



Highlands Ranch Community Association/Backcountry Wilderness Area Hunting Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For specific dates of seasons, registration deadlines, raffle tickets sales, etc. please refer to our website for the most up to date information.

Q: How do I win a hunt in the Backcountry Wilderness Area of Highlands Ranch?

A: There are THREE separate ways to win.

1. **DRAWING:** Free entry for HRCA Members. Registration opens in February, Drawing occurs in early March.
2. **RAFFLE:** Purchase a raffle ticket to win.
3. **AUCTION:** Highest bidder wins.

Q: How can I view available hunts and determine if they're in the drawing, raffle, or auction?

A: Go to our website (www.hrcaonline.org/BackcountryHunts) and view the "Hunt Plan" document.

Q: Why is this process so complicated?

A: That's complicated. But mainly, to provide the maximum number of hunts while ensuring fairness, the process to award those hunts is necessarily complicated. Refer to our website and review the key documents: "Hunt Plan", "Hunt Program Summary", and if you're up to it, our full "Hunt Rules" for additional clarity.

Q: Why are there separate raffles in spring and summer?

A: We provide landowner vouchers for raffled hunts, obtained through a lottery with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The summer raffle includes hunts for which voucher acquisition is uncertain until June.

Q: Why are the DRAWING, AUCTION, and SPRING RAFFLE in March?

A: So that our winners, and losers, know if they have a hunt with us or not before the CPW Big Game Drawing and Application process begins.

Q: What is a "BUDDY" hunt?

A: Many of our raffle hunts are "Buddy" hunts, where winners select a hunting "buddy." Both the winner and the "buddy" get a tag and get to harvest an animal. Most of our bull buddy hunts are for ONE trophy bull and ONE Management bull.

Q: Can a HRCA Non-Member hunt in the Backcountry?

A: Yes, but only in very limited circumstances. Drawings and the Auction are only open to HRCA Members. Raffle “Buddy” hunts can include one non-member. We also work with Hunt of a Lifetime to provide one bull hunt (outside of normal seasons) for a youth with a life-altering illness or disability and occasionally work with outside organizations to provide a turkey hunt for wounded veterans or similar circumstances. These hunters are not required to be HRCA Members.

Q: Can a Non-Member purchase raffle tickets?

A: Yes, but only for raffles advertised as “Buddy” hunts and they must designate their “buddy” at the time of purchase. The designated “buddy” of a Non-Member must be a HRCA Member.

Q: How much does it cost if I win?

A: All winning hunters, no matter if they won through the DRAWING, RAFFLE, or AUCTION must purchase their own tag for the appropriate unit, species, and sex, even if we provide a voucher. Raffle and Auction winners do not pay any other fees. Drawing winners pay a hunt fee, according to what hunt they won. Fees can be found in our Hunt Rules and Hunt Plan documents on our website.

Q: Are guides included?

A: Yes, all hunts are guided by HRCA staff at no extra cost.

Q: What are the odds in the Drawings?

A: The odds vary for each different pool. In general, we have 200-300 people in the bull and cow pools, less than 100 in the “provide your own tag” pools, and less than 50 in the youth pools.

Q: Is there a point system for the Drawings?

A: Yes. Each year you register for the drawings you get a point. After 5 years you receive a 2x multiplier, after 10 years a 3x multiplier, and after 15 years a 4x multiplier. If you miss one year, you lose all your points.

Q: Can a person win a drawing more than once?

A: Technically yes. But we have systems in place to mitigate that. There are wait periods and point systems to level the playing field. More details can be found in our “Hunt Rules.”

Q: Are the Raffles and Auctions subject to the point system or wait periods?

A: No. The point system and wait periods only apply to the Drawing.

Q: What is a “Management Bull” hunt? Why can’t all bull hunts be “Trophy” hunts?

A: We offer two types of bull hunts, “Management” and “Trophy.” The full explanation of both can be found in our Hunt Rules. But basically, “Management” bull hunts are targeting either mature bulls that have under achieved or immature bulls that are going to grow up to be under achievers. This allows us to offer more bull hunts (basically double) and helps to improve the genetic situation as well.

Q: What is your success rate for bull elk?

A: We track “success” and “harvest” rates. Success is considered an “opportunity” at a bull. That could be a passed shot, missed shot, or a wounded animal. Overall, since 2010 out of 128 total hunts, 22 of those being archery, our success rate is 91% and harvest rate is 69%. In the last 5 years out of 56 total hunts our success rate is 98% and our harvest rate is 80%.

Q: Why don't you have specific dates for cow and turkey hunts like you do for the bull hunts?

A: Our cow hunts mostly take place in the late season during December and January. The cows are off and on the property. We wait until the cows move on, call the next hunter in line, and do our best to get everyone an opportunity. We use the same "rolling hunt opportunity" for the turkey hunts as well.

Q: How many acres are in the Backcountry and how many are within the hunt boundary?

A: The Backcountry is 8,200 acres in total. Approximately 3,500 of those are included within the hunt boundaries.

Q: If I am chosen for one of the tags, do I get to scout the property?

A: No, your guides provide all the knowledge you need.

Q: If I harvest my animal early, but I still have time left in my hunt, do I get to go out just for fun?

A: No. If we can rest the property and not put pressure on the animals that's good for everybody.

Q: If I wound an animal but don't find it, do I get to keep hunting.

A: No, if you draw blood and we don't recover the animal, your hunt is over.

Q: Can I bring guests on my hunt?

A: We recommend one guest, but you may bring up to three. Space limitations apply.

Q: Who can I call for more information?

A: Mark Giebel, Backcountry Wilderness Area Director. 303-471-8885 or mark.giebel@hrcaonline.org

Q: How do I make sure I'm notified when registration begins and of other important announcements throughout the year regarding the HRCA elk hunt?

A: Email mark.giebel@hrcaonline.org and ask to be added to the HRCA elk hunt email list and/or keep an eye on our website for the most up to date information.