THE GOODNIGHT TRAIL RANCH

HUNTING REPORT | Las Animas County, Colorado
Prepared October 28, 2026

~300 HEAD	330-340 CLASS	$80,000
Reported resident elk herd	Recent reported bull harvests	Annual hunting lease offer

Property & Habitat

The ranch listing identifies approximately **36,897 deeded acres** plus **4,895 acres of Colorado State lease ground**, northeast of Trinidad near Model, within Game Management Units **133 and 134**. Open grasslands, mesas, secluded draws, and Apishapa Canyon and river-bottom country create a varied hunting landscape. Distributed livestock water and existing guest accommodations support recreational use. [1]

Elk | Resident Herd & Trophy History

According to owner-provided information, the ranch supports a **resident elk herd estimated at approximately 300 head**. It offers opportunities for **300-plus-class bulls**, with bulls in the **330-340 class harvested on the ranch over the past couple of years**. A neighboring ranch reportedly harvested a **370-class bull**; that harvest is regional context and did not occur on this ranch.

The combination of open feeding areas, secluded draws, and rugged canyon terrain suggests opportunities for glassing and spot-and-stalk hunting. Actual herd distribution and hunting conditions will vary by season.

Mule Deer | Low Numbers, Trophy Potential

The owner reports a **low mule deer population**, with potential for **200-inch-class bucks**. This is a selective trophy opportunity that calls for scouting and patience. The 200-inch figure describes potential, rather than a documented ranch harvest. **Mule deer tags are draw tags.** [3]

HUNTING ACCESS & MANAGEMENT

License opportunities, additional species, and operating potential

Elk License Opportunities | 2026

Second and third rifle seasons: Units 133 and 134 are listed for over-the-counter bull elk licenses. Hunters can pursue these licenses without drawing a limited tag. [2]

Archery: Over-the-counter opportunities are available, with residency and sex restrictions. Resident either-sex OTC archery licenses include Units 133 and 134. Nonresident OTC archery licenses in these units are **antlerless (cow) licenses**; Confirm the applicable hunt code, unit, and current rules before planning a hunt. [2, 3]

Pronghorn, Quail & Bighorn Sheep

The listing reports **pronghorn, scaled (blue) quail, and bobwhite quail**, adding hunting variety beyond elk and mule deer. Open prairie provides a habitat fit for pronghorn; current herd and covey numbers should be established through field observations. [1]

The owner notes that **Apishapa Canyon is known for bighorn sheep**. This adds to the area's wildlife appeal, but ranch-specific sheep presence, legal hunting access, and licensing have not been verified. Bighorn hunting is not represented here as an established ranch offering.

Hunting Lease & Management Potential

An outfitter has offered **$80,000 for an annual hunting lease**, according to the owner. This indicates commercial interest and proposed income potential; it is **not an executed lease or established annual income**. Lease terms, included acreage, species, and hunting rights remain to be confirmed.

Management priorities include preserving refuge areas, rotating hunting pressure, maintaining wildlife access to water, and documenting seasonal sightings and harvests. Review State lease recreational rights, any existing hunting agreements, and recorded conservation easements before finalizing a hunting operation. State lease acreage should not automatically be treated as exclusive hunting acreage.

Information Basis & Sources

Wildlife numbers, trophy history, mule deer potential, bighorn context, and the lease offer were supplied by Sloan Smith and have not been independently audited. Antler figures are reported class estimates, not verified official scores. Habitat interpretations are preliminary and are not a wildlife survey. Hunting rules are summarized for 2026 and may change.

[1] Great Plains Land Company - The Goodnight Trail Ranch listing
[2] Colorado Parks and Wildlife - 2026 Big Game Brochure
[3] Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Big Game Regulations, January 2026