



## 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure

Finalized by the Parks and Wildlife Commission - July 2019

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

A. Archery - Deer and Elk Season Structure West of I-25 and GMU 140	
New	Archery season will be a 29-day season and shall open September 2 <sup>nd</sup> and close September 30 <sup>th</sup> , annually.
New	<p><u>Elk</u>- Unlimited either-sex and antlerless archery elk licenses are available in certain units; however, either-sex licenses for elk can be specified as bull-only with limited cow licenses geographically to meet management objectives. Limited either-sex licenses valid in totally limited units. Over-the-Counter (OTC) List B archery elk antlerless licenses only valid in units that also have List B rifle elk antlerless licenses.</p> <p><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).</p>
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> <p><u>Deer</u>- Limited either-sex or limited antlered, and limited antlerless in some GMUs; all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
C. Season Dates	
New	<p>Archery season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-2024- September 2 - September 30, annually.</li> </ul> <p>Muzzleloader season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 09/12- 09/20</li> <li>• 2021- 09/11- 09/19</li> <li>• 2022- 09/10- 09/18</li> <li>• 2023- 09/09- 09/17</li> <li>• 2024- 09/14- 09/22</li> </ul>

## II. High Country Deer

<b>D. High Country Deer (Status Quo)</b>	
	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.
<b>E. Season Dates</b>	
	<p>High country deer season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-09/12- 09/20</li> <li>• 2021-09/11- 09/19</li> <li>• 2022-09/10- 09/18</li> <li>• 2023-09/09- 09/17</li> <li>• 2024-09/07- 09/15</li> </ul>

## III. Plains Deer Seasons -Not Yet Approved

### IV. Plains Elk Seasons (East of I-25 except GMU 140)

<b>J. Archery - Plains Elk Season Structure</b>	
<b>New</b>	The plains archery elk season will be a 29-day season and shall open September 2 <sup>nd</sup> and close September 30 <sup>th</sup> , annually.
<b>K. 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>L. 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.
<b>M. Season Dates</b>	
	<p>Plains archery elk season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-2024- September 2- September 30, annually.</li> </ul> <p>Plains muzzleloader elk season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 09/12- 09/20</li> <li>• 2021- 09/11- 09/19</li> <li>• 2022- 09/10- 09/18</li> <li>• 2023- 09/09- 09/17</li> <li>• 2024- 09/14- 09/22</li> </ul> <p>Plains rifle elk season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-2024: September 1 - January 31<sup>st</sup>, annually.</li> </ul>

## V. Regular Rifle Deer and Elk Seasons

<b>N. First Regular Rifle Elk Season (<i>Status Quo</i>)</b>	
	5-day season, followed by a 9-day break ( <b>New</b> ). Separate limited elk-only season. Opens on the first Saturday after October 9 <sup>th</sup> . Antlerless elk licenses may be offered in DAUs over the population objective.
<b>O. Second Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season</b>	
<b>New</b>	9-day season, followed by a 5-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday and includes two full weekends.  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.  All deer licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.
<b>P. Third Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season</b>	
<b>New</b>	7-day season, followed by a 4-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday.  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.  All deer licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.
<b>Q. Fourth Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season</b>	
<b>New</b>	5-day season. Deer and elk combined season, but deer hunting is optional.  All licenses limited. Limited either-sex or limited antlered, and limited antlerless; all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.
<b>R. Whitetail Deer Hunting Seasons (<i>Status Quo</i>)</b>	
	Portions of the state may offer both limited and unlimited whitetail deer hunting opportunities.
<b>S. Season Dates</b>	
	<p><u>First regular rifle elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 10/10- 10/14</li> <li>• 2021- 10/16- 10/20</li> <li>• 2022- 10/15- 10/19</li> <li>• 2023- 10/14- 10/18</li> <li>• 2024- 10/12- 10/16</li> </ul> <p><u>Second regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 10/24- 11/01</li> <li>• 2021- 10/30- 11/07</li> <li>• 2022- 10/29- 11/06</li> <li>• 2023- 10/28- 11/05</li> <li>• 2024- 10/26- 11/03</li> </ul>

Third regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:

- 2020- 11/07- 11/13
- 2021- 11/13- 11/19
- 2022- 11/12- 11/18
- 2023- 11/11- 11/17
- 2024- 11/09- 11/15

Fourth regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:

- 2020- 11/18- 11/22
- 2021- 11/24- 11/28
- 2022- 11/23- 11/27
- 2023- 11/22- 11/26
- 2024- 11/20- 11/24

2020

- 1st Separate Limited Elk 10/10- 10/14
- 2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/24- 11/01
- 3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/07- 11/13
- 4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/18- 11/22

2021

- 1st Separate Limited Elk 10/16- 10/20
- 2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/30- 11/07
- 3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/13- 11/19
- 4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/24- 11/28

2022

- 1st Separate Limited Elk 10/15- 10/19
- 2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/29- 11/06
- 3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/12- 11/18
- 4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/23- 11/27

2023

- 1st Separate Limited Elk 10/14- 10/18
- 2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/28- 11/05
- 3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/11- 11/17
- 4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/22- 11/26

2024

- 1st Separate Limited Elk 10/12- 10/16
- 2nd Combined Deer & Elk 10/26- 11/03
- 3rd Combined Deer & Elk 11/09- 11/15
- 4th Combined Limited Deer & Elk 11/20- 11/24

## VI. Late Rifle Elk

<b>T. Late Rifle Elk (Status Quo)</b>	
	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.
<b>U. Season Dates</b>	
	<p>Late rifle elk season shall lie within the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-11/23- 01/31</li> <li>• 2021-11/29 -01/31</li> <li>• 2022-11/28- 01/31</li> <li>• 2023-11/27- 01/31</li> <li>• 2024-11/25- 01/31</li> </ul>

## VII. Private Land Only (PLO) Deer and Elk

<b>V. PLO Deer (Status Quo)</b>	
	<p>There will be the option for limited antlerless or either-sex 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>
<b>W. PLO Elk (Status Quo)</b>	
	<p>There will be the option for limited antlerless or either-sex 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>
<b>X. Season Dates</b>	
	<p>PLO deer and elk seasons shall lie within the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 2024- August 15- January 31<sup>st</sup>, annually.</li> </ul>

## VIII. Moose

The moose season shall be divided into three “manner of take” seasons. These include archery, muzzleloader and rifle. Quota for antlerless moose will “float” between the seasons, with the season issued being based on the successful applicant’s hunt code selection. Antlered 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).

<b>Y. Archery Moose Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	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.
<b>Z. Muzzleloader Moose Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	Nine-day season concurrent with muzzleloader deer and elk.
<b>AA. Rifle Moose Season Structure</b>	
	Antlered moose rifle season- 14-day season, with fixed dates of October 1-14 <sup>th</sup> , annually.
New	Antlerless moose rifle season- 14-day season, with fixed dates of October 1-14 <sup>th</sup> , annually, but with the option of moving this season to run concurrent with the regular rifle deer and elk seasons (with no hunting during the breaks between seasons) when necessary to meet management objectives for moose.
<b>BB. Season Dates</b>	
	<p><u>Archery moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-09/12- 09/30</li> <li>• 2021-09/11- 09/30</li> <li>• 2022-09/10- 09/30</li> <li>• 2023-09/09- 09/30</li> <li>• 2024-09/07- 09/30</li> </ul> <p><u>Muzzleloader moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 09/12- 09/20</li> <li>• 2021- 09/11- 09/19</li> <li>• 2022- 09/10- 09/18</li> <li>• 2023- 09/09- 09/17</li> <li>• 2024- 09/14- 09/22</li> </ul> <p><u>Antlered and antlerless rifle moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-2024: October 1 -October 14<sup>th</sup>, annually.</li> </ul> <p><u>Alternative concurrent antlerless rifle moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 10/10- 10/14 and 10/24- 11/01 and 11/07- 11/13 and 11/18- 11/22</li> <li>• 2021- 10/16- 10/20 and 10/30- 11/07 and 11/13- 11/19 and 11/24- 11/28</li> <li>• 2022- 10/15- 10/19 and 10/29- 11/06 and 11/12- 11/18 and 11/23- 11/27</li> <li>• 2023- 10/14- 10/18 and 10/28- 11/05 and 11/11- 11/17 and 11/22- 11/26</li> <li>• 2024- 10/12- 10/16 and 10/26- 11/03 and 11/09- 11/15 and 11/20- 11/24</li> </ul>

## IX. Pronghorn

<b>CC. Archery Pronghorn Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	<p>The archery pronghorn season shall be a 37-day season, with fixed dates annually beginning August 15<sup>th</sup>. 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>
<b>DD. Muzzleloader Pronghorn Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	<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>
<b>EE. Rifle Pronghorn Season Structure</b>	
<b>New</b>	<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>
<b>FF. Optional Late Rifle Pronghorn Season Structure</b>	
<b>New</b>	<p>Late seasons vary in length, closing no later than January 31, annually.</p>
<b>GG. Season Dates</b>	
	<p><u>Archery pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 2024: 08/15- 08/31, annually (bucks only)</li> <li>• 2020- 2024: 09/01- 09/20, annually (either-sex)</li> </ul> <p><u>Muzzleloader pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 2024: 09/21- 09/29, annually</li> </ul> <p><u>Rifle pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 10/03- 10/11</li> <li>• 2021- 10/02- 10/10</li> <li>• 2022- 10/01- 10/09</li> <li>• 2023- 10/07- 10/15</li> <li>• 2024- 10/05- 10/13</li> </ul>

## X. Mountain Lion

<b>HH. April Mountain Lion Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	There may be an April season in select GMUs, opening April 1 and closing April 30 <sup>th</sup> . Unlimited licenses will be sold that span both the regular and April seasons. GMUs/DAUs close to hunting, once annual harvest limit is reached.
<b>II. Fall Mountain Lion Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	A fall mountain lion season that opens with the 1 <sup>st</sup> rifle elk season and ends with the close of the 4 <sup>th</sup> 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.
<b>JJ. Regular Mountain Lion Season Structure (Status Quo)</b>	
	Opens the day following the closing of the 4 <sup>th</sup> regular rifle deer/elk season, closing on March 31 <sup>st</sup> . Unlimited licenses will be sold that span both the regular and April seasons. GMUs/DAUs close to hunting, once annual harvest limit is reached.
<b>KK. Season Dates</b>	
	<p><u>April mountain lion season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 2024: 04/01- 04/30, annually</li> </ul> <p><u>Fall mountain lion season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 2024: Season dates will be provided in the future, pending management discussions and after seasons are implemented in regulations.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regular mountain lion season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020- 11/23- 03/31/2021</li> <li>• 2021- 11/29- 03/31/2022</li> <li>• 2022- 11/28- 03/31/2023</li> <li>• 2023- 11/27- 03/31/2024</li> <li>• 2024- 11/25- 03/31/2025</li> </ul>



## XI. Black Bear

There was expressed interest in increasing bear hunting opportunity as well as bear harvest success to reduce bear/human conflicts and manage bear populations closer to objectives as a part of this season structure. However, bear hunter crowding is also a concern. These bear season structure changes attempt to address these concerns by removing unnecessary barriers to bear hunting whenever possible (such as season participation rules for the rifle seasons or bear license caps for deer or elk license holders), while still limiting bear hunter crowding during the early seasons or in quality deer and elk units.

Additionally, to encourage more hunters to participate in bear hunting, all bear license prices have been reduced: \$100 for nonresident adults, \$38 for resident adults, \$50 for nonresident youth, and \$14 for resident youth. **(New)**

<b>LL. Archery Black Bear Season</b>	
	Archery bear season opens on September 2 and closes on September 30, annually.
<b>New</b>	For those 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.
<b>New</b>	For those DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or in extremely limited elk or deer DAUs, all archery bear licenses will be limited and available through the draw.
<b>MM. Muzzleloader Black Bear Season</b>	
	Muzzleloader bear season runs for 9 days concurrent with the muzzleloader deer and elk season.
<b>New</b>	For those 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.
<b>New</b>	For those DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or in extremely limited elk or deer DAUs, all muzzleloader bear licenses will be limited and available through the draw.
<b>NN. Rifle Black Bear Seasons</b>	
	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.
	Concurrent rifle bear season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concurrent rifle bear season opens with 1<sup>st</sup> rifle elk and ends with close of 4<sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk combined season. Licenses valid only during open rifle deer or elk seasons (no hunting during breaks).</li> </ul>

New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For those 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.</li> <li>For those DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or in extremely limited elk or deer DAUs, all rifle bear licenses will be limited and available through the draw.</li> </ul>
<b>OO. PLO Black Bear Season</b>	
New	<p>PLO rifle bear season has earliest opening September 2 and latest ending date with close of 4<sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season.</p> <p>Unlimited, OTC licenses issued by DAU/GMU; no season participation restrictions.</p>
<b>PP. Plains Black Bear Season</b>	
New	<p>Plains rifle bear season in select plains GMUs, opening September 2 and closing with close of 4<sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season.</p> <p>Unlimited, OTC licenses issued by DAU/GMU; no season participation restrictions.</p>
<b>QQ. Season Dates</b>	
	<p><u>Archery bear season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020-2024: September 2- 30<sup>th</sup>, annually.</li> </ul> <p><u>Muzzleloader bear season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020- 09/12- 09/20</li> <li>2021- 09/11- 09/19</li> <li>2022- 09/10- 09/18</li> <li>2023- 09/09- 09/17</li> <li>2024- 09/14- 09/22</li> </ul> <p><u>September rifle bear season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020-2024: September 2- 30<sup>th</sup>, annually.</li> </ul> <p><u>Concurrent rifle bear seasons shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020- 10/10- 10/14 and 10/24- 11/01 and 11/07- 11/13 and 11/18- 11/22</li> <li>2021- 10/16- 10/20 and 10/30- 11/07 and 11/13- 11/19 and 11/24- 11/28</li> <li>2022- 10/15- 10/19 and 10/29- 11/06 and 11/12- 11/18 and 11/23- 11/27</li> <li>2023- 10/14- 10/18 and 10/28- 11/05 and 11/11- 11/17 and 11/22- 11/26</li> <li>2024- 10/12- 10/16 and 10/26- 11/03 and 11/09- 11/15 and 11/20- 11/24</li> </ul> <p><u>PLO rifle bear seasons shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020-2024: September 2 - September 30<sup>th</sup>, annually and October 1- end of 4<sup>th</sup> regular rifle deer/elk combined season, annually.</li> </ul> <p><u>Plains rifle bear seasons shall have the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020- 09/02- 11/22</li> <li>2021- 09/02- 11/28</li> <li>2022- 09/02- 11/27</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023- 09/02- 11/26</li> <li>• 2024- 09/02- 11/24</li> </ul>
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## XII. Youth

<b>RR. Youth Preference (Status Quo)</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>SS. Youth Participation - Deer and Elk Hunting (Status Quo)</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>TT. Youth Participation - Pronghorn Hunting</b>	
<b>New</b>	Youth hunters with unfilled limited doe or either-sex pronghorn licenses will be permitted to hunt designated late pronghorn doe seasons <b>statewide</b> after the original licensed season has closed.