

To: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission  
From: Danielle Isenhardt, Regulations Manager  
Date: April 16, 2018

**Re: 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure, Background and Context**

At the May Commission Meeting, we will be kicking off our discussion about the next Big Game Season Structure (BGSS) for the timeframe of 2020-2024. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) uses a five-year BGSS as a framework for annual big game hunting regulations. The current BGSS is set to expire at the end of 2019.

In this packet, you will find: 1) background information on the planning process and context for development of the next 2020-2024 BGSS and 2) documents from the current 2015- 2019 BGSS for context.

While reviewing this information, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions that you may have (303-866-3203 x4625). I hope you find this information useful as a starting point to guide our discussion in May.

## Background on Colorado's Big Game Season Structure

### Colorado's Big Game Planning Framework

Big game management in Colorado is built on several planning processes, all of which are approved by the Commission:

- **Herd Management Plans (HMPs)** establish long-term objectives for big game species in specific geographic areas (Data Analysis Units) through a public process, using the best scientific information on populations and habitat conditions.
- **Annual license recommendations** are set annually via regulation and are based on HMP objectives.
- **Big Game Season Structure (BGSS)** policies define a framework for achieving HMP objectives through a variety of hunting opportunities and seasons.

### Evolution of Big Game Season Structure

The Division of Wildlife initiated the BGSS process in the early 1970s. Growing demand for hunting seasons for different methods, combined with the initiation of split deer and elk seasons in 1971, called for some structure to provide multi-year consistency in hunting seasons. Over the years, the BGSS process has evolved in response to changing big game management needs and public demands.

#### *1974 - 1994: A Focused Season Framework*

For the first 20 years, BGSS was focused squarely on the length and timing of hunting seasons. This included issues like the number of seasons for each big game species, the harvest method, overlap or separation of different seasons (if any), the number of days between seasons, and the timing of the beginning and ending dates of each season. During this time, the BGSS was set for a three-year timeframe.

#### *1995 - 2000: Expanding the Planning Timeframe*

In 1995, the Wildlife Commission decided to expand BGSS to cover a five-year timeframe. The Commission also began employing a planning process that separated policy decisions from regulations. In this two-stage process, the Commission first agreed to broad policy statements, which staff then translated into specific regulatory proposals.

#### *2000 - 2009: Expanding the Scope*

Growing controversy over a variety of big game management issues in the 1990s led the Commission to expand the scope of the BGSS. Instead of focusing on the essential framework of season length and timing, the process was expanded to include other significant issues like license allocation, preference points, youth opportunity, and restrictions on the use of off-highway vehicles. In addition, the Commission provided a process for citizens to nominate units for totally limited elk hunting. As in earlier cycles, the 2000-2004 and 2005-2009 processes used a two-stage planning approach that separated policy and regulations.

### *2010 - 2014: Back to Basics*

In developing the 2010-2014 BGSS, the Commission made an effort to refocus the process back on the fundamental issues of season length and timing. Public opinion data indicated general satisfaction with the basic arrangement of seasons, and the Commission largely maintained the same calendar and structure. The process did not address the breadth of other big game management issues considered in prior cycles. However, the Commission did add the hybrid draw in an effort to address issues related to preference points. In addition, as in the prior cycle, the Commission considered proposals to designate units for limited elk hunting.

### *2015-2019: Intensive Public Involvement*

For the 2015-2019 BGSS, staff initiated an intensive outreach effort with staff, stakeholders and the public. Again, CPW heard a high degree of satisfaction from hunters with the current season structure, particularly for deer, elk and moose. However, there was strong hunter interest in moving the pronghorn muzzleloader season forward to precede the general rifle season and expanding hunting opportunities for black bear to include a concurrent rifle bear season. Expanding youth big game hunting opportunities was another area of focus, with changes made to youth preference and the addition of deer and elk to the extended youth seasons.

### 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure Proposals

**Public Outreach and Involvement.** Over the years, the Commission and staff have used a variety of methods to inform interested publics about BGSS and to gather input on key issues. These activities have included media outreach, public meetings, targeted stakeholder briefings, quantitative surveys, telephone town halls and focus groups. The breadth of outreach efforts has generally been driven by the scope of each planning process.

With the high level of hunter satisfaction heard during the past two season structure processes, CPW proposes a moderate level of public involvement for 2020-2024 BGSS with a narrowly focused list of discussion topics. Under this approach, harvest survey data could be consulted without including a Big Game Attitudes survey. The number of in-person meetings could also be reduced from one per area, to one west slope and one east slope meeting, supplemented by telephone town halls and a public online event. Media outreach and targeted stakeholder meetings would continue to be utilized.

**Topics.** Potential discussion topics that arose since the last season structure, amongst both staff and members of the public include:

- The overlap and timing of the archery and muzzleloader deer and elk seasons.
- Timing and length of pronghorn and moose seasons.
- Converting over-the-counter (OTC) either-sex (ES) archery elk licenses to bull only licenses in some units of the state.
- Youth hunting opportunities and participation.

Based on the proposed moderate level of public involvement, topics such as license allocation, preference points, and lion hunting should potentially be avoided. With a statewide mountain lion management plan on the horizon and new pay-after-you draw regulations in place, additional time is necessary to fully-evaluate the effects and outcomes

of these efforts before additional changes are implemented. Bighorn sheep and mountain goat hunting have also traditionally not been addressed during this process. Completely limited elk units will continue to be handled through a citizen-initiated proposal process, concurrent with the BGSS process.

CPW staff seeks input from the Commission on this list of topics, which will ultimately be included for public discussion and final consideration.

**Timeline.** Over the coming months, CPW staff will consult with the Commission to establish the parameters for the next season structure as well as update the Commission on our public outreach efforts. Below is a proposed timeline, with the target goal of a Commission-approved 2020-2024 BGSS policy by July of 2019.

Tasks	May 2018	August 2018	September 2018	January 2019	February 2019	March 2019	June 2019	July 2019
Initiate 2020-2024 BGSS discussion with Commission.								
Finalize topic list with the Commission. Start media outreach about upcoming public meetings.								
Update Sportsmen's Roundtable on Commission direction and upcoming meetings.								
Hold public meetings, telephone town hall, and public online event. Harvest survey data is also collected.								
Share feedback from public meetings with Commission and Sportsmen's Roundtable members.								
Present draft of 2020-2024 BGSS to Commission.								
Present final proposal of 2020-2024 BGSS to Commission for approval.								

## 2015-2019 BIG GAME SEASON STRUCTURE

Finalized By Parks and Wildlife Commission - September, 2014

### I. DEER AND ELK SEASON STRUCTURE

Deer and Elk Seasons listed below assume no change to the relative length and timing of high country deer seasons (with a minimal number of licenses), late rifle elk seasons (for population management), private land only hunts (to address game damage) or late season white-tail only seasons offered in select units in southern Colorado.

<b>A. Archery - Deer and Elk Season Structure West of I-25 and GMU 140 (Status Quo)</b>	
	Archery season shall open on the last Saturday in August and run for 30 days.
<b>B. Muzzleloader – Deer and Elk Season Structure West of I-25 and GMU 140 (Status Quo)</b>	
	Muzzleloader season shall open on the second Saturday of September and run for 9 days.
<b>C. Rifle – Deer and Elk Season Structure West of I-25 and GMU 140 (Status Quo)</b>	
For deer and elk, past BGSS have offered a variety of rifle seasons. These have included combinations of an elk-only season and combined deer and elk seasons. The last several BGSS have remained fairly consistent, offering a limited elk-only season, two combined deer/elk seasons (some limited elk GMUs, additional GMUs with Over The Counter (OTC) elk licenses, and all deer licenses limited) and a limited fourth combined deer/elk season (with all deer licenses limited).	
	Rifle seasons shall consist of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Season – 5-day season, followed by a 2-day break – separate limited elk, opening on the first Saturday after October 9.</li><li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Season – 9-day season, followed by a 5-day break – deer and elk combined, opening on a Saturday.</li><li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Season- 9-day season, followed by a 2-day break – deer and elk combined, opening on a Saturday.</li><li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Season – 5-day season, deer and limited elk combined, opening on a Wednesday.</li></ul>

**PLAINS DEER SEASONS East of I-25 excluding 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.

<b>D. Archery - Plains Deer Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	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.
<b>E. Muzzleloader - Plains Deer Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	Plains muzzleloader season for deer will start the second Saturday of October and run for 9 days.
<b>F. Rifle - Plains Deer Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	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.

**PLAINS ELK SEASONS East of I-25 excluding GMU 140**

<b>G. Archery - Plains Elk Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	Plains archery season for elk shall open on the last Saturday of August and run for 30 days.
<b>H. Muzzleloader - Plains Elk Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	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 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in September and run for 9 days.
<b>I. Rifle - Plains Elk Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	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.

## II. MOOSE SEASON STRUCTURE

<b>A. Moose Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	<p>Moose season shall be divided into three “manner of take” seasons. These include Archery, Muzzleloader, and Rifle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Archery</u> – Archery moose season shall open on the first Saturday after Labor Day in September through close of archery deer and elk season.</li> <li>b. <u>Muzzleloader</u> – Muzzleloader moose season shall open on the second Saturday of September and run for 9 days.</li> <li>c. <u>Rifle</u> – Rifle moose season shall open on October 1 and run for 14 days.</li> </ul>

## III. PRONGHORN SEASON STRUCTURE

Late rifle pronghorn seasons are proposed to remain at the current time frame; they will vary in length to suit local management needs, but will close no later than December 31.

<b>A. Archery - Pronghorn Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	<p>Archery pronghorn season shall open on August 15 of each year and run for 37 days, closing on September 20. Buck only hunting will run from August 15 through August 31 and September 1 through September 20 will be an either-sex season in those GMUs not addressed by limited licenses.</p>
<b>B. Muzzleloader - Pronghorn Season Structure (Change for 2015-2019)</b>	
	<p>Muzzleloader pronghorn season shall open on September 21 (the day following closure of archery pronghorn season) and run for 9 days.</p>
<b>C. Rifle - Pronghorn Season Structure* (Status Quo)</b>	
	<p>Rifle season opens the first Saturday of October and runs for 7 days. This alternative avoids conflicts between muzzleloader and archery hunters hunting during the same time period as rifle hunters. The break between muzzleloader and rifle season will vary in length and may occasionally be as short as 1 day.</p>

\* The opening date of the rifle season will float with the calendar on an annual basis; opening of archery and muzzleloader seasons are fixed dates.

## IV. MOUNTAIN LION SEASON STRUCTURE

<b>A. April Mountain Lion Season (Status Quo)</b>	
	April mountain lion season opens April 1 and closes April 30; this season occurs in select GMUs; licenses are unlimited and span both regular and April seasons; harvest is controlled through GMU-specific quotas.
<b>B. Fall Mountain Lion Season (Addition; Implementation To Be Determined)</b>	
	Fall mountain lion season in select units (DAUs/GMUs); opens with the 1 <sup>st</sup> rifle elk season and ends with close of 4 <sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season; licenses valid only during open rifle elk or deer seasons; elk or deer season participation will apply if hunting west of I-25 or in GMU 140. Pursuit with hounds will not be legal. Implementation of a season will be restricted to select DAUs/GMUs as determined by management need.
<b>C. Regular Mountain Lion Season (Status Quo)</b>	
	Regular mountain lion season opens the day following the closing date of the 4 <sup>th</sup> regular rifle deer and elk season (mid-November) and closes on March 31. Licenses are unlimited; harvest is controlled through GMU-specific quotas.

## V. BLACK BEAR SEASON STRUCTURE

<b>A. Archery Black Bear Season (New for 2015-2019)</b>	
	Archery bear season opens on September 2 and closes on September 30; OTC with cap by DAU/GMU; no season participation restrictions; unfilled licenses may not be used during the regular deer and/or elk seasons.
<b>B. Muzzleloader Black Bear Season (Status Quo)</b>	
	Muzzleloader bear season runs for 9 days concurrent with muzzleloader deer and elk season; all licenses over the counter with cap by DAU/GMU; no participation restriction; unfilled licenses may not be used during the regular deer and/or elk seasons.
<b>C. Regular Rifle Black Bear Seasons (New for 2015-2019)</b>	
	Two regular rifle limited bear seasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> season opens September 2 and closes on September 30; limited licenses at the DAU level; unfilled licenses may not be used during the 2<sup>nd</sup> rifle bear season;</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> season opens with 1<sup>st</sup> rifle elk and ends with close of 4<sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season; licenses valid only during open rifle deer or elk seasons; OTC licenses with caps at the bear DAU/GMU level; hunters must have a rifle deer or elk license valid during any date of the regular rifle seasons for the same bear GMU if hunting west of I-25 or in GMU 140. The second rifle bear season increases the length of rifle hunting for bear by allowing hunting during all 4 rifle deer or elk seasons.</li> </ul>

<b>D. PLO Black Bear Season (Status Quo)</b>	
	PLO limited rifle bear season has earliest opening September 2 and latest ending date with close of 4 <sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season; limited licenses issued by DAU/GMU; no season participation restrictions; unfilled licenses may not be used during the regular deer and/or elk seasons.
<b>E. Plains Black Bear Season (Status Quo)</b>	
	Plains rifle bear season in select plains GMUs, opening September 2 and closing with close of 4 <sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season; unlimited licenses.

## VI. YOUTH HUNTING

<b>A. Youth Preference (New for 2015-2019)</b>	
	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.
<b>B. Youth Participation – Deer and Elk Hunting (New for 2015-2019)</b>	
	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.
<b>C. Youth Participation – Pronghorn Hunting (Status Quo)</b>	
	Youth hunters with unfilled limited doe or either-sex pronghorn license will be permitted to hunt designated late pronghorn doe seasons in select units, after the original licensed season has closed.

## VII. PREFERENCE POINTS

<b>A. Preference Point System (Status Quo)</b>	
	No change alternative - until further Commission action relating to license allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the list of hunts participating in the Hybrid Draw will be frozen to include units eligible for the 2014 season;</li> <li>b) the hybrid portion of quota will remain at 20 percent; and</li> <li>c) the list of hunts with 80/20 resident/nonresident allocation of licenses will be frozen to include units eligible for the 2014 season.</li> </ul>

## FIVE YEAR BIG GAME SEASON STRUCTURE DATES FOR 2015-2019

### BEAR

**Archery:** 28 day season, fixed dates, all licenses over the counter with a cap by DAU/GMU, no participation restriction, unfilled licenses may not be used during the regular deer and/or elk seasons.

2015 - 2019: September 2 - September 30, annually

**Muzzleloader:** 9 day season concurrent with muzzleloader deer and elk, all licenses over the counter with a cap by DAU/GMU, no participation restriction, unfilled licenses may not be used during the regular deer and/or elk seasons.

2015: 9/12 - 9/20

2016: 9/10 - 9/18

2017: 9/9 - 9/17

2018: 9/8 - 9/16

2019: 9/14 - 9/22

**Limited September Rifle:** 28 day season, fixed dates, licenses issued by DAU/GMU, no participation restriction, unfilled licenses may not be used during the regular deer and/or elk seasons.

2015 - 2019: September 2 - September 30, annually

**Regular Rifle:** Seasons concurrent with the regular rifle deer and elk seasons; all licenses over the counter with a cap by DAU/GMU, provided hunter also has a rifle deer or elk license valid during any date of the regular rifle seasons for the same bear GMU; bear may be hunted during any of the 4 deer or elk seasons.

2015: 10/10-10/14 and 10/17-10/25 and 10/31-11/8 and 11/11-11/15

2016: 10/15-10/19 and 10/22-10/30 and 11/5-11/13 and 11/16-11/20

2017: 10/14-10/18 and 10/21-10/29 and 11/4-11/12 and 11/15-11/19

2018: 10/13-10/17 and 10/20-10/28 and 11/3-11/11 and 11/14-11/18

2019: 10/12-10/16 and 10/19-10/27 and 11/2-11/10 and 11/13-11/17

**Private Land Only Bear Seasons:** There will be an option for limited licenses issued by GMU/DAU as needed with fixed dates.

2015-2019: September 2 - September 30, annually

AND

2015-2019: October 1-end of 4<sup>th</sup> regular deer/elk season

**Plains Rifle Bear Season:** Opening September 2 through the last day of the 4<sup>th</sup> deer/elk regular rifle season; licenses are unlimited in number, available over the counter.

2015: 9/2 - 11/15

2016: 9/2 - 11/20

2017: 9/2 - 11/19

2018: 9/2 - 11/18

2019: 9/2 - 11/17

## DEER AND ELK

**Archery (west of I-25 & unit 140):** (See "Late Plains Archery Deer" for archery deer seasons east of I-25). There will be a 30 day season, opening the last Saturday in August.

Deer: Limited either sex or limited buck, licenses issued by GMU/DAU

Elk: Unlimited either sex and antlerless, valid in most units OR limited either sex licenses, issued by GMU/DAU (totally limited units) - OTC List B archery elk antlerless licenses would only be valid in GMUs that also have List B rifle elk antlerless licenses.

2015: 8/29 - 9/27

2016: 8/27 - 9/25

2017: 8/26 - 9/24

2018: 8/25 - 9/23

2019: 8/31 - 9/29

**Muzzleloader (west of I-25 & unit 140):** (See "Plains Muzzleloader Deer" for muzzleloader deer seasons east of I-25). There will be a 9 day season, opening on the second Saturday in September.

Deer: Limited either sex or limited antlered and limited antlerless in some GMUs, all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.

Elk: Limited either sex or limited antlered and limited antlerless, all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.

2015: 9/12 - 9/20

2016: 9/10 - 9/18

2017: 9/9 - 9/17

2018: 9/8 - 9/16

2019: 9/14 - 9/22

**High Country Deer:** Limited 9 day antlered deer season, in high country or wilderness portions of selected deer units, opening on the first Saturday of September or the second Saturday of September (to avoid opening Labor Day weekend).

2015: 9/12 - 9/20

2016: 9/10 - 9/18

2017: 9/9 - 9/17

2018: 9/8 - 9/16

2019: 9/7 - 9/15

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**Plains Muzzleloader Deer (east of I-25 except unit 140):** There will be a 9 day season, opening the second Saturday in October. All licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.

2015: 10/10 - 10/18

2016: 10/8 - 10/16

2017: 10/14 - 10/22

2018: 10/13 - 10/21

2019: 10/12 - 10/20

**Plains Regular Rifle Deer (east of I-25 except unit 140):** There will be an 11 day season, opening on the Saturday of the last full weekend of October. All licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.

2015: 10/24 - 11/3

2016: 10/29 - 11/8

2017: 10/28 - 11/7

2018: 10/27 - 11/6

2019: 10/26 - 11/5

**Plains Archery Elk (east of I-25 except unit 140):** There will be a 30 day season, opening the last Saturday in August.

2015: 8/29 - 9/27

2016: 8/27 - 9/25

2017: 8/26 - 9/24

2018: 8/25 - 9/23

2019: 8/31 - 9/29

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**Plains Muzzleloader Elk (select units - currently in GMUs 104,133, 134, 141, and 142):** There will be a 9 day season, opening the second Saturday in September.

2015: 9/12 - 9/20

2016: 9/10 - 9/18

2017: 9/9 - 9/17

2018: 9/8 - 9/16

2019: 9/14 - 9/22

**Plains Rifle Elk (select units - currently in GMUs 104,133, 134, 141, and 142):** Opens September 1 and closes January 31, either sex.

2015 - 2019: September 1 - January 31, annually

**Regular Rifle Deer and Elk Seasons:** four seasons

1st Season - 5 day season, followed by a 2 day break - Separate Limited Elk - Opening on the first Saturday after October 9 - Antlerless licenses may be offered in DAUs over population objective;

2nd Season - 9 day season, followed by a 5 day break - Deer and Elk Combined - Opening on a Saturday;

3rd Season - 9 day season, followed by a 2 day break - Deer and Elk Combined - Opening on a Saturday;

4th Season - 5 day season - Deer and Elk Combined - Opening on a Wednesday.

2015

1st Separate Limited Elk 10/10-10/14

2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/17-10/25

3rd Combined Deer & Elk 10/31-11/8

4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/11-11/15

2016

1st Separate Limited Elk 10/15-10/19

2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/22-10/30

3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/5-11/13

4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/16-11/20

2017

1st Separate Limited Elk 10/14-10/18

2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/21-10/29

3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/4-11/12

4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/15-11/19

2018

1st Separate Limited Elk 10/13-10/17  
2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/20-10/28  
3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/3-11/11  
4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/14-11/18

2019

1st Separate Limited Elk 10/12-10/16  
2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/19-10/27  
3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/2-11/10  
4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/13-11/17

**Late Rifle Elk:** 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.

2015: 11/16 - 1/31  
2016: 11/21 - 1/31  
2017: 11/20 - 1/31  
2018: 11/19 - 1/31  
2019: 11/18 - 1/31

#### **Private Land Only Deer and Elk Seasons**

Private Land Only (PLO) There will be the option for limited antlerless or either-sex deer and limited antlerless or either-sex elk, licenses issued by GMU/DAU as needed to achieve population objectives,  
AND

Private Land Only (PLO) There will be the option for private land only buck licenses and private land 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 seasons, including plains regular rifle seasons.

2015 - 2019: August 15 - January 31 (season lengths variable and set annually). Antlerless/either-sex deer and elk, issued by GMU/DAU.

**Late Plains Archery Deer (east of I-25 except unit 140):** There will be 2 or 3 splits within the season (3 in units with both regular and late plains rifle deer seasons) to avoid archery/rifle season overlap. All licenses limited, either-sex deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.

2015: 10/1-10/23 and 11/4-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
OR 10/1-10/23 and 11/4-12/31  
OR 10/1-11/30 and 12/15-12/31

2016: 10/1-10/28 and 11/9-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
OR 10/1-10/28 and 11/9-12/31  
OR 10/1-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
2017: 10/1-10/27 and 11/8-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
OR 10/1-10/27 and 11/8-12/31  
OR 10/1-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
2018: 10/1-10/26 and 11/7-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
OR 10/1-10/26 and 11/7-12/31  
OR 10/1-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
2019: 10/1-10/25 and 11/6-11/30 and 12/15-12/31  
OR 10/1-10/25 and 11/6-12/31  
OR 10/1-11/30 and 12/15-12/31

**Late Plains Rifle Deer (east of I-25 except unit 140):** There may be a single 14 day season, fixed dates annually. All licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only by GMU/DAU  
2015 - 2019: December 1 - December 14, annually

## MOOSE

**Archery:** first Saturday after Labor Day in September through close of archery deer & elk

2015: 9/12 - 9/27  
2016: 9/10 - 9/25  
2017: 9/9 - 9/24  
2018: 9/8 - 9/23  
2019: 9/7 - 9/29

**Muzzleloader:** 9 day season concurrent with muzzleloader deer & elk

2015: 9/12 - 9/20  
2016: 9/10 - 9/18  
2017: 9/9 - 9/17  
2018: 9/8 - 9/16  
2019: 9/14 - 9/22

**Rifle:** 14 day season, fixed dates annually, first 14 days of October  
2015 - 2019: October 1 - October 14, annually

## PRONGHORN

**Archery:** 37 day season, unlimited licenses (some units limited, licenses issued by GMU/DAU), with fixed dates annually beginning August 15th. Bucks will be hunted only in August, bucks and does (either-sex) hunting in September.

2015-2019: August 15 - August 31, annually bucks only and September 1 - September 20, annually either sex.

**Muzzleloader:** There will 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. Note: there is a potential need for unit-specific limited licenses in those units which have low overall numbers of pronghorn licenses for all methods of take.

2015-2019 September 21 - September 29, annually

**Rifle:** There will be a 7 day season, opening on the first Saturday in October, limited buck and limited doe issued by GMU/DAU.

2015: 10/3 - 10/9

2016: 10/1 - 10/7

2017: 10/7 - 10/13

2018: 10/6 - 10/12

2019: 10/5 - 10/11

**Late Rifle:** Late seasons vary in length, closing no later than December 31, annually.

2015-2019: Dates vary, end no later than December 31, annually.

## **MOUNTAIN LION**

**April Season:** There may be an April season in select GMUs, opening April 1 and closing April 30. Unlimited licenses that span both the regular and April seasons.

2015-2019: April 1 - April 30, annually

**Fall Season:** Opens with 1<sup>st</sup> rifle elk season and ends with close of 4<sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season, licenses valid only during open rifle deer or elk seasons, elk or deer season participation will apply if hunting west of I-25 or in GMU 140. Pursuit with hounds is not legal. Implementation of season to be delayed until supporting management process is developed; will be restricted to select DAUs/GMUs as determined by management need.

2015-2019: Season dates will be provided in the future, pending management discussions and after seasons are implemented in regulations.

**Regular Season:** Opens the day following the closing date of the 4<sup>th</sup> regular rifle deer/elk season, closing on March 31. Unlimited licenses that span both the regular and April seasons.

2015: 11/16 - 3/31/2016

2016: 11/21 - 3/31/2017

2017: 11/20 - 3/31/2018

2018: 11/19 - 3/31/2019

2019: 11/18 - 3/31/2020