

2025-2026 Hunter Satisfaction Survey

Results



Directorate of Public Works (DPW)
Environmental Division, Conservation Branch
Fort Carson, Colorado

Summary and Purpose

From Jan. 8, 2026 to Feb. 9, 2026, the Fort Carson Directorate of Public Works (DPW) asked hunters (active-duty Soldiers, veterans and civilians) from Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) Game Management Unit (GMU) GMU 142 and Fort Carson GMU 591 to provide feedback about their hunting experiences.

How do I interpret the results of the satisfaction survey?

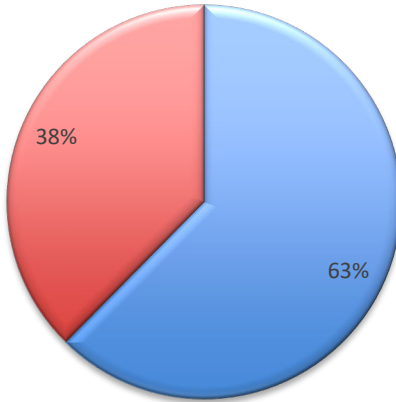
The results included are from anonymous comments and ratings. The beginning of the report uses charts to display the results of the answers in the survey. Questions 1-5 were yes and no, and questions 7 – 12 were rated by stars: 1 star – very dissatisfied, 2 stars – dissatisfied, 3 stars – neutral/neither, 4 stars – satisfied and 5 stars – very satisfied. Questions, 6,13, 20 and 21 were multiple choice style.

Questions 14-19 and 22 were open comment boxes for hunters to leave details answers in the survey. The end of the report includes input from the Fort Carson staff to address some of the comments. Hunters' comments have not been altered or changed in this report unless the entire comment or part of the comment was omitted.

Please keep in mind that although Fort Carson is requesting feedback and experiences to help the installation shape future changes, comments that are abusive, have explicit language or that use identifying information, can't be used. Those comments will be omitted from presentations and reports published and viewed by the public.

Thank you for the honest responses from the 2025-2026 big game season.

Q1 DID YOU HUNT ON FORT CARSON THIS YEAR?



Number of Respondents= 16

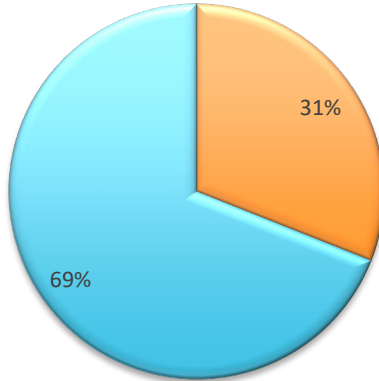
■ No ■ Yes

Did you hunt on Fort Carson?

38% YES

63% NO

Q2 DID YOU HUNT ON PCMS THIS YEAR?



Number of Respondents=16

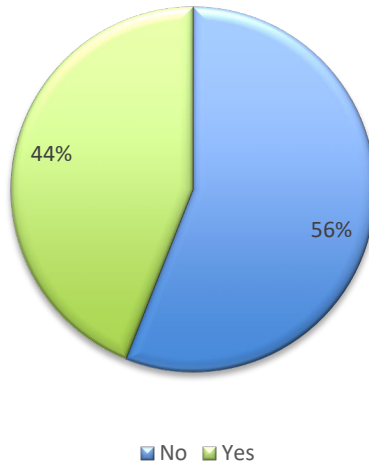
■ No ■ Yes

Did you hunt on PCMS?

69% YES

31% NO

Q3 DID YOU FILL YOUR TAG THIS YEAR?



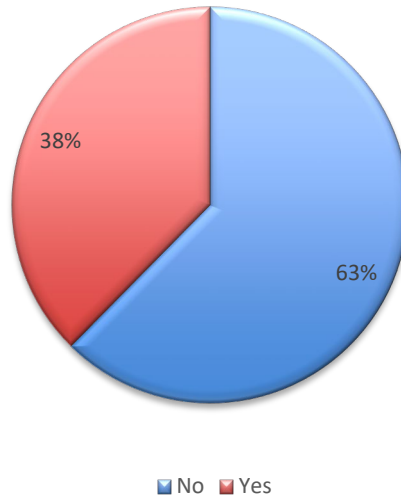
Number of Respondents=16

Did you fill your tag?

44% YES

56% NO

Q4 DID YOU HAVE A POSITIVE HUNTING EXPERIENCE?



Number of Respondents=16

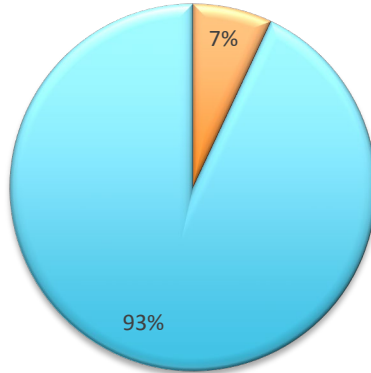
Did you have a positive hunting experience?

38% YES

63% NO

Q5 WILL YOU HUNT AGAIN AT FORT CARSON/PCMS?

Number of Respondents= 15



■ No ■ Yes

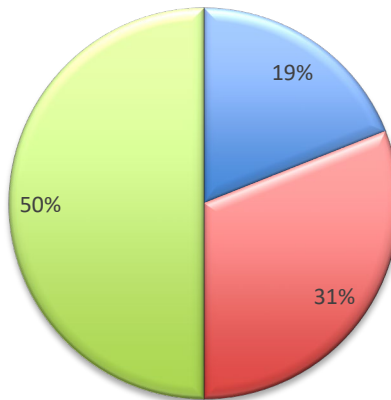
Will you hunt again at FORT CARSON/PCMS?

93% YES

7% NO

Q6 BREAKOUT OF USER TYPES THAT RESPONDED TO SURVEY

Number of Respondents=16



■ Active Duty User ■ Disabled Veteran/Retired Military User ■ Civilian User

Types of users that responded to survey:

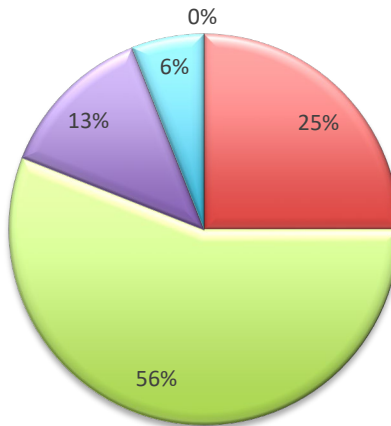
19 % Active Duty

31% Disabled Vet/Retired Military

50% Civilian

Q7 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE FORT CARSON HUNTING PROGRAM?

Number of Respondents=16



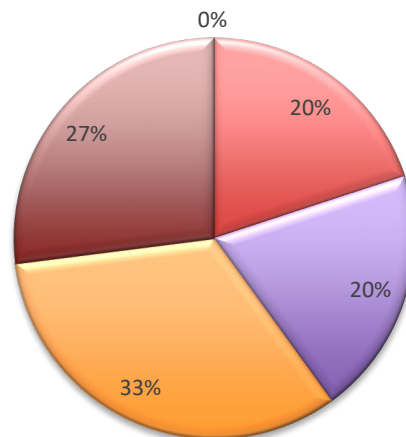
How satisfied are you with the Fort Carson hunting program?

- 6% VERY SATISFIED
- 13% SATISFIED
- 56% NEUTRAL
- 25% DISSATISFIED
- 0% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

Q8 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE PCMS HUNTING PROGRAM?

Number of Respondents=16



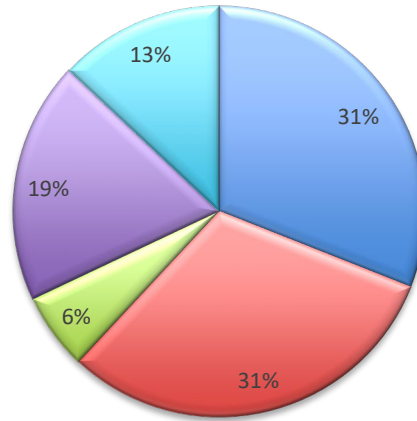
How satisfied are you with the PCMS hunting program?

- 0% VERY SATISFIED
- 27% SATISFIED
- 33% NEUTRAL
- 20% DISSATISFIED
- 20% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

Q9 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF OPEN AREAS FOR HUNTING?

Number of Respondents= 16



Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

How satisfied are you with the availability of open areas for hunting?

13% VERY SATISFIED

19% SATISFIED

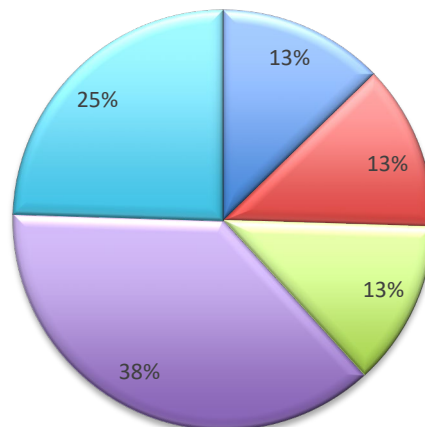
6% NEUTRAL

31% DISSATISFIED

31% VERY DISSATISFIED

Q10 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE MAX OCCUPANCY LEVELS OF RECREATIONISTS ALLOWED IN HUNTING BLOCKS OR TRAINING AREAS?

Number of Respondents=16



Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

How satisfied are you with the max occupancy of blocks or TAs?

25% VERY SATISFIED

38% SATISFIED

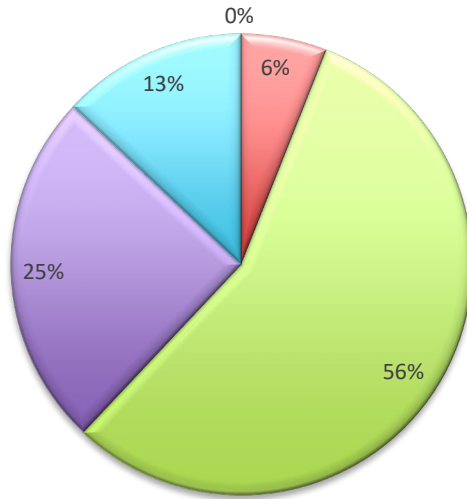
13% NEUTRAL

13% DISSATISFIED

13% VERY DISSATISFIED

Q11 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF ANIMALS YOU HAVE SEEN ON FORT CARSON?

Number of Respondents=16



Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

How satisfied are you with the quality of animals you have seen on Fort Carson?

13% VERY SATISFIED

25% SATISFIED

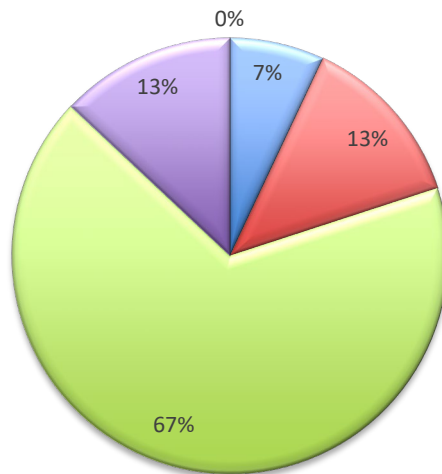
56% NEUTRAL

6% DISSATISFIED

0% VERY DISSATISFIED

Q12 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF ANIMALS YOU HAVE SEEN ON PCMS?

Number of Respondents =15



Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

How satisfied are you with the quality of animals you have seen on PCMS?

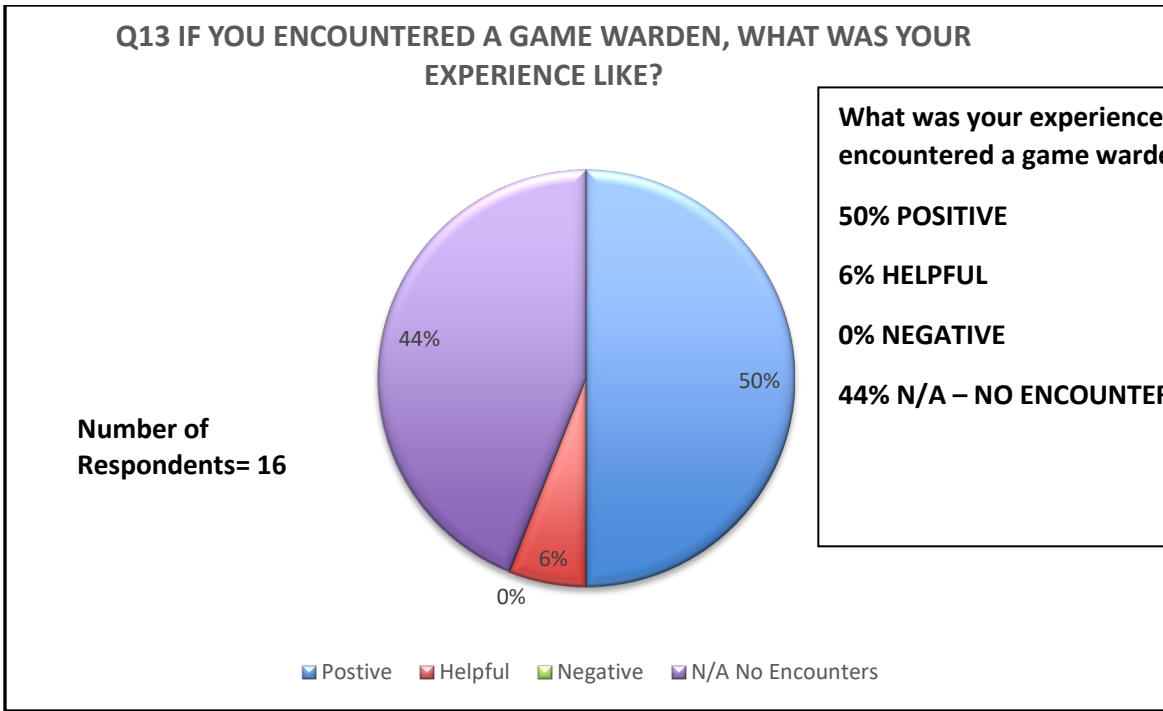
0% VERY SATISFIED

13% SATISFIED

67% NEUTRAL

13% DISSATISFIED

7% VERY DISSATISFIED



14. If you answered Question 13, were you warned, fined and/or suspended?

All responses said no.

15. What season(s) did you hunt this year?

Un-edited Responses

Multiple or N/A

- Deer rifle
- Elk Archery
- 3rd Elk
- Cow Elk Rifle
- Late
- Late season cow elk
- 3rd OTC elk
- Cow- Oct-Jan
- 3rd Rifle
- OTC elk
- Elk Archery. Buck Rifle

16. How often were you not able to check into one of your top three training areas when they were open, due to them filling up immediately upon check-in time?

Un-edited Responses

- None - except for closure
- None
- 50%. Still believe people are checking in and are not out hunting. It is difficult to beat certain groups of people who seem to be the 1st to check in every morning. TA 17, 18, 19
- 0
- Very often
- Never
- 0
- NA
- Every time with 1 exception. It appears as if a group of regulars were using a "click bot" program for check in. The same vehicles were in the same parking areas every available day. I have never been unable to get a good area until this year. Very disappointing. I can run thru the click sequence as fast as anybody, starting exactly at 4:00 AM. And every time the area had filled in the matter of a few seconds. I actually saw an ad on the Fort Carson Facebook page offering to set up a click bot program for hunters for a fee. I heard the guy insisted it was a joke, but I doubt it. The whole checkin thing was extremely odd. I have hunted Carson for over 50 years and been a user of the current system since its implementation. I've never had a complaint or a concern until this season. For reference, I attempted to get into 17 every single day that it was available during the entire season and i was successful only once.
- 0%.
- Area 17/18 elk archery I consider myself quite computer savvy as well. Timing of checkin 0400!!! Never had a chance.

17. Were there any days you were not able to hunt on Fort Carson due to all the open blocks/training areas completely filling up? If so, please indicate which season it occurred in.

Un-edited Responses

- N/a
- Yes. Elk Archery.
- 0
- No there's always some where you can hunt
- No
- 0
- N/A

- Hunting areas were available every weekend during archery. However, there are a select few that typically hold elk at this time. The Timber Mountain areas - 21, 26,27 were unavailable. 45 was also unavailable. That left the agony ridge areas, 17 in particular, that was impossible to get. And the remains areas that did have access are very marginal elk areas.
- Elk archery bc no TAs were often available that hold elk.

18. How can we improve the Fort Carson hunting program?

Un-edited Responses

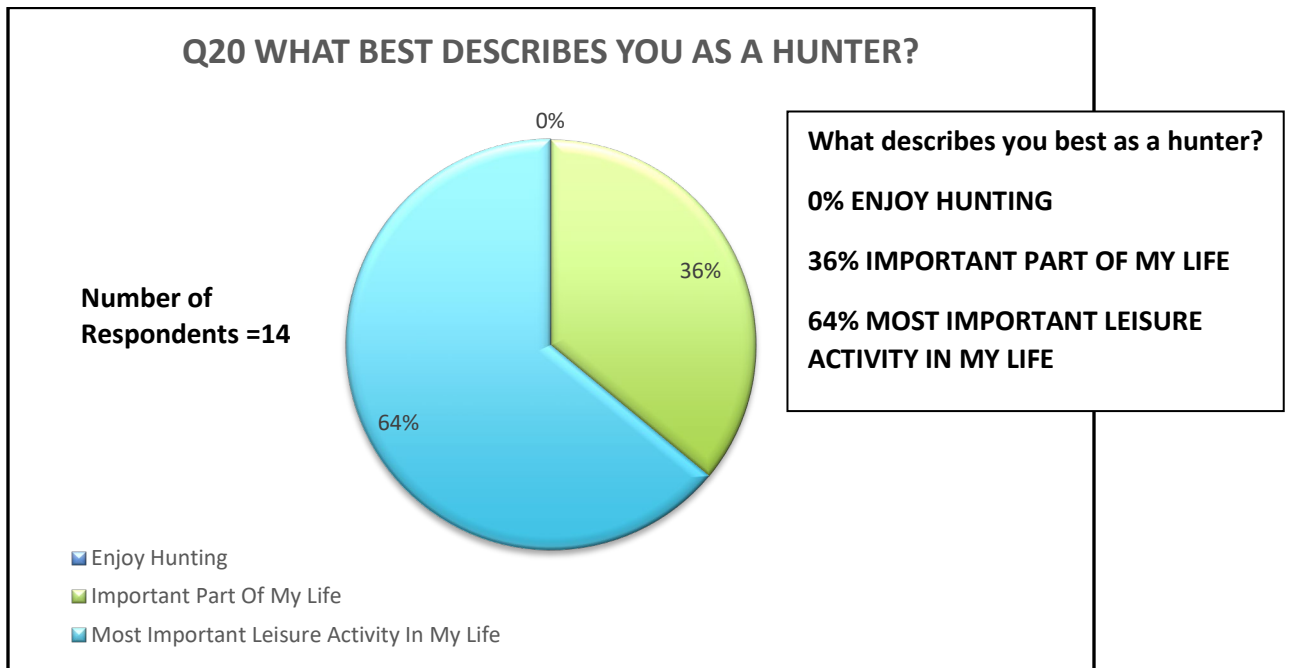
- N/a
- Tracking of people cheating the system with being down range and being off base.
- More days to hunt
- Open areas 22 and 23 up for low velocity hunting !!!!!
- N/A
- N/A
- N/a
- You guys run a terrific program. It is a wonderful opportunity to have this so close to home. I have hunted over much of the state. In my younger years I was also a guide in the Southwest part of the state. I have taken elk all over Colorado and I can say with absolute confidence that this is as good as it gets on "public" property.
- The fact that rt 9 is now closed is suspect. Those small arm ranges in my mind don't justify closing the center of the base. Which most elk hunters are aware, reside predominantly other than off limit ranges. I'd have no problem making elk bull archery and rifle seasons a draw unit. 2 pts or more. The elk population must be healthy downrange That is the only positive I feel of late. But I realize training trumps hunting. That's the reality of hunting down range. One last point closing rt 9 has limited elder hunters gaining access to elk grounds and only promotes road hunting by that population of hunters. The younger hunters are also guilty.

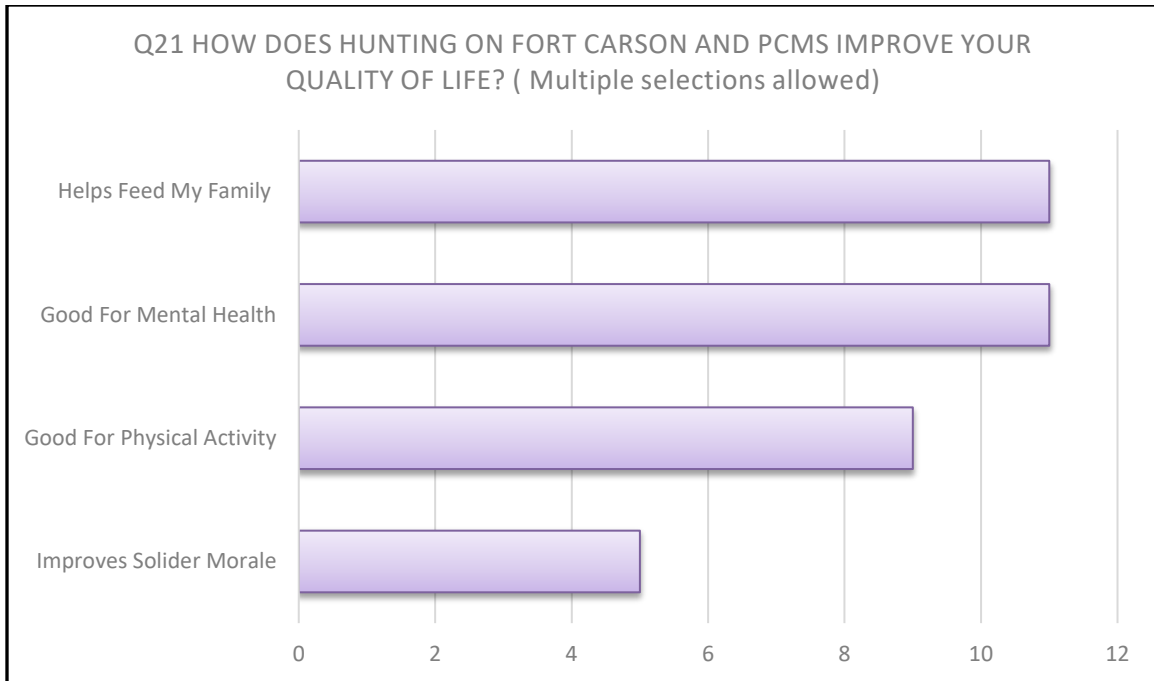
19. How can we improve the PCMS hunting program?

Un-edited Responses

- Open just for the entire week of a season. That's only opening for a full extra days a few weeks each year. Somehow make entering the B&C numbers after checkout as you may not have time to measure before needing to check out.
- Applied 26 years for a tag and it is open 5 days
- water tank maintenance
- Reopen PCMS campground. The closest lodging is over 30mins away.

- ?
- Only allowing hunting three days a week is a major detractor. Especially when there are no training events scheduled which was a major portion of the hunting seasons. Closing the camp ground is a serious negative.
- Open it up back to during the week.
- "Open the Campground back up. It is ridiculous that the campground is no longer available. There has been no logical reason to close the campground. If it is a product of cost, then increase the fees to camp there. Due to the location of PCMS, camping elsewhere is extremely inconvenient and expensive.
- Additionally, recommend restoring access to hunt TAs during the week. This change back to weekday access would minimally impact to training. "
- There is absolutely no reason to close the campground.
- Keep it open ALL WEEK!
- Don't hunt south anymore





22. Is there anything else you want to mention or bring to our attention? Please leave your comment here.

Un-edited Responses

- Why did it change for hunters? Was the best in colorado for decades.
- On 24 November 2025 an apache helicopter flew directly over me while hunting PCMS and proceeded to fly circles around me and my hunting area. This is very unsafe and should not happen.
- Keep up the good work !!!!
- There are several once in a lifetime time/ extremely hard to draw tags available on PCMS including bighorn sheep and the rifle deer tag. Limiting the hunting season to 3 days per week means I will no longer be putting in for those tags. Pertaining to this issue PCMS needs to post the seasons rules BEFORE the deadline for drawing for tags in April. I would be extremely angry if I were to burn my 26 sheep points only to told that I can only on weekends. That tag is a once in lifetime tag. Closing the campground requires an additional hour plus and 35 plus miles a day driving. These restrictions are making the hunting on PCMS less desirable every year.
- Please bring back camping on PCMS
- Recommend utilizing hunting, camping, and access fees to improve the outdoor experience at BOTH PCMS and FC. I do not believe that all of the revenue from these activities should only go to restocking FC ponds.
- Please don't close the campground it is a major financial burden to non locals
- Great program, professional and friendly staff, and a joy to be able to participate.
- Hunting areas during predator seasons should be emphasized just like during big game seasons!

- I've been hunting down range since I was a teen. Now 50 yr old. Things chg. Times chg. But I will take my young son in time down range and continue to hunt if the base allows and some chgs made. I thank you!!!!

Staff Responses

The Fort Carson DPW thanks everyone who took the time to go through the 2025-2026 end of season survey and provided feedback to the questions asked. The survey will be reviewed by Fort Carson leadership.

The Fort Carson staff understands that hunters and recreationists feel the opportunity to hunt or recreate on Fort Carson is a very important leisure activity in their life, which was demonstrated by the responses provided in surveys over the years, along with improving Solider morale, feeding families, mental health and fitness.

Hunting and the harvesting of big game species is also an important tool which allows DPW wildlife biologists and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to manage population dynamics and manage populations for Chronic Wasting Disease in our GMUs.

There are many challenges that come with people choosing to hunt and recreate on an active military installation. The restricted areas, changes to public access, road closures and the recreation map will unfortunately continue to change as time moves forward to meet the military's needs and implement identified safety issues. To what extent, changes are not currently known, but every restricted area is approved by Fort Carson leadership prior to being implemented.

It is important to note again that Fort Carson and PCMS are state GMUs and there are a lot of aspects the installation has no control over or authority to change. Hunting season dates, hunting license draw and number of residents and non-residents, etc., are determined through CPW. The CPW offers multiple public forums for public concerns, questions and discussion throughout the year through their commission if hunters want to voice a change they feel is needed.

Fort Carson and PCMS are only open for hunting on the weekends and most Fridays, unless otherwise posted. Why? This is generally the time when there is less training activity, and most Army civilians are not working.

There is a lot of work, land rehabilitation and Army civilians working downrange that do not involve Soldiers or military training. Army civilians and contractors are not allowed to work downrange in TAs with weapons in use. If a TA shows no training, it does not mean that someone is not working in that TA performing some facet of an official duty. In addition, some training requires that nearby TAs are closed to recreation or made into "Low Velocity or Archery Only".

All these official activities have higher priorities than opening areas for downrange recreation, so keep that in mind when deciding to hunt on Fort Carson or PCMS. It is posted year-around on iSportsman, including before CPW's Big Game application period, that there is no hunting Monday-Thursdays on both installations. In addition, it is posted in CPW's Big Game and Sheep & Goat brochures that access will be limited and to view iSportsman for more information.

In addition, Fort Carson and PCMS do offer predator hunting opportunities. Military training and staff working downrange always will be a higher priority than hunting. Priority to open areas for recreation does not change from big game season to the other seasons. Even during the main big game hunting seasons, training area access may and often is extremely limited. Fort Carson is open most of the weekends year-round, providing opportunities outside of the big game season. PCMS varies from year to year if there is spring and summer access.

The Fort Carson staff are aware of the claims that Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be being used for checking in and that people may be cheating the system by checking in but never actually showing up to hunt. In the spring of 2026, there will be updated FC Reg 200-6 with regulations that address these issues.

Camping was closed on PCMS due to safety issues. There were significant staff reductions at PCMS, and camping was a luxury that could be monitored when PCMS was at full staff. Various directorates or programs on Fort Carson are exploring other options to reopen camping on PCMS, since the DPW Conservation Branch is currently understaffed.

Finally, to address the use of permit fees: fishing permits generate about half of the revenue and, in return, fish stocking uses approximately half of the funds. Another yearly expense is paying for iSportsman. This cost varies each year depending on cost-sharing opportunities but is often close to the rest of the revenue made from permit sales. There are also restrictions on how funds can be spent. It may change in the future, but currently that money can only be spent on habitat improvement, iSportsman, fish stocking, and research (such as paying for CWD tests, research projects or surveys on huntable species). It cannot be spent on recreation structures.