



Where can I get hunting information?

**This year the San Juan Mountains Association, San Juan National Forest and Bureau of Land Management San Juan Field Office will have a hunting booth set up in Durango at the CDOW Museum.*

DATES BOOTHS WILL BE STAFFED:

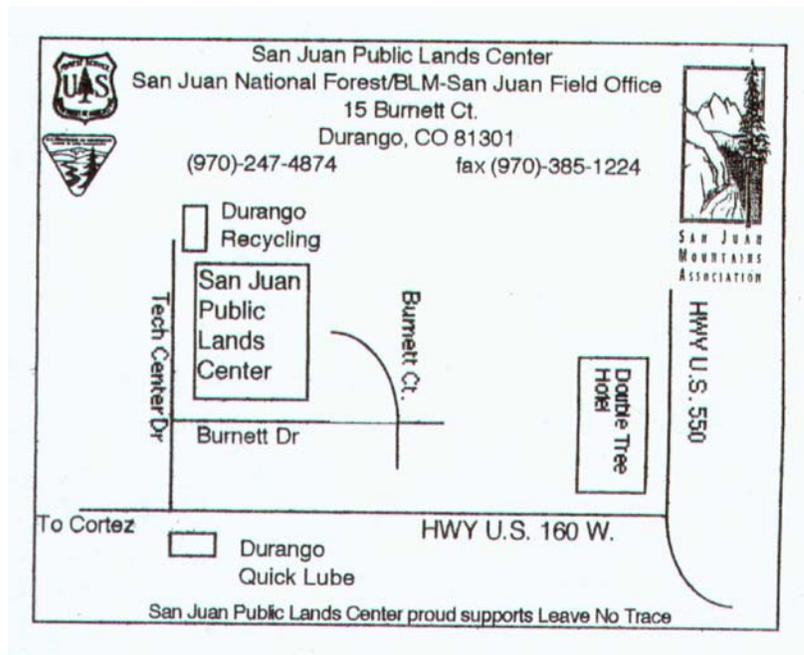
October 7, 8, 14, 15, 28, 29 November 4, 5; 8:00 – 4:00 pm



LOCATION:

- **Colorado Division of Wildlife**, in Durango, Colorado, 151 East 16th Street, heading *north on Highway 550 (make a right just after you cross the Animas River.)*

On other dates (*Monday through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*) we invite you to stop by the **San Juan Public Lands Center** at 15 Burnett Court in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango, below the Durango Recycling Center. (*See map below*)



FOR HUNTING LICENSING QUESTIONS ... Please contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife at (970) 247-0855, 151 East 16th Street (next to the Fish Hatchery.)



Hunting is NOT allowed within 150 yards of developed recreation areas (campgrounds and picnic areas) and on or across roads of National Forest or BLM lands. Hunters may not trespass on private lands to reach public lands unless the owner of the property has specifically granted access to do so.

National Forest and BLM roads are not paved. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Downhill traffic yields to uphill. Beware of wash-boarded surfaces, and approach blind corners with caution. National Forest and BLM roads are not plowed for snow removal. Use 4WD vehicles and carry chains. Motorized vehicles should be kept on open roads and trails marked for their use. Exception: Motorists may drive up to 300 feet directly off an open road to reach a dispersed campsite - unless the area is specifically closed or very wet muddy conditions exist. Always carry a National Forest or BLM map. Respect road closures which are put in place in wet weather to protect you against landslides and protect roads from erosion.

ATVs must be registered by the State of Colorado if you are a Colorado resident (or a non-resident whose own state does not require registration) before they can legally be used on public lands. *Registrations are available at the San Juan Public Lands Center, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Handlebar Cycle and Navajo State Park.* (www.dnr.state.co.us/trails/registrationinfo.htm)

Camping is allowed most places on National Forest and BLM lands, except in areas specifically closed to camping (such as the Junction Creek area west of Durango. It is closed for the first eight miles, except within Junction Creek Campground). To avoid polluting water resources, do not camp within 200 feet of rivers, lakes or streams. Bury human wastes, and carry out toilet paper. Camping is restricted to 28 days, in a consecutive 60-day period, in any one spot to reduce impacts on vegetation, soils and water. After 14 days, please move 3 miles from the previous campsite.

Fall weather is unpredictable in the mountains. Be prepared for rain, hail, snow, wind and freezing temperatures. One of the biggest dangers hunters face is hypothermia, a drastic drop in body temperature brought on by wind chill and dampness. Dress in layers and carry a dry change of clothing, rain gear, food and drink, first aid kit, topographic map, and compass. Let someone know where you're headed and when you plan to return.

Commercial outfitters and guides must hold a legal permit to operate on National Forest or BLM lands. They are also required to be licensed with the State of Colorado licensing board. These measures are designed to make sure outfitters and guides operate in a safe manner and to protect your investment in their services.

Wear a minimum of 500 square inches above the waist of solid fluorescent orange, which entails a minimum of an orange vest and an orange cap.

Only certified weed-free hay, treated and pelletized feed, and hay cubes are allowed on the public lands to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Certified weed-free hay (in bales bound by blue-and-orange twine or metal wiring) is sold at selected retail outlets.

Where can I buy a license? Before a season starts you can buy a hunting license at the following areas: CDOW, Wal-Mart, Kmart, City Market, Albertson's, Kroeger's, and all sporting good stores. (AFTER HUNTING SEASON HAS STARTED, hunters can ONLY purchase licenses at a Division of Wildlife Office.)



Deer/Elk Rifle Hunting Season Dates for 2003

- **Hunters can only pick one season to hunt for deer or elk (which means hunters can only buy one license a year for one season.)*

1st Season: October 9-13 (This season is by drawing only... for elk only.)

2nd Season: October 16-24

3rd Season: October 31-November 5

4th Season: November 6-10

Point Restrictions

ELK: Four points or more on one side of the antlers are required for an elk to be legal. Each point must be one inch or longer. (A point should be narrower than it is high.)

“OR”

The brow tines, which are the projection of the antlers on the lower half of the main beam (sticking out forward), have to be at least 5 inches in length... (if the elk is not at least a four point.)

DEER: A legal deer has antlers that are above 5 inches or more. One can normally tell if it's legal if the antlers are extending above the ears.

Where are the Deer and Elk? What are the best hunting areas? These are common questions for us at the Forest Service/BLM front desk. The Division of Wildlife's suggestion is for us to direct hunters to a variety of areas to disperse the impacts.

Neither the CDOW nor the Forest Service/BLM can predict where the best hunting areas will be. Each year can differ. Generally deer and elk stay in higher elevations if the weather and terrain are dry and dusty. If the weather is cold and snowy, they tend to move down to lower elevations.

Where can hunters take their game to be processed?

Bane's Custom Packing

11063 Road 25
Cortez, CO
970/565-3011
(will do bears too.)

Max Pack

18329 County Road 27
Dolores, CO
970/882-8090
(will do bear)

The Buck Stops Here

1051 Hwy 160 West
Pagosa Springs, CO
970/731-3535 (\$50 min. deer, \$100 min.-elk, will do bear)

Chimney Rock Processor

18710 Hwy 160
Chimney Rock, CO
970/731-5237

Crawford Custom Meats

300 N. Commerce Drive
Bayfield, CO
970-884-1118

Henslys Meat Processing

5007 CR P
Dove Creek, CO
970-677-2212

MGS Custom Cutting

25 County Road 6339
Kirtland, NM
505/598-5254

Do you have names of private landowners that lease lands?

Neither the Colorado Division of Wildlife nor the Forest Service/BLM have names of private landowners to release. Hunters should have a Forest Service or BLM map so they know where private lands are located. Trespassing is a 20-point offense and a possible \$100 or higher violation. When a hunter has 20-points on his license, it may be suspended for 1-5 years, depending on the severity of the offense. (There is often a court hearing as well.)

Can a hunter hunt from his vehicle?

No. It is illegal to hunt from, on, or across a motor vehicle.



Bears!

There is no longer a spring hunt. The September fall bear hunt is by drawing only. Hunters that already have a deer or elk license, however, can buy a bear license over the counter. It is concurrent with deer/elk rifle hunting season.

Practice bear safety when camping. Food and refuse should be stored in a bear-safe manner to keep from habituating bears to human food and to keep your belongings safe from bear damage. Hang these items at least 10 feet above the ground, or store them inside a vehicle, or an approved bear-resistant container, or inside an electrical closure. These measures are mandatory in most designated San Juan National Forest campgrounds, but should be followed also when backcountry camping.

Hide your coolers from a bear's view. Bears recognize coolers as a source of food!!!

Hunter Safety Classes

**Hunter safety cards are required for anyone born after January 1, 1949.*

Durango: There will be classes held at the Durango Gun Club (next to Chapman Hill Roller/Ice Rink) on Floriday Road. Pre-registration is not necessary. Show up 30 minutes before class time to register. **CLASSES: September 29, 30 & October 1st from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Cost of classes \$10. Classes will also be available the Friday before each season from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.**

PAGOSA: There will be a two-day session and hunters must go to both days of their session to receive the certificate. **It will be held August 26-27 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Pagosa Community Center. The cost is \$20.00. Pre-registration is not necessary. Arrive 30 minutes before the class begins to register.**

Horses should be hobbled or picketed so they won't overgraze or trample areas. Do not tie horses to trees to avoid damaging the trees. Avoid grazing in wet, marshy areas. Never cut trees or drive nails into live trees to build corrals. Use rope corrals. Do not ride around muddy spots in the trail. This denudes trailside vegetation and enlarges the damaged area. When riding cross-country, stay on dry ground. Several sets of hooves through wet areas can cause long-term damage. Ask other trail users to wait on the downhill side of the trail while horses pass.

Yield to horseback riders by stepping off on the downhill side of the trail. Give pack strings plenty of room and time to pass you. Horses are often afraid of bicycles and backpacks. Don't try to hide for that only makes horses more suspicious of your intentions. Move slowly and speak in a normal tone of voice so you won't spook them.

Keep dogs at your side under control and tie an orange ribbon on their collars. Some people also tie bells on the collars.

Campfires (where fires are permitted)

Should never be left unattended even for a few minutes. Pour water over the fire and stir the ashes until there's no smoke. Use only dead or downed wood for firewood – never cut living trees or shrubs as firewood. Also, do not build a campfire within 100 feet of rivers, lakes or streams to avoid polluting water sources. A good alternative is to use a gas stove.

*Be cautious when cutting or getting an animal out of a fence – **THEY MAY HURT YOU - !!**

What should a person do if they find a deer or elk stuck in a fence?

Normally, if the animal has only been there a couple of hours, please put a jacket or something over the animals head so it will settle down and cut it free from the fence. If it has been there longer, especially overnight, contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife and they will most likely ask you to put it to sleep by gun or knife. (They normally will let the person keep the meat.)

If a person hits a deer or elk with their vehicle by accident, can they keep the meat? The person can take the game home with them, as long as they go to the Colorado Division of Wildlife within 48 hours of the incident and obtain a free permit. *This is mandatory. This does not apply to any other wildlife, such as bears.* You still must contact the CDOW about the incident. Any accident must be reported to the State Patrol (970) 249-4392.

TIDBIT ABOUT Durango's FALLS CREEK AREA

On the west side of the road there is NO CAMPING

On the east side of the road, hunting is permitted with black powder and muzzle load only.

CERTIFIED WEED-FREE HAY DISTRIBUTORS

CORTEZ

Danny Decker
(970) 565- 3511
21445 CR D
Cortez, CO 81321

DOLORES

Gordon Kuhlman
18779 Hwy 145
Dolores, CO 81323
(970) 882-7830

DURANGO

Basin Co-op
26103 U.S. Hwy 160
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-3066

Roger Cole
275 Cole Ranch Road
Durango, CO 81303
(970) 259-4670
(970) 749-1692

Farmers Supply Company
696 Sawmill Road
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-1780

Sunny Side Farms
Jerry Zink
259 County Road 216
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 382-0074
(970) 247-0137

Wayne Vaughan
454 Linda Lane
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 382-0755

Just a summary of new weed-free forage regulations pending for October 2004:

➤ Weed-free forage order revision for the Region ---

- Involves doing away with our old order, which talked about weed free forage requirement for Colorado and Wyoming only.
- Will be changed to include all five states.

- Require a new change that individual bales must be marked instead of just using a slip.
- Outlaw the use of grain that has not been treated including whole oats. In the past whole oats that were untreated were ok under the previous rule. Treated—this means steam rolling.
- Previous order allowed the use of cubes was ok. Under the new order they will only be authorized if they are made from certified hay.
- Receiving support in all areas with the exception of some of the grassland areas. There are some problems with permittees and other local residents that may have to use national forest roads to get to and from their place. Working to find an exemption for these people.
- Communications are important before and after approval. Working with states prior to approval. Working with the Communication and Legislative Affairs staff to communicate this Region-wide after approval.

With hunting season starting-up, please communicate these pending changes to your front desk folks so they are at least aware and can communicate these to our publics. Thanks!

Mark Tucker
 Rangeland Management Program Leader
 San Juan National Forest/Field Office
 Durango, Colorado
 Office: 970.385.1369
 FAX: 970.385.1243
 Internet: mtucker@fs.fed.us

Hunter Safety Tips

The following tips are from Skip Favreau, vice-president of La Plata County Search and Rescue, based on his years of experience

Be Prepared. When hunting, carry proper clothing and equipment to spend the night in the woods, away from camp, if necessary.

Take Care of Your Hands and Feet. If your hands and feet get cold and numb, you have great difficulty doing anything, even opening your pack and putting on clothes. To keep your hands and feet dry and warm at all times, consider taking waterproof gloves or boots or shells and chemical hand / foot warmer packets.

Know How to Signal for Help and carry appropriate equipment. The best signaling methods are a whistle, a smoky fire, and a reflector.

Carry a Cell Phone and a GPS. If you are so equipped, these are very useful tools to maintain communications with your hunting partners and to assist in a rescue effort should you become injured or lost.

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The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

By practicing the following Leave No Trace guidelines and common courtesies, we can all help ensure that quality-hunting experiences will be available to us and to future generations.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations. Get information about your hunt area and route from land managers.
- Prepare for bad weather and unsafe road conditions by bringing extra food, clothing, first aid kit and signal mirror. Remember that cell phones don't always work in mountainous terrain.
- Respect private and public road closures.
- Get permission to hunt private lands well in advance.
- Bring maps and a compass. Know how to use them.



Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

On the road:

- Staying on roads protects wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Protect private property and livestock; leave gates as you find them.
- Driving closed roads, off-road or alongside existing treads leads to erosion, loss of functional habitat, and impacts wildlife.
- Prevent damage to roads and vegetation; avoid travel when conditions are muddy.

On the trail:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites. If no trail is available, travel on durable surfaces such as rock, gravel, sand washes, dry grasses or snow.
- Prevent erosion and trail widening by using the existing tread surface and not cutting switchbacks.
- Remove flagging as you leave.

At camp:

- A good campsite is found, not made. Use existing campsites whenever possible. Keep campsites small.
- Place vehicles, kitchen, tents and stock on areas where obvious signs of prior use exist.
- Camp at least 200' away from all water sources.
- Reduce damage to trees. Use twine or straps as a gentle substitute for wire and nails.
- Avoid tethering horses to trees. Use a highline between two trees to tie your horses.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack out everything you brought in with you – spent brass, shotgun shells, cigarette butts, old carpet, extra food, etc.
- Bury human waste in cat holes 4-8" deep at least 200' from water, camp and trails. Pack out toilet paper.
- Clean water means better fishing; wash yourself and dishes 200' from water sources.

Leave What You Find

- Bring lightweight camp furniture instead of building it.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Leave historical or cultural artifacts as you find them. Removing them is illegal.
- Use dead and downed trees for poles and hangs; dismantle when finished.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native plant species through seeds in hay, tire treads or clothing.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use lightweight stoves for cooking.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, a fire pan, or build a mound fire.
- Collect only dead or downed wood or bring your own.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash and put campfires out completely before going to bed or leaving camp.

Respect Wildlife

- Keep the wild in wildlife. Don't bury food. Pack out your leftovers.
- Keep a clean campsite that doesn't attract bears, skunks and other opportunists.
- Control your pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Gut piles attract bears. Drag piles away from trails, camps and highly visited areas.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Step to the downhill side when encountering pack stock.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.
- Transport game out of the public's view.
- Avoid unnecessary display of game.

This message was prepared and distributed by San Juan Mountains Association volunteers & staff, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service Bureau of Land Management San Juan Field Office and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. For more information, call 970-247-4874.

