



Backcountry Wilderness Area Hunting Program Summary

This document is only a summary of the Backcountry Wilderness Area hunt program. For complete rules and regulations please view the rules and regulations document and all of the other documents that can be found on our web-site: www.hrcaonline.org/BackcountryHunts

Be sure to check the annual "Hunt Plan" for each year's specific plan, dates, license requirements, whether a voucher is provided, and seasons.

Backcountry Wilderness Area (BWA) hunts include

- Bull and Cow Elk
- Buck Deer
- Spring Turkey
- Coyote

In a typical year we allow:

- 10+ bull hunts with a quota of trophy bulls (see more info on Bull Classifications below)
- Up to 10 cow hunts
- Up to 2 buck hunts
- 10+ spring turkey hunts
- 2 coyote hunts

General Breakdown of hunts and seasons:

- 2-3 bull elk archery hunts
- 2-3 bull elk muzzle loader hunts
- 1 bull in 1st rifle season
- Up to 3 bulls in 2nd rifle season
- Up to 2 bulls in 3rd rifle season
- Up to 2 bulls in 4th rifle season
- 1 buck in 3rd rifle season
- 1 buck in 4th rifle season
- Cow hunts: 3-4 in October and Up to 6 certain dates in December and January
- Spring Turkey: 10-15 in April and May during CPW spring turkey season
- Coyote: February

***THREE WAYS TO WIN:**

- DRAWING
 - Our Drawing occurs in early March, allowing winners ample time to plan their fall hunts and acquire necessary Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) licenses if required. Some winners will

receive a Landowner Voucher which is easily exchanged for the appropriate CPW tag, while others involve a "Provide Your Own Tag" scenario, necessitating winners apply for and obtain the correct tag through CPW's Big Game Application and Drawing process.

- Entry into the Drawing is free, but winners are required to pay specified fees outlined in our Rules and Regulations. Additionally, all winners must purchase the CPW tag.
- Eligibility for the "Provide Your Own Tag" category requires hunters to possess a designated number of CPW preference points, determined by previous year's CPW draw statistics, ensuring they can draw the suitable tag through the CPW application process.
- RAFFLE
 - Some of our most sought-after bull hunts are awarded through two distinct raffles: the "Spring Raffle" in March and the "Summer Raffle" in July. Various turkey and cow hunts are also awarded through our raffles.
 - Participants need to purchase raffle tickets, but winners are not liable for any fees other than the CPW tag. With the purchase of just one \$25 raffle ticket a lucky winner can experience an elk hunt worth more than \$10,000 market value.
- AUCTION
 - Our Online Auction takes place in March as well. A bull, cow, turkey, and coyote hunt are included in our Auction opportunities. Highest bid wins!

****For eligibility requirements please see our "Hunt Rules."***

DRAWING POOLS

These are the various 'hats' you can put your name in the drawing for.

YOUTH:

- Youth Bull, Youth Buck, Youth cow hunts, and youth turkey hunts
- Must be 18 or under, refer to CPW rules to define 'youth.'

***All cow hunters must obtain their tag through the CPW Big Game Drawing.**

LIMITED BULL:

- **These hunts are "provide your own tag" and the winners must obtain their tag through this spring's CPW big game drawing.**
- **All entries must have at least one preference point in order to be eligible for this drawing. Proof of preference point must be emailed to Mark.Giebel@hrcaonline.org . If we do not receive proof of preference point, your name will be removed from this drawing.**

BULL:

- Vouchers may or may not be provided

ARCHERY BULL:

- **These hunts are "provide your own tag" and the winners must obtain their tag through this spring's CPW big game drawing.**
- **All entries must have at least one preference point in order to be eligible for this drawing. Proof of preference point must be emailed to Mark.Giebel@hrcaonline.org . If we do not receive proof of preference point, your name will be removed from this drawing.**

COW/TURKEY:

****IMPORTANT DATES**

- DRAWINGS:
 - 3rd Friday in January: Registration for all hunt drawings opens
 - 3rd Friday in February: Registration for hunt drawings closes.

- 1st Tuesday in March: Hunt Drawings
- AUCTION:
 - 3rd Tuesday in February: Registration for auction begins.
 - 1st Tuesday in March: Auction begins.
 - 1st Thursday in March: Auction Ends
- RAFFLE:
 - SPRING RAFFLE
 - 2nd Monday in February: Spring Raffle Tickets on sale
 - 1st Tuesday in March: Spring Raffle occurs.
 - SUMMER RAFFLE
 - 3rd Thursday in June: Summer Raffle Tickets on sale
 - 2nd Thursday in July: Summer Raffle occurs.
- IN PERSON EVENTS:
 - 1st Thursday in February: Previous year's hunt recap, plans for coming fall
 - 1st Tuesday in March: Hunt Drawings, Auction Begins, Spring Raffle Occurs
 - 3rd Thursday in June: Summer Raffle Tickets on Sale
 - 2nd Thursday in July: Summer Raffle Occurs

****Dates are subject to change year to year. Always view our website for the most up to date information.***

Registering for BACKCOUNTRY DRAWINGS

- Registration for all drawings opens the 3rd Friday in January and closes 3rd Friday in February.
 - The drawing is held on the 1st Tuesday in March.
 - HOW TO REGISTER:
 - Go to www.hrcaonline.org and click on "Activity Log In" at the very top right of the page.
 - Enter your user name and password. If you don't remember this info, follow the steps or call 303-471-7020 or ask in person at any registration desk.
 - Once logged in, at the top click on "REGISTRATION"
 - Under "BACKCOUNTRY PROGRAMS" find and click on "HUNTS AND OUTFITTING SERVICES"
 - Find the appropriate DRAWING(S) you want to enter and Register.
 - If registering other individuals in your household, you must register each person for each drawing.
 - Add DRAWING to cart, follow the steps to check out and pay.
 - *You can also register over the phone or in person at any recreation center. Tell the staff person you are registering for Backcountry HUNT DRAWINGS under Activity Registration.

Purchasing tickets for RAFFLES:

- Spring Raffle tickets go on sale the 2nd Monday in February and end the Sunday before the first Tuesday in March.
- Summer Raffle tickets go on sale the 3rd Thursday in June and end the Sunday before the second Thursday in July.
- Go to our website: www.hrcaonline.org/BackcountryHunts to find the link to online ticket sales. All raffle ticket sales are online only.

Registering for and Participating in the AUCTION

- Registration for the auction opens the 3rd Tuesday in February
 - The auction begins on the first Tuesday in March and ends on the 1st Thursday in March.
 - Details on how to register are emailed out to our email list in February and found on our website.

Classification of Bull Hunts

- Each hunt is classified as a Trophy or Management Hunt each year and detailed in that year's "hunt plan."

- TROPHY:
 - Any bull is eligible for harvest.
 - Targeting mature bulls that score over 300 inches.
- MANAGEMENT:
 - Likely not a trophy size bull
 - Targeting immature bulls that are not and will not become trophy bulls or mature bulls that have reached their full potential and are limited by genetics, age, or other factors.
 - Young bulls that demonstrate 'potential' to be a trophy will NOT be harvested.
 - Mature, large, trophy bulls will NOT be harvested.
 - Final determination of "management" status is made by the guide.
 - Management hunters should understand the following:
 - "Management" status is subjective. Guides have a unique understanding of what traits likely indicate a management bull in the Backcountry based on years of experience, photos, and correlated tooth aging results of past harvests.
 - The available "management" bulls can vary significantly from year to year, season to season, and week to week depending on the annual vegetation growth, rut cycle, weather, and more. Therefore, the quality of management bulls harvested will also vary season to season and year to year.
 - Generally, antler characteristics such as frame, points, tine length, beam length, and age/maturity factor into the subjective measure of a trophy, potential trophy, and non-trophy/management. Generally, management harvests lack in those characteristics with age/maturity weighing in heavily. A mature bull with weak characteristics is a great management harvest.
 - Management bulls can score beyond 300". However, the purpose of a management hunt is to help manage the herd and the first opportunity at a management bull that is approved by the guide should be harvested unless the guide decides against it for various reasons. The hunter should listen to the guide's opinions as to what is currently available on the property and be willing to harvest any bull the guide recommends/approves.
 - If the hunter holds out for the 'exception' they are more likely not to harvest.

Fees

- All Hunts Require an HRCA Staff Guide; the guide is included in the fees.
- Auction and Raffle winners do not pay the fees.
- Fees do not include the purchase of the CPW tag/license. The hunter, regardless of method they won the hunt, must purchase the CPW tag/license.
 - Bull Elk:
 - Trophy: \$2,500
 - Management: \$1,500
 - Youth Management: \$300
 - Buck Deer:
 - \$500
 - 3rd Season Youth: \$300
 - Cow Elk:
 - Youth: \$250
 - All others: \$300
 - Turkey
 - Youth: \$50
 - All others: \$150

Seasons/Dates/Days

- BWA hunt dates/seasons coincide with dates/seasons set by CPW with the following exceptions
 - Archery Hunters: Designated days during the archery season

- 2nd Season Limited Bull: Limited to last 3 days of the 2nd rifle season
- 3rd Season Limited Bull: Limited to last 3 days of the 3rd rifle season
- 3rd Season Youth Bull: Limited to first 3 days of the 3rd rifle season
- 3rd Season Youth Buck: Limited to first 3 days of the 3rd rifle season
- Cow: **Rolling hunt opportunity*** Hunts will most likely be in December and January.
- Turkey: **Rolling hunt opportunity*** All turkey hunts will be during the CPW spring season in April and May.
- Each year, a calendar with designated days for all the BWA hunts is released.

Rolling Hunt Opportunity Definition:

*Limited to a designated day or days determined by the number of the hunt drawn. Hunters will hunt in order, after the hunter ahead of them in numerical order harvests or has a successful hunt. As we progress down the list of hunters, we will call the hunters and plan their upcoming date accordingly. *If the hunter does not get the opportunity to go out on the property for a hunt, they will receive a full refund for HRCA fees and their hunt opportunity will be rolled over to the next year.*

Any CPW license fees will likely not be refunded and the HRCA will not reimburse or be responsible for that in any manner.

Bull Classifications and Wait Periods

- If a hunter successfully harvests, there are associated wait periods from 1 to 20 years depending on the quality of harvest.
- Each harvested bull is categorized into Management, Trophy, Giant, Bull of a Lifetime and have corresponding wait periods ranging from 2-20 years.
- Winners of raffles and auctions are immune from wait periods

Point System

- BWA does have its own point system. There are three 'pool's to earn points: Bull elk; buck/cow/turkey; and youth.
- Each year a person applies for a BWA hunt, they gain a point. Each point gets the hunter an entry in the drawings.
- The points and point system are only applicable to 'Provide Your Own Tag' and 'Open' Drawings.
- Beginning in 2020 the point system is weighted:
 - 5-9 points: Multiply x 2
 - 10-14 points: Multiply x 3
 - 15-19 points: Multiply x 4
 - 20-24 points: Multiply x 5

Guide Services

- Guides are mandatory for all hunts
- All fees include a guide
- All guides will be HRCA/Backcountry provided guides
- Guide service provides expert knowledge of the property, calling, transportation on the property, field dressing, caping, quartering, and transportation of meat to your home.
- Service does not provide food, beverage, etc.
- Refund Policy: No refunds once payment is made

Stay Informed/Get Reminders

Join our email list and be sure to keep up on the latest regarding the BWA hunts.

Email Mark.Giebel@hrcaonline.org and ask to be added to our email list.