

## **2025 - 2029 Big Game Season Structure**

Big game management in Colorado is built on two main planning processes: Herd Management Plans (also called Data Analysis Unit [DAU] Plans) and Big Game Season Structure (BGSS). Herd Management Plans establish population objectives and sex ratios for each of the state’s big game herds. BGSS defines a framework for achieving those objectives through hunting seasons for different species and methods. These two processes inform big game license recommendations through the annual rule-making process.

The BGSS planning process is a critical component of big game management and big game hunting regulation development and determines: 1) what, when, and where various types of big game hunting opportunities are available, and 2) how the timing of these opportunities are divided among hunters. Through this planning process, CPW can better maintain healthy wildlife populations in keeping with management objectives. While BGSS gives the framework to work in, there can also be extenuating circumstances that require special arrangements. In those situations, hunting opportunities (seasons and license distribution) can be limited or modified geographically to meet biological or social management objectives.

During the planning process for the 2025-2029 Big Game Season Structure, options were presented to the Commission at issue stage during the March and April 2024 meetings. Then the draft policy document was presented at the May 2024 commission meeting with final regulations adopted at the June 2024 commission meeting.

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

<b>A. Archery – Deer and Elk Season Structure West of I-25 and GMU 140</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p><b>Season Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archery season will be a 29-day season and shall open September 2<sup>nd</sup> and close September 30<sup>th</sup>, annually.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>License Distribution:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Elk</u> - Limited either-sex, antlered and antlerless elk licenses are issued by Game Management Unit (GMU)/Data Analysis Unit (DAU). Unlimited Over-the-Counter (OTC) either-sex, antlered, and antlerless archery elk licenses can be made available to residents in certain units. Resident OTC List B archery elk antlerless licenses are only valid in units that also have List B rifle elk antlerless licenses. Nonresident archery elk licenses are limited either-sex, antlered or antlerless and issued by GMU/DAU.</li> <li><u>Deer</u> - All archery deer licenses are limited either-sex or limited buck and issued by GMU/DAU.</li> </ul>
<b>B. Muzzleloader – Deer and Elk Season Structure West of I-25 and GMU 140</b>	
	<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>

<b>C. Season Dates</b>	
	<p>Archery season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025 - 2029: September 2 - September 30, annually.</li> </ul> <p>Muzzleloader season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 09/13 - 09/21</li> <li>● 2026: 09/12 - 09/20</li> <li>● 2027: 09/11 - 09/19</li> <li>● 2028: 09/09 - 09/17</li> <li>● 2029: 09/08 - 09/16</li> </ul>

**II. High Country Deer**

<b>D. High Country Deer</b>	
	<p>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.</p>

<b>E. Season Dates</b>	
	<p>High country deer season shall be the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 09/06 - 09/14</li> <li>● 2026: 09/12 - 09/20</li> <li>● 2027: 09/11 - 09/19</li> <li>● 2028: 09/09 - 09/17</li> <li>● 2029: 09/08 - 09/16</li> </ul>

**III. Plains Deer Seasons (East of I-25 except 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>F. Archery - Plains Deer Season Structure</b>	
	<p>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. This could result in two or three splits within the season (3 in units with both regular and late plains rifle deer seasons) to avoid archery/rifle season overlap.</p> <p>All licenses limited. Either-sex or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.</p>

**G. Muzzleloader - Plains Deer Season Structure**

Plains muzzleloader season for deer will start the second Saturday of October and run for 9 days.

All licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.

**H. Rifle - Plains Deer Season Structure**

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.

All licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.

**I. Season Dates**

Plains archery deer season shall be the following dates:

- 2025: 10/01 - 10/24 and 11/05 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 10/24 and 11/05 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31
- 2026: 10/01 - 10/23 and 11/04 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 10/23 and 11/04 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31
- 2027: 10/01 - 10/29 and 11/10 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 10/29 and 11/10 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31
- 2028: 10/01 - 10/27 and 11/08 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 10/27 and 11/08 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31
- 2029: 10/01 - 10/26 and 11/07 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 10/26 and 11/07 - 12/31  
OR 10/01 - 11/30 and 12/15 - 12/31

Plains muzzleloader deer season shall be the following dates:

- 2025: 10/11 - 10/19
- 2026: 10/10 - 10/18
- 2027: 10/09 - 10/17
- 2028: 10/14 - 10/22
- 2029: 10/13 - 10/21

Plains rifle deer seasons shall be the following dates:

- 2025: 10/25 - 11/04
- 2026: 10/24 - 11/03
- 2027: 10/30 - 11/09
- 2028: 10/28 - 11/07
- 2029: 10/27 - 11/06

Late Plains rifle deer season shall be the following dates:

- 2025 - 2029: December 1 - December 14, annually.

**IV. Plains Elk Seasons (East of I-25 except select GMUs)**

<b>J. Archery - Plains Elk Season Structure</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</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</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><u>Plains archery elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 2025 - 2029: September 2 - September 30, annually.</li></ul> <p><u>Plains muzzleloader elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 2025: 09/13 - 09/21</li><li>● 2026: 09/12 - 09/20</li><li>● 2027: 09/11 - 09/19</li><li>● 2028: 09/09 - 09/17</li><li>● 2029: 09/08 - 09/16</li></ul> <p><u>Plains rifle elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 2025 - 2029: September 1 - January 31<sup>st</sup>, annually.</li></ul>

**V. Regular Rifle Deer and Elk Seasons**

<b>N. First Regular Rifle Elk and Optional Deer Seasons (NEW)</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p><b>Season dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-day season opening the first Wednesday after October 8th, followed by a 5-day break. Deer and elk combined season, but deer hunting is optional.</li> </ul> <p><b>License Distribution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All elk licenses are limited. Either-sex and antlered elk licenses issued by Game Management Unit (GMU)/Data Analysis Unit (DAU); antlerless elk licenses may be offered in DAUs over the population objective.</li> </ul>
<b>NEW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All optional deer licenses are limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.</li> </ul>
<b>O. Second Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p><b>Season dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9-day season, followed by a 5-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday and includes two full weekends.</li> </ul> <p><b>License Distribution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited either-sex, antlered, and antlerless elk licenses are issued by GMU/DAU. Unlimited Over-the-Counter (OTC) licenses can be made available for antlered elk in certain units.</li> <li>All deer licenses are limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.</li> </ul>
<b>P. Third Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p><b>Season dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9-day season, followed by a 2-day break. Deer and elk combined season. Opens on a Saturday.</li> </ul> <p><b>License Distribution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited either-sex, antlered, and antlerless elk licenses are issued by GMU/DAU. Unlimited OTC licenses can be made available for antlered elk in certain units.</li> <li>All deer licenses limited. Antlered and antlerless deer or antlered deer only, issued by GMU/DAU.</li> </ul>
<b>Q. Fourth Combined Deer and Elk Regular Rifle Season</b>	
	<p>5-day season. Deer and elk combined season, but deer hunting is optional.</p> <p>All licenses limited. Limited either-sex or limited antlered, and limited antlerless; all licenses issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
<b>R. Whitetail Deer Hunting Seasons</b>	
	<p>Portions of the state may offer both limited and unlimited whitetail deer hunting opportunities.</p>

S. Season Dates	
<b>NEW</b>	<p><u>First regular rifle elk season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 10/15 - 10/19</li> <li>● 2026: 10/14 - 10/18</li> <li>● 2027: 10/13 - 10/17</li> <li>● 2028: 10/11 - 10/15</li> <li>● 2029: 10/10 - 10/14</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>● 2025: 10/25 - 11/02</li> <li>● 2026: 10/24 - 11/01</li> <li>● 2027: 10/23 - 10/31</li> <li>● 2028: 10/21 - 10/29</li> <li>● 2029: 10/20 - 10/28</li> </ul> <p><u>Third regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 11/08 - 11/16</li> <li>● 2026: 11/07 - 11/15</li> <li>● 2027: 11/06 - 11/14</li> <li>● 2028: 11/04 - 11/12</li> <li>● 2029: 11/03 - 11/11</li> </ul> <p><u>Fourth regular rifle deer and elk combined season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 11/19 - 11/23</li> <li>● 2026: 11/18 - 11/22</li> <li>● 2027: 11/17 - 11/21</li> <li>● 2028: 11/15 - 11/19</li> <li>● 2029: 11/14 - 11/18</li> </ul>

**VI. Late Rifle Elk**

T. Late Rifle Elk	
	<p>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.</p>
U. Season Dates	
	<p><u>Late rifle elk season shall lie within the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 11/24 - 01/31</li> <li>● 2026: 11/23 - 01/31</li> <li>● 2027: 11/22 - 01/31</li> <li>● 2028: 11/20 - 01/31</li> <li>● 2029: 11/19 - 01/31</li> </ul>

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

<b>V. PLO Deer</b>	
	<p>There will be the option for limited either-sex and antlerless 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</b>	
	<p>There will be the option for limited either-sex and antlerless 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><u>PLO deer, and elk shall lie within the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 - 2029: 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.

Antlered or either-sex 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** - Antlerless moose licenses are not season choice and must be hunted in the specific hunt code dates drawn. Quota for antlerless moose will may “float” between ~~the~~ seasons, with the season issued being based on the successful applicant’s hunt code selection.

<b>Y. Archery Moose Season Structure</b>	
	<p>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.</p>
<b>Z. Muzzleloader Moose Season Structure</b>	
	<p>9-day season concurrent with muzzleloader deer and elk.</p>
<b>AA. Rifle Moose Season Structure</b>	
	<p>14-day season, with fixed dates of October 1-14<sup>th</sup>, annually.</p>
<b>NEW</b>	<p>There will be the option for an additional late season for antlerless moose, valid during all regular rifle deer and elk seasons (with no hunting during the breaks between seasons) when necessary to meet management objectives.</p>
<b>BB. Season Dates</b>	

	<p><u>Archery moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025: 09/06 - 09/30</li> <li>• 2026: 09/12 - 09/30</li> <li>• 2027: 09/11 - 09/30</li> <li>• 2028: 09/09 - 09/30</li> <li>• 2029: 09/08 - 09/30</li> </ul> <p><u>Muzzleloader moose season shall be the following dates (assuming current BGSS):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025: 09/13 - 09/21</li> <li>• 2026: 09/12 - 09/20</li> <li>• 2027: 09/11 - 09/19</li> <li>• 2028: 09/09 - 09/17</li> <li>• 2029: 09/08 - 09/16</li> </ul>
<b>NEW</b>	<p><u>Antlered and antlerless rifle moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 - 2029: October 1 - October 14th, annually.</li> </ul>
<b>NEW</b>	<p><u>Optional Late (concurrent) antlerless rifle moose season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025: 10/15 - 10/19 and 10/25 - 11/02 and 11/08 - 11/16 and 11/19 - 11/23</li> <li>• 2026: 10/14 - 10/18 and 10/24 - 11/01 and 11/07 - 11/15 and 11/18 - 11/22</li> <li>• 2027: 10/13 - 10/17 and 10/23 - 10/31 and 11/06 - 11/14 and 11/17 - 11/21</li> <li>• 2028: 10/11 - 10/15 and 10/21 - 10/29 and 11/04 - 11/12 and 11/15 - 11/19</li> <li>• 2029: 10/10 - 10/14 and 10/20 - 10/28 and 11/03 - 11/11 and 11/14 - 11/18</li> </ul>

**IX. Pronghorn**

<b>CC. Archery Pronghorn Season Structure</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</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>	
	<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>NEW</b>	<p>Optional second rifle pronghorn season - There will be the option for a 9-day second rifle season, opening on the third Saturday in October, when necessary to meet biological or social management objectives. All licenses will be limited and issued by GMU/DAU.</p>
<b>FF. Optional Late Rifle Pronghorn Season Structure</b>	

<b>NEW</b>	Late seasons vary in length, starting no earlier than November 1, closing no later than January 31, annually.
<b>GG. Season Dates</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p><u>Archery pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025 - 2029: 08/15 - 08/31, annually (bucks only)</li> <li>● 2025 - 2029: 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>● 2025 - 2029: 09/21 - 09/29, annually</li> </ul> <p><u>Rifle pronghorn season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <p>First Season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 10/04 - 10/12</li> <li>● 2026: 10/03 - 10/11</li> <li>● 2027: 10/02 - 10/10</li> <li>● 2028: 10/07 - 10/15</li> <li>● 2029: 10/06 - 10/14</li> </ul> <p>Second Season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025: 10/18 - 10/26</li> <li>● 2026: 10/17 - 10/25</li> <li>● 2027: 10/16 - 10/24</li> <li>● 2028: 10/21 - 10/29</li> <li>● 2029: 10/20 - 10/28</li> </ul>

**X. Mountain Lion**

<b>HH. April Mountain Lion Season Structure</b>	
	There may be an April season in select GMUs, opening April 1 and closing April 30. 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</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</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 the 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>• 2025 - 2029: 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>• 2025 - 2029: 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>• 2025: 11/24 - 03/31/2026</li><li>• 2026: 11/23 - 03/31/2027</li><li>• 2027: 11/21 - 03/31/2028</li><li>• 2028: 11/20 - 03/31/2029</li><li>• 2029: 11/18 - 03/31/2030</li></ul>

**XI. Black Bear**

<b>LL. Archery Black Bear Season</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p>Archery bear season opens on September 2 and closes on September 30, annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For 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.</li> <li>For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, all archery bear licenses can be limited and available through the draw.</li> </ul>
<b>MM. Muzzleloader Black Bear Season</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p>Muzzleloader bear season runs for 9 days concurrent with the muzzleloader deer and elk season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For 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 are also available.</li> <li>For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, all muzzleloader bear licenses can be limited and available through the draw.</li> </ul>
<b>NN. Rifle Black Bear Seasons</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Concurrent rifle bear season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concurrent rifle bear season opens with first rifle elk and ends with close of fourth rifle deer/elk combined season. Licenses valid only during open rifle deer or elk seasons (no hunting during breaks).</li> <li>For 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 DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, all rifle bear licenses can be limited and available through the draw.</li> </ul>
<b>OO. PLO Black Bear Season</b>	
	<p>PLO rifle bear season has the earliest opening date of September 2 and the latest ending date with the close of 4<sup>th</sup> rifle deer/elk season.</p>

<b>NEW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to reduce or suppress, PLO rifle bear licenses can be unlimited, OTC issued by DAU/GMU; no season participation restrictions.</li> <li>• For DAUs where the bear population management strategy is to remain stable or to address hunter crowding in limited elk or deer DAUs, PLO rifle bear licenses can be limited and issued by DAU/GMU. Limited PLO licenses will be available through the draw with no season participation restrictions.</li> </ul>
<b>PP. Plains Black Bear Season</b>	
	<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>• 2025 - 2029: September 2 - 30, annually.</li> </ul> <p><u>Muzzleloader bear season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025: 09/13 - 09/21</li> <li>• 2026: 09/12 - 09/20</li> <li>• 2027: 09/11 - 09/19</li> <li>• 2028: 09/09 - 09/17</li> <li>• 2029: 09/08 - 09/16</li> </ul> <p><u>September rifle bear season shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 - 2029: 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>• 2025: 10/15 - 10/19 and 10/25 - 11/02 and 11/08 - 11/16 and 11/19 - 11/23</li> <li>• 2026: 10/14 - 10/18 and 10/24 - 11/01 and 11/07 - 11/15 and 11/18 - 11/22</li> <li>• 2027: 10/13 - 10/17 and 10/23 - 10/31 and 11/06 - 11/14 and 11/17 - 11/21</li> <li>• 2028: 10/11 - 10/15 and 10/21 - 10/29 and 11/04 - 11/12 and 11/15 - 11/19</li> <li>• 2029: 10/10 - 10/14 and 10/20 - 10/28 and 11/03 - 11/11 and 11/14 - 11/18</li> </ul> <p><u>PLO rifle bear seasons shall be the following dates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 - 2029: September 2 - September 30, annually and October 1 - end of fourth 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>• 2025: 09/02 - 11/23</li> <li>• 2026: 09/02 - 11/22</li> <li>• 2027: 09/02 - 11/21</li> <li>• 2028: 09/02 - 11/19</li> <li>• 2029: 09/02 - 11/18</li> </ul>

## XII. Youth

<b>RR. Youth Preference</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</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>	
	Youth hunters with unfilled limited doe or either-sex pronghorn licenses will be permitted to hunt designated late pronghorn doe seasons statewide after the original licensed season has closed.