

Learn to Hunt and Fish



RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OPPORTUNITIES

Economic Significance of Fishing and Hunting

Fishing and hunting have a total combined economic effect in Colorado of more than \$2.8 billion. Fishing and hunting create more than 26,000 jobs, many in rural Colorado communities. Fishing and hunting licenses account for more than 40 percent of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW's) revenue and fund wildlife and fisheries management throughout our state.

National sportsmen's organizations, fish and wildlife agencies and the outdoor retail industry recognize that there has been a steady decline of hunters and anglers in the United States. The number of hunters in Colorado has been on a decline since a high in 1998. The number of anglers has declined since 1985, although numbers have started to increase after reaching a low in 2000.

CPW works in partnership with state and national organizations to address the decline through programs and opportunities designed to recruit new hunters and anglers.

Quick Facts

Quick Facts for 2014-2015*	
Hunter education students	20,000
Hunter education instructor volunteer hours	28,000
Hunter education classes	750
Hunting and shooting sports-related classes	170
Participants in hunting classes (excluding hunter ed)	13,000
Mentored hunts	100
Huntmaster volunteer hours	9,200
Colorado Archery in the Schools Program schools	119
Dollars awarded to schools for archery equipment	\$35,000
Dollars awarded to improve shooting ranges	\$440,000
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$20,200,000
Beginner and advanced fishing classes	320
Participants in fishing classes	24,500
Free fishing rods given away at events	20,000
Dollars awarded to improve fishing access	\$400,000
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$8,300,000

*estimated



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Hunting and Fishing Education

Hunter Education

Senate Bill 15-226 passed, creating changes to Colorado's hunter education laws. The bill gives authority to the Parks and Wildlife Commission to expand the options for a person to obtain a hunter education certificate and to allow military personnel to test out of hunter education. The bill creates an apprentice hunter program that allows a person who is at least 10 years of age to waive hunter education requirements for one year if he or she is accompanied by a mentor who is at least 18 years of age and meets the certification requirements. Changes will go into effect in the spring of 2016.

Hunter Outreach Mentored Hunts and Seminars

Each year across the state, CPW reaches people who are new to hunting and may need more instruction. New hunters have the opportunity to participate in a mentored hunt where they learn ethical, safe and enjoyable hunting from dedicated volunteers and staff. Both big- and

small-game hunts are conducted. Seminars range from how to hunt, field dressing big game and conversations about ways to share the woods with other outdoor recreationists. Partnerships with local landowners, other agencies, businesses and volunteers are vital to these efforts.

Angler Education

CPW conducts fishing classes around the state to introduce people new to fishing to techniques, places to go and equipment to bring. CPW has expanded classes to include fly fishing, fly tying, ice fishing and family fishing. Through funding from Great Outdoors Colorado, the program is able to provide free fishing equipment to those youth and families who need it in order to try the sport. In the Denver metro area, through a partnership with Denver Water, CPW operates Lake Lehow, which provides a private place for school groups, community groups and people new to fishing to learn from experienced volunteer instructors.

43¹ State Parks

The majority of Colorado's state parks have fishing and hunting opportunities, and many state parks offer facilities and instructors to help people learn more about hunting and fishing. For example, Barr Lake State Park teams up with Ducks Unlimited to offer waterfowl hunting seminars. Cheyenne Mountain State Park has a world-class archery range where the Colorado Bowhunter's Association provides archery hunting programs.

Northwest Region Highlight: Encana Partnership

In the northwest region of the state, CPW partners heavily with local landowners and businesses to offer mentored hunts and seminars. Partners include the Grand Junction VA, High Lonesome Ranch, Three Forks Ranch, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society and many others. One example of these partnerships is with Encana Oil and Gas. Encana provides its property for two cow elk hunts and a turkey hunt. Encana employees are trained as volunteer mentors and conduct the hunts side by side with CPW employees. Encana provides lodging and food and covers all expenses for the participants.

Southwest Region Highlight: San Luis Valley Youth Education and Outreach Daycamps

In the San Luis Valley, kids and parent volunteers can attend a multi-day camp where they learn about wildlife, hunter education, fishing and more. Activities are hands-on and interactive, and participants can choose to earn their hunter education card through a completion test.

Northeast Region Highlight: Novice Hunter Program

The Novice Hunter Program is a partnership with Pheasants Forever that offers recent hunter education graduates the chance to learn more about pheasant hunting in both the classroom and the field. This pilot program is providing valuable data from pre- and post-surveys and license tracking that CPW can analyze to determine success.

Southeast Region Highlight: Outdoor Adventure Weekend

The Outdoor Adventure Weekend brings 23 families from communities in southeastern Colorado to learn outdoor skills, hunting and fishing from CPW and volunteers. Families camp overnight for three days on a private ranch, and go through a modified, hands-on hunter education program designed to spark their interest in hunting.



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¹This includes Lone Mesa State Park which is currently open for limited big-game hunting opportunities through a special permit