

# 2024–2025 Hunting Proclamation

## Southern Ute Indian Reservation

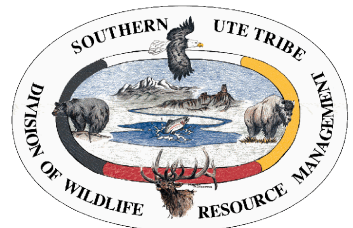
Includes information on:

- Season dates and bag limits
- Tagging and validation requirements
- Mountain lion hunting quotas and hunt area



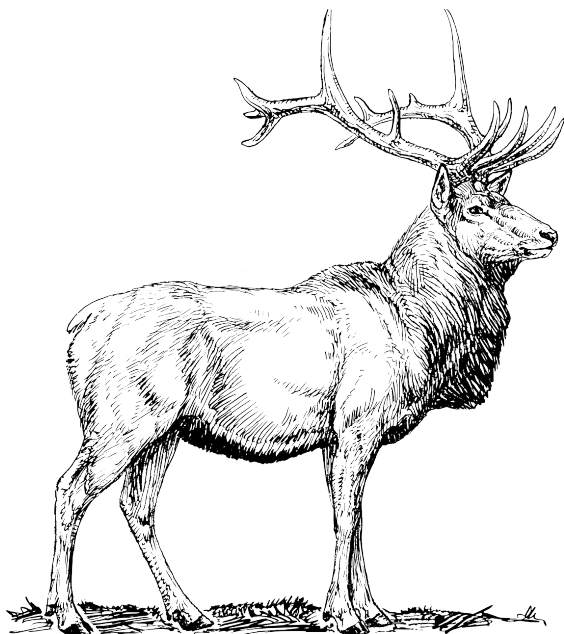
*Julian Baker 2023 Buck*

**Southern Ute Indian Tribe**  
**Division of Wildlife Resource Management**  
**P.O. Box 737 / 116 Memorial Drive**  
**Ignacio, CO 81137**  
**(970) 563-0130**  
**<http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/WRMweb/>**



## Hunt Date Summary

	<u>Pick-up</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
<b>Deer, Elk, Fall Turkey</b>	Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup> – Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>
Early Archery		Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>
General		Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> – Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>
First Descendant	Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Upland Game Birds</b>	Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Mountain Lion</b>	Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 – Aug. 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2025
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	March 11 <sup>th</sup>	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> – May 26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Small Game</b>	Anytime	Calendar Year
<b>Waterfowl and Migratory Game birds</b>	Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	See CPW season dates



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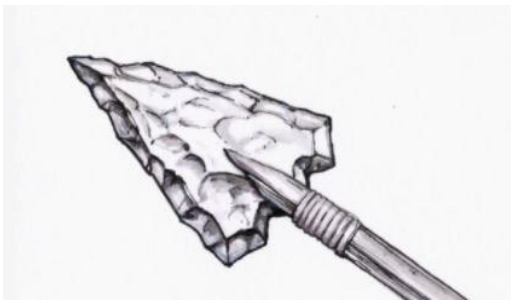
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## **What's New for 2024-2025**

### **Gray Wolves**

In December 2023 the state began releasing gray wolves into northern Colorado, north of Interstate 70 near Kremmling. We do not anticipate gray wolves migrating south onto the Reservation in 2024, however 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 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 mule 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 mule 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.

### **Spring Turkey permits**

Continued for 2024, Tribal Member hunters may pick up permits for and harvest up to 2 spring gobblers. To receive a second spring turkey permit you must have the first bird validated by SU Wildlife Division or Wildlife Enforcement staff.

### **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, 2024. See details below under the list of hunts.

## **Reminders for 2024-2025**

### **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.

### **OHV Approved Roads**

In 2018, the Tribal Traffic Code was updated. This update included specifying approved roads for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. OHVs include 4-wheelers, side-by-sides, snowmobiles, motorcycles, jeeps and trucks. Not all remote reservation roads, two-tracks etc. are approved for OHV use. Maps can be obtained from SU Wildlife.

## **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 **mule 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.

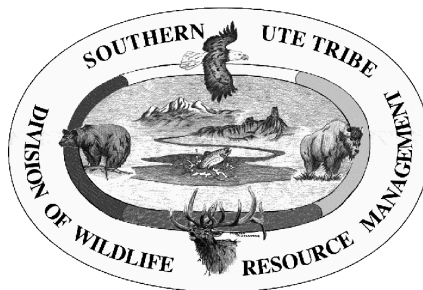
## **DESIGNATED HUNTING**

### **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 mule deer, elk, and turkey: **Mandatory Validation**
- Buck Deer and Bull Elk: **Mandatory Validation**  
Tribal Member hunters are required to have mule deer bucks 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 mule 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 mule 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 mule 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)**

**Mule Deer and Elk**

Season Dates: Archery: August 24<sup>th</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
General: September 2<sup>nd</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Permits Issued: Beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Bag Limits: 3 Mule 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.

**First Descendant Antlerless Elk**

Season Dates: December 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
Weapon Type: Any Legal Weapon  
Application: Apply through the Wildlife Division  
Permits Issued: Beginning November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Bag Limits: 1 Antlerless Elk

\*\* Ten permits available by limited draw only. Successful first descendant hunters must have their elk validated\*\*

**Application Fee: \$25**  
**Permit Fee: \$75**  
**Total Fees: \$100**

Applications must be submitted by October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If more than 10 first descendants apply, then permits will be issued through a random draw. If less than 10 first descendants apply, then all the applicants will receive a permit to hunt.

**Spring Turkey**

Season Dates: March 23<sup>rd</sup> - May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Permits Issued: Beginning March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Bag Limit: 2 bearded turkeys. No beard length restrictions, but a harvested bird must have a beard naturally attached.

Validation: 1<sup>st</sup> bird must be validated prior to picking up 2<sup>nd</sup> permit

## Fall Turkey

Season Dates: Early Archery: August 24<sup>th</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
General: September 2<sup>nd</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Permits Issued: Beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Bag Limit: 1 Turkey (either sex)

## Mountain Lion



Season Dates: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 - August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, or until the harvest quota is filled

Permits Issued: Beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Bag Limit: 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



**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.**



**\*\*\*The mountain lion hunting season will remain open until the season ending date or until the harvest quota is filled, whichever comes first.**

### **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.

## **Black Bear\*\***

Season Dates: There is no open season for black bear.

\*\*The Tribe designates the black bear as a *protected, culturally sensitive* 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.

## **Upland Game Birds Including Dusky Grouse and Quail**

Season Dates: September 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Permits Issued: Beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Bag Limit:

Dusky Grouse: 3 birds per day

Quail: 8 birds per day

## **Migratory Game birds including doves, pigeons, rails and snipe**

Permits Issued: Beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Migratory game bird season dates and bag limits will coincide with the State of Colorado migratory bird hunting seasons. Please obtain and read the *Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2024 Small Game Hunting Brochure* for more information regarding migratory game birds.

## **Waterfowl including ducks, geese and coots**

Permits Issued: Beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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 *Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2024 Waterfowl Hunting Brochure* for more information. Waterfowl hunters are required to obtain a federal duck stamp before hunting waterfowl (available at the Post Office).

## **Small Game (including Furbearers)**

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.

## **Shed Antler Collection Season**

### **No Permit Required**

Season Dates:                      Year Round

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-n-sn.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 mule 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**

**Mule Deer**

Trophy Buck (24" or greater inside spread)	\$10,000 + 15 Points
Buck	\$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**

\$5,000+ 15 Points

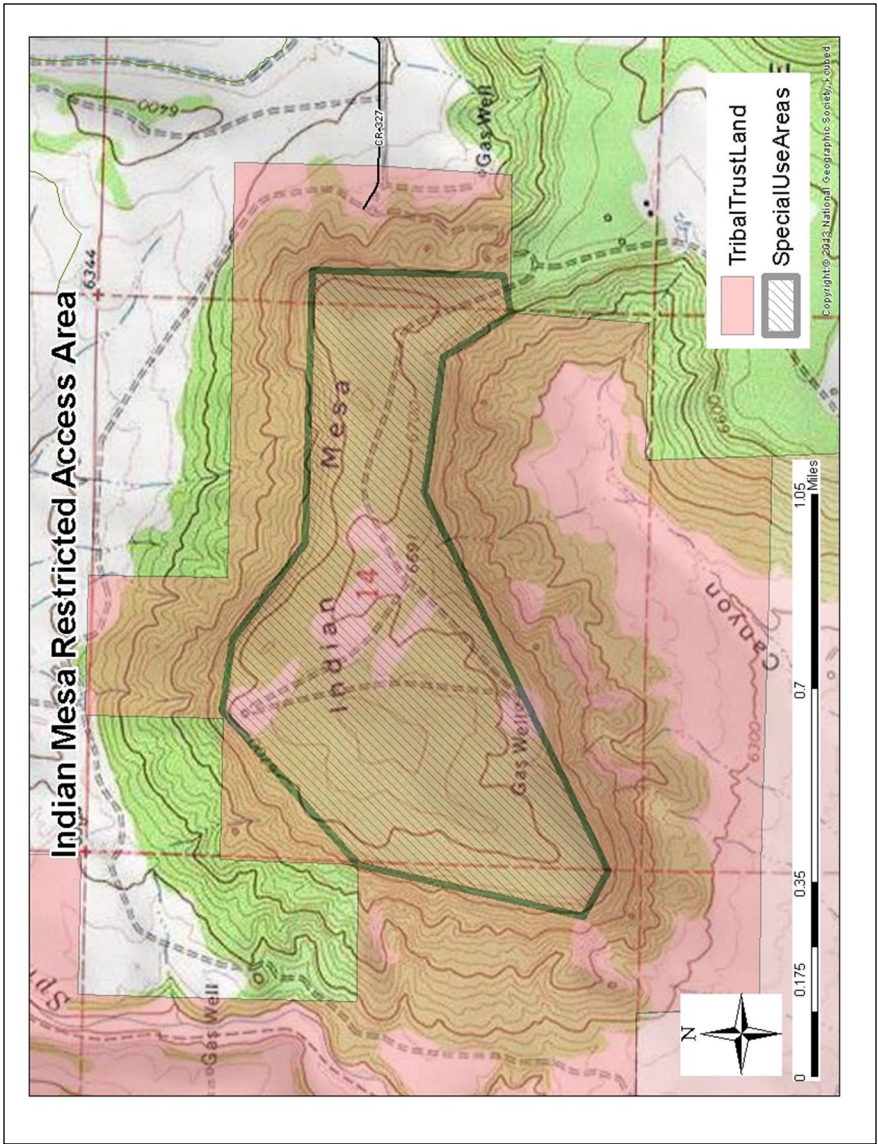
**Shed Antlers**

\$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.



Indian Mesa Special Use Area has restricted access and hunting is prohibited within the boundary depicted above.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Division of Wildlife Resource Management  
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Ignacio, CO 81137  
970-563-0130

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970-563-0133

Southern Ute Police Department Dispatch  
970-563-4401

**Any questions regarding this proclamation should be directed to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resource Management.**

