

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 \$3.2 billion. Fishing and hunting create more than 25,000 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 was on a decline since a high in 1998, but has been increasing yearly since a low in 2014. 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 2018*	
Hunter education students	17,400
Hunter education instructor volunteer hours	18,678
Hunter education classes	645
Hunting and shooting sports-related classes	98
Participants in hunting classes (excluding hunter ed)	3,118
Mentored hunts	94
Huntmaster volunteer hours	7,623
Colorado Archery in the Schools Program schools	295
Dollars awarded to schools for archery equipment	\$42,800
Dollars awarded to improve shooting ranges	\$370,800
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$19,800,000
Beginner and advanced fishing classes	250
Participants in fishing classes	7,000
Free fishing rods given away at events	9,600
Dollars awarded to improve fishing access	\$400,000
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$9,100,000

*estimated



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Hunting and Fishing Education

Hunter Education

CPW Hunter Education offers a variety of options for taking a hunter education course in Colorado. Traditional classes that are 10-12 hours are the most popular option. Additionally offered are internet conclusion courses that require the student to do the majority of the course work online in advance of an in-person and abbreviated hands-on portion of a course. Those individuals over the age of 50 or those active duty or retired military have the option of a test-out. CPW is working to meet the needs of its students in the most convenient ways possible. The vast majority of classes in Colorado are led by a group of dedicated volunteer instructors.

Hunter Outreach: Mentored Hunts, Clinics, Seminars and Online Educational Content

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.

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. Helpful online educational content is also available directly from the programs page at: cpw.state.co.us/hunteroutreach. Partnerships with local landowners, other agencies, businesses and volunteers are vital to these efforts.

Angler Education

Every year, in every corner of the state, CPW staff works to introduce people to the pastime of fishing. Fishing is an activity that acts as a gateway into many of the important functions of CPW and wildlife resources in Colorado. CPW staff and volunteers, with funding from Great Outdoors Colorado, offer clinics to families, school groups, organizations, summer camps, and young adults. The clinics offered range from basic bait fishing to ice fishing to fly fishing, and some even include opportunities to clean and cook your catch. Fishing continues to be the doorway for many people into the exciting world of wildlife and state parks in Colorado.

42¹ 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: Novice Hunting

The Northwest region remains focused on introducing novice hunters to the world of hunting. We are fortunate to continue to work with very dedicated ranches (including ranching for wildlife ranches), landowners, ranch managers, and local businesses to help make our program possible. We offer various seminars with topics including fly fishing 101, archery 101, survival 101, trapping 101, elk 101, turkey 101 to name a few. We also offer clinics focused on fishing, archery and shotgun skills, turkey, waterfowl, and pheasant hunts, as well as big game hunts for women, youth, disabled Veterans, and novice men.

Southwest Region Highlight: Partnerships in Area 18

In the Southwest Region, Area 18 partners with landowners to provide first time adult and youth hunters opportunities on mentored elk, turkey and bear hunts. As well as mentored hunts, District Wildlife Managers lead multiple seminars annually covering many topics such as bear hunting, small game hunting, wild game processing, and fly fishing. The Area has even gone to the lengths of preparing wild game dinners for new hunters to appreciate the results of a harvest. During the summer months, the staff also invite women to Lone Cone State Wildlife Area to participate in a weekend Cast and Blast and continue the learning with Cast and Blast 2. Area 18 continues to focus on reaching new audiences and getting more sportsmen in the field.

Northeast Region Highlight: Novice Hunter Program

The NE Region completed a 5 year pilot program looking at recruitment and retention within the Novice Hunter Program. Staff and volunteers engaged with 767 new hunters, teaching how to hunt pheasants through seminars, wing-shooting clinics, field exercises, and mentored pheasant hunts. Program evaluations and license buying patterns demonstrate high satisfaction and retention. The NHP program will continue targeting 80-100 new hunters each year.

Southeast Region Highlight: Outdoor Adventure Weekend

The Outdoor Adventure Weekend brings 50 kids and their families from communities across southeastern Colorado to learn outdoor skills, hunting and fishing from CPW and volunteers. Families camp overnight for three days on a State Wildlife Area or private ranch, and go through an in depth, hands-on hunter education program designed to spark their interest and knowledge in hunting.

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



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