



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*

- **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
 - 2 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, 2nd, and 4th rifle seasons
 - 2 bulls in 3rd rifle season
 - Cow hunts: Certain dates in December and January
 - Buck Deer: 1 in 3rd rifle season and 1 in 4th rifle season
 - 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 is conducted in January
 - All other Drawings are conducted at the Annual Elk Banquet in July

- **Types of Drawings**
 - 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)
 - 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.
 - 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**
 - 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**
 - **Archery:** Registration opens the 3rd Friday in December
 - **All other:** Registration opens the first week of June and closes first week of July.
 - **Banquet Tickets:** Go on sale first week of June. Banquet is the 3rd Friday in July.
- **Classification of Bull Hunts**
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **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**
 - All Big Game 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
 - Buck Deer:
 - 3rd Season Youth
 - \$300
 - 4th Season Combo
 - \$500 + Elk Fee
 - Cow Elk:
 - Youth
 - \$250
 - All others
 - \$300
 - Turkey (guide not mandatory)
 - All
 - \$50 hunt fee + \$100/day guide fee
 - Package (Guide included)
 - \$200
- **Seasons/Dates/Days**
 - 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 first 4 days of the 3rd rifle season
 - 3rd Season Youth Bull: Limited to last 3 days of the 3rd rifle season
 - 3rd Season Youth Buck: Limited to last 3 days of the 3rd rifle season
 - Cow: Limited to a designated 3 days
 - Turkey: Limited to a designated 3 days
 - Each year, a calendar with designated days for all of the hunts is released.
- **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.

- **HRC A 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*

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. Muzzle Bull Buddy Hunt	(BOTH VOUCHERS PROVIDED)**	Muzzle	Banquet Only
4. 1 st Rifle Bull (FLEX)	(VOUCHER PROVIDED)**	1 st Rifle	Open Draw
5. 2 nd Rifle Bull (FLEX)	(VOUCHER PROVIDED)**	2 nd Rifle	Banquet Only
6. 3 rd Rifle Bull (FLEX)	(PROVIDE OWN TAG) *	4 days	Open Draw
7. 3 rd Rifle Youth Man. Bull***	(PROVIDE OWN TAG) *	3 days	Open Draw
8. 4 th Rifle Combo (FLEX)^	(BOTH VOUCHERS PROVIDED)**	4 th Rifle	Banquet Only

BUCK HUNTS

9. 3 rd Rifle Youth Buck***	(PROVIDE OWN TAG)*	3 days	Open Draw
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- *Two archery and one muzzle are guaranteed unrestricted hunts. 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. A maximum of two unrestricted bulls can be harvested each year. At least two restricted bulls can be harvested each year. The number and whether or not a hunt FLEXES depends on the quality of harvests and quality and number of bulls that year. Restricted hunts could go up to three or four before we FLEX remaining hunts to management hunts. The youth management bull hunt will never FLEX. 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 HRC A 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.*

**Hunter must provide their own tag by applying for the limited license drawing through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Big Game Drawing: Application Deadline: April 3rd. 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. The 3rd season youth management bull hunt is a "management/spike" hunt, and will not "Flex."*

***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

COW HUNTS^	DATES*	DRAWING TYPE
1. Cow Hunt 1 (youth)	Nov 30-Dec 2	Open Draw
2. Cow Hunt 2 (youth)	Dec 7-9	Open Draw
3. Cow Hunt 3 and 4	Dec 13-15	Live Auction
4. Cow Hunt 5 and 6	Jan 3-5	Open Draw
5. Cow Hunt 7 and 8	Jan 10-12	Banquet Only
6. Cow Hunt 9 and 10	Jan 24-26	Open Draw

^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 Hunt Dates are for example purposes only and change each year. Typically the hunts are Thursday-Saturday, limited to 3 days per hunter. Cow hunts begin after 4th rifle season is over and close when the Private Land Only Season closes; typically January 31st.

COYOTE HUNTS^

1. Coyote 1	Feb 9-10	Banquet Only
2. Coyote 2	Feb 16-17	Live Auction

^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^	DATES*	DRAWING TYPE
1. Youth Turkey 1 and 2	April 19-21	Open Draw
2. Youth Turkey 3 and 4	April 26-28	Open Draw
3. Turkey 5	April 30-May2	Open Draw
4. Turkey 6	April 30-May2	Warrior Outdoor
5. Turkey 7	May 4-6	Stake Jake
6. Turkey 8	May 11-13	Live Auction
7. Turkey 9	May 17-19	Banquet Only

^All turkey licenses must be purchased by the hunter and can be purchased over the counter. All turkey hunts have restrictions. Some are restricted to evening only, some are restricted to a certain part of the property only. For details, see our "hunt calendar."

*Turkey Hunt Dates are for example purposes only and change each year. Typically the hunts are Thursday-Saturday, limited to 3 days per hunter. Turkey hunts are limited to the CPW spring turkey season which begins in mid April and closes in late May; dates change each year.

- **GUIDE SERVICES AND CHAPERONES**

- Guides are mandatory for all hunts except turkey and coyote hunts
- There is not an additional fee for a guide in hunts that require a guide
- There is an additional charge for a guide for turkey and coyote hunts if a guide is desired
- 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.
- 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.