

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Hunting at PCMS

Access/ Closures etc.

1) **Can I camp at PCMS?**

Yes, but not down range. The designated camping area is at the Hill Ranch, which is located at mile marker 25.5 on US Hwy 350 (1.5 miles north of the main gate). Camping is free and there are no reservations; however, space maybe limited.

2) **Are there water, electricity and bathrooms at the Hill Ranch?**

There are port-a-potties on site, but no electricity or water. You will need to bring a generator if you want electricity and your own water supply.

3) **Do I have to check in and out on a daily basis? Even if I'm camping?**

Yes, you must check in and out every day. Down range passes are only issued for one day (the day that you are hunting). Once you have checked in, you cannot check out remotely. You must *physically* check out at the kiosk.

4) **What are the gate hours?**

Gate hours vary and are posted on the website and on the chalk board in the hunter check station. Hours are *typically* 6:30 a.m. (weekdays) and 5:30 a.m. (weekends) until one hour after sunset. Failure to check out on time can result in suspension of your permit.

5) **Is PCMS open for hunting this weekend?**

Click [here](#) to check the website for general hours, closures, etc.

6) **Does PCMS close for bad weather?**

Sometimes. PCMS reserves the right to close any time due to training, poor weather, limited staff etc. After a wet weather event the 2-track roads may be closed to prevent visitors from getting stuck and to preserve our roads. Always check the website for closures *before* driving to PCMS.

7) **Can I cut through PCMS to access Unit 147?**

Yes, but you will still need to have an annual safety brief, have your weapons registered with Fort Carson and purchase an annual recreation fee. You will also need to adhere to the posted gate hours and check out on time. Allow approximately one hour drive time from unit 147 to hunter check station.

Safety Briefs/ Weapons Registration/ Permits

8) Do I have to have a recreational safety briefing if I had one last year?

Yes. A recreational safety briefing is required each year. The recreational safety briefing is good from 01 April – 31 March (same as your CO hunting license).

The 2015 PCMS Safety Brief Schedule is available [here](#).

Other times *may* be available by appointment only. Call Rich at 719-503-6529.

Or email him at richard.r.riddle.civ@mail.mil

You may also take the safety brief at Fort Carson.

9) Do non-participant guests, non-hunters and visitors who are not carrying a weapon still need to buy a recreational permit and attend a hunter safety brief?

Yes, per new DoD regulations there is no longer a non-participant category.

Everyone is considered a recreationalist and must attend a safety brief and pay for an annual permit. (See [fees](#) here). The fee is typically \$30 (online purchase only).

You can purchase a permit on the iSportsman website [here](#).

10) Can I recreate on PCMS if I'm not hunting?

Yes, as long as the installation is not closed due to military training. You will still need to purchase an annual recreation pass, take a safety brief and check in and out on a daily basis.

11) Where can I buy a recreational pass? Can I buy it at the kiosk?

You can purchase your annual recreational pass online at

<http://fortcarson.isportsman.net>

12) How do I get my weapon registered?

Prior to hunting on PCMS (or Fort Carson) any weapons that you plan on bringing on base will need to be registered. This can take several weeks so plan accordingly. Download the form [here](#).

Miscellaneous Questions

13) Do cell phones work down range?

Usually there is not any cell phone service downrange. Text message will sometimes go through, even when a phone call will not.

14)Where can I get a map of PCMS?

Free maps are available at the PCMS hunter kiosk or from PCMS staff.

15)Where are the elk? Mule deer? Pronghorns?

The elk and mule deer are generally found in the canyons and pinon-juniper habitat (green areas on the PCMS recreation map); however, they frequently move around and have been spotted in a variety of locations. The pronghorn prefer the short grass prairie (center of PCMS) and rarely venture into heavily wooded habitat.

16)How big are the deer and elk? How many were harvested last year?

We compile all the B&C scores, harvest reports, number of participants etc for each hunting season. The results are available [online](#) (under the hunting data section).

17)Where can I get food, gas etc?

Trinidad is the nearest town and is 35 miles from PCMS. Keep this in mind when planning to purchase fuel. There are hotels, restaurants etc available in town.

18)Can I bring my dog, horse or spouse/family member when camping at Hill Ranch on PCMS?

Yes. Dogs must be kept under control at all times.

Yes. Horses/mules are now allowed on PCMS.

Yes. However, spouses/family members are only allowed downrange if they have had a safety brief and purchased an annual permit. Otherwise, they must remain in camp.

19)If I'm archery hunting, do I still need to wear blaze orange?

No, unless you are archery hunting with a rifle tag. Archery hunters with an archery tag are not required to wear blaze orange during big game rifle seasons. When blaze orange is required you must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of blaze orange. Camouflage orange does not qualify. For more information review page 13 of the 2015 Colorado Big Game Guide. Available online [here](#).

20)Can I shoot the prairie dogs?

No. Recreational shooting of prairie dogs is not allowed on PCMS. Prairie dogs are considered a keystone species and they provide homes for swift fox, burrowing owls and are a food source for many other animals including golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, badgers, coyotes, bobcats etc.