

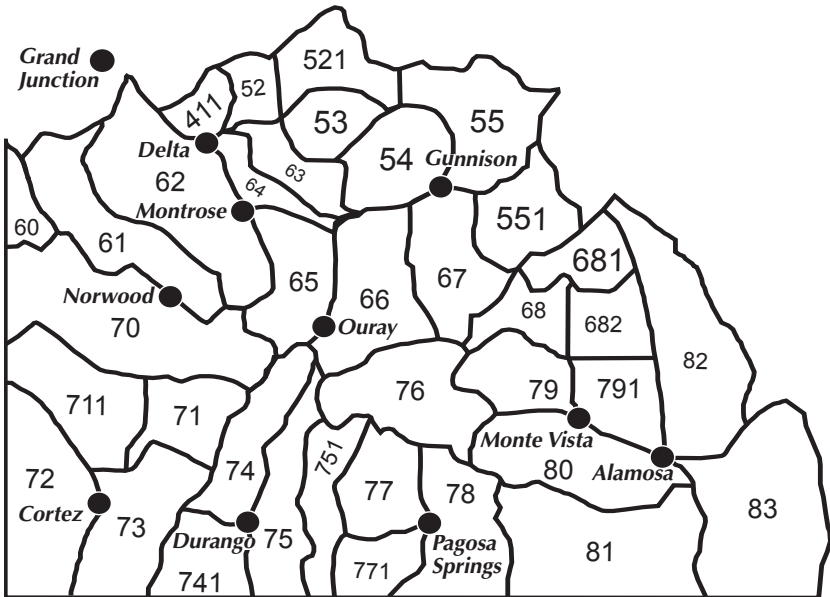
2014

# Big Game Hunting in Southwest Colorado



**Contents:**

- Hunting tips and outlook
- 2013 season harvest statistics
- Camping information
- Travel information
- Important phone numbers and web sites



# 2014 Elk & Deer Season Information

Season Dates	Deer	Elk	License Fees***		Deer Buck/Doe	Elk	
						Bull/ Either-sex	Cow
<b>Archery</b>	Aug. 30 - Sept. 28		<b>Resident</b>	Adult	\$34	\$49	\$49
<b>Muzzle</b>	Sept. 13 - 21			Youth	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$13.75
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Rifle</b>		Oct. 11- 15					
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Rifle</b>	Oct. 18 - 26		<b>Non-Resident</b>	Adult	\$364	\$604	\$454
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Rifle</b>	Nov. 1 - 9			Youth	\$103.75	\$103.75	\$103.75
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Rifle</b>	Nov. 12 - 16		***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. Non-residents now also receive a fishing license.				
Leftover and over-the-counter licenses go on sale Aug. 5, 9 a.m., at CPW offices, license agents, phone 1-800-244-5613., and on-line.							

## Keep Your Wheels Where They Belong™



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

# Know the rules for 2014

Every year new hunting regulations take effect. It's your responsibility to know the rules and specific regulations in the GMU where you are hunting. To check new regulations, read the Colorado 2014 Big Game Brochure, print or on-line. You also can call any CPW office for information -- phone numbers for the Southwest Region offices are on the inside back cover of this booklet.

## **Beware of dead timber**

Fire and beetles have killed timber in some areas of southwest Colorado. Exercise caution in areas of dead standing timber, especially when it's windy and during heavy rain.

## **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 web site at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us) for information and to make reservations.

## **Non-resident big game/fishing license combination**

Non-residents who purchase a big game hunting license now receive a Colorado fishing license at's valid through March 31, 2015. There is no extra charge for the fishing license. Colorado will receive additional federal funds for selling a combination license. All the money goes to wildlife programs.

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

Off-highway vehicles must be used properly. Unfortunately, inappropriate and illegal use of OHVs causes conflicts among hunters and can 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 [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us), or call 1-303-791-1920 for information.

Federal "Travel Management Plans" are written to ensure protection of resources. If you are hunting on public land, contact the local U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management office to obtain current regulations and a Motor Vehicle Use Map. Phone numbers are on the inside back cover of this brochure.

Colorado wildlife officers, U.S. Forest Service officers, BLM rangers and other local law enforcement agencies are authorized to ticket OHV

users who violate rules. Those 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 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 or roadless areas.
- OHVs are generally prohibited from most streets in towns and on some county roads. Check local regulations.
- **Rifles carried on OHVs must be in a case and unloaded completely.**
- 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 a section of 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, 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. 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 2014 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 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 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 rifle 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 with 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 cost a little more, but hunters can use lead bullets of similar weight at the range to sight-in their rifles and to practice.

## **A Challenge for Hunters: Bears**

Black bear populations are healthy throughout the Southwest Region. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is encouraging hunters to try their hand at stalking the native ursines.

In late summer and into the fall, bears are gorging on berries and acorns in order to fatten up for their winter hibernation. They are most likely to be found in patches of scrub oak brush, and in moist areas where there are berry bushes.

Archers and muzzleloaders can purchase a license to hunt only bears. During the rifle seasons, however, bear hunters must also have a deer or elk license in the GMU where they're hunting. All licenses are sold over-the-counter. But there is a cap on these licenses so they are sold on a first come-first served basis

Those who harvest a bear must personally present the carcass for inspection and sealing at a CPW office within five days of harvest. Carcasses must not be frozen. Agency staff will also 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 2013 seasons, for all manners of take, about 74,000 hunters harvested 33,000 mule deer for a 44 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.

## **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 2013 seasons was 20 percent, and a total of 43,600 elk were harvested. A total of 219,000 hunters stalked elk last season. It's estimated that there are about 265,000 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.

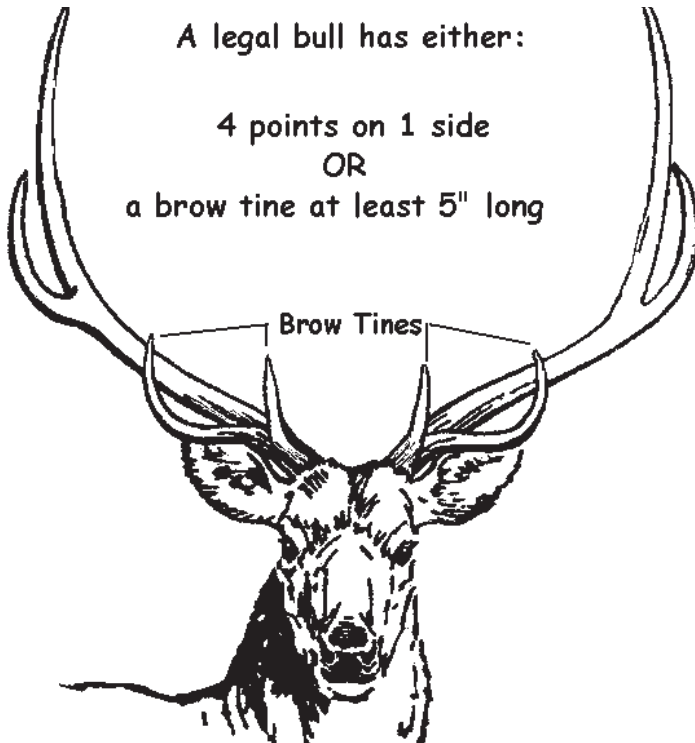
The best shots are delivered in the critical area of the lungs and heart just behind and below the front quarters.

## 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.

**Mule Deer Bucks** -- No antler point restrictions; but antlers must be at least 5 inches long.

**Bull Elk** -- 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.



## **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!

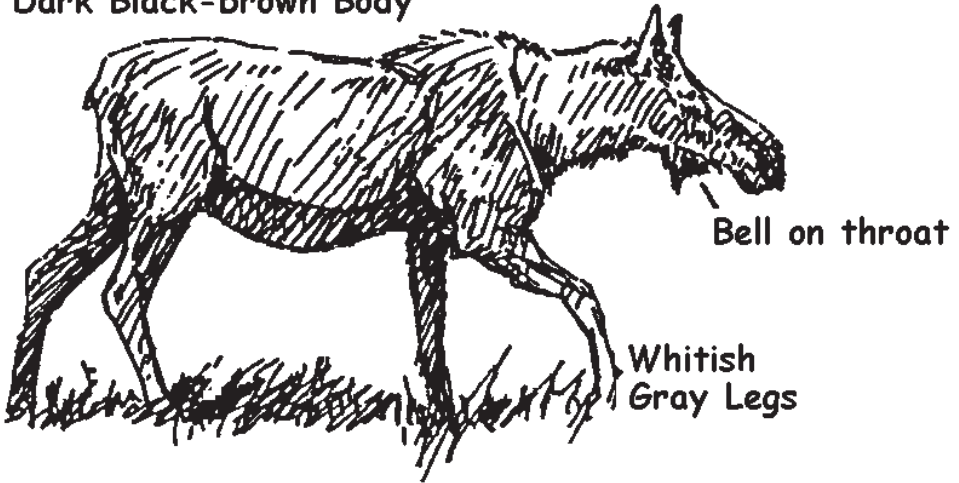
Moose are present throughout the southwest region. Moose favor wetlands but they can be found in any terrain where elk live.

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



Bell on throat

Whitish  
Gray Legs

## 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, 1-303-239-4161.
- 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, see [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 are 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 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Llamas, however, are acceptable.

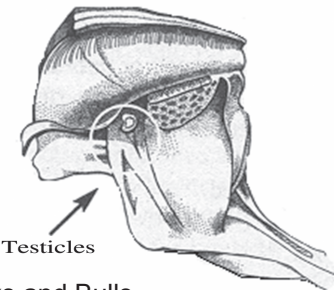
## Evidence of Sex

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.

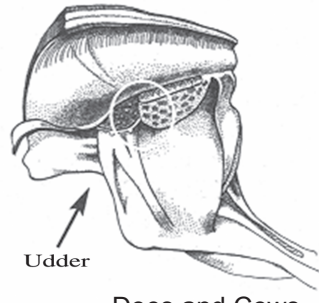
The head or skull plate with both antlers naturally attached must accompany the carcass of a buck or bull while it is in camp or being transported--even when the testicles are used to meet proof of evidence of sex.

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.
- If you bone out the animal, be sure to leave sexual organs attached to a large piece of the meat.
- Retain the top portion of your license during all transport of the animal. 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, enter “videos” in the search window 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 “Buy and Apply” link at the top 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, go to the CPW web site and enter “chronic wasting disease” in the search bar.

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.

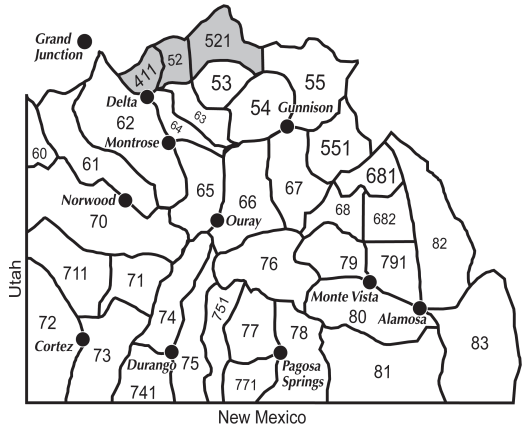


# Southwest Colorado Hunting Outlook

## Grand Mesa

GMUs 411, 52, 521  
 Gunnison CPW: (970) 641-7060  
 Maps: Grand Mesa and Gunnison  
 National Forest

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.



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## 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: 9,600**

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

## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2013 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	4	0	0	4	14	29 / 46
411	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	12	58 / 38
411	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	63	0	0	63	95	66 / 56
411	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	39	0	0	39	69	57 / 64
52	Archery	27	0	0	27	71	38 / 30
52	Muzzle	11	0	0	11	28	39 / 43
52	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	97	0	0	97	194	50 / 47
52	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	80	0	0	80	114	70 / 71
521	Archery	5	0	0	5	42	12 / 24
521	Muzzle	12	0	0	12	23	52 / 31
521	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	87	0	0	87	198	44 / 37
521	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	15	0	0	15	30	50 / 50

## 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): 16,000**

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

### 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
411	Archery	13	3	0	16	170	9 / 8
411	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	56	0 / 0
411	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	14	5	0	19	111	17 / 22
411	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	23	7	0	30	195	15 / 19
411	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	10	12	4	26	191	14 / 14
411	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	0	0	0	38	0 / 13
52	Archery	16	21	4	41	318	13 / 12
52	Muzzle	11	0	6	17	138	12 / 13
52	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	62	0	7	69	160	43 / 31
52	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	62	55	5	122	574	21 / 19
52	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	25	39	4	68	375	18 / 16
52	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	4	4	12	90	13 / 15
521	Archery	102	50	7	159	868	18 / 18
521	Muzzle	34	41	6	81	352	23 / 23
521	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	82	65	5	152	512	30 / 32
521	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	110	190	7	307	1217	25 / 24
521	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	35	122	18	175	537	33 / 26
521	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	3	45	3	51	229	22 / 31

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# Crawford-Fruitland Mesa

GMUs 53, 63

Gunnison CPW: (970) 641-7060

Map: Gunnison National Forest

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.

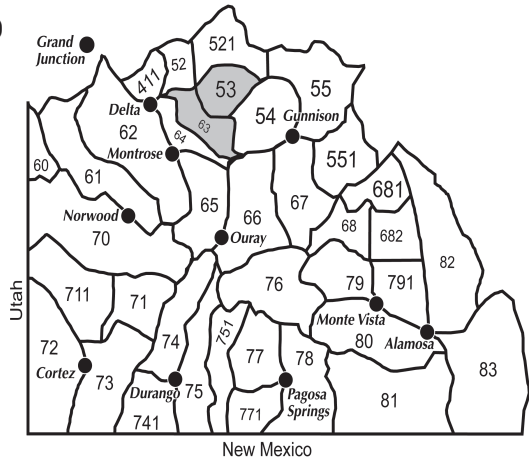
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## Deer Hunting

The deer herds in these units are stable to increasing. License numbers are holding steady at 800. 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: 11,600**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 34 bucks per 100 does**



## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	10	0	0	10	36	28 / 26
53	Muzzle	11	0	0	11	17	65 / 37
53	2 <sup>nd</sup> rifle	104	0	0	104	120	87 / 64
53	3 <sup>rd</sup> rifle	95	0	0	95	102	93 / 82
53	4 <sup>th</sup> rifle	8	0	0	8	8	100 / 95
63	Archery	20	0	0	20	50	40 / 54
63	Muzzle	15	0	0	15	22	68 / 69
63	2 <sup>nd</sup> rifle	89	0	0	89	125	71 / 69
63	3 <sup>rd</sup> rifle	111	0	0	111	118	94 / 80
63	4 <sup>th</sup> rifle	10	0	0	10	10	100 / 88

## Elk Hunting

In an effort to decrease conflicts with agricultural producers in this area, the elk population has been intentionally reduced during recent years. But CPW managers are now slowing down antlerless harvest across the West Elk region. Cow licenses for 2014 were reduced by about 10 percent.

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 and national park 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: 23 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
53	Archery	78	6	10	94	591	16 / 14
53	Muzzle	9	15	2	26	167	16 / 20
53	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	39	28	0	67	379	18 / 27
53	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	102	28	2	132	457	29 / 22
53	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	21	20	0	41	328	13 / 15
53	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	6	20	0	26	113	23 / 27
63	Archery	33	26	3	62	296	21 / 14
63	Muzzle	5	8	0	13	83	16 / 25
63	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	27	60	0	87	218	40 / 35
63	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	34	38	3	75	357	21 / 19
63	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	25	9	0	34	251	14 / 20
63	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	3	20	0	20	62	32 / 39

*Need information? Call a hunt planner at 1-303-291-7526*

# Gunnison Basin

GMUs 54, 55, 551, 66 and 67  
Gunnison CPW: (970) 641-7060  
Map: Gunnison National Forest

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, so please consult the Motor Vehical Use map available through the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM.

Deer populations throughout the Gunnison Basin area are rebounding since the difficult winter of 2007-08 and the population is growing.

Overall, elk populations remain healthy in the basin. Over the last few years, because of conflicts with agricultural producers, and concerns over habitat condition in the northern units (54, 55, 551), CPW has aggressively encouraged the harvest of cows. Currently the number of cow licenses is being reduced in order to start stabilizing the population. One notable change for 2014 is that “List C” cow licenses are no longer available in GMU 54.

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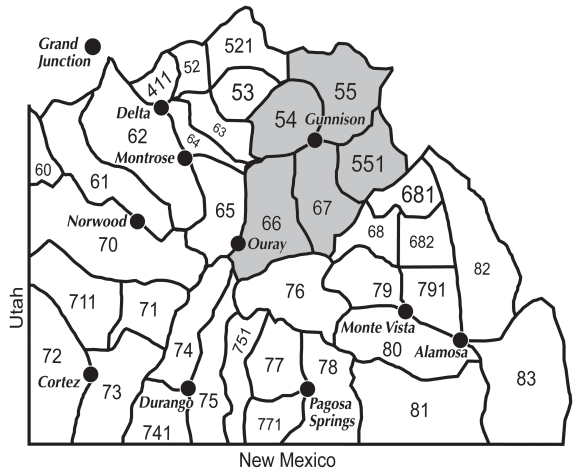
### Deer Hunting

While license allocation remains conservative, the number of licenses was increased slightly as a result of increasing male/female ratios. 1,490 licenses are available for 2014. If recent population trends continue it is likely that additional buck licenses may be available next year, as well as additional doe licenses in some units to keep populations within management objectives.

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: 17,000**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 40 bucks per 100 does**



## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	10	0	0	10	46	22 / 21
54	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	39	33 / 33
54	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	141	0	0	141	234	60 / 45
54	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	40	0	0	40	61	66 / 67
55	Archery	17	0	0	17	46	37 / 26
55	Muzzle	18	0	0	18	27	67 / 58
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	116	0	0	116	153	76 / 56
55	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	37	0	0	37	45	82 / 75
551	Archery	6	0	0	6	18	33 / 34
551	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	12	58 / 51
551	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	61	0	0	61	91	67 / 61
551	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	26	0	0	26	30	87 / 67
66	Archery	9	0	0	9	29	31 / 32
66	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	18	72 / 51
66	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	67	36	2	105	116	91 / 87
66	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	26	21	1	48	53	91 / 91
67	Archery	7	0	0	7	31	23 / 22
67	Muzzle	9	0	0	9	25	36 / 47
67	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	63	41	0	104	123	85 / 79
67	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	26	17	0	43	52	83 / 85

## Elk Hunting

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

The herd management plan for 66 and 67 is being updated. Hunters interested in these units should watch for opportunities to provide comment on future management objectives. CPW will provide notice in local media and we encourage all interested parties to comment. Licenses were reduced for the 2014 based on a local desire to increase elk numbers. Future allocation will be driven by the updated plan. Please, participate in the planning process when the time comes.

In the northern units (54, 55, 551) CPW biologists are closely monitoring the elk herd to ensure sustainability. CPW managers are continuing to work on management prescriptions that are mutually beneficial to hunters and agricultural producers.

**Estimated elk population: 14,400**

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

# 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
54	Archery	40	6	0	46	393	12 / 12
54	Muzzle	0	7	1	8	93	9 / 16
54	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	73	51	8	132	529	25 / 24
54	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	90	72	6	168	578	29 / 21
54	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	105	69	9	183	830	22 / 18
54	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	14	161	30	205	579	35 / 29
55	Archery	52	54	8	114	606	19 / 14
55	Muzzle	0	23	6	29	189	15 / 14
55	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	57	38	16	111	607	18 / 25
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	117	38	6	161	1037	16 / 14
55	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	66	47	9	122	1006	12 / 20
55	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	25	3	30	193	16 / 27
551	Archery	23	2	0	25	190	13 / 12
551	Muzzle	0	18	0	18	94	19 / 19
551	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	17	15	3	35	202	17 / 22
551	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	34	23	5	62	692	9 / 14
551	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	36	20	2	58	653	9 / 15
551	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	9	0	11	106	10 / 22
66	Archery	34	4	0	38	160	24 / 20
66	Muzzle	14	9	0	23	79	29 / 29
66	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	94	37	8	139	447	31 / 31
66	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	59	35	0	94	441	21 / 30
66	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	68	54	2	124	366	34 / 33
66	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	13	31	0	44	188	23 / 34
67	Archery	14	0	0	14	60	23 / 20
67	Muzzle	7	8	0	15	81	19 / 25
67	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	86	12	0	98	391	25 / 27
67	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	59	47	4	110	461	24 / 28
67	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	19	54	14	87	359	24 / 27
67	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	6	57	9	72	302	24 / 36



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# San Luis Valley Area

Monte Vista CPW: (719) 587-6900

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

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 mostly 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)**

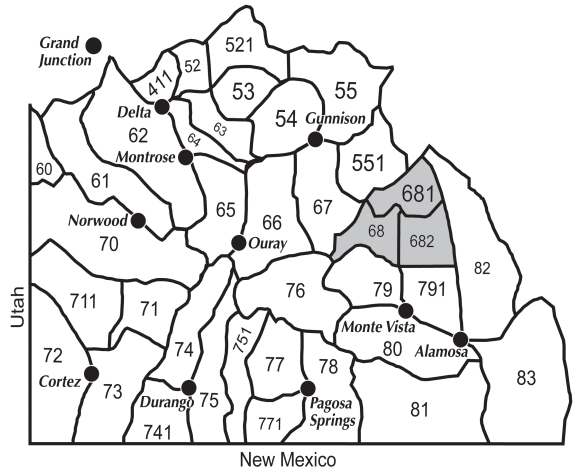
A special DAU north of Highway 160 was created in 2006 to address the growing elk population which could cause damage on high-value agricultural lands. The population objective in the DAU is 0--the only such designation in the state. Bulls are hunted beginning May 15. All licenses are distributed through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



# Saguache

GMUs – 68, 681, 682  
 Monte Vista CPW:  
 (719) 587-6900  
 Map: Rio Grande  
 National Forest

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 slowly but steadily. Because of the high elevation and lack of abundant winter range, the population will not grow substantially. But it is healthy and stable. The buck-to-doe ratio is high for this area, so older age class quality bucks can be found available. Licenses issued total 525, the same as last year.

**Estimated deer population: 4,600**

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

## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	7	0	0	7	35	20 / 18
68	Muzzle	10	0	0	10	39	26 / 31
68	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	46	0	0	46	83	55 / 50
68	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	39	0	0	39	81	48 / 47
68	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	6	0	0	6	14	43 / 42
681	Archery	9	0	0	9	45	20 / 19
681	Muzzle	25	0	0	25	52	48 / 43
681	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	59	0	0	59	80	74 / 71
681	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	71	0	0	71	93	76 / 66
681	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	1	0	0	1	1	100 / 83

## Elk Hunting

Population of elk in these units is healthy, stable 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: 4,700**

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

### 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
68	Archery	24	0	0	24	277	9 / 5
68	Muzzle	12	2	0	14	131	11 / 10
68	1st Rifle	19	0	0	19	245	8 / 17
68	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	15	7	7	29	581	5 / 7
68	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	26	13	5	44	636	7 / 6
68	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	26	0	30	253	12 / 19
681	Archery	11	4	0	15	234	6 / 7
681	Muzzle	4	2	0	6	71	8 / 7
681	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	20	0	0	20	126	16 / 16
681	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	0	13	0	13	427	3 / 9
681	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	9	6	0	15	410	4 / 7
681	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	20	13	33	151	22 / 21



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# Costilla

GMU 83

Monte Vista CPW:

(719) 587-6900

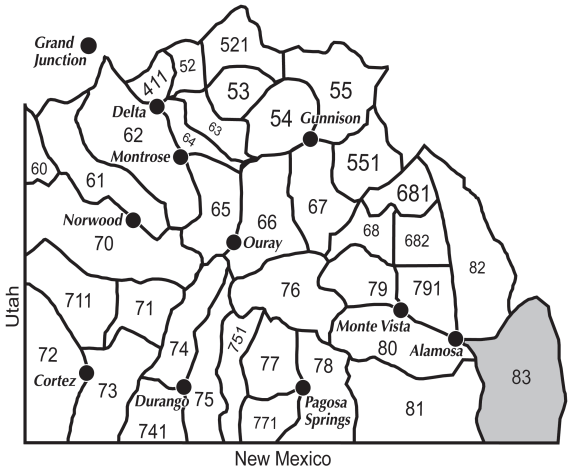
Map: Rio Grande

National Forest

This entire GMU 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.

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 2014 Colorado Big Game Brochure or go to the web site and type “Ranching for Wildlife” into the search bar.



## Deer Hunting

The herd is stable but well below the population objective. The buck-to-doe ratio is higher than most units in the southwest region. Quality bucks can be found.

**Estimated deer population: 1,600**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 38 bucks per 100 does**

## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2013 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	3	0	0	3	6	50 / 89
83	Muzzle	6	0	0	6	6	100 / 94
83	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	21	0	0	21	29	100 / 94
83	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	25	0	0	25	27	93 / 89

**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.

## 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
83	Archery	42	10	3	55	228	24 / 17
83	Muzzle	0	1	0	1	9	11 / 7
83	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	17	2	0	19	68	28 / 38
83	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	52	9	9	61	325	19 / 22
83	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	63	9	0	72	480	15 / 17
83	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	19	6	29	78	37 / 42

## Lower Rio Grande

GMUs – 80, 81

Monte Vista CPW: (719) 587-6900

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

This area has abundant public lands, good access via roads and trails. Hunting pressure can be heavy. With pressure elk and deer will move into areas of rough terrain far from roads when the season starts. Hunters who want to get away from

vehicular traffic can go to the South San Juan Wilderness Area located in the western portion of GMU 81. Hunting quality is good, especially in early seasons.

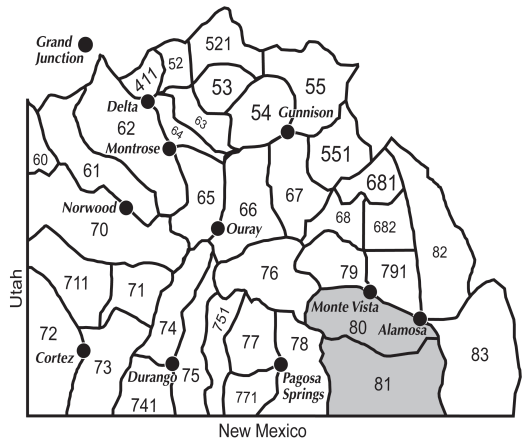
No big game hunting is allowed on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

## Deer Hunting

The population is near objective and stable. The 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. Overall licenses were increased by 30 this year to 880. Bow hunters can usually draw licenses every year; rifle hunters every two to four years.

**Estimated deer population: 5,700**

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



## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	18	0	0	18	84	21 / 21
80	Muzzle	12	0	0	12	65	18 / 27
80	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	89	0	0	89	149	60 / 51
80	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	89	0	0	89	145	61 / 51
80	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	16	0	0	16	28	57 / 60
81	Archery	23	0	0	23	94	24 / 20
81	Muzzle	27	0	0	27	69	39 / 34
81	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	41	0	0	41	87	47 / 52
81	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	62	0	0	62	107	58 / 54
81	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	0	0	2	6	33 / 51

## Elk Hunting

The population is growing and is well above objective. Bull harvest was good in these units during the 2013 seasons and hunting is expected to be good again this year. Either sex archery licenses are valid in these units. OTC archery cow tags are not valid in these units. OTC rifle bull tags are available for second and third seasons. Cow elk licenses are set at a minimum level to increase the size of the herd.

Elk can be difficult to find after receiving hunting pressure and before any snow accumulation. Hunters who work hard to get away from roads and into the thick timber and challenging terrain increase their chances of success.

**Estimated elk population: 10,800**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 17 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
80	Archery	81	9	7	97	746	13 / 10
80	Muzzle	8	15	0	23	121	19 / 13
80	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	78	0	0	78	437	18 / 21
80	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	99	20	0	119	1009	12 / 13
80	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	61	0	0	61	631	10 / 8
80	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	0	0	0	32	0 / 18
81	Archery	98	49	3	150	1031	15 / 12
81	Muzzle	17	28	0	45	157	29 / 22
81	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	71	0	0	71	384	18 / 22
81	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	93	27	7	127	987	13 / 12
81	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	51	2	0	53	566	9 / 8
81	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	3	0	5	23	22 / 14

# Upper Rio Grande

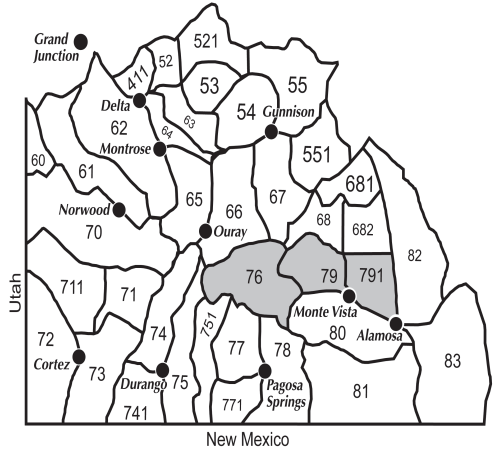
GMUs – 76, 79, 791

Monte Vista CPW: (719) 587-6900

Map: Rio Grande National Forest

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 public land in this unit.

The West Fork fire of 2013 had no effect on the population of this herd. Long-term habitat benefits are anticipated. Hunters in the West Fork fire burn area are asked to beware of falling trees and flash-flood conditions.



## Deer Hunting

Population is growing and the population is near objective. 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. Licenses, 360, remain the same as year.

**Estimated deer population: 1,700**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 22 bucks per 100 does**

## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2013 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	7	0	0	7	17	41 / 13
76	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	10	70 / 45
76	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	9	0	0	9	15	60 / 57
76	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	5	0	0	5	14	36 / 46
79	Archery	0	0	0	0	5	0 / 35
79	Muzzle	5	0	0	5	12	42 / 38
79	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	35	0	0	35	62	56 / 64
79	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	43	0	0	43	84	51 / 62
79	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	10	0	0	10	10	100 / 76

## Elk Hunting

Habitat is excellent but population has been at the lower end of the objective for several years. License numbers, including cow tags, have

been reduced by 300 to help bolster 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 limited for rifle and muzzleloader seasons. GMU 79, however, can be hunted during archery season with an over-the-counter either sex tag. 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: 4,100**

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

### 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
76	Archery	63	4	0	67	131	51 / 33
76	Muzzle	26	0	0	26	64	41 / 41
76	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	67	0	0	67	154	44 / 48
76	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	16	36	6	58	234	25 / 32
76	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	6	42	2	50	226	22 / 34
76	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	35	7	42	190	22 / 34
79	Archery	3	0	0	3	128	2 / 6
79	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	33	0 / 3
79	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	10	4	0	14	209	7 / 9
79	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	13	1	5	19	217	9 / 7
79	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	12	6	0	18	194	9 / 8
79	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	6	4	10	134	7 / 14

## Sand Dunes

GMU 82

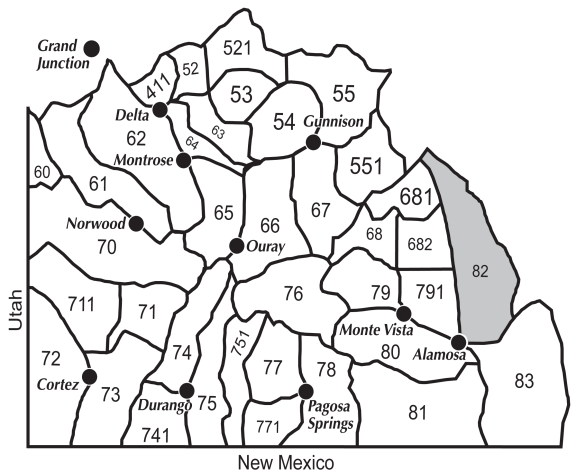
Monte Vista CPW

(719) 587-6900

Map: Rio Grande N.F.

Hunting is prohibited in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, 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 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 wilderness. This range is extremely rugged 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, the population is growing and is slightly above objective. The unit holds a high buck-to-doe ratio. Hunter success is good for those who draw a license. Only 345 licenses are issued, but that number is likely to increase for 2015.

**Estimated deer population: 2,200**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 34 bucks to 100 does**

### 2013 Deer Hunting Statistics

**% Success**

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	6	0	0	6	33	18 / 16
82	Muzzle	22	0	0	22	44	50 / 35
82	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	87	0	0	87	122	71 / 62
82	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	46	0	0	46	75	61 / 62
82	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	3	0	0	3	5	60 / 79

## Elk Hunting

Even though there are high-density concentrations of elk in portions of this area, once the seasons start the animals quickly move to places where hunting is prohibited--federal wildlife refuges and the national park. 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: 4,400**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 33 bulls to 100 cows**

### 2013 Elk Hunting Statistics

**% Success**

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
82	Archery	52	10	0	62	430	14 / 10
82	Muzzle	0	2	0	2	13	15 / 14
82	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	30	32	6	68	257	26 / 20
82	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	33	8	5	46	402	11 / 13
82	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	24	8	5	37	448	8 / 12
82	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	3	10	0	13	191	13 / 24



# Dolores – Dry Creek

GMUs 70, 71, 711, 72, 73  
Montrose CPW (970) 252-6000,  
Durango CPW: (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 and 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 all of the GMUs is declining. Doe licenses have been reduced significantly during the last five years in an attempt to stabilize the population and improve fawn-to-doe ratios. The buck-to-doe ratio is increasing and buck tags were increased 5 to 10 percent for all seasons.

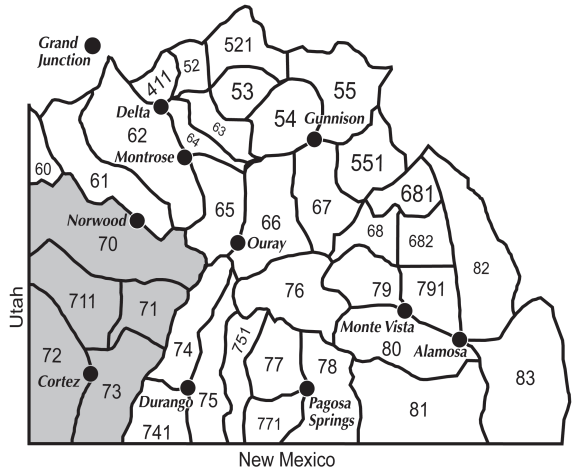
In the southern units, doe license have been decreased the last few seasons but the population continues to decline. Buck-to-doe ratio is better in the south.

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: 20,300 (all five GMUs)**

**3-year sex ratio: 24 bucks per 100 does (GMUs 70, 71, 711)**

**3-year sex ratio: 30 bucks per 100 does (GMUs 72, 73)**



## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	25	0	0	25	94	27 / 27
70	Muzzle	16	0	0	16	61	26 / 36
70	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	279	9	0	288	450	64 / 62
70	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	257	12	0	269	441	61 / 65
70	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	9	0	0	9	29	45 / 70
71	Archery	19	15	0	34	72	47 / 26
71	Muzzle	12	3	0	15	40	38 / 32
71	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	41	4	0	45	170	26 / 34
71	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	60	0	0	60	198	30 / 34
71	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	0	0	2	4	50 / 57
711	Archery	7	0	0	7	43	16 / 21
711	Muzzle	13	0	0	13	37	35 / 37
711	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	93	12	0	105	205	51 / 55
711	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	154	11	3	168	289	58 / 52
711	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	12	0	0	12	20	60 / 39
72	Archery	8	0	0	8	50	16 / 30
72	Muzzle	17	3	0	20	40	50 / 42
72	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	123	4	0	127	213	60 / 61
72	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	97	4	2	103	174	59 / 62
72	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	16	0	0	16	30	53 / 59
73	Archery	13	4	0	17	65	26 / 42
73	Muzzle	24	0	0	24	53	45 / 47
73	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	77	4	0	81	199	41 / 55
73	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	68	11	0	79	137	58 / 58
73	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	5	0	0	5	21	24 / 46

## Elk Hunting

The elk population is holding steady and herds are at objective levels. Animals are distributed widely throughout the eastern portion of 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: 18,900**

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

# 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
70	Archery	90	55	6	151	712	21 / 19
70	Muzzle	0	38	0	38	104	37 / 23
70	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	216	91	6	313	615	51 / 52
70	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	144	137	18	299	1135	26 / 30
70	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	117	117	6	240	1089	22 / 28
70	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	6	62	9	77	299	26 / 38
71	Archery	110	33	6	149	839	18 / 14
71	Muzzle	0	8	4	12	112	11 / 16
71	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	47	100	10	157	490	32 / 32
71	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	103	26	4	133	825	16 / 19
71	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	52	16	1	69	546	13 / 12
71	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	5	0	5	44	11 / 17
711	Archery	37	6	0	43	248	17 / 16
711	Muzzle	0	9	0	9	30	30 / 25
711	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	34	34	0	68	253	27 / 28
711	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	41	10	0	51	553	9 / 14
711	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	97	43	7	147	871	17 / 19
711	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	15	73	2	90	256	35 / 41
72	Archery	13	0	0	13	87	15 / 13
72	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	13	0 / 19
72	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	10	0	0	10	41	24 / 16
72	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	7	0	2	9	143	6 / 13
72	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	14	5	0	19	174	11 / 15
72	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	5	0	3	8	29	28 / 18
73	Archery	10	13	7	30	221	14 / 13
73	Muzzle	0	17	4	21	57	37 / 20
73	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	19	10	10	39	117	33 / 26
73	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	17	8	0	25	243	10 / 16
73	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	15	13	1	28	187	15 / 16
73	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	9	3	12	19	63 / 56



1-877-265-6648

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# Hermosa

GMUs 74, 741

Durango CPW: (970) 247-0855

Map: San Juan National Forest

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 good summer range, but winter range is declining because of development. 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 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!

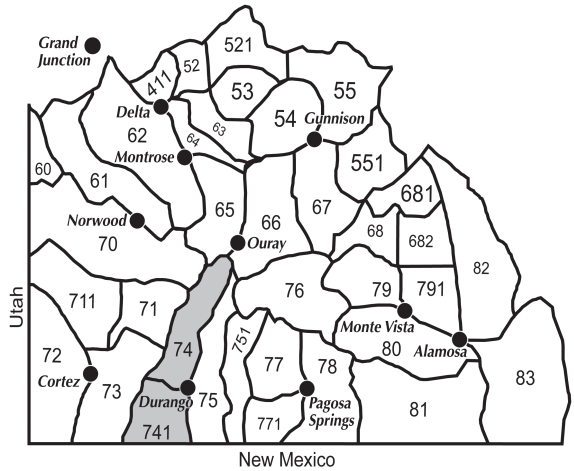
### Deer Hunting

Good fawn production and survival the last several years has helped this population. The 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 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: 4,800**

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



## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
74	rchery	21	0	0	21	74	28 / 23
74	Muzzle	28	0	0	28	70	40 / 36
74	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	43	0	0	43	144	30 / 33
74	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	23	0	0	23	74	31 / 34
74	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	13	0	0	13	29	45 / 26
741	Archery	6	0	0	6	28	21 / 32
741	Muzzle	10	2	0	12	24	50 / 45
741	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	59	49	5	113	167	68 / 65
741	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	92	31	0	123	195	63 / 69
741	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	21	25	0	46	71	65 / 68

## Elk Hunting

The elk herd is below the low end of the objective of 5,000, and population is declining. Calf survival the several years has been poor. CPW is working to increase the population. Consequently, either-sex and cow licenses have been cut. 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. Finding bulls is tough. They have survived by knowing how to avoid hunters. Concentrate on rugged terrain away from other hunters. Weather often dictates the success rate in this area.

**Estimated elk population: 4,100**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 18 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

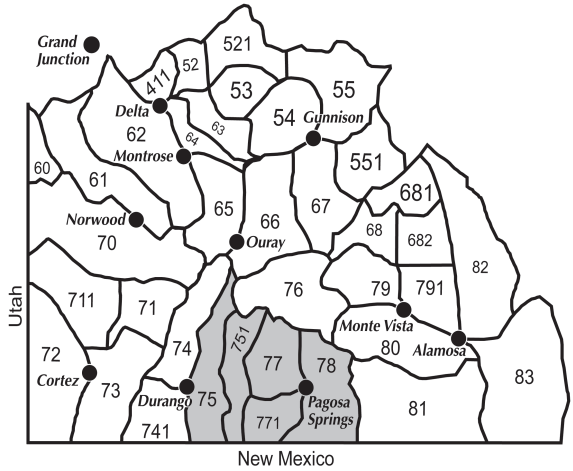
% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
74	Archery	52	24	4	80	666	12 / 12
74	Muzzle	0	2	0	2	27	7 / 16
74	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	45	21	23	89	335	27 / 28
74	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	60	22	2	84	500	17 / 17
74	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	44	11	3	58	344	17 / 16
74	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	0	0	2	67	3 / 13
741	Archery	7	0	0	7	60	12 / 16
741	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	1	0 / 22
741	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	9	2	0	11	49	22 / 23
741	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	4	0	0	4	53	8 / 22
741	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	14	4	0	18	118	15 / 12
741	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	2	0	0	2	17	12 / 12

# San Juan Basin

GMUs 75, 77, 78, 751, 771  
Durango CPW: (970) 247-0855  
Map: San Juan National Forest

Public land and road access is good at mid to 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 concentrate efforts 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.

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

### Deer Hunting

After a few years of cutting license the population appears to be stable with a good buck-to-do ratio. Deer and hunting will be good in these units. The areas with the best deer hunting on public lands are: the HD Mountains, the drainages of the Piedra, Florida and Los Pinos rivers, and lands southeast of Pagosa Springs. A large percentage of the deer in these units initiate north-to-south 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: 28 bucks per 100 does**

## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	20	4	0	24	92	26 / 26
75	Muzzle	32	1	0	33	89	37 / 33
75	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	146	4	0	150	285	53 / 50
75	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	134	8	0	142	236	60 / 56
75	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	44	0	0	44	87	51 / 59
751	Archery	9	11	0	20	88	23 / 23
751	Muzzle	21	0	0	21	57	37 / 28
751	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	60	2	0	62	151	41 / 40
751	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	75	7	1	83	145	57 / 40
751	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	32	3	0	35	49	71 / 63
77	Archery	9	6	0	15	87	17 / 31
77	Muzzle	26	3	0	29	88	33 / 31
77	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	134	5	0	139	356	39 / 38
77	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	75	0	0	75	154	49 / 35
77	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	21	0	0	21	44	48 / 50
771	Archery	0	0	0	0	17	0 / 11
771	Muzzle	2	0	0	2	7	29 / 30
771	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	64	0	0	64	140	46 / 49
771	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	118	0	0	118	203	58 / 54
771	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	33	0	0	33	48	69 / 64
78	Archery	13	11	0	24	80	30 / 35
78	Muzzle	20	3	0	23	88	26 / 36
78	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	121	5	0	126	272	46 / 50
78	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	75	0	0	75	176	43 / 33
78	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	20	0	0	20	30	67 / 51

## Elk Hunting

The management objective is to increase the population. Even though cow licenses were cut in the previous few years the population is not growing. Calf survival has been poor. Cow license were cut again in 2014.

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. 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. Areas south of Pagosa Springs and east of Highway 84 can 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 Rivernorth 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**

## 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
75	Archery	24	10	0	34	404	8 / 8
75	Muzzle	0	5	2	7	32	22 / 10
75	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	58	28	5	91	380	24 / 26
75	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	63	27	7	97	418	23 / 19
75	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	58	16	3	77	490	16 / 18
75	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	8	13	5	26	122	21 / 27
751	Archery	30	11	0	41	284	14 / 10
751	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	28	0 / 11
751	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	25	22	0	47	214	22 / 27
751	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	25	10	5	40	284	14 / 14
751	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	40	29	5	74	366	20 / 18
751	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	6	18	0	24	99	24 / 23
77	Archery	44	13	3	60	412	15 / 11
77	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	36	0 / 11
77	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	117	37	16	170	412	41 / 27
77	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	194	22	2	218	1077	20 / 17
77	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	129	13	0	142	905	16 / 17
77	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	9	11	0	20	84	24 / 18
771	Archery	7	0	0	7	79	9 / 10
771	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	4	0 / 0
771	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	27	0	0	27	81	33 / 37
771	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	20	0	0	20	158	13 / 15
771	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	29	2	0	31	237	13 / 13
771	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	3	0	3	19	16 / 16
78	Archery	98	13	0	111	716	16 / 14
78	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	23	0 / 16
78	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	86	45	2	133	315	42 / 31
78	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	108	16	2	126	685	18 / 17
78	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	116	2	2	120	653	18 / 16
78	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	8	0	12	64	19 / 22



# Uncompahgre Plateau

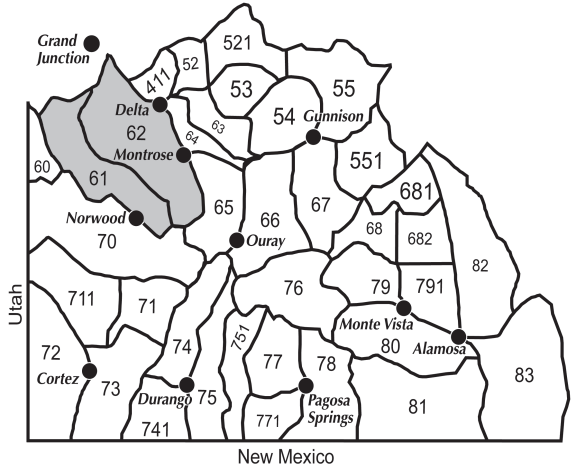
GMUs 61, 62

Map: Uncompahgre National Forest

Montrose CPW: (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. Bowhunters and muzzleloaders should concentrate on U.S. Forest Service lands along the top of the plateau. The highest success rate for bull hunters occurs 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 and is totally limited.

## 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. Mild conditions during the last two winters have helped doe and fawn survival to be about 80 percent, well above average.

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 2012. License allocation remains conservative at 1,390, slightly below 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: 17,300**

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

## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	21	0	0	21	45	47 / 41
61	Muzzle	7	0	0	7	13	54 / 47
61	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	46	6	0	52	114	46 / 52
61	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	67	7	0	74	106	70 / 65
62	Archery	45	0	0	45	173	26 / 30
62	Muzzle	9	0	0	9	28	32 / 39
62	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	229	24	2	255	437	58 / 57
62	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	300	6	0	306	382	80 / 67

## Elk Hunting

Although the elk population is slightly above objective, overall population is declining. Elk are widely distributed across the plateau, but drought appears to be forcing elk to private land at lower elevations. Wet conditions this spring could help hold elk higher this year. Elk also seem to be moving to safe haven in nearby GMU 61 which is a limited unit. It's still recommended that hunters start at high elevation, especially in the early seasons.

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: 10,400**

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

## 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
61	Archery	31	0	0	31	91	34 / 41
61	Muzzle	32	29	0	61	96	64 / 50
61	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	79	29	3	111	210	53 / 58
61	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	70	117	8	195	443	44 / 49
61	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	22	97	0	119	324	37 / 52
61	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	10	42	14	66	221	30 / 51
62	Archery	134	70	9	213	1638	13 / 13
62	Muzzle	27	8	0	35	236	15 / 17
62	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	81	64	12	157	775	20 / 28
62	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	132	42	12	186	1803	10 / 15
62	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	84	97	2	183	1225	15 / 16
62	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	26	39	11	76	278	27 / 23

# Cimarron River Drainage

GMUs 64, 65

Montrose CPW: (970) 252-6000

Maps: GMU 64, Uncompahgre

National Forest

Map: GMU 65, Gunnison

National Forest

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

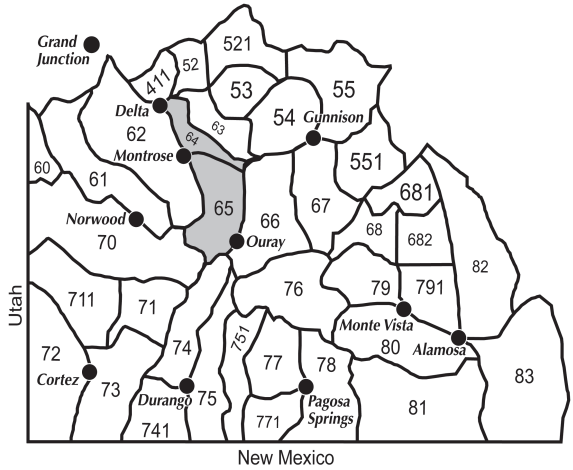
After declining after tough winters during 2008 and 2009, the deer population appears to have stabilized. Biologists are confident that the population will continue to rebound so long as winters and summer drought are not too severe. Harvest rates improved noticeably last year.

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: 8,100**

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

***Need information? Call a hunt planner at 1-303-291-7526***



## 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

% Success

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	0	0	0	0	1	0 / 19
64	Muzzle	4	0	0	4	9	44 / 35
64	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	74	0	0	74	117	63 / 50
64	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	63	0	0	63	105	60 / 56
64	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	0	0	0	0	1	0 / 81
65	Archery	14	0	0	14	64	22 / 31
65	Muzzle	9	0	0	9	10	90 / 56
65	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	121	0	0	121	224	54 / 46
65	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	94	0	0	94	196	48 / 56
65	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	4	0	0	4	6	67 / 72

## Elk Hunting

The population is slightly above objective and growing. 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 to lower elevations.

**Estimated elk population: 7,000**

**3-year estimated sex ratio: 17 bulls per 100 cows**

## 2013 Elk Hunting Statistics

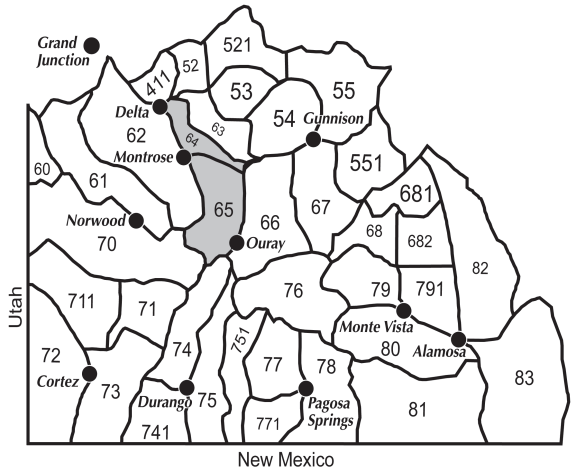
% Success

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	2013 / 5 yr.
64	Archery	6	12	4	22	109	20 / 19
64	Muzzle	4	2	0	6	47	13 / 18
64	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	51	28	5	84	223	38 / 35
64	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	38	16	3	57	254	22 / 23
64	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	20	20	0	40	218	18 / 21
64	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	3	31	2	36	124	29 / 30
65	Archery	55	19	3	77	632	12 / 13
65	Muzzle	21	8	0	29	151	19 / 16
65	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	89	64	12	165	445	37 / 38
65	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	110	29	7	146	606	24 / 22
65	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	71	6	2	79	507	16 / 23
65	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	11	9	3	23	136	17 / 33

# Paradox

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

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. Big game migrate in from Utah; harvest success depends on the weather. Because of migration patterns, population estimates for this GMU are not possible. Chronic wasting disease has been found in deer and elk in Utah.



## 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.

### 2013 Deer Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2013 / 5 yr.
60	Archery	10	0	0	10	35	29 / 35
60	Muzzle	0	0	0	0	6	0 / 44
60	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	31	2	0	33	67	49 / 52
60	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	39	5	0	44	74	59 / 54
60	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	1	0	0	1	5	20 / 40

## 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.

### 2013 Elk Harvest Statistics

GMU	Season	Bulls	Cows	Fawns	Harvest	Hunters	% Success
							2013 / 5 yr.
60	Archery	22	0	0	22	53	42 / 14
60	Muzzle	3	0	0	3	22	14 / 10
60	1 <sup>st</sup> Rifle	5	0	0	5	47	11 / 20
60	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifle	13	0	0	13	67	19 / 23
60	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rifle	19	0	0	19	87	22 / 23
60	4 <sup>th</sup> Rifle	10	4	0	14	45	31 / 34

## 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 require 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 Parks and 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 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: [cpw.state.co.us/Hunting/BigGame/Statistics](http://cpw.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
<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?

Contact: [joe.lewandowski@state.co.us](mailto:joe.lewandowski@state.co.us) or 970-375-6708



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

First Class Mail