

GMU 70 – UnitIQ Mule Deer Scouting Package (SAMPLE)

seasons modeled · Prepared Oct 19, 2026 · Zones are **model estimates**, not sightings. Public land only. Ownership lines are approximate.

1. Unit overview

Region Deer HMPs, March 2024). Elevation inside the unit runs about 4,838–13,978 ft (USGS 3DEP), from low PJ and sage

Land (BLM SMA, our calculation): BLM ≈ 49%, USFS ≈ 16%, state ≈ 3%, private ≈ 32%. Private hay/crop fields (NLCD 2021) cover ~1.8% of the unit. **Vegetation (LANDFIRE EVT, share of unit):** PJ woodland 29%, PJ shrubland 4%, sagebrush 16%, Gambel oak 8%, ponderosa 3%, aspen 7%, agriculture 2%. Mean canopy cover on public land 17% (LANDFIRE LF2024 CC). **CPW mule deer layers (share of unit):** winter range 73%, winter concentration 18%, severe winter range 38%, summer range 46%, migration corridors 6%; 97 km of mapped CPW deer migration routes and 9 highway-crossing features.

Legal-access screen. Public land was grouped into blocks and merged only through federal-to-federal corners (corner crossing),

blocks, 5.8 sq mi); **CHECK ACCESS** (53 blocks, 2.9 sq mi); **LIKELY LANDLOCKED** (84 blocks, 1.7 sq mi). This is a 30 m GIS screen, not a legal ruling. Landlocked land is weighted down 75% and 'check' land 20%.



2. Real CPW numbers, GMU 70 buck codes

	Value	Source
2026 quota		
2026 1st-choice applicants	1,171 general + 78 landowner (LPP)	same
2026 drew out at	Residents: 1 preference point (165 of 181 at that level drew, 91%). Nonresidents: 6 points (33 of 55, 60%).	same
2025 harvest	244 bucks, 387 hunters, 63.0% success , 1,802 recreation days	CPW 2025 Deer Harvest Estimates

Other GMU 70 buck codes (2025)	Bucks	Hunters	Success
DM070O1A archery	39	137	28.5%
DM070O1M muzzleloader	42	91	46.2%
DM070O1R 1st rifle	41	54	75.9%
DM070O2R 2nd rifle	311	379	82.1%
DM070O4R 4th rifle	55	79	69.6%
DM070P1R / P2R / P3R private-land	19 / 107 / 128	28 / 168 / 175	67.9% / 63.7% / 73.1%

Harvest figures are CPW survey estimates.

Migration & Seasons

as 34% USFS, 32% BLM, 30% private. The 2022 post-hunt estimate was 18,300 deer (objective then 15,000–19,000; preferred new objective 19,000–23,000). The 2020–2022 observed average was 22 bucks:100 does. Buck harvest averaged 1,285 a year over 20 years. CPW notes CWD was detected in the DAU in 2020 (2.6% prevalence) and lists development, energy and recreation as pressures on winter range and migration.

Movement data used: CPW mule deer migration routes, corridors, winter/severe/concentration ranges and highway crossings. The Utah DWR La Sal collar corridor layer (68 GPS collars, 2020–21) also extends into GMU 70: about 50 km² low-use, 129 km² medium-use and 23 km² high-use corridor, plus 16 km² of stopover, inside the unit. We found no GMU 70-specific fall migration dates, so season timing below is a judgment call, not a measured result.



Map at left: CFW migration routes (dashed), corridors and highway crossings, plus Utah DWR collar corridors (solid, darker = more used) and stopovers (dotted). Yellow triangles mark modeled funnel/sal pinch points.

How funnels were found: (1) Funnel saddles are DWR saddles (a low point between two higher points) that fall inside a CFW or Utah corridor or within 500 m of a CFW. Animals tend to cross at these saddles. (2) Pinch points are spots inside a corridor where public land narrows to less than ~400 m half-width with private land within ~500 m, so animals crossing public ground get squeezed. Sit these on the public land.

24 deer funnels were found (all listed below and in the GFWXSL). **Highway crossings:** CFW deer highway-crossing polygons all along Colo. 141 / 30. Drive slowly at dawn and dusk, these are not hurting anyone.

2026 GMU 70 deer seasons

Season	2026 dates (CPW 2026 Big Game Brochure)	Game Brochure
Archery	Sept 2–30	See CPW brochure for GMU 70 codes
Muzzleloader	Sept 12–20	same
1st rifle	Oct 14–18	same
2nd rifle	Oct 24–Nov 1	same
3rd rifle (featured)	Nov 7–15	DM070O3R is the limited 3rd-rifle buck code
4th rifle	Nov 18–22	same

The map (index.html) has a season selector with these dates. Each season gets its own heat layer and zones.

Season-by-season timeline

Season	Where deer likely are (estimate)	What the season model favors	Confidence
Archery / Muzz	Mostly on higher summer range (aspen, oak, conifer edges)	High elevation, oak/mtn shrub, aspen/ponderosa, water, far from roads	Medium
1st rifle	Mostly still high, pushed into cover by pressure	High oakbrush/timber, far from roads, some transition	Medium
2nd rifle	Snow-dependent start of movement toward winter range	Corridors, stopovers, saddles, transition band, browse	Low–medium
3rd rifle	More deer near winter range after snow; pre-rut into early rut	Winter concentration, corridors, browse/oak, sunny slopes, public edges near fields, away from roads	Low–medium
4th rifle	Most migrants on winter range; rut building	Winter concentration/severe range, browse, low sunny slopes, field edges	Medium

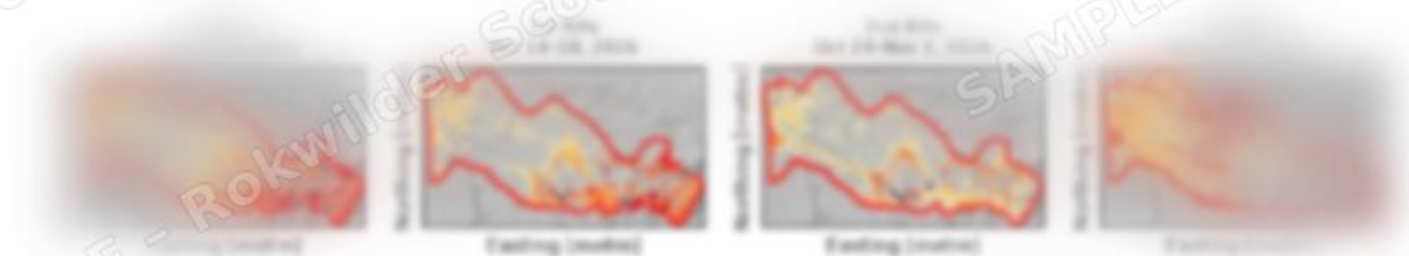
Confidence is a judgment of how well the sources support each window, not a statistic. Snow timing can shift the whole timeline earlier or later.

Funnels & pinch points (model estimates)

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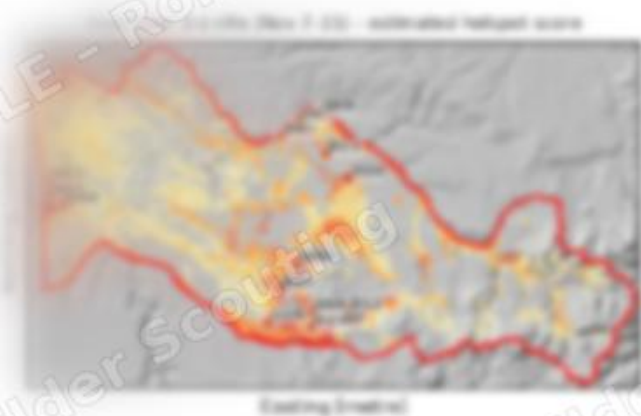
Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

Hotspots in the other seasons



Season	1st Jan	1st Feb	1st Mar	1st Apr
Spring (March)				
Early (March)				
Early (March)				
Early (March)				

Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package



Legend: Yellow: lowest, dark red: highest, 40th-95th percentile of scores. Dots are the top 15 zones, spaced apart, 100m.

Inputs: CPW winter concentration (heavy), winter range, transition band, CPW routes/corridors plus Utah valley

shrub, sage, P2 shrub, aspen, sunny moderate slopes, cover near feeding edges, closeness to private hayrings

calls and have not been tested against harvest or other data.

Tactics: glass sunny P2, sage and oak slopes, all at saddles and pinch points made corridors, etc.

Keep the shot and the animal on the ground.

4. Top 15 deer zones (3rd rifle) – estimates

WGS84 coordinates (also in the GPX/KML). Distances to private land are from the approximate SMA layer.

ID	Lat, Lon	Land / elev / veg	Nearby & access	Why (model inputs at this spot)
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Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

ID	Lat, Lon	Land / elev / veg	Nearby & access	Why (model inputs at this spot)
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[illegible]

Modeled: places where a mapped road (MVUM, highway or county road) crosses onto public land. Confirm each road is legally public.

[illegible]

Coordinates & top-zone details included in the full package

6. Legal notes

• **Private land:** do not enter, retrieve or shoot onto private land without permission. Boundaries here are from the BLM SMA layer and are **approximate, not a survey**. Use onX/Gaia parcel data plus signs and fences, and keep a margin.

• **Corner crossing:** treat as legal only between two federal parcels; it does not cover state or private land. Skip it when in doubt.

the parcel is in CPW's public access program before you go.

• **Rifle season:** 500 sq in of daylight fluorescent orange or pink plus a matching head covering. No drones for scouting or hunting. Check the brochure for CWD sampling, electronics and carcass rules.

7. Limitations

GMU 70 is large (about 1,500 sq mi), and this is a 30 m model. Ownership is the limited-scale BLM SMA layer, so small inholdings may be missing. BLM route data (GTLF) could not be downloaded, so BLM two-tracks appear only where TIGER or USGS TNM

Funnels and hotspots are untested; your own scouting should tune them.

8. Disclaimers

Built from public data. Zones are computer-model estimates, not sightings; nothing here guarantees animals, access or success.

advice. Not affiliated with or endorsed by CPW.

9. Data sources

Data	Source
	CPW CPWAdminData FeatureServer
Mule deer layers	CPW CPWSpeciesData layers 96–106
Utah collar corridors	Utah DWR migration corridors & stopovers – La Sal mule deer, 68 GPS collars, 2020–21
Season dates	CPW 2026 Colorado Big Game Brochure
Land ownership	BLM National SMA (limited scale)
	USFS MVUM; Census TIGERweb; USGS TNM transportation
Water / terrain	USGS NHD; USGS 3DEP 30 m DEM
Vegetation	LANDFIRE EVT and LF2024 Canopy Cover; NLCD 2021
Names	USGS GNIS