

2025–2026 Southern Ute Indian Reservation Hunting Proclamation

Season	Pick-up	Season Dates
Deer, Elk, Fall Turkey Early Archery General First Descendant	August 11 th August 11 th November 17 th	August 23 rd – August 31 st September 1 st – December 31 st December 1 st – December 31 st
Upland Game Birds	August 11 th	September 1 st – December 31 st
Mountain Lion	September 15 th	November 1 st , 2025 – August 2 nd , 2026
Spring Turkey	March 10 th	March 22 nd – May 25 th
Small Game	Anytime	Calendar Year
Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds	August 11 th	See CPW season dates.

Reminders and Updates for 2025-2026

White-tailed Deer

White-tailed deer are beginning to show up in southwest Colorado including on tribal lands. These deer are not native to this part of Colorado and may negatively impact the native mule deer population if they establish a population. Starting in 2025, Reservation deer hunting permits will not specify mule deer or white-tailed deer and so will allow harvest of either. For example, a tribal member hunter may harvest either a white-tailed or mule deer doe with their Doe Deer hunting permit.

Gray Wolves

In December 2023 the state began releasing gray wolves into northern Colorado and state-led wolf releases will continue for several years. It is unknown when wolves will migrate south onto the Reservation. Tribal Member hunters should be aware of the state’s reintroduction effort and that wolves are now present in Colorado. Gray wolves are a federally protected species and the Tribe does not currently issue permits to hunt, trap or kill wolves for sport. Please contact the Wildlife Division for more information on gray wolves.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has recently been detected in mule deer in the San Juan Basin. CWD is degenerative brain disease of deer and elk that takes time to progress but is always fatal to the infected animal. CWD is most prevalent in adult male deer greater than two years old. The prevalence of CWD in our mule deer herd is currently very low (less than 1%), however the Wildlife Division (Division) recommends having harvested adult male deer tested for CWD. There is no evidence that CWD can spread between infected animals and humans, however the Division recommends not consuming meat of tested animals until the results are obtained and not consuming meat from CWD positive animals. Testing is voluntary and will be free of charge for Tribal Members wishing to have their animals sampled. The Division will test any deer or elk that Tribal Members wish to have sampled.

Mountain Lion Research Project

Colorado Parks and Wildlife in cooperation with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is conducting research on the mountain lion population in SW Colorado. CPW, supported by tribal staff and tribal houndsmen will be

capturing and collaring mountain lions on tribal lands 2025-2027. Radio collared mountain lions will remain **legal** to harvest during the duration of the research project.

First Descendant Hunting Opportunity

A limited number of Southern Ute first descendants may receive a permit to harvest one antlerless elk from tribal land December 1 – 31, 2025. See details below under the list of hunts.

Continued Mandatory Validation on Bucks and Bulls

All bucks and bulls harvested on the Southern Ute reservation or within the Brunot Treaty Area are subject to a mandatory validation by the Wildlife Division. Bucks and bulls must be validated **within 5 business days of harvest**. Hunters can call the Wildlife Division or simply stop by our offices for a validation. Division staff are flexible on when and where we perform validations. Please be prepared to answer some basic questions on where and when the animal was harvested.

HUNTING PERMITS

Southern Ute Tribal Members

The following conditions must be met to obtain Southern Ute Tribal Member hunting permits:

1. Must be an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member 12 years old or older and be able to present an enrollment card at the time permits are picked up.
2. Hunters under the age of 21 must possess a hunter safety card and must present it at the time permits are picked up.
3. Issued permits must be signed by the applicant.
4. Mail-out permits will be provided to non-resident Tribal Members only after receiving a letter including the Tribal Member's name, date of birth, copies of their enrollment card and hunter safety education card (if applicable), and a list of permits desired. Permits will not be valid until signed by the applicant.

First Descendants

The following conditions must be met to obtain a First Descendant hunting permit:

1. Must present paperwork from Tribal Information Services certifying that they are a first descendant of an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member
2. Hunters under the age of 21 must possess a hunter safety card and must present it at the time permits are picked up.
3. Issued permits must be signed by the applicant.

Duplicate Permits

Lost or destroyed hunting permits will be replaced by the Division of Wildlife Resource Management for a cost of **\$5.00 per permit**.

New Address / Telephone Number / Driver's License Information

If you held a previous year's hunting permit and your home address, telephone number, or driver's license information has changed, you are required to provide the new information to the Division of Wildlife Resource Management.

Legal Weapons

Legal weapons for **deer, elk and mountain lion** shall include:

- 1) Shotguns of 20 gauge or larger firing a single slug.
- 2) Any bow with at least 40 pounds of draw weight. Hunting arrows must include a broadhead with an outside cutting diameter of at least 7/8" with at least 2 blades. Each cutting edge must be within the same plane throughout the length of the cutting surface.

- 3) Crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 125 lbs, and a minimum draw length of 14” from the front of the bow to the nocking point of the drawstring. A positive mechanical safety device is required. Bolts must be a minimum of 16” long, having a broadhead a minimum of 7/8” wide and a minimum of 2 cutting blades. Cutting edges of broadheads must be in the same plane for the entire length of the cutting surface. Unless specifically approved by the Management Division, crossbows are illegal during the early archery season.
- 4) Muzzleloading rifles with a single barrel of at least .40 caliber for deer, and .50 caliber for elk.
- 5) .357 magnum or larger handguns with a barrel length of 6 inches or longer, using .357 magnum or larger caliber ammunition with soft nose or hollow point bullets.
- 6) Center-fire rifles or center-fire handguns chambered for a center-fired cartridge, a minimum of .23 caliber. No fully automatic firearm may be used. All bullets must be soft nose or hollow pointed and not weigh more than 350 grains.

Legal weapons for **turkey** shall include:

- 1) Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns except .410 gauge; bow and arrow, crossbow; rifles and handguns, center-fired cartridges only; and muzzleloading rifles and handguns;

Legal weapons for **waterfowl** shall include:

- 1) Any shotgun 10 gauge or smaller and not capable of holding more than 3 shotshells in the chamber and magazine combined. Shotshells must not contain lead pellets;

Legal weapons for **small game** (including upland birds) shall include:

- 1) Any rimfire or center-fire rifle or handgun, any shotgun, any bow and arrow or crossbow.

HUNTER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Hunter Safety Requirements

All hunters under the age of 21 years must have successfully completed a hunter safety education course prior to issuance of permits. Hunters under age 21 must present their hunter safety education card to the Division of Wildlife Resource Management when acquiring permits and must carry the card with them while hunting. The DWRM offers hunter education classes twice per year. Please contact the office for more information.

Hunters Under Age 18

Hunters under 18 years of age may only hunt regulated species when accompanied by an adult.

DESIGNATED HUNTING

Designating Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members

Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members over the age of 12 may designate another enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member who meets the hunting permit eligibility requirements to hunt for them during the regular hunting season. Southern Ute Tribal Members who wish to designate another Southern Ute Tribal Member must pick up and sign their own permits, and the Division of Wildlife Resource Management will place the name of the designated hunter on permits at that time. Designated hunters will only be allowed to harvest **female deer and elk, or turkey of either sex** during the general fall hunting season. Designated hunters will not be allowed for any other form of hunting.

Designating Division of Wildlife Resource Management

The Division of Wildlife Resource Management will provide designated hunting services to enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member elders (55 years of age or older), single women, or physically disabled individuals. Requests must be made to the Division of Wildlife Resource Management, and all animals will be harvested during the regular Southern Ute Tribal Member hunting season. If the Division delivers the animal to a processor the requesting Tribal Members is responsible for all processing fees. If fees are

not paid to the processor, the Division reserves the right to deny designated hunting services to that Tribal Member in the future.

TAGGING AND VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS

Tagging Requirements

All big game must be tagged by the person who harvested the animal. The hunter must physically notch (cut) the **Month** and **Day** of harvest on the tag and sign the permit in **Ink** immediately after harvesting the animal. The hunter must then affix the tag to the carcass.

All big game animals must be securely tagged with the carcass tag prior to transportation. If numerous trips are required to remove the carcass from the field, the tag should remain attached to the portion of the carcass left in camp or in a vehicle.

Validation is the inspection of a harvested animal and may or may not be required depending on the species or hunt type. Part of the validation process may also require the hunter obtaining a validation tag as proof of inspection prior to the hunter leaving the reservation with the harvested animal. For further information regarding validations and validation tags, please contact the DWRM.

Validation Requirements

Depending on the season and species hunted, validation of harvested animals may be required. Guidelines vary and are given in detail by species and hunting season below.

- Early Archery deer, elk, and turkey: **Mandatory Validation**
- Buck Deer and Bull Elk: **Mandatory Validation**
Tribal Member hunters are required to have buck deer and bull elk validated within 5 business days of harvest. Please call the DWRM to make arrangements.
- First descendant Antlerless Elk: **Mandatory Validation**
- Spring Turkey: No validation required *EXCEPT* to pick up a second turkey permit
- Fall Turkey: **No Validation Required**
- Doe deer and Cow elk: **Mandatory Validation Exception**
Hunters planning to pick up a second doe tag or a second cow elk tag must have their doe or cow validated prior to picking up additional tags.
- Mountain Lion: **Mandatory Validation**
Validation must take place **within 24 hours** of the kill. Contact the Division of Wildlife Resource Management or Southern Ute Tribal Rangers during regular business hours or contact Southern Ute Dispatch outside of regular business hours to arrange validation.
- Upland game birds, waterfowl and small game: **No Validation Required**

EVIDENCE OF SEX REQUIREMENTS

Evidence of sex of harvested deer, elk, wild turkeys, and mountain lions must remain *naturally attached* to carcasses while transporting animals from the field, while in camp, or until the animal is validated (if necessary). Evidence of sex for deer and elk include the head and/or the testicles or udder. Evidence of sex for wild turkeys is the beard (for males). For mountain lions, the reproductive organs of both males and females must be left attached for sex identification purposes.

GUIDING AND OUTFITTING

Guides and outfitters must be permitted by the Division of Wildlife Resource Management before operating on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. To obtain a guiding and outfitting permit or to acquire a list of permitted guides and outfitters, contact the Division of Wildlife Resource Management. Illegal guiding and outfitting on the reservation is a serious offense with consequences for both the hunter and the person providing the guiding or outfitting services. Please contact the Wildlife Division immediately if you suspect illegal guiding and outfitting is taking place on the reservation.

ACCOMPANY CROSSING PERMITS

The Division of Wildlife Resource Management issues crossing permits to non-Southern Ute Tribal Members to accompany permitted hunters while hunting. Persons holding crossing permits may not hunt or carry a firearm of any type while accompanying a permitted hunter. **Persons holding a crossing permit may not provide specialized guiding and outfitting-type assistance to permitted hunters.** Contact the DWRM for more details on crossing permits or to have crossing permits issued.

Non-Southern Ute Tribal Members who are not in the immediate family of a Southern Ute Tribal Member hunter must acquire a crossing permit so that they may accompany the permitted Southern Ute Tribal Member while hunting. **Non-Southern Ute Tribal Members who are in the immediate family of a permitted Southern Ute Tribal Member hunter may accompany the hunter without obtaining a crossing permit.** For the purposes of accompany crossing permits, immediate family is considered a spouse, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, son in-law, daughter in-law or legal guardian of the permitted Southern Ute Tribal Member hunter. Note that a maximum of two permittees at a time are allowed per Southern Ute hunter and the crossing permit will be valid for 30 days or until the end of the hunt season, whichever comes first. Cost for crossing permits will be \$20.00 per permittee, and each permit is valid for accompanying a single specified Tribal Member hunter.

Southern Ute Tribal Season Dates and Bag Limits

(Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Members Only, unless specified)

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Deer and Elk Archery General	Aug. 23 rd - Aug. 31 st Sept. 1 st - Dec. 31 st	Aug. 11 th , 2025	3 Deer (1 Buck and 2 Does*) 3 Elk (1 Bull and 2 Cows*)
* Tribal Members must have their first doe or cow validated to receive their second doe or cow tag.			

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
First Descendant Antlerless Elk Any Legal Weapon	Dec. 1 st - 31 st	Nov. 17 th , 2025**	1 Antlerless Elk
<p>**15 permits available by limited draw only. Applications available through the Wildlife Division. Application Fee: \$25, Permit Fee: \$75, Total Fees: \$100 Applications must be submitted by <u>October 24th, 2025</u>. If there are more applicants than permits, then permits will be issued through a random draw. If there are less applicants than available permits, then all the applicants will receive a permit to hunt. Successful first descendant hunters must have their elk validated.</p>			

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Spring Turkey	Mar. 22 nd - May 25 th	Mar. 10 th , 2025	2 bearded turkeys
No beard length restrictions, but a harvested bird must have a beard naturally attached. 1st bird must be validated prior to picking up 2nd permit			

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Fall Turkey Early Archery General	Aug. 23 rd - Aug. 31 st Sept. 1 st - Dec. 31 st	Aug. 11 th , 2025	1 Turkey (either sex)

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Mountain Lion	Nov. 1 st , 2025 - Aug. 2 nd , 2026 OR until harvest quota is filled***	Sept. 15 th , 2025	1 mountain lion (either sex)

Dogs: Using trained hunting dogs in the take and attempted take of mountain lions will be allowed.

Restrictions: It is unlawful to kill mountain lion kittens or female mountain lions accompanied by kittens. Kittens are defined as mountain lions exhibiting visible spotting of the fur. Female mountain lions accompanied by kittens are defined as female mountain lions that have kittens traveling with them or dependent on them.

Harvest Quotas: 7 mountain lions total or 4 female mountain lions.

*****The mountain lion hunting season will remain open until the season ending date or until the harvest quota is filled, whichever comes first. It is the hunter's responsibility to call the harvest quota information line to check the status of harvest quotas and hunt area closures prior to hunting. Call (970) 563-0130 any time for quota status.**

Crossing Permits and Guiding and Outfitting for mountain lions: Non-members accompanying Tribal Member lion hunters must possess a Hunter Accompany Crossing Permit, which can be purchased from the Wildlife Division. The Crossing Permit is specifically to accompany a permitted hunter while hunting on Tribal land. The permittee is expressly prohibited from carrying a firearm, or providing hunter assistance in the form of equipment, specially trained dogs, pack animals, or other similar types of hunting aids commonly provided by professional guides and outfitters.

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Black Bear****	There is no open season for black bear.		
**** The Tribe designates the black bear as a <i>protected, culturally sensitive</i> species that shall not be subject to harvest by Tribal Member hunters either on-reservation or within the Brunot Treaty area under a Southern Ute Tribal-issued permit.			

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Gray Wolf	Gray wolves remain listed as <i>Endangered</i> under the federal Endangered Species Act. As such they may not be hunted recreationally. When delisted the Tribe will retain full management control of gray wolves and may establish hunting seasons at that time. Please report wolf conflict to the Wildlife Division.		

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Upland Game Birds Including Dusky Grouse and Quail	Sept. 1 st – Dec. 31 st	Aug. 11 th , 2025	Dusky Grouse: 3 birds per day Quail: 8 birds per day

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Migratory Game birds including doves, pigeons, rails and snipe	-	Aug. 11 th , 2025	-
Migratory game bird season dates and bag limits will coincide with the State of Colorado migratory bird hunting seasons. Please obtain and read the <i>Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2024 Small Game Hunting Brochure</i> for more information regarding migratory game birds.			

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Waterfowl including ducks, geese and coots	-	Aug. 11 th , 2025	-
Waterfowl season dates and bag limits will coincide with the Pacific flyway season framework and the State of Colorado waterfowl hunting seasons. Please obtain and read the <i>Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2024 Waterfowl Hunting Brochure</i> for more information. Waterfowl hunters are required to obtain a federal duck stamp before hunting waterfowl (available at the Post Office).			

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Small Game (including Furbearers)	Year-round	Year-round	-
Permits may be picked up at any time during the calendar year. The season runs year-round. Small game shall include beaver, badger, bobcat, coyote, fox species, muskrat, prairie dogs, rabbits and hares, raccoon, ringtail, squirrel species, and weasel species (excluding river otters). While no bag limits apply to small game species, certain rules and regulations do apply to trapping: Important Regulations for Trapping: 1. Permission from assignee to trap. No person shall trap furbearers on private, assigned and allotted lands without the permission of the landowner, assignee or person in charge of the property. 2. Interference with traps. It is unlawful to interfere with, disturb, remove or otherwise molest any trap, snare or other device lawfully set by a trapper, or remove any furbearer from said devices.			

3. Unattended traps. It is the duty of a trapper to endeavor to prevent undue suffering by wildlife captured or trapped. It is unlawful for any person to set a trap and leave it unattended in excess of twenty-four (24) hours unless chemical or mechanical methods are provided to prevent suffering of trapped animals.
4. Traps in the field must have identification of the trapper attached and available for Enforcement to see upon checking the trap. Identification must include the trapper's name and phone number. Identification methods can include engraving into a trap or attaching an identification tag (metal preferred). Other methods can be acceptable as long as the tag is visible for inspection.

Season	Season Dates	Permits Issued	Bag Limits
Shed Antler Collection Season	Year-round	No Permit Required	-
Shed antler collection on Tribal Lands is open to Southern Ute Tribal Members only. There is no permit required or restrictions on Tribal Members pertaining to shed antler hunting/collecting. Non-members, including spouses, immediate family or others, may not pick up and possess shed antlers while on tribal lands.			

Open and Closed Areas for Hunting on the Reservation:

Open Areas

Open areas for huntable species shall include all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. For private, assigned and allotted lands, hunters must first obtain written access permission from the landowner. For USFS lands and Navajo State Park lands contact the respective agencies for information pertaining to access restrictions.

Closed Areas

Closed areas shall include all grounds immediately surrounding the Lake Capote Recreation Area including the campground and Indian Mesa (La Boca area). For precise boundaries contact the Wildlife Division.

Additional Hunting Regulations

A complete listing of regulations pertaining to hunting on the Southern Ute Indian reservation is contained in Title 13: Wildlife Conservation Code. Contact the DWRM for a current copy of Title 13 or visit our website: <http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/wrmweb/>. Additionally the Division has a limited number of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Wildlife Laws Handbook 2008 available to Tribal hunters. Please ask about them in the Wildlife office.

Failure to wear Daylight or Fluorescent Orange or Pink Garments

During the big game hunting season, it is unlawful to hunt deer and/or elk with a firearm unless the person hunting is wearing a head covering and an outer garment above the waistline, both of solid daylight fluorescent orange or pink color, totaling five hundred (500) square inches or more of clothing. Penalties include a \$50.00 fine and 5 points towards permit revocation. Persons specifically hunting for fall turkey, or specifically hunting for mountain lions when big game seasons are running concurrently are not required to wear blaze orange, but are encouraged to do so for their own safety in the field.

Failing to Tag Wildlife Properly

It is unlawful for any person to fail to tag wildlife properly. In its simplest form, tagging means to sign and punch the dates on your tag and affix it to the animal's carcass. Penalties include a \$100 fine and 10 points towards permit revocation.

Shooting from a Motor Vehicle

It is unlawful for any person to shoot any type of firearm from a motor vehicle to take wildlife. Penalties include a \$300 fine and 15 points towards permit revocation.

Wastage of Game Meat / Abandoning a Carcass

It is unlawful to abandon any edible portion of wildlife or permit it to go to waste. Penalties for big game include a \$1,000 fine and 15 points. Other wildlife includes a \$250 fine and 15 points towards permit revocation.

Additionally, it is unlawful to take any wildlife and abandon the carcass or take wildlife only for the head, claws, teeth, hide, antlers, horns, tusks, or organs with the intent to abandon the carcass or to mutilate any living wildlife. Penalties include fines ranging from \$25 - \$20,000 and 25 points towards permit revocation.

Closure of Lake Capote Recreation Area

The Lake Capote Recreation Area will be closed to all hunting. Hwy 160 borders the closure area on the north and Hwy 151 on the west. The range fence directly south of the lake (running east/west) defines the southern boundary and the east boundary will follow the eastern bank of Stollsteimer Creek running north.

Closure of Indian Mesa

Indian Mesa (La Boca area) was closed by Resolution (2000-215) in December of 2000 and prohibits any activity which might jeopardize the cultural sensitivity of the area. Prohibited activities include firewood cutting, **hunting**, camping, leasing and grazing. The map on page 16 shows the restricted area. Contact the Wildlife or Lands Divisions with questions.

Off-road Travel on Tribal Lands

It is unlawful to travel off of established roads and two-tracks with any vehicle while on Tribal lands. This includes ATVs. Penalties include a \$100 fine and 5 points towards permit revocation.

Schedule of Civil Penalties Connected to Poaching Convictions on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation

Big Game	
Deer	
Trophy Buck (inside spread of 24" or more)	\$10,000 + 15 Points
Buck (inside spread of less than 24")	\$5,000+ 15 Points
Doe	\$1,000+ 15 Points
Elk	
Trophy Bull (6 + points on one antler)	\$10,000 + 15 Points
Bull	\$5,000+ 15 Points
Cow	\$1,000+ 15 Points
Mountain Lion	
Any Lion	\$5,000 + 15 Points
Shed Antlers	
Any Shed Antler	\$2,500 + 15 Points

Additional penalties associated with poaching convictions often include point accrual and revocation of hunting and fishing privileges on the Southern Ute Indian reservation for 2 – 5 years

Authority

These hunting regulations are approved by the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council under authority as outlined in Title 13, Article 1, Section 13-1-106, Subsections (1) through (3); Article 2, Section 13-2-101, Subsections (1) through (5); Article 2, Section 13-2-104; Article 2, Section 13-2-105, Subsections (1) through (3); of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Code revised and amended by Tribal Resolution No's. 89-34, 01-69, and 02-215.