

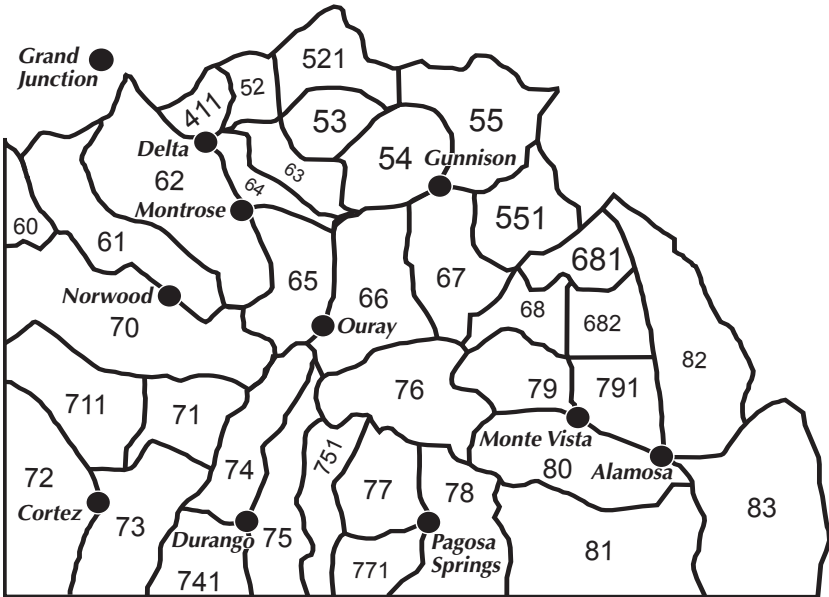
2013

# Big Game Hunting in Southwest Colorado



**Contents:**

- Hunting tips and outlook
- 2012 season harvest statistics
- Preference point information
- Camping information
- Travel information
- Important 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](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

# 2013 Elk & Deer Season Information

Season Dates	Deer	Elk	License Fees***		Deer Buck/Doe	Elk	
						Bull/ Either-sex	Cow
<b>Archery</b>	Aug. 31 - Sept. 29		<b>Resident</b>	Adult	\$34	\$49	\$49
<b>Muzzle</b>	Sept. 14 - 22			Youth	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$13.75
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Rifle</b>		Oct. 12 - 16					
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Rifle</b>	Oct. 19 - 27		<b>Non-Resident</b>	Adult	\$349	\$589	\$354
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Rifle</b>	Nov. 2 - 10			Youth	\$103.75	\$103.75	\$103.75
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Rifle</b>	Nov. 13 - 17						
Leftover licenses go on sale Aug. 6, 9 a.m., at CPW offices, license agents, and phone at 1-800-244-5613. On-line Aug. 7.			***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.				

## Keep Your Wheels Where They Belong™



For info and tips visit  
[www.staythetrail.org](http://www.staythetrail.org)

# What's New for 2013

Almost every year new hunting regulations take effect. It's your responsibility to know the rules for the Game Management Unit where you'll be hunting. To check new regulations, pick up a Colorado 2013 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 CPW office for information -- phone numbers are on the back page of this booklet.

## **Elk Late Season Youth license**

Youth hunters with either-sex or antlerless elk tags who do not harvest during the regular seasons and 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. Restrictions now apply to where these late-season licenses can be used. See page 4 of the Colorado Hunting Brochure for an explanation.

## **Beware of dead timber**

The amount of timber killed by beetles is increasing throughout southwest Colorado. Exercise caution in areas of dead standing timber. These trees can blow down when the wind comes up.

## **Colorado State Park camping opportunities**

Four state parks in the Southwest Region offer outstanding camping facilities, including showers and electricity. Some also offer cabins and yurts. For information, call: Mancos State Park, 970-882-2213; Ridgway State Park, 970-626-5822; Crawford State Park, 970-921-5721; Navajo State Park, 970-882-2208. Or go to the CPW web site at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us) for information and to make reservations.

## **Know the Rules for off-highway vehicles (OHVs)**

Off-highway vehicles are great hunting tools when used properly. Unfortunately, inappropriate and illegal use of OHVs can cause conflicts among 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 using OHVs must obtain a Colorado permit. Permits and regulations can be found on-line at [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us), or call 1-303-791-1920.

Federal "Travel Management Plans" are written to ensure protection of resources. If you are hunting on public land, contact the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management 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 violate rules. OHV users riding in unauthorized areas face fines and penalties of \$100 from CPW, and \$250 from federal agencies. Hunters, anglers or trappers using OHVs illegally will also receive 10 penalty points against their hunting and fishing privileges. The fine for riding in federal wilderness areas is \$500 and 15 penalty points.

Please, observe these rules and guidelines:

- Be considerate of other hunters. OHV noise disturbs big game animals.
- Obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Map for federal lands.
- 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 in a case.
- Explain these rules to young hunters and those unfamiliar with using these vehicles on public lands.

### **OHV game retrieval in GMU 711**

An ATV may be driven off road for one mile to retrieve game in GMU 711 as described on the USFS travel map. The hunter who killed the animal must be in the retrieval party. Vehicles must be no more than 50 inches wide. Two OHVs may be used, but they must travel together and can only make one trip in. If one OHV is used, two trips are allowed. Avoid passing over the same track twice. Avoid wet area, cross streams slowly and carefully, don't spin tires, avoid other hunters. To obtain a map, call the Dolores Public Lands office, 970-882-7296.

## **Hunting Q & A**

For more information, go to the CPW web site: [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.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 will accept cards issued by other states; they will not accept a previous year's license or photocopies of hunter education cards. For 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.

**Can I hunt both deer and elk?** Yes, and you no longer need to hunt them during the same season. See the 2013 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 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 immediately. 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 2013 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 property. 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 to sight-in your rifle 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 feet 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 and hawks, 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 at the range 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 400,000 deer. During the 2012 seasons, for all manners of take, about 74,000 hunters harvested 33,000 mule deer for a 45 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 2012 seasons was 20 percent, and a total of 43,490 elk were harvested. A total of 215,300 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.

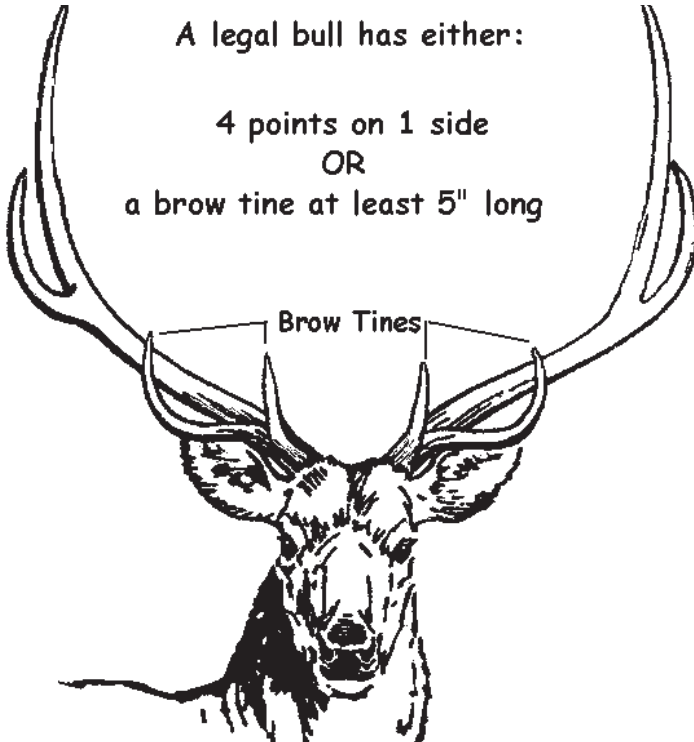
Line up your shot carefully because elk are difficult to knock down. The best shots are delivered in the critical area of the lungs and heart just behind and below the front quarters.

## 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 area 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!

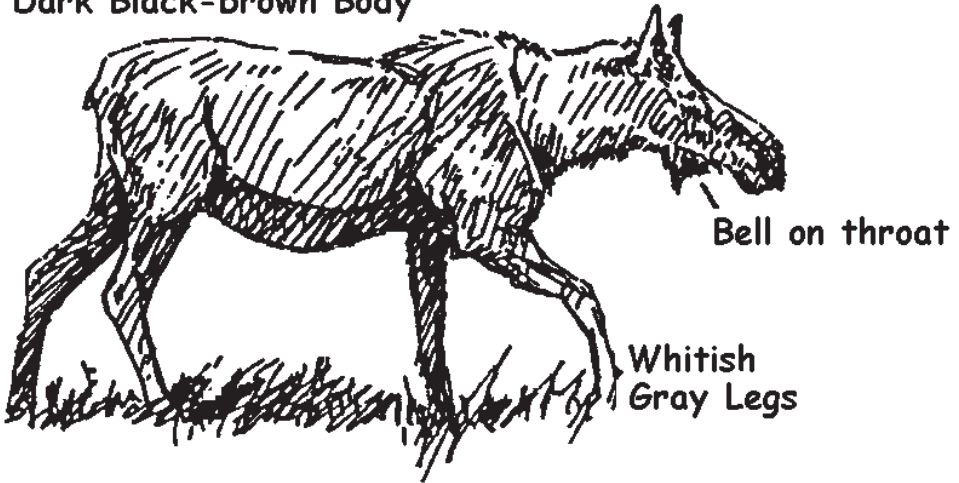
Moose are present throughout the southwest region. Moose favor wetlands but they can be found in any terrain where elk live.

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 bags.
- 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 Veterinary Inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian 30 days prior to entry into Colorado. Include the physical address of the horse in your state and the location where the horse will be in Colorado.
- A negative equine infectious anemia test is required 12 months prior to entry. Date of the test, results, the lab and the accession number must be listed on the veterinary inspection form. For questions, contact the State Veterinarian's Office, (303) 239-4161.
- Horses are required to have a brand inspection when transported over 75 miles totally within the boundaries of Colorado, and every time they leave the state. Contact the Brands Office at (303) 294-0895.
- 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 Department of Agriculture at 1-303-239-4149; or for a list of regulations and vendors, go to [www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi](http://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.

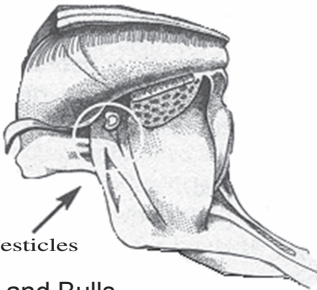
## Evidence of Sex

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.

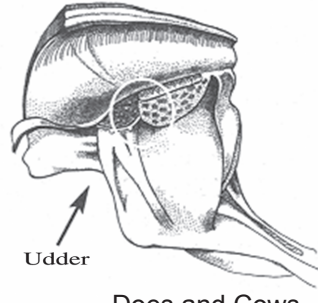
The head or skull plate with both antlers naturally attached must accompany the carcass of a buck or bull while it is in camp or being transported--even when the testicles are used to meet proof of evidence of sex.

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

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## 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 CPW website and click on the “Shop Outdoor” link underneath Quick Links of the home 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, 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](http://www.coloradooutfitters.org), or call 970-824-2468.



# Southwest Colorado Hunting Outlook

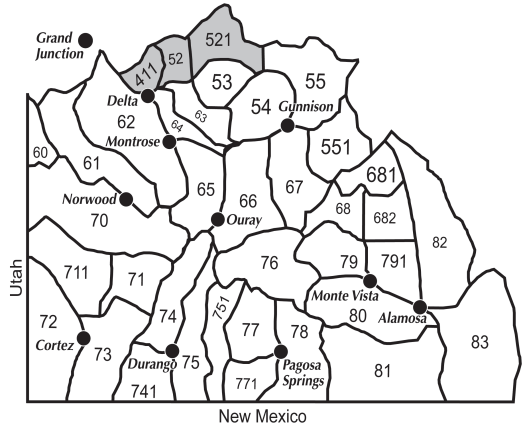
## Grand Mesa

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 muddy. Hunters should obtain maps to avoid trespassing or unintentionally crossing private land. Respect motorized closures on public lands. Lower elevations are mainly private, especially in GMUs 411 and 52.



## MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE – BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!

### Deer hunting

The deer population in these units is stable, and licenses have been held steady over the past few years. 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. During the later deer seasons many deer will be on private land, so hunters should plan accordingly. Hunting in aspen and oak brush can be productive. Hunters should obtain land ownership maps of this area.

**Estimated deer population: 9,200**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 25 bucks per 100 does**

### 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2012 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	22	0	0	22	29	76 / 32
411	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	10	20 / 24
411	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	114	0	0	114	143	80 / 42
411	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	33	0	0	33	61	54 / 65
52	Archery	15	0	0	15	42	36 / 30
52	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	30	43 / 46
52	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	104	0	0	104	195	53 / 48
52	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	78	0	0	78	107	73 / 66
521	Archery	20	0	0	20	60	33 / 23
521	Muzzle	4	0	0	4	16	25 / 33
521	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	107	0	0	107	192	56 / 42
521	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	29	0	0	29	46	63 / 46

## Elk Hunting

Elk in these GMUs are part of the greater Grand Mesa management area that includes GMUs 41, 42 and 421 to the north. The 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. Distribution changes in relation to weather and hunting pressure; so hunters should be prepared to adapt to conditions.

Elk will generally move into more remote areas in response to pressure. Successful hunters generally stay well away from motorized access areas, especially in GMU 521. These units are managed for hunting opportunity, so most bulls are young. Hunting pressure is lowest during the limited first season.

**Estimated elk population (includes six GMUs): 11,000**  
**3-year estimated sex ratio: 20 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	4	0	0	4	156	3 / 10
411	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	22	0 / 2
411	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	18	0	0	18	88	20 / 24
411	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	23	8	0	31	162	19 / 22
411	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	12	3	1	16	157	10 / 15
411	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	7	2	2	11	58	19 / 11
52	Archery	13	10	0	23	206	11 / 9
52	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	45	0 / 17
52	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	24	21	0	45	157	29 / 27
52	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	41	30	18	89	506	18 / 19
52	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	7	20	0	27	328	8 / 17
52	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	5	0	5	36	14 / 11
521	Archery	77	39	0	116	711	16 / 18
521	Muzzle	19	46	7	72	280	26 / 24
521	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	73	66	0	139	410	34 / 36
521	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	72	138	7	217	900	24 / 25
521	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	24	44	9	77	398	19 / 24
521	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	48	7	57	147	39 / 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. Motorized travel is limited to designated routes.

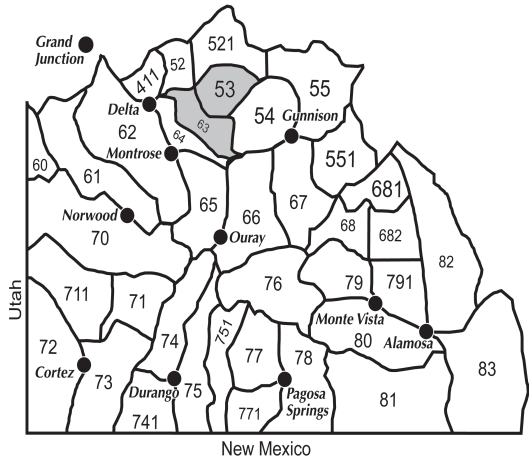
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## Deer Hunting

The deer herd is approaching the population objective and appears to be on a slow increase. Deer are well distributed. As the season progresses and hunting pressure increases, 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: 31 bucks per 100 does**



## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	9	0	0	9	34	26 / 27
53	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	18	33 / 36
53	2 <sup>nd</sup> rifle	75	0	0	75	117	64 / 59
53	3 <sup>rd</sup> rifle	86	0	0	86	108	80 / 80
53	4 <sup>th</sup> rifle	5	0	0	5	6	83 / 97
63	Archery	26	0	0	26	46	57 / 56
63	Muzzle	16	0	0	16	22	73 / 26
63	2 <sup>nd</sup> rifle	71	0	0	71	108	66 / 72
63	3 <sup>rd</sup> rifle	88	0	0	88	121	73 / 77
63	4 <sup>th</sup> rifle	5	0	0	5	7	71 / 91

## Elk Hunting

If there is no snow, elk will likely be scattered throughout the high elevation landscape. 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.

**Estimated elk population: 3,800**

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

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	59	13	0	72	530	14 / 14
53	Muzzle	17	30	2	49	164	30 / 20
53	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	47	42	11	100	411	24 / 31
53	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	87	41	2	130	494	26 / 17
53	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	21	15	2	38	334	11 / 17
53	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	17	23	0	40	94	43 / 18
63	Archery	23	4	0	27	211	13 / 13
63	Muzzle	10	11	5	26	80	33 / 22
63	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	38	19	5	62	211	29 / 35
63	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	19	23	2	44	314	13 / 19
63	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	26	24	6	56	231	24 / 19
63	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	41	3	44	112	39 / 24

# Gunnison Basin

GMUs 54, 55, 551, 66 and 67

Map: Gunnison National Forest

Gunnison CPW

(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 are making a comeback following the difficult winter of 2007-08. The population is increasing and more licenses were made available for the 2013 seasons.

Elk populations remain healthy in the Gunnison area, although management efforts continue to focus on reducing herd size, especially in GMUs 54, 55 and 551. As these populations decrease, hunters may see a reduction in license allocation or changes to hunt codes in the hunting brochure. Hunters should review the brochure thoroughly each year for any changes. Biologists are closely monitoring harvest and population trends to ensure sustainable hunting opportunities.

## MOOSE ARE PRESENT HERE – BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET!

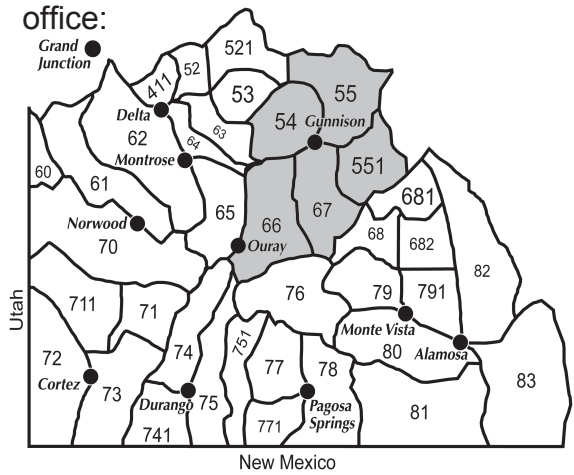
### Deer Hunting

While license allocation remains conservative, the number of licenses was increased slightly as a result of increasing male/female ratios. The populations are near objectives but are being managed for continued growth.

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

**Estimated deer population: 15,000**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 37 bucks per 100 does**



## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	8	0	0	8	39	21 / 22
54	Muzzle	15	0	0	15	34	44 / 31
54	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	113	0	0	113	216	52 / 48
54	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	40	0	0	40	59	68 / 60
55	Archery	13	0	0	13	45	29 / 25
55	Muzzle	79	0	0	79	124	64 / 60
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	71	0	0	71	126	56 / 57
55	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	31	0	0	31	42	74 / 79
551	Archery	8	0	0	8	13	62 / 36
551	Muzzle	8	0	0	8	13	62 / 39
551	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	68	0	0	68	87	78 / 58
551	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	18	0	0	18	24	75 / 68
66	Archery	9	0	0	9	23	39 / 30
66	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	14	36 / 58
66	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	54	0	0	54	64	84 / 79
66	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	23	0	0	23	25	92 / 87
67	Archery	7	0	0	7	27	26 / 22
67	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	20	65 / 36
67	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	57	0	0	57	73	78 / 68
67	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	22	0	0	22	27	81 / 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.

Success rates in GMUs 66 and 67 have remained steady for the last several years and hunters express high satisfaction with their hunts. These units are totally limited so hunters must apply for licenses each spring. Some older age-class bulls are available in these units.

Harvest was down in the northern Gunnison Basin in 2012 as a result of a warm, dry fall. However, the reduced bull harvest in 2012 and mild 2012-13 winter should make for an excellent 2013 season. CPW biologists are closely monitoring these elk herds to ensure sustainable hunting opportunities in the future.

**Estimated elk population: 15,000**

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

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	41	15	0	56	409	14 / 10
54	Muzzle	14	13	1	28	180	16 / 18
54	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	76	44	2	122	535	23 / 24
54	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	57	71	21	149	598	25 / 16
54	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	73	31	3	107	916	12 / 16
54	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	28	28	0	56	318	18 / 23
55	Archery	40	43	0	83	622	13 / 12
55	Muzzle	22	23	6	51	285	18 / 13
55	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	53	78	19	150	615	24 / 25
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	92	31	0	123	1148	11 / 15
55	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	48	42	0	90	1015	9 / 20
55	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	16	11	27	229	12 / 24
551	Archery	25	4	4	33	217	15 / 8
551	Muzzle	10	19	1	30	130	23 / 16
551	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	20	22	2	44	179	25 / 23
551	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	50	35	0	85	728	12 / 15
551	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	30	59	2	91	650	14 / 15
551	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	3	25	3	31	99	31 / 21
66	Archery	34	7	0	41	174	24 / 19
66	Muzzle	16	7	2	25	80	31 / 28
66	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	93	42	8	143	475	30 / 32
66	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	101	54	4	159	430	37 / 31
66	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	45	49	5	99	373	27 / 31
66	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	26	60	0	86	186	46 / 32
67	Archery	11	2	0	13	55	24 / 17
67	Muzzle	13	11	1	25	81	31 / 23
67	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	74	22	9	105	427	25 / 27
67	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	54	39	0	93	453	21 / 30
67	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	37	78	18	133	384	35 / 24
67	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	24	75	5	104	277	38 / 38



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# 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 of private land, and onto Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge where hunting is prohibited.

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 land in specific areas to address game damage issues.

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, mainly for game damage issues.

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.

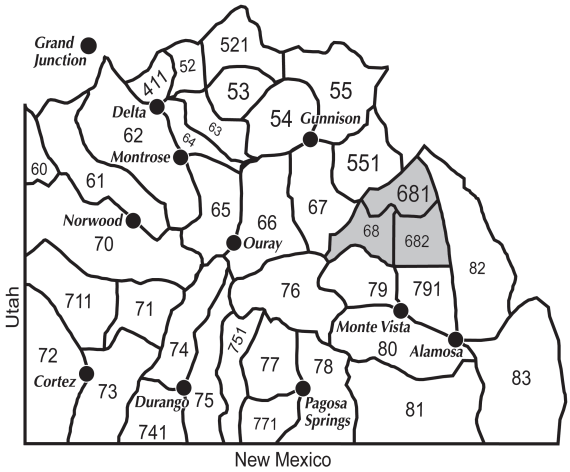
## **North Valley Floor Special Elk Units (GMUs 682, 791)**

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 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 population is growing steadily as is the buck-to-doe ratio. Buck hunting is rated as good to excellent with many quality bucks available.

**Estimated deer population: 3,700**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 28 bucks to 100 does**

## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	7	0	0	7	39	18 / 17
68	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	53	25 / 40
68	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	59	0	0	59	93	63 / 50
68	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	50	0	0	50	107	47 / 45
68	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	0	0	2	4	50 / 42
681	Archery	11	0	0	11	36	31 / 14
681	Muzzle	27	0	0	27	43	63 / 44
681	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	35	0	0	35	53	66 / 73
681	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	45	0	0	45	99	45 / 69
681	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	7	0	0	7	7	100 / 81

# Elk Hunting

Population of elk in these units is healthy and at objective. Hunter success rates are lower than most other parts of the state because it is challenging to find these animals. The ratio of bulls to cows is relatively high for an unlimited unit. Hunters willing to go into tough terrain can be rewarded.

Estimated elk population: 4,200

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

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	21	4	0	25	287	8 / 6
68	Muzzle	7	3	2	12	151	8 / 10
68	1st Rifle	38	0	0	38	190	20 / 18
68	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	37	9	2	48	692	7 / 10
68	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	11	16	0	27	619	4 / 7
68	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	8	15	0	23	162	14 / 22
681	Archery	19	0	0	19	251	8 / 8
681	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	68	4 / 14
681	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	27	0	0	27	120	23 / 11
681	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	23	6	3	32	429	7 / 10
681	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	8	0	0	8	375	2 / 8
681	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	9	2	15	90	17 / 18



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# Costilla

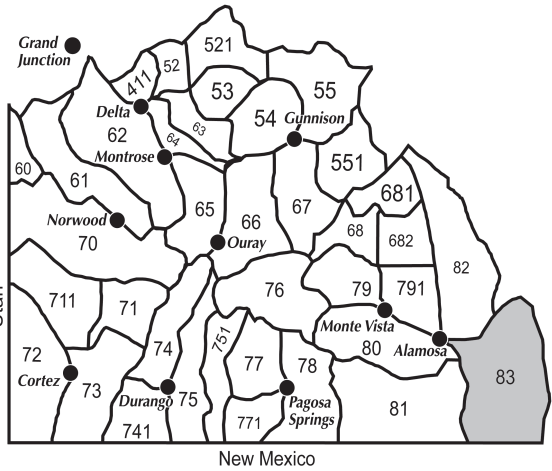
## GMU 83

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 well below the population objective and appears to have been affected by drought. The buck-to-doe ratio is higher than most units in the valley. Quality bucks can be found.

**Estimated deer population: 1,600**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 43 bucks per 100 does**

## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2012 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	5	0	0	5	5	100 / 86
83	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	7	71 / 88
83	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	26	0	0	26	28	93 / 86
83	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	28	0	0	28	28	100 / 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.

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2012 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	29	0	0	29	139	21 / 18
83	Muzzle	12	0	0	12	53	23 / 11
83	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	16	7	0	23	88	26 / 42
83	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	39	3	0	42	324	13 / 23
83	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	36	0	0	36	465	8 / 23
83	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	10	57	4	71	118	60 / 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

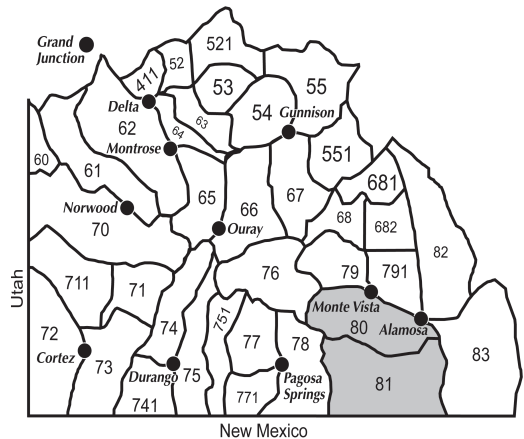
Wilderness Area located in the southern portion of GMU 81. Hunting quality is good, especially in early seasons before winter weather pushes animals out. No big game hunting is allowed on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

## 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**



## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	18	0	0	18	91	20 / 23
80	Muzzle	24	0	0	24	49	49 / 26
80	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	70	0	0	70	135	52 / 54
80	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	91	0	0	91	143	64 / 46
80	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	8	0	0	8	15	53 / 64
81	Archery	30	0	0	30	108	28 / 19
81	Muzzle	31	0	0	31	65	48 / 28
81	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	69	0	0	69	112	62 / 49
81	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	70	0	0	70	117	60 / 45
81	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	8	0	0	8	19	42 / 62

## Elk Hunting

Population is growing and well above objective. Bull harvest was strong in these units during the 2012 seasons and hunting should also be good this year. Cow tags were reduced by 50 percent for 2011 so this population is expected to continue growing 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: 9,700**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 21 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

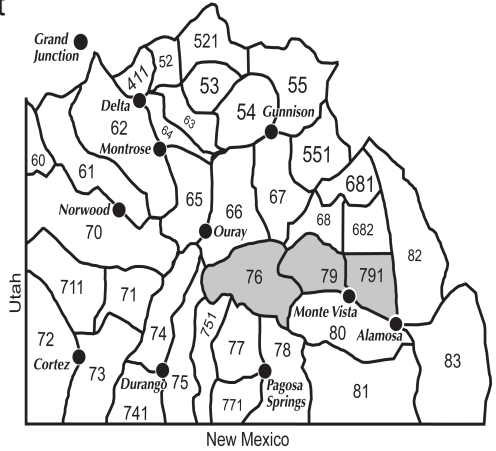
GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	59	9	3	71	619	11 / 7
80	Muzzle	11	0	0	11	104	11 / 11
80	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	100	0	0	100	421	24 / 22
80	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	53	35	2	90	919	10 / 12
80	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	18	0	0	18	568	3 / 8
80	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	1	0	5	56	9 / 16
81	Archery	99	40	4	143	970	15 / 12
81	Muzzle	22	18	5	45	166	27 / 21
81	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	139	0	0	139	459	30 / 24
81	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	68	24	14	106	970	11 / 12
81	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	41	0	0	41	521	8 / 8
81	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	0	0	2	35	6 / 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 below objective but is growing slowly as evidenced by observed fawn-to-doe ratios. 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 these units.

**Estimated deer population: 1,400**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 21 bucks per 100 does.**

## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2012 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	3	0	0	3	17	18 / 25
76	Muzzle	8	0	0	8	10	80 / 40
76	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	9	0	0	9	21	43 / 45
76	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	9	0	0	9	17	53 / 48
79	Archery	3	0	0	3	10	30 / 48
79	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	17	35 / 44
79	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	51	0	0	51	70	73 / 62
79	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	51	0	0	51	78	65 / 64
79	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	5	0	0	5	9	56 / 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: 4,400**

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

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2012 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	41	2	0	43	132	33 / 28
76	Muzzle	24	4	0	28	76	37 / 42
76	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	86	0	0	86	170	51 / 51
76	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	21	42	0	63	217	29 / 35
76	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	8	33	8	49	232	21 / 35
76	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	109	5	114	230	50 / 30
79	Archery	3	0	0	3	117	3 / 6
79	Muzzle	0	3	0	3	27	11 / 6
79	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	14	7	0	21	215	10 / 11
79	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	8	0	0	8	231	3 / 8
79	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	10	4	0	14	178	8 / 7
79	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	8	0	8	124	6 / 20

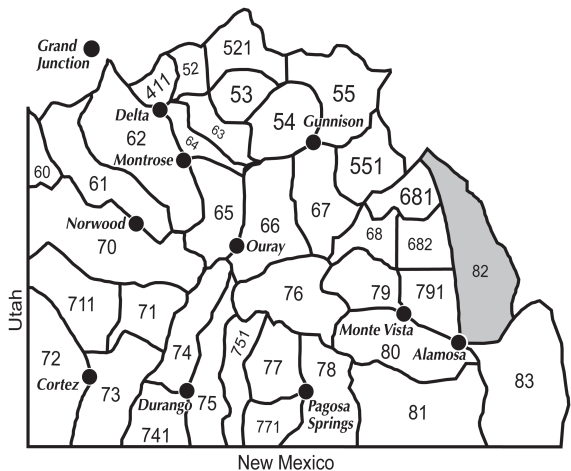
## Sand Dunes

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, most is wilderness area and road access is limited. It is accessible mainly 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 and hunter success is good for those who draw a license. The unit holds a high buck-to-doe ratio.

**Estimated deer population: 1,700**

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

## 2012 Deer Hunting Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2012 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	5	0	0	5	32	16 / 9
82	Muzzle	14	0	0	14	45	31 / 33
82	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	66	0	0	66	127	52 / 62
82	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	46	0	0	46	67	69 / 69
82	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	3	0	0	3	3	100 / 83

## Elk Hunting

Even though there are high-density concentrations of elk in portions of this area, the animals quickly move to places where hunting is prohibited --federal wildlife refuges and the national park--once the seasons start. 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](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) for information. Access is good in the northern portion of GMU 82, but hunting is poor because animals quickly move south when hunters arrive.

**Estimated elk population: 4,900**

**3-year sex ratio average: 36 bulls to 100 cows**

## 2012 Elk Hunting Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2012 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	29	12	0	41	419	10 / 8
82	Muzzle	12	7	0	19	88	22 / 14
82	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	36	14	0	50	353	14 / 24
82	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	30	15	13	58	575	10 / 16
82	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	17	22	0	39	558	7 / 16
82	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	9	0	13	90	14 / 26



# Dolores – Dry Creek

GMUs 70, 71, 711, 72, 73

Montrose DOW office

(970)252-6000,

Durango CPW office:

(970)247-0855

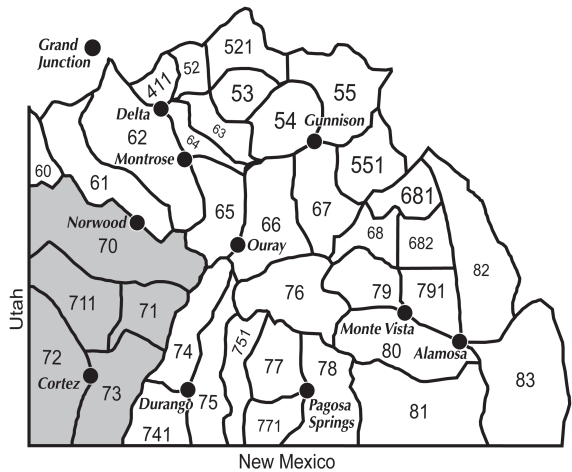
Maps: GMUs 70, 71,

711, 72, 73 – San Juan

National Forest; GMU 70

Uncompahgre National

Forest



This area covers a 2,800-square-mile landscape 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. With altitudes from about 5,000 feet to more than 12,000 feet, the vegetation ranges from desert shrubs to pinon/juniper to alpine tundra. Weather can change quickly so be prepared for all conditions. There is good vehicle access in these areas; consequently, hunting pressure is heavy on public lands. An exception is the Lizard Head Wilderness Area, GMU 71, which is accessible by foot and horseback only. Most of unit 72 and the western sections of 70 and 711 is desert terrain and not productive for elk.

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. 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--70, 71 and 711--is steady from last year. Doe licenses have been reduced significantly during the last four years which has helped to stabilize the population and improve fawn-to-doe ratios, and buck-to-doe ratios.

In the southern units, doe license have been decreased the last few seasons which has helped to stabilize the population and improve ratios. Buck-to-doe ratio is better in the south.

In the early seasons, deer are evenly distributed, mostly above 8,000 feet. Deer begin migrating to lower elevations, generally from east to west, in mid-October. Snow will cause them to move to lower elevations earlier. Deer concentrate on winter ranges in Dry Creek Basin, Disappointment Valley and along the rim of the Dolores River canyon. GMU 70 in Dry Creek Basin is recommended in the third and fourth seasons.

**Estimated deer population: 28,000**

**3-year average sex ratio: 26 bucks per 100 does**

## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	18	0	0	18	99	18 / 30
70	Muzzle	18	0	0	18	56	32 / 47
70	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	251	24	3	278	470	59 / 66
70	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	263	29	0	292	452	65 / 69
70	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	70	0	0	7	20	35 / 82
71	Archery	10	5	0	15	90	17 / 29
71	Muzzle	5	2	0	7	42	17 / 35
71	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	45	10	1	56	181	31 / 40
71	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	73	9	0	82	170	48 / 38
71	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	0	0	4	14	29 / 65
711	Archery	8	3	0	11	50	22 / 23
711	Muzzle	9	2	0	11	36	31 / 44
711	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	11	20	0	131	232	56 / 54
711	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	150	20	3	173	326	53 / 50
711	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	0	0	4	14	29 / 44
72	Archery	16	0	0	16	35	46 / 30
72	Muzzle	14	0	0	14	48	29 / 53
72	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	123	18	0	141	224	63 / 65
72	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	93	3	0	96	196	49 / 66
72	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	12	0	0	12	29	41 / 71
73	Archery	31	4	0	35	65	54 / 43
73	Muzzle	21	4	0	25	58	43 / 48
73	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	79	18	0	97	168	58 / 59
73	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	88	10	3	101	179	56 / 64
73	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	5	0	0	5	14	36 / 64

## Elk Hunting

The elk population is holding steady and herds are at objective levels. Animals are distributed widely throughout these units. Generally, GMU 71 is better early in the season, but will hold elk on south-facing slopes during the later seasons. GMU 711 becomes better as the season progresses. Elk will move quickly into thick aspen, evergreens and rugged terrain with hunting pressure. Hunt the edges of timbered areas slowly at first light and at sundown when elk are most active. The opportunity to see a mature bull is only fair. There are many young bulls in this unit, so be careful not to shoot a spike. Hunt away from roads and OHV trails for the best chance of success.

**Estimated elk population: 18,700**

**3-year average sex ratio: 16 bulls per 100 cows**

# 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	80	41	0	121	597	20 / 18
70	Muzzle	16	48	6	20	240	29 / 20
70	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	170	83	6	259	560	46 / 52
70	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	173	163	0	336	1283	26 / 31
70	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	110	105	7	222	1086	20 / 29
70	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	15	111	8	134	300	45 / 42
71	Archery	71	37	0	108	844	13 / 13
71	Muzzle	48	35	6	89	355	25 / 19
71	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	71	44	8	123	567	22 / 36
71	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	92	49	2	143	925	15 / 20
71	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	31	18	6	55	547	10 / 13
71	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	5	0	5	58	9 / 24
711	Archery	16	10	4	30	244	12 / 17
711	Muzzle	0	10	0	10	76	13 / 21
711	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	36	20	0	56	177	32 / 29
711	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	50	21	0	71	452	16 / 16
711	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	49	42	2	93	840	11 / 20
711	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	122	3	125	269	46 / 35
72	Archery	15	0	0	15	98	15 / 9
72	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	40	0 / 13
72	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	12	0	0	12	93	13 / 21
72	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	11	2	0	13	134	10 / 14
72	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	23	3	0	26	186	14 / 15
72	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	5	0	5	33	15 / 22
73	Archery	16	10	0	26	219	12 / 15
73	Muzzle	5	15	0	20	68	29 / 16
73	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	22	25	0	47	143	33 / 25
73	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	26	9	3	38	227	17 / 15
73	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	18	12	1	31	249	12 / 19
73	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	7	10	3	20	26	77 / 37



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# Hermosa

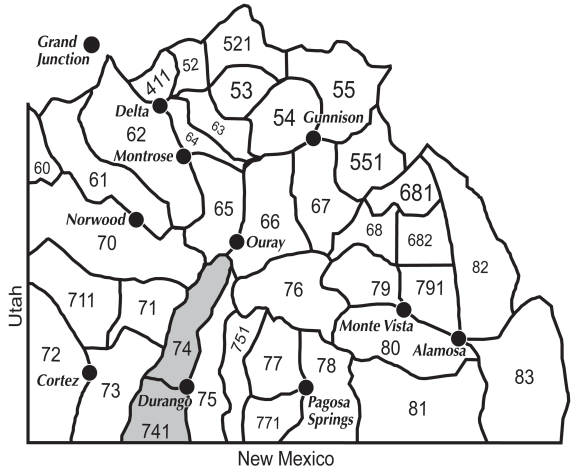
GMUs 74, 741

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 12,000 feet near Silverton. An abundance of vegetation provides plenty of cover and food for big-game herds. Public land is abundant in GMU 74 with much of it quite remote. Where road access is good expect hunting pressure.



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.

The Bureau of Reclamation now owns the property around Nighthorse Reservoir and currently hunting is not allowed. Hunting is allowed on the 3,000 acres owned by CPW in the adjacent Bodo State Wildlife Area..

## 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, drought and continued development of winter range are likely causes. Doe licenses have been cut significantly. The buck-to-doe ratio is good, 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 head to winter range, usually 8,500 feet and below, 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: 4,900**

**3-average estimated sex ratio: 32 bucks per 100 does**

## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
74	Archery	17	0	0	17	76	22 / 20
74	Muzzle	19	0	0	19	66	29 / 35
74	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	35	0	0	35	146	24 / 36
74	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	33	0	0	33	85	39 / 32
74	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	5	0	0	5	27	19 / 25
741	Archery	16	0	0	16	35	46 / 27
741	Muzzle	15	2	0	17	32	53 / 50
741	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	79	43	3	125	159	74 / 66
741	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	83	48	3	134	213	63 / 71
741	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	21	46	0	67	90	74 / 70

## Elk Hunting

The elk herd is at the low end of the objective range and CPW is working to increase the population. Consequently, either-sex and cow licenses continue to be scarce. Reduced harvest should help this population grow within the new objective of 5,000-6,000. Most elk in GMU 74 are at higher elevation areas until snow accumulation pushes them down. Hunters willing to go into rugged terrain could be rewarded. Consider hunting near Engineer Mountain, in the Hermosa Creek drainage west of Durango Mountain Resort, and up Junction Creek just northwest of Durango. The bull-to-cow ratio is higher in this herd than other nearby herds. Finding these bulls, however, is tough. They have survived by knowing how to avoid hunters. Concentrate on tough terrain away from other hunters. Weather often dictates the success rate in this area.

**Estimated elk population: 4,900**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 28 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
74	Archery	79	9	0	88	598	15 / 11
74	Muzzle	32	18	5	55	115	48 / 20
74	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	83	52	6	141	396	36 / 25
74	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	56	14	7	77	529	15 / 20
74	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	25	9	0	34	345	10 / 17
74	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	7	0	0	7	66	11 / 13
741	Archery	6	3	0	9	52	17 / 16
741	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	6	33 / 38
741	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	9	6	0	15	56	27 / 35
741	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	11	6	0	17	82	21 / 24
741	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	3	1	0	4	68	6 / 17
741	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	2	0	4	21	19 / 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 12,000 feet. 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, and the South San Juan in the southeast corner—offer good back-country hunting opportunities.

If you're hunting the backcountry during earlier seasons plan to get a harvested animal out and into a cooler quickly. Temperatures in early seasons are often in the 70s and meat will start to spoil within a day. 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.

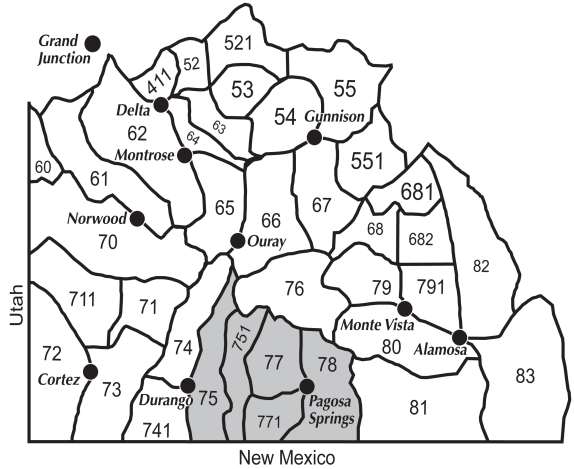
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## Deer Hunting

After a few years of cutting license the population appears to be stable with an average buck-to-do ratio. The population is at the low end of the objective range but there are still a lot of deer and hunting is good. The areas with 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 the first week of November deer are typically on winter range. Much of the winter range occupied by this herd is on private land or tribal property.

**Estimated deer population: 21,000**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 27 bucks per 100 does**



# 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	29	7	0	36	107	34 / 27
75	Muzzle	34	4	0	38	79	48 / 34
75	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	99	4	0	103	252	41 / 47
75	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	126	4	0	129	226	57 / 53
75	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	68	5	0	73	102	72 / 60
751	Archery	13	0	0	13	68	19 / 20
751	Muzzle	14	4	0	18	67	27 / 30
751	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	52	0	2	54	198	27 / 47
751	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	38	3	0	41	139	29 / 42
751	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	9	6	0	15	35	43 / 63
77	Archery	14	13	0	27	74	36 / 27
77	Muzzle	21	5	0	26	9	27 / 30
77	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	89	0	0	89	277	32 / 42
77	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	59	2	0	61	213	29 / 30
77	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	35	0	0	35	62	56 / 43
771	Archery	0	3	0	3	14	21 / 9
771	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	18	17 / 48
771	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	27	0	0	27	67	40 / 51
771	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	42	1	0	43	137	31 / 33
771	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	46	4	0	50	65	77 / 62
78	Archery	13	28	0	41	91	45 / 25
78	Muzzle	25	5	0	30	67	45 / 38
78	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	144	8	0	152	333	46 / 60
78	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	44	0	0	44	180	24 / 30
78	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	7	0	0	7	21	33 / 49

## Elk Hunting

The management objective is to increase the population. Cow licenses were cut by 75 percent in the 2011.

Hunters must be prepared to walk into remote and heavily-forested areas to find animals. Do not expect to see elk from roads or areas open to OHV use. 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 often holds 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 Mill Creek Road (FS Rd 302), Rio Blanco Road (FS Rd 657) and Buckles Lake Road

(FS Rd 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: 17,500**

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

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	43	6	0	49	394	12 / 7
75	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	78	6 / 11
75	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	81	33	0	119	511	23 / 26
75	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	53	25	5	83	466	18 / 16
75	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	29	14	0	43	512	8 / 20
75	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	7	12	6	25	111	23 / 25
751	Archery	23	0	0	23	274	8 / 9
751	Muzzle	9	0	0	9	37	24 / 15
751	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	80	32	6	118	372	32 / 30
751	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	29	5	5	39	325	12 / 15
751	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	46	38	2	86	420	20 / 13
751	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	6	18	0	24	78	31 / 15
77	Archery	71	13	0	84	565	15 / 9
77	Muzzle	21	5	3	29	96	30 / 13
77	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	55	27	6	88	358	25 / 28
77	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	172	19	0	191	1076	18 / 16
77	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	65	5	0	70	854	8 / 17
77	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	13	9	0	22	63	35 / 17
771	Archery	7	0	0	7	64	11 / 12
771	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	14	0 / 10
771	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	0	10	0	10	55	18 / 33
771	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	28	0	0	28	136	21 / 14
771	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	14	0	0	14	245	6 / 16
771	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	1	0	3	22	14 / 17
78	Archery	104	21	0	125	822	15 / 13
78	Muzzle	14	15	3	32	130	25 / 16
78	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	69	23	2	94	392	24 / 30
78	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	101	5	0	106	847	13 / 18
78	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	72	4	0	76	716	11 / 16
78	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	9	7	2	18	63	29 / 20



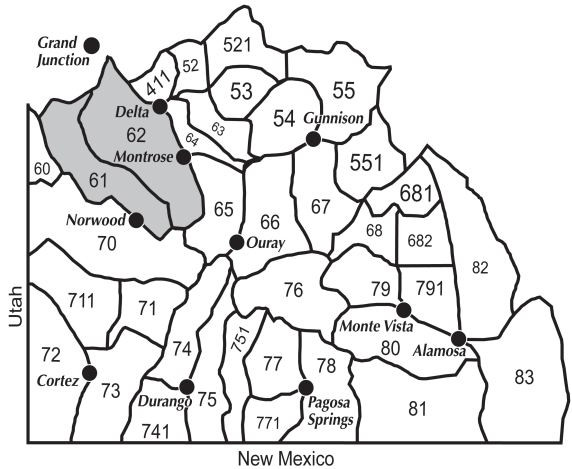
# Uncompahgre Plateau

## 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 U.S. 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

For the last five years the deer population has been in decline and is well below objective. But biologists believe that the population has finally stabilized.

Last winter's mild conditions helped to improve doe survival. Biologists are optimistic that the plateau herd will rebound, so long as extraordinary drought conditions do not persist. Licenses were reduced each year in 2010, 2011 and in 2012. For the 2013 season license numbers are unchanged from last year. The reduction in harvest appears to be helping to maintain buck-to-doe ratios. 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 good throughout the plateau. During the early season deer are concentrated in the aspen and oak brush. As fall progresses deer will move lower into the pinon and juniper winter range.

**Estimated deer population: 15,630**

**3-Year estimate sex ratio: 26 bucks per 100 does**

## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	17	0	0	17	47	36 / 42
61	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	12	42 / 61
61	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	41	8	0	49	112	44 / 61
61	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	48	8	0	56	103	54 / 61
62	Archery	56	0	0	56	169	33 / 29
62	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	22	14 / 45
62	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	217	30	0	247	432	57 / 59
62	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	196	17	0	213	372	57 / 65

## Elk Hunting

Elk are slightly over the population objective and widely distributed across the plateau. Harvest declined last year because of drought conditions which forced elk to move into new terrain. Most stay high until hunting pressure increases, then they move to lower areas that are less accessible areas.

Hunters should move well away 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: 10,500**

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

## 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	37	0	0	37	79	47 / 45
61	Muzzle	22	15	0	37	80	46 / 49
61	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	69	44	1	114	210	54 / 56
61	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	96	142	0	238	460	52 / 49
61	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	28	80	8	116	221	52 / 54
61	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	5	103	8	116	188	62 / 52
62	Archery	155	81	10	246	1825	13 / 14
62	Muzzle	12	7	11	30	246	12 / 19
62	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	147	74	10	231	732	32 / 30
62	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	220	113	6	339	2006	17 / 17
62	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	58	65	2	125	1181	11 / 17
62	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	15	38	5	58	279	21 / 22

# Cimarron River Drainage

GMUs 64, 65

Maps: GMU 64, Uncompahgre

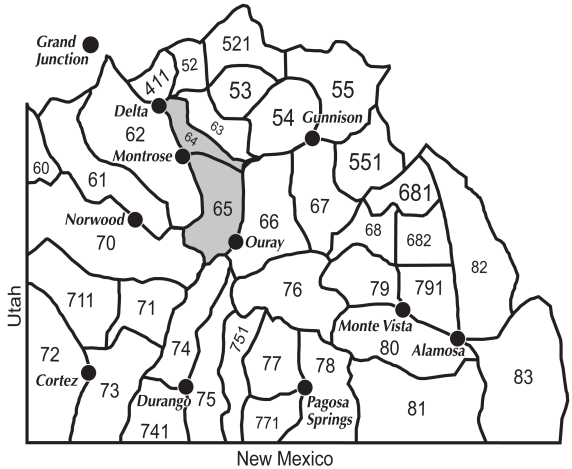
National Forest

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 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. Parts of GMU 65 are easily accessible by road, so hunting pressure near roads 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 good hunting potential.

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

### Deer Hunting

After declining after the tough winters of 2007-09, the deer population appears to have stabilized. Biologists are confident that the population could rebound quickly so long as winters and summer drought are not too severe.

For the best bucks, hunt at 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 in the lower terrain, but rewards can be great for hunters willing to go into higher and more challenging terrain.

**Estimated deer population: 7,500**

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

## 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	0	0	0	0	33	0 / 20
64	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	4	50 / 27
64	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	57	0	0	57	103	55 / 56
64	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	52	0	0	52	92	57 / 57
64	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	0	0	2	2	100 / 67
65	Archery	21	0	0	21	54	39 / 38
65	Muzzle	9	0	0	9	17	53 / 42
65	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	108	0	0	108	222	49 / 48
65	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	132	0	0	132	199	66 / 53
65	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	6	0	0	6	6	100 / 78

## Elk Hunting

The population is slightly above objective and hunting prospects are good. 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: 5,600**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 19 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2012 Elk Hunting Statistics

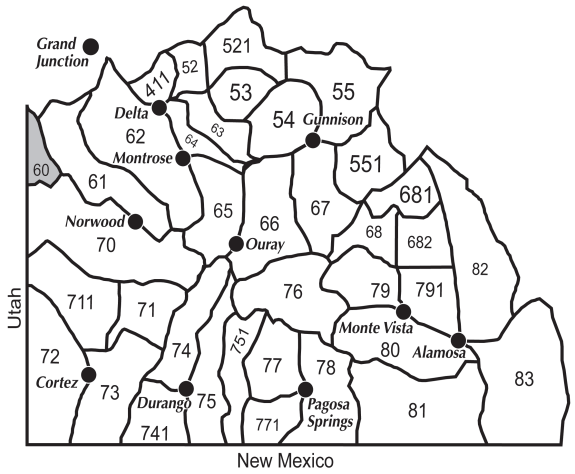
% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2012 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	13	3	0	16	87	18 / 9
64	Muzzle	4	0	0	4	53	8 / 24
64	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	34	20	4	58	170	34 / 37
64	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	28	8	2	38	236	16 / 28
64	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	29	16	3	48	245	20 / 20
64	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	8	17	0	25	70	36 / 31
65	Archery	62	19	0	81	611	13 / 13
65	Muzzle	17	5	0	22	134	16 / 18
65	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	115	64	7	186	396	47 / 35
65	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	109	29	2	140	666	21 / 24
65	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	78	40	0	118	506	23 / 23
65	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	25	38	8	71	145	49 / 34

# Paradox

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

This unit along the Utah line is primarily winter range. Elevations range from 4,500 feet along the Dolores River to 8,600 feet near the Utah line. The GMU is primarily BLM land with 18 percent managed by the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Big game migrate in from Utah; harvest success depends on the weather. Because of migration patterns, population estimates for this GMU are not possible.



## 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.

### 2012 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
60	Archery	18	0	0	18	34	2012 / 5 yr. 53 / 27
60	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	9	33 / 50
60	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	31	5	0	36	73	49 / 53
60	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	33	5	0	38	69	55 / 52
60	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	0	0	0	1	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.

### 2012 Elk Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
60	Archery	4	0	0	4	66	2012 / 5 yr. 6 / 11
60	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	24	0 / 10
60	Early	0	21	4	25	62	40 / 39
60	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	9	0	0	9	30	30 / 25
60	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	17	0	0	17	81	21 / 25
60	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	10	0	0	10	108	9 / 22
60	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	14	8	0	22	48	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 an unsuccessful applications for a first-choice hunt code.
- Always apply for the unit that is 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 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 of licenses 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 2013, 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](http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/BigGame/Statistics).**

# Travel Planning Resources

## Colorado Parks and Wildlife

[www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://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](http://www.fs.fed.us)

\*RD=Ranger District

<b>GRAND MESA-UNCOMPAHGRE-GUNNISON National Forests</b>	<b>Delta</b>	<b>(970) 874-6600</b> <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
<b>SAN JUAN National Forest</b>	<b>Durango</b>	<b>(970) 247-4874</b> <i>www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan</i>
Pagsa RD	Pagosa Springs	(970) 264-1500
Dolores Public Lands Center	Dolores	(970)882-7296
<b>RIO GRANDE National Forest</b>	<b>Monte Vista</b>	<b>(719)852-5941</b>

## Bureau of Land Management Directory

[www.co.blm.gov](http://www.co.blm.gov)

\*FO=Field Office

Southwest Center	Montrose	(970) 240-5300
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

Questions, suggestions about this book?

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