



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
953 Jackson County Rd. #32
Walden, CO 80480
Phone: (970) 723-8202



September 5, 2023

Congratulations on being selected for the cow/antlerless elk hunt at Arapaho NWR! The purpose of this hunt is to improve the health of the riparian habitat on the refuge, while offering a quality hunting opportunity.

From Colorado Parks and Wildlife, this year refuge hunters will also be placed in a random drawing for 2 permits to hunt the Yarmony Ranch SWA. There will be two permits issued for 1st, 2nd, and 4th rifle season. The two successful applicants will receive their letter in the mail prior to the start of their season. The permit is required to be with you while hunting on the Yarmony Ranch SWA. If you have questions or would like further information, please call CPW at (970) 723-4625.

Every refuge elk hunter is required to watch a pre-hunt video orientation to maximize your experience, learn about refuge specific rules and regulations, and learn where you can hunt on the refuge. Watching the video orientation is mandatory for hunting on the refuge and will ensure hunters have all necessary information to help avoid violations; youth hunter mentors/assistants must also watch the video. In addition to watching the video, hunters are required to download and fill out a “Hunter Info” page with the color/make/model and license plate of each vehicle you intend to use during your hunt on the refuge and return it to the Refuge Manager by emailing it to arapaho@fws.gov or mailing it to: Arapaho NWR, c/o Keely Lopez, 28111 Highway 125, Walden, CO 80480. The video presentation, other hunter information, and the fillable Hunter Info form can be found on our website at: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/arapaho/visit-us/activities/hunting>

If you have any questions before or after watching the orientation presentation, or if you cannot access the website, please call us at (970) 723-8202 and request the information be emailed or mailed to you.

Prior to your hunt season, the refuge is open to scouting only from areas and roads generally open to the public. Please note that many portions of the refuge are typically closed to public access, and refuge Units D (Refuge headquarters) and A (the refuge Auto Tour Route) are CLOSED to all hunting. Using our road system, you can scout all areas open to hunting via the roads or parking lots. On the attached map roads shown as “Vehicle Travel” are the roads within hunt units that are open for scouting. During the hunt season(s), roads shown as “Walk-in Only” may be walked. Hunters do not need to stay on roads when on foot. Maps posted at parking areas also designate the best locations for spotting elk (labeled as “overlook” with a binocular symbol). Hunters must only park in designated parking lots.

The refuge hunt is a walk-in hunt. When an elk is harvested, you may use helpers and/or pack stock to retrieve the animal. Each hunter is responsible for planning the retrieval of the animal. Vehicles are restricted to open roads and parking areas, unless the Refuge Manager specifically, and on a case-by-case basis, allows accommodations for hunters with disabilities. Each youth hunter must have one un-armed mentor/assistant accompany them when hunting, and up to three friends to help retrieve their elk.

If you are a hunter with disabilities, please call the refuge to discuss any special accommodations you might need. We cannot guarantee your requests will be granted, but we will do everything we can to provide a quality, enjoyable hunt experience. On the attached map you will see roads shown as “Disabled Access” that provide additional drivable roads on the refuge.

Some suggested gear for your hunt is a range finder, binoculars, bipod or sticks, wet gear/waders/boots, GPS, a mapping or hunting application such as OnX, and hand warmers. If you use your phone as a GPS, an external power bank is also recommended. In this open habitat you may want to plan on being afield all day to be successful. Weather can be extreme, with high winds, extreme cold, rain and/or snow. Please plan accordingly and bring appropriate gear.

While hunting, you are required to have this letter with you which allows you to hunt on the refuge. You must also possess your original state issued hunting license and carcass tag. If you are successful, you must remember to tag the elk per state regulations. At the completion of your hunt, you must also report to refuge staff whether you were successful by emailing arapaho@fws.gov or by calling (970) 723-8202.

If you are NOT going to hunt the refuge during your season, please let us know as soon as possible. We have alternates to fill cancelled refuge hunt positions. Also, if you do not watch the presentation or submit the required information, your position will be filled with an alternate and you will not be permitted to hunt on the refuge.

Thank you for your interest in hunting at Arapaho NWR.

Keely López
Refuge Manager
Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge