

FY15* GAME DAMAGE PROGRAM REPORT

Game Damage Program:

Annual Allocation for Claims & Prevention

\$1,282,000

FY15 Expenditures for Claims(\$984,754) & Prevention(\$256,407)

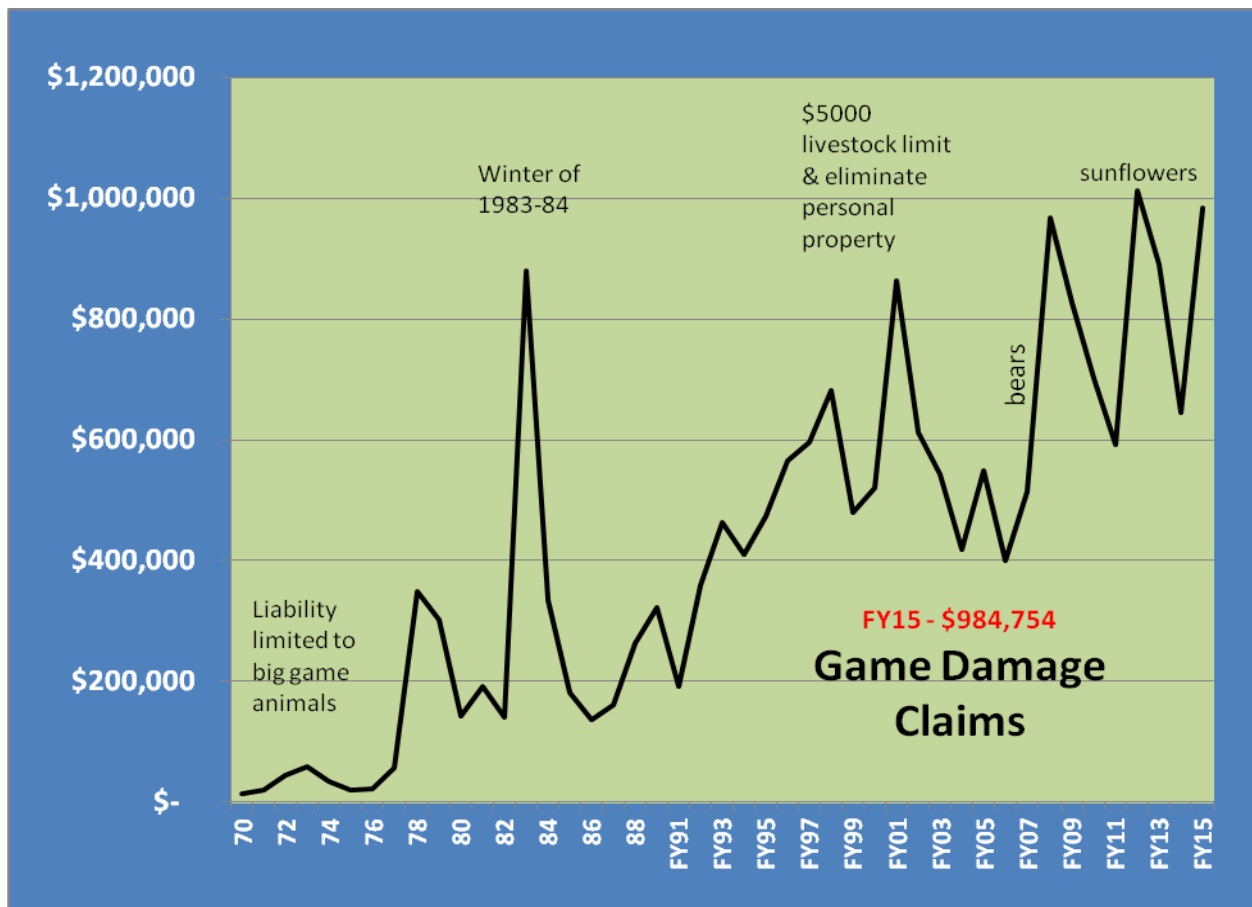
\$1,241,161

Colorado's game damage program is authorized in Colorado Revised Statutes 33-3-101 thru 204. Since its original inception over 80 years ago, the program's goal of mitigating and compensating agricultural producers for damage suffered by big game has changed very little. Over the years, the program has been refined most notably thru the integration of a prevention materials program. The Game Damage program is entirely funded by license revenues thru an annual appropriation from the Game Cash fund. The FY14 line item appropriation was \$1,282,000. This appropriation funds the two key program components; damage compensation and damage prevention materials. Resources are utilized among each program component based on annual needs.

Claims Overview & Report

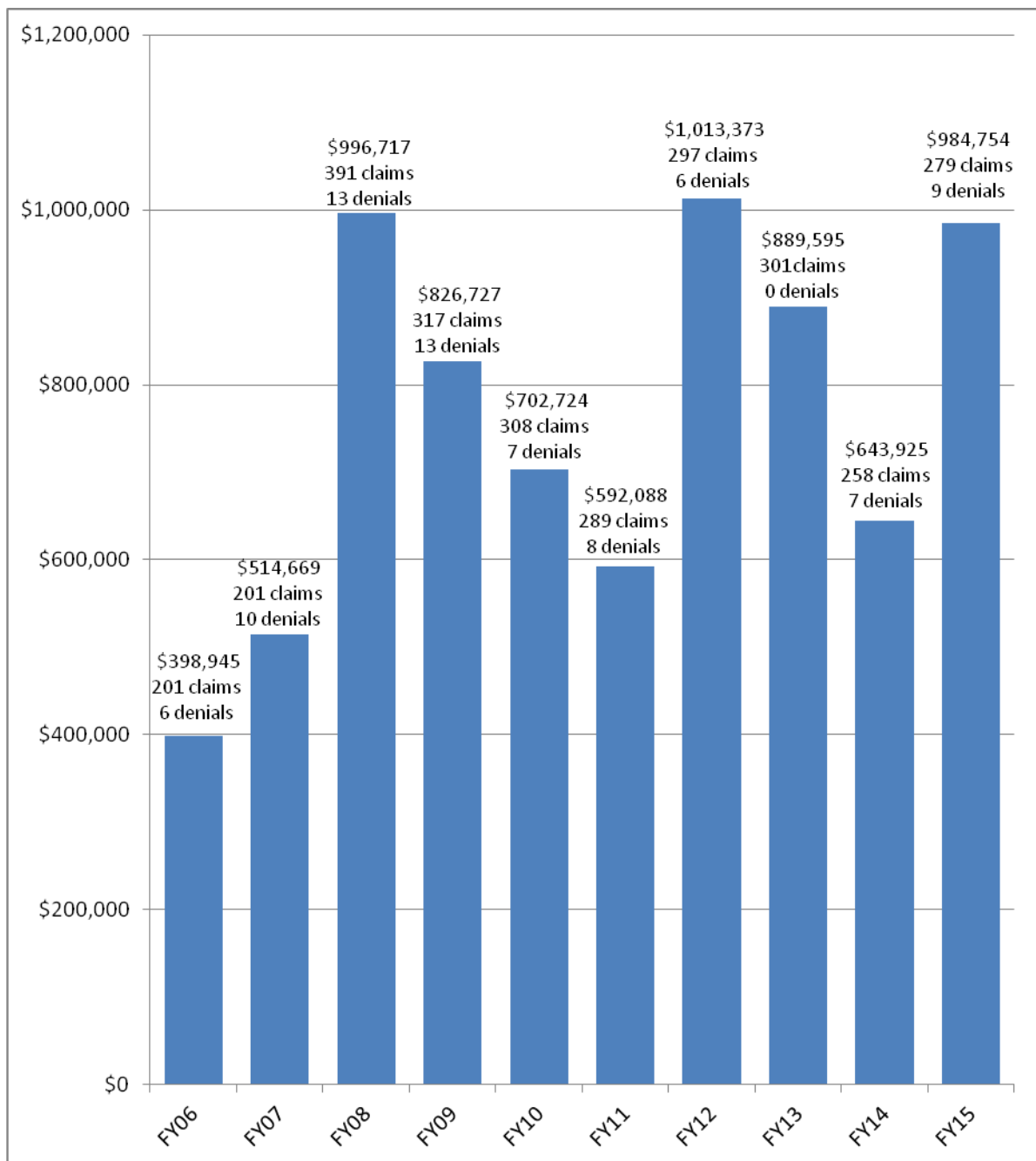
\$984,754 in FY15

The compensation component of the game damage program provides reimbursement for qualifying agricultural claimants suffering eligible losses caused by big game. In FY15, compensation costs amounted to \$984,754 in settlement of 279 claims. These costs are ~\$215,000 above the previous 5yr average of \$768,341 (FY10-FY14) or a 28% increase. This increase can be partially attributed to predation by bears. Compensation for damage caused by bears in FY15 was the highest paid in the last 10 years, totaling \$570,960. The total number of claims paid (n=279) in FY15 was below the 5yr average of 291. CPW denied 9 claims in FY15 (3.26% of all claims filed).



* (July 2014-June 2015)

Game Damage Claim Payments from 2005-2015

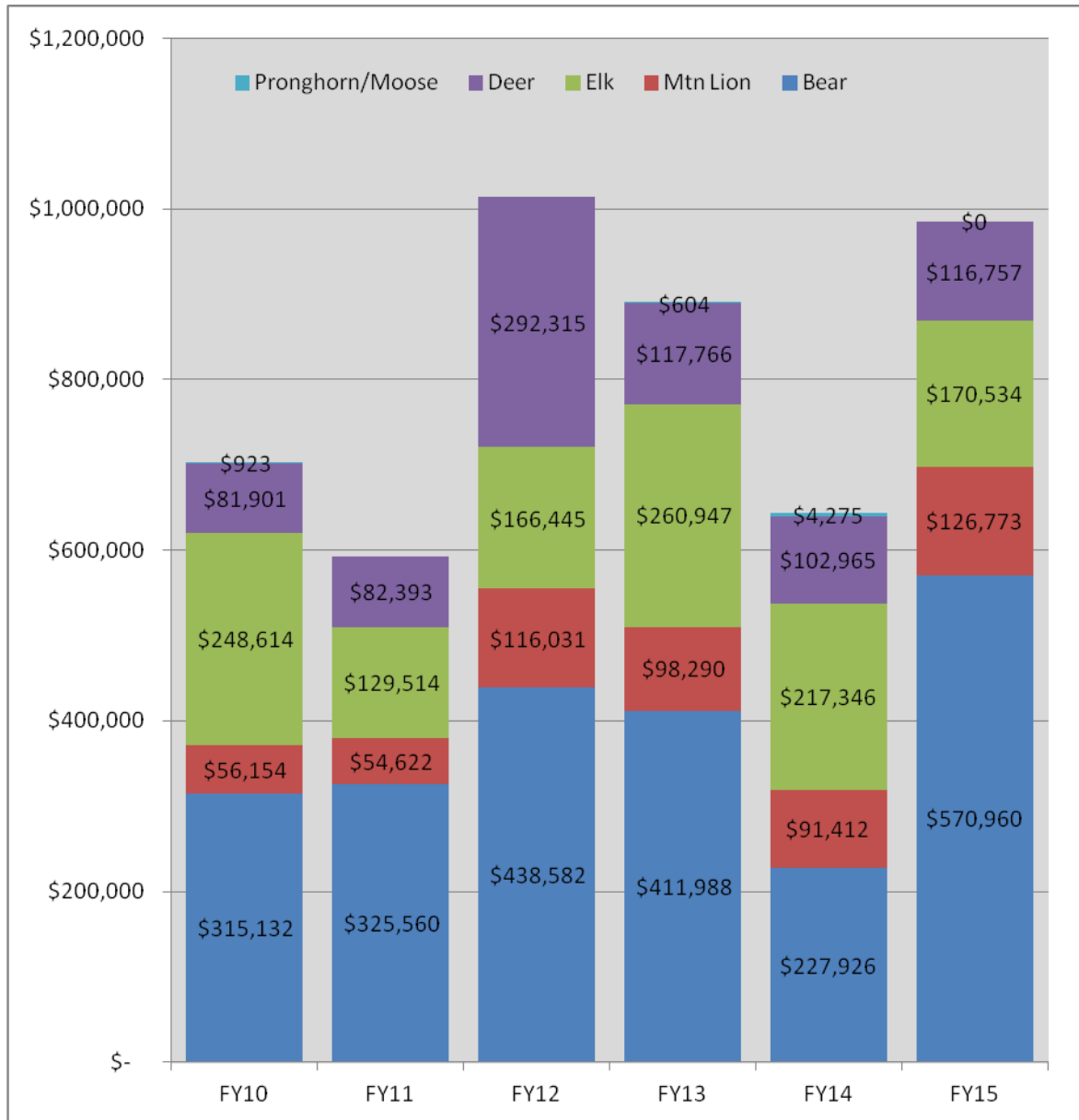


Dollar amounts do not include operating/administrative costs

FY 15 Game Damage Claims REPORT

In FY15, CPW paid-out \$984,754 to settle 279* claims. Nine claims were denied.

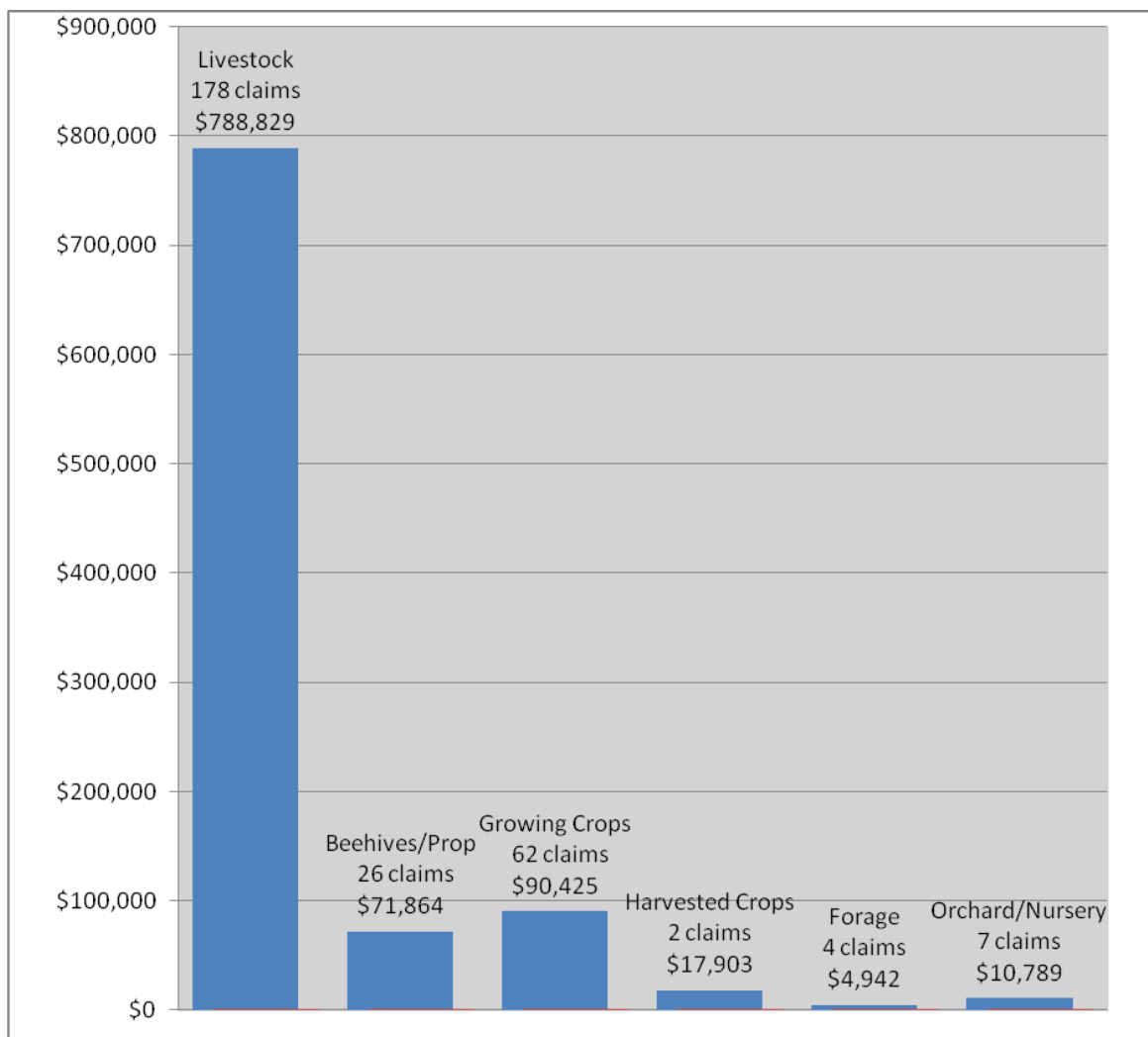
*NOTE: Actual # of claims processed for payment is 268. 11 claims were split to reflect biological data graphically. These claims represented sheep losses attributed jointly to Bear/Mtn Lion.



CPW Game Damage Program – Nov2015

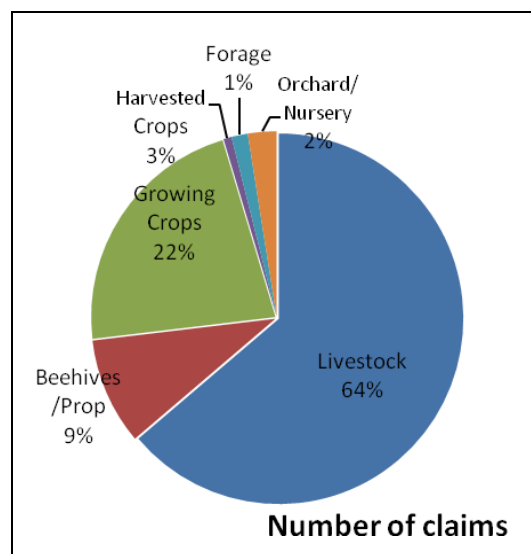
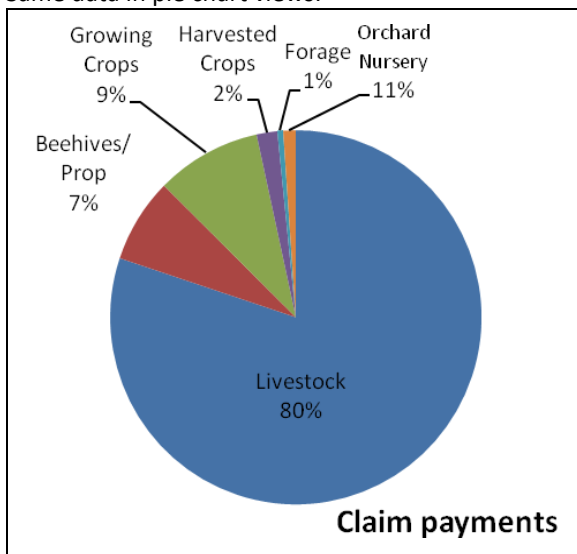
A \$24,320 claim for forage damage by elk was paid with FY15 funds. Damage occurred in FY14. This data is not included in the FY15 report.

FY 15 Game Damage Claims - Summary by Damage Target

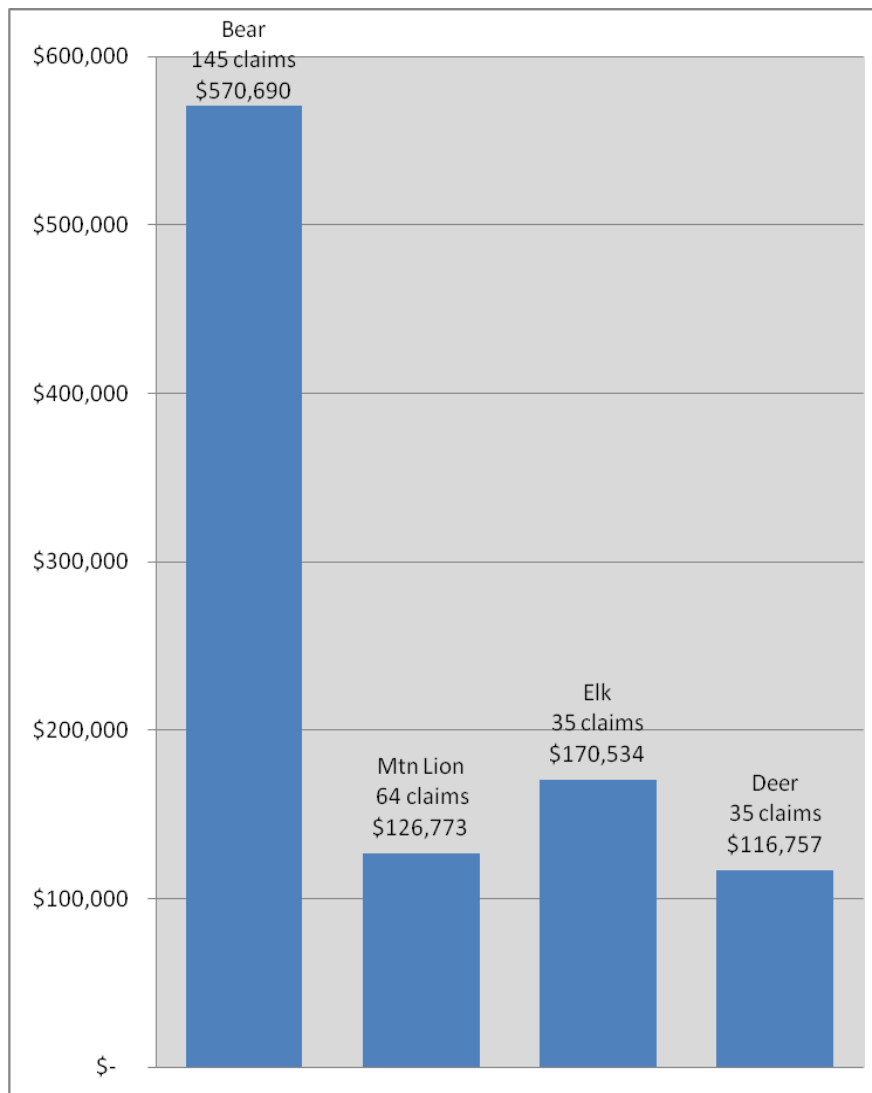


Dollar amounts do not include operating/administrative costs

Same data in pie chart views:

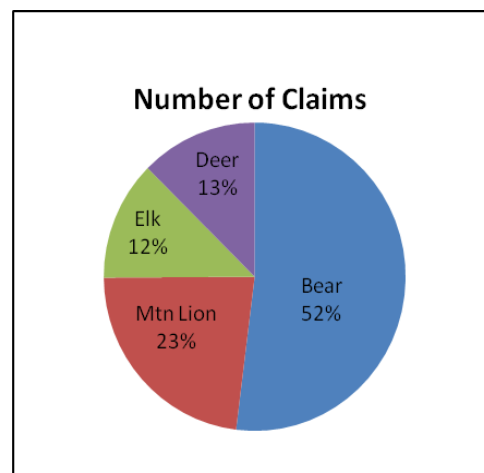
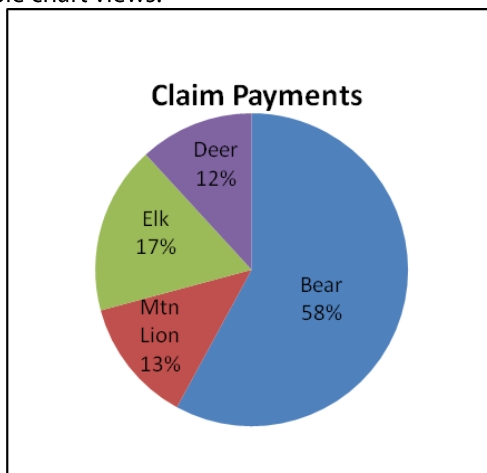


FY15 Game Damage Claims - Summary by Species



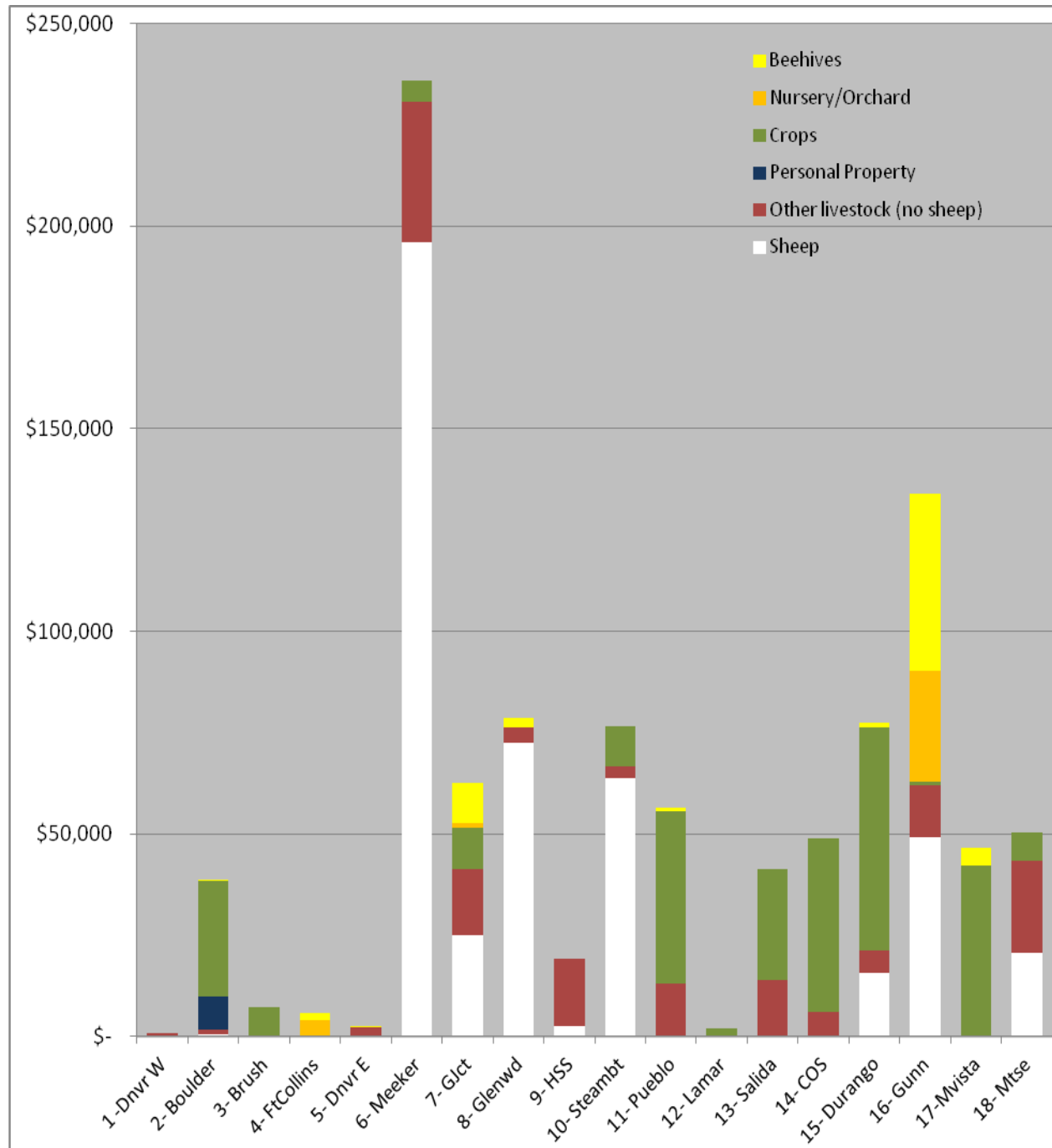
Dollar amounts do not include operating/administrative costs

Same data in pie chart views:



FY15 Game Damage Claims - Summary by Area Office

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



FY15 Game Damage Claims – Payments by Area

Area Office	Damage Target	# of Claims	Amount Paid	TOTAL
1	livestock	3	\$ 857.25	\$ 857.25
2	growing crops	5	\$ 28,497.95	\$ 38,660.25
	livestock/beehives/personal property	8	\$ 10,162.30	
3	growing crops	4	\$ 7,072.27	\$ 7,072.27
4	livestock/beehives	2	\$ 1,644.00	\$ 5,619.00
	nursery	1	\$ 3,975.00	
5	livestock/beehives/personal property	3	\$ 2,549.50	\$ 2,549.50
6	growing crops	3	\$ 5,383.99	\$ 235,984.27
	livestock	20	\$ 230,600.28	
7	growing crops	4	\$ 10,186.02	\$ 62,591.60
	livestock/beehives/personal property	34	\$ 51,267.63	
	orchard	1	\$ 1,137.95	
8	livestock/beehives	11	\$ 78,447.86	\$ 78,447.86
9	livestock	6	\$ 19,175.00	\$ 19,175.00
10	growing crops	3	\$ 9,584.49	\$ 76,636.14
	harvested crops	1	\$ 412.50	
	livestock	10	\$ 66,639.15	
11	growing crops	6	\$ 42,592.80	\$ 56,554.47
	livestock/beehives	11	\$ 13,961.67	
12	growing crop	1	\$ 2,017.16	\$ 2,017.16
13	growing crops/forage	11	\$ 27,376.39	\$ 41,383.98
	livestock	8	\$ 14,007.59	
14	growing crops	6	\$ 43,004.67	\$ 48,939.67
	livestock/beehives/personal property	8	\$ 5,935.00	
15	growing crops	16	\$ 55,079.78	\$ 77,461.35
	livestock/beehives	27	\$ 22,381.57	
16	growing crops	1	\$ 995.00	\$ 133,864.67
	livestock/beehives	15	\$ 105,486.45	
	orchards	5	\$ 27,383.22	
17	growing crops/forage	3	\$ 42,190.00	\$ 46,645.40
	beehives	1	\$ 4,455.40	
18	growing crops	4	\$ 6,903.73	\$ 50,293.99
	livestock	26	\$ 43,390.26	
TOTAL PAID IN CLAIMS		268		\$ 984,753.83

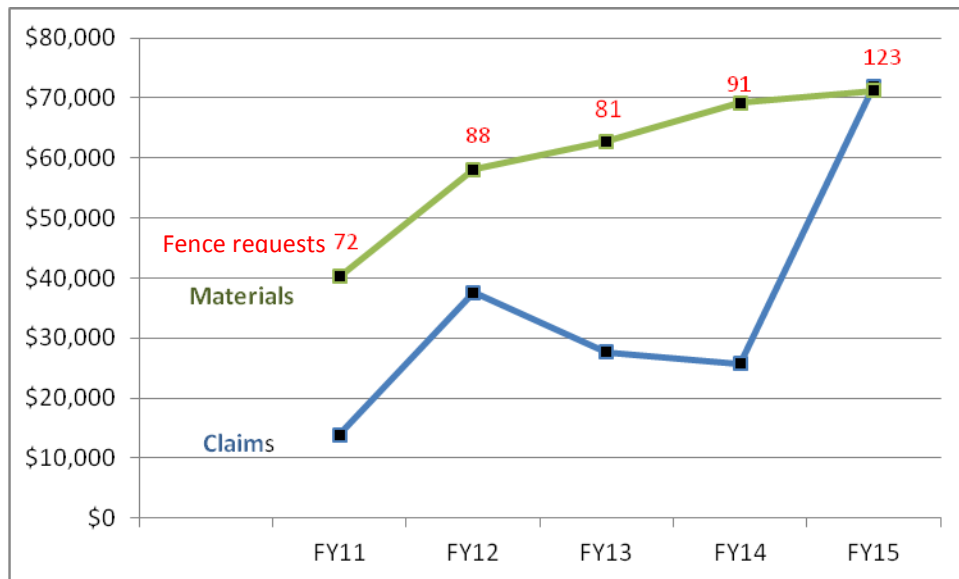
FY 15 Game Damage Claims – Denied Claims

Area	Damage Type	BASIS FOR DENIAL
1	Horse – vet bills by Elk \$1,025.46	DWM was unable to examine horse because horse was at another location and wounds were bandaged. DWM stressed need for proof and support documentation. Claimant did not provide compelling proof that damage had been caused by bull elk – incident was not witnessed, and horse/site were not available for inspection. DWM was unable to contact the person identifying herself as “Dr Burton”. After requests for photographs, diagrams, xrays or reports, none were received.
1	Horses by Elk \$11,795.97	Claimant initially called NE Region office explaining after 4 days of white-out conditions, she found horses gored by elk. 10 injured horses + 1 was put down. DWM examined horses and wounds were located generally at same height – likely indicates wounds caused by stationary object at fixed height. Injuries not consistent with being gored by elk. After immediate survey of property, DWM did not observe any elk tracks or dropping on property. Did observe various scrap metal, equipment and belongings in many locations on property that horses had access to and capable of injuring livestock. Claimant stated there were elk droppings in the area. Neighbors had not seen elk in almost 2 mos. Immediate survey of property by DWM – no elk sign. Futile attempts to contact the first vet who treated horses, 2 nd vet stated she was in an awkward position, and goring was “one of the possibilities”. No one saw elk, no elk tracks, no elk scat, fence damage not consistent with elk. Delay in completion of claim within 3 months due to difficulties in contacting vets and claimant
2	Llama by Unknown \$3,500.00	CPW had several biologists with expertise in livestock predation review the photos of the llama and all agreed there was no definitive evidence that the carcass had been cached or buried, no presentable scat or tracks, and the state of decomposition along with heavy scavenging from birds of the carcass was such that it was impossible to determine bite wounds or hemorrhage. Game Damage statutes clearly state the burden of proof rests on the claimant. There is no clear evidence that the kill was caused by either mountain lion or black bear.
4	Goats by Bear \$2,300.00	DWM agreed 4 goats had been killed by bear which was trapped within 3 hours. Claimant was provided with all required forms to complete the claim. DWM tried unsuccessfully to obtain verifying documentation on value of goats from the claimant. Using livestock market sales, Weld County Ag, another goat owner, valuation consistently amounted to \$680 for the 4 goats versus \$2300 claimed by claimant. DWM tried repeatedly to contact claimant regarding a settlement and obtaining W9 form for payment. As of 12/30/14, claimant has not responded. Claimant has failed to complete the required components for filing a damage claim.
5	Beehives by Bear \$954.10	Jefferson County Board of Commissioners has designated the location of the claimant’s beehives as a ‘forbidden Firearm Discharge’ area, thereby, releasing liability for damage. Claimant has not provided any mitigation for wildlife damage to his beehives. Claimant refused fencing for future damage at CPW cost.
15	Fallow Deer by Mtn Lion \$2,000.00	Claimant is a commercial Wildlife Park. Claimant charges lion hunters \$5500-\$7000 for a lion hunt on their ranch
15	Pasture/Growing Wheat by Deer \$90.51	This claim was initially approved for payment, but the claimant refused to complete a W9 for payment. A W9 form is a required part of the Game Damage documentation. Claimant refused to accept/ did not claim 3 Certified letters from the Division regarding his claim
17	Goats/Poultry by Mtn Lion \$425.00	The claimant allows the goats and fowl to roam freely on her property and other properties in the surrounding area. The claimant was asked to corral or protect her livestock and she refused to do so. Claimant failed to submit 10-day Notice in a timely fashion. The 10-day Notice was not complete with appropriate location coordinates or damage time periods. Claimant did not fill out Proof of Loss form therefore not meeting the burden of proof requirement. Claimant filled out the Itemized Loss Statement regarding livestock but neither sales receipt nor market report was included.
18	Field Corn by Mule Deer \$559.83	DWM has made significant efforts to work with landowner to solve deer problem beginning 2 yrs ago. Claimant was aware he should report damage when it begins, not when the crop is ready to be harvested. Damage tags were made available and claimant failed to use them. Denial is based on a failure to notify CPW as well as the claimant’s refusal to follow mitigation recommendations.

The prevention materials program became an integrated component of the Game Damage Program over twenty years ago. The game damage materials program provides both permanent and temporary materials to landowners in order to eliminate damage. Stackyards and apiary fencing comprise the majority of the requests for materials.

FY15 continued the increase in apiary fencing requests. An increased interest in beekeeping across Colorado appears to be continuing. The Game Damage Program delivered 48% more apiary material requests in FY15 compared to the previous 4yr average. Much of this increase is a result of hobby beekeepers with a small number of hives. This trend is likely to increase as the interest in pollinators, bees and backyard honey continues. Damage compensation in FY15 increased substantially over the previous 4 years as well. As a result, the Game Damage Program will continue to encourage deterrent fencing as a means to mitigate apiary damage and lower damage compensation. The cost of prevention is, without question, cheaper than damage compensation.

**APIARY
COMPENSATION/FENCE REQUESTS/MATERIALS COST**



FY15 Game Damage Prevention Materials REPORT

The Game Damage Program filled **191** requests for Preventive Materials throughout the state.

21.6 miles of fencing were delivered. Deliveries required traveling over **37,718** 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 **\$23,281** worth of materials for **6** projects.

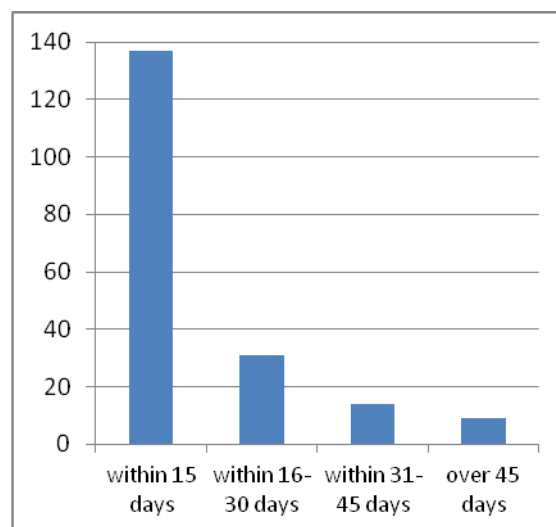
Facility Type	Number of Deliveries	FY15
<i>Apiary</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>\$71,212</i>
<i>Commercial Garden</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>\$24,427</i>
<i>Nursery</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>\$21,519</i>
<i>Orchard</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>\$53,794</i>
<i>Vineyard</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$16,021</i>
<i>Stackyard</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>\$50,555</i>
<i>Field Crops</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$356</i>
PERMANENT MATERIALS Total	191 deliveries	\$237,883
TEMPORARY MATERIALS for distribution by area offices	Pyro-Technic stockpiles	\$8,279
	Wood Elk Panel stockpiles	\$10,246
		\$256,407

DELIVERY TIME SPANS

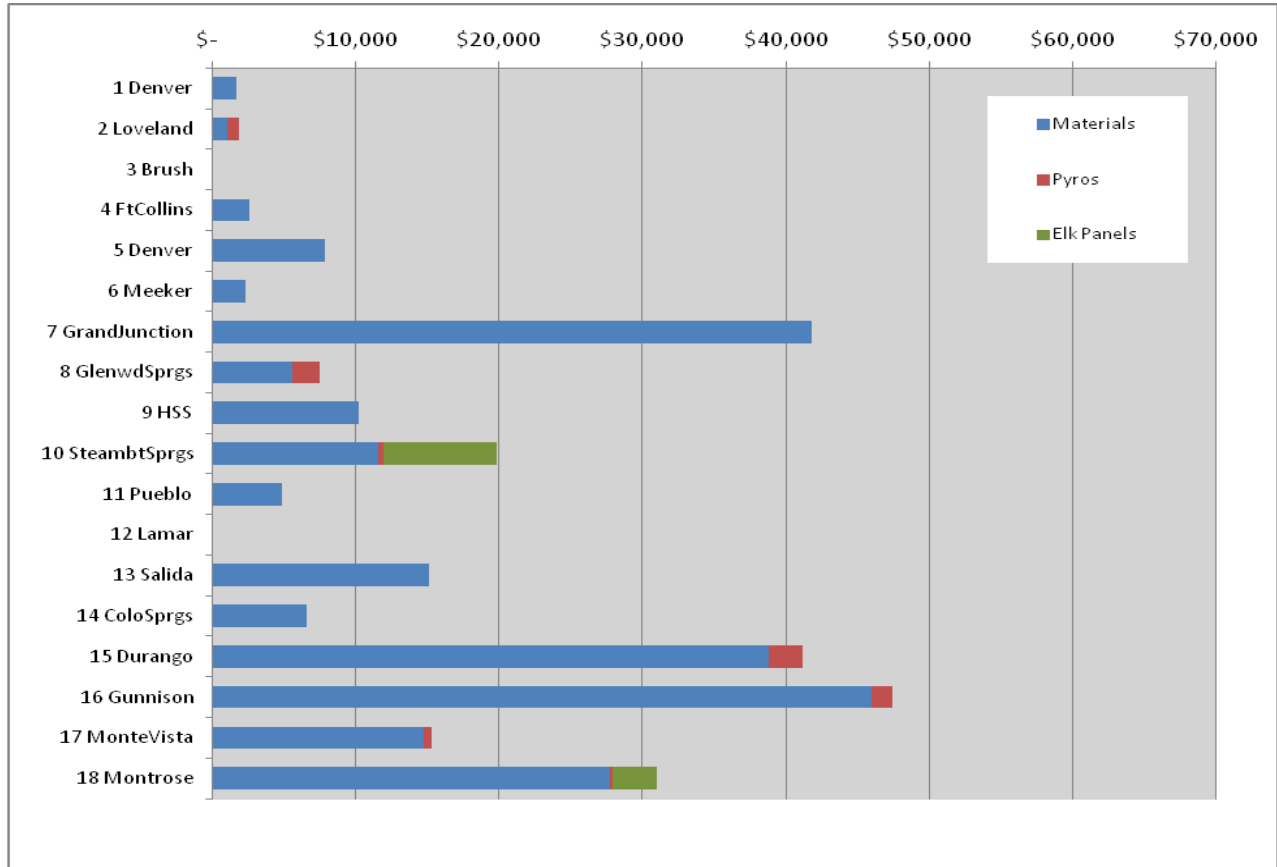
Effective July 1, 2009: Senate Bill 09-024 required delivery within 45 days of notification.

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

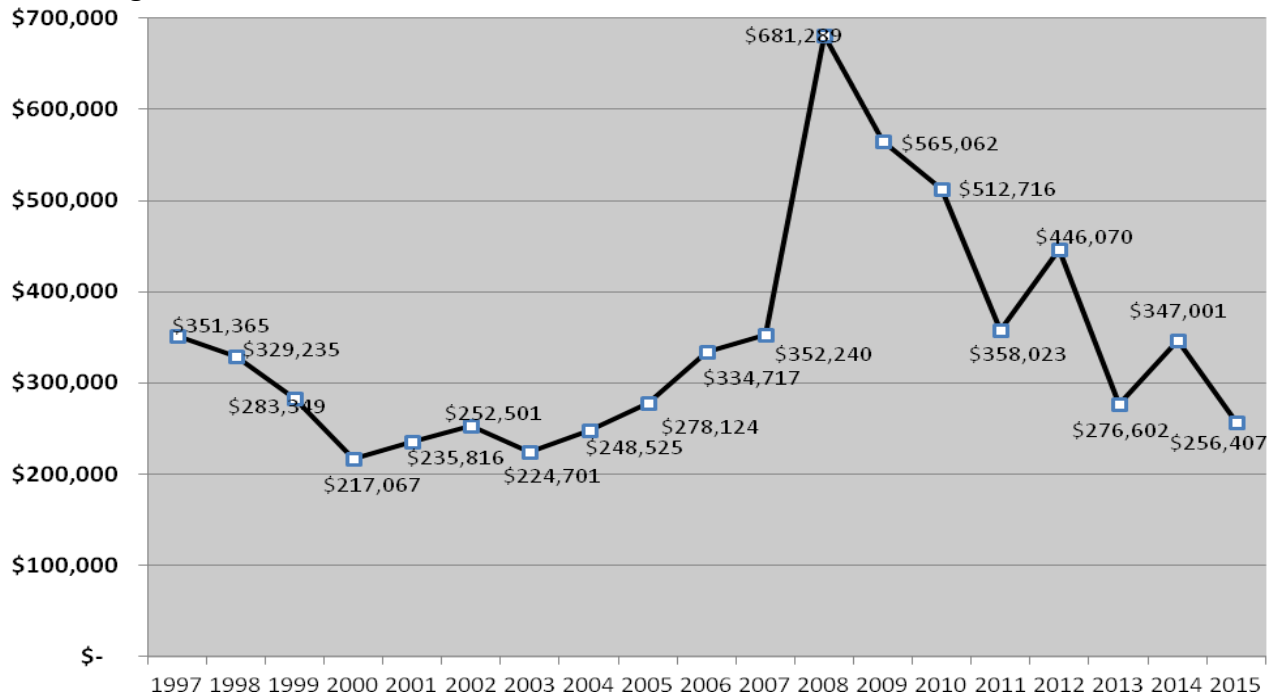
Nine (9) deliveries fell outside the mandated deadline. All delivery deadlines were waived by the landowner for either weather, convenience issues or miscommunication. None of the late deliveries required CPW to erect fencing.



FY15 - Distribution of Materials to Area Offices (\$256,407)



Game Damage Prevention Materials Deliveries from 1997-2015



CPW MAPS FOR REFERENCE

