



IPWA Training 2026 Brainard Lake Station Patrol Preparation

How to plan and
prepare for a safe
and successful
IPWA Patrol





Concept

10 E's

**Forecast &
Conditions**

Objective



10 Essentials:



Hydration



Shelter



Nutrition



First Aid



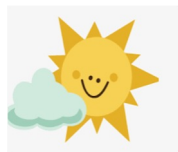
Insulation



Fire



Navigation



Sun



Illumination



Tools

Trailhead Talk

Before rushing off...stop to discuss the plan, confirm understanding, compare notes, and check in with your partner.

- RAW: risks & mitigation; trail conditions, slips, postholing, dogs, afternoon storms, lightning, people, animals,
- Conditions: confirm forecast, trail conditions, USFS alerts
- Objectives: destination, turnaround time, communication plan (cell, InReach, radios, e-call box, backup notification)
- Personal Check-in: how are you doing? Any issues of note. Are you comfortable with the plan and risk mitigation?
- 10E Confirmation: first aid, training

New for 2026: October Patrols

IPWA summer patrol season now runs from June 7, 2026 to October 31, 2026

October presents additional risks to patrols:

- Hunting Season
- Winter Conditions



Hunting Season Risk Recognition



Recognize Hunting Risk Factors :

- Know the dates, species, GMUs, method of take.
- Recognize prime locations and times of day.
- Understand the CPW rules

Species	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Small-Game Animals & Furbearers							
Abert's squirrel							
Rabbit, Hare							
Coyote							
Fox, Pine Squirrel							
Marmot							
Wyoming Ground Squirrel							
Badger, Fox, Mink, Skunk, etc.							
Small-Game Birds & Migratory Small-Game Birds							
Band-tailed pigeon							
Chukar Partridge							
Mourning, White-Winged Dove							
Greater Prairie-Chicken							
Dusky (Blue) Grouse							
Greater Sage-Grouse: Season 1							
Greater Sage-Grouse: Season 2							
Mountain Sharp-Tailed Grouse							
Pheasant: E of I-25							
Pheasant: W of I-25							
Quail: W of I-25							
Quail: E of I-25 & N of I-70							
Quail: E of I-25 & S of I-70							
Ptarmigan: Season 1							
Ptarmigan: Season 2							

Deer Season Dates

■ Archery	Sept. 2–30*
■ Muzzleloader	Sept. 12–20*
■ First Rifle	Oct. 14–18**
■ Second Rifle	Oct. 24–Nov. 1
■ Third Rifle	Nov. 7–15
■ Fourth Rifle	Nov. 18–22
■ Plains Rifle	Oct. 24–Nov. 3

**unless otherwise noted in the brochure tables*

***In select GMUs. See the rifle hunt code tables.*

Elk Season Dates

■ Archery	Sept. 2–30
■ Muzzleloader	Sept. 12–20
■ First Rifle	Oct. 14–18
■ Second Rifle	Oct. 24–Nov. 1
■ Third Rifle	Nov. 7–15
■ Fourth Rifle	Nov. 18–22

Moose Season Dates

■ Archery	Sept. 12–30
■ Muzzleloader	Sept. 12–20
■ Rifle	Oct. 1–14*

Check the hunt code tables for separate cow and bull/either-sex moose hunting opportunities.

**unless otherwise noted in the brochure tables*

Bear Season Dates

■ Archery (over-the-counter and/or limited)	Sept. 2–30
■ Muzzleloader (over-the-counter and/or limited)	Sept. 12–20
■ Sept. Rifle (limited)	Sept. 2–30*
■ Sept. Plains Rifle (over-the-counter)	Sept. 2–Nov. 22
■ Rifle (over-the-counter and/or limited)	1 st season: Oct. 14–18 2 nd season: Oct. 24–Nov. 1 3 rd season: Nov. 7–15 4 th season: Nov. 18–22
■ Private-Land-Only Rifle (over-the-counter)	Sept. 2–Nov. 22*

**unless otherwise noted in the brochure tables*



Hunting Season Risk Mitigation



Limit Risk :

- Limit activity in select locations
- Limit activity in prime hours
- Visibility
- Interactions
- Do not interfere with hunts



Hunting Season Risk Tolerance



Shoulder season patrols offer valuable information.

Personal decision to patrol in hunting season.

Understand the risks, mitigate them, and patrol *if it is within your personal risk tolerance level.*



October Patrols: Shoulder Season = Winter Possibility

Shoulder season patrols offer valuable information.

Planning and preparation needs to include the increased potential for winter conditions.

Additional resources and issues to consider:

- Roads: CDOT
- USFS: gate closures
- Vehicle prep: tires, battery, emergency gear
- Avi: CAIC
- Weather: standard sources with additional focus. Understand reduced daylight hours
- Personal: mode of transportation, additional clothing layers, backup in pack