



GMU 5B

April 2, 2025

Species within this game management unit (GMU): Pronghorn, Black Bear, Elk, Merriam's Turkey, Mountain Lion, Mule Deer, Bison, White-tailed Deer and Waterfowl.

Game Management Unit Boundaries

Beginning at Lake Mary-Clint's Well road (FH3) and the south rim of Walnut Canyon (mp 337.5 on FH3); southeasterly on FH3 to AZ Hwy 87; northeasterly on AZ Hwy 87 to FR 69; westerly and northerly on FR 69 to I-40 (Exit 233); west on I-40 to the bottom of Walnut Canyon (mp 210.2 on I-40); southwesterly along Walnut Canyon to Walnut Canyon National Monument; southwesterly along the northern boundary of the Walnut Canyon National Monument to the south rim of Walnut Canyon; southwesterly along the south rim of Walnut Canyon to FH 3.

5B South Hunt GMU – That portion of GMU 5B located south of the following roads: Beginning at the junction of FH 3 (Lake Mary/ Clint's Well Road) and FR 125; east on FR 125 to FR 82; south on FR 82 to FR 69B; east on FR 69B to FR 69.

5B North Hunt GMU – That portion of GMU 5B located north of the following roads: Beginning at the junction of FH 3 (Lake Mary/ Clint's Well Road) and FR 125; east on FR 125 to FR 82; south on FR 82 to FR 69B; east on FR 69B to FR 69.

Twin Arrows Hunt Area in GMU 5B North – That portion of 5BN beginning at the junction of FR 69 and the rim of Anderson Mesa (at Chavez Pass); northwest along the rim of Anderson Mesa to FR 125; north along FR 125 to FR 126; northwest on FR 126 (Twin Arrows road) to I-40; east along I-40 to the Meteor Crater road; south along the Meteor Crater road to FR 69 (Chavez Pass road); south along FR 69 back to the Anderson Rim (at Chavez Pass). Raymond Wildlife Area (RWA)

Obey the posted rules to reduce disturbance to the bison herd.

- All terrain and utility type vehicle use is prohibited on Raymond Wildlife Area (this includes ATV's, UTV's, and 3- wheelers).
- Travel is permitted on existing roads only. Roads marked with a red sign are closed to public access. Only roads marked with a green sign post are open to access.
- Any off road travel is prohibited except for big game retrieval (cannot be done with any type of OHV)
- Some roads will be closed during wet and muddy conditions.

All Hunts

Your big game hunter questionnaire link is located on the back of your tag. You also will receive a hunter questionnaire postcard in the mail. You can choose to return the hunter questionnaire postcard via postal mail or online: <https://www.azgfd.com/hunting/questionnaires>. You may also receive an email containing a link to your hunter questionnaire. You can respond by one method only. This information is a critical component of the hunt recommendation process, and your information helps us to accurately estimate species harvest and set permit levels.

Landowner Compact Program

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into an agreement with the Bar T Bar, Flying M, and the [Hopi Three Canyon Ranch](#) (this includes the Aja Ranch (Unit 4A), the Clear Creek Ranch (Unit 5A) and the Hart Ranch (Unit 5B)). Access is permitted by written permission through the [Department Landowner Relations Program web page](#), or by scanning the QR code on signs at all approved access points. All hunters and everyone in their party must have written permission.

Closure Information

Raymond Wildlife Area, located in Game Management Unit 5B, is closed to public access from May 1 until July 29. This annual closure allows the Raymond bison herd to calve undisturbed. Bison become very skittish while calving and are protective of young calves. The department apologizes for any inconvenience and encourages the public to visit Raymond Wildlife Area other times of the year to see bison or scout for fall hunts.

Coconino National Forest Travel Management Rule

The Travel Management Rule only allows motorized use on designated roads, trails and areas as identified on a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). These maps are available free, at [Forest Service offices](#). Motorized retrieval of wildlife, including all big game species, is not permitted on national forest lands in GMU 5B. For further information regarding the Travel Management Rule, please contact the Coconino National Forest or see information [here](#).

Species Information



Pronghorn

Overview: Pronghorn can be found in any open grassland area of GMU 5B and areas that are moderately forested. The population is divided between Anderson Mesa and the lower country between the Mesa and I-40. During hunting season, most of the population will be on Anderson Mesa. The pronghorn population decline that took place in the early 2000's has reversed itself in the last several years and the population in 5B appears to be stable with good overall fawn recruitment.

Areas: Pronghorn can be found on Anderson Mesa from Vail Lake south to Long Lake, Melatone Mesa and Duke Tank Mesa near Jack's Canyon. There are many large and small open areas within this area and though pronghorn aren't always in every one of these areas they do use them all at some point. The area between Kinnikinick Lake and Ashurst Lake is the most well-known habitat in the GMU, but gets the most hunting pressure and often has the lowest buck to doe ratio on the Mesa. While a little more difficult to hunt, it is advisable for hunters to at least scout the areas south of the Sawmill Hills, the area between Willow Valley Dam and Tremaine Lake and south of Yaeger Lake. At lower elevations, pronghorn are found throughout the grassland between the Winona and Meteor Crater roads (including the Hopi Hart , Flying M and Bar T Bar Ranches). In recent years pronghorn have increased their use in the area burned by the Jacket Fire which is located between the power lines near Winona and Twin Arrows Road.

Whether a person chooses to hunt the Mesa or the low country they should focus on areas that receive good monsoon precipitation. These areas will have significant green up and more water available. The pronghorn will seek them out and spend most of their time there. Scouting just a week or two before the hunt will allow the hunter to locate these areas better than early scouting.

Black Bear

Overview: The current fall hunt structure for GMU 5B was combined with 6A for black bears consisting of two general firearms seasons, one in August and one in October. These hunts have a non-permit tags that can be purchased over the counter.

Areas: In the fall, bears are frequently found in or near Gambel Oak thickets when acorns are available. In 5B North, hunters should concentrate on the canyons coming off of the North and East sides of Anderson Mesa. These include, but aren't limited to, Walnut, Cherry, Mormon, Padre, Grapevine and Diablo. In 5B South look around Jack's Canyon and the Hutch and Mahan Mountain areas.

Hunters are required to report their black bear harvest information to the Arizona Game and Fish Department within 48 hours of taking a black bear. Hunters can report their black bear harvest in person, by telephone at 1-877-438-0447, or [online](#).

In addition to the 48-hr reporting requirement, the hunter (or their designee) needs to present the black bear's skull and hide with attached proof of sex to a designated Arizona Game and Fish Department employee for



inspection within 10 days of taking the black bear.

The hunter is responsible for monitoring if the GMU's bear season is still open prior to going out into the field. Call 1- 800-970-BEAR (2327) or monitor the AGFD [fall black bear harvest tracking page](#) to ensure that the season is still open. [Access more information](#) regarding black bear regulations and harvest reporting.

Elk

Overview: The elk herd was historically denser in 5B south than in 5B north and there used to be a higher bull: cow ratio in 5B north, but that is no longer the case as the elk populations and bull:cow ratio seems to be fairly equal across the north and south. There are more elk staying year round in the low elevations below the mesa and south of I-40. Generally speaking there are bigger bulls in 5B north than 5B south although some of the large 5B north bulls will move into 5B south for the rut and be available to archers. Every inch of 5B south is elk country so generally there are no "bad" spots.

The elk population in 5B is healthy and is currently being managed for the current forage conditions to prevent habitat damage and minimize competition with other species.

Areas: 5BN

After the opening morning of a general season it will become more difficult to find elk out in the open areas on Anderson Mesa. Travel corridors to and from feeding areas are a good place to look after opening day. Elk will still use the open grasslands but primarily at night. Being on a travel route to and from a bedding area in the morning or evening is a good strategy. Look for trails that connect a mountain or canyon bedding area to a feeding area. The area above and below the Anderson Mesa rim from Chavez Pass to Walnut Canyon has numerous well used travel corridors.

Early Seasons: Elk will be found throughout Anderson Mesa. As noted above they will not likely be in the wide open areas for very long after daylight. If water is a critical factor, elk will likely be found within a mile of standing water both early and late in the day. Some areas to check out include the area around Jaycox Mountain, Kinnikinick Lake, Ashurst Lake and Marshall Lake. There are also good numbers of elk below Anderson Mesa. Elk tend to concentrate around the canyons on the east side of the mesa. Elk can be found anywhere from Walnut Canyon on the north side to Diablo Canyon in the south. Elk can also be found south of I40 between Winona and Padre Canyon.

Late Seasons: Elk locations don't change a lot during the hunting season unless there is significant snowfall on Anderson Mesa. If the mesa has a fair amount of snow on it then most elk will move to lower elevations. If there is little to no snow then all of the above mentioned areas will still be viable places to hunt. The possible exception would be for mature bulls. After the rut many of the older age class bulls will move to lower elevations whether there is snow or not. The canyons on the north and east side of Anderson Mesa are a good place to find bulls. In the late season one can expect to find spikes or raghorn bulls still running with the cows, but the mature bulls



will be by themselves or in bachelor herds. Generally one should look for rugged country with few roads and very little disturbance.

Areas: 5BS

This GMU is about half the size of 5B north, but the elk population is almost double. There is no part of the GMU that is not elk habitat and elk can be found just about everywhere. 5B south consists primarily of national forest land, but there are a few residential areas in the GMU. Hunters should be aware of the locations of these developed areas and be cautious not to trespass on private property and not to shoot within ¼ mile of an occupied structure.

Early Season:

The early season hunter has numerous options. Since elk can be found throughout the GMU the hunter only has to decide how many people they want to deal with. Most hunters will be in the vicinity of Hutch Mountain, Pine Mountain and Duke Tank Mesa. Those looking to get away from others should look at areas without a popular name on the map.

In areas of high road density the elk will tend to stay away from roads during daylight hours. In areas with high hunting pressure elk will often get “pushed around” and by sitting on or near an “escape” trail a person can let others push the elk to them.

Late Season:

As with 5B north it takes a lot of snow to get elk to move to lower ground. A couple of inches of snow in the high country will not mean that all of the elk have moved out. Snow will only make them easier to track. For antlerless elk all of the areas mentioned above will have elk. While bulls can be found throughout the GMU during the late season the best places to look are going to be those that offer security. Look for areas with low road density such as the area between the Sawmill Hills and Tremaine Lake. This area is also the lowest elevation of 5B south and may serve as a “staging” area between summer and winter range. Within these areas bulls will tend to gravitate toward canyons or hills as bedding and cover areas.

*Special Note: The Hay Lake property is now in public ownership and is open to hunting. However, a vehicle closure for the area is in effect and there is no vehicular retrieval of game.

Mountain Lion

Areas: Mountain lions can be found throughout the GMU but they will concentrate mostly in and along the rougher canyons, rims and mountains of the GMU. 5B has a moderate, but healthy lion population. The eastern rim of Anderson Mesa and the canyons extending north offer the best lion habitat. Some of the better canyons include Padre, Mormon, Cherry, Kinnickinick, Grapevine, Diablo, Anderson and Jacks Canyons.

Hunters are required to report their mountain lion harvest information to the Arizona Game and Fish Department



within 48 hours of taking a mountain lion. Hunters can report their mountain lion harvest in person, by telephone at 1-877-438- 0447, or [online](#).

In addition to the 48-hr reporting requirement, the hunter (or their designee) needs to present the mountain lion's skull and hide with attached proof of sex to a designated Arizona Game and Fish Department employee for inspection within 10 days of taking the mountain lion.

Harvest Thresholds – When the number of harvested mountain lions reaches the threshold, that zone closes to the additional harvest of mountain lions at sundown the Wednesday immediately following. Before each hunting trip, verify that the zone is still open, by calling 877-438-0447 or checking online: view [harvest thresholds and zone closures](#). A map of the zones can be found at the [mountain lion management zones map](#).

Mule Deer

Overview: The mule deer population in 5B is stable. Most bucks that hunters see will be young, but there are mature bucks scattered throughout the GMU. A deer's forage is more specific than elk so hunters should familiarize themselves with deer biology to determine if the area they are scouting is good deer habitat. The best habitat types to find deer in include mixed conifer and pine/oak woodlands. Mature bucks seem to hang out in areas dominated by junipers that have browse species nearby.

Areas: Some good deer densities can still be found around the Hutch/Mahan Mountain complex from the 125 (Kinnikinick Lake) Road down to Bargaman Park. Other areas to check include the fringes of the Jacket Fire between Winona Road and Twin Arrows roads, the vicinity of Long Lake, and the western fringes of Anderson Mesa along the Lake Mary Road corridor. Areas with cliff rose and a good water source will likely have deer nearby.

There is a small population of White-tailed deer in 5B. They are primarily located in and around Walnut Canyon, Cherry Canyon and Jacks Canyon.

Archery Deer Nonpermit-Tag Special Regulation - All archery deer nonpermit-tag hunters must report their deer harvest online at www.azgfd.gov/ArcheryDeerReport or by telephone at 623-236-7961 within 48 hours of taking a deer. When the number of deer equaling the archery deer harvest limit for a particular unit and species has been reported, that unit will be closed to further archery deer hunting at sundown the Wednesday immediately following. Hunters will be responsible for [checking online](#) or by telephone at 623-236-7961 before hunting to determine if their desired unit is still open.

Merriam's Turkey

Overview: GMU 5B has a moderate turkey population concentrated mostly in 5B south. Hunters trying to locate turkeys in 5B should make themselves familiar with what makes good turkey habitat and seek that out. Turkeys can be found just about anywhere where there is a hill, ridge or canyon with mature ponderosa pines and good



cover and forage nearby. The small patches of mixed conifer within the GMU are also good areas to find turkeys.

Areas: In 5B north the hunter is limited to the northern and northeastern rim of Anderson Mesa. Good places to find turkeys are the areas around Marshall Lake and Walnut Canyon down to Mormon Canyon. In 5B south the western portion of the GMU from the 124 road all of the way down to Hwy 87 is good turkey habitat. The Hutch Mountain complex and Pine Mountain are good choices as are the canyons and ridges in the southern portion of the GMU.

Waterfowl

Anderson Mesa has numerous small lakes spread across it that can hold water during the waterfowl season. Following a good winter most of the lakes will hold water and therefore will hold ducks. There are very few resident ducks on 5B waters so the hunter will primarily find migratory birds. The availability of birds is dependent upon weather in more northern states. Some lakes to look at include Marshall Lake, Vail Lake, Horse Lake, Tremaine Lake and Long Lake. Jump shooting can also be productive and there are several smaller lakes and stock ponds that lend themselves well to this technique

Game Management Unit Summary

Primary Game Species/ Hunting Month(s)

Elk	September to December
Deer (Mule & White-tailed)	August, October/November
Bison	December/January

Secondary Game Species/ Hunting Month(s)

Pronghorn	September/October
Waterfowl	October/November

Average # permits in past 5 years

Elk - 2500 (all hunts)
Deer (Mule & White-tailed) - 415 (combined 5A & 5B)
Bison - 20-30
Pronghorn - 22 Rifle, 10 Archery

Climate Information

MONTH AVG. TEMP AVG. RAINFALL AVG. SNOWFALL

January	Max 42°/Min 15°	2.04"	20.5"
February	Max 45°/Min 18°	2.09"	19.0"
March	Max 49°/Min 21°	2.55"	24.4"
April	Max 58°/Min 27°	1.48"	11.9"
May	Max 67°/Min 33°	0.72"	1.9"
June	Max 78°/Min 41°	0.40"	0.0"
July	Max 82°/Min 50°	2.78"	0.0"
August	Max 79°/Min 49°	2.75"	0.0"
September	Max 73°/Min 41°	2.03"	0.1"
October	Max 63°/Min 31°	1.61"	2.5"
November	Max 51°/Min 22°	1.95"	10.7"
December	Max 43°/Min 16°	2.40"	17.8"

Other Climate Information

Average annual precipitation is almost 23 inches.



Cities, Roads & Campgrounds

Major Cities and Towns in or Near GMU and Nearest Gas, Food, and Lodging

Flagstaff, Clints Well

Major Highways and Roads Leading To

From the East: State Hwy 87, Meteor Crater Rd

From the West: Forest Hwy 3

From the North: I-40

From the South: State Hwy 87, Forest Hwy 3

Developed Campgrounds

Lakeview Campground at Lake Mary and Ashurst Campground at Ashurst Lake, both administered by the Forest Service.

Undeveloped Campgrounds

Kinnickinick Lake Campground and Long Lake Campground, both administered by the Forest Service.

Brief Description of Terrain, Elevation, and Vegetation

The south and east portions of GMU are higher elevation, reaching approximately 7,000', with ponderosa pine forest and scattered grasslands-summer range. The north portions are lower elevation at approximately 5,000', with grasslands and pinyon-juniper woodlands.

Government Agencies and Phone Numbers

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region II – 928-774-5045

Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff – 928-527-3600

Walnut Canyon National Monument – 928-526-3367