

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Recreating at PCMS 2018

Access/ Closures etc.

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

Yes, but not downrange. The designated camping area is at 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. A recreation permit is required to camp on PCMS. At least one person, per camper or tent, must possess a valid recreation permit. Non-permitted campers engaged in recreation, other than camping, must possess a valid recreation permit. Permit proof must be displayed while camping in permitted areas.

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

There is potable water, port-a-potty and trash bin on site, but no electricity.

3) **Can I bring my spouse or dog when camping at Hill Ranch on PCMS?**

Yes. A recreational permit is required to camp on FC and PCMS. At least one person, per camper or tent, must possess a valid recreation permit. Permit proof must be displayed while camping in permitted areas. Spouses can join the permit holder as one of their two allotted non-participants, as long as they follow the guidelines for non-participants. If the spouse plans to recreate he/she will need to obtain a recreation permit. Dogs must be kept under control at all times.

4) **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 that you travel downrange. Downrange passes are only issued for one day (the day that you are recreating). If you are staying in the Hill Ranch Camp area, they you do not need to check in/out of PCMS.

5) **Can I check in with my personal computer or smartphone?**

Yes, on PCMS you can check-in with your personal computer or smartphone, but you must print a copy of the pass. If you are unable to print a downrange pass (e.g., using a mobile device), you must provide a legible hand-written paper pass that includes your name, permit number, date and the names of any youth or non-participant that will be with you. If you have an electronic copy of the downrange pass, it will need to be readily available to show CLEOs if they ask to see it. All passes (printed or hand written) must still be placed on the vehicle dashboard and readable from outside the vehicle.

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

Gate hours vary and are posted on the website. Recreationists can check in at 4:00 a.m. and check out is typically two hours after sunset. Failure to check out on time can result in suspension of your permit. The gate code will be displayed during the check in process.

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

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

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

Sometimes. PCMS reserves the right to close any time due to training, weather, limited staff etc. After a wet weather event the 2-track roads may be closed. Always check the website [here](#) for closures *before* driving to PCMS.

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

Yes, but you will still need to register and purchase an annual recreation permit on iSportsman [here](#), watch the Downrange Safety Brief, have your weapons registered with Fort Carson, and check into iSportsman each day to obtain a Downrange Pass. You will also need to adhere to the posted gate hours and check out on time. Allow approximately one hour to drive from unit 147 to the hunter check station.

Downrange Safety Briefs/ Weapons Registration/ Permits

10) **Do I have to have a Downrange Safety Brief if I had one last year?**

Yes. A Downrange Safety Brief is required each year, except for youth (17 years or younger). Mentors must also watch the Downrange Safety Brief. You will be directed to watch the Downrange Safety video before you can purchase that annual recreation permit. The Downrange Safety Brief is valid from 01 April – 31 March (the same as your CO hunting license).

11) **Do non-participant guests, non-hunters and visitors who are not carrying a weapon, still need to buy a recreation permit and view the Downrange Safety Brief?**

New! Per new DoD regulations, a permit holder can bring two non-participant guests. These guests must remain within 50 feet of the permit holder at all times, and their names must be written on a piece of paper displayed on the dashboard. Non-participants must also create an account and take the downrange safety brief.

12) 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 register and purchase an annual recreation permit on iSportsman [here](#), view the Downrange Safety Brief, and check in to iSportsman to obtain a daily downrange pass.

13) Where can I buy a recreation permit? Can I buy it at the kiosk?

Registering for a new permit, or logging into your account, can be done on the iSportsman website home page under the Account Register & Log In Site tab [here](#). You will need to create an account and view the Downrange Safety Brief as part of the permitting process.

14) How much does a recreation permit cost? New! (Reduced rates!)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Basic Annual Permit | ages 18-79 | \$40 |
| Non-consumptive* | ages 18-79 | \$10 |
| Senior | ages 64-79 | \$25 |
| Super Senior | ages 80 and older | \$1 |
| Teen~Youth | ages 12-17 | \$10 |
| Special Permit | n/a | \$500 |

* Non-consumptive covers any recreational activity that does not include harvesting fish, game or other natural resources. There is no fishing on PCMS.

15) Can I bring my child (or other youth) hunting?

Any youth (17 years or younger) must be accompanied by an adult mentor (18 years or older) and must hunt in accordance with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife regulations. Mentors must:

- remain within 50ft of the youth at all times
- be completely responsible for the youth while they are downrange
- have a valid recreation permit and display a paper that lists all the youth with them
- ensure that the youth understands and adheres to all the rules and regulations
- sign the Hold Harmless Agreement for the youth
- record every youth harvest report(s) under their account in iSportsman

16) Can I bring my ATV, UTV or Horse/Mule?

Horses and mules are allowed but must be fed certified weed-free hay. ATVs and UTVs are not allowed on PCMS.

17) How do I get my weapon registered?

Prior to hunting on PCMS (or Fort Carson) any firearms that you plan on bringing onto the base will need to be registered. You do not need to register bows. This can take several weeks so plan accordingly. The form is available under the Access (Drop Down Menu) tab [here](#).

Miscellaneous Questions

18) Do cell phones work down range?

Usually there is not any reliable cell phone service downrange. However, there are a few spots where spotty service exists, and text messages occasionally transmit.

19) 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 and fuel available in town.

20) Where can I get a map of PCMS?

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

New! Fort Carson offers free interactive maps for smartphone users [here](#).

This map does not require cell service and will show you your exact location on PCMS as you drive around. First, you will need to download the free Avenza Map app to your smartphone. Next you will need to download the pdf map to your phone from [here](#). Due to the limited internet/cellular service at PCMS is it recommended that you download the app and pdf map prior to visiting the PCMS.

21) 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 can inhabit a variety of locations. The pronghorn prefer the short grass prairie (center of PCMS) and rarely venture into heavily wooded habitat.

22) 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 PCMS Information tab [here](#).

23) 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 14 of the 2018 Colorado Big Game Guide. Available online [here](#).

24) Can I shoot the prairie dogs?

No. Recreational shooting of prairie dogs is not allowed on PCMS at this time due to the severe decline of prairie dogs on the installation.

Management and recreational shooting of prairie dogs, in any form, will be in accordance with the FC/PCMS Prairie Dog Management Plan. The iSportsman website will state specifics (i.e., where allowed, form of hunting, non-allowed practices, etc.) concerning prairie dog hunting when appropriate.

Only lead free ammunition, full metal jacket (FMJ) and/or total metal jacket (TMJ) ammunition is allowed. Lead pellets or copper-plated (common on 22lr and some reloads) ammunition is prohibited. When/if the PCMS prairie dog population recovers, hunting may be permitted.