GAME DAMAGE PREVENTION REPORT

to the Colorado General Assembly per C.R.S 33-3-111

By statute (33-3-111), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is required to report annually to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the House of Representatives Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee on game damage and game damage prevention issues. Such report to include:

"The *herd management objectives* set by the division and whether those objectives are being met. In providing this information, the division shall supply the actual number of herd animals by game unit.

If any of the herd management objectives of the division are not being met, the division shall set forth in detail its plans, strategies, and efforts that it is using or intends to use in order to achieve compliance with the objectives.

The *number of requests* for game damage prevention materials, the timeliness of the division in responding to such requests, the quantity and types of temporary and permanent materials issued, the number of requests for materials denied, and, to the extent that such information is available, the adequacy of materials in preventing game damage;

The *number of permits* to take wildlife requested pursuant to section 33-3-106, the number of permits issued, the amount of wildlife killed under such permits, the number of permits denied, and the reasons for denial;

The *number of claims* for damages submitted under this section, how many of those claims were settled and the monetary amounts of the settlements, the number of claims pending at the time of the report, the number of claims denied, and the reasons
For denial;

Any *other costs* incurred by the division in administering this article."

STATUS OF BIG GAME POPULATIONS IN COLORADO

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
2014

BACKGROUND

5-Year Season Structure

In 2009, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) completed an 18 month long public process to establish the big game hunting season structure for 2010-2014. A major consideration in this process was the efficacy of the 5-year season structure to achieve big game population objectives through harvest management. The PWC adopted what is now the current 5-year season structure in September 2009 with little opposition.

The public process to establish the 2015-2019 big game hunting season structure began this year. The PWC will approve the 2015-2019 big game season structure in September 2014.

Population Estimation Timeline

Population estimates for deer, elk, and pronghorn are determined in March after post-hunt aerial surveys and harvest surveys have been completed. Because of the statutory requirement to provide population estimates in January, population estimates from the previous year must be used in this legislative report.

DAU Plans and Objectives

Big game populations in Colorado are managed on the basis of herd management plans for specific areas called Data Analysis Units (DAUs) that represent the annual ranges of relatively discrete subpopulations. These DAUs are divided into Game Management Units (GMUs) to better manage harvest and hunter numbers within each herd. Maps showing individual DAU locations and the GMUs they encompass are provided for each big game species.

Herd management plans establish objectives for post-hunt population size and sex ratios, and are locally developed with public input. Draft plans are presented to the Parks and Wildlife Commission, with opportunities for public comment, revised if necessary, then typically approved by the Commission the following month. License quotas approved by the Commission each year are used to move populations toward objectives using hunter harvest. Population objectives for each herd are expressed as a range of values to provide greater management flexibility and more realistically reflect confidence in the population estimates. Target population objectives are used to indicate the desired population within the objective range for a given year.

Approximately 86% (109) of the 127 elk, deer, and pronghorn herds have approved management plans. Herds that do not have approved management plans use provisional objectives that are established internally. Many of the herds with provisional objectives have relatively small numbers of animals and/or few conflicts making approval of other herd management plans and/or plan updates a higher priority. CPW is continually working on completing new plans, updating existing plans, and seeking approval to implement these plans from the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Hunters and Harvest

Elk hunters and elk harvest peaked in 2004 and have since declined (Figs. 1 and 2). This decline has been the result of fewer over-the-counter (OTC) rifle hunters and reductions in limited cow licenses. Hunter numbers have recently leveled off, stopping the declined. Declining interest in elk hunting because of the economy, fuel prices, fewer elk, and many other factors has caused fewer hunters to purchase OTC licenses. CPW's aggressive cow elk harvest over the past several years has reduced elk populations in many herds which has resulted in fewer cow licenses in recent years; as examples, DAUs such as E-2, E-6, and E-31 are at or approaching objectives and have had considerable reductions in cow licenses. It is anticipated that the number of elk hunters and the elk harvest will continue to decline slowly over the next few years as a result of an aging hunter population, low hunter recruitment, economic conditions, and reduced elk populations. CPW is attempting to increase hunter recruitment and retention through marketing, increased education efforts, improved customer service, online hunt planning, and other strategies.

Deer hunter numbers and deer harvest peaked in 1990. Since then, hunter numbers and deer harvest declined steadily until deer licenses became totally limited in 1999, ending all OTC deer licenses. The Wildlife Commission limited deer licenses in response to hunter concerns about the size and quality (number of mature bucks) of deer populations. Since 1999, deer harvest and deer hunters increased slightly but have recently declined and are still well below the levels of the late 1980's and early 1990's. Deer harvest declined in 2008 partly because of the winter mortality that occurred in many of the largest deer herds on the west slope during the 2007-2008 winter. Some of those herds have not yet recovered. Deer populations in parts of the state are stable but many herds in the western portions of the state have declined.

Numbers of pronghorn hunters and pronghorn harvests have set records during recent years. This success is due to the fact that pronghorn licenses are relatively few in number, compared to elk and deer licenses, and demand for them is fairly high. This is particularly true of buck licenses. In 2010, pronghorn harvest set a record of 12,300. The 2011 pronghorn harvest estimate of 11,700 was lower, despite issuing more licenses. The 2012 harvest was even lower at 9,900 with similar license numbers. Harvest is lower because pronghorn populations are smaller. The 2012 season resulted in the lowest success rate (48%) ever observed for pronghorn hunting in Colorado. Thresholds for licenses and hunter numbers have been reached or exceeded in several pronghorn herds. CPW staff, hunters, and landowners in the Southeast Region have expressed concern over hunter density in many areas. Pronghorn license quotas in 2013 were designed to move populations towards objectives while addressing these types of challenges.

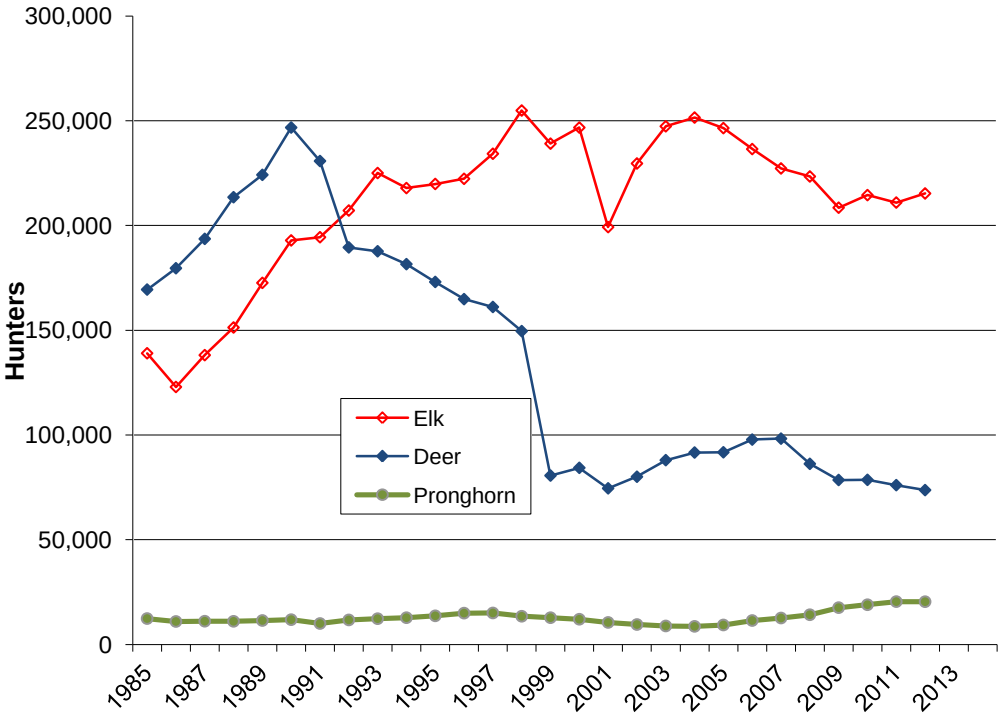


Figure 1. Number of elk, deer, and pronghorn hunters from 1985 to 2012.

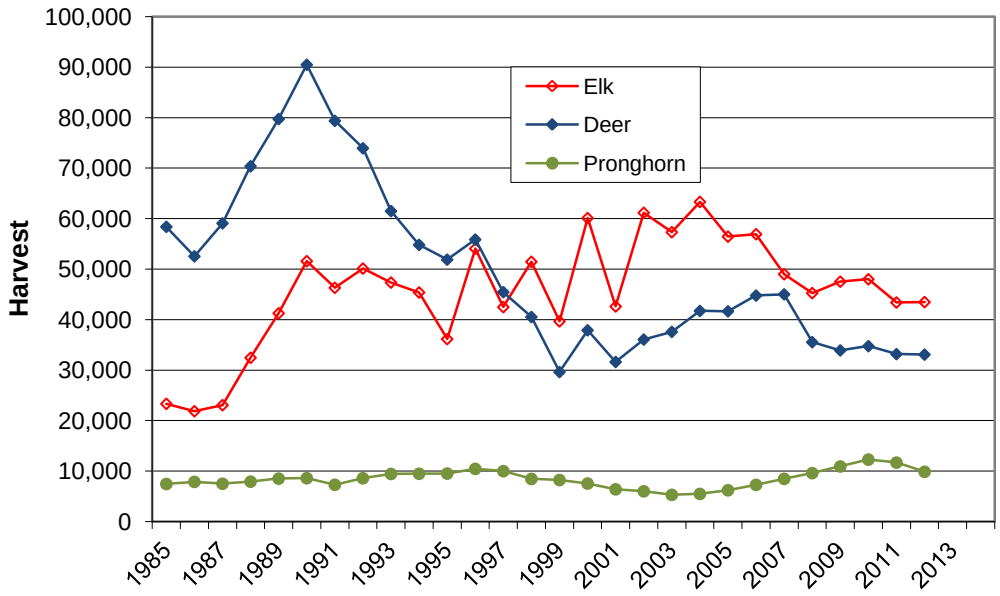


Figure 2. Elk, deer, and pronghorn harvest from 1985 to 2012.

Big Game Population Estimates in Relation to DAU Objectives

Individual herd (DAU) population objective ranges, targets, and 2012 post-hunt population estimates are reported in Tables 1-3. Statewide, the estimated 2012 post-hunt *elk population estimate* was 266,000, which was 113% of the total of population objective targets (Table 1). Sixteen (37%) of the state's 43 elk herds are within 10% of their target population objective (Table 1). The statewide *deer population estimate* of 408,000 was 76% of the sum of population objective targets (Table 2). Twenty (36%) of the state's 55 deer herds are within 10% of their target population objective (Table 2). The pronghorn population estimate of 67,000 was 95% of the sum of population objective targets (Table 3). Nine (31%) of the state's 29 pronghorn herds are within 10% of their target population objective (Table 3).

ELK HERDS (DAUS) OVER-OBJECTIVE

Twenty-four out of 43 elk herds (56%) exceeded their population objective targets by more than 10% in 2012 (Table 1). In several of Colorado's largest herds, such as E-2, E-6, E-9, E-24, and E-31 CPW has effectively reduced elk populations toward objective. Several other herds are steadily moving towards objective and are expected to be at or very close to objective in the next few years. As we reduce elk populations, we increasingly hear from hunters, outfitters, and some landowners that there are fewer elk than they would prefer. DAUs E-2, E-6, E-24, E-30, and E-31 are examples of large herds where hunters have expressed dissatisfaction in the current elk population sizes.

Based on modeled population estimates, statewide elk numbers were reduced by approximately 56,000 from 2004-2012 (Figure 3). As the statewide populations of elk approach objective, the number of cow licenses necessary to limit these populations is concomitantly reduced, and thus complaints increase that there are too few elk, and license revenue drops because hunting opportunity is reduced.

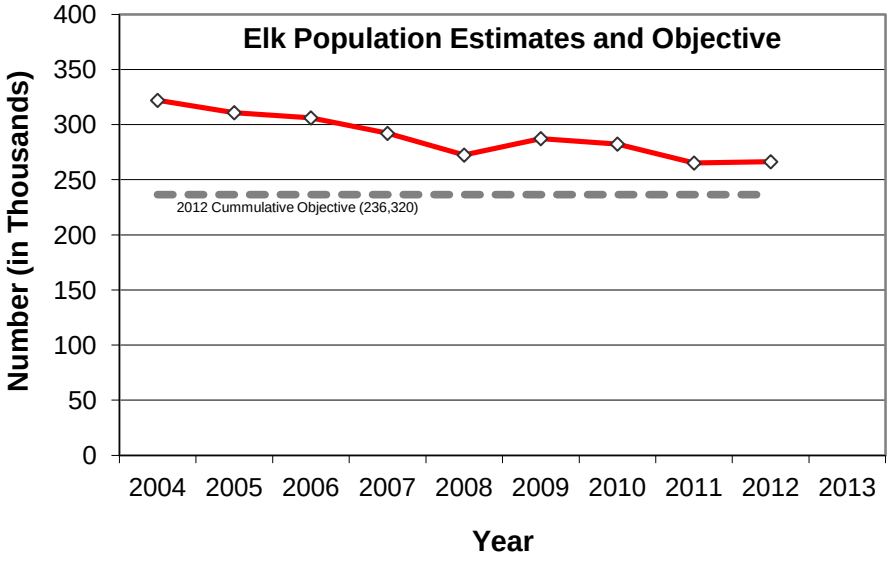


Figure 3. Estimated statewide post-hunt elk population versus total DAU population objectives for 2012. Estimates based on 2012 models.

Approximately 12 elk herds, representing about 30% of the statewide elk population are considered problematic for achieving population objectives. In these herds it is not possible to reduce elk numbers simply by increasing the number of licenses available due to access limitations associated with private land ownership. License increases to the degree necessary to reduce population size can drive more elk onto private property and have the confounding effect of lowering success rates and harvest. There is also a saturation point for limited licenses above which demand drops off sharply and licenses go unsold.

In 2012, only 7% (10,155) of the 139,454 limited elk licenses available statewide did not sell. Because demand is high for limited bull licenses and the majority of rifle bull licenses and archery either-sex licenses are sold OTC, limited license availability, or lack thereof, is related to the number antlerless elk (aka cow) rifle licenses. Cow licenses are the primary tool for population management.

Examples: E-3(North Park), E-10(Yellow creek), E-11(Sand Dunes), E-33(Trinchera), E-41(Sapinero)

Effects of Access on Elk Harvest

Private Land

Lack of private land access is the primary factor preventing elk herds from being reduced to objective in many DAUs. Achieving elk population objectives in DAUs with large amounts of private land can be difficult. Harvest in these units is largely determined by the extent landowners will provide access to hunters. Some landowners provide little if any public hunting access whereas others only allow access to bull hunters for a substantial fee. Cow hunters are seldom willing to pay the same access fees as bull hunters so cow harvest on private land can be disproportionately low. Hunting pressure on public land is often much greater than on private land which can quickly push elk to private land where harvest is greatly reduced. Elk can also occur in more developed areas such as residential subdivisions where hunting can be controversial or prohibited.

Examples: E-33(Trinchera), E-51(Castle Rock)

Even in DAUs with a majority of public land, a high percentage of elk can avoid hunting pressure by congregating on private properties. In some cases, it only takes a few key landowners to restrict hunting to substantially reduce harvest. Elk movement from public to private land is hastened by a high degree of motorized vehicle access on public land.

Examples: E-55(Northern San Luis Valley floor)

In some DAUs the majority of elk winter on public land. Although late seasons can be effective in these DAUs, holding late seasons is sometimes resisted because they can force large numbers of elk onto adjacent private land where they are more likely to cause agricultural damage.

Examples: E-20(Uncompahgre), E-55(Northern San Luis Valley floor)

Government Refuges

Large refuge areas where hunting is prohibited exist is some DAUs. These areas include National Parks and Monuments, military installations, and county parks and open space. Elk quickly learn where hunting is allowed and where it is not. In some cases such as E-9, deep snow can force elk

out of refuge areas where they can be hunted and seasons can be structured to take full advantage of such movements when they occur. In other cases, such as E-11, the refuge area is in winter range and elk can stay protected. The CPW works with federal and local governments to try and coordinate harvest efforts as much as possible but the state has no authority to require hunting in these areas.

Examples: E-11(Sand Dunes), E-52 (Coal Creek/Fruitland)

Public Land Access

Even on public land, access can be an issue in some DAUs. Cow harvest can be low in DAUs with large federal wilderness areas or rough, roadless terrain where cow hunters are less likely to go into remote areas where the elk are. In some DAUs, snow will force elk to move into more accessible areas and harvest objectives can be achieved during late seasons. However, in other DAUs elk make the transition from remote wilderness to private land very quickly making harvest problematic during regular and late seasons.

Examples: E-35(Cimarron)

Interstate Movements

Elk in "stateline" DAUs frequently move into Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico making management of these units uniquely challenging. Coordination with adjacent states and understanding movement patterns are necessary for effective management.

Examples: E-3(North Park), E-32(Lower Rio Grande)

Population Estimates & Objectives

CPW has worked diligently over the years to improve our inventory and modeling efforts for big game populations. Currently, CPW is investigating the ability to detect elk, in different habitats, from a helicopter. These trials are underway to improve the efficiency and precision of our elk inventory. These efforts will improve our elk population estimates in the future. The big game population models used by the CPW continue to evolve as better information and methods become available. For example, research has shown that elk exhibit higher survival and reproduce at older ages than previously thought. These data are now incorporated into population models. The net effect of improved modeling has been an increase in elk population estimates. As a result, some elk herds that were considered to be near objective are now well above objective. In some cases, the herd management planning process is used to better align existing objectives with the newer population estimates when publics are generally satisfied with those population levels.

Strategies to Reduce Elk Populations to Objective

The CPW will employ a variety of current strategies and will continue to evaluate potential new strategies to reduce elk populations to objective. Strategies to reduce elk populations to objective can be grouped into 6 categories.

1. Liberal regulations that apply to many elk units in the state
   - *Over- the- counter (OTC) archery either-sex licenses.*
   - *List B (which can be purchased in addition to a primary, list A license) archery cow licenses in DAUs that have List B rifle cow licenses.*

- *OTC rifle bull licenses during 2nd and 3rd seasons.*
- *Youth hunters with unfilled cow or either-sex licenses can hunt cows during late elk season in the DAUs where their original license was valid.*
- *Cow license fees for nonresidents are discounted relative to bull license fees.*
- *Multiple seasons.* Holding 4 rifle seasons with breaks in-between allows time for elk to redistribute during the break periods. Each season brings in a new wave of hunters and success rates are consistently highest at the beginning of each season.

2. Regulations commonly used to increase antlerless elk harvest.
   - *Increased rifle cow licenses during the regular seasons.* The most straightforward way to increase cow harvest is to increase the number of cow licenses during the regular seasons. Although this approach can be very effective in some DAUs, it can have little benefit or prove detrimental to harvest in others, particularly when access is the primary issue limiting harvest. Offering too many licenses can result in unsold licenses, hunter crowding, reduced success rates, and more hunters that are dissatisfied.
   - *Change limited bull licenses to either-sex licenses.* Replacing limited bull licenses with either-sex licenses has proven to be an effective way to increase cow harvest in some DAUs because experience has shown that cows make up approximately 35% of the harvest on either-sex licenses.
   - *List B or List C regular and private land only (PLO) cow licenses.* A hunter can purchase a List B license in addition to a List A license (e.g., most bull and either-sex licenses are List A licenses) or another List B license. Hunters can purchase any number of List C licenses. Cow licenses in DAUs that are over objective are List B to encourage harvest. All PLO cow licenses statewide are List B or List C.
   - *Extended PLO cow seasons.* Keeping pressure on elk on private land even when regular hunting seasons are closed can be an effective way to keep more elk on public land and increase harvest. Extended PLO seasons can run from August 15th until the end of February and do not need to conform to regular season dates. Hunting is generally not allowed outside of this period because of concerns about late gestation and dependent young.
   - *Late cow elk seasons.* Late cow seasons that occur between the end of the 4th regular rifle season and the end of February can be very useful for achieving harvest objectives in many DAUs. Use of non-PLO late seasons must weigh the potential for increased harvest against the potential for pushing more elk to private land.

3. Regulations used to reduce agricultural damage and conflicts
   - *Damage licenses and distribution hunts for cows.* Damage licenses are widely used to address elk damage issues on specific private properties. Distribution hunts are used to address elk damage on multiple properties and can include public land. Damage licenses can be approved by the local Area Wildlife Manager.
   - *Kill permits for bulls and cows.* In some cases the CPW has issued kill permits to allow sharpshooters to kill elk outside of seasons and/or after legal hours. Kill permits are used to address special game damage situations where regular hunters would be ineffective.
   - *Summer bull seasons.* This strategy is currently being used in E-55 to keep pressure on elk using irrigated croplands during the summer.

4. Landowner incentive programs
   - *Ranching for Wildlife (RFW).* The RFW program offers transferable bull licenses to enrolled landowners with large properties (>12,000 acres) in return for allowing some public

hunting. Most public licenses are for cow hunting. RFW provides some opportunity for increasing cow harvest on large properties where little opportunity would otherwise exist. Twenty-three ranches are currently enrolled in this program.

- *Non-RFW license incentives.* Pursuant to statute, license incentives to provide public hunting access have also been offered to landowners with smaller properties that do not qualify for RFW (e.g., Unit 10 Landowner Pilot Program). License incentive programs can have potential benefits but do require increased administrative oversight.
- *Private land hunt coordinators.* In some cases, the CPW via the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) has provided hunt coordinators to schedule hunts and accompany hunters on private property. Hunt coordinators help minimize landowner-hunter interaction and provide increased assurance that rules specified by landowners are obeyed. Although this program can be expensive, it can be useful in certain situations.

5. Regulations occasionally used.
   - *Limited archery hunting.* Studies with radio-collared elk in some DAUs have shown substantial movements of elk from public to private land during the early archery and muzzleloader seasons. OTC archery either-sex licenses are available in most DAUs, and OTC List B archery cow license are available in some DAUs, but archery harvest usually makes up only a small portion of the overall cow harvest. Rifle hunters are much more efficient at harvesting cows than archery hunters. Whereas the number of rifle elk hunters has steadily declined over the last 5 years, the number of archery elk hunters has steadily increased. Limiting archery hunting pressure can potentially result in more elk being available to rifle hunters on public land and thereby increase cow harvest. However, limited archery hunting is strongly opposed by many archery hunters including the Colorado Bowhunters Association.
     Gunnison archery licenses were limited in 2010 (DAUs E-41 and E-43) in an attempt to keep elk on public land to achieve population objectives.
   - *Open state wildlife areas (SWAs) to late season hunting.* Some SWAs are closed to late season hunting to help keep elk off of private land. Allowing hunting on these SWAs can increase harvest but it can also push elk to private land where they are more likely to cause damage. The efficacy of opening SWAs to late season hunting often depends on sufficient counter hunting pressure on surrounding private lands.
   - *OTC rifle cow licenses*. OTC rifle cow licenses have been issued in some DAUs in the past. In many DAUs that are over objective, leftover cow licenses are often easy to obtain (indicating an excessive supply); in this situation, OTC licenses (which are unlimited) would be of little value for increasing harvest.
   - *Totally limited elk licenses.* Proponents of totally limited elk licenses often claim that harvest can be increased by making all elk licenses limited and reducing the number of hunters. The CPW has found little evidence to support this claim. Most of the limited elk DAUs on the west slope are over population objective. Although, most limited elk DAUs on the east slope are at or close to objective, these DAUs have relatively small numbers of elk and do not have a history of exceeding objectives. Recent attempts to create more totally limited elk units have been met with considerable and often times overwhelming opposition from the public.

6. Potential new strategies and popular suggestions

Several ideas for reducing elk numbers are listed below. Some of these options have received consideration by the PWC and CPW in the past but were not implemented for a variety of reasons.

Most of the options would be strongly opposed by some segments of the public even though they might be effective at reducing elk numbers. Some options are presented only because they are often suggested by the public even though the CPW does not consider them to be realistic.

- *Big game walk-in access.* This option would provide big game hunting access to private land similar to the highly successful small game walk-in access program (i.e., landowners are paid a per acre fee by the CPW to allow public hunters on their property). The CPW is considering this option for eastern plains pronghorn and deer hunting but does not consider such a program tenable for elk because of the large amount of money landowners with elk can charge for bull hunting and the fact that elk will likely quickly shift to properties not in the program. Another option CPW is considering is to provide walk-in access during late seasons when only antlerless hunting is allowed. The Division does lease over 500,000 acres from the State Land Board for public hunting.
- *Earn-a-bull program.* Some mid-western and eastern states with overpopulations of white-tailed deer have used earn-a-buck programs to increase harvest of does. Because the demand for doe licenses is often much lower than the demand for buck licenses, earn-a-buck programs require a hunter to first shoot a doe and have it checked before the hunter can get a buck license. Resident elk hunters would likely strongly resist such a program in Colorado, nonresident participation would likely decline sharply, and logistical demands for mandatory checks and law enforcement would be considerable for the CPW. It is doubtful that this option would increase harvest much in some of the more problematic DAUs such as E-11 and E-33.
- *Cow points.* This option would give hunters a preference point for purchasing a cow license in a DAU that is over population objective. The CPW and the PWC have considered this option in the past but rejected it because of the high degree of preference point inflation that is already occurring and because it does little to address the issue of private land access.
- *Continued hunting opportunities.* Hunters often want to know why they can't continue hunting on an unfilled license during subsequent seasons if a DAU is over objective. This concept received considerable discussion during 5-year season structure. The primary drawback of this type of approach is that it is basically similar to having one long season and there would be little incentive for hunters to get licenses for later seasons if hunters from earlier seasons can continue hunting. Colorado went to multiple seasons for deer and elk over 30 years ago because of increasing complaints about hunter crowding. As a result of multiple seasons, hunter satisfaction and success rates increased and accidents decreased. Continued hunting opportunities would have the most potential application for PLO licenses where hunter crowding isn't usually an issue. However, in most units that are over objective, extended PLO licenses are already available which often provide even greater opportunity because hunting is allowed outside of regular seasons as well as across regular seasons.
- *Multiple hunting opportunities.* Along with continued hunting opportunities, hunters often question why there is a limit on cow licenses when a DAU is over objective. At its fullest, multiple hunting opportunities would be equivalent to OTC List C cow licenses available during all seasons. Given that many limited elk licenses go unsold and there is ample opportunity to purchase List B and List C licenses in most DAUs that are over objective, the value of expanding multiple hunting opportunities to increase harvest is questionable.
- *Cow-only regular seasons.* Making some regular rifle seasons cow-only in DAUs that are over objective would take bull hunting out of the access equation and give landowners more incentive to get to objective by providing access to cow hunters. This option would be extremely unpopular with landowners and hunters. Cow only late seasons have been added

in many areas over objective and proven successful in increasing cow harvest and reducing populations.

- *Early rifle cow seasons.* In DAUs where elk make early movements to private land, early rifle cow seasons could potentially increase harvest. Early rifle seasons would be opposed by many archers and muzzleloader hunters.
- *Culling.* Culling involves using agency personnel or contractors to shoot elk to reduce the population. Culling is occasionally used by the National Park Service to reduce elk numbers because sport harvest is prohibited in most national parks and monuments. The CPW has done some elk culling to address concerns related to chronic wasting disease. Culling is seldom acceptable to the public unless there is a clear need and there is no other option. The need is usually either that habitat degradation due to overpopulation is obvious (such as the recent culling operation in Rocky Mountain National Park) or reducing animal numbers could alleviate a major threat to animal or human welfare. Culling hundreds of elk to get a DAU down to objective would be strongly opposed by the public and is not considered realistic by the CPW.
- *Translocation.* Capturing and moving elk from high density units to low density units or out of state is commonly suggested by the public. On a DAU scale, translocation would be cost prohibitive and would be a short term solution at best. Furthermore, by Commission policy the CPW cannot move elk from CWD positive units to areas where the disease has not been found. Most of the northern part of the state is positive for CWD whereas CWD has not been found in most of southern Colorado. There is little if any demand for elk from other states.

ELK HERDS (DAUS) BELOW OBJECTIVE

Only three elk herds (DAUs, E-19, E-30 and E-33) were more than 10% below objective targets in 2012 (Table 1).

Strategies to Increase Elk Populations to Objective

- *Decrease limited license numbers. Colorado has very productive elk herds. Typically when elk populations are lower than they historically have been it is a direct result of liberal cow licenses designed to reduce herd size to meet population objectives.*

Table 1. 2012 Post-Hunt Elk DAU Population Estimates Versus Objectives and Targets.

ELK

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Draft 12/1/2013

DAUs > 10% Below Population Target
DAUs > 10% Above Population Target

DAU								POPULATION				
DAU	Name	GMUs	Region	Area	DAU Plan	Mgmt Type	APR	Obj Min (Provisional)	Obj Max (Provisional)	Target	2012 Post Est. (2012 Model)	2012 Post % of Target
E4	Poudre River	7, 8, 9, 19, 191	NE	4	2009	Lim	4 pt	3600	4200	4200	4081	97%
E9	St. Vrain	20	NE	2	2007	Lim	Spike	2200	2600	2400	2476	103%
E18	Kenosha Pass	50, 500, 501	NE	1,13	2007	Lim	Spike	1800	2200	2000	2107	105%
E38	Clear Creek	29, 38	NE	2	2006	Mix	P Spike	1000	1400	1200	1233	103%
E39	Mt Evans	39, 46, 391, 461	NE	1	1998	Lim	Spike	2500	2500	2500	2390	96%
E51	Castle Rock	51, 104, 105, 106, 110, 111	NE	5,14	None	Mix	Spike	1200	1200	1200	1613	134%
			NE Subtotal					**12300**	**14100**	**13500**	**13900**	**103%**
E1	Cold Springs	2, 201	NW	6	None	Lim	Spike	950	950	950	1090	115%
E2	Bear's Ears	3, 4, 5, 14, 214, 301, 441	NW	6, 10	2008	OTC	4 pt	15000	18000	15000	16694	111%
E3	North Park	6, 16, 17, 161, 171	NW	10	2008	OTC	4 pt	4000	4500	4500	5466	121%
E6	White River	11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34, 131, 211, 231	NW	, 8, 9, 1	2005	OTC	4 pt	32000	39000	32000	34691	108%
E7	Gore Pass	15, 27	NW	9	2004	OTC	4 pt	3500	4500	4500	4556	101%
E8	Troublesome Creek	18, 181	NW	9	2010	OTC	4 pt	3600	4300	4000	4318	108%
E10	Yellow Creek	21, 22, 30, 31, 32	NW	6,7	2006	OTC	4 pt	7000	9000	7000	11695	167%
E12	Piney River	35, 36	NW	8	1988	OTC	4 pt	2950	2950	2950	4034	137%
E13	Williams Fork River	28, 37, 371	NW	9	2010	OTC	4 pt	4700	5500	5000	5832	117%
E14	Grand Mesa	41, 42, 52, 411, 421, 521	NW	7,16	2010	OTC	4 pt	15000	19000	15000	18782	125%
E15	Avalanche Creek	43, 471	NW	8	1988	OTC	4 pt	3300	3300	3300	4275	130%
E16	Frying Pan River	44, 45, 47, 444	NW	8	None	OTC	4 pt	5100	5100	5100	7929	155%
E19	Glade Park	40	NW	7	2010	Lim	P Spike	2800	3800	2800	2480	89%
E21	Rangely - Blue Mountain	10	NW	6	None	Lim	Spike	1200	1200	1200	4299	358%
E47	Green River	1	NW	6	None	Lim	Spike	170	170	170	202	119%
			NW Subtotal					**101270**	**121270**	**103470**	**126343**	**122%**
E17	Collegiate Range	48, 56, 481, 561	SE	13	2011	Lim	Spike	3150	3850	3500	3345	96%
E22	Buffalo Peaks	49, 57, 58	SE	13	2006	Lim	Spike	3150	3500	3300	3236	98%
E23	Eleven Mile	59, 511, 512, 581, 591	SE	13,14	2012	OTC	P Spike	2700	3300	3000	3637	121%
E27	Sangre de Cristo	86, 691, 861	SE	11	2005	OTC	4 pt	1450	1650	1550	2503	161%
E28	Grape Creek	69, 84	SE	11	2005	Lim	Spike	1400	1600	1500	1861	124%
E33	Trinchera	83, 85, 140, 851	SE	11,17	None	OTC	4 pt	14000	16000	14000	9608	69%
E53	Apishipa	133, 134, 135, 141, 142	SE	11,12	None	OTC	Spike	250	250	250	651	260%
			SE Subtotal					**26100**	**30150**	**27100**	24841	**92%**
E11	Sand Dunes	82	SW	17	2010	OTC	4 pt	3000	4000	4000	4888	122%
E20	Uncompahgre	61, 62	SW	18	2006	Mix	P Spike	8500	9500	9500	10583	111%
E24	Disappointment Creek	70, 71, 72, 73, 711	SW	15,18	2006	OTC	4 pt	17000	19000	18000	18701	104%
E25	Lake Fork	66, 67	SW	16	2001	Lim	4 pt	3500	4500	4500	6602	147%
E26	Saquache	68, 681	SW	17	2008	OTC	4 pt	3500	4500	4000	4182	105%
E30	Hermosa	74, 741	SW	15	2010	OTC	4 pt	5000	6000	5500	4912	89%
E31	San Juan	75, 77, 78, 751, 771	SW	15	2007	OTC	4 pt	17000	21000	19000	17481	92%
E32	Lower Rio Grande	80, 81	SW	15	2007	OTC	4 pt	6000	7000	7000	9678	138%
E34	Upper Rio Grande	76, 79	SW	17	2010	Lim	P Spike	4000	5500	4750	4383	92%
E35	Cimarron	64, 65	SW	18	2007	OTC	4 pt	5000	5500	5500	5621	102%
E40	Paradox	60	SW	18	2008	OTC	4 pt	900	1100	1100	1806	164%
E41	West Elk	54	SW	16	2001	OTC	4 pt	3000	3500	3500	3667	105%
E43	Fossil Ridge	55, 551	SW	16	2001	OTC	4 pt	3000	3500	3500	4611	132%
E52	Coal Creek / Fruitland	53, 63	SW	16	2005	OTC	4 pt	2200	2400	2400	3792	158%
E55	Northern San Luis Valley Floor	682, 791	SW	17	2006	Lim	4 pt	0	0	0	300	300%
			SW Subtotal					**81600**	**97000**	**92250**	**101207**	**110%**
E99	Misc GMUs											
E99	Elkhart	132, 139, 148	SE	12	None	OTC	Spike			50		
E99	Chacuaco	136, 137, 138, 143, 144, 147	SE	12	None	OTC	Spike			100		
E99	Cedarwood	128	SE	11	None	Lim	Spike			300		
STATEWIDE TOTAL								**221270**	**262520**	**236320**	**266291**	**113%**

4 Pt = 4 point antler restiction on bulls
Spike = No antler point restriction on bulls
P Spike = Some GMUs in the DAU are 4 Pt and some are Spike
Lim = All elk licenses are limited in the DAU
OTC = Over the counter licenses
Mix = Some Gmus in the DAU are Lim and some are OTC.

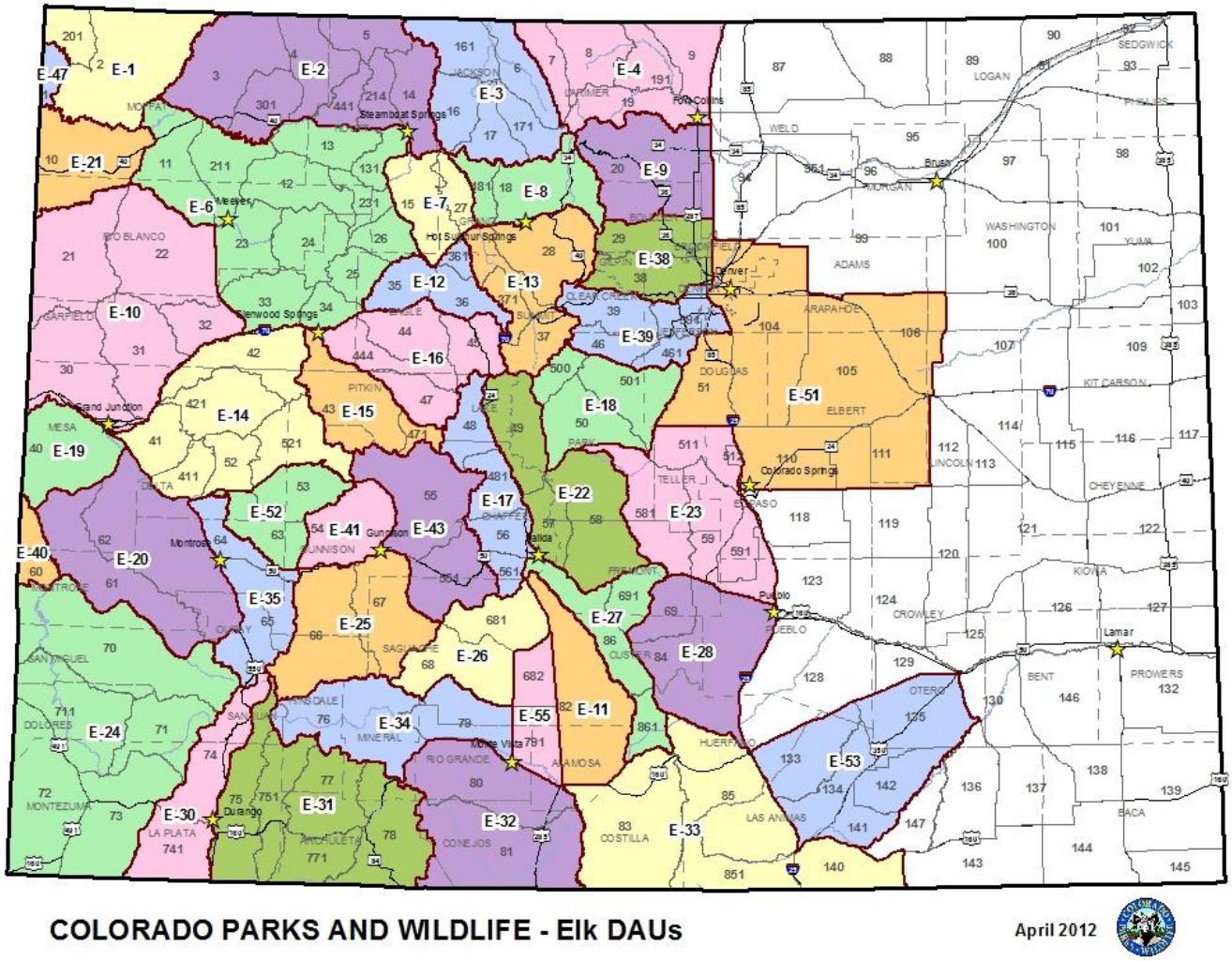


Figure 4. Elk Data Analysis Units and their associated Game Management Units.

DEER HERDS (DAUS) OVER OBJECTIVE

Five out of 55 deer herds (9%) exceeded their population objective by more than 10% in 2012 (Table 2). Four of the five herds are in the eastern plains of Colorado which consists almost entirely of private land.

Strategies to Reduce Deer Populations to Objective

- *Increase PLO and regular doe licenses.*
- *List B regular season doe licenses.*
- *White-tailed deer only doe licenses.*
- *PLO season-choice doe licenses.*
- *Late doe seasons.*

- *Big Game Access Pilot Program.* This program offers deer and pronghorn hunting on enrolled private properties in southeast Colorado similar to the Small Game Walk-In Access Program.
- *SE Region GMUs west of I-25 will have over-the-counter, either-sex white-tailed deer only licenses beginning in 2014 to increase hunting opportunity and reduce white-tail populations.*

DEER HERDS (DAUS) BELOW OBJECTIVE

Thirty out of 55 deer herds (55%) were more than 10% below their population objective targets in 2012 (Table 2). Although a few herds have increased to objective in recent years and others are steadily moving toward objective, the majority of the deer herds are below objective. Many of the large herds in western Colorado have declined (Figure 4). The CPW, hunters, and conservation organizations are very concerned about deer declines in western portions of the state.

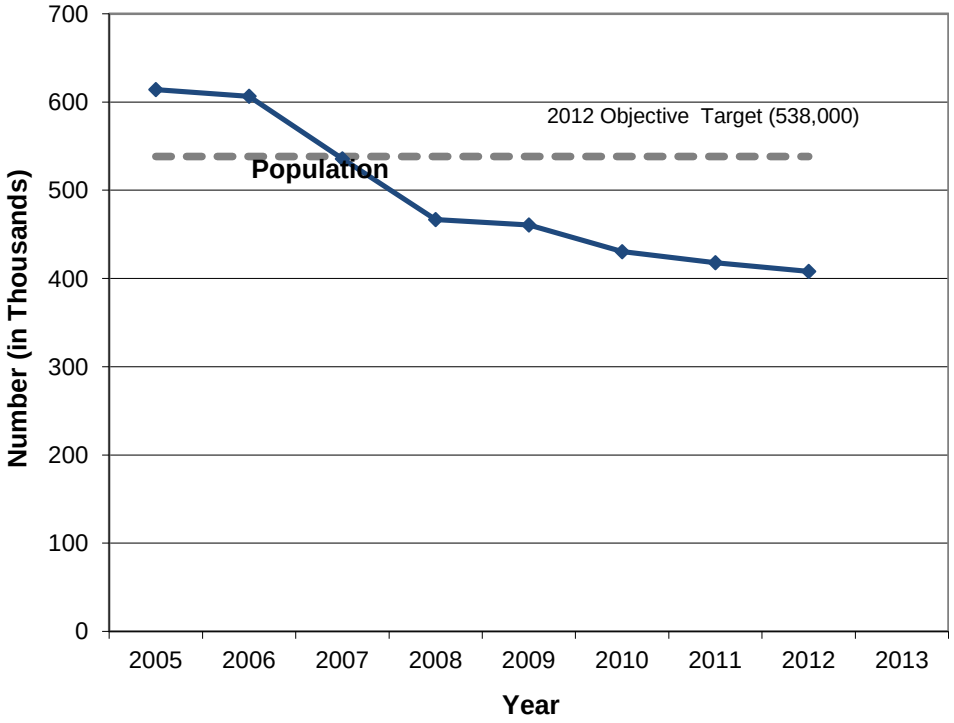


Figure 5. Estimated, statewide posthunt deer population versus 2012 total of DAU population objectives.

Population Estimates & Objectives

Declines in population estimates in many deer herds are related to modeling improvements that were made in 2007. The net effect of the modeling changes has been a decrease in deer population estimates. In these cases, modifying the herd management plan objectives will be considered to align current objectives with the new deer population estimates.
Another reason for some of the lower deer populations in 2007 was the severe winter of 2007-2008. High deer mortality occurred in parts of west slope during this winter and populations in a few of those DAUs have not fully recovered.

Strategies to Increase Deer Populations to Objective

- *Reduce or eliminate regular season doe licenses*
- *Modify hunt codes to remove list "B" and list "C" designations which allow more than one deer in the annual bag limit.*
- *Reduce PLO doe licenses to the extent practicable to still address game damage concerns.*
- *Habitat improvement projects.*
- *Reduce elk numbers to objective to reduce inter-specific competition on shared winter range.*

DAUS WITH URBAN DEER CONFLICTS

Strategy to Reduce Urban Deer Conflicts

Year-round, non-migratory, deer densities have increased in many communities. This is often independent of the population trend for the herd. CPW is attempting to minimize urban deer conflicts with early seasons that are set prior to the arrival of migratory deer. The first of such seasons started in 2011 around the communities of Craig and Buena Vista. These efforts were expanded to include the Salida area in 2012.

Table 2. 2012 Post-Hunt Deer DAU Population Estimates Versus Objectives and Targets.

DEER

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Draft 12/1/2013

DAUs > 10% Below Population Target
DAUs > 10% Above Population Target

DAU							POPULATION				
DAU	Name	GMUs	Region	Area	DAU Plan	Mgmt Type	Obj Min (Provisional)	Obj Max (Provisional)	Target	2012 Post Est. (2012 Model)	2012 Post % of Target
D4	Red Feather	7, 8, 9, 19, 191	NE	4	2007	4th	10000	12000	11000	8265	75%
D5	Table Lands North	87, 88, 89, 90, 95	NE	3,4	2007	P	2400	2700	2600	2410	93%
D10	Big Thompson	20	NE	2	2002	4th	5000	5000	5000	5037	101%
D17	Bailey	39, 46, 51, 391, 461	NE	1	2006	4th	7500	8300	7900	6363	81%
D27	Boulder	29, 38	NE	2	2012	4th	6000	7500	7000	7213	103%
D38	South Park	50, 500, 501	NE	1,13	None		2450	2450	2450	2480	101%
D44	South Platte River	91, 92, 94, 96, 951	NE	2,4	2009	P	3500	3800	3500	3701	106%
D49	Bijou Creek	104, 105, 106	NE	5,14	2009	P	5500	6500	6000	5866	98%
D54	South Tablelands	93, 97, 98, 99, 100	NE	3	2007	P	2900	3100	3000	2872	96%
D55	Arickaree	101, 102	NE	3	2006	P	1900	2100	2000	2049	102%
			NE Subtotal				47150	53450	50450	46256	92%
D1	Little Snake	1, 2	NW	6	None		13500	13500	13500	1097	8%
D2	Bear's Ears	3, 4, 5, 14, 214, 301, 441	NW	6,10	1992	4th	37800	37800	37800	29505	78%
D3	North Park	6, 16, 17, 161, 171	NW	10	2002	4th	5400	6400	5400	5062	94%
D6	Rangely	10	NW	6	None	4th	7000	7000	7000	582	8%
D7	White River	11, 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 131, 211, 231	NW	6,8	1992	4th	67500	67500	67500	42748	63%
D8	State Bridge	15, 35, 36, 45	NW	8,9	2009	4th	13500	16500	15000	15706	105%
D9	Middle Park	18, 27, 28, 37, 181, 371	NW	9	2009	4th	10500	12500	11500	16206	141%
D11	Bookcliffs	21, 30	NW	6,7	2005		10000	12000	11000	9,498	86%
D12	North Grand Mesa	41, 42, 421	NW	7	2010	4th	17000	23000	17000	15,902	94%
D13	Maroon Bells	43, 47, 471	NW	8	2011	4th	7500	8500	8000	5353	67%
D14	Red Table Mountain	44	NW	8	None	4th	7000	7000	7000	2194	31%
D18	Glade Park	40	NW	7	2010		6500	8500	7500	6631	88%
D41	Logan Mountain	31, 32	NW	7	2012		6500	8500	7500	8194	109%
D42	Rifle Creek	33	NW	7	2007	4th	7700	9400	8400	5850	70%
D43	Sweetwater Creek	25, 26, 34	NW	8	2011	4th	5000	6000	5500	5557	101%
D53	Basalt	444	NW	8	1995	4th	5300	5300	5300	3878	73%
			NW Subtotal				227700	249400	234900	173963	74%
D15	Cottonwood Creek	48, 56, 481, 561	SE	13	2011		6300	7700	7000	4310	62%
D16	Cripple Creek	49, 57, 58, 581	SE	13	2007		16000	20000	16000	10135	63%
D28	Arkansas River	122, 125, 126, 127, 130, 132, 137, 138, 139, 146	SE	12	1999	P	3600	3600	3600	7521	209%
D32	Trinidad	85, 140, 851	SE	11	2008		9800	10800	9800	4588	47%
D33	Mesa de Maya	143, 144, 145	SE	12	1999	P	2350	2350	2350	1792	76%
D34	Wet Mountain	69, 84, 86, 691, 861	SE	11	2005		16500	17500	17000	9373	55%
D45	Las Animas	128, 129, 133, 134, 135, 136, 141, 142, 147	SE	11,12	None	P	3400	3400	3400	7440	219%
D46	Big Sandy	107, 112, 113, 114, 115, 120, 121	SE	14	1999	P	2500	2500	2500	4769	191%
D47	South Republican	103, 109, 116, 117	SE	14	1999	P	2000	2000	2000	6171	309%
D48	Chico Basin	110, 111, 118, 119, 123, 124	SE	11,14	1999	P	1800	1800	1800	1671	93%
D50	Rampart	59, 511, 512, 591	SE	14	2008	4th	4000	5000	4500	2663	59%
			SE Subtotal				68250	76650	69950	60433	86%
D19	Uncompahgre	61, 62	SW	18	2006	4th	36000	38000	36000	15634	43%
D20	Crawford	53	SW	16	2008	4th	5500	6500	5500	4773	87%
D21	West Elk	54	SW	16	2013		5000	5500	5000	4636	93%
D22	Taylor River	55, 551	SW	16	2013		5000	5500	5000	4820	96%
D23	La Sal	60	SW	18	2008	4th	2500	3000	2500	1633	65%
D24	Groundhog	70, 71, 711	SW	15,18	1998	4th	34000	34000	34000	21110	62%
D25	Powderhorn Creek	66, 67	SW	16	2013		5400	5900	5400	5811	108%
D26	Saquache	68, 681, 682	SW	17	2008	4th	4000	5000	4000	3743	94%
D29	Mesa Verde	72, 73	SW	15	1998	4th	11000	11000	11000	6544	59%
D30	San Juan	75, 77, 78, 751, 771	SW	15	2001	4th	27000	27000	27000	21304	79%
D31	Trinchera	83	SW	17	2010	4th	2000	2500	2000	1564	78%
D35	Lower Rio Grande	80, 81	SW	17	2007	4th	6000	7000	6000	5284	88%
D36	Upper Rio Grande	76, 79, 791	SW	17	2010	4th	2000	2500	2000	1428	71%
D37	Sand Dunes	82	SW	17	2010	4th	1500	2000	1700	1694	100%
D39	Fruitland Mesa	63	SW	16	2008	4th	7000	8000	7000	5692	81%
D40	Cimarron	64, 65	SW	18	2007	4th	13500	15000	13500	7499	56%
D51	South Grand Mesa	52, 411, 521	SW	16	2008	4th	10500	11500	10500	9248	88%
D52	Hermosa	74, 741	SW	15	2010	4th	4000	6000	5000	4961	99%
			SW Subtotal				181900	195900	183100	127378	70%
STATEWIDE TOTAL							525000	575400	538400	408030	76%

P = Plains Unit
4th = 4th deer season in 2009

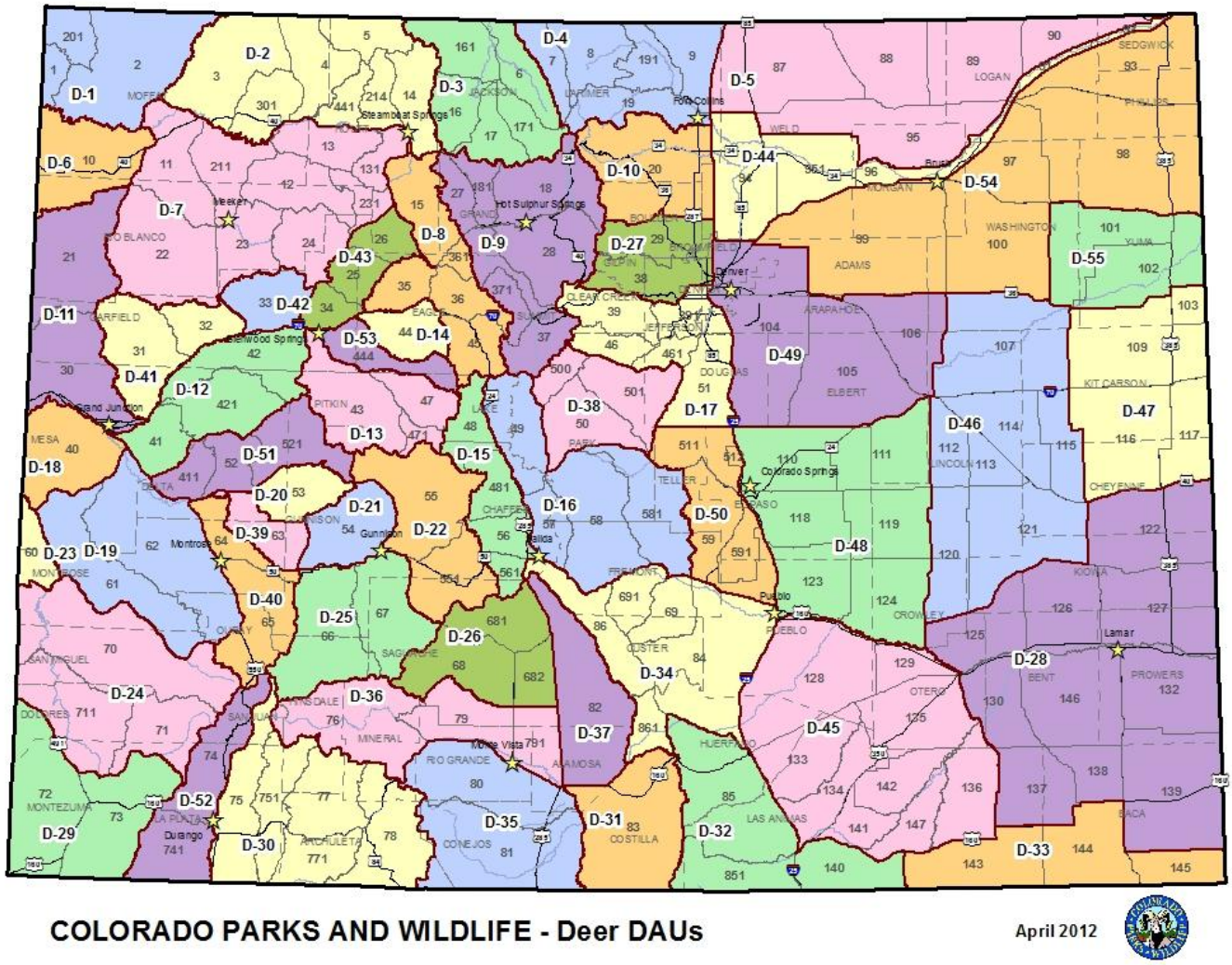


Figure 6. Deer Data Analysis Units and their associated Game Management Units.

PRONGHORN HERDS (DAUS) OVER OBJECTIVE

Ten out of 29 pronghorn herds (35%) exceeded their population objective by more than 10% in 2012 (Table 3).

Effects of Access on Harvest

Most pronghorn in Colorado occur on private land. Although harvest is often dependent on landowners providing hunting access, this usually has not been a major issue in most DAUs. Some landowners have requested relatively short pronghorn seasons, particularly late seasons, to minimize the amount of time hunters are on or requesting permission to hunt on their property. An increasing number of landowners are charging hunters for access to hunt pronghorn. If pronghorn hunting continues to become more of a commercial asset for landowners, similar to deer and elk

hunting, it may become increasingly difficult to achieve harvest objectives because buck hunters are willing to pay higher fees than doe hunters.

Population Estimates & Objectives

In 2008, CPW implemented an improved method for estimating pronghorn numbers on the eastern plains. This method, known as distance sampling provides a sample-based population estimate that can be incorporated into population models. The net effect of this change has been an increase in estimated pronghorn numbers particularly in the southeastern part of the state. As a result of the higher numbers, CPW undertook measures to aggressively increase pronghorn harvest in 2009-2013 by issuing more doe licenses, making doe licenses List B, creating late doe seasons, and allowing youth hunters with unfilled licenses to continue hunting during late seasons. As license numbers have increased, hunters and landowners have become less satisfied with the hunting experience. Additionally, an increasing number of licenses never sell. In 2012, 14% (3,326) of the 23,891 limited pronghorn licenses available statewide did not sell.

Strategies to Reduce Pronghorn Populations to Objective

- *Increased doe licenses during regular seasons.*
- *Classify regular doe licenses as List B so hunters can obtain two.*
- *Youth hunters with unfilled doe or either-sex pronghorn licenses can hunt does during some late pronghorn seasons.*
- *Create late doe seasons. Late doe seasons were added in pronghorn DAUs A-5, A-6, A-7, and A-8 in 2010. In 2011, we lengthened those seasons and adding a late season in A-12 and A-18. In 2012, we instituted a late season in A-13.*
- *Combine several GMUs into a single hunt code*
- *Separate buck and doe seasons to allow for more doe licenses without impacting hunt quality for buck hunt, this was initiated in DAU A-10 in 2011.*
- *Big Game Access Pilot Program.* This program offers deer and pronghorn hunting on enrolled private properties in southeast Colorado similar to the Small Game Walk-In Access Program.
- *Landowner incentive programs.*

PRONGHORN HERDS (DAUS) BELOW OBJECTIVE

Ten out of 29 pronghorn herds (35%) were more than 10% below their population objective in 2012 (Table 3). Five of these herds are on the western slope and have been impacted by several years of drought and a couple difficult winters. A-23 declined below objective because of high mortality during the winter of 2007-2008. A-3 experienced significant winter mortality in the winter of 2010-2011. A-21 and A-27 have small pronghorn populations that have shown long, steady declines that cannot be reversed by harvest management alone. In 2012, A-27 was closed to hunting until the population of pronghorn increases to the point that it can be sustainably hunted. The provisional population objective for A-11 is now considered unrealistically high and will be adjusted lower until the population demonstrates a significant increase.

Strategies to Increase Pronghorn Populations to Objective

- *Reduce or eliminate regular doe licenses.*
- *Reduce PLO doe licenses to the extent practicable to still address game damage concerns.*
- *Close units to hunting.*

- *Translocation.* Capture pronghorn in areas over objective and relocate them in areas such as the Gunnison Basin where populations have been greatly reduced by unusually high winter mortality. Three transplants into the Gunnison basin were completed in 2010, 2011, and 2012. A transplant of pronghorn to augment the A-27 population occurred in 2012.

Table 3. 2012 Post-Hunt Pronghorn DAU Population Estimates Versus Objectives and Targets.

PRONGHORN

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Draft 12/1/2013

DAUs > 10% Below Population Target

DAUs > 10% Above Population Target

DAU						POPULATION				
DAU	Name	GMUs	Region	Area	DAU Plan	Obj Min (Provisional)	Obj Max (Provisional)	Target	2012 Post Est.(2012 Model)	2012 Post % of Target
PH1	Escarpment	87,88,89,90,94,95,951	NE	4	2011	6500	7500	7000	7577	108%
PH2	Hardpan	99,100	NE	2,3,5	2007	1400	1600	1500	1365	91%
PH4	Sandhills	93,97,98,101,102	NE	3	2006	550	650	600	499	83%
PH30	South Park	49,50,57,58,501,511,581	NE	1,13	2012	1000	1250	1000	983	98%
PH33	Cherokee	9,19,191	NE	4	2009	1000	1200	1100	1226	111%
PH35	Kiowa Creek	51,104,105	NE	5	2012	4000	5000	4500	5087	113%
PH36	Laramie River	7,8	NE	4	2009	550	650	600	618	103%
			NE Subtotal			15000	17850	16300	17355	106%
PH3	North Park	6,16,17,161,171	NW	10	2004	1500	1600	1500	1162	77%
PH9	Great Divide	3,4,5,13,14,214,301,441	NW	6,10	1995	15800	15800	15800	10658	67%
PH10	Maybell	11	NW	6	None	1400	1400	1400	1499	107%
PH11	Sand Wash	1,2,201	NW	6	None	3200	3200	3200	1531	48%
PH21	Dinosaur	10,21	NW	6	None	300	300	300	125	42%
PH34	Axial Basin	12,23,211	NW	6	None	300	300	300	759	253%
PH37	Middle Park	18,27,28,37,181,371	NW	9	1999	630	630	630	686	109%
			NW Subtotal			23130	23230	23130	16420	71%
PH5	Haswell	120,121,125,126	SE	12	2006	2400	3000	2700	2263	84%
PH6	Hugo	112,113,114,115	SE	14	2012	2250	2750	2500	2720	109%
PH7	Thatcher	128,129,133,134,135,140,141,142,147	SE	11	2012	7800	8800	8000	7517	94%
PH8	Yoder	110,111,118,119,123,124	SE	11,14	2012	5400	6600	6000	6932	116%
PH12	Cheyenne	116,117,122,127	SE	12,14	2006	1100	1350	1200	1735	145%
PH13	Tobe	130,136,137,138,143,144,146	SE	12	2006	1400	1700	1550	3043	196%
PH18	Two Buttes	132,139,145	SE	12	2006	300	500	400	1084	271%
PH19	Last Chance	103,106,107,109	SE	5,14	1999	2000	2000	2000	1768	88%
PH20	Wet Mountain	69,84,85,86,691,851,861	SE	11	None	2000	2000	2000	2429	121%
PH31	Ft Carson	59,591	SE	14	2000	200	200	200	244	122%
PH39	Collegiate	48,56,481	SE	13	None	150	150	150	213	142%
			SE Subtotal			25000	29050	26700	29948	112%
PH14	San Luis Valley - N	68,79,82,681,682,791	SW	17	2008	2000	2500	2000	1674	84%
PH16	San Luis Valley - S	80,81,83	SW	17	2008	1000	1500	1000	751	75%
PH23	Gunnison Basin	66,67,551	SW	16	2001	450	450	450	450	100%
PH27	Delta	41,52,62,63,411	SW	7,18	None	350	350	350	100	29%
			SW Subtotal			3800	4800	3800	2975	78%
PH99	Misc GMUs									
STATEWIDE TOTAL						66930	74930	69930	66698	95%

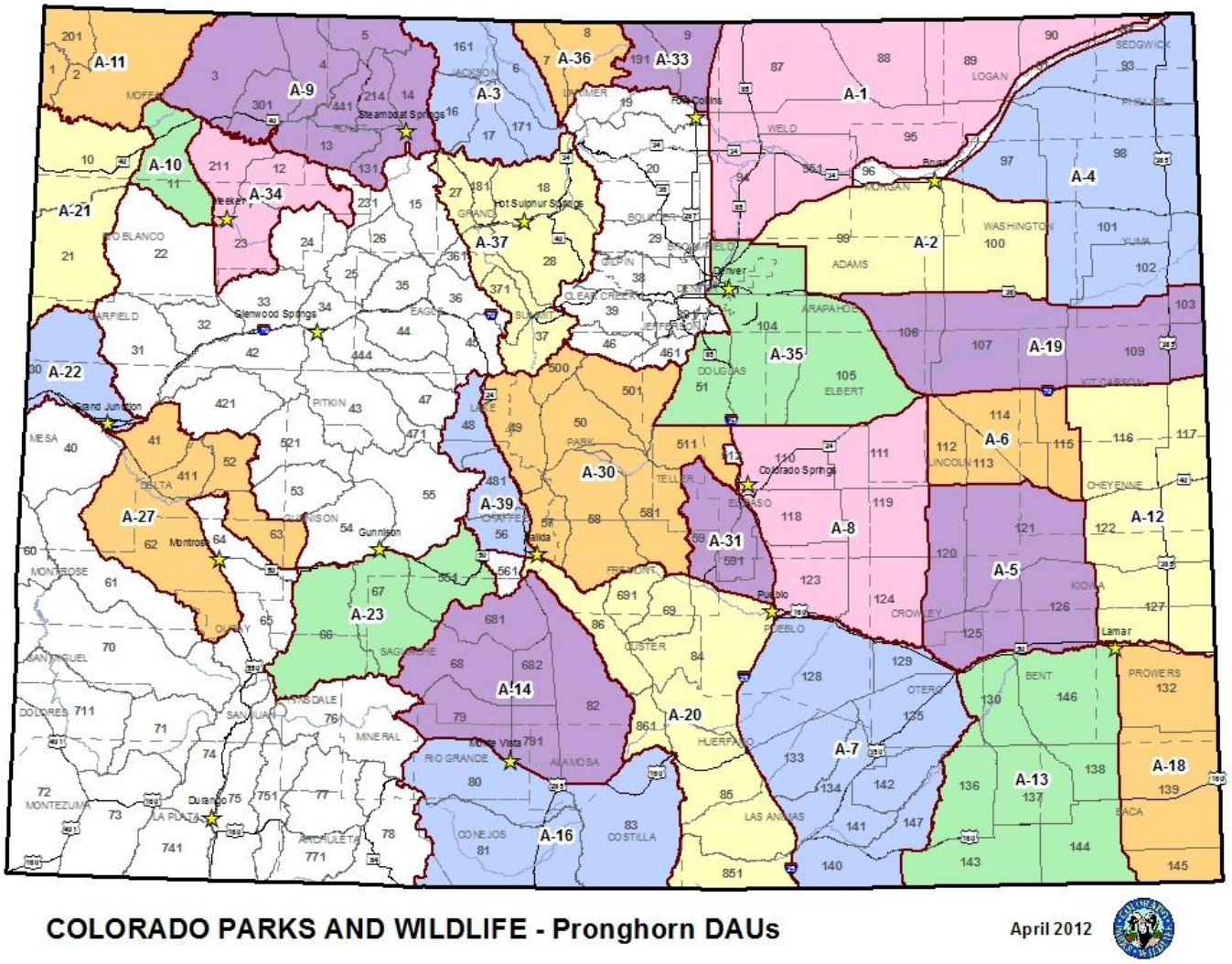


Figure 7. Pronghorn Data Analysis Units and their associated Game Management Units.

GAME DAMAGE PROGRAM REPORT
Overview
(July 2012-June 2013)

Game Damage Program:

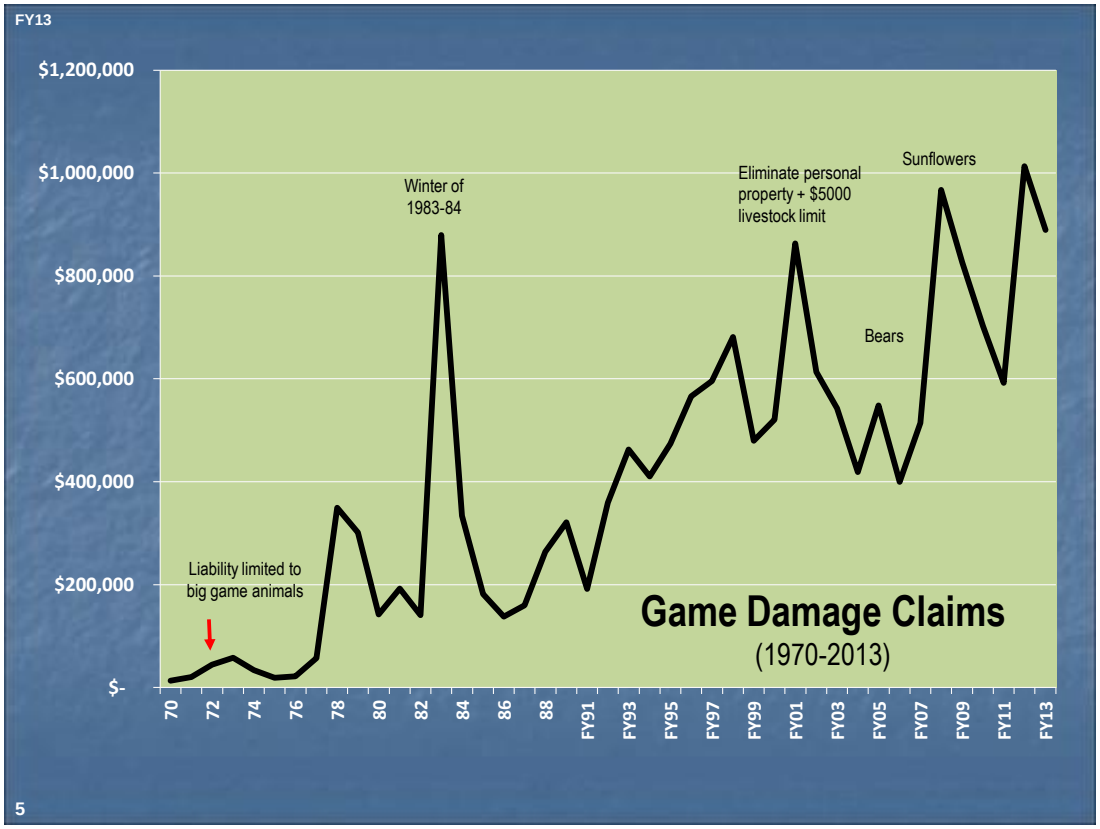
Annual Allocation for Claims & Prevention $1,282,000
FY '13 Expenditures for Claims & Prevention $1,179,362

Big game wildlife and big game hunting are integral to Colorado's economy. The State of Colorado compensates ranchers, farmers and landowners for damage by big game animals. The Game Damage Program is funded by the appropriation of sportsmen's dollars from the Game Cash Fund. Of the 10 states that address this issue, Colorado has the most liberal game damage laws in the nation. Most states have no legal responsibility to compensate for damage by wildlife. The $1,282,000 is a single line item appropriation and is divided into Claims & Prevention solely for Game Damage accounting convenience. Money can shift to either claim payments or preventive material purchases.

Since the inception of the Game Damage Program in 1931, the original broad legal language has evolved to specify what is covered by game damage laws. Twenty years ago the Program expanded to include damage prevention. The Game Damage Prevention Program has significantly lessened the amount of damage and the amount paid out in game damage claims.

Game Damage Claims $889,595 in FY13

Qualified ranchers, farmers and landowners may file a claim for compensation for their losses from big game animals. The claimants must meet certain legal qualifications. For example: a claimant cannot unreasonably restrict hunting, cannot charge more than $500/person in access fees, and the claimant has a duty to mitigate damage. The regulations describe the legal conditions in detail, and are available from Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) offices. Averaged over the previous 5 years, CPW has paid out $826,326 on 320 claims yearly. This year CPW paid out $889,595 to pay 301 claims.



The State is not liable for damage from non-big game wildlife species, such as geese, coyotes, bobcats. The State does reimburse for damages caused by elk, deer, bear, mountain lion, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep. Generally, damages to livestock, commercial orchards, nurseries, growing and harvested crops, forage, fences and apiaries are covered. Livestock losses are capped at $5000/animal. The state is liable for claims to personal property that is used in the production of raw agricultural products which includes apiaries. As of 2003, the State is no longer liable for hot tubs, tents, coolers or personal property not used in the production of raw agricultural products.

Filing a claim entails a series of steps and required paperwork and deadlines. It is imperative that the claimant contact the local CPW office immediately upon discovery of damage. Throughout the process, the claimant is responsible for timely notifications, completion of forms, efforts to mitigate the damage and assisting CPW personnel in investigating the claim. The claimant must be able to prove that the damage was caused by big game. Some claims will not meet the necessary criteria.

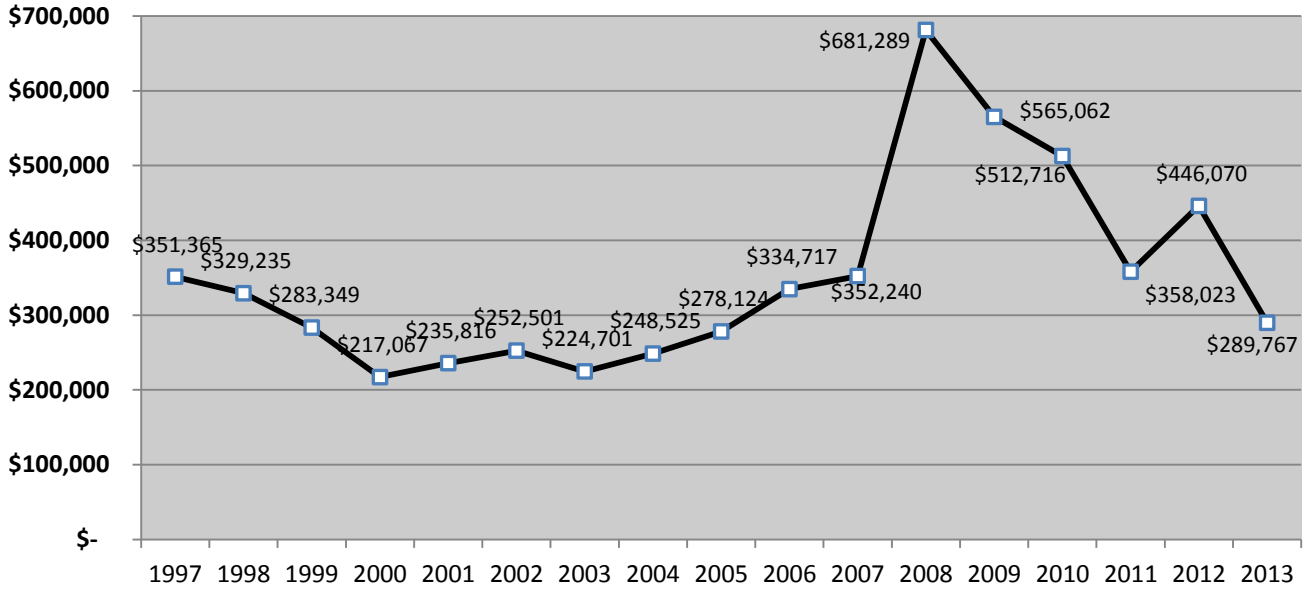
Typically, over the past 5 years, <3% of claims are denied and most of these were because the claimant could not prove that big game caused the damage. Claims over $20,000 and all denied claims are reviewed by the CPW Commission. This provides an opportunity for the claimant to offer additional support for the claim.

Game Damage Prevention Materials - $289,767 in FY'13

This aspect of the program receives an annual appropriation, approved by the Joint Budget Committee from the Game Cash Fund. The annual appropriation is used to purchase bulk fencing

materials and pyrotechnics through competitive bidding. The Game Damage Program anticipates the fencing needs and warehouses fencing materials centrally in Delta CO. CPW distributes materials to qualified landowners for the protection of their crops and livestock. In FY 13, CPW traveled ~26,820 miles throughout Colorado to deliver materials. Extensive fencing of commercial orchards, nurseries and stackyards throughout Colorado has significantly reduced the number of claims filed and hence, the amount of money paid out in game damage claims.

Multiyear Overview - Game Damage Preventive Materials Deliveries



Game Damage Program Operating/Administrative Costs - $660,208 in FY'13

Each area office has associated costs with game damage, usually involved with claim investigations. This is reflected in the proportional amount of time spent in each area for investigations and landowner contacts under Salaries/Benefits. The "Purchased Services" is the Wildlife Services contact for predator removal. "Personal Services" represents claim adjustor and livestock investigator fees. See Appendix-page 11 for breakdown of data. The Game Damage Unit is administered out of the Southwest Regional Office (*please refer to map on the last page of this report).*

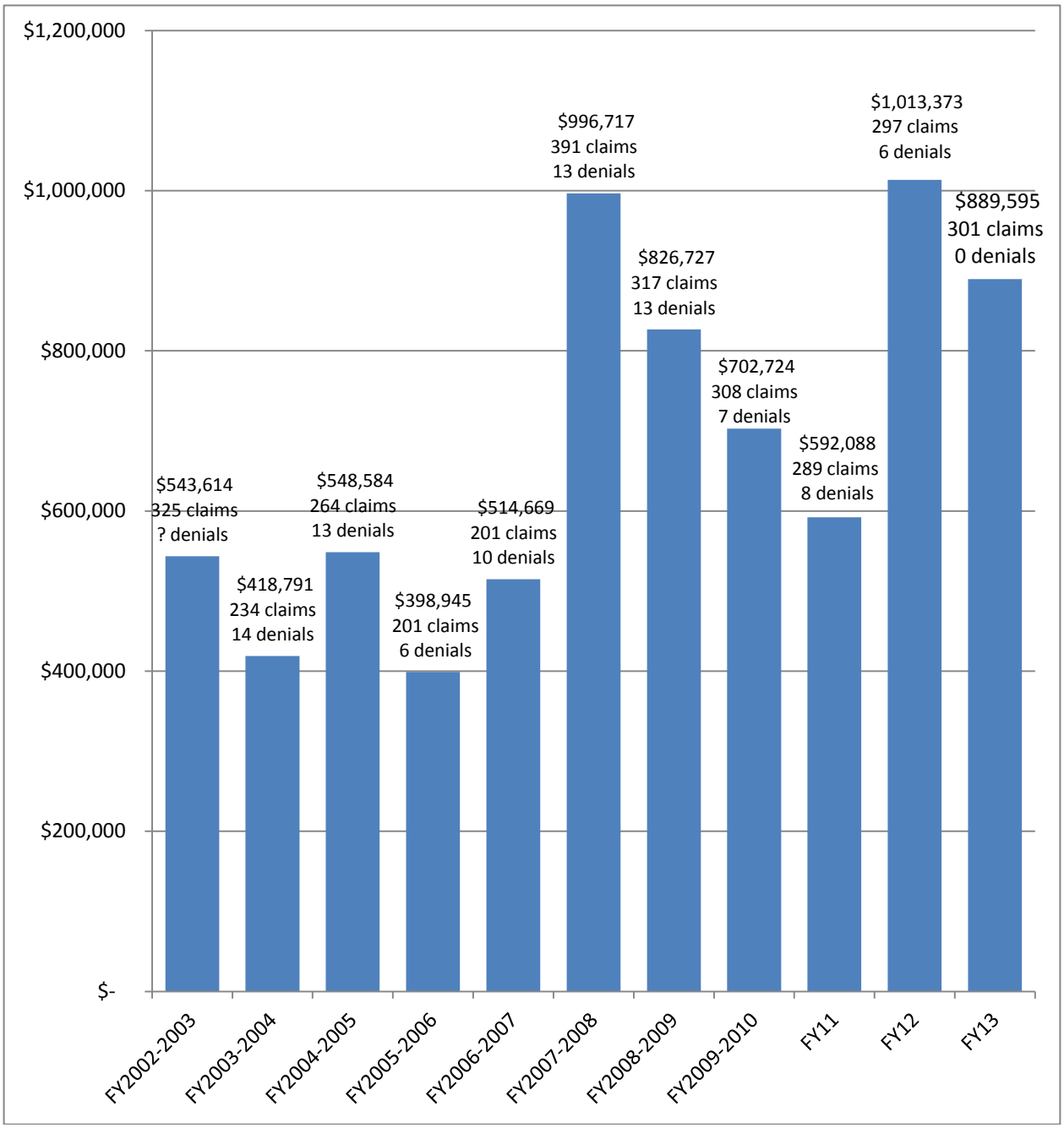
FY 13 Game Damage Claims REPORT

In FY'13, CPW paid-out $889,595 to settle 301 claims. No claims were denied *(1 staff-denied claim was approved for payment by Parks & Wildlife Commission)*;

Adjustments:

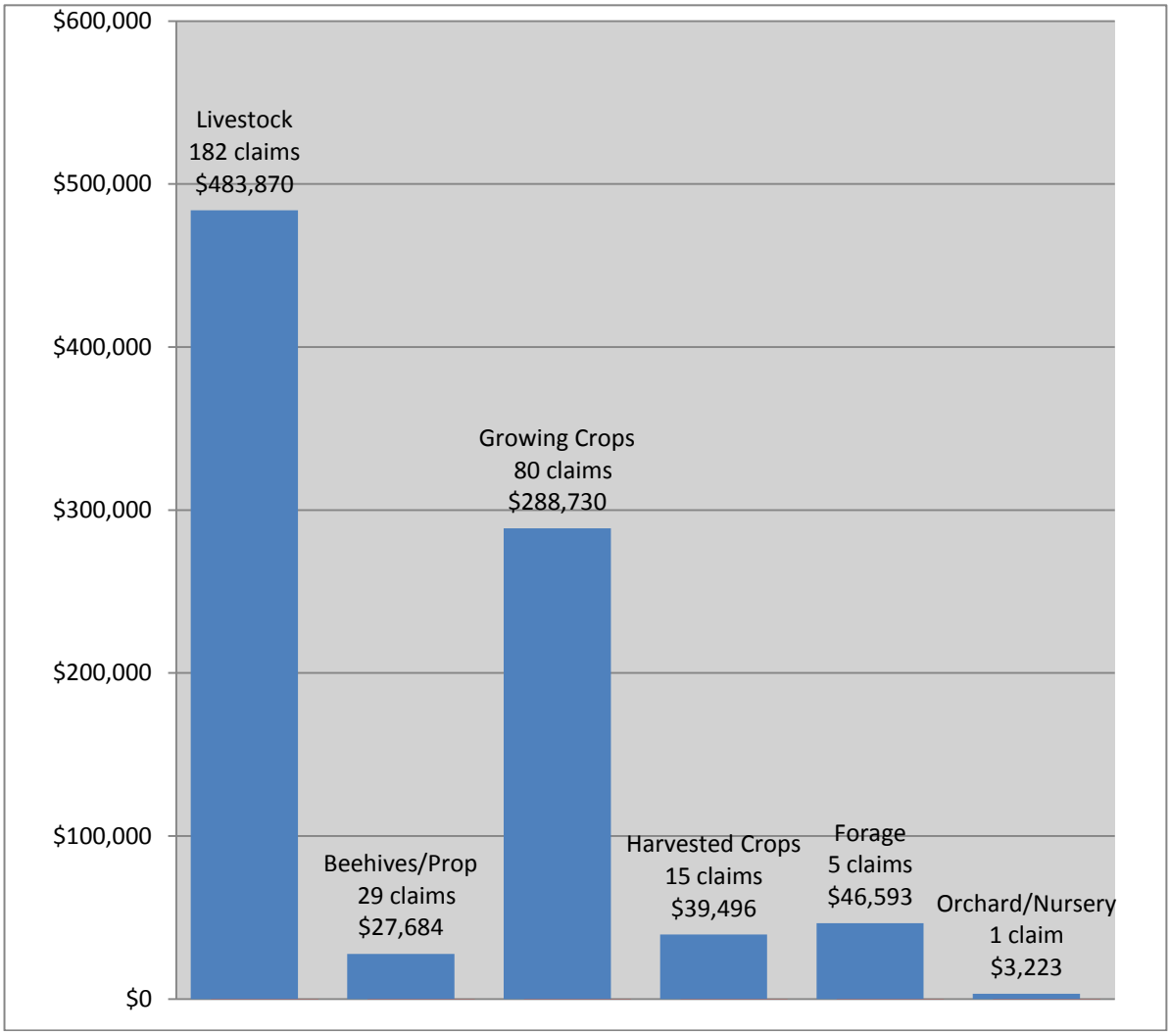
(2) FY12 claims totaling $77,483 were paid with FY13 funds. These claims are not included in the FY13 report.
(1) FY13 claim totaling $31,000 was approved in FY14 and paid with FY14 funds. This claim is included in this report.
(1) claim was settled with hay in lieu of payment. The value of this commodity ($12,320) is included in our calculations.
These adjustments were made to reflect the actual on-the-ground damage for FY13.
Actual # of claims processed for payment is 291. 10 claims were split to reflect biological data graphically. These claims represented sheep losses attributed jointly to Bear/Mtn Lion.

OVERVIEW of Game Damage Claim Payments from 2002-2013



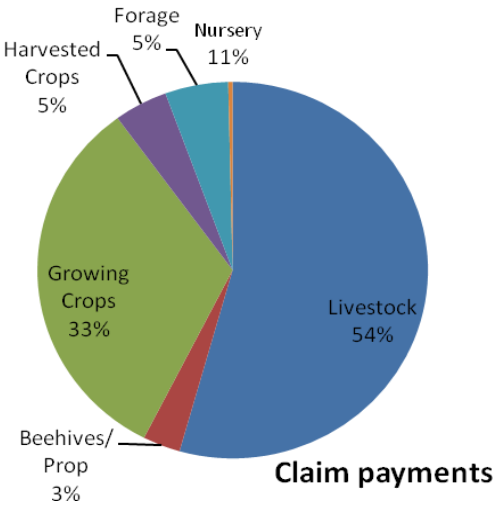
Dollar amounts do not include operating/administrative costs

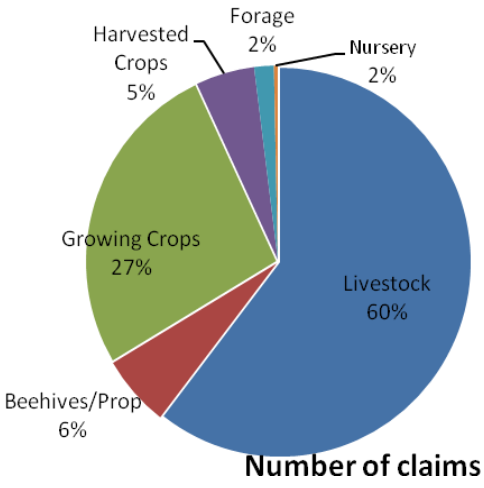
FY 13 Game Damage Claims - **Summary by Damage Target**



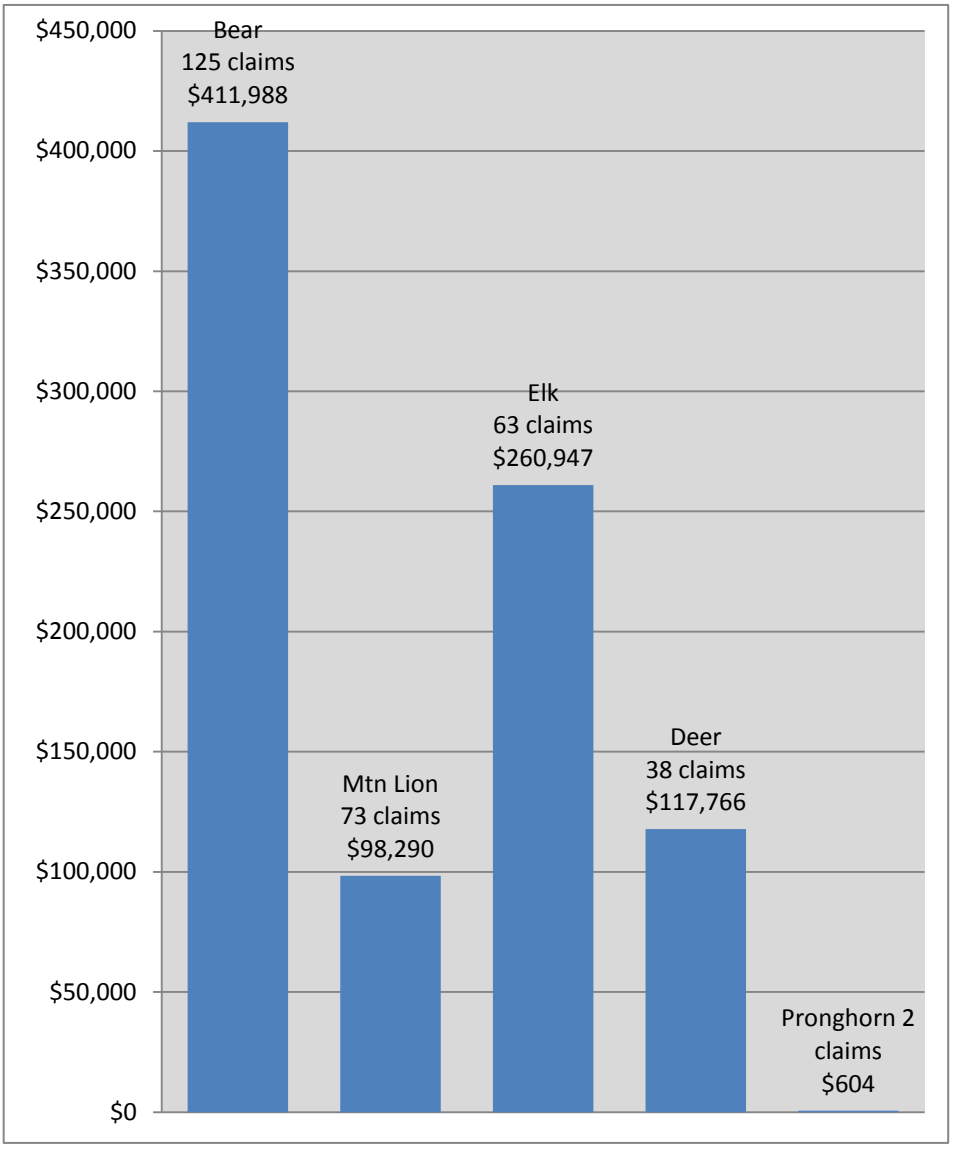
Dollar amounts do not include operating/administrative costs

Same data in pie chart views:



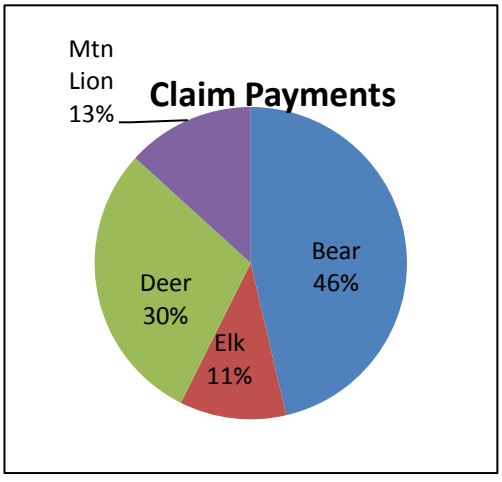


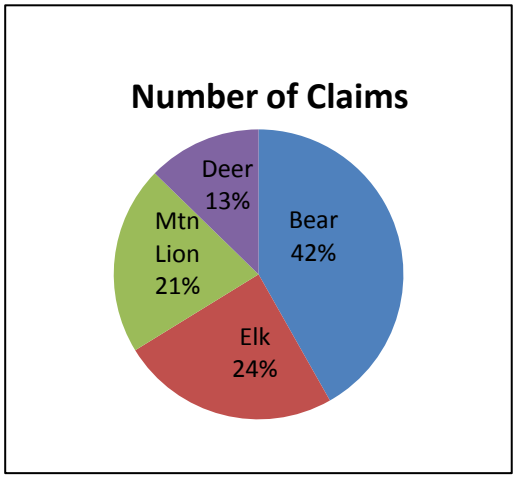
FY13 Game Damage Claims - **Summary by Species**



Dollar amounts do not include operating/administrative costs

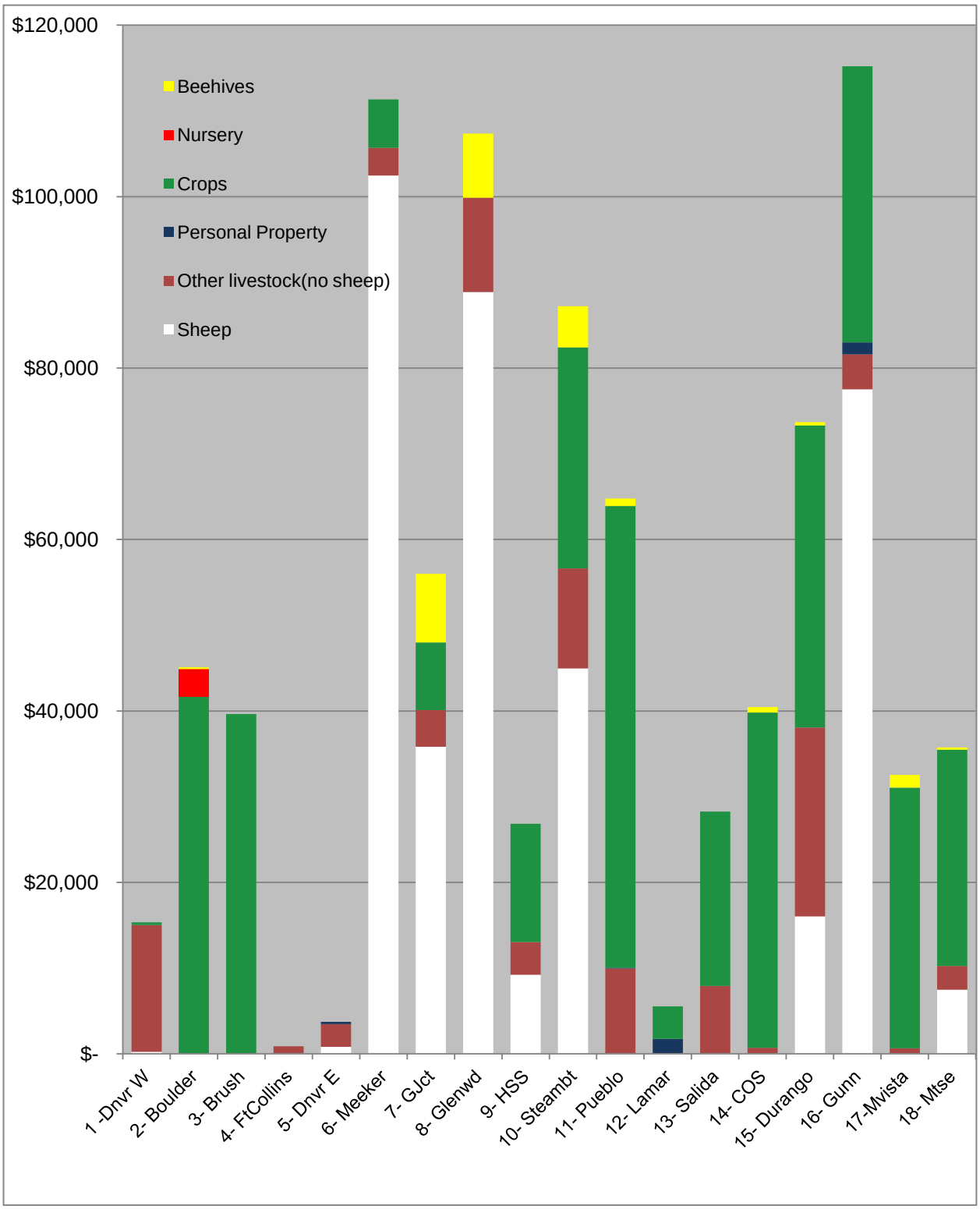
Same data in pie chart views:





FY13 Game Damage Claims - **Summary by Area Office**

Each Area Office is further analyzed under 'Payments by Area' section



FY'13 Game Damage Claims – **Payments by Area**

Area Office	Damage Target	# of Claims	Amount Paid	TOTAL
1	growing crops	1	$ 325.69	**$ 15,330.64**
	livestock/beehives/personal property	8	$ 15,004.95	
2	growing crops	4	$ 41,650.02	**$ 45,107.52**
	livestock/beehives/personal property	1	$ 235.00	
	nursery	1	$ 3,222.50	
3	growing crops	10	$ 39,624.84	**$ 39,624.84**
4	livestock/beehives/personal property	2	$ 880.00	**$ 880.00**
5	livestock/beehives/personal property	6	$ 3,737.57	**$ 3,737.57**
6	growing crops	2	$ 5,484.33	**$ 111,346.68**
	harvested crops	1	$ 160.00	
	livestock/beehives/personal property	25	$ 105,702.35	
7	growing crops	3	$ 7,388.34	**$ 56,001.51**
	harvested crops	1	$ 500.00	
	livestock/beehives/personal property	17	$ 48,113.17	

8	livestock/beehives/personal property	23	$ 107,347.44	**$**	**107,347.44**
9	growing crops	1	$ 13,798.40	**$**	**26,823.37**
	livestock/beehives/personal property	4	$ 13,024.97		
10	growing crops	10	$ 14,937.80	**$**	**87,226.02**
	harvested crops	4	$ 10,861.63		
	livestock/beehives/personal property	17	$ 61,426.59		
11	growing crops	9	$ 34,388.31	**$**	**64,785.69**
	harvested crops	4	$ 19,462.60		
	livestock/beehives/personal property	10	$ 10,934.78		
12	growing crops	2	$ 3,768.12	**$**	**5,518.12**
	livestock/beehives/personal property	1	$ 1,750.00		
13	growing crops/forage	7	$ 18,787.84	**$**	**28,248.14**
	harvested crops	2	$ 1,535.30		
	livestock/beehives/personal property	8	$ 7,925.00		
14	growing crop/forage	5	$ 37,205.00	**$**	**40,460.90**
	harvested crops	1	$ 1,890.00		
	livestock/beehives/personal property	3	$ 1,365.90		
15	growing crops	12	$ 34,828.60	**$**	**73,677.64**
	harvested crops	1	$ 406.85		
	livestock/beehives/personal property	40	$ 38,442.19		

16	growing crops	2	$ 32,210.13	**$ 115,216.13**
	livestock/beehives/personal property	18	$ 83,006.00	
17	growing crops/forage	8	$ 25,707.84	**$ 32,537.34**
	harvested crops	1	$ 4,680.00	
	livestock/beehives/personal property	3	$ 2,149.50	
18	growing crops	9	$ 25,217.17	**$ 35,725.52**
	livestock/beehives/personal property	14	$ 10,508.35	
TOTAL PAID IN CLAIMS		**301**		**$ 889,595.07**

FY 13 Game Damage Claims – **Denied Claims – *Approved for Payment by Commission***

Area	Damage Type	BASIS FOR DENIAL
15	Calves by Bear $1,371.00	• NOTE: area office offered partial payment of $511 for 1 calf ○ Calf #1 – Claimant asserted calf had claw marks on muzzle consistent with bear attaching calf. DWM did not examine it as he could not find carcass. Recommend payment. ○ Calf #2 – DWM performed gross necropsy of carcass and could find no evidence of bear kill. No sign of struggle or attack in area. However, it was apparent bear had fed on carcass. **RESOLUTION: Commission recommended payment of both calves. Total payment $1371.00**

FY'13 Game Damage Preventive Materials ANNUAL REPORT

The Game Damage Program filled 137 requests for Preventive Materials throughout the state.

16 miles of fencing were delivered. Deliveries required traveling over 26,820 miles.

Area offices received stockpiles of pyrotechnics & wood elk panels to provide landowners with immediate relief from big game damage.

Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) requested materials for cooperative habitat projects with landowners who did not meet the qualifications for game damage permanent materials. Game Damage Program delivered $30,776 worth of materials for 7 projects.

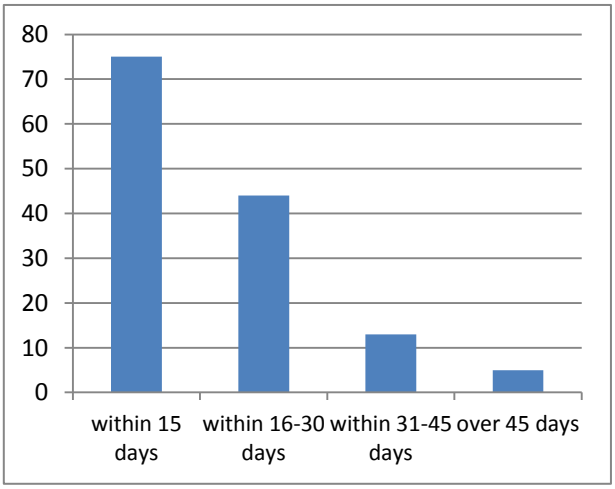
Facility Type	Number	FY13
Apiary	*81*	**$62,839**
Commercial Garden	*7*	**$30,796**
Nursery	*2*	**$7,842**
Orchard	*12*	**$38,219**
Vineyard	*3*	**$10,837**
Stackyard	*32*	**$48,196**
		-
TEMPORARY MATERIALS for distribution by area offices	Pyro-Technics stockpiles	**$53,887**
	Wood Elk Panel stockpiles	**$37,150**
	137	**$289,767**

DELIVERY TIME SPANS

Effective July 1, 2009: Senate Bill 09-024 required delivery within 45 days of notification.

Requests for apiary fencing were facilitated by availability of materials in stockpiles located near area offices statewide (15-day deadline).

Five (5) deliveries fell outside the mandated deadline. All delivery deadlines were waivered by the landowner for either weather or convenience issues. None of the late deliveries required CPW to erect fencing.



FY'13 - Distribution of Materials to Area Offices

Dollar amounts do not include operating/administrative costs
Refer to map

APPENDIX

FY 13 Operating /Administrative Costs by Area/Region.

CPW Organizations	Personal Services Salary & Benefits (Perm/Temp)	Personal Services Contracts	Personal Services Intergovernmental	Operating	Total
Area 1	$5,245.03			$822.62	*$6,067.65*
Area 2	$2,585.62			$500.00	*$3,085.62*
Area 3	$11,973.61			$1,288.25	*$13,261.86*
Area 4	$1,406.41			$655.88	*$2,062.29*
Area 5	$7,204.90			$186.00	*$7,390.90*
NE Region Admin.	$518.71				*$518.71*
NE Region Total	**$28,934.28**			**$3,452.75**	***$32,387.03***
Area 6	$25,673.28				*$25,673.28*
Area 7	$21,326.37				*$21,326.37*
Area 8	$7,739.33				*$7,739.33*
Area 9	$6,729.90			$547.52	*$7,277.42*
Area 10	$24,346.09				*$24,346.09*
NW Region Admin. NW VIEW			$55,000.00		*$55,000.00*
NW Region Total	**$85,814.97**		**$55,000.00**	**$547.52**	***$141,362.49***
Area 11	$12,862.01			$1,106.01	*$13,968.02*
Area 12	$6,063.34				*$6,063.34*
Area 13	$8,607.38				*$8,607.38*
Area 14	$15,757.81			$1,800.00	*$17,557.81*
SE Region Admin.			$9,994.50		*$9,994.50*
SE Region Total	**$43,290.54**		**$9,994.50**	**$2,906.01**	***$56,191.05***
Area 15	$31,951.67			$453.42	*$32,405.09*
Area 16	$19,064.16				*$19,064.16*
Area 17	$18,621.13				*$18,621.13*
Area 18	$18,594.64				*$18,594.64*
SW Region Admin.			$45,000.00		*$45,000.00*

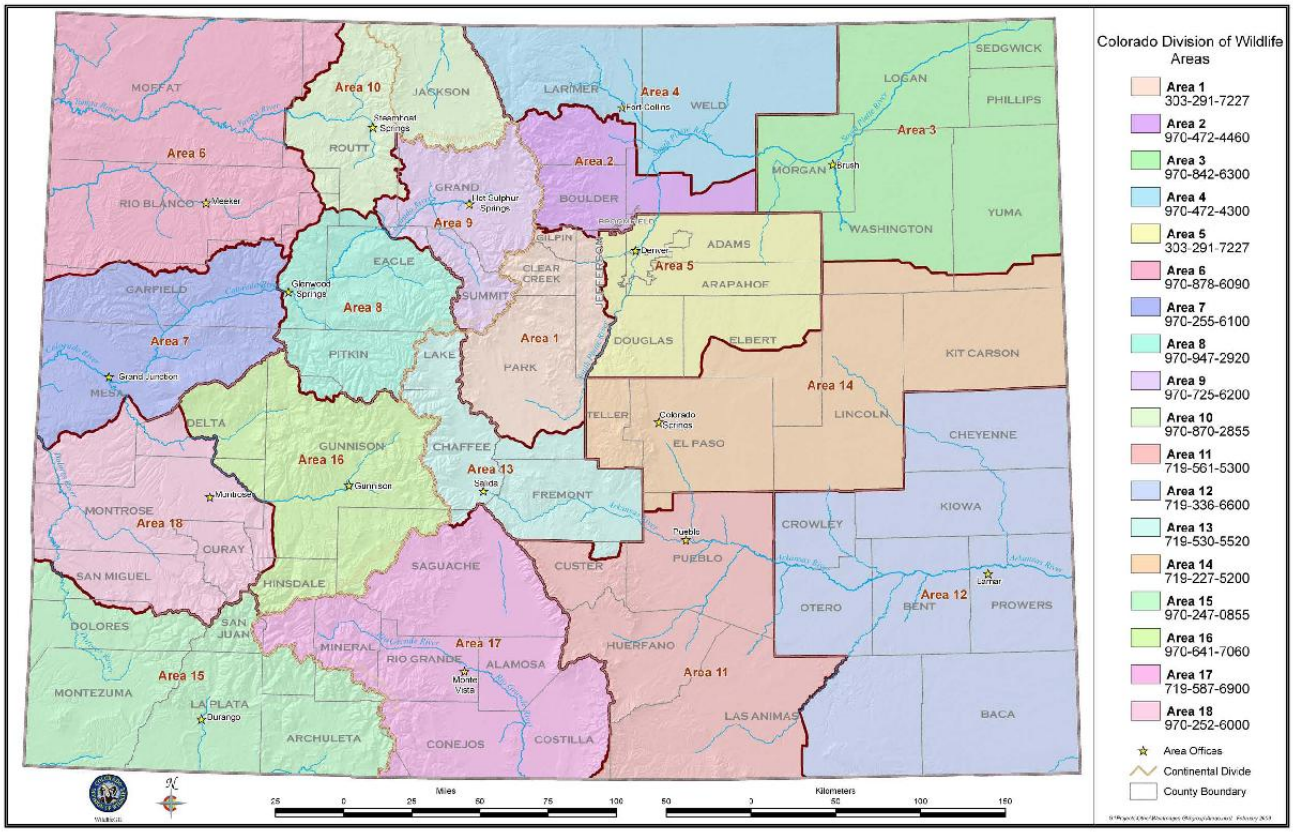
SW VIEW	$194,139.51			$27,576.90	*$221,716.41*
SW Region Total	**$282,371.11**		**$45,000.00**	**$28,030.32**	***$355,401.43***

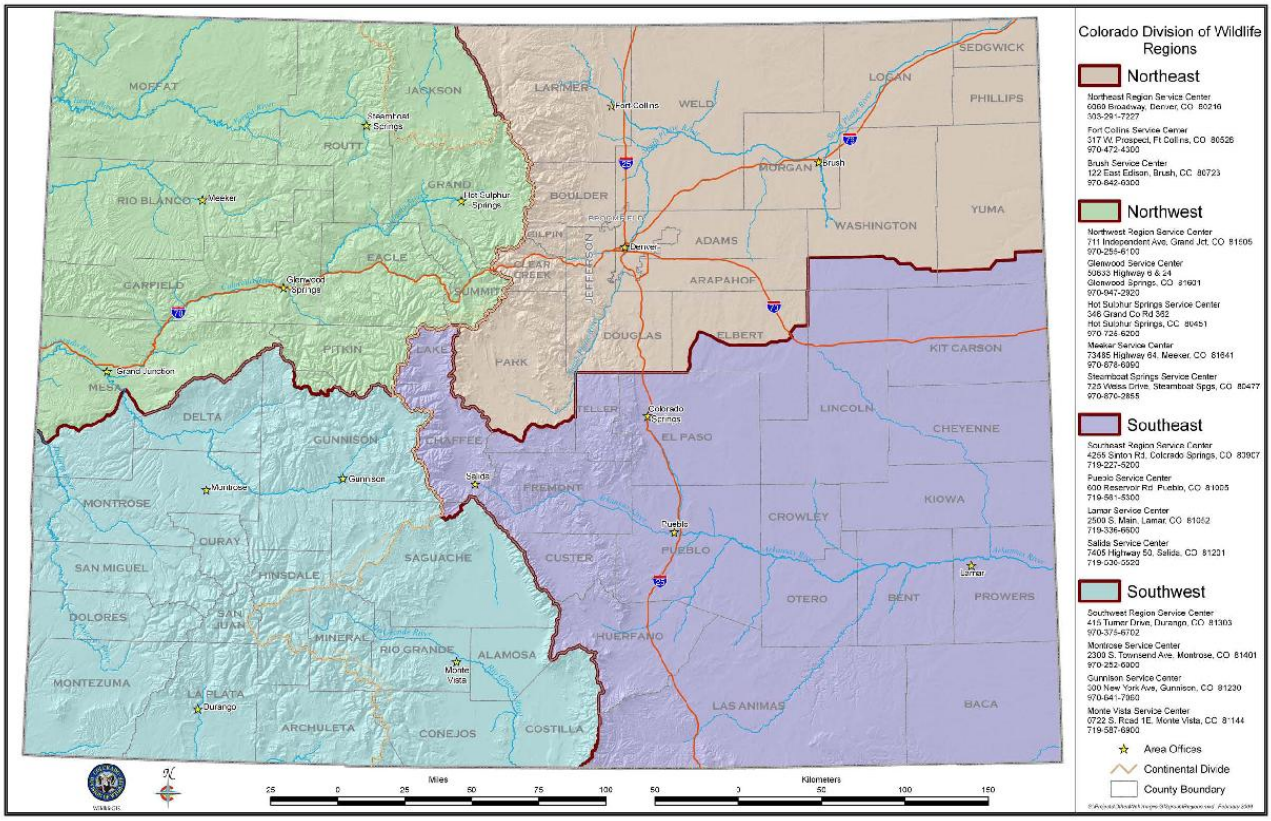
Game Damage Unit					

Grand Total	**$440,410.90**		**$109,994.50**	**$34,936.60**	***$585,342.00***

Note: This summary excludes costs associated with the CPW Game Damage Claims and Prevention Long Bill appropriation.

CPW ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY MAPS FOR REFERENCE




Colorado Division of Wildlife Regions
Northeast
Northeast Region Service Center
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216
303-291-7227
Fort Collins Service Center
317 W. Prospect, Ft Collins, CO 80526
970-472-4300
Brush Service Center
122 East Edison, Brush, CO 80723
970-842-6300
Northwest
Northwest Region Service Center
711 Independent Ave, Grand Jct, CO 81505
970-255-6100
Glenwood Service Center
50633 Highway 6 & 24
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970-947-2920
Hot Sulphur Springs Service Center
346 Grand Co Rd 362
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO 80451
970 725 6200
Meeker Service Center
73485 Highway 64, Meeker, CO 81641
970-878-6090
Steamboat Springs Service Center
925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Spgs, CO 80477
970-870-2855
Southeast
Southeast Region Service Center
4255 Sinton Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907
719-227-5200
Pueblo Service Center
600 Reservoir Rd, Pueblo, CO 81005
719-561-5300
Lamar Service Center
2500 S. Main, Lamar, CO 81052
719-336-6600
Salida Service Center
7405 Highway 50, Salida, CO 81201
719-530-5520
Southwest
Southwest Region Service Center
415 Turner Drive, Durango, CO 81303
970-375-6702
Montrose Service Center
2300 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401
970-252-6000
Gunnison Service Center
300 New York Ave, Gunnison, CO 81230
970-641-7060
Monte Vista Service Center
0722 S. Road 1E, Monte Vista, CO 81144
719-587-6900
Area Offices
Continental Divide
County Boundary
MOFFAT
JACKSON
LARIMER
WELD
SEDGWICK
LOGAN
PHILLIPS
ROUTT
Steamboat Springs
Fort Collins
MORGAN
Brush
GRAND
Hot Sulphur Springs
BOULDER
RIO BLANCO
Meeker
YUMA
WASHINGTON
BROOMFIELD
GILPIN
ADAMS
Denver
EAGLE
CLEAR CREEK
JEFFERSON
ARAPAHOE
GARFIELD
Glenwood Springs
SUMMIT
DOUGLAS
ELBERT
KIT CARSON
PITKIN
LAKE
PARK
Grand Junction
MESA
TELLER
Colorado Springs
LINCOLN
DELTA
CHEYENNE
GUNNISON
CHAFFEE
EL PASO
Montrose
Gunnison
Salida
FREMONT
KIOWA
MONTROSE
CROWLEY
Pueblo
OURAY
PUEBLO
SAGUACHE
CUSTER
SAN MIGUEL
HINSDALE
Lamar
OTERO
BENT
PROWERS
DOLORES
SAN JUAN
HUERFANO
MINERAL
RIO GRANDE
ALAMOSA
Monte Vista
MONTEZUMA
LA PLATA
Durango
LAS ANIMAS
BACA
ARCHULETA
CONEJOS
COSTILLA
Miles
25 0 25 50 75 100
Kilometers
50 0 50 100 150