



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*

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

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

- **Breakdown of hunts and seasons:**
 - 4 bull elk archery hunts (two 10 day unrestricted, two blind only cow/spike)
 - 2 bull elk muzzle loader hunts
 - 1 bull in 1st rifle season
 - 2 bulls in 2nd rifle season
 - 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
 - Coyote: February

- **Hunt Drawings**
 - All hunts in the Backcountry are determined through a lottery drawing or auction
 - The drawing and auction take place in March, registration for the drawings opens the 3rd Friday in January.

- **Types of Drawings**

- **Provide Your Own Tag:**

- Hunter must obtain their own Unit 51 tag for the appropriate season.

- Typically Includes: Archery, 2nd and 3rd season limited, and all cow hunts (These are subject to change year to year)
 - To be eligible for the “Provide Your Own Tag” drawings, hunter must have one preference point for that species, **except cow elk.**
 - Evidence of the preference point must be emailed to mark.giebel@hrcaonline.org prior to the drawing. If evidence of preference point is not provided, hunter will be removed from that drawing without notice.

- **Open Drawing:**

- Any hunter can register for these drawings; if chosen, we provide a landowner voucher in order for the hunter to obtain the tag (big game only, not turkey, turkey tags are available over the counter)

- **Auction**

- Our online auction takes place the 1st Thursday in March. The hunts available for auction are:

- Muzzle load buddy hunt (bull elk): One unrestricted bull, one restricted trophy bull
 - Buddy cow hunt
 - Two spring turkey hunts
 - Two winter coyote hunts

- **Landowner Voucher**

- 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 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.

- **Registering for 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.

- **Classification of Bull Hunts**

- Unrestricted Bull Elk Hunt: Any bull is eligible for harvest
- Restricted Trophy: A trophy type bull is eligible for harvest, but certain bulls, or certain class of bulls would not be eligible. Typically bulls over 320 that are not beyond prime age, or young bulls with obvious potential to be a trophy in future years are not eligible. The desired bull for this hunt is a 280-310 mature bull that has reached its full potential, or a smaller bull as defined in the categories below. The determination of whether a bull is eligible is subjective and such determination is up to the guide. All staff/guide decisions are final.
- Restricted Bull Elk Hunt: Typically a bull that is not a trophy and likely never will be. A 'rag-horn' type bull. 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.
- Management Bull Elk Hunt: A non-branched spike or a bull whose antlers are genetically malformed. The determination of a management bull is subjective and such determination is up to the guide. All staff/guide decisions are final.

- **Fees**

- All Hunts Require a Guide; Guide is included in the fees.
 - Archery:
 - Unrestricted: \$2,500
 - Blind Only: \$250
 - Muzzle 1: Auction
 - Muzzle 2: Auction
 - 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
 - \$300
 - 4th Season
 - \$500
 - 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:
 - Unrestricted: Total of 10 days in the field; First 4 limited to a blind
 - Blind Only: Total of 4 EVENINGS ONLY in the field, all in a blind (most likely the same blind each evening).
 - 2nd Season Limited Bull: Limited to last 3 days of 2nd rifle season
 - 3rd Season Limited Bull: Limited to last 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.

*Rolling Hunt Opportunity: Limited to a designated day or days determined by the order in which the hunter was 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.

- **Point System**

- BWA does have its own point system. There are three 'pool's to earn points: Bull elk, 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
- **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, except for the ‘buddy’ of an auctioned hunt.

2021 HUNT PLAN

BULL	TAG	DATES	Drawing Type
1. Archery 1 Bull	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)	10 days	Open Draw
2. Archery 2 Bull	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)	10 days	Open Draw
3. Archery 3 Bull	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)	4 Evenings	Open Draw
4. Archery 4 Bull	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)	4 Evenings	Open Draw
5. Muzzle Bull Buddy Hunt	(BOTH VOUCHERS PROVIDED)	Muzzle	Auction
6. 1 st Rifle Bull (FLEX)	(VOUCHER PROVIDED)	1 st Rifle	Open Draw
7. 2 nd Rifle Bull (FLEX)	(VOUCHER PROVIDED)	2 nd Rifle	Open Draw
8. 2 nd Rifle Limited	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)	3 Days	Open Draw
9. 3 rd Rifle Limited Bull (FLEX)	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)	4 days	Open Draw
10. 3 rd Rifle Youth Man. Bull	(VOUCHER PROVIDED)	3 days	Open Draw
11. 4 th Rifle Buddy Bull(FLEX)	(BOTH VOUCHERS PROVIDED)	4 th Rifle	Open Draw
BUCK HUNTS			
12. 3 rd Rifle Youth Buck	(VOUCHER PROVIDED)	3 days	Open Draw
13. 4 th Rifle Buddy Buck	(BOTH VOUCHERS PROVIDED)	4 th Rifle	Open Draw

- Archery 1 and 2 and one muzzle are guaranteed unrestricted hunts.
- Archery 3 and 4 are restricted to cow/spike, blind only, 4 evenings.
- The ‘buddy’ muzzle hunter (2nd hunter) is limited to a restricted trophy 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. However, beyond 1st rifle, hunters should expect a restricted bull or management bull hunt. Hunters should expect a ‘meat’ hunt rather than an antler hunt and be ready to harvest any bull that the guide approves.
- 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 “Auction” are available only via our online Auction. Those labeled “Open Draw,” attendance is not required, 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 once they are drawn. All “Provide Own Tag” drawing registrants must have at least one preference point for that species and provide proof of that preference point in order to register for those drawings.
- 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. Vouchers are subject to Landowner Voucher Drawing success.
- All ‘buddies’ must also be HRCA members in good standing, except those buddy hunts by auction.

- Youth hunts, "Limited" hunts, and Archery 3 and 4 hunts may be limited to certain parts of the property, certain days and times.
- Archery hunter 1 and 2 will get ten designated days of hunting on the property; 4 of those limited to a blind only. All dates/days are pre-determined and non-negotiable. No extra days/opportunities will be added.
- Archery hunters 3 and 4 will hunt EVENINGS only, a total of 4 evenings each, in the month of September, accompanied by a guide or chaperone and limited to hunting out of a blind only. Cow/Spike only.

COW HUNTS^	TAG	DATES^	DRAWING TYPE
1. Cow Hunt 1 and 2	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)*	TBD	Auction
2. Cow Hunt 3 (youth)	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)*	TBD	Open Draw
3. Cow Hunt 4 (youth)	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)*	TBD	Open Draw
4. Cow Hunt 5	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)*	TBD	Open Draw
5. Cow Hunt 6	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)*	TBD	Open Draw

*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. CPW Hunt Code: EF051P5. Hunters should not wait to obtain a tag through the leftover license sale as there will likely not be licenses left for our unit. If a hunter does not obtain a tag for their hunt, they will lose their opportunity and will not be rolled over to the following year.

^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 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.

COYOTE HUNTS

1. Coyote 1	Feb. 2022	Auction
2. Coyote 2	Feb. 2022	Auction

TURKEY HUNTS

	DATES	DRAWING TYPE
1. Youth Turkey 1 and 2	TBD	Open Draw
2. Youth Turkey 3 and 4	TBD	Open Draw
3. Turkey 5	TBD	Auction
4. Turkey 6	TBD	Auction
5. Turkey 7	TBD	Open Draw
6. Turkey 8	TBD	Open Draw
7. Turkey 9	TBD	Open Draw
8. Turkey 10	TBD	Open Draw

All turkey licenses must be purchased by the hunter and can be purchased over the counter.

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 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.

DRAWING POOLS

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

YOUTH POOL:

- 3rd Rifle Youth Bull, 3rd Rifle Youth Buck, Youth cow hunts, youth turkey hunts
- Must be 18 or under, refer to CPW rules to define 'youth.'

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

The bull and buck hunts will be provided a voucher.

LIMITED BULL POOL:

- 2nd Rifle Bull Limited and 3rd Rifle Bull Limited
 - **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 without notice.**

BULLS POOL:

- 1st Rifle Bull, 2nd Rifle Bull, 4th Rifle Buddy Bull,
 - Vouchers are provided for all these hunts.

ARCHERY BULL 1 and 2 POOL:

- Our usual 4 days in the blind, 6 days in the field archery hunts
 - **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 without notice.**

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ARCHERY LIMITED 3 and 4 POOL:

- Our new archery opportunities: Each hunter gets four evenings in a blind, cow/spike only.
 - **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 without notice.**
 - **The blind only opportunity is designed for youth or beginner hunters. If you do not want to use the HRCA points you have accumulated or do not want to harvest a cow/spike, then do not put your name in this drawing.**
 - **Chances for success on a blind hunt like this is estimated at about 10%. Chances of seeing and hearing elk in the general area are about 100%.**
 - **This opportunity is less about the harvest and more about the overall experience. If that is not for you, do not put your name in.**

BUCK/COW/TURKEY POOL:

- 4th Rifle Buddy Buck
- Two cow hunts
- Turkey Hunts 5-10
- **All cow hunters must obtain their tag through the CPW Big Game Drawing.**

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.