

DREAM.
PLAN.
HUNT.



HUNTIN'
FOOL

ANNUAL MULTI-STATE
STRATEGY GUIDE

CONTENTS

Why Join Huntin' Fool? 3

Membership. 4

Membership Drives 5

Endorsed Outfitters 6

License Application Service 7

Bighorn Sheep 8

Shiras Moose. 16

Mountain Goat. 20

Elk 24

Deer 30

Antelope 36

The Next Generation. 40

Huntin' Fool App and Built to Hunt Podcast 41

States at a Glance 42

Huntin' Fool License Application Service 46

Summary. 47

NOTE: Fees reflect the most current prices available from the states at the time of publication (December 2018).



WHY JOIN HUNTIN' FOOL?



If you love adventure and you're reading this brochure, I'd wager that you're a Huntin' Fool like we are. Our team loves high adventure hunts, and we know how important the time and money spent on hunts is. We know that you yearn to explore new places, summit new mountains, be awestruck by the beauty of nature, and ultimately, to experience the hunting adrenaline rushes that lock those memories in for life.

We are fortunate to call Huntin' Fool our job. Our gratitude for this inspires us to help you make the most of every second you spend in the field. As a thank you, we'd like to help you make planning your adventures less complicated. Let us help you get out of your office and into the woods. Let us help you make more memories in the mountains with family and friends. Let us help you get your tag, pack your bag, climb the mountain, find the spot, make the stalk, and take the shot. There is no element of the entire hunt that we are not willing to help our members with.

If it sounds too good to be true, try us! I'll refund your money if we don't live up to our goal of being the best \$100 you will spend in your hunting budget each year. Many of our members have been with us for more than 20 years because they know that when it comes to planning hunts, nobody works harder and cares more for their members than the dedicated team of Huntin' Fools that represents our dedicated membership of Huntin' Fools!

Thanks for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerrod Lile".

Jerrod Lile
Huntin' Fool CEO



MEMBERSHIP



FOR LESS THAN \$9 A MONTH, HUNTIN' FOOL MEMBERS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- 12 issues per year of the prestigious *Huntin' Fool* magazine. This publication is packed with the research and recommendations you need to develop an out-of-state application and hunting strategy. It is also full of member stories, articles on gear and hunting strategies, and much more. It is the most comprehensive hunting publication ever produced for hunters by hunters.
- Access to a team of full-time Hunt Advisors who provide on-demand consulting for hunt planning, outfitter selection, outdoor gear research, application strategies, and more.
- Access to Huntin' Fool's exclusive Member Draw Database that we use as a peer-to-peer hunting network. When you draw a tag, we have more than 20,000 chances to connect you with members who have drawn that same tag in the past. It's another way Huntin' Fool works to provide our members with current and relevant boots on the ground information.
- Opportunities to win a hunt-of-a-lifetime from more than \$600,000 worth of fully paid for hunts each year that are exclusively available through Huntin' Fool's Membership Drives.
- Full access to our website tools that include the most accurate and up-to-date draw odds available anywhere.





WIN YOUR DREAM HUNT!

We recognize that true once-in-a-lifetime hunts are out of the price range for most hunters. That's why we love making the most sought-after hunt opportunities a possibility through our Membership Drives. We purchase more than \$600,000 worth of coveted hunts from the best outfitters in North America for species such as bighorn sheep, brown bear, moose, elk, deer, and more. Then, we provide an opportunity for our membership to participate in a drawing for these hunts by referring their friends and/or by purchasing additional chances. We love making hunters' dreams come true on our draw dates for these incredible hunts!

"When I was informed that I had won the Ely, Nevada elk hunt from Huntin' Fool's Membership Drive, I really had no idea what I had won. However, after cruising Timberline Outfitters' website and talking with Thomas Brunson, I realized this was my best opportunity to harvest a really nice bull. The bull gross scored 357". Hundreds of pounds of boned elk meat, one happy hunter, one proud father, and a bunch of awesome men to spend time with in the mountains for a \$50 raffle ticket might be the best Black Friday deal in all of history."

— Kevin Johnston



ENDORSED OUTFITTERS

LOOKING FOR AN OUTFITTER?

Huntin' Fool works closely with a carefully scrutinized list of more than 500 outfitters across North America. We refine this list on an annual basis to ensure that our clients' money and time are in the hands of the best operators in the business. We rely on client reviews and referrals, peer referrals, word of mouth in the hunting industry, and our own experience and judgement to select the outfitters that make it onto our prestigious Endorsed Outfitters list.

Our intimate knowledge of our outfitters' operations, including such things as accommodations, terrain, trophy potential, success rates, and much more, uniquely qualifies us to help you narrow your search for an outfitted hunt. When you request an outfitter referral from Huntin' Fool, we make sure that we understand your needs and expectations first and then we provide you our recommended outfitters for you to contact so that you can make the final decision after personally interacting with them.



Contact our Outfitter Specialist Isaiah Joner today!

isaiah@huntin fool.com or call 435-865-1020

IF TESTIMONIAL

"I became a member of Huntin' Fool, and my hunting world changed. I've had many conversations with the Hunt Advisors, and my understanding of units and applications has grown by leaps and bounds. I started drawing more tags. Huntin' Fool helped us find an Endorsed Outfitter that could provide a hunt that was appropriate for a guy my dad's age. This made all the difference because I wasn't just choosing an outfitter based on their website. I could trust that these were reputable folks that had a track record in the industry. I want to thank Huntin' Fool for being an amazing resource for hunters everywhere."

— Ben Gonsalves

BROWSE THE OFFERINGS AT *Hunt Finder.com* TO FIND YOUR DREAM HUNT.



OVERWHELMED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Huntin' Fool's License Application clients range from busy professionals who don't have time to manage their own hunt applications to hunters who are intimidated by the process of navigating complex draw systems. Regardless of the motivation, all of our clients have two things in common – they want the peace of mind that they will never miss a deadline and the hope that they will draw tags that make memories to last a lifetime. Our team has been dedicated to getting it right for more than 20 years, something we prove every year by drawing some of the most coveted and competitive tags in the world.

Join our License Application Service and receive the following benefits:

- Never miss a deadline. If there is a state draw or a raffle tag draw that would provide an incredible hunt, our service covers it.
- Unlimited personalized consultations with our Hunt Advisors to identify your hunting goals and build a strategy around them.
- Personalized hunt unit selection by our team of Hunt Advisors based on your hunting goals.
- Annual bonus and preference point lookup where we inform you of your point totals and track them for you in your portfolio.
- Draw result notifications when you draw those special tags you've been waiting for.
- Access to your application receipts on our website to view/save/print so that you have complete transparency on your costs.
- Cost estimates that include up-front fees, out-of-pocket fees, and Huntin' Fool fees.

Whether you're thinking of applying out of state for the first time or you're a seasoned application veteran who's become too busy to manage your applications, we're here to provide the peace of mind that comes from knowing your applications are in the hands of a team who will not sleep until we get every single client applied.



BIGHORN SHEEP-BOOTS ON THE GROUND

"You almost never know when a sheep tag is going to fall into your hands, but that is the joy of sheep applications. There is wisdom in those who apply faithfully. My Rocky tag came in a year I least expected it, and I made sure it was the experience-of-a-lifetime."

– Hunt Advisor Austin Atkinson



Austin Atkinson with his dad, Mitch, on Mitch's Arizona Desert bighorn sheep hunt

Jerrold Lile and his buddy, Luke Cranney, with Luke's Idaho California bighorn sheep



"The most sought-after tag to draw in the West has to be a Desert bighorn sheep tag. Like many others, I apply and hope for the day I see 'Successful' next to my name on the draw results. Until that day, I will continue to experience Desert sheep country through friends who were luckier in the draw than me."

– Hunt Advisor
Robert Hanneman

BIGHORN SHEEP-FEE TABLES



DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

State	One-Time Fees Required to Apply*	Additional Application Fees**	Additional Fees Charged if Drawn for a Permit	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Hunt if Drawn	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Apply if Not Drawn	Cost to Apply for Points Only	Tentative 2019 Application Deadline
AZ	\$160.00	\$15.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,975.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	Early June
CA	\$169.05	\$8.13	\$1,555.50	\$1,732.68	\$177.18	\$177.18	Mid-March
CO	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$1,470.00	\$1,569.00	\$99.00	N/A	Early April
NV	\$156.00	\$14.00	\$1,201.00	\$1,371.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	Mid-April
NM	\$65.00	\$3,173.00	\$9.00	\$3,247.00	\$13.00	N/A	Mid-March
TX	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$315.00	\$325.00	\$10.00	N/A	Mid-October
UT	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$1,518.00	\$1,593.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March

*These fees include things like hunting licenses, habitat stamps, and other one-time charges.

**These fees include the price of the tag when it is charged at the time of application and also includes special permit application fees.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AND CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP

State	One-Time Fees Required to Apply*	Additional Application Fees**	Additional Fees Charged if Drawn for a Permit	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Hunt if Drawn	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Apply if Not Drawn	Cost to Apply for Points Only	Tentative 2019 Application Deadline
AZ	\$160.00	\$15.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,975.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	Early June
CO	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$2,210.00	\$2,309.00	\$199.00	\$199.00	Early April
ID***	\$169.69	\$2,207.81	\$0.00	\$2,377.50	\$275.75	N/A	Late April
MT	\$40.00	\$70.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,360.00	\$110.00	\$75.00	Early May
NV	\$156.00	\$14.00	\$1,201.00	\$1,371.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	Mid-April
NM	\$65.00	\$3,173.00	\$9.00	\$3,247.00	\$13.00	N/A	Mid-March
OR	\$167.00	\$8.00	\$1,469.50	\$1,644.50	\$175.00	N/A	Mid-May
UT	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$1,518.00	\$1,593.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
WA	N/A	\$110.50	\$1,652.00	\$1,762.50	\$110.50	\$110.50	Mid-May
WY****	N/A	\$2,335.00	\$12.50	\$2,347.50	\$165.00	\$150.00	Late February

*These fees include things like hunting licenses, habitat stamps, and other one-time charges.

**These fees include the price of the tag when it is charged at the time of application and also includes special permit application fees.

***Idaho prices shown here do not reflect Idaho's policy of charging customers approximately 3% for all credit card orders placed online. Please add about 3% to these prices if you plan to pay with a card and not a check or money order.

****Wyoming prices shown here do not reflect Wyoming's policy of charging customers a 2.5% credit card processing fee on all transactions.





TIPS FOR DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

CALIFORNIA

10% of all Desert bighorn sheep permits in California are available to non-residents, but it is not guaranteed. On most years, residents draw all of the Desert bighorn sheep tags in California. With a non-refundable non-resident hunting license that costs nearly \$170 and terrible draw odds, it is an expensive state to apply for unless you are already purchasing the hunting license for another species.

NEVADA

Nevada issues more than 30 non-resident Desert bighorn sheep tags, which is more than all the other states combined. Nevada's conservative sheep management strategy results in extremely high harvest success rates with older age class rams. It is cheap to apply as an add-on species because it is only \$16.50 once the annual hunting license (\$156) has been purchased and you don't have to pay for the tag unless you are drawn. For those dying to fill their freezer with delicious sheep meat, Nevada offers around a dozen non-resident ewe-only tags that are much easier to draw than ram tags.

UTAH

Four Desert bighorn sheep tags were issued to a sea of thousands of non-resident applicants in 2018. Like most sheep tags, the draw odds are terrible, but it is cheap to apply as an add-on species because it is only \$10 once the annual hunting license (\$65) has been purchased and you don't have to front the fees for the tag. Currently, all Utah Desert bighorn sheep tags are issued via a random draw process. Draw odds are typically well under 1%.

ARIZONA

Arizona issues the second highest number of non-resident tags of any state for Desert bighorn sheep, and it also happens to be home to some of the biggest Deserts in the world. If you're already applying in Arizona, this is a great add-on species as it is only \$15 extra to apply once the annual hunting license (\$160) has been purchased. Furthermore, you don't have to pay the tag fee unless you are drawn for a tag. Most non-resident tags are issued via a random draw, which means that even brand new applicants stand a chance at drawing.



NEW MEXICO

New Mexico's Desert bighorn sheep are some of the biggest found in any western state, but they do require applicants to front \$3,173 on their credit card in order to apply. The good news is that applicants get all but \$13 refunded within about six weeks if they don't draw. Also, there are no points, so this is truly a random draw for applicants who are just now starting to apply for sheep. Even with really tough draw odds, the inexpensive out-of-pocket fees make New Mexico a serious contender to apply for.

TEXAS

For \$10, hunters can throw their name in the hat to win a hunt for a Texas Desert bighorn sheep. This is definitely the cheapest place to apply for a Desert bighorn sheep. Also, once drawn, the hunt includes guide and outfitter fees with flexible hunt dates. The draw odds are terrible, but great rams are taken every year.

COLORADO

Typically, Colorado offers a single Desert bighorn sheep tag to non-residents through a random draw that does not have a point system. Sheep hunters must choose whether to apply for this Desert sheep tag or for a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tag because you cannot apply for both. One advantage to the Desert bighorn sheep tag is that you do not have to build three preference points before you are eligible to draw it like you do for the Rocky Mountain bighorn. Also, if you are already applying for other species in Colorado, applying for Desert bighorn sheep will only cost an additional \$9 to apply, whereas Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep will cost an additional \$109 to apply. As with all states, the draw odds for a Desert bighorn in Colorado are not pretty, but it makes a great add-on species if you are already applying for other species in the state.



TIPS FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

MONTANA

Montana is the land of giant rams and has dominated the record books for years. Almost every unit in the state has the potential to produce a 180" ram, and a lot of them have 190" potential. The problem with having giant rams is that Montana has some of the worst draw odds. You do not have to front the money to apply, but applicants will be out about \$95 of non-refundable money in order to apply and build points for sheep. All permits are awarded randomly, with bonus points being squared to help those who have applied in years past. There are five units in Montana that have unlimited bighorn sheep tags. These units are in extremely rough country north of Yellowstone National Park with small populations of sheep. These units have a quota of two rams each. The rams harvested in the unlimited units typically score between 150" and 170". Harvest success rates for the unlimited areas usually run under 5%.

IF TESTIMONIAL

"The Huntin' Fool magazine provided every bit of information I was looking for. The areas were explained in detail and included draw chances, points needed, average size of rams, largest rams taken, success rates, and potential for success. After years of trying to find this information on my own, I couldn't believe that your magazine had already done the work and put it into a format that was easy to read and understand. Any serious hunter should subscribe to Huntin' Fool if they want to make informed decisions about where to hunt and how to apply. Thank you for providing access to information that is so vital when you only get one chance to get it right."

— Jerome Sasala

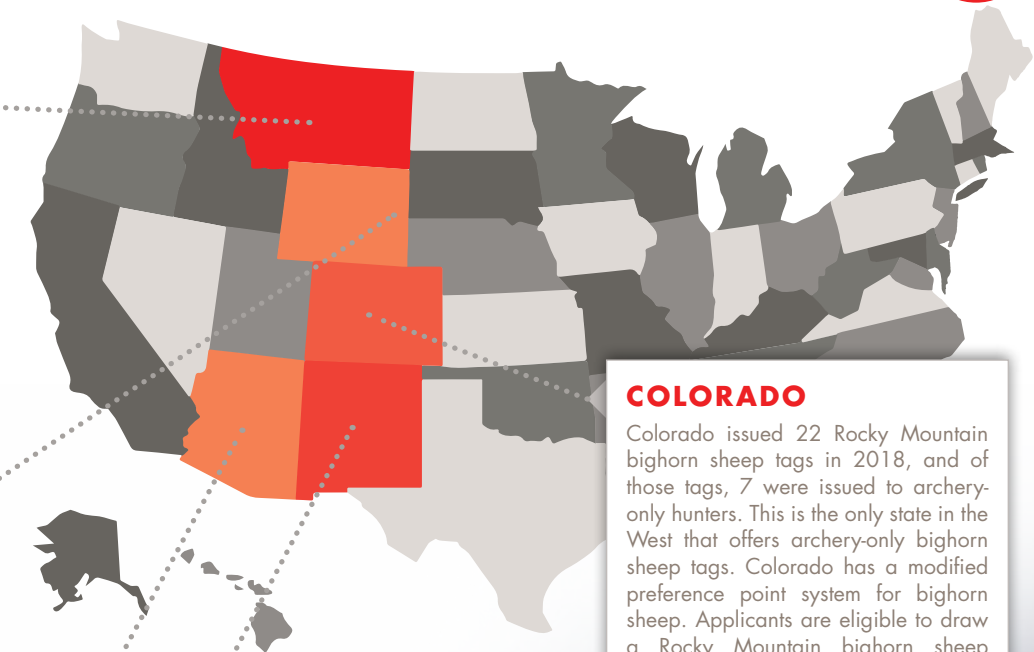
WYOMING

Wyoming issues more Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tags than any other state. In 2018, they issued 50 bighorn sheep tags to non-residents. Wyoming has a preference point system where 75% of all the tags are issued to the hunters with the most points. The other permits go in the random draw where everyone is equal. You have to submit \$2,320 plus 2.5% to apply, and if you are unsuccessful, you will be refunded all but \$165 and the credit card processing fees. Most of the sheep live in rough wilderness country where horses are required to reach them. If you are hunting in the wilderness area, you are required to have a guide or a resident with you. Draw odds are less than 1%.

ARIZONA

Arizona offers a great high success hunt for solid Rocky Mountain rams. Most units have 170"+ potential with a few book rams being harvested. This is a great add-on species as it is only \$15 extra to apply once the annual hunting license (\$160) has been purchased and you don't have to front the tag fees. Draw odds are very difficult, and half of the Rocky Mountain bighorn permits will most likely not be available in the random draw. Your first two choices count in the draw, and you can mix them between Rocky Mountain or Desert bighorn sheep.

TIPS FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

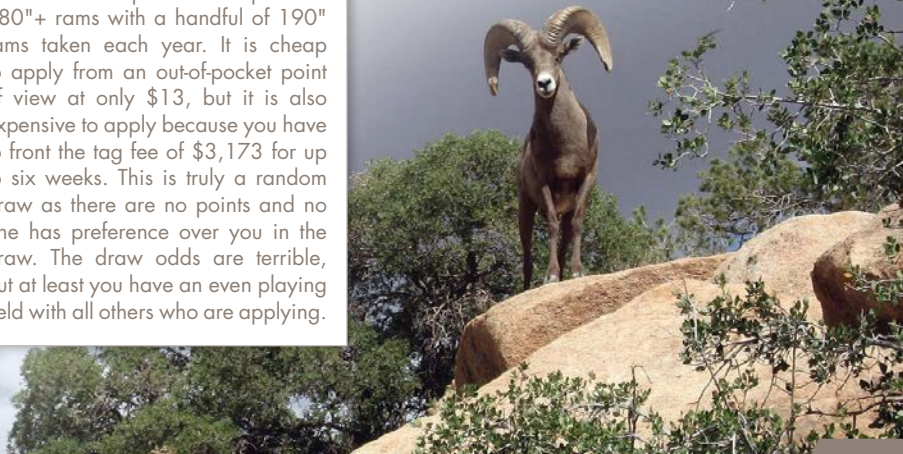


COLORADO

Colorado issued 22 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tags in 2018, and of those tags, 7 were issued to archery-only hunters. This is the only state in the West that offers archery-only bighorn sheep tags. Colorado has a modified preference point system for bighorn sheep. Applicants are eligible to draw a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tag on the fourth year they apply as three preference points are needed before becoming eligible for the draw. Applicants do not have to front the tag fees. Most Colorado rams will score between 155" and 175". A few 180"+ rams are harvested each year with a 200"+ ram being harvested in 2018.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico has great rams. Most units have the potential to produce 180"+ rams with a handful of 190" rams taken each year. It is cheap to apply from an out-of-pocket point of view at only \$13, but it is also expensive to apply because you have to front the tag fee of \$3,173 for up to six weeks. This is truly a random draw as there are no points and no one has preference over you in the draw. The draw odds are terrible, but at least you have an even playing field with all others who are applying.





TIPS FOR STATES WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN AND CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP

WASHINGTON

Washington has both Rocky Mountain and California bighorns. The only Rocky Mountain bighorn tag available is issued through a raffle put on by the Washington Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS). The winner of that raffle is usually hunting a 190" type ram. In the state draw, you can only apply for California bighorns. Washington typically produces the largest California bighorns in the West with 175"+ rams being harvested every year. It is very expensive to apply at \$110.50, and Washington has some of the worst draw odds in the West for bighorn sheep. Bonus points are squared to help those who have applied in years past.

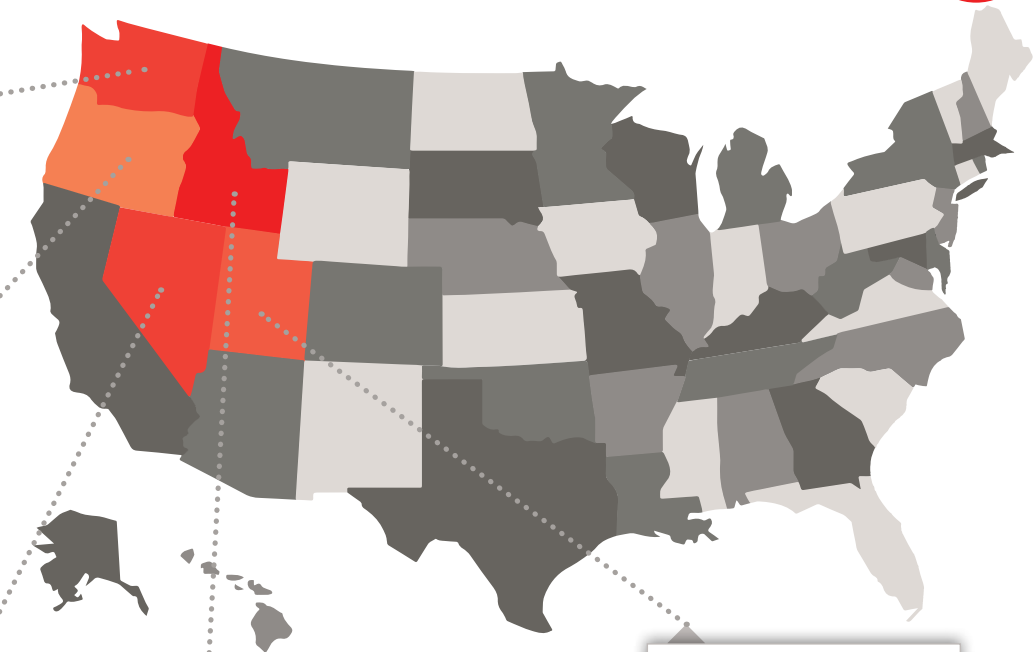
OREGON

Oregon has both Rocky Mountain and California bighorns. In 2018, they issued one Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tag and five California bighorn sheep tags to non-residents. There is not a point system, so everyone is equal in the draw. Draw odds are typically under 1% in every unit. It is only \$8 to apply, but you have to purchase a \$167 hunting licence. The Rocky Mountain bighorn unit will produce 180" rams, and the California bighorn units can produce 150-170"+ rams, depending on the unit drawn. If you are already buying an Oregon hunting licence, then it's a no-brainer to apply for bighorn sheep.

NEVADA

Nevada has both Rocky Mountain and California bighorns. At this time, non-residents are only allowed to apply for California bighorns. In 2018, Nevada offered five California bighorn sheep tags to non-residents. These hunts take place in northwest Nevada in the high desert. They are physically easy to moderately difficult hunts. A lot of older age class rams are available, with most rams scoring between 145" and 165". It is cheap to apply as an add-on species because it is only \$16.50 once the annual hunting license (\$156) has been purchased and you don't have to front the tag fees. Bonus points are squared to help those who have applied in years past. Nevada allows you to apply for both California bighorns and Desert bighorns.

TIPS FOR STATES WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN AND CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP



IDAHO

Idaho has both Rocky Mountain and California bighorn sheep available. The Rockies live in the rugged wilderness areas of central Idaho. Some of the units are more accessible, but others you will need to fly, float, or horseback into. The California bighorns live in the southern desert areas along the Owyhee river system. These hunts are usually physically easier. You have to front the tag fees, and in 2018, you had to submit \$2,308.25, of which \$206.25 was non-refundable if you were unsuccessful in the draw. There is not a point system, so everyone is equal in the draw. Draw odds are typically under 1% in every unit. If you apply for a sheep tag, you are not allowed to apply for any other species in Idaho.

UTAH

Utah has both Rocky Mountain and California bighorns, but the state classifies them all as Rocky Mountain bighorns. In 2018, they issued three non-resident tags, two of which were for Rockies and one for a California bighorn on the Box Elder unit. It is cheap to apply as an add-on species because it is only \$10 once the annual hunting license (\$65) has been purchased and you don't have to front the fees for the tag. The draw odds are terrible at less than 1%.



SHIRAS MOOSE-BOOTS ON THE GROUND

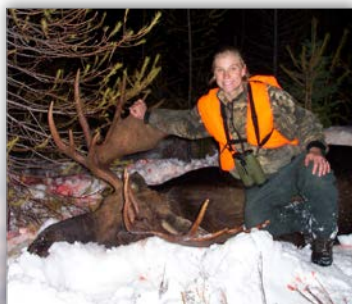
"One of the first quality tags I drew was a Montana Shiras moose. I thought this hunt would be easy, but it ended up being one of the toughest hunts I have ever experienced. After 24 days in a wall tent, I finally put my tag on a Boone and Crockett bull."

– Hunt Advisor
Robert Hanneman



"I always recommend applying for hunts in moose draws when available. I do not recommend building points only because it's much better to have your name in the random bin. My buddy drew this non-resident moose tag in the random draw this year and notched his tag on a bull-of-a-lifetime."

– Hunt Advisor Austin Atkinson



Amy Hanneman with her husband, Robert's, Montana Shiras Moose

IF DID YOU KNOW?

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH

Huntin' Fool has spent over 20 years working with Game and Fish agencies and outfitters across the country to develop relationships that enable us to get valuable insider information that we share exclusively with our members.

SHIRAS MOOSE-FEE TABLE



SHIRAS MOOSE							
State	One-Time Fees Required to Apply*	Additional Application Fees**	Additional Fees Charged if Drawn for a Permit	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Hunt if Drawn	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Apply if Not Drawn	Cost to Apply for Points Only	Tentative 2019 Application Deadline
CO	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$2,210.00	\$2,309.00	\$199.00	\$199.00	Early April
ID***	\$169.69	\$2,207.81	\$0.00	\$2,377.50	\$275.75	N/A	Late April
MT	\$40.00	\$70.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,360.00	\$110.00	\$75.00	Early May
UT	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$1,518.00	\$1,593.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
WA	N/A	\$110.50	\$1,652.00	\$1,762.50	\$110.50	\$110.50	Mid-May
WY****	N/A	\$1,997.00	\$12.50	\$2,009.50	\$165.00	\$150.00	Late February

*These fees include things like hunting licenses, habitat stamps, and other one-time charges.

**These fees include the price of the tag when it is charged at the time of application and also includes special permit application fees.

***Idaho prices shown here do not reflect Idaho's policy of charging customers approximately 3% for all credit card orders placed online. Please add about 3% to these prices if you plan to pay with a card and not a check or money order.

****Wyoming prices shown here do not reflect Wyoming's policy of charging customers a 2.5% credit card processing fee on all transactions.

HF DID YOU KNOW?

ONE-ON-ONE HUNT CONSULTATIONS

Your annual Huntin' Fool membership includes unlimited consultations with our team of Hunt Advisors who collectively have over 200 years of hunting experience across the globe. We love to help our members plan out their dream hunts, and no question is off-limits.





TIPS FOR SHIRAS MOOSE

WASHINGTON

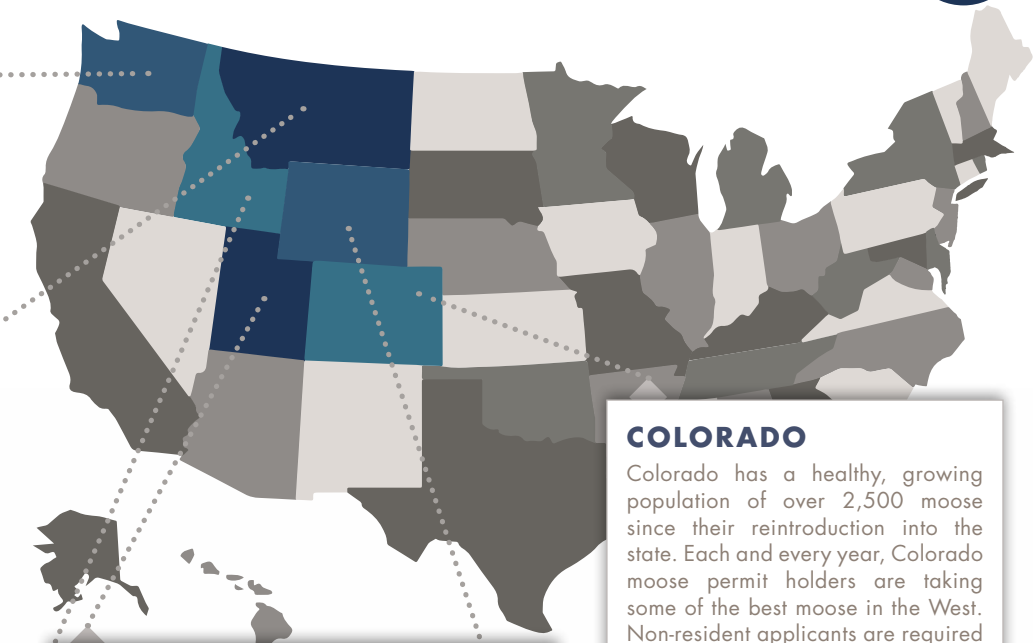
If you are lucky enough to draw one of Washington's moose permits, you will be in for a treat. Most units have the potential to produce a 45" + moose and feature very high harvest success rates. It is very expensive to apply at \$110.50, but with a completely random draw, everyone has a chance. Washington squares your points in an attempt to encourage long-term participation in their draw. They also do not have a separate quota for non-residents as all applicants are in the same pool.

MONTANA

Montana's Shiras moose habitat is extremely diverse and ranges from thickly timbered woods to sagebrush basins with willow-lined streams. A handful of really great bulls come out of Montana's best units each year, and there are always a few great bulls harvested in the Big Sky State's lesser-known units as well. When it comes to the draw, applicants can build one bonus point each year and Montana rewards long-term participation in the draw by squaring the bonus points accumulated for all species except bison. This system provides exponentially more chances to applicants who continue to apply year after year. In spite of that, draw odds are tough for the rookie first-timer all the way through the long-term veterans because there just aren't very many moose permits offered each year.

IDAHO

Idaho has a healthy population of Shiras moose and gives more non-resident tags than any other state. Many of the units are producing great bulls every year. There is no point system, so you could potentially draw your moose permit your first year of applying. If you apply for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, deer, elk, or antelope, you cannot apply for moose, which reduces the total number of applicants in the draw. A downside is that you must front the entire tag fee and purchase a non-refundable hunting license. This amounts to a total out-of-pocket cost north of \$200 to apply per year with no point system and a charge of more than \$2,300 on your credit card until refunds are processed.



UTAH

Utah moose have been on a decline, but hunters continue to take a handful of great bulls each year. This is not a great state to apply for moose as a primary species, but it is a great add-on species as it is only \$10 to apply if you have a license and you are already applying for other species. Currently, there is only one permit that is reserved for applicants with the most points (known as the bonus pass in Utah), which is good news for applicants with little to no points who are chasing that random tag.

COLORADO

Colorado has a healthy, growing population of over 2,500 moose since their reintroduction into the state. Each and every year, Colorado moose permit holders are taking some of the best moose in the West. Non-resident applicants are required to build three preference points before they are eligible to draw, so the first three years of applications provide no chance of drawing a tag. With 2019 price increases, it is now one of the more expensive out-of-pocket states to apply for, costing the non-resident applicant between \$109 and \$199, depending on whether or not additional species are applied for.

WYOMING

Wyoming issues moose tags in two quotas. One quota is reserved for applicants with the most preference points, and it typically requires 17+ points to draw these tags. The other quota is random and all applicants are eligible to draw these tags. If you are just starting to apply, you may never reach a preference point level high enough to be guaranteed a license in the preference point quota. On top of this, you have to submit \$2,320 plus 2.5% to apply, and if you are unsuccessful, you will be refunded all but \$165 and the credit card processing fees.



MOUNTAIN GOAT-BOOTS ON THE GROUND



Jerrold Lile, Mountain Goat
Montana



Robert Hanneman
Mountain Goat, Montana



"Mountain goat hunting gets in your blood in a way that few hunts can. Spending time in goat country inevitably results in a wide range of emotions. At times, you may tremble as you fear for your life, and at other times, you will simply be awestruck by the goats and the majestic places they live. After going on my first mountain goat hunt, I vowed that I would go with anyone who invited me along until I was too old to get around the mountains they call home."

– Hunt Advisor Jerrold Lile



"Living in Montana and enjoying high country backpack hunting was an easy transition into goat hunting. The country they live in is physically challenging to access, but the scenery is second to none. I think that harvesting a goat in the high peaks they call home is one of the most fulfilling hunts there is."

– Hunt Advisor Robert Hanneman

MOUNTAIN GOAT-FEE TABLE



MOUNTAIN GOAT

State	One-Time Fees Required to Apply*	Additional Application Fees**	Additional Fees Charged if Drawn for a Permit	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Hunt if Drawn	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Apply if Not Drawn	Cost to Apply for Points Only	Tentative 2019 Application Deadline
CO	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$2,210.00	\$2,309.00	\$199.00	\$199.00	Early April
ID***	\$169.69	\$2,207.81	\$0.00	\$2,377.50	\$275.75	N/A	Late April
MT	\$40.00	\$70.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,360.00	\$110.00	\$75.00	Early May
NV	\$156.00	\$14.00	\$1,201.00	\$1,371.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	Mid-April
OR	\$167.00	\$8.00	\$1,469.50	\$1,644.50	\$175.00	N/A	Mid-May
UT	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$1,518.00	\$1,593.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
WA	N/A	\$110.50	\$1,652.00	\$1,762.50	\$110.50	\$110.50	Mid-May
WY****	N/A	\$2,177.00	\$12.50	\$2,189.50	\$15.00	N/A	Late February

*These fees include things like hunting licenses, habitat stamps, and other one-time charges.

**These fees include the price of the tag when it is charged at the time of application and also includes special permit application fees.

***Idaho prices shown here do not reflect Idaho's policy of charging customers approximately 3% for all credit card orders placed online. Please add about 3% to these prices if you plan to pay with a card and not a check or money order.

****Wyoming prices shown here do not reflect Wyoming's policy of charging customers a 2.5% credit card processing fee on all transactions.



TIPS FOR MOUNTAIN GOAT

WASHINGTON

Washington grows some great goats thanks to their conservative management strategy, but their hunts are very expensive for adults to apply for and they feature terrible draw odds. For kids under 16 who have completed a hunter's education course, applications drop from the \$110.50 that adults pay to \$3.80. Furthermore, on the long shot that your youth draws a permit, they only pay \$57 instead of the \$1,652 that adults pay for the tag. In light of this, it might be worth applying your young hunter for an Evergreen State goat. On the upside for both adult and youth applicants, Washington's draw is completely random, they square your bonus points, and residents and non-residents are all in the same pool for tags, so there are some pluses to their system.

TESTIMONIAL

"I consider my relationship with Huntin' Fool as important as my CPA or lawyer. My success and my family's success as hunters increasingly hinges on Huntin' Fool keeping our paperwork in order for each state, reminding me of important deadlines, and helping us make informed decisions about what guides to choose for particular areas. They have delivered consistent draw results for my family three years in a row."

— Jeffrey J. Kimbell

OREGON

In Oregon, it is expensive to apply for a mountain goat as you are required to purchase a non-refundable hunting license, but it is a no-brainer to apply if you are already applying for other species as each additional species is only \$8. There is great trophy potential. There isn't a point system, so all applicants are equal in the draw. Very few goat permits are issued, and the draw odds are terrible.

IDAHO

Idaho is an expensive state to apply for mountain goats in because applicants will have to fork over more than \$200 in non-refundable licenses and fees to apply in a state that doesn't have a point system that rewards long-term participation. Furthermore, like goat hunts in all states, the draw odds are poor. As if that is not enough of a reason to hesitate, applicants must front the cost of the tag, which means they will have more than \$2,200 extended to Idaho for up to eight weeks until Idaho issues refunds if you are not drawn. It is important to note that if you apply for Idaho mountain goat, you cannot apply for limited-entry permits for any other species.

NEVADA

Nevada may issue up to one non-resident permit in the draw, but their conservative management strategy often results in the tag not being issued. When they do issue a tag, the draw odds are not good at all. If you are already applying for other species in Nevada, it is a fairly good add-on species since you will have already paid for the non-resident hunting license. Otherwise, Huntin' Fool recommends that you pass on Nevada's mountain goat draw in favor of better options elsewhere.

TIPS FOR MOUNTAIN GOAT



MONTANA

Montana issues more non-resident goat tags than any other state in the lower 48, but like all states, the draw odds are still tough. Big Sky goat hunts range over a huge variety of terrain in terms of the difficulty of access. Montana is fairly cheap to apply for or build points in because you do not have to front the tag fees and you can apply for points only. They have a weighted bonus point system where bonus points are squared for the draw in an attempt to reward long-term participation in the draw.

WYOMING

Wyoming does not offer a point system for mountain goats and all tags are issued through a random draw. The upside to this is that all applicants are treated equally in the draw. The downside is that you have to submit \$2,320 plus 2.5% to apply, and if you are unsuccessful, you will be refunded all but \$165 and the credit card processing fees. Draw odds range from 0.3% to 1.8%, meaning it's a long shot if you don't have a credit card with plenty of room on it for the Cowboy State.

UTAH

This is a good add-on species if you are already applying for other species in Utah and you have purchased the non-refundable hunting license. Many of Utah's goat hunts are conducted in areas where the goats frequently experience human interaction, which can make them a little less wary. The terrain that goats live in makes the hunt difficult enough on its own, so a bit of an advantage does not hurt. When it comes to terrain, it varies greatly on Utah's goat hunts, from physically easy hunts to extremely demanding, physical hunts.

COLORADO

Colorado requires non-resident applicants to earn three preference points by applying for three years before they are eligible to draw a tag. After that point requirement is met, applicants face tough draw odds for one of Colorado's billy goats. One bright spot is that Colorado offers the only archery-only permit available for mountain goats for non-resident hunters in any state if you're dedicated to the stick and string.

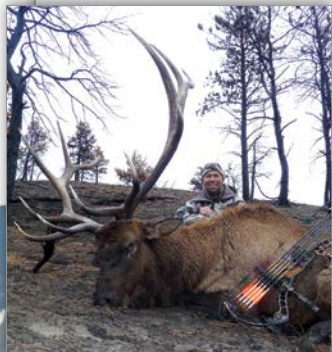


ELK-BOOTS ON THE GROUND



"The sound of bugling bulls and a bow in my hands makes me happier than a fat kid in a candy store. I grab one or two over-the-counter archery elk tags every year. It is hard to beat the rush you get from chasing bugling bulls in September with a bow."

– Hunt Advisor
Logan Hedges



"Archery elk hunting has been my favorite fall activity since I heard my first elk bugle as a little kid clinging to my dad's side. The first bugle of each season still sends chills up and down my spine and every close encounter leaves my legs trembling and my heart racing!"

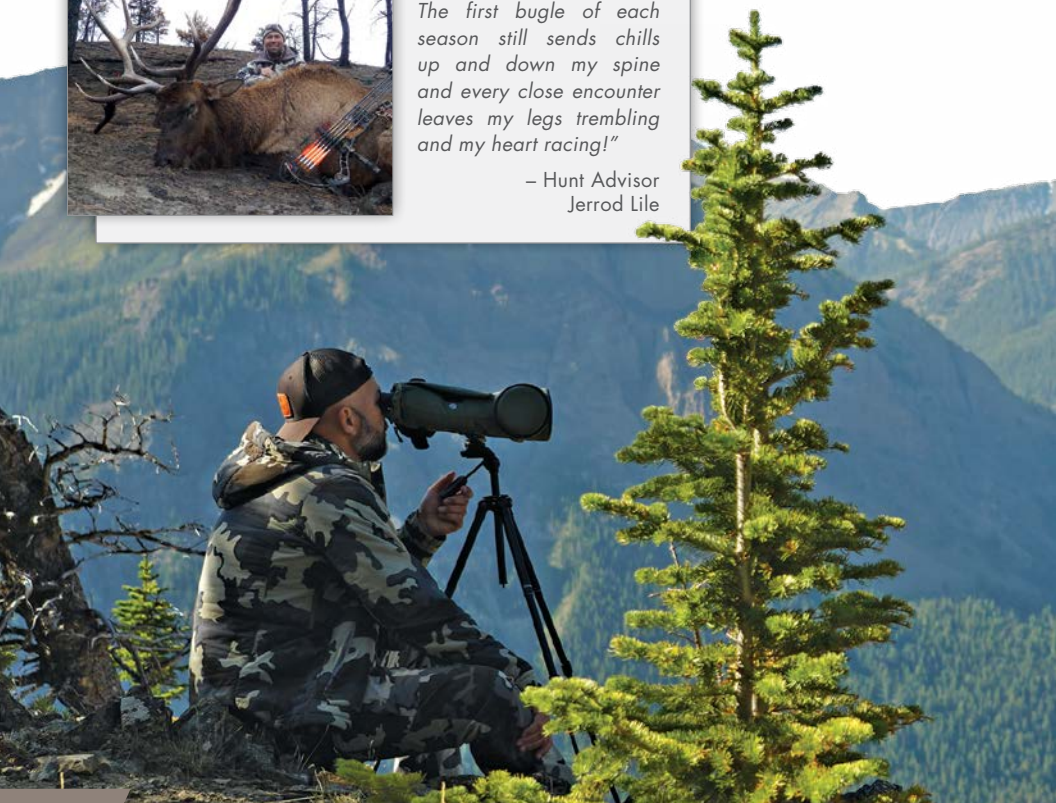
– Hunt Advisor
Jerrold Lile

IF DID YOU KNOW?

DRAW ODDS

Huntin' Fool's draw odds are the most accurate representation of the actual odds available to hunters.

As a bonus, our online version provides sortable columns to get easy visibility on where you stand in the draw. You can even enter your current point level to see yourself in the draw odds!



ELK-FEE TABLE



ELK

State	One-Time Fees Required to Apply*	Additional Application Fees**	Additional Fees Charged if Drawn for a Permit	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Hunt if Drawn	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Apply if Not Drawn	Cost to Apply for Points Only	Tentative 2019 Application Deadline
AZ	\$160.00	\$15.00	\$650	\$825.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	Early February
CO	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$660.00	\$759.00	\$99.00	\$99.00	Early April
ID***	\$164.75	\$14.75	\$416.75	\$596.25	\$179.50	N/A	Early June
MT	\$40.00	\$894.00	\$0.00	\$934.00	\$54.00	\$25.00	Mid-March
NV	\$156.00	\$19.00	\$1,201.00	\$1,376.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	Mid-April
NM (S)	\$65.00	\$548.00	\$9.00	\$622.00	\$13.00	N/A	Mid-March
NM (Q/HD)	\$65.00	\$773.00	\$9.00	\$847.00	\$13.00	N/A	Mid-March
OR	\$167.00	\$8.00	\$571.00	\$746.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	Mid-May
UT	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$800.00	\$875.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
WY**** (Regular)	N/A	\$759.00	\$12.50	\$719.50	\$67.00	\$52.00	Late January
WY**** (Special)	N/A	\$1,325.00	\$12.50	\$1,285.50	\$67.00	\$52.00	Late January

*These fees include things like hunting licenses, habitat stamps, and other one-time charges.

**These fees include the price of the tag when it is charged at the time of application and also includes special permit application fees and point fees if purchased at the time of application.

***Idaho prices shown here do not reflect Idaho's policy of charging customers approximately 3% for all credit card orders placed online. Please add about 3% to these prices if you plan to pay with a card and not a check or money order.

****Wyoming prices shown here do not reflect Wyoming's policy of charging customers a 2.5% credit card processing fee on all transactions.



Austin Atkinson, Elk Arizona



Garth Jensen,
Elk Arizona



Robert Hanneman, Elk Oregon



TROPHY ELK TIPS

MONTANA

Montana produced the new world-record archery typical bull a few years ago. Each year, Montana adds a number of bulls to the record book. Most of these elk are harvested on limited draw areas on the eastern side of the state. The rifle tags have horrible odds, but the archery tags can be drawn every two to five years. All permits are awarded randomly, with bonus points being squared to help those who have applied in years past. If you are an archery hunter looking for trophy elk, Montana should be on your radar.

WYOMING

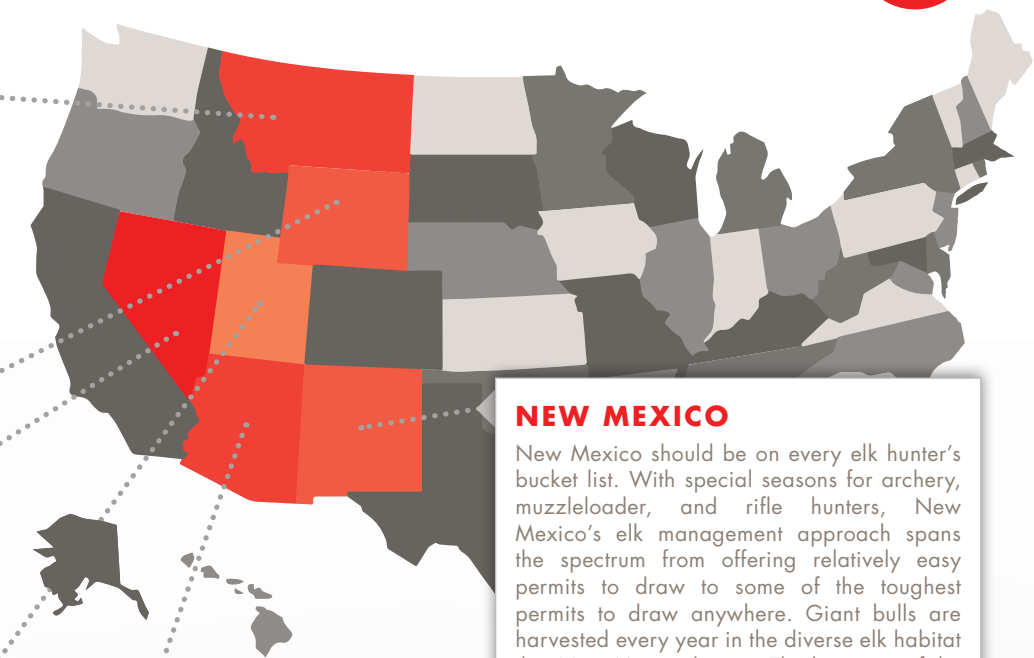
Wyoming is a top contender for elk hunters to consider applying for. It is home to a thriving population of elk scattered across every type of habitat from high desert sage to alpine peaks. Non-residents can draw the General licenses in two years or less, which allows you to hunt more than 50 units across the state. Almost every area of the state of Wyoming has the potential to produce trophy bulls and quality elk hunting experiences. Areas that require the use of horses, an outfitter, or private land access can help you draw a tag in just a few years while some of the highest demand units will take 20+ years to catch the curve of applicants. With the option of building points for a little more than \$50, Huntin' Fool definitely recommends not waiting to begin applying for elk in Wyoming.

NEVADA

An elk permit in Nevada is one of the most rare permits in the West. With strict management programs and very limited permit numbers, only a few non-residents are allowed to take an elk annually. However, Nevada is home to some true western giants. If you are already applying there for other species, you should add an elk application. All permits are awarded randomly, with bonus points being squared to help those who have applied in years past. Season dates do not follow the typical elk hunting schedule as the peak of the rifle hunts are in November.

UTAH

Utah is home to some of the largest bull elk in the West due to the fact that they issue very few permits in an effort to grow older age class bulls in most of the coveted permit areas. As you would expect, draw odds are tough for these hunts, but on the upside, all hunts will have random tags available in the draw so that even first-time applicants have a chance to draw a tag. Peak of the rut hunts are available with long draw odds as well as many early season archery and late season rifle hunts with better odds. Utah is one of the most inexpensive states in the West to apply for and build points in, so it is worthy of consideration when it comes time to dream about the places you'd like to hunt elk in.



ARIZONA

Arizona should be at the top of every elk hunter's list. Although it is tough to secure an early season permit, there is an ample amount of late season permits that can be drawn with much better odds. With 50% of non-resident permits allocated randomly, you may draw on your very first year of applying. The other permits are awarded to those who apply with the most bonus points, which means 20+ points for early season rifle hunts or 7+ points for late season rifle hunts. Many early archery hunts can be drawn with 10+ points.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico should be on every elk hunter's bucket list. With special seasons for archery, muzzleloader, and rifle hunters, New Mexico's elk management approach spans the spectrum from offering relatively easy permits to draw to some of the toughest permits to draw anywhere. Giant bulls are harvested every year in the diverse elk habitat that New Mexico boasts. The best part of the New Mexico draw is that it does not require that you play a long-term strategy as there is no point system. In light of that, Huntin' Fool recommends adding elk to your application game when you have an opening in your fall season. You must front the entire tag and license fee up front, but if you are unsuccessful in the draw, you will only be out \$13.

HF JARGON

Huntin' Fool defines trophy elk hunts as those that are capable of producing bulls that may score 350"+. These hunts are typically difficult to draw or require more expensive routes like top-end outfitters or landowner tags.



OPPORTUNITY ELK TIPS

OREGON

Oregon is home to 65,000 Rocky Mountain elk and 60,000 Roosevelt elk, and over-the-counter hunts are widely available for both species. Access is good with 53% of the state being public land, and a considerable amount of timber company land is open to some form of public access as well. Over-the-counter archery elk licenses are valid in 60 units across the state. These licenses do not have a non-resident quota, and they can be purchased up to and during the season. Archery elk hunts can easily be combined with the overlapping archery deer season to create a combination hunt. Over-the-counter rifle hunts are widely available as well for both species, but they are typically a week or less and occur outside of the elk rut.

MONTANA

Montana has a population of more than 170,000 elk statewide and with a little planning, passionate elk hunters can obtain an elk tag pretty much every year. The general season tags are valid in more than 120 game management units, and if you hunt the archery season and the rifle season, you could chase elk for a whopping 11 weeks. Furthermore, limited-entry archery permits for some really good elk hunts are relatively easy to draw when compared to other states. With elk habitat that ranges from the clay buttes of the Missouri River Breaks to alpine peaks and the famous Bob Marshall wilderness area, Montana offers elk hunters as much opportunity as any state in the West across more acreage than Lewis and Clark could have covered in a lifetime.

DID YOU KNOW?

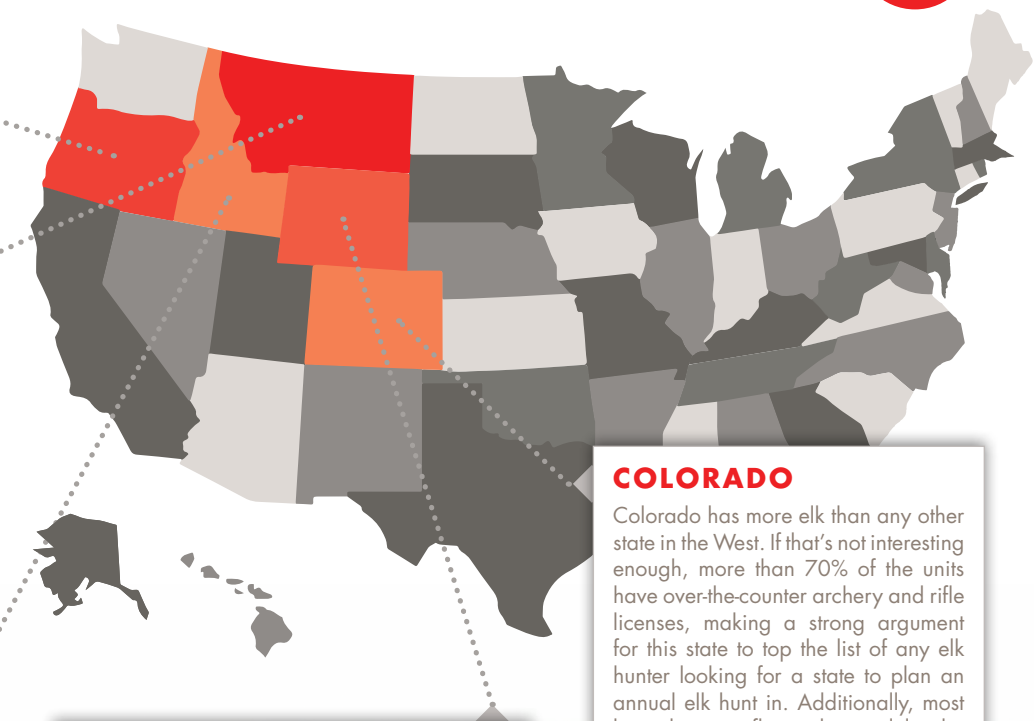
BUILT TO HUNT PODCAST

Huntin' Fool's podcast provides information on each state's draw system, including our recommendations on sought-after species like elk.

IDAHO

Idaho offers nearly 13,000 non-resident elk tags annually to hunt a population of more than 100,000 elk on more than 34 million acres of public land. This makes Idaho a no-brainer to consider when planning an annual or guaranteed elk hunting strategy. As a bonus, a second elk tag can usually be purchased beginning on August 1st, enabling elk hunters to harvest two bull elk in a single season. This is an unprecedented opportunity. Your non-resident elk tag can be used to harvest a wolf, bear, or mountain lion if given an opportunity in the field. If you're looking to plan a hunt with your kids, Idaho's Youth Mentor program is second to none in terms of opportunity and cost.





WYOMING

Unlike some states that Huntin' Fool categorizes as opportunity states, there are no guaranteed annual elk tags in Wyoming for non-residents. With that being said, non-residents who apply for the General tags in the Special (more costly) draw can expect to draw an elk tag every other year. The General elk license entitles the tag holder to hunt over 50 units across the state. For archery hunters, General archery units in Wyoming are typically far less crowded than in other states as it is a bonus season for an any weapon elk hunting license. For rifle hunters, some general rifle seasons open in September and the first part of October, allowing for rifle hunts during the rut. As a final incentive, most big game seasons overlap in Wyoming, allowing you to hunt multiple species during an elk hunt. Keep in mind that federally designated wilderness areas require a licensed guide or a properly permitted resident of the state of Wyoming to accompany non-residents on the hunt.

COLORADO

Colorado has more elk than any other state in the West. If that's not interesting enough, more than 70% of the units have over-the-counter archery and rifle licenses, making a strong argument for this state to top the list of any elk hunter looking for a state to plan an annual elk hunt in. Additionally, most limited-entry rifle and muzzleloader hunts can be drawn with one to four preference points. All over-the-counter archery licenses are good for either a bull or a cow. There is no non-resident quota on over-the-counter elk licenses, and they can be purchased up to and during the season.

HF JARGON

Huntin' Fool defines opportunity elk as elk hunts that are over-the-counter or easily available through a draw system. These hunts rarely produce elk that score more than 300-320".



MULE DEER-BOOTS ON THE GROUND



Stanton Upson,
Mule Deer Utah



"Mule deer have always been the symbol of western big game hunting to me. There is nothing like seeing a giant racked old buck running away. That is the reason I try to hunt mule deer somewhere every year."

– Hunt Advisor
Garth Jensen



"Chasing big mule deer is a hunt that is hard to top. Many states out west give hunters great opportunity hunts to chase big bucks. From the prairies in South Dakota to the wilderness in Idaho, I believe there is a hunt that can accommodate any hunter."

– Hunt Advisor Isaiah Joner



Logan Hedges and his
son, Brodie, with Brodie's
Wyoming mule deer



Austin Atkinson,
Mule Deer Colorado



MULE DEER-FEE TABLE



DEER

State	One-Time Fees Required to Apply*	Additional Application Fees**	Additional Fees Charged if Drawn for a Permit	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Hunt if Drawn	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Apply if Not Drawn	Cost to Apply for Points Only	Tentative 2019 Application Deadline
AZ	\$160.00	\$15.00	\$300.00	\$475.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	Early June
CO	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$395.00	\$494.00	\$99.00	\$99.00	Early April
ID***	\$164.75	\$14.75	\$301.75	\$481.25	\$179.50	N/A	Early June
MT	\$40.00	\$615.00	\$0.00	\$655.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	Mid-March
NV	\$156.00	\$14.00	\$241.00	\$411.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	Mid-April
NM (S)	\$65.00	\$368.00	\$9.00	\$442.00	\$13.00	N/A	Mid-March
NM (Q/HD)	\$65.00	\$773.00	\$9.00	\$847.00	\$13.00	N/A	Mid-March
OR	\$167.00	\$8.00	\$430.50	\$605.50	\$175.00	\$175.00	Mid-May
SD	N/A	\$10.00	\$286.00	\$296.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	Mid-July
UT Limited-Entry	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$468.00	\$543.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
UT Premium Limited-Entry	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$568.00	\$643.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
UT General Deer	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$268.00	\$343.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
WA****	N/A	\$544.80	\$0.00	\$544.80	\$544.80	\$110.50	Mid-May
WY**** (Regular)	N/A	\$430.00	\$12.50	\$401.50	\$56.00	\$41.00	Late May
WY**** (Special)	N/A	\$718.00	\$12.50	\$689.50	\$56.00	\$41.00	Late May

*These fees include things like hunting licenses, habitat stamps, and other one-time charges.

**These fees include the price of the tag when it is charged at the time of application and also includes special permit application fees and point fees if purchased at the time of application.

***Idaho prices shown here do not reflect Idaho's policy of charging customers approximately 3% for all credit card orders placed online. Please add about 3% to these prices if you plan to pay with a card and not a check or money order.

****Wyoming prices shown here do not reflect Wyoming's policy of charging customers a 2.5% credit card processing fee on all transactions.

*****Washington requires applicants to purchase an actual deer tag in order to apply in the draw. If unsuccessful in the draw, applicants cannot get a refund for their tag, so this state is very expensive to apply in unless you plan to hunt your deer tag in a general season unit.





TIPS FOR TROPHY DEER

MONTANA

Montana has great genetics, but they choose to manage more for hunter opportunity than for trophy potential. There are a couple units on the western side of the state that they manage for trophy potential, but the draw odds are poor at 1%-2%. These units have the potential to produce 180-190"+ bucks if you get lucky and draw the tag. Another option for trophy mule deer hunters is to go with an outfitter on private land where they have been managing for big bucks. A number of 180" type bucks are being taken each year on private land in eastern Montana.

WYOMING

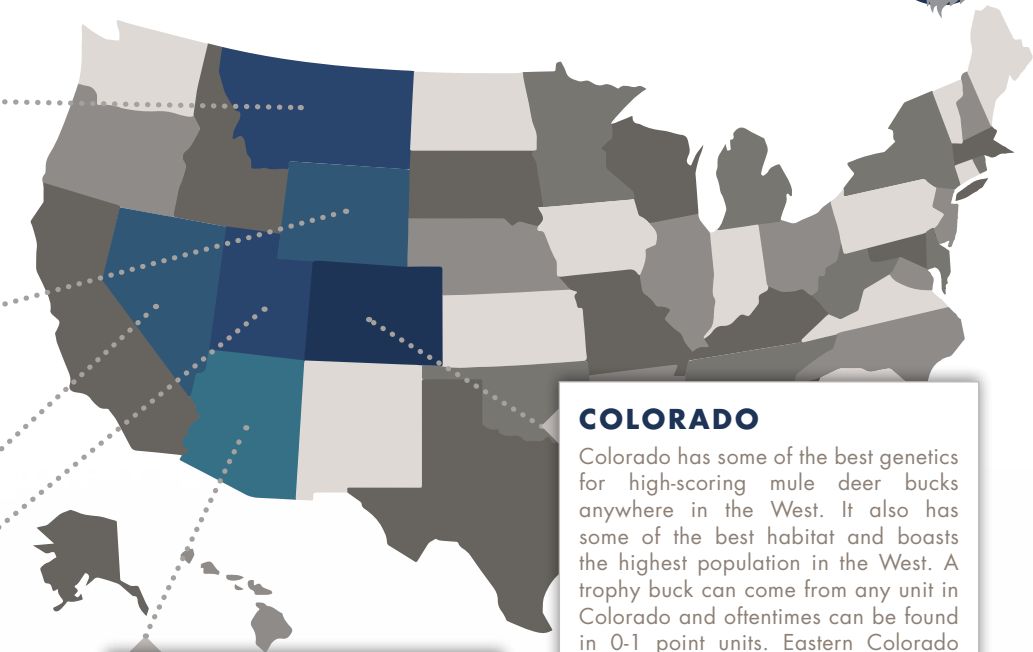
Wyoming chooses to manage more for hunter opportunity than for trophy potential. Two of the best units in the state are over-the-counter for resident hunters, so you can expect a lot of pressure. These units are region G, which typically takes non-residents 6-7 points to draw, and region H, which usually takes 2-3 points. Region H is easier to draw because there are wilderness areas and non-residents are required to use a guide to hunt them. There are a handful of units that Wyoming is trying to manage, but you can expect the draw odds to be very poor and the trophy quality to be struggling to produce anything over 180".

NEVADA

Nevada manages their deer conservatively and typically do not offer mule deer hunts during the rut. This is why you see a good age class of bucks throughout the state. Nevada produces some great bucks every year, but the best bucks usually come from southern Nevada. The best units in the state usually take 15+ points to draw. If you are already applying here for other species, you should be applying or building points for deer. All permits are awarded randomly, with bonus points being squared to help those who have applied in years past. All five of your choices on your application are looked at if you are drawn. Nevada gives archery hunters a great opportunity to harvest velvet bucks as the season opens around August 10th.

UTAH

Utah allows applicants to apply for both general and limited-entry deer hunts in the same year. They manage their limited-entry units for high buck-to-doe ratios from 25-35 up to 40+ bucks per 100 does, so the likelihood of finding a trophy buck is high. Utah is one of the cheapest states to apply for in the West and only costs an additional \$10 per species to apply in the draw after the \$65 hunting license is purchased. Most limited-entry units take 15-20+ years to draw in the preference draw, but at least half of the non-resident permits are awarded in a random draw.



ARIZONA

Arizona is home to world-famous mule deer areas, such as the Kaibab and Arizona Strip. These areas are continually producing bucks in excess of 200". It can take 20+ years to draw a rifle permit in one of these areas, but archery permits are currently being drawn with 4-5 points for the Kaibab units 12A/12B. Half of the non-resident permits can be drawn in a random drawing. Rest assured that applicants beat the odds. Drawing one of these coveted permits allows you to hunt in an area that produces 200" mule deer bucks.

COLORADO

Colorado has some of the best genetics for high-scoring mule deer bucks anywhere in the West. It also has some of the best habitat and boasts the highest population in the West. A trophy buck can come from any unit in Colorado and oftentimes can be found in 0-1 point units. Eastern Colorado trophy mule deer hunts can be drawn with 1-3 points but will require an outfitter to gain access. Trophy mule deer hunts on the western side of Colorado will likely take in excess of 13-15+ points for the best seasons in the best units but will have plenty of public land.

ID JARGON

Huntin' Fool defines trophy deer as deer hunts that are capable of producing bucks scoring 180"+. These hunts often take years to draw or involve top-end outfitters, downowner tags, or a little luck.





TIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY DEER

ARIZONA

Over-the-counter archery mule deer permits are readily available in Arizona, and most units have two to three seasons that allow you to hunt as early as August and as late as January. As a bonus, your deer permit is valid for either Coues deer or mule deer and with a little strategy during Arizona's two draw periods, you should be able to add javelina to the menu if you hunt in the month of January. For gun hunters, there are many mule deer hunts that only require a few points to draw and there are many Coues deer hunts that actually have leftover permits available. In light of that, Huntin' Fool considers Arizona to be a good state for hunters simply looking for an opportunity to hunt deer in the West.

COLORADO

Colorado is arguably the best state for mule deer hunters as it has high populations coupled with great genetics. Every unit in the state has the potential to produce 180" deer. A lot of units can be drawn with 0-2 points, and a handful of units can be drawn on your second choice, which does not use your points. Most units offer an archery, muzzleloader, and up to four rifle hunts. Excluding the Eastern Plains of Colorado, there is a lot of public land. The easiest tags to obtain are those that do not occur in or near the rut or that have access issues. There is an abundance of landowner tags available in Colorado if you don't draw, and if you purchase a landowner tag, it does not burn your points.

IDAHO

Idaho has a ton of over-the-counter rifle and archery deer units in habitat that ranges from the thick forested country in the northern wilderness to the open desert country in the southern portion of the state. Incredibly, hunters can purchase a second deer tag and harvest two bucks in the same year in the Gem State. There is a healthy population of whitetails in northern Idaho, and mule deer can be found statewide. Access is excellent with a lot of public land. Most deer seasons typically overlap elk, wolf, and bear over-the-counter seasons, making Idaho a great choice for a combination hunt.

MONTANA

Montana's easily acquired deer tags are good to hunt for one of the 335,000 mule deer or 215,000 whitetail deer that roam the state. Public access ranges from excellent to poor, but there are literally tens of millions of easily accessible deer habitat areas, so finding room to hunt is never a problem. Unlike any other state, Montana lets their deer hunters have a five-week long firearm season that runs through the prime dates of the deer rut, which is a very enticing opportunity.

NEVADA

Nevada's unique draw system allows applicants to list five choices on their application. As a result, Huntin' Fool recommends that deer applicants should list some trophy units first and then easier to draw units last. By doing this, Nevada allows hunters to play the trophy game and the opportunity game at the same time. All tags are issued in a random draw where firearm tags in less popular units are often drawn with 0-5 points. A lot of archery units can be drawn with 0-3 points. Every unit in the state has the potential to produce a 180" buck, and there is a ton of public land.

NEW MEXICO

All of New Mexico's deer permits are issued through a truly random draw since there is no point system. Also, their permits are weapon specific, so the applicant needs to choose archery, muzzleloader, or any weapon when applying. Draw odds for many mule deer tags in New Mexico are better than 50% and there are even some 100% units, so obtaining a tag is relatively easy. Some of the archery deer licenses have split early and late season dates, allowing the hunter to hunt for an extended period. Applicants can list three choices on an application, so they could list trophy units first and then easier to draw units last to pursue a trophy and an opportunity strategy simultaneously.



OREGON

Archery over-the-counter tags are valid in most of Oregon and are good for either a mule deer, blacktail deer, or whitetail deer. The archery season is four weeks long with a few areas having a late archery season during the deer rut. There are good deer numbers throughout the state. The deserts of southern Oregon are a sleeper archery hunt for a good mule deer buck. Over-the-counter rifle tags are valid in the western third of the state, and these tags are mainly for blacktail deer. In addition to 53% of the state being public land, there are a lot of timber company properties that allow access.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Statewide over-the-counter archery tags with generous season dates are good for mule deer or whitetails. Additionally, it only takes a few points to draw the better rifle units. South Dakota has long season dates and good deer numbers. The downside is that there is a lot of private land, so access can be problematic without proper research and planning. Overall, this is an excellent state to consider for hunters who are looking for an opportunity at a mule deer.

UTAH

In addition to the limited-entry draw, Utah has a separate draw for 29 units that they have designated as their general deer hunts. Most of these general deer hunts can be drawn with 0-4 points. Utah is one of the only states that currently has an increasing mule deer population, which is primarily happening in these units. Some of the biggest bucks every year are harvested in these relatively easy to draw units. Utah also offers an archery only over-the-counter November rut hunt that encompasses a huge area in the steep, rugged portion of northern Utah known as the Wasatch Front. Utah has a dedicated hunter program that allows hunters to hunt the general archery, muzzleloader, and rifle seasons within that unit.

WASHINGTON

There is no quota for non-resident deer tags in Washington, and your deer tag is good for a mule deer, whitetail deer, or a blacktail deer. Season dates vary widely from the September high buck hunt to late archery hunts and everything in between. Most of the state is managed for opportunity instead of trophy, so hunters should expect younger age classes of deer, high hunter densities, and lower overall harvest success rates than quality mule deer hunts offer. With that being said, there are not many states that offer more access, longer season dates, more weapon choices, and an opportunity to hang your tag on any of three different deer species.

WYOMING

Wyoming should be a state on every mule deer hunter's planning list when you consider that most of the general deer units can be drawn with 0 points or as a second choice. Some of the biggest bucks and best genetics in the West reside in Wyoming's general season units G and H. Although region G tags can take quite a few years to draw, the region H tags typically take three years or less. If you focus on hunts that can be drawn as a second choice, you can hunt Wyoming every year while building points for an incredible tag. Archery deer and elk hunts overlap, allowing hunters to potentially hunt two species at the same time. Applicants on a budget can purchase points only from July through October, allowing them to build points for future hunts without having to invest a lot of money.

IF JARGON

Huntin' Fool defines opportunity deer as hunts that are available over-the-counter or easily available through a draw system. These hunts rarely produce deer that score 170"+. In most cases, these deer units are being managed to provide a lot of hunting opportunity in lieu of producing older age-class animals.



ANTELOPE-BOOTS ON THE GROUND



Robert Hanneman, Antelope
Wyoming



"The availability of permits across the West for antelope makes it a no-brainer to try to pad your pockets with these permits each year. Low stress and high success are why I plan to have at least one antelope tag in my pocket each year, not to mention how tasty they are."

– Hunt Advisor Stanton Upson



Isaiah Joner, Antelope
Montana



"There is no other hunt I look forward to more every year than antelope. These hunts are usually full of game and have plenty of opportunity. It is a great hunt for first-time and longtime hunters alike."

– Hunt Advisor
Garth Jensen

ANTELOPE-FEE TABLE



2019 ANTELOPE

State	One-Time Fees Required to Apply*	Additional Application Fees**	Additional Fees Charged if Drawn for a Permit	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Hunt if Drawn	Total Out-of-Pocket Cost to Apply if Not Drawn	Cost to Apply for Points Only	Tentative 2019 Application Deadline
AZ	\$160.00	\$15.00	\$550	\$725.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	Early Feb.
CO	\$90.00	\$9.00	\$395.00	\$494.00	\$99.00	\$99.00	Early April
ID***	\$164.75	\$14.75	\$311.75	\$491.25	\$179.50	N/A	Early June
MT	\$40.00	\$205.00	\$0.00	\$245.00	\$45.00	\$25.00	Early June
NV	\$156.00	\$14.00	\$301.00	\$471.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	Mid-April
NM	\$65.00	\$283.00	\$9.00	\$357.00	\$13.00	N/A	Mid-March
UT	\$65.00	\$10.00	\$293.00	\$368.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Early March
WY**** (Regular)	N/A	\$372.00	\$12.50	\$353.50	\$46.00	\$31.00	Late May
WY**** (Special)	N/A	\$660.00	\$12.50	\$641.50	\$46.00	\$31.00	Late May

*These fees include things like hunting licenses, habitat stamps, and other one-time charges.

**These fees include the price of the tag when it is charged at the time of application and also includes special permit application fees and point fees if purchased at the time of application.

***Idaho prices shown here do not reflect Idaho's policy of charging customers approximately 3% for all credit card orders placed online. Please add about 3% to these prices if you plan to pay with a card and not a check or money order.

****Wyoming prices shown here do not reflect Wyoming's policy of charging customers a 2.5% credit card processing fee on all transactions.



Garth Jenson, Antelope Wyoming

IF DID YOU KNOW?

MEMBER DRAW DATABASE

Huntin' Fool members can request a list of hunters who have drawn tags in the past across the West. With more than 20,000 records in this database, there's a good chance that a member has had boots on the ground experience in your unit when you finally draw it.



TIPS FOR ANTELOPE

IDAHO

Idaho rarely produces trophy-sized antelope, so it is best to consider it an opportunity state. Archery hunters have multiple unlimited hunts available across large portions of Idaho's better antelope habitat, but firearm hunters face much tougher draw odds overall. Huntin' Fool typically encourages firearm hunters who are already applying for deer or elk to add antelope as well, and we definitely recommend that archery hunters consider this state on the very short list of states that offer antelope tags that can be acquired every year. Public access to Idaho's antelope is excellent overall with very few unit exceptions.

WYOMING

The Cowboy State is the king when it comes to antelope. With about 500,000 of them roaming the sage and grasslands of the state and about 150,000 tags issued annually, Wyoming almost provides more opportunity for antelope than all other states combined! Public access ranges from excellent to poor, but overall, access is very good and should not be a problem at all with a small amount of research. Some of the most coveted any weapon tags take more than a decade to draw, but you can plan a hunt in Wyoming every year if you want to. If you ever want to hunt antelope, you should be applying in Wyoming or taking the far less expensive route and building points in the points only period that runs from July through October.

UTAH

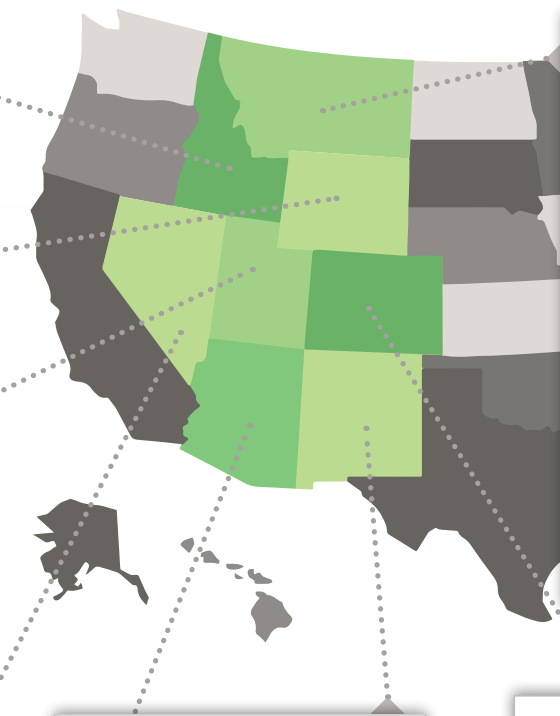
Utah is another state that can produce a good antelope here and there, but the fact that very few non-resident tags are issued annually makes draw odds tough. If you're already applying for other hunts in Utah, adding antelope is only \$10, so it is a great add-on species. Outside of that, poor draw odds and very low tag numbers make Utah a poor choice for hunters who are strictly applying for antelope.

NEVADA

Like its southern neighbors, Nevada annually produces some excellent trophy antelope, but overall draw odds are abysmal. All of the permits are issued through the random draw, so you never know when you're going to pull a permit. Nevada squares your bonus points to exponentially reward long-term participation in the draw. If you're already applying for other species, antelope is a great add-on, especially for archery hunters since there are some tags that have decent draw odds. Otherwise, it's hard to consider Nevada a top contender from an antelope-only point of view due to the high cost and tough draw odds.

ARIZONA

Arizona has produced some giant antelope in the last couple of years, including a 92"+ buck in 2016. It is hands down the leader in producing giant speed goats. However, hopeful applicants need to realize that many long-term applicants have been chasing these extremely rare tags for more than 20 years. It's a great species to add to your application if you're already fronting the hunting license fee for other species, but it's hard to make an argument to start applying strictly for antelope in Arizona with some of the most bleak draw odds you'll find anywhere.



MONTANA

Montana issues the second highest number of antelope tags and is more of an opportunity state than a trophy state when it comes to horn size. Archery hunters are typically guaranteed to draw a multi-region tag that allows them to hunt almost every antelope unit in the state on a season that runs from mid-August into November. Rifle hunters face draw odds that range from difficult to relatively easy, and in many areas, antlerless tags are easy to obtain for either rifle or archery hunters. Public access is very good overall, and Montana's antelope are rebounding quite well from some hard winters and disease issues that they've had in recent years.

NEW MEXICO

There's something about the southwest that grows big goats, and New Mexico is no exception as it annually produces some huge antelope bucks. Draw odds are very tough for antelope, but the cost to apply for these hunts is very low from an out-of-pocket point of view, so it's hard to argue against applying here. New Mexico is home to the world-record antelope. It was harvested in 2013 and scored 96 4/8" B&C.

COLORADO

Colorado issues the third most antelope tags of any state, which results in a lot of opportunity but not necessarily a lot of trophy-sized speed goats. Over-the-counter archery tags are readily available, and they are valid in dozens of units across the state. For rifle hunters, Colorado's top units can require 20 preference points to draw. However, there are a lot of units that require less than 5 points to draw, including a handful of units that can be drawn with 0 points. Access can be challenging as many of the heavier concentrations of antelope are found on the primarily private lands of the Eastern Plains. Having said that, there is ample access for the adventurous and GPS savvy self-guided hunter to chase antelope in Colorado.



THE NEXT GENERATION

EAGER TO GET YOUR YOUNG HUNTER STARTED?

The table below answers some of the most common questions we get from members who want to create future hunting opportunities for their kids. When it comes to the cost of applying, nearly every state offers youth hunters discounted prices on their license or tags. Some states also provide special season dates or separate hunts specifically for the next generation of hunters. Our Hunt Advisors have kids that range in age from diapers to college. If you're looking to plan a long-term strategy for your up-and-coming hunter, we'd love to help because we're in the same boat. Give us a call to get started.

YOUTH HUNTER INFORMATION					
State	Age Range to be Considered a Youth	Minimum Age to Apply/Hunt	Minimum Age to Build Points	Hunter Ed Required to Apply/Hunt?	Hunter Ed Required to Build Points?
AZ	10-17	10 by the start of the hunt	10 by the application deadline	Yes, if under 14 years old	Yes, if under 14 years old
CA	12-17	12 by July 1st for deer, elk, and antelope; 16 by July 1st for bighorn sheep	12 by July 1st for deer, elk, and antelope; 16 by July 1st for sheep	Yes	Yes
CO	12-17	12 by end of the hunting season applying for	12 in the calendar year	Yes	Yes
ID	10-17	10 by the start of the hunt	N/A	Yes	N/A
KS	Under 16	No minimum age	No minimum age	Yes	Yes
MT	12-17	12 by January 16, 2020	6 months	Yes	No
NV	12-17	12 before the commencement of each season applying for	12 in the calendar year	Yes	Yes
NM	Under 18	No minimum age	N/A	Yes	N/A
OR	12-17	12 by the start of the hunt	9 in the calendar year	Yes	Yes
SD	12-15	12 by December 31st of the previous year	12 by December 31st of the previous year	Yes	Yes
TX	8-16	17 at the time of application for sheep; 8 for other species	N/A	Yes	N/A
UT	12-17	12 in the calendar year	12 in the calendar year	No	No
WA	Under 16	No minimum age	No minimum age	Yes	Yes
WY	12-17	12 by the start of the hunt; 14 by September 15th for bison	12 by the start of the hunt	Yes	Yes

Download the All-New Huntin' Fool App!



Features of the new app:

- Schedule consultations with Hunt Advisors
- Read the monthly magazine
- Research unit specific draw odds
- Receive push notifications for application deadlines
- Submit photos and stories
- Listen to the Built to Hunt Podcast
- Enter to win hunts
- And much more!



Download the Huntin' Fool App for **free**
on iTunes and the Google Play Store.



The Huntin' Fool Team is now
coming to you through the
"Built To Hunt" Podcast!

FIND THE PODCAST ON:

iTunes, Stitcher, Podbean, Libsyn, Castbox, Google Play, and more!

We hope this will provide listeners with another great resource for
specific hunting information. This podcast is free!

HUNTINFOOL.COM/PODCAST

STATES AT A GLANCE

STATE INFORMATION TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR HUNTING STRATEGY

AZ

Due to the high cost of a non-resident hunting license and the low cost of adding additional species, Huntin' Fool recommends applying for every species of interest in Arizona if you intend to apply. As a bonus, there are over-the-counter archery hunts available for mule deer, Coues deer, and javelina, which gives you an opportunity to make the most of the hunting license you are forced to buy at the time of application. Furthermore, these hunts occur mid-winter when some Arizona sunshine and fresh air might be just what the doctor ordered!

CO

Colorado is a true preference point state for deer, elk, and antelope, which means that if you don't have enough points for the permit you are applying for, you have no chance of drawing it. This can be intimidating for new applicants. Fortunately, Colorado's abundance of mule deer and elk hunting opportunities make it a must-consider state when deciding on a state to plan a hunt in. The majority of the state provides over-the-counter elk units for both archery and rifle hunters, and there are dozens of mule deer hunts that take less than three years to draw. Huntin' Fool recommends that new applicants for Colorado deer and elk do not plan on a long-term point building strategy because they will not be able to catch the points required to draw the most coveted tags. For moose, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, Colorado's unique system won't allow applicants to draw any of these tags until they have accrued three preference points for the species they are applying for. Draw odds are very poor for all three species, and the cost of application is quite high as of 2019.

ID

Due to the high cost of a non-resident hunting license and the low cost of adding additional species, Huntin' Fool recommends applying for every species of interest in Idaho if you intend to apply. As a bonus, there are tons of over-the-counter archery and any weapon hunts for elk and deer in the Gem State, so the non-resident hunting license does not have to be wasted. Keep in mind that if you want to apply for moose, sheep, or mountain goat in Idaho, you may only select one of those species and you may not apply for any deer, elk, or antelope special permits in the main big game draw period.



MT

Montana's draw system is very unique. Applicants first have to apply for the type of license they want, which includes elk only, deer only, or a deer/elk combo. Deer-only licenses are the most difficult to draw and often require at least one preference point to draw. The deer/elk combo licenses are the best value as Montana provides a discounted price when the two tags are bundled together. In recent years, Montana's deer/elk combo license draw has been 100% for non-residents, making it a great choice to plan a western adventure. No state provides more liberal season dates than Montana with their standard six-week archery-only season and five-week rifle season. Tag holders can hunt a minimum of 11 weeks on their hunting license.

NV

Due to the high cost of a non-resident hunting license and the low cost of adding additional species, Huntin' Fool recommends applying for every species of interest in Nevada if you intend to apply. With no over-the-counter hunts available except mountain lion, Nevada can be a tough pill to swallow when considering this state for your strategy. Many of the elk, sheep, and best deer units can take decades to draw. However, some of the antelope and mule deer hunts can be drawn with relatively high frequency for those hunters who want to experience the vast, open skies Nevada provides while hunting on a tag that is less coveted in the draw.

NM

New Mexico is one of the most inexpensive states to apply for from an out-of-pocket cost point of view. However, you have to front the entire tag fees for every species until after the draw has been conducted. With a lot of species and expensive tags, like the \$3,173 sheep tag, you may need a credit card with a lot of room to play the game in this state. New Mexico has Standard (S) and Quality/High Demand (Q/HD) permit designations based on the demand for their deer and elk permits. As a general rule, the less expensive (S) hunts should have easier draw odds, lower harvest success rates, more hunters in the field, and lower trophy potential. Conversely, the more expensive (Q/HD) hunts should have tougher draw odds, higher harvest success rates, fewer hunters in the field, and higher trophy potential.



STATES AT A GLANCE

OR

Due to the high cost of a non-resident hunting license and the low cost of adding additional species, Huntin' Fool recommends applying for every species of interest in Oregon if you intend to apply. As a bonus, there are over-the-counter Rocky Mountain elk, Roosevelt elk, Columbia blacktail deer, and mule deer hunts, which gives you an opportunity to make the most of the hunting license you are forced to buy at the time of application. Oregon has a four-week archery elk season. The archery deer season has the same dates as the elk season, so you can easily do a combo hunt. Over-the-counter rifle elk hunts are typically short with four to seven-day seasons, and most occur in late October or November.

SD

South Dakota archery mule deer hunters enjoy the benefit of a very long season that is almost statewide and is available over-the-counter. However, to hunt mule deer with a rifle, the application process is not very straightforward. There is a special draw for private land only hunts and a regular draw, each of which have their own draw period. Odds in the special draw are quite high but require the hunter to hunt on private land only, which often requires either a trespass fee or an outfitted hunt. Odds in the regular draw are not as good, and they require the hunter to pick a specific unit to apply for.

UT

Like many states, Utah requires applicants to purchase a non-refundable hunting license in order to apply in the draw. As of 2018, the \$65 non-resident hunting license was one of the cheapest in the West, and each species application permit is only \$10. For these reasons, Utah is a relatively cheap state to apply and build points in. Utah offers some over-the-counter elk hunts, and there are some deer tags that are not too difficult to draw that offer a reasonable chance at a great buck. Furthermore, if an applicant is drawn, they can turn the tag back in to Utah and get a refund for the tag price and get their points reinstated if they do so early enough. For these reasons, we typically encourage adventurous hunters to consider applying in Utah. We definitely recommend applying for all species if you're going to apply for any.

WA

Washington is one of the least friendly western states to apply for deer and elk hunts in because the state requires applicants to purchase a non-refundable non-resident tag in order to apply in the draw. Draw odds for the better hunts in the Evergreen State are very poor, which makes the \$500+ deer application and the \$600+ elk application a terribly high barrier to entry. On the upside, applicants have a valid harvest tag in their pockets and Washington offers quite a bit of over-the-counter opportunity, so all is not lost if you plan to make time to hunt the state either way. However, most of the over-the-counter units have a lot of hunting pressure and lower overall trophy quality, so Huntin' Fool usually recommends avoiding Washington for your hunt strategies unless you are applying a youth hunter (see the youth table).

WY

The Cowboy State can be hard on your credit card at the time of application. Non-residents who apply for all of the species that Wyoming offers, including bison, will have to front over \$12,000 on their credit cards! As if that wasn't enough, Wyoming added a 2.5% credit card processing fee. Most of that expense is for moose, sheep, mountain goat, and bison, so Huntin' Fool recommends applying for deer, elk, and antelope here because draw odds are reasonable and quality hunting opportunities for these species are abundant. Wyoming has two price levels for their deer, elk, and antelope tags, even though there is no difference in the actual license. As a general rule, draw odds are worse for the less expensive Regular tags because you don't have to pay as much money for the tag. Conversely, draw odds are typically better for the more expensive Special tags because you are paying more money for the same tag. Wyoming has a lot of wilderness areas. Non-residents should be aware that they must be accompanied by an outfitter or a resident of Wyoming who has filed the proper paperwork to hunt within wilderness areas before applying for hunts that depend on federally designated wilderness areas for access.



NO TIME? **NO PROBLEM!**



The Huntin' Fool License Application Service Can Help!

Our team has been dedicated to getting it right for more than 20 years, something we prove every year by drawing some of the most coveted and competitive tags in the world.

STATE APPLICATIONS

- ▶ \$50 per state for the first species
- ▶ \$10 per each additional species in that state

Examples:

If you want to apply for Sheep in three states, your fee is \$150.

If you want to apply for Sheep, Mtn Goat, Elk, Deer, and Antelope in one state, your fee is \$90.

RAFFLE APPLICATIONS

- ▶ \$10 per drawing regardless of the amount of tickets purchased

WE VALUE FAMILIES

As an added bonus, we will also apply your children under 18 for FREE in the states that you're applying in as well as offer 50% off rates for your spouse and your children over 18.



Huntin' Fool License Application Service

PO Box 250, Cedar City, UT 84721 | 435-865-1020 | shandi@huntin fool.com



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Huntin' Fool publishes more than 1,500 pages of content every year, so it is difficult to summarize all of that information in this very brief overview. In an attempt to do so, we focused on the species and states that are the most popular with the majority of our members. If you didn't find the species or states you were interested in, rest assured that the Lewis and Clark Syndrome is strong in the Huntin' Fool Team and that our interests and expertise go far beyond this booklet. We pride ourselves on being the true North American big game authority. As such, our annual research includes the following states:

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wyoming

We also provide expert guidance on the following species:

- Desert Bighorn Sheep
- Rocky Mtn Bighorn Sheep
- California Bighorn Sheep
- Dall Sheep
- Alaska-Yukon Moose
- Canadian Moose
- Shiras Moose
- Mtn Goat
- Bison
- Muskox
- Rocky Mtn Elk
- Roosevelt Elk
- Tule Elk
- Mule Deer
- Whitetail Deer
- Coues Deer
- Blacktail Deer
- Antelope
- Caribou
- Oryx
- Aoudad/Barbary Sheep
- Ibex
- Brown/Grizzly Bear
- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Javelina

We hope that this guide provides an opportunity to daydream about the hunts you have on your bucket list. If you decide to take action on those daydreams and turn them into hunts, we'd love to help! Give us a call, drop us an email, or send us a message on the App. We're looking forward to hearing from you and becoming a critical part of your annual hunt planning process.

**CONTACT HUNTIN' FOOL TODAY TO
STOP DREAMING AND START HUNTING!**



**HUNTIN'
FOOL.com**

PO Box 250, Cedar City, UT 84721 | 435-865-1020 | info@huntin fool.com