

Small Game Hunting



QUICK GUIDE

5 Steps to the Hunt

1. Start With Hunter Education

Hunter Education certification is required to buy or apply for any hunting license if you were born on or after 1/1/1949. CPW offers traditional, online and Bowhunter Education courses. Colorado also honors Hunter Education certifications from all other states and some foreign countries. Colorado also offers an online test-out option for US military personnel and persons 50 years of age or older; which will fulfill the Hunter Education requirement. Apprentice certificates are also available. To learn more or register for a class: cpw.info/hunter-education

2. Choose Your Species

Decide which of the small-game species you would like to hunt. The hunting regulations for the small-game species, including birds, are published in a regulation brochure which is distributed for free and available online and where licenses are sold:

- **Small Game & Waterfowl:** Small-game animals, small-game and migratory birds, ducks and geese. *Also available online in Spanish.* Go to: cpw.info/regulations-brochures

3. Decide Where to Hunt

Colorado is home to a variety of small-game habitat. From the grain fields of the Eastern Plains to the steep slopes of the Rockies and the river bottoms throughout, the small-game hunter can enjoy the challenges of diverse terrain and species during the season. Public-land hunting is plentiful and CPW provides additional walk-in access on registered private lands annually. Walk-in access properties are marked with signage on the properties. Several brochures outline small-game hunting areas:

- Regular Walk-In Atlas
- Late Cropland Walk-In Atlas
- State Recreation Lands (State Wildlife Areas, State Trust Lands and State Parks)

4. Select Your Method

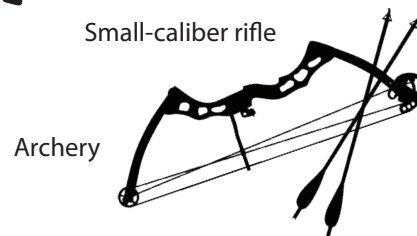
Small-game hunting is a great introduction for the beginner or novice hunter. A variety of firearms, as well as archery equipment, can all be legal methods of take in Colorado. Be sure to check the legal methods of take for your species in the regulations.



Shotgun



Small-caliber rifle



Archery

5. Pick Your Hunting Season

Small game, upland birds and waterfowl all have various hunting seasons associated with each species. By planning a variety of species to hunt, the small-game hunter can hone their hunting skills while enjoying the entire fall and winter seasons. Dove season, which starts Sept. 1, is traditionally called the start of the small-game hunting season.

Small Game Checklist

- Hunter education
- Small-game license
- Harvest Information Program (HIP) #
- Waterfowl stamps (state and federal)
- Regulation brochure(s)
- Essential gear in good condition
- Mark the seasons on your family calendar



Pheasant



Canada goose



White-winged dove



Mallard



Ptarmigan



Fox



Cottontail rabbit



Coyote



Marmot



Abert's squirrel



Badger

License Availability Overview

- **Annual Small-Game license:** March 1–March 31 (13 months)
- **Annual Small-Game and Fishing Combo license:** March 1–March 31 (13 months)
- **One-day and Additional-day Small-Game licenses**
- **Furbearers:** To hunt furbearers (except coyotes; see brochure), you need either:
 1. **Annual Furbearer license:** March 1–March 31 (13 months)
 2. **Furbearer Harvest Permit:** March 1–March 31 (13 months)
 In addition to your small-game license.
- **Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration:** After your license purchase and to hunt, you **MUST** sign up with HIP and write the number on your license. Phone registration is available 7 a.m.–10 p.m., except major holidays, at 1-866-265-6447, or 24/7 at colohip.com. HIP registration is required before you pursue small game, waterfowl, or coyotes. HIP registration is **NOT** required if you are only pursuing furbearers.
- **Waterfowl Stamps:** If you plan to hunt waterfowl, you must purchase two waterfowl stamps:
 1. **Colorado Waterfowl Stamp:** March 1–March 31 (13 months)
 2. **Federal Duck Stamp:** July 1–June 30

Where to Buy a License

- **Online:** cpw.info/buy-apply
- **By Phone:** 1-800-244-5613
- **In Person:** Authorized sales agents and CPW locations

Documents needed: Photo ID, Social Security number (if over 11 years) and proof of Hunter Ed. *For CO residents, proof of residency is required.*

Small Game Season Opportunities

Check exact season dates, more hunting opportunities, bag and possession limits, and hunting area restrictions/boundaries in the regulations brochure online: cpw.info/regulations-brochures

Mentored Youth Hunting

A mentor must be 18 years or older and have met the hunter education requirement. Youth under the age of 16 hunting with a youth small-game license must be accompanied by a mentor. While small-game hunting, youth and mentors must be able to see and hear each other without binoculars, radios or other aids. During youth waterfowl hunting days, mentors must accompany youth and not hunt.

Resources for Learning: cpw.state.co.us

- Regulation Brochures: Online with helpful videos or in print
- Small-Game webpage: Things To Do/Hunt
- State Wildlife Area Maps: Places To Go/Maps
- Skills-Building Classes and Seminars: Class calendar online
- Shooting Ranges: More than 100 ranges for practice
- How-To Videos: Small-Game Hunting webpage
- Enews: Reminders delivered straight to your inbox
- Colorado Outdoors magazine and blog: Timely hunting, fishing and parks articles

Hunting Property Reservations

Some state wildlife areas offer or require hunting reservations. See the Small-Game & Waterfowl brochure for specifics.

Hunt Planning Help: call 303-291-7526, Mon.–Fri. 8–5 (MT)

SPECIES	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
SMALL-GAME ANIMALS & FURBEARERS							
Abert's squirrel							
Rabbit, Hare							
Coyote							
Fox, Pine Squirrel							
Marmot							
Wyoming Ground Squirrel							
Badger, Fox, Mink, Skunk, etc.							
SMALL-GAME BIRDS & MIGRATORY SMALL-GAME BIRDS							
Band-tailed pigeon							
Chukar Partridge							
Mourning, White-Winged Dove							
Greater Prairie-Chicken							
Dusky (Blue) Grouse							
Greater Sage-Grouse: Season 1							
Greater Sage-Grouse: Season 2							
Mountain Sharp-Tailed Grouse							
Pheasant: E of I-25							
Pheasant: W of I-25							
Quail: W of I-25							
Quail: E of I-25 & N of I-70							
Quail: E of I-25 & S of I-70							
Ptarmigan: Season 1							
Ptarmigan: Season 2							