

Proposed Redline Changes

2025 - 2029 Big Game Season Structure

- Issue Stage - March/April 2024
- Draft Stage - May 2024
- Final Stage - June 2024

I. Early Seasons - Deer and Elk West of I-25 and GMU 140

A. Archery - Deer and Elk Season Structure West of 1-25 and GMU 140	
NEW	<p>Season Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archery season will be a 29-day season and shall open September 2nd and close September 30th, annually. • Alternative 1: Optional August archery deer season: There will be the option for an additional stand-alone limited archery antlered deer season that opens August 15th and closes September 1st, annually. This season would be optional and determined on a herd-by-herd basis (DAU/GMU), allowing for regional flexibility. This optional antlered deer season would not replace the existing 29-day antlered, either-sex, and antlerless deer archery seasons. • Alternative 2: Status quo (Remove the optional August archery antlered deer season)
NEW	<p>License Distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elk- Unlimited either-sex, antlered, and antlerless archery elk licenses are available in certain units. Either-sex and sex-specified archery elk licenses can be limited geographically to meet biological or social management objectives. Over the Counter (OTC) List B archery elk antlerless licenses are only valid in units that also have List B rifle elk antlerless licenses. • Alternative 1: Elk- All archery elk licenses are limited either-sex, antlered or antlerless and issued by Game Management Unit (GMU)/Data Analysis Unit (DAU). • Alternative 2: Elk- Unlimited resident either-sex, antlered, and antlerless archery elk licenses can be made available in certain units. Resident Over-the-Counter (OTC) List B archery elk antlerless licenses are only valid in units that also have List B rifle elk antlerless licenses. Nonresident archery elk licenses are limited either-sex, antlered or antlerless and issued by Game Management Unit (GMU)/Data Analysis Unit (DAU). • <u>Deer</u>- All archery deer licenses are limited either-sex or limited buck and issued by Game Management Unit (GMU)/Data Analysis Unit (DAU).
B. Muzzleloader – Deer and Elk Season Structure West of I-25 and GMU 140 (Status Quo)	
	<p>Muzzleloader season shall open on the second Saturday of September and run for 9 days.</p> <p><u>Elk</u>- Limited either-sex or limited antlered, and limited antlerless; all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.</p>

	Deer- Limited either-sex or limited antlered, and limited antlerless in some GMUs; all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.
C. Season Dates	
NEW	<p>Archery season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025 - 2029: August 15 - September 1 annually (optional, antlered deer only). ● 2025 - 2029: September 2 - September 30, annually. <p>Muzzleloader season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 09/13 - 09/21 ● 2026: 09/12 - 09/20 ● 2027: 09/11 - 09/19 ● 2028: 09/09 - 09/17 ● 2029: 09/08 - 09/16

II. High Country Deer

D. High Country Deer (Status Quo)	
	High country deer season - Limited 9-day antlered deer season, in high country or wilderness portions of select deer units, opening the first Saturday of September or the second Saturday of September to avoid opening Labor Day weekend.
E. Season Dates	
	<p>High country deer season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 09/06 - 09/14 ● 2026: 09/12 - 09/20 ● 2027: 09/11 - 09/19 ● 2028: 09/09 - 09/17 ● 2029: 09/08 - 09/16

III. Plains Deer Seasons (East of I-25 except GMU 140)

Historically, season structure for deer east of I-25 (excluding GMU 140) has differed from those seasons west of I-25 and GMU 140. The timing and length of seasons in this region have been adjusted to accommodate the different pattern of land ownership, agricultural practices including the timing of crop harvesting, weather, and the size of deer populations in the eastern plains. Prior to deer licenses being limited statewide, they were limited east of I-25 excluding GMU 140. The limited Season Choice license will be retained in specified units. The Season Choice license allows hunting in any or all of the seasons in the specified plains unit(s) until the license is filled.

F. Archery - Plains Deer Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	<p>Plains archery deer season will open on October 1 and run through December 31; in addition, archery season will close during those time periods when a plains rifle season is ongoing and in those GMUs where a late rifle season is occurring. This could result in two or three splits within the season (3 in units with both regular and late plains rifle deer seasons) to avoid archery/rifle season overlap.</p> <p>All licenses limited, either-sex deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
G. Muzzleloader - Plains Deer Season Structure (Status Quo)	

	<p>Plains muzzleloader season for deer will start the second Saturday of October and run for 9 days.</p> <p>All licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
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H. Rifle - Plains Deer Season Structure (Status Quo)

	<p>Plains rifle deer season shall start on the Saturday of the last full weekend of October and run for 11 days. Late plains rifle deer season shall start on December 1 and run through December 14.</p> <p>All licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
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I. Season Dates

	<p><u>Plains archery deer season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/01 - 10/24 and 11/05 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 10/24 and 11/05 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 ● 2026: 10/01 - 10/23 and 11/04 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 10/23 and 11/04 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 ● 2027: 10/01 - 10/29 and 11/10 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 10/29 and 11/10 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 ● 2028: 10/01 - 10/27 and 11/08 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 10/27 and 11/08 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 ● 2029: 10/01 - 10/26 and 11/07 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 10/26 and 11/07 - 12/31 OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31 <p><u>Plains muzzleloader deer season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/11 - 10/19 ● 2026: 10/10 - 10/18 ● 2027: 10/09 - 10/17 ● 2028: 10/14 - 10/22 ● 2029: 10/13 - 10/21 <p><u>Plains rifle deer seasons shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/25 - 11/04 ● 2026: 10/24 - 11/03 ● 2027: 10/30 - 11/09 ● 2028: 10/28 - 11/07 ● 2029: 10/27 - 11/06 <p><u>Late Plains rifle deer season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025 - 2029: December 1 - December 14, annually.
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IV. Plains Elk Seasons (East of I-25 except select GMUs)

J. Archery - Plains Elk Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	The plains archery elk season will be a 29-day season and shall open September 2 nd and close September 30 th , annually.
K. Muzzleloader - Plains Elk Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	Plains muzzleloader season for elk (currently in GMUs 104, 133, 134, 141, and 142) will remain aligned with the general muzzleloader season dates west of I-25 (including GMU 140). This season will open the 2 nd Saturday in September and run for 9 days.
L. Rifle - Plains Elk Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	Plains rifle elk season - In those GMUs east of I-25 (except for select GMUs, presently 104, 133, 134, 140, 141 & 142). Opens September 1 and runs through January 31, either-sex. All legal methods of take are permitted.
M. Season Dates	
	<p><u>Plains archery elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025 - 2029: September 2 - September 30, annually. <p><u>Plains muzzleloader elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 09/13 - 09/21 ● 2026: 09/12 - 09/20 ● 2027: 09/11 - 09/19 ● 2028: 09/09 - 09/17 ● 2029: 09/08 - 09/16 <p><u>Plains rifle elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025 - 2029: September 1 - January 31st, annually.

V. Regular Rifle Deer and Elk Seasons

N. First Regular Rifle Optional Deer and Elk Season (NEW)	
NEW	<p>Season dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternative 1: 5-day season opening the first Saturday after October 9th, followed by a 2-day break. Deer and elk combined season, but deer hunting is optional. ● Alternative 2: 5-day season opening the first Wednesday after October 8th, followed by a 5-day break. Deer and elk combined season, but deer hunting is optional. <p>License Distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All elk licenses are limited. Either-sex and antlered elk licenses issued by GMU/DAU; antlerless elk licenses may be offered in DAUs over the population objective.
NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All optional deer licenses are limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.
O. Second Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season (NEW)	
NEW	<p>Season dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternative 1: 9-day season, followed by a 5-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday and includes two full weekends. ● Alternative 2: 9-day season, followed by a 5-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday and includes two full weekends. <p>License Distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternative 1: Status quo. Unlimited licenses available for antlered elk in OTC units. Limited either-sex or limited antlered elk licenses available in remaining limited units. All antlerless elk licenses are limited. Limited licenses issued by GMU/DAU. ● Alternative 2: Phased Approach to limit OTC rifle. Various ideas were considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In conformity with the decision to limit OTC archery, either-sex, antlered and antlerless elk licenses are limited and issued by GMU/DAU. Hunt code license quotas would be set high enough to meet demand. Quota reductions to address crowding concerns would not occur until clear objectives were established. b. Resident and nonresident OTC licenses are restricted to the DAU scale instead of a statewide scale. OTC hunters must only hunt the GMUs that are valid on their license, which are specific to a single DAU. c. Staff considered, but did not support, limiting OTC geographically on a case-by-case basis (like we have been doing for archery). d. Staff considered, but did not support, OTC with Caps licenses. ● All deer licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.
NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternative 1: 9-day season, followed by a 2-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday. ● Alternative 2: 9-day season, followed by a 2-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday. <p>License Distribution:</p>
P. Third Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season (NEW)	

<p>NEW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternative 1 - Status quo: Unlimited licenses available for antlered elk in OTC units. Limited either-sex or limited antlered elk licenses available in remaining limited units. All antlerless elk licenses are limited. Limited licenses issued by GMU/DAU. ● Alternative 2: Phased Approach to limit OTC rifle. Various ideas were considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In conformity with the decision to limit OTC archery, either-sex, antlered and antlerless elk licenses are limited and issued by GMU/DAU. Hunt code license quotas would be set high enough to meet demand. Quota reductions to address crowding concerns would not occur until clear objectives were established. b. Resident and nonresident OTC licenses are restricted to the DAU scale instead of a statewide scale. OTC hunters must only hunt the GMUs that are valid on their license, which are specific to a single DAU. c. Staff considered, but did not support, limiting OTC geographically on a case-by-case basis (like we have been doing for archery). d. Staff considered, but did not support, OTC with Caps licenses. ● All deer licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.
<p>Q. Fourth Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season (Status Quo)</p>	
<p>5 day season. Deer and elk combined season, but deer hunting is optional.</p> <p>All licenses limited. Limited either-sex or limited antlered, and limited antlerless; all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.</p>	
<p>R. Whitetail Deer Hunting Seasons (Status Quo)</p>	
<p>Portions of the state may offer both limited and unlimited whitetail deer hunting opportunities.</p>	
<p>S. Season Dates</p>	
<p>NEW</p>	<p>Alternative 1:</p> <p><u>First regular rifle elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/11 - 10/15 ● 2026: 10/10 - 10/14 ● 2027: 10/16 - 10/20 ● 2028: 10/14 - 10/18 ● 2029: 10/13 - 10/17 <p><u>Second regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/18 - 10/26 ● 2026: 10/17 - 11/25 ● 2027: 10/23 - 10/31 ● 2028: 10/21 - 10/29 ● 2029: 10/20 - 10/28 <p><u>Third regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 11/01 - 11/09 ● 2026: 10/31 - 11/08 ● 2027: 11/06 - 11/14 ● 2028: 11/04 - 11/12 ● 2029: 11/03 - 11/11 <p><u>Fourth regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 11/12 - 11/16 ● 2026: 11/11 - 11/15 ● 2027: 11/17 - 11/21 ● 2028: 11/15 - 11/19

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2029: 11/14 - 11/18 <p>Alternative 2:</p> <p><u>First regular rifle elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/15 - 10/19 ● 2026: 10/14 - 10/18 ● 2027: 10/13 - 10/17 ● 2028: 10/11 - 10/15 ● 2029: 10/10 - 10/14 <p><u>Second regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/25 - 11/02 ● 2026: 10/24 - 11/01 ● 2027: 10/23 - 10/31 ● 2028: 10/21 - 10/29 ● 2029: 10/20 - 10/28 <p><u>Third regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 11/08 - 11/16 ● 2026: 11/07 - 11/15 ● 2027: 11/06 - 11/14 ● 2028: 11/04 - 11/12 ● 2029: 11/03 - 11/11 <p><u>Fourth regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 11/19 - 11/23 ● 2026: 11/18 - 11/22 ● 2027: 11/17 - 11/21 ● 2028: 11/15 - 11/19 ● 2029: 11/14 - 11/18
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VI. Late Rifle Elk

T. Late Rifle Elk (Status Quo)	
	There will be the option for limited antlerless seasons, with licenses issued by GMU/DAU, as needed to achieve population objectives. Season lengths are variable within the time frame by GMU/DAU and set annually.
U. Season Dates	
	<p><u>Late rifle elk season shall lie within the following dates:</u></p> <p>Alternative 1: (Based on the end date of the Regular Rifle seasons)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 11/17 - 01/31 ● 2026: 11/16 - 01/31 ● 2027: 11/22 - 01/31 ● 2028: 11/20 - 01/31 ● 2029: 11/19 - 01/31 <p>Alternative 2: (Based on the end date of the Regular Rifle seasons)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 11/24 - 01/31 ● 2026: 11/23 - 01/31 ● 2027: 11/22 - 01/31 ● 2028: 11/20 - 01/31

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2029: 11/19 - 01/31
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VII. Private Land Only (PLO) Deer and Elk

V. PLO Deer (Status Quo)	
	<p>There will be the option for limited either-sex and antlerless deer licenses issued by GMU/DAU as needed to achieve population objectives.</p> <p>There will be the option for PLO buck licenses where necessary to distribute antlered hunting opportunity between private and public lands, with PLO licenses issued by GMU/DAU, during the regular rifle season, including plains regular rifle seasons.</p>
W. PLO Elk (Status Quo)	
	<p>There will be the option for limited either-sex and antlerless elk licenses issued by GMU/DAU as needed to achieve population objectives.</p> <p>There will be the option for PLO either-sex elk licenses where necessary to distribute antlered hunting opportunity between private and public lands, with PLO licenses issued by GMU/DAU, during the regular rifle season, including plains regular rifle seasons.</p>
X. Season Dates	
	<p><u>PLO deer, and elk shall lie within the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 - 2029: August 15 - January 31st, annually.

VIII. Moose

The moose season shall be divided into three “manner of take” seasons. These include archery, muzzleloader and rifle.

Antlered or either-sex moose licenses will be “season choice” licenses, valid for all “manner of take” seasons, provided the license is unfilled and the appropriate method of take is used.

NEW - Antlerless moose licenses are not season choice and must be hunted in the specific hunt code dates drawn. Quota for antlerless moose will “float” between the seasons, with the season issued being based on the successful applicant’s hunt code selection.

Y. Archery Moose Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	The archery moose season will open the first Saturday after Labor Day in September and run through the close of the archery deer and elk season.
Z. Muzzleloader Moose Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	9-day season concurrent with muzzleloader deer and elk.
AA. Rifle Moose Season Structure (NEW)	
	14-day season, with fixed dates of October 1-14 th , annually.
NEW	There will be the option for an additional late season for antlerless moose, valid for all regular rifle deer and elk seasons (with no hunting during the breaks between seasons) when necessary to meet management objectives.
BB. Season Dates	
	<p><u>Archery moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 09/06 - 09/30 • 2026: 09/12 - 09/30 • 2027: 09/11 - 09/30 • 2028: 09/09 - 09/30

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2029: 09/08 - 09/30 <p><u>Muzzleloader moose season shall be the following dates (assuming current BGSS):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 09/13 - 09/21 • 2026: 09/12 - 09/20 • 2027: 09/11 - 09/19 • 2028: 09/09 - 09/17 • 2029: 09/08 - 09/16 <p>NEW <u>Antlered and antlerless rifle moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 - 2029: October 1 - October 14th, annually. <p>NEW <u>Alternative 1: concurrent antlerless rifle moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 10/11 - 10/15 and 10/18 - 10/26 and 11/01 - 11/09 and 11/12 - 11/16 • 2026: 10/10 - 10/14 and 10/17 - 10/25 and 10/31 - 11/08 and 11/11 - 11/15 • 2027: 10/16 - 10/20 and 10/23 - 10/31 and 11/06 - 11/14 and 11/17 - 11/21 • 2028: 10/14 - 10/18 and 10/21 - 10/29 and 11/04 - 11/12 and 11/15 - 11/19 • 2029: 10/13 - 10/17 and 10/20 - 10/28 and 11/03 - 11/11 and 11/14 - 11/18 <p><u>Alternative 2: concurrent antlerless rifle moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 10/15 - 10/19 and 10/25 - 11/02 and 11/08 - 11/16 and 11/19 - 11/23 • 2026: 10/14 - 10/18 and 10/24 - 11/01 and 11/07 - 11/15 and 11/18 - 11/22 • 2027: 10/13 - 10/17 and 10/23 - 10/31 and 11/06 - 11/14 and 11/17 - 11/21 • 2028: 10/11 - 10/15 and 10/21 - 10/29 and 11/04 - 11/12 and 11/15 - 11/19 • 2029: 10/10 - 10/14 and 10/20 - 10/28 and 11/03 - 11/11 and 11/14 - 11/18
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IX. Pronghorn

CC. Archery Pronghorn Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	<p>The archery pronghorn season shall be a 37-day season, with fixed dates annually beginning August 15th. August dates will be for bucks only, with buck and doe (either-sex) hunting in September.</p> <p>Licenses will be unlimited, except for in certain limited units, and will be issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
DD. Muzzleloader Pronghorn Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	<p>The muzzleloader pronghorn season shall be a 9-day season, limited buck and limited doe, statewide licenses (some units closed), with fixed dates annually in September and a small fixed number of licenses. Unit-specific limited licenses may be issued in those units that have low overall numbers of pronghorn licenses for all methods of take.</p>
EE. Rifle Pronghorn Season Structure	
	<p>The rifle pronghorn season shall be a 9-day season, opening on the first Saturday in October, with limited buck and limited doe licenses issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
NEW	<p>Alternative 1: Optional second rifle pronghorn season - There will be the option for a 9-day second rifle season, opening on the third Saturday in October, when necessary to meet biological or social management objectives. All licenses will be limited and issued by GMU/DAU.</p> <p>Alternative 2: Status quo (Remove the optional second rifle pronghorn season).</p>
FF. Optional Late Rifle Pronghorn Season Structure	

NEW	Late seasons vary in length, starting no earlier than November 1 , closing no later than January 31, annually.
GG. Season Dates	
	<p><u>Archery pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025 - 2029: 08/15 - 08/31, annually (bucks only) ● 2025 - 2029: 09/01 - 09/20, annually (either-sex) <p><u>Muzzleloader pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025 - 2029: 09/21 - 09/29, annually <p><u>Rifle pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <p>First Season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/04 - 10/12 ● 2026: 10/03 - 10/11 ● 2027: 10/02 - 10/10 ● 2028: 10/07 - 10/15 ● 2029: 10/06 - 10/14 <p>NEW Second Season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 10/18 - 10/26 ● 2026: 10/17 - 10/25 ● 2027: 10/16 - 10/24 ● 2028: 10/21 - 10/29 ● 2029: 10/20 - 10/28

X. Mountain Lion

HH. April Mountain Lion Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	There may be an April season in select GMUs, opening April 1 and closing April 30 th . Unlimited licenses will be sold that span both the regular and April seasons. GMUs/DAUs close to hunting, once annual harvest limit is reached.
II. Fall Mountain Lion Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	A fall mountain lion season that opens with the 1 st rifle elk season and ends with the close of the 4 th rifle deer/elk combined season. Licenses only valid during open rifle deer and elk seasons, with season participation rules for those hunting west of I-25 or in GMU 140. Pursuit with hounds is not legal. *Implementation of season will be delayed until supporting management process is developed and will be restricted to select DAUs/GMUs as determined by management need.
JJ. Regular Mountain Lion Season Structure (Status Quo)	
	Opens the day following the closing of the 4 th regular rifle deer/elk season, closing on March 31 st . Unlimited licenses will be sold that span both the regular and April seasons. GMUs/DAUs close to hunting once the annual harvest limit is reached.
KK. Season Dates	
	<p><u>April mountain lion season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 - 2029: 04/01 - 04/30, annually <p><u>Fall mountain lion season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 - 2029: Season dates will be provided in the future, pending management discussions and after seasons are implemented in regulations. <p><u>Alternative 1: Regular mountain lion season shall be the following dates: (Based on the end date of the Regular Rifle seasons)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 11/17 - 03/31/2026 • 2026: 11/16 - 03/31/2027 • 2027: 11/22 - 03/31/2028 • 2028: 11/20 - 03/31/2029 • 2029: 11/19 - 03/31/2030 <p><u>Alternative 2: Regular mountain lion season shall be the following dates: (Based on the end date of the Regular Rifle seasons)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025: 11/24 - 03/31/2026 • 2026: 11/23 - 03/31/2027 • 2027: 11/21 - 03/31/2028 • 2028: 11/20 - 03/31/2029 • 2029: 11/18 - 03/31/2030

XI. Black Bear

LL. Archery Black Bear Season (NEW)	
NEW	<p>Archery bear season opens on September 2 and closes on September 30, annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to reduce or suppress, hunters with an archery deer or elk license can purchase an “add-on” archery bear license (unlimited in quota), with associated season participation restrictions. Limited bear-only archery licenses also available. For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, all archery bear licenses can be limited and available through the draw.
MM. Muzzleloader Black Bear Season (NEW)	
NEW	<p>Muzzleloader bear season runs for 9 days concurrent with the muzzleloader deer and elk season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to reduce or suppress, hunters with a muzzleloader deer or elk license can purchase an “add-on” muzzleloader bear license (unlimited in quota), with associated season participation restrictions. Limited bear-only muzzleloader licenses also available. For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, all archery bear licenses can be limited and available through the draw.
NN. Rifle Black Bear Seasons (NEW)	
NEW	<p>Limited September Rifle: 28-day season, fixed dates, licenses issued by DAU/GMU, no season participation restrictions, unfilled licenses may not be used during the regular deer and/or elk seasons.</p> <p>Concurrent rifle bear season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concurrent rifle bear season opens with 1st rifle elk and ends with close of 4th rifle deer/elk combined season. Licenses valid only during open rifle deer or elk seasons (no hunting during breaks). For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to reduce or suppress, hunters with a rifle deer or elk license can purchase an “add-on” rifle bear license (unlimited in quota). Unlimited, OTC bear-only rifle licenses also available. For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, all rifle bear licenses can be limited and available through the draw.
OO. PLO Black Bear Season (NEW)	
NEW	<p>PLO rifle bear season has the earliest opening date of September 2 and the latest ending date with the close of 4th rifle deer/elk season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to reduce or suppress, PLO rifle bear licenses can be unlimited, OTC issued by DAU/GMU; no season participation restrictions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, PLO rifle bear licenses can be limited and issued by DAU/GMU. Limited PLO licenses will be available through the draw with no season participation restrictions.
PP. Plains Black Bear Season (Status Quo)	
	<p>Plains rifle bear season in select plains GMUs, opening September 2 and closing with close of 4th rifle deer/elk season.</p> <p>Unlimited, OTC licenses issued by DAU/GMU; no season participation restrictions.</p>
QQ. Season Dates	
	<p><u>Archery bear season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 - 2029: September 2 - 30th, annually. <p>Muzzleloader bear season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025: 09/13 - 09/21 2026: 09/12 - 09/20 2027: 09/11 - 09/19 2028: 09/09 - 09/17 2029: 09/08 - 09/16 <p><u>September rifle bear season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 - 2029: September 2 - 30th, annually. <p><u>Alternative 1: Concurrent rifle bear seasons shall be the following dates:(Based on the Regular Rifle seasons)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025: 10/11 - 10/15 and 10/18 - 10/26 and 11/01 - 11/09 and 11/12 - 11/16 2026: 10/10 - 10/14 and 10/17 - 10/25 and 10/31 - 11/08 and 11/11 - 11/15 2027: 10/16 - 10/20 and 10/23 - 10/31 and 11/06 - 11/14 and 11/17 - 11/21 2028: 10/14 - 10/18 and 10/21 - 10/29 and 11/04 - 11/12 and 11/15 - 11/19 2029: 10/13 - 10/17 and 10/20 - 10/28 and 11/03 - 11/11 and 11/14 - 11/18 <p><u>Alternative 2: Concurrent rifle bear seasons shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025: 10/15 - 10/19 and 10/25 - 11/02 and 11/08 - 11/16 and 11/19 - 11/23 2026: 10/14 - 10/18 and 10/24 - 11/01 and 11/07 - 11/15 and 11/18 - 11/22 2027: 10/13 - 10/17 and 10/23 - 10/31 and 11/06 - 11/14 and 11/17 - 11/21 2028: 10/11 - 10/15 and 10/21 - 10/29 and 11/04 - 11/12 and 11/15 - 11/19 2029: 10/10 - 10/14 and 10/20 - 10/28 and 11/03 - 11/11 and 11/14 - 11/18 <p><u>PLO rifle bear seasons shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 - 2029: September 2 - September 30th, annually and October 1 - end of 4th regular rifle deer/elk combined season, annually. <p><u>Alternative 1: Plains rifle bear seasons shall have the following dates: (Based on the end date of the Regular Rifle seasons)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025: 09/02 - 11/16 2026: 09/02 - 11/15 2027: 09/02 - 11/21 2028: 09/02 - 11/19

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2029: 09/02 - 11/18 <p><u>Alternative 2: Plains rifle bear seasons shall have the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025: 09/02 - 11/23 ● 2026: 09/02 - 11/22 ● 2027: 09/02 - 11/21 ● 2028: 09/02 - 11/19 ● 2029: 09/02 - 11/18
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XII. Youth

RR. Youth Preference (Status Quo)	
	A minimum of 15 percent of limited licenses for doe pronghorn, antlerless and either-sex deer, and antlerless elk in all seasons and manners of take, except public Ranching for Wildlife and Air Force Academy seasons, are available for youth ages 12-17 who meet hunter education requirements.
SS. Youth Participation – Deer and Elk Hunting (Status Quo)	
	Youth hunters with unfilled limited antlerless or either-sex elk or deer licenses will be permitted to hunt any open antlerless rifle season for that species within the same DAU after the original licensed season has closed. This alternative requires youth hunters to convert an unfilled either-sex elk or deer license to an antlerless license for the appropriate species prior to hunting in any antlerless season following the closure of the original licensed season.
TT. Youth Participation – Pronghorn Hunting	
	Youth hunters with unfilled limited doe or either-sex pronghorn licenses will be permitted to hunt designated late pronghorn doe seasons statewide after the original licensed season has closed.