

Big Game Hunting



QUICK GUIDE



Elk



Mule Deer



Pronghorn

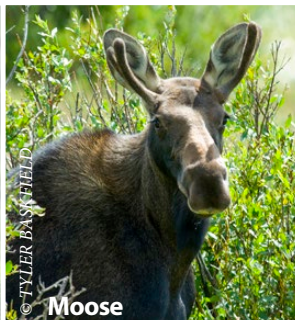


White-Tailed Deer



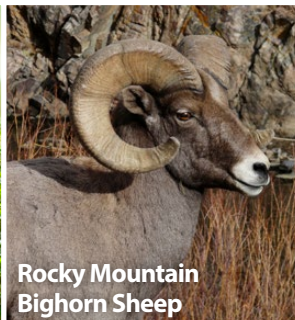
Bear

© KEN ARCHER



Moose

© TYLER BASKFIELD



Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep



Desert Bighorn Sheep

© DONALD JONES, COM



Mountain Goat

Planning Your License Purchase and Hunt

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 offers an online test-out option for US military personnel and persons 50 years of age or older which fulfills the Hunter Education requirement. Apprentice certificates are also available. To learn more or register for a class please visit: cpw.state.co.us/HunterEd.

Choose Your Species

First, decide which of the nine big-game species you'd like to hunt and the gender of the animal you'll pursue. The hunting regulations for each big-game species are published in the regulation brochures released each February:

- **Big Game** (elk, mule deer, white-tail deer, pronghorn, moose and bear)
- **Sheep and Goat:** (Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep and mountain goat)

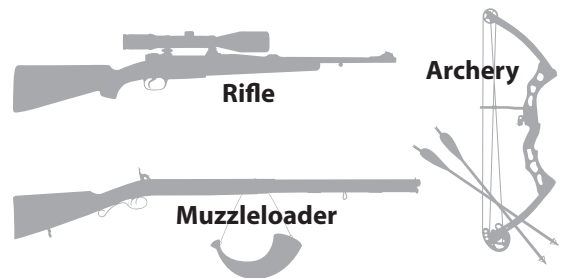
Decide Where to Hunt

Colorado divides the state into distinct hunting areas called Game Management Units or GMUs (see map). To prevent over harvesting, a limited number of licenses by species are assigned to be sold in each GMU. The number of limited licenses available in each GMU is called the

quota. The GMU map and unit descriptions are published in the regulation brochure(s). Colorado boasts 23 million acres of public land with easy hunting access. Private land only licenses are also available.

Select Your Method

Colorado offers distinct seasons for archery, muzzleloader and rifle hunting. Requirements for the various methods and for transporting them in the field are listed in the brochures.



Pick Your Hunting Season

Archery season offers the earliest big-game opportunities, starts in late August and lasts almost a month. Muzzleloader season overlaps the archery season and starts towards the middle of September. Colorado offers four distinct rifle seasons with the opportunity to hunt from October until January. The second and third rifle seasons are the longest and these seasons span two weekends. (See the brochures for specifics and hunt codes.)

When to Apply and/or Buy a Big-Game License

APPLY for the DRAW

March—First, buy a Qualifying License

March—Apply for Limited Licenses

- **Limited Licenses**—(set numbers available by unit)
 - **Public & Private Land Only (PLO) Licenses**
 - **Ranching for Wildlife Licenses**—CO residents only

Application Deadline—1st Tuesday in April each year

BUY

Early August—All licenses on sale

- **Leftover Limited Licenses**—no application needed to purchase any limited license remaining after the Draw
- **Over-the-Counter (OTC) Licenses**—(Unlimited availability or with a cap) Elk, pronghorn, bear and limited whitetail.

Where to Buy (all below) or Apply (Online/Phone)

- Online—cpw.state.co.us (unique identifier & password)
- By Phone—800-244-5613
- In Person—Sales Agents & CPW Offices (photo ID required)

Documents needed: Secure and verifiable ID, Social Security number (over 11yrs. old) and Proof of Hunter Ed w/number (for CO residents, proof of residency required).

Hunt Elk Every Year—no application needed

Colorado offers an unlimited number of Over-the-Counter (OTC) Bull Elk Rifle tags during the second and third seasons. That OTC license allows you to hunt in any of the units shaded in gold during the applicable season. OTC maps are updated each February.

Hunt Preparation

Colorado big game hunting is a curiosity for many and venturing out into the field to pursue game for the first time requires a little planning to be successful. Obtaining your big-game license, building the skills to harvest an animal, making sure you have the right gear, scouting for game and physically preparing for the hunt are all part of the preparation process.

Planning Resources

- Big Game Brochures: Online with helpful videos or print
- Colorado Hunting Atlas: Online virtual scouting
- Skills Building Classes and Seminars: Class calendar online
- Regional Hunt Guides: Unit detail by Region
- Enews: Reminders delivered straight to your inbox
- Elk Hunting University: Online articles and advice
- *Colorado Outdoors* magazine: Timely recreation articles
- Hunt Planner Webpage: Planning checklist and helpful links
- Shooting Ranges: Over 100 ranges for practice and sight-in
- Outfitter Directory: Outfitters offering guided hunts

Hunt Planning Help— Call (303) 291-PLAN (7526)

2019 COLORADO BIG GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT MAP

Over-the-Counter Bull Elk Licenses for 2nd or 3rd Rifle Seasons are available in highlighted units.

