

# 2024-2025 Hunter Satisfaction Survey

## Results



Directorate of Public Works (DPW)  
Environmental Division, Conservation Branch  
Fort Carson, Colorado

Report written by Cassidy English (Fort Carson Natural Resource Specialist) and Richard Riddle (PCMS Wildlife Biologist)

## Summary and Purpose

From Jan. 22, 2025 to Feb. 17, 2025, the Fort Carson Directorate of Public Works (DPW) asked hunters (Active Duty Soldiers, Veterans and civilians) from Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) Game Management Unit (GMU) GMU 142 and Fort Carson GMU 591 to provide feedback about their hunting experiences.

Unfortunately, fewer responses were received this year than last year with approximately 19 people answering each question to the end in the survey. The survey was posted later in the year than normal due to a staffing shortage in the beginning of the hunting season.

### How do I interpret the results of the satisfaction survey?

The results included are from anonymous comments and ratings. The beginning of the report uses charts to display the results of the answers in the survey. Questions 1-8 were yes and no, and questions 9 – 17 were rated by stars: 1 star – very dissatisfied, 2 stars – dissatisfied, 3 stars – neutral/neither, 4 stars – satisfied and 5 stars – very satisfied. Questions, 18,25 and 26 were multiple choice style.

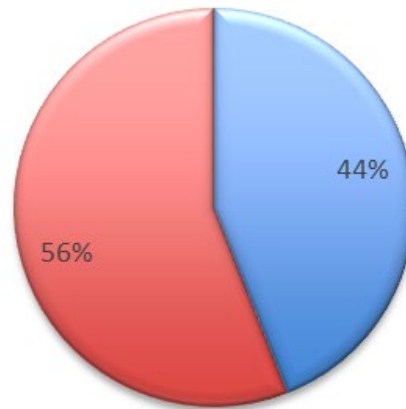
Questions 19-24 and 27 were open comment boxes for hunters to leave details answers in the survey. The end of the report includes input from the Fort Carson staff to address some of the comments. Hunters' comments have not been altered or changed in this report unless the entire comment or part of the comment was omitted.

Please keep in mind that although Fort Carson is requesting feedback and experiences to help the installation shape future changes. Comments that are abusive, have explicit language or that use identifying information, can't be used. Those comments will be omitted from presentations and reports published and viewed by the public. For the 2025-2026 big game seasons, Fort Carson DPW anticipates the upcoming hunter survey to be published on the homepage of iSportsman by September 2025 to enable a larger sample of hunters the opportunity to participate in the next survey.

Thank you for the honest responses from the 24-25 big game season.

- Cassidy English (Fort Carson DPW Natural Resource Specialist) & Rich Riddle (PCMS DPW wildlife biologist)

## Q1 DID YOU HUNT ON FORT CARSON?



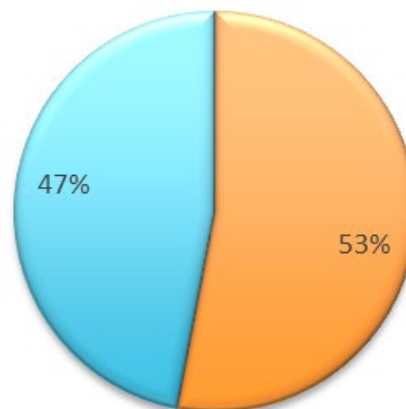
Number of  
respondents  
n-18

Did you hunt on Fort Carson?

56% YES

44% NO

## Q2 DID YOU HUNT ON PCMS?



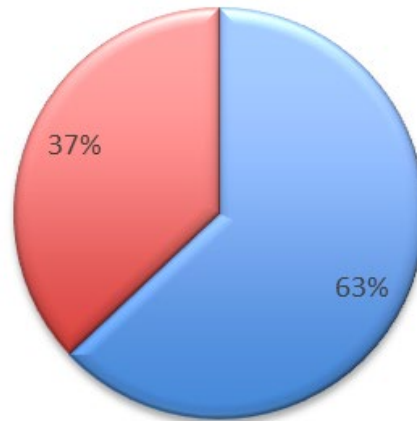
Number of  
respondents  
n-19

Did you hunt on PCMS?

47% YES

53% NO

### Q3 DID YOU FILL YOUR TAG THIS YEAR?



Did you fill your tag?

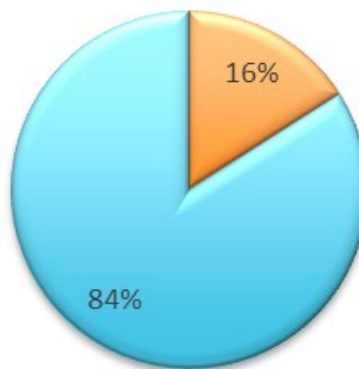
37% YES

63% NO

Number of respondents  
n-19

■ No ■ Yes

### Q4 DID YOU HAVE A POSITIVE HUNTING EXPERIENCE?



Did you have a positive hunting experience?

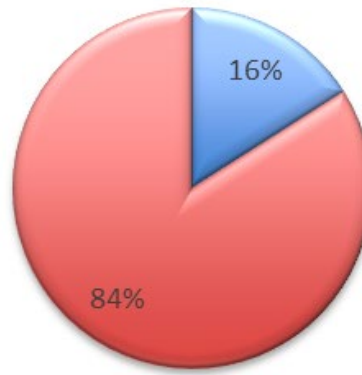
84% YES

16% NO

Number of respondents  
n-19

■ No ■ Yes

## Q5 WILL YOU HUNT AGAIN AT FORT CARSON/PCMS?



Will you hunt again at FORT CARSON/PCMS?

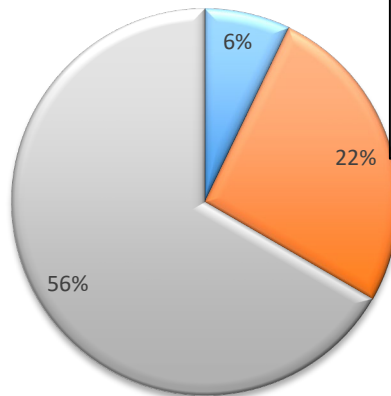
84% YES

16% NO

Number of respondents n-19

■ No ■ Yes

## Q6-Q8 BREAKOUT OF USER TYPES THAT RESPONDED TO SURVEY



User types that responded to survey:

58% CIVILIAN

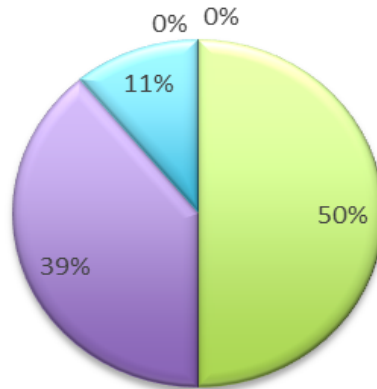
26% VETERAN/RETIRED MILITARY

16% ACTIVE DUTY

Number of respondents n-19

■ Good For My Physical Activity ■ Good For Mental Health ■ Helps Feed My Family

## Q9 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE FORT CARSON HUNTING PROGRAM?



Number of respondents  
n-18

How satisfied are you with the Fort Carson hunting program?

11% VERY SATISFIED

39% SATISFIED

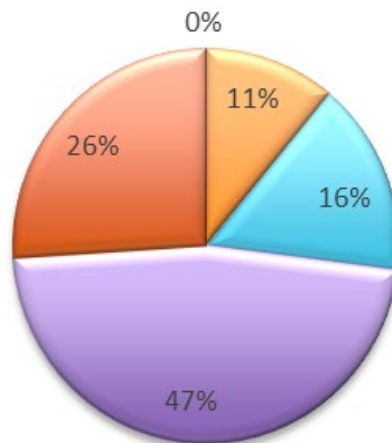
50% NEUTRAL

0% DISSATISFIED

0% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Neutral   Satisfied   Very Satisfied

## Q10 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE PCMS HUNTING PROGRAM?



Number of respondents  
n-19

How satisfied are you with the PCMS hunting program?

0% VERY SATISFIED

26% SATISFIED

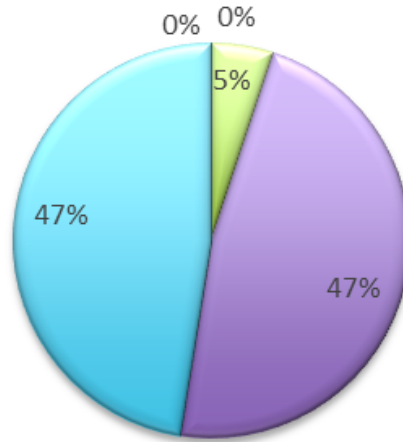
57% NEUTRAL

16% DISSATISFIED

11% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Neutral   Satisfied   Very Satisfied

## Q11 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH ACCESS AND CHECK-IN STARTING AT 4:00AM?



Number of respondents  
n-19

How satisfied are you with access and check-in starting at 4 am?

47% VERY SATISFIED

47% SATISFIED

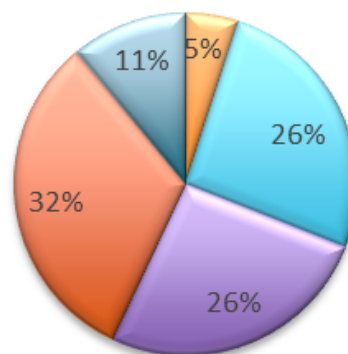
5% NEUTRAL

0% DISSATISFIED

0% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

## Q12 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF OPEN AREAS FOR HUNTING?



Number of respondents  
n-19

How satisfied are you with the availability of open areas for hunting?

11% VERY SATISFIED

32% SATISFIED

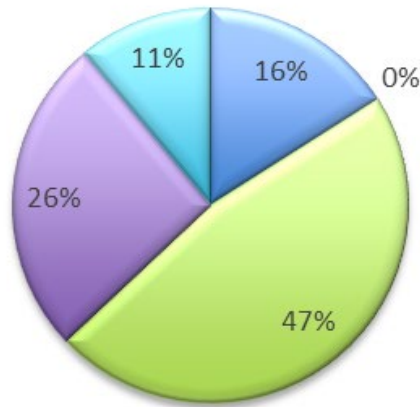
26% NEUTRAL

26% DISSATISFIED

5% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

### Q13 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE AREA CHECK-IN AT PCMS?



How satisfied are you with area check-in at PCMS?

11% VERY SATISFIED

26% SATISFIED

47% NEUTRAL

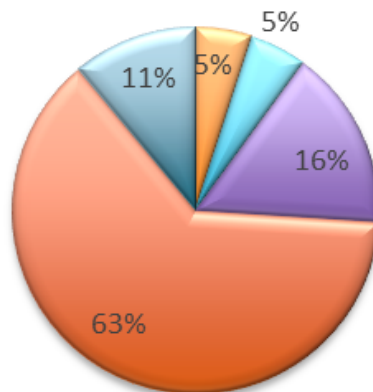
0% DISSATISFIED

16% VERY DISSATISFIED

Number of respondents  
n-19

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

### Q14 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE MAX OCCUPANCY LEVELS OF RECREATIONISTS ALLOWED IN HUNTING BLOCKS OR TRAINING AREAS?



How satisfied are you with the max occupancy of blocks or TAs?

11% VERY SATISFIED

63% SATISFIED

16% NEUTRAL

5% DISSATISFIED

5% VERY DISSATISFIED

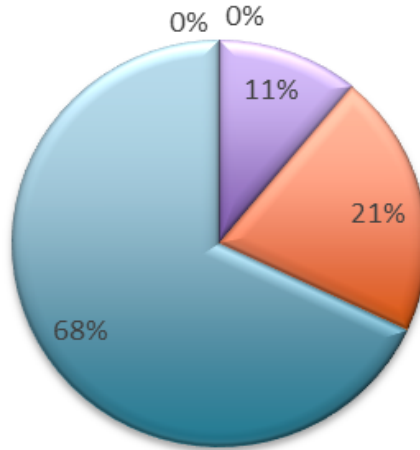
Number of respondents  
n-19

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied



### Q15 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH SAFETY BRIEFINGS ONLY BEING OFFERED ONLINE

Number of respondents  
n-19



How satisfied are you with the safety briefings only being offered online?

68% VERY SATISFIED

21% SATISFIED

11% NEUTRAL

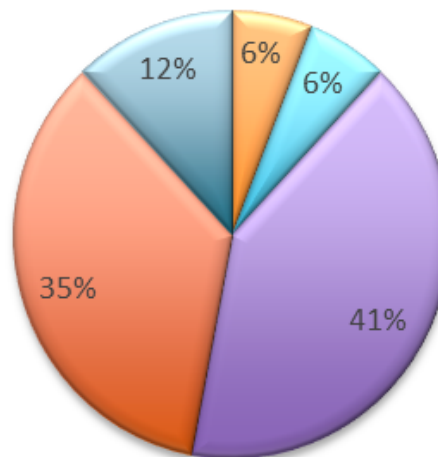
0% DISSATISFIED

0% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Neutral   Satisfied   Very Satisfied

### Q16 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF ANIMALS YOU HAVE SEEN ON FORT CARSON?

Number of respondents  
n-17



How satisfied are you with the quality of animals you have seen on Fort Carson?

12% VERY SATISFIED

35% SATISFIED

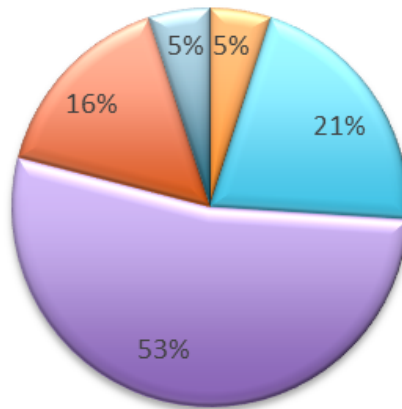
41% NEUTRAL

6% DISSATISFIED

6% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Neutral   Satisfied   Very Satisfied

### Q17 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF ANIMALS YOU HAVE SEEN ON PCMS?



Number of respondents  
n-19

How satisfied are you with the quality of animals you have seen on PCMS?

5% VERY SATISFIED

16% SATISFIED

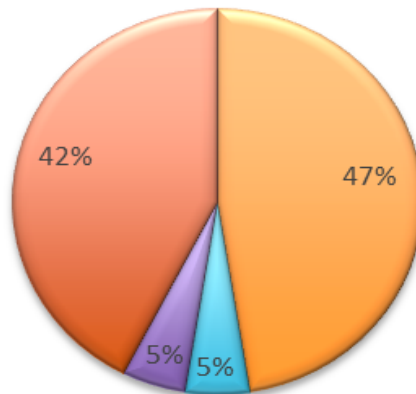
53% NEUTRAL

21% DISSATISFIED

5% VERY DISSATISFIED

Very Dissatisfied   Dissatisfied   Neutral   Satisfied   Very Satisfied

### Q18 IF YOU ENCOUNTERED A GAME WARDEN, WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE LIKE?



Number of respondents  
n-19

What was your experience like if you encountered a game warden?

42% POSITIVE

5% HELPFUL

5% NEGATIVE

47% N/A – NO ENCOUNTERS

N/A No Encounters   Negative   Helpful   Positive

**19. If you answered Question 18, were you warned, fined and/or suspended?**

All response said no.

**20. What season(s) did you hunt this year?**

**Un-edited Responses**

Multiple or N/A

- Rifle buck
- 4th season Elk Rifle
- Elk # 147
- Coyotes
- I did not direct hunt but was watching wildlife and supporting my son's hunt.
- 2nd rifle Elk
- 3rd OTC season
- 4-month cow elk
- Deer
- Archery elk and deer, early rifle bear and late whitetail.
- Archery
- Doe deer on PCMS
- Muzzleloader elk, rifle deer
- Buck Deer
- Archery Deer and 2nd Rifle Elk
- Second
- Late Deer
- Muzzleloader Pronghorn and archery mule deer

**21. How often were you not able to check into one of your top three training areas when they were open, due to them filling up immediately upon check-in time?**

**Un-edited Responses**

- 1
- N/A
- 100
- 0
- Zero
- Twice
- Often
- Once
- 4

- Daily
- 50%
- Often as long as it's not an OTC weekend on Carson
- Not very often
- Only once
- None
- No problem
- 0

**22. Were there any days you were not able to hunt on Fort Carson due to all the open blocks/training areas completely filling up? If so, please indicate which season it occurred in.**

**Un-edited Responses**

- No. Everything was closed for snow.
- No
- No
- PCMS only being open on the weekends made it hard to scout and hunt. It feels like I had to rush the process.
- No, there's always an area to hunt in!!!! But it's a first come first hunt area to hunt!!! And I can live with that!!
- No
- No
- Well, it doesn't really matter if any of the blocks are left if there isn't any game in them
- Na
- No
- No
- No
- 3

**23. How can we improve the Fort Carson hunting program?**

**Un-edited Responses**

- Reduce buck tags some. Quality is down some from several years ago. It's great you started opening on Friday.
- Less game warden harassment.
- Open more units more days of the week.
- Put going down range time to start at 5 a.m.!!! Just because the Post HQ post the road conditions at 5 am each morning at 719-526-0096. That would be the number that should be posted to check before going down range!!!! That way everyone would be on the same page!!! Safety First!!!!!! 5 a.m. will still gets you down range before first light

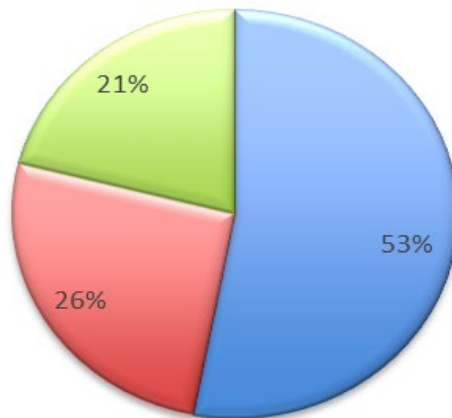
- Seemed like training areas, specifically 17 and 18, were closed most of the time. Obviously, I wouldn't be able to tell, but it never looked there was any training going on.
- Make it 3 antler points or more for deer and cut back on the number of tags.
- Mule deer doe to buck ratio is way out of control. Fort Carson really needs to have a doe season.
- The military closing route 9, for TAs 18, 21, & 27 and making the area red (off limits) because of the small arms range is ridiculous. Most of experienced hunters know it a primary elk pattern leading to range 127. I would assume this has led to a decrease in harvest of elk. But I'll wait to see harvest reports for 24-25 seasons. Note. I saw numerous vehicles off gold routes. Frustrating!!!
- Please keep allowing civilians to hunt on post. The Friday hunting is nice.
- It's better now than in the past
- Not sure
- Don't know

## 24. How can we improve the PCMS hunting program?

### Un-edited Responses

- N/A
- I know you are trying to limit out of state hunters, but for 5-day draw only seasons it would be great if it were possible to get more than weekends. Where it makes sense for range and training purposes.
- Hunting seasons start on Saturday. So, you cannot hunt on Fridays. So maybe if possible be open Saturday Sunday and Monday if possible. What do you think?
- Get rid of area check in and keep it open until March.
- Be open on weekdays.
- Keep the area open during the week.
- Don't hunt there!!!
- N/A
- Nothing
- Add weekdays back for at least during deer and antelope season and keep allowing civilians to hunt please.
- For the rifle deer and rifle antelope have it opened all hunting season. Not enough time to hunt if two tracks are closed due to weather.
- Open COMPLETELY during the major seasons and get rid of the only open Fri, Sat and Sun.
- nothing
- Open hunting back to 7 days a week.
- Eliminate the check-in/out of training areas.

### Q25 WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOU AS A HUNTER?

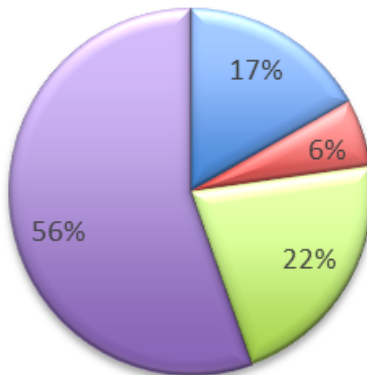


**What describes you best as a hunter?**  
**21% ENJOY HUNTING**  
**26% IMPORTANT PART OF MY LIFE**  
**53% MOST IMPORTANT LEISURE ACTIVITY IN MY LIFE**

**Number of respondents n-19**

■ Most Important Leisure Activity In My Life ■ Important Part Of My Life ■ Enjoy Hunting

### Q26 HOW DOES HUNTING ON FORT CARSON AND PCMS IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE?



**How does hunting improve your quality of life ?**  
**17% IMPROVES SOLIDER MORALE**  
**6% GOOD FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**  
**22% GOOD FOR MENTAL HEALTH**  
**56% HELPS FEED MY FAMILY**

**Number of respondents n-18**

■ Improves Morale For Soliders ■ Good For My Physical Activity  
 ■ Good For Mental Health ■ Helps Feed My Family

## **27. Is there anything else you want to mention or bring to our attention? Please leave your comment here.**

### **Un-edited Responses**

- I am sure people have taken advantage of PCMS in the past. Social media, Facebook? Hopefully the majority of the people have moved on to somewhere else. There will always be people who ruin things for true hunters, outdoors people.  
Thank you for letting me on your property. I hunt alone. As before if you can open Saturday through Monday? Thank you.
- Open areas to hunting during weekdays and not just weekends.
- Please check the PCMS camp site more often. There was a group of hunters and disrespected their hunt and the others in the camp site by sticking the lower legs of their antelope in the mud and throwing their carcass over the fence near their camp site because they left that day. Please check people at the camp site more often.
- Why can't area 22/23 be open up to Low Velocity when no training is going on??? And more important Why in area 41 the yellow route that borders or runs along highway 115 make all areas WEST of that yellow route be a red area and everything EAST of that route turned into High Velocity!! Like they have in area 18!!!!
- Very nice animals down range! Gotta be lucky at times.
- Love hunting at PCMS and Fort Carson. It's hard to find a nice place to hunt for many locals here in Colorado and both PCMS and Fort Carson provide great hunting areas for the public to hunt. Please continue access for civilians thank you
- I think you guys are doing a lot better job now than in the past.
- no
- Need more mature bucks.

### **Staff Responses**

First of all, the Fort Carson DPW thanks everyone who took the time to go through the 24-25 end of season survey and provided feedback to the questions asked. The survey will be reviewed by Fort Carson leadership. The Fort Carson staff understands that hunters and recreationists feel the opportunity to hunt or recreate on Fort Carson is a very important leisure activity in their life, which was demonstrated by the responses provided in surveys over the years, along with improving Solider morale, feeding families, mental health and fitness.

Hunting and the harvesting of big game species is also an important tool which allows DPW wildlife biologists and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to manage population dynamics and manage populations for Chronic Wasting Disease in our GMUs. Specifically, GMU 591 is considered a "Hot Spot" for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) by CPW. There is a high number of buck deer licenses allocated to help manage the spread of CWD.

There are a multitude of challenges that come with people choosing to hunt and recreate on an active military installation. The restricted areas, changes to public access and the recreation map will unfortunately continue to change as time moves forward to meet the military's needs and implement identified safety issues. To what extent, is not currently known, but every restricted area is approved by Fort Carson leadership prior to being implemented.

It is important to note again that Fort Carson and PCMS are state GMUs and there are a lot of aspects the installation has no control over or authority to change. Hunting season dates, hunting license draw and number of residents and non-residents, etc., are determined through CPW. The CPW offers multiple public forums for public concerns, questions and discussion throughout the year through their commission if hunters want to voice a change they feel is needed.

Checking in and out of areas or blocks of areas is always a big topic of discussion each year, and that requirement will likely not change. Fort Carson staff needs to know where hunters are and what they are doing while hunting and recreating on Fort Carson and/or PCMS. This is for safety reasons and helps the staff do their jobs. Between the DPW wildlife staff, fire department, conservation law enforcement officers and range control there is a lot oversight behind the scenes when Fort Carson allows open areas to ensure public safety, accountability and that **everyone** can go home safely at the end of the day.

The Fort Carson staff needs to know where to find hunters or where to start looking for them if they fail to checkout or get injured. There is frequently live-fire training at night and weekends and just one missing hunter or failed checkout will shut down all military training until they are located. That type of training impact is not taken lightly.

If hunters had access to all open areas, hundreds or thousands of acres and were freely moving around, the time it would take to find a hunter may be the difference between life and death and ensure limited training impacts. In addition, there have been times either due to training conflicts, live unexploded ordnances, weather conditions and wildland fires where Fort Carson staff had to shut down an area, or block of areas, and move hunters out as fast as possible. Again, the staff must know where individuals are to be able to do this effectively and as fast as possible.

Last but not least, open area access. Fort Carson and PCMS are only open for hunting on the weekends and most Fridays, unless otherwise posted. Why? This is generally the time when there is less training activity, and most Army civilians are not working. There is a lot of work, land rehabilitation and Army civilians working downrange that do not involve Soldiers or military training. Army civilians and contractors are not allowed to work downrange in TAs with weapons in use. If a TA shows no training, it does not mean that someone is not working in that TA performing some facet of an official duty. In addition, some training requires that nearby TAs are closed to recreation or made into "Low Velocity or Archery Only". All these official



activities have higher priorities than opening areas for downrange recreation, so please keep that in mind when deciding to hunt on Fort Carson or PCMS.