

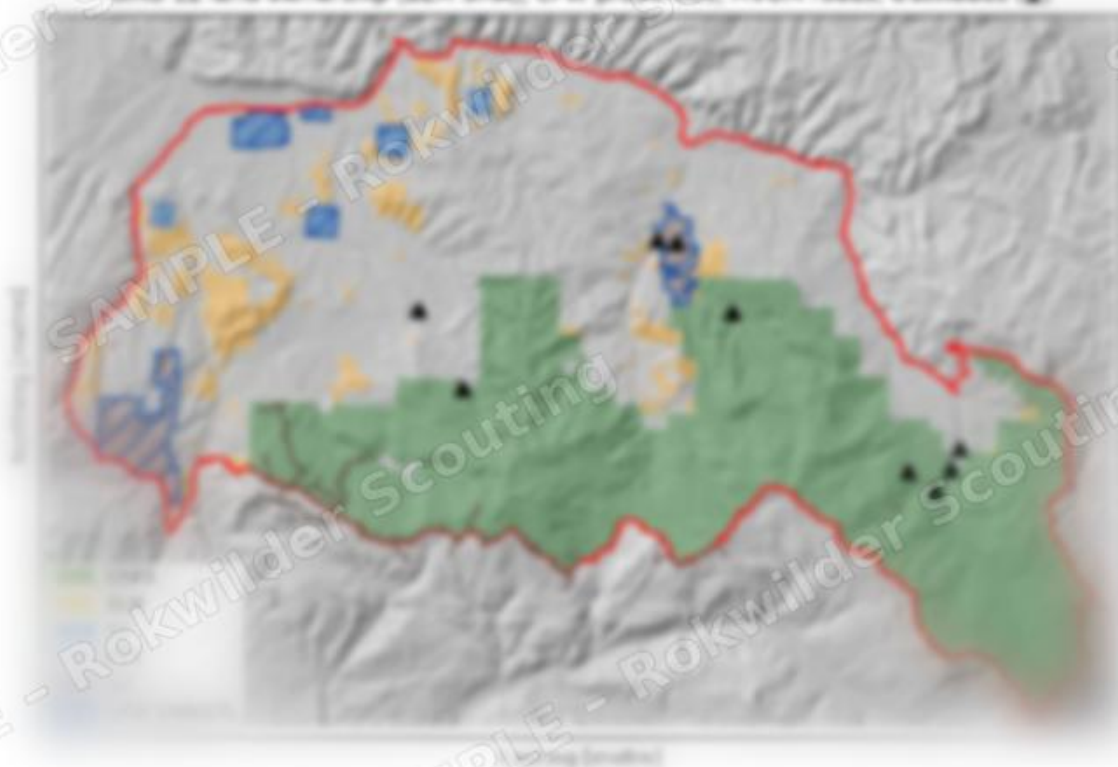
Colorado GMU 12 – AI Elk Scouting Package

GMU 12 covers about 112 sq mi (215,345 acres) in Moffat County, Colorado. It sits at 40°55'40.37"N, 107°32'W. It sits in elk Data Analysis (CPW) as the state's largest GMU by hunters and harvest. Elevation ranges from 7,000 to 12,000 feet. The unit is mostly along the south and east of the unit.

Land ownership is 42% BLM, 6% state, 1.4% private (BLM Surface Management System). Land with legal access is concentrated in the National Forest in the south and east, the north and west where access must be checked parcel by parcel. CPW listed public access properties are 100%.

CPW Species Activity Mapping: elk summer range covers ~95% of the unit and summer concentration ~85%, winter range ~55%, winter concentration ~25%, severe winter range ~15%, CPW migration corridor polygons cover ~10%, and CPW migration route area is ~74 km through the unit. In other words, nearly the whole unit is mapped elk.

GMU 12 land ownership (BLM SMA), CPW properties, MUM roads, trailheads (a)



Elk seasonal ranges (CPW)



How to use this package: (1) load the GPX file into ORX, Gaze or Google Earth. (2) open the web map and toggle the season. (3) check water on the ground. (4) recheck land status and MVUM closures before driving in.

5/14/2026)

yearly.

Hunt code	Type	Quota		
EE012O1A	Either-sex, archery	550	1,136	Res 0 pts (239 of 330 at 0 drew, 72%) / NonRes 4 pts (38 of 158, 24%)
EE012O1M	Either-sex, muzzleloader	100	307	Res 1 pt (36 of 53, 68%) / NonRes 8 pts (4 of 5, 80%)
EE012P1M	Either-sex, muzzleloader (private-land only hunt code)	50	88	Res 0 pts (5 of 5) / NonRes 0 pts (29 of 42, 69%)
EF012O1M	Antlerless, muzzleloader	100	61	Drew at Choice 2 (Res 17 of 68, NonRes 16 of 37)
EF012O2R	Antlerless, 2nd rifle	1,500	442	Leftover – undersubscribed
EF012O3R		1,500	291	Leftover – undersubscribed
EF012P1M	Antlerless, muzzleloader (private-land only code)	100		Leftover
EM012O4R	Bull, 4th rifle	500	157	Leftover – undersubscribed

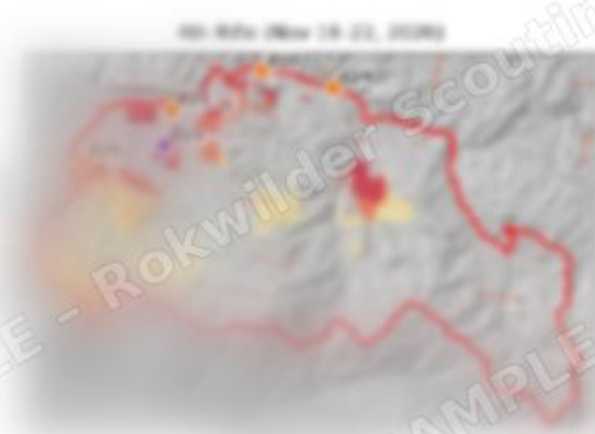
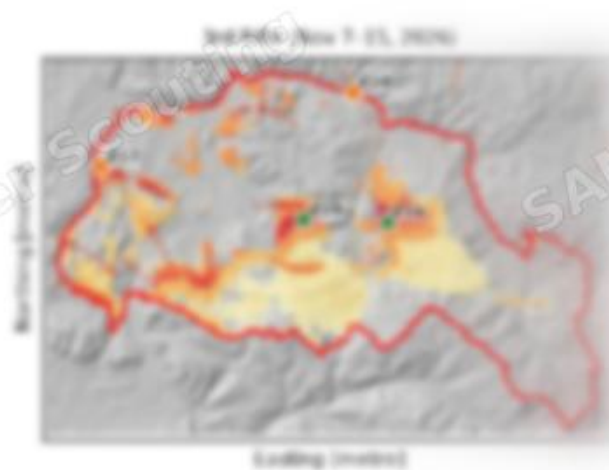
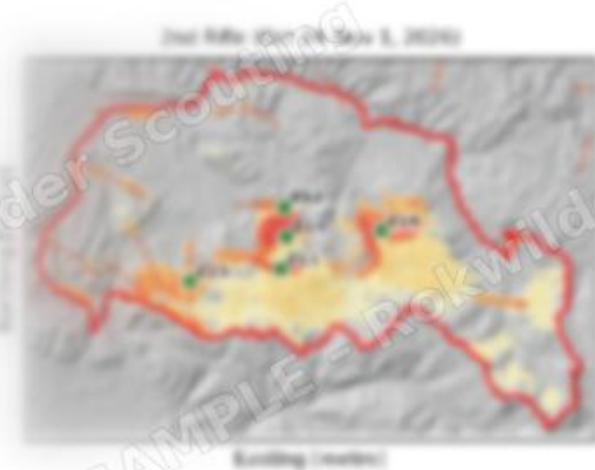
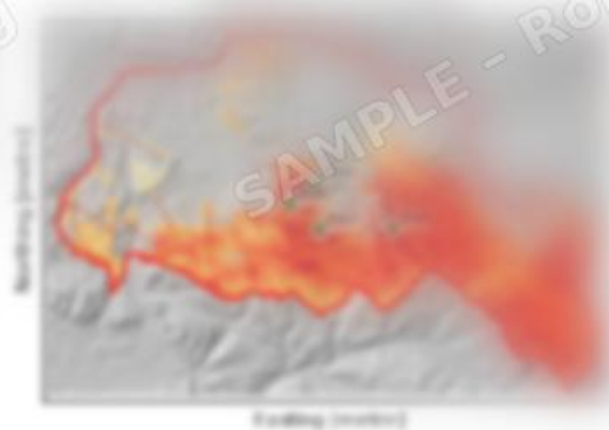
Hunt-code letters follow CPW convention (E=either-sex, F=antlerless, M=antlered; O=all lands, P=private-land only; 1A archery, 1M muzzleloader, 2R–4R rifle recap; their status for GMU 12 should be checked in the brochure.

3. Harvest – 2025 Colorado Elk Harvest Estimates (CPW)

Hunt code	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Total harvest	Hunters	Success	Rec. days
EE012O1A (archery)	121	13	4	137	548	25.0%	3,811
EE012O1M (muzz.)	30	5	0	35	93	37.6%	401
EE012P1M (muzz., private)	15	4	0	20	44	45.5%	208
EM012O4R (bull 4th rifle)	67	0	0	67	321	20.9%	1,281
EF012O2R (cow 2nd rifle)	0	90	8	99	746	13.3%	3,668
	0	28	12	40	520	7.7%	2,640
EF012O1M (cow muzz.)	0	8	0	8	99	8.1%	402
EF012P1M (cow muzz., private)	0	4	0	4	35	11.4%	115
DAU E-6 (all GMUs, all seasons)				4,321	21,819	20%	105,883

reported statewide (EM000U2R / EM000U3R) and is **not broken out for GMU 12** in this report, so it is not shown. Population estimates were not included in this sample.

4. Estimated hotspots by 2026 season



5. Top zones by season (estimates – 5 per season; muzzleloader uses archery zones)

Local maxima of each season score, ≥ 3 km apart, on federal land or CPW public-access property. WGS84 coordinates; also in GPX/KML. Starting points for glassing, not guarantees. Access check is a GIS screen, not a legal opinion.

ID	Season	Lat, Lon	Land / access check	Why (model inputs)
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Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

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Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

ID	Season	Lat, Lon	Land / access check	Why (model inputs)
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Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

6. Access points

Trailhead (COTREX)	Lat, Lon
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Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

M. Migration & Seasons (new)

post-hunt estimate of ~30,380 elk at ~19 bulls/100 cows (CPW 2023 post-hunt estimates; NW elk HMP summary). CPW and

Movement data found. (1) CPW migration routes, corridors and highway-crossing areas (CPWSpeciesData layers 33, 40, E-2 elk, and that "some migration movements tend to occur quickly and with limited use of migratory stopovers" (SO 3362

14, fall migration to winter range ~Oct 15–Nov 30 (USU thesis citing USDA 2002). Rut: CPW says mating is over by zone (~6,500–8,500 ft) with its lower half as traditional elk winter range "in all but the most extreme winters", and sagebrush below ~6,500 ft as winter range (SO 3362 plan). **Snow/weather triggers:** sources describe fall movement as weather-driven,

2026 GMU 12 elk seasons (CPW 2026 Big Game Brochure, pp. 38–45, 52–56)

Season	2026 dates	GMU 12 licenses (hunt code)
Archery	Sept 2–30	
Muzzleloader	Sept 12–20	E-E-012-O1-M, cow E-F-012-O1-M; private-land-only E-E-012-P1-M, E-F-012-P1-M
1st rifle	Oct 14–18	Limited bull E-M-011-O1-R and cow E-F-011-O1-R (valid in 11, 12, 13, 23, 24, ...); private-land-only either-sex E-E-011-P1-R
2nd rifle	Oct 24–Nov 1	OTC bull E-M-000-U2-R valid in GMU 12; limited cow E-F-012-O2-R
	Nov 7–15	OTC bull E-M-000-U3-R valid in GMU 12; limited cow E-F-012-O3-R
4th rifle	Nov 18–22	Limited bull E-M-012-O4-R; cow E-F-011-O4-R (valid 11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 211)
Private land only	Oct 1–Nov 30	Cow E-F-011-P5-R (11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 211)

Bulls in GMU 12 must have 4+ points on one antler or a 5-inch brow tine (brochure antler-point rule list). Always confirm on your license and in the current brochure.

Season-by-season movement timeline (estimates)

Season	Where elk likely are	What to target in this package	Confidence
Archery Sept 2–30 / Muzz Sept 12–20	Summer range and summer concentration areas, high basins and timber; peak rut	Archery zones; timber/opening edges near water; north slopes midday	High
1st rifle Oct 14–18	Migration typically just starting (~Oct 15); most still high, pushed into dark timber by pressure	1st-rifle zones: high canopy, north-facing, far from roads	Medium
2nd rifle Oct 24–Nov 1	Fall migration under way; using transition zones and corridors, can move fast with few stopovers	Corridors, routes, funnel/pinch points, saddles	Medium-low (snow-dependent)
3rd rifle Nov 7–15	Many moving down to winter-range edges; mild fall = still higher	Lower corridor segments, winter-range edge, cover near south slopes	Medium-low
4th rifle Nov 18–22	Normal winter: most on winter range/concentration areas, lower and south-facing	Winter-range zones (often BLM/state/private mix – check access)	Medium

Confidence reflects how well the herd timing source and CPW range maps match each window; it is not statistical. A big early storm can pull the whole timeline earlier; a dry, warm fall can push it later.

Corridor funnels and pinch points (estimates)

Funnel-Saddles = DEM saddles inside a CPW corridor or within 500 m of a CPW route. Funnel-Pinches = places inside a corridor where public land is narrow (under ~450 m half-width) with private land within ~600 m, so moving elk crossing public ground are squeezed. 30 were flagged (top 10 shown; all in GPX/KML).

Name	Lat, Lon	Elev (ft)	Access check
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Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

8. How the model works

Each 30 m cell on public land gets a weighted score per season, then smoothed (~120 m):

- **Early (Sept):** CPW summer concentration area (high weight), summer range, distance to mapped water (≤ 1.5 km), (2020 Streeter fire, MTBS), benches/saddles.
- **Mid (Oct, transition):** modeled transition zone = within 1.5 km of the CPW winter-range edge or 500 m of a CPW elk
- **Late (Nov):** CPW winter concentration, winter range and severe winter range, south/west-facing gentle slopes, lower

v2 changes: cover now uses LANDFIRE 2024 canopy cover (30 m) plus a timber/opening feeding-edge term; six season

PAD-US/COMaP easements, BLM routes, snow and weather, hunting pressure data, and any GPS-collar data. Weights are expert-judgment guesses, not fitted to harvest or telemetry, so the scores are untested.

9. Legal notes (Colorado)

- **Corner crossing:** stepping corner-to-corner between two *federal* parcels without touching private ground is legal in Colorado per *Iron Bar Holdings v. Cape* (10th Cir. 2025; cert. denied Oct 20, 2025), as interpreted by the Colorado Attorney private land is trespass.
- **Scouting tech (CPW Ch. W-0, eff. May 1, 2026):** no drones to look for, scout or detect wildlife as an aid to hunting; no live-transmitting game cameras to locate game for taking that day or the next; no internet/computer-assisted remote hunting.
- **Ownership data is not a survey.** BLM SMA boundaries can be off by tens of meters; carry a current land-status app or map and respect posted signs.

10. Disclaimers

This is a sample product built automatically from public data. Hotspots are estimates, not animal sightings, and no information everything against current CPW regulations before applying or hunting. Not legal advice. CPW data use in a commercial product still needs to be confirmed with CPW.

11. Data sources

Data	Source (accessed Oct 16, 2026)
	WAdminData FeatureServer (layers 6, 5, 14, 15): services5.arcgis.com/ttNGmDvKQA7oeDQ3/arcgis/rest/services/CPWAdminData/FeatureServer
Elk range/migration layers	CPW CPWSpeciesData FeatureServer layers 33 (routes), 34 (highway crossings), 35, 36, 40 (corridors), 41–44
	CPW, via cpw.state.co.us/activities/hunting/big-game/hunting-elk/elk-statistics
2025 Elk Harvest Estimates	CPW, same page
Water	USGS NHD MapServer layers 0, 6, 12 (hydro.nationalmap.gov) – public domain
Land ownership	BLM National Surface Management Agency (gis.blm.gov, BLM_Natl_SMA_LimitedScale) – public domain
Elevation	USGS 3DEP ImageServer (elevation.nationalmap.gov), ~30 m – public domain
Canopy	LANDFIRE LF2024 Canopy Cover (lfps.usgs.gov ImageServer) – public domain
	CPW NW elk HMP summary; CPW 2023 post-hunt estimates; CPW elk species page; NPS ROMO elk bugles page
Season dates	CPW 2026 Big Game Brochure; CPW 2025–2029 Big Game Season Structure
Burns	ac)
Legal	CPW Ch. W-0 (Mar 2026); BHA/Colorado AG corner-crossing update; SCOTUS docket 25-64