

2024-2025 Fort Carson Harvest Summary



February 2025

**Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Conservation
Branch, Natural Resources & Wildlife**



Introduction

Fort Carson is an active training Army installation in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) state game management unit (GMU) 591. This summary is not all-inclusive for small game harvests but focuses the text summary on big game species harvested on Fort Carson.

Military training occurs downrange five days a week and frequently occurs seven days a week. In addition to military training there are Department of the Army and Department of Defense civilians and contractors working downrange five days a week including, but not limited to, biologists, archeologists, law enforcement, land rehabilitators, firefighters and range control staff.

Hunting and other downrange recreation are allowed on the weekends, some holidays and some weekdays as safety allows and when required staff is available to support the open recreation areas. Temporary and permanent velocity and weapon restrictions occur on Fort Carson and are enforced regardless of the hunting season.

Because military training and official duties always take priority, and there are velocity and weapon restrictions despite the hunting season, limited dates and available open areas for hunting this can create special challenges to hunters who choose to buy GMU 591 tags or choose to fill their tags on the installation with an over-the-counter (OTC) tag or multiple GMU tag.

Purpose

This text summary is the second full year of big game harvest data being collected through ISportsman. As the staff continues to collect more data, they will chart trends and patterns in the future to show big game harvest on Fort Carson and recreational access use data such as number of hunters and downrange access passes issued.

The staff issued a total of 6,130 downrange access passes from April 1, 2024 to mid-February 2025 for recreational access. The number of total downrange passes reflects the availability of all downrange activities including hunting for small and big game, scouting, downrange cycling and other recreation (hiking, photography, dog training) for that timeframe. Big game passes and some harvest data for specific seasons will be summarized in the species and seasons sections below in this text summary. Data does not include non-participants or youth hunters who harvested and reported under a mentor. The total number of downrange passes does not reflect the number of individuals checking in. An individual may check-in multiple times throughout the day while changing areas downrange. Each check-in generates a downrange pass and doesn't necessarily reflect number of visits on post.

Summaries for the 2024-25 seasons on Fort Carson

Mule Deer

Deer archery and muzzleloader draw tags include multiple GMUs to include 59, 511 and 591. Because it isn't known how many animals were harvested in the other GMUs, the percent of tags filled only reflects the percentage of tags that were filled on Fort Carson out of the number of tags issued, not the overall success rate. Only the GMU 591 specific deer rifle tags reflect the overall success rate for the license.

The total number of mule deer harvested for all seasons on post was 73 animals, with bucks accounting for 73% of the harvest and does accounting for 27% of the harvest. The total number of individual hunters for all mule-deer seasons on post was 146 individuals with 1,230 downrange passes being issued for access. Summary of mule deer data is in Table 1 below.

Season	Multiple GMU Tag	Deer Harvested	Hunters	Passes	% of hunters harvested
DRAW Archery	59,511,591	1	14	37	7%
DRAW Muzzleloader Total	59,511,591	0	2	3	0%
DRAW Rifle Total		72	130	1190	55%
Total		73	146	1230	50%
	Draw Tags	Harvested	% of tags filled		
Archery					
Buck	175	1	0.60%		
Muzzleloader					
Buck	60	0	N/A		
Doe	30	0	N/A		
Rifle					
Buck	100	52	52%		
Doe	35	20	57%		

Table 1. Summary of all mule deer data for 2024-2025 on Fort Carson

Deer Archery – Sept. 2-30, 2024

For deer archery season, one buck was harvested with CPW issuing 175 tags for GMU's 59, 511 and 591. A total of 14 individual hunters checked into Fort Carson and 37 downrange passes were issued during this season.

Deer Muzzleloader - Sept. 14-22, 2024

For deer muzzleloader season, no deer were harvested on Fort Carson with CPW issuing 60 buck tags and 30 doe tags between GMUs 59, 511 and 591. There were two hunters, and three downrange passes issued during this season.

Deer Rifle - Oct.1, 2024 to Jan. 31, 2025

From the data received, 55% of hunters with a deer rifle tag were able to fill their tag. CPW tags issued for deer rifle were 100 for bucks and 35 for does. Of the 72 deer harvested on Fort Carson, 52 were bucks and 20 were does. There were 130 individual hunters who participated and 1,190 downrange passes were issued to those hunters during deer rifle season.

Elk

All bull elk harvested from Fort Carson, GMU 591, in all seasons must have four points or more on one antler or a brow tine of 5 inches or more. Elk archery and second and third rifle seasons are unlimited, OTC tags which are shared with multiple GMUs statewide. Elk Muzzleloader draw tags are valid in GMU’s 59, 511, 581 and 591. Because the staff doesn’t know how many animals were harvested in the other GMUs, the percent of tags filled only reflects the percentage of tags that were filled on Fort Carson out of number of tags issued, not the overall success rate. Only the GMU 591 specific cow elk rifle tags reflect the overall success rate for the license.

The total number of elk harvested for all seasons on Fort Carson was 42 animals, with bulls accounting for 55% of the harvest and cows accounting for 45% of the harvest. The total number of individual hunters for all elk seasons on post was 324 individuals with 2,286 downrange passes being issued for access. Summary of elk data is in Table 2 below.

Season	Multiple GMU Tag	# Cows and # Bulls	Elk Harvested	Hunters	Passes	% of hunters harvested
OTC Archery Either- Sex	Many	2 cows and 3 bulls	5	154	1373	3%
DRAW Muzzleloader	59,511,581,591		3	13	67	23%
OTC 2nd Rifle Bull	Many		11	66	270	16%
OTC 3rd Rifle Bull	Many		4	32	55	12%
DRAW Rifle Cow		* 2 antlerless bulls	19	59	521	32%
Total			42	324	2286	13%
	Draw Tags	Harvested	% of tags filled			
Muzzleloader						
Bull	100	3	3%			
Cow	120	0	N/A			
Rifle						
Cow	45	19	42%			

Table 2. Summary of all elk data for 2024-25 on Fort Carson

Elk OTC Archery - Sept. 2-30, 2024

For elk, either-sex archery season, five elk were harvested on Fort Carson. Out of the five harvested elk, two were cows and three were bulls. There was a total of 154 individual hunters who checked in on post and 1,373 downrange passes were issued with 3% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Elk Muzzleloader - Sept. 14-22, 2024

For elk, muzzleloader season, three bull elk were harvested on Fort Carson with CPW issuing 100 bull tags and 120 cow tags between GMUs 59, 511, 581 and 591. There were 13 hunters and 67 downrange passes issued during this season with 23% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Elk OTC Second Rifle - Oct. 26 through Nov. 3, 2024

For elk second rifle season, 11 bull elk were harvested on Fort Carson. There were 66 hunters and 270 downrange passes issued during this season with 16% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Elk OTC third Rifle - November 9th through 15th, 2024

For elk third rifle season, four bull elk were harvested on Fort Carson. There were 32 hunters and 55 downrange passes issued during this season with 12% of those hunters harvesting this season. Fort Carson was closed Nov. 9 through mid-day November 11 due to a major snowstorm causing unsafe conditions downrange.

Elk late season Cow - Oct. 1, 2024 to Jan. 31, 2024

From the data received, 42% of hunters with a cow rifle tag were able to fill their tag. The CPW issued 45 draw tags for cow rifle this year, of which 19 were harvested. There were 59 individual hunters participating in this season and 521 downrange passes were issued with 32% of those hunters harvesting this season. The discrepancy in number of hunters and total tags issued may be explained by both youth hunters and their mentor checking in or friends and family members checking in under Elk Late Season Cow instead of scouting or being a non-participant. Two antlerless bulls were harvested this season.

Pronghorn

Pronghorn either-sex archery is an unlimited, OTC tag that is valid for multiple GMUs statewide. All muzzleloader and rifle pronghorn draw tags are valid for GMUs 59 and 591. Many of these hunters choose to hunt on Fort Carson (GMU 591). The total number of pronghorn harvested for all seasons on post was 13 animals, with bucks accounting for 77% of the harvest and does accounting for 23% of the harvest. The total number of individual hunters for all

pronghorn seasons on Fort Carson was 48 individuals with 224 downrange passes being issued for access. Summary of pronghorn data is in Table 3 below.

Season	Multiple GMU Tag	# Bucks and # Does	Pronghorn Harvested	Hunters	Passes	% of hunters harvested*
OTC Archery Either- Sex	Many	1 Buck	1	27	113	4%
DRAW Muzzleloader	59,591		4	6	23	66%
DRAW Rifle	59,591		8	15	88	53%
Total			13	48	224	27%
	Draw Tags	Harvested	% of tags filled			
Muzzleloader						
Buck	5	2	40%			
Doe	5	2	40%			
Rifle						
Buck	10	7	70%			
Doe	10	1	10%			

Table 3. Summary of all pronghorn data for 2024 on Fort Carson

OTC Archery - Aug. 15 through Sept. 20, 2024

For archery, one buck pronghorn was harvested on Fort Carson. There were 27 hunters and 113 downrange passes issued during this season with 4% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Muzzleloader - Sept. 21- 29, 2024

From the data, 66% of hunters with a pronghorn muzzleloader tag who chose to hunt on Fort Carson were able to fill their tag. CPW tags issued for pronghorn muzzleloader were five for bucks and five for does. Of the four pronghorn harvested on Fort Carson, two were does and two were bucks. Six individual hunters participated, and 23 downrange passes were issued.

Rifle - Oct. 5- 13, 2024

From the data received, 53% of hunters with a pronghorn rifle tag who chose to hunt on Fort Carson were able to fill their tag. The CPW tags issued for pronghorn rifle were 15 for bucks and 10 for does. Of the eight pronghorn harvested on Fort Carson, seven were bucks and one was a doe. Fifteen individual hunters participated, and 88 downrange passes were issued to those hunters during pronghorn rifle season.

White-tailed Deer

OTC Rifle - Dec. 1- 31, 2024

White-tailed deer season is OTC and shares multiple GMUs west of I-25. On Fort Carson, nine white-tailed deer were harvested this year. Out of the nine deer harvested, seven were bucks

and two were does. While it's a rare occurrence, an antlered doe was harvested. There were 43 hunters and 309 downrange passes issued during this season with 21% of those hunters harvesting this season. Summary of all white-tailed deer data is in Table 4 below.

Season	White-tailed Deer Harvested	Hunters	Passes	% of hunters harvested*
OTC Rifle Either- Sex		43	309	
Buck	7			
Doe	2			
Total	9	43	309	21%

Table 4. Summary of white-tailed deer data for 2024 on Fort Carson.

Bear

All bear tags are either-sex and valid for multiple GMU's. Because it is unknown how many hunters there were or how animals were harvested in the other GMUs, the percent of hunters harvested only reflects the success rate of those hunters that chose to hunt on Fort Carson.

The total number of bears harvested for all seasons on Fort Carson was two animals, with sows accounting for 100% of the harvest. The total number of individual hunters for all bear seasons on post was 31 individuals with 125 downrange passes being issued for access. Summary of bear data is in Table 5 below.

Season	Multiple GMU Tag	Draw Tags	Bear Harvested	#Sow and # Boar	Hunters	Passes	% of hunters harvested
DRAW Archery	59,511,591	100			9	30	0%
DRAW Muzzleloader	59,511,591	40			4	8	0%
DRAW Rifle September	59,511,591	80	2	2 sows	7	34	29%
Draw Rifle OCT-NOV	58,59,511,581,591	175			11	53	0%
Total			2		31	125	6%

Table 5. Summary of bear data for 2024 on Fort Carson

Archery- Sept. 2-30, 2024

For bear, archery season, no bears were harvested on Fort Carson with CPW issuing 100 bear tags valid for GMUs 59, 511 and 591. There were nine hunters and 30 downrange passes issued during this season with 0% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Muzzleloader- Sept.14-22, 2024

For bear, muzzleloader season, no bears were harvested on Fort Carson with CPW issuing 40 bear tags valid for GMUs 59, 511 and 591. There were four hunters and eight downrange passes issued during this season with 0% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Rifle Sept. 2-30, 2024

For bear, rifle (September) season, two bears (sows) were harvested on Fort Carson with CPW issuing 80 bear tags valid for GMUs 59, 511 and 591. There were seven hunters and 34 downrange passes issued during this season with 29% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Rifle (Oct. 12-16, Oct. 26-Nov. 3, Nov. 9-15, Nov. 20-24) 2024

For bear, rifle (October to November) season, no bears were harvested on Fort Carson with CPW issuing 175 bear tags valid for GMUs 58, 59, 511, 581 and 591. There were 11 hunters and 53 downrange passes issued during this season with 0% of those hunters harvesting this season.

Mountain Lion

There were no mountain lion hunters on Fort Carson this hunting season.

Turkey

All turkey tags valid for Fort Carson are unlimited, OTC tags and share multiple GMUs statewide. During the spring season, only bearded turkeys may be harvested, while the fall season is either-sex. The total number of turkeys harvested for all seasons on Fort Carson was 14 animals, with hens accounting for 36% of the harvest and toms/jakes accounting for 64% of the harvest. The total number of individual hunters for all turkey seasons on Fort Carson was 81 individuals with 294 downrange passes being issued for access. Summary of turkey data is in Table 6 below.

Season	Turkey Harvested	Hunters	Passes	% of hunters harvested
Spring OTC- Bearded Only	7	63	254	11%
Fall OTC -Either Sex	7	18	40	39%
Hen	5			
Tom/Jake	2			
Total	14	81	294	17%

Table 6. Summary of spring and fall turkey seasons for 2024 on Fort Carson.

OTC Spring - April 13 through May 31, 2024

For spring turkey season, seven juvenile or adult male turkeys were harvested on Fort Carson. There were 63 individual hunters who participated and 254 downrange passes issued. Of the 63 hunters, 11% were successful in harvesting during spring turkey season.

OTC Fall - Sept.1 through Oct.6, 2024

For fall turkey season, five hens and two juvenile or adult male turkeys harvested on post. There were 18 individual hunters who participated and 40 downrange passes issued. Of the 18 hunters, 39% were successful in harvesting during spring turkey season.

Small Game Summary

Various small game species were also harvested this year to include: 16 coyotes, 25 mourning doves, two cotton-tailed rabbits and nine scaled quail.