

A man with a mustache, wearing a black baseball cap with a white deer head logo and a camouflage jacket, is kneeling in a wooded area. He is holding the antlers of a large deer that is lying on the ground. The deer has very large, thick, and slightly curved antlers. The background consists of dense evergreen trees and dry brush.

EPIC OUTDOORS™

WESTERN HUNTING MAGAZINE

Utah 2017
New Mexico 2017
Oregon 2017
Nevada Guide Draw

VOL 2 • ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2017



PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL BRIDE

THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

BASE LAYERS | INSULATION | OUTERWEAR | PACKS | SLEEP SYSTEMS | BOOTS | ACCESSORIES

SOLD DIRECT WITHOUT RETAIL MARKUP | 855-367-5848 | WWW.KUIU.COM

MOUNTAINS ARE RELENTLESS

"Hunting in Alaska, there are a lot of variables that we have no control over, but one thing we do have control over is our choice of gear. Kuiu stands above any other gear I've used, hands down"

Frank Sanders | Alaska Trophy Outfitters



 **KUIU**[®]
ULTRALIGHT HUNTING



BIG NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

—BY JASON CARTER

I can't believe we are already into the February issue! Time flies when you're busy I guess. There's a lot of new and great things going on here in the Epic office! First and foremost, we hired my brother in-law, Jeff John, full time to be a hunt consultant. He will work with our outfitters including outfitters that offer guaranteed tags and hunts that you can just book without drawing a tag. We are so excited to have him as part of our team. He's a perfect fit. Please call him and get to know him. He is very personable and loves the industry and his job. You can read more about him in his official introduction that I wrote later on in this issue.



NEW EPIC STAFF MEMBER **JEFF JOHN**

I'm also excited to announce we are launching our **Epic Podcast** sponsored by Under Armour! These podcasts will go hand in hand with the type of content in our magazine. We will be talking to the biologists, outfitters across the west, Canada, and Alaska, as well as significant hunters in the industry. These podcasts will be a unique opportunity to learn more than we can possibly publish in a magazine as well as allow our members to get to know us and our guests better. We are super excited and Chris Petersen has been working hard to build our studio. Check our website for a link to the podcasts.

As many of you know, we have an Epic YouTube channel where we showcase some of our hunts and that will be growing rapidly as well! We will be constantly updating and showcasing more hunts, products, and western hunting businesses on the channel. Chris Petersen here in the office will be filming our hunting adventures and doing all the final production work as well. He is a super talented guy in this department and we are lucky to have him. Under Armour will be sponsoring these episodes as well as making it possible for us to bring you even more free content and information.



www.youtube.com/epicoutdoors/c/



**Jason Carter, Jared Wolfley, and
Dusty White with Jason's Utah
Muzzloader Elk**



**Jason's son, Shaun, with his first
elk. Taken on a New Mexico Youth
Muzzloader Elk Hunt**

In this issue you will find all of the information you need to apply for big game in New Mexico, Utah, Oregon and a short write up on the Nevada guided deer draw. This issue is jam packed with information. The research that we put into each of state sections is incalculable. It's one thing to call a few biologists and crunch the drawing odds, but another to have hunted these states aggressively ourselves and to have learned valuable information over the years from numerous local hunting fanatics and outfitters who are good friends. There is no replacing years and years of experience and researching quality big game hunting opportunities.

We are giving away another hunt! We have purchased a Yukon moose hunt from good friend and outfitter Jarrett

Deuling of Deuling Stone Outfitters. I have hunted Fannin sheep and Moose with them in recent years. They run a first class operation. Starting right now, you can enter to win this hunt by referring a friend to join our membership. You will not be able to buy tickets to win it. The drawing odds will be great!

If there is anything you'd like to see on Epic YouTube or listen to on the Epic Podcasts, please hit us up. We are always willing to listen and provide what you'd like to learn more about. We appreciate your support as members as well as the support of all of our sponsors. Epic will only get better as the months roll by and we have you all to thank for that!



ADAM'S TAKE

—BY ADAM BRONSON



Adam with his Yukon moose taken with Jarrett Deuling.

This is the same hunt we are giving away for our Spring Membership Drive for referring your buddies.



First off I want to say thank you to all of you that have joined Epic Outdoors and supported us these last few months as we've broadened our services.

When you launch a new venture like we have, the initial support from advertisers, customers, and others in the hunting industry is extremely appreciated. We're here to stay and look forward to the future.

We'd like to announce that we're giving away an additional hunt to a member who refers a member that joins our service by April 28, 2017. We've bought one of the best Yukon moose hunts available anywhere from outfitter Jarrett Deuling owner of Deuling Stone Outfitters in the Yukon. This hunt is for September 17-29, 2017 during the peak of the rut! Fellow Epic Outdoors consultant Jason Carter and I hunted moose with Jarrett in 2014 and had a great hunt. We know the winner of this hunt will have the opportunity to kill a giant bull! Member Mike Broadwell has hunted with Jarrett multiple times and this past year he killed an absolute giant bull. Read Mike's story in this issue of Epic Outdoors magazine. We've fully paid for this hunt and it's time to give it away to a lucky member.

You cannot buy tickets for this hunt so if you're already a member, think of a friend or two and have them join and be sure to have them mention they were referred by you.

It's time to think about Utah's applications. As an Outfitter in Utah, I look forward to taking clients on some great hunts each year and incorporate these hunts into my schedule. I do this simply as a way to get to experience some of the best hunts in Utah every year. New for 2017, youth can now apply for all big game hunts at 12 years of age instead of 14. They must have hunter education from any state prior to applying. Utah residents have a couple new archery only opportunities to hunt mountain goats in the Uintas and bison on the Henry mountains. These are the only once in a lifetime species in Utah with archery only permits. There are a few other new units available to nonresidents this year that we explain in detail in the write up and tables for each species. The quality of hunts you can find in Utah is very high. The downside is the drawing odds are pretty tough. Utah's general season deer units had an incredible year in 2016, with many of the state's biggest

bucks coming from general units. The switch to a unit by unit management strategy for general season deer has allowed tag numbers to be controlled better for each unit and season. We've also had several back to back mild winters and wet spring and summers which all have made deer numbers increase and more bucks have been able to get by hunters and live another year or two. General season deer hunts are still not trophy hunts. The best deer are found and killed with a lot of time and effort. But since these Utah tags are easy to draw, they can't be overlooked as being a good option if your schedule is open and you have some time to fit in another hunt.

The trophy quality of Utah's elk seems stable now after permit increases several years ago took a bit off the top end quality on each unit. There are more opportunities and seasons to choose from now than there ever has been, study the tables and find a hunt you would be satisfied with.

Utah's bison and Mountain goat herds and hunting opportunities have never been better. There are new hunts open for residents and nonresidents again this year which helps spread out applicants some. Utah moose are doing okay but still have a long way to go to be back to where they once were. Sheep herds in Utah are struggling in some units particularly a couple Rocky Mountain Bighorn units, while some Desert Bighorn units have never been better. This is simply the unfortunate cycle that sheep sometimes succumb to after disease events flare up. Every state has similar issues when it comes to sheep management. There is an additional nonresident Desert bighorn permit for 2017 as the Kaiparowits West unit is now available to nonresidents.

If any of you will be coming to Salt Lake City to the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo February 16-19th, come stop by our booth #2844. We look forward to meeting our members and sharing in the excitement as we talk about hunting plans for the coming year. It's time to make a strategy and apply, good luck!



Left: Andrew Butler with his 2016 Archery Utah Mule deer taken with Bronson Outfitting



Above: Glen Bailey with his 2016 Utah Desert Bighorn taken with Bronson Outfitting



Right: Kevan Talbot with his 2016 Utah Desert Bighorn taken with Bronson Outfitting



epic Outdoors

FEBRUARY 2017

CONTENTS

Staff Member Introduction - Jeff John	10
Nevada Mule Deer Guide Draw	11
Cover Story - Ronald Sawyer, Utah Mule Deer	14
Mike Broadwell, Moose Utah	18
Guest Article By Josh Pollock	24
Utah 2017	28
Jerad Cotten, Utah Mule Deer	54
Tentative Draw Schedule/Moon Phases	57
Rob Douglas, Utah Sheep	58
Steve Carroll, Utah Bison	62
New Mexico 2017	66
Brandon Nelson, New Mexico Elk	88
Kris Kohlhoff, New Mexico Sheep	90
Oregon 2017	94
Carl McCrary, Oregon Blacktail Deer	106
Epic Partner Directory	108



Vortex Cover Winner...
Ronald Sawyer gets a
pair of Vortex 15x56
Kaibab HD binoculars



**15X56
KAIBAB HD
BINOCULARS**



Experience matters.

**For 45 years, Hilleberg has been making
the highest quality, most dependable
backcountry tents available.**



Adam Foss/Seacat Creative

YOUR HUNT DEPENDS ON YOUR EQUIPMENT. Choose wisely, and trust tents that have been rigorously tested and constantly proven, in all conditions, on all continents. Hilleberg tents are conceived and developed in northern Sweden and made in our own factory in Europe, and they offer the ideal balance of low weight, strength, and comfort. To learn more about our tents and about us, visit our website, hilleberg.com.

**Order a FREE catalog online at HILLEBERG.COM
or call toll free 1-866-848-8368**

follow us on facebook.com/HillebergHunting

HILLEBERG
THE TENTMAKER



INTRODUCING JEFF JOHN

—BY JASON CARTER



As most of you know, we have been in the business of doing a magazine, booking hunts, and selling landowner tags as well as consulting on a full-time basis for a period of a couple months. The growth we've experienced has been nothing short of amazing and we thank you for that! With this growth comes the need for us to bring on a new hunt consultant to help us provide the best service we can.

It's time that I introduce the newest member of the Epic team! We have hired my brother-in-law, Jeff John, to come on board full time and work with us and to serve you, our customer. He will work heavily with the Epic-Approved outfitters and search out and find hunts that might interest you. As you might expect, bringing someone on isn't something we take lightly. We have had great cohesion as a team over the past few years together in the hunting industry and as a result have

been able to be the best at what we do. We'd never want to take the risk of jeopardizing that synergy and enthusiasm.

I've personally known Jeff for over 14 years. He is married to my wife's sister Angie. He has an incredible love for hunting and being in the hills. I've gladly accepted his help over the years on different hunts and have accompanied him on a couple of his. He is super personable and detail oriented. We've had him in the office for about two months working with outfitters and clients to find hunts with guaranteed tags that Epic members might be interested in. Many of you have already called in and taken the time to visit with him. If you have, I'm certain that you've enjoyed visiting with him and felt that he will get you lined up on the perfect hunt for you. He is a great fit for the job!

Jeff has a great deal of western big game hunting experience. He spent most of his life in northern Utah hunting and spending time in the hills of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, and Idaho. He has drawn multiple tags over the years including a Henry Mountain tag in Utah, several deer tags in Colorado, Idaho, as well as Nevada. He also got lucky and drew a Rocky Mountain sheep tag in Utah on the Rattlesnake unit. He has driven all night several times to help us hunt for a specific buck or bull. With his positive outlook on life and his aggressive personality, he is a great guy to have in hunting camp.

As with any growing business, we are planning for the future and will strive to stay in front of the curve when it comes to adding to our most valuable asset, our employees. While we want to grow to a sustainable

number of customers, we are not looking to grow beyond what our current work force and a couple more solid employees can handle. We are a service-oriented business that relies on providing great customer service and producing the best product we can.

I hope you take the time to call in and visit with Jeff and welcome him to the industry. He loves to visit and talk anything hunting. Adam Bronson and myself will continue to consult on a daily basis and help line you up on both draw hunts as well as hunts with guaranteed tags, but we couldn't be happier with Jeff's decision to move his family down to Cedar City, Utah and jump into a longterm career with us! Welcome to the team Jeff!!

You can reach Jeff John by emailing hunts@epicoutdoors.com or calling 435-263-0777.



NEVADA MULE DEER GUIDE DRAW

It's time to be thinking about applying in Nevada for their guided deer draw. The Nevada guide drawing is separate from the regular application period. The application period for the guide draw will start in February sometime and end in mid-March. The exact application dates have not been finalized yet. Every year, about 400 of the nonresident rifle Mule deer tags across the state are allocated in the guide draw. These tags are divvied out to applicants who apply through an outfitter and must be guided by that outfitter. Only rifle tags are available in this draw so hunters who want to apply for the archery or muzzleloader hunts must apply in the regular draw in April. Bonus points for Mule deer are good for

either draw. Applicants who apply for the deer guide draw are not able to apply for deer in the main draw. The draw odds for the guide draw are generally better for the guided rifle hunts than they are in the main draw.

We work with the best outfitters across the state of Nevada. If you need help in choosing a great outfitter to apply with, call us and we will hook you up. The deer hunting in Nevada has never been better in recent history than it is now. There has been enough moisture this winter to ensure that even if it dries up this spring it can't be a terrible year for antler growth!

THE CUSTOM **LONG RANGE RIFLE** **WE TRUST**



"Whether it's our own hunt or one of our clients, we trust and use Red Rock Precision rifles. They are light-weight, accurate, and very dependable. If you're backpack hunting where every ounce counts, you can't beat their sheep rifles and they flat out shoot! When it's your once in a lifetime hunt choose Red Rock Precision rifles."

—Adam and Aaron Bronson, Bronson Outfitting

Range
1,200 YARDS
Weight with Scope
8.6 LBS



CARBON LITE RIFLE

Range
800 YARDS
Weight with Scope
6.5 LBS



ULTRALITE SHEEP RIFLE

Range
1,000 YARDS
Weight with Scope
7.5 LBS



ULTRALITE MOUNTAIN RIFLE

Range
1,200 YARDS
Weight with Scope
9.0 LBS



EXTREME RANGE MAGNUM



RED ROCK
PRECISION
LONG RANGE FIREARMS & CUSTOM AMMUNITION

WWW.REDROCKPRECISION.COM



CHIQUITA

COVER STORY

RONALD SAWYER • 235 4/8" MULE DEER • UTAH

From the first sighting of the deer I called “Chiquita” I knew he was going to be big, but I had no clue how he would finish out. The name came from his thick, main beams that looked like bananas. That was until they split and looked nothing like bananas, but the name stuck anyway. I was obsessed with him. I spent countless sleepless nights on Google Earth trying to figure out where he was spending the majority of his time. I had to find where he watered, where he fed, and where he would bed. I was able to find him on a fairly consistent basis, but that was the problem. If I was finding him consistently, that meant I probably wasn’t the only one. Several times when I went to try and locate him I wasn’t the only one glassing from the various vantage points in the area.

There were a couple other bucks in the area that on any other year I would be happy to hunt, but a deer of this caliber doesn’t come around often and I knew I had to dedicate the entire hunt to him. I figured Chiquita would score around 225” and I thought that was a modest guess. In the back of my mind I hoped I wouldn’t see the “smaller bucks” because I wasn’t sure I could pass on them. I guessed them to both be in the 185-190” range. I had joined the Dedicated Hunter program so I knew if I didn’t harvest on the bow hunt, I still had a chance at getting him with a muzzleloader or rifle. But I knew my best odds were with a bow.

Chiquita was hitting the trail cameras regularly until the week before the archery hunt started. I thought I had him pretty well patterned and felt good about my chances of harvesting him on the archery hunt. Before the hunt started, I set up a blind and tree stand and from that point on he was never on trail camera again. Even though he wasn’t on camera I knew he was still there because the bucks he was running with were on camera and I could still glass him up from time to time. My good friend, Colby, came to glass on opening weekend, and the night before the hunt started, we were able to turn him in his usual spot. We had high hopes for opening morning.

The opening day brought no action. The second morning we had the same game plan. I would sit in the blind while Colby would sit on a knob and glass as much country as possible. As I was sitting in the blind I got a text saying

he had eyes on him. Before we could make a game plan, another hunter bumped him and pushed him into the thick trees. We decided to call it a morning and head out. While I was hiking out to the road, Colby went around to glass into the trees he had last seen him heading towards. It didn’t take him long and he had him located again. He was with about ten other bucks and they were on high alert. We decided to leave them alone and try to locate them that evening. That evening we couldn’t turn them back up. After that sighting I didn’t see him for over two weeks.

Every morning and evening as I sat in the blind or stand, I wondered if I was wasting my time. I wondered if I would be more successful getting out and trying to glass the buck, but trying to find and stalk the buck by myself proved to be impossible as he was always on the move and with too many other bucks. I was getting tired of sitting the same blind and stand day after day. I wondered if I should give up on Chiquita and focus on one of the other bucks in the area; however, I knew I would always be mad at myself for giving up on a buck of this size, so I stuck to the game plan.

My brother-in-law, Colby, came down to glass and hunt with me a couple times throughout the archery hunt, and although he was able to glass him up on several occasions we were never able to get close enough for a shot. Several times during the archery hunt I thought that if I had a muzzleloader in my hand instead of a bow I could have harvested him easily.

As the archery hunt came to an end, I thought my chances of killing him were slim. I continued to check trail cameras and scout as much as possible. I was able to locate him a few times between the archery and muzzleloader hunts. I still wasn’t getting pictures of him on trail camera, but knew he was right there close.

The first day of the muzzleloader hunt I hiked into position in the dark and waited for it to get light. My dad was positioned on a vantage point across the canyon. A while after daylight, I saw a few of the bucks Chiquita was usually with coming straight at me on a run. I got my gun on the tripod as I knew he was going to be right behind them. As they filed by me at 40 yards, I realized he wasn’t with them. I wondered if he had been shot as I



had heard a couple shots earlier that morning in the area. That evening, I hiked into the same spot and didn't see a single buck. As my dad and I sat that night trying to make a game plan, I knew I needed to do the same thing I had done that day. Whenever the buck disappeared for a time, that was the spot I would always find him in again.

The second day of the hunt found me again hiking into position in the dark and my dad was positioned on the knob to glass. As it became light enough to see, I wasn't able to pick up any movement. Just as I was about to move to another glassing point, I looked one last time in front of me and there he was. He was about 150 yards



out and feeding straight for me. I had to stand to be able to see over the sagebrush he was feeding in. As I took the binoculars off the tripod and put the gun up, my knees were shaking so bad I could hardly keep him in the scope. Luckily for me he didn't know I was there and I had time to calm my nerves and make the easy 100-yard shot.

As Chiquita fell in his tracks, I couldn't believe what had just happened. All the time and effort put into this hunt had just paid off. Before the smoke cleared the air I got a phone call from my dad asking if that was me or if someone else got him. I told him it was me and to hurry down to check him out. He said he had just picked up a buck in his binoculars, but couldn't tell which deer it was so he switched out his binos for his spotting scope.

Just as he was getting the deer into focus in his scope, he watched him drop then heard the blast from the gun.

After some congratulations and a few pics, we got him out and headed to town.

With several other good hunters after this deer, I feel very fortunate to be the one to place a tag on him. I hunted this deer for 16 total days, 14 days on the archery hunt and I was able to harvest him on day 2 of the muzzleloader hunt. After the drying period he officially grossed 235 4/8" with a net score of 229 1/8". Thanks to my great wife for being so understanding of the crazy amount of time I spent scouting/ hunting this year. Thanks to my boys, Brody and Riley, who were a big "help" in setting and checking trail cameras. Thanks to my dad for the time spent glassing and scouting the buck also. I had a couple really good friends and family members come glass and hunt with me and I'm appreciative of that as they all had tags of their own they could have been out filling. The 2016 hunting season will be one I'll never forget!

JOIN US ON THE TRAIL LESS TRAVELED

Kenetrek
Boots
FOR THE TRAIL LESS TRAVELED®



© KENETREK, LLC 2016

GRIZZLY PAC BOOTS

When you're trudging through knee deep snow on your way to late-season Elk camp, you'll be happy you have your Kenetrek Grizzly Pac Boots. Built for hunting and hiking, utilizing thick steel shanks for support, and Thinsulate™/wool felt liners, the Grizzlies will keep you upright and warm, no matter what Mother Nature throws at you.



DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

I just wanted to show my appreciation for a fantastic product as well as great customer service. I have owned my Kenetrek Grizzly Pacs for 6 years now and I will never buy another brand of boot! Customer service was second to none this last year when I needed the boots to be resoled. Any mountain pounders out there who really hit hard in rough country need to make the permanent switch to Kenetrek. Thanks again guys!

SAM STEPHENS, CODY, WY



800-232-6064
WWW.KENETREK.COM

A YUKON GIANT

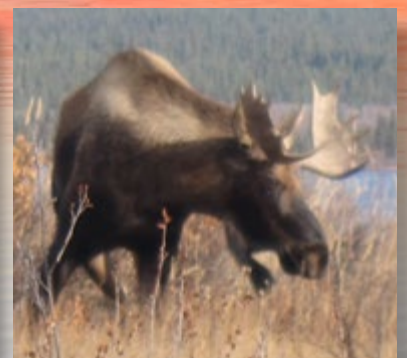
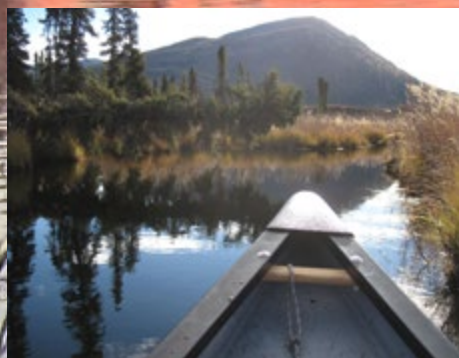
MIKE BROADWELL • ALASKA/YUKON MOOSE • YUKON

Terry excitedly said; look at the palms on that bull! We have to get down there and kill him! I was once again in the Yukon bow hunting Alaska/Yukon moose with Deuling Stone outfitters. I felt very lucky to be hunting again with super guide Terri Ollie. We connected on a moose in 2011 that looked almost exactly like this one only about a quarter of a mile away from where we were. This bull was not quite as wide overall, but looked to have much wider palms. Terry believed it must be from the same gene pool as he has taken at least 2 others in the same area that all have the same characteristics.

The first 7 days of my hunt were spent at a lake that had not been hunted much before. It was a tent hunt as there was no cabin at this lake. We were hopeful as the rut

was on and the temperature was dropping down to -16 Celsius at night, we thought it was only a matter of time until a bull came cruising by searching for cows. We only found a few small bulls so Jarrett Deuling flew me out the next morning to his base camp for a horse back hunt. After the mandatory 6 hour wait after flying, we took the boat down lake and found 2 shooter bulls but could not get on them before dark.

The next morning while the horses were being saddled, I looked down lake about 250 yards and was surprised to see a 60 plus inch bull and a cow right at the water's edge. Jarrett called for someone to quickly bring him a horse to look like a cow moose decoy while he and Terry cow called. It does work sometimes and the bull started



to come closer while I tried to slip in to bow range. Clearly rutting, the bull would paw out a huge hole in the mud and urinate in it, then walk back out into the lake. The willows were very noisy and I was only able to get to 51 yards whereas I couldn't get a clear shot and the bull just walked away into the timber following his lady.

Three hours later we arrived on horseback into the same camp we stayed at in 2011. Terry asked the wrangler to get camp set up while we went hunting. Having hunted this area many times, Terry had a definite spot in mind to look for big bulls. Snowflakes drifted lazily among us as we rode in silence through the willows. An hour later we were looking over a large valley guarded by snowcapped mountains, choked on both sides with timber surrounding the willows in the bottom.

Quickly Terry spied the bull about a half mile across the other side as he just seemed to appear out of nowhere. It looked like someone stuck a half sheet of plywood on each side of the bulls' ears. From that distance he seemed HUGE and the hunt was on.

Terry led our horses down through the tight spruce trees to almost the edge of the timber. We discussed the options of trying to get this bull to come across about

250 open yards of willows to within bow range. Even though we didn't see a cow with him, we weren't sure he would come all that way across without seeing a cow when we called. There was a small slice of spruce trees about 20 yards long fairly close to the bull. If I could just get there without being seen or heard, Terry just might be able to sweet talk him right past me.

It was go time! At the creek about half way across, I stopped and took off my noisy rain pants and carefully continued to close the distance. I was very pleased that I made it to the trees without being seen, and that I was now less than 70 yards away from this monster bull. Terry started his serenade as the bull turned his massive satellite dish pans toward him. He slowly started walking and grunting and if he went the way I thought he would, my shot would be 40 yards or less to my right. I nocked an arrow and clipped on my release as my heart started pounding in my chest. I told myself to calm down as the adrenaline surged when I heard him grunt to my left, I turned to see unbelievably huge points clearing the branches less than 15 yards away. I tried not to look at his massive rack as I drew before his eyes passed the trees. He was slightly quartering towards me as he swayed and grunted while walking by me. I picked a spot and watched the arrow bury deep behind his shoulder.



Win This Hunt in our Membership Drive
Get One Entry for Each Friend You Refer to
Epic Outdoors by April 28th, 2017



My first thought was thank God he didn't turn and charge me as he trotted to about 80 yards and stopped broadside looking back for what bit him. I still had my adjustable pin at 25 yards so I guessed where to hold, held it about a foot and a half over his back and luckily buried one into his heart. I set my bow down and watched through my Leica's as he took his last steps and thundered to the ground.

Terry was so excited he didn't even get the horses, just started running towards me as I met him part way. Man hugs, handshakes and excitement filled the air. Terry has been on more than a hundred moose hunts but this was his first bow kill. He said in all the hunts his heart had

never beat as hard as it did on this one. He got a front row seat to the entire hunt and thoroughly enjoyed it just as much as I did.

After pictures, we got all the meat ready for the horses to pack out the next day. Back at camp, Michael had the tents and cooking tarp set up and all the food for 5 days laid out. As soon as the horses were hobbled and let go, Michael yelled "Bear"! A grizzly was about 100 yards out of camp up on the hill shadowing us. He took off like a scalded dog at our voices as my hopes of adding to an already fantastic day diminished slightly. That would have been icing on the cake.

Trailing a horse with a huge set of antlers bobbing in front of you following 4 horses loaded with meat is a sight all hunters should see. Snowcapped mountains and the amazing colors of fall completed the dream scene. Halfway back to camp Terry spotted a huge bull way up the mountain at the edge of the timber. I knew it was special but he didn't tell me that it was bigger than mine until we got back to camp. I just might have to go back again and try and find him.

Jarrett and I put a tape on him the next day and rough scored him at 232, figuring he would net around 220 or so. I would like to thank Jarrett, Terry and the rest of the crew for another great hunting experience.

I definitely would like to thank my wife for understanding my need and passion to be in the outdoors and for the wonderful life we enjoy.



EPIC OUTDOORS LICENSE APPLICATION SERVICE

Vic Carter & his son Charlie
with Vic's Arizona Elk - Tag
Drawn by Epic Outdoors



HAVE OUR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS
**PERSONALLY DO YOUR
APPLICATIONS**



Jason
Carter



Adam
Bronson



John
Petersen



Chris
Petersen

Call 435-263-0777 for a FREE Application Consultation

NEVER MISS A DEADLINE, NEVER APPLY FOR THE WRONG UNIT



Ben Adamson, ID Ram
Tag Drawn by Epic Outdoors



Steve Mashl, NM Deer
Tag Drawn by Epic Outdoors



Peter Spear, UT Elk
Tag Drawn by Epic Outdoors



Tom Joyce, CO Bighorn Ram
Tag Drawn by Epic Outdoors

LET US HELP DRAW YOUR DREAM TAGS

JOIN TODAY

Call 435-263-0777 or email us
at info@epicoutdoors.com

OUR LICENSE APPLICATION PRICES

\$50 per state for
up to 2 species

\$100 per state for
3 species or more

\$500 for UNLIMITED species
and states

We submit applications for the following states: Alaska,
Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas,
Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah,
Washington, and Wyoming.



GREAT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES IN UTAH

GUEST ARTICLE BY JOSH POLLOCK

—Big Game Biologist - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Editor's Note: I contacted Josh Pollock who is a Big Game Biologist for the Utah Division of Wildlife to give us a little insight into the management practices of the Division as well as a few of his findings in the different research projects he has been involved in. Josh is extremely passionate about his work and is a great hunter as well. I can't thank him enough for this quality addition to our magazine! — Jason Carter

If you've ever considered hunting deer or elk in Utah, now is the time to apply for or buy that tag you've always wanted. In recent years, biologists with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) have recommended—and the Utah Wildlife Board has approved—several new hunting opportunities. In this article, I hope to introduce you to some of these opportunities and how the DWR manages big game animals in Utah.

I'm a big game biologist with the DWR based out of our Southern Region office. My opinion might be slightly biased, but I feel I'm privileged to manage some of the best hunting units Utah has to offer.

I was born and raised in southern Utah. I was fortunate to spend my childhood hunting, fishing, and camping on the mountains that lie within the units I now manage. I am a sportsman first and always will be. Hunting is in my blood. I've made some of my greatest memories with friends and family on a hillside in the middle of nowhere. It's my love and respect for wildlife that brought me to where I am today.

As a biologist, I believe it's important to hunt the units I manage. I can spend lots of time flying in a helicopter or in the mountains doing classifications, but when I have a tag in my pocket, I am truly in my element. Hunting the units I manage has helped me make sound management recommendations.

GAME MANAGEMENT IN UTAH

Most wildlife in Utah are managed according to a statewide management plan. The plans are designed by committees that included sportsmen, livestock operators, managers in federal land management agencies, and other interested parties. These plans provide goals and objectives that outline how biologists manage a particular species on a specific unit.

Every year, biologists conduct pre- and post-hunting season surveys to monitor populations and make management recommendations. For example, every year biologists conduct post-season winter classifications on deer units across Utah. The classifications consist





of visual counts along designated routes that best represent the deer herd found on each unit. During these classifications, we gather our buck-to-doe and fawn-to-doe ratios. From these statistics, we make recommendations for the next hunting season.

In 2012, Utah stopped managing deer on large regions and started managing deer on 30 smaller units. This change made it possible for biologists to focus management efforts on the needs of each individual unit. It also made it possible for us to monitor populations and habitat on each unit more closely.

Utah's general season units are managed so the buck-to-doe ratio averages 15 to 17 bucks per 100 does, or 18 to 20 bucks per 100 does, over a three-year period of time. General season units offer the highest number of permits, so they're the easiest units to draw a permit for. But don't let that fool you. Just because a unit has more tags does not mean you can't take a large buck on it. Deer populations in Utah have been increasing statewide. With increased deer numbers, hunters are seeing more bucks on general season units—including increased numbers of mature bucks. A combination of closely controlled permit numbers, aggressive predator control, mild winters followed by good monsoon moisture, and habitat improvement projects have all helped improve deer numbers in southern Utah.

The last two deer hunting seasons have been some of the best ever in southern Utah. The state's general season units have produced several bucks that have broken that magical 200-inch mark, with a handful of them well into the 200's. My advice to you is this: do your

homework and find which general season unit fits your hunting desires. Each unit yields different opportunities, whether you're looking for trophy potential, overall deer numbers, terrain and ease of access, harvest success, or permit numbers. General season units provide something for every hunter.

LATE SEASON DEER HUNTS

In 2014, the DWR wrote a new statewide deer management plan. This plan included several exciting changes that provided more deer hunting flexibility in Utah. One such change is allowing sportsman to hunt a late season when deer are in the rut.

Every year, hunters flock to Colorado for the opportunity to hunt that state's third and fourth seasons. These November hunts often give hunters a chance to take big bucks that are leaving the dark timber to chase does. In the mid 1990s, the DWR eliminated late season deer hunting in November. However, during the 2015 deer hunting season, Utah brought back a great late season hunting opportunity.

If a general season deer unit has a buck-to-doe ratio that's higher than 20 bucks per 100 does (averaged out, over a three-year period of time), biologists can recommend a limited-entry, late-season muzzleloader buck deer hunt. These hunts start after the general season rifle hunts have ended. If you watch the calendar, and plan accordingly, these hunts could run into the middle of November, increasing your chance of harvesting a buck that was hiding during the regular season hunts.



JOSH'S 2016 PAUNSAUGUNT ARCHERY BULL

Additionally, the Utah Wildlife Board recently made it possible to use variable powered scopes on muzzleloaders. The combination of these new hunting opportunities, and the ability to use variable power scopes, has brought new excitement to muzzleloader buck deer hunters in Utah.

These late-season hunts can be a great opportunity to harvest a trophy buck. The last two years, these hunts have produced some great bucks on general season units. Keep in mind, though, that if you plan on hunting one of these late-season muzzleloader hunts, you'll have to use your limited-entry points to draw them, even though the hunt occurs on a general season unit.

LIMITED-ENTRY DEER HUNTS

In addition to general season units, Utah provides other opportunities to harvest a buck of a lifetime. Utah's limited-entry deer units are managed for a three-year-average of 25 to 35 bucks per hundred does. These units require limited-entry bonus points to draw, but they offer fewer hunters in the field and a higher potential to take a trophy buck. As Utah's deer population has increased, several limited-entry units have exploded in regards to the quality of the deer they're producing. Many 200-inch bucks are harvested on these units annually.

In addition to the regular limited-entry units, Utah boasts two premium limited-entry deer units—the Paunsaugunt and the Henry Mountains. These units are known nationally for the trophy Mule deer they produce. Both units are managed for a three-year average of 40 to 55 bucks per 100 does. We also manage for a target of 40 percent of the bucks harvested on the units are

five years of age or older. With the combination of high buck-to-doe ratios and older age animals, hunters can expect high success rates and the potential to take a big buck. The two units are producing some of the largest bucks in the West, so drawing one of these coveted tags is difficult. More than likely, you'll apply for many years to draw a tag on one of these units. These two have an additional opportunity to harvest a trophy buck.

MANAGEMENT BUCK HUNTS

Utah's management buck hunts provide a great opportunity for hunters that want to hunt on the Paunsaugunt or the Henry Mountains units, but don't want to wait as long to draw a tag.

These hunts include an antler restriction that requires you to take a buck that has three or fewer antler points on at least one of its antlers. These hunts have been a great experience for hunters. They provide an opportunity to hunt as the rut begins and still have a chance to harvest a nice management buck. For the 2017 season, additional management hunting opportunities are available on the Henry Mountains during the archery and muzzleloader seasons. These two units also offer a multi-season hunt that allows you to hunt each season offered on the unit (archery, muzzleloader, and rifle). The hunt provides an increased chance to harvest the buck of your dreams by increasing your time in the field.

CWMU DEER PERMITS

Another great opportunity that many hunters overlook is drawing or buying a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) permit. These permits allow you to hunt large tracts of private land that would normally be inaccessible to the public. These hunts are often guided. Most of the CWMU's hold trophy class deer and, depending on the unit, the drawing odds might be better than trying to draw a permit for a limited-entry unit. This is an opportunity worth looking into, but I'd recommend contacting the CWMU operator before applying so you'll know what to expect during your hunt. Public draw permits on CWMUs are only available to Utah residents.

ELK OPPORTUNITIES

Switching gears, let's talk about another success story in Utah: elk. Utah's current statewide elk population is estimated at 81,000 elk (up nearly 60,000 elk in the last 30 years). Similar to deer, the DWR manages elk on both a general season and a limited-entry basis.

General season bull elk permits are sold over the counter and come in the form of any bull or spike only permits. These hunts give families a great opportunity to get out and hunt together, keeping their hunting camp tradition alive for years to come. Keep in mind that these tags

are sold over the counter. The hunts can also be very crowded, with limited success.

During the months of January and early February, I often find myself sitting in a helicopter, weaving in and out of snow-covered canyons doing elk surveys. This is how we obtain post-hunting season population estimates for elk. These surveys are usually conducted every three years on each unit. We also conduct a summer classification to get bull-to-cow, and cow-to-calf numbers to help us gauge how the elk production is doing.

Similar to deer, our recommendations for limited-entry bull elk permit numbers are influenced by age objectives. When hunters harvest a bull elk, they're asked to send to us two front incisors from the bottom jaw. These incisors are then aged to tell us the average age of bulls on each unit. Each limited-entry unit has a specific age objective that you should be aware of before applying for a permit. The current unit age class objectives are 4 – 5 years old, 5.5 – 6 years old, 6.5 – 7 years old, and 7.5 – 8 years old.

Units with a lower age class objective will generally have higher permit numbers and a younger age class of bulls. However, there are always a few bulls that manage to elude hunters and become truly giant. These units are often easier to draw because smaller bulls are usually found on the units, so fewer hunters apply for a permit to hunt them.

Likewise, you can expect the higher age class objective units will take much longer to draw. These units generally have a reduced number of permits, allowing more bulls to get to a higher age class and subsequently grow a larger set of antlers. So, when you do finally draw one of these permits, you'll have a better chance at killing an older bull with higher trophy potential.

Don't let an age objective be your only factor when considering a unit, though. Some units in the southern Utah have high concentrations of elk that migrate between units. I'd suggest considering this when deciding which unit to apply for. If hunting the rut isn't a priority, the state's late hunts provide you with a great opportunity to harvest a trophy bull. Several trophy bulls have been known to cross from one unit with a higher age objective to an adjacent unit with a lower age class objective.

Still can't decide which elk season you want to hunt? No problem. Utah has a multi-season hunt that allows you to hunt any of the seasons available on the unit. This can be a great opportunity to spend a lot of time looking over bulls and the country, which will increase your odds of harvesting the bull you're looking for.

In 2015, the DWR completed a new statewide elk management plan that provides more flexibility and

hunting opportunities for elk. One such opportunity is a new mid season any weapon hunt. These hunts are new, but the odds of drawing a permit are generally better than the traditional early, any weapon hunts. Keep in mind, though: these hunts occur during the general season spike bull hunt, so crowding can be an issue. It's still a great opportunity to hunt mature bull elk, though.

If you're thinking about hunting in Utah, stop thinking about it and do it. There are many hunting opportunities, and the state's big game populations are doing great. I hope to see you on the mountain!



JOSH'S BUDDY MAT HOUSTON WITH HIS
2016 PANGUITCH LAKE LATE BULL



DEPARTMENT: Division of Wildlife Resources		ADDRESS: 1594 W. North Temple • Box 146301	
CITY: Salt Lake City	STATE: UT	ZIP: 84114-6301	
PHONE: 801-538-4700	HUNT APPS: 800-221-0659	WEBSITE: www.wildlife.utah.gov	

Resident and Nonresident Tag/License/Stamp Required and Fees		
License/Permit	Resident	Non-Resident
365 Day Hunting	\$34 ages 18-64	\$65 ages 18 and older
365 Day Hunting	\$11 age 13 and under	\$25 age 17 and under
365 Day Hunting	\$16 ages 14-17	N/A
365 Day Hunting	\$25 age 65 and older	N/A
365 Day Combo Hunt/Fish	\$20 ages 14-17	\$29 age 17 and under
365 Day Combo Hunt/Fish	\$38 ages 18-64	\$85 age 18 and older
365 Day Combo Hunt/Fish	\$29 age 65 and older	N/A
General Deer	\$40	\$268
Limited-Entry and Multi-season Limited-Entry Deer	\$80	\$468
Premium and Multi-season Premium Limited-Entry Deer	\$168	\$568
Management Buck Deer	\$80	\$468
General Season Any Bull or Spike Bull Elk	\$50	\$393
Limited-Entry Bull Elk	\$285	\$800
Multi-season Limited-Entry Bull Elk	\$513	\$1,505
Antelope	\$55	\$293
Moose	\$413	\$1,518
Bison	\$413	\$1,518
Bison on Antelope Island	\$1,110	\$2,615
Desert and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	\$513	\$1,518
Mountain Goat	\$413	\$1,518
Dedicated Hunter Deer	\$195	\$1,047
Dedicated Hunter Youth Deer (12-17 years old)	\$120	\$814
A \$10 nonrefundable application fee is also charged for each species you apply for. No permit fees are paid unless you draw a permit.		

New Changes for 2017: The Utah Legislature passed a law that allows younger hunters to apply for limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime hunts. In order to apply for these hunts, the youth must turn 12 years old by Dec. 31, 2017 but must be 12 years of age before they can hunt. Prior to this year, youth could only apply for general season deer and antlerless permits when they turned 12 but had to be 14 to apply for limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits.

The Utah Wildlife Board has also approved changes to the preference point system for general season buck deer hunts. Starting this year, if you draw a general season buck deer permit, even if it was your second through fifth choice, you will lose your preference points and all first choices will be considered before anyone's 2-5 choices are considered.

DISCLAIMER: This information is pertinent to 2017 applications and is to be used as a general reference only. Refer to the official state regulations when applying in the state draw.



GARY SYRETT, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN SHEEP
UTAH

Application Deadlines and Draw Results: Utah's big game application period runs January 26 through March 2, 2017. You may apply for bonus points only through March 16, 2017. Draw results are available on or before May 31st. Results will be posted on the UDWR website and will be emailed to all hunters as well.

Application Instructions/How to Apply: Utah's online application system is very easy to navigate and is difficult to make a mistake. You can apply online or by phone. To apply visit www.utah-hunt.com or call any Utah Division of Wildlife Resources office. Keep in mind, you must have a valid hunting or combination hunt/fish license on the day you apply. It's possible in Utah to apply in consecutive years by only purchasing one license, check your date of purchase and apply before it expires and save some \$\$! Utah is cheap to apply in at only \$10 per species so we recommend adding all the species you are interested in whether you want to draw now or sometime down the road. Permit fees will not be charged at the time of application, but will be automatically charged if successful in the draw to the credit card used when initially applying.

How the Draw System Works: Nonresidents may apply for all species, but residents may only apply for general deer and then either deer, elk, or antelope as well as choose only one of the once-in-a-lifetime species of sheep, moose, goat, or bison.

For the regular limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime hunts, all first choices are considered before anyone's second choices are considered. Simply put, in nearly

all cases, your first choice is all that will get looked at in the draw since it is very rare to have more tags than applicants for each hunt. Up to 50% of the available tags in each hunt are reserved for the applicants with the highest number of bonus points. Then, the other 50% of the tags allocated to each hunt are issued by random draw in which bonus points give applicants more chances in the draw.

For general season deer applications, all of the tags are awarded to the applicants with the highest number of preference points. Everyone's first choices will be considered before anyone's 2-5 choices are considered, but if you draw any of those 5 choices your preference points will revert to zero.

In all instances where rounding is required, the random draw is favored. For instance, if only one tag is available for a given hunt, it will be drawn in the random draw. In a hunt with 5 allocated tags, 2 will be drawn in the maximum point draw, and the other 3 will be issued in the random draw.

BONUS POINTS/PREFERENCE POINTS SYSTEM

Bonus Points: Bonus points relate to limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime hunts. Every time you apply for a limited-entry, CWMU, or once-in-a-lifetime permit, and you don't draw one, you will receive a bonus point for that species. You can also choose to apply for a bonus point only but you may not apply for both a bonus point and a limited-entry permit in the same year, for the same species. Bonus points are awarded by species and are not unit or weapon specific and are not transferable.

Preference Points: Preference points relate to the general season buck deer permit draw. The preference point system gives hunters who don't draw a general season buck deer permit an increased chance of drawing in future years. Each time you apply for one of these permits and don't draw one, or apply for points only, you'll receive a preference point. You may not, however, apply for both a preference point and a permit at the same time. A general season deer preference point is good for any general season deer hunt choice. Preference points are not transferable.

Sequence of Draw: You may only draw one limited-entry or once-in-a-lifetime permit per year in Utah. Limited-entry and once-in-a-lifetime permits are drawn in the following order: Limited-entry, CWMU, and management buck deer; limited-entry, CWMU, and management bull elk; limited-entry and CWMU buck antelope; then once-in-a-lifetime tags. Any person who draws a limited-entry deer, elk, or antelope permit is not eligible to draw a once-in-a-lifetime permit in the same year and will just



TIM SPARKS, ELK, UTAH
WITH HOROX OUTFITTING

be issued bonus points. General season deer tags are drawn after the limited-entry hunts so all hunters can be considered for limited-entry hunts first.

Resident/Nonresident/Youth Quotas: Utah sets aside 10% of their big game permits to the nonresident draw pool. Due to rounding in some cases, permit numbers for a specific hunt may be slightly more or less than the intended 10%. Utah also sets aside up to 20% of the general season deer permits for youth hunters 12-17 years of age. To be considered in this separate youth-only draw pool, youth hunters must apply alone or with up to 4 youth hunters. Youth that apply with adults will not be considered in the youth-only draw.

Waiting Periods: Any person who draws or obtains a limited-entry, management, or cooperative wildlife management unit buck deer or buck pronghorn permit through the big game drawing process may not apply for or receive any of these permits again for a period of two seasons. Bull elk permits obtained by the same draw process incur a 5-year waiting period. Any person who draws or obtains any permit for any bull moose, bison, Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, Desert Bighorn sheep, or Rocky Mountain goat may not apply for or receive a once-in-a-lifetime permit for the same species in the big game drawing.

Group Applications: Up to 4 hunters may apply as a group for general season deer and the limited and premium limited-entry deer, elk, and antelope permits. Group applications are not accepted for management buck permits. Group applications will have their bonus/preference points averaged and rounded down to the nearest whole number. If your group is successful in the drawing, all applicants will receive a permit unless the group size exceeds the available hunt quota. All members of the group must apply for the same hunt

choices. In units or seasons where tag numbers are low, you need to carefully determine if enough permits exist to allow your group to draw.

Age Restrictions: New for 2017 a person 12 years of age or older may apply for or obtain a permit to hunt all big game. A person 11 years of age may apply for a permit to hunt big game if that person's 12th birthday falls within the calendar year for which the permit is issued. A person may not use a permit to hunt big game before their 12th birthday. A person at least 12 years of age and under 16 years of age must be accompanied by his parent or legal guardian, or other responsible person 21 years of age or older and approved by his parent or guardian, while hunting big game with any weapon.

Youth Applications/Fees: Utah offers a slight discount for youth hunting and combination hunt/fish licenses for youth 17 and under. Youth must pay the same permit fees as adults if drawn.

Hunter Education Requirements: If you were born after Dec. 31, 1965, you must provide proof that you've passed a hunter education course approved by the UDWR before you can apply for or obtain a hunting license or a big game permit. When applying online, it will require you to enter your hunter education number which can be from any state. The only exception to this law is for individuals who are participating in the UDWR's Trial Hunting Program. You can find details about the program on page 28 or by visiting wildlife.utah.gov/trial.

Tag Transfers: Utah has a tag transfer program called The Utah Hunter Mentoring program which allows eligible adults to share their big game hunting permits with eligible minors. Acting as a mentor, the adult is required to accompany the youth into the field. All big game permits are eligible for sharing. To qualify for the program, a minor must be a Utah resident between the ages of 12 and 17; possess a Utah Hunter Education number or trial hunting authorization; and be either the child, stepchild, grandchild, or legal ward of the mentor—or be suffering from a life-threatening medical condition. The mentor may be either a resident or a nonresident, but must be at least 21 years of age and able to legally possess a firearm. The mentor may not receive any form of compensation for participating in the program. Both the mentor and the participating minor can carry a firearm in the field. However, only one animal may be taken per permit. For detailed program information, visit wildlife.utah.gov/mentoring.

Surrendering a Tag: Utah has a tag surrendering provision that if for some reason you are not able to use your big game permit you may return it, with a few exceptions. If you are an individual hunter and you receive a limited-entry or once-in-a-lifetime permit and need to surrender it for any reason, you will need to do

so before the beginning of the season. If you surrender it before the start of the season, you'll get all of your bonus points back. If you surrender the permit at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the season, you may also receive a refund of your permit fee. Permits obtained through a group application must all be surrendered by group members to reinstate bonus points and must be surrendered 30 days prior to the beginning of the season unless an individual who is part of a group is deployed in the military or has an injury that prevents hunting. Tags may also be surrendered due to death, medical issues which prevent hunting, or military deployment and have specific methods for surrender and point reinstatement. Hunters must use a permit surrender form when surrendering their permits. For more information regarding tag surrenders and refunds see www.wildlife.utah.gov/refund.

Harvest Reporting: If you had a permit for a limited-entry or once-in-a-lifetime species, you must report your harvest within 30 days of the end of the hunt. If you don't take care of this, your account will be locked when you go to apply the next year. If you are late, you'll have to complete the harvest survey and pay a \$50 late fee before you can apply in the current draw. For more information go to wildlife.utah.gov/harvestreporting or call 1-800-221-0659.

WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

Archery: Archery equipment may be used during any big game hunt, except a muzzleloader hunt, provided the minimum bow pull is 40 pounds at the draw or the peak, whichever comes first. Arrowheads used should have two or more sharp cutting edges that cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring, expanding arrowheads cannot pass through a 7/8 inch ring when expanded. Arrows must be a minimum of 20 inches in length from the tip

of the arrowhead to the tip of the nock, and must weigh at least 300 grains. You may not use a device for holding the bow at any increment of the draw, or crossbows, unless certain medical situations apply.

Muzzleloader: A muzzleloader may be used during any big game hunt, except an archery hunt, provided the muzzleloader can be loaded only from the muzzle. You can use open sights, peep sights, or a variable or fixed power magnifying scope. Barrel length must be at least 18 inches and is loaded with black powder or black powder substitute, which must not contain smokeless powder.

A lead or expanding bullet or projectile of at least 40 caliber must be used to hunt big game. A bullet 130 grains or heavier, or a sabot 170 grains or heavier must be used for taking deer and pronghorn. A 210 grain or heavier bullet must be used for taking elk, moose, bison, Bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat, except sabot bullets used for taking these species must be a minimum of 240 grains.

Rifle: Must use centerfire cartridges and expanding bullets, or shotgun .20 gauge or larger firing 00 or larger buckshot or slugs. You may not use a fully automatic firearm. During any weapon hunts you may use any legal bow, rifle, or muzzleloader.

Landowner Tags: Utah issues two different types of landowner tags that can be sold or transferred to hunters.

The traditional landowner tags are issued to landowner associations that own enough qualifying acreage in limited-entry deer, elk, and antelope units. Permit numbers are reviewed and approved annually and hunters that buy these landowner vouchers can then



BILLY CORBIN, ANTELOPE, UTAH
WITH HOROX OUTFITTING



GREG OLIVER, MULE DEER, UTAH
WITH BRONSON OUTFITTING



PATRICK KERR, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN SHEEP, UTAH
WITH BRONSON OUTFITTING

redeem them for the respective permit with the UDWR and hunt just as if they drew the permit. Bonus points are not affected or waiting periods incurred by purchasing landowner deer, elk, or antelope tags in Utah.

The second type of landowner tags are Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) permits. These permits are given to landowners than enroll in the CWMU program and have enough qualifying acreage of contiguous private land that supports and sustains wildlife populations for which they are seeking permits. Hunters obtain CWMU permits from the unit operator and can hunt without having to draw permits. The CWMU tags are valid only on the private ground or landlocked public ground within the boundaries of the CWMU. There are public, resident-only permits drawn for CWMU's that allow hunting on the CWMU without having to purchase a permit from the operator. Bonus points are not affected or waiting periods incurred by purchasing CWMU deer, elk, or antelope permits from the operators.

Raffle and Auction Tags: Utah does not have a traditional raffle tag program for nonresidents. Only Utah residents can participate in the Utah Sportsman's Tag drawing each November by purchasing up to one entry for each big game species. The Sportsman's Tags allow one winner for each species to hunt statewide for several months and are equivalent to the statewide auction tags for each species.

Utah also issues permits to 501c3 wildlife conservation groups to auction or raffle at various fundraisers, expos, and banquets each year. These permits are known as convention and conservation permits and exist for all of Utah's big game species. These tags are generally marketed by groups from December through June each year and the proceeds from these tags are earmarked

for specific projects and research for the species that generated the funds. Purchasers of these permits can hunt the limited-entry or once-in-a-lifetime species they buy a tag for just as if they drew the permit. Conservation permits are issued for most all units in Utah. If you're interested in purchasing or have questions regarding conservation permits, or want to see the list of tags and groups marketing them visit www.wildlife.utah.gov/utah-conservation-permit-program-annual-report.html or give us a call.

Our Take on Utah: Utah has a variety of great hunting opportunities and is moderately priced to apply in. The drawing odds for the better quality units and once-in-a-lifetime species are very tough. However, if you're lucky enough to draw a tag, the quality of Utah's hunts are very good, generally speaking. The general season deer units have been getting a bit better each year since Utah began drawing tags on a unit-by-unit basis. These deer hunts are still mostly opportunity deer hunts, but if someone has enough time to scout or hunt a unit repeatedly, or get a bit lucky, there are some good bucks to be had.

You will notice we list drawing odds for tags issued in the maximum point drawing if a hunt had two or more permits available. We also listed the random odds for each hunt which simply divides the number of applicants who applied for each hunt, minus those who drew in the maximum point draw, by the available random tag quota. Residents and nonresidents are issued separate quotas and are in separate draw pools so they are only competing with other applicants in their same residency category.

If you're a nonresident and have made the commitment to buy a hunting license and apply in Utah, we recommend applying for all species you are interested in now or may be interested in some day down the road to simply get more out of your license purchase each year. Residents may only apply for one limited-entry species of either deer, or elk, or antelope, and then one of the once-in-a-lifetime species. Unless you've accumulated a bunch of points in Utah, it's a tough state to make plans on drawing anytime soon, but mathematically any individual can draw any tag in any given year. Abundant public land exists on most units so hunters have the options of self-guided or outfitted hunts when they draw permits.

Refer to the Application Guidebook for hunt codes when applying.

Utah Resources	
Unit Maps	wildlife.utah.gov/maps • www.mapstore.utah.gov 1-888-UTAHMAP • www.plicmapcenter.org
Utah has a new hunt planner feature on their website to view maps, species distributions, and other information. Visit www.wildlife.utah.gov/huntplanner	

UTAH SHEEP UNIT MAP



UTAH SHEEP

Utah has both Desert Bighorn and Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep and while residents may only choose one species to apply for, nonresidents may apply for both. A couple units in Utah have California Bighorns, but Utah lumps them in with the Rocky Mountain Bighorn units when applying and accruing bonus points. The Desert Bighorns are scattered across the southern half of the state in some incredible slick rock and sandstone country that Utah is famous for. Many of the Desert Bighorn units are very remote and some are very physically challenging hunts. The Rocky Mountain/California Bighorns are found in the northern half of the state across a wide variety of habitat types from high alpine to river gorge canyon habitat which is similar to some of the desert units. As it is with most sheep

populations across states, some of Utah's units are doing incredibly well right now and in some cases have never been better, while others have experienced recent disease events that have herds struggling a bit. A few of the desert units offer the chance to kill a B&C ram, but for the most part sheep of both species in Utah are just quality, representative rams.

We've listed all Desert and Rocky Mountain Bighorn units available to nonresidents in our tables. There is not a bad sheep hunt in Utah and all units will give a quality experience. One change for 2017 is that the Kaiparowits East and West subunits are now separated for nonresidents and they can apply for either unit. This increases the number of Desert Bighorn units open to nonresidents from three to four. The drawing odds for nonresidents are very tough, but someone has to draw!

All Desert Bighorn Sheep Units Available to Nonresidents

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Kaiparowits East	Sept 16- Nov 10	4, 2, 2	1, 1, 1	25% with 19 pts	1 in 100, 1 in 148, 1 in 150	No tag	1 in 2064, 1 in 2255, 1 in 1555	100%, 100%, 100%
	Big unit with a few easier access areas including some by boat off of Lake Powell. Other parts of the unit are very rugged and remote requiring backpacking. Overall, don't expect an easy hunt. Sheep numbers doing very well. Expect 150-165" rams, with some better. The Nonresident can also hunt the Kaiparowits Escalante unit which is a very remote tough backpack only hunt.							
Kaiparowits West	Sept 16- Nov 10	5, 6, 5	0, 0, 0	40% with 21 pts	1 in 176, 1 in 144, 1 in 101	New for NR in 2017	New for NR in 2017	100%, 100%, 100%
	New for nonresidents in 2017. One of the top two units for trophy rams in Utah. Unit doing very well with increasing sheep numbers. A moderately easy unit to access, not a physical unit. Day hunting with plenty of rams to sift through. 150-165" rams with book ram potential. Better to hunt the first half of the season when the rut is still on. Unit borders Arizona.							
San Rafael South	Sept 16- Nov 10	6, 4, 4	1, 1, 1	33% with 20 pts	1 in 208, 1 in 329, 1 in 368	No tag	1 in 2045, 1 in 1639, 1 in 2001	100%, 100%, 100%
	Good unit in central Utah but rams are smaller here than the other units available to nonresidents. Expect 140-150" top end rams. Plenty of 4x4 accessible areas but also has some more remote areas where long day hikes are required. Good hunt for hunters of all abilities. Sheep numbers are a bit down but have stabilized. Nonresident may also hunt the San Rafael North unit which has fewer sheep than the South.							
Zion	Sept 16- Oct 13	2, 4, 10	1, 1, 1	33% with 21 pts	1 in 892, 1 in 420, 1 in 306	No tag	1 in 4344, 1 in 3999, 1 in 3628	100%, 100%, 100%
	One of the top two trophy units in Utah. Sheep numbers continue to do well but age of rams is decreasing some with continued high harvest. Still a great hunt. Mostly moderate to easy access with day hike type hunting. Does have a good chunk of backpack only wilderness that doesn't get as much pressure. Most top end rams are 160-170". Typically able to look over plenty of rams on this hunt. Nonresident may also hunt the late hunt on this unit which extends to November 10.							

All Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Units Available to Nonresidents

Book Cliffs South	Nov 1- Nov 30	3, 3, 3	1, 1, 1	100% with 21 pts	1 in 353, 1 in 416, 1 in 426	No tag	1 in 3692, 1 in 3032, 1 in 2516	80%, 100%, 100%
	Canyon country on the east side of the Green River and south Book Cliffs. Sheep numbers have declined significantly on this unit the past 3 years due to disease issues. Expect to hunt hard and plan on plenty of time to try and find an older ram. Mostly younger rams right now. Expect 155-165" rams with very few better rams available. Easy 4x4 access in most of the unit with some hikes into the backs of canyons. Rams will be rutting.							
Box Elder Newfoundland Mtn	Nov 18- Dec 10	4, 4, 8	1, 1, 1	25% with 17 pts	1 in 173, 1 in 187, 1 in 161	No tag	1 in 2210, 1 in 1445, 1 in 1238	100%, 100%, 100%
	Second season on this unit. Plan for bad weather and potentially cold conditions. These are California Bighorns in a long narrow mountain range surrounded by salt flats. Unit is a bit remote but easy access once there. Roads along the base of the mountain on both sides to glass from. Good numbers of sheep, expect 145-155" rams with 160" potential. Easy fun hunt for everyone.							
Nine Mile Gray Canyon	Nov 1- Nov 30	5, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	29% with 19 pts	1 in 212, 1 in 201, 1 in 190	No tag	1 in 1881, 1 in 2710, 1 in 1242	100%, 100%, 100%
	This unit on the west side of the Green River was split with the Jack Creek subunit and re-named for 2017. This unit has the bulk of the sheep from the former Nine Mile Range Creek unit. Best Rocky unit open to nonresidents. Unit has a combination of easier access areas with short day hikes, and some more remote areas accessed by ATV's and then hiking. Can also float across the Green River to the west side to access the unit, but not difficult to do. Sheep numbers are down and not as many older rams available as in the past. Still a good hunt but not as easy to find a big ram as in the past. Expect 160-170" rams with a few better.							

UTAH MOUNTAIN GOAT

Utah's Mountain goat populations are doing extremely well and new opportunities to hunt goats have been created and tag numbers have continued to increase. Of the 15 goat hunts open in 2017, nonresidents can apply for 8 of them. We've included all of these hunts available to nonresidents in our goat table. A new hunt is being offered for the first time for residents only on the Mt Dutton unit, where goat numbers can now sustain hunting after transplanted goats from the Willard Peak unit augmented the few goats that moved to Mt Dutton from the neighboring Beaver unit. Many of Utah's Mountain goat hunts are not too physically difficult and several are flat out pretty easy by goat hunting standards. Utah produces some trophy goats for hunters that can hunt hard and pass on goats and have the ability to scrutinize and trophy judge them. The nonresident drawing odds are bad, but if you want to hunt goats it's hard not to consider applying for the minimal \$10 application fee.



JASON CARTER, MTN GOAT
UTAH

All Rocky Mountain Goat Hunts Available to Nonresidents

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Beaver	Sept 9- Sept 24	6, 5, 7	2, 1, 1	100% with 18 pts	1 in 313, 1 in 280, 1 in 1 in 228	17% with 17 pts	1 in 1983, 1 in 915, 1 in 1281	88%, 88%, 92%
One of the top units for trophy goats. Can drive to much of the high elevation country. Not a physically difficult hunt in much of the unit. Classic alpine habitat up high with steep breaks off the east side. First hunt on the unit but a short season. Average age of harvested goats has been 4.5-5 years.								
Chalk Creek/ Kamas, Uintas	Sept 16- Oct 31	5, 4, 5	1, 1, 0	50% with 15 pts	1 in 68, 1 in 80, 1 in 42	No tag	1 in 411, 1 in 343, N/A	100%, 80%, 100%
Extreme western end of the Uinta Mountains. Mostly an easier access unit with some road access and shorter day hike hunting. Great hunt for a mature billy, average age of harvested goats has been over 5 years.								
North Slope/ South Slope High Uintas Central	Sept 11- Oct 31	9, 9, 9	1, 1, 1	100% with 15 pts	1 in 50, 1 in 42, 1 in 44	No tag	1 in 663, 1 in 290, 1 in 455	90%, 90%, 100%
Core portion of the Uinta Mountain range. A smaller portion of the northern end of the unit has shorter day hike type access but most of the unit will require backpacking or horseback to access the best goats. Good unit for an in shape or horseback hunter to kill a great billy. Average age of harvested goats has been just over 5 years.								
North Slope/ South Slope High Uintas West	Sept 11- Oct 31	17, 17, 17	1, 2, 2	17% with 14 pts	1 in 55, 1 in 50, 1 in 44	No tag	1 in 716, 1 in 440, 1 in 461	95%, 100%, 95%
Western side of the Uinta Mountains with some highway access through goat country. Very high goat numbers and overall an easier access hunt for just about anyone. Some backpack goat country to the south. Average age of harvested goats has been just over 5 years.								
Ogden Willard Peak	Sept 11- Sept 24	16, 17, 17	2, 1, 1	86% with 15 pts	1 in 84, 1 in 65, 1 in 90	100% with 17 pts	1 in 851, 1 in 313, 1 in 459	95%, 94%, 100%
First season on the unit. Drive up to the goat country from the north side and hunt the divide and ridges from there. High numbers of goats. Short season. Unit has been hunted hard and goats removed for transplants to other units. Average age of goats harvested is 3.4 years which is lower than all other units.								
Ogden Willard Peak	Sept 25- Nov 15	8, 7, 6	0, 1, 1	33% with 15 pts	1 in 173, 1 in 162, 1 in 86	No tag	N/A, 1 in 701, 1 in 176	100%, 100%, 90%
Second season on the unit. Goats can get pressured and into extremely steep vertical slopes tough to access. Longer season can help success and sometimes later on, goats may move lower and can be hunted coming up from the valley bottom.								
Ogden Willard Peak (Female Goat Only)	Oct 9- Nov 15	8, 8, 1	0, 0, 1	100% with 11 pts	1 in 57, 1 in 42, 1 in 217	No tag	N/A, N/A, 1 in 76	100%, 100%, 84%
Available again to nonresidents in 2017. See notes on prior two Ogden Willard Peak hunts. This is a female goat only hunt. Better drawing odds.								
Wasatch Mtns Box Elder Peak/ Lone Peak/ Timpanogos	Sept 11- Nov 30	3, 3, 3	1, 1, 1	50% with 19 pts	1 in 373, 1 in 357, 1 in 364	No tag	1 in 871, 1 in 511, 1 in 396	100%, 100%, 100%
Goat numbers have declined on these units along Utah's Wasatch Front. Some very steep physical goat country in most places. A few roads into the higher elevations but be prepared to backpack and hunt hard to kill a big billy. Has become one of the toughest hunts in the state with hunters averaging over 9 days to harvest a goat in 2015. The past three year average age of harvested goats is 6.7 years. NR may hunt all the Wasatch sub-units.								

UTAH MOOSE

Utah's moose populations have declined over the past 10 years and is reflected in the lower number of tags they issue and limited units available to nonresidents. There are just three units open to nonresidents for 2017, which is an increase from two units the previous year. Overall, the quality of bulls has also been down in Utah, but those lucky enough to draw a permit will usually have a good hunt and still take home a nice bull. The drawing odds are very bad but if you're interested in a Shiras moose sometime in your life, for the extra \$10 application fee it's hard not to just apply.

Utah has a unique landowner tag system for Shiras moose and issues tags to landowners or lessees through their CWMU program. This is a guaranteed way to book a hunt for a Shiras moose if you're trying to check them off your species wishlist. Utah CWMU Shiras moose hunts typically range from \$9,000-15,000 depending on the quality of bulls on each ranch and in some cases you can make them a combo hunt with elk and or deer. Give us a call if you are looking for a Shiras moose hunt, we can help set you up with an outfitter with a guaranteed tag.

All Moose Units Available to Nonresidents

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Cache	Sept 16-Oct 19	6, 3, 1	0, 0, 1	30% with 21 pts	1 in 817, 1 in 1115, 1 in 2149	No Tag	N/A, N/A, 1 in 796	100%, 100%, 100%
Big public land unit with moose numbers doing a bit better. Available to nonresidents again in 2017. A mix of easier access areas with vehicle access and day hike hunting and some remote backcountry. Most moose are in easier access areas. Average age of harvested bulls 2015-2013 was 4.6, 3.4, 3.8. Expect to hunt more days here to find a good bull.								
North Slope Summit	Sept 16-Oct 19	7, 7, 7	1, 1, 1	50% with 21 pts	1 in 508, 1 in 481, 1 in 472	No tag	1 in 2575, 1 in 1678, 1 in 438	100%, 100%, 100%
Northern slope of the Uinta Mountain range. Nearly all public land with a mix of easier access areas off roads and short hikes on trails as well as some more remote country where horses may be needed. Plenty of thick timber where finding moose is tougher. Also has plenty of drainages with more typical moose habitat where you will find moose. The average age of harvested bulls 2015-2013 was 5.1, 5.0, 5.3. Good unit for 35-45" bulls.								
Wasatch Mtns/ Central Mtns	Sept 16-Oct 19	25, 25, 25	2, 2, 2	8% with 20 pts	1 in 541, 1 in 503, 1 in 480	33% with 20 pts	1 in 3092, 1 in 2185, 1 in 1802	93%, 97%, 100%
Huge predominantly public land units with a wide variety of country to hunt. Steep backcountry in areas with also plenty of aspen/oak/ mountain brush type moose habitat with good road or day hike access. Can still produce a big bull but mostly just nice 35-45" bulls. Some moose have expanded south onto the Central Mtns unit. Potential for a big bull there with insider or guide info but low numbers of moose. The average age of harvested bulls in 2015-2013 was 4.3, 4.6, 4.6.								

UTAH BISON

Utah's Henry Mountains are home to one of the few wild, free ranging, genetically pure, and brucellosis free bison herds in the world! These bison were brought to Utah from Yellowstone Park in the 1940's where they have thrived ever since. The Henry Mountains bison live from the high mountain peaks and throughout the lower desert country and provide hunters a real challenging hunt when drawn. Bison from the Henry Mountains have been transplanted to Utah's Book Cliffs where they, along with bison coming off the Ute Reservation, continue to occupy suitable habitat. Hunting opportunities now exist in the Book Cliffs as well as bison numbers have increased. A bison herd on Antelope Island State Park in the middle of the Great Salt Lake offers hunters another opportunity to hunt them in a much easier setting. Bison opportunities in Utah are at their highest point ever right now which helps spread out applicants a bit among the different units, although drawing odds are very tough. Residents have a new archery only hunt in 2017 on the Henrys before all the rifle hunts begin. Drawing odds should be better on this hunt, depending on the number

of tags the state decides to issue. If you're simply looking to fill your freezer with some great bison meat while having a similar experience to the hunter's choice seasons, you might consider the cow only hunts which have much better drawing odds.



AARON HANCOCK, COW BISON
UTAH, WITH BRONSON OUTFITTING



STEVE CARROLL, BISON
UTAH



JOHN GRAHAM, BISON
UTAH, WITH BRONSON OUTFITTING

All Bison Hunts Available to Nonresidents

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Antelope Island	Dec 4- Dec 6	6, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	20% with 21 pts	1 in 590, 1 in 524, 1 in 456	No tag	1 in 1062, 1 in 1123, 1 in 1228	100%, 100%, 100%
Hunt is on Antelope Island State Park which is an island in the middle of the Great Salt Lake. Vehicle access onto the island. Open, easy terrain with big bulls! Expect to hunt one day to harvest. Permit fees are more expensive here than other Utah bison hunts \$1,110 for residents and \$2,615 for nonresidents.								
Book Cliffs (Hunter's Choice)	Oct 14- Dec 1	11, 6, 3	1, 0, 0	100% with 21 pts	1 in 119, 1 in 161, 1 in 220	No tag	1 in 661, N/A, N/A	100%, 100%, N/A
Great public land hunt with bison numbers doing well. This herd was started from transplants from the Henry Mtns and bison expanding off the neighboring Ute Reservation. Has been an easy hunt. Bison not as wild as on the Henry Mtns. Average days hunted has been 2 days.								
Book Cliffs Wild Horse Bench/ Nine Mile (Hunter's Choice)	Aug 1 - Jan 31, 2018	13, 9, 7	2, 1, 0	30% with 19 pts	1 in 58, 1 in 72, 1 in 58	100% with 20 pts	1 in 632, 1 in 968, N/A	100%, 100%, N/A
Longer season here to ensure plenty of time to hunt bison once they migrate off the Ute Reservation. A few bison, mostly bulls, here early usually on the Nine Mile side. Plan on hunting late November or December when bison migrate into the unit with some snow/weather. Typically 150-300 bison move in later in the hunt. Winter weather can make access tougher although harvest success has remained 100%.								
Book Cliffs (Cow Only)	Nov 11- Dec 1	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017
New cow only hunt here for 2017. Great public land hunt with bison numbers doing well. This herd was started from transplants from the Henry Mtns and bison expanding off the neighboring Ute Reservation. Bison not as wild as on the Henry Mtns. The hunter's choice season runs the month prior to this hunt but this should still be an easy hunt.								
Henry Mtns (Hunter's Choice) Early	Nov 4- Nov 16	16, 14, 17	2, 2, 2	22% with 21 pts	1 in 548, 1 in 546, 1 in 443	17% with 20 pts	1 in 1492, 1 in 1491, 1 in 1768	82%, 85%, 68%
One of the best free-range true wild bison hunts in the west! Bison were brought here from Yellowstone Park in the 1940's. Bison can be on the steep mountains or scattered throughout the desert mesas and canyons. Big public land unit with a lot of country to cover. Don't plan on an easy hunt as these bison are wild and don't tolerate pressure. Plan on having a bunch of good help or hire a guide. The average days hunted is typically 5 days.								
Henry Mtns (Hunter's Choice) Late	Nov 18- Nov 30	17, 15, 18	1, 1, 1	67% with 20 pts	1 in 169, 1 in 213, 1 in 145	No tag	1 in 846, 1 in 692, 1 in 776	75%, 84%, 58%
Second rifle season on this unit. Bison usually get a bit more scattered after the first hunt. Still the same experience but with better drawing odds. The average days hunted is typically 5-6 days.								
Henry Mtns (Cow Only)	Dec 2- Dec 15	12, 12, 12	1, 1, 2	20% with 16 pts	1 in 64, 1 in 62, 1 in 47	No tag	1 in 107, 1 in 85, 1 in 61	62%, 100%, 44%
First cow only hunt on this unit but bison have been hunted the month prior by the hunter's choice hunters. Expect to spread out and hunt hard to locate bison you can access. Winter weather with snow and mud can make access tougher. The average days hunted is typically 4-5 days.								
Henry Mtns (Cow Only)	Dec 16- Dec 31	8, 7, 17	1, 1, 1	50% with 14 pts	1 in 63, 1 in 48, 1 in 20	No tag	1 in 77, 1 in 62, 1 in 66	100%, 67%, 82%
Last hunt on the Henry Mtns. Bison have been hunted the previous 6 weeks so expect to hunt hard and cover miles to be successful. Don't expect an easy hunt. Winter weather with snow and mud can make access tougher. The average days hunted is typically 4-5 days.								

UTAH ELK

Elk hunting opportunities in Utah have never been higher than right now as added seasons and strategies continue to be implemented aimed at increasing opportunity while still trying to maintain quality hunts on most units. Utah isn't producing as many truly giant bulls as it was 10 years ago as tag numbers have gradually increased and quality moderated. We think the current state of Utah's elk is "the new norm", meaning the current balance of tag numbers and increased opportunity versus the current trophy quality available seems to have stabilized and isn't shifting dramatically in either direction. The high number of 370"+ bulls we once had on many of the units in Utah has been reduced but we don't see it slipping anymore. For a period of time, 6-8 years ago, as permit increases were poured to many units, quality slipped noticeably and the trophy quality on most of Utah's units and their ability to still provide excellent hunts was called into question by many hunters. We feel that what we see now on most units is more indicative of what to expect for the foreseeable future.

You'll notice more late hunts and some middle season rifle hunts on some units, which are all an effort to harvest more bulls on these units without adding too many hunters into one given season and sacrificing the quality of everyone's hunt. The later rifle hunts in November are still quality hunts and have low tag numbers for the most part and offer a good experience for hunters not as concerned with a high scoring bull or hunting the rut. These late hunts have much better drawing odds than the September seasons as well so we encourage hunters to be realistic with their expectations and bonus points and use them. There are still some units that hunt 340"+ bulls consistently on the late seasons with some giants killed every year.

Utah's archery elk hunts admittedly end a bit too early to center on the heart of the rut. Although the archery hunts are 28 days long, they only typically experience bugling bulls the last week or ten days of the hunt. If you have the time, the opening week of archery season is an underrated time to hunt pre-scouted bulls before they wander off to rut.

The early rifle and muzzleloader hunts are typically good rut hunts with plenty of bugling action. Sometimes the opening few days of the rifle hunts can be a bit quiet with hotter weather and a stalled rut, but it usually kicks into full force during the rifle hunt at some point. The muzzleloader hunt captures the peak of the rut season on some years and these hunts often have better drawing odds; however, not as many units offer a max point tag to nonresidents so you'd have to pull a random tag in them.

Utah also offers a youth elk hunt on general season elk units that allow youth to hunt earlier in September rather than the normal October general any weapon elk season. This is a better hunt, only in the sense that youth get to hunt first. Keep in mind these units are not trophy units and many general elk units have low elk numbers or private land that severely limits access.

There are a lot of options to consider in Utah for limited-entry elk. Study our tables to match your expectations with your number of bonus points to try and find a hunt that will fit your style. Point creep always seems to affect the best units and early rut hunts so if you see something you are in the running for, make a plan and apply now. If you're ever interested in bypassing the draw and trying to find an elk hunt on a CWMU or buying a conservation tag for a unit in Utah, feel free to call us, we can help you set that up.

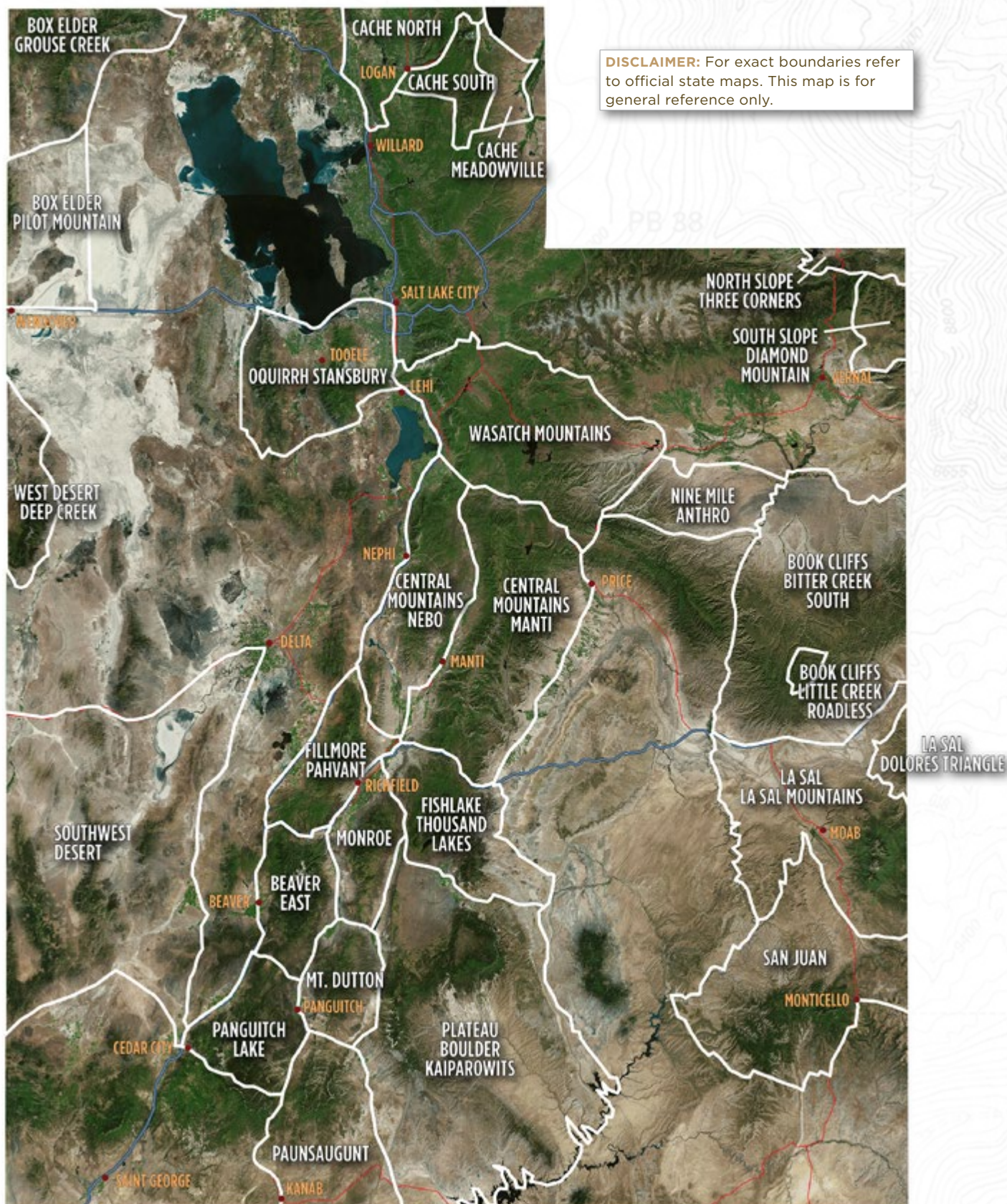


CHRIS SCRUGGS, ELK
UTAH



BRAD MADIGAN, ELK
UTAH, WITH HOROX OUTFITTING

UTAH LIMITED-ENTRY ELK UNIT MAP



Better Archery Elk Hunts

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Average Age of Harvested Bulls All Weapons 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:									
NOTE: Archery elk hunters should be aware that they will share the mountain with general season archery deer and spike/cow archery elk hunters.									
Beaver East	Aug 19-Sept 15	6, 7, 7	1, 1, 1	100% with 15 pts	1 in 44, 1 in 25, 1 in 24	No tag	1 in 172, 1 in 152, 1 in 92	38%, 63%, 57%	6.9, 7.9, 6.8
One of the best trophy elk units in the state. Plenty of 10,000'+ steep mountainous terrain as well as moderate terrain to hunt with good road access into most of the unit. Thick timber in much of the unit but several burns have opened up visibility and made the unit better. Nearly all public land. Low tag numbers and a great chance to hunt a 350"+ bull. Scouting is key on the archery hunt as bulls won't be bugling much until the last week.									
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek South	Aug 19-Sept 15	33, 30, 29	4, 4, 3	15% with 6 pts	1 in 10, 1 in 10, 1 in 9	50% with 15 pts	1 in 106, 1 in 74, 1 in 55	46%, 53%, 30%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
Great public land unit with a good road network throughout most of the unit making access good. Not a high elevation hunt, most of the unit consists of plateaus and ridges intersected with canyons with oak, mountain brush, pine, and pinyon/juniper. Plenty of elk and a good hunt for 320-340" bulls with better bulls taken every year.									
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Aug 19-Sept 15	13, 13, 13	1, 1, 1	33% with 9 pts	1 in 12, 1 in 11, 1 in 11	No tag	1 in 103, 1 in 95, 1 in 115	20%, 50%, 67%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
Smaller sub-unit in the Book Cliffs with no road access. Backpack or horseback hunt but horses definitely recommended to go deep and get an elk out. A series of ridges and canyons create a wilderness type experience with good elk numbers. Expect 330-350" bulls with bigger bulls taken every year.									
Central Mtns, Manti	Aug 19-Sept 15	98, 98, 99	9, 9, 9	40% with 5 pts	1 in 9, 1 in 7, 1 in 7	50% with 12 pts	1 in 32, 1 in 26, 1 in 24	31%, 38%, 34%	5.9, 6.1, 6.2
Huge unit with a wide variety of habitat throughout. Most of the summer range is a mix of aspen and spruce/fir type habitat. Utah's largest elk herd. Abundant public land with a lot of different country to move throughout and hunt. Most top end bulls are 320-330" but does still produce some bigger bulls and a few giants. Unit usually attracts a lot of general season archery spike/cow elk hunters as well.									
Fillmore Pahvant	Aug 19-Sept 15	13, 13, 13	1, 1, 2	29% with 13 pts	1 in 21, 1 in 22, 1 in 22	No tag	1 in 220, 1 in 160, 1 in 192	47%, 47%, 43%	7.8, 7.6, 7.3
One of the best trophy units in the state. Mostly public land with good access and moderate terrain on most of the unit. Aspen/spruce/fir habitat up on the mountain and pinyon/juniper with oak down lower. Elk can be found throughout the unit. Plenty of areas to glass if the bulls aren't bugling yet. 350"+ bulls with some giants taken every year.									
LaSal, LaSal Mtns	Aug 19-Sept 15	25, 24, 22	3, 3, 3	50% with 3 pts	1 in 6, 1 in 6, 1 in 6	100% with 12 pts	1 in 34, 1 in 24, 1 in 21	27%, 52%, 29%	6.6, 6.5, 6.8
Good unit with high elk numbers. Some steep terrain on some of the high elevation peaks where being in shape and able to hike will be required. Also plenty of public land to hunt lower around the peaks in aspen, oak, and ponderosa type habitat that is easy to access and hunt. A couple big blocks of private land to avoid on the east side of the unit. Mostly 320-340" top end bulls but does produce a few real big bulls each year.									
Monroe	Aug 19-Sept 15	7, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	50% with 14 pts	1 in 39, 1 in 52, 1 in 47	No tag	1 in 83, 1 in 95, 1 in 67	80%, 29%, 43%	7.8, 7.1, 6.6
Unit always seems to produce some great bulls with thicker spruce/fir mountainous country on the north end that gradually turns to more aspen and open sage country as you move south. Some private land but typically easy to navigate and hunt plenty of public land. Some vegetation treatments have helped this unit as well. Usually a good hunt for 340-350" bulls and bigger potential. Low tag numbers.									
Mt. Dutton	Aug 19-Sept 15	16, 21, 21	2, 3, 3	67% with 6 pts	1 in 11, 1 in 7, 1 in 9	50% with 14 pts	1 in 82, 1 in 35, 1 in 18	32%, 19%, 48%	5.9, 6.0, 6.1
Public land unit with good road access on about half the unit and hiking or horseback style hunting on the other half. Mostly steep rocky terrain with canyons draining off the divide and a good network of foot/horseback trails and access points. The southern half of the unit burned in 2002 and has re-grown but still a good glassing unit. Not high elk densities but the unit does get more elk coming to it from neighboring units throughout the fall. Be prepared for a physical hunt. Expect 320-340" bulls with a few giant bulls taken on the unit every year. Can be a tough frustrating archery hunt.									
North Slope, Three Corners	Aug 19-Sept 15	9, 11, 11	1, 1, 1	33% with 5 pts	1 in 11, 1 in 9, 1 in 10	No tag	1 in 37, 1 in 25, 1 in 19	40%, 25%, 36%	5.7, 5.9, 6.3
Unit sits in the northeast corner of Utah and borders Wyoming and Colorado. This unit is not as good as the Colorado side as elk have been hunted harder in Utah which has caused more elk to find refuge in Colorado. Some private land but plenty of public land to hunt with mostly pine and pinyon/juniper open sage grassland type country. Mostly 320-330" bulls with an occasional big bull killed.									
Panguitch Lake	Aug 19-Sept 15	12, 17, 17	1, 2, 2	57% with 7 pts	1 in 18, 1 in 9, 1 in 9	No tag	1 in 56, 1 in 62, 1 in 70	22%, 29%, 35%	5.4, 5.8, 5.8
Good road access and moderate to easy terrain in most of the unit. Thick spruce/fir forests up higher with more aspen and ponderosa forests as you move a bit lower. Does have some good private land that holds elk but not difficult to navigate around and hunt on public land. Mostly 320-340" bulls. Some real big bulls come off this unit most years but can be a tough archery hunt if they aren't bugling since it's thick.									
Plateau Boulder/Kaiparowits	Aug 19-Sept 15	18, 18, 18	2, 2, 2	13% with 12 pts	1 in 27, 1 in 25, 1 in 19	50% with 16 pts	1 in 167, 1 in 178, 1 in 105	50%, 52%, 57%	7.3, 7.9, 7.6
One of the best trophy potential units in the state. Huge public land unit with elk found on almost all parts of the Boulder unit. Most of the unit consists of a high 10,000' relatively flat plateau with thick spruce/fir aspen forests which gradually change to oak and ponderosa pine as you move a bit lower. Some elk use the lowest elevations of the unit as well. Tough unit to glass in most parts. Not a physical unit but thick so bugling bulls will really help this hunt. A few giant bulls here every year, expect to hunt 350"+ bulls. Scouting is key to hunting big bulls early before they often move to rut, or hope the bulls get going strong before this hunt ends.									
Plateau Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Aug 19-Sept 15	42, 42, 42	4, 4, 4	86% with 5 pts	1 in 9, 1 in 6, 1 in 6	100% with 12 pts	1 in 39, 1 in 39, 1 in 39	29%, 38%, 28%	6.0, 5.9, 6.3
Good unit with high elk numbers and abundant public land. Does have some private ranches on the northern end that hold elk and are off limits to hunt. Spruce/fir with aspen throughout much of the unit with more open sage country as you move lower. Good access and plenty of roads in most parts of the unit. Typically has plenty of spike/cow general season archery elk hunters as well. Mostly 320-340" top end bulls but does have 350"+ potential.									

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Average Age of Harvested Bulls All Weapons 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:									
San Juan	Aug 19-Sept 15	13, 12, 12	2, 1, 1	20% with 16 pts	1 in 29, 1 in 36, 1 in 39	100% with 21 pts	1 in 453, 1 in 440, 1 in 519	82%, 62%, 31%	8.1, 8.3, 7.3
One of the best trophy units in the state. Huge unit with all types of habitat and elk throughout. Some steep higher elevation mountain country to hunt with a few back country areas, and also a lot of plateaus, ridges and foothills with easy terrain to hunt as well. The mountains have good glassing to locate bulls. The Elk Ridge side of the unit is flatter and thicker and not as good for glassing and bugling bulls are a big help to do well. 350"+ bulls with some 375"+ bulls available. Probably the best archery hunt in the state.									
South Slope Diamond Mtn	Aug 19-Sept 15	11, 11, 11	1, 1, 1	100% with 6 pts	1 in 11, 1 in 11, 1 in 9	No tag	1 in 37, 1 in 31, 1 in 25	18%, 27%, 67%	6.8, 6.6, 5.8
Unit is a mix of public and private land with good road access throughout most the unit. Self guided hunters should study maps and use GPS to navigate around the private land. More elk can move to private with pressure and during the rut. Mostly 320-340" bulls with a few real big bulls killed here every year. Not a hunt for everyone. Be prepared to work real hard or go guided.									
Southwest Desert	Aug 19-Sept 15	24, 34, 32	3, 4, 4	80% with 9 pts	1 in 16, 1 in 9, 1 in 11	50% with 16 pts	1 in 79, 1 in 60, 1 in 70	39%, 68%, 38%	6.8, 7.6, 7.6
Huge unit with mostly public land. High desert terrain with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges and open sage valleys between. Unit borders Nevada and has multiple burns that attract elk and make for good glassing. Can be a difficult hunt when bulls aren't vocal due to thick country. Sitting water can be good if you're patient. Loaded with wild horses which can get in the way of archers at times. Unit holds a few great bulls but they are rarely killed during this archery season. 330"+ bulls with better potential on good moisture years.									
Wasatch Mtns	Aug 19-Sept 15	199, 199, 184	20, 20, 18	46% with 5 pts	1 in 8, 1 in 6, 1 in 7	50% with 8 pts	1 in 14, 1 in 17, 1 in 24	31%, 30%, 35%	6.6, 6.8, 6.9
Giant unit with some very steep mountainous country as well as a lot of moderate aspen, oak, mountain brush type terrain with good road access. Overall, you can pick and hunt the type of terrain you like. Does have some private land but predominantly public land and good elk numbers. Unit is close to Utah's highest population base and attracts plenty of general season spike/cow archery hunters as well so be prepared to share the mountain. Expect 300-330" bulls but always can produce some bigger bulls.									
West Desert Deep Creek	Aug 19-Sept 15	5, 11, 11	1, 1, 1	100% with 5 pts	1 in 12, 1 in 4, 1 in 4	No tag	1 in 8, 1 in 16, 1 in 10	30%, 33%, 30%	5.9, 6.8, 7.2
Unit borders Nevada and the Goshute Reservation. Some steep mountain country as well as lower burns and pinyon/juniper elk habitat. Be prepared to hike and hunt hard. Plenty of public land but sometimes the best bulls stay on the Reservation. Always seems to have a few big bulls but can be frustrating at times to have them where you can access and hunt them. Expect 320-340" bulls with potential for better. Low tag numbers.									
Better Early Any Weapon Elk Hunts									
Beaver East	Sept 16-Sept 24	8, 8, 8	1, 1, 1	36% with 21 pts	1 in 253, 1 in 216, 1 in 225	No tag	1 in 547, 1 in 487, 1 in 490	100%, 100%, 92%	6.9, 7.9, 6.8
One of the best trophy elk units in the state. Plenty of 10,000+ steep mountainous terrain as well as moderate terrain to hunt with good road access into most of the unit. Thick timber in much of the unit but several burns have opened up visibility and made the unit better. Nearly all public land. Low tag numbers and a great chance to hunt a 350"+ bull with 375"+ potential. Bulls are usually bugling strong on this hunt. Low tag numbers.									
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek South	Sept 16-Sept 24	46, 45, 43	4, 4, 4	20% with 17 pts	1 in 72, 1 in 67, 1 in 67	67% with 19 pts	1 in 282, 1 in 255, 1 in 247	85%, 92%, 89%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
Great public land unit with a good road network throughout most of the unit making access good. Not a high elevation hunt, most of the unit consists of plateaus and ridges intersected with canyons with oak, mountain brush, pine, and pinyon/juniper. Plenty of elk and a good hunt for 320-340" bulls with better bulls taken every year.									
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Sept 16-Sept 24	18, 18, 20	2, 2, 2	33% with 18 pts	1 in 56, 1 in 65, 1 in 50	100% with 20 pts	1 in 266, 1 in 303, 1 in 256	87%, 96%, 96%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
Smaller sub-unit in the Book Cliffs with no road access. Backpack or horseback hunt but horses definitely recommended to go deep and get an elk out. A series of ridges and canyons create a wilderness type experience with good elk numbers. Expect 340-360" bulls with bigger bulls taken every year.									
Central Mtns, Manti	Sept 16-Sept 24	134, 134, 134	14, 14, 14	82% with 15 pts	1 in 46, 1 in 45, 1 in 42	83% with 16 pts	1 in 71, 1 in 68, 1 in 53	80%, 83%, 81%	5.9, 6.1, 6.2
Huge unit with a wide variety of habitat throughout. Most of the summer range is a mix of aspen and spruce/fir type habitat. Utah's largest elk herd. Abundant public land with a lot of different country to move throughout and hunt. Most top end bulls are 320-330" but does still produce some bigger bulls and a few real big bulls. Usually a great hunt for hunters not as concerned about needing a giant bull.									
Fillmore Pahvant	Sept 16-Sept 24	17, 12, 13	2, 1, 1	26% with 21 pts	1 in 164, 1 in 260, 1 in 231	100% with 21 pts	1 in 580, 1 in 528, 1 in 682	90%, 90%, 96%	7.8, 7.6, 7.3
One of the best trophy units in the state. Mostly public land with good access and moderate terrain on most of the unit. Aspen/spruce/fir habitat up on the mountain and pinyon/juniper with oak down lower. Elk can be found throughout the unit. Plenty of areas to glass but bulls should be bugling during this hunt. 350-375" bulls with some giants taken every year.									
LaSal, LaSal Mtns	Sept 16-Sept 24	35, 36, 34	4, 4, 4	50% with 13 pts	1 in 27, 1 in 24, 1 in 25	100% with 18 pts	1 in 83, 1 in 76, 1 in 71	85%, 95%, 91%	6.6, 6.5, 6.8
Good unit with high elk numbers. Some steep terrain on some of the high elevation peaks where being in shape and able to hike will be required. Also plenty of public land to hunt lower around the peaks in aspen, oak, and ponderosa type habitat that is easy to access and hunt. A couple big blocks of private land to avoid on the east side of the unit. Mostly 320-340" top end bulls but does produce a few real big bulls each year.									
Monroe	Sept 16-Sept 24	10, 9, 9	1, 1, 1	24% with 21 pts	1 in 337, 1 in 347, 1 in 319	No tag	1 in 302, 1 in 297, 1 in 280	92%, 92%, 100%	7.8, 7.1, 6.6
Unit always seems to produce some great bulls with thicker spruce/fir mountainous country on the north end that gradually turns to more aspen and open sage country as you move south. Some private land but typically easy to navigate and hunt plenty of public land. Some vegetation treatments have helped this unit as well. Usually a good hunt for 340-350" bulls and bigger potential. Low tag numbers.									

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Average Age of Harvested Bulls All Weapons 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:									
Mt. Dutton	Sept 16-Sept 24	22, 30, 30	3, 3, 3	75% with 16 pts	1 in 56, 1 in 40, 1 in 36	100% with 20 pts	1 in 88, 1 in 96, 1 in 86	75%, 71%, 74%	5.9, 6.0, 6.1
Public land unit with good road access on about half the unit and hiking or horseback style hunting on the other half. Mostly steep rocky terrain with canyons draining off the divide and a good network of foot/horseback trails and access points. The southern half of the unit burned in 2002 and has re-grown but still a good glassing unit. Not high elk densities but the unit does get more elk coming to it from neighboring units throughout the fall. Be prepared for a physical hunt. Expect 330-340" bulls with a few giant bulls taken on the unit every year. Can be a tough physical hunt, not for everyone.									
Panguitch Lake	Sept 16-Sept 24	12, 20, 23	2, 2, 3	56% with 17 pts	1 in 129, 1 in 72, 1 in 61	50% with 17 pts	1 in 222, 1 in 224, 1 in 89	75%, 74%, 63%	5.4, 5.8, 5.8
Good road access and moderate to easy terrain in most of the unit. Thick spruce/fir forests up higher with more aspen and ponderosa forests as you move a bit lower. Does have some good private land that holds elk but not difficult to navigate around and hunt on public land. Mostly 320-340" bulls. Some real big bulls come off this unit most years. Usually a good hunt if the bulls are vocal but can be tough due to thick timber if they aren't.									
Plateau Boulder/Kaiparowits	Sept 16-Sept 24	24, 27, 27	3, 3, 3	25% with 19 pts	1 in 98, 1 in 84, 1 in 67	33% with 21 pts	1 in 217, 1 in 249, 1 in 184	97%, 80%, 87%	7.3, 7.9, 7.6
One of the best trophy potential units in the state. Huge public land unit with elk found on almost all parts of the Boulder unit. Most of the unit consists of a high 10,000' relatively flat plateau with thick spruce/fir aspen forests which gradually change to oak and ponderosa pine as you move a bit lower. Some elk use the lowest elevations of the unit as well. Tough unit to glass in most parts. Not a physical unit but thick so bugling bulls will really help this hunt. A few giant bulls here every year, expect to hunt 350"+ bulls with 370"+ potential.									
Plateau Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Sept 16-Sept 24	56, 61, 62	6, 6, 6	29% with 13 pts	1 in 29, 1 in 28, 1 in 24	50% with 17 pts	1 in 84, 1 in 84, 1 in 79	74%, 72%, 85%	6.0, 5.9, 6.3
Good unit with high elk numbers and abundant public land. Does have some private ranches on the northern end that hold elk and are off limits to hunt. Spruce/fir with aspen throughout much of the unit with more open sage country as you move lower. Good access and plenty of roads in most parts of the unit. Mostly 320-340" top end bulls but does have 350"+ potential.									
San Juan	Sept 16-Sept 24	19, 18, 18	2, 2, 2	2% with 21 pts	1 in 185, 1 in 200, 1 in 192	33% with 22 pts	1 in 1580, 1 in 1720, 1 in 1792	89%, 100%, 87%	8.1, 8.3, 7.3
One of the best trophy units in the state. Huge unit with all types of habitat and elk throughout. Some steep higher elevation mountain country to hunt with a few back country areas, and also a lot of plateaus, ridges and foothills with easy terrain to hunt as well. The mountains have good glassing to locate bulls. The Elk Ridge side of the unit is flatter and thicker and not as good for glassing and bugling bulls are a big help to do well. 350"+ bulls with some 375"+ bulls available.									
South Slope Diamond Mtn	Sept 16-Sept 24	14, 15, 15	2, 2, 2	100% with 13 pts	1 in 54, 1 in 41, 1 in 41	100% with 19 pts	1 in 111, 1 in 67, 1 in 84	100%, 92%, 85%	6.8, 6.6, 5.8
Unit is a mix of public and private land with good road access throughout most the unit. Self guided hunters should study maps and use GPS to navigate around the private land. More elk can move to private with pressure and during the rut. Mostly 320-340" bulls with a few real big bulls killed here every year. Not a hunt for everyone. Be prepared to work real hard or go guided.									
Southwest Desert	Sept 16-Sept 24	24, 34, 35	2, 3, 3	50% with 19 pts	1 in 118, 1 in 91, 1 in 78	20% with 20 pts	1 in 445, 1 in 238, 1 in 197	68%, 85%, 96%	6.8, 7.6, 7.6
Huge unit with mostly public land. High desert terrain with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges and open sage valleys between. Unit borders Nevada and has multiple burns that attract elk and make for good glassing. Can be a difficult hunt when bulls aren't vocal. Unit holds some giant bulls but they can often be like ghosts in the thick trees. 330-350" bulls with much better potential on good moisture years.									
Wasatch Mtns	Sept 16-Sept 24	204, 204, 188	20, 20, 19	75% with 15 pts	1 in 41, 1 in 42, 1 in 42	35% with 15 pts	1 in 48, 1 in 50, 1 in 48	77%, 85%, 81%	6.6, 6.8, 6.9
Giant unit with some very steep mountainous country as well as a lot of moderate aspen, oak, mountain brush type terrain with good road access. Overall, you can pick and hunt the type of terrain you like. Does have some private land but predominantly public land and good elk numbers. Expect 300-330" bulls but always can produce some bigger bulls.									
West Desert Deep Creek	Sept 16-Sept 24	7, 11, 11	1, 1, 1	50% with 13 pts	1 in 30, 1 in 22, 1 in 18	No tag	1 in 47, 1 in 45, 1 in 53	62%, 75%, 69%	5.9, 6.8, 7.2
Unit borders Nevada and the Goshute Reservation. Some steep mountain country as well as lower burns and pinyon/juniper elk habitat. Be prepared to hike and hunt hard. Plenty of public land but sometimes the best bulls stay on the Reservation. Always seems to have a few big bulls but can be frustrating at times to have them where you can access and hunt them. Expect 320-340" bulls with potential for better. Low tag numbers.									
Good Mid Season Any Weapon elk Hunts									
Central Mtns Manti	Oct 7- Oct 19	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	5.9, 6.1, 6.2
New hunt for 2017 after the archery, rifle, and muzzleloader hunts have finished. General season spike only hunt coincides with this hunt, expect a lot of hunters in the field. Huge unit with a wide variety of habitat throughout. Most of the summer range is a mix of aspen and spruce/fir type habitat. Utah's largest elk herd. Abundant public land with a lot of different country to move throughout and hunt. Expect 280-320" bulls with a few better. Not a trophy hunt.									
North Slope Three Corners	Oct 7- Oct 19	21, 17, 17	2, 2, 2	44% with 14 pts	1 in 43, 1 in 56, 1 in 54	100% with 15 pts	1 in 67, 1 in 84, 1 in 61	74%, 78%, 90%	5.7, 5.9, 6.3
Unit sits in the northeast corner of Utah and borders Wyoming and Colorado. This unit is not as good as the Colorado side as elk have been hunted harder in Utah which has caused more elk to find refuge in Colorado. Some private land but plenty of public land to hunt with mostly pine and pinyon/juniper open sage grassland type country. Mostly 320-330" bulls with an occasional big bull killed. Only rifle hunt on this unit.									
Plateau Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Oct 7- Oct 19	20, N/A, N/A	2, N/A, N/A	50% with 10 pts	1 in 21, N/A, N/A	100% with 9 pts	1 in 46, N/A, N/A	New in 2016	6.0, 5.9, 6.3
Hunt occurs after the archery, rifle, and muzzleloader hunts have finished. General season spike only hunt coincides with this hunt, expect a lot of hunters in the field. Good unit with high elk numbers and abundant public land. Does have some private ranches on the northern end that hold elk and are off limits to hunt. Spruce/fir with aspen throughout much of the unit with more open sage country as you move lower. Good access and plenty of roads in most parts of the unit. Expect 280-320" bulls with potential for better. Not a trophy hunt.									

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Average Age of Harvested Bulls All Weapons 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:									
South Slope Diamond Mtn	Oct 7- Oct 19	10, 8, 8	1, 1, 1	40% with 11 pts	1 in 39, 1 in 42, 1 in 31	No tag	1 in 40, 1 in 57, 1 in 26	92%, 100%, 82%	6.8, 6.6, 5.8
	Hunt occurs after the archery, first rifle, and muzzleloader hunts have finished. Unit is a mix of public and private land with good road access throughout most the unit. Self guided hunters should study maps and use GPS to navigate around the private land. More elk can move to private with pressure prior to this hunt. Expect 300-320" bulls. Not a hunt for everyone. Be prepared to work real hard or go guided.								
Wasatch Mtns	Oct 7- Oct 19	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	6.6, 6.8, 6.9
	New hunt for 2017 after the archery, rifle, and muzzleloader hunts have finished. General season spike only hunt coincides with this hunt, expect a lot of hunters in the field. Giant unit with some very steep mountainous country as well as a lot of moderate aspen, oak, mountain brush type terrain with good road access. Overall, you can pick and hunt the type of terrain you like. Does have some private land but predominantly public land and good elk numbers. Expect 280-320" bulls with a few better. Not a trophy hunt.								
Better Late Season Any Weapon Elk Hunts									
Beaver East	Nov 11- Nov 19	5, 8, 8	1, 1, 1	100% with 18 pts	1 in 65, 1 in 41, 1 in 38	No tag	1 in 65, 1 in 54, 1 in 67	78%, 75%, 100%	6.9, 7.9, 6.8
	One of the best trophy elk units in the state. Plenty of 10,000"+ steep mountainous terrain as well as moderate terrain to hunt with good road access into most of the unit. Thick timber in much of the unit but several burns have opened up visibility and made the unit better. Nearly all public land. Low tag numbers and a great chance to hunt a 340"+ bull.								
Book Cliffs Bitter Creek South	Nov 11- Nov 19	30, 24, 22	3, 3, 3	25% with 11 pts	1 in 19, 1 in 24, 1 in 26	100% with 17 pts	1 in 44, 1 in 48, 1 in 46	77%, 86%, 83%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
	Great public land unit with a good road network throughout most of the unit making access good. Not a high elevation hunt, most of the unit consists of plateaus and ridges intersected with canyons with oak, mountain brush, pine, and pinyon/juniper. Plenty of elk and good glassing. Good hunt for 320-330" bulls with some better.								
Central Mtns Manti	Nov 11- Nov 19	90, 90, 90	9, 9, 9	91% with 10 pts	1 in 14, 1 in 16, 1 in 11	100% with 12 pts	1 in 38, 1 in 19, 1 in 14	78%, 73%, 65%	5.9, 6.1, 6.2
	Huge unit with a wide variety of habitat throughout. Up higher is a mix of aspen and spruce/fir type habitat. Big canyons coming off the top with pinyon/juniper down lower, Utah's largest elk herd. Abundant public land with a lot of different country to move throughout and hunt. Typically a good late hunt for 300-320" bulls with some bigger bulls still available.								
Fillmore Pahvant	Nov 11- Nov 19	11, 16, 17	1, 2, 2	50% with 18 pts	1 in 61, 1 in 39, 1 in 35	No tag	1 in 71, 1 in 87, 1 in 91	82%, 88%, 77%	7.8, 7.6, 7.3
	One of the best trophy units in the state. Mostly public land with good access and moderate terrain on most of the unit. Aspen/spruce/fir habitat up on the mountain and pinyon/juniper with oak down lower. Elk can be found throughout the unit even later. Plenty of burns and areas to glass make this a good late hunt. Expect 330-350" bulls with better potential.								
Monroe	Nov 11- Nov 19	6, 4, 4	1, 1, 1	100% with 18 pts	1 in 90, 1 in 124, 1 in 115	No tag	1 in 58, 1 in 49, 1 in 30	100%, 75%, 67%	7.8, 7.1, 6.6
	Unit always seems to produce some great bulls even late. Bulls can move into steep mahogany slopes but some still in the aspen and open sage country as well. Mostly public land. Some vegetation treatments have helped this unit as well. Usually a good hunt for 320-340" bulls and bigger potential. Low tag numbers.								
Mt. Dutton	Nov 11- Nov 19	14, 20, 19	2, 2, 2	100% with 15 pts	1 in 42, 1 in 28, 1 in 22	100 % with 19 pts	1 in 103, 1 in 84, 1 in 70	86%, 79%, 86%	5.9, 6.0, 6.1
	Typically a great late hunt as it's very glassable in most parts and elk from other units come here to winter. Public land unit with good road access on about half the unit and hiking or horseback style hunting on the other half. Mostly steep rocky terrain with canyons draining off the divide and a good network of foot/horseback trails and access points. The southern half of the unit burned in 2002 and has re-grown but good glassing late when aspen leaves are off. Be prepared for a physical hunt. Expect 320-330" bulls with a few real big bulls killed on this hunt every year. Can be a tough physical hunt, not for everyone.								
Panguitch Lake	Nov 11- Nov 19	13, 20, 15	2, 2, 2	50% with 13 pts,	1 in 36, 1 in 22, 1 in 24	100% with 15 pts	1 in 68, 1 in 57, 1 in 43	68%, 80%, 80%	5.4, 5.8, 5.8
	Good road access and moderate to easy terrain in most of the unit. Timbered up higher but gets more open lower down the mountain. Can be a good late hunt if the bulls move lower into mahogany winter ranges. Mostly 320-330" bulls but capable of producing a great bull. Local or guide knowledge of wintering bulls is a big plus.								
Plateau Boulder/Kaiparowits	Nov 11- Nov 19	17, 14, 14	2, 2, 2	50% with 14 pts	1 in 26, 1 in 32, 1 in 27	100% with 15 pts	1 in 81, 1 in 80, 1 in 61	80%, 64%, 75%	7.3, 7.9, 7.6
	One of the best trophy potential units in the state but can be a very tough late hunt. Huge public land unit with elk found on almost all parts of the Boulder unit even late. Most of the unit consists of a high 10,000' relatively flat plateau with thick spruce/fir aspen forests which gradually change to oak and ponderosa pine as you move a bit lower. Some bulls pull down to the lowest elevations of the unit as well. Not a physical unit but thick so glassing is tough in a lot of the unit. A few giant bulls here every year, expect to hunt very hard and hope to get a break to kill a great bull.								
Plateau Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Nov 11- Nov 19	19, 33, 33	2, 4, 4	67% with 12 pts	1 in 28, 1 in 20, 1 in 15	50% with 15 pts	1 in 103, 1 in 56, 1 in 33	85%, 91%, 91%	6.0, 5.9, 6.3
	Good unit with high elk numbers and high harvest success on the late hunt. Abundant public land but does have some private ranches on the northern end that hold elk and are off limits to hunt. Spruce/fir with aspen throughout much of the unit with more open sage country as you move lower. Good access and plenty of roads in most parts of the unit. Mostly 300-330"bulls but does produce a few bigger late season bulls each year.								
San Juan	Nov 11- Nov 19	13, 10, 10	1, 1, 1	100% with 16 pts	1 in 26, 1 in 36, 1 in 26	No tag	1 in 120, 1 in 128, 1 in 118	82%, 78%, 73%	8.1, 8.3, 7.3
	One of the best trophy units in the state. Huge unit with all types of habitat and elk throughout. Some bulls still in the steep higher elevation mountain country but most bulls have moved to the canyons and lower country. Unit consists of plateaus, ridges and foothills with easy terrain to hunt as well as some remote stuff. Some bulls move to private land on the east side of the unit making them off limits. Still endless amounts of public land to do well on. Expect 330-350" bulls with bigger potential.								

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Average Age of Harvested Bulls All Weapons 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:									
Southwest Desert	Nov 11- Nov 19	30, 43, 39	3, 4, 3	100% with 14 pts	1 in 27, 1 in 19, 1 in 17	100% with 17 pts	1 in 62, 1 in 67, 1 in 62	61%, 88%, 72%	6.8, 7.6, 7.6
Huge unit with mostly public land. High desert terrain with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges and open sage valleys between. Unit borders Nevada and has multiple burns that attract elk and make for good glassing. Can be tough to turn up the bigger bulls in the thick stuff. Tough season but could kill a 320-330+ bull with the potential for a real big bull if you get lucky and turn one up.									
Wasatch Mtns	Nov 11- Nov 19	109, 109, 100	12, 12, 11	23% with 11 pts	1 in 18, 1 in 18, 1 in 14	14% with 12 pts	1 in 19, 1 in 20, 1 in 14	82%, 80%, 84%	6.6, 6.8, 6.9
Giant unit with some very steep mountainous country as well as a lot of moderate aspen, oak, mountain brush type terrain with good road access. Overall, you can pick and hunt the type of terrain you like. Does have some private land but predominantly public land and good elk numbers. Some bulls will be wintering on big steep faces where you can glass them in the oak/maple hillsides. Expect 300-320" bulls with a few better.									
Better Muzzleloader Elk Hunts									
NOTE: Muzzleloader elk hunters should be aware that they will share the mountain with general season or limited-entry muzzleloader deer hunters during the same season.									
Beaver East	Sept 25- Oct 6	3, 4, 4	1, 1, 1	100% with 20 pts	1 in 64, 1 in 62, 1 in 58	No tag in 2017	No tag in 2017	100%, 100%, 80%	6.9, 7.9, 6.8
Available to residents only this year. One of the best trophy elk units in the state. Plenty of 10,000'+ steep mountainous terrain as well as moderate terrain to hunt with good road access into most of the unit. Thick timber in much of the unit but several burns have opened up visibility and made the unit better. Nearly all public land. Low tag numbers and a great chance to hunt a 350"+ bull with 375"+ potential. Bulls are usually bugling strong on this hunt. Low tag numbers.									
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek South	Sept 25- Oct 6	20, 18, 17	2, 2, 2	33% with 12 pts	1 in 23, 1 in 20, 1 in 21	50% with 17 pts	1 in 88, 1 in 66, 1 in 75	86%, 74%, 90%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
Great public land unit with a good road network throughout most of the unit making access good. Not a high elevation hunt, most of the unit consists of plateaus and ridges intersected with canyons with oak, mountain brush, pine, and pinyon/juniper. Plenty of elk and a good hunt for 320-340" bulls with better bulls taken every year.									
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Sept 25- Oct 6	8, 8, 9	1, 1, 1	14% with 14 pts	1 in 20, 1 in 20, 1 in 14	No tag	1 in 82, 1 in 73, 1 in 57	88%, 86%, 78%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
Smaller sub-unit in the Book Cliffs with no road access. Backpack or horseback hunt but horses definitely recommended to go deep and get an elk out. A series of ridges and canyons create a wilderness type experience with good elk numbers. Expect 340-360" bulls with bigger bulls taken every year.									
Central Mtns, Manti	Sept 25- Oct 6	59, 59, 59	6, 6, 6	7% with 10 pts	1 in 15, 1 in 14, 1 in 12	100% with 14 pts	1 in 30, 1 in 57, 1 in 22	77%, 67%, 79%	5.9, 6.1, 6.2
Huge unit with a wide variety of habitat throughout. Most of the summer range is a mix of aspen and spruce/fir type habitat. Utah's largest elk herd. Abundant public land with a lot of different country to move throughout and hunt. Most top end bulls are 320-330" but does still produce some bigger bulls and a few real big bulls. Usually a great hunt for hunters not as concerned about needing a giant bull.									
Fillmore Pahvant	Sept 25- Oct 6	8, 8, 8	1, 1, 1	29% with 18 pts	1 in 39, 1 in 38, 1 in 39	No tag	1 in 178, 1 in 79, 1 in 125	86%, 100%, 70%	7.8, 7.6, 7.3
One of the best trophy units in the state. Mostly public land with good access and moderate terrain on most of the unit. Aspen/spruce/fir habitat up on the mountain and pinyon/juniper with oak down lower. Elk can be found throughout the unit. Good glassing but bulls should be bugling during this hunt. 350"+ bulls with some giants taken on this unit every year.									
LaSal, LaSal Mtns	Sept 25- Oct 6	16, 15, 14	2, 2, 2	20% with 9 pts	1 in 11, 1 in 10, 1 in 9	100% with 15 pts	1 in 43, 1 in 39, 1 in 27	81%, 71%, 50%	6.6, 6.5, 6.8
Good unit with high elk numbers. Some steep terrain on some of the high elevation peaks where being in shape and able to hike will be required. Also plenty of public land to hunt lower around the peaks in aspen, oak, and ponderosa type habitat that is easy to access and hunt. A couple big blocks of private land to avoid on the east side of the unit. Mostly 320-340" top end bulls but does produce a few real big bulls each year.									
Monroe	Sept 25- Oct 6	5, 4, 4	0, 0, 0	50% with 19 pts	1 in 54, 1 in 78, 1 in 71	New for 2017	New for 2017	100%, 50%, 100%	7.8, 7.1, 6.6
Unit always seems to produce some great bulls with thicker spruce/fir mountainous country on the north end that gradually turns to more aspen and open sage country as you move south. Some private land but typically easy to navigate and hunt plenty of public land. Some vegetation treatments have helped this unit as well. Usually a good hunt for 340-350" bulls and bigger potential. Low tag numbers.									
Mt. Dutton	Sept 25- Oct 6	10, 13, 13	1, 2, 2	100% with 13 pts	1 in 16, 1 in 12, 1 in 12	No tag	1 in 50, 1 in 55, 1 in 43	85%, 60%, 88%	5.9, 6.0, 6.1
Public land unit with good road access on about half the unit and hiking or horseback style hunting on the other half. Mostly steep rocky terrain with canyons draining off the divide and a good network of foot/horseback trails and access points. The southern half of the unit burned in 2002 and has re-grown but still a good glassing unit. Not high elk densities but the unit does get more elk coming to it from neighboring units throughout the fall. Be prepared for a physical hunt. Expect 320-340" bulls with a few bigger bulls available. Can be a tough physical hunt, not for everyone.									
Panguitch Lake	Sept 25- Oct 6	7, 11, 11	1, 1, 1	25% with 13 pts	1 in 31, 1 in 19, 1 in 17	No tag in 2017	1 in 48, 1 in 33, 1 in 32	77%, 79%, 57%	5.4, 5.8, 5.8
Good road access and moderate to easy terrain in most of the unit. Thick spruce/fir forests up higher with more aspen and ponderosa forests as you move a bit lower. Does have some good private land that holds elk but not difficult to navigate around and hunt on public land. Mostly 320-340" bulls. Some real big bulls come off this unit most years. Usually a good hunt if the bulls are vocal but can be tough due to thick timber if they aren't.									
Plateau Boulder/Kaiparowits	Sept 25- Oct 6	11, 11, 11	1, 1, 1	13% with 17 pts	1 in 44, 1 in 42, 1 in 25	No tag	1 in 108, 1 in 155, 1 in 45	80%, 100%, 100%	7.3, 7.9, 7.6
One of the best trophy potential units in the state. Huge public land unit with elk found on almost all parts of the Boulder unit. Most of the unit consists of a high 10,000' relatively flat plateau with thick spruce/fir aspen forests which gradually change to oak and ponderosa pine as you move a bit lower. Some elk use the lowest elevations of the unit as well. Tough unit to glass in most parts. Not a physical unit but thick so bugling bulls will really help this hunt. A few giant bulls here every year, expect to hunt 340"+ bulls with 370"+ potential. Muzzleloader is sometimes the best rut season on the unit.									

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Average Age of Harvested Bulls All Weapons 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:									
Plateau Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Sept 25-Oct 6	25, 25, 25	3, 3, 3	17% with 10 pts	1 in 13, 1 in 11, 1 in 12	50% with 14 pts	1 in 38, 1 in 39, 1 in 29	67%, 72%, 63%	6.0, 5.9, 6.3
Good unit with high elk numbers and abundant public land. Does have some private ranches on the northern end that hold elk and are off limits to hunt. Spruce/fir with aspen throughout much of the unit with more open sage country as you move lower. Good access and plenty of roads in most parts of the unit. Mostly 320-340" top end bulls but does have 350"+ potential.									
San Juan	Sept 25-Oct 6	9, 8, 8	1, 1, 1	50% with 20 pts	1 in 46, 1 in 53, 1 in 58	No tag	1 in 272, 1 in 279, 1 in 189	56%, 75%, 60%	8.1, 8.3, 7.3
One of the best trophy units in the state. Huge unit with all types of habitat and elk throughout. Some steep higher elevation mountain country to hunt with a few back country areas, and also a lot of plateaus, ridges and foothills with easy terrain to hunt as well. The mountains have good glassing to locate bulls. The rut is usually going strong on this hunt. The Elk Ridge side of the unit is flatter and thicker and not as good for glassing but bulls should be bugling. 350"+ bulls with some 375"+ bulls available.									
South Slope Diamond Mtn	Sept 25-Oct 6	6, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	33% with 11 pts	1 in 23, 1 in 30, 1 in 19	No tag	1 in 30, 1 in 20, 1 in 25	73%, 80%, 100%	6.8, 6.6, 5.8
Unit is a mix of public and private land with good road access throughout most the unit. Self guided hunters should study maps and use GPS to navigate around the private land. More elk can move to private with pressure and during the rut. Mostly 320-330" bulls with a few real big bulls killed here every year. Not a hunt for everyone. Be prepared to work real hard or go guided.									
Southwest Desert	Sept 25-Oct 6	14, 20, 19	2, 2, 2	40% with 16 pts	1 in 37, 1 in 24, 1 in 29	100% with 19 pts	1 in 113, 1 in 111, 1 in 68	76%, 86%, 85%	6.8, 7.6, 7.6
Huge unit with mostly public land. High desert terrain with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges and open sage valleys between. Unit borders Nevada and has multiple burns that attract elk and make for good glassing. Can be a difficult hunt when bulls aren't vocal. Unit holds some giant bulls but they can often be like ghosts in the thick trees. 330-350" bulls with much better potential on good moisture years.									
Wasatch Mtns	Sept 25-Oct 6	134, 134, 124	13, 13, 12	2% with 9 pts	1 in 10, 1 in 10, 1 in 9	40% with 12 pts	1 in 22, 1 in 18, 1 in 22	67%, 63%, 63%	6.6, 6.8, 6.9
Giant unit with some very steep mountainous country as well as a lot of moderate aspen, oak, mountain brush type terrain with good road access. Overall, you can pick and hunt the type of terrain you like. Does have some private land but predominantly public land and good elk numbers. Expect 300-330" bulls but always can produce some bigger bulls.									
Multi-season Elk Hunts Available to Nonresidents									
Book Cliffs Bitter Creek South	All limited-entry seasons	5, 4, 4	0, 0, 0	100% with 20 pts	1 in 75, 1 in 110, 1 in 81	New for 2017	New for 2017	83%, 100%, 100%	7.5, 7.9, 7.3
New for Nonresidents in 2017, expect 1 tag in the random draw. Hunt all limited-entry seasons on the unit. See other hunt descriptions. If you have a lot of time to hunt multiple seasons, this tag can increase your chances of killing a big bull.									
Central Mtns Manti	All limited-entry seasons	13, 13, 13	1, 1, 1	100% with 19 pts	1 in 71, 1 in 58, 1 in 55	No tag	1 in 72, 1 in 105, 1 in 52	100%, 100%, 100%	5.9, 6.1, 6.2
Hunt all limited-entry seasons on the unit. See other hunt descriptions. If you have a lot of time to hunt multiple seasons, this tag can increase your chances of killing a big bull.									
Plateau Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	All limited-entry seasons	5, 5, 5	1, 1, 1	100% with 19 pts	1 in 49, 1 in 42, 1 in 44	No tag	1 in 106, 1 in 89, 1 in 52	75%, 100%, 100%	6.0, 5.9, 6.3
Hunt all limited-entry seasons on the unit. See other hunt descriptions. If you have a lot of time to hunt multiple seasons, this tag can increase your chances of killing a big bull.									
Wasatch Mtns	All limited-entry seasons	20, 20, 18	2, 2, 2	31% with 18 pts	1 in 89, 1 in 76, 1 in 116	100% with 16 pts	1 in 127, 1 in 129, 1 in 105	91%, 82%, 65%	6.6, 6.8, 6.9
Hunt all limited-entry seasons on the unit. See other hunt descriptions. If you have a lot of time to hunt multiple seasons, this tag can increase your chances of killing a big bull.									



MARK BOTSKO, ELK, UTAH
WITH HOROX OUTFITTERS



DALE ESTVOLD, ELK, UTAH
WITH HOROX OUTFITTERS

UTAH DEER

It's no secret that Utah takes some great Mule deer every year and is on most trophy Mule deer hunter's wishlist. The difficulty is getting drawn. Utah simply doesn't have enough great limited-entry deer hunts to meet the demand from applicants. Consequently, the drawing odds for Utah limited-entry deer are really tough.

Changes for 2017 include the addition of a few more late season limited-entry muzzleloader hunts on some of the general season units, as well as some new management deer hunts available on the Henry Mountains during the archery and muzzleloader seasons. Hunters on a management buck hunt must shoot bucks with no more than 3 points on one side and must have their deer checked by the Utah DWR. There have also been some new limited-entry hunts offered like the late muzzleloader hunts on more of the general season deer units and while the number of tags offered still doesn't clear out many applicants each year, it does broaden the application options a bit.

The best trophy units in Utah continue to be the Henry Mountains, Paunsaugunt, Fillmore Oak Creek, and San Juan Elk Ridge. Some seasons are better than others on these units so study our tables for our take on these hunts. There are a few other giant deer killed on other units like the West Desert Vernon and the late muzzleloader hunts on the general season deer units, but these deer are not the norm without plenty of time to scout or enlisting some good help.

There's no question that since Utah went to a unit-by-unit draw for their general season deer that the number and quality of bucks has improved. Hunter numbers are

simply better managed on a per unit and per hunt basis. We've also experienced some good moisture during the last few years in spring and early summer creating good conditions to have more fawns survive the first year of life. There have been more and more great general season bucks killed each year it seems, and we hope the trend continues.

Keep in mind, a lot of the success on the best bucks on general season units comes from intense scouting and hunters hunting in familiar country over and over. The possibility exists to kill a good buck on many of the general season units in Utah with some knowledge and hard hunting. The units we've listed are the ones we feel have higher numbers of deer that are 3+ years old and have a better opportunity to have a decent hunt. General season deer hunts should be viewed as opportunity hunts that fill your schedule with an additional hunt and not something to base your entire fall hunting plans around. They are getting better, but are not limited-entry type hunts, nor do they give the same type of experience for the most part. Expect to see plenty of other hunters on these hunts and to have to work to get away from crowds.

We've listed what we feel are some of the better public land general season deer hunting units in the state. Hunters can apply for both the limited-entry deer hunts, which are drawn first, and then also apply for a general deer hunt. A new change for 2017 is that you will now lose your general deer preference points if you draw any of your 1st-5th choices.

Some quality hunts await hunters lucky enough to draw limited-entry deer hunts in Utah so study our tables and settle on something that fits what you're looking for.

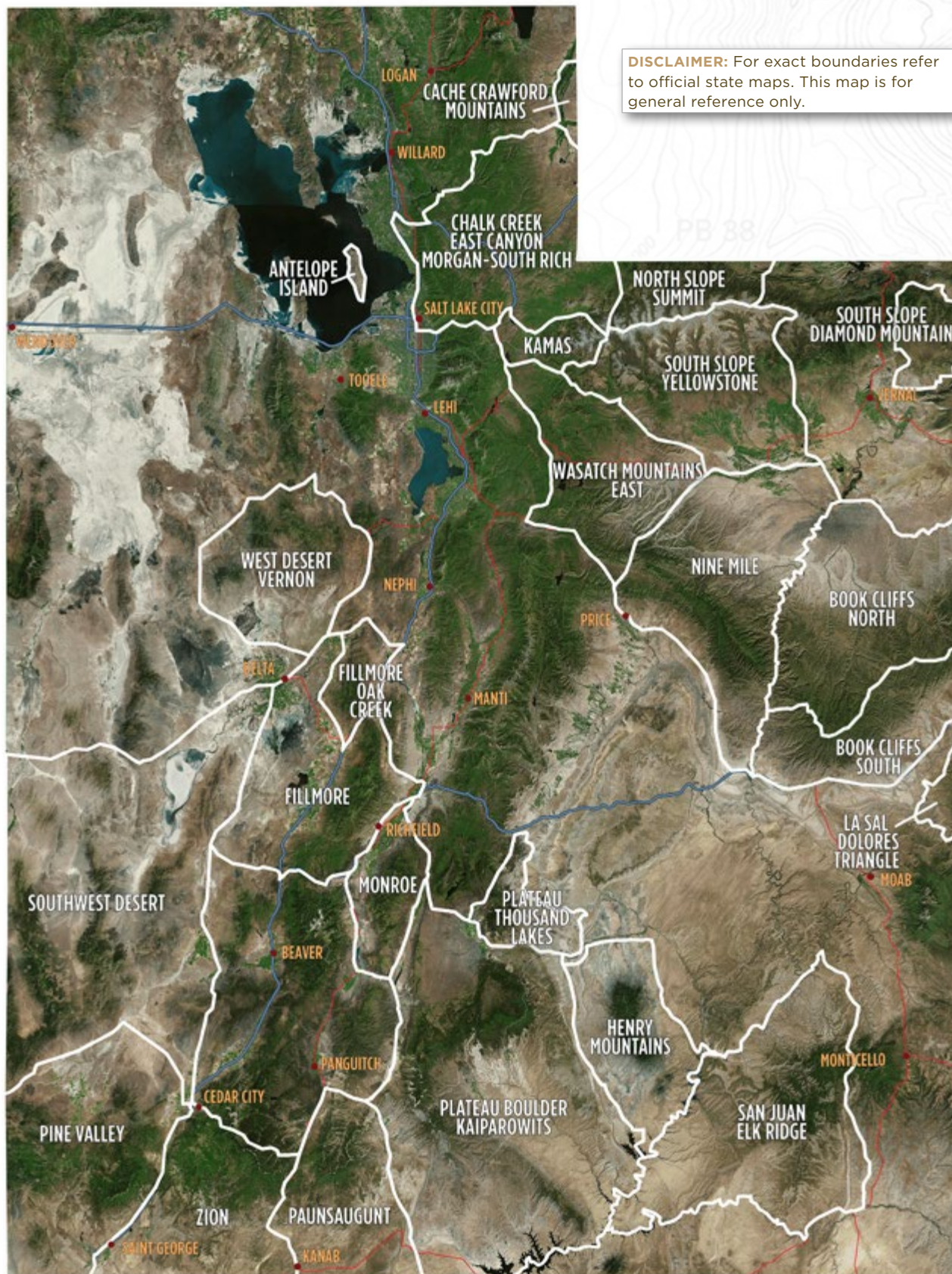


CLINT LOVE, 215" MULE DEER
UTAH



DAVID LINDSEY, ARCHERY MULE DEER, UTAH
WITH HOROX OUTFITTING

UTAH LIMITED-ENTRY DEER UNIT MAP



Better Archery Deer Hunts

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Henry Mountains	Aug 19- Sept 15	9, 9, 9	1, 1, 1	100% with 18 pts	1 in 167, 1 in 174, 1 in 195	No tag	1 in 891, 1 in 819, 1 in 724	88%, 100%, 90%
	Best unit in the state for trophy deer. Great for glassing and spot and stalk archery hunting. Plenty of trophy bucks to look over with 200"+ bucks available. Nearly all public land with some higher elevation steep peaks as well as plenty of mid elevation terrain that is easy to access. Plenty of older age class bucks with 75-80% of the bucks harvested on the unit each year being 5 years or older.							
Paunsaugunt	Aug 19- Sept 15	23, 23, 23	2, 2, 2	5% with 13 pts	1 in 59, 1 in 57, 1 in 63	100% with 22 pts	1 in 457, 1 in 425, 1 in 367	58%, 87%, 65%
	Unit doing great with plenty of 180-200"+ deer available by putting in the time. Easy terrain, but more timbered and thick on the summer range making glassing tougher in spots. Plenty of public land although some great private land on the unit as well. Archery season is the best on this unit. Plenty of older age class bucks with an average of 45-50% of the bucks harvested on the unit each year being 5 years or older.							
Book Cliffs	Aug 19- Sept 15	78, 77, 77	8, 8, 8	11% with 8 pts	1 in 22, 1 in 25, 1 in 25	17% with 13 pts	1 in 80, 1 in 74, 1 in 68	84%, 82%, 62%
	Good numbers of deer and a great hunt for archery hunters with mostly public land. Good glassing and spot and stalk hunting. Mostly easier access but does have some roadless country as well. Expect most top end bucks in the 150-170"+ range but always a few 185"+ deer taken here each year.							
Fillmore Oak Creek	Aug 19- Sept 15	6, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	100% with 11 pts	1 in 39, 1 in 24, 1 in 10	No tag	1 in 33, 1 in 23, 1 in 4	60%, 50%, 0%
	Unit has been producing some great deer the last couple years. Mostly public land with steep canyons and mountains so hiking required to ridges and glassing spots. Be in shape. Over half the unit burned making glassing good but re-growth is getting taller. 180-200"+ bucks available but lower deer numbers. Plan on hunting very hard and spending a lot of time to find the best deer. Not an easy hunt.							
San Juan Elk Ridge	Aug 19- Sept 15	9, 9, 9	1, 1, 1	17% with 13 pts	1 in 56, 1 in 50, 1 in 53	No tag	1 in 93, 1 in 90, 1 in 82	100%, 92%, 79%
	Big unit with nearly all public land. Unit has gotten better with plenty of 170-180"+ bucks available and a few bigger deer taken each year. Mostly easy access country with plenty of roads but timbered and thick in many parts. Ponderosa pine and oak in much of the unit. A big plateau with canyons draining off. Deer numbers not high and scouting is key to find and hunt a big deer. 200" potential.							
South Slope Diamond Mtn	Aug 19- Sept 15	15, 13, 13	2, 2, 2	60% with 9 pts	1 in 30, 1 in 34, 1 in 31	100% with 12 pts	1 in 58, 1 in 43, 1 in 37	84%, 87%, 88%
	Unit doing real well with 160-180" bucks available. Unit is a mix of public and private land. Self guided hunters should be prepared to study maps and use GPS to navigate public land. Not rugged terrain and plenty of roads. High success hunt.							
West Desert Vernon	Aug 19- Sept 15	31, 31, 31	3, 3, 3	88% with 8 pts	1 in 18, 1 in 20, 1 in 23	33% with 8 pts	1 in 18, 1 in 25, 1 in 19	58%, 37%, 55%
	High desert public land unit with lower elevation pinyon/juniper mountain ranges and oak and sage type country. Several burns throughout the unit as well. Good spot and stalk hunt in some areas but others have thick trees for mature deer to hole up in. Requires a lot of scouting and time to find and kill the best deer. Mostly 160-180" top end bucks with a few real big deer on the unit each year. Not an easy hunt.							
Henry Mountains Management Buck	Aug 26- Sept 15	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017
	New hunt for 2017. This hunt opens one week after the trophy archery deer hunters on the Henrys and then runs concurrently. Bucks must have no more than 3 points, excluding eyeguards, on at least one antler. Successful hunters must present their buck to a Utah DWR office within 48 hours of harvest for inspection. This will still be a good hunt with the ability to hunt a mature management buck.							

Better Muzzleloader Deer Hunts

Henry Mountains	Sept 27- Oct 5	9, 9, 9	1, 1, 1	9% with 19 pts	1 in 162, 1 in 154, 1 in 180	No tag	1 in 672, 1 in 600, 1 in 566	100%, 100%, 100%
	Best unit in the state for trophy deer. Great for glassing and spot and stalk hunting. Plenty of trophy bucks to look over with 200"+ bucks available. Muzzleloader hunt here is excellent! Nearly all public land with some higher elevation steep peaks as well as plenty of mid elevation terrain that is easy to access. Plenty of older age class bucks with 75-80% of the bucks harvested on the unit each year being 5 years or older.							
Paunsaugunt	Sept 27- Oct 5	23, 23, 23	3, 3, 3	40% with 14 pts	1 in 36, 1 in 32, 1 in 40	33% with 19 pts	1 in 122, 1 in 125, 1 in 143	83%, 82%, 73%
	Unit doing great with plenty of 180"+ deer available by putting in the time. Easy terrain, but more timbered and thick on the summer range making glassing tougher in spots. Muzzleloader hunt is tougher than the archery hunt as deer aren't as visible after they rub velvet. Plenty of public land although some great private land on the unit as well. Scouting and time required to kill a great buck. Plenty of older age class bucks with an average of 45-50% of the bucks harvested on the unit each year being 5 years or older.							
Book Cliffs	Sept 27- Oct 5	78, 77, 77	8, 8, 8	82% with 10 pts	1 in 17, 1 in 16, 1 in 20	33% with 14 pts	1 in 52, 1 in 33, 1 in 49	83%, 75%, 71%
	Good numbers of deer and a great hunt for muzzleloader hunters with mostly public land. Good glassing and spot and stalk hunting. Mostly easier access but does have some roadless country as well. Expect most top end bucks in the 150-170" range but always a few 185"+ deer taken here each year.							
Cache Crawford Mtn	Nov 18- Dec 3	16, 15, 15	2, 2, 2	58% with 13 pts	1 in 83, 1 in 83, 1 in 73	100% with 16 pts	1 in 186, 1 in 163, 1 in 143	94%, 94%, 100%
	Smaller public land unit along the Wyoming border. Rut hunt for deer that move into the unit from Wyoming to winter. Some steeper mountain slopes as well as plenty of open sage benches and flat country. Plenty of road access, not a difficult unit to hunt. Expect 160-180" bucks with a few better. Hope for snow and weather before this season to make it better.							
Fillmore	Nov 1- Nov 9	4, New in 2016	1, New in 2016	40% with 10 pts	1 in 73, New in 2016	No tag	1 in 19, New in 2016	New in 2016
	General deer unit earlier in the year. Low tag numbers on this later hunt. Hope for weather to initiate the rut, otherwise it can be tougher. Abundant public land and easy access. Expect 160-180"+ bucks.							

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Fillmore Oak Creek	Sept 27-Oct 5	6, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	14% with 14 pts	1 in 59, 1 in 42, 1 in 19	No tag	1 in 36, 1 in 24, 1 in 11	40%, 57%, 50%
	Unit has been producing some great deer the last couple years. Mostly public land with steep canyons and mountains so hiking required to ridges and glassing spots. Be in shape. Over half the unit burned making glassing good but re-growth is getting taller. 180-200"+ bucks available but lower deer numbers. Plan on hunting very hard and spending a lot of time to find the best deer. Not an easy hunt.							
Pine Valley	Nov 1- Nov 9	9, 7, N/A	1, 1, N/A	80% with 15 pts	1 in 76, 1 in 64, N/A	No tag	1 in 104, 1 in 37, N/A	71%, New in 2015
	General deer unit earlier in the year with low tag numbers on this later hunt. One of the best general season units so still some good bucks available on this unit as the deer move to lower country and start to rut. Can be a great hunt with 180"+ potential. Huge unit with plenty of public land.							
Plateau Boulder/ Kaiparowits	Nov 1- Nov 9	4, New in 2016	1, New in 2016	100% with 13 pts	1 in 79, New in 2016	No tag	1 in 60, New in 2016	New in 2016
	General deer unit earlier in the year with low tag numbers on this later hunt. Big unit but pick an area to focus on and hunt it. Deer will be in the lower pinyon/juniper country this time of year. Can be a great hunt with 180"+ potential.							
San Juan Elk Ridge	Sept 27-Oct 5	9, 9, 9	1, 1, 1	25% with 14 pts	1 in 44, 1 in 41, 1 in 44	No tag	1 in 68, 1 in 44, 1 in 52	64%, 100%, 100%
	Big unit with nearly all public land. Unit has gotten better with plenty of 170-180" bucks available and a few bigger deer taken each year. Mostly easy access country with plenty of roads but timbered and thick in many parts. Ponderosa pine and oak in much of the unit. A big plateau with canyons draining off. Deer numbers not high and scouting is key to find and hunt a big deer. The low desert country holds a few big resident deer for hunters with plenty of time to find them. 200" potential.							
South Slope Diamond Mtn	Sept 27-Oct 5	15, 13, 13	2, 2, 2	25% with 10 pts	1 in 26, 1 in 30, 1 in 30	100% with 13 pts	1 in 27, 1 in 25, 1 in 38	91%, 95%, 86%
	Unit doing real well with 160-180"+ bucks available. Unit is a mix of public and private land. Self guided hunters should be prepared to study maps and use GPS to navigate public land. Not rugged terrain and plenty of roads. High success hunt.							
Southwest Desert	Nov 1- Nov 9	5, 2, N/A	0, 1, N/A	50% with 12 pts	1 in 25, 1 in 74, N/A	No tag	N/A, 1 in 38, N/A	67%, New in 2015
	General deer unit earlier in the year with low tag numbers on this later hunt. Huge unit with nearly all public land. High desert pinyon/ juniper mountains and open sage valleys. Lower deer numbers but some big deer could come out of hiding during this hunt. A lot of time or prior knowledge of the unit is a big key to finding a 180"+ deer on this hunt.							
West Desert Vernon	Sept 27-Oct 5	31, 31, 31	3, 3, 3	25% with 10 pts	1 in 25, 1 in 25, 1 in 29	100% with 10 pts	1 in 20, 1 in 21, 1 in 17	76%, 61%, 56%
	High desert public land unit with lower elevation pinyon/juniper mountain ranges and oak and sage type country. Several burns throughout the unit as well. Good spot and stalk hunt in some areas but others have thick trees for mature deer to hole up in. Requires a lot of scouting and time to find and kill the best deer. Mostly 160-180" top end bucks with a few real big deer on the unit each year. Not an easy hunt.							
Zion	Nov 1- Nov 9	11, 9, N/A	1, 1, N/A	40% with 12 pts	1 in 47, 1 in 44, N/A	No tag	1 in 39, 1 in 28, N/A	100%, New in 2015
	General deer unit earlier in the year with low tag numbers on this later hunt. With prior weather, deer can load up on the winter ranges of this unit by the start of this hunt. Some Paunsaugunt deer move to the Zion as well to winter. Has the potential to kill a great buck. Plenty of deer to look over. If the deer move in heavy this is a great chance to kill a 180"+ buck.							
Henry Mountains Management Buck	Sept 30-Oct 5	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017
	New hunt for 2017. This hunt opens three days after the trophy muzzleloader deer hunt on the Henrys and then runs concurrently. Bucks must have no more than 3 points, excluding eyeguards, on at least one antler. Successful hunters must present their buck to a Utah DWR office within 48 hours of harvest for inspection. This will still be a good hunt with the ability to hunt a mature management buck.							
Better Any Weapon Deer Hunts								
Henry Mountains	Oct 21- Oct 29	23, 23, 24	3, 3, 3	31% with 19 pts	1 in 387, 1 in 408, 1 in 566	14% with 22 pts	1 in 1984, 1 in 2098, 1 in 2045	96%, 96%, 100%
	Best unit in the state for trophy deer. Plenty of trophy bucks to look over but many of the best bucks have been taken by archery and muzzleloader hunters. Still 190"+ bucks available but unit is a tougher hunt during the rifle hunt. Nearly all public land with some higher elevation steep peaks as well as plenty of mid elevation terrain that is easy to access. Plenty of older age class bucks with 75-80% of the bucks harvested on the unit each year being 5 years or older.							
Paunsaugunt	Oct 21- Oct 29	67, 67, 71	7, 7, 7	62% with 15 pts	1 in 61, 1 in 59, 1 in 80	9% with 19 pts	1 in 406, 1 in 336, 1 in 369	82%, 82%, 88%
	Most deer have migrated to lower elevation winter ranges prior to this hunt. Easy terrain, with plenty of roads. Drive and glass or sit and glass areas deer are moving through. Plenty of public land although some private that will hold good bucks on this hunt. Scouting not as critical on this hunt since pre-scouted bucks usually will move prior to this hunt. Hope for weather and then some luck to turn up a big deer amid plenty of nice deer. Expect to see plenty of 170-185" bucks with 200" potential. Plenty of older age class bucks with an average of 45-50% of the bucks harvested on the unit each year being 5 years or older.							
Book Cliffs North	Oct 21- Oct 29	170, 154, 164	17, 15, 16	13% with 10 pts,	1 in 27, 1 in 34, 1 in 30	6% with 14 pts	1 in 67, 1 in 71, 1 in 71	91%, 87%, 95%
	Great hunt to see a lot of deer but mostly 150-170" top end bucks with a few 180"+ deer killed each year. Mostly public land with plenty of road access. Lower elevation ridges and canyons with deer moving into the lower sage country on this hunt.							
Book Cliffs South	Oct 21- Oct 29	37, 54, 59	4, 5, 7	53% with 11 pts	1 in 40, 1 in 34, 1 in 31	100% with 15 pts	1 in 148, 1 in 99, 1 in 84	73%, 88%, 95%
	Deer will be moving from the north to south to the lower benches and sage flats during this hunt. Big canyons feed off to the lower country where the deer will be headed to for this hunt. Usually is a good hunt with minimal pressure but most top end bucks are 150-170". Always an exception or two but not typically a trophy hunt.							
Fillmore Oak Creek	Oct 21- Oct 29	16, 16, 17	2, 2, 2	17% with 15 pts	1 in 109, 1 in 102, 1 in 64	100% with 21 pts	1 in 156, 1 in 140, 1 in 56	82%, 71%, 88%
	Unit has been producing some great deer the last couple years. Mostly public land with steep canyons and mountains so hiking required to ridges and glassing spots. Be in shape. Over half the unit burned making glassing good but re-growth is getting taller. 180-200"+ bucks available but lower deer numbers. Plan on hunting very hard and spending a lot of time to find the best deer. Not an easy hunt.							

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
LaSal Dolores Triangle	Nov 18- Nov 26	10, 10, 10	1, 1, 1	83% with 14 pts	1 in 89, 1 in 83, 1 in 75	No tag	1 in 350, 1 in 377, 1 in 260	90%, 100%, 80%
Unit sits along the Colorado border where Colorado deer come into Utah to winter. Snow and poor weather prior to this hunt make it better. Can be an inconsistent hunt from year to year. Rut dates but not many true trophy deer killed on this hunt. Expect 160-180" bucks. Nearly all public land, lower elevation sage pinyon/juniper type country.								
San Juan Elk Ridge	Oct 21- Oct 29	25, 25, 27	3, 3, 3	38% with 13 pts	1 in 52, 1 in 54, 1 in 46	100% with 18	1 in 118, 1 in 104, 1 in 79	87%, 77%, 82%
Toughest hunt on this unit. Deer often will be moving off the Elk Ridge plateaus toward lower elevations, making it tough to count on hunting a pre-scouted buck. Nearly all public land and not a physically difficult hunt. Plenty of road access. The low desert parts of this unit hold a few big deer for hunters with plenty of time to find them. Expect 160-180" bucks.								
South Slope Diamond Mtn	Oct 21- Oct 29	43, 39, 39	5, 3, 4	35% with 11 pts	1 in 51, 1 in 59, 1 in 59	100% with 13 pts	1 in 45, 1 in 70, 1 in 67	97%, 96%, 96%
Unit doing real well with 160-180" bucks available. Unit is a mix of public and private land. Self guided hunters should be prepared to study maps and use GPS to navigate public land. Not rugged terrain and plenty of roads. High success hunt.								
West Desert Vernon	Oct 21- Oct 29	90, 89, 94	9, 9, 10	63% with 12 pts	1 in 52, 1 in 57, 1 in 58	25% with 12 pts	1 in 50, 1 in 56, 1 in 50	81%, 84%, 83%
High desert public land unit with lower elevation pinyon/juniper mountain ranges and oak and sage type country. Several burns throughout the unit as well. Some areas have thick trees for mature deer to hole up in. Requires a lot of scouting and time to find and kill the best deer. Mostly 160-180" top end bucks with a few real big deer on the unit each year. Not an easy hunt.								
Henry Mountains Management Buck	Oct 30- Nov 3	26, 26, 30	2, 2, 3	86% with 13 pts	1 in 74, 1 in 76, 1 in 59	100% with 19 pts	1 in 253, 1 in 279, 1 in 79	89%, 93%, 96%
Management buck hunt immediately following the trophy rifle hunt on this unit. Some bucks will be starting to rut. Short season but usually a fun hunt for non-trophy hunters. The new management hunts on the earlier archery and muzzleloader hunts will kill some good management bucks before this hunt. Bucks must have no more than 3 points, excluding eyeguards, on at least one antler. Successful hunters must present their buck to a Utah DWR office within 48 hours of harvest for inspection.								
Paunsaugunt Management Buck	Nov 1- Nov 5	21, 13, 12	3, 2, 1	67% with 11 pts	1 in 42, 1 in 68, 1 in 92	100% with 14 pts	1 in 58, 1 in 84, 1 in 72	83%, 86%, 87%
Management buck hunt immediately following the trophy rifle hunt on this unit. Short season but deer are concentrated on the southern end of the unit so typically is a fun rut hunt for non-trophy hunters. Bucks must have no more than 3 points, excluding eyeguards, on at least one antler. Successful hunters must present their buck to a Utah DWR office within 48 hours of harvest for inspection.								
Multi-season Hunts Available to Nonresidents								
Book Cliffs	All Limited-Entry Seasons	13, 13, N/A	1, 1, N/A	67% with 12 pts	1 in 40, 1 in 45, N/A	No tag	1 in 116, 1 in 157, N/A	100%, New in 2015
Hunt all seasons on this unit. See notes for each season. Not a trophy unit.								
West Desert Vernon	All Limited-Entry Seasons	4, 5, N/A	1, 1, N/A	100% with 14 pts	1 in 159, 1 in 113, N/A	No tag	1 in 46, 1 in 55, N/A	67%, New in 2015
Hunt all seasons on this unit. See notes for each season. If you have the time to dedicate to this hunt, this tag could allow someone who hunts hard to kill a great buck.								



DUSTY JOHN, 204" MULE DEER
UTAH, WITH COLOR COUNTRY OUTFITTERS



GARY SYRETT, MULE DEER
UTAH

Best General Season Archery Deer Units

Unit	2017 Dates	2016 Tag Numbers Resident/ Nonresident	2016 Resident Odds*	2016 Nonresident Odds*	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Beaver	Aug 19- Sept 15	402 R / 51 NR	66% with 0 pts	23% with 1 pt	23%, 33%, 24%
Fillmore	Aug 19- Sept 15	301 R / 29 NR	67% with 0 pts	88% with 0 pts	43%, 24%, 24%
Panguitch Lake	Aug 19- Sept 15	468 R/ 55 NR	62% with 0 pts	55% with 2 pts	28%, 26%, 28%
Pine Valley	Aug 19- Sept 15	472 R / 62 NR	95% with 0 pts	98% with 1 pt	29%, 15%, 20%
San Juan Abajo Mtns	Aug 19- Sept 15	333 R / 105 NR	95% with 0 pts	27% with 0 pts	28%, 39%, 40%
Southwest Desert	Aug 19- Sept 15	87 R / 13 NR	87% with 0 pts	90% with 1 pt	26%, 25%, 4%
Zion	Aug 19- Sept 15	353 R / 60 NR	97% with 0 pts	59% with 1 pt	38%, 31%, 27%

Best General Season Muzzleloader Deer Units

Beaver	Sept 27- Oct 5	322 R / 50 NR	92% with 1 pt	49% with 1 pt	51%, 37%, 29%
Fillmore	Sept 27- Oct 5	234 R / 24 NR	27% with 0 pts	87% with 0 pts	34%, 32%, 39%
Panguitch Lake	Sept 27- Oct 5	399 R / 51 NR	35% with 0 pts	100% with 2 pts	39%, 42%, 47%
Pine Valley	Sept 27- Oct 5	375 R / 68 NR	91% with 1 pt	45% with 1 pt	36%, 22%, 39%
San Juan Abajo Mtns	Sept 27- Oct 5	324 R / 109 NR	98% with 0 pts	42% with 0 pts	42%, 36%, 42%
Southwest Desert	Sept 27- Oct 5	60 R / 12 NR	89% with 1 pt	88% with 2 pts	35%, 23%, 28%
Zion	Sept 27- Oct 5	407 R / 33 NR	98% with 0 pts	100% with 1 pt	42%, 39%, 49%

Best General Season Any Weapon Deer Units

Beaver	Oct 21- Oct 29	1363 R / 151 NR	60% with 1 pt	79% with 2 pts	55%, 45%, 40%
Fillmore	Oct 21- Oct 29	977 R / 88 NR	55% with 1 pt	32% with 0 pts	41%, 33%, 39%
Pine Valley	Oct 21- Oct 29	1543 R / 171 NR	34% with 1 pt	69% with 2 pts	53%, 46%, 42%
Plateau Boulder/ Kaiparowits	Oct 21- Oct 29	881 R / 103 NR	49% with 1 pt	55% with 2 pts	54%, 58%, 56%
Southwest Desert	Oct 21- Oct 29	315 R / 34 NR	49% with 1 pt	52% with 2 pts	40%, 21%, 32%
Zion	Oct 21- Oct 29	1374 R / 143 NR	78% with 1 pt	100% with 2 pts	54%, 47%, 49%

Our Picks for Better Public Land General Season Deer Units

Beaver	Mostly public land unit that has been a good hunt on all three general seasons. A wide range of deer habitat types. Some high elevation alpine country as well as below treeline big canyons and drainages. The northern end of the unit has had recent burns that have helped create better feed and make it great for serious glassers. Also has some good lower elevation sage, oak, pinyon/juniper deer country that has deer during all seasons. Some great bucks taken here in recent years although they require a lot of scouting to find.
Fillmore	Big public land unit with a long mountain range throughout the unit running north and south. Aspen and spruce/fir forested up higher with plenty of oak and mountain brush type canyons and foothills at the mid and lower elevations. Steep and rough in some areas. Unit has plenty of thick timber and brush but always carries some good deer. Plenty of bucks to hunt. Good hunt on all three seasons.
Panguitch Lake	Better unit during the archery and muzzleloader hunts when bucks are on summer ranges. The east side of the unit has been producing the best deer. Private lands does limit access some but plenty of good public land to scout and hunt. Some deer will migrate to other units like Zion later in October prior to the rifle hunt. There are still deer to hunt on the rifle hunt but would focus on the northern half on the rifle hunt.
Pine Valley	One of the best general season units in the state right now. Great buck numbers and age structure for a general season unit. Does have some high elevation pack in wilderness with deer in it in the archery and muzzleloader seasons, but the majority of the unit consists of lower mountain ranges with oak, mountain brush, and pinyon/juniper cover. Several burns throughout the unit have created better feed and glassing. Overall a big unit with good deer numbers but does issue a lot of tags. Does have some private land scattered throughout the unit with good deer on it, but plenty of public land to hunt. Most deer will migrate to the south and west in October just before or during the rifle hunt toward winter ranges. Can be a good rifle hunt when weather moves the deer down lower although hunting pressure is high.
Plateau Boulder/ Kaiparowits	Summer ranges are thicker and more timbered making glassing tougher. Can sit or still hunt during archery and muzzleloader seasons but they are usually tougher hunts. The rifle hunt can be good as deer move to lower elevations. Mostly pinyon/juniper country with rimrock and sandstone canyons down lower. The Kaiparowits unit does have some very remote mountain ranges and desert country with sparsely scattered deer populations but low hunting pressure if you're up for a challenge. Genetics are great but the country is harder to hunt and is tougher to do well in if you go in blind. High tag numbers and expect high hunting pressure in the easily accessible areas.
San Juan Abajo Mtns	Better during the archery and muzzleloader seasons when you can hunt deer on the mountain summer ranges before they migrate. Deer are from 7,500-11,000+ in good numbers in the summer in all kinds of habitat. The high country consists of aspen and spruce/ fir slopes with open hillsides and basins good for glassing. As you move lower, it switches to oakbrush, ponderosa pine, and pinyon/ juniper/mountain brush communities. Mostly public land but does have some good private land deer hunting in the lower elevations where trespass fees are required. Deer start drifting off the mountain in mid October into the lower elevations with thick pinyon/ juniper and more private land. Unit seems to be improving. High tag numbers so hunting pressure is high.
Southwest Desert	Low deer numbers compared to other units. Mostly public land. Huge unit with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges holding the bulk of the deer. Knowledge and/or scouting is key. Some great deer on the unit every year but they are generally tough to kill. Unit has a lot of burns and vegetation treatments/chainings that help glassing in those areas. Very thick cover for the most part allows the older bucks to take cover and be hard to dig up. Best results if you have a lot of time to research and scout or have other help. Unit is not as easy to just show up and find deer.
Zion	Summer range is about half private and half public with good deer on both. Some private allows access but most does not. Public land can get hunted hard. The eastern half has more public land and consists of spruce/fir with some aspen and ponderosa pine up top and mountain brush/oak ponderosa type habitat in the mid elevations. Not a high elevation unit. Summer ranges are not great for glassing due to timber, so archery and muzzleloader hunters sit or still hunt. Always produces some real nice bucks but as with most general season units, it experiences heavy hunting pressure. Deer will migrate to the lower sandy pinyon/juniper winter ranges beginning in mid October. Some years with storms and weather, deer can really begin to move south early prior to the rifle hunt into the southeast side of the unit. Some Paunsaugunt deer will also move across the highway to the Zion to winter. As a result, rifle seasons later in October have the potential to be pretty good.

UTAH ANTELOPE

Utah has some good antelope hunting but isn't a top B&C producing antelope state. There are some real big bucks killed each year sprinkled around the state on many different units, but expectations for most hunts should be 13-14" bucks that score in the 70's. We've covered what we feel are the better hunts available in Utah with abundant public land. Finding the best antelope in any unit usually just requires logging miles

in a truck and looking over a lot of bucks to find the few that stand out. Nonresident drawing odds for antelope have really tanked since 8 years ago when Utah started allowing nonresidents to apply for all limited-entry species. Now, many hunters have simply added them to their applications and the odds of drawing in no way reflect the quality of bucks available. However, for the extra \$10 to apply, there is no reason you shouldn't apply in Utah if you like to hunt antelope.

Better Archery Antelope Hunts

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Book Cliffs South	Aug 19- Sept 15	6, 4, 5	1, 1, 0	100% with 2 pts	1 in 2, 1 in 5, 1 in 3	No tag	1 in 29, 1 in 12, N/A	75%, 40%, 67%
Great public land unit in dry desert terrain toward the Colorado border. Always seems to produce a few real trophy bucks. Occasionally produces an 82"+ buck.								
Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Aug 19- Sept 15	6, 14, 20	1, 2, 2	25% with 2 pts	1 in 12, 1 in 4, 1 in 4	No tag	1 in 15, 1 in 20, 1 in 16	69%, 41%, 59%
Northern Utah in the corner near Idaho and Wyoming. Plenty of public land to hunt but some antelope on private as well. Antelope numbers have decreased but still a good hunt.								
Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt Johns Valley	Aug 19- Sept 15	6, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	50% with 4 pts	1 in 15, 1 in 14, 1 in 13	No tag	1 in 27, 1 in 30, 1 in 22	75%, 86%, 78%
Higher elevation mountain valleys with abundant public land. A few areas with antelope on private land. Antelope use ponderosa pine woodlands extensively as well. Always seems to be a great hunt with good antelope numbers. Also includes the west side of the Plateau Boulder unit.								
Pine Valley	Aug 19- Sept 15	6, 5, 5	1, 1, 1	100% with 2 pts	1 in 3, 1 in 4, 1 in 2	No tag	1 in 16, 1 in 13, 1 in 4	100%, 100%, 67%
Public and private land unit. Enough public to hunt on. Antelope are on the northern end of the unit. Mostly wide open high desert terrain.								
Plateau Parker Mtn	Aug 19- Sept 15	34, 41, 30	3, 4, 3	100% with 1 pt	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	100% with 4	1 in 10, 1 in 5, 1 in 5	38%, 48%, 28%
Higher elevation open sagebrush rolling hills on the north and a mix of open clearings amid aspen/fir timber stands on the south which is unique antelope habitat. Unit produces a lot of antelope but not a lot of trophy bucks. Good opportunity hunt.								
San Rafael North	Aug 19- Sept 15	9, 7, 7	1, 1, 1	50% with 4 pts	1 in 4, 1 in 7, 1 in 6	No tag	1 in 80, 1 in 111, 1 in 92	100%, 100%, 57%
Historically has the best scoring bucks in the state. Open desert country with some areas with scattered pinyon/juniper. Mostly public land but some private fields can hold some big bucks as well.								
Southwest Desert	Aug 19- Sept 15	20, 19, 18	2, 2, 2	71% with 2 pts	1 in 2, 1 in 2, 1 in 3	100% with 7 pts	1 in 38, 1 in 37, 1 in 47	71%, 61%, 59%
Huge unit comprised of a series of long, wide open desert valleys with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges separating them. Plenty of antelope that will be tied to water during this hunt. Some great bucks always come from this unit. Mostly public land.								
West Desert Snake Valley	Aug 19- Sept 15	5, 5, 4	0, 0, 0	50% with 6 pts	1 in 9, 1 in 6, 1 in 8	N/A	N/A, N/A, N/A	75%, 100%, 100%
Remote desert unit along the Nevada border. Hot dry unit and antelope will be tied to water during this hunt. New for nonresidents in 2017.								

Better Any Weapon Antelope Hunts

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Book Cliffs South	Sept 16- Sept 24	24, 19, 20	3, 2, 2	60% with 5 pts	1 in 8, 1 in 10, 1 in 11	100% with 9 pts	1 in 108, 1 in 151, 1 in 95	95%, 96%, 95%
Great public land unit in dry desert terrain toward the Colorado border. Always seems to produce a few real trophy bucks. Occasionally produces a B&C buck.								
Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Sept 16- Sept 24	19, 42, 79	1, 4, 8	44% with 7 pts	1 in 65, 1 in 29, 1 in 16	No tag	1 in 111, 1 in 52, 1 in 30	77%, 92%, 93%
Northern Utah in the corner near Idaho and Wyoming. Plenty of public land to hunt but some antelope on private as well. Antelope numbers have decreased but still a good hunt.								

Unit	2017 Season Dates	Total Resident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Total Nonresident Tags 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Resident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Bonus Point Odds 2016	Nonresident Random Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Our Take on the Hunt:								
Mt Dutton/ Paunsaugunt Johns Valley	Sept 16- Sept 24	24, 24, 24	3, 3, 3	40% with 6 pts	1 in 21, 1 in 23, 1 in 24	33% with 9 pts	1 in 91, 1 in 66, 1 in 66	94%, 97%, 94%
Higher elevation mountain valleys with abundant public land. A few areas with antelope on private land. Antelope use ponderosa pine woodlands extensively as well. Always seems to be a great hunt with good antelope numbers. Also includes the west side of the Plateau Boulder unit.								
Panguitch Lake/ Zion North	Sept 16- Sept 24	6, 6, 6	1, 1, 1	100% with 6 pts	1 in 50, 1 in 36, 1 in 28	No tag	1 in 84, 1 in 84, 1 in 45	100%, 100%, 100%
Good unit with lower tag numbers. Mostly public land with some open sagebrush rolling hills and areas where pinyon/juniper and vegetation treatments have helped antelope. Some antelope live in ponderosa pine woodland areas. Always a couple trophy bucks available.								
Pine Valley	Sept 16- Sept 24	22, 22, 21	3, 3, 2	100% with 4 pts	1 in 9, 1 in 7, 1 in 6	100% with 8 pts	1 in 26, 1 in 35, 1 in 20	96%, 100%, 95%
Public and private land unit. Enough public to hunt on. Antelope are on the northern end of the unit. Mostly wide open high desert terrain. Easy hunt.								
Plateau Parker Mtn	Sept 16- Sept 24	106, 129, 104	10, 13, 10	2% with 4 pts	1 in 11, 1 in 9, 1 in 11	40% with 9 pts	1 in 51, 1 in 38, 1 in 38	79%, 85%, 87%
Higher elevation open sagebrush rolling hills on the north and a mix of open clearings amid aspen/fir timber stands on the south which is unique antelope habitat. Unit produces a lot of antelope but not a lot of trophy bucks. Good opportunity hunt.								
San Rafael Desert	Sept 16- Sept 24	8, 5, 5	1, 1, 1	100% with 9	1 in 16, 1 in 26, 1 in 24	No tag	1 in 115, 1 in 111, 1 in 105	100%, 83%, 100%
Huge public land unit with relatively low antelope numbers in scattered populations across the unit. Still can produce a great buck. Don't confuse this unit with the San Rafael North unit, this unit is not as good as the north subunit.								
San Rafael North	Sept 16- Sept 24	33, 29, 29	4, 3, 3	29% with 9 pts	1 in 25, 1 in 30, 1 in 28	67% with 17 pts	1 in 479, 1 in 443, 1 in 430	100%, 97%, 97%
Historically has the best scoring bucks in the state. Open desert country with some areas with scattered pinyon/juniper. Mostly public land but some private fields can hold some big bucks as well. B&C potential.								
South Slope Bonanza/ Diamond Mtn	Sept 16- Sept 24	14, 14, 14	2, 2, 2	100% with 8 pts	1 in 26, 1 in 23, 1 in 27	100% with 7 pts	1 in 42, 1 in 35, 1 in 24	100%, 100%, 94%
Good unit with plenty of public land and good numbers of antelope. Been a good hunt that occasionally produces a B&C buck. Unit doing well right now. NE part of the state near Colorado.								
Southwest Desert	Sept 16- Sept 24	56, 55, 71	6, 5, 7	100% with 6 pts	1 in 16, 1 in 16, 1 in 12	100% with 12 pts	1 in 186, 1 in 161, 1 in 152	85%, 88%, 91%
Huge unit comprised of a series of long, wide open desert valleys with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges separating them. Plenty of antelope but scattered so prepare to cover a lot of miles to sift through bucks. Some great bucks always come from this unit. B&C potential.								
West Desert Riverbed	Sept 16- Sept 24	15, 12, 18	2, 1, 2	7% with 11 pts	1 in 69, 1 in 98, 1 in 64	14% with 7 pts	1 in 51, 1 in 70, 1 in 94	94%, 95%, 96%
A lot of wide open desert antelope country with some small mountain ranges throughout. Mostly public land with antelope scattered throughout the unit. You can cover a lot of miles on this unit but it can produce a great buck.								
West Desert Rush Valley	Sept 16- Sept 24	13, 9, 7	1, 1, 1	20% with 10 pts	1 in 46, 1 in 61, 1 in 84	No tag	1 in 55, 1 in 35, 1 in 37	100%, 78%, 89%
Big unit west of Salt Lake City and Utah Valley. Some military ranges that are closed to hunting. Big open valleys with mountain ranges on each side. Plenty of public land.								
West Desert Snake Valley	Sept 16- Sept 24	16, 16, 13	2, 2, 2	100% with 11 pts	1 in 35, 1 in 29, 1 in 40	100% with 15 pts	1 in 73, 1 in 81, 1 in 106	94%, 100%, 93%
Remote desert unit along the Nevada border. Hot dry unit and antelope will be often very dependant on limited water. Cover a lot of country to sort through bucks.								
All Muzzleloader Antelope Hunts								
Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Sept 27- Oct 5	7, 15, N/A	1, 2, N/A	100% with 5 pts	1 in 5, 1 in 3, N/A	No tag	1 in 16, 1 in 7, N/A	80%, N/A, N/A
This hunt is after the archery and rifle seasons. Northern Utah in the corner near Idaho and Wyoming. Plenty of public land to hunt but some antelope on private as well. Antelope numbers have decreased.								
Plateau Parker Mtn	Sept 27- Oct 5	35, 36, 35	3, 4, 3	100% with 1 pt	1 in 2, 1 in 1, 1 in 2	100% with 7 pts	1 in 7, 1 in 11, 1 in 14	49%, 57%, 55%
This hunt is after the archery and rifle hunts have killed a bunch of bucks off the unit. Higher elevation open sagebrush rolling hills on the north and a mix of open clearings amid aspen/fir timber stands on the south which is unique antelope habitat. Unit produces a lot of antelope but not a lot of trophy bucks. Good opportunity hunt.								
San Rafael North	Sept 27- Oct 5	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017	New for 2017
New Hunt for 2017 but it is after the archery and rifle seasons. Hope to find a great buck that slipped past the earlier hunters. Historically has the best scoring bucks in the state. Open desert country with some scattered pinyon/juniper areas. Mostly public land but some private fields can hold some big bucks as well.								
Southwest Desert	Sept 27- Oct 5	20, 19, N/A	2, 2, N/A	38% with 2 pts	1 in 4, 1 in 2, N/A	100% with 11 pts	1 in 49, 1 in 31, N/A	63%, N/A, N/A
This hunt is after the archery and rifle seasons. Huge unit comprised of a series of long, wide open desert valleys with pinyon/juniper mountain ranges separating them. Plenty of antelope but scattered so prepare to cover a lot of miles to sift through bucks. Some great bucks always come from this unit. Hope to find great buck that got missed on the earlier seasons, otherwise, still good bucks to hunt.								

HENRY MOUNTAIN

GOLD

JARED COTTEN • 210" MULE DEER • UTAH

You can only imagine my excitement when I realized I had drawn a Henry Mountains archery buck tag. I let my hunting buddy, Jake, know just how lucky I was and he was very jealous, but happy for me. Then began the sleepless nights of Google Earth scouting, Instagram scouting, Facebook scouting, talking to people who had been there or guided there, studying maps until I finally couldn't take it any longer and planned my first scouting trip.

On July 15th, my 8-year-old son Brylan and I headed to the Henry Mountains for the first trip of many that summer. What an unbelievable place. With some helpful tips from Justin Bates we found some amazing bucks.

Before I knew it, I was headed to Utah for the hunt, leaving a heartbroken little boy at home to start school in a new school. I was bummed to leave him after we had had so much fun all summer while scouting. I set up camp in the middle of the unit and ended up having Adam Bronson's Bronson Outfitting camp set up beside me.

Jake and Brett showed up Thursday night and the next morning we rode around looking at bucks. Jake and Brett were mind blown at some of the deer that I was telling them I wouldn't shoot. We found the shooter bucks but didn't spend too much time on them so as not to draw attention to the area. That evening we had a good time as Wayne Brown, a guide for Adam, had showed up in camp, and we all had a great time sharing stories. We had also figured out that we weren't all hunting the same buck in the morning. I had decided to hunt a buck that I called the "Pitchfork Buck" since he had a massive inline

between his G2 and G3. He also had a really cool kicker that went back off his G2 on the other side. He wasn't a super wide buck, but he had a super typical frame with huge beams and tons of mass.

As the grey light faded into daylight on opening morning, we were glued to the glass trying to locate my buck. Over the last two days he had moved up the mountain and into a much tougher place and had joined up with 7 or 8 other mature deer. Very soon after daylight Brett spotted my buck and I was on a mad hike to get to their location. As I got where I thought I was close, I checked with Jake and Brett and the bucks were still in the same spot. I began my first stalk, but I didn't go 30 yards before I ran right into a buck that my spotters couldn't see and he bounded right into my buck and prompted them all to start heading for their beds for the day. I ended up spending the day on the mountain and when evening came the bucks had moved clear near the top of the mountain. With no real play on them I headed down to camp.

We all met back in camp and made some dinner, and Adam and his crew hadn't showed up yet. Not too long later, Adam's crew returned and they had scored on a giant nontypical Henry Mountain buck. It was inspiring to see and put your hands on a true trophy. As we were about to head over to our camp Adam said, "Well we have to take care of our hunter in the morning, but where do you want us to go?" I was shocked that they would want to help me.

The next couple days of hunting was more typical of what bowhunting encounters are: close to getting a shot

all day but not able see vitals through the cover. The morning hunt on day 4 ended with a coyote blowing my shot on another great buck we called the split cheater buck.

We got back to camp and I helped Jake and Brett pack since they had to head back home. I decided I would go up and sit where I was close to the split cheater buck's bedding area and could make a move when the bucks got back up. Adam and Wayne got their chairs and went to a good spot to watch for my buck. I drove up to the parking spot and walked an old trail across the hillside. As I got close, I spotted two bucks bedded about 170 yards on the same trail I was on. I let Adam and Wayne know, and I found some cover to sit for a bit. Some clouds rolled in and it started to rain. I glanced up to check on the bedded bucks and they were gone. I called Adam and he could see them, but the big buck wasn't with them. I settled back down, peering into the trees with my Swaros, trying to pick up the big guy. About that time, Adam called and said the big buck was up and he was feeding right toward me. He also gave me a good idea of where the bucks were.

I nocked an arrow and begin creeping down the trail. The trail was an old road and had a good cut into the hillside so I could walk low and on the inside track and stay

hidden. It was lightly raining, which muffled my noise so I picked up the pace knowing that if the bucks got too low off the hill I would never see them. I finally got to where I could see some antlers. I kept creeping and finally could see the antlers of my buck. The other bucks were congregated together, but split cheater was off by himself, 20 yards from the other bucks.

I sat down and ranged every possible place I thought he could go. Finally my buck started making his way over. I pulled out my rangefinder one more time as he stopped on the bench to eat some oak. I read 69 yards several times and it said to hold for 63 yards because of the angle downhill. I drew back and settled my pin and let an arrow fly. As the arrow hit him I knew it was a good hit. The buck jumped over the oak and bounded through the pines as I watched. I could see that he wasn't picking good trails and there was blood coming out of the off side shoulder. Adam and Wayne had seen the whole thing. They had eyes on the buck, which was nice, and they could watch him go down.

I got my radio out but my batteries were low, so I could only pick up bits of what Adam was saying, but somehow I picked up, "Buck down." I began following the blood trail and walked up on the biggest, most beautiful buck I had ever killed. I glanced across to where Adam and



Wayne were, and they were halfway to me already. I reached into my pack and grabbed my Inreach and texted Jake and told him the buck was down. His response was something like "You're such a jerk!" Adam and Wayne showed up and we got the buck into a good spot and took some great pictures. These guys were awesome! They threw the meat in their packs and the head and cape on mine and away we went. We got back to camp and ate a great dinner and scored my buck. He gross scored just over 210" and had more than 45" of mass.

Huge thanks to Adam and Wayne, they were great to hang out with and a huge help on my hunt. It's nice

to find true, selfless, good people who have the same passion as I do and their willingness to help me on my once-in-a-lifetime trophy Mule deer hunt. I can't say enough about these two guys. I hope Wayne is lucky in the draw in the next couple years because this Colorado boy will be out there to help him.

Congratulations to Adam and Wayne on taking "Pitchfork" with one of their hunters in muzzleloader season. Thanks to Jake and Brett for making the trip and helping me. Thank you to the Utah Division of Wildlife for creating and managing such a special place. I am truly thankful for my wife and kids who love me and support me in all my hunting excursions.



TENTATIVE EPIC OUTDOORS SCHEDULE FOR 2017

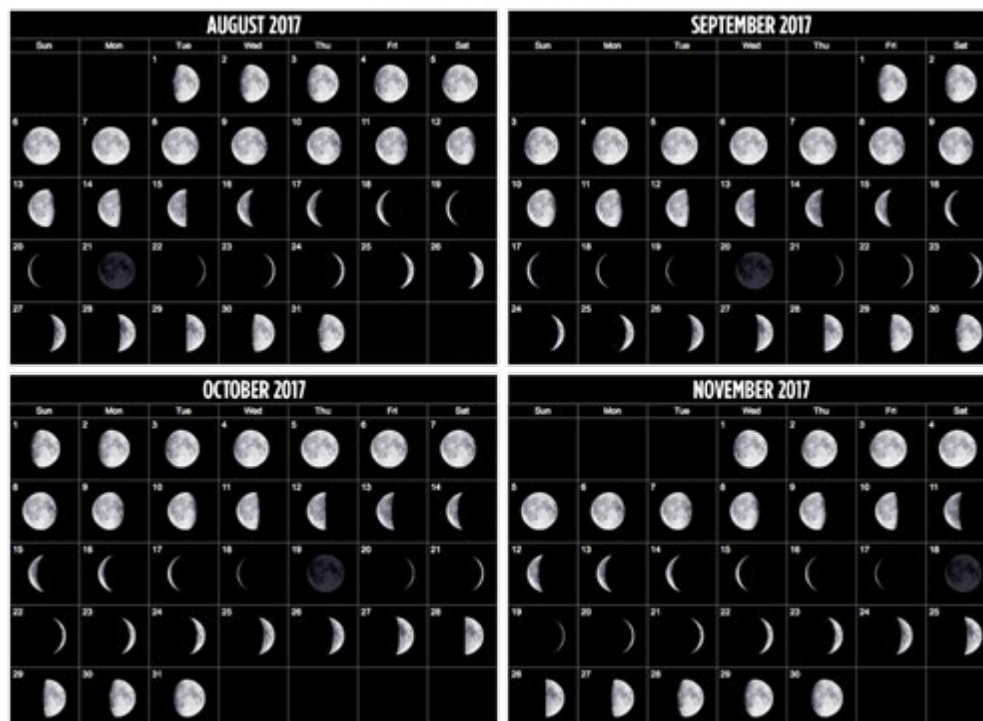
This is our TENTATIVE schedule for the upcoming year. Be sure to check the respective issues of Epic Outdoors to see exact deadlines when they become available.

State	Website	Month Covered in Epic Mag	Nonresident Application Deadlines by Month	Drawing Month
Alaska	adfg.alaska.gov	December (S)	December 15, 2016	February 18, 2017
Arizona	azgfd.gov	January (E,A) May (S,D,B)	February 14th (E,A) Mid June (S,D,B) October (2nd Bison)	April 21 Late July Mid Nov
California	dfg.ca.gov	May	Early June	Mid June
Colorado	cpw.state.co.us	March	April 4 (All)	Early May (S,G,M) Late May (Others)
Idaho	fishandgame.idaho.gov	March (S,M,G) May (D,E,A)	April 30 (S,M,G) June 5 (D,E,A)	Late May Late June
Iowa	iowadnr.gov	May	Early June	Mid July
Kansas	ksoutdoors.com	April	Late April	Early-Mid June
Montana	fwp.mt.gov	February (D,E) April (M,S,G,A)	March 15 (D,E) May 1 (S,M,G) June 1 (A)	Mid April Late June Late June
Nevada	ndow.org	April	Mid April	Late May
New Mexico	wildlife.state.nm.us	February	March 22	April 26
Oregon	dfw.state.or.us	April	May 15	June 20
Utah	wildlife.utah.gov	February	March 2	May 31
Washington	wdfw.wa.gov	May	Late May	Late June
Wyoming	wgfd.wyo.gov	January (E,M,S,G,B) May (D,A)	Jan 31 (E) Feb 28 (S,G,M,B) May 31 (D,A) Oct 31 Points Only	Feb 28 May 10 June 22 NA

Key: A=Antelope, B=Bison, D=Deer, E=Elk, G=Goat, M=Moose, S=Sheep

Disclaimer: This information is TENTATIVE and should be used as general reference only. Information and changes will be updated in each issue of Epic Outdoors, make sure you are using the most recent information. Refer to the official 2017 hunting regulations when available for more detailed information.

2017 FALL MOON PHASES



FLASH FLOOD RAM

ROB DOUGLAS • DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP • UTAH



My adventure started when the Utah draw results came out. I had come home late from work one evening but didn't check my email, as was normal for me, until the following morning. I saw that Utah had sent an email with the draw results. I was thinking I had finally drawn an elk tag with the pile of points I had, but after reading through the lines there was no elk tag. The last line read successful for Desert sheep! WOW! It was the last thing I expected!

I called my longtime friend Jason Carter and he answered with "What did you draw?" I told him and he was excited as I was! He immediately said, "I have a guy sitting next to me that you need to talk to," and I knew it was Adam Bronson of Bronson Outfitting.

Still numb, Adam and I talked for a while and he told me of his experience in the specific unit, the recent sheep trends, the subunit differences, past successes;

everything a hunter wants. It was information overload and from that moment on, that's how Adam handled everything, with precise, clear, honest, and easy details. He spoke of what his plans were, who he would have in place to assist on the hunt, when he would scout, and how he would keep me informed as the hunt approached. I can say that he did all that and was as passionate about me killing a nice sheep as I was.

Adam and I talked and texted though the summer and early fall, as opening day neared. I wanted to be there a few days before the opener, but he assured me that was not necessary. I had also drawn an Arizona archery elk tag so we had decided I would go there first and then come to Utah. Adam and his crew would scout and keep tabs on sheep and keep me posted on a daily basis.

My Arizona archery elk hunt turned out to be the worst experience possible. I was ready to just head home, and my wife and family were ready for me to be home too. I texted Adam and told him I was headed home and he reluctantly said ok. He called awhile later and said that

since I was so close to southern Utah I should come over and just spend a few days looking around as they intended to ramp things up. He was completely honest and said he hadn't found a giant ram yet but he wanted me there when he did. With that being said, I turned in his direction and headed to Utah.

I stopped at the last town before camp to replenish my supplies and grab stuff for dinner, since it was the least I could do as Adam and the guys were out looking for a big ram. Aaron, Adam's brother, was the first back to camp and blown away I was fixing dinner. Adam then came into camp and said they had seen a nice ram that needed a better look in the morning. Over the next little while, it turned out we were missing two other members of our group, Brad and Donnie Hunter. These two brothers had gotten stuck on the opposite side of a wash that became a nasty, raging flash flood from all the nearby thundershowers. They finally were able to cross the wash at about daylight the next morning just in time to leave again, without hesitation.



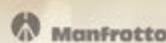
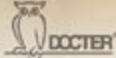
We saw several nice rams and some unbelievable country that day but as luck would have it, we all got stranded for a night on the wrong side of a wash as the heavy rains pounded the surrounding areas. It was very interesting to see those little, dry washes turn into raging, swollen rivers from rainfall miles away. We spent a restless night in the truck waiting for the flood to subside.

The next morning we waited a bit longer for the sun to come up to make sure we were good to head out again across the wash and into some new country. Man was it amazingly beautiful, rough country! Adam and his brother knew every place to stop, all the nooks and crannies to look into. Adam was the first to spot my sheep, and we all knew he was the ram I should pursue. Aaron and I made a plan to loop around and hike up to stalk the ram with his group of ewes, while Adam,

Brad, and Donnie would spread out and keep tabs on both sides of the hogsback ridge they were on. The ram bedded down during most of the stalk which allowed Aaron and I to get into range. When he stood up at 378 yards, I was able to make two good shots to put my ram down. All the crew met up at the top of mountain to join in the celebration. My ram was old and heavy, just the kind of ram we all wanted to find.

I feel lucky to have been on some incredible hunts in my life, but I can honestly say I have never hunted with anyone so detailed and honest as Adam and Aaron. All those little details mean a lot to me. I didn't need to write this story to promote Bronson Outfitting, their professional attitudes do that for themselves. This is just the first of many fun hunts I will be joining these guys on!





MuleyCrazy
OPTICS

QUALITY OPTICS. UNBEATABLE PRICES

435-644-2486

THE LEADING AUTHORITY IN HUNTING OPTICS!

BINOCULARS - SPOTTING SCOPES - RIFLESCOPES - RANGEFINDERS - TRIPODS

EPIC Members Save Big!

For over 20 years, MuleyCrazy has been the leading authority in mule deer hunting. We've encountered almost every hunting situation imaginable, and great optics have been the key to our success. Our experienced staff can help you find the best equipment for your needs. **Just mention you're an EPIC member**, and save some serious money!

Maximizing Your Success

Effectively hunting the vast, expansive terrain of the West demands quality optics. The more game you locate, the more successful you will be. We carry the very best optics that will help you maximize your time in the field.

Steve Monk
MuleyCrazy Optics Specialist

MuleyCrazy Headquarters Kanab, UT

Our wide-ranging inventory allows for extensive side-by-side comparisons with the best optics on the market, and our office is situated perfectly so that both our staff and customers alike can compare optics in conditions exactly like what you'll encounter in the field.

Sharing the passion for 25 years

For over a quarter of a century, MuleyCrazy has been the authority on hunting the West. We know what it takes to find and harvest world-class animals, and our experience will ensure that you have the equipment you need!

Ryan Hatch
MuleyCrazy Owner / Founder



YEAR OF THE BUFFALO

STEVE CARROL • BISON • UTAH



There is no way to sugarcoat having to wait twenty two years to draw a Henry mountain second season buffalo tag. To put this in perspective the year I began applying was the year my youngest daughter Kelsey was born. Today she is married! In other words outside of just getting lucky in the draw the biggest obstacle in getting a tag is staying alive long enough until you do!

Once numbering in the millions by around 1890 roughly 1,000 of the original plains buffalo remained including two dozen in Yellowstone National Park. Conservation and game management grew the parks herd size which allowed twenty Bison to be transplanted to the Henry Mountains of Utah in the 1940's. Centered in the middle of Utah and bordering Capital Reef National Park the Henry Mountain range is from 5,000 to 10,000 ft. in elevation. Forested timber, mesas, canyons, sandstone rock formations and washes are all part of its geology. From the original number of twenty, a helicopter survey in the spring of 2016 by the Utah DWR recorded 317 mature buffalo. This is one of a small handful of genetically pure strains of buffalo that remain today and a treasure to the state of Utah. This past year the federal government signed into law designating the buffalo the national mammal, similar to the bald eagles position as

the national bird. Like the Ford mustang, drive in movie theatres, Route 66, when you think of the buffalo you have a piece of American history.

Wanting to leave nothing to chance I quickly called outfitter and friend Adam Bronson. Adam knows the unit well and has helped his clients kill some incredible trophies over the years. Still waiting on results from Colorado for he and his brother Aaron, we decided to keep in touch and see how things played out down the road. Meanwhile like any big hunt there were so many things to plan for. Friend Bill Binnette offered to let me use his custom built 338 ultra mag shooting a 210 grain Barnes triple shock bullet. I began to gather information about the unit, spoke with previous hunters, kept myself in good physical condition, and dreamed about my upcoming hunt.

As the summer months arrived it was time to head to the Henrys and do some scouting. Having never stepped foot on the unit Adam invited me to tag along as he scouted for deer. More than anything I just wanted to learn how to access the unit, learn the roads, locate camping sites, and get a feel for what I was up against. I must admit helping Adam glass up 200 inch mule deer wasn't too



shabby either! Because of a conflicting hunt in Colorado Adam contacted one of his guides Taylor Albrecht who would be willing to help if his first season hunter tagged out quickly. In spite of being an experienced hunter, and friends as well, the words "once in a lifetime" gnawed at me like a low grade headache. Knowledge of knowing where animals go when pressured, water sources, trophy judging etc., all would increase my chances with someone like Taylor along.

Another three day solo scouting trip late in October, then news that first season hunter John Graham slammed a great bull on the opener allowed Taylor time off work to help with my hunt. That was the good news. The bad news was seven of the nine bulls Taylor had been watching over the summer had already hit the ground harvested by other hunters during the first hunt.

On Wednesday prior to my Saturday November 19th opener I left my home in Cedar City and headed to the Henrys. Scouting on Thursday morning turned up nothing. Early that evening friends Rick and Rochelle Lunt, Dave Vernon, Daniel Dompier and guide Taylor Albrecht arrived. Rochelle was a life saver offering to get the food and making sure we all were well fed so I could focus on my hunt instead. On Friday Donnie Hunter and Lloyd Thornton arrived with Ken Wells pulling in on Saturday. It's great having friends willing to help.

At five am on opening morning the alarm clock went off. After a quick breakfast we loaded up and headed out.

My twenty two year quest was about to begin. In the darkened cab I was reflecting on the long journey and preparation when Donnie Hunter blurted "I hate opening mornings" Startled back to reality like a bucket of ice water being dumped on your head it became obvious what he meant. We passed several camps with lights aglow all preparing to head out just like we had. Finding a big bull would be tough enough. Finding one before the other seventeen tag holders even tougher.

After a drive that lasted several miles we finally pulled off and unloaded our off road ATVs which allowed us to access some remote canyons through washes and trails. Getting to our destination the seven of us threw on our packs and fanned out searching the sandy soil for fresh tracks that would betray their location. Heading towards a box canyon we picked up two or more sets of fresh tracks made the night before or sooner. Walking parallel to me about fifty yards apart was Taylor focusing on some fresh tracks as well. We all made our way to a knob overlooking all the escape routes coming out of the canyon. Dave volunteered to hike in and see if he could locate anything and send them back towards us. I ranged all the escape routes and found a dead juniper tree that made an excellent gun rest from which to shoot. After an hour of hiking and turning up nothing Dave made his way back to where we were. They had to be somewhere in that canyon but where? We began to discuss our next move when our conversation was broken by another guide, his spotter, and the tag holder from Northern Utah. They had cut the same tracks and

while following them stumbled onto us. After several minutes of conversation and recognizing that we weren't ready to give up on the canyon they backed out.

Meanwhile Rick, Rochelle, and Lloyd took off towards the left side of the canyon to see if somehow anything was hiding there. Within twenty minutes Rick radioed back saying they had spotted three buffalo and would try to get them to move towards us. Donnie and Taylor were busy getting scopes and cameras ready while Dave made me laugh doing pushups trying to stay warm. I remember telling myself to relax and above all else make the first shot count. At 700 yards they first came into view. Taylor looking through his scope quickly said "The one in the back is a great bull!" Working their way down a wash surrounded by juniper trees they reappeared and climbed up a sagebrush flat nearly 200 yards out. Once the big bull cleared from the others I slowly squeezed the trigger. "That's a hit!" Taylor called out as the bulls

ran closer towards us. At about 140 yards they stopped, which allowed me to send another bullet into his lungs. Staggering after taking two lethal shots I was amazed at the power and strength of these animals. Finally on the ground for good the other two bulls climbed up towards the rock hillside beside them. Upon reaching the top they took one last look back before disappearing into the next canyon away.

The bull was everything I had hoped of for 22 years and is the pinnacle of all my prior hunts. After taking photos and reliving what just happened, we spent the next several hours caping out the hide and cutting the meat. We arrived back to camp after dark. I'm a believer of enjoying the journey, and being able to share this hunt with friends made it all the sweeter. Thanks also to Adam Bronson and new friend Taylor Albrecht for helping me achieve my dream.





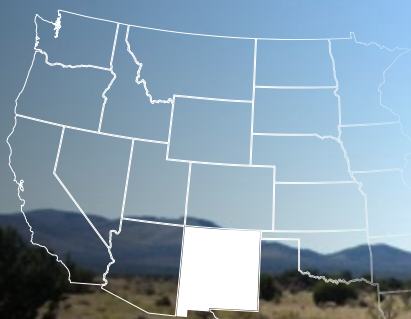
Join the FUN and help us
"Put & Keep Sheep on the Mountain!"™



RENO-SPARKS CONVENTION CENTER & PEPPERMILL RESORT, SPA AND CASINO

JANUARY 19 - 21, 2017

412 Pronghorn Trail • Bozeman, MT 59718 USA • www.WildSheepFoundation.org • 1.800.OK.FNAWS



NEW MEXICO 2017

DEPARTMENT: New Mexico Game and Fish		ADDRESS: One Wildlife Way
CITY: Santa Fe	STATE: NM	ZIP: 87507
PHONE: 888-248-6866		WEBSITE: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Resident and Nonresident Tag/License/ Stamps Required and Fees

License/Permit	Resident	Nonresident
Game Hunting License	\$15	\$65
Junior Game Hunting License	\$10*	\$15*
Game Hunting and Fishing License	\$30	N/A
Junior Game hunting and Fishing	\$15	N/A
Elk Standard License	\$90	\$548
Elk Quality or High-Demand License	\$90	\$773
Deer Standard License	\$41	\$283
Deer Quality or High-Demand License	\$41	\$368
Pronghorn Antelope	\$60	\$283
Bighorn Sheep Ram	\$160	\$3,173
Bighorn Sheep Ewe	\$85	\$3,173
Oryx	\$160	\$1,623
Ibex	\$110	\$1,623
Barbary Sheep	\$110	\$373
Habitat Stamp - required ages 18-69	\$5	\$5
Habitat Management & Access Validation Stamp - required hunters 12-69	\$4	\$4

All prices include a nonrefundable application fee (residents \$7; nonresidents \$13).
* Individuals must be under 18 years of age at the time of purchase.

New Changes for 2017: There are two premier hunts authorized this year by the State Game Commission to provide residents an affordable chance at a high quality hunting experience for residents only. The hunt codes are DER-1-700 and ELK-1-700 and allow hunting with any legal sporting arm in any unit statewide, including the department's Wildlife Management Areas and private land with written permission, anytime between Sept. 1, 2017 and Jan. 31, 2018. The hunts are available through the draw system and are listed in the respective species sections of the regulations. The quota for these hunts is 1 total tag for each species.

Application Deadlines and Draw Results: The deadline to apply for Barbary sheep, Bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx, and Pronghorn antelope draw licenses is before 5 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time on March 22nd. Draw results will be available on April 26 by telephone or at NMDGF offices.

Application Instructions/How to Apply: Applicants are only able to apply online. Paper applications are not available. Each individual purchasing a license or applying for a draw hunt must have a personal account with a registered Customer Identification Number (CIN). Establishing a personal NMDGF account is free of charge. Accounts can be set up online or by telephone at: <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us> or 1-888-248-6866. Be sure to keep and remember your username and password since you'll need this to access your account, check results, complete harvest surveys, and apply for hunts.

Application and full license fees including each species license fees are charged at the time the application is submitted. Acceptable forms of payment include Visa, MasterCard, TeleCheck, American Express, and Discover. Unsuccessful draw applicants will receive a full refund for the draw license, minus the application fee usually within 1-2 weeks of when draw results are posted. Unsuccessful draw applicants also may receive a full refund of the hunting license fee, if requested at the time of application. Fronting the license fees at the time of applications makes New Mexico an expensive state to apply in for nonresidents, although the nonrefundable portion if unsuccessful in the draw is only \$7 for residents and \$13 for nonresidents per species.

DISCLAIMER: This information is pertinent to 2017 applications and is to be used as a general reference only. Refer to the official state regulations when applying in the state draw.

How the Draw System Works: All applications are assigned a random number. Based on this number, the system will go through the applicant's first, second, and third choices on the application before moving on to the next application. If an applicant selects a fourth-choice hunt, she/he will be placed in a second pool from which licenses or permits may be awarded if a hunt has not met its quota. We do not recommend listing a fourth choice hunt unless you are willing to take any leftover tag in a certain part of the state.

Only successful applicants will be notified by email. If successful in the draw, you simply print your licenses off from your online account on regular computer paper. Licenses are not mailed to you.

Bonus Points/Preference Point System: There is no bonus or preference point system in New Mexico, which puts everyone on the same level in the random draw.

Resident/Nonresident Quotas: Draw licenses for Barbary sheep, Bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx, Pronghorn antelope, bear, and turkey licenses are divvied out with 84% going to residents, 10% going to people who apply with an outfitter, and 6% going to nonresident unguided applicants. Draw licenses for private-land deer draw licenses in units 2A, 2B, 2C, 4, and 5A are also subject to this quota.

Applying With an Outfitter: To apply for the 10% guided tag pool, applicants must have a signed contract with a registered New Mexico outfitter prior to applying for the hunt. The contract must be signed and dated by all parties and designate the terms, compensation, and services to be provided by the outfitter. It is unlawful to use a New Mexico outfitter number to apply in the 10% special-drawing pool, if a contract with that New Mexico outfitter has not been signed. It is also unlawful to hunt with a license obtained from the 10% special-drawing pool without using a registered outfitter. Those who apply using an outfitter number but choose to hunt on their own will be prosecuted for hunting without a valid license. Any applicant who receives a valid license by applying with a New Mexico outfitter's number, must be accompanied in the field by that outfitter or their registered guide for at least two days.

Mobility-Impaired Hunts: New Mexico offers separate mobility-impaired hunts to people who have a mobility-impaired certificate. These are some incredible hunting opportunities. To qualify for MI Certification, an individual must have a permanent impairment that: 1) limits his/her mobility to a walker, wheelchair, or two crutches; 2) severely restricts movement in both arms; and/or 3) has a combination of permanent disabilities which cause comparable substantial functional limitations. The MI Certification form is available online or may be requested by telephone.

Waiting Periods: Most hunts do not have a waiting period after drawn before applicants are eligible to apply again with the following exceptions: hunters are eligible to draw 1 Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep license and 1 Desert Bighorn sheep license in a lifetime. Licenses for the regular rifle ibex hunt or oryx hunts listed in the "premier" section are once-in-a-lifetime tags as well. Elk licenses designated as mature bull or either sex tags in the Valle Vidal portion of unit 55 are once-in-a-lifetime licenses.

Group Applications: Up to four people may apply as a group for deer, elk, antelope, and Barbary sheep. Up to two people may apply as a group for ibex and oryx. Group applications are not accepted for Bighorn sheep. For party applications, the first applicant will create a new application. Upon completing the process, the applicant will receive an application number and an attach code. All subsequent applicants will need to select "attach to an existing application" then enter the application number and attach code.

Youth Applications/Fees: New Mexico is one of the best states at offering separate hunts with separate seasons for youth hunters. Only youth that will be under 18 years of age on opening day of the hunt may apply for these youth-only hunts. The table above indicates the reduced price fees for junior hunting and fishing licenses. New Mexico offers youth-only hunts for deer, elk, antelope, ibex, oryx, and Bighorn sheep. Youth will experience better drawing odds for nearly all youth hunts and in



JACKSON WARNER, ELK, NEW MEXICO
YOUTH HUNT WITH FRONTIER OUTFITTING

some cases better season dates when compared to the regular hunts open to any applicant in the same units. Youth are not limited to applying for just the hunts designated for youth only.

Hunter Education Requirements: Before purchasing a game-hunting license or game-hunting & fishing license, all hunters younger than 18 years of age must obtain a hunter education number issued by New Mexico or another state, or possess a New Mexico mentored-youth hunter number. While hunting in New Mexico, youth hunters must carry a current Customer Identification Number (CIN) card with a hunter education or mentored-youth hunter number or have in their possession proof of passing a state-certified hunter education course.

Age Restrictions: There is no minimum age to hunt big game in New Mexico as long as the hunter meets the hunter education requirements.

Tag Transfers and Options Once Drawn: New Mexico game hunting licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable, except the director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish may grant transfer of a big game license or permit if the licensee is deceased, has sustained a severe injury or suffered a life-threatening illness which prevents participation, is deployed by the U.S. military prior to the start of the hunt which prohibits participation, or if a natural disaster has occurred which prevents the hunt.

WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

Archery: Bows include compound, recurve, and longbows. Sights on bows may not magnify targets or project light. Arrows must have broadheads (fixed or mechanical) with steel cutting edges.

Muzzleloader: Includes rifles and shotguns in which the charge and projectile are loaded through the muzzle. Only black powder, Pyrodex, or an equivalent substitute may be used. Smokeless powder is illegal. Muzzleloaders may use in-line ignition, pelleted powder, sabots, belted bullets, and scopes. For elk, Bighorn sheep, and oryx, muzzleloaders must be .45 caliber or larger.

Any Legal Weapon Hunts: Legal sporting arms for hunting big game species include: centerfire rifle or handgun (elk, Bighorn sheep, and oryx must be .24 caliber or larger); shotgun no smaller than 28 gauge, firing a single slug; bow and arrows; crossbow and bolts; and muzzleloading rifle. A few season and species exceptions apply. Hunters may use only soft-nosed, hollow-pointed or plastic-tip bullets. Full metal jacket (FMJ) or tracer bullets are illegal. No fully automatic firearms may be used.



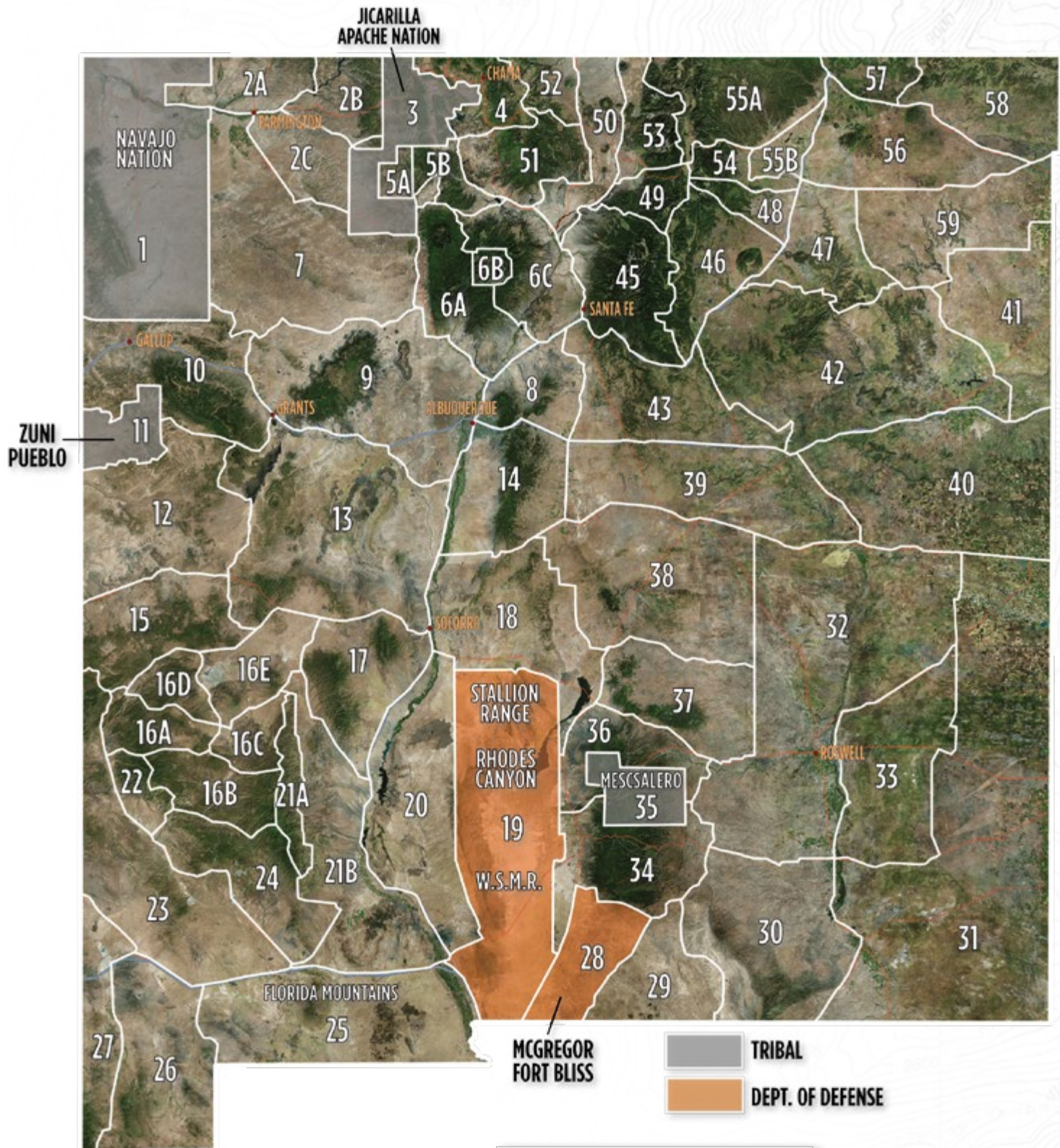
GARY YOUNG, ANTELOPE, NEW MEXICO
WITH CANYON COUNTRY GUIDE SERVICE

Landowner Tags: New Mexico issues private landowner tags for deer, antelope, elk, oryx, and in a couple cases for Desert and Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep. For deer, there are private land only permits that hunters can apply for during the regular big game application period by obtaining a landowner authorization code to apply, or landowners also receive deer incentive tags that are valid only on their property but in some cases they have liberal season dates. There are no unit wide landowner deer tags in New Mexico. Elk landowner tags are issued to qualifying landowners and are either valid unit wide or ranch only, depending on which the landowner chooses. Unit wide landowner tags offer the most flexibility and allow a hunter to purchase a tag valid for public land as well and essentially have the same tag as if they were to draw the permit. Antelope and oryx landowner tags are issued to landowners that meet certain criteria and these tags may be sold or transferred as they wish, but are valid only on the private land owned by the landowners.

Harvest Reporting Requirements: Harvest reporting is mandatory for all Barbary sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx, Pronghorn antelope, turkey, and trapper license holders whether they hunted or not. To report on your hunt, log in to your account and click "Harvest Reporting" in the main menu to file your Harvest Report or call the Game & Fish Information Center at 888-248-6866.

Raffle and Auction Tags: New Mexico also offers Big Game Enhancement hunts to various wildlife conservation groups to market either by auction or raffle. There are individual authorizations raffled and auctioned for deer, elk, Desert Bighorn, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn as well as two packages that are sold where the buyer

NEW MEXICO BIG GAME UNIT MAP



DISCLAIMER: For exact boundaries refer to official state maps. This map is for general reference only.

can hunt deer, elk, ibex, oryx, and antelope. The past two years New Mexico has also auctioned some unit specific tags for deer, antelope, elk, oryx, and ibex at an event held in the spring in New Mexico. For information about these enhancement authorizations visit <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/applications-and-draw-information/unique-opportunities>. All proceeds are used solely for habitat enhancement, conservation, and management projects in New Mexico for the species auctioned or raffled.

Our Take on New Mexico: New Mexico has quite a number of big game species to apply for and hunt including Desert sheep, Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, ibex, oryx, Barbary sheep, elk, Mule deer, Coues deer, and Pronghorn antelope. There are hunts for all types of people available from opportunity type hunts to trophy hunts for all the weapon types, in most cases. They do not have a bonus or preference point system which means all applicants are on equal ground when applying in the draw. You can add or subtract applications in New Mexico from year to year and not feel bad about it as you are not losing out on building another point and falling behind other applicants. If you have other hunts lined up on a particular year, then simply don't apply for New Mexico that year.

We really like how New Mexico generally offers multiple seasons within each weapon type on most units to apply for depending on the species. This gives literally hundreds of options for everyone to apply for in species such as the wide variety of elk options and allows better drawing odds with so many options to spread out the applicants and helps avoid extreme hunting congestion. They are a state that believes in providing hunting opportunities and to maintain quality they have

fairly short seasons for a good portion of the rifle and muzzleloader hunts. A prime example of this is the 5-day rifle and muzzleloader elk seasons in October in most units when the bulls are not as vulnerable to hunters.

New Mexico has a unique way of distributing tags whereas 84% of the tags go to residents, 10% go to any applicant who is contracted with an outfitter including both residents and nonresidents, and 6% can go to nonresidents applying without an outfitter. Applicants must front the fees when applying for big game tags; however, only online applications are accepted so fees will be charged to a credit card and if unsuccessful your card will be credited the tag fee(s) minus a minimal application fee. Even though some of the drawing odds are quite tough, the fronting of the license fees and the absence of a point system helps reduce applicant numbers.

New in 2017, in an effort to allow the common person a chance at having a world class hunting experience, New Mexico is offering one elk tag and one deer tag for hunters to apply for that is basically a Governor's type tag. These two hunters will be able to hunt every unit in the state for that species from Sept. 1 - Jan. 31 of 2018! Since there is only one total tag available and the resident/nonresident quotas apply then these tags will be resident only tags. Nonresidents should not waste one of their application choices on this hunt.

Apply in New Mexico before the deadline of March 22!

New Mexico Resources	
Unit Maps	www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/big-game-unit-maps-pdfs/
BLM and U.S. Forest Service maps	www.plcmapcenter.org



PATRICK BARWICK, ELK, NEW MEXICO
WITH CANYON COUNTRY GUIDE SERVICE



KENNETH LICKLER, BIGHORN SHEEP
NEW MEXICO, WITH FRONTIER OUTFITTING

SHEEP

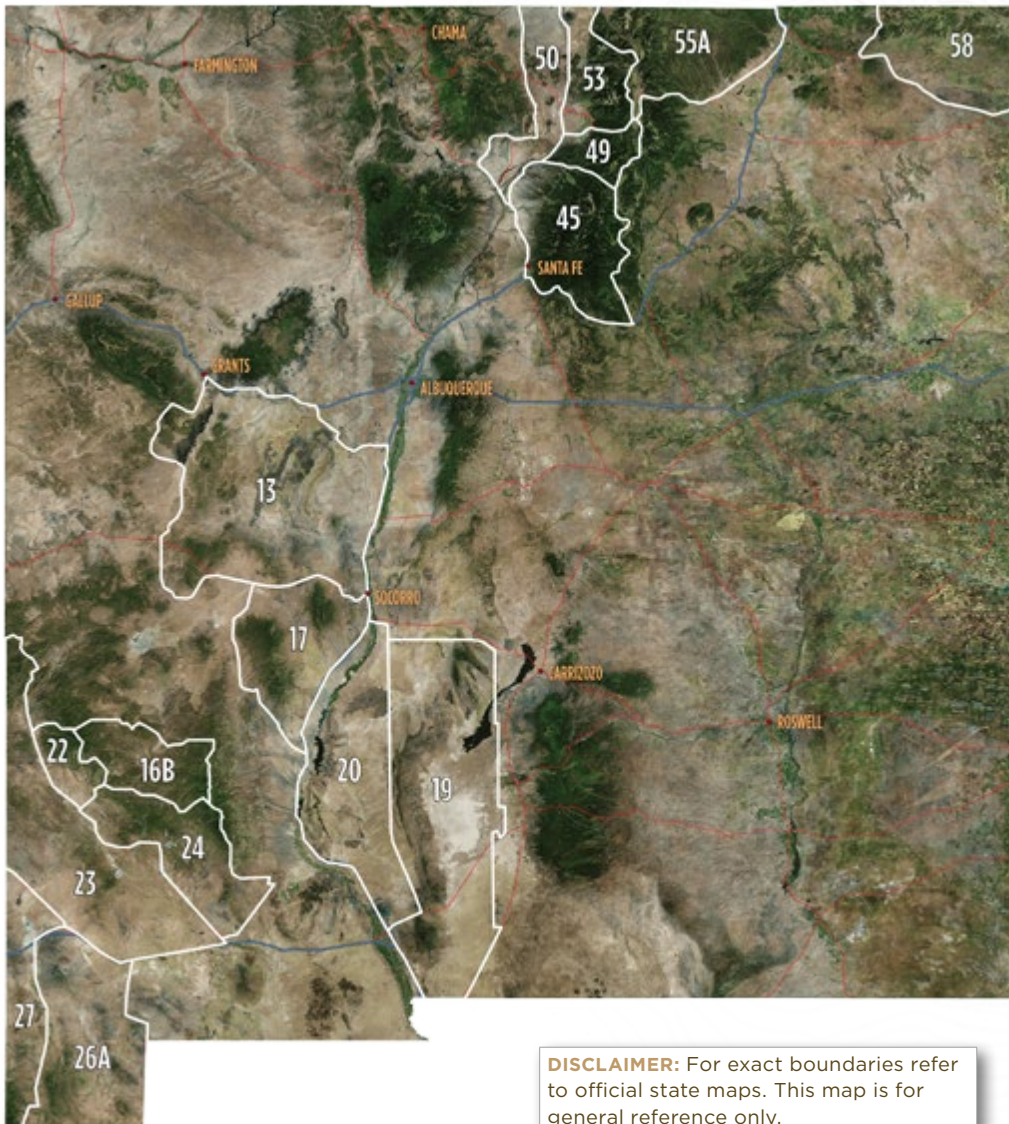
New Mexico has both Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep as well as Desert sheep. Some of the biggest sheep harvested every year come from New Mexico. As you glance at the tables that break down the different sheep units in the state, you will notice the sizes of the best rams taken that we've listed which is shocking. New Mexico should be proud of their sheep program and the steps they've made over the years to allow hunters to hunt various sheep populations across the state even if the populations in various units are somewhat small.

The sheep units are clustered together with all the Rocky Mountain Bighorn hunts lumped together under hunt code BHS-1-201 and the Desert Bighorn sheep units all

clustered under hunt code BHS-1-204. There are ewe hunt codes to choose from as well, so be careful on what you apply for. Applicants may choose up to three hunt codes to apply for. Applicants are then allowed to choose up to three individual units within each hunt code choice to apply for. You will be able to see in the sheep table that we grouped the units under the hunt codes they belong in.

The resident/guide/nonresident quotas of 84%, 10%, and 6%, respectively, apply to sheep in regards to the total number of licenses given in the state and not on a unit-by-unit basis as the tags available are extremely limited. As you check out the tables, you will see that contracting and applying with an outfitter basically doubles the nonresident odds of drawing.

NEW MEXICO SHEEP UNITS MAP



DISCLAIMER: For exact boundaries refer to official state maps. This map is for general reference only.

The Rocky Mountain sheep in New Mexico are doing great across the board. The Pecos units are doing great and came out with doubling the total number of ram tags for 2017 from what was available in 2016. There are 30 ewe tags that will be issued in the Pecos as well for this year with season dates starting the day after the last season for ram hunters ends. The Pecos is doing well with 160-180"+ rams taken in 2016 and 100% harvest for the past three years.

Wheeler Peak and Latir units are doing good as well with 170-180" rams taken nearly every year in both units. The Dry Cimarron unit is kind of a wild card unit with sheep being transient in and out of Colorado. As a result, the season dates are very liberal there and hunters have done well recently with a couple giants killed. The Rio Grande Gorge unit was opened in 2015 and is amazing right now as was predicted a couple years ago. The rams taken in 2016 were all 7-8 years old and all five rams

harvested scored between 180 and 191"!

While there aren't nearly as many Desert sheep tags issued in New Mexico as there are in Arizona and Nevada, they do have some giants! The harvest statistics we had at the time of printing for the 2016 hunting season revealed that close to 50% of the Desert rams taken scored 170"+. That's simply an amazing statistic. There are a few changes for 2017 including the sheep hunt on unit 19 - San Andres -- has been split into two 8-day seasons with a net result of a gain of one sheep tag total in that unit. Another change is there has been an additional tag added in both of the hunts in unit 20 - Caballos for this year.

If you have room on your credit card, apply for sheep in New Mexico! The nonrefundable fees to apply are some of the cheapest of any western state. Apply and let us know if you draw!

Desert Bighorn Sheep - Ram Hunt Code BHS-1-204 (Hunt Code Includes all Units Listed Below)

Total # of Resident Tags - 2016	Total # of Nonresident tags - 2016	Total # of Nonresident/Resident Guided tags -2016	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016	Non-Resident Drawing odds - 2016	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing odds - 2016
19	1	2	1 in 158	1 in 1,258	1 in 633

BHS-1-204 Cont. - When Applying for this Hunt Code Hunters may Choose 3 Hunts Below

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Number of tags in each individual unit - 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2016, 2015, 2014	Score of the best ram taken on this hunt in 2016, 2015, 2014	Our take on the hunt:
27 Peloncillos	Nov 1-30	2, 2, 2, 2	100%, 100%, 100%	173 2/8", 175 3/8", 175 3/8"	A great unit that continues to harvest some giant rams. SW corner of the state, plenty of public land with good access. Auction tag holder killed a 187 7/8" in 2014. Auction tag holder killed a 170 5/8" in 2016.
26 Hatchets	Oct 1-15	3, 3, 3, 3	100%, 100%, 100%	166 7/8", 176", 167 3/8"	1st hunt on this unit. SW part of the state, borders unit 27 - Peloncillos. Public land with some physically easy hunting as well as some very physical country as well.
26 Hatchets	Oct 16-31	3, 3, 3, 3	100%, 100%, 100%	172 2/8", 170 2/8", 162 2/8"	2nd hunt on this unit. See unit description above.
19 San Andres	Dec 14-21	3, 4, 3, 2	100%, 100%, 100%	182", 173 6/8", 181 3/8"	Giant rams! Access permit through the White Sands Missile Range is required. Military may delay or cancel hunts but hasn't been a huge problem. Season shortened by more than a week for 2017 and tags cut by 1 as a new 2nd season was added this year. Plenty of good access. Every hunter harvested a 170"+ ram.
19 San Andres	Dec 27-Jan 3, 2018	Season Split for 2017, 2 tags	Season Split for 2017	Season Split for 2017, See Above	White Sands, Season split for 2017. See comments above.
20 Caballos	Nov 16-30	3, 2, 2, 1	100%, 100%, 100%	176 1/8", 168 3/8", 167 3/8"	First hunt on this unit, southern part of unit 20. Public land with relatively good access. Lots of rolling low mountainous country. Plenty of good rams!
20 Caballos	Dec 1-15	2, 1, 1, 1	0%, 100%, 100%	N/A, 163 3/8", 161 7/8"	Second hunt on this unit, south part of unit 20. Hunter that drew in 2016 did not harvest. See comments above.
20 Fra Cristobal	Aug 18-27	1, 2, 1, 2,	100%, 100%, 100%	166 6/8", 174 6/8", 168 7/8"	First hunt on this unit, North part of unit 20 on private land only which is the Armendaris Ranch. Good numbers of sheep, relatively easy hunt as far as sheep hunts go. Good access throughout.
20 Fra Cristobal	Oct 13-22	2, 3, 3, N/A	100%, 100%, 100%	168 2/8", 163 6/8", 169 5/8"	Second hunt on this unit. See comments above for unit description.
20 Fra Cristobal - Youth Only	Nov 17-26	1, 1, 1, 1	100%, 100%, 100%	148 2/8", 161 4/8", 153 3/8"	Youth only hunt, great hunt for kids! See comments above for unit description.
13 and 17 Ladrone	Dec 1-31	1, 1, 1, 1	100%, 100%, 100%	174", 173 2/8", 158"	One of the best units in the state. Only 1 tag available to draw. West central part of the state, public land with good access. Sheep move on and off a Nat'l Wildlife Refuge which cannot be hunted. Raffle tag hunter harvested a 182 1/8" ram in this unit in 2014, a 182 2/8" ram in 2015, and a 186 6/8" ram in 2016.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep - Ram Hunt Code BHS-1-201 (Hunt Code Includes all Units Listed Below)

Total # of Resident Tags - 2016	Total # of Nonresident tags - 2016	Total # of Nonresident/Resident Guided tags - 2016	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016	Non-Resident Drawing odds - 2016	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing odds - 2016
17	1	2	1 in 192	1 in 1,127	1 in 532

BHS-1-201 Cont. - When Applying for this Hunt Code Hunters may Choose 3 Hunts Below

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Number of tags in each individual unit - 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2016, 2015, 2014	Score of the best ram taken on this hunt in 2016, 2015, 2014	Our take on the hunt:
16B, 22, 23, 24 San Francisco River/Turkey Creek	Jan 1-31, 2018	2, 2, 2, N/A	N/A, 100%, N/A	N/A, '171 6/8", N/A	2016 hunt results not in at the time of printing due to season dates. Not an easy, reliable hunt. Can be tough to find sheep. Plenty of public land with good access. Re-opened in 2015.
45 Pecos	Aug 11-20	5, 2, 2, 2	100%, 100%, 100%	181 6/8", '182 1/8", 165 3/8"	A few great rams! More than doubling the tags for 2017! Unit has been doing good with a lot of sheep. Wilderness hunt requiring hunters to use horses or extreme backpacking.
45 Pecos	Aug 21-Sept 3	4, 2, 1, 1	100%, 100%, 100%	171 4/8", '186 2/8", 166 4/8"	Doubling the tags for 2017! See unit description above.
45 Pecos -Youth Only	Aug 21-Sept 3	1, 1, 1, 1	100%, 100%, 100%	161 4/8", '156 1/8", 172 6/8"	Youth only hunt. Same season dates as the regular second season. See unit description above.
53 Wheeler Peak	Sept 1-15	4, 4, 4, 4	75%, 100%, 100%	179 2/8", '175 1/8", 185 4/8"	Traditionally one of the best hunts in the state. High elevation hunt, Backpacking or horses needed. The auction tag holder harvested a 175 7/8 ram in 2015 on this unit. 1 Hunter didn't harvest in 2016.
53 and 55 Latir	Aug 4-13	1, 2, 2, 4	100%, 100%, 100%	180 5/8", '167 2/8", 186 7/8"	Great unit for big rams. Tags reduced for 2017. Early season high elevation hunt in rugged, thick country. Backpacking or horseback required. The raffle tag holder harvested a 182 1/8 ram in 2015 on this unit. 2nd ram in 2016 went 178"!
53 and 55 Latir	Aug 14-27	1, 2, 2, N/A	50%, 50%, N/A	150 6/8", '160 5/8", N/A	Second season in Latir opened up starting in 2015. 1 of the 2 hunters didn't harvest in 2016. See unit description above.
49, 50, and 53 Rio Grande Gorge	Aug 15-Jan 15, 2018	4, 4, 2, N/A	100%, 100%, N/A	191 2/8", '189 5/8", N/A	Giant Rams! 5 rams harvested in 2016 (incl auction tag) and all 5 scored over 180! Opened for the first time ever in 2015. River gorge, lower elevation hunt. Steep, rocky country but good access. Transplanted sheep are doing great!
58 Dry Cimarron	Aug 15-Jan 15, 2018	2, 1, 1, N/A	100%, 100%, N/A	165 4/8", '190 1/8", N/A	Extra tag being issued for 2017. Transient sheep, may not be in the unit all the time so season dates are liberal. Private land hunt with good access. A few giants! Private land tag holder harvested a 184 5/8" ram in 2016. Unit opened in 2015.

ELK

New Mexico is one of the top elk states in the west! There are many options to apply for with multiple seasons in each unit in most cases. Hunters can mix seasons on their applications and all three choices on the application will be considered prior to drawing the next applicant.

The best seasons in the state are the archery hunts. The archery seasons statewide are Sept 1-14 and Sept 15-24. The early hunt can be awesome with some of the big bulls being vulnerable to calling and are usually starting to gather their cows and, depending on the year, will be full on rutting. The second season is a little shorter, but is generally a great rut hunt. The moon phase is a full moon during the first hunt and diminishing during the second hunt. Everyone has a different opinion on how the moon will affect their hunt. We have found that sometimes a full moon brings them into the rut sooner and they get



BROC BRIMHALL, ELK, NEW MEXICO
WITH CANYON COUNTRY GUIDE SERVICE



ELVA DAVILA, ELK, NEW MEXICO
WITH FRONTIER OUTFITTING

going hard at night and continue into the early morning. Nevertheless, we expect a great hunt this year.

The rifle and muzzleloader seasons are generally only 5 days long which allows the state to offer more tags and maintain a good age structure and trophy class. There are some hunts that are Oct 7-11 which will still take advantage of the rut. Some of the hunts take place October 14-18 which can be good too. The October 21-25 seasons generally have a little better drawing odds but the elk have usually been hunted pretty hard prior to then, which can make it a hard hunt. In some units there is a Nov 18-22 hunt, which can be a good hunt with the bulls "bachelored" up and usually when you glass up one, you'll find a group of bulls.

There are some rifle and muzzleloader youth-only hunts that are pretty amazing hunts. Generally the season dates start before the adult seasons and give the kids a great chance at harvesting a bull. There are no archery only youth hunts for elk; however, there are also a few mobility-impaired rifle and muzzleloader elk hunts as well with excellent season dates!

We have listed some of the best as well some good hunts to apply for in the elk tables. You will notice that we have listed three years of statistics in most cases on rifle and muzzleloader hunts but only two years in the archery tables. In 2015, the archery hunts went from three different seasons in a lot of cases to two seasons, which made the statistics prior to 2015 basically invalid where this occurred. Nevertheless, you will still be able to see a trend and will be able to use those statistics to aid you in choosing the units and seasons to apply for.

Hunters may apply for and draw nearly every hunt in the state with the exception of the Valle Vidal in unit 55, which is offered as a once-in-a-lifetime hunt. This hunt is an amazing experience for guys that don't have to have a giant bull but want to be covered up in elk! The other hunts do not have any application restrictions like the Valle Vidal does.

There are multiple units that are known to have a few 350"+ bulls in them. You will find those units listed in our best elk hunts tables. Hunters that just want good, solid hunts for 300"+ bulls will also find what we think are the best options in the "good elk hunt" tables. We have personally hunted archery, muzzleloader, and rifle seasons in New Mexico as well as having our kids participate in the youth hunts for elk. We have not been disappointed, for the most part, and have appreciated all the options to choose from. Whatever kind of elk hunt you want, New Mexico has it!

The Best Any Weapon Elk Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
6B	Oct 14-18	15, 16, N/A, N/A	13, N/A, N/A	1, N/A, N/A	2, N/A, N/A	1 in 106, N/A, N/A	1 in 142, N/A, N/A	1 in 68, N/A, N/A	92%, 79%, 71%	Valles Caldera Natl. Preserve, used to have to buy lottery type tickets to apply. Great hunt for 330"+ bulls, good access with a lot of elk and low tag numbers. Great success rates!
6B	Oct 21-25	20, 20, N/A, N/A	17, N/A, N/A	1, N/A, N/A	2, N/A, N/A	1 in 49, N/A, N/A	1 in 83, N/A, N/A	1 in 40, N/A, N/A	53%, 75%, 57%	Valles Caldera Natl. Preserve, used to have to buy lottery type tickets to apply, now a regular draw. Great hunt for 320"+ bulls, good access with a lot of elk. 2nd rifle hunt on this unit. Very little hunting pressure.
12	Oct 1-5	20, 20, 20, 30	17, 17, 25	1, 1, 2	2, 2, 3	1 in 25, 1 in 25, 1 in 13	1 in 95, 1 in 78, 1 in 50	1 in 70, 1 in 97, 1 in 53	65%, 69%, 70%	Flat, thick, high desert terrain. Some private land issues. Early season rut hunt with a rifle. One of the best rifle hunts in the state for trophy hunters. A few giant bulls on this unit and very good success rates. There are not any unit wide landowner tags here which helps quality.

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
16A	Oct 14-18	75, 76, 76, 75	63, 63, 63	5, 5, 5	8, 8, 7	1 in 44, 1 in 42, 1 in 38	1 in 190, 1 in 185, 1 in 195	1 in 95, 1 in 105, 1 in 92	49%, 50%, 55%	Great hunt with some big bulls. Unit has some good access with some crazy rugged, physical country as well. 330"+ bulls with a few 350+ killed in most years. Plenty of elk. Burns have helped this unit.
16B and 22	Oct 14-18	160, 161, 161, 160	135, 135, 134	10, 10, 10	16, 16, 16	1 in 8, 1 in 8, 1 in 7	1 in 31, 1 in 36, 1 in 28	1 in 14, 1 in 14, 1 in 11	41%, 38%, 35%	Wilderness hunt with some great bulls! Great glassable elk hunting country but need horses or go with an outfitter that has horses to really do the hunt justice. 330"+ bulls. Great burn in there has created excellent habitat.
16D	Oct 14-18	55, 56, 56, 55	47, 47, 46	3, 3, 3	6, 6, 6	1 in 44, 1 in 42, 1 in 40	1 in 360, 1 in 301, 1 in 358	1 in 125, 1 in 118, 1 in 106	57%, 57%, 43%	Great rifle hunt, known as the best unit in the state. Some bulls will still be bugling but post rut season for the most part. Big unit with some rugged country in it. Some good access. Thick country, some burned areas. Not an easy hunt for 340"+ bulls.
34	Oct 21-25	150, 150, 150, 150	126, 126, 126	9, 9, 9	15, 15, 15	1 in 34, 1 in 33, 1 in 30	1 in 70, 1 in 67, 1 in 64	1 in 27, 1 in 29, 1 in 23	48%, 40%, 53%	Good hunt for 320-330"+ bulls. South-central part of the state, public land with good access. A lot of tags and less than perfect season dates.
36	Oct 14-18	123, 123, 123, 100	104, 104, 84	7, 7, 6	12, 12, 10	1 in 21, 1 in 21, 1 in 26	1 in 64, 1 in 59, 1 in 69	1 in 30, 1 in 33, 1 in 35	43%, 50%, 54%	Good hunt for 320-330"+ bulls. South-central part of the state. Public land with some good access and some physically tougher country as well.
The Best Muzzleloader Elk Hunts										
6B	Oct 7-11	15, 16, N/A, N/A	13, N/A, N/A	1, N/A, N/A	2, N/A, N/A	1 in 56, N/A, N/A	1 in 114, N/A, N/A	1 in 52, N/A, N/A	73%, 100%, 67%	Valles Caldera Natl. Preserve, used to have to buy lottery type tickets to apply. Great hunt for 330"+ bulls, good access with a lot of elk and very low tag numbers. Great success rates, rut hunt. Takes place before the rifle season.
13	Oct 14-18	75, 76, 76, 75	63, 63, 63	5, 5, 5	8, 8, 7	1 in 14, 1 in 14, 1 in 12	1 in 29, 1 in 44, 1 in 29	1 in 20, 1 in 26, 1 in 22	31%, 27%, 54%	A few great bulls in this unit. A lot of flat country with a few modest mountains as well. Good access and some private but enough public to do well. 320"+ bulls.
15	Oct 14-18	200, 200, 200, 200	168, 168, 168	12, 12, 12	20, 20, 20	1 in 17, 1 in 19, 1 in 17	1 in 68, 1 in 71, 1 in 69	1 in 34, 1 in 35, 1 in 27	29%, 38%, 68%	Good hunt for 330"+ bulls. Good access and plenty of public land. Plenty of glassable country. Borders Arizona's unit 1. Solid muzzleloader hunt.
15	Nov 18-22	350, 250, 250, 250	210, 210, 210	15, 15, 15	25, 25, 25	1 in 4, 1 in 4, 1 in 5	1 in 16, 1 in 13, 1 in 16	1 in 15, 1 in 13, 1 in 13	17%, 26%, 23%	3rd muzzleloader season on this unit. Bulls will be bachelored up. 320"+ bulls. Good access and plenty of public land and glassable country. Borders Arizona's unit 1. High tag numbers and success is low with only 5 days and being a late season. it's possible to kill a giant during this season.
17	Oct 14-18	100, 100, 100, 100	84, 84, 84	6, 6, 6	10, 10, 10	1 in 10, 1 in 10, 1 in 10	1 in 72, 1 in 70, 1 in 78	1 in 18, 1 in 25, 1 in 19	28%, 28%, 31%	Public and private land with plenty of good access. Some roadless, wilderness type country as well. Good populations of elk and long distance glassing. 330"+ bulls.
17	Nov 18-22	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 10, 1 in 9, 1 in 8	1 in 30, 1 in 35, 1 in 28	1 in 26, 1 in 36, 1 in 32	29%, 32%, 22%	Late season muzzleloader hunt when bulls are bachelored up. Can be a great hunt depending on the year. Public and private land with some good access. Some wilderness country as well.
34	Oct 14-18	250, 250, 250, 250	210, 210, 210	15, 15, 15	25, 25, 25	1 in 12, 1 in 12, 1 in 12	1 in 40, 1 in 38, 1 in 40	1 in 12, 1 in 13, 1 in 13	28%, 45%, 47%	Takes place before the rifle season. Good hunt although a lot of hunting pressure. Fairly good harvest rates, public land with good access. 320-330+ bulls.
36	Oct 7-11	135, 136, 136, 135	114, 114, 113	8, 8, 8	14, 14, 14	1 in 11, 1 in 12, 1 in 12	1 in 51, 1 in 50, 1 in 61	1 in 21, 1 in 23, 1 in 21	49%, 53%, 47%	Early rut season makes this hunt a great option for 320-330"+ bulls. Plenty of public land with some good access as well as physically tougher country as well. Located in the south-central part of the state.
37	Oct 7-11	30, 31, 31, 30	26, 26, 25	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 3	1 in 15, 1 in 13, 1 in 14	1 in 25, 1 in 29, 1 in 33	1 in 7, 1 in 9, 1 in 14	34%, 33%, 21%	Can be a good hunt for 330"+ bulls. Early dates, some bulls with still be with the cows. Public and private land with good access. Plenty of elk. A few giants live here. Low hunting pressure makes this a good hunt.

Good Any Weapon Elk Hunts

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
6A	Oct 14-18	100, 100, 100, 100	84, 84, 84	6, 6, 6	10, 10, 10	1 in 19, 1 in 20, 1 in 17	1 in 23, 1 in 21, 1 in 17	1 in 15, 1 in 14, 1 in 10	33%, 34%, 38%	A few great bulls on this unit with mostly 320+ potential. Good, public land area with plenty of good access with some roadless, wilderness country as well. Burns have helped this unit.
6C	Oct 14-18	109, 110, 110, 105	92, 92, 88	7, 7, 7	11, 11, 10	1 in 8, 1 in 8, 1 in 7	1 in 11, 1 in 10, 1 in 7	1 in 4, 1 in 3, 1 in 2	22%, 24%, 26%	A few great bulls on this unit with mostly 320+ potential. Good, public land area with some good access with some rugged physical country also. Burns have helped this unit.
16A	Oct 21-25	125, 126, 126, 125	105, 105, 105	8, 8, 8	13, 13, 12	1 in 15, 1 in 14, 1 in 14	1 in 47, 1 in 37, 1 in 43	1 in 36, 1 in 37, 1 in 41	40%, 45%, 46%	Good success rates considering it's the 2nd rifle hunt on this unit. Good access and public land with a lot of rugged country as well.
16C	Oct 14-18	50, 50, 50, 50	42, 42, 42	3, 3, 3	5, 5, 5	1 in 23, 1 in 24, 1 in 24	1 in 57, 1 in 52, 1 in 51	1 in 35, 1 in 37, 1 in 35	38%, 21%, 44%	1st rifle hunt on this unit. Not as good of quality generally as units 16A and 16 D but is still a good hunt for 320"+ bulls. Low tag numbers = low pressure.
16D	Oct 21-25	50, 50, 50, 50	42, 42, 42	3, 3, 3	5, 5, 5	1 in 18, 1 in 17, 1 in 18	1 in 94, 1 in 53, 1 in 98	1 in 58, 1 in 48, 1 in 75	36%, 49%, 28%	2nd rifle season on a great unit. Low tag numbers, big bulls, big country with some good access. Burns and roadless country help quality of trophy bulls.
36	Oct 28 -Nov 1	124, 124, 124, 100	105, 105, 84	7, 7, 6	12, 12, 10	1 in 13, 1 in 11, 1 in 17	1 in 32, 1 in 30, 1 in 37	1 in 19, 1 in 20, 1 in 22	41%, 49%, 49%	Great success rates considering the marginal season dates! 320"+ bulls, good access and public land.
37	Oct 14-18	30, 31, 31, 30	26, 26, 25	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 3	1 in 22, 1 in 21, 1 in 21	1 in 34, 1 in 45, 1 in 32	1 in 19, 1 in 10, 1 in 18	41%, 41%, 45%	1st rifle hunt on this unit. Very low tag numbers, public and private land with plenty of access. Great genetics on this unit.
38	Oct 7-11	15, 16, 15, 15	13, 14, 13	1, 1, 2	2, 0, 0	1 in 10, 1 in 15, 1 in 12	1 in 7, 1 in 16, 1 in 8	1 in 6, N/A, N/A	14%, 31%, 29%	The only public land season on this unit. Very low elk densities, good access with some rugged mountains as well as some desert country with some thick trees. Not a hunt for everyone.
51	Oct 7-11	220, 220, 220, 220	185, 185, 185	13, 13, 13	22, 22, 22	1 in 12, 1 in 13, 1 in 11	1 in 25, 1 in 26, 1 in 29	1 in 6, 1 in 6, 1 in 6	26%, 40%, 39%	First rifle season, high tag numbers and a lot of elk. Not a trophy hunt but a great public land hunt with good access as well as plenty of country to get away from people. Hunters who just want a 6 point bull should consider applying here.
51	Oct 14-18	220, 220, 220, 220	185, 185, 185	13, 13, 13	22, 22, 22	1 in 6, 1 in 6, 1 in 6	1 in 11, 1 in 13, 1 in 13	1 in 3, 1 in 4, 1 in 4	16%, 23%, 24%	2nd rifle season which will be a tougher hunt overall, see above.
52	Oct 14-18	230, 231, 231, 230	194, 194, 193	14, 14, 14	23, 23, 23	1 in 11, 1 in 13, 1 in 12	1 in 22, 1 in 23, 1 in 23	1 in 7, 1 in 8, 1 in 6	25%, 36%, 38%	1st rifle hunt on this unit. A lot of tags, public land that is easy to hunt. Plenty of elk but not a trophy hunt by any means.
53	Oct 14-18	75, 76, 76, 75	63, 63, 63	5, 5, 8	8, 8, 4	1 in 6, 1 in 6, 1 in 6	1 in 10, 1 in 12, 1 in 6	1 in 3, 1 in 2, 1 in 6	20%, 18%, 48%	1st rifle hunt on this unit. Low tag numbers, public land but very physical hunt. 315"+ potential. Not easy.
55-Valle Vidal	Oct 14-18	20, 20, 20, 15	17, 17, 13	1, 1, 1	2, 2, 1	1 in 58, 1 in 64, 1 in 76	1 in 165, 1 in 196, 1 in 152	1 in 33, 1 in 44, 1 in 91	78%, 58%, 73%	Valle Vidal - Includes the Greenwood area private property access at no extra cost. Good hunt for 310-325+ bulls with good access. Low tag numbers, and high success rates. Literally a Once in a Lifetime hunt.

Good Muzzleloader Elk Hunt Options

6A	Oct 7-11	104, 104, 104, 110	88, 88, 92	6, 6, 7	10, 10, 11	1 in 11, 1 in 11, 1 in 9	1 in 24, 1 in 26, 1 in 23	1 in 12, 1 in 14, 1 in 11	33%, 43%, 38%	Rut muzzleloader season dates for 320"+ bulls. Public land, good access and some wilderness type country. Big bull potential.
6C	Oct 7-11	155, 156, 156, 155	131, 131, 130	9, 9, 9	16, 16, 16	1 in 4, 1 in 4, 1 in 4	1 in 8, 1 in 9, 1 in 6	1 in 4, 1 in 2, 1 in 2	21%, 26%, 26%	Rut muzzleloader season dates for 320"+ bulls. Public land, good access and some rugged physical type country. Big bull potential. A lot of tags.
13	Nov 18-22	100, 101, 100, 100	85, 84, 84	6, 6, 6	10, 10, 10	1 in 4, 1 in 3, 1 in 3	1 in 8, 1 in 9, 1 in 7	1 in 11, 1 in 12, 1 in 8	26%, 10%, 22%	Late season hunt where bulls will be bachelored up. Can be good but not an easy hunt by any means. Public with good access as well as private to work around too. Some 330"+ bulls.

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
15	Oct 21-25	245, 246, 246, 245	206, 206, 206	15, 15, 15	25, 25, 24	1 in 7, 1 in 8, 1 in 8	1 in 25, 1 in 21, 1 in 25	1 in 17, 1 in 15, 1 in 15	25%, 20%, 24%	2nd muzzleloader season in this unit. Not an easy hunt. A lot of hunting pressure but plenty of bulls. Trophy hunters do not apply here.
17	Oct 21-25	100, 100, 100, 100	84, 84, 84	6, 6, 6	10, 10, 10	1 in 4, 1 in 4, 1 in 5	1 in 17, 1 in 15, 1 in 22	1 in 7, 1 in 9, 1 in 6	18%, 25%, 24%	2nd muzzleloader season in this unit. Not an easy hunt. A lot of hunting pressure but plenty of bulls. Glassable mountainous country as well as some rugged wilderness country.
52	Oct 7-11	120, 120, 120, 120	101, 101, 101	7, 7, 7	12, 12, 12	1 in 8, 1 in 8, 1 in 8	1 in 24, 1 in 30, 1 in 29	1 in 7, 1 in 6, 1 in 6	32%, 27%, 44%	Season dates make this hunt. Before the rifle hunts, some rutting bulls on a lot of public land with good access. Solid hunt for guys that don't need a trophy bul.
53	Oct 7-11	50, 50, 50, 50	42, 42, 42	3, 3, 3	5, 5, 5	1 in 5, 1 in 4, 1 in 5	1 in 19, 1 in 20, 1 in 16	1 in 3, 1 in 3, 1 in 3	22%, 30%, 41%	Good season dates. Low tag numbers, public land but very physical hunt. 320"+ potential.
55 - Valle Vidal	Oct 7-11	40, 40, 40, 35	34, 34, 29	2, 2, 2	4, 4, 4	1 in 15, 1 in 18, 1 in 20	1 in 71, 1 in 72, 1 in 64	1 in 24, 1 in 17, 1 in 20	54%, 68%, 67%	Valle Vidal - Includes the Greenwood area private property access at no extra cost. Good hunt for 310-325+ bulls with good access. Low tag numbers, and high success rates. Literally a Once in a Lifetime hunt.

Elk - The Best Hunts - Archery Only

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Harvest Success 2015 only, (season structure different pre -2015)	Our Take on the Hunt:
6B	Sept 1-14	20, 20, N/A	17, N/A	1, N/A	2, N/A	1 in 24, N/A	1 in 70, N/A	1 in 27, N/A	69%	Valles Caldera Natl. Preserve, used to have to buy lottery type tickets to apply. Great hunt for 340"+ bulls! Plenty of elk, low tag numbers and good public land access. Great harvest rates, especially for archers!
6B	Sept 15-24	20, 20, N/A	17, N/A	1, N/A	2, N/A	1 in 33, N/A	1 in 154, N/A	1 in 36, N/A	55%	Valles Caldera Natl. Preserve, used to have to buy lottery type tickets to apply. 2nd archery season which is generally better rut. Great hunt for 340"+ bulls! Plenty public land access. Great harvest rates, especially for archers!
12	Sept 1-14	15, 16, 16	13, 13	1, 1,	2, 2,	1 in 5, 1 in 5,	1 in 20, 1 in 9,	1 in 20, 1 in 11,	14%	Thick, flat country with private land mixed in. Some great bulls here. Low tag numbers help this hunt. Can be a tough season depending on the rut. Need rut to do well.
12	Sept 15-24	15, 16, 16	13, 13	1, 1,	2, 2,	1 in 9, 1 in 10,	1 in 41, 1 in 17,	1 in 17, 1 in 20,	40%	The best archery season on this unit. Low tag numbers, rutting bulls and potential for 350"+. Mixed private and public land. Should be a great hunt.
13	Sept 1-14	175, 176, 176	147, 147	11, 11,	18, 18,	1 in 4, 1 in 3,	1 in 12, 1 in 13,	1 in 10, 1 in 9,	25%	Can be a tough hunt in some flat, thick country. A few great bulls live in this unit. Plenty of public land with good access with some private land as well. Quite a few tags.
13	Sept 15-24	125, 126, 126	105, 105,	8, 8,	13, 13,	1 in 7, 1 in 7,	1 in 27, 1 in 28,	1 in 17, 1 in 15,	21%	The best archery season. Can be a tough hunt in some flat, thick country. 330"+ bulls. Plenty of public land with good access with some private land as well. Fewer tags than the early archery season.
15	Sept 1-14	350, 350, 350	294, 294,	21, 21,	35, 35,	1 in 6, 1 in 6,	1 in 27, 1 in 25,	1 in 17, 1 in 18	21%	320-340"+ bulls, big country with plenty of public land and good access. A lot of tags on this season but has plenty of elk to hunt. Elk scattered from one end to another. Plenty of glassable mountainous country also with flat, desert type country. Unit is not rifle hunted.

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Harvest Success 2015 only, (season structure different pre -2015)	Our Take on the Hunt:
15	Sept 15-24	250, 250, 250	210, 210,	15, 15,	25, 25,	1 in 10, 1 in 11,	1 in 63, 1 in 61,	1 in 27, 1 in 28,	25%	The best season on this unit. 320-340"+ bulls, big country with plenty of public land and good access. A lot of tags on this season but has plenty of elk to hunt. Plenty of glassable mountainous country also with flat, desert type country. These elk are not ever rifle hunted.
16A	Sept 1-14	250, 250, 250	210, 210,	15, 15,	25, 25,	1 in 6, 1 in 5,	1 in 34, 1 in 33,	1 in 20, 1 in 23,	23%	One of the best in the state for 330-350"+ bulls. Public land with some good access as well as some rugged, roadless country. Big bulls, early rut hunt. Some burned country that is great habitat.
16A	Sept 15-24	150, 150, 150	125, 126,	10, 9,	15, 15,	1 in 12, 1 in 12,	1 in 101, 1 in 106,	1 in 41, 1 in 38,	42%	Best season on this unit. Great bulls with 340-350+ potential. Fewer tags than the early archery with helps reduce hunting pressure. Great hunt with good success rates.
16B and 22	Sept 1-14	225, 226, 226	189, 189,	14, 14,	23, 23,	1 in 3, 1 in 3,	1 in 15, 1 in 16,	1 in 11, 1 in 9,	20%	Rugged wilderness type hunt. Potential for big bulls for guys that have horses or willing to hire an outfitter. 330-340+ bulls, great habitat with big burned country.
16B and 22	Sept 15-24	165, 166, 166	139, 139,	10, 10,	17, 17,	1 in 5, 1 in 5,	1 in 30, 1 in 36,	1 in 14, 1 in 13,	26%	The best season on this unit. 2nd archery hunt. Rugged wilderness type hunt. Potential for big bulls for guys that have horses or willing to hire an outfitter. 330-340+ bulls, great habitat with big burned country.
16D	Sept 1-14	90, 90, 90	76, 76,	5, 5,	9, 9,	1 in 7, 1 in 8,	1 in 82, 1 in 68,	1 in 32, 1 in 34,	35%	1st archery season on the best unit in the state with conservative tag numbers and plenty of elk. 350"+ potential with a few 400" bulls taken in the past. Great genetics, rugged but accessible country with some big burns.
16D	Sept 15-24	60, 61, 61	51, 51,	4, 4,	6, 6,	1 in 18, 1 in 17,	1 in 231, 1 in 226,	1 in 78, 1 in 71,	34%	Best season on the best unit in the state. Very low tag numbers, a few giant bulls and public land with good access as well as some roadless physical country. Some burned country that is great elk habitat. 330-350"+ bulls.
17	Sept 1-14	125, 126, 126	105, 105	8, 8	13, 13	1 in 5, 1 in 4	1 in 30, 1 in 19	1 in 12, 1 in 12	26%	1st archery season, tough hunt for big bulls. Public land with some good access and some wilderness type country. 330"+ bulls.
17	Sept 15-24	75, 76, 76	63, 63	5, 5	8, 8	1 in 10, 1 in 10	1 in 79, 1 in 75	1 in 22, 1 in 29	35%	2nd archery season, better rut dates and kill %. See unit description above.
34	Sept 1-14	200, 200, 200	168, 168,	12, 12,	20, 20,	1 in 11, 1 in 9,	1 in 36, 1 in 34,	1 in 20, 1 in 16,	39%	1st archery hunt, good hunt with great harvest rates. Public land with good access. 320-330+ bulls. Excellent choice for self guided hunters.
34	Sept 15-24	200, 200, 200	168, 168,	12, 12,	20, 20,	1 in 13, 1 in 13,	1 in 60, 1 in 52,	1 in 23, 1 in 21,	45%	2nd archery hunt, good hunt with great harvest rates. Public land with good access. 320-330+ bulls. Excellent choice for self guided hunters.
36	Sept 1-14	130, 131, 131	110, 110,	8, 8,	13, 13,	1 in 7, 1 in 6,	1 in 30, 1 in 19,	1 in 16, 1 in 17,	40%	Early rut season for 320-330"+ bulls. Plenty of public land with good access located in the south-central part of the state. Good options for self guided hunters that don't have to hunt the best unit.
36	Sept 15-24	111, 112, 112	94, 94,	7, 7,	11, 11,	1 in 11, 1 in 11,	1 in 51, 1 in 35,	1 in 19, 1 in 20,	33%	Great hunt for 320-330"+ bulls. Plenty of public land with good access located in the south-central part of the state. Good options for self guided hunters that don't have to hunt the best unit. Best season on the unit.

Elk - Good Hunts - Archery Only

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Harvest Success 2015 only, (season structure different pre -2015)	Our Take on the Hunt:
6A	Sept 1-14	150, 150, 150	126, 126	9, 9	15, 15	1 in 7, 1 in 7	1 in 16, 1 in 15	1 in 9, 1 in 8	34%	1st archery hunt, good public land hunt for 320"+ bulls with a few studs taken each year. Some wilderness type country also. Good drawing odds considering the quality. Burns have helped this unit.
6A	Sept 15-24	100, 100, 100	84, 84	6, 6	10, 10	1 in 12, 1 in 12	1 in 27, 1 in 25	1 in 11, 1 in 11	30%	2nd archery hunt, less pressure than the first hunt. 320"+ bulls with a few great bulls taken each year. Public land with good access. Burns have helped this unit.
6C	Sept 1-14	150, 150, 150	126, 126	9, 9	15, 15	1 in 4, 1 in 4	1 in 8, 1 in 8	1 in 5, 1 in 2	25%	Good hunt for 320"+ bulls with great drawing odds. Some accessible country with rugged physical country as well. Burns have helped this country.
6C	Sept 15-24	108, 108, 108	91, 91, 108	6, 6	11, 11	1 in 6, 1 in 7	1 in 17, 1 in 13	1 in 7, 1 in 4	27%	2nd season in this unit. Great hunt for 320"+ bulls with a few giants taken. Easier odds, fairly good success and public land. Some rugged, physical country.
16C	Sept 1-14	150, 150, 150	126, 126	9, 9	15, 15	1 in 3, 1 in 4	1 in 21, 1 in 15	1 in 11, 1 in 10	17%	1st archery hunt on this unit. Not as good of quality as units 16A and 16D but is still a good hunt for 320"+ bulls. Public land with good access.
16C	Sept 15-24	100, 100, 100	84, 84	6, 6	10, 10	1 in 8, 1 in 8	1 in 36, 1 in 40	1 in 12, 1 in 14	25%	2nd archery hunt. Less tags, better rut dates. See unit description above.
23	Sept 1-14	125, 126, 126	105, 105	8, 8	13, 13	1 in 2, 1 in 2	1 in 17, 1 in 15	1 in 3, 1 in 9	16%	1st archery hunt on the unit. Lower elk densities but a few great bulls. Relatively good access, mostly public land. Borders Arizona unit 27. Not an easy hunt.
23	Sept 15-24	75, 76, 76	63, 63	5, 5	8, 8	1 in 4, 1 in 4	1 in 25, 1 in 21	1 in 9, 1 in 11	23%	2nd season on this unit. Better rut season dates, see unit description above.
37	Sept 1-14	40, 40, 40	34, 34	2, 2	4, 4	1 in 7, 1 in 5	1 in 16, 1 in 20	1 in 8, 1 in 6	23%	Low tag numbers, public and private land. Decent access, some thick country. Not an easy hunt but a few great bulls.
37	Sept 15-24	30, 31, 31	26, 26	2, 2	3, 3	1 in 10, 1 in 11	1 in 25, 1 in 33	1 in 10, 1 in 11	44%	Better season dates for the rut, good hunt with great harvest success. See unit description above.
51	Sept 1-14	180, 181, 181	152, 152	11, 11	18, 18	1 in 4, 1 in 4	1 in 17, 1 in 15	1 in 4, 1 in 3	33%	1st archery season, high tag numbers and a lot of elk. Not a trophy hunt but a great public land hunt with good access as well as plenty of country to get away from people in. Nice bulls, not a trophy unit.
51	Sept 15-24	180, 181, 181	152, 152	11, 11	18, 18	1 in 5, 1 in 5	1 in 24, 1 in 15	1 in 6, 1 in 4	24%	Generally better season dates. See unit description above.
52	Sept 1-14	230, 231, 231	194, 194	14, 14	23, 23	1 in 4, 1 in 4	1 in 13, 1 in 10	1 in 5, 1 in 3	25%	1st archery hunt on this unit. A lot of tags, public land that is easy to hunt. Plenty of elk but not a trophy hunt by any means. Fun hunt.
52	Sept 15-24	230, 231, 231	194, 194	14, 14	23, 23	1 in 5, 1 in 5	1 in 17, 1 in 14	1 in 5, 1 in 5	21%	2nd archery hunt on this unit. See unit description above.
53	Sept 1-14	60, 61, 60	51, 56	4, 4	6, 0	1 in 3, 1 in 2	1 in 7, 1 in 6	1 in 1, N/A	29%	1st archery hunt on this unit. Low tag numbers, public land but very physical hunt. 315"+ potential. Not easy.
53	Sept 15-24	60, 61, 61	51, 51	4, 4	6, 6	1 in 4, 1 in 3	1 in 16, 1 in 13	1 in 3, 1 in 1	37%	2nd archery hunt, better season dates with good success rates. See unit description above.
55 - Valle Vidal	Sept 1-14	25, 26, 26	21, 21	2, 2	3, 3	1 in 6, 1 in 6	1 in 40, 1 in 35	1 in 10, 1 in 5	36%	Valle Vidal - Includes the Greenwood area private property access at no extra cost. Good hunt for 310-325+ bulls with good access. Low tag numbers, and high success rates. Literally a once in a lifetime hunt.
55 - Valle Vidal	Sept 15-24	25, 26, 26	21, 21	2, 2	3, 3	1 in 12, 1 in 13	1 in 67, 1 in 59	1 in 13, 1 in 7	39%	2nd season, better rut hunt. See unit description above.

Elk -All Rifle Hunts for Youth Only

Unit	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
16C	Oct 7-11	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 33, 1 in 28, 1 in 38	1 in 44, 1 in 33, 1 in 52	1 in 26, 1 in 25, 1 in 43	67%, 61%, 55%	Great hunt for kids. Not giant bulls but good numbers of 320"+ bulls. Public land with good access. Low tag numbers, great dates, and high success rates.
16E	Oct 7-11	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 19, 1 in 19, 1 in 25	1 in 38, 1 in 21, 1 in 23	1 in 19, 1 in 23, 1 in 24	52%, 65%, 58%	Good dates on a decent unit for 300"+ bulls. Public BLM ground as well as some private and state land. Some good access with some roads that have been blocked off. Expect to hike. Not easy but good success rates.
23	Oct 7-11	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 11, 1 in 9, 1 in 12	1 in 19, 1 in 14, 1 in 15	1 in 20, 1 in 17, 1 in 18	63%, 67%, 57%	Good hunt with plenty of access. Some rugged country as well. Lower elk densities but good success rates. A few great bulls.
34	Oct 7-11	75, 76, 76, 75	63, 63, 63	5, 5, 5	8, 8, 7	1 in 18, 1 in 17, 1 in 20	1 in 37, 1 in 24, 1 in 32	1 in 13, 1 in 14, 1 in 16	79%, 77%, 77%	Good numbers of tags, plenty of elk and good access with a lot of public land. Great hunt for kids with excellent success rates. One of the best youth elk hunts in the state.
55 - Valle Vidal	Oct 14-18	20, 20, 20, 20	17, 17, 17	1, 1, 1	2, 2, 2	1 in 23, 1 in 21, 1 in 27	1 in 70, 1 in 40, 1 in 43	1 in 26, 1 in 15, 1 in 22	50%, 65%, 65%	Valle Vidal - Includes the Greenwood area private property access at no extra cost. Good hunt for 310-325+ bulls with good access. Low tag numbers, and high success rates. Literally a Once in a Lifetime hunt.

Elk- All Muzzleloader Hunts for Youth Only

13	Oct 7-11	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 12, 1 in 11, 1 in 12	1 in 21, 1 in 22, 1 in 24	1 in 16, 1 in 19, 1 in 29	52%, 68%, 59%	A great youth hunt. Can be a tough hunt in some flat, thick country. 330"+ bulls. Plenty of public land with good access with some private land as well. Good numbers of bulls, good season dates, and high success rates.
15	Oct 7-11	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 24, 1 in 23, 1 in 26	1 in 48, 1 in 49, 1 in 47	1 in 34, 1 in 35, 1 in 46	78%, 78%, 63%	Great youth hunt. 320-340"+ bulls, big country with plenty of public land and good access. Plenty of elk to hunt. Elk scattered from one end to another. Plenty of glassable mountainous country also with flat, desert type country. Unit is not rifle hunted. High success rates.
17	Oct 7-11	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 11, 1 in 10, 1 in 12	1 in 44, 1 in 26, 1 in 33	1 in 15, 1 in 19, 1 in 25	46%, 52%, 59%	Good season dates but not an easy unit to hunt. Some private but plenty of public land with some good access and some wilderness type country. 330"+ bulls.

DEER

New Mexico is not known for great Mule deer or Coues deer, although there are a few giants that are harvested from that state every year. The trophy Mule deer options are limited to the few hunts in our tables. Units 2B, 2C, 5B produce the best bucks on a consistent basis. The late archery hunt in January is the best season for regular adult applicants when it comes to having a chance at harvesting a great buck! The rifle hunts in units 2B and 5B are real good hunts as well. The early archery and muzzleloader hunts are easier tags to draw and allow hunters to have a chance to hunt a great buck. We recommend that hunters hunting the early seasons plan on scouting hard to find a giant. There are other units across the state that have a few great bucks but they are few and far between.



NICHOLAS ROBERTS, MULE DEER
NEW MEXICO

The Coues deer hunts in New Mexico are fairly tough hunts overall. There are a few great bucks that live in the southern part of the state, but these units are not known to produce anywhere near the number of quality bucks that the neighboring state of Arizona does. Guys that want to learn a unit and hunt it multiple times and have the ability to scout hard can do well. The drawing odds in some cases are easy and allow hunters to hunt there often. It is not a “must apply” for state when it comes to trophy Coues deer.

The youth-only hunts offer good opportunities for kids to have as good of a hunt as possible in the units they are

available in. The late rifle hunt in 5B can be an amazing hunt as well as the multiple season dates in certain units such as unit 10. Hunters that just want their kid to have an opportunity to hunt have plenty of easy units to draw as you can see in the tables. Keep in mind that there is no minimum age restriction in New Mexico. The youth hunters just need to have a hunter education certificate to hunt.

When applying, remember you can mix seasons and units on all three choices and all three are considered prior to moving on to the next applicant.

The Better Mule Deer Hunts

Unit - Season	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
2B - Rifle	Nov 4-8	450, 450, 450, 450	378, 378, 378, 378	27, 27, 27	45, 45, 45	1 in 19, 1 in 19, 1 in 17	1 in 27, 1 in 27, 1 in 28	1 in 7, 1 in 7, 1 in 7	69%, 63%, 67%	Tough hunt for trophy hunters with too many tags. Deer migrate in from Colorado and the Jicarilla Reservation. Mostly public land with good access. Good success rates.
2C - Rifle	Nov 11-15	20, 20, 20, 20	17, 17, 17	1, 1, 1	2, 2, 2	1 in 200, 1 in 203, 1 in 182	1 in 1183, 1 in 1080, 1 in 1094	1 in 318, 1 in 290, 1 in 230	83%, 79%, 68%	One of the best rifle hunts in the state. Low tag numbers and high success rates. Mostly resident deer. Public land with good access. 180"+ bucks.
5B - Rifle	Nov 4-8	15, 16, 16, 15	13, 13, 13	1, 1, 1	2, 2, 1	1 in 156, 1 in 148, 1 in 144	1 in 481, 1 in 528, 1 in 416	1 in 92, 1 in 74, 1 in 95	80%, 75%, 71%	One of the best rifle hunts in the state. Public land with good access. Borders the Jicarilla Reservation. A few great bucks. No archery or muzzleloader season in this unit. Very low tag numbers. 180"+ bucks.
7 - Rifle	Nov 4-8	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 21, 1 in 23, 1 in 20	1 in 11, 1 in 14, 1 in 11	1 in 10, 1 in 2, 1 in 9	52%, 29%, 33%	Desert unit with low deer densities. A few great bucks but tough hunt. Public land with good access mixed with some Navajo Reservation property. Low harvest rates compared to other hunts.
2C- Muzz	Sept 27-Oct 3	20, 20, 20, 20	17, 17, 17	1, 1, 1	2, 2, 2	1 in 35, 1 in 33, 1 in 32	1 in 98, 1 in 83, 1 in 71	1 in 56, 1 in 56, 1 in 39	40%, 32%, 50%	Tough muzzleloader hunt with early season dates. Heavy pre-scouting will work on this hunt. Desert unit with resident bucks. Plenty of public land and good access to hunt.
7 - Muzz	Sept 27-Oct 3	10, 11, 11, 10	9, 9, 8	1, 1, 1	1, 1, 1	1 in 10, 1 in 6, 1 in 12	1 in 7, 1 in 1, 1 in 8	1 in 2, 1 in 2, 1 in 4	44%, 0%, 11%	Brutal muzzleloader hunt with early season dates. Low tag numbers. Requires heavy scouting to have a chance at a great buck. Desert unit with resident bucks. Plenty of public land and good access to hunt but Navajo Reservation mixed in.
2B - Archery	Jan 1-15, 2018	180, 181, 181, 180	152, 152, 151	11, 11, 11	18, 18, 18	1 in 14, 1 in 14, 1 in 13	1 in 44, 1 in 41, 1 in 64	1 in 8, 1 in 9, 1 in 10	46%, 46%, 55%	Great late season archery hunt. Deer are usually rutting. Great success rates considering it's an archery hunt. Public land hunt with great access. Crusted snow can make stalking conditions tough.
2C - Archery	Jan 1-15, 2018	50, 50, 50, 50	42, 42, 42	3, 3, 3	5, 5, 5	1 in 24, 1 in 22, 1 in 19	1 in 161, 1 in 147, 1 in 159	1 in 33, 1 in 36, 1 in 31	39%, 39%, 39%	Great late season archery hunt but deer densities are low. Deer are usually rutting. Public land hunt with great access. Crusted snow can make stalking conditions tough. A few giant bucks live in this unit.

The Better Coues Deer Hunts - Any Weapon Seasons

Unit - Season	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
23	Nov 18-22	100, 100, 100, 100	87, 93, 76	10, 7, 16	3, 0, 8	1 in 2, 1 in 2, 1 in 2	1 in 6, 1 in 7, 1 in 3	1 in 2, N/A, 1 in 1	20%, 26%, 23%	Unit 23 excluding the Burro Mtn Area, low deer densities. Public land with decent access and some private land in the unit. Not an easy hunt.
23	Dec 2-10	50, 50, 50, 50	42, 42, 42	3, 3, 3	5, 5, 5	1 in 4, 1 in 4, 1 in 3	1 in 14, 1 in 17, 1 in 15	1 in 3, 1 in 2, 1 in 3	41%, 28%, 23%	Unit 23 excluding the Burro Mnt Area, low deer densities. Less tags than the previous rifle hunt, pre-rut time frame. Public land with decent access and some private land in the unit. Not an easy hunt.
23 -Burro Mtns	Nov 18-22	25, 25, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 3	2, 3, 1	1 in 9, 1 in 6, 1 in 9	1 in 19, 1 in 21, 1 in 19	1 in 2, 1 in 2, 1 in 6	20%, 25%, 11%	1st rifle hunt on the Burro Mtn portion of unit 23, can be a physical hunt, low deer densities. Not an easy hunt. Low tag numbers. 90"-100"+ potential.
23-Burro Mtns	Dec 2-10	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 10, 1 in 12, 1 in 10	1 in 60, 1 in 56, 1 in 44	1 in 10, 1 in 8, 1 in 4	5%, 29%, 40%	2nd rifle season on the Burro Mtn portion of unit 23, can be a physical hunt, low deer densities. Not an easy hunt. Low tag numbers. 90"-100"+ potential.
24	Nov 18-22	100, 100, 100, 100	81, 77, 84	18, 23, 16	1, 0, 0	1 in 2, 1 in 2, 1 in 2	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 2	1 in 2, N/A, N/A	21%, 23%, 11%	Very southern end of the Gila Forest bordering 16B to the south. Public land with decent access as well as a lot of roadless type country. 90"+ potential.
24	Dec 2-10	50, 50, 50, 50	42, 42, 43	3, 3, 4	5, 5, 3	1 in 3, 1 in 4, 1 in 3	1 in 19, 1 in 14, 1 in 5	1 in 5, 1 in 3, 1 in 2	22%, 36%, 20%	2nd rifle hunt on this unit with half the tags of the first rifle season. Very southern end of the Gila Forest bordering 16B to the south. Public land with decent access as well as a lot of roadless type country. 90"+ potential.
27	Nov 18-22	50, 50, 50, 50	42, 42, 42	3, 3, 3	5, 5, 5	1 in 4, 1 in 4, 1 in 5	1 in 17, 1 in 17, 1 in 16	1 in 2, 1 in 3, 1 in 3	24%, 36%, 33%	1st rifle hunt on the Peloncillo Mtns. Good Coues deer country in the far SW portion of the state. Plenty of public land with good access as well as some less accessible country. 100"+ potential.
27	Dec 2-10	25, 26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 8, 1 in 11, 1 in 9	1 in 51, 1 in 56, 1 in 46	1 in 8, 1 in 9, 1 in 8	25%, 41%, 55%	2nd rifle hunt on the Peloncillo Mtns. Very few tags. See unit description above.

The Better Youth Mule Deer Hunts

Unit - Season	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
2B- Any Weapon	Oct 14-18	150, 150, 150, 150	143, 138, 139	7, 9, 9	0, 3, 2	1 in 5, 1 in 6, 1 in 6	1 in 1, 1 in 2, 1 in 2	1 in 1, 1 in 2, 1 in 1	19%, 27%, 48%	Rifle hunt. Not an easy hunt. Usually better later in the year when they migrate. Plenty of public land with good access. Easy drawing odds for nonresidents.
5B - Any Weapon	Nov 22-26	10, 11, 11, 10	9, 9, 8	1, 1, 1	1, 1, 1	1 in 64, 1 in 148, 1 in 77	1 in 119, 1 in 528, 1 in 125	1 in 79, 1 in 74, 1 in 48	88%, 78%, 88%	Rifle hunt. The best unit in the state for the youth from a trophy buck perspective. Great bucks, low hunting pressure, and public land. It doesn't get better for youth.
10- Any Weapon	Nov 22-26; Dec 2-3; Dec 9-10	25, 25, 26, 25	22, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	1, 3, 2	1 in 9, 1 in 10, 1 in 13	1 in 14, 1 in 16, 1 in 24	1 in 1, 1 in 2, 1 in 4	44%, 29%, 50%	Rifle hunt. Thick country, public land and good access with a few good bucks. Can be a tough hunt depending on the year. Low tag numbers.
13 - Any Weapon	Nov 22-26; Dec 2-3; Dec 9-10	50, 50, 50, 80	46, 48, 76	0, 2, 3	4, 0, 1	1 in 6, 1 in 7, 1 in 4	1 in 1, 1 in 3, 1 in 1	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	39%, 28%, 21%	Rifle hunt. Tougher deer hunt in thick, high desert type country. Plenty of public land with good access and some private. Not a great youth hunt but has good drawing odds.

Unit - Season	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
16 - Any Weapon	Nov 22-26; Dec 2-3; Dec 9-10	100, 100, 100, 100	96, 94, 93	4, 5, 1	0, 1, 6	1 in 3, 1 in 4, 1 in 3	1 in 2, 1 in 2, 1 in 2	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	43%, 26%, 18%	Rifle hunt. Great drawing odds for a hunt with public land a relatively good access. A few great bucks.
17 - Any Weapon	Nov 22-26; Dec 2-3; Dec 9-10	80, 80, 80, 80	71, 70, 67	5, 5, 8,	4, 5, 5	1 in 8, 1 in 9, 1 in 9	1 in 3, 1 in 2, 1 in 4	1 in 2, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	57%, 48%, 40%	Rifle hunt. High success rates, public land and good access in most of the unit. Some private land as well. Not a trophy area.
2B - Muzz	Sept 27-Oct 3	20, 20, 20, 20	19, 20, 19	1, 0, 1	0, 0, 0	1 in 3, 1 in 3, 1 in 3	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	39%, 7%, 23%	Muzzleloader hunt. Early season hunt for resident deer. High desert unit with plenty of public land and good access. Can be a tough hunt.
15 - Muzz	Nov 22-26; Dec 2-3; Dec 9-10	100, 100, 50, 41	97, 50, 39	3, 0, 0	0, 0, 2	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 2	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	1 in 1, 1 in 1, 1 in 1	29%, 16%, 16%	Muzzleloader hunt. A few great bucks on this unit. Great drawing odds, but not a ton of deer. Public land with good access. Some private but can navigate around it.
2B - Archery	Jan 1-15, 2018	50, 50, 50, 50	45, 42, 42	3, 3, 4	2, 5, 4	1 in 3, 1 in 3, 1 in 3	1 in 4, 1 in 7, 1 in 6	1 in 2, 1 in 2, 1 in 3	48%, 44%, 62%	Archery hunt. Hard to believe how successful the youth are on this hunt! Late season rut hunt on public land with good access. Plenty of deer on the unit during this hunt.

ANTELOPE

Some of the best bucks harvested in the western states are taken in New Mexico! However, the system of allocating tags to applicants is different than any other species in the state. The regular rifle hunters are assigned a specific ranch to hunt and are not allowed to request a ranch or change ranches. They are left to the mercy of the state and luck of the draw as to if they will actually be able to hunt a trophy buck. As a result, some of the best bucks live on the public land because they are not ever rifle hunted by the regular draw hunters. Archery hunts are the best options for regular trophy hunters to hunt giant bucks because the state allows archery hunters to hunt the entire unit including the public land and any private land that the hunters can find permission to hunt on.

The youth-only hunts as well as the mobility-impaired only hunts offer some amazing opportunities for the hunters to hunt giant bucks. For the most part, they can use rifles and are not restricted to a specific ranch and are allowed to hunt the entire unit. Hunts listed in the regulations with an * by them are assigned to a specific ranch. We have noted that in our tables as well. The mobility-impaired hunts take place prior to any other season in the unit. This, coupled with the ability to hunt the entire unit, is a huge advantage over the regular rifle draw hunters.

Even with the restrictions and awkward way of allocating tags, diehard antelope hunters should be applying in New Mexico.



DANNY YAKSICH, ANTELOPE
NEW MEXICO

Antelope - The Better Hunts in the State

Unit - Season	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
15, 16, 17, 21 - Any Weapon	Oct 7-9	84, 79, N/A	71, 66, N/A	5, 5, N/A	8, 8, N/A	1 in 51 1 in 53 N/A	1 in 148 1 in 154 N/A	1 in 34, 1 in 36, N/A	87%, N/A, N/A	Any weapon, units combined in 2015. The best rifle hunt in the state but hunters are assigned a random ranch to hunt which may or may not be good.
18, 36-38 - Any Weapon	Oct 7-9	96, 88, 77	80, 74, 65	6, 5, 4	10, 9, 8	1 in 44 1 in 45 1 in 41	1 in 100 1 in 89 1 in 65	1 in 9, 1 in 11, 1 in 6	73%, 75%, 84%	Any weapon, one of the top rifle antelope hunts in the state. Hunters assigned a random ranch to hunt. South Central part of the state.
41, 42, 43, 46-48, 54-59 - Any Weapon	Aug 26-28	379, 369, 371	318, 310, 312	23, 22, 22	38, 37, 37	1 in 18 1 in 17 1 in 15	1 in 29 1 in 31 1 in 25	1 in 5, 1 in 5, 1 in 5	71%, 75%, 72%	Any weapon, third best area in the state. A lot of antelope in this area with a few good bucks. Hunters are assigned a ranch.
15, 16, 17, 21 - Archery	Aug 19-27	70, 70, N/A	59, 59, N/A	4, 4, N/A	7, 7, N/A	1 in 14 1 in 12 N/A	1 in 30 1 in 30 N/A	1 in 5, 1 in 6, N/A	37%, N/A, N/A	Archery, units combined in 2015. Best hunt in the state! Archery hunters may hunt the public land as well as any ranch they can get permission on. A few giant bucks.
18, 36-38 - Archery	Aug 19-27	26, 26, 25	21, 21, 21	2, 2, 2	3, 3, 2	1 in 16 1 in 17 1 in 13	1 in 17 1 in 13 1 in 7	1 in 4, 1 in 4, 1 in 2	50%, 32%, 11%	Archery, 2nd best hunt in the state. Hunters may hunt the public land as well as any private land they can get permission to hunt. Great bucks with low hunting pressure!
41, 42, 43, 46-48, 54-59 - Archery	Aug 12-20	100, 100, 100	87, 84, 84	6, 6, 6	7, 10, 10	1 in 7 1 in 6 1 in 5	1 in 7 1 in 5 1 in 5	1 in 1, 1 in 2, 1 in 1	42%, 29%, 28%	Archery, NE part of the state. Plenty of antelope to hunt. A few good bucks with great drawing odds. Hunters may hunt the entire units.

The Better Youth Antelope Hunts - Any Weapon

Unit - Season	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015, 2014	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Non-Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015, 2014	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
15, 16, 17, 21 - Any Weapon	Oct 21-23	19, 19, N/A	16, 16, N/A	1, 1, N/A	2, 2, N/A	1 in 25 1 in 21 N/A	1 in 38 1 in 19 N/A	1 in 19, 1 in 24, N/A	83%, N/A, N/A	Best youth hunt in the state. Giant bucks and youth are not limited to hunting an assigned ranch. Hunters may hunt the public land as well as any private they have permission on. Units combined in 2015.
18, 36-38 - Any Weapon	Oct 21-23	11, 11, 10	9, 9, 9	1, 1, 1	1, 1, 0	1 in 27 1 in 25 1 in 28	1 in 19 1 in 5 1 in 7	1 in 4, 1 in 8, N/A	70%, 100%, 100%	One of the best youth hunts in the state. Giant bucks and youth are not limited to hunting an assigned ranch. Hunters may hunt the public land as well as any private they have permission on.
41, 42, 43, 46-48, 54-59 - Any Weapon	Aug 26-28	50, 50, 50	42, 42, 42	3, 3, 3	5, 5, 5	1 in 12 1 in 10 1 in 13	1 in 12 1 in 10 1 in 11	1 in 3, 1 in 2, 1 in 4	89%, 100%, 76%	Early hunt, hunters are assigned a specific ranch to hunt during this season. Good hunt for average bucks. Great success rates.
41, 42, 43, 46-48, 54-59 - Any Weapon	Oct 21-23	50, 50, 50	44, 44, 45	3, 3, 3	3, 3, 2	1 in 7 1 in 5 1 in 8	1 in 5 1 in 5 1 in 4	1 in 1, 1 in 2, 1 in 2	84%, 83%, 88%	A lot of antelope on these units! Hunters are not limited to a ranch to hunt. Great hunt with high success rates. Later season dates.

IBEX

New Mexico is the only western state that offers ibex hunting! There have been some giant billies harvested in the past but the quality has come down over the past few years. They exist in the Florida Mountains area of unit 25 in the southwest portion of the state. There is one rifle hunt, one muzzleloader hunt, and two archery hunts to apply for that takes place on the Florida Mountains which is the main area in which they exist. The rifle hunt is considered a once-in-a-lifetime hunt and only has 25 tags for November 15-29 and is the best chance at harvesting a billie. The muzzleloader hunt is a good hunt where New Mexico allows hunters to use new age muzzleloaders with multiple power scopes. The archery hunts are brutal hunts! Very rugged terrain makes them nearly impossible to stalk and kill with a bow, even with the help of other hunters glassing and helping out. The success rates on these hunts are very indicative on how hard they can be to hunt with archery equipment. There is a youth-only hunt December 27-January 10 for ibex as well that has traditionally been a great hunt for youth hunters.



JOHN STALLONE, IBEX
NEW MEXICO

IBEX

Unit - Hunt Code	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Non-Resident Drawing odds - 2016, 2015	Guided Non-Resident/ Resident Drawing odds - 2016, 2015	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Unit 25 - IBX-1-525 Any Weapon (Once in a Lifetime)	Nov 15-29	25, 26, 26	21, 21	2, 2	3,3	1 in 157, 1 in 136	1 in 528, 1 in 474	1 in 292, 1 in 282	92%, 83%, 82%
Unit 25 - IBX-1-500 Youth Only	Dec 27- Jan 10, 2018	15, 16, 16	13, 13	1, 1	2, 2	1 in 28, 1 in 22	1 in 61, 1 in 56	1 in 49, 1 in 43	63%, 40%, 71%
Unit 25 - IBX-2-535 Archery Only	Oct 1-15	100, 100, 100	84, 84	6, 6	10, 10	1 in 5, 1 in 5	1 in 10, 1 in 8	1 in 4, 1 in 3	7%, 4%, 6%
Unit 25 - IBX-2-536 Archery Only	Jan 15-29, 2018	100, 100, 100	84, 84	6, 6	10, 10	1 in 9, 1 in 8	1 in 25, 1 in 19	1 in 10, 1 in 9	10%, 7%, 8%
Unit 25 - IBX-3-540 Muzzleloader and Bows may be used	Dec 6-20	25, 26, 26	21, 21	2, 2	3, 3	1 in 101, 1 in 87	1 in 298, 1 in 271	1 in 195, 1 in 186	50%, 39%, 50%

ORYX

The majority of the oryx hunts take place on the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). All premier, broken horn, returning veteran, and youth-only hunts have 3-day seasons. The first day is usually a Friday which is primarily used for check-in and, depending on the military activity, hunting maybe allowed that day. All hunters that hunt on the WSMR will be charged a \$150 per hunter access fee. Applicants that are successful in the draw will receive an email from WSMR with instructions and fee payment.

Hunters who draw a WSMR hunt and their guests will have to complete a security background check to be allowed on the range. Other restrictions that apply to hunters who draw tags on the range can be found in the regulations.



LOGAN GOUGH, 38" ORYX
NEW MEXICO

The premier hunts are considered to be once-in-a-lifetime hunts. We have included all of the premier hunts in our tables which also includes a youth-only hunt and a mobility-impaired hunt. There are also broken horn oryx hunts, population management hunts, and other off range type hunts available for oryx that can be found in the regulations.

We have included the McGregor Range oryx hunts in the tables too. They are not once-in-a-lifetime hunts. These hunts are on lands administered by Fort Bliss. Applicants

for Fort Bliss/McGregor Range hunts must possess proof of successfully completing a certified hunter education course before the hunt. Hunters may be required to visit El Paso, Texas to obtain an access pass. The hunts on the McGregor Range are easier to draw but generally have lower harvest success than the hunts on the Rhodes Canyon and Stallion Range.

Oryx hunts are easy hunts that take place in physically easy country. If you've ever wanted to hunt an oryx you should apply!

Oryx - Once in a Lifetime Hunts (except the youth hunt) - May Use Rifle, Muzzleloader or Bow

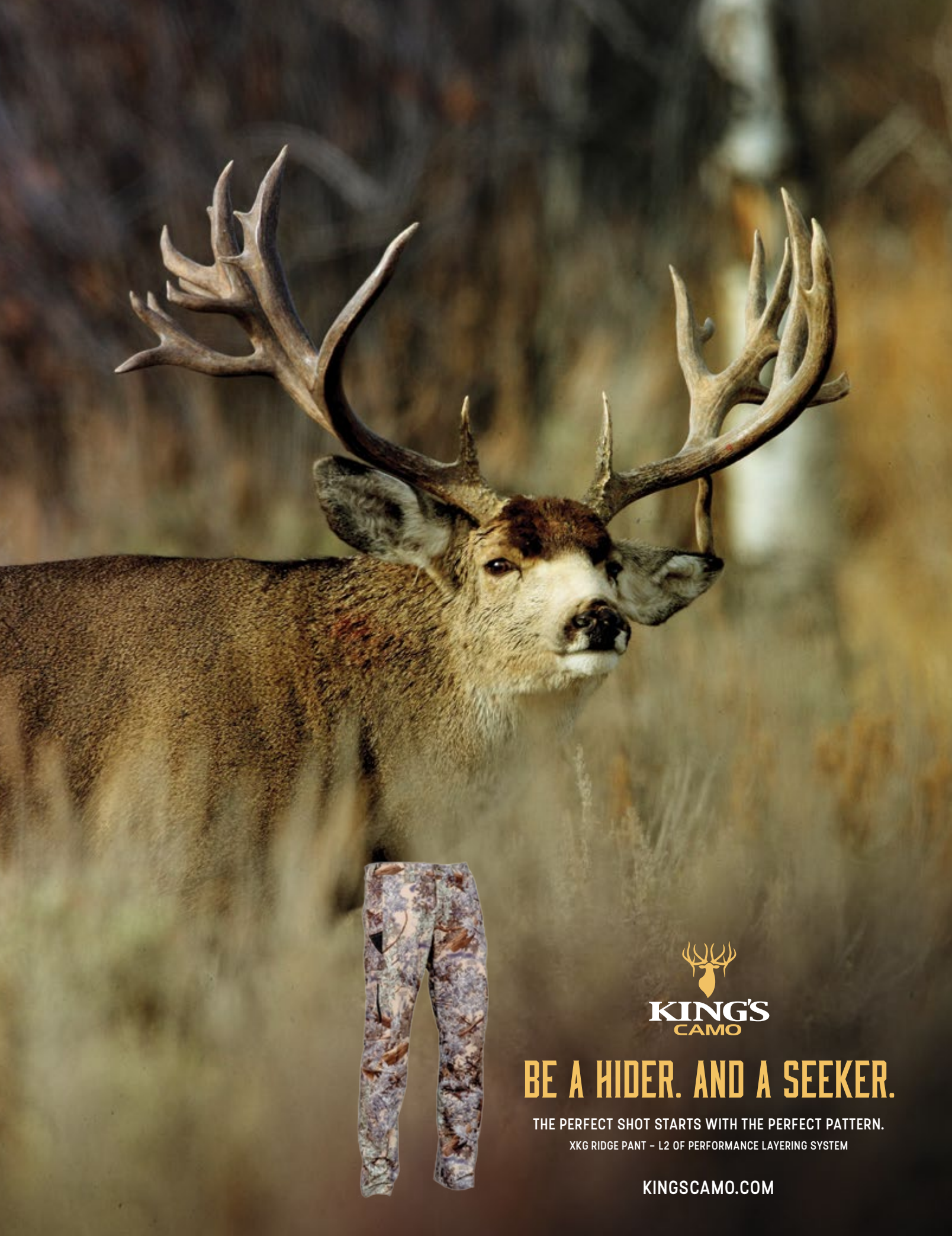
Unit - Hunt Code	Season Dates 2017	Total Tag Numbers 2017, 2016, 2015	Resident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Nonresident Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Guided draw Tag Numbers 2016, 2015	Resident Drawing Odds - 2016, 2015	Non-Resident Drawing odds - 2016, 2015	Guided Non-Resident/Resident Drawing odds - 2016, 2015	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Rhodes Canyon - ORX-1-104	Nov 10-12	45, 46, 46	38, 38	3, 3	5, 5	1 in 64, 1 in 57	1 in 98, 1 in 100	1 in 56, 1 in 67	88%, 70%, 82%
Rhodes Canyon - ORX-1-108	Jan 19-21, 2018	45, 46, 46	38, 38	3, 3	5, 5	1 in 93, 1 in 79	1 in 183, 1 in 169	1 in 84, 1 in 101	92%, 86%, 90%
Rhodes Canyon - Mobility Impaired Only/ ORX-1-101	Sept 1-3	20, 20, 20	17, 17	1, 1	2, 2	1 in 8, 1 in 7	1 in 8, 1 in 5	1 in 4, 1 in 5	100%, 83%, 89%
Rhodes Canyon - Youth Only/ ORX-1-100	Sept 1-3	30, 31, 31	26, 26	2, 2	3, 3	1 in 35, 1 in 31	1 in 34, 1 in 21	1 in 25, 1 in 20	93%, 77%, 83%
Stallion Range - ORX-1-102	Oct 13-15	45, 46, 46	38, 38	3, 3	5, 5	1 in 48, 1 in 46	1 in 65, 1 in 38	1 in 23, 1 in 23	79%, 84%, 73%
Stallion Range - ORX-1-106	Jan 5-7, 2018	45, 46, 46	37, 38	4, 3	5, 5	1 in 84, 1 in 69	1 in 108, 1 in 104	1 in 61, 1 in 62	95%, 87%, 75%
Stallion Range - ORX-1-110	Feb 16-18, 2018	45, 46, 46	38, 38	3, 3	5, 5	1 in 78, 1 in 65	1 in 120, 1 in 104	1 in 61, 1 in 48	84%, 69%, 70%
McGregor Range Hunts (These are Not Once in a Lifetime Hunts)									
McGregor Range- ORX-1-226	Dec 2-3	25, 26, 26	21, 21	2, 2	3, 3	1 in 59, 1 in 51	1 in 70, 1 in 47	1 in 27, 1 in 28	43%, 67%, 54%
McGregor Range- ORX-1-224	Jan 13-14	25, 26, 26	21, 21	2, 2	3, 3	1 in 63, 1 in 51	1 in 67, 1 in 42	1 in 37, 1 in 36	87%, 50%, 52%

BARBARY SHEEP

Some Barbary sheep tags are available over the counter and some are on a draw. These hunts can be tough. The animals move a lot and are somewhat scattered about over a big area of southern New Mexico. Hunters who want to hunt Barbary sheep are encouraged to hunt with an outfitter that has some private land leased or go with a private landowner that has good populations of sheep on their land. The public land Barbary sheep hunts are tough, especially for nonresidents that do not have the time or knowledge about the animals and where to find them. Call us if you need an outfitter and would like to go on a hunt!



JIM BRYAN, BARBARY SHEEP
NEW MEXICO, WITH ONE ON ONE ADVENTURES



BE A HIDER. AND A SEEKER.

THE PERFECT SHOT STARTS WITH THE PERFECT PATTERN.

XKG RIDGE PANT - L2 OF PERFORMANCE LAYERING SYSTEM

KINGSCAMO.COM

The LOST BUGLE Bull

BRANDON NELSON • ELK • NEW MEXICO

It was application time again and, as always, I was trying to come up with some kind of good tag. I have various amounts of points in different states, but nothing I could count on. I needed some luck. I thought of my good friend Jake Love, who is as lucky as they come, and knowing we would have a great time together we put in for New Mexico archery elk. We were excited to apply for the hunt, even though we knew the odds of drawing a tag would be tough. To our surprise we beat the odds and drew our elk tags.

As usual we hit the range hard and updated our equipment. We printed numerous maps from MyTopo and studied Google Earth. We went over info with my dad, who had hunted the unit for muzzleloader four or five times in the past. To say the least, I was pumped to get back to the unit I had hunted on the early muzzleloader 12 years ago and was successful with a big bull.

September finally arrived, and with all the anticipation and excitement we made it to New Mexico. As it so happened, it was a very warm, dry fall and rut activity was minimal. The first three days of the hunt were spent checking different areas; looking at water holes, and setting trail cameras. Half the nights were spent driving roads and listening for bugles. The elk just didn't seem to be where we planned on hunting.

Day 3 showed more promise with heavy elk sign. The trees were torn up and plenty of tracks could be found. Jake heard a few bulls bugling down the canyon. So on the morning of day 4 we decided to hunt that area. As luck would have it, it was a cloudy, cool morning. When we reached the area we wanted to hunt, we stopped our four wheelers and immediately heard numerous bugles. We were pumped and took off! We got in close to what sounded like a good bull and set up on him. I was working the calls and Jake was ready, however, it was a small bull so Jake let him walk.

With no other bulls that were big enough, we moved farther down the canyon. We heard some more bugles and in this thick country all you can do is chase bugles until you get close enough to see them. We hadn't gone far when I realized I lost my bugle. So Jake took off after the best sounding bull while I headed back up the canyon to find it. Luckily, I found it and was able to take a shortcut to meet Jake.

The bulls had gone quiet, but we heard a soft bugle not far away. So, we headed that way, cow calling back and forth. All of a sudden the bull bugled at us, so I let out a bugle right back at him; that was all it took to get him on the move in our direction. The timber was thick so we could only see glimpses of the bull, but I could see he was a shooter. He came walking in with the swagger of a heavyweight champion, ready to do some damage. When he came through my lane at about 40 yards, I cow called and stopped him. Right as I shot he took a half step and my arrow drifted a bit, but still caught a lung. Even with a marginal shot, he was no match for the Hoyt Carbon Spider. We were pumped! It's always hard to make yourself wait, but it's part of the deal. We were like two kids on Christmas morning just ready to see what Santa had brought. We waited an hour and then went to find him. After a tough tracking job with not much blood we decided to wait another half hour, just in case. Luckily we did because when we got to him he stood up, but was too sick and went right down and expired. He was an awesome bull. A 7x7 with one side perfect typical shape and the other side the 7th and main beam split and curved like a snake tongue. Wow, what luck!

Now it was Jake's turn. Things slowed down again the next day, but right at dark we met up where I had heard the elk bugling earlier. As we were moving up, a good 340 bull came out to a tank, so Jake made a stalk up on him. I was watching and wondering when he was going to shoot. That bull started to leave and I couldn't figure out why he still wasn't shooting, until I saw this huge bull

step out. The big bull ran the other bull off, right back to his herd. Jake closed in on the herd and was about in range when a coyote wandered out between him and the elk. The elk just kept staring right at the coyote in front of Jake, pinning Jake down until it got dark. We chased that bull around but never could catch a break. At one point we had his cows in range but he was on the other side of the herd. Another time we slipped right past the big bull and his cows and chased the wrong herd for a mile until we saw we were on the wrong bull. We then circled back

and got on him again but the wind changed and spooked them. Jake held out for that particular bull the rest of the hunt, but was never able to get a shot.

We had a great time in the Land of Enchantment, and I would like to thank Jake for all his help. He's harvested some great trophies, and I can't wait to be there the next time he does. I'm excited to see if we can get lucky and pull a good tag somewhere this next year.



SUPERMOON RAM

KRIS KOHLHOFF • BIGHORN SHEEP • NEW MEXICO



G.T. Nunn, Quarai Silva and I arrived in unit 20, two days before opening day, just as the Super Moon was setting behind the Black Range to the west of I-25. As the sun rose, we exited the freeway and went straight to the mountains to look for sheep. Bobby Duran had just spent the three previous days on the mountain and would return the night before the opener. We found a very good ram where Bobby had told us to look and watched him graze along the base of the high cliffs till the sun got high and he bedded in some very high ledges.

Off we went to the Arrey Café for lunch. (The red chili pork burrito is not to be missed.) Then to a ranch house on the west side of Caballo Reservoir to get our bedrolls out before heading back to three different places along the 30-mile long mountain range to look for other sheep. Mid morning the next day, we located our ram from the day before in a slightly different location along with several other rams and ewes. G.T. and Quarai spent some time comparing and discussing the larger rams we had seen on the mountain and knew which one we would target on opening morning.

A rancher running cows on the BLM lease pulled up to our spotting area on his way to check a water tank further up the hillside. After offering him a beverage, we spent quite a while discussing ranching, hunting, history of the area, politics, and comical encounters with all the local wildlife. I got us out of any further discussion by suggesting to G.T. we needed to go to lunch at the same café again. The rancher must have forgotten about checking his water because we ended up eating his dust all the way off the mountain to the river crossing at Caballo dam. After a great green chili cheeseburger, we went back to the spot to locate our guy and put him to bed. In the fading light we put our plan together for opening morning.

I heard G.T.'s footsteps and then the click of the light switch and jumped out of bed. Before I could get all my clothes on, I heard the sizzle of bacon in the skillet and smelled the coffee. There was a little tension in the air as we made our burritos. We would lock and load before leaving this morning.

We were at the spotting area at 0300 hours. Bobby Duran set up his optics and would stay there while I



followed G.T. and Quarai up the ridgeline in the moonlight. The slightly waning gibbous Super Moon provided 90% illumination for our climb, making headlamps unnecessary. Along the way we surprised some cows in the moonlight and moved a few Mule deer does.

We got to our chosen saddle near the base of the high cliffs an hour before sunrise. The three of us quietly sat below the crest of the hill. I was visualizing looking over that hill, seeing the ram, getting comfortable behind

the scope, and the long journey for my slam being over. When the sun came up and we peaked over the crest, we found several rams and lots of ewes but not the right ram. We moved further up the ridgeline and looked some more with no luck. As we were moving to the next location a previously unseen ewe moved over and down our ridge out of sight about 200 yards away. Quarai, in the middle, said, "There he is!" and pointed downhill to our left.

Down below us about a 1,000 yards was our ram with a collared ewe and two lambs. G.T. verified it and started taking us down the mountain to close the distance. We found a good spot and after moving several rocks and stacking two packs, I got comfortable behind the scope and put one in the chamber.

At low power I found the ram and ewe bedded behind a tree at 600 yds and zoomed in to wait and see what would happen next. I didn't even think of what I was about to accomplish as the ram started moving up the mountain towards us. He looked majestic. Quarai called out the distance every 25 yards as he got closer. At 300 yards the ram paused, I pulled the trigger, and he was down. The walk to him was quick and I was awed by what lay there. I had a picture of my other rams with the names

of all the people who were there, when we touched the horns and silently thanked each one. It had been another great sheep hunt in some of the coolest country with some tremendous people. I got a little emotional on the ride down the mountain. We celebrated with lunch again at the Arrey Café.

There will be no more waiting for my name to come out of the tumbler at the One More For Four drawing. This year I get to pick up my Slam and FNAWS plaques at GSCO and the Sheep Show. New Mexico Game & Fish scored the ram at 176-1/8. I'll have a great reason to go to both shows again in 2018 when I can submit it for the ram awards. Special thanks to G.T., Quarai, and Bobby with whom I shared that great hunt on the mountain.





THE FUTURE OF DIGISKOPING

CAPTURE EVERY
MOMENT IN THE
FIELD WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE
AND OPTICS

THE PERFECT TOOL FOR EVERY HUNTER

- LIGHTWEIGHT KITS AVERAGE ONLY 1.6 OZ
- LIFETIME WARRANTY
- ULTRA STRENGTH - ABS PLASTIC
- NYLON REINFORCED CASES
- FITS ALMOST ANY PHONE AND ANY OPTIC



WWW.PHONESKOPE.COM

800.790.4480





Photo by Cody Newman

OREGON 2017

DEPARTMENT: Department of Fish and Wildlife			ADDRESS: 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
CITY: Salem	STATE: OR	ZIP: 97302	PHONE: 503-947-6000
EMAIL: odfw.info@state.or.us			WEBSITE: www.dfw.state.or.us

Resident and Nonresident Tag/License/ Stamps Required and Fees

	Adult Resident	Nonresident	Resident and Nonresident Youth 17 years of age or younger
Hunting License	\$32	\$160.50	\$10
Controlled Hunt application	\$8	\$8	\$8
Sheep and Goat Tag Fees	\$132.50	\$1,413	N/A
Elk Tag	\$46	\$549	N/A
Deer Tag	\$26.50	\$414	N/A
Antelope Tag	\$48	\$369	N/A

New Changes for 2017: All controlled hunt tag numbers have been set for 2017. The tag numbers listed in the 2017 Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations are the tags available to be drawn for the fall 2017 seasons.

Application Deadlines and Draw Results:

Controlled Hunt Application Deadline	Regular Draw Results Available By:	Leftover Tags Go on Sale:
May 15	June 20	July 1

Draw results will be made available by June 20 for big game tags. Check draw results by visiting the website, www.odfw.com or by calling the ODFW Controlled Hunts at 503-947-6102.

Application Instructions/How to Apply: To apply for controlled hunts, hunters may go to <https://or.outdoorcentral.us/or/license>. All hunters must purchase a current nonrefundable hunting license to apply in the draw regardless if you will be hunting in Oregon

that year or not. ODFW accepts VISA and MasterCard to pay for your license and related documents. Online license fees are the same as fees paid at an ODFW licensing agent or an ODFW office. An additional \$2.00 shipping and handling fee applies to online purchases, except for instant fulfillment items. There is only one fee per transaction, regardless of how many items are purchased. You may also apply using paper applications. To apply by mail or fax, use the application form at odfw.com/resources/forms_applications. An extra \$2.00 shipping and handling fee applies.

Fees to Apply: Applicants must purchase a non-refundable hunting license and submit a non-refundable \$8 fee per species to apply for controlled big game tags. Once drawn, successful applicants will then need to purchase the actual big game tag. Applicants who draw sheep and goat tags must purchase their tag by the day before the season end date. Applicants who draw bear, antelope, elk and deer tags must purchase their tags the day before the earliest hunt period opens. Licenses, tags, and controlled hunt applications may be obtained at license agents throughout the state, via the internet (www.odfw.com/online_license_sales), or through the headquarters office by mail, fax, or in person.

Leftover elk, deer, and antelope tags for hunts with fewer applicants than there are tags will be sold on a first come first served basis beginning July 1, 2017.

Correcting Errors or Changing Applications: If there is an error on your controlled hunt application (incorrect party leader's license number, hunt choice, etc.), or if you need to change your application, you can contact the controlled hunt staff by June 1 to have it corrected. There

DISCLAIMER: This information is pertinent to 2017 applications and is to be used as a general reference only. Refer to the official state regulations when applying in the state draw.

is no charge for the first controlled hunt application change for each controlled hunt series (200 Series = Elk, 400 Series = Pronghorn, etc.) but there is a \$25.00 fee for subsequent application changes to the same hunt series. Mail a photocopy of your application with the corrections marked to ODFW Controlled Hunts, 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE Salem, OR 97302, or fax to 503-947-6113 or 6117.

How the Draw System Works: In Oregon, all first choice hunt choices are considered before anyone's second through fifth choices are considered. If tags remain, the draw sequence will move on to second through fifth choices or until all tags are issued. Preference points do not apply to second or lower choices.

Bonus/Preference Point System: Bighorn sheep and Mountain goat do not have any bonus points associated with them. Elk, deer, and antelope are under a preference point system where of the total tag quota, 75% of the tags in a particular unit, are awarded to applicants with the most preference points. The remaining 25% of the tags are distributed on a random draw without regard to preference points. Hunters who apply and do not receive their first choice for elk, deer, or antelope controlled hunts receive a preference point for future controlled drawings for those species. Drawing a first choice hunt within a hunt series takes the successful hunter's point total back to zero whether or not they purchase the tag. Preference points will be kept on file under a person's hunter/angler ID. Hunters may apply for "points only" using a points saver code that is specific for each species. You may purchase one point saver (point only) from July 1- November 30 if you did not apply in the normal controlled hunt drawing for that species. Points will remain in the system regardless of how many years the applicant goes without applying.

Resident/Nonresident Quotas: A maximum of 3% of tags for antelope and a maximum 5% of tags for controlled deer and controlled elk hunts can be issued to nonresidents. No less than 5% and no more than 10% of all Bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat tags will be issued to nonresidents. Less than the maximum percentage may be issued, as nonresident applications receive no preference other than existing preference points in the drawings. The Guides and Outfitters Program impacts the number of nonresident elk, deer, and antelope tags available in the drawing as well. Outfitters may be issued a number of tags equal to one-half the nonresident tags drawn in the previous year. Tags awarded to guides but not sold by April 15th are available in that year's big game drawing.

Waiting Periods: A person may draw only one controlled Bighorn sheep and one Rocky Mountain goat tag in a lifetime. There are no other waiting periods for any other species.

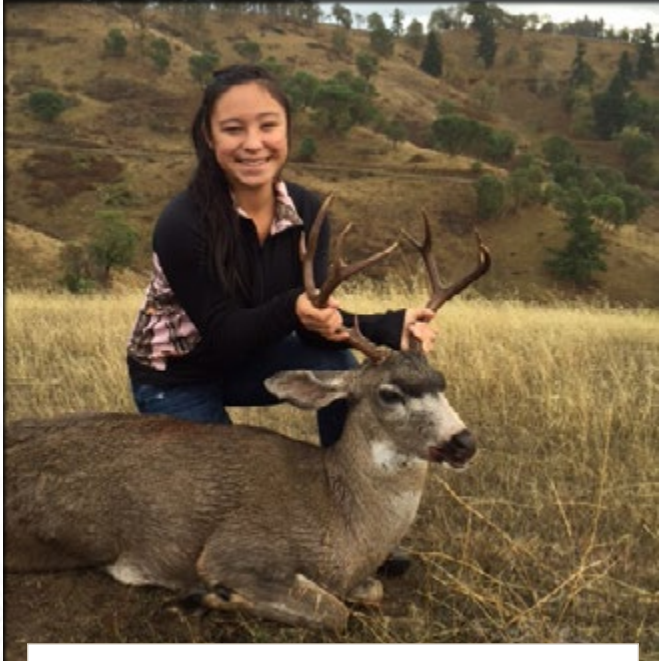
Group Applications: Party-size limitations are 18 hunters for deer and elk and only two hunters for antelope. No party applications are permitted for Bighorn sheep or Rocky Mountain goat. All persons in parties that exceed the allowed party size will be considered single applicants in the drawing. Parties will not be split to fill hunt quotas. If the nonresident maximum is reached, parties composed solely or partially of nonresidents will not receive tags in that particular hunt. All applicants, including party leader must purchase separate applications. Parties must assign one member as the party leader. Each party member, except party leader, must enter their party leader's hunter/angler ID number on their application. All members must list the same choices as the party leader on their individual applications. Party applicant points shall be determined by totaling preference points of all



CARL MCCARY, BLACKTAIL DEER
OREGON, WITH EDEN RIDGE OUTFITTERS



CHRISTINE GETCHELL, BIGHORN SHEEP
OREGON, WITH SHEEP MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS



DREW FARMER, BLACKTAIL DEER
OREGON, WITH 4X4 OUTFITTERS



NICK BEST, ELK
OREGON

party members and then calculating the average of this total. Average party preference points will be rounded up from .51 and rounded down from .50 to the next whole number

Age Restrictions: Youth must be 12 years old before they are actually able to hunt. Youth nine years of age or older are eligible to apply for “points only” provided they have a social security number, a hunter/angler ID number, and purchase a hunting license.

Youth Applications/Fees: Youth 17 years of age and younger may buy a youth hunting license to apply in the draw which is \$10 for both residents and nonresidents. Normal application fees then apply.

Hunter Education Requirements: Youth 17 and younger must have a hunter education certificate or a department issued document (ex. hunting license) which includes their hunter education certificate number in their possession to hunt anywhere except on land owned by their parent or legal guardian. See www.dfw.state.or.us/education/hunter/ for hunter education information.

Tag Transfers and Options Once Drawn: Oregon does not have a tag transfer program. Hunters will not be refunded the hunting license fee or the nonrefundable application fee. Hunters successful in the draw have the choice of whether or not to purchase the actual big game tag. Once the tag is purchased it is nonrefundable except for possible extreme circumstances.

Mandatory Report Requirements: All hunters must

report the success of their hunt by going online to www.odfw.com/resources/hunting/reporting or call toll free at 1-866-947-ODFW(6339).

WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

Archery: Broadhead blades must be fixed, unbarbed, and at least 7/8" wide. It is illegal to hunt with or possess mechanical or moveable blade broadheads when hunting game mammals. No device secured to or supported by a bow may be used to maintain the bow at full draw. No electronic devices may be attached to bow or arrow, except lighted arrow nocks. No device that supports or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow string when the bow is at rest (undrawn) may be secured to or supported by a bow's riser.

Muzzleloader: Scopes are not allowed. Muzzleloaders may not use centerfire primers. It is illegal to hunt with jacketed bullets, sabots, and bullets with plastic or synthetic tips or bases. The muzzleloader must have an open ignition. See regs for full description of the restrictions.

Rifle: Fully automatic firearms prohibited. Semiautomatic rifles with a magazine capacity greater than five cartridges prohibited. Military or full-metal jacket bullets in original or altered form are prohibited. Hunters may use any muzzleloader with any ignition type except matchlock, any legal sight, any propellant, or any bullet type during centerfire firearm seasons, provided the weapon meets caliber restriction for the species

Landowner Tags: Oregon has a landowner system where landowners must register, file tag distribution forms, and purchase controlled hunt applications. Applicants then apply using the purchased applications in the draw process by May 15. For more information contact controlled hunts at 503-947-6100.

Outfitter Tags: The Guides and Outfitters Program provides guides and outfitters with the opportunity to market nonresident tags. A number of tags equal to one-half the nonresident tags drawn in the previous year are available through this program. Guides certified by the Oregon State Marine Board submitted applications and competed for the right to market these tags. Tags not sold to guides by April 15 are available in that year's big game drawing. Information on Guides and Outfitters can be obtained from Oregon State Marine Board in Salem, 503-378-2519.

Raffle and Auction Tags: Oregon does offer some excellent raffle tag opportunities each year. Raffle hunts available in 2017 are: Governor's Statewide Deer & Elk Combination, Statewide Deer, Southeast Oregon Deer, Central Oregon Deer, Northeast Oregon Deer, Statewide Elk, Northeast Oregon Elk, Central/Southeast Elk, Western Oregon Elk, and Rocky Mountain Goat, Antelope and Bighorn Sheep. Raffle tickets must be purchased by May 1, 2017. For more information go to www.OregonRaffleHunts.com.

Oregon also has a variety of auction tags for Bighorn sheep, Mountain goat, deer, elk, and antelope that are valid statewide in most cases. These tags are marketed by various hunter/conservation groups from January through May at different events with the revenue used for big game management, research, and habitat projects. You can view the list of 2017 Oregon auction tags on page 22 of the 2017 Oregon Big Game Regulations or in the January Issue of Epic Outdoors Magazine on page 34.

Our Take on Oregon: Oregon is incredibly diverse when it comes to hunting big game. They have Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep, California Bighorn sheep, Mountain goat, Rocky Mountain elk, Roosevelt elk, Mule deer, Blacktail deer, Columbia whitetails, Eastern whitetails, and antelope. They do not manage for any kind of trophy quality generally speaking. The trophy hunts that do exist in Oregon are usually strategic seasons with low tag numbers in an over-hunted unit. Oregon prides itself in managing for quantity.

The downside is the limited trophy potential of most of the state and the very limited percentage of nonresident tags given.

Oregon is a moderately expensive state to apply in if you are applying for multiple species. There is not a

point system in place for sheep or Mountain goat so everyone is on the same playing field every year. We know many people, including Epic consultants Jason Carter and Adam Bronson, that have drawn California Bighorn sheep tags in the state of Oregon and so it's hard not to encourage everyone to apply. The drawing odds for nearly any "quality" hunt hardly justifies the nonrefundable cost of applying.

In 2016, Oregon added what they call Premium Hunts which are extra draw hunts for deer, elk, and antelope in many of the controlled hunt areas. There is only one permit drawn for each unit and hunters may only submit one hunt choice per Premium Hunt species. Deer and elk tags are valid in each unit from September 1- November 30 and antelope season is August 1- September 30. You may apply for these hunts in addition to the regular controlled hunts. There are no preference points issued or considered for these Premium Hunts. Simply put, these hunts have longshot odds at tags with extended seasons and offer a few great opportunities if you get lucky. The \$8 application fee per species is required for these Premium Hunts.

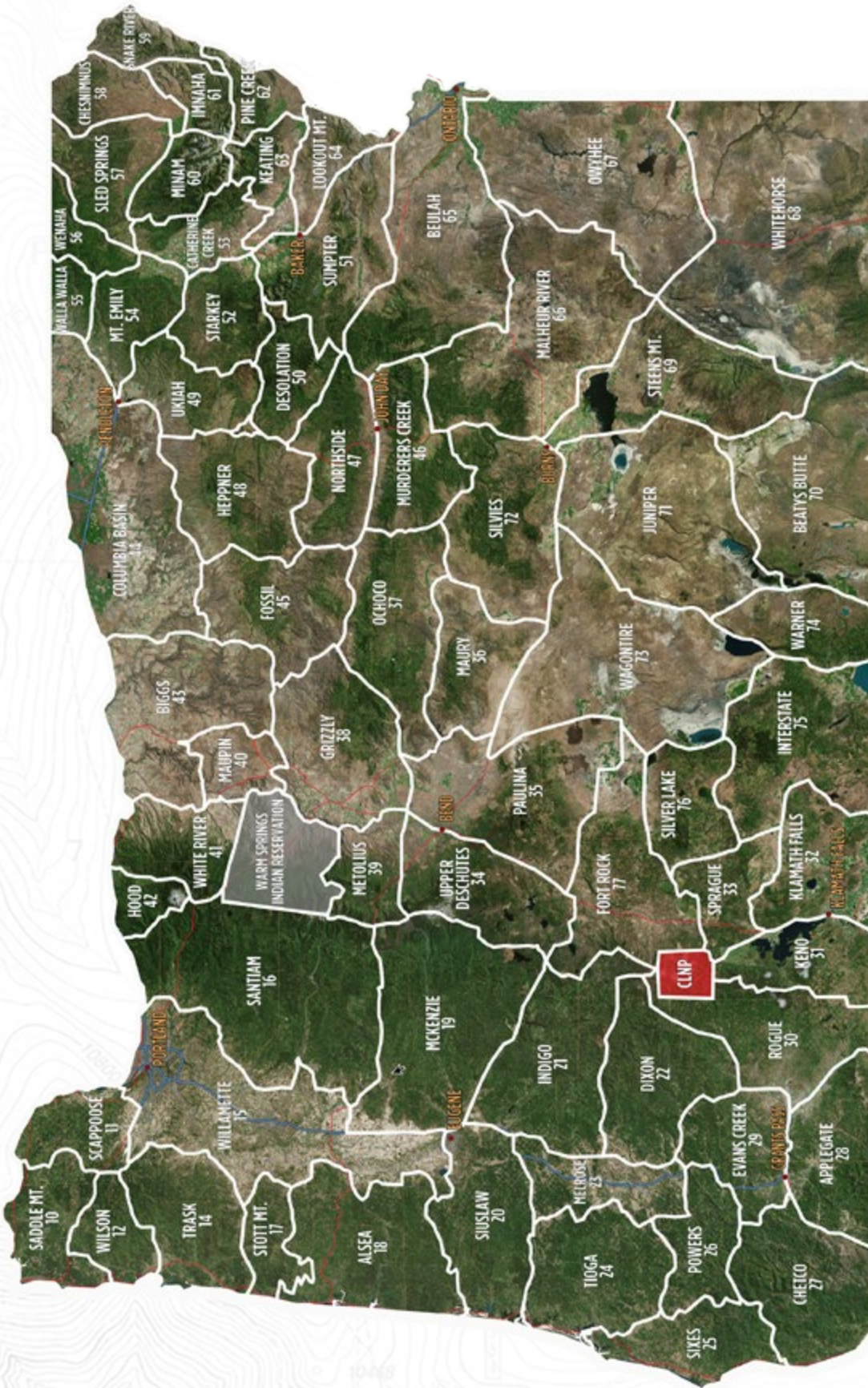
If you are just starting to apply and do not have any points in the state of Oregon, you could avoid applying there and not feel too bad about it. If you want to go for the chance to draw, then jump in and apply for everything and make the most of the nonrefundable cost to apply.

Oregon Resources	
Unit Maps	www.oregonhuntingmap.com
Public lands information Center	www.plcmapcenter.org
Regulations	http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big_game/index.asp#big_game_regs



JASON THORP, ELK, OREGON
WITH 4X4 OUTFITTERS

OREGON UNITS MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRIBAL

DISCLAIMER: For exact boundaries refer to official state maps. This map is for general reference only.

OREGON SHEEP

Oregon has both Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep and California Bighorn sheep with the majority of their tags being issued for California Bighorn. Most of the units have moderate to easy access by sheep hunting standards so just about anyone could hunt them. We list all of the units available to nonresidents in 2017 which is just one unit for Rockies and five units for California bighorn. The Owyhee unit has had a tag in the past, but was closed for 2017 due to some disease issues so nonresidents lost one unit from which to apply for this year. Hunters are encouraged to apply for more than one hunt area in case your first hunt choice is cancelled, which doesn't happen often but with sheep herds, they are prone to disease outbreaks that can result in unit closures.

The Lookout Mountain unit for Rocky Mountain Bighorns is a great hunt with the potential to kill a book ram, and a 186" ram was killed here in 2017. The East and West John Day units for California Bighorns continue to be the best units for trophy rams. Hunters in these units can float the river and hunt the canyons and breaks as you go, or hunt from on top. There are some private lands that restrict access that require trespass fees or using an outfitter to maintain the best access to all the sheep country.

Epic Outdoors consultants Adam Bronson and Jason Carter have both been lucky and drawn Oregon California



RICK KREWSON, ROCKY MTN BIGHORN SHEEP
OREGON, WITH SHEEP MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

Bighorn tags in the past. Jason drew the West John Day the first year it opened to nonresidents in 2004 and Adam drew the East Beatys Butte unit several years back. While the drawing odds don't tell you that you should expect to draw a sheep tag in Oregon, we've done it! So it's hard to tell you it's not worth trying to draw a tag yourself!

Sheep						
Unit	2017 Season Dates	Resident Permits 2017, 2016, 2015	Nonresident Permits 2017, 2016, 2015	Resident Drawing Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Nonresident Drawing Odds 2016, 2015, 2014	Our Take on the Hunt:
Lookout Mountain #2 564A2	Sept-9-Sept 24	1, 1, 1	1, 1, 1*	1 in 320 1 in 511 1 in 171	1 in 530 1 in 597* 1 in 598*	Rocky Mountain Bighorns. Easier access unit with some private land that requires access fees. Can drive to higher points in the unit and hunt down. Great hunt for 175-180" rams with book ram potential. A 186" ram killed here in 2016. Sheep herd estimated at 275.
E John Day River #2 543A2	Oct 30-Nov 7	2, 2, 2	1, 1, 1	1 in 149 1 in 174 1 in 118	1 in 509 1 in 525 1 in 350	Great hunt during the rut! 160-170" rams with even better potential. A 176" ram was killed here in 2016. Sheep located in the river gorge and breaks along the John Day River. Private land limits access from on top so you must pay for access or hire an outfitter. Self guided hunters must float the river to access public lands where the sheep are. Borders the West John Day unit and sheep mix with both units. Sheep herd estimated at 375.
W John Day River #2 543A5	Oct 30-Nov 7	2, 2, 2	1, 1, 1	1 in 77 1 in 158 1 in 53	1 in 440 1 in 390 1 in 337	Great hunt during the rut! 160-170" rams with even better potential. Sheep located in the river gorge and breaks along the John Day River. Private land limits access from on top so you must pay for access or hire an outfitter. Self guided hunters must float the river to access public lands where the sheep are. Borders the East John Day unit and sheep mix with both units. Sheep herd estimated at 325.
Hart Mountain Refuge 570A	Sept 2-Sept 15	2, 2, 2	1, 1, 1	1 in 690 1 in 749 1 in 710	1 in 294 1 in 233 1 in 389	Southern Oregon on the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. Hot desert type country that is open and glassable but not always easy to get around. Rams typically not as big, expect top end rams in the 150's. Sheep herd estimated at 196.
E Beatys Butte/ Alvord Peaks #2 570B2	Sept 5-Sept 18	2, 2, 2	1, 1, 1	1 in 181 1 in 136 1 in 152	1 in 328 1 in 397 1 in 217	Southeastern Oregon in hot, dry, open country with the Pueblo Mountains holding the bulk of the sheep. Easy to get around the bases of the mountains and glass from long distances. Some rams scattered out in the low lava hills and rims to the west. Doesn't have giant rams expect 150-160" rams. Overall an easy hunt. Sheep herds in these units estimated at 410.
S Central #1 575A1	Aug 19-Sept 1	3, 3, 3	1, 1, 1	1 in 247 1 in 231 1 in 281	1 in 382 1 in 146 1 in 341	A bunch of different mountain ranges and rim country spread around neighboring units in southern Oregon. Dry hot country especially during this early season. Some sub populations have declined the last few years. Still estimated 400+ sheep in these units. A lot of different areas to look for sheep if trying to turn up a big ram, but plenty of nice rams. Expect 150-160" rams with an occasional real big ram being killed.

*tag was issued in Lookout Mt #1 in 2015 and 2014

OREGON ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

For 2017, Oregon is issuing 23 Mountain goat permits in the draw with two of those being available to nonresidents. Nonresidents can apply for the second hunt in the Elkhorn unit which has season dates of September 18-26th, and the first hunt in the Hat Point unit which has a season of September 9-24th. Drawing odds for nonresidents in 2016 for the Elkhorn #2 hunt were 1 in 700 and nonresident drawing odds were 1 in 536 in the Hat Point #1 hunt. Both of these units produce some trophy goats with B&C potential and aren't too difficult to access and hunt. The Elkhorn unit is the physically easier of the two units with good access and some trails that you can even use mountain bikes or motorbikes to get to some of the goat country. You can drive to the higher parts of the Hat Point unit and then hike the ridges from there to look for goats by glassing below on the steep breaks and slopes. You may need to drop down 1,500-3,000 vertical feet to kill the goat you are after, and then hike back uphill, so be prepared for that. In addition to these units, another top unit for Oregon residents to apply for B&C goats is the South Snake River unit. The drawing odds aren't good but if you're already applying in Oregon and you want a Mountain goat, you should add it for just \$8.



NICK BEST, MTN GOAT
OREGON

OREGON ELK

Oregon has both Rocky Mountain elk and Roosevelt elk. We have listed what we feel are the better elk hunts in the state within our tables. If you take a look at the elk seasons and tag quotas, you will find that a good portion of the elk units offer literally hundreds of elk tags comprised of both antlerless, spike only, and bull tags. In some cases, there are over a thousand tags in a given unit. There are obviously a lot of elk in Oregon but even the trophy units don't really have trophy bulls in them with a couple exceptions, depending on the year.

The best Rocky Mountain elk units in Oregon are all clustered together in the northeast corner of the state, for the most part. As with most states, the archery hunts are generally the best seasons to have a decent chance at killing a good bull. The trophy hunts take way more points to draw than they are worth but if you have them, use them! The archery seasons are much better seasons, in our opinion, as the rifle hunts have many other tags such as spike-only tags during the trophy hunts which creates a ton of pressure.

The best Roosevelt elk hunts are located in the far southeast part of the state. Most Roosevelt elk tags for both rifle and archery hunters are offered over the counter, allowing an unlimited number of people to hunt.

Roosevelt's live on the western edge of the state in some of the thickest country there is. There is a lot of good private ground that is known as timber company ground that has some great habitat and clear cuts throughout that have a lot of elk in them.



BILL THORPE, ROOSEVELT ELK
OREGON

Best Rocky Mountain Elk Hunts

Elk Units - Hunt #	2017 Season Dates	Total Number of Tags 2017, 2016, 2015	Total # 2016 1st Choice Applicants	Resident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Number of Nonresident Tags Available in 2016	Nonresident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
Archery Hunts								
Wenaha #1 - 256R1	Aug 26 - Sept 24	40, 39, 40	2,434	57% drew with 18 points	1	33% drew with 20 points	58%, 66%, 58%	Archery hunt for 320-340"+ bulls! Great success rates. Definitely one of the best units in the state. Some rugged wilderness type country and some easier access country.
Walla Walla #1- 255R1	Aug 26 - Sept 24	25, 25, 25	539	89% drew with 14 points	1	100% drew with 18 points	38%, 56%, 48%	Archery hunt in the NW corner of the state for 300-330"+ bulls. Some big glassable country, plenty of elk and some rugged terrain.
Mt Emily #1- 254R1	Aug 26 - Sept 24	55, 54, 56	2,060	4% drew with 14 points	1	50% drew with 18 points	63%, 54%, 45%	Archery hunt in some rugged, steep country for 300-330"+ bulls. Good elk population and good quality. One of the best Oregon has.

Rifle Hunts

Wenaha #2 - 256Y1	Oct 25 - Nov 12	40, 39, 40	3,330	52% drew with 17 points	1	100% drew with 20 points	54%, 50%, 45%	Rifle hunt later in the year. Not an easy hunt with some thick rugged country. Limited pressure, plenty of bulls. Even though only 40 bull tags on this hunt, hundreds of spike hunters will be here too.
Walla Walla #2 - 255Y1	Oct 25 - Nov 12	27, 27, 27	1,140	36% drew with 15 points	1	100% drew with 19 points	79%, 66%, 60%	Rifle hunt later in the year. A few big bulls with mostly 300-320"+ bulls available. Some easy huntable country with some tough access country as well. Hundreds of spike hunters will be here too.
Mt Emily #2 - 254Y1	Oct 25 - Nov 12	57, 56, 59	3,991	28% drew with 15 points	1	33% drew with 19 points	76%, 66%, 70%	Rifle hunt, some steep, rugged country. 300-330"+ bulls. Late season hunt with hundreds of spike hunters during this season. Plenty of public land and great success rates.
Mill Creek Watershed - 255A	Oct 28 - Nov 5	20, 20, 20	288	11% drew with 11 points	1	50% drew with 16 points	37%, 27%, 41%	Rifle hunt in the NE part of the state. Very limited tags with no spike hunters. Rugged thick country, hiking, makes for a tough hunt. 300-320"+ bulls.
Snake River #2 - 259Y	Nov 4-12	275, 270, 275	1,349	74% drew with 6 points	8	100% drew with 11 points	49%, 55%, 53%	Rifle hunt in the NE part of the state. Extremely rugged nasty country. Horses and backpack recommended. Not an easy hunt but a few 300-330"+ bulls. You're going to earn it.

Best Roosevelt Elk Hunts

Archery Hunts

Powers - 226R	Aug 26 - Sept 24	63, 62, 62	270	69% drew with 3 points	2	33% drew with 8 points	28%, 22%, N/A	Archery hunt with very limited tags for Roosevelts. Excellent hunt considering most of the Roosevelt elk hunts are over the counter tags. Rut hunt, public and private land. Great hunts on timber company property on which access can be tough.
---------------	------------------	------------	-----	------------------------	---	------------------------	---------------	---

Rifle Hunts

Melrose #2 - 223A2	Aug 1 - Mar 31, 2018	10, 10, 10	386	55% drew with 10 points	1	100% drew with 19 points	48%, 38%, 45%	Rifle hunt with extremely broad season dates. One of the best hunts in the state with very limited tags. Urban type hunt with alot of private land. Expect to pay trespass fees. A few great bulls!
Sixes #1 - 225X	Nov 11-15	140, 139, 120	287	4% drew with 1 point	6	25% drew with 2 points	42%, 44%, 37%	First rifle hunt on this unit. Short season with some rugged, thick public land and some private land as well. Timber company land produces good bulls. A few good bulls!
Powers #2 - 226Y	Nov 18-26	105, 103, 110	796	1% drew with 3 points	3	50% drew with 10 points	46%, 35%, 39%	Rifle hunt on one of the best Roosevelt units in the state. Tough season dates with November season dates. Mostly thick rugged country on the public. Plenty of timber company country with good bulls.
Chetco #2 - 227Y	Nov 18-26	76, 76, 77	150	55% drew with 1 points	3	100% drew with 2 points	32%, 29%, 28%	Rifle hunt on some crazy big country. Big chunk of Wilderness country in the center of the unit. Mostly public land with some very thick rugged country. Some timber company land is good too.

OREGON DEER

There isn't another state that offers as many species of deer as Oregon does. It is home to Mule deer, Blacktail deer, Columbia whitetail, and the Eastern whitetail.

Mule deer are generally found from the eastern edge toward the western side of the state in 3/4ths or so of the state. There are good deer populations found in most units where many of which offer archery tags over the counter. There are a few select options for trophy archery hunters to apply for both early and late seasons. When talking trophy options we should probably define that as a 170"+ type deer that could be found there. They just are not interested in managing deer for a good age structure and allowing bucks to reach their full potential. We have listed the better deer units in our tables; however, there are always a couple stud bucks that get harvested in relatively unknown parts of the state.

The Blacktail deer are located west of I-5 that runs north and south across just east of the coast line. The blacktails located east of I-5 are considered to be a Mule deer cross and aren't considered officially blacktails by most hunters as well as Boone and Crockett. Most of the tags issued for blacktails are divvied out over the counter. We list the Applegate muzzleloader unit as the only hunt in our tables due to the fact that the other decent "true" blacktail units have over the counter tags.

The Applegate hunt can be a great hunt with the right weather.

There are very few Eastern Whitetails compared to Idaho and Montana but they do have a decent number of them in the northwest corner of the state in the Wenaha and Sled Springs units along the Washington border. They offer some muzzleloader tags for the north Wenaha-east Sled Springs and an archery hunt for them in the Wenaha unit that can be a decent hunt for nice bucks.

Oregon Game and Fish states that the Columbian White-tailed deer was first recognized as endangered in 1967 and listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1973 and under the Oregon Endangered Species Act in 1987. Two populations remain: one in the Umpqua Basin near Roseburg and one along the lower Columbia River. Oregon populations recovered sufficiently since listing to be removed from the state Endangered Species list in 1995. Efforts by ODFW, other state and federal agencies, Douglas County, and private landowners have led to the removal of the Roseburg population of the Columbian White-tailed deer from the federal Endangered Species List. We have listed the options for hunting them in our tables. While they aren't as good of hunts as they were years ago, it is still a good use of your points to give it a try. You are only giving up marginal Mule deer hunts from our perspective to apply for them.



TORRI LONGGOOD, MULE DEER
OREGON, WITH SHEEP MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

Best Mule Deer Hunts

Deer Units - Hunt #	2017 Season Dates	Total Number of Tags 2017, 2016, 2015	Total # 2016 1st Choice Applicants	Resident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Number of Nonresident Tags Available in 2016	Nonresident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
Rifle								
Mt Emily - 154C	Nov 11-22	10, 10, 10	2,115	14% drew with 16 points	1	25% drew with 19 points	85%, 91%, 38%	Late season rut hunt with very few tags. Usually very high success with hunters seeing plenty of bucks. A great hunt but still not known for. Some private land with plenty of public.
Lookout Mtn - 164	Sept 30 - Oct 11	318, 315, 327	841	90% drew with 2 points	9	100% drew with 2 points	63%, 63%, 57%	Rifle hunt, has a few great bucks but can be a tough hunt. A lot of tags, early season and quite a bit of private land. A few 175"+ bucks.
Trout Creek Mtns - 168A	Sept 30 - Oct 11	74, 73, 75	1,755	4% drew with 12 points	2	33% drew with 18 points	73%, 69%, 63%	Big country in the SW corner of the state. Lower deer densities but the potential for a great buck. Big, glassable country, big rugged canyon, some rough road access. Mostly public land. Good success, 175-180"+ bucks.
Steens Mtn - 169A	Sept 30 - Oct 11	263, 260, 275	1,701	63% drew with 5 points	10	67% drew with 12 points	62%, 53%, 52%	High desert type unit with a few good bucks. Big country, some rugged rough areas with great potential. Plenty of public land with decent access and some private as well. 170-180" bucks.
Muzzleloader								
NE Whitehorse - 168M	Nov 18-30	26, 26, 27	286	12% drew with 9 points	1	100% drew with 16 points	30%, 21%, 42%	Desert unit with late season dates and low hunting pressure. Weather can make this hunt great with bucks migrating in from Idaho's unit 40! A few resident deer as well. Plenty of public land and good access.
Hart Mtn - 170M	Sept 30 - Oct 11	15, 15, 15	226	10% drew with 13 points	1	50% drew with 18 points	58%, 56%, 64%	Low tag numbers on a desert unit. Tough to find a great buck. Plenty of huntable public land.
Juniper - 171M	Nov 25 - Dec 3	10, 10, 10	479	5% drew with 15 points	1	100% drew with 21 points	83%, 90%, 75%	Good hunt in a huge public land unit. Very low tag numbers, need weather to do great. High success rates with a few 180"+ bucks.
Archery								
Metolius #1 - 139R1	Nov 1-30	20, 20, 21	2,178	5% drew with 16 points	1	33% drew with 18 points	58%, 60%, 68%	One of the best archery hunts in the state. East Central part of the state with plenty of public land to hunt even with some private land issues. 170"+ potential with great success considering archery!
Beulah - 165R	Nov 18-30	20, 20, 20	435	50% drew with 10 points	1	100% drew with 16 points	44%, 39%, 56%	Good archery hunt with these late season dates. Plenty of public land to hunt for 160-170"+ bucks.
SE Whitehorse - 168R2	Nov 18-30	20, 20, 20	127	33% drew with 6 points	1	100% drew with 15 points	31%, 19%, 0%	Pretty tough hunt with lower deer densities in this desert country. Not worth the points to draw but you could find a big resident deer out there. Accessable public land.
Hart Mtn #1 - 170R1	Aug 3-11	17, 17, 17	135	88% drew with 8 points	1	100% drew with 14 points	55%, 50%, 33%	Archery hunt in the desert in the heat of the summer! Big deer are vulnerable when it's hot, they need water. Low tag numbers, can be a good hunt for 170"+ deer. Scout hard.
Hart Mtn #2 - 170R2	Aug 12-20	17, 16, 17	61	89% drew with 6 points	0	No tag drawn	29%, 50%, 29%	2nd archery hunt here. See comments above.
Hart Mtn #3 - 170R3	Nov 1-7	5, 5, '6	132	20% drew with 11 points	1	100% drew with 17 points	67%, 60%, 20%	Rut hunt on public land with extremely low tan numbers. Can be a great hunt for 170"+ bucks. Public land with good access.

Columbia Whitetail Deer								
Deer Units - Hunt #	2017 Season Dates	Total Number of Tags 2017, 2016, 2015	Total # 2016 1st Choice Applicants	Resident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Number of Nonresident Tags Available in 2016	Nonresident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013	Our Take on the Hunt:
Umpqua - 123A	Sept 30- Oct 11	22, 21, 22	78	64% drew with 1 point	0	No tag drawn	44%, 55%, 55%	Rifle hunt. Good numbers of animals. Unit has a lot of private land. Plan on hiring an outfitter or working with a landowner.
N Bank Habitat - 123B	Dec 23- Dec 29	3, 3, 3	211	100% drew with 13 points	1	100% drew with 15 points	63%, 50%, 80%	Rifle hunt on a roadless walk in on some public land. Very few tags, can be a tough hunt with lower populations.
N Bank Habitat - 123M2	Nov 25- Dec 1	3, 3, '4	43	100% drew with 10 points	1	100% drew with 14 points	75%, 25%, 75%	Muzzleloader rut hunt with earlier season dates than the rifle. See comments above.
Umpqua - 123R1	Aug 26- Sept 24	55, 55, 55	38	100% drew with 0	2	100% drew with 3 points	14%, 29%, 27%	Archery hunt, one of the better units for Columbia Whitetails. Good numbers of deer. Private land, hire an outfitter or work with a landowner.
N Bank Habitat - 123R2	Sept 9- Sept 24	10, 10, 10	26	7% drew with 1 point	0	No tag drawn	0%, 0%, 0%	Tough hunt, No harvest. Public land walk in area, low populations. Don't apply.
Best Columbian Blacktail Deer								
Applegate Muzzleloader - 128M	Nov 11- Dec 3	315, 310, 330	1,025	43% drew with 2 points	10	40% drew with 9 points	55%, 48%, 53%	Muzzleloader hunt. This is usually the best trophy hunt for true Blacktails. Rut hunt that brings brings the bigger bucks out of the timber during this season. Public land with good access but is steep and rugged. The unit is rifle and archery hunted earlier in the year with over the counter tags.
Eastern Whitetail - Archery								
N. Wenaha - 156R2	Nov 13-26	30, 29, 30	25	100% drew with 1 point	0	No tag drawn	17%, N/A, N/A	Archery, New in 2015. Not a trophy hunt. Just nice 130" class bucks. Rut hunt with low tag numbers on public land.



OLIVIA THORPE AND 1 YEAR OLD IVAN
BLACKTAIL DEER, OREGON

OREGON ANTELOPE

On good moisture years Oregon can produce some big antelope on many different units in the southeastern part of the state. These units have abundant public land and typically easy access to antelope, it's just a matter of covering a lot of ground looking over a bunch of bucks until you find a couple that stand out. So far, this winter has really been wet in Oregon so if the pattern holds we expect it to be a good year for horn growth on antelope there. It's hard to differentiate exactly where the best buck in the state will come from each year since the best units all border each other and all have 80"+ potential on good years. On most years, Oregon produces 85"+ bucks from the units in our tables, bearing in mind that

the top end bucks are not plentiful but the genetics are there to produce them under the right conditions. We feel the best units in the state for trophy bucks are Hart Mountain, Juniper, and the Beatys Butte units. With nonresidents limited to a maximum of 3% of the antelope tags in Oregon, if you see a tag you can draw, we encourage you to apply and try to draw a tag. Point creep climbs every year since they only remove 1-3 nonresidents each year from the draw pool on the better units. The drawing odds are terrible for nonresidents and most applicants will never draw a trophy tag in their lifetime under the current system unless they already have built up 12-15+ points. Consider this before deciding to apply for Oregon antelope.

Best Antelope Hunts

Units - Hunt #	2017 Season Dates	Total Number of Tags 2017, 2016, 2015	Total # 2016 1st Choice Applicants	Resident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Number of Nonresident Tags Available in 2016	Nonresident Preference Point Drawing Odds 2016	Harvest Success 2015, 2014, 2013
Whitehorse #1 - 468A1	Aug 12- Aug 20	74, 68, 68	1,548	47% drew with 14 points	2	100% drew with 17 points	81%, 78%, 77%
Whitehorse #2 - 468A2	Aug 23- Aug 31	76, 70, 68	998	52% drew with 12 points	2	25% drew with 18 points	85%, 75%, 71%
Steens Mt - 469A	Aug 12- Aug 20	126, 126, 125	2,346	56% drew with 13 points	3	60% drew with 16 points	78%, 78%, 85%
E Beatys Butte - 470 A	Aug 12- Aug 20	95, 95, 95	1,742	77% drew with 14 points	2	50% drew with 18 points	80%, 80%, 81%
W Beatys Butte - 470B	Aug 12- Aug 20	53, 53, 53	1,825	32% drew with 16 points	1	100% drew with 18 points	100%, 95%, 85%
Hart Mtn - 470C	Sept 9- Sept 15	41, 41, 41	3,278	15% drew with 20 points	1	25% drew with 21 points	84%, 100%, 94%
Juniper - 471A	Aug 12- Aug 20	84, 84, 83	2,204	86% drew with 16 points	2	67% drew with 19 points	94%, 87%, 74%
N Wagontire - 473A	Aug 12- Aug 20	31, 31, 31	984	23% drew with 14 points	1	33% drew with 16 points	76%, 83%, 88%
S Wagontire - 473B	Aug 12- Aug 20	10, 10, 5	424	78% drew with 16 points	1	100% drew with 16 points	60%, 100%, 65%
Warner #1 - 474A	Aug 12- Aug 20	62, 62, 62	1,611	89% drew with 15 points	1	50% drew with 18 points	98%, 98%, 90%
Warner #2 - 474B	Aug 23- Aug 31	61, 61, 61	1,109	51% drew with 13 points	1	100% drew with 16 points	93%, 96%, 82%
E Beatys Butte Muzzleloader - 470M	Aug 23- Aug 31	50, 50, 50	327	100% drew with 8 points	1	100% drew with 16 points	40%, 58%, 25%

Best Archery Antelope Hunts

Hart Mtn - 470R1	Aug 3- Aug 11	27, 27, 26	605	100% drew with 15 points	1	25% drew with 17 points	73%, 62%, 83%
W Beatys Butte - 470R2	Aug 23- Aug 31	38, 38, 39	297	74% drew with 8 points	1	100% drew with 11 points	66%, 88%, 63%
Warner - 474R	Aug 3- Aug 11	48, 48, 48	453	28% drew with 8 points	1	50% drew with 15 points	57%, 65%, 61%

CARL'S *LAST* BLACKTAIL HUNT

CARL MCCRARY • 144" BLACKTAIL DEER • OREGON

There are a lot of Blacktail deer antlers and several mounted heads hanging in my garage and basement, but my 2016 buck is my biggest and last.

I killed my first blacktail buck hunting with my dad near our Washington property when I was 17. It was a spike, and it was a real highlight of my young life. Since then I have taken over 40 blacktail bucks, hunting in Washington, Oregon, and California. All are very memorable trophies.

I've been fortunate to hunt several other species of western big game: Bighorn sheep, Dall sheep, Mountain goat, Black bear, cougar, Roosevelt elk, Rocky Mountain elk, caribou, Whitetail deer and Mule deer, but blacktails have been my passion. Blacktails live in thick brush, are very nocturnal, and they don't stick around long when they sense something is amiss.

In the last 15 years I have been concentrating my hunting in trophy areas of Southwest Oregon and Northern California. During that time, I have mainly hunted alone. I have seen three bucks that I thought would "make the book" - two in the Trinity Alps and one in Southwest Oregon. The two 4X4s in California were together in steep, rocky country and as I tried to stalk down the mountain, they heard me and spooked. After hiking into gated BLM property in Oregon, I jumped five bucks together, two went to the right and three went to the left. I flopped down, propped my rifle over a dead tree, and followed the three running on the left. I shot the third one, a beautiful non-typical. When I stood up, the two bucks on the right stood sky-lined, and one was a big 4-pt which was a "Booner," way wider than his ears.

At the 2015 Washington Wild Sheep Convention I bought a Blacktail deer hunt with John McCollum of Eden Ridge Outfitters. About that same time I was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy which was sapping the strength in my arms. This was hard to take for a former timber faller. John and I hunted steep country that year and saw one great buck, but I didn't get a shot. He arranged for me to hunt again with him in late October 2016.



Ten days before the hunt I called him to cancel the hunt. John asked why, and I said I couldn't wrestle my rifle around. Even though my legs are still very strong my arm strength is gone. I think John's words were, "Carl I want to help you get a big buck. Buddy, please come down, and we will really work hard for you."

The last week in October I met up with John, his son John-John, and a second guide, Zach Hancock. John-John and I hunted a big 5X5 the first two days and Zach guided me the third day. We were hunting this buck exclusively and saw him at long-range all three days. The odd thing was, he was always with does, and he was always in the lead.

On the third morning as Zach and I climbed over the ridge and headed down the mountain to our vantage point, I spotted the buck 800 yards away, leading his does toward scattered oaks below us. Zach helped me get the .338 with a bipod set up, and I laid down in the rocks. As the deer moved right to left below us in the scattered oaks at the edge of a drop off, I struggled to

get the rifle propped up on our jackets, Zach's small sandbag, and even my binoculars. Zach checked the range at 440 yards, he adjusted the scope.

Just before he said the word "Shoot", Zach reached over and put his ear muffs on me. Then a doe stepped in front of the buck, and I held fire. When she cleared I was again about to pull the trigger when a second doe crossed in front of him. When Zach again said "Shoot" the crosshairs were steady, and I squeezed off the shot. The bullet smacked, the buck mule-kicked, and I had shot the blacktail buck of a lifetime. Thanks to the dedication of John McCollum and his crew the last game animal I will ever shoot is a 23" wide 5X5 blacktail, which my taxidermist gross scored at 144".

It has been a wonderful lifetime of hunting Blacktail deer. My first was with my dad, and my very last was with Eden Ridge Outfitters. Thanks a million John, John-John, and Zach. You guys are the best!



EPIC PARTNER DIRECTORY

We would like to thank the companies and sponsors who help make Epic Outdoors Magazine possible. Help us say thanks by supporting them. We can't thank them enough for supporting us.



UNDER ARMOUR®

@uahunt • #AlwaysLethal • #RidgeReaper
#UAForest • #uahunt



kuiu.com • #kuiu • #kuiunation



redrockprecision.com • #redrockprecision



kenetrek.com • #kenetrek

HILLEBERG
THE TENTMAKER

hilleberg.com • [#hilleberghunting](https://twitter.com/hilleberghunting)

Muley Crazy
OPTICS

Muleycrazy.com • [#Muleycrazyoptics](https://twitter.com/Muleycrazyoptics)



vortexoptics.com • [#vortexoptics](https://twitter.com/vortexoptics)



wildsheepfoundation.org • [#wildsheepfoundation](https://twitter.com/wildsheepfoundation)



phoneskope.com • [#phoneskope](https://twitter.com/phoneskope)



kingscamo.com [#kingscamo](https://twitter.com/kingscamo)



huntexpo.com • [#huntexpo](https://twitter.com/huntexpo)

2017 EPIC OUTDOORS COVER CONTEST

Submit your stories, photos, and Epic Snapshots today. Each cover shot in 2017 will receive a pair of Vortex 15x56 Kaibab HD Binoculars valued at \$1,500.

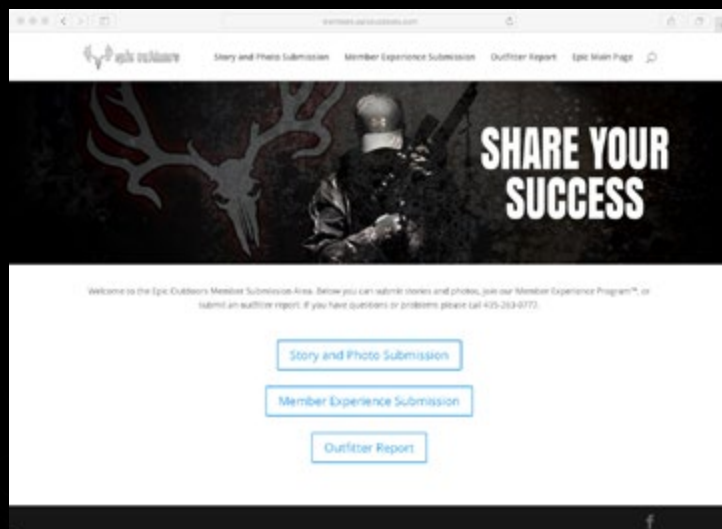


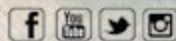
**15X56
KAIBAB HD
BINOCULARS**

Go to members.epicoutdoors.com and click on the Story and Photo Submission button if you have experienced a successful hunt and would like to send us photos and/or a story.

New Epic Snapshots!

If you don't have time to write a story we are introducing "Epic Snapshots" where you just answer a few questions about your hunt and we choose the most interesting responses you submit and publish them as a "mini" feature. Snapshots are submitted in the same location as stories, just skip the story upload part. If you have any questions or problems call our office at 435-263-0777.





WE'RE GAME TO LOOK OVER THE NEXT HILL
IF YOU ARE.



RAZOR^{HD}
SPOTTING SCOPE

The pinnacle of the high-end spotting scope landscape, Vortex® Optics' new Razor HD Spotting Scopes set a new standard in high-end optical technologies, precision craftsmanship and ultra-sleek functionality. Premium HD lens elements deliver brilliant, razor-sharp, true-to-life views. Fully multi-coated with XR Plus coatings for maximum light transmission. A smooth-as-silk helical-style focus dials in your image. Hunters who need a premium spotter that performs at the highest level have found their match with the Razor HD series.



THESE ARE MY BOOTS



UA FAT TIRE GORE-TEX®
OFF-ROAD TRACTION WITH ULTIMATE CUSHIONING.

GORE-TEX®



#THESEAREMYBOOTS