

Petition to Preserve OTC Elk Hunting for Colorado Residents Only

The [Colorado Resident Hunter Association](#) (Facebook group) is writing this petition because the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is currently considering the removal of Over-The-Counter (OTC) archery elk hunting in Colorado due to overcrowding. It is time to restore equity (compared to other western states) for resident hunters by preserving OTC archery elk tags and OTC rifle elk tags for resident hunters only--- starting in 2024.

We have witnessed alarming trends in OTC hunting that have significantly impacted resident hunters. CPW does not share these trends, they were obtained by CORA requests. From 2014 to 2021 there has been a staggering decline of [20% \(4,169\)](#) in OTC archery resident hunters while non-resident participation skyrocketed by over 28% (4,266). As a result, there are nearly 3,000 more nonresident archery OTC hunters than residents (see attached spreadsheet). The numbers for rifle OTC trends are similar, residents are down 10% and nonresidents are up 21%. The overcrowding issue faced during OTC seasons is not caused by resident hunters but is the result of consistent growth of non-resident participation.

By signing this petition, you are expressing your support for preserving all remaining OTC elk hunting (archery and rifle) for Colorado residents only, starting in 2024. We believe this measure will restore equity without infringing upon the rights or experiences of non-resident hunters who can still participate through limited draw hunts and non-resident caps on all OTC hunts. Please scan the QR code (pass QR code to fellow hunters) and sign electronically.

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)

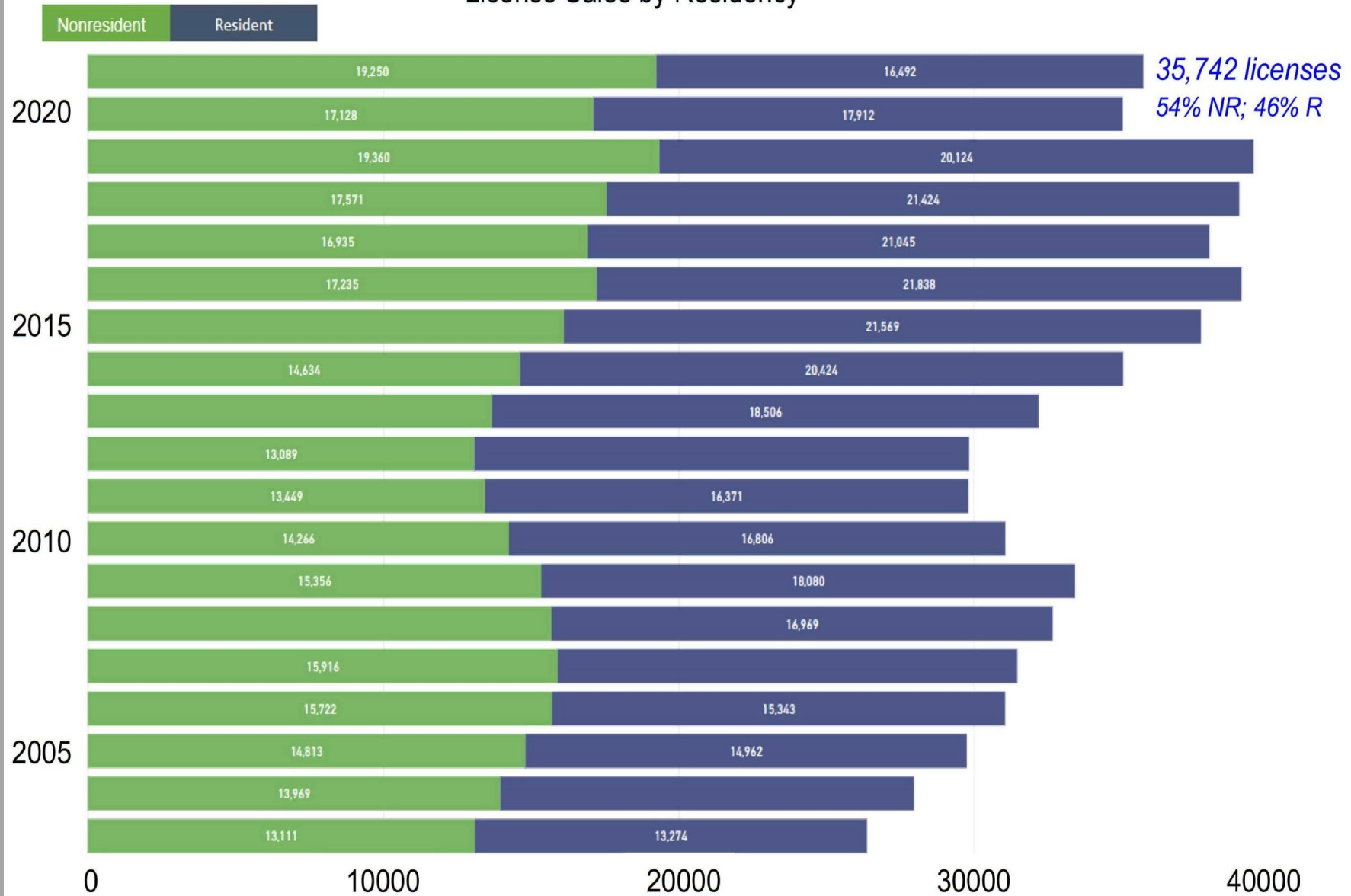
Year	OTC Resident Total Sold (Archery+Rifle)	OTC NONResident Total Sold (Archery+Rifle)	Total	OTC Resident Archery	OTC NONResident Archery	Total	OTC Resident 2nd and 3rd Rifle	OTC NONResident 2nd and 3rd Rifle	Total
2002	45,287	38,160	83,447	8044	10,437	18,481	37,243	27,723	64,966
2009	49,604	36,467	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 2014	-13%	24%	1%	-20%	28%	<1%	-10%	21%	2%
# change since 2014	-7,617	+8591		-4,169	+4266		-3,448	+4325	

Trends/Notes

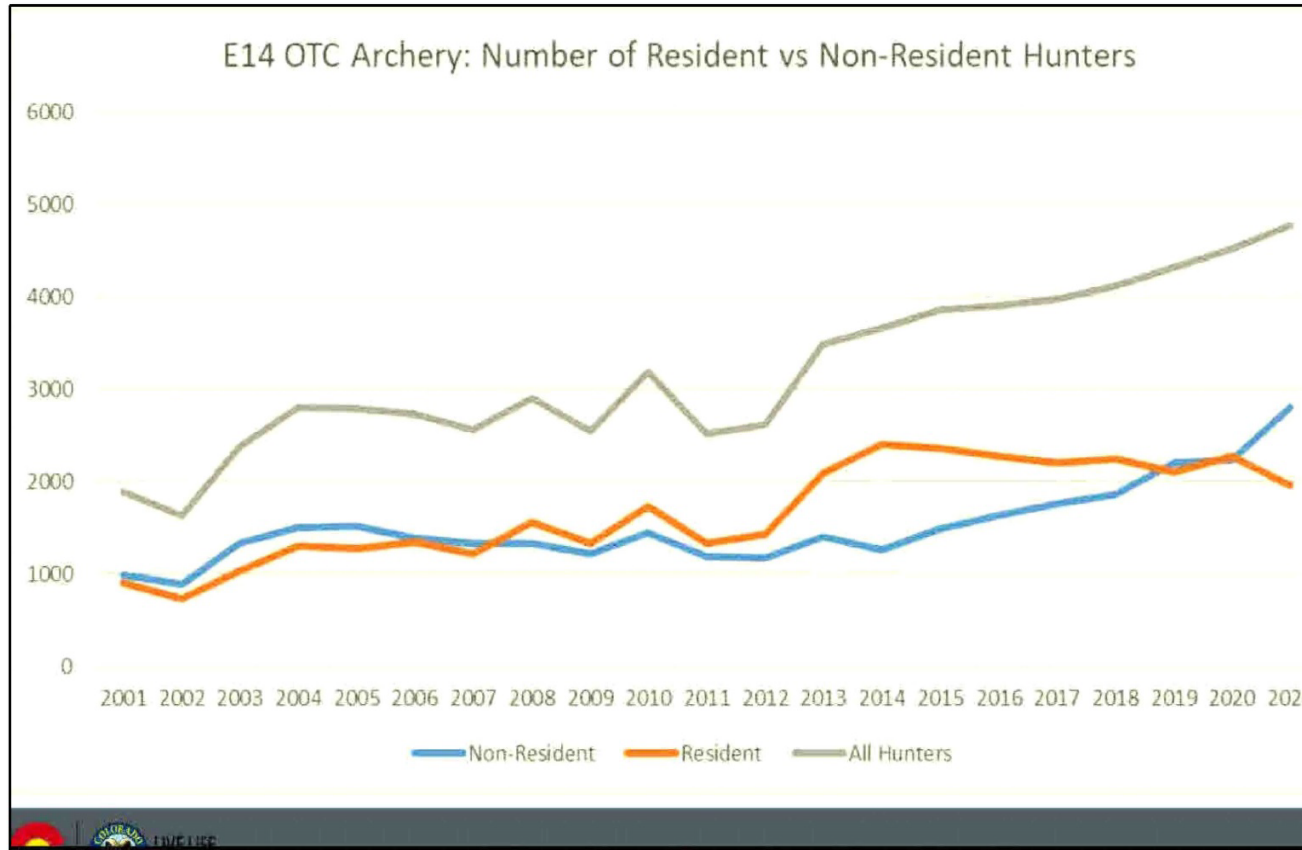
1. Resident archery hunters down 20% since 2014, Nonresident archery hunters up 28% since 2014.
2. More nonresident archery hunters than resident.
3. Total Resident OTC hunters down 13% since 2014, Total Nonresident OTC hunters up 24% since 2014.

ELK - OTC Archery

License Sales by Residency



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 of 5 archery elk hunters on the Grand Mesa were Nonresidents.

Slide 5 - Colorado Elk Tag Sales vs Other Western States

Top 7 Western States VS CO in Nonresident Elk Tag Sales

Nonresident (NR) Elk Tag Sales -----Top 7 Elk States VS Colorado				
State	2021-2022 Elk Population	Total Elk Tags Sold	Total Elk Tags Sold To Nonresidents **	% to Nonresidents
Montana	170,000	113,000	17,000	15%
Oregon	130,000	104,000	12,800	12%
Wyoming	120,000	57,500	5,400	9%
Idaho	107,000	88,500	12,800	14%
New Mexico	90,000	37,000	12,750	34%
Utah	85,000	48,750	3,250	7%
Arizona	40,000	29,000	2900	10%
Total	742,000	477,750	66,900	14%
Colorado	280,000	201,000	72,000	36%

** Does not included private land tags sold back to nonresidents

Notes: The 7 Western States have more than 2.5 X's the elk population (742k vs 280k) yet combined the 7 Western States sell 5,100 less elk tags to NR's, than Colorado. The 7 state average % of elk tags sold to NRs is 14%, Colorado sells 36% of its tags to NR's, nearly 3x more than average.