

2026 BIG GAME LICENSE RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY BY SPECIES

April 3, 2026



SUMMARY

- A record low snowpack and mild winter will result in high winter survival of big game animals.
- This is the third consecutive mild winter since the severe winter of 2022-2023.
- Drought degrades range conditions, increasing the importance of managing big game populations within the capability of the habitat and within Herd Management Plan population objective ranges.
- Statewide, CPW is recommending increases in deer, elk, and moose licenses.
- Statewide, CPW is recommending reductions in pronghorn and bear licenses.
- In the 2022-2023 Severe Winter Zone: elk are doing great and are at or above population objectives, mule deer are recovering, and pronghorn still have a ways to go.

DEER

- CPW is recommending 5,600 (+6%) more deer licenses than last year.
- Deer license recommendations are increasing in the Northwest and Southwest Regions.
- CPW is recommending some deer license increases in the Severe Winter Zone, including buck license increases in D-2 (Bears Ears) and buck and doe license increases in D-7 (White River).
- Deer license recommendations are decreasing in the Northeast and Southeast Regions.

ELK

- Excluding licenses converted to and from over-the-counter, we are recommending an increase in all previously existing limited elk licenses of 6,600 (+5%).
- The statewide total of antlerless elk licenses is 59,700 (+6,400, +12%). This is approaching the total prior to the severe winter 2022-2023 of 64,600.
- Substantial increases in female license quotas are recommended in the 2022-2023 Severe Winter Zone for E-2 Bears Ears (+2,000, +76%) and E-6 White River (+4,400, +60%).
- For the second year in a row, CPW is recommending substantial reductions in female elk licenses in Middle Park in E-8 Troublesome (-1,760, -45%) and E-13 Williams Fork (-1,000, -91%).
- Limited nonresident archery quotas (V1A hunt codes), which were formerly over-the-counter (OTC), were set nearly identical to last year at 12,200 (-2%) compared to 12,400 in 2025. Some licenses were moved to new PLO hunt codes in E-20 and E-35.

PRONGHORN

- CPW is recommending 17,700 limited pronghorn licenses, down 200 (-1%) licenses from last year.
- Licenses recommendations are decreasing in the Northeast Region -600 (-16%) and increasing in the other three Regions.
- Drought conditions on the eastern plains are causing some herds to have low fawn production and fall below Herd Management Plan population objective ranges.

MOOSE

- CPW is recommending 761 limited moose licenses, an increase of 42 (+6%) from last year.
- All four Regions went up in moose licenses.
- These recommendations include 323 (+16, +5%) bull and either-sex licenses and 438 (+26, +6%) antlerless licenses.
- Antlerless moose license recommendations are designed to manage moose populations toward Herd Management Plan population objectives and keep moose populations within the capability of their habitat.

BLACK BEAR

- CPW is recommending 19,200 limited black bear licenses, a decrease of 500 licenses (-3%) from last year.
- This second year of the new 2025-2029 season structure will have ten bear DAUs with OTC licenses available during archery, muzzleloader and concurrent rifle seasons
- Overall bear license sales continue a decline seen over the last 3 years. 2025 overall license sales reflect an overall 5% drop from 2024, but all of this comes on the non-resident side. Resident sales have stabilized with no change between 2024 and 2025. NR sales decreased 32% in 2024 followed by a 16% decrease in 2025, likely attributed to the fee increases from \$110 NR in 2023, \$250 NR in 2024 and \$290 in 2025.

DEER

in 2026

# of DAUs	# Hunt Codes
51	1,026

ELK

in 2026

# of DAUs	# Hunt Codes
42	1,090

PRONGHORN

in 2026

# of DAUs	# Hunt Codes
29	319

MOOSE

in 2026

# of DAUs	# Hunt Codes
13	202

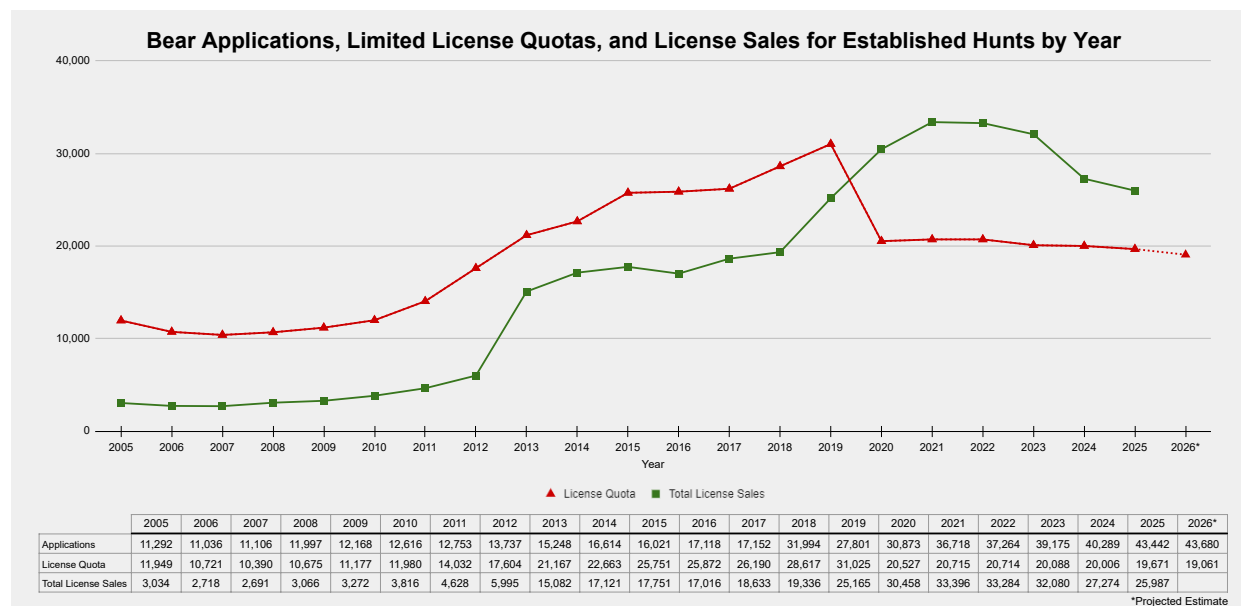
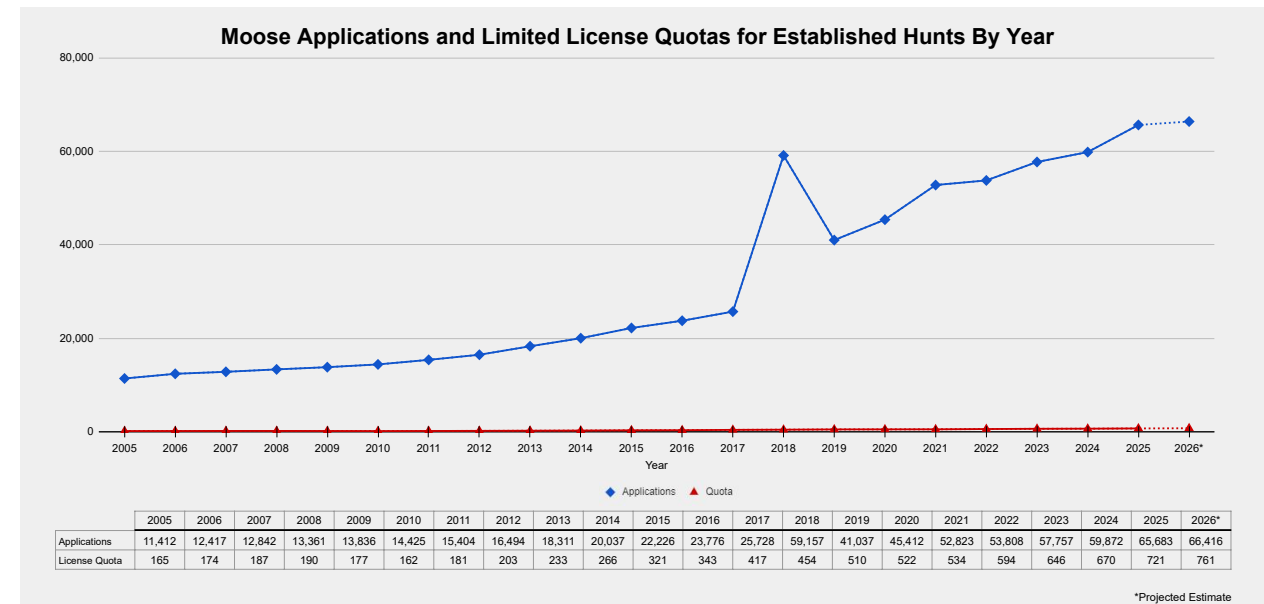
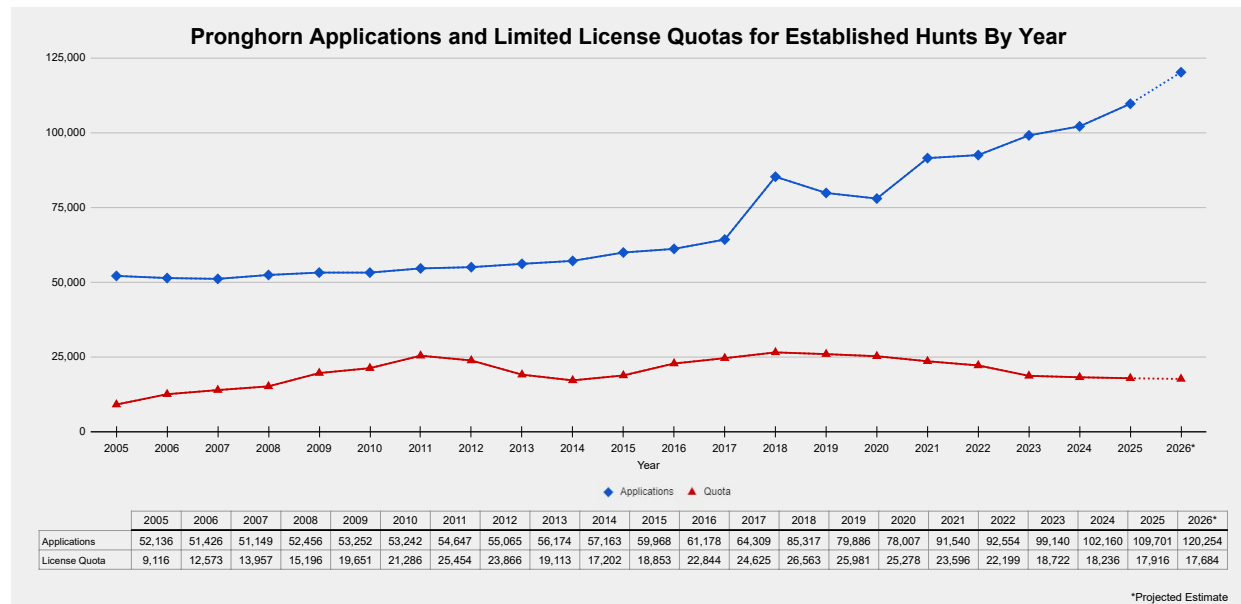
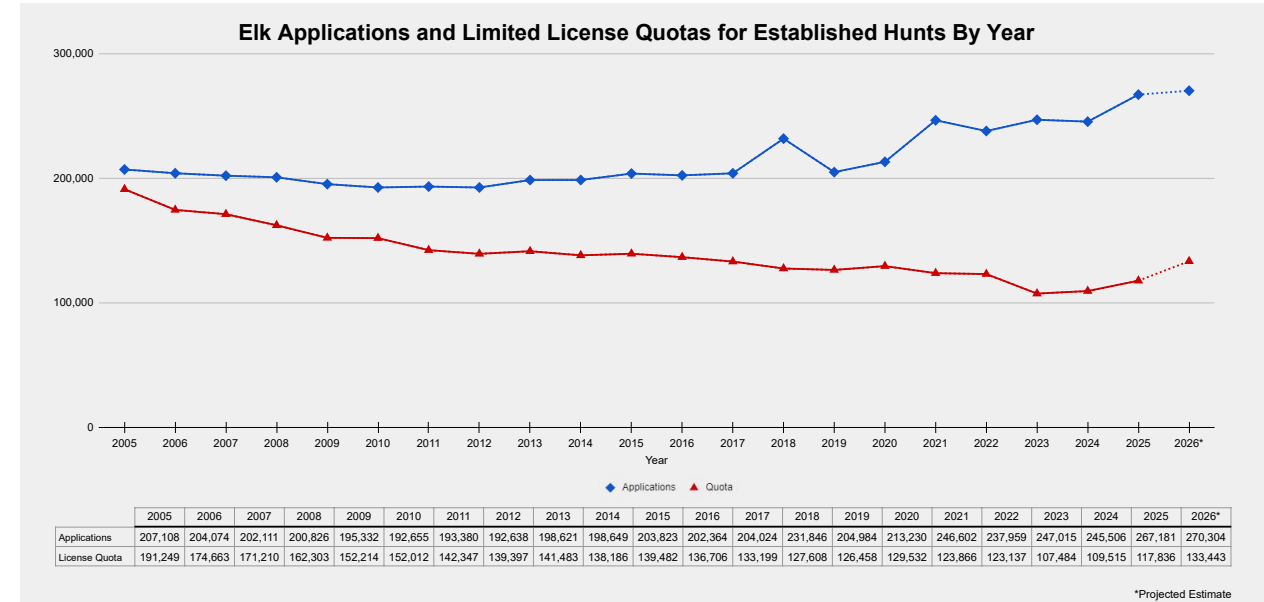
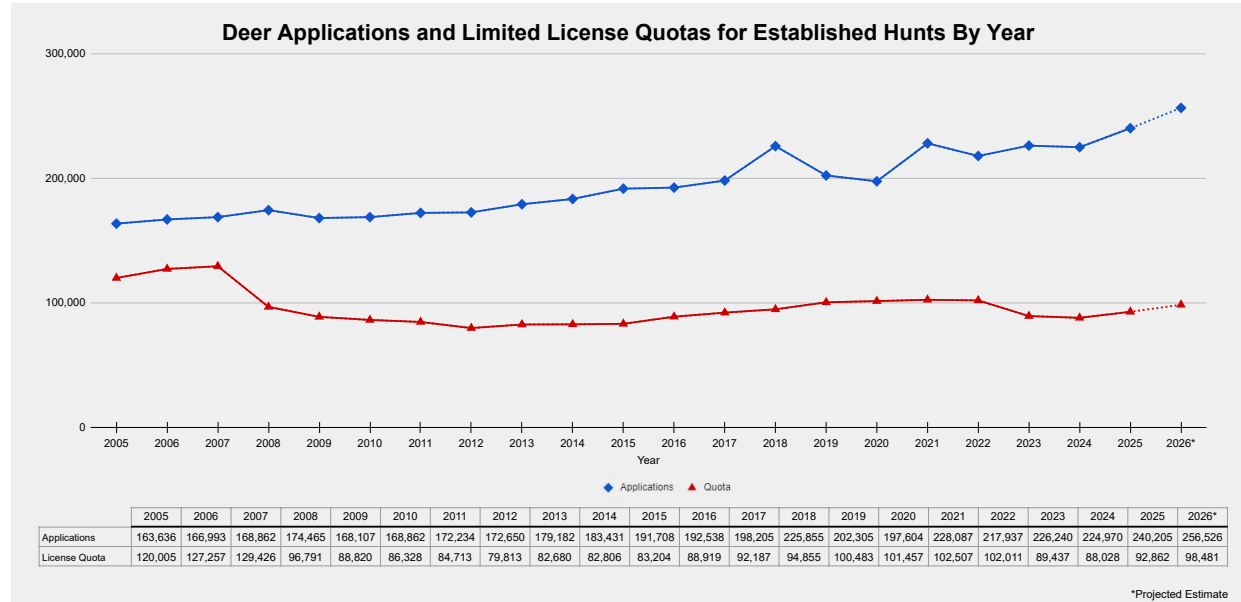
BLACK BEAR

in 2026

# of DAUs	# Hunt Codes
17	211

BIG GAME HISTORY BY SPECIES

Established Hunts are Ranching for Wildlife, Auction & Raffle hunts, and hunts approved annually by PWC.
April 3, 2026



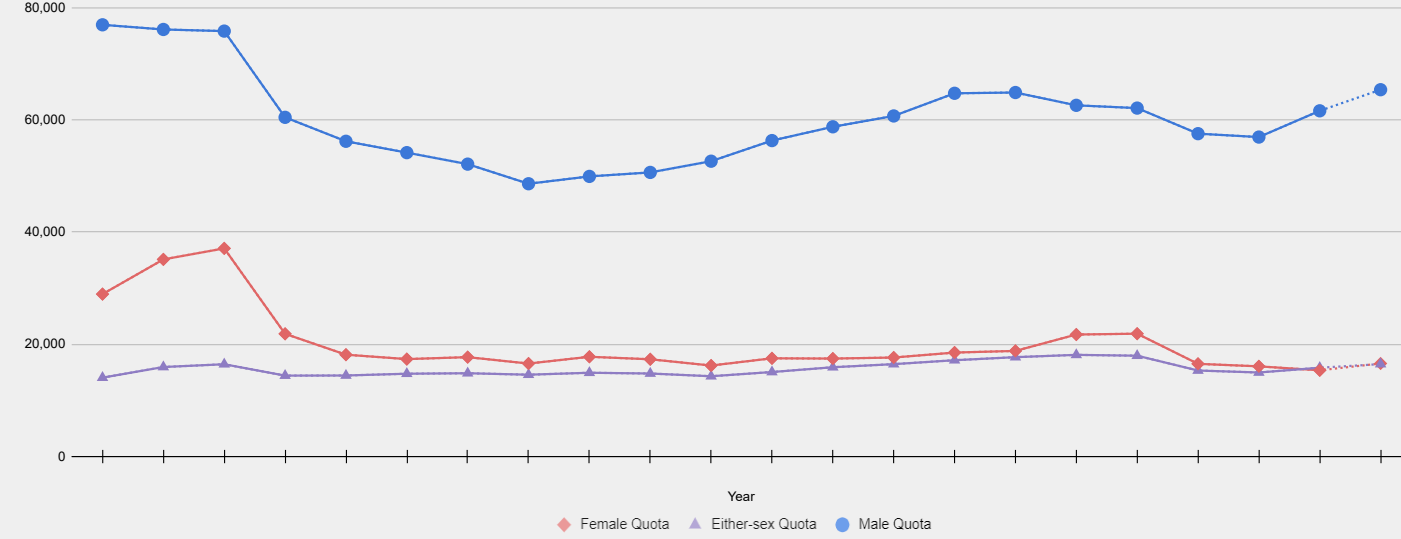
BIG GAME QUOTA HISTORY FOR ESTABLISHED HUNTS BY SPECIES

Established Hunts are Ranching for Wildlife, Auction & Raffle hunts, and hunts approved annually by PWC.

April 3, 2026



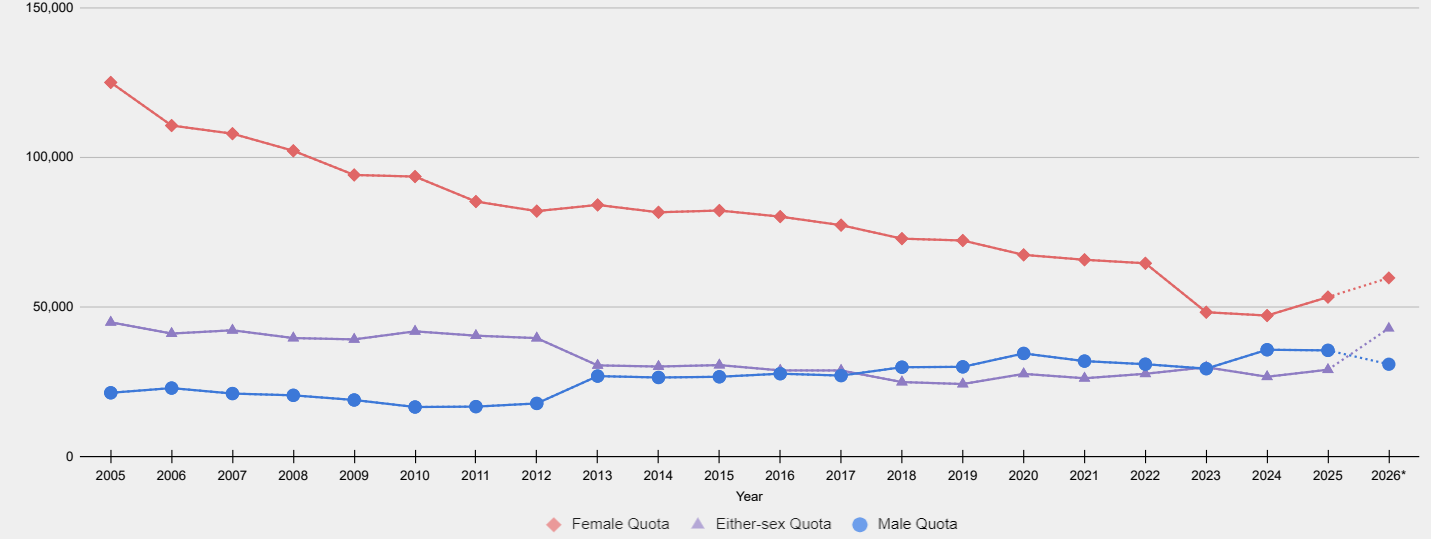
Deer Limited License Quotas for Established Hunts by Sex and Year



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Female Quota	28,962	35,150	37,114	21,881	18,159	17,376	17,723	16,580	17,791	17,343	16,227	17,515	17,470	17,654	18,541	18,833	21,756	21,905	16,531	16,082	15,378	16,593
Either-sex Quota	14,066	15,962	16,458	14,430	14,451	14,767	14,854	14,593	14,941	14,804	14,319	15,069	15,925	16,475	17,175	17,720	18,131	17,979	15,338	14,985	15,841	16,481
Male Quota	76,977	76,145	75,854	60,480	56,210	54,185	52,136	48,640	49,948	50,659	52,658	56,335	58,792	60,726	64,767	64,904	62,620	62,127	57,568	56,961	61,643	65,407

*Projected Estimate

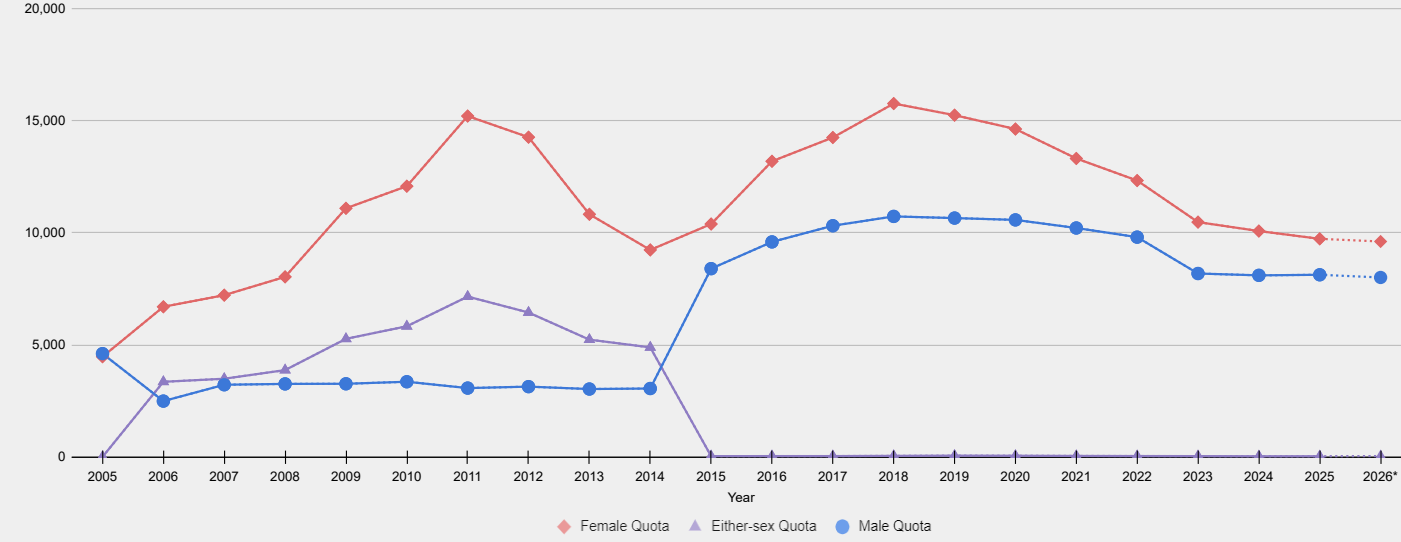
Elk Limited License Quotas for Established Hunts by Sex and Year



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Female Quota	125,062	110,657	107,938	102,221	94,136	93,599	85,246	82,049	84,118	81,657	82,247	80,209	77,353	72,843	72,224	67,424	65,785	64,606	48,246	47,137	53,308	59,715
Either-sex Quota	44,875	41,117	42,212	39,615	39,168	41,853	40,411	39,593	30,470	30,097	30,571	28,798	28,777	24,901	24,245	27,639	26,177	27,667	29,854	26,674	29,029	42,873
Male Quota	21,312	22,889	21,060	20,467	18,910	16,560	16,690	17,755	26,895	26,432	26,664	27,699	27,069	29,864	29,989	34,469	31,904	30,864	29,384	35,704	35,499	30,855

*Projected Estimate

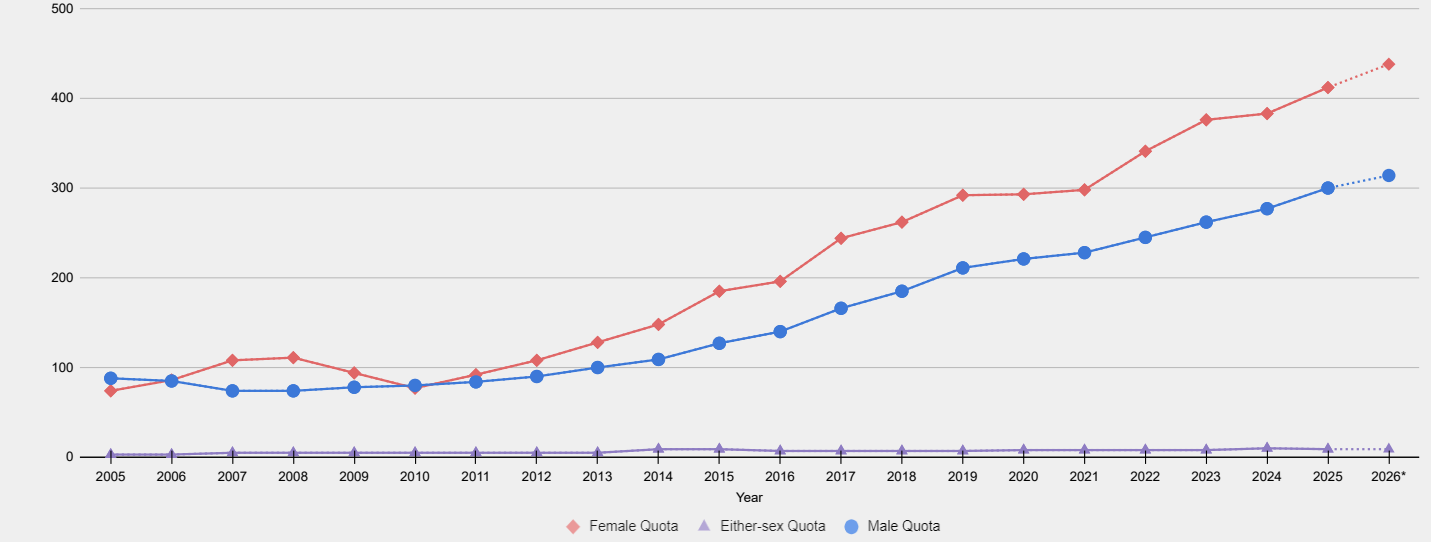
Pronghorn Limited License Quotas for Established Hunts by Sex and Year



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Female Quota	4,481	6,707	7,225	8,041	11,097	12,082	15,209	14,266	10,830	9,241	10,396	13,193	14,253	15,766	15,248	14,630	13,318	12,334	10,481	10,083	9,736	9,617
Either-sex Quota	16	3,363	3,500	3,885	5,279	5,838	7,162	6,452	5,242	4,897	50	52	52	62	72	68	59	54	51	45	46	53
Male Quota	4,619	2,503	3,232	3,270	3,275	3,366	3,083	3,148	3,041	3,064	8,407	9,599	10,320	10,735	10,661	10,580	10,219	9,811	8,190	8,108	8,134	8,014

*Projected Estimate

Moose Limited License Quotas for Established Hunts by Sex and Year



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Female Quota	74	86	108	111	94	77	92	108	128	148	185	196	244	262	292	293	298	341	376	383	412	438
Either-sex Quota	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	9	9	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	10	9	9
Male Quota	88	85	74	74	78	80	84	90	100	109	127	140	166	185	211	221	228	245	262	277	300	314

*Projected Estimate

2026 BIG GAME LICENSE RECOMMENDATION DEFINITIONS

April 3, 2026



Add-on Black Bear License: Archery and muzzleloader unlimited OTC black bear licenses only available to purchase by hunters who have a deer or elk license for the same manner of take and GMU.

Age Ratio: Number of young-of-the-year per 100 females in a herd. Age ratios are observed during big game surveys and provide an estimate of the number of young that were born in summer and survived until the survey. Age ratios are a measure of herd productivity and are used in population modeling.

Antlered License: A deer, elk, or moose license that is valid for the take of any animal with an antler or antlers of at least five inches in length.

Antlerless License: A deer, elk, or moose license that is valid for the take of any animal without antlers or with antlers of less than five inches in length.

Black Bear Age and Gender Composition: Metrics used as indicators of black bear population trajectory in relation to harvest levels. Harvested black bears are divided into 4 age-sex classes (adult male, adult female, subadult male, and subadult female).

% Adult Male in Harvest: The adult male segment of a population is the first to be reduced under increasing hunter pressure, therefore proportions of adult males (>5 yr old) in the harvest can indicate stability, increase or decrease in the population.

% Female in Harvest: As harvest levels increase and additional adult and sub-adult males are removed, the proportion of females of all ages in the harvest begins to increase. Therefore, proportions of females of all ages in the total harvest can indicate stability, increase or decrease in the population.

% Adult Females in Female Harvest: With increasing harvest, younger females are removed and older females (>5 yr old) become more common in the harvest. Thus, the proportion of adult females in the female harvest should rise with increasing harvest rates, indicating stability, increase or decrease in the population.

Classified Animals: During big game surveys, animals are categorized by age and sex. That is, animals are identified as adult males, adult females and young-of-the-year. These classifications are then used to calculate sex and age ratios.

Concurrent Rifle Season: Limited and unlimited black bear seasons that occur during the regular deer and elk rifle seasons. There are both regular concurrent and PLO concurrent black bear seasons.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): A fatal neurological disease that attacks the brains of deer, elk and moose.

Data Analysis Unit (DAU): The geographic area that represents the year-round range of a specific big game herd/population. Each DAU is composed of one or more Game Management Units (GMUs). DAUs are used to monitor distinct herds/populations.

Either-sex License: A license that is valid for the take of either male or female animals.

Established Hunts: Ranching for Wildlife and Auction & Raffle hunts or hunts approved annually by PWC.

Game Management Unit (GMU): A defined geographic area that provides a practical framework where management goals can be refined and applied on a finer scale than a DAU, typically through hunting regulations. GMUs are used to monitor hunter distribution.

Leftover Draw: Deer and elk applicants unsuccessful in the primary draw have the first chance at the limited licenses that are remaining after the primary draw by selecting Leftover Draw on their application.

Limited Licenses: A set (limited) number of licenses are available for specific units and dates for each species, and are initially issued through an application and draw process.

Manner of Take: Colorado hunting seasons are based on hunting methods (i.e., archery, muzzleloader and rifle/associated) permissible during each season.

Modeled Estimates: Mathematical models that integrate observed data (e.g., sex ratios, age ratios, population estimates, survival estimates, harvest estimates) are used to estimate the population size and demographic composition of each herd. Estimates derived from these models are referred to as modeled estimates.

Non-Established Hunts: Hunts and quota not specified in regulation and approved by PWC, or Ranching for Wildlife or Auction & Raffle hunts. Non-Established hunts include game damage, dispersal, youth and novice outreach, etc.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Season: In contrast to limited seasons, licenses in OTC seasons are not available through the draw. They do not require buying/having a qualifying license, do not use preference points and may be purchased any time through the end of the season. Prior to 2020, the number of licenses available in OTC seasons were either unlimited or capped at a predetermined number. Starting in 2020, there are no longer OTC with caps seasons.

Plains Units: GMUs east of Interstate I-25 except unit 140.

Private Land Only (PLO) License: Licenses that are only valid on private land.

Population Estimate: The estimate of the number post-season (winter) animals in a herd. CPW estimates the size of each herd annually based on population models.

Population Objective: The target number of animals in a herd. Population objectives are expressed as ranges and are established in the Herd Management Plan (HMP) for each herd. License numbers and hunting strategies are designed to reach or maintain the population objective of each herd.

Post-hunt: The period after the hunting seasons. Most big game populations are surveyed post-hunt (in the winter), when they are concentrated at lower elevations in open terrain by snow, in order to estimate winter population levels and demographics.

Pre-hunt: The period before the hunting season. Many pronghorn surveys are conducted pre-hunt (in the summer) to estimate summer population levels and demographics.

Primary Draw: The first, main big game draw of the year for hunters applying for limited hunting licenses.

September Rifle Season: Limited rifle black bear seasons that occur during the month of September (before the regular deer and elk rifle seasons). The majority of black bear harvest occurs during these seasons and, therefore, they have the largest effect on black bear management.

Sex Ratio: Number of males per 100 females in a herd. Sex ratios are observed during big game surveys and used in population models. Sex ratio objectives are established for each herd in a Herd Management Plan. Hunting licensing numbers and strategies are established to achieve and maintain these objectives.

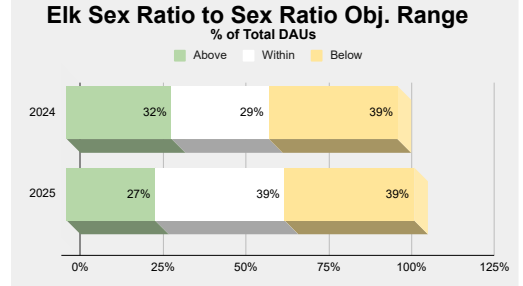
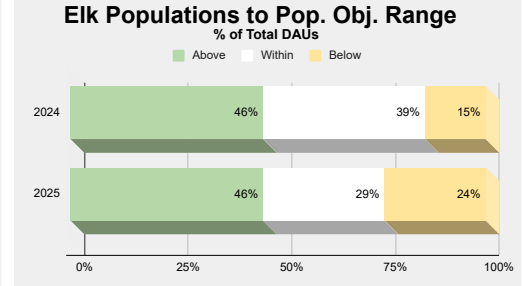
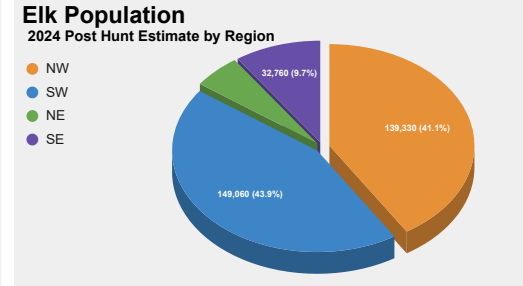
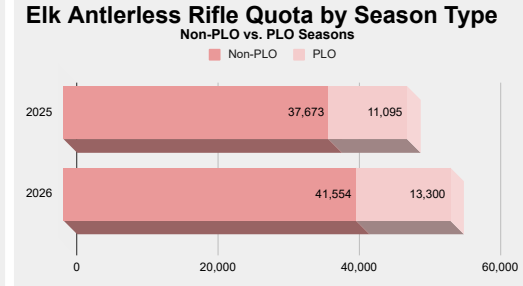
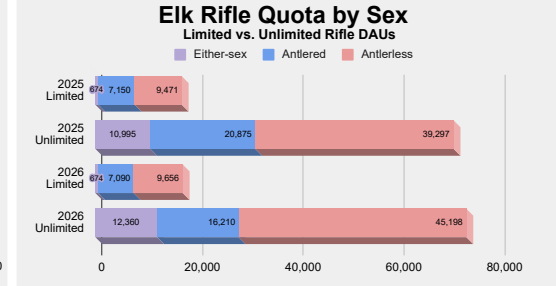
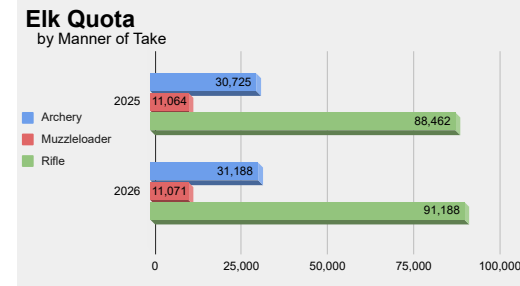
Unlimited Licenses: Licenses that are not restricted in number. They are not available through the draw.

Weighted Average: An average that is calculated taking population size into account, so that larger populations contribute more to the average than smaller populations (i.e., populations influence the average in proportion to their size).

West of I-25 Units: GMUs west of Interstate I-25 and unit 140.

2026 ELK

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
April 3, 2026



	2024	2025	% Change
Above	46%	46%	0%
Within	39%	29%	-10%
Below	15%	24%	10%

	2024	2025	% Change
Above	32%	27%	-5%
Within	29%	39%	10%
Below	39%	39%	0%

Region	DAU	Units Involved	LIMITED ARCHERY SEASONS		LIMITED MUZZLELOADER SEASONS		LIMITED RIFLE SEASONS*												POPULATION OBJECTIVES				MODELED POST-HUNT POPULATIONS			SEX RATIO OBJECTIVES			MODELED POST-HUNT SEX RATIOS			Number of Animals Classified in 2025***	DAU	Region							
			2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE		2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE		ALL LIMITED RIFLE		EITHER-SEX LICENSES		ANTLERED LICENSES		ANTLERLESS LICENSES**		PLO ANTLERLESS RIFLE		2025 Pop. Relative to Obj. Range	2025 Min.	2025 Max.	2025 Target	2024 ESTIMATE	2025 ESTIMATE	2026 PROJECTION	2025Sex Ratio Relative to Obj. Range	2025 Min.	2025 Max.	2025 Target	2024 ESTIMATE	2025 ESTIMATE	2026 PROJECTION											
			LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES				LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	LICENSES	
NW	01	2, 201	20	20	0%	30	30	0%	340	340	0%	60	60	0%	0	0	0%	280	280	0%	0	0	0%	01	Within	1,000	2,000	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,730	Above	40	50	40	95	140	41	999	01	NW
NW	02	3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, 214	1,760	1,860	6%	395	575	46%	6,332	7,783	23%	1,224	2,917	138%	2,495	260	-90%	2,613	4,606	76%	300	850	183%	02	Within	15,000	18,000	15,000	15,840	17,070	17,440	Within	20	25	20	22	22	27	10,203	02	NW
NW	03	6, 16, 161, 17, 171	1,255	1,255	0%	550	550	0%	6,088	6,138	1%	1,234	1,232	0%	0	0	0%	4,854	4,906	1%	450	500	11%	03	Above	4,000	4,500	4,500	5,160	6,510	6,210	Above	20	25	20	24	26	34	1,690	03	NW
NE	04	7, 8, 9, 19, 191	1,110	1,110	0%	750	750	0%	4,410	4,410	0%	0	0	0%	2,835	2,835	0%	1,575	1,575	0%	680	680	0%	04	Above	3,600	4,200	4,200	5,410	5,550	4,520	Below	30	35	33	19	23	22	2,454	04	NE
SW	05	53, 54, 63	1,180	1,225	4%	250	305	22%	1,500	3,045	103%	150	150	0%	495	1,775	259%	855	1,120	31%	360	400	11%	05	Above	7,800	8,800	8,300	8,360	10,230	9,940	Within	23	28	25	18	28	26	4,609	05	SW
NW	06	11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 131, 211, 231	4,130	3,980	-4%	1,050	1,050	0%	17,982	17,197	-4%	1,114	1,123	1%	9,510	4,310	-55%	7,358	11,764	60%	1,085	1,760	62%	06	Above	32,000	39,000	35,000	36,480	42,470	47,570	Within	15	25	25	17	19	23	20,998	06	NW
NW	07	15, 27	620	620	0%	260	260	0%	2,015	2,015	0%	665	665	0%	0	0	0%	1,350	1,350	0%	90	90	0%	07	Below	4,000	5,000	4,000	3,020	3,650	4,010	Below	24	28	25	42	22	37	1,094	07	NW
NW	08	18, 181	430	390	-9%	405	305	-25%	3,410	1,790	-48%	1,730	870	-50%	0	0	0%	1,680	920	-45%	20	20	0%	08	Below	3,400	4,400	4,000	3,300	3,220	3,450	Above	23	29	24	29	29	24	2,289	08	NW
NE	09	20	125	125	0%	40	40	0%	860	850	-1%	0	0	0%	210	210	0%	650	640	-2%	460	500	9%	09	Below	2,200	2,600	2,400	2,220	2,150	1,910	Within	40	45	45	38	41	40	1,391	09	NE
NW	10	21, 22, 30, 31, 32	1,520	1,520	0%	325	325	0%	3,060	3,060	0%	125	985	688%	860	0	-100%	2,075	2,075	0%	350	350	0%	10	Above	8,500	10,500	9,500	16,110	17,890	19,530	Above	18	25	22	20	34	24	5,167	10	NW
SW	11	82	180	180	0%	125	125	0%	925	975	5%	400	400	0%	0	0	0%	525	575	10%	0	0	0%	11	Above	3,000	4,000	3,500	5,140	6,080	6,060	Above	17	23	23	42	47	47	2,212	11	SW
NW	12	35, 36	290	290	0%	315	315	0%	1,000	1,000	0%	310	310	0%	0	0	0%	690	690	0%	140	140	0%	12	Within	3,000	5,000	4,000	4,450	4,370	4,420	Within	15	43	29	31	26	25	2,454	12	NW
NW	13	28, 37, 371	370	360	-3%	280	100	-64%	1,895	385	-80%	815	285	-65%	0	0	0%	1,080	100	-91%	20	20	0%	13	Below	4,000	5,500	5,000	3,560	2,660	3,000	Within	23	29	24	40	26	24	988	13	NW
NW	14	41, 411, 42, 421, 52, 521	3,425	3,425	0%	835	835	0%	4,800	4,800	0%	350	350	0%	1,200	1,200	0%	3,250	3,250	0%	1,000	975	-3%	14	Below	15,000	19,000	17,000	17,370	14,840	14,500	Within	18	25	22	30	20	27	5,305	14	NW
NW	15	43, 431, 471	530	530	0%	215	200	-7%	1,250	855	-32%	335	335	0%	0	0	0%	915	520	-43%	80	45	-44%	15	Within	3,600	5,400	4,500	3,960	3,770	3,840	Within	19	30	25	24	23	19	1,820	15	NW
NW	16	44, 444, 45, 47	800	1,000	25%	300	375	25%	1,670	2,025	21%	0	0	0%	260	310	19%	1,410	1,715	22%	75	100	33%	16	Above	5,600	8,500	8,500	10,380	11,930	12,440	Within	17	29	23	28	28	28	3,308	16	NW
SE	17	48, 481, 56, 561	410	410	0%	290	290	0%	1,055	1,070	1%	0	0	0%	540	540	0%	515	530	3%	60	75	25%	17	Within	3,150	3,850	3,500	3,390	3,470	3,690	Below	30	35	30	24	23	22	1,113	17	SE
NE	18	50, 500, 501	260	260	0%	295	285	-3%	1,660	1,600	-4%	0	0	0%	525	465	-11%	1,135	1,135	0%	90	90	0%	18	Above	2,000	2,400	2,200	3,340	3,300	3,150	Below	35	40	35	38	29	29	2,195	18	NE
NW	19	40	65	65	0%	45	45	0%	554	604	9%	130	130	0%	0	0	0%	424	474	12%	200	200	0%	19	Above	2,800	3,800	3,800	6,150	7,080	7,810	Within	30	40	32	36	40	41	2,341	19	NW
SW	20	61, 62	1,390	1,390	0%	320	320	0%	2,810	3,220	15%	280	365	30%	595	625	5%	1,935	2,230	15%	550	625	14%	20	Above	11,000	15,000	13,000	14,390	16,680	16,350	Above	20	25	20	23	29	29	5,334	20	SW
NW	21	10	15	15	0%	10	10	0%	426	451	6%	36	36	0%	0	0	0%	390	415	6%	100	100	0%	21	Within	1,000	2,000	2,000	1,680	1,970	1,550	Above	40	50	40	51	51	69	1,970	21	NW
SE	22	49, 57, 58	350	350	0%	330	330	0%	1,810	1,840	2%	0	0	0%	540	540	0%	1,270	1,300	2%	250	250	0%	22	Within	3,150	3,500	3,300	3,780	3,500	3,160	Below	35	40	35	33	33	27	3,137	22	SE
SE	23	511, 512, 581, 59, 591	220	230	5%	220	220	0%	1,360	1,360	0%	0	0	0%	455	455	0%	905	905	0%	500	500	0%	23	Above	2,700	3,300	3,000	3,860	4,300	3,880	Above	15	25	20	33	34	32	848	23	SE
SW	24	70, 71, 711, 72, 73	1,770	1,995	13%	490	530	8%	2,340	2,650	13%	300	375	25%	920	920	0%	1,120	1,355	21%	585	700	20%	24	Above	21,000	24,000	22,500	24,350	30,320	32,710	Within	12	20	16	12	14	17	6,955	24	SW
SW	25	66, 67	250	250	0%	170	160	-6%	2,065	1,940	-6%	0	0	0%	1,095	1,095	0%	970	845	-13%	0	0	0%	25	Within	6,000	7,000	6,500	6,110	6,110	6,150	Below	23	28	25	17	13	13	4,316	25	SW
SW	26	68, 681	610	610	0%	95	120	26%	715	715	0%	0	0	0%	505	505	0%	210	210	0%	30	30	0%	26	Above	4,000	4,800	4,800	5,510	5,580	5,980	Within	18	22	20	21	21	20	2,492	26	SW
SE	27	86, 691, 861	340	340	0%	195	195	0%	1,140	1,290	13%	315	315	0%	0	0	0%	825	975	18%	600	750	25%	27	Above	1,800	2,200	2,100	2,890												

2026 ELK ESTABLISHED ARCHERY LICENSES

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
April 3, 2026



Total Limited Archery Licenses	Total Limited Archery Licenses for established archery hunts including private land only and non-resident only
Total Limited Non-Resident Only Archery Licenses	Limited Archery Licenses available only to non-residents ("V1" seasons created in 2025)
Total Limited Private Land Only Archery Licenses	Limited Private Land Only Archery licenses available in previously OTC units to residents and non-residents ("P1" seasons created in 2025)

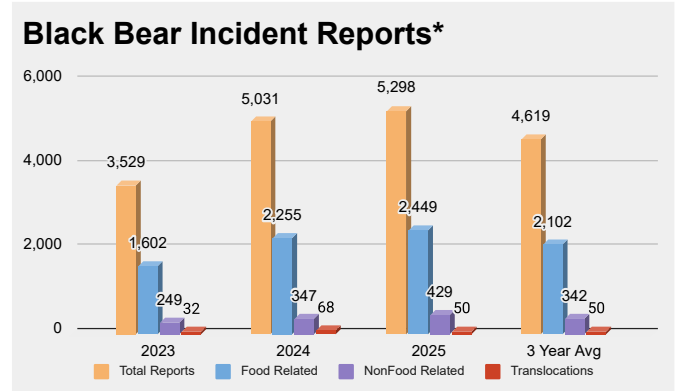
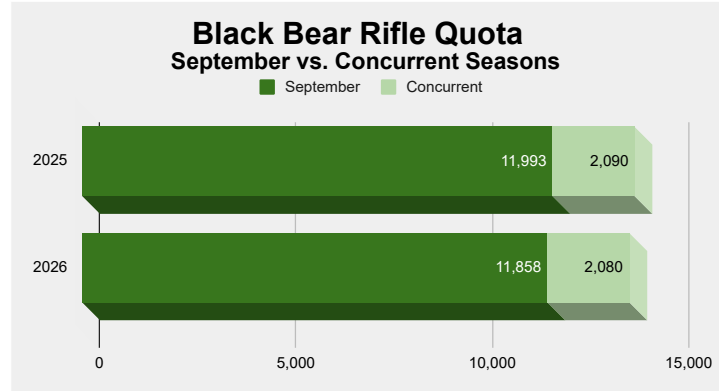
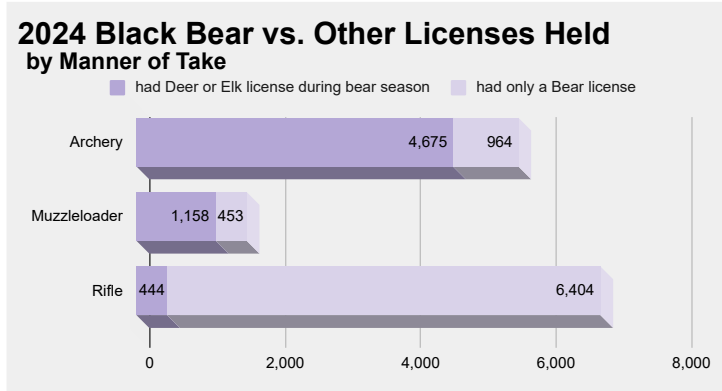
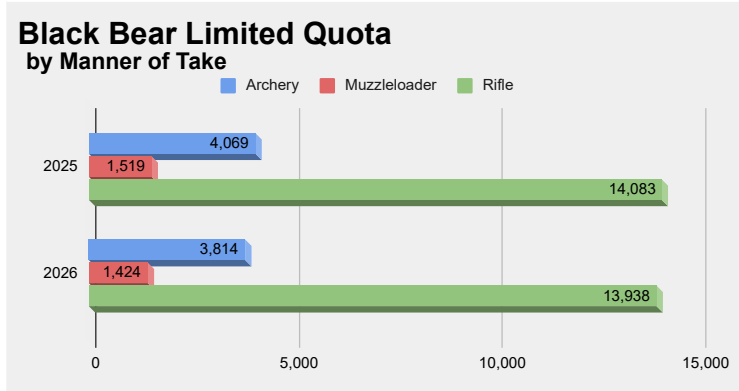
Region	DAU	Units Involved	Total Limited Licenses			Total Limited Archery Licenses			Total Limited Non-Resident Only Archery Licenses			Total Limited Private Land Only Archery Licenses			Total Limited Licenses Excluding NR Only and PLO Archery			Total Limited Archery Licenses Excluding NR Only and PLO			DAU	Region
			2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE		
NW	01	2, 201	390	390	0%	20	20	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	390	390	0%	20	20	0%	01	NW
NW	02	3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, 214	8,487	10,218	20%	1,760	1,860	6%	700	700	0%	660	660	0%	7127	8858	24%	400	500	25%	02	NW
NW	03	6, 16, 161, 17, 171	7,893	7,943	1%	1,255	1,255	0%	1255	1255	0%	0	0	0%	6638	6688	1%	0	0	0%	03	NW
NE	04	7, 8, 9, 19, 191	6,270	6,270	0%	1,110	1,110	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	6270	6270	0%	1110	1110	0%	04	NE
SW	05	53, 54, 63	2,930	4,575	56%	1,180	1,225	4%	980	980	0%	0	0	0%	1950	3595	84%	200	245	23%	05	SW
NW	06	11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 131, 211, 231	23,162	22,227	-4%	4,130	3,980	-4%	1780	1780	0%	1000	1000	0%	20382	19447	-5%	1350	1200	-11%	06	NW
NW	07	15, 27	2,895	2,895	0%	620	620	0%	620	620	0%	0	0	0%	2275	2275	0%	0	0	0%	07	NW
NW	08	18, 181	4,245	2,485	-41%	430	390	-9%	430	390	-9%	0	0	0%	3815	2095	-45%	0	0	0%	08	NW
NE	09	20	1,025	1,015	-1%	125	125	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	1025	1015	-1%	125	125	0%	09	NE
NW	10	21, 22, 30, 31, 32	4,905	4,905	0%	1,520	1,520	0%	1170	1170	0%	350	350	0%	3385	3385	0%	0	0	0%	10	NW
SW	11	82	1,230	1,280	4%	180	180	0%	180	180	0%	0	0	0%	1050	1100	5%	0	0	0%	11	SW
NW	12	35, 36	1,605	1,605	0%	290	290	0%	290	290	0%	0	0	0%	1315	1315	0%	0	0	0%	12	NW
NW	13	28, 37, 371	2,545	845	-67%	370	360	-3%	370	330	-11%	0	30	0%	2175	485	-78%	0	0	0%	13	NW
NW	14	41, 411, 42, 421, 52, 521	9,060	9,060	0%	3,425	3,425	0%	0	0	0%	350	350	0%	8710	8710	0%	3075	3075	0%	14	NW
NW	15	43, 431, 471	1,995	1,585	-21%	530	530	0%	530	530	0%	0	0	0%	1465	1055	-28%	0	0	0%	15	NW
NW	16	44, 444, 45, 47	2,770	3,400	23%	800	1,000	25%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	2770	3400	23%	800	1000	25%	16	NW
SE	17	48, 481, 56, 561	1,755	1,770	1%	410	410	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	1755	1770	1%	410	410	0%	17	SE
NE	18	50, 500, 501	2,215	2,145	-3%	260	260	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	2215	2145	-3%	260	260	0%	18	NE
NW	19	40	664	714	8%	65	65	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	664	714	8%	65	65	0%	19	NW
SW	20	61, 62	4,520	4,930	9%	1,390	1,390	0%	1300	1230	-5%	0	70	0%	3220	3630	13%	90	90	0%	20	SW
NW	21	10	451	476	6%	15	15	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	451	476	6%	15	15	0%	21	NW
SE	22	49, 57, 58	2,490	2,520	1%	350	350	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	2490	2520	1%	350	350	0%	22	SE
SE	23	511, 512, 581, 59, 591	1,800	1,810	1%	220	230	5%	220	230	5%	0	0	0%	1580	1580	0%	0	0	0%	23	SE
SW	24	70, 71, 711, 72, 73	4,600	5,175	13%	1,770	1,995	13%	0	0	0%	355	445	25%	4245	4730	11%	1415	1550	10%	24	SW
SW	25	66, 67	2,485	2,350	-5%	250	250	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	2485	2350	-5%	250	250	0%	25	SW
SW	26	68, 681	1,420	1,445	2%	610	610	0%	610	610	0%	0	0	0%	810	835	3%	0	0	0%	26	SW
SE	27	86, 691, 861	1,675	1,825	9%	340	340	0%	340	340	0%	0	0	0%	1335	1485	11%	0	0	0%	27	SE
SE	28	69, 84	1,204	1,354	12%	115	115	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	1204	1354	12%	115	115	0%	28	SE
SW	30	74, 741	1,220	1,245	2%	550	550	0%	0	0	0%	75	75	0%	1145	1170	2%	475	475	0%	30	SW
SW	31	75, 751, 77, 771, 78	4,035	4,370	8%	1,855	1,945	5%	0	0	0%	230	290	26%	3805	4080	7%	1625	1655	2%	31	SW
SW	32	80, 81	3,370	3,390	1%	2,000	2,000	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	3370	3390	1%	2000	2000	0%	32	SW
SE	33	83, 85, 851, 140	2,859	2,959	4%	718	718	0%	710	710	0%	0	0	0%	2149	2249	5%	8	8	0%	33	SE
SW	34	76, 79	2,260	2,135	-6%	380	360	-5%	220	200	-9%	0	0	0%	2040	1935	-5%	160	160	0%	34	SW
SW	35	64, 65	2,535	2,535	0%	640	640	0%	640	540	-16%	0	100	0%	1895	1895	0%	0	0	0%	35	SW
NE	38	29, 38	690	580	-16%	70	70	0%	40	40	0%	0	0	0%	650	540	-17%	30	30	0%	38	NE
NE	39	39, 46, 391, 461	1,275	1,225	-4%	260	260	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	1275	1225	-4%	260	260	0%	39	NE
SW	40	60	365	495	36%	20	30	50%	20	30	50%	0	0	0%	345	465	35%	0	0	0%	40	SW
SW	43	55, 551	1,765	4,110	133%	525	525	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	1765	4110	133%	525	525	0%	43	SW
NW	47	64, 65	122	122	0%	2	5	150%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	122	122	0%	2	5	150%	47	NW
NE	51	104, 105, 106, 110, 111	1,410	1,410	0%	155	155	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	1410	1410	0%	155	155	0%	51	NE
SE	53	133, 134, 135, 141, 142	130	130	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	130	130	0%	0	0	0%	53	SE
SW	55	682, 791	1,320	1,320	0%	10	10	0%	10	10	0%	0	0	0%	1310	1310	0%	0	0	0%	55	SW
SE	99	eastern plains units not in a DAU	205	205	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	205	205	0%	0	0	0%	99	SE
STATEWIDE TOTALS			130,247	133,443	2%	30,725	31,188	2%	12,415	12,165	-2%	3,020	3,370	12%	114,812	117,908	3%	15,290	15,653	2%		

positive % change = increase in licenses
negative % change = decrease in licenses
DAUs with OTC Bull Rifle Licenses

Region	DAU	Units Involved	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025-2026 PERCENT CHANGE	DAU	Region
			Total Limited Licenses			Total Limited Archery Licenses			Total Limited Non-Resident Only Archery Licenses			Total Limited Private Land Only Archery Licenses			Total Limited Licenses Excluding NR Only and PLO Archery			Total Limited Archery Licenses Excluding NR Only and PLO				

2026 BEAR

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
April 3, 2026



*The 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure created unlimited OTC black bear licenses in DAUs which have a management strategy of reducing bear populations and where harvest objectives are not being met.

* Each incident report may be counted in more than one category.

Region	DAU	Units Involved	DAU Management Goal	HAS UNLIMITED OTC SEASONS		LIMITED ARCHERY SEASONS			LIMITED MUZZLELOADER SEASONS			LIMITED RIFLE SEASONS			2026 PREDICTED HARVEST	3 YEAR (2023-2025) AVERAGE HARVEST	2022-2024 AGE/GENDER COMPOSITION			DAU	Region							
				ARCHERY, MUZZLELOADER, & CONCURRENT RIFLE		PRIVATE LAND ONLY (PLO)		2025	2026	2025-2026 CHANGE	2025	2026	2025-2026 CHANGE	SEPTEMBER RIFLE ***			CONCURRENT RIFLE		TOTAL MORTALITY			TOTAL MORTALITY	% IN HARVEST					
				2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES			2025 LICENSES	2026 LICENSES	ADULT MALE	FEMALES	ADULT FEMALES IN HARVEST		
NW	01	21, 22, 30, 31, 32	Slight Decrease	YES	YES	YES	YES	175	175	0%	60	60	0%	775	775	0%	0	0	0%	49	59	35	45	25%	48%	67%	01	NW
SE	02	58, 59, 511, 512, 581, 591	Stable following Decrease	no	no	YES	YES	175	175	0%	70	70	0%	170	170	0%	175	175	0%	26	55	24	52	21%	42%	60%	02	SE
NE	03	7, 8, 9, 19, 20, 29, 38, 191	Stable	no	no	YES	YES	130	110	-15%	55	50	-9%	225	190	-16%	320	270	-16%	26	56	31	60	16%	48%	75%	03	NE
NW	04	4, 5, 6, 14, 16, 17, 161, 171, 214, 441	Decrease	YES	YES	YES	YES	300	300	0%	100	100	0%	1,200	1,200	0%	0	0	0%	97	127	89	119	14%	47%	52%	04	NW
SW	05	40, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 70	Decrease	mixed	mixed	YES	YES	430	330	-23%	140	140	0%	1,250	1,250	0%	10	10	0%	192	221	189	216	24%	36%	60%	05	SW
SW	06	71, 72, 73, 74, 711, 741	Decrease	YES	YES	YES	YES	120	120	0%	35	35	0%	780	780	0%	0	0	0%	150	180	146	175	23%	40%	53%	06	SW
SE	07	69, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 140, 691, 851, 861	Stable	no	no	no	no	154	154	0%	69	69	0%	678	678	0%	320	320	0%	51	86	118	153	32%	41%	67%	07	SE
NW	10	12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 131, 231	Slight Decrease	YES	YES	YES	YES	510	510	0%	150	150	0%	1,340	1,340	0%	0	0	0%	120	183	102	165	17%	40%	47%	10	NW
NW	11	35, 36, 43, 44, 45, 47, 431, 444, 471	Stable	no	no	YES	YES	485	425	-12%	235	160	-32%	990	960	-3%	610	610	0%	105	155	124	173	18%	43%	57%	11	NW
SW	12	54, 55, 66, 67, 551	Stable	no	no	no	no	160	130	-19%	120	100	-17%	190	155	-18%	130	130	0%	26	36	32	42	30%	37%	50%	12	SW
SW	13	68, 76, 79, 80, 81, 681, 682, 791	Stable	no	no	no	no	140	155	11%	60	65	8%	250	275	10%	110	110	0%	35	40	33	38	33%	24%	60%	13	SW
SE	14	48, 49, 56, 57, 481, 561	Stable	no	no	YES	YES	110	110	0%	45	45	0%	250	250	0%	240	240	0%	8	14	10	16	38%	25%	50%	14	SE
NW	15	1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 201, 211, 301	Stable	no	no	no	no	95	85	-11%	40	40	0%	175	145	-17%	175	215	23%	10	11	11	11	18%	27%	33%	15	NW
NW	16	15, 18, 27, 28, 37, 181, 371	Stable	YES	YES	YES	YES	150	100	-33%	50	50	0%	200	170	-15%	0	0	0%	65	80	70	84	24%	39%	58%	16	NW
NW	17	41, 42, 52, 53, 63, 411, 421, 521	Decrease	YES	YES	YES	YES	700	700	0%	200	200	0%	2,500	2,500	0%	0	0	0%	272	300	238	265	19%	41%	58%	17	NW
SW	18	75, 77, 78, 751, 771	Decrease	YES	YES	YES	YES	125	125	0%	45	45	0%	700	700	0%	0	0	0%	139	172	136	169	25%	37%	61%	18	SW
NE	19	39, 46, 50, 51, 104, 391, 461, 500, 501	Decrease	YES	YES	YES	YES	110	110	0%	45	45	0%	320	320	0%	0	0	0%	19	52	20	53	11%	39%	86%	19	NE
ALL	99	eastern plains units not in a DAU	None	YES	YES	no	no			0%			0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	7	14	7	14	33%	44%	50%	99	ALL
STATEWIDE TOTALS								4,069	3,814	-6%	1,519	1,424	-6%	11,993	11,858	-1%	2,090	2,080	0%	1,390	1,828	1,408	1,836					

DAUs with OTC Archery, Muzzleloader, & Concurrent Rifle Licenses

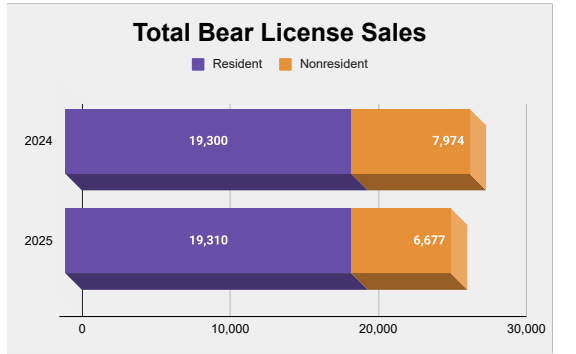
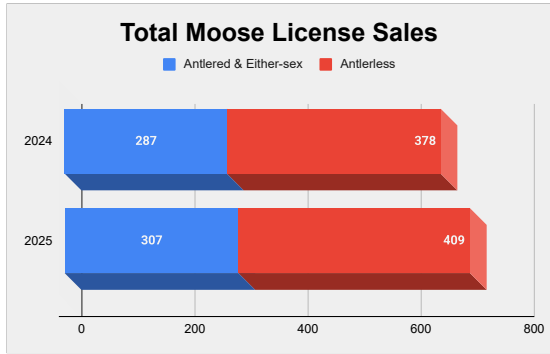
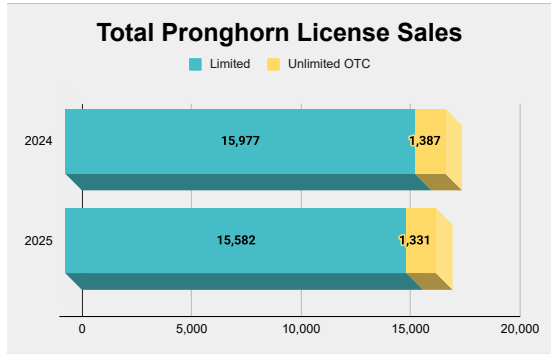
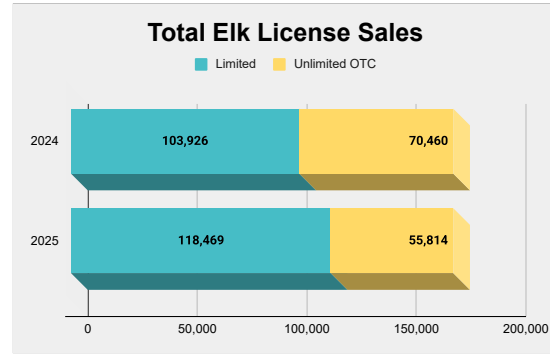
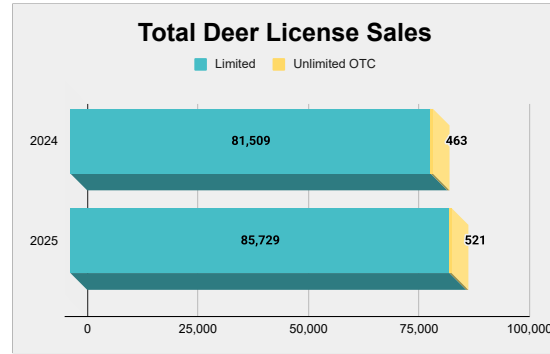
positive % change = increase in licenses
negative % change = decrease in licenses

***Limited September rifle numbers include early rifle and Ranching for Wildlife seasons

Harvest Composition Monitoring Standards			
Decreasing	<25%	>40%	>55%
Stable	25-35%	30-40%	45-55%
Increasing	> 35%	< 30%	< 45%

2024-2025 BIG GAME LICENSE SALES COMPARISON BY LICENSE TYPE*

* Includes license sales for both established and non-established hunts
April 3, 2026



DEER

DEER

License Type	TOTAL Licenses Sold			ARCHERY SEASONS Licenses Sold			MUZZLELOADER SEASONS Licenses Sold			ALL RIFLE SEASONS * Licenses Sold								LIMITED LICENSE DRAWS Applications Submitted									
	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	TOTAL RIFLE			EITHER-SEX ONLY RIFLE			ANTLERED ONLY RIFLE			ANTLERLESS ONLY RIFLE			PRIMARY DRAW			SECONDARY DRAW		
										2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE
Limited *	81,509	85,729	5%	11,903	12,041	1%	7,582	7,763	2%	62,024	65,925	6%	4,194	4,921	17%	44,970	48,705	8%	12,860	12,299	-4%	224,970	240,205	7%	22,041	20,220	-8%
Unlimited	463	521	13%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	463	521	13%	463	521	13%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Total	81,972	86,250	5%	11,903	12,041	1%	7,582	7,763	2%	62,487	66,446	6%	4,657	5,442	17%	44,970	48,705	8%	12,860	12,299	-4%	224,970	240,205	7%	22,041	20,220	-8%

*Rifle license numbers include all rifle and Season Choice seasons

ELK

ELK

License Type	TOTAL Licenses Sold			ARCHERY SEASONS Licenses Sold			MUZZLELOADER SEASONS Licenses Sold			ALL RIFLE SEASONS * Licenses Sold								LIMITED LICENSE DRAWS Applications Submitted									
	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	TOTAL RIFLE			EITHER-SEX ONLY RIFLE			ANTLERED ONLY RIFLE			ANTLERLESS ONLY RIFLE			PRIMARY DRAW			SECONDARY DRAW		
										2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE
Limited *	103,926	118,469	14%	15,743	26,092	66%	10,732	10,598	-1.2%	77,451	81,779	6%	10,876	10,528	-3%	24,400	24,332	0%	42,175	46,919	11%	245,506	267,181	9%	24,037	22,521	-6.3%
Unlimited	70,460	55,814	-21%	25,008	11,049	-56%	0	0	0%	45,452	44,765	-2%	2,077	2,417	16%	43,375	42,348	-2%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Total	174,386	174,283	0%	40,751	37,141	-9%	10,732	10,598	-1%	122,903	126,544	0	12,953	12,945	0.0	67,775	66,680	-2%	42,175	46,919	11%	245,506	267,181	9%	24,037	22,521	-6%

*Rifle license numbers include all rifle and Season Choice seasons

PRONGHORN

PRONGHORN

License Type	TOTAL Licenses Sold			ARCHERY SEASONS Licenses Sold			MUZZLELOADER SEASONS Licenses Sold			ALL RIFLE SEASONS * Licenses Sold								LIMITED LICENSE DRAWS Applications Submitted									
	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	TOTAL RIFLE			EITHER-SEX ONLY RIFLE			ANTLERED ONLY RIFLE			ANTLERLESS ONLY RIFLE			PRIMARY DRAW			SECONDARY DRAW		
										2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE
Limited *	15,977	15,582	-2%	691	715	3%	2,018	1,962	-2.8%	13,268	12,905	-3%	78	70	-10%	5,771	5,724	-1%	7,419	7,111	-4%	102,160	109,701	7%	4,717	4,509	-4%
Unlimited	1,387	1,331	-4%	1,387	1,331	-4%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Total	17,364	16,913	-3%	2,078	2,046	-2%	2,018	1,962	0.0	13,268	12,905	-3%	78	70	-10%	5,771	5,724	-1%	7,419	7,111	-4%	102,160	109,701	7%	4,717	4,509	-4%

*Rifle license numbers include all rifle and Season Choice seasons

MOOSE

MOOSE

License Type	TOTAL Licenses Sold			ANTLERED & EITHER-SEX SEASONS ** Licenses Sold			ANTLERLESS SEASONS Licenses Sold			LIMITED LICENSE DRAWS Applications Submitted					
	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	PRIMARY DRAW			SECONDARY DRAW		
										2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE
Resident	601	648	8%	258	275	7%	343	373	9%						
Nonresident	64	68	6%	29	32	10%	35	36	3%						
Total	665	716	8%	287	307	7%	378	409	8%	59,872	65,683	10%			

** Includes Auction and Raffle licenses

BEAR

BEAR

Residency	License Type	TOTAL Licenses Sold			ARCHERY SEASONS Licenses Sold			MUZZLELOADER SEASONS Licenses Sold			SEPTEMBER RIFLE SEASONS Licenses Sold						CONCURRENT RIFLE SEASONS Licenses Sold						LIMITED LICENSE DRAWS Applications Submitted					
		2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	SEPTEMBER RIFLE			SEPTEMBER PLO			CONCURRENT RIFLE			CONCURRENT PLO			PRIMARY DRAW			SECONDARY DRAW		
											2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE	2024	2025	2024-2025 PERCENT CHANGE
Resident	Limited *	13,932	13,754	-1%	2,453	2,383	-3%	828	842	2%	8,617	8,517	-1%	286	262	-8%	1,693	1,707	1%	55	43	-22%						
	Unlimited OTC	5,368	5,556	4%	1,608	1,586	-1%	284	281	-1%	0	0	0%	201	274	36%	2,700	2,780	3%	568	627	10%						
	Total	19,300	19,310	0%	4,061	3,969	-2%	1,112	1,123	1%	8,617	8,517	-1%	487	536	10%	4,393	4,487	2%	623	670	8%						
Nonresident	Limited *	3,391	3,266	-4%	805	852	6%	293	283	-3%	1,900	1,718	-10%	51	75	47%	337	321	-5%	5	17	240%						
	Unlimited OTC	4,583	3,411	-26%	1,489	795	-47%	239	193	-19%	0	0	0%	159	150	-6%	2,487	2,104	-15%	208	169	-19%						
	Total	7,974	6,677	-16%	2,294	1,647	-28%	532	476	-11%	1,900	1,718	-10%	210	225	7%	2,824	2,425	-14%	213	186	-13%						
OVERALL	Limited *	17,323	17,020	-2%	3,258	3,235	-1%	1,121	1,125	0%	10,517	10,235	0.0	337	337	0%	2,030	2,028	0%	60	60	0%	40,289	43,442	8%	2,997	3,178	6%
	Unlimited OTC	9,951	8,967	-10%	3,097	2,381	-23%	523	474	-9%	0	0	0%	360	424	18%	5,187	4,884	-6%	776	796	3%						
	Total	27,274	25,987	-5%	6,355	5,616	-12%	1,644	1,599	0.0	10,517	10,235	0.0	697	761	9%	7,217	6,912	-4%	836	856	2%	40,289	43,442	15%	2,997	3,178	37%