



GMU 35A

October 27, 2025

Species within this unit: Pronghorn, Black Bear, Javelina, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Turkey, Dove, Quail, Ducks, Small Game, Mountain Lions, Predators, and Furbearers

Unit Boundaries

Beginning on the U.S.-Mexico border at the San Pedro River; west along the border to the Lochiel-Canelo Pass-Elgin road; north on this road to AZ Hwy 82; easterly on AZ Hwy 82 to the San Pedro River; south along the San Pedro River to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Access Information

United States Forest Service – Approximately 1/3 of GMU 35A is managed by the Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista Ranger District. Access into USFS lands is plentiful with numerous numbered roads and trails. Main roads are regularly maintained, however high-clearance vehicles are recommended for many of the spur roads. A very general rule of thumb is that the more digits in the road number, the more off-road capable your vehicle will need to be (FSR 61, for example, will generally be a better road than FSR 4069). Use caution when traveling on rough roads; cellular reception is limited in much of GMU 35A, and much of the service available in the southern half of the unit is provided by Mexican wireless providers that charge additional fees. For those looking for a true wilderness experience, the Miller Peak Wilderness spans 20,190 acres in the southern half of the Huachuca Mountains. The Miller Peak Wilderness is roadless and motorized and mechanized vehicles (cars, trucks, ATVs, mountain bikes, etc.) are not permitted. Wilderness recreationists can explore rugged cliffs, perennial springs, deep canyons, and breathtaking peaks via more than 20 different trails. Target shooting is permitted throughout most of the Coronado National Forest with exception to



Ash, Lutz, Stump, Hunter, Miller, Carr, and Brown Canyons have resulted in significant health and safety conflicts for forest users. Issues include shooting down and across hiking trails; shooting across roads; shooting near homes or inadvertently shooting onto private properties; shooting at trailheads; the use of household items for targets that are left behind; and deposition of lead and other soil contaminants from spent rounds.

National Park Service – The Coronado National Memorial encompasses 4,750 acres of the southern end of the Huachuca Mountains to the Mexican border. There are no entrance fees for the Memorial. While hunting of any kind is not allowed in the Coronado National Memorial, there are over 900 species of plants and animals to observe and enjoy. A single road traverses the park east to west and provides access to numerous hiking trails. Driving over Montezuma Pass offers spectacular views of the San Pedro River Valley to the east and the San Rafael Valley to the west, and the visitor center is open daily. A large portion of the road over Montezuma Pass is steep, narrow, switch-backed, and wash-boarded and is not suitable for vehicles over 24 feet in length. Vehicles pulling trailers should use caution. The Memorial is open daily from dawn to dusk; vehicles can drive through the park after-hours but cannot stop in the park at night.

Arizona State Land Department – There are pockets of Arizona State Trust Land scattered throughout the northern and eastern portions of GMU 35A in the Mustang Mountains and Rain Valley, and on the eastern edge of Sierra Vista. Arizona State Trust Land is managed by the State Land Department and is not public land. A recreation permit is required to camp, hike, or travel on State Trust Land; permits can be purchased online. Arizona hunting and fishing licenses include a permit for accessing State Trust Land. As long as you are actively hunting or fishing while on State Trust Land, and you possess a valid Arizona hunting or fishing license, you do not need an additional State Trust Land permit to access State Trust Land. Hunting and fishing are allowed on State Trust Land, however target shooting is prohibited.

United States Army – The Fort Huachuca Army Garrison spans approximately 76,000 acres in GMU 35A. While much of the Fort is open to the public, civilians wishing to enter the Fort must undergo a brief background check upon entry. Hunting on Fort is managed by the Fort in collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Hunting on Fort is permitted for active and retired military and National Guard personnel, their spouses and legal dependents, active reservists and their legal dependents, and current full-time civil service and nonappropriated fund employees of Fort Huachuca and their spouses and legal dependents. All 100% disabled veterans are eligible. The Fort controls hunt numbers, season dates, and special regulations, and has an extensive set of rules by which hunters must abide.

Contact Fort Huachuca for additional information about hunting on Fort Huachuca.

Bureau of Land Management – The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) includes 57,000 acres



in GMUs 35A, 30B, and 34B, and spans from the Mexican border to St. David. The San Pedro River serves as the eastern boundary of GMU 35A, and western boundary of GMU 30B. The SPRNCA is free for day use but a small fee is required for camping. The SPRNCA contains numerous trails and historic sites, and provides opportunities for wildlife viewing, birdwatching, primitive camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, biking, horseback riding, and more. Target shooting is not allowed in the SPRNCA. Hunting is permitted in the SPRNCA during all established seasons. Be sure to visit the SPRNCA website for maps of safety buffer areas closed to discharge of firearms; most of these buffers follow the standard state quarter-mile restrictions around occupied structures, <https://www.blm.gov/node/10130>. In addition to the SPRNCA, the BLM manages some parcels of land north of Elgin and northeast of Sonoita.

Babacomari Ranch – At nearly 28,000 acres, the Babacomari Ranch is the largest contiguous private property parcel in the state of Arizona. Most of the ranch lies in the northern portion of 35A with the western end extending into 35B. The ranch encompasses a large section of the lush Babacomari River, and contains ample habitat for pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, javelina, and Gould’s turkeys. Recreational access in the past has been threatened by trespassers and irresponsible users driving off road, shooting near buildings, and leaving gates open. Ranch access is regulated by the Ranch Manager, and written permission must be obtained from the Ranch Manager prior to hunting on the ranch. Please contact the Ranch Manager (520-455-5507) well in advance of your hunt for permission to access the Babacomari Ranch.

Private – GMU 35A has several large parcels of private property, including much of the San Rafael Valley and the San Pedro River Valley on the eastern boundary. Additionally, much of the land around Sierra Vista and Elgin is also private. Ramsey Canyon on the east side of the Huachucas is private and posted. Hunters and other recreational users should take care not to trespass onto private property. Some private landowners are willing to allow access to recreational users if they contact the landowners to ask for permission. If you are granted permission, treat the land with utmost respect. When recreational users trespass or damage private property, it can lead to areas being closed off to everyone. Remember: respected access is open access.

Species Information

Pronghorn

Overview: Due to drastic declines in the population, pronghorn permits were continuously reduced until finally the hunt was closed after the 2011 season. The Arizona Game and Fish Department immediately began taking intensive management actions, including translocating pronghorn into the area, improving habitat, reducing coyote numbers



during the pronghorn fawning season, and modifying fences to increase connectivity. The pronghorn population is rebounding and pronghorn are once again roaming the Sonoita Plains and San Rafael Valley in large herds. The healthy population can now support hunting, and limited numbers of permits are being offered beginning with the 2016 hunting season. Pronghorn permits are offered for GMUs 35A and 35B combined due to the unit boundary running centrally through the area's pronghorn habitat.

Hunting pronghorn requires finding a good vantage point from which to scan the grasslands for pronghorn bucks. Pronghorn will typically be active through most of the day, but may bed down occasionally, especially if it gets hot; sometimes they will seek shade under a lone tree on the plains. Once a buck is located, many hunters will crawl through the tall grass or use decoys to sneak in close enough for a shot. Many of the pronghorn in GMUs 35A and 35B are near residential areas. Use extra caution when harvesting pronghorn with a rifle, and always be sure of what is beyond your target; a stray bullet can travel quite a distance.

Area: GMUs 35A and 35B contain two pronghorn populations. The northern population is located southeast of Sonoita and occupies the Sonoita Plains around Elgin. The southern population is located in the San Rafael Valley just north of the Mexican border. The majority of the pronghorn in the San Rafael Valley will summer on private property that is closed to hunting, and herds on public land can be difficult to find. Pronghorn hunting opportunity in the area is primarily found in the northern population. Pronghorn can be found on State Trust Land and Bureau of Land Management land north/northwest of Elgin in what is known as the Davis Pasture, and occasionally east of Elgin Road. However, most of the herds are located on the Rose Tree Ranch and the Babacomari Ranch. Access will need to be granted by the Ranch Manager before hunting the Babacomari Ranch (see Access section above).

Black Bear

Overview: The bear population in GMU 35A appears to be stable, as individuals of all age classes are regularly harvested. Hunting bears with firearms is limited to a nonpermit (over-the-counter) hunt in the spring, while archers have a dedicated permit (draw) hunt in the summer and a non-permit hunt in the fall. Bears cannot be pursued with dogs during the spring and summer hunts, because many of the sows will have small cubs.

Permits for bear hunts are issued for GMUs 35A and 35B combined. In the spring, bears will be leaving their dens at higher elevations and will be looking to replenish their fat reserves by consuming tender grasses. Locate bears by identifying damp areas and southern exposures where young, green grasses may be abundant. Also search canyon bottoms for fresh bear tracks and scat. Glassing slopes from a high vantage point can help hunters find bears feeding on young plants. As the summer rolls around and smaller water sources dry up, bears will be looking for larger, more permanent water sources. If there are no high-elevation springs in the area, this may bring bears down from higher



elevations in search of ponds, creeks, and stock tanks. Hunters should focus on scouting areas with water and looking for bear sign at springs and tanks. Bears will continue to use canyon bottoms to travel as they seek food, shade, and water. Bears can sometimes be called in using predator calls, and several turkey hunters have reported bears coming in to their turkey calls.

All bear hunters must contact an Arizona Game and Fish Department office in person or by telephone at 1-800-970-BEAR (2327) within 48 hours of taking a bear. The hunter shall provide his or her name, hunting license number, telephone number, tag number, sex of the bear, and GMU where the bear was taken. Within 10 days of taking a bear, the hunter (or his or her designee) must present the bear's skull and hide with attached proof of sex to a designated Arizona Game and Fish Department employee for inspection; this is most easily done by coordinating with the nearest Department regional office. If the skull is frozen, it should be defrosted prior to presenting it for inspection. The mouth of the bear will need to be able to be opened because a premolar tooth will be removed from the skull. Likewise, if the hide is frozen, ensure that the attached proof of sex is accessible and identifiable. Remember: black bears are big game animals and thus allowing the meat to go to waste is a violation. Once a certain number of black bear sows have been harvested, the hunt will be closed for the season. It is imperative that black bear hunters call the bear hotline listed above or visit our website <https://www.azgfd.com/hunting/species/biggame/black-bear-hunting/> prior to going out on a hunt.

Area: Hunting bears in GMUs 35A and 35B is challenging and typically requires ample preseason scouting. Popular waters may have multiple bear hunters monitoring them with game cameras, and the bear hunter that takes the time to find and explore high-elevation springs, backcountry drainages, and lesser-known waters will have less competition and likely be more successful. Some areas to start in GMU 35A include Brown, Carr, Miller, Hunter, and Ash Canyons on the east side of the Huachuca Mountains. These canyons can be accessed from Highway 90 on the western edge of Sierra Vista, however Carr Canyon is the only canyon with a road that extends up to the top of the mountains. On the southwestern side of the Huachucas, consider Brushy, Korn, Scotia, Sunnyside, Ida-Oversight, and Copper Canyons. These canyons are accessible from Highway 83 north of Parker Canyon Lake, and Montezuma Canyon Road (FSR 61 and FSR 48) south of Parker Canyon Lake, and have numerous springs that should hold bears even during drier times. The boundary for GMUs 35A and 35B runs through the Canelo Hills, which can be accessed off Canelo Pass Road from Highway 83 south of Sonoita. Stock tanks and areas with numerous manzanita bushes will hold bears. For bears in GMU 35B, take Highway 82 to Patagonia and then turn onto Harshaw Road. Follow Harshaw Road south into the Patagonia Mountains, where numerous spur roads will get you into deep canyons and prime bear habitat. Good areas include Flux Canyon, Solider Basin, and Ux Road.

Javelina



Overview: Javelina populations in GMU 35A are doing well after a few years of decent rains, and hunting opportunities include spring general and handgun/archery/muzzleloader seasons, in addition to multi-unit youth and archery seasons. There are no fall javelina hunts in GMU 35A.

Locating javelina can be difficult due to their small size, and spending time glassing for herds from a good vantage point can be an excellent way to find them. Glass east-facing slopes and sunny bottoms in the mornings, as javelina will often begin feeding in warmer areas during these times. During mid-day, javelina are often bedded under trees and bushes. Often one or two javelina will be moving around while the others are snoozing close-by. In the evenings, follow the sun to the south- and west-facing slopes where the javelina will feed as they return to their bedding sites. Javelina are gregarious and typically travel in herds containing several animals. If you see one javelina, carefully scan the surrounding area for additional javelina feeding or bedded in the brush. Another good technique for hunting javelina is to locate their home ranges by walking through likely habitat and looking for bedding sites, droppings, and tracks. Shredded prickly pear and agave plants and patches of freshly disturbed soil are good indications that javelina have been feeding and rooting up tubers. It is also common to hear or smell javelina if they are noisily feeding nearby. While javelina have relatively poor eyesight, they have excellent noses and will scatter in the blink of an eye if they detect an unfamiliar scent. Be sure to check wind direction before beginning a stalk on a javelina, and it is sometimes possible to sneak up quite close. Javelina remain active throughout most of the day during the cooler January season, however in late February and March they may begin to feed mostly early in the morning, at dusk, or even at night to avoid the heat of the day. Once you have identified an area that javelina are using, it can be possible to locate javelina there year after year as they are territorial animals that maintain home ranges of a few square miles.

If you successfully harvest a javelina, field dress it as soon as possible. Do not attempt to remove the scent gland, located along the spine above the hips. Instead, skin the animal and the scent gland will come off with the skin. Carefully wash the meat and remove all loose hair to prevent scent from tainting the meat.

Area: Hunting javelina in GMU 35A will be more successful with pre-season scouting. The Huachuca Mountains and Canelo Hills contain predominately oak-juniper woodlands and have lower densities of javelina; the mid to lower elevations will hold the majority of the javelina in these areas, however they can be difficult to hunt due to the thick vegetation and overstory. The east side of the Huachuca Mountains can be accessed from Highway 90; there are several access roads into the various canyons in this area. The west side of the Huachucas can be accessed from Highway 83 south of Sonoita, and continuing down along FSR 61 and FSR 48. Access to the Canelo Hills is from Highway 83 south of Sonoita, and then south on the Canelo Pass Road. The more desert-like portions of the unit and riparian areas will hold higher densities of javelina and will allow for better visibility. The Mustang Mountains and Babocomari River drainage and uplands contain good numbers of javelina. The Mustang Mountains can be accessed



on the north from Highway 82 east of Upper Elgin Road (the boundary for GMUs 35A and 35B), and from the west by Upper Elgin Road. The Babocomari River drainage and uplands can be accessed by following the Upper Elgin Road or Highway 83 south to the Elgin-Canelo Road. The Babocomari Ranch requires special access permission from the Ranch Manager prior to your hunt (see Access section above).

Mule Deer

Overview: Mule deer hunting opportunity in GMU 35A is fair; the mule deer population is small and herds are very localized. Mule deer hunting in GMU 35A is limited to muzzleloader hunts for any antlered deer, and over-the-counter archery. Muzzleloader tags are offered as dual unit tags for GMUs 35A and 35B, because most of the mule deer habitat straddles the unit boundary.

Mule deer will be located in the grasslands and more desert-like areas, where they have greater visibility. During years with high mast production, mule deer may concentrate in or near oak woodlands to forage on the acorns. Scout for your mule deer hunt pre-season to locate areas herds are utilizing. Finding a good vantage point and glassing the grasslands in the mornings is a good start, but don't forget to scan the oak draws and slopes around the grassy mesas and plains. Mule deer will often bed down in the shade during midday. Mule deer tend to be more gregarious than white-tailed deer, so take the time to search for additional deer once you locate a buck you are interested in harvesting. Sneaking up on a herd of deer is more difficult than sneaking up on just one. If you spook a buck, however, you may not want to call off the stalk just yet; mule deer will often run for 50-100 meters before stopping to turn around and check out whatever it was that startled them. This may provide the broadside shot you have been waiting for.

White-tailed deer occupy the range of the mule deer, so use extra caution if hunting in mule deer habitat with a white-tailed deer tag. Be sure of the species of deer before you attempt to harvest it, especially if you have a whitetail tag. Familiarize yourself with the differences between white-tailed deer and mule deer before you go into the field for your hunt. Mule deer will typically be larger-bodied with large ears, a narrow white black-tipped tail, forked antlers, a dark brow patch, and oblong metatarsal scent glands on the outsides of their lower legs. White-tailed deer will be smaller with relatively smaller ears, a wide brown tail with fluffy white underside, branched antlers, white halos around the eyes, and small round metatarsal scent glands on the outsides of their lower legs.

Area: Mule deer are scattered throughout GMUs 35A and 35B in pockets. Mule deer can be found on public land in Meadow Valley, on the north end of the San Rafael Valley, which can be accessed by taking Harshaw Road off of Highway 82 in Patagonia and then continuing on the San Rafael Valley Road/FSR 58. Turn north at the Mowry/FSR 214 junction. Mule deer are also located in the San Rafael Valley and along the Mexico/Arizona border, however most



of the valley is private and hunters will need to contact landowners for permission to access their property. Herds of mule deer are scattered throughout the Canelo Hills, which can be accessed by taking Highway 83 south of Sonoita towards the Black Oak Cemetery area. Additionally, there are mule deer in the grasslands south of Sonoita, however most of these are also on private land (including the Babacomari Ranch), so permission will need to be obtained by hunters for access. Head south into the Mustang Mountains (from Highway 82) to find mule deer herds scattered in the foothills.

Pockets of mule deer are located in the grasslands and desert areas between the Huachuca Mountains and the San Pedro River. Consult a land ownership map (see Access section above) to identify public lands in these areas, and consult the land management agencies for special rules (portions of the San Pedro River National Conservation Area, for example, are closed to discharge of firearms). Pockets of mule deer are located in the grasslands and desert areas between the Huachuca Mountains and the San Pedro River. Consult a land ownership map (see Access section above) to identify public lands in these areas, and consult the land management agencies for special rules.

White-tailed Deer

Overview: White-tailed deer hunting throughout GMU 35A is good, and there are multiple general, muzzleloader, and archery seasons available to the whitetail hunter. The whitetail population has been stable for several years, largely due to good precipitation and forage conditions.

Whether you're hunting for a tender spike to fill the freezer, or looking for a GMU 35A trophy buck, you'll need patience to harvest one of these elusive deer. The Coues whitetail (pronounced "cows") is the only species of whitetail in Arizona. Coues whitetail are exceptionally small, and bucks rarely weigh more than 100 pounds. These elusive deer are known for vanishing into the brush, earning the nickname "the gray ghost." Like any hunt, scouting prior to the season will greatly increase your chances of harvesting a buck, and is vital if you're after a trophy buck. Whitetail do not spend much time out in the open, therefore it is important to find a vantage point from which to glass the steep oak-juniper woodlands that these deer prefer. Get to your glassing point before first light and prepare to stay out after dark, as whitetail are most active at first light and at dusk. During the day, whitetail will feed in between naps in shaded bed sights. Prepare to be glassing for hours. Spend extra time on the densely-vegetated, north-facing slopes. It is not uncommon to scan a slope for an entire day before finally seeing a deer step out from behind a bush that you already looked at a dozen times. There are whitetail in the lower, flatter areas, however they can be more difficult to locate in the oak flatlands. Sitting waters may work well during dry periods, however much of the year there are abundant water sources that the deer may utilize. Identifying trails, saddle crossings, and natural funnels may stack the odds in your favor.



During the early archery season, glass from high vantage points at first light to look for bucks feeding in the cooler temperatures. Once it begins to warm, the bucks will likely bed and this will be your chance to attempt a stalk.

Whitetail will usually be in the lower elevations and foothills during the October general hunt. Deer will still be most active in early mornings and evenings as these hunts are still fairly warm, however the deer may go to water and forage in bouts in the middle of the day.

By the November hunts, the bucks will be working their way up the mountains in preparation for the rut. Look for them towards the tops of densely-vegetated slopes, and expect them to be a little more active during the day as temperatures cool.

Whitetail will be more active for longer periods of time during the December hunts. The younger bucks will begin to hang out with the does, but the mature bucks may still be tucked into dense brush nearby.

By the January archery hunt, the mature bucks will be more active chasing does as the rut typically begins in the middle of the months. While locating the bucks may be easier due to their higher activity level, the bucks may be moving during your stalk and may be difficult to locate as you close the distance. Additionally, be alert to other bucks bedded in the area. Grunt calls and rattling may help lure a buck to you.

White-tailed deer occupy the range of the mule deer, so use extra caution if hunting in mule deer habitat with a white-tailed deer tag. Be sure of the species of deer before you attempt to harvest it, especially if you have a whitetail tag. Familiarize yourself with the differences between white-tailed deer and mule deer before you go into the field for your hunt. Mule deer will typically be larger-bodied with large ears, a narrow white black-tipped tail, forked antlers, a dark brow patch, and oblong metatarsal scent glands on the outsides of their lower legs. White-tailed deer will be smaller with relatively smaller ears, a wide brown tail with fluffy white underside, branched antlers, white halos around the eyes, and small round metatarsal scent glands on the outsides of their lower legs.

Area: Whitetail can be located throughout GMU 35A, and are especially abundant in the Huachuca Mountains, Canelo Hills, and Mustang Mountains. While the deer are numerous, hunters willing to hike away from main roads will be rewarded by less competition from other hunters. The Huachuca Mountains can be accessed on the east side by taking Highway 90 south through Sierra Vista. Carr, Miller, Hunter, and Ash Canyons all contain public land with whitetail habitat. The west side of the Huachuca Mountains can be accessed by taking Highway 83 south of Sonoita to the Parker Canyon Lake area, and then following FSR 48 and FSR 61 along the western and southwestern foothills. Some good canyons on the west side to check are Brushy and Meritt, and south of Parker Canyon Lake is the Lone Mountain



area. The Canelo Hills are also accessed from Highway 83 south of Sonoita, but be careful about unit boundaries; the Canelo Pass Road is the boundary between GMUs 35A and 35B and bisects great whitetail habitat. The Mustang Mountains are accessed by taking Highway 82 east of Sonoita and then traveling south into the range.

Turkey

Overview: The Gould's turkey is one of the gems of southeastern Arizona. Wiped out from the U.S. a hundred years ago, Gould's turkeys were reintroduced into GMUs 35A and 35B starting in the early-1980s. From those first flocks brought up from Mexico, the population is now flourishing throughout their historic range in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Annual intensive foot surveys count hundreds of the tall ground-dwelling birds, which are now sustainably hunted in small numbers. The Gould's turkey is the largest subspecies of turkey and they are uniquely tied to large drainages in Madrean oak-woodland and pine-dominated habitats. Hunters can locate flocks by identifying roost areas, often characterized by large oaks, sycamores, or pines with droppings and feathers underneath. Finding roost trees and nearby water sources provides opportunity to catch these birds as they come off the roost and head for a morning drink and snack. It is not uncommon to see Gould's traveling great distances out in open grassy areas, putting their long legs to use, as they move from one roosting or feeding location to another. Gould's turkeys are not generally as skittish as Merriam's turkeys, and they are quite vocal. This combination of traits, in conjunction with their sheer size and bold white tail fan markings, makes for an exciting hunting opportunity for those lucky enough to draw one of these coveted tags.

Area: Gould's turkeys can be located throughout the Canelo Hills and the Huachuca Mountains in GMU 35A. Hunters should scout pre-season, looking for tracks and scat and listening for sounds of feeding hens. The large drainages on the west side of the Huachuclas hold the bulk of the GMU 35A Gould's turkey population. These drainages (Sunnyside Canyon, Scotia Canyon, Parker Canyon) can be accessed by spur roads coming off of Highway 83 and FSR 48. Canyons on the east side of the range (Carr, Miller, etc.) will also hold flocks but not in nearly the densities as the west side. The Canelo Hills in the Turkey Creek area off Highway 83 also hold flocks, but be cautious of private property and keep in mind that the Canelo Pass Road is the GMU 35A/35B unit boundary. Flocks are also regularly seen in the Lyle/Brushy/Rough/Korn Canyon area east of Highway 83, and accessed via the Lyle Canyon Road around milepost 12.

Dove

Overview: Dove concentrations are dependent on summer moisture and timing. If rains occur early enough to produce vegetation consisting of seed heads, and puddles dry up leaving scattered waterholes, then dove concentrations are



good throughout feeding and watering areas. Both mourning and whitewing dove occur, but the majority of whitewings fly south prior to fall hunts. Mourning doves are located around water holes surrounded by mesquite thickets, low lying grassy areas and abandoned or active agricultural fields. Find a favorite tank in a grassy area with a few trees and wait for the doves to fly in the morning and evening hours. Decoys can be helpful, especially if hunting midday. Additionally, Eurasian collared doves are becoming increasingly abundant around human-occupied areas and provide a year-round unlimited dove hunting opportunity (be careful not to violate the 1/4-mile restriction on using a firearm to take wildlife near structures). Be sure to pick up spent shotgun shell hulls and to clean birds in a discrete area. Littering while hunting is a revocable offense. Additionally, one fully feathered wing must be left attached to each dove carcass until it reaches its final destination, and hunters should be mindful of changing bag limits for the different species.

Area: As with all hunting, scouting prior to the season will greatly enhance your success. Doves will vary their feeding and roosting locations based on forage availability. The Hereford gravel pit, located south of Hereford Road, provides good opportunity for those without a 4x4 vehicle or with mobility issues. The State Trust Land north of Ramsey Road also holds numerous tanks and plentiful mesquites, making for exciting and busy dove hunting. Additional State Trust Land throughout the mesquite grasslands in the unit provides ample opportunity, including areas off Moson Road and Highway 90. Be cautious when hunting doves around the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, as special hunting restrictions may apply. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and surrounding creosote and mesquite flats also hold good populations of dove.

Quail

Overview: All three species of quail can be located in GMU 35A. Gambel's and scaled quail will be in more desert-like and grassier habitat; scaled quail are especially tied to grassland habitat. Mearns' quail prefer Madrian oak-woodland habitat with grassland interspersed. Quail populations fluctuate with rainfall patterns; Gambel's and scaled quail are more reliant on winter rains that produce good spring forage for chicks, while Mearns' quail are more tied to summer rains that affect availability of tubers and acorn mast. Gambel's and scaled quail can be hunted without a dog in areas where their populations are higher. Walk around through the area looking and listening for coveys. Mearns' quail are better suited for hunting with a good bird dog because they tend to sit tight and quietly until you just about step on them. A well-trained dog will point out a covey for you, but be quick! Mearns' are known for sneaking off from a dog on point by quietly walking through the grass. The different species open on different dates and have different bag limits, so read the regulations before you go! You also must leave a fully feathered wing, head, or leg with foot on each quail carcass until it reaches its final destination. Also, be sure to pick up your spent shotgun shell hulls (and any others you find). Littering while hunting is a revocable offense.



Areas: Gambel's and scaled quail can be located in lower-elevation areas, such as around the base of the Mustang Mountains and in the Sierra Vista area. Gambel's are especially abundant in the mesquite grasslands that make up much of the eastern portion of the unit. Hunters can find desert quail opportunity in many of the same places where dove are hunted, including the State Trust Land north of Ramsey Road and in areas off Moson Road and Highway 90, and the grasslands around the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Be cautious when hunting quail in grasslands around the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, as special hunting restrictions may apply. Mearns' quail hunters in GMU 35A will need to hit the hills. Mearns' quail can be found throughout the unit wherever oaks are present, and are especially abundant from 4,500-6,000 feet in elevation. The Canelo Hills hold plentiful coveys on their oaky slopes. The Black Oak Cemetery area, off Highway 83, is also a good spot to try. The rolling oaky draws and grassy mesas south of Parker Canyon Lake are a Mearns' hunter's paradise for those looking for a long enjoyable day of working with a bird dog in some beautiful country. Take Highway 83 to Parker Canyon Lake (or stop and hunt almost anywhere along the way), then continue on FSR 48 south of the lake. Numerous USFS roads going east and west will put you into coveys.

Ducks

Hunting ducks in GMU 35A is best done with the aid of a good topographic map and satellite images. Locating ducks in the unit typically requires locating dirt cattle tanks and marshy areas. There is a large variety of waterfowl that visits southeastern Arizona, so it is important that you familiarize yourself with identifying ducks on the water and on the wing because bag limits will vary by species. Also remember that only steel shot is legal for taking waterfowl, and you must pick up your shotgun shell hulls. Littering while hunting is a revocable offense. Be sure to check the waterfowl regulation pamphlet each year, and remember that a fully feathered wing must remain attached to each carcass until it reaches its final destination.

Area: Pre-season scouting can be critical for waterfowl hunting, as some tanks may periodically go dry. Dirt tanks can be located on public lands in the San Rafael Valley and may hold ducks during season. Additional tanks around the Mustang Mountains also hold ducks, and can be accessed from Highway 82 via the highline road that goes south through the center of the range, or from the Upper Elgin Road and the Rose Tree Ranch area. The intrepid hunter can also locate additional tanks throughout the unit, such as in some of the low oaky rollers in the foothills of the Huachucas. Duck hunting is allowed on the western portion of Parker Canyon Lake but hunters must use extreme caution due to high human activity levels at the lake. The eastern portion of the lake (including the coves north and south of the marina) and the Collins Canyon arm are closed to duck hunting due to AZGFD and USFS restrictions on hunting and discharge of weapons near buildings and developed campgrounds.



Rabbits, Tree Squirrels and Other Small Game

Overview: Cottontails and jackrabbits in GMU 35A provide year-round delicious opportunity to hone your hunting and game processing skills. Cottontails can be located anywhere there is green up of vegetation and good ground cover, and are found at a range of elevations in the unit. Jackrabbits are slightly more picky, preferring the lower country that is a little more open.

GMU 35A provides limited opportunity for hunting tree squirrels. Hunters should look for major riparian areas in mountain drainages containing sycamores and cottonwoods, especially with nearby stands of mature pine tree species. While hunting Arizona gray tree squirrels in the unit may be tough, it is certain to take you through some beautiful country. If squirrels are your game of choice, you also have the option of taking ground squirrels. GMU 35A has a healthy ground squirrel population, and they can often be found in rocky areas on slopes in Madrean oak woodland areas. Glass rocky outcroppings and listen for their alarm chirps.

While not technically considered small game, coati are abundant in GMU 35A and riparian areas and steep drainages provide opportunity to harvest this unique mammal. The females and juveniles will travel in large troops, feeding on invertebrates, fruits, and other items they find on the ground with their sensitive noses. Adult males tend to be larger and solitary. The bag limit is one coati per calendar year.

Area: Small game opportunities abound in GMU 35A. Both cottontails and jackrabbits can be found in great abundance in the mesquite grasslands that make up the eastern portion of the unit, and the flats around the base of the Mustang Mountains (especially on the eastern side) are full of jackrabbits. Access these jackrabbit spots by taking the highline road off Highway 82 that runs down through the center portion of the Mustangs; at the southern end you will be able to take roads to the east. Tree squirrels are more plentiful in riparian drainages on the western slopes of the Huachuca Mountains, and are probably best accessed by exploring canyons off of FSR 48 and FSR 61 south of Parker Canyon Lake. Coatis can be located in many of the same places as tree squirrels and prefer riparian areas and large dense drainages; they're often observed in the numerous canyons of the Huachucas from Parker Canyon Lake down to the border.

Predators and Furbearers

Overview: Healthy prey populations means GMU 35A holds good numbers of lions, predators, and furbearers throughout the unit. Bobcats, foxes, raccoons, and ringtails are plentiful and offer different seasons throughout the year, while coyotes and skunks provide year-round opportunity; none of these species require permits. Mountain lion permits



can be obtained over-the-counter, however the season closes during the summer months and once the lion harvest quota has been reached. Be sure to check the regulations for specific seasons. Hunting lions, predators, and furbearers can be thrilling, especially when using predator calling techniques. Be sure to take a camera because you never know what show up to your call! Every year some hunters get lucky enough to see and harvest a lion while predator calling or simply being out in the field, however most lions are harvested with the use of hounds.

Hunters interested in trapping must obtain a trapping license and abide by additional regulations; a specific pamphlet of trapping regulations is available to provide quick access to this information.

All lion hunters must contact an Arizona Game and Fish Department office in person or by telephone at 1-877-438-0447 within 48 hours of taking a lion. The hunter shall provide his or her name, hunting license number, telephone number, tag number, sex of the lion, and GMU where the lion was taken. Within 10 days of taking a lion, the hunter (or his or her designee) must present the lion's skull and hide with attached proof of sex to a designated Arizona Game and Fish Department employee for inspection; this is most easily done by coordinating with the nearest Department regional office. If the skull is frozen, it should be defrosted prior to presenting it for inspection. The mouth of the lion will need to be able to be opened because a premolar tooth will be removed from the skull. Likewise, if the hide is frozen, ensure that the attached proof of sex is accessible and identifiable. Remember: mountain lions are big game animals and thus allowing the meat to go to waste is a violation. Once a certain number of lions have been harvested, the hunt will be closed for the season. It is imperative that mountain lion hunters call the lion hotline listed above, or visit our website (<https://www.azgfd.com/hunting/species/biggame/mountain-lion-hunting/>) prior to going out on a hunt.

Area: Coyotes and bobcats thrive in all habitat types, but are likely to be more easily located in the grassier portions of the unit. The rollers south of Parker Canyon Lake, accessed from FSR 48 and FSR 61, would be a good place to start, as would be the grassy rollers in the Black Oak Cemetery area off Highway 83. Gray foxes and ringtails prefer rockier habitat with more cover and can be located in canyons in the Huachuca Mountains, accessed from Highway 83 and FSR 48 and FSR 61. Another good place for foxes and skunks is the Canelo Hills area accessed from Canelo Pass Road off Highway 83 south of Sonoita. Raccoons are more abundant in riparian areas and around towns, and hunters may find them off Highway 83 and FSRs 48 and 61 by hiking in where canyons and creeks cross the road.

Additionally, raccoons, skunks, and foxes can regularly be found in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Those seeking lions will likely want to focus on higher, rockier country and areas with good whitetail populations; locating water sources and major game trails can help identify high-use areas in lion territories.





Climate Information

MONTH	AVG. TEMP	AVG. RAINFALL
January	Max 62°/Min 35°	0.89"
February	Max 56°/Min 35°	0.64"
March	Max 65°/Min 39°	0.61"
April	Max 73°/Min 44°	0.24"
May	Max 83°/Min 54°	0.15"
June	Max 92°/Min 63°	0.37"
July	Max 91°/Min 69°	3.64"
August	Max 91°/Min 68°	3.48"
September	Max 90°/Min 64°	1.80"
October	Max 81°/Min 53°	1.06"
November	Max 71°/Min 43°	0.62"
December	Max 60°/Min 36°	1.21"

Other Pertinent Climate Information

Prepare for extreme weather conditions. Due to elevation ranges, temperature levels and weather conditions can change quickly at any time of year. Summer monsoon storms can cause water levels to rise rapidly in washes and streams. Be careful when crossing washes. Pack extra clothing, water, and food.



Cities, Pertinent Roads & Campgrounds

Major Cities and Towns in or Near Game Management Unit and Nearest Gas, Food, and Lodging:

Sierra Vista, Sonoita, Patagonia, Benson, Tombstone

Major Highways and Roads Leading To

From the East: State Hwy 82, Hwys 90, 92

From the West: State Hwy 83

From the North: State Hwy 83, I-10, Hwy 90

From the South: Mexico/U.S. Border

Developed Campgrounds

Coronado National Forest manages campgrounds at Carr Canyon and Parker Canyon Lake; the U.S. Army, Fort Huachuca, manages campgrounds at Garden Canyon and Huachuca Canyon.

Undeveloped Campgrounds

None.

Brief Description of Terrain, Elevation, and Vegetation

Elevations range from 4,200' along the San Pedro River to 9,466' at Miller Peak in the Huachuca Mountains. The terrain at low elevations consists of desert flats cut by washes, and at high elevations steep, rocky mountains and deep canyons. Vegetation is predominately oak/juniper woodland or Madrean forest at higher elevations, and desert scrub at lower elevations.

Government Agencies and Phone Numbers

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region V – 520-628-5376

Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista District – 520-378-0311

Coronado National Memorial, 520-366-5515

Bureau of Land Management, Sierra Vista Office – 520-439-6400