be held liable for illegally transporting big game even if someone else made an error. Please, follow these guidelines:

- Sign your license as soon as you buy it or receive it in the mail.
- Immediately after harvesting the animal, detach the carcass tag from your license, sign it and punch the holes indicating sex, month and day of kill. Put the carcass tag in your pocket while taking the animal to camp or to your vehicle.
- When you arrive at camp or at your vehicle, immediately attach the carcass tag to the body of the animal. Do not attach to antlers. Attach the tag to the animal's leg or the hide.
- Place the tag where it can be easily inspected by a wildlife officer.
- If the carcass is cut up, keep all the pieces together for inspection.

- If you bone out the animal, be sure to leave sexual organs attached to a large piece of the meat.
- Retain the top portion of your license during all transport of the animal. If you are shipping the meat via commercial carrier, the meat must be accompanied by one of the following: the hunter's license, a photocopy of the license, or the carcass tag.

The “easy” way to field dress your animal

More often than not, harvested animals must be cared for in remote areas far from roads. That requires hunters to pack out meat and antlers. To help lighten the load for hunters, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has produced two helpful videos that provide instructions on how to field dress an animal and how to bone-out meat.

Go to the CPW web site, enter “hunt videos” in the search window to view “How to Field Dress a Big Game Animal.”

Available on DVD is “Down to the Bone” which explains methods for deboning in the field. By removing the bones and other inedible portions of the animal, you can reduce the weight you carry out of the backcountry by more than 50 percent.

Order a copy of the DVD on line. Go to the CPW website click on the “Buy and Apply” link at the top of the home page and go to “Retail Products.”

Chronic Wasting Disease detected in SW Colorado

CWD has been detected in deer in southwest Colorado. CWD is a neurological disease that can be found in deer, elk and moose. There is no evidence that humans can contract the disease. CPW recommends that harvested animals be checked for CWD. The test costs \$25, and hunters can take their animals to any CPW wildlife office to start the testing process.

To learn more about CWD and public health, go to <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/ResearchCWD.aspx>, or call Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at 1-303-692-2700.

PRECAUTIONS

- Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that appears sick.
- Wear disposable rubber gloves when field dressing and processing.
- Bone out the meat from your animal.
- Minimize the handling of brain, spinal tissues, and viscera.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, pancreas and lymph nodes of harvested animals. Normal field dressing, coupled with boning-out a carcass, will remove most, if not all, of these body parts.
- Do not consume meat from animals known to be infected with CWD.
- Knives, saws and cutting table surfaces can be disinfected by soaking in a solution of 50 percent unscented household bleach and 50 percent water for an hour. Afterward, rinse thoroughly and allow them to air dry.

Managing Colorado's big game herds

To manage the state's big game populations, CPW uses a "management by objectives" approach. Big game populations are managed to achieve population and sex-ratio objectives established for Data Analysis Units (DAUs). Each DAU represents a geographically distinct big game herd.

Game management units are subsets of DAUs. The GMU groupings in this booklet are based on DAUs. However, because big game herds travel wide areas throughout the year, the population of each GMU cannot be estimated.

The DAU planning process incorporates public input, habitat capabilities, and herd considerations into management objectives for each of Colorado's big game herds. The general public, hunters, federal and state land management agencies, landowners and agricultural interests are involved in determining DAU plan objectives through questionnaires, public meetings, and by giving input to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission. License numbers and season recommendations result from this process.

Each DAU plan establishes post-hunt herd objectives for the size and structure of the population. The DAU objectives then are compared with modeled population estimates. Model inputs include:

- Harvest estimates determined by hunter surveys.
- Post-hunt sex and age ratios determined by aerial classifications.
- Estimated wounding loss, illegal kill and survival rates based on field observations and studies.

The information is entered into a specialized computer program which then estimates the population size. The final step in the process is to calculate harvest recommendations that will align population estimates with the herd objectives.

Using a Guide Service in Colorado

Here's what you need to know if you're planning to use a guide service for your hunt. Outfitters in Colorado must be licensed by the state Department of Regulatory Agencies (<http://www.dora.state.co.us>), and by the U.S. Forest Service or BLM if they operate on federal land. Ask guides for licensing information and check their records through the state and federal agencies. Ask for references for at least three other past clients. Before paying any money, require a contract that stipulates: types of services, dates of service, cost of service, lodging/camping/transportation arrangements, ratio of clients to guides, cancellation policy, and other items you believe are necessary. Guides who provide so called "finders fees" for locating animals also must be licensed. Using an unlicensed outfitter is illegal.

The Colorado Outfitters' Association requires members to be licensed, bonded and to adhere to a code of ethics. For information, www.coloradooutfitters.org, or call 1-970-824-2468.

Southwest Colorado Hunting Outlook

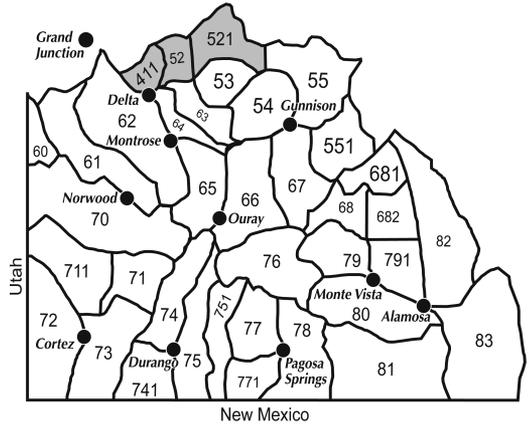
South Grand Mesa

GMUs 411, 52, 521

Gunnison CPW: 970-641-7060

Maps: Grand Mesa and Gunnison National Forest

The Grand Mesa is heavily forested and offers a wide variety of terrain: from the spruce, fir and aspen forests up to 11,000 feet, to the pinon-juniper woodlands at about 4,800 feet. Weather can vary as widely as the terrain. Motorized access is good but roads can become muddy. Hunters should obtain maps to avoid trespassing or unintentionally crossing private land. Respect motorized closures on public lands. Lower elevations are mainly private, especially in GMUs 411 and 52.



MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE – BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!

Deer hunting

The deer population in these units is stable and buck licenses were increased slightly as well as PLO licenses for private land. Deer are found on high-elevation public land and private land during October. Some deer stay in lower-elevation agricultural lands year-round. In late October, deer generally migrate to lower elevation as the weather cools. During the later seasons many deer will be found on private land, so hunters should plan accordingly. Hunting in aspen and oak brush can be productive. Hunters should obtain land ownership maps of this area

Estimated deer population: 8,300

3-year estimated sex ratio: 26 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2018 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	0	0	0	0	7	0 / 33
411	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	5	0 / 30
411	2 nd Rifle	31	0	0	31	102	30 / 38
411	3 rd Rifle	24	0	0	24	53	45 / 52
52	Archery	21	0	0	21	67	31 / 36
52	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	26	27 / 51
52	2 nd Rifle	128	0	0	128	257	50 / 53
52	3 rd Rifle	70	0	0	70	110	64 / 66
52	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	7	57 / 69
521	Archery	18	0	0	18	82	22 / 33
521	Muzzle	8	0	0	8	36	22 / 36
521	2 nd Rifle	57	0	0	57	152	38 / 52
521	3 rd Rifle	32	0	0	32	68	47 / 61

Elk Hunting

Elk in these GMUs are part of the greater Grand Mesa herd area that includes GMUs 41, 42 and 421 to the north. The herd is stable, well distributed and hunting is rated as good. Hunter crowding is becoming a concern. Most elk will be at higher elevations during the seasons – above 8,500 feet in thick timber and oak brush. Distribution changes in relation to weather and hunting pressure; so hunters should be prepared to adapt to conditions.

Elk will generally move into more remote areas in response to pressure. Successful hunters generally stay well away from motorized access areas, especially in GMU 521. These units are managed for hunting opportunity, so most bulls are young. Hunting pressure is lowest during the limited first season.

Estimated elk population (includes six GMUs): 14,500

3-year estimated sex ratio: 24 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

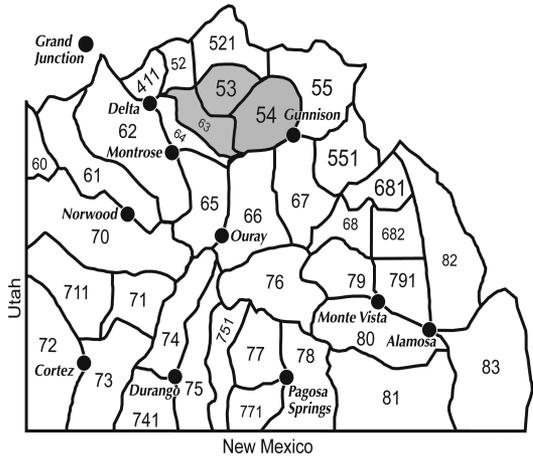
GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	10	3	0	13	216	6 / 10
411	Muzzle	0	7	0	0	40	0 / 5
411	1 st Rifle	10	5	0	15	63	24 / 28
411	2 nd Rifle	32	15	0	60	184	33 / 20
411	3 rd Rifle	24	15	0	39	359	11 / 9
411	4 th Rifle	9	6	0	15	51	29 / 23
52	Archery	10	17	0	27	399	7 / 8
52	Muzzle	0	5	0	5	133	4 / 11
52	1 st Rifle	45	15	0	60	184	33 / 20
52	2 nd Rifle	32	22	6	60	184	33 / 20
52	3 rd Rifle	24	15	0	39	359	11 / 9
52	4 th Rifle	0	0	0	0	58	0 / 10
521	Archery	107	47	3	157	1130	14 / 13
521	Muzzle	30	19	0	49	255	19 / 18
521	1 st Rifle	52	21	5	78	391	20 / 28
521	2 nd Rifle	107	31	0	138	752	18 / 17
521	3 rd Rifle	50	33	2	85	465	18 / 18
521	4 th Rifle	0	18	4	22	90	24 / 19

Safe Hunting is No Accident!

West Elk Mountains

GMUs 53, 54, 63
Gunnison CPW: 970-641-7060
Map: Gunnison National Forest

This new herd-management area for deer combines GMUs 54, 53 and 63. Harvest statistics in charts will be grouped together after the 2019 season.



Winter weather is almost guaranteed during any season in this area which includes the high country of the West Elk Wilderness. Altitude ranges from 5,400 feet near Hotchkiss to more than 12,000 feet in the wilderness. The variation in elevations and the topography creates volatile weather at all times of year. These GMUs contain abundant public land: 90 percent of GMU 53, 60 percent of GMU 63. When snow falls, herds move quickly to lower elevations on the western ends of the units.

GMU 53 contains rough terrain and access is on rugged 4WD roads and foot/horse trails. Hunters should be prepared to hunt in difficult terrain. Packing an animal out in this area is challenging. Do not count on moving a vehicle close to the kill site. Access is easier for GMU 63; but be sure to study the map closely to avoid trespassing. West of Highway 92 most of the land is private. Motorized travel is limited to designated routes.

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Deer Hunting

The population of the deer in these units is currently below objective. License numbers were cut by about 10 percent to help build the herd. Deer are well distributed. As the season progresses and hunting pressure increases, deer move to lower elevations to the west in GMU 63 where private land is abundant. Hunting can still be good on public lands throughout GMU 63 if the weather is mild.

Estimated deer population: 7,100

3-year estimated sex ratio: 31 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	7	0	0	7	42	17 / 26
53	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	18	39 / 35
53	2 nd rifle	96	0	0	96	129	74 / 68
53	3 rd rifle	97	0	0	97	103	94 / 85
53	4 th rifle	4	0	0	4	8	50 / 87
63	Archery	25	0	0	25	47	53 / 58
63	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	24	54 / 65
63	2 nd rifle	83	0	0	83	117	71 / 64
63	3 rd rifle	96	0	0	96	124	77 / 73
63	4 th rifle	7	0	0	7	10	70 / 87

Elk Hunting

The elk population in these units is stable. To maintain the herd size, the number of limited licenses was cut by 11 percent for this season.

If there is no snow, elk will likely be scattered throughout the high-elevation landscape. Hunters will be most successful by walking along transition areas up high. By November, animals will start to move lower; hunters should be aware of private land and National Park boundaries, particularly in GMU 63 west of Highway 92. Expect heavy pressure in the Black Mesa area of GMU 63.

Estimated elk population: 3,200

3-year estimated sex ratio: 19 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

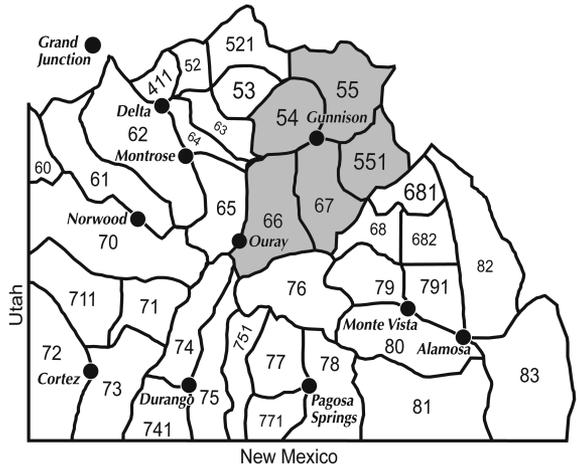
GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	72	66	0	138	841	16 / 15
53	Muzzle	12	10	3	25	132	19 / 21
53	1 st Rifle	58	31	0	89	306	29 / 29
53	2 nd Rifle	59	20	0	79	427	19 / 19
53	3 rd Rifle	12	15	5	32	294	11 / 13
53	4 th Rifle	5	16	4	25	87	29 / 19
63	Archery	17	7	0	24	285	8 / 15
63	Muzzle	2	2	0	4	63	6 / 19
63	1 st Rifle	31	14	0	45	154	20 / 33
63	2 nd Rifle	17	18	0	35	311	11 / 15
63	3 rd Rifle	27	12	0	39	250	16 / 21
63	4 th Rifle	0	11	0	11	77	14 / 21

Northeast Gunnison Basin, South Gunnison Basin

GMUs 54, 55, 551, 66 and 67
Gunnison CPW: 970-641-7060
Map: Gunnison National Forest

New herd-management areas: NE basin Units 54, 55, 551 for elk; 55 and 551 for deer. South basin, 66 and 67 for deer and elk. Harvest statistics will be reported separately after this season.

Public land in the area is abundant and varied—from sage brush hills to alpine tundra. Be prepared for cold and snowy weather during all seasons. Motorized travel is limited to designated routes, open roads should be signed; please consult the current Motor Vehicle Use Maps available from the USFS and BLM. Off-route game retrieval with OHVs is prohibited on all public lands..



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Deer Hunting

Biologists are working to keep the deer population in these units at a sustainable level in line with winter-range carrying capacity. Licenses were cut after the heavy 2016-17 winter. Survival rates, however, were higher than expected and buck to doe ratios are over management objectives; consequently, licenses for 2019 were increased substantially in all five GMUs. The buck-to-doe ratio target is 40 to 100. For many years the ratio has been more than 50 to 100 which is too high to maintain a stable population. Severe winters in Gunnison can impact the deer population so license numbers can fluctuate to meet objectives.

Even though the deer population is high, there are relatively few licenses issued in the basin: 1,055. So hunters who draw a tag will see good numbers of deer and many mature bucks. Success rates are well above the statewide harvest average.

The herd is distributed throughout the vast basin, so excellent deer hunting opportunities are found in all five game management units.

Estimated deer population: 15,000

3-year estimated sex ratio: 45 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	0	0	0	0	24	0 / 20
54	Muzzle	8	0	0	8	17	47 / 36
54	2 nd Rifle	87	0	0	87	142	61 / 56
54	3 rd Rifle	41	0	0	41	43	95 / 87
54	4 th Rifle	7	0	0	7	9	78 / 71
55	Archery	20	0	0	20	23	87 / 46
55	Muzzle	9	0	0	9	15	60 / 45
55	2 nd Rifle	55	0	0	55	68	81 / 64
64	3 rd Rifle	41	0	0	41	43	95 / 87
55	4 th Rifle	7	0	0	7	9	78 / 71
551	Archery	4	0	0	4	16	25 / 30
551	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	19	32 / 47
551	2 nd Rifle	47	0	0	47	58	81 / 68
551	3 rd Rifle	9	0	0	9	17	53 / 76
551	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	8	50 / 78
66	Archery	14	0	0	14	35	40 / 34
66	Muzzle	19	0	0	19	27	70 / 57
66	2 nd Rifle	77	0	0	77	110	70 / 74
66	3 rd Rifle	41	0	0	41	48	85 / 86
66	4 th Rifle	9	0	0	9	14	64 / 86
67	Archery	22	0	0	22	35	63 / 42
67	Muzzle	19	0	0	19	29	29 / 46
67	2 nd Rifle	88	0	0	88	116	76 / 71
67	3 rd Rifle	41	0	0	41	48	85 / 79
67	4 th Rifle	15	0	0	15	15	100 / 94

Elk Hunting

Elk population in GMUs 54, 55, 511 has been declining over the last decade; in response biologists have reduced licenses by about 40 percent for this year, particularly for either-sex and antlerless licenses. The southern units – 66 and 67 – are being managed to increase elk and the population is growing slowly. This year bull licenses were cut by 10 percent but overall license numbers remain the same. the number of elk and licenses were cut by 18 percent two years ago. The units are managed to maintain a low density of hunters for a high-quality experience..

In all of these units, hunters are advised to be in good shape and to hunt well away from roads. Elk will move to difficult terrain when hunting pressure starts; so be prepared to hunt canyons or thick timber.

Estimated elk population: 14,400

3-year estimated sex ratio: 22 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	29	6	10	45	257	18 / 14
54	Muzzle	17	5	0	22	133	17 / 14
54	1 st Rifle	0	18	0	18	37	49 / 43
54	2 nd Rifle	114	25	0	139	723	19 / 16
54	3 rd Rifle	87	115	5	207	1075	19 / 14
54	4 th Rifle	22	22	0	44	176	25 / 23
55	Archery	49	35	0	84	582	14 / 12
55	Muzzle	17	23	3	43	273	16 / 13
55	1 st Rifle	32	51	9	146	997	15 / 13
55	2 nd Rifle	86	51	9	146	997	15 / 13
55	3 rd Rifle	87	115	5	207	1075	19 / 14
55	4 th Rifle	3	51	11	65	118	55 / 31
551	Archery	37	7	3	47	203	23 / 17
551	Muzzle	6	7	0	13	127	10 / 18
551	1 st Rifle	28	13	0	41	165	25 / 21
551	2 nd Rifle	25	48	5	78	549	14 / 11
551	3 rd Rifle	72	76	5	153	660	23 / 15
551	4 th Rifle	2	6	3	11	56	20 / 31
66	Archery	43	8	3	54	157	34 / 26
66	Muzzle	10	12	2	24	66	36 / 36
66	1 st Rifle	104	47	0	151	384	39 / 33
66	2 nd Rifle	70	43	0	113	348	50 / 32
66	3 rd Rifle	68	79	7	154	305	50 / 32
66	4 th Rifle	13	43	6	62	147	49 / 38
67	Archery	24	0	0	24	90	27 / 28
67	Muzzle	8	3	0	11	69	16 / 24
67	1 st Rifle	62	18	0	80	332	24 / 22
67	2 nd Rifle	44	12	0	56	367	15 / 11
67	3 rd Rifle	70	62	8	140	272	51 / 25
67	4 th Rifle	19	80	0	99	216	46 / 27

Need information?
Call a Hunt Planner at 1-303-291-7526

San Luis Valley Area

Monte Vista CPW: 719-587-6900

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

GMUs - 76,79, 68, 681, 682, 791, 80, 81, 82, 83

The San Luis Valley is a vast 8,000-square-mile area that provides a wide variety of terrain at elevations that range from 7,500 feet to 14,000 feet. The rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains define the valley's east side. The middle of the valley is flat farm land that is privately owned. The Rio Grande and the Conejos River provide long riparian areas that cut through high-elevation alpine forests to lower elevation cottonwood and willow stands. The west is bordered by the Rio Grande National Forest and the San Juan mountain range.

Throughout the area, access varies from moderate to very difficult. Hunting can be good for those willing to go into tough terrain. Hunting is also challenging because animals in many areas can move quickly to large areas of private or federal refuge land.

Deer hunting in the San Luis Valley has been improving recently due to limits on buck licenses. Success rates are high for hunters who draw a buck tag. Due to overall low deer population, doe hunting is allowed only on private land in specific areas to address game damage issues.

GMU 68 buck licenses can also be used in GMU 681 and 682; GMU 79 buck licenses can also be used in GMU 791. Private Land Only doe tags are available for GMU 79 and 791, mainly for game damage issues.

Elk hunting is good but requires hunters to pursue animals in challenging terrain. Overall success rates for elk hunters in unlimited units in the San Luis Valley are generally lower than the statewide average.

Weather is a dominant factor for hunters. Snow will cause herds to move down quickly from high elevation. Success for elk hunters in the later seasons increases with winter weather. However, small amounts of snow can make travel difficult. Hunters are urged to check weather conditions regularly.

You must have permission to hunt on private land. Trespassing is a significant issue in the valley.

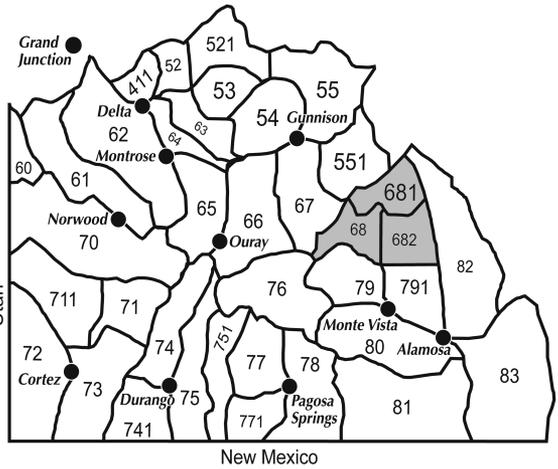
North Valley Floor Special Elk Units (GMUs 682, 791)

A special management area north of Highway 160 was created in 2006 to address the growing elk population on the valley floor which could cause damage on high-value agricultural lands. The population objective in that area is 0 (ZERO) – the only such designation in the state. Bulls are hunted May 15-July 31 on private property. The bull and cow fall hunt is Aug. 15 through February. All licenses are distributed through landowner vouchers. Hunters must get permission from the landowner to hunt on private land.

Saguache

GMUs – 68, 681, 682, 791
 Monte Vista CPW: 719-587-6900
 Map: Rio Grande Nat. Forest

The area is dominated by public lands and hunting access is excellent. Vegetation types range from heavy timber to vast areas of grass and low shrubs. Public lands dominate GMUs 68 and 681. These units hold good summer and winter habitat.



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Deer Hunting

The deer population is holding steady but is at the lower end of the objective range. The number of tags has been decreased slightly. Fawn survival and recruitment has been strong, so the deer herd in this area is very healthy.

Estimated deer population: 5,500

3-year estimated sex ratio: 30 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	9	0	0	9	40	23 / 20
68	Muzzle	31	0	0	31	73	42 / 29
68	2 nd Rifle	67	0	0	67	149	45 / 51
68	3 rd Rifle	96	0	0	96	131	73 / 72
68	4 th Rifle	5	0	0	5	10	50 / 43
681	Archery	13	0	0	13	63	21 / 15
681	Muzzle	25	0	0	25	65	38 / 40
681	2 nd Rifle	121	0	0	121	157	77 / 75
681	3 rd Rifle	96	0	0	96	131	73 / 72
681	4 th Rifle	2	0	0	2	7	29 / 57
682	Archery	0	0	0	0	2	0 / 0
682	3 rd Rifle	3	0	0	3	3	100 / 64
791	Archery	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
791	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 9
791	3 rd Rifle	3	0	0	3	6	50 / 57

Elk Hunting

Population of elk in these units is below objective and CPW is working to build the herd. To bolster the population all cow licenses were reduced significantly and late-season cow licenses have been eliminated. Hunter success rates are lower than most other parts of the state because it is challenging to find these animals. Elk move to refuge areas on private and public land when they face hunting pressure. Hunters willing to go into tough terrain can be rewarded.

Estimated elk population: 3,700

3-year estimated sex ratio: 18 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	24	3	4	31	464	7 / 9
68	Muzzle	0	8	0	8	120	7 / 9
68	1 st Rifle	47	0	0	47	251	19 / 19
68	2 nd Rifle	47	5	0	52	612	8 / 7
68	3 rd Rifle	40	20	0	60	619	10 / 7
68	4 th Rifle	5	14	0	19	161	12 / 14
681	Archery	7	3	0	10	358	3 / 5
681	Muzzle	7	2	0	9	80	11 / 8
681	1 st Rifle	4	0	0	4	123	3 / 11
681	2 nd Rifle	25	18	0	43	415	10 / 7
681	3 rd Rifle	35	11	0	46	437	11 / 7
681	4 th Rifle	6	13	3	22	82	27 / 20
682	Archery	0	0	0	0	6	0 / 15
682	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	2	0 / 0
791	Archery	0	3	0	3	10	30 / 20
791	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	6	0 / 0

**Safe Hunting
is No Accident!**

Costilla

GMU 83
 Monte Vista CPW:
 719-587-6900
 Map: Rio Grande
 National Forest

This entire GMU is private land. Hunters must obtain permission from land – including in subdivisions where landowners may not be present. Trespassing is a major issue in this area.

The unit is dominated by the Trinchera Ranch. The ranch is enrolled in the Ranching for Wildlife program. Deer and elk hunting on the ranch are excellent. For information about hunting on the ranch, see the 2019 Colorado Big Game Brochure or go to the CPW web site and type “Ranching for Wildlife” into the search bar.

Deer Hunting

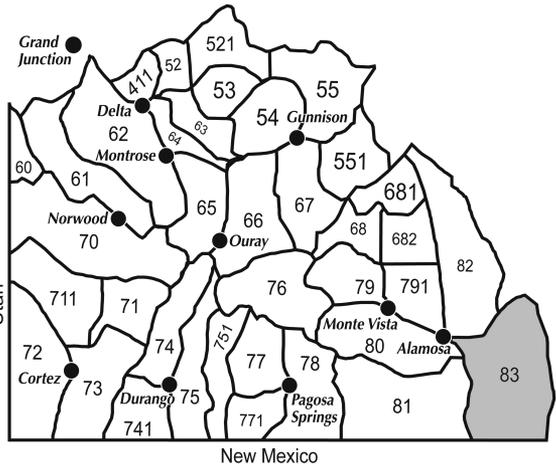
The herd is below the population objective and appears to be declining slightly. The buck-to-doe ratio is higher than most units in the Southwest Region. There are only 215 limited licenses, all on private land, issued for this area.

Estimated deer population: 1,100

3-year estimated sex ratio: 25 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2018 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	3	0	0	3	6	50 / 66
83	Muzzle	4	0	0	4	8	50 / 79
83	2 nd Rifle	5	0	0	5	7	71 / 93
83	3 rd Rifle	9	0	0	9	10	90 / 89
83	4 th Rifle	3	0	0	3	5	60 / 72



**Report Hunting Violations to:
 Operation Game Thief
 1-877-265-6648**

Elk Hunting

The population estimate for this herd is 16,000 and includes GMUS 85, 851 and 140 on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo range. There is no population estimate for GMU 83 only; although the population appears to be trending down on the west side of the range. An either-sex tag for this Ranching for Wildlife area requires a minimum of 14 preference points.

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	41	16	0	57	285	20 / 12
83	Muzzle	0	5	0	5	28	18 / 21
83	1 st Rifle	18	12	0	30	72	42 / 45
83	2 nd Rifle	68	17	0	85	307	28 / 17
83	3 rd Rifle	140	56	0	196	646	30 / 21
83	4 th Rifle	28	57	8	93	116	80 / 57

Lower Rio Grande

GMUs – 80, 81

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

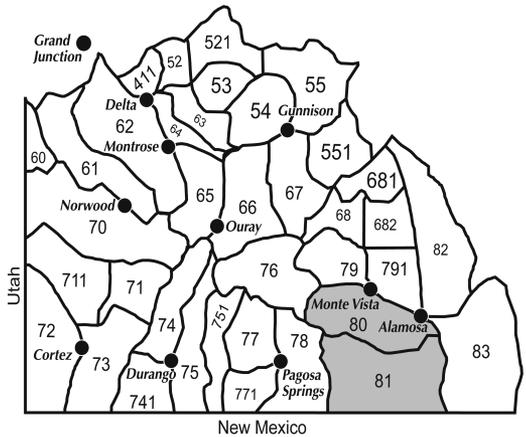
Monte Vista CPW office:

(719)587-6900

This area has a large amount of public land, easy access via roads and, consequently, heavy hunting pressure. Elk and deer move to areas of rough terrain hidden from roads when the season starts.

Hunters who want to get far away from vehicle traffic can go to the South San Juan Wilderness Area

located in the southern portion of GMU 81. Hunting quality is good, especially in early seasons before winter weather pushes animals into federal refuge areas.



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Deer Hunting

The population is growing slightly and the buck-to-doe ratio is within the objective range. Licenses were increased by about 15 percent last years and are the same this season. Those who are willing to pass up younger bucks should be able to find a more mature buck to harvest. Deer are found throughout both units. This unit is gaining popularity with deer hunters.

Estimated deer population: 5,800

3-year estimated sex ratio: 28 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	22	0	0	22	97	23 / 21
80	Muzzle	26	0	0	26	85	31 / 34
80	2 nd Rifle	74	0	0	74	135	55 / 45
80	3 rd Rifle	104	0	0	104	152	68 / 54
80	4 th Rifle	16	0	0	16	35	46 / 57
81	Archery	23	0	0	23	140	16 / 17
81	Muzzle	27	0	0	27	96	28 / 23
81	2 nd Rifle	73	0	0	73	114	64 / 48
81	3 rd Rifle	64	0	0	64	129	50 / 45
81	4 th Rifle	13	0	0	13	27	48 / 46

Elk Hunting

This population has been stable for a few years but the herd is below objective. Overall, cow harvest is low so this population is expected to grow. But these animals also migrate to New Mexico where they face hunting pressure. Bull harvest has been strong in these units during the last few seasons, and the same is expected for this year. These units get significant hunting pressure, so elk can be difficult to find. Hunters who work hard to get away from roads and into thick timber and challenging terrain have the best chance of filling their tags.

Estimated elk population: 10,200

3-year estimated sex ratio: 16 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	94	36	8	138	990	14 / 13
80	Muzzle	8	0	1	9	85	11 / 15
80	1 st Rifle	119	0	0	119	280	43 / 26
80	2 nd Rifle	131	4	2	137	1028	13 / 11
80	3 rd Rifle	91	22	6	119	742	16 / 9
80	4 th Rifle	6	17	0	23	75	31 / 19
81	Archery	135	82	4	221	1502	15 / 15
81	Muzzle	16	2	0	18	86	21 / 17
81	1 st Rifle	119	0	0	119	280	43 / 26
81	2 nd Rifle	127	19	7	153	994	15 / 12
81	3 rd Rifle	43	11	11	65	642	10 / 7
81	4 th Rifle	0	27	0	27	69	39 / 20

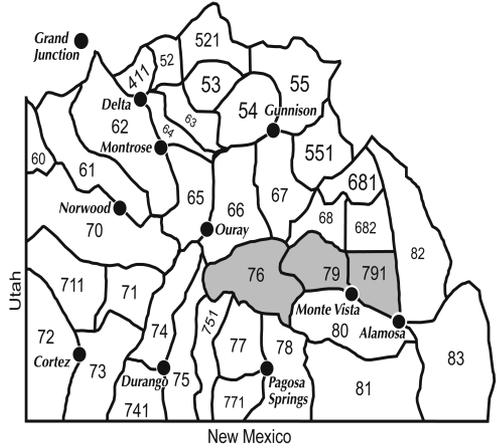
Upper Rio Grande

GMUs – 76, 79, 791

Monte Vista CPW: 719-587-6900

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

GMU 76 has the highest percentage of public lands in the San Luis Valley. It also includes portions of wilderness areas for hunters who want to pack in. While GMU 79 contains some private land, there is plenty of room for hunters to roam on public land in this unit. GMU 791 is entirely private land.



Deer Hunting

The deer population is healthy and stable, and the buck-to-doe ratio is higher than the state average; hunters can find mature bucks. The number of licenses is the same as last year. GMU 79 has important winter range and holds deer and elk in the late seasons, depending on the snow accumulations.

GMU 76 is primarily summer range for deer, very few animals winter there. Mature bucks can be found in these units.

Estimated deer population: 2,300

3-year estimated sex ratio: 35 bucks per 100 does.

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2018 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	11	0	0	11	21	53 / 45
76	Muzzle	10	0	0	10	20	50 / 64
76	2 nd Rifle	14	0	0	14	22	64 / 63
76	3 rd Rifle	5	0	0	5	13	38 / 55
79	Archery	0	0	0	0	7	0 / 10
79	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	22	9 / 37
79	2 nd Rifle	60	0	0	60	82	73 / 65
79	3 rd Rifle	87	0	0	87	113	77 / 72
79	4 th Rifle	1	0	0	1	9	11 / 80

Elk Hunting

Habitat is excellent and the elk population is growing slightly. Population is within the objective range and older bulls have been observed thanks to excellent forage conditions over the last few years. The

West Fork fire of 2013 continues to provide long-term habitat benefits for this population. GMU 79 is primarily winter range for elk and success is highly dependent on snow pushing animals into the area.

These units are totally limited for elk hunting. GMU 79, however, can be hunted with a general elk license during archery season. GMU 76 offers great bull hunting for those willing to wait to draw a license. The unit, however, doesn't produce trophy-quality animals that are found in other limited units in Colorado.

Estimated elk population: 5,100

3-year estimated sex ratio: 20 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	62	0	0	62	155	40 / 39
76	Muzzle	43	1	0	44	81	54 / 50
76	1 st Rifle	112	0	0	112	183	61 / 54
76	2 nd Rifle	22	56	2	80	251	32 / 29
76	3 rd Rifle	15	62	0	77	195	40 / 29
76	4 th Rifle	0	45	4	49	126	39 / 27
79	Archery	14	0	0	14	239	6 / 5
79	Muzzle	4	5	0	9	35	26 / 13
79	1 st Rifle	11	4	0	15	191	8 / 7
79	2 nd Rifle	15	7	0	22	165	13 / 8
79	3 rd Rifle	20	0	0	20	153	13 / 6
79	4 th Rifle	0	6	0	6	97	6 / 3

Sand Dunes

GMU 82

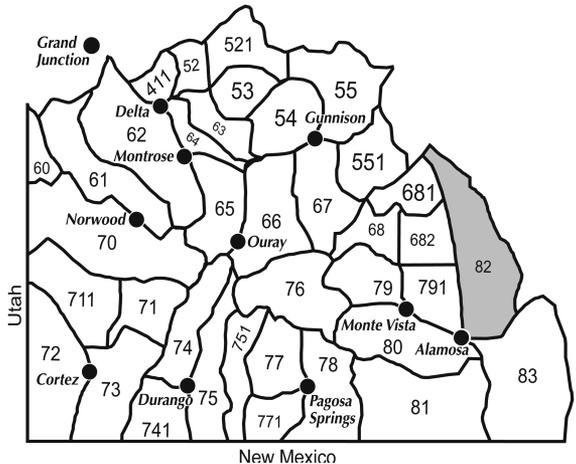
Monte Vista CPW

719-587-6900

Map: Rio Grande N.F.

Hunting is prohibited in Great Sand Dunes National Park which is located within this unit. The national forest and national park preserve, where hunting is allowed, abut the park and refuge so when hunting pressure starts deer and elk move quickly to the safe havens. There is also private land with residential development

in the northern half of the unit so be sure to know what's behind your



target. Hunters are allowed to pass through the national park to hunting areas, but some restrictions apply. Call the National Park Service at 1-719-378-6399, or go to the web site, www.nps.gov/grsa for information. Much of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range is U.S. Forest Service wilderness. This range is extremely rugged and road access is limited. It is accessible mainly by foot or horseback. Hunters should be in good shape if they plan to hunt here.

Deer Hunting

The population is stable and offers a high buck-to-doe ratio. Hunter success is good for those who draw a license. A limited number of licenses is issued for this area -- only about 400 licenses are issued for all seasons.

Estimated deer population: 2,650

3-year estimated sex ratio: 31 bucks to 100 does

2018 Deer Hunting Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	2	0	0	2	34	6 / 17
82	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	39	33 / 35
82	2 nd Rifle	73	0	0	73	129	57 / 50
82	3 rd Rifle	34	0	0	34	92	37 / 53
82	4 th Rifle	3	0	0	3	5	60 / 81

Elk Hunting

Elk hunting is now allowed on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge for those holding a limited tag for GMU 82. Contact the refuge for specific regulations: 719-256-5527. Over-the-counter licenses are also available for the archery, muzzleloader and rifle seasons. Hunting is restricted to specific areas in the refuge, so hunters need to contact the refuge for details. Camping is not permitted and access is allowed only during daylight hours.

Private land is located on the southern boundary of the Baca so shots should not be taken in the direction of homes or roads. Access is good in the northern portion of GMU 82, but hunting can be poor because animals quickly move south when hunters arrive.

Estimated elk population: 4,500

3-year sex ratio average: 38 bulls to 100 cows

2018 Elk Hunting Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	37	16	3	56	592	9 / 9
82	Muzzle	0	3	0	3	27	11 / 10
82	1 st Rifle	81	32	10	123	318	39 / 29
82	2 nd Rifle	48	14	4	66	547	12 / 15
82	3 rd Rifle	79	43	0	122	599	20 / 15
82	4 th Rifle	4	9	4	17	102	17 / 25

Dolores – Dry Creek

GMUs 70, 71, 711, 72, 73
Montrose CPW: 970-252-6000,
Durango CPW: 970-247-0855
Maps: GMUs 70, 71, 711, 72,
73 – San Juan National Forest;
GMU 70 - Uncompahgre National
Forest

This area covers a
2,800-square-mile landscape
from the west side of the
Uncompahgre Plateau to the
Utah state line and south to the

New Mexico. Habitat throughout these GMUs is favorable for big game. With altitudes from 5,000 feet to more than 12,000 feet, the vegetation ranges from desert shrubs to alpine tundra. Weather can change quickly, so be prepared for all conditions. There is good vehicle access in these areas; consequently, hunting pressure can be heavy in areas of easily accessible public land. An exception is the Lizard Head Wilderness Area, GMU 71, which is accessible by foot and horseback only.

Be aware of private land in the northern sections of GMUs 71 and 711, and in the southern section of GMU 70. The southern half of units 72 and 73 is tribal land. Hunting by non-tribal members is prohibited. Hunting is also prohibited at Mesa Verde National Park.

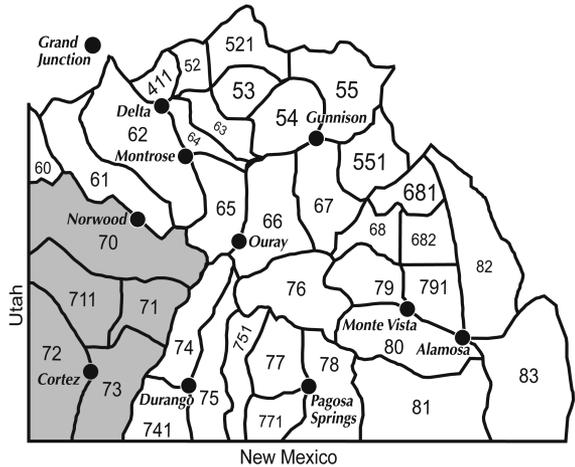
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Deer Hunting

The deer population is within the objective range, however, fawn survival has been poor during the last three years. Buck licenses in all the units have been cut by about 10 percent to improve the buck-to-doe ratio

In the early seasons, deer are evenly distributed, mostly above 8,000 feet. Deer begin migrating to lower elevations, generally from east to west, in mid-October. Snow will cause them to move to lower elevations earlier. Deer concentrate on winter ranges in Dry Creek Basin, Disappointment Valley and along the rim of the Dolores River canyon. GMU 70 in Dry Creek Basin is recommended in the third and fourth seasons.

Estimated deer population: 23,300 (includes all five GMUs)
3-year average sex ratio: 29 bucks per 100 does (GMUs 70, 71, 711)
3-years average sex ratio: 35 bucks per 100 does (GMUS 72 and 73)



2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	37	0	0	37	136	27 / 25
70	Muzzle	32	0	0	32	77	42 / 32
70	2 nd Rifle	296	5	0	301	500	60 / 62
70	3 rd Rifle	359	8	0	367	581	63 / 64
70	4 th Rifle	28	0	0	28	44	64 / 69
71	Archery	21	0	0	21	76	28 / 24
71	Muzzle	9	0	0	9	34	26 / 29
71	2 nd Rifle	62	0	0	62	128	48 / 46
71	3 rd Rifle	100	0	0	100	211	47 / 36
71	4 th Rifle	5	0	0	5	6	83 / 46
711	Archery	9	0	0	9	45	20 / 29
711	Muzzle	10	0	0	10	30	33 / 32
711	2 nd Rifle	110	0	0	110	214	51 / 50
711	3 rd Rifle	167	0	0	167	299	56 / 57
711	4 th Rifle	21	0	0	21	27	78 / 66
72	Archery	21	0	0	21	39	54 / 36
72	Muzzle	29	0	0	29	37	78 / 55
72	2 nd Rifle	99	0	0	99	161	61 / 67
72	3 rd Rifle	137	0	0	137	203	67 / 64
72	4 th Rifle	10	0	0	10	22	45 / 51
73	Archery	25	0	0	25	57	44 / 47
73	Muzzle	17	0	0	17	35	49 / 42
73	2 nd Rifle	51	0	0	51	102	50 / 56
73	3 rd Rifle	100	0	0	100	181	55 / 60
73	4 th Rifle	10	0	0	10	22	45 / 51

Elk Hunting

Elk numbers are low and hunters will be challenged especially when the weather is warm and dry. Hunting pressure in early seasons has been increasing. The increase in hunters and the use of calls has resulted in bulls becoming call-shy. Other strategies such as spot-and-stalk or sitting in a high-activity area will yield a better chance for success. Expect elk to be in small groups of 4-5 animals until snow starts to accumulate. Hunting smart is more successful than hunting hard. GMU 711 becomes better as the season progresses. Elk will move quickly into thick aspen, evergreens and rugged terrain with hunting pressure. A long-term study examining calf survival started in 2018.

Estimated elk population: 19,250
3-year average sex ratio: 14 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	108	34	4	146	738	20 / 17
70	Muzzle	0	26	3	29	116	25 / 13
70	1 st Rifle	119	92	11	222	520	43 / 45
70	2 nd Rifle	110	85	6	201	917	22 / 25
70	3 rd Rifle	120	80	5	205	1010	20 / 20
70	4 th Rifle	21	66	0	87	259	34 / 30
71	Archery	107	50	0	157	1049	15 / 14
71	Muzzle	27	5	0	32	202	16 / 16
71	1 st Rifle	146	24	0	170	610	28 / 27
71	2 nd Rifle	96	11	0	107	707	15 / 16
71	3 rd Rifle	46	5	3	54	618	9 / 12
71	4 th Rifle	8	3	2	13	61	21 / 28
711	Archery	43	20	4	67	325	21 / 12
711	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	47	15 / 14
711	1 st Rifle	9	14	0	23	245	9 / 23
711	2 nd Rifle	65	14	3	82	392	21 / 17
711	3 rd Rifle	65	30	0	95	927	10 / 11
711	4 th Rifle	20	28	0	48	186	26 / 31
72	Archery	17	4	0	21	130	16 / 10
72	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	29	24 / 15
72	1 st Rifle	0	2	0	2	48	4 / 19
72	2 nd Rifle	24	10	0	34	123	28 / 14
72	3 rd Rifle	12	0	0	12	243	5 / 7
72	4 th Rifle	0	4	0	4	9	44 / 24
73	Archery	31	42	3	76	320	24 / 15
73	Muzzle	0	6	0	6	40	15 / 22
73	1 st Rifle	9	0	0	9	89	10 / 28
73	2 nd Rifle	7	1	1	9	211	4 / 9
73	3 rd Rifle	12	0	0	12	243	5 / 7
73	4 th Rifle	0	0	0	0	26	0 / 20

See a wildlife crime? Call Operation Game Thief

1-877-265-6648

Hermosa

GMUs 74, 741

Durango CPW: (970)247-0855

Map: San Juan National Forest

Part of GMU 74 was closed last year in the aftermath of the 416 Fire. In the burn area new vegetation has come back nicely and could be a draw for deer and elk. But be careful around dead trees. Elevations range from about 6,000 feet near the New Mexico border to well over 12,000 feet near Silverton. An abundance of vegetation provides good summer range, but winter range on the south is declining because of development. Public land is abundant in GMU 74 with much of it quite remote.

Most of the land in GMU 741 is private or part of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Only members of the tribe can hunt on the reservation.

No hunting is allowed around Nighthorse Reservoir which is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. Hunting is allowed on the 3,000 acres owned by CPW in the adjacent Bodo State Wildlife Area.

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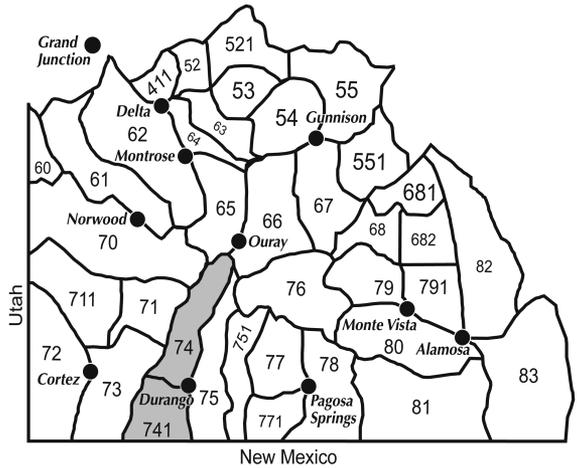
Deer Hunting

This population has declined slightly but the buck-to-doe ratio is high, so it is possible to find quality bucks. Bucks tend to show up on winter range after the last rifle season, so time is better spent hunting transitional range, even during the 3rd and 4th season. In October, deer move from summer range at high elevations in the north winter range to the south.

In the early seasons deer hunting can be good near timberline. As deer begin to move to winter range they can be more difficult to find. Look for timbered areas with a good mix of open meadows or undergrowth. Does will head to winter range, usually 8,500 feet and below, during the third rifle season in a typical year. Bucks will arrive about two weeks later. Portions of Junction Creek and areas further south can provide good deer hunting in the later seasons.

Estimated deer population: 5,700

3-year average sex ratio: 36 bucks per 100 does



2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
74	Archery	28	0	0	28	143	20 / 30
74	Muzzle	42	0	0	42	128	33 / 37
74	2 nd Rifle	39	0	0	39	167	23 / 27
74	3 rd Rifle	9	0	0	9	74	12 / 27
74	4 th Rifle	10	0	0	10	24	42 / 27
741	Archery	18	2	0	20	49	41 / 35
741	Muzzle	5	2	0	7	33	21 / 37
741	2 nd Rifle	72	27	0	99	154	64 / 63
741	3 rd Rifle	107	18	0	125	197	63 / 63
741	4 th Rifle	14	13	0	27	67	40 / 63

Elk Hunting

Elk numbers are low and hunters will be challenged, especially when the weather is warm and dry. Hunting pressure in early seasons has been increasing. The increase in hunters and the use of calls has resulted in bulls becoming call-shy. Other strategies such as spot-and-stalk or sitting in a high-activity area will yield a better chance for success. Expect elk to be in small groups of 4-5 animals until snow starts to accumulate. Smart is more successful than hunting hard. GMU 741 has a high number of licensed outfitters using the backcountry. Contact the Columbine District of the San Juan Forest Service for more information about outfitting and commercial use on the national forest.

Estimated elk population: 5,500

3-year estimated sex ratio: 19 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
74	Archery	61	32	0	93	883	11 / 12
74	Muzzle	20	3	0	23	103	22 / 20
74	1 st Rifle	14	0	2	16	273	6 / 20
74	2 nd Rifle	43	6	2	51	438	12 / 17
74	3 rd Rifle	27	9	0	36	361	10 / 13
74	4 th Rifle	7	2	0	9	49	18 / 13
741	Archery	11	7	0	18	83	22 / 20
741	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	3	100 / 100
741	1 st Rifle	8	2	0	10	38	26 / 38
741	2 nd Rifle	20	3	0	23	113	20 / 21
741	3 rd Rifle	11	3	0	14	94	15 / 14
741	4 th Rifle	2	0	0	2	27	7 / 8

San Juan Basin

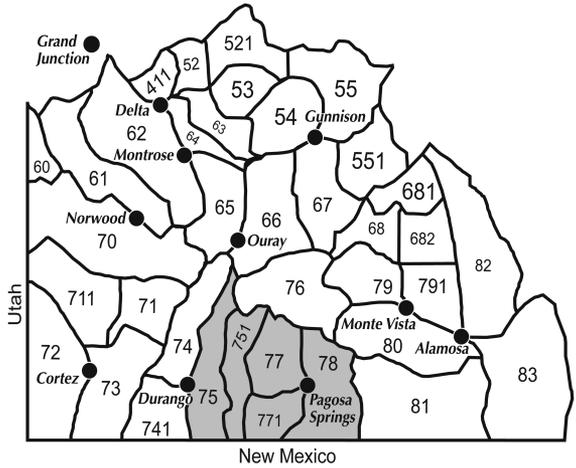
GMUs 75, 77, 78, 751, 771

Durango CPW: 970-247-0855

Map: San Juan National Forest

Public land and road access is good at mid- to high elevations in these units which lie between Durango and Wolf Creek Pass. Elevations range from about 6,500 feet to more than 12,000 feet. Weather can change quickly and be severe.

If the weather is warm, animals will be scattered widely in the vast alpine terrain. Hunters should concentrate their efforts away from roads. Two wilderness areas – the Weminuche on the north, and the South San Juan in the southeast corner – offer good back-country hunting opportunities. If you're hunting the backcountry during earlier seasons, get a harvested animal out and into a cooler quickly. Temperatures in early seasons are often in the 70s and meat will start to spoil within a day. South of U.S. Highway 160 much of the land is privately owned or part of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. To access pockets of public land within the Southern Ute boundaries you MUST obtain a crossing permit (\$25) from the tribe. Call (970)563-0125 for information. Hunting is not allowed on tribal lands.



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Deer Hunting

The population is growing in these units and the buck-to-doe ratio is high. Deer hunting should be excellent and dedicated hunters will be able to find bucks. The areas with the best prospects on public lands: the HD Mountains; the drainages of the Piedra River, Florida River and Los Pinos River; and areas southeast of Pagosa Springs. A large percentage of the deer in these units initiate north-to-south migration in mid-October. After the first week of November deer are typically on winter range. Much of the winter range occupied by this herd is on a mix of public lands, private land or tribal property. It is the hunter's responsibility to know where they are and where boundaries are located.

Estimated deer population: 26,000

3-year estimated sex ratio: 34 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	23	23	0	46	170	27 / 28
75	Muzzle	52	2	0	54	155	35 / 41
75	2 nd Rifle	141	12	0	153	295	52 / 52
75	3 rd Rifle	130	8	0	138	324	43 / 57
75	4 th Rifle	78	12	0	90	123	73 / 72
751	Archery	7	9	0	16	97	16 / 18
751	Muzzle	11	2	0	13	84	15 / 35
751	2 nd Rifle	154	5	0	159	357	45 / 46
751	3 rd Rifle	119	5	0	124	268	46 / 49
751	4 th Rifle	46	2	0	48	102	47 / 60
77	Archery	28	29	0	57	140	41 / 36
77	Muzzle	52	7	0	59	129	36 / 35
77	2 nd Rifle	232	8	0	240	569	42 / 47
77	3 rd Rifle	176	2	0	178	403	44 / 48
77	4 th Rifle	67	5	0	72	105	69 / 72
771	Archery	5	3	0	8	22	36 / 37
771	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	9	0 / 29
771	2 nd Rifle	43	2	0	45	147	31 / 51
771	3 rd Rifle	150	0	0	150	259	58 / 62
771	4 th Rifle	52	0	0	52	90	58 / 67
78	Archery	39	34	0	73	189	39 / 34
78	Muzzle	43	3	0	46	120	38 / 37
78	2 nd Rifle	164	4	0	168	405	41 / 52
78	3 rd Rifle	112	4	0	116	258	45 / 47
78	4 th Rifle	32	0	0	32	45	71 / 68

Elk Hunting

Elk numbers are stable but low and hunters will be challenged, especially when the weather is warm and dry. Hunting pressure in early seasons has been increasing. The increase in hunters and the use of calls has resulted in bulls becoming call-shy. Other strategies such as spot-and-stalk or sitting in a high-activity area will yield a better chance for success. Expect elk to be in small groups of 4-5 animals until snow starts to accumulate. Hunting smart is more successful than hunting hard. There are a high number of licensed outfitters using the backcountry in these units. Contact the Columbine District or the Pagosa District of the San Juan Forest Service for more information about outfitting and commercial use on the national forest. Hunters must be prepared to walk into remote and heavily-forested areas to find animals. In the early seasons stick to north facing slopes in the spruce/fir and aspen forests. Elk will move lower when

snow accumulation is significant. In late seasons, ponderosa pine forests and oak brush are usually productive. The wilderness area boundary north of Pagosa Springs often holds elk when snow pushes them down. Areas south of Pagosa Springs and east of Highway 84 can provide good hunting as snow begins to accumulate.

Estimated elk population: 21,400

3-year estimated sex ratio: 13 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	38	10	4	52	561	9 / 10
75	Muzzle	11	2	2	15	72	21 / 15
75	1 st Rifle	70	3	3	76	293	26 / 20
75	2 nd Rifle	43	5	2	50	376	13 / 12
75	3 rd Rifle	54	13	3	70	510	14 / 18
75	4 th Rifle	3	8	0	11	55	20 / 23
751	Archery	25	7	0	32	356	9 / 10
751	Muzzle	4	0	0	4	40	10 / 7
751	1 st Rifle	39	2	0	41	271	15 / 21
751	2 nd Rifle	25	5	0	30	264	11 / 13
751	3 rd Rifle	60	25	3	88	455	19 / 18
751	4 th Rifle	6	5	2	13	64	20 / 19
77	Archery	43	14	0	57	709	8 / 10
77	Muzzle	0	2	2	2	5	40 / 13
77	1 st Rifle	176	11	2	189	504	38 / 30
77	2 nd Rifle	206	35	4	245	865	28 / 19
77	3 rd Rifle	163	18	0	181	999	18 / 13
77	4 th Rifle	12	20	0	32	87	37 / 30
771	Archery	10	4	0	14	123	11 / 10
771	Muzzle	0	2	0	2	5	40 / 13
771	1 st Rifle	15	0	0	15	65	23 / 29
771	2 nd Rifle	22	0	0	22	116	19 / 13
771	3 rd Rifle	48	4	0	52	309	17 / 11
771	4 th Rifle	2	0	0	2	17	12 / 6
78	Archery	108	60	3	171	1147	15 / 15
78	Muzzle	9	0	4	13	94	14 / 19
78	1 st Rifle	95	19	4	118	313	38 / 34
78	2 nd Rifle	156	13	0	169	762	22 / 16
78	3 rd Rifle	151	12	0	163	755	22 / 15
78	4 th Rifle	7	6	0	13	48	27 / 36

Uncompahgre Plateau

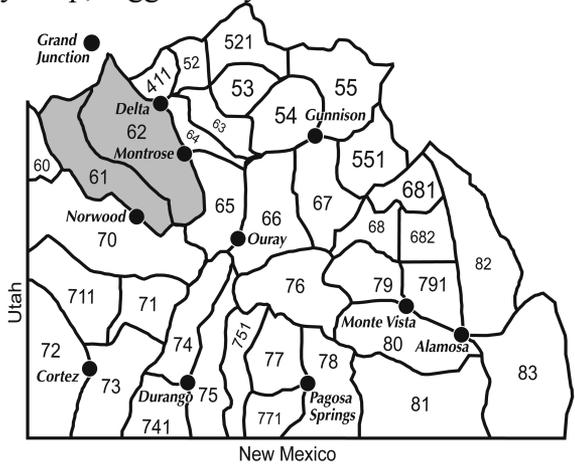
GMUs 61, 62

CPW Montrose: 970-252-6000

Map: Uncompahgre National Forest

The plateau encompasses 2,300 square miles of terrain that includes large, relatively flat mesas bisected by deep, rugged canyons. The elevation ranges from 4,600 feet to 10,300 feet. Be prepared for sudden weather changes.

Numerous roads provide easy access to the plateau, but many canyons are accessible only by foot or horseback. Bow hunters and muzzleloaders should concentrate on U.S. Forest Service lands along the top of the plateau. The highest success rate for bull hunters occurs in GMU 62 during first season. License reductions in GMU 62 the last few years have decreased hunting pressure significantly. GMU 61 is managed as a quality elk unit and licenses are totally limited. Overall, these units provide hunters a wide variety of terrain and good opportunity.



Chronic Wasting Disease in deer has been detected in these units.

Deer Hunting

The deer population is struggling and in decline. Drought conditions over the last decade have had negative effects on fawn survival. The drought outlook has improved this year thanks for substantial snowfall last winter and has improved forage. Deer infected with Chronic Wasting Disease were found in this unit in 2016. Hunters are encouraged to have their animals tested for CWD. To help bolster the population, license allocation still remains very conservative at 1,565.

The opportunity to see mature bucks is good throughout the plateau. During the early season, deer are concentrated in the aspen and oak brush. As fall progresses, deer will move lower into the pinon and juniper winter range.

Estimated deer population: 14,820

3-Year estimate sex ratio: 31 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	5	0	0	5	39	13 / 29
61	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	11	55 / 49
61	2 nd Rifle	57	0	0	57	115	50 / 50
61	3 rd Rifle	72	0	0	72	109	66 / 62
62	Archery	41	0	0	41	160	26 / 26
62	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	28	25 / 42
62	2 nd Rifle	209	32	0	241	490	49 / 53
62	3 rd Rifle	220	14	0	234	389	60 / 66

Elk Hunting

The elk population has stabilized after five years of reduced cow and antlerless licenses. Calf survival has been declining for the last decade and biologists are conducting a long-term study in an attempt to determine the causes. Elk are widely distributed and often move within the boundaries of Unit 61 which is a totally limited unit. Elk also move into canyons and onto private property with hunting pressure. To minimize crowding, some licenses in GMU 61 have been shifted to later seasons.

It's still recommended that hunters start at high elevation, especially in the early seasons. But those who venture into the tough canyon terrain could be rewarded. Be sure to stay on public lands in the canyon areas. Hunters should also move well away from roads to improve chances of success. If your tag is for GMU 62 be sure that you are hunting on the northeast side of the Divide Road.

Estimated elk population: 9,542

3-year estimated sex ratio: 18 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	19	0	0	19	63	30 / 41
61	Muzzle	24	8	0	32	73	44 / 53
61	1 st Rifle	70	31	2	103	172	60 / 57
61	2 nd Rifle	58	51	8	117	243	48 / 49
61	3 rd Rifle	40	58	7	105	247	43 / 47
61	4 th Rifle	10	48	0	58	208	28 / 47
62	Archery	116	63	6	185	1663	11 / 14
62	Muzzle	22	8	0	30	174	17 / 16
62	1 st Rifle	101	27	0	128	392	33 / 28
62	2 nd Rifle	222	63	2	287	1504	19 / 16
62	3 rd Rifle	93	68	5	166	989	17 / 14
62	4 th Rifle	5	51	0	56	207	27 / 29

Cimarron River Drainage

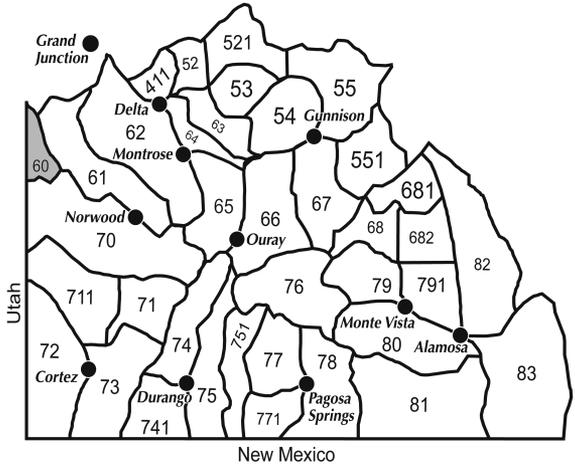
GMUs 64, 65

Montrose CPW: 970-252-6000

Maps: GMU 64, Uncompahgre National Forest

Map: GMU 65, Gunnison National Forest

These units include some of the most diverse terrain in Colorado, from 4,700 feet in the dry desert lands near Delta to 14,309-foot Uncompahgre Peak. Warm weather at the low elevations will cause meat to spoil very quickly, so be prepared to pack out fast. Weather is variable and unpredictable at the higher elevations.



Most of GMU 64 is private land or part of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park where hunting is prohibited. Parts of GMU 65 are easily accessible by road, so hunting pressure near roads is significant. Hunters must be willing to walk well away from roads if they expect to be successful. The Uncompahgre and Mount Sneffels wilderness areas at the south end of GMU 65 offer challenging terrain, but hunters willing to go there could be rewarded.

Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected in these units.

MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE - BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET

Deer Hunting

The deer herd is substantially below objective but appears to be stable at this time. The buck/doe ratio remains high and only 15 licenses were added for this season.

For the best bucks, hunt at high elevations early. Go lower as the season progresses. Deer move lower and/or to private land as hunting pressure increases. During the second season, deer favor aspen/oak brush/serviceberry areas; they move lower to pinon/juniper during the third season. Access is relatively easy in the lower terrain; but rewards can be great for hunters willing to go into higher and more challenging terrain.

Estimated deer population: 6,830

3-year estimate sex ratio: 32 bucks per 100 does

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	9	0	0	9	33	27 / 26
64	Muzzle	4	0	0	4	11	36 / 43
64	2 nd Rifle	62	0	0	62	184	34 / 48
64	3 rd Rifle	82	0	0	82	204	40 / 52
64	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	6	67 / 44
65	Archery	35	0	0	35	94	37 / 35
65	Muzzle	8	0	0	8	26	31 / 41
65	2 nd Rifle	99	0	0	99	285	35 / 41
65	3 rd Rifle	159	0	0	159	322	49 / 56
65	4 th Rifle	11	0	0	11	13	85 / 83

Elk Hunting

The population is slightly above objective and slowly growing, so hunting prospects are good. Because of the extent of wilderness area in these units, elk find plenty of lush meadows for summer grazing. The elk will stay high until hunting pressure or weather force them down. If you hunt public land, be aware that it is bordered by numerous private ranches – especially near Cimarron, Ridgway and Dallas Divide. Elk will move to private land quickly, so know your location. Try the Cimarron and Billy Creek State Wildlife Areas in later seasons or after snow has pushed the elk down.

Estimated elk population: 6,200

3-year estimated sex ratio: 17 bulls per 100 cows

2018 Elk Hunting Statistics

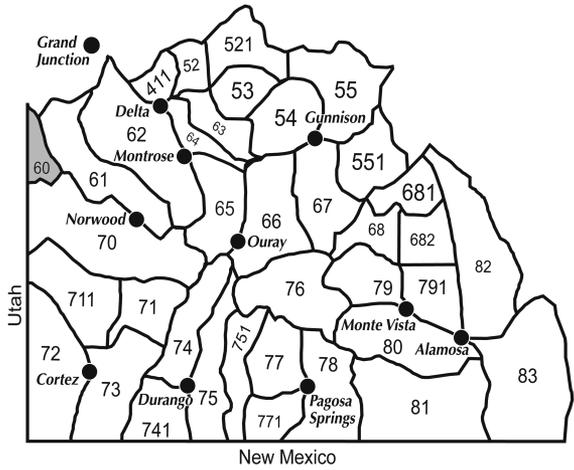
% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2018 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	7	7	0	14	146	10 / 11
64	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	73	8 / 18
64	1 st Rifle	51	13	0	64	266	24 / 29
64	2 nd Rifle	15	19	7	41	335	12 / 17
64	3 rd Rifle	11	26	6	43	226	19 / 15
64	4 th Rifle	5	5	0	10	91	11 / 29
65	Archery	47	40	0	87	781	11 / 12
65	Muzzle	14	9	0	23	143	16 / 14
65	1 st Rifle	88	77	8	173	441	39 / 32
65	2 nd Rifle	90	44	9	143	595	24 / 20
65	3 rd Rifle	74	59	6	139	619	22 / 20
65	4 th Rifle	12	81	7	100	231	43 / 36

Paradox

Montrose CPW:(970)252-6000
 GMU 60 Maps: Manti-La Sal
 National Forest, Delta-Nucla
 BLM.

This unit along the Utah line is primarily winter range. Elevations range from 4,500 feet along the Dolores River to 8,600 feet near the Utah line. The GMU is primarily BLM land. The majority of the Big game migrates in from Utah; harvest success depends on the weather. Because of migration patterns, population estimates for this GMU are not possible. Chronic wasting disease has been found in deer and elk in Utah.



Deer Hunting

Success depends on the weather in Utah. Harvest is generally better for mule deer in the later seasons around the Paradox and Sinbad valleys.

2018 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2018 / 5 yr.
60	Archery	12	0	0	12	42	29 / 34
60	Muzzle	4	0	0	4	14	29 / 27
60	2 nd Rifle	33	3	0	36	73	49 / 43
60	3 rd Rifle	30	3	0	33	81	41 / 47
60	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	4	100 / 75

Elk Hunting

The elk population is healthy, but success is dependent on the weather in Utah. Harvest success is better in the later seasons and away from roads, with animals being found near Carpenter Ridge, Buckeye Reservoir, and John Brown Canyon.

2018 Elk Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2018 / 5 yr.
60	Archery	0	0	0	0	33	2 / 13
60	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	10	20 / 14
60	1 st Rifle	28	0	0	28	50	56 / 36
60	2 nd Rifle	10	1	0	11	82	13 / 22
60	3 rd Rifle	24	3	0	27	118	23 / 10
60	4 th Rifle	10	7	0	17	51	33 / 24

Understanding Colorado's Preference Point System

When applying for a limited license, a preference point is awarded when an individual is unsuccessful in drawing their first-choice hunt code. Preference points provide a mathematical advantage when applied to future drawings.

Some things to remember:

- Preference points are awarded by species, not hunt code. A point can be used to apply for any type of license available for that species.
- A preference point is awarded only for an unsuccessful application for a first-choice hunt code.
 - Always apply for the unit that is your first choice if your goal is to accumulate points for use toward a future quality hunt. Points needed can change significantly from year to year.
 - For bear, elk, deer and pronghorn, you will accumulate preference points until you are successful in drawing a first-choice license. If you draw your first choice, your preference points drop to zero. There is no “banking” of preference points.
 - If you do not apply or hold a license at least once within 10 consecutive years for a bear, elk, deer or pronghorn, your preference points for that species will be lost.
 - For bighorn sheep, moose and mountain goat, an applicant can accumulate a maximum of three points. Future applications are pooled with other three-point applicants. If you are unsuccessful in the pooled drawing, a “mathematically weighted” point is awarded to increase the probability of drawing a future license. You must apply at least once in a consecutive 10-year period to keep your points.
 - Nonresident allocations are determined by the average number of preference points a Colorado resident needs to draw a specific license during a 3-year period. For hunt codes that require six or more points for a Colorado resident to draw an elk or deer license, up to 20 percent of licenses may go to nonresidents. For elk and deer hunt codes that require fewer than six points for a Colorado resident to draw, up to 35 percent may go to nonresidents.
 - A Colorado Habitat Stamp is required to buy or apply for a license. The Habitat Stamp may be purchased online, by phone or at any Parks and Wildlife Service Center or license agent.

How long will it take to draw a license?

Statistics from previous years may be used to estimate the approximate time required to draw a license. For example: If a unit allowed 20 licenses with 60 applicants, zero preference points required, 40 were unsuccessful. These 40 are awarded a preference point. Assuming that the quota for this unit remained the same for the next season, and 40 apply, 20 will draw a license using their preference point and 20 will be awarded a second point. An applicant with no points could expect to draw a license in three years.

Preference-point requirements can be found at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website: cpw.state.co.us/Hunting/BigGame/Statistics.

Travel Planning Resources

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

www.wildlife.state.co.us

Durango Service Center	GMUs 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 711, 771, 741, 751,	(970) 247-0855
Montrose Service Center	GMUs 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 70	(970) 252-6000
Gunnison Service Center	GMUs 52, 53, 54, 55, 63, 66, 67, 411, 521, 551	(970) 641-7060
Monte Vista Service Center	GMUs 68, 681, 682, 76, 79, 791, 80, 81, 82, 83	(719) 587-6900

U.S. Forest Service Directory

www.fs.fed.us

*RD=Ranger District

GRAND MESA-UNCOMPAHGRE-GUNNISON National Forests	Delta	(970) 874-6600 www.fs.usda.gov/gmug
Gunnison RD	Gunnison	(970) 641-0471
Norwood RD	Norwood	(970) 327-4261
Ouray RD	Montrose	(970) 240-5300
Paonia RD	Paonia	(970) 527-4131
SAN JUAN National Forest	Durango	(970) 247-4874 www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan
Pagosa RD	Pagosa Springs	(970) 264-1500
RIO GRANDE National Forest	Monte Vista	(719)852-5941 www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande

Bureau of Land Management Directory

www.co.blm.gov

*FO=Field Office

Southwest Center	Montrose	(970) 240-5300
Del Norte FO	Del Norte	(719) 657-3321
Tres Rios FO	Dolores	(970) 882-7296
Gunnison FO	Gunnison	(970) 641-0471
La Jara FO	La Jara	(719) 274-8971
Saguache FO	Saguache	(719) 655-2547

Questions, suggestions for this book?

Contact: joe.lewandowski@state.co.us or 970-375-6708



COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Southwest Region Service Center
415 Turner Drive
Durango, CO 81303

First Class Mail