

# US. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND



## HUNTING PROGRAM

### HUNTING SAFETY

1. Obey all the procedures and restrictions. Most restrictions were developed to ensure your safety and the safety of others. YPG's primary concern is that your hunt is a safe one.
2. Hunting can be a dangerous sport. Poor judgment, improper training and recklessness can result in a tragedy. All hunters are encouraged to complete a hunter safety course. Consider the *Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety*:
  - **Treat every gun as if it were loaded.**
  - **Always control the muzzle.** Be able to control the direction of the muzzle, even if you should stumble.
  - **Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions** and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying.
  - **Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger;** know identifying features of the game you are hunting.
  - **Unload guns when not in use.** Take down or have the action open; guns should be carried to and from the shooting areas in cases.
  - **Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.** Avoid all horseplay with firearms.
  - **Never climb a fence or a tree or jump a ditch with a loaded gun.** Never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
  - **Never shoot a bullet at flat, hard surfaces or water.** Know what lies beyond your target; at target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.
  - **Store guns and ammunition separately,** beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
  - **Avoid alcoholic beverages and mood altering drugs** (prescription or otherwise) before and during shooting.

3. Environmental Safety: The desert can be a dangerous place. Exposure to climatic elements, rough and rugged terrain, hazardous plants, and wildlife await the unprepared. Desert dwellers can be dangerous to hunters. Most vegetation is armed with thorns or spines, some of which are sharp enough to penetrate boots and vehicle tires. Animals such as rattlesnakes, spiders, and scorpions can inflict venomous wounds. Rodents and other mammals can potentially be carriers of infectious diseases. Desert worthy, appropriate gear and attire, communications equipment, ample supplies of water, and contingency plans are all essential for hunting in the desert.

4. Mission Safety: YPG tests rockets, artillery, mines, bombs, lasers, and explosives on the ranges. YPG's hunting areas were selected on the basis of distance from active ranges and reduced risk from surface ordnance contamination. However, the possibility of encountering unexploded ordnance exists for all lands on YPG, including approved hunting areas. Please remain vigilant and avoid ordnance. **DO NOT pick up any object from the ground.**

5. Range Clearance: **Always obtain a range clearance before entering hunting areas.** A clearance number will be issued to keep track of your location. This assures your safety by precluding conflicts with military users of the same area, and is the primary means that YPG has to respond to emergency situations. Once you have obtained a clearance always identify yourself by your issued clearance number. Always cancel your clearance when you leave the installation. **Occasionally due to testing some affected hunting areas may be temporarily closed to access for hunting or camping. Refer to the YPG Facebook page for updates during the hunting season.** <https://www.facebook.com/USAYPG>

Contact the YPG Hunting Program Office at 928-328-2125

### PROCEDURES

Obtain a YPG Hunting Program Access Permit from the YPG Visitor Center located on the Wahner E. Brooks Display Park off Imperial Dam Road. **All applications must be completed in person** at the YPG Visitor Center Monday through Thursday from 0630 to 1700. All applicants must sign a release and indemnification (Hold Harmless Agreement), acknowledging that they have viewed the Range Safety briefing on safety/potential risks and agree to hold YPG harmless from any liability resulting from hunting on YPG. Release forms on behalf of minors must be signed by the custodial parent or legal guardian. Each person that enters YPG, either to hunt or as part of a hunting party shall have a YPG Hunting Access Permit. Prior to being issued a Hunting Access Permit, all applicants must complete a background check administered by the Department of Emergency Services in the YPG Visitors Center. In addition, hunters and their parties bringing firearms onto YPG will be required to register their weapon at the YPG Visitors Center. The following information on each firearm to be registered will be taken: *caliber, type, serial number, make model and finish.* **DO NOT bring the firearm into the Visitor Center.**

There is **NO FEE** to obtain a hunting access permit. Hunters should review the current issue of the Arizona Hunting Regulations for more detailed information regarding exemptions and age restrictions.

**YPG DOES NOT PROVIDE MAPS** for hunters or hunt parties. Electronic maps may be found on our website (<http://www.yuma.army.mil/Visiting/HuntingatYPG.aspx>)

**Hunters are required to obtain range clearance prior to entering hunting areas.** Range clearance is obtained from YPG Range Control. For the East Arm Hunting Area, call **928-328-3333**, for all other areas call **928-328-2047**. Clearances are valid only for the dates and areas they are issued. If you change areas, you must cancel your current clearance and obtain a new one. If you intend to remain overnight, you must indicate this when you obtain your range clearance. **You are required to call in daily to renew your clearance when staying overnight.**

**Upon leaving the installation, you must contact Range Control to cancel your range clearance.** Failure to cancel your range clearance may result in an unnecessary rescue attempt and the loss of future hunting privileges on YPG.

For more information on the YPG hunting program visit our website at: <http://www.yuma.army.mil/Visiting/HuntingatYPG.aspx>

Or find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/USAYPG>

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

YPG allows hunting on limited portions of the installation. Failure to comply with any of these procedures or rules will result in the loss of hunting privileges on YPG and possible citation and/or prosecution.

1. All State of Arizona and Federal wildlife laws apply to the taking of wildlife on YPG. You must have the same licenses, tags, permits, and/or stamps that would be required on all other lands in Arizona.

A Challenged Hunters Access/ Mobility Permit (CHAMP) authorizes the hunter to take wildlife from a motor vehicle if it is off the road way and the engine is off. It also authorizes the holder to use a motor vehicle in off-road locations to wait for game as long as the locations are not in conflict with other laws. A CHAMP permit does not authorize the use of a vehicle to chase or pursue wildlife. Permit must be in possession of the holder when hunting. CHAMP placard must be displayed from vehicle while in use to take wildlife.

2. **All hunters and their guests must possess a current YPG Hunting Access Permit.** Each person in the party must have a permit, regardless of whether they are actually hunting. **The permits are issued annually and are valid for the hunting season.** Hunting on YPG is only open from **September 1st through mid February (the last day of quail season).** No hunting is allowed between the last day of quail season and September 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. Hunting for deer, small game, and game birds (i.e., doves and quail) is allowed only in the designated hunting areas. Hunters possessing a valid desert bighorn sheep permit for Game Management Unit 43B should contact YPG if they desire to take a sheep from within the installation.

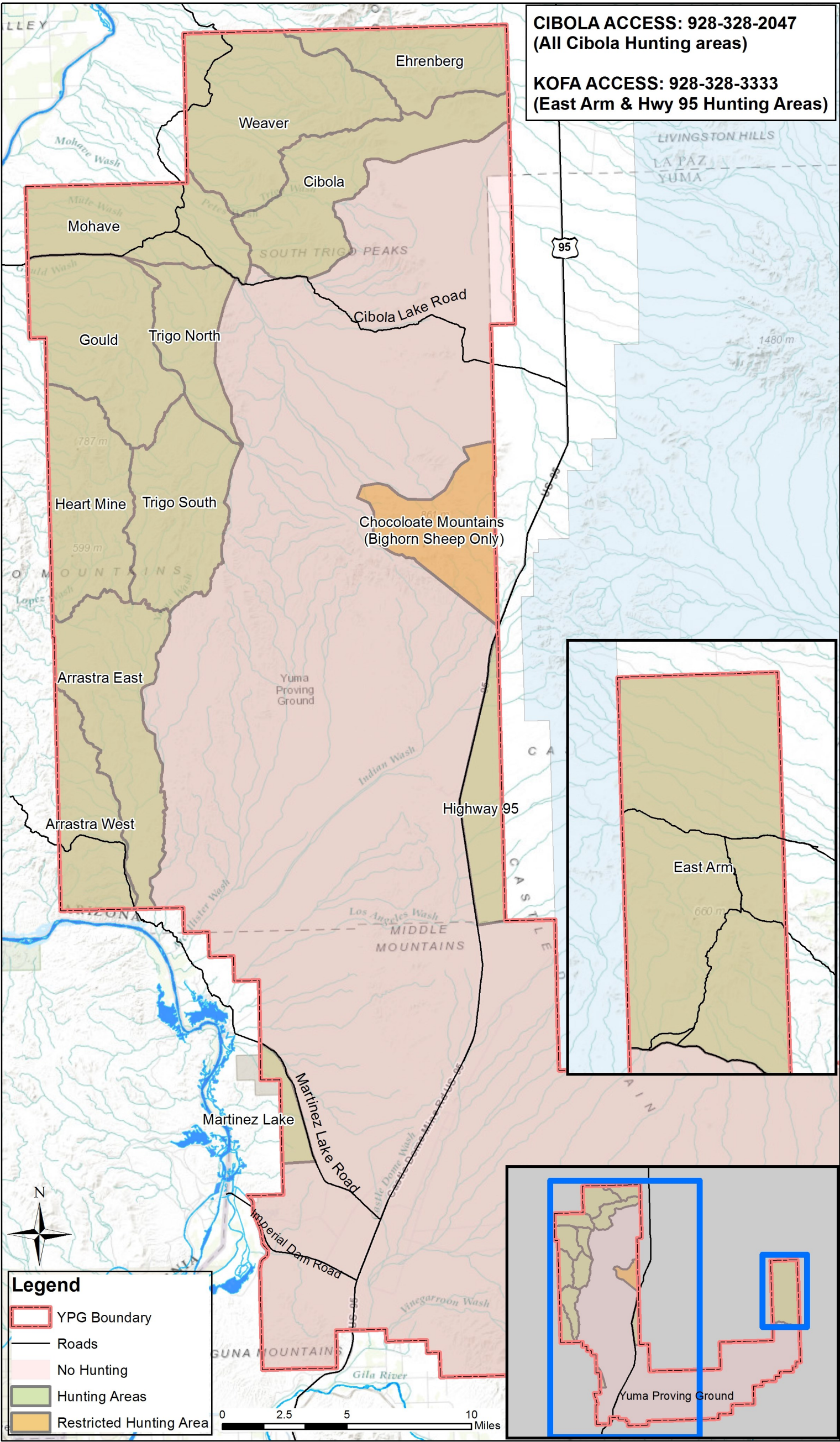
4. Vehicle access is restricted to developed roads and wash bottoms. **All off-road use of motorized vehicles is prohibited.**

5. Camping is authorized, in conjunction with hunting, provided that an overnight clearance is obtained beforehand from Range Control. Campsites will be returned to their natural condition. All trash and refuse will be carried out (on-site burial of trash is prohibited). Down wood **ONLY** may be used for campfires on-site although use of carried-in fuel supplies is encouraged.

6. All firearms must be registered at the YPG Visitors Center prior to entering the range.

7. Scouting trips to hunting areas on YPG are authorized for all YPG Hunting Access Permit holders. All other rules apply during scouting trips. Scouting trips may only occur during YPG hunting season.





DESIGNATED HUNTING AREAS

**CIBOLA RANGE HUNTING AREAS:** Several changes have occurred to the previous hunting areas to assist Range Control in managing hunters and their respective parties at all times. Boundaries for hunting areas are delineated to roads, ridge tops, washes and base of mountains, where applicable. Please indicate to Range Control which area(s) you will be utilizing for your hunt.

Use a topographic map to orient yourself with the terrain. There are several newly installed cable gates located at various access roads surrounding the restricted area. Do not attempt to go around these gates. **Temporary road-blocks may occur on Cibola Lake Road for mission safety or security reasons.**

Please note that areas along the western edge of Cibola Range are now available for hunting species other than desert bighorn sheep.

**CHOCOLATE MOUNTAINS AREA:** The area west of the eastern boundary of Cibola Range, west of Stone Cabin on Highway 95. This area **ONLY** includes the mountain range down to its base; the flat areas or washes surrounding it are closed. Access to the Chocolate Mountains is only allowed from Highway 95 using the trail that leads to wildlife water catchment #534, near milepost 73.6. **This area is for desert bighorn sheep hunters only.**

**ARRASTRA HUNTING AREA:** The area enclosed to the east and north by the west fork of Yuma Wash and to the south and west by the installation boundary. **East Fork Yuma Wash is closed to all hunting activities.**

**MARTINEZ HUNTING AREA:** The area enclosed to the north and east by Martinez Lake Road, to the west by the installation boundary, and to the south by line of sight directly west from the south end of YPG’s Phillips Drop Zone (look for parachutist road sign) to the installation boundary. **No vehicle access is allowed;** park along Martinez Lake Road and walk to hunting sites.

**HIGHWAY 95 HUNTING AREA:** The area enclosed to the north (milepost 72) and west by Highway 95, to the east by the installation boundary, and to the south by a jeep trail traversing across from Highway 95 east to the installation boundary. Look for trail east of Highway 95 at about 0.6-miles north of milepost 59. **Hunters accessing the Highway 95 area only to cross to BLM or Kofa Refuge do not need a YPG hunting permit.**

**EAST ARM HUNTING AREA:** The area enclosed to the east, north, and west by the installation boundary and to the south by the road traversing the East Arm between the Tank Mountains and Palomas Mountains. **Vehicle access is not authorized beyond the signs designating White Tanks Conservation Area.**

**This map shows general boundaries only**  
**Use of USGS topographic maps is recommended**

\*If any of these locations are unclear, please contact the Hunting Program Coordinator at 928-328-2125.

