



Big Game Season Structure Guidelines 2010-2014

FINAL - September 10, 2009

The following guidelines are intended to provide overarching direction in the development and implementation of the 2010-2014 Colorado big game season structure.

1. Female animals will not be hunted earlier than August 15th or later than the end of February. Limited exceptions can be made to address unusual game damage problems or to achieve a justifiable biological outcome.
2. Seasons that occur prior to regular rifle seasons will be largely to enhance the variety of hunting opportunities, including opportunities by method of take, rather than to achieve a particular management or biological outcome. However, exceptions can be made to address specific management needs and biological objectives.
3. Regular deer and elk rifle seasons will begin no earlier than the first Saturday after October 9th. Limited exceptions can be made on a game management unit basis when all male or either-sex licenses are very limited or for justifiable management reasons. There are multiple regular rifle seasons rather than one continuous season for the following reasons:
 - a. to reduce crowding without significantly decreasing hunting opportunity;
 - b. to allow deer and elk to redistribute during breaks between seasons;
 - c. to enable better harvest management; and
 - d. for hunters and associated service providers to transition during breaks between seasons.
4. Regular rifle seasons will not extend beyond mid-November.
5. Late seasons that occur after the regular rifle seasons will be used primarily to achieve management objectives that cannot be effectively achieved during the regular rifle seasons and to address game damage issues.