For more than 40 years, the Landowner Preference program has set aside a portion of big game hunting licenses for use by private landowners.

This program gives landowners the opportunity to hunt their own farms and ranches.

It also creates an incentive for them to provide habitat and tolerate wildlife on their lands, supporting higher wildlife populations across the state.
Statewide, about 2% of elk hunting licenses, 9% of deer licenses, and 11% of pronghorn licenses are allocated to hunters through landowner vouchers.

Colorado’s wildlife depends on private land for habitat.

57% of state is private vs. 43% public land ownership.
Colorado has 23 million acres of public land, some of the most valuable wildlife habitat in the state is on private property.

- In Eastern Colorado, almost all of the land is privately-owned (89%).
- In the mountains and on the Western Slope, private lands provide crucial habitat in riparian areas and valleys and important linkages between public land areas.

- An estimated 95% of critical winter range for mule deer is located on private land in Colorado
Many Colorado hunters hunt on private land, and some Colorado hunters hunt only on private land.

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, about half of all hunters in Colorado hunted at some point on private land and about a third hunt only on private land.
Because the voucher program provides tangible benefits to landowners, it can encourage them to see the benefits of wildlife. Landowners may accept larger populations of wildlife on their farms and ranches, including when these populations consume forage and crops. Landowners also are more willing to improve habitat if there is a clear benefit.
By increasing the “social tolerance” of landowners for higher wildlife populations, the voucher program helps keep big game populations high. We have more big game animals in Colorado today than we had 30 years ago because landowners tolerate higher populations. These higher populations mean more opportunities for hunters across the state, on public and private land.
Termiology

- Game Management Unit (GMU)
- Totally Limited Unit
- Hunt Codes
- Private Land Only ‘PLO’
- Voucher
- License
- Preference Points
Hunt Codes

- DM05403R
- AF01601A
- EE00201M
### Hunt Codes

#### RIFLE -- LIMITED LICENSES (DRAW)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>VALID UNITS</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>HUNT CODE</th>
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<td>Cow</td>
<td>E-F-001-Y2-R</td>
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<td>See Landowner Pilot Public Licenses, page 6</td>
<td>Nov. 2-10</td>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>E-F-001-Y3-R</td>
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<td>Cow</td>
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<td>E-F-001-O1-R</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct. 19-27</td>
<td>Cow*</td>
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<td>Nov. 2-10</td>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>E-F-001-O3-R</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Nov. 13-17</td>
<td>Cow*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dec. 1-31 Late</td>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>E-F-001-L1-R</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
History of Colorado’s Landowner Preference Program
History of Colorado’s Landowner Preference Program

Mid 1960’s

- Allocated 20% of Limited Pronghorn licenses to landowners
- Ended in 1967: statutorily invalid
1975

- HB 1215 Landowner preference for Pronghorn licenses
- Owners of land primarily used for agricultural purposes
- Inhabited by species for majority of calendar year
- Eligible for one pronghorn license
- Up to 15% of licenses by unit allocated
- License transferable at application
- Landowner: allow reasonable access of hunters
History of Colorado’s Landowner Preference Program

1983
1983

- HB1313 Expanded Program to include Deer and Elk
- Up to 15% of licenses by unit allocated
- One application per species
- License transferable at application
- Agricultural Lands in excess of 160 acres
- Multiple ownership of properties; 2 individuals could apply
Wildlife Commission directed a Program review
Public review landowners, sportsmen, outfitters, and others
Primary recommendation was two different programs for eastern and western Colorado
Ultimately HB 1291 and HB 1297 defeated
HB 1098: Priority Landowner Preference Program
In parallel with the Preference Program
Landowners with more than 160 acres of Agricultural land eligible for vouchers to obtain a license in the Unit where land is located
Transferable to eligible hunters; not require to designate at application
Vouchers are allocated by total amount of land owned.
## Priority Landowner Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Number of Applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160-639</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>640-1,199</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,200-2,399</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,400-3,999</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>4,000-4,999</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 5,000</td>
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</table>
2000

- Total license for both programs capped at 15%
- New Program given Priority
- Leftover landowner draw initiated
- 2002-2005 Pilot program to provide additional vouchers for habitat management, public access, other factors
Initiated two pilot programs

- East of I-25 additional family only pronghorn license
- Private land only
- Up to 10% total quota in unit
History of Colorado’s Landowner Preference Program

2006

- 10 additional license in units 1 and 10 in NW Colorado
- 5 Either Sex licenses are provided to landowners, transferable, PLO
- 5 Either Sex Public hunters 1st rifle, with access to private land
- Landowners to provide access to 5 additional cow hunters.
Wildlife Commission “Tightens Up” Program

- Leftover Licenses: adopted $25 female and $40 male application fee
- Commission adopted regulation that transferred voucher must include permission to hunt private land for which that voucher was obtained, with no unreasonable restrictions
Third-Party Brokering: only one transfer

Enhanced Penalties: suspension up to 5 years
## Program Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGISTRATIONS</th>
<th>APPLICATIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,361 Properties 2002</td>
<td>9,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,058 Properties 2012</td>
<td>36,768</td>
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<tr>
<td>5,045 vouchers 2002</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,137 vouchers 2012</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Current Landowner Preference Program

- Property Registration
- Application and Draw
- Voucher Distribution and Redemption
Property Registration

- Submit by Second Friday in January
- Registrations valid for 5 years
- Changes require re-registration
- Proof of Ownership and acreage (160+)
- In agricultural use
- Used by Big Game for majority of year.
Game Management Units (GMU)
Totally Limited Units - Pronghorn/Deer
Game Management Units (GMU) Totally Limited Units - ELK

2014 OTC Rifle Licenses - Valid Elk Units
Second and Third Seasons

- CPW offices
- Unit 54 is OTC with caps for either sex in 2nd season, OTC for bull elk only in 3rd season
- No OTC licenses available

Valid 2nd and 3rd season, for bull elk
Valid 2nd and 3rd season, except Bosque del Oso SWA
Applications

- Mid February applications mailed to registered landowners
- Quantity of Applications based on scale of landownership acreage
- Application allows for up to four choices from a list of designated hunt codes
- Specifies number of accrued preference points
Applications

- Leftover license request form
- Up to 20 hunt codes for designated GMU
- $25 for each female (antlerless/ doe)
- $40 for each Male (antlered/buck)
- Refunded for unsuccessful
- Due by first Tuesday in April
Current Acreage Applications

- 160 to 639 = 1 application
- 639 to 1199 = 2 applications
- 1200 to 2399 = 3 applications
- 2400 to 3999 = 4 applications
- 4000 to 4999 = 5 applications
- 5000 or more = 6 applications
Applications

- Allocated by competitive draw
- After landowner draw and allocation remaining licenses within the 15% cap returned to public draw
Voucher Distribution and Redemption

- Draw results mailed out in June
- Unsuccessful applications receive preference point
- Each acreage application accrues preference points independently
- Landowners receive vouchers for each successful choices
Landowner uses/gives/sells vouchers. No third party brokering

Vouchers redeemed for license at CPW license agent.

Access Requirement for Private land
SB13-188 enacted May 2013

(1) **Legislative declaration.** (a) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that the wildlife resources of the state are in danger of decline from increasing population pressures and the loss of wildlife habitat. In order to encourage private landowners to provide habitat that increases wildlife populations for the benefit of all hunters, discourage the harboring of game animals on private lands during public hunting seasons, and relieve hunting pressure on public lands by increasing game hunting on private lands, the general assembly finds that it is necessary to provide an incentive-based system to landowners to provide habitat for wildlife through a hunting license allocation program that allows hunters access to the state's wildlife under the cooperative control of the private landowner.
The wildlife resources of the state are in danger of decline from increasing population pressures and the loss of wildlife habitat.

To encourage private landowners to provide habitat that increases wildlife populations for the benefit of all hunters,

Discourage the harboring of game animals on private lands during public hunting seasons,

To relieve hunting pressure on public lands by increasing game hunting on private lands,

It is necessary to provide an incentive-based system to landowners to provide habitat for wildlife through a hunting license allocation program that allows hunters access to the state's wildlife under the cooperative control of the private landowner.
The landowner preference program is designed to encourage hunter access to private land by enabling landowners to apply for licenses using applications based on land ownership and wildlife benefit.
Registration continue till June 30, 2014

New Program Registration begins July 1, 2014

Grandfather clause to allow all currently registered properties to remain in program until July 1, 2016.
SB13-188 Revised
Landowner Preference Program

- Programmatic Changes
- Information and Data Collection
- Enforcement
Programmatic Changes

- East of I-25: 10% licenses allocated with additional 15% restricted to PLO for friends and family members.

- West of I-25: 10% licenses allocated with additional 10% restricted to PLO.

- Leftover licenses: no more than 3X initial
Programmatic Changes
Property Requirements

(I) Inhabited by the species being applied for in significant numbers throughout the year or in substantial numbers for shorter times.

(II) Provide for the species being applied for wintering habitat, transitional habitat, calving areas, solitude areas, migration corridors, or an important food source, and

(III) Have a history of game damage or a huntable population of the species being applied for.
## Programmatic Changes
### 2015/16 Acreage Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACREAGE</th>
<th># OF APPLICATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160 to 639</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1+1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1240 to 1839</td>
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<td>4840 to 5439</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5440 to 6039</td>
<td>9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,440+</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information and Data Collection

- Increase information collection
  - License use,
  - Voucher satisfaction
  - Harvest information
- Landowners
- Hunters
Enforcement

- Eligibility and Auditing Protocols
  - Property requirements
  - Verify deeded acreage

- Disqualification process
  - Up to 5 years

- Enforcement Guidelines
  - Brokering prohibited: Vouchers/ licenses void.
  - Access Required to private land for which voucher was issued. Full season, no unreasonable restrictions
Landowners Register property of 160 acres or more that meet 3 property requirement.
  - Pre-verified for eligibility

- Applications issued by acreage Tiers.

- Vouchers issued for successful draw applications.

- Vouchers redeemed for license by hunter.
  - Access Requirement
  - Brokering prohibition