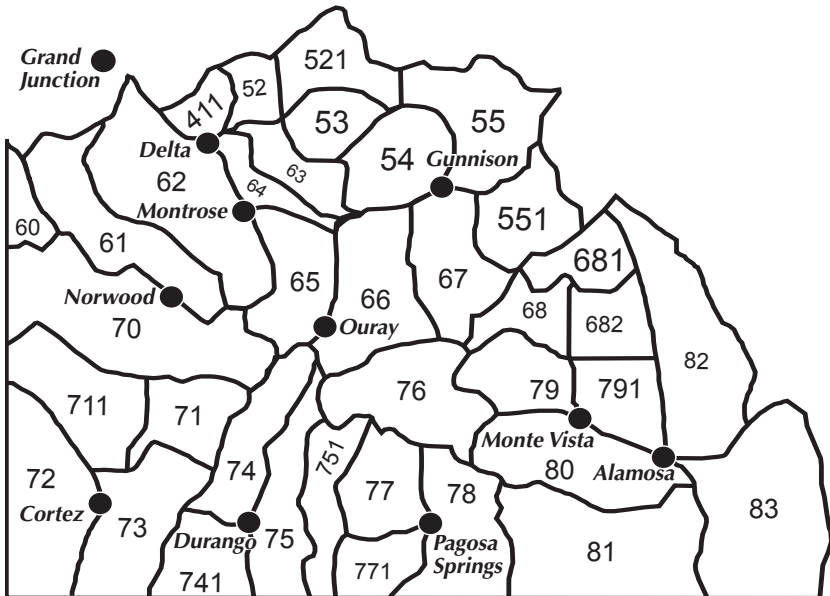


2012 Big Game Hunting in Southwest Colorado



Contents:

- Hunting tips and outlook
- 2011 season harvest statistics
- Preference point information
- Camping information
- Travel information
- Phone numbers and web sites



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Southwest Region Service Center • 415 Turner Drive, Durango, CO 81303
(970) 247-0855 • www.wildlife.state.co.us

2012 Elk & Deer Season Information

Season Dates	Deer	Elk	License Fees***		Deer Buck/Doe	Elk	
						Bull/ Either-sex	Cow
Archery	Aug. 25 - Sept. 23		Resident	Adult	\$34	\$49	\$49
Muzzle	Sept. 8 - 16			Youth	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$13.75
1st Rifle		Oct. 13 - 17					
2nd Rifle	Oct. 20 - 28		Non-Resident	Adult	\$349	\$579	\$354
3rd Rifle	Nov. 3 - 11			Youth	\$103.75	\$103.75	\$103.75
4th Rifle	Nov. 14 - 18		***Prices include \$3 nonrefundable on-line application fee, 25 cent search/rescue fee, 75 cent wildlife education fund fee; does not include \$10 habitat stamp fee.				
Leftover licenses on sale Aug. 14, 9 a.m., at CPW offices, license agents, and phone at 1-800-244-5613. On-line Aug. 15.							

Keep Your Wheels Where They Belong™



For info and tips visit
www.staythetrail.org

What's New for 2012

Almost every year new regulations take effect that hunters need to know about. It's your responsibility to know the Colorado hunting regulations and any new rules that might affect you in the Game Management Unit where you'll be hunting.

To check new regulations, pick up a Colorado 2012 Big Game Brochure anywhere licenses are sold. For complete regulations, go to: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/RulesRegs/Pages/Regs.aspx>. Or you can call any Colorado Parks and Wildlife office for information. Phone numbers are on the back page of this booklet.

Elk Late Season Youth license

Youth hunters with either-sex elk tags who do not harvest during the regular seasons and who want to participate in the late season youth hunt, must turn in their original licenses at a Wildlife Service Center to get a late season antlerless license. Also, in some units in northwest Colorado only those youngsters who hold a regular season license for those units will be allowed to hunt there in the late season. See page 4 of the Colorado Hunting Brochure.

Beware of dead timber

The amount of timber killed by beetles is increasing throughout southwest Colorado. Exercise caution if you are hunting or camping in areas with a lot of dead standing timber. These trees can blow down when the wind comes up.

Know the Rules for off-highway vehicles (OHVs)

Off-highway vehicles are great tools when used properly during hunting season, allowing hunters access to trailheads and to transport game. Unfortunately, inappropriate and illegal use of OHVs can cause conflicts between hunters and might cause resource damage to public lands. Hunters must be aware of the laws and regulations governing OHV use.

All OHVs must be registered and permitted annually in Colorado. Permits cost \$25.25. Non-residents wishing to use off-highway vehicles must obtain a Colorado permit. Permits and regulations can be found online at www.parks.state.co.us. For more information, call 1-303-791-1920.

Federal public land managers have recently updated their "Travel Management Plans" which are written to ensure protection of roads, trails and federal land resources. If you are hunting on public land, please contact the U.S. Forest Service office or Bureau of Land Management Field Office for your area to obtain current regulations and a Motor Vehicle Use Map. Phone numbers are on the inside back cover of this brochure.

Colorado Wildlife officers, national forest officers, BLM rangers and other local law enforcement agencies are authorized to write tickets

to OHV users who are riding in closed areas or operating vehicles improperly. You are responsible for knowing local regulations and the trails and areas where you can ride legally. OHV users riding in unauthorized areas face fines and penalties of \$100 from CPW, and \$250 from federal agencies. Hunters, anglers or trappers who unlawfully use OHVs will also receive 10 points against their hunting and fishing privileges. The fine for riding illegally in federal wilderness areas is \$500 and 15 penalty points can be assessed against license privileges.

Please, observe these rules and guidelines.

- Be considerate of other hunters. OHV noise disturbs big game animals.
- OHVs can be operated only on signed roads and trails. Check locally for exceptions. Assume closure unless a sign indicates otherwise. Closure signs are not required.
- OHVs cannot be driven into designated wilderness areas.
- OHVs are generally prohibited from most streets in towns and on some county roads. Check local regulations.
- Rifles carried on OHVs must be unloaded completely and secured in a case.
- Explain these rules to young hunters and those unfamiliar with using these vehicles on public lands.

Hunting Q & A

Following are answers to some commonly asked questions. For more information, go to the CPW web site: <http://wildlife.state.co.us>.

Do I need a Hunter Education Card? Yes. Hunters born after 1948 must present a hunter education card when purchasing a license. License agents also will accept cards issued by other states. Agents will not accept a previous year's license or photocopies of hunter education cards. For more information on hunter education classes go to the CPW web site.

Where do I buy my Colorado hunting license? Licenses are available at CPW offices, at licensing agents, by telephone 1-800-244-5613, and on-line at: <http://wildlife.state.co.us>. Most hunters are now buying their licenses through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife web site. This is the fastest, easiest and most accurate way to buy your license. Leftover licenses for 2012 go on sale Aug. 14, at DOW offices and at license agent locations, and on-line on Aug. 15. Please, refer to the CPW web site or the Big Game Brochure for an explanation of all variety of licenses.

Can I hunt both deer and elk? Yes, and you no longer need to hunt them during the same season. See the 2012 Big Game Brochure or the web site for details.

Can I have more than one elk and deer license? Yes, but only in specific GMUs. See the web site or the Big Game Brochure for details.

Where can I hunt with an unlimited rifle license? Unlimited licenses are sold only for bull elk hunting during the second and third seasons. The licenses can be used in any GMU in Colorado, except those listed on page 32 of the Big Game brochure. The excluded units in the southwest region are: 61, 66, 67, 682, 76, 79, 791, 682 and second season in 54.

What are “Private Land Only” licenses? These licenses (also called PLO licenses) require the holder to hunt in a specific GMU and are valid only on private land. You must obtain permission from a landowner. It is recommended that you secure permission from a landowner before purchasing the license.

Hunting Ethically

Hunting is an integral part of wildlife management in Colorado. Remember, you are not only participating in a recreational activity, you also play an important role in managing big-game herds. With your license comes a responsibility to hunt and conduct yourself in an ethical manner. Please, take a few moments to answer the following questions. It’s up to you to remember the answers when you are out in the field:

- Are your hunting actions providing a “fair chase” scenario for the animal?
- Would you behave the same way if you were hunting with a wildlife officer or being videotaped for the 5 o’clock news?
- Do you know exactly where you are hunting? Are you in the right GMU?
- Do you know the habits of the animal you are hunting?
- When you take aim at an animal do you know for certain that it is the right sex and species?
- Are you physically able to hunt in mountainous terrain and retrieve a harvested animal?
- Do you know how to properly field dress a big-game animal?
- Do you minimize the impacts of your camp on the landscape?
- Do you pack out all of your trash?
- Will you report rule violations—yours and others—to a Colorado wildlife officer?
- Have you read the Colorado Big Game Brochure to check for specific regulations for the GMU in which you are hunting?

Ethical behavior is critical to the future of hunting. Please, consider how your actions impact wildlife, fellow hunters and the general public.

If You Make a Mistake

Every year people make mistakes while hunting. Hunters occasionally: shoot the wrong animal, accidentally kill more than one animal, hunt in the wrong GMU, etc.

Most of these errors can be prevented by carefully reading the Big Game Brochure, obtaining a good map of your hunting area and by being diligent in the field. Hunters who make errors can be penalized with fines, suspension points, felonies and misdemeanors, loss of meat, license suspension or confiscation of equipment. Penalties can be much more severe against those who purposefully attempt to hide mistakes from wildlife officers.

If you make a mistake while hunting, the best course of action is to report the incident to the closest CPW office right away. Be prepared to explain to a wildlife officer what happened and why. While you still may be subject to penalties, they could be less severe if the officer determines that you are cooperative, the error was not intentional, or it was unavoidable given the circumstances.

Follow the officer's orders on caring for the meat, leaving the animal at the scene or bringing it to an agreed upon location, etc. If you are unable to contact an officer immediately, field dress the animal on the spot and don't move it.

Know Where You're Hunting!

It is your responsibility to know exactly where you are hunting. If you harvest an animal in the wrong GMU you will be subject to penalties, and you will not be allowed to keep the animal.

Location descriptions of each GMU can be found starting on page 56 of the 2012 Big Game Brochure.

Buy a high-quality topographic map, read the boundary description in the brochure carefully and outline the boundaries on the map. If you have questions, call the CPW office in the area where you are hunting.

In Colorado, landowners are not required to post or fence their land. It is your responsibility to know the location of private land. You must obtain permission to hunt on private land. If you hunt on private land without permission you may be charged with trespassing, be required to appear in court and fined.

Simple Rules for Hunting Safely

Hunting accidents have declined significantly since the passage of two laws in 1970 that require hunter education for all hunters born on or after January 1, 1949, and require hunters to wear at least 500-square-inches of

fluorescent orange clothing above the waist—including a head covering visible from all directions. “Camouflage” orange is not legal.

Hunters should review basic safety rules every time they go into the field. Remember: One moment of carelessness can mean a lifetime of consequences.

Before the season, go to a shooting range and practice. You’ll get re-acquainted with your gun and you’ll improve your chances of harvesting an animal.

Most accidents occur near vehicles. Load and unload your gun at least 100 yards from your car or truck.

No matter how long you’ve been hunting, always observe these basic safety rules:

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded and keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Be sure of your target - what is in front of it and what is beyond it. Once you take a shot, you can’t take it back. If you are in doubt, don’t shoot.
- Keep the safety on and your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Never place your hand over the muzzle of a gun.
- Don’t hurry while loading or unloading.
- Talk about safety issues to youngsters and inexperienced hunters.
- Stop to rest when you are out of breath; fatigue often contributes to accidents.

Lead bullets and game meat

Concerns have been raised about potential health risks of exposure to lead from eating wild game harvested with lead bullets. Children under 6 and pregnant women should avoid this meat.

Because lead bullets fragment, the lead can scatter beyond the wound. Trim meat liberally when processing an animal. Discard damaged meat, meat that is discolored or bruised, and meat that shows dirt, hair or bone fragments. Lead is soft and can be spread when meat is ground.

Lead fragments can also sicken birds, such as eagles, that scavenge on gut piles.

More and more hunters are using copper bullets. They are accurate and deadly. Copper bullets are more expensive, but hunters can use lead bullets of similar weight to sight-in their rifles and to practice.

Bears

Hunters must personally present bears for inspection and sealing at a wildlife office within five days of harvest. Carcasses must not be frozen. Agency staff are authorized to remove a premolar tooth for research purposes.

Tips for Hunting Mule Deer

A large mule deer buck can reach 400 pounds; however, most mule deer range from 200-300 pounds. It is estimated that Colorado is home to about 430,000 deer. During the 2011 seasons, for all manners of take, 76,445 hunters harvested 33,217 mule deer for a 43 percent success rate.

In the mountains and foothills, mule deer don't spend much time in heavy timber. They are primarily browsers and prefer aspen and forest edges where there are plenty of low shrubs, small trees, oak brush and varied vegetation types.

Mule deer are most active at night and can often be found in meadow areas during low-light hours. During the day they'll bed down in protective cover.

In warm weather, look for deer along ridge lines where wind is consistent and helps to keep them cool.

During the low-light hours of evening and morning, hunt in openings at the edge of thick cover. If you see where they are feeding during times of low-light, it's likely they'll move into nearby timbered areas to rest for part of the day. Deer tend to move during the middle of the day toward the areas where they feed in the evening.

A slow stalk is recommended. Spend a lot of time scanning slowly with binoculars--a deer can appear at any time.

Pay attention to the wind direction. If the wind is blowing in the direction you are moving, a deer will likely pick up your scent. Deer avoid going to creeks in daylight so there is no advantage to hunting near moving water sources during the day.

One advantage mule deer give to hunters is their curiosity. When mule deer are spooked they'll often run a short distance then turn to determine if they are being pursued. That may give you one good chance for a shot.

A small amount of snow will get deer moving quickly out of high-altitude areas. Usually by late October, migrating herds will move to winter range areas even if there is no snow.

Hunters should aim at the vital organ area which presents a small target--about the size of a dinner plate just behind the front quarter. Hunters, no matter how good they are at the range, should never try to make a head shot. Many animals are injured and die slowly because of attempted head shots.



1-877-265-6648

Tips for Hunting elk

The popular hunting magazines often display colorful photographs of huge bull elk standing in open meadows presenting easy targets. The reality in the mountains of Colorado, however, is far different.

Stalking these animals is challenging and most hunters won't get easy shots. You're more likely to find elk on a steep hillside, in a dark ravine or in thick timber than out in the open.

The hunter success rate for all manners of take in Colorado during the 2011 seasons was 21 percent, and a total of 43,480 elk were harvested. A total of 211,392 hunters stalked elk last season. It's estimated that there are about 280,000 elk in Colorado, the most of any state.

If weather is warm, elk stay spread out over vast areas at high elevations at and above timberline. In those conditions hunters need to work extra hard. When snow falls elk start to move, bunch up, and look for food sources at lower elevations or on slopes where vegetation is exposed. Elk movement will start in earnest when a foot or more of snow falls.

Hunters must get off their OHVs and hunt slowly and quietly far from any road. Elk are very smart, move quickly at any hint of danger and hide in rugged terrain. Compounding the challenge for hunters is the fact that elk typically gather in groups of 10 or more. If one is spooked they all move and they can run easily for a half-mile or more.

Elk are most active at night and are likely to be grazing in transition areas--meadows and openings next to heavy timber, where different types of vegetation meet and just above or below ridge lines. Hunters should watch these areas at first light and at dusk.

During the day, hunters need to move into the dark timber and not be hesitant to hunt in difficult areas. Hunters should move as quietly as possible for short distances and then scan the woods for 10 minutes or more before moving again. Even in dense forest it's a good idea to use binoculars so you can discern subtle movement or colors in the trees.

If you find the areas where animals graze at night it's likely that you'll find them in adjacent areas during the day.

When hunting in areas with roads, move far above or far below to find elk. In areas where there are two roads, locate the most difficult terrain in between.

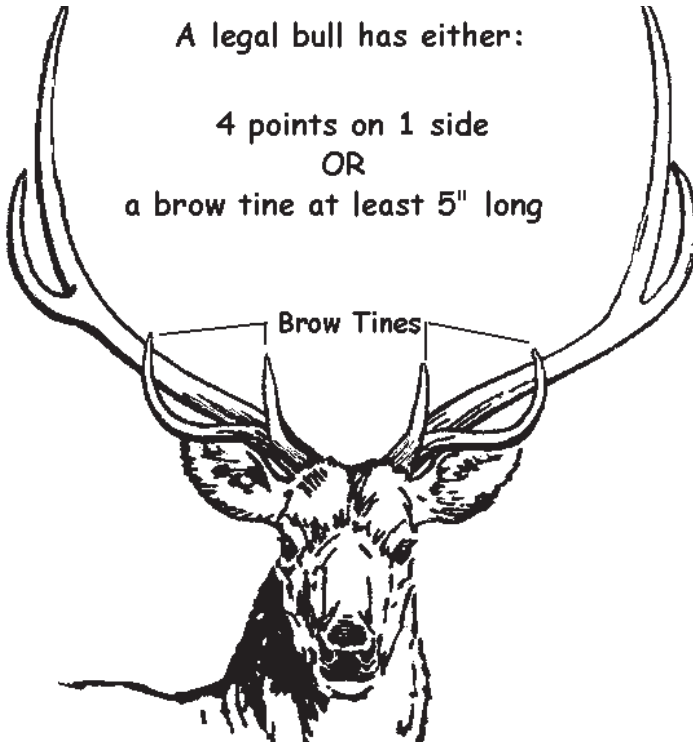
Line up your shot carefully because elk are difficult to knock down. The best shots are delivered in the critical area of the lungs and heart just behind and below the front quarters.

Antler Requirements

To allow bull elk and mule deer bucks to reach maturity, animals must grow to an acceptable size before they can be harvested. Size is determined by the antlers. Be sure to clearly identify the size of the antlers of a bull or a buck.

Bull Elk

For all GMUs in the southwest region except 61 and 76: A legal bull must have antlers with at least 4 points on one side OR brow tines that are 5 inches or longer. In GMUs 61 and 76 a legal bull must have antlers that are at least 5 inches long. There are no point restrictions. If you are unsure while taking aim, do not shoot. Be aware that the spikes of young bulls are difficult to see. If you have an antlerless permit, be sure the animal is indeed antlerless. Mistakes often occur in the low-light hours at dawn and dusk.



Mule Deer Bucks

A legal buck has antlers that are at least 5 inches long. There are no antler point restrictions for deer.

Know Your Physical Limits

Hunting in the mountains of Colorado is physically demanding. Even if you are in good shape you will still feel the effects of the altitude. Consider these tips as you head to the high country:

- To acclimate, plan to arrive at your hunting area a couple of days before hunting season begins.
- Drink lots of water. Dehydration can cause severe headaches, muscle cramps and loss of energy. Carry water purification tablets so that you can refill your bottles at creeks. Limit alcohol--it causes dehydration.
- If you experience severe headaches or difficulty breathing, move to lower altitude immediately. These symptoms could be signs of pulmonary edema or cerebral edema, both of which can be fatal.
- When hunting, move slowly and stop to rest often. Accidents are more likely to occur when you're tired. If you are feeling very tired and you are far from camp, unload your gun before continuing to walk.
- Discuss any health issues with your hunting partners.

Caring for Your Campsite

Camping can cause significant impacts on public lands. Minimize impacts with advanced planning. Please, follow these guidelines:

- Use established camping areas. Occupy as small of an area as possible.
- Campsites must be at least 100 feet from streams, lakes or riparian areas. Avoid trampling grass and shrubs.
- Do not dig a trench around your tent site.
- Check for public land fire restrictions; keep fires small, put fires out every night; burn only paper trash items.
- Use a stove for cooking to reduce impacts.
- Collect all cooking grease and carry it out. Do not dump it on the ground.
- Collect deadfall for campfires. Do not cut down trees.
- When you leave camp for the day, store all food and garbage securely inside a vehicle. Food and garbage attracts animals, including bears.
- Strain dish water before throwing it out and put debris in the trash. Small bits of food accumulate significantly over time.
- Pack out human feces. Sanitary products are available in which waste can be deposited and then disposed of properly in town.
- If you must, dig a latrine. Dig a hole about three-feet deep; be sure that it is at least 100 feet from the nearest water source. Spread soil on top after each use. Restore to natural condition when you break camp.
- Pack out all trash. Do not bury trash.
- Inspect your camp carefully after it is packed up. Leave your camp cleaner than how you found it.

Safe Hunting is No Accident!

Don't Shoot a Moose!

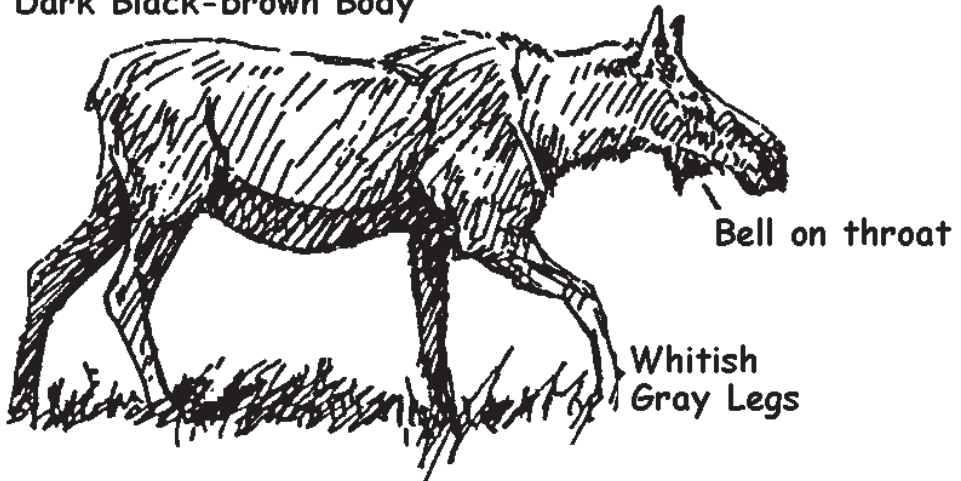
Moose are present throughout the southwest region. Moose favor wetlands but they can be found in any terrain where elk live.

Too often, hunters mistake moose--especially cows--for elk.

Please, be sure of your target. The fine for accidentally killing a moose is \$1,370. If the animal is killed illegally and the carcass abandoned, the shooter can be charged with a Class 5 felony.

Cow Moose

Dark Black-brown Body



Hunter's Checklist

Preparing for a hunting trip is a major effort. Be sure to leave information about where you'll be hunting and camping, license plate numbers and cell phone numbers with folks at home.

Listed below are a few common items that hunters often forget as they get ready to go into the backcountry.

- First aid kit, sunscreen, toilet paper, water bottles.
- Hunting license, compass and maps.
- Flashlight, lantern, extra batteries.
- Rain gear, tire chains.
- Knife sharpener, bone saw, game bag.
- Blaze orange vest and cap.
- Extra camp-stove fuel, cleaning supplies, trash bags, shovel.
- List of family/friends with contact information.

Are You Using Horses?

If you plan to use horses on your hunting trip, please be aware of the following:

- You must have a Certificate of Health inspection for each horse. Talk to your veterinarian about getting a health check for your horse. Be sure to bring the certificate with you.
- Horses must have a Coggins Blood Test within one year of entering Colorado. The test must be negative. Be sure to bring documentation.
- Because of a recent outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1), those bringing horses must obtain a state permit to enter Colorado. Your veterinarian must contact the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture at 1-303-239-4161 and request a permit number. That number will be added to your horse's health certificate.
- Hay, straw and mulch must be certified as "weed free." Only the following products are allowed on national forests in Colorado: cubed and pelletized hay, steamed grain, treated/steamed mulch from tree fibers. For information, call the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture at 1-303-239-4149; or for a list of regulations and vendors, go to www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi.
- Don't tie horses to trees in camp. This causes tree damage and vegetation around the tree to be trampled.
- Highline or picket your stock. If you use a highline, please use tree-saver straps to avoid damaging trees.
- Move horses often to keep them from trampling vegetation or overgrazing an area.
- Keep stock 100 feet or more from lakes, streams, wetlands and trails.
- Restrictions on horse travel in wilderness areas are often greater than in other areas. Be sure to read notices at trailheads. Many wilderness areas carry maximum group size limits, which regulate the number of livestock and people that are allowed to travel together.
- Contact the U.S. Forest Service or BLM in the area where you're hunting for complete information.

Pack Animals

Some people use animals other than horses to pack in gear to hunt camps. **Please, do not use goats.** These animals can spread disease to wild bighorns. Llamas, however, are acceptable.

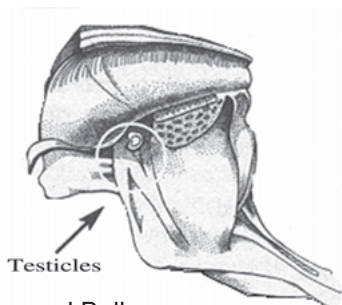
Evidence of Sex

After harvest, evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass. You can use either the head or sex organs, but they **must** be naturally attached to the carcass.

Leaving the evidence attached to one-quarter of the carcass is acceptable--so long as all four quarters are being transported together.

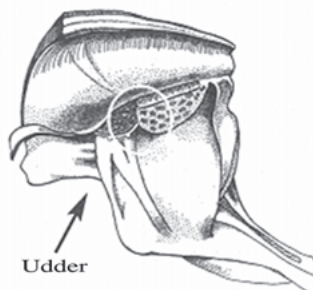
The head or skull plate with both antlers naturally attached must accompany the carcass of a buck or bull while it is in camp or being transported--even when the testicles are used to meet proof of evidence of sex.

If you are working with a taxidermist to mount the head, obtain a written receipt from the taxidermist before transporting the carcass home or to a meat processor. The receipt must list the following: date delivered and description of antlers.



Bucks and Bulls

Attached head with antlers or attached testicle, scrotum or penis



Does and Cows

Attached head or udder

Tagging the Carcass

Improperly attaching the carcass tag is a common violation and can result in a fine. Make sure that everyone in your hunting party knows how to properly attach the tag. You can be held liable for illegally transporting big game even if someone else made an error. Please, follow these guidelines:

- Sign your license as soon as you buy it or receive it in the mail.
- Immediately after harvesting the animal, detach the carcass tag from your license, sign it and punch the holes indicating sex, month and day of kill. Put the carcass tag in your pocket while taking the animal to camp or to your vehicle.
- When you arrive at camp or at your vehicle, immediately attach the carcass tag to the body of the animal. Do not attach to antlers. Attach the tag to the animal's leg or the hide.
- Place the tag where it can be easily inspected by a wildlife officer.

- If the carcass is cut up, keep all the pieces together so they can be inspected.
- Retain the top portion of your license during all transport of the carcass.
- If you are shipping the meat via commercial carrier, the meat must be accompanied by one of the following: the hunter's license, a photocopy of the license, or the carcass tag.

The “Easy” Way to Field Dress Your Animal

More often than not in Colorado, harvested animals must be cared for in remote areas far from roads. That requires hunters to pack out meat and antlers. To help lighten the load for hunters, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has produced two helpful videos that provide instructions on how to field dress an animal and how to bone-out meat.

Go to the CPW web site, click on News & Media, then on Videos to view “How to Field Dress a Big Game Animal.”

Available on DVD is “Down to the Bone” which explains methods for deboning in the field. You'll learn a simple and legal method of removing the edible portions of meat. By removing the bones and other inedible portions of the animal, you can reduce the weight you carry out of the backcountry by more than 50 percent.

Order a copy of the DVD on line. Go to the DOW website and click on the “Shop” button at the top of the page.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease has not been detected in the southwest region. If you see an animal that appears to be sick, do not shoot it. Determine the location as accurately as possible and contact a CPW officer as soon as possible.

The agency will test your animal for CWD. The charge is \$25. Allow two weeks to receive results. Heads can be submitted to any CPW area office. For more information about CWD, go to the CPW web site, click on “Hunting” then click “Big Game.”

When field dressing big game, the Colorado Department of Health recommends that you: wear rubber gloves; minimize handling of brain and spinal tissue; bone out meat; disinfect tools thoroughly and air dry. Also, do not consume brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, pancreas or lymph nodes.

Report Hunting Violations: 1-877-265-6648

Managing Colorado's Big Game Herds

To manage the state's big game populations the CPW uses a "management by objectives" approach. Big game populations are managed to achieve population and sex-ratio objectives established for Data Analysis Units (DAUs). Each DAU represents a geographically distinct big game herd.

Game management units are subsets of DAUs. The GMU groupings in this booklet are based on DAUs. However, because big game herds travel wide areas throughout the year, the population of each GMU cannot be estimated.

The DAU planning process incorporates public input, habitat capabilities, and herd considerations into management objectives for each of Colorado's big game herds. The general public, hunters, federal and state land management agencies, landowners and agricultural interests are involved in determining DAU plan objectives through questionnaires, public meetings, and by giving input to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission. License numbers and season recommendations result from this process.

Each DAU plan establishes post-hunt herd objectives for the size and structure of the population. The DAU objectives then are compared with modeled population estimates. Model inputs include:

- Harvest estimates determined by hunter surveys.
- Post-hunt sex and age ratios determined by aerial classifications.
- Estimated wounding loss, illegal kill and survival rates based on field observations and studies.

The information is entered into a specialized computer program which then estimates the population size. The final step in the process is to calculate harvest recommendations that will align population estimates with the herd objectives.

Using a Guide Service in Colorado

Here's what you need to know if you're thinking about using a guide service for your hunt. Outfitters in Colorado must be licensed by the state Department of Regulatory Agencies (<http://www.dora.state.co.us>), and by the U.S. Forest Service or BLM if they operate on federal land. Ask guides for licensing information and check their records through the state and federal agencies. Also, ask for references for at least three other past clients.

Before paying any money, require a contract that stipulates: types of services, dates of service, cost of service, lodging/camping/transportation arrangements, ratio of clients to guides, cancellation policy, and other items you believe are necessary. Guides who provide so called "finders fees" for locating animals, also must be licensed. Using an unlicensed outfitter is illegal.

The Colorado Outfitters' Association requires members to be licensed, bonded and adhere to a code of ethics. For information, www.coloradooutfitters.org, or call 970-824-2468.

Southwest Colorado Hunting Outlook

Grand Mesa

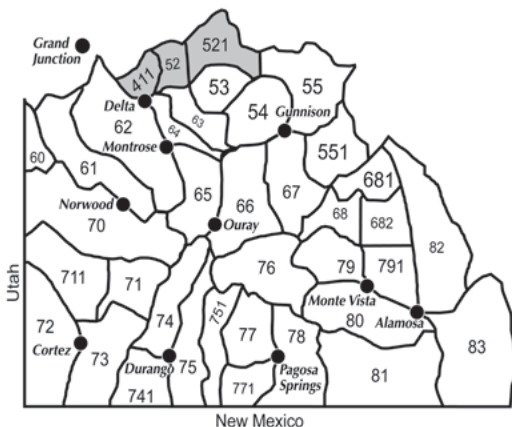
GMUs 411, 52, 521

Maps: Grand Mesa and Gunnison national forests

Gunnison CPW office: (970)641-7060

The Grand Mesa is heavily forested and offers a wide variety of terrain: from the spruce, fir and aspen forests up to 11,000 feet, to the pinon-juniper woodlands at about 4,800 feet. Weather can vary as widely as the terrain. Motorized access is good, but roads can become very muddy.

It is recommended that hunters obtain maps to avoid trespassing or unintentionally crossing private land. Please respect motorized closures on public lands. Lower elevations are mainly private, especially in GMUs 411 and 52. Hunting pressure is heavy. This management area encompasses the entire Grand Mesa and includes GMUs 41, 421 and 42 to the north. **MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE – BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!**



Deer hunting

This deer population is below objective so licenses were reduced by 10 percent for 2012. Deer are found on public land and on higher elevation private land during October. Some deer stay in lower elevation agricultural lands year-round. In late October, deer generally migrate to lower elevation as the weather cools and snow starts to accumulate. Hunting in aspen and oak brush can be productive. Hunters should obtain landownership maps of this area.

Estimated deer population: 8,200

3-year estimated sex ratio: 23 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2011 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	11	0	0	11	27	41 / 32
411	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	4	50 / 24
411	2 nd Rifle	31	0	0	31	77	40 / 42
411	3 rd Rifle	46	0	0	46	61	75 / 65
52	Archery	4	0	0	4	53	8 / 30
52	Muzzle	12	0	0	12	19	63 / 46
52	2 nd Rifle	135	0	0	135	252	54 / 48
52	3 rd Rifle	88	0	0	88	124	71 / 66
521	Archery	14	0	0	14	72	19 / 23
521	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	36	19 / 33
521	2 nd Rifle	107	0	0	107	192	56 / 42
521	3 rd Rifle	38	0	0	38	66	58 / 46
521	4 th Rifle	0	0	0	0	2	0 / 43

Elk Hunting

The elk herd is well distributed and hunting is rated as good. Most elk will be at higher elevations during the seasons -- above 8,500 feet in thick timber and oak brush. However, distribution may change in relation to weather and hunting pressure so hunters should be prepared to adapt to conditions during any season. Elk will generally move into more remote areas in response to pressure, and successful hunters generally stay well away from motorized access, especially in GMU 521. These units are managed for hunting opportunity, so most bulls are of younger age classes. Hunting pressure is lowest during the limited first season.

Estimated elk population: 11,000

3-year estimated sex ratio: 20 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	3	4	0	7	136	5 / 10
411	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	60	0 / 2
411	1 st Rifle	4	0	0	4	65	6 / 24
411	2 nd Rifle	25	7	1	33	153	22 / 22
411	3 rd Rifle	32	8	1	41	128	32 / 15
411	4 th Rifle	0	0	0	0	49	0 / 11
52	Archery	10	13	3	26	225	12 / 9
52	Muzzle	7	9	0	16	131	12 / 17
52	1 st Rifle	23	13	0	36	25	16 / 27
52	2 nd Rifle	34	25	6	65	433	15 / 19
52	3 rd Rifle	21	16	0	37	228	16 / 17
52	4 th Rifle	0	0	0	0	38	0 / 11
521	Archery	84	33	9	126	666	19 / 18
521	Muzzle	16	27	0	43	326	13 / 24
521	1 st Rifle	37	49	0	86	474	18 / 36
521	2 nd Rifle	127	118	14	259	1088	24 / 25
521	3 rd Rifle	27	65	7	99	415	24 / 24
521	4 th Rifle	9	29	6	44	153	29 / 36

Safe Hunting is No Accident!

Crawford-Fruitland Mesa

GMUs 53, 63

Map: Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison CPW office:
(970)641-7060

Winter weather is almost guaranteed during any season in this area which borders the high country of

the West Elk Wilderness. Altitude ranges from 5,400 feet near Hotchkiss to more than 12,000 feet in the wilderness. The range in elevations and the topography create volatile weather at all times of year. These GMUs contain abundant public land: 90 percent of GMU 53, 60 percent of GMU 63. When snow falls, herds move quickly to lower elevations on the western ends of the units.

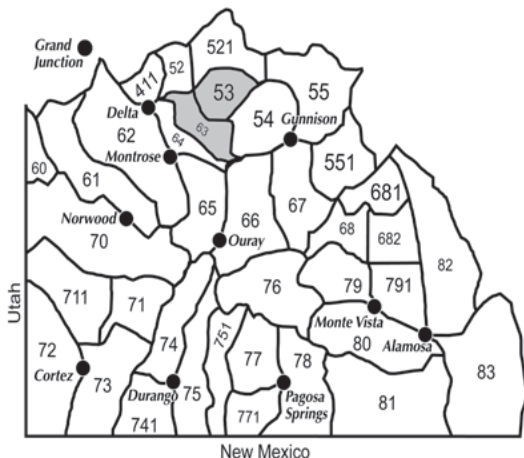
GMU 53 contains rough terrain and access is on rugged 4WD roads and foot/horse trails. Hunters should be prepared to hunt in difficult terrain. Packing an animal out in this area is challenging. Do not count on moving a vehicle close to the kill site. Access is easier for GMU 63; but be sure to study the map closely to avoid trespassing. West of Highway 92 most of the land is private. Motorize travel is limited to designated routes. **MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE – BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!**

Deer Hunting

The deer herd is below objective in both GMUs. Licenses were reduced 15 percent for 2012 to help bolster the population. Deer are well distributed. As the season progresses and hunting pressure increases, the deer will move to lower elevations to the west in GMU 63 where private land is abundant. Hunting can still be good on public lands throughout GMU 63 if the weather is mild. In GMU 53 try the Chain Mountains, Browning Ridge, Land's End Peak and Smith Fork Mountain.

Estimated deer population: 10,500

3-year estimated sex ratio: 29 bucks per 100 does



2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	5	0	0	5	34	15 / 27
53	Muzzle	10	0	0	10	24	42 / 36
53	2 nd rifle	72	0	0	72	133	54 / 59
53	3 rd rifle	111	0	0	111	122	91 / 80
53	4 th rifle	4	0	0	4	4	100 / 97
63	Archery	22	0	0	22	54	41 / 56
63	Muzzle	21	0	0	21	25	84 / 59
63	2 nd rifle	97	0	0	97	149	65 / 72
63	3 rd rifle	100	0	0	100	130	77 / 77
63	4 th rifle	6	0	0	6	6	100 / 91

Elk Hunting

If there is no snow, elk will likely be scattered throughout the higher elevations. Hunters will be most successful by walking along transition areas up high. By November, animals will start to move lower; hunters should be aware of private land boundaries, particularly in GMU 63 west of Highway 92. Expect heavy pressure in the Black Mesa area of GMU 63. Because of damage to agricultural crops, this population is being managed to meet a lower population objective of less than 3,000 animals. Consequently, hunting opportunities remain abundant.

Estimated elk population: 4,300

3-year estimated sex ratio: 25 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	38	23	4	65	501	13 / 14
53	Muzzle	17	12	2	31	163	19 / 20
53	1 st Rifle	59	58	6	123	394	31 / 31
53	2 nd Rifle	62	32	9	103	449	23 / 17
53	3 rd Rifle	33	21	0	54	249	22 / 17
53	4 th Rifle	3	16	2	21	86	24 / 18
63	Archery	13	16	4	33	291	11 / 13
63	Muzzle	5	8	1	14	74	19 / 22
63	1 st Rifle	22	36	2	60	191	31 / 35
63	2 nd Rifle	38	9	4	51	356	14 / 19
63	3 rd Rifle	24	26	6	56	196	29 / 19
63	4 th Rifle	0	12	0	12	75	16 / 24

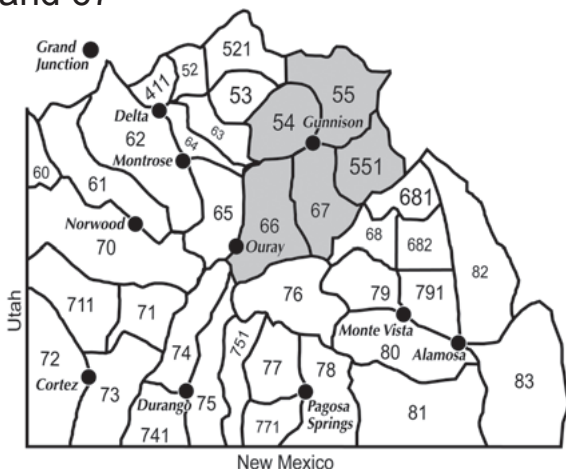
Gunnison Basin

GMUs 54, 55, 551, 66 and 67

Map: Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison CPW office:
(970)641-7060

Public land in the area is abundant and varied – from sage brush hills to alpine tundra. Watch the weather closely. Be prepared for cold and snowy weather during all seasons. Motorized travel is limited to designated routes.



Deer populations throughout the Gunnison Basin declined after the difficult winter of 2007-08. Deer, however, are starting to bounce back after average winters. A mule deer aging project may continue in GMU 54, so hunters who drew unit 54 buck licenses may receive a mailing pertaining to the project prior to their hunt. Please participate; the project will benefit mule deer management.

For elk, harvest has been above average the last two seasons in an effort to reduce the population, particularly in the north. Antlerless licenses for 2012 have been reduced slightly and biologists are closely monitoring harvest to ensure sustainability of the population.

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Deer hunting

These units are managed for high buck-to-doe ratios. Consequently, relatively few licenses are available. Success rates for those who draw a license are usually well above the statewide average. The herd is distributed throughout the vast basin. Excellent deer hunting opportunities are found in all five game management units. Hunt higher ground during the early season and monitor weather conditions. Deer generally start moving to lower elevations in mid- to late October.

Estimated deer population: 12,500

3-year estimated sex ratio: 31 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	6	0	0	6	36	17 / 22
54	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	30	23 / 31
54	2 nd Rifle	73	0	0	73	182	40 / 48
54	3 rd Rifle	34	0	0	34	47	72 / 60
55	Archery	8	0	0	8	43	19 / 25
55	Muzzle	10	0	0	10	24	42 / 60
55	2 nd Rifle	71	0	0	71	126	56 / 57
55	3 rd Rifle	28	0	0	28	39	72 / 79
551	Archery	7	0	0	7	12	58 / 36
551	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	9	33 / 39
551	2 nd Rifle	50	0	0	50	75	67 / 58
551	3 rd Rifle	14	0	0	14	20	70 / 68
66	Archery	4	0	0	4	19	21 / 30
66	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	12	58 / 58
66	2 nd Rifle	50	0	0	50	53	94 / 79
66	3 rd Rifle	19	0	0	19	20	95 / 87
67	Archery	6	0	0	6	25	24 / 22
67	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	14	36 / 36
67	2 nd Rifle	47	0	0	47	59	80 / 68
67	3 rd Rifle	23	0	0	23	24	96 / 79

Elk Hunting

Elk populations remain strong throughout the Gunnison Basin. Hunters are advised to be in good shape and to move well away from roads. Elk will move to difficult terrain when hunting pressure starts, so be prepared to hunt canyons or thick timber. If the weather is warm, hunt at higher elevations and in heavy timber.

Harvest in GMUs 66 and 67 was strong in 2011 and hunting is expected to be good again this year. These units are totally limited so hunters must apply for licenses each spring. Some older age-class bulls are available in these units.

A change in season structure in 2010 to reduce populations in units 54, 55 and 551 resulted in higher than average success rates. The herd is being closely monitored to assure sustainability.

Estimated elk population: 15,300

3-year estimated sex ratio: 23 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	25	23	11	59	424	14 / 10
54	Muzzle	0	20	0	20	100	20 / 18
54	1 st Rifle	85	59	5	149	562	27 / 24
54	2 nd Rifle	40	31	5	76	609	12 / 16
54	3 rd Rifle	99	43	14	156	845	18 / 16
54	4 th Rifle	26	159	23	208	605	34 / 23
55	Archery	69	11	54	84	561	15 / 12
55	Muzzle	0	27	2	29	170	17 / 13
55	1 st Rifle	36	66	31	136	612	22 / 25
55	2 nd Rifle	103	38	21	162	1166	14 / 15
55	3 rd Rifle	142	90	23	255	1005	25 / 20
55	4 th Rifle	9	73	21	103	200	52 / 24
551	Archery	22	11	3	36	212	17 / 8
551	Muzzle	0	8	4	12	84	14 / 16
551	1 st Rifle	13	28	6	47	215	22 / 23
551	2 nd Rifle	42	18	5	65	719	9 / 115
551	3 rd Rifle	44	66	2	112	601	19 / 15
551	4 th Rifle	7	4	2	13	81	16 / 21
66	Archery	25	5	0	30	171	18 / 19
66	Muzzle	6	8	1	15	73	21 / 28
66	1 st Rifle	76	42	2	120	453	26 / 32
66	2 nd Rifle	79	56	8	143	434	33 / 31
66	3 rd Rifle	49	74	22	145	364	40 / 31
66	4 th Rifle	14	32	6	52	168	31 / 32
67	Archery	10	4	0	14	72	19 / 17
67	Muzzle	5	8	0	13	72	18 / 23
67	1 st Rifle	70	36	2	108	410	26 / 27
67	2 nd Rifle	61	37	4	102	453	23 / 30
67	3 rd Rifle	26	52	17	95	378	25 / 24
67	4 th Rifle	32	105	11	148	303	49 / 38



Safe Hunting
is No Accident!

San Luis Valley Area

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

Monte Vista CPW office: (719) 587-6900

GMUs - 76,79, 68, 681, 682, 791, 80, 81, 82, 83

The San Luis Valley is a vast 8,000-square-mile area that provides a wide variety of terrain at elevations that range from 14,000 feet to 7,500 feet. The rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains define the valley's east side. The middle of the valley is flat farm land that is privately owned. The Rio Grande River and the Conejos River provide long riparian areas that cut through high-elevation alpine forests to lower elevation cottonwood and willow stands. The west is bordered by the Rio Grande National Forest and the San Juan mountain range.

Throughout the area, access varies from moderate to very difficult. Hunting can be good for those willing to go into tough terrain. Hunting is also challenging because animals can move quickly to large areas that experience little or no hunting pressure -- private land, Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge.

Deer hunting in the San Luis Valley has been improving recently due to the limit on buck licenses. Success rates are high for hunters who draw a buck tag. Due to overall low deer population, doe hunting is allowed only on private lands in specific areas.

GMU 68 buck licenses can also be used in GMU 681 and 682; GMU 79 buck licenses can also be used in GMU 791. Private Land Only doe tags are available for GMU 79 and 791

Elk hunting is good but requires hunters to pursue animals in challenging terrain. Overall success rates for elk hunters in unlimited units in the San Luis Valley are generally lower than the statewide average.

Weather is a dominant factor for hunters. Snow will cause herds to move down quickly from high elevation. Success for elk hunters in the later seasons increases with winter weather. However, small amounts of snow can make travel difficult. Hunters are urged to check weather conditions as much as possible.

You must have permission to hunt on private land. Trespassing is a significant issue in the valley.

North Valley Floor Special Elk Units (GMUs 682, 791)

A special DAU north of Highway 160 was created in 2006 to address the growing elk population which could cause damage on high-value agricultural lands. The population objective in the DAU is 0--the only such designation in the state. Bulls are hunted beginning May 15. All licenses are distributed through landowner vouchers or by the CPW for nearby state wildlife areas. The waiting list for these licenses is long. Contact the Monte Vista office for information.

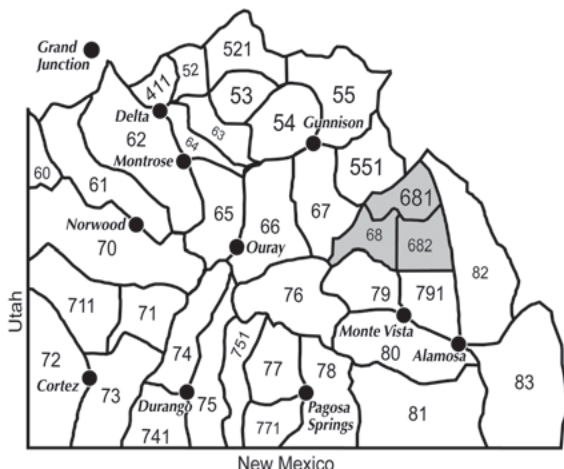
Saguache

GMUs – 68, 681, 682

Map: Rio Grande
National Forest

Monte Vista CPW office:
(719)587-6900

The area is dominated by public lands and hunting access is excellent in most areas. Vegetation types range from heavy timber to vast areas of grass and low shrubs. Public lands dominate GMUs 68 and 681. These units hold good summer and winter habitat.



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Deer Hunting

The deer herd is small in this area and is below the population objective. The population has declined by more than 10 percent since 2010 but is now growing slowly and the buck-to-doe ratio is slightly above objective. Buck hunting is good to excellent with quality bucks taken by those who know where to find them.

Estimated deer population: 3,600

3-year estimated sex ratio: 25 bucks to 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	11	0	0	11	48	23 / 17
68	Muzzle	15	0	0	15	37	41 / 40
68	2 nd Rifle	26	0	0	26	75	35 / 50
68	3 rd Rifle	46	0	0	46	85	54 / 45
68	4 th Rifle	2	0	0	2	10	20 / 42
681	Archery	9	0	0	9	28	32 / 14
681	Muzzle	21	0	0	21	49	43 / 44
681	2 nd Rifle	78	0	0	78	112	70 / 73
681	3 rd Rifle	55	0	0	55	86	64 / 69
681	4 th Rifle	6	0	0	6	8	75 / 81

Elk Hunting

The population of elk in these units has declined slightly during the last couple of years. Hunter success rates are lower than most other parts of the state. It is challenging to find these animals. The ratio of bulls to cows is relatively high for an unlimited unit. Despite the decline the population is still within the objective range.

Estimated elk population: 3,800

3-year estimated sex ratio: 30 bulls per 100 cows.

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	7	0	0	7	253	3 / 6
68	Muzzle	7	2	0	9	129	7 / 10
68	1st Rifle	25	0	0	25	194	13 / 18
68	2 nd Rifle	34	8	0	42	674	6 / 10
68	3 rd Rifle	42	0	0	42	684	6 / 7
68	4 th Rifle	8	70	2	80	293	27 / 22
681	Archery	23	4	0	27	210	13 / 8
681	Muzzle	3	2	0	5	64	8 / 14
681	1 st Rifle	11	0	0	11	137	8 / 11
681	2 nd Rifle	31	20	0	51	426	12 / 10
681	3 rd Rifle	22	10	2	34	384	9 / 8
681	4 th Rifle	0	29	4	33	134	25 / 18



Safe Hunting
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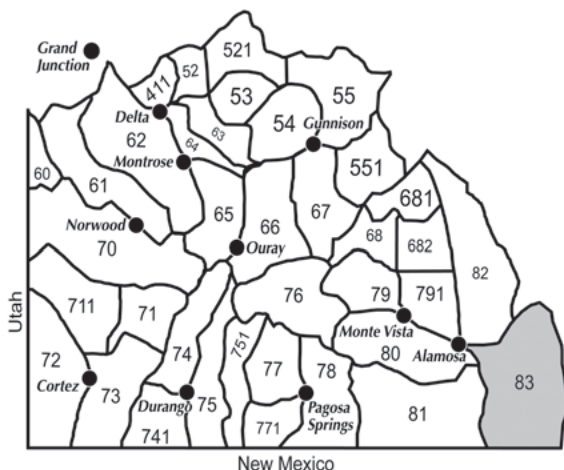
Costilla

GMU 83

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

Monte Vista CPW office:
(719) 587-6900

Few regular licenses are available because the entire unit is private land. Hunters must obtain permission from land owners, including in subdivisions where landowners may not be present.



The unit is dominated by the Trinchera Ranch -- formerly Forbes. The ranch is enrolled in the Ranching for Wildlife program. Deer and elk hunting on the ranch are excellent. For information about hunting on the ranch, see the 2011 Colorado Big Game Brochure or go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/BigGame/RanchingforWildlife>

Deer Hunting

The herd is small but growing slowly. The buck-to-doe ratio is higher than most units in the valley and is near objective with quality bucks.

Estimated deer population: 1,600

3-year estimated sex ratio: 41 bucks per 100 does.

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success 2011 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	7	0	0	7	7	100 / 86
83	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	6	100 / 88
83	2 nd Rifle	20	0	0	20	27	74 / 86
83	3 rd Rifle	27	0	0	27	28	56 / 83

**Report Hunting Violations to:
Operation Game Thief
1-877-265-6648**

Elk Hunting

The population estimate for this herd includes GMUS 85, 851 and 140 on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo range. There is no population estimate for GMU 83, although the population appears to be trending down on the west side of the range. An either sex tag in the Ranching for Wildlife area requires a minimum of 14 preference points.

Estimated elk population: Not applicable

3-year estimated sex ratio: Not applicable

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	10	3	0	13	150	9 / 18
83	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	29	0 / 11
83	1 st Rifle	23	9	0	32	83	39 / 42
83	2 nd Rifle	73	38	0	111	345	32 / 23
83	3 rd Rifle	106	37	0	143	377	38 / 23
83	4 th Rifle	16	17	7	40	104	38 / 39

Lower Rio Grande

GMUs – 80, 81

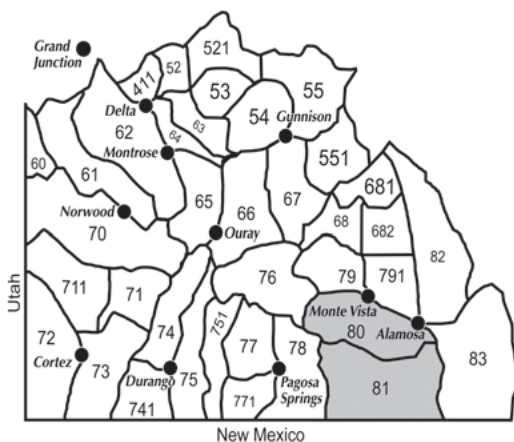
Map: Rio Grande

National Forest

Monte Vista CPW office:

(719) 587-6900

This area has a high amount of public land, easy access via roads and, consequently, heavy hunting pressure. Elk and deer move to areas of rough terrain far from roads when the season starts. Hunters who want to get far away from vehicular traffic can go to the South San Juan Wilderness Area located in the southern portion of GMU 81. Hunting quality is good, especially in early seasons before winter weather pushes animals out. No big game hunting is allowed on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.



Deer Hunting

The population is below objective, but stable. Buck-to-doe ratio is favorable for hunters. Those who are willing to pass up younger bucks can often find a mature buck to harvest. Deer are found throughout the area.

Estimated deer population: 5,850

3-year estimated sex ratio: 23 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	21	0	0	21	114	18 / 23
80	Muzzle	21	0	0	21	65	32 / 26
80	2 nd Rifle	64	0	0	64	129	50 / 54
80	3 rd Rifle	80	0	0	80	152	53 / 46
80	4 th Rifle	10	0	0	10	23	43 / 64
81	Archery	23	0	0	23	116	20 / 19
81	Muzzle	12	0	0	12	64	19 / 28
81	2 nd Rifle	62	0	0	62	129	48 / 49
81	3 rd Rifle	26	0	0	26	85	31 / 45
81	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	12	33 / 62

Elk Hunting

Population is at objective and bull harvest was strong in these units during 2011. Cow tags were reduced by 50 percent for 2011 so this population will be growing slowly for the next few years. However, elk are difficult to find after receiving hunting pressure and before any snow accumulation. Hunters who work hard and get away from roads have the best chance of filling their tags.

Estimated elk population: 7,300

3-year estimated sex ratio: 24 bulls per 100 cows.

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	16	18	4	38	691	5 / 7
80	Muzzle	8	9	0	17	114	15 / 11
80	1 st Rifle	144	0	0	144	472	31 / 22
80	2 nd Rifle	72	13	2	87	802	11 / 12
80	3 rd Rifle	46	2	0	48	542	9 / 8
80	4 th Rifle	12	4	0	16	60	27 / 16
81	Archery	69	32	3	104	885	12 / 12
81	Muzzle	22	8	0	30	157	19 / 21
81	1 st Rifle	102	0	0	102	473	22 / 24
81	2 nd Rifle	36	50	11	97	789	12 / 12
81	3 rd Rifle	27	5	0	32	433	7 / 8
81	4 th Rifle	0	2	0	2	40	5 / 12

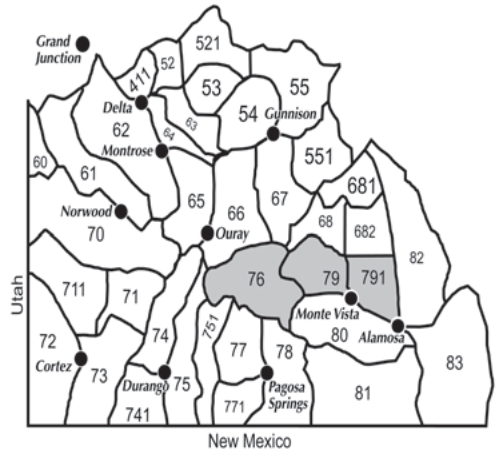
Upper Rio Grande

GMUs – 76, 79, 791

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

Monte Vista CPW office

GMU 76 has the highest percentage of public lands in the San Luis Valley. GMU 76 also has portions of wilderness areas for hunters who want to pack in. While GMU 79 contains some private land, there is plenty of room for hunters to roam on public land in this unit.



Deer Hunting

Population is at objective and appears to be stable. The area lacks good winter habitat so population will always remain low. GMU 76 is primarily summer range for deer, very few animals winter there. Mature bucks can be found in both of these units.

Estimated deer population: 2,300

3-year estimated sex ratio: 19 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2011 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	0	0	0	0	18	0 / 25
76	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	13	38 / 40
76	2 nd Rifle	14	0	0	14	21	67 / 45
76	3 rd Rifle	9	0	0	9	17	53 / 48
79	Archery	2	0	0	2	5	40 / 48
79	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	17	29 / 44
79	2 nd Rifle	36	0	0	36	68	53 / 62
79	3 rd Rifle	51	0	0	51	78	65 / 64
79	4 th Rifle	6	0	0	6	10	60 / 79

Elk Hunting

Habitat is excellent but population is at the lower end of the objective and is declining. Consequently, cow licenses have been reduced which could help boost the population. GMU 79 is primarily winter range for elk and success is highly dependent on snow pushing animals into the area. These units are totally limited for elk hunting. GMU 79, however, can be hunted

with a general elk license during archery and muzzleloader seasons. GMU 76 offers great bull hunting for those willing to wait to draw a license. The unit, however, doesn't produce trophy-quality animals that are found in other limited units in Colorado.

Estimated elk population: 4,800

3-year estimated sex ratio: 20 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2011 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	40	2	0	42	148	28 / 28
76	Muzzle	25	1	0	26	74	35 / 42
76	1 st Rifle	66	0	0	66	152	43 / 51
76	2 nd Rifle	20	51	9	80	225	36 / 35
76	3 rd Rifle	10	94	9	113	265	43 / 35
76	4 th Rifle	0	57	5	62	242	26 / 30
79	Archery	4	0	0	4	126	3 / 6
79	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	31	10 / 6
79	1 st Rifle	17	2	0	19	189	10 / 11
79	2 nd Rifle	17	10	0	27	290	9 / 8
79	3 rd Rifle	6	12	0	18	218	8 / 7
79	4 th Rifle	0	61	6	67	273	25 / 20

Sand Dunes

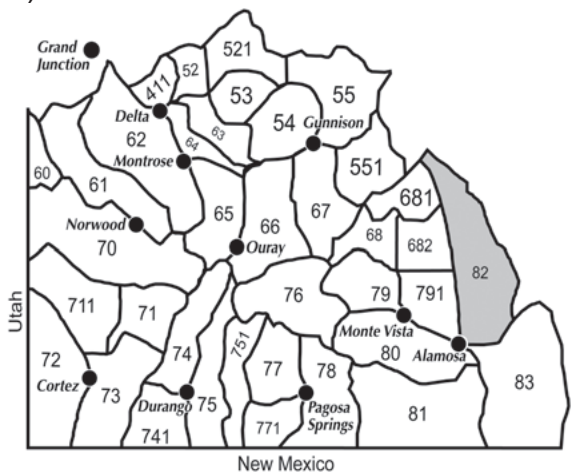
GMU 82 Map: Rio Grande National Forest

Monte Vista CPW office (719)587-6900

Hunting is prohibited in Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge which are located within this unit. National forest abuts the park and refuge, so when hunting pressure begins many deer and elk move down quickly to the safe havens.

There is also private land with residential development in the northern half of the unit. So, be sure to know what's behind your target.

Much of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range is U.S. Forest Service



land. This range is extremely rugged and most is wilderness area. It is accessible only by foot or horseback. Hunters should be in shape if they plan to hunt here.

Deer Hunting

Deer are not plentiful in the area, although the population appears to be stable. The unit does hold a high buck-to-doe ratio.

Estimated deer population: 1,800

3-year estimated sex ratio: 29 bucks to 100 does

2011 Deer Hunting Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2011 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	6	0	0	6	36	17 / 9
82	Muzzle	15	0	0	15	42	36 / 33
82	2 nd Rifle	83	0	0	83	114	73 / 62
82	3 rd Rifle	43	0	0	43	75	57 / 69
82	4 th Rifle	8	0	0	8	9	89 / 83

Elk Hunting

While there is an abundance of elk in this area, they quickly move to areas where hunting is prohibited -- federal wildlife refuges and the national park -- once the season starts. When hunting in this area be sure to know the federal boundary locations. Hunters are allowed to pass through the national park to hunting areas, but some restrictions apply. Call the National Park Service at 1-719-378-6399, or go to the web site, www.nps.gov/grsa for information. Muzzleloader licenses were increased from 50 to 75 for this season. Access is good in the northern portion of GMU 82, but there are fewer animals.

Estimated elk population: 4,900

3-year sex ratio average: 35 bulls to 100 cows

2011 Elk Hunting Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2011 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	19	4	0	23	398	6 / 8
82	Muzzle	0	3	0	3	23	13 / 14
82	1 st Rifle	20	12	3	35	337	10 / 24
82	2 nd Rifle	35	25	5	65	597	11 / 16
82	3 rd Rifle	47	49	0	96	539	18 / 16
82	4 th Rifle	9	16	3	28	154	18 / 26

Dolores – Dry Creek

GMUs 70, 71, 711, 72, 73

Montrose DOW office

(970)252-6000,

Durango CPW office:

(970)247-0855

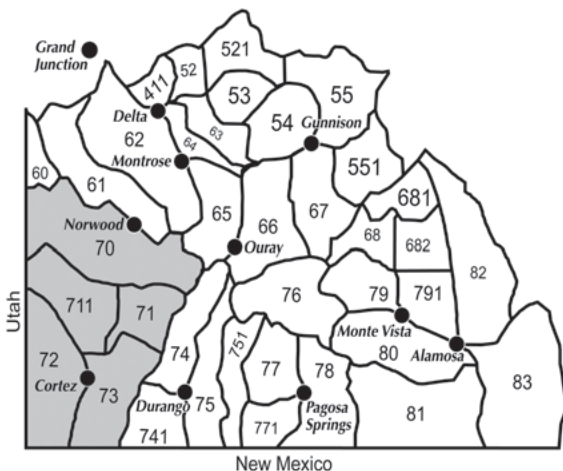
Maps: GMUs 70, 71,

711, 72, 73 – San Juan

National Forest; GMU 70

Uncompahgre National

Forest



This area covers a 2,800-square-mile area from the west side of the Uncompahgre Plateau to the Utah state line and south to the New Mexico border. Habitat throughout these GMUs is favorable for big game. Altitude ranges from about 5,000 feet to about 12,000 feet. Vegetation includes desert shrubs, grasses, pinon/juniper, aspen, evergreens and alpine tundra. Weather can change quickly so be prepared for all conditions. Vehicle access is easy in these areas; consequently, hunting pressure is heavy on public lands.

Travel in the Lizard Head Wilderness Area in GMU 71 is by foot and horseback only. Most of unit 72 and the western sections of 70 and 711 is desert terrain. Consequently, few elk are found in those areas.

Be aware of private land in the northern sections of GMUs 71 and 711, and in the southern section of GMU 70. The southern half of units 72 and 73 is tribal land of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes. Hunting by non-tribal members is prohibited.

MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE -- BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!

Deer Hunting

The deer population in the northern GMUs is declining and well below objective, buck-to-doe ratio is low and fawn survival is poor. Biologists believe that difficult winters and development on winter range are contributing to the decline. Consequently, licenses have been cut substantially. Population in the southern units (72, 73) is also declining. Doe licenses were reduced from 350 to 175 for 2012. In the early seasons, deer are evenly distributed above 8,000 feet. Deer begin migrating to lower elevations, generally from east to west, in mid October. Snow will cause them to move lower and faster. Deer will concentrate on winter range in Dry Creek Basin, Disappointment Valley and along the Dolores River. GMU 70 in Dry Creek Basin is recommended in the third and fourth seasons.

Estimated deer population: 23,000

3-year average sex ratio: 20 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	33	0	0	33	97	34 / 30
70	Muzzle	19	0	0	19	51	37 / 47
70	2 nd Rifle	249	30	7	286	505	57 / 66
70	3 rd Rifle	314	39	15	368	512	72 / 69
70	4 th Rifle	18	0	0	18	24	75 / 82
71	Archery	7	9	0	16	83	19 / 29
71	Muzzle	10	3	0	13	44	30 / 35
71	2 nd Rifle	66	29	0	95	267	36 / 40
71	3 rd Rifle	43	19	0	62	199	31 / 38
71	4 th Rifle	3	0	0	3	11	27 / 65
711	Archery	3	4	0	7	26	27 / 23
711	Muzzle	12	3	0	15	41	37 / 44
711	2 nd Rifle	71	17	2	90	234	38 / 54
711	3 rd Rifle	115	10	5	130	286	45 / 50
711	4 th Rifle	11	0	0	11	24	46 / 44
72	Archery	12	0	0	12	31	39 / 30
72	Muzzle	19	1	0	20	51	39 / 53
72	2 nd Rifle	113	27	0	140	202	69 / 65
72	3 rd Rifle	87	24	0	111	177	63 / 66
72	4 th Rifle	10	0	0	10	16	63 / 71
73	Archery	21	10	0	31	82	38 / 43
73	Muzzle	9	9	0	18	51	35 / 48
73	2 nd Rifle	111	21	0	132	221	60 / 59
73	3 rd Rifle	96	13	0	109	164	66 / 64
73	4 th Rifle	15	0	0	15	17	88 / 64

Elk Hunting

The elk population is holding steady and herds are at objective levels. Cow licenses have been reduced to assure that the population remains stable. Animals are distributed widely throughout these units. Generally, GMU 71 is better early in the season. GMU 711 is better as the season progresses. Elk also move quickly into thick aspen and mountain shrub when hunting pressure becomes apparent. The opportunity to see a mature bull is only fair.

Estimated elk population: 19,700

3-year average sex ratio: 17 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	75	48	3	126	653	19 / 18
70	Muzzle	0	20	6	26	95	27 / 20
70	1 st Rifle	162	92	0	254	578	44 / 52
70	2 nd Rifle	237	203	24	464	1319	35 / 31
70	3 rd Rifle	191	153	16	360	975	37 / 29
70	4 th Rifle	13	88	12	113	285	40 / 42
71	Archery	84	32	7	123	837	15 / 13
71	Muzzle	0	15	0	15	112	13 / 19
71	1 st Rifle	77	70	15	162	576	28 / 36
71	2 nd Rifle	102	59	5	166	1060	16 / 20
71	3 rd Rifle	32	18	3	53	349	15 / 13
71	4 th Rifle	6	2	0	8	53	15 / 24
711	Archery	31	13	3	47	308	15 / 17
711	Muzzle	0	3	0	3	21	14 / 21
711	1 st Rifle	25	50	9	84	281	30 / 29
711	2 nd Rifle	85	21	2	108	678	16 / 16
711	3 rd Rifle	75	101	5	181	810	22 / 20
711	4 th Rifle	18	91	12	121	252	48 / 35
72	Archery	14	6	0	20	148	14 / 9
72	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	31	0 / 13
72	1 st Rifle	16	0	0	16	52	31 / 21
72	2 nd Rifle	15	3	0	18	129	14 / 14
72	3 rd Rifle	20	1	0	21	107	20 / 15
72	4 th Rifle	2	3	0	5	14	36 / 22
73	Archery	31	4	6	41	269	5 / 15
73	Muzzle	0	3	0	3	52	6 / 16
73	1 st Rifle	23	0	0	23	141	16 / 25
73	2 nd Rifle	24	9	3	36	257	14 / 15
73	3 rd Rifle	10	14	5	29	200	15 / 19
73	4 th Rifle	0	1	0	1	15	7 / 37



1-877-265-6648

Hermosa

GMUs 74, 741

Map: San Juan National Forest

Durango CPW office: (970)247-0855

Elevations range from about 6,000 feet near the New Mexico border to more than 13,000 feet near Silverton. An abundance of vegetation provides plenty of cover and food for big-game herds. Public land is abundant in GMU 74, road access is good and hunting pressure is significant in some areas.

Most of the land in GMU 741 is private or part of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Only members of the tribe can hunt on the reservation.

Because of reservoir construction, some areas of the former Bodo State Wildlife Area are now owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and hunting is prohibited. Hunting is allowed on the 3,000 acres owned by DOW.

MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE – BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!

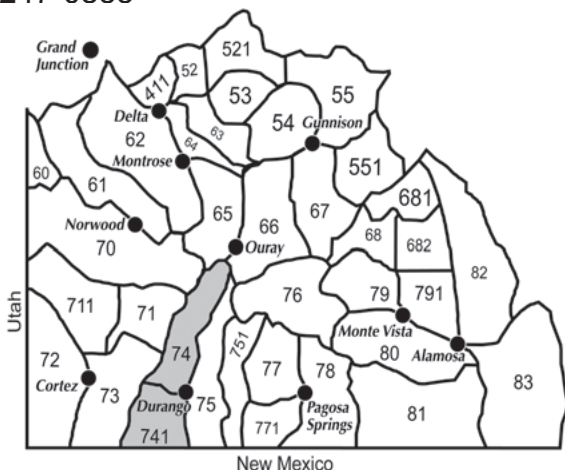
Deer Hunting

As in much of western Colorado, the deer population is declining. A few difficult winters and continued development in winter range are the likely causes. Doe licenses have been cut significantly. Buck to doe ratio is high, so it is possible to find quality bucks. In October, deer move from their summer range at the high elevations in the north to their winter range to the south.

In the early seasons deer hunting can be good near timberline. As deer begin to move to winter range they can be more difficult to find. Look for timbered areas with a good mix of open meadows or undergrowth. Deer will start showing up on the winter range during the third rifle season in a typical year. The lower portions of Junction Creek and areas further south can provide good deer hunting in the later seasons.

Estimated deer population: 4,800

3-average estimated sex ratio: 31 bucks per 100 does



2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
74	Archery	17	0	0	17	72	24 / 20
74	Muzzle	32	0	0	32	63	51 / 35
74	2 nd Rifle	45	0	0	45	156	29 / 36
74	3 rd Rifle	19	0	0	19	44	43 / 32
74	4 th Rifle	12	0	0	12	35	34 / 25
741	Archery	8	5	0	13	32	41 / 27
741	Muzzle	10	3	0	13	28	46 / 50
741	2 nd Rifle	54	83	4	141	239	59 / 66
741	3 rd Rifle	96	51	0	147	210	70 / 71
741	4 th Rifle	30	27	0	57	71	80 / 70

Elk Hunting

The DOW recently increased the elk population objective after receiving lots of public comment. As a result, cow licenses continue to be scarce. Reduced harvest should help this population grow which is now at the low end of the new objective of 5,000-6,000.

Most elk are found in GMU 74 in the higher elevation areas. Hunters willing to venture into rugged, remote terrain could be rewarded. Consider hunting around Engineer Mountain, throughout the Hermosa Creek drainage west of the Durango Mountain Resort ski area, and up Junction Creek just northwest of Durango. The bull to cow ratio is higher in this herd than nearby herds. Finding these bulls, however, is tough. They have survived by knowing how to avoid hunters. Concentrate on the tough terrain. Weather often dictates the success rate in this area.

Estimated elk population: 5,100

3-year estimated sex ratio: 22 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
74	Archery	51	12	4	67	636	11 / 11
74	Muzzle	0	3	0	3	26	12 / 20
74	1 st Rifle	64	15	12	91	411	22 / 25
74	2 nd Rifle	40	31	4	75	586	13 / 20
74	3 rd Rifle	12	20	4	36	203	18 / 17
74	4 th Rifle	9	13	0	22	69	32 / 13
741	Archery	6	0	0	6	94	6 / 16
741	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	0	100 / 38
741	1 st Rifle	4	1	0	5	51	10 / 35
741	2 nd Rifle	15	7	0	22	93	24 / 24
741	3 rd Rifle	7	5	0	12	66	18 / 17
741	4 th Rifle	0	1	1	2	29	7 / 17

San Juan Basin

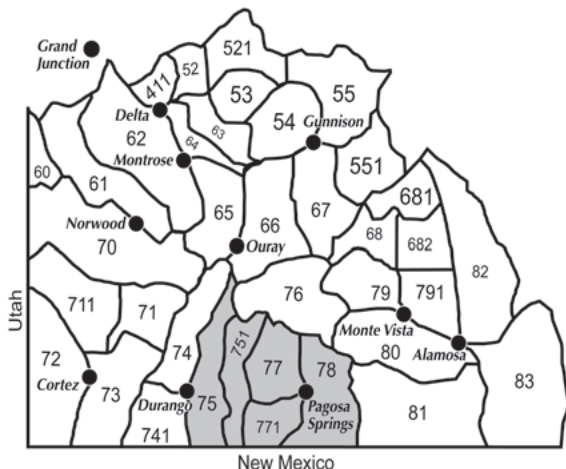
GMUs 75, 77, 78, 751, 771

Map: San Juan National Forest

Durango CPW office: (970)247-0855

Public land and road access is good at high elevations in these units which lie between Durango and Wolf Creek Pass. Elevations range from about 6,500 feet to more than 14,000 feet, so weather can change quickly and be severe.

If the weather is warm, animals will be scattered widely in the vast alpine terrain. Hunters should venture far from roads.



Two wilderness areas

– the Weminuche on the north side of the basin, and the South San Juan in the southeast corner – offer good back-country hunting opportunities. Vehicles are not allowed in the wilderness.

South of U.S. Highway 160 much of the land is privately owned or part of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. To access pockets of public land within the Southern Ute boundaries you MUST obtain a crossing permit (\$25) from the tribe. Call (970)563-0125 for information. Hunting is not allowed on tribal lands.

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Deer Hunting

While the population is decreasing slowly and licenses have been cut slightly, there are still a lot of deer and hunting in these units is good. The areas offering the best deer hunting on public lands are: the HD Mountains, Piedra River drainage, the mountains between the Piedra and Los Pinos rivers, and lands southeast of Pagosa Springs. A large percentage of the deer in these units initiate migration in mid-October. After Nov. 1, deer are typically on winter range at lower elevations. Much of the winter range occupied by this herd is on private land or tribal property.

Estimated deer population: 27,000

3-year estimated sex ratio: 29 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	19	0	0	19	95	20 / 27
75	Muzzle	26	4	0	30	82	37 / 34
75	2 nd Rifle	109	9	0	118	22	53 / 47
75	3 rd Rifle	138	16	0	154	267	58 / 53
75	4 th Rifle	44	10	0	54	86	63 / 60
751	Archery	11	11	0	22	76	29 / 20
751	Muzzle	22	4	0	26	64	41 / 30
751	2 nd Rifle	60	6	0	66	202	33 / 47
751	3 rd Rifle	30	2	0	32	119	27 / 42
751	4 th Rifle	33	5	0	38	49	78 / 63
77	Archery	12	4	0	16	72	22 / 27
77	Muzzle	27	4	0	31	74	42 / 30
77	2 nd Rifle	97	2	0	99	274	36 / 42
77	3 rd Rifle	82	0	0	82	219	37 / 30
77	4 th Rifle	31	0	0	31	45	69 / 43
771	Archery	0	2	0	2	34	6 / 9
771	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	15	33 / 48
771	2 nd Rifle	35	0	0	35	97	36 / 51
771	3 rd Rifle	64	3	0	67	124	54 / 33
771	4 th Rifle	30	0	0	30	45	67 / 62
78	Archery	20	4	0	24	101	24 / 25
78	Muzzle	33	6	0	39	89	44 / 38
78	2 nd Rifle	166	2	0	168	309	54 / 60
78	3 rd Rifle	42	1	3	46	113	41 / 30
78	4 th Rifle	27	0	0	27	40	68 / 49

Elk Hunting

The management objective is to increase the population. The number of cow licenses was cut by 75 percent in the 2011 season, so the population is likely to grow. Hunters must be prepared to walk into remote and heavily-forested areas to find animals. Do not expect to see elk from roads. Elk prefer high elevations until the weather turns severe. In the early seasons stick to cool areas on north facing slopes in the spruce/fir and aspen forests. Elk will move to lower elevations when snow accumulation is significant. In late seasons, ponderosa pine forests and oak brush are usually more productive. The wilderness area boundary north of Pagosa Springs is an area to look for elk when snow pushes them down from higher elevations. Areas south of Pagosa Springs and east of Highway 84 can also provide good hunting as snow begins to accumulate. Access is provided by the Forest Service Roads 302, 657 and 663.

Hunters who don't mind working in rough country can be successful in the hills on either side of the Piedra River, north of Highway 160. The Missionary Ridge Road (FS Rd 682) and Beaver Meadows Road (FS Rd 135) provide access into good elk country in GMUs 75 and 751 as does the Mosca Road (FS Rd 631) and FS Road 634 in GMU 77.

Estimated elk population: 17,600

3-year estimated sex ratio: 14 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	24	0	0	24	446	5 / 7
75	Muzzle	0	3	0	3	26	12 / 11
75	1 st Rifle	53	28	9	90	409	22 / 26
75	2 nd Rifle	64	30	0	94	521	18 / 16
75	3 rd Rifle	75	44	2	121	385	31 / 20
75	4 th Rifle	6	28	2	36	133	27 / 25
751	Archery	30	0	4	34	256	13 / 9
751	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	5	0 / 15
751	1 st Rifle	26	18	0	44	253	17 / 30
751	2 nd Rifle	34	11	0	45	350	13 / 15
751	3 rd Rifle	31	34	5	70	327	21 / 13
751	4 th Rifle	3	4	0	7	53	13 / 15
77	Archery	21	15	0	36	465	8 / 9
77	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	40	0 / 13
77	1 st Rifle	56	25	0	81	297	27 / 28
77	2 nd Rifle	181	18	2	201	944	21 / 16
77	3 rd Rifle	156	20	2	178	726	25 / 17
77	4 th Rifle	0	0	0	0	74	0 / 17
771	Archery	13	0	0	13	85	15 / 12
771	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	3	0 / 10
771	1 st Rifle	37	0	8	45	101	45 / 33
771	2 nd Rifle	34	0	0	34	143	24 / 14
771	3 rd Rifle	31	13	0	44	204	22 / 16
771	4 th Rifle	0	8	0	8	43	19 / 17
78	Archery	61	22	7	90	676	13 / 13
78	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	36	0 / 16
78	1 st Rifle	90	35	8	133	380	35 / 30
78	2 nd Rifle	125	6	0	131	762	17 / 18
78	3 rd Rifle	99	6	3	108	489	22 / 16
78	4 th Rifle	3	8	0	11	46	24 / 20

Uncompahgre Plateau

GMUs 61, 62

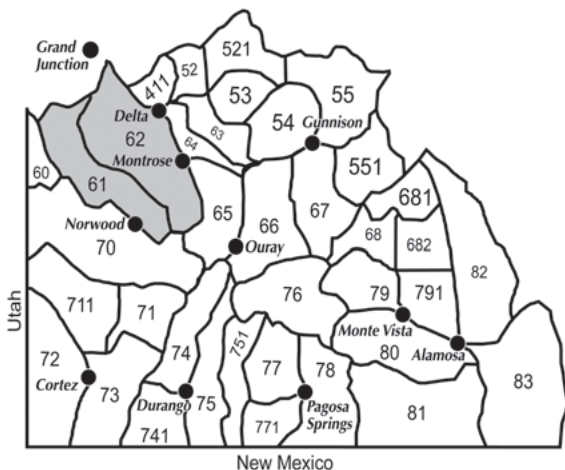
Map: Uncompahgre National Forest

Montrose CPW office: (970)252-6000

The plateau encompasses 2,300 square miles of terrain that includes large, relatively flat mesas that are bisected by deep, rugged canyons.

The elevation ranges from 4,600 feet to 10,300 feet. Be prepared for sudden weather changes. Numerous roads provide easy access to the plateau, but many canyons are accessible only by foot and on horseback. Archery and muzzleloaders should concentrate on Forest Service

lands along the top of the plateau. The highest success rates for bull hunters occur in GMU 62 during first season, but expect hunting pressure there. Animals usually move to lower elevation private lands as hunting pressure increases. GMU 61 is managed as a quality deer and quality elk unit.



Deer Hunting

The deer population had declined from about 2007 through 2010 and is well below the objective. Biologists, however, now believe the population has stabilized and should rebound during the next few years. Licenses have been reduced the last three years, including removal of all 4th season buck tags. The reduction in harvest should help improve the buck/doe ratio to recover slowly. During the past five years, despite the population decline, deer hunting has been good in GMUs 61 and 62. The opportunity to see mature bucks is fair to good throughout the plateau. During the early season, deer are concentrated in the aspen and oak brush. As hunting pressure increases they will move lower into the pinon and juniper.

Estimated deer population: 16,320

3-Year estimate sex ratio: 27 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	15	0	0	15	46	33 / 42
61	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	18	28 / 61
61	2 nd Rifle	52	16	0	68	129	53 / 61
61	3 rd Rifle	56	17	0	73	118	62 / 61
61	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	6	67 / 50
62	Archery	38	0	0	38	178	21 / 29
62	Muzzle	15	0	0	15	29	52 / 45
62	2 nd Rifle	192	28	0	220	437	50 / 59
62	3 rd Rifle	275	22	0	297	395	75 / 65
62	4 th Rifle	8	0	0	8	14	57 / 78

Elk Hunting

Elk are plentiful, slightly over the population objective and widely distributed across the plateau. Most stay high until hunting pressure increases, then they move lower into less accessible areas. To be successful, hunters are advised to walk far from roads. Hunters have found the most success in GMU 61 which is a limited unit. You cannot hunt in this unit with an over-the-counter tag. If your tag is for GMU 62 be sure that you are hunting on the northeast side of the Divide Road.

Estimated elk population: 10,400

3-year estimated sex ratio: 24 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	37	0	0	37	76	49 / 45
61	Muzzle	13	18	3	34	86	40 / 49
61	1 st Rifle	83	43	2	128	229	56 / 56
61	2 nd Rifle	103	108	15	226	487	46 / 49
61	3 rd Rifle	30	114	10	154	228	68 / 54
61	4 th Rifle	11	92	12	115	184	63 / 52
62	Archery	136	85	6	227	1691	13 / 14
62	Muzzle	30	13	0	43	221	19 / 19
62	1 st Rifle	130	79	20	229	695	33 / 30
62	2 nd Rifle	196	50	7	253	1898	13 / 17
62	3 rd Rifle	79	107	12	198	1152	17 / 17
62	4 th Rifle	21	27	11	59	229	26 / 22

Cimarron River Drainage

GMUs 64, 65

Maps: GMU 64, Uncompahgre

National Forest

Map: GMU 65, Gunnison

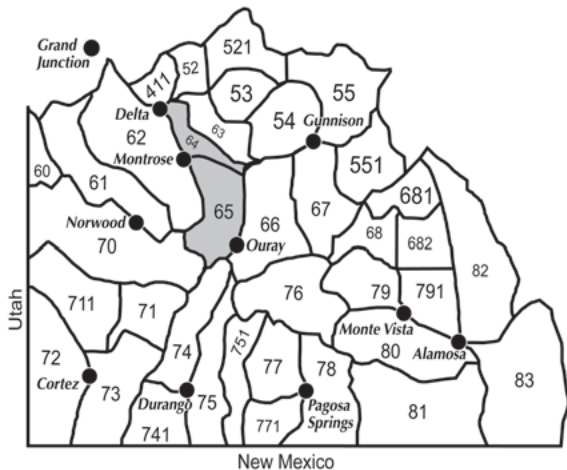
National Forest

Montrose CPW office:

(970)252-6000

These units include some of the most diverse terrain in Colorado, from 4,700 feet in the dry desert lands near Delta to 14,309-foot Uncompahgre Peak. Warm weather at the low elevations will cause meat to spoil very quickly, so be prepared to pack meat out fast. Weather is variable and unpredictable at the higher elevations.

Most of GMU 64 is private land or part of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park where hunting is prohibited. Much of GMU 65 is easily accessible by road, so hunting pressure is significant. Hunters must be willing to walk well away from roads if they expect to be successful. The Uncompahgre and Mount Sneffels wilderness areas at the south end of GMU 65 offer challenging terrain but with good hunting potential. **MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE - BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET**



Deer Hunting

After declining after the winters of 2007-09, the deer population appears to have stabilized. Fawn-to-doe ratios have increased the last two years and biologists believe the population could rebound quickly during the next few years.

For the best bucks, hunt high elevations early. Go lower as the season progresses. Deer move lower and to private land as hunting pressure increases. During the second season, deer favor aspen/oak brush/serviceberry areas; they move lower to pinon/juniper during the third season. Access is relatively easy, but rewards can be great for hunters willing to go into higher and more challenging terrain.

Estimated deer population: 8,300

3-year estimate sex ratio: 26 bucks per 100 does

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	11	0	0	11	31	35 / 20
64	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	7	29 / 27
64	2 nd Rifle	81	0	0	81	150	54 / 56
64	3 rd Rifle	60	0	0	60	89	67 / 57
64	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	6	67 / 67
65	Archery	23	0	0	23	62	37 / 38
65	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	16	31 / 42
65	2 nd Rifle	89	0	0	89	189	47 / 48
65	3 rd Rifle	157	0	0	157	238	66 / 53
65	4 th Rifle	4	0	0	4	4	100 / 78

Elk Hunting

The population is slightly below objective and licenses have been reduced in order to help the population grow. Because of the extent of wilderness area in these units, elk find plenty of lush meadows for summer grazing. The elk will stay high until hunting pressure or weather force them down. If you hunt in the wilderness areas, be aware that they are bordered by numerous private ranches – especially near Ridgway and Dallas Divide. Elk will move to private land quickly, so know your location. Try the Cimarron and Billy Creek state wildlife areas in later seasons or after snow has pushed the elk down

Estimated elk population: 5,000

3-year estimated sex ratio: 20 bulls per 100 cows

2011 Elk Hunting Statistics

% Success

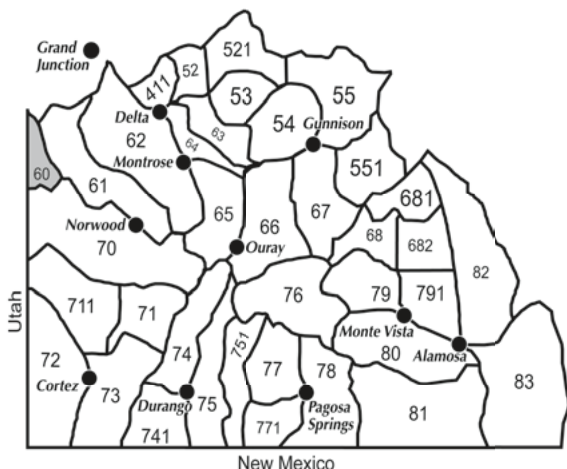
GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	9	3	0	12	108	11 / 9
64	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	35	37 / 24
64	1 st Rifle	40	29	0	69	197	35 / 37
64	2 nd Rifle	40	7	6	53	219	24 / 28
64	3 rd Rifle	17	23	0	40	208	19 / 20
64	4 th Rifle	9	25	5	39	118	33 / 31
65	Archery	65	19	4	88	554	16 / 13
65	Muzzle	15	5	0	20	154	13 / 18
65	1 st Rifle	120	80	5	205	482	43 / 35
65	2 nd Rifle	126	18	3	147	639	23 / 24
65	3 rd Rifle	95	30	6	131	444	30 / 23
65	4 th Rifle	11	47	7	65	209	31 / 34

Paradox

GMU 60 Maps: Manti-La Sal National Forest, Delta-Nucla BLM
 Montrose DOW office:
 (970)252-6000

GMU 60 is a small unit along the Utah state line consisting primarily of deer and elk winter range. Because most of the animals migrate between Utah and Colorado, little inventory data is available

so population estimates are not possible. Elevations range from 4,500 feet along the Dolores River to over 8,600 feet on the Utah line.



Deer Hunting

Success depends on the weather in Utah. Harvest is generally better for mule deer in the later seasons around the Paradox and Sinbad valleys.

2011 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
60	Archery	9	0	0	9	36	25 / 27
60	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	9	67 / 50
60	2 nd Rifle	28	6	0	34	68	50 / 53
60	3 rd Rifle	35	7	0	42	80	53 / 52
60	4 th Rifle	0	0	0	0	4	0 / 42

Elk Hunting

The elk population is healthy, but success is dependent on weather in Utah. Harvest success is better in the later seasons and away from roads, with animals being found near Carpenter Ridge, Buckeye Reservoir, and John Brown Canyon.

2011 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2011 / 5 yr.
60	Archery	0	0	0	0	30	0 / 11
60	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	17	18 / 10
60	Early	0	21	4	25	62	40 / 39
60	1 st Rifle	5	0	0	5	38	13 / 25
60	2 nd Rifle	13	0	0	13	41	32 / 25
60	3 rd Rifle	25	4	0	29	120	24 / 22
60	4 th Rifle	13	3	3	19	41	46 / 28

Understanding Colorado's Preference Point System

When applying for a limited license, a preference point is awarded when an individual is unsuccessful in drawing their first-choice hunt code. Preference points provide a mathematical advantage when applied to future drawings.

Some things to remember:

- Preference points are awarded by species, not hunt code. A point can be used to apply for any type of license available for that species.
- A preference point is awarded only for unsuccessful applications for a first-choice hunt code.
- Use a preference point hunt code as your first choice if your goal is to accumulate points for use toward a future quality hunt. Points needed can change significantly from year to year.
- For bear, elk, deer and pronghorn, you will accumulate preference points until you are successful in drawing a first-choice license. If you draw your first choice, your preference points drop to zero. There is no “banking” of preference points.
- If you do not apply or hold a license for that species at least once within 10 consecutive years for a bear, elk, deer or pronghorn, your preference points for that species will be lost.
- For bighorn sheep, moose and mountain goat, an applicant can accumulate a maximum of three points. Future applications are pooled with other three-point applicants. If you are unsuccessful in the pooled drawing, a “mathematically weighted” point is awarded to increase the probability of drawing a future license. You must apply at least once in a consecutive 10-year period to keep your points.
- Nonresident allocations are determined by the average number of preference points a Colorado resident needs to draw a specific license during a 3-year period. For hunt codes that required six or more points for a Colorado resident to draw an elk or deer license, up to 20 percent may go to nonresidents. For elk and deer hunt codes that require fewer than six points for a Colorado resident to draw, up to 35 percent may go to nonresidents.
- A Colorado Habitat Stamp is required to buy or apply for a license. The Habitat Stamp may be purchased online, by phone or at any Wildlife Service Center or license agent.

How long will it take to draw a license?

Statistics from previous years may be used to estimate the approximate time required to successfully draw a license. For example: If a unit allowed 20 licenses with 60 applicants, zero preference points required, 40 were unsuccessful. These 40 were awarded a preference point.

Assuming that the quota for this unit remained the same for 2010, and these 40 apply, 20 will draw a license using their preference point and 20 will be awarded a second point. An applicant with no points could expect to draw a license in three years.

Preference-point requirements can be found at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website: wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/BigGame/Statistics.

Travel Planning Resources

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

www.wildlife.state.co.us

Durango Service Center	GMUs 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 711, 771, 741, 751, 771	(970) 247-0855
Montrose Service Center	GMUs 60 61, 62, 64, 65, 70	(970) 252-6000
Gunnison Service Center	GMUs 41,42, 52, 53, 54, 55, 63, 66, 67, 411, 421 ,521	(970) 641-7060
Monte Vista Service Center	GMUs 68, 681, 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83	(719) 587-6900

U.S. Forest Service Directory

www.fs.fed.us

*RD=Ranger District

GRAND MESA-UNCOMPAHGRE-GUNNISON National Forests	Delta	(970) 874-6600 <i>www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug</i>
Grand Valley RD	Grand Junction	(970) 242-8211
Gunnison RD	Gunnison	(970) 641-0471
Norwood RD	Norwood	(970) 327-4261
Ouray RD	Montrose	(970) 240-5300
Paonia RD	Paonia	(970) 527-4131
SAN JUAN National Forest	Durango	(970) 247-4874 <i>www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan</i>
Columbine RD	Durango	(970) 247-4874
Columbine RD	Bayfield	(970) 884-2512
Dolores Public Lands Center	Dolores	(970) 882-7296
Pagosa RD	Pagosa Springs	(970) 264-1500

Bureau of Land Management Directory

www.co.blm.gov

*FO=Field Office

Southwest Center	Montrose	(970) 240-5300
Columbine FO	Durango	(970) 247-4874
Del Norte FO	Del Norte	(719) 657-3321
Tres Rios FO	Dolores	(970) 882-7296
Gunnison FO	Gunnison	(970) 641-0471
La Jara FO	La Jara	(719) 274-8971
Pagosa FO	Pagosa Springs	(970) 264-2268
Saguache FO	Saguache	(719) 655-2547
Uncompahgre Basin FO	Montrose	(970) 240-5300

Questions, suggestions about this book? Contact: joe.lewandowski@state.co.us. 970-375-6708



COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
Southwest Region Service Center
415 Turner Drive
Durango, CO 81303

First Class Mail