



HRCA ELK HUNT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who can register for the HRCA elk hunt?

A: You must be a member of Highlands Ranch Community Association. All homeowners in Highlands Ranch, and members of those households are members of HRCA. If you have a question as to whether or not you are a member, call our membership office at: 303-471-8859.

Q: Why must one live in Highlands Ranch to be eligible for the HRCA hunt?

A: The HRCA is a private, non-profit organization. The Backcountry is private property, just like our recreation centers. Homeowner assessments go towards management of the Backcountry, no public monies are used and therefore the possibility to hunt in the Backcountry is reserved for those who pay for that privilege.

Q: How do I register?

A: You can register for the elk hunt just as one would register for any HRCA activity. Online: www.hrcaonline.org, over the phone: 303-791-2500, or in person at any one of the four recreation centers. Registration opens in late June.

Q: Why can't registration start before late June?

A: The HRCA must apply for landowner vouchers for the bull tags. The success of those applications is not known until early to mid June. Once we know how many vouchers we have available and for which seasons, we will post activity numbers and further registration information on our web-site and email them to those on our email list.

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 mgiebel@hrcaonline.org and ask to be added to the HRCA elk hunt email list.

Q: If I was on the email list from previous years, do I need to be added again?

A: No, all names from last year are still on the email list.

Q: What are the various seasons and season dates?

A: In 2013 we will be adding two archery hunts; we also have a muzzle load hunt and rifle hunts. The muzzle load tag takes one preference point so that hunt is typically only offered every other year. In 2013 the landowner tags will be allotted to: one archery tag, one first rifle, two second rifle, and two third rifle. An additional archery hunt and 4th rifle season (management bull) will be offered to hunters who obtain their own Unit 51 bull tag through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Big Game Application Process. We are usually able to conduct one or two cow hunts in between the bull hunts. The rest of the cow hunts take place in December and January during the private land only late season that runs through January 31st.

2013 TOTAL TAGS	HRCA FEE
• Cows: 20	
○ 6 youth	\$50
○ 2 WW	No Fee
○ 1 Hunt of Lifetime	No Fee
○ 2 Adult Buddy (Banquet Only)	\$125
○ 9 regular (2 Banquet Only)	\$125
• Bulls: 8	
○ 6 landowner tags	
▪ 5 rifle season tags (all trophy, 1 Banquet Only)	\$550
▪ 1 archery (trophy)	\$1,000
○ 2 provide your own Unit 51 Tag	
▪ 1 archery (trophy)	\$750
▪ 1 4 th rifle (management bull)	\$300

Note: Dates of each hunt are available in the “2013 Hunt Calendar.”

2013 Landowner Tag use

*The HRCA is eligible for six landowner vouchers through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Landowner Priority Program. Just like the individual tags, the landowner tags are subject to the CPW Big Game Drawing. As a result, all plans are preliminary until late June when we know the results of the CPW drawing.

1. Landowner Tag –Archery Hunt
2. Landowner Tag –Muzzle (won’t get it, need pref. point, second choice 2nd season)
3. Landowner Tag-1st Rifle
4. Landowner Tag – 2nd Rifle
5. Landowner Tag -3rd Rifle
6. Landowner Tag –3rd Rifle

Provide own Unit 51 Tag:

1. 1st Archery Hunt
2. 4th Rifle Season, management bull

In the event HRCA is not successful in drawing a Landowner Voucher for the archery season, the archery hunt slotted for that time would then be open to those who have a Unit 51 Tag.

All cow hunters will be provided with a voucher

Q: How much does each hunt cost and how many days does each hunter get?

A: Rifle and/or muzzle loader bull hunters get three days. Cow hunters get two days. Archery hunters will get 5 days.

Q: Do I need to apply through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Big Game Application process in order to be eligible to hunt in the Backcountry?

A: One of the archery hunts and the 4th season rifle bull hunter must have a Unit 51 Tag, obtained through the CPW licensing process, in order to be eligible for those particular drawings. The HRCA will provide a landowner voucher for all other tags, including cow hunters.

Q: If I obtain a Unit 51 tag through the CPW Application process and do not get drawn to hunt in the Backcountry, can I hunt elsewhere that year or am I stuck with a Unit 51 tag?

A: If you do not get drawn for the Backcountry hunt, you can turn in your Unit 51 tag and obtain an over the counter tag. If you turn in your Unit 51 tag, you will not lose your preference points.

Q: If I have a bunch of preference points built up is there anything I can do to not burn all of my points on the Unit 51 tag?

A: No. If you get drawn to hunt in the Backcountry and use the Unit 51 tag, you would lose your preference points you have built up. However, if you do not get drawn to hunt in the Backcountry, you can turn the Unit 51 tag in and get your preference points back.

Q: What are the odds of drawing a Unit 51 Tag through the CPW and do I need preference points?

A: In 2012, For archery, 64% of applicants who put Unit 51 as first choice received a tag. Minimum preference points needed is zero. For the 4th rifle season, 81% of applicants who put Unit 51 as first choice received a tag. Minimum preference points needed is zero.

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 3,000 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: Each hunter is required to attend a mandatory property orientation where they will be given a thorough tour of the property by Backcountry staff. Hunters may also pay an hourly fee to have Backcountry staff take them out scouting on a private basis. Elk bugling hikes and photo hunts that we run in September are excellent ways to get out on the property. Otherwise, the hunt area is in the wildlife preserve part of the property and is only accessible through guided hikes, vehicle tours, and other activities that we conduct throughout the year.

Q: What is the success rate?

A: For details see our web-site and harvest statistics.

Q: How many people can I bring along on my hunt if I am chosen?

A: Each hunter is allowed to bring one guest along on their hunt.

Q: Is there any procedure in place to prevent those who have already hunted in the Backcountry from being drawn again?

A: In 2012 we instituted a point system. Each hunter who applied for a cow tag will receive one point, each hunter who applied for a bull tag will receive one point. Those who get drawn to hunt reset to zero points while those who do not get drawn accumulate another point for each year they are unsuccessful in the HRCA drawing. Each point equals one entry into the drawing pool.

There will now only be four drawing pools; one for bull hunts, one for cow hunts, one for archery hunts, and one for youth hunts; there will no longer be a pool for each individual hunt.

Q: Who can I call for more information?

A: Mark Giebel, Backcountry Wilderness Area Supervisor. 303-471-8885 or mgiebel@hrcaonline.org