

Over the Counter (OTC) Elk tags sold in Colorado

*Includes cow only OTC archery elk (cow only Archery numbers for 2021, 351 nonresidents, 2217 residents)

Year	OTC Resident Total Sold (Archery+Rifle)	OTC NONResident Total Sold (Archery+Rifle)	Total	OTC Resident Archery	OTC NONResident Archery	Total	OTC Resident 2nd and 3rd Rifle	OTC NONResident 2nd and 3rd Rifle	Total
2002	45,287	38,160	83,447	8044	10,437	18,481	37,243	27,723	64,966
2009	49,604	36,467	86,071	18,178	15,545	33,723	31,426	20,922	52,348
2014	56,693	35,818	92,511	20,661	14,984	35,645	36,032	20,834	56,866
2019	52,418	41,669	94,087	17,810	18,958	36,768	34,608	22,711	57,319
2021	49,076	44,409	93,485	16,492	19,250	35,742	32,584	25,159	57,743
% change since 2002	8%	16%	12%	105%	84%	93%	-13%	-9%	-11%
% change since 2009	-1%	22%	9%	-9%	24%	6%	4%	20%	10%
% change since 2014	-13%	24%	1%	-20%	28%	0%	-10%	21%	2%

Trends/Notes

1. Archery hunters have basically doubled since 2002. 105% residents, 84% nonresidents.
2. Resident archery hunters down 20% since 2014, Nonresident archery hunters up 28% since 2014.
2. More nonresident archery hunters than resident. **Red**
3. I find the nonresident OTC rifle numbers suspect for 2002. Nonresident tags were \$373.25 in 2002.
4. Rifle trend since 2014 is residents down 10% , non-residents up 21%.
5. Total Resident OTC hunters down 13% since 2014, Total Nonresident OTC hunters up 24% since 2014.

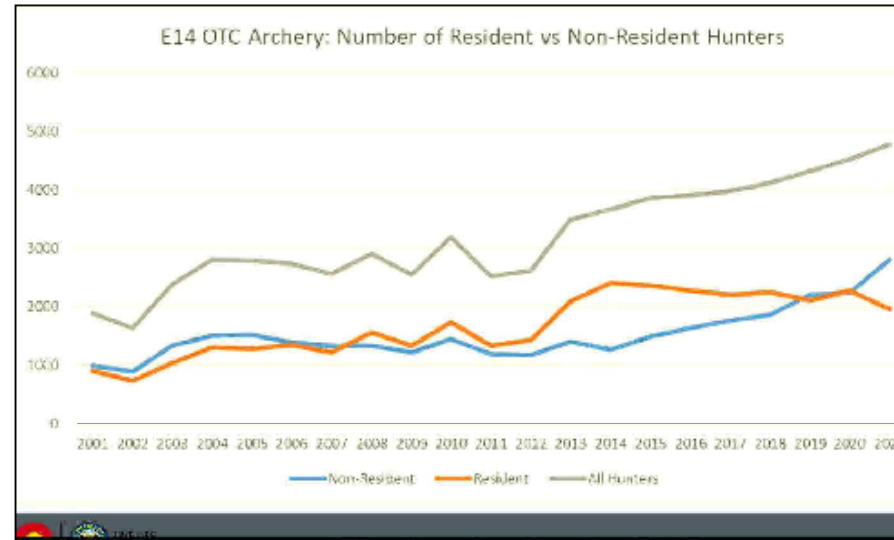
Obtained thru CORA requests

State	Total Area of State - Acres	Federal Gov't - Acres of Public Land	% of State's Total Area	State Population-millions	Tags Sold - Total Elk Hunters (avg) 2018-2020	Pressure Public Acres per Elk Hunter	Limited Elk Non-Resident Tag Allocation %
NM	77,673,000	22,854,000	29%	2 mil	37,000	618	6%
UT	52,587,000	33,194,000	63%	3.5 mil	61,359	541	10%
WY	62,147,000	30,099,000	48%	0.5 mil	55,817	539	16%
ID	52,960,000	32,496,000	61%	2 mil	100,000	325	10%
MT	93,155,000	27,276,000	29%	1 mil	109,570	249	10%
WA	42,612,000	11,648,000	27%	7 mil	56,199	207	10%
OR	61,441,000	16,407,000	27%	4 mil	98,977	166	10%
CO	66,822,000	23,541,000	35%	6 mil	218,782	108	20-25%
Averages		24,689,375		3 mil	92,213	344	10% (w/o CO)

Alarming Notes for Colorado Resident Elk Hunters

1. Colorado sells nearly 2.5 times as many elk tags as any other Western State.
2. Colorado is below average for the amount of public lands available to hunt by 1.1 million acres, amongst western states. **Many western states** have more federal land than Colorado.
3. Colorado sells about 4 times as many elk tags as Wyoming and Utah.
4. Elk hunting pressure on Colorado public lands is 3 times the Western States Average. 108 acres per elk hunter vs 344 acres per elk hunter the average amongst western states. **That 3 times the hunting pressure**
5. Around 94,000 of Colorado elk tags sold, are unlimited OTC tags. Colorado sells 20-35% of its limited elk tags to Nonresidents, the average western state only sell 10% of its limited tags to Nonresidents. CO elk tag allocation caps are SOFT, they only apply to the **1st choice draw**-ignoring residents and resident youth applications in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choice draws. The result of this allows some limited elk units to sell over 70% of limited elk tags to nonresidents even though hundreds of residents applied but were ignored in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choice draws. At the end of the 1st draw all remaining tags are given to nonresident based on their 1st choice draw, ignoring cap rates. A good example of this is EM04101R (unit 41 1st rifle) which gives 60% of limited tags to nonresidents and ignores 500 residents and 50 resident youth in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th draws.
6. This data is proof Colorado public lands are overhunted and CPW should limit OTC tags for Nonresidents. The OTC increased hunting pressure is the result of Nonresidents since 2014.

Overcrowding by Nonresident Hunters Cancels all OTC Archery elk hunts on Grand Mesa (Western CO) in 2023



During the [January 17, 2023 CPW Commission meeting](#) members of the Colorado Resident Hunter Association (Facebook Group) testified to try and save OTC archery hunting in the five E14 / Grand Mesa units (41, 52, 411, 421 and 521). CPW was responding to overcrowding complaints over the past few years. The attached Grand Mesa E14 Archery CPW graph that was shared with the commission this past fall shows that Nonresident archery hunters are up approximately 250% (1200 to 3000) since 2014 and that resident hunters are actually down 20% (2400 to 2000) since 2014. The surge in hunting pressure is the result of Nonresidents, in fact, 3 out 5 archery elk hunters on the Grand Mesa were Nonresidents.

Meanwhile all combined OTC elk hunts (rifle + archery) in Colorado have seen an increase of over 24% by Nonresidents, from 35,818 in 2014 to 44,409 in 2021. During this same period Resident OTC hunters (rifle +archery) are down from 56,693 in 2014 to 49,076 a decrease of 13%. All western states would respond to this nonresident surge by capping nonresident OTC tags and keeping OTC elk hunts open to residents to promote the sport to future generations of resident hunters.

Colorado's population has doubled from 3 million in 1990 to over 6 million today. CPW must start interviewing residents OTC hunters to find out why they are dropping out, it is likely hunting pressure caused by Nonresidents.