Backcountry Wilderness Area Hunting Program

Basic Information

*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](http://www.hrcaonline.org/BackcountryHunts)*

- **Backcountry Wilderness Area (BWA) hunts include**
  - Bull and Cow Elk
  - Buck Deer
  - Spring Turkey

- **In a typical year we allow:**
  - 9-10 bull hunts with a quota of trophy bulls (see more info on Bull Classifications below)
  - 8-10 cow hunts
  - 3 buck hunts
  - 8-12 spring turkey hunts

- **Breakdown of hunts and seasons:**
  - 2 bull elk archery hunts
  - 2 bull elk muzzle loader hunts
  - 1 bull in 1st and 2nd rifle seasons
  - 2 bulls in 3rd rifle season
  - 2 bulls in 4th rifle season
  - 1 buck in 3rd rifle season
  - 2 bucks in 4th rifle season
  - Cow hunts: Certain dates in December and January
  - Spring Turkey: April and May during CPW spring turkey season

- **Hunt Drawings**
  - All hunts in the Backcountry are determined through a lottery drawing or auction
  - Archery Drawing and 3rd season rifle drawings (3rd season starting in January 2021) are conducted in January to allow those drawn to acquire their own tag in the CPW State Big Game Drawing.
  - All other Drawings are conducted at the Annual Elk Banquet in July
• **Types of Drawings**
  o **Provide Your Own Tag:**
    Hunter must obtain their own Unit 51 tag for the appropriate season.
    ▪ Typically Includes: Archery, 3rd season bull, 3rd season youth bull, 3rd season youth buck, and all cow hunts (These are subject to change year to year)
    ▪ To be eligible for the bull and buck drawings in this category, hunter must have one preference point for that species
    ▪ Cow hunters can obtain their tag from (once they are drawn for our hunt) through the CPW leftover license sale in August.
  o **Open Drawing:**
    Any hunter can register for these drawings; if chosen, we provide a landowner voucher (except for cow hunts) in order for the hunter to obtain the tag.
  o **Must Be Present to Win/Banquet Only:**
    These drawings take place at the Annual Elk Banquet and to win, winner must be present at the Banquet. The Banquet Ticket includes a drawing ticket. Landowner voucher is provided for these hunts.

• **Landowner Voucher**
  o A landowner voucher is a voucher that we provide to a hunter that is drawn in our drawings that are advertised as providing a voucher. The voucher is turned into CPW by the hunter and exchanged for a tag/license. The hunter may not have another List A hunt as all vouchers are for List A hunts (as defined in CPW Big Game Brochure). The voucher prevents the hunter from having to obtain their own tag through the CPW big game drawing.

• **Registering for Drawings**
  o **Archery/3rd Rifle (starting 2021 season):** Registration opens the 3rd Friday in December
  o **All other:** Registration opens the first week of June and closes first week of July.
  o **Banquet Tickets:** Go on sale first week of June. Banquet is the 3rd Friday in July.

• **Classification of Bull Hunts**
  o **Unrestricted:**
    ▪ Any bull is available for harvest. Only archery and one muzzle loader hunt are guaranteed to be ‘unrestricted.’ All others may ‘flex’ to an unrestricted hunt according to previous harvests that year.
  o **Restricted:**
    ▪ Typically a bull that is not a trophy and does not have ‘special’ qualities (‘special’ will be defined by the guide).
    However, depending on the year’s harvests and observations, a Restricted hunt may allow for a trophy bull. It would not allow for ANY trophy bull but a specific class, age, or even a specific bull.
    The determination of the ‘restrictions’ in place for the hunt would be made prior to the start of the hunt. If the restriction allows for a trophy, an additional $500 fee would be assessed prior to the start of the hunt. The hunter can choose whether or not to take the ‘trophy option’ if it is available.
    No matter what restrictions are in place for the hunt, the final determination of whether a bull fits the criteria and can be harvested is subjective and such determination is up to the guide. All staff/guide decisions are final.
  o **Management:**
    ▪ A bull that is not a trophy and likely never will be; or a non-branched spike. The determination of a management bull is subjective and such determination is up to the guide. All staff/guide decisions are final.
• **Fees**
  o All Hunts Require a Guide; Guide is included in the fees.
    - Archery: $2,500
    - Muzzle 1: $2,500
    - Muzzle 2: $1,500 (restricted)
    - 1st-4th Rifle Bull Elk:
      - Unrestricted: $2,500
      - Restricted: $1,500
      - Restricted with Trophy Fee: $2,000
      - Management: $600
      - Youth Management: $300
    - Buck Deer:
      - 3rd Season Youth
        o $300
      - 4th Season
        o $500
    - Cow Elk:
      - Youth
        o $250
      - All others
        o $300
    - Turkey
      - Youth
        o $50
      - All others
        o $150
  
• **Seasons/Dates/Days**
  o BWA hunt dates/seasons coincide with dates/seasons set by CPW with the following exceptions
    - Archery Hunters:
      - Total of 10 days in the field; 4 limited to a blind
    - 3rd Season 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 but there is a chance we may get some hunters in before that. The season for PLO cow hunts is September through January 31.
    - Turkey: **Rolling hunt opportunity*** All turkey hunts will be during the spring season in April and May.
    - Each year, a calendar with designated days for all of the hunts is released.

  *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.

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

**HRCA BIG GAME HUNTS (TYPICAL YEAR STRUCTURE)**

*Dates, Days, and type of drawing are subject to change year to year
Dependent upon Land Owner Voucher Drawing Success; subject to change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BULL TAG</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>Drawing Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Archery 1 Bull</td>
<td>10 days****</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Archery 2 Bull</td>
<td>10 days****</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Muzzle Bull Buddy Hunt</td>
<td>Muzzle</td>
<td>Banquet Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 1st Rifle Bull (FLEX)</td>
<td>1st Rifle</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 2nd Rifle Bull (FLEX)</td>
<td>2nd Rifle</td>
<td>Banquet Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 3rd Rifle Bull (FLEX)</td>
<td>4 days</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 3rd Rifle Youth Man. Bull***</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 4th Rifle Buddy Bull (FLEX)</td>
<td>4th Rifle</td>
<td>Banquet Only</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUCK HUNTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. 3rd Rifle Youth Buck***</td>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. 4th Rifle Buddy Buck</td>
<td>4th Rifle</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Two archery and one muzzle are guaranteed unrestricted hunts.
- The ‘buddy’ muzzle hunter (2nd hunter) is limited to a restricted hunt and does not flex.
- The ‘buddy’ 4th rifle hunter (2nd hunter) is limited to a management bull hunt and does not flex.
- The youth management bull hunt is limited to a management bull and does not flex.
- The remaining bull hunts are all ‘FLEX’ hunts meaning the type of hunt will depend on previous harvests. If an unrestricted hunt harvests a restricted bull for example, the next hunt could FLEX to an unrestricted hunt.
- The number and whether or not a hunt FLEXES depends on the quality of harvests and quality and number of bulls that year. All decisions are made by staff and all decisions are final.
- Those labeled “Banquet Only,” are available only to those attending the Banquet. Those labeled “Open Draw,” attendance is not required and one only needs to register for the drawing.
- Those labeled “Provide Own Tag,” the hunter must obtain the tag/license from the CPW Big Game Drawing in order to register for that particular drawing.
- Those labeled “Voucher Provided,” the HRCA will provide a landowner voucher in order for the hunter to obtain their tag/license. Voucher must be turned in at a CPW license vendor to obtain the carcass tag. All bull hunts are List A license, a hunter may not hold another List A license.
- All ‘buddies’ must also be HRCA members in good standing.

*Hunter must provide their own tag by applying for the limited license drawing through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Big Game Drawing: Application Deadline: Beginning of April. Unit 51.*
**Voucher provided pending Colorado Parks and Wildlife Landowner Voucher Big Game Drawing. If we are unsuccessful in our draw for the landowner voucher, these hunts may become “provide your own tag” drawings.

***These hunts are restricted to certain areas of the property. The elk hunt will be on the south end of the property and the deer hunt will be on the north end of the property.

****Each archery hunter will get ten total days of hunting on the property; 4 of those are limited to a blind only. For dates, refer to the annual Calendar. The dates can be flexible if opportunity exists to be flexible; but no archery hunter will get more than ten days and flexibility is not guaranteed.

COW ELK, TURKEY, and COYOTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COW HUNTS^</th>
<th>DATES*</th>
<th>DRAWING TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cow Hunt 1 (youth)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cow Hunt 2 (youth)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cow Hunt 3 and 4</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Live Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cow Hunt 5</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cow Hunt 6</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Banquet Only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^All cow hunt tags must be purchased by the hunter in the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Leftover License Sale which begins TYPICALLY THE FIRST TUESDAY IN AUGUST. It is very important that selected cow hunters purchase their tag on the very first MORNING of the leftover license sale as the tags do sell out immediately. If the cow hunter does not secure the appropriate license, they will not be able to hunt and will be refunded their hunt fee.

*Cow Hunts will follow the Rolling Hunt Opportunity. Hunters will hunt in order of the hunt they are drawn for. Cow Hunt 1, then 2, then 3. Each successive hunter will hunt after the hunter before them harvests or has a successful hunt. We will notify the next hunter up and schedule their hunt accordingly. If the next hunter up cannot hunt on the desired day, the following hunter will be called up. The hunter who was skipped will go back to the top of the list. Hunters drawn are not guaranteed the opportunity to hunt. If the hunter does not get the opportunity to go out on the property for a hunt, they will receive a full refund.

COYOTE HUNTS^  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COYOTE HUNTS^</th>
<th>DATES*</th>
<th>DRAWING TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Coyote 1</td>
<td>Feb 9-10</td>
<td>Banquet Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Coyote 2</td>
<td>Feb 16-17</td>
<td>Live Auction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

^All coyote hunts will be restricted to one parking area at the entrance to the property. Vehicle access will not be permitted past the parking area.

TURKEY HUNTS^  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TURKEY HUNTS^</th>
<th>DATES*</th>
<th>DRAWING TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Youth Turkey 1 and 2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Youth Turkey 3 and 4</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Turkey 5</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Banquet Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Turkey 6</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Turkey 7</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Banquet Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Turkey 8</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Live Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Turkey 9</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Open Draw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^All turkey licenses must be purchased by the hunter and can be purchased over the counter.
*Beginning in 2021; Turkey Hunts will follow the Rolling Hunt Opportunity. Hunters will hunt in order of the hunt they are drawn for. Turkey Hunt 1, then 2, then 3. Each successive hunter will hunt after the hunter before them harvests or has a successful hunt. We will notify the next hunter up and schedule their hunt accordingly. If the next hunter up cannot hunt on the desired day, the following hunter will be called up. The hunter who was skipped will go back to the top of the list. Hunters drawn are not guaranteed the opportunity to hunt. If the hunter does not get the opportunity to go out on the property for a hunt, they will receive a full refund.

- **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, additional parking areas, field dressing, caping, quartering, and transportation of meat to your home.
  - Turkey hunters can elect to hunt alone, but guide will still be on the property.
  - Refund Policy: No refunds once payment is made

- **Non-Transferable**
  - Hunts are not transferrable. If a person wins a hunt and declines it for any reason, they give up their hunt and another winner will be drawn.
  - The only exception is for turkey hunts and buck hunts. Starting in 2020 we will encourage experienced hunters who win a turkey hunt or buck hunt to transfer their hunt to a youth or first-time hunter of their choice. All hunters must be HRCA members in good standing.

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.