



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northwest Regional Office

711 Independent Avenue

Grand Junction, CO 81505

TO: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
Mike King, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Members, Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resources Committee, Colorado House of Representatives
Members, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee, Colorado State Senate

FROM: State Council, Habitat Partnership Program
Bob Broscheid, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

DATE: November 17, 2014

RE: Habitat Partnership Program Annual Report - FY 2014

As required by statute, attached please find the FY 2014 (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014) report for the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP). HPP is authorized by the state legislature and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to “reduce wildlife conflicts, particularly those associated with forage and fence issues, and to assist the Division of Parks and Wildlife in meeting game management objectives through duties as deemed appropriate by the Director.” HPP is funded by 5% of big game (deer, elk, pronghorn, moose) license revenues from HPP areas, which in FY 2014 was \$2,126,792.

In FY 2014, 19 local HPP committees and the State Council, made up of nearly 150 volunteers representing livestock growers, sportsmen, federal land management agencies and CPW staff met throughout the year across much of Colorado to cooperatively discuss and work towards reducing conflicts between big game and agricultural operators.

One of the founding principles for HPP was partnerships and this remains an integral part of the program today. The development of successful partnerships has allowed HPP to work with and establish relationships with many different people and agencies; it has allowed everyone to accomplish more at a lower cost than would have been possible if acting independently; we have accomplished projects that might not have been possible to do without them and our partnerships have created opportunities for future work together. In FY 2014, HPP expended \$2,244,515 and leveraged cash contributions of \$5,602,740, in kind services valued at \$4,223,297 and 21007 hours of labor from our partners in efforts to reduce conflicts and meet management objectives.

HPP serves a vital function within Colorado Parks and Wildlife to address big game conflicts to private agricultural operators. HPP has been tremendously successful in resolving conflicts and building partnerships for 24 years. Many of the initial immediate problems HPP was created to address have been solved or a process is in place to handle problems if they arise. Although committees are still attentive to immediate issues, many have shifted their focus to longer term and larger scale proactive projects.

HPP is funded by sportsman’s license dollars and HPP has allowed CPW to maintain big game herd sizes at a level that provides sportsmen ample opportunities to get a hunting license. Without HPP and a way to effectively address the problems that big game animals cause agricultural operators, their tolerance for the state’s big game herds on private property would be much less and consequently, big game populations would be much lower resulting in fewer animals for hunters to pursue. This would affect not only sportsmen and our agency’s budget and programs but would have dramatic impacts on businesses and local economies that are often very dependent on hunter visitation for their financial well-being.



Looking to the future, 2015 is the 25th anniversary of HPP. The program has accomplished what it was intended to do, and more, since its' inception and it remains the premier model for collaborative conflict resolution for wildlife issues. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, HPP state council members, HPP committee members and the many partners we work with are very proud and appreciative of the efforts and the success of the HPP program.

Additionally, critical statutes pertaining to HPP funding expire in 2015 and the program will be requesting legislative renewal of them. These statutes provide funding stability for the program as well as the ability to respond to opportunities or challenges if needed.

There is much more detailed information available about the HPP program and projects undertaken by the local committees. Interested parties are encouraged to contact a local CPW office or you may visit the HPP website, <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/HabitatPartnershipProgram.aspx> for more program and project information.

If you have any specific questions or would like additional program information, please contact Pat Tucker, HPP Coordinator, at (970) 255-6188 or via email at pat.tucker@state.co.us.

HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

ADM - used for administrative projects, ie. Committee administrative assistants, state council meeting costs, etc.

EQP - used for equipment purchased by committees for project work

FEN - used for fencing projects, ie. New construction or repairs (may be labor and/or materials)

GBL - Category of HPP project type

GDM - used for game damage projects, ie. New stackyard construction, stackyard repairs, forage purchases or hunt coordinators

HPP Cost - actual HPP dollars approved and spent on a project

INF - used for information and education projects, ie. Brochures, seminars, workshops, etc.

In-Kind \$ - goods or services provided by a cooperator to a project that the cooperator has determined the value of.

In-Kind Hours - time contributed by a cooperator on a project

MAN - used for habitat manipulation and improvement projects, ie. Prescribed burns, brush/tree cuttings, fertilization, seeding, weed control and water developments

Match \$ - actual dollars contributed by a cooperator to a project

MTC - used for maintenance, ie. Supplies and repairs, of HPP owned equipment

OTH - used for conservation easement transaction costs and archaeological clearances

Private Cost - HPP dollars spent on private land projects

Public Cost - HPP dollars spent on public land projects

RES - used for research and monitoring projects, ie. Inventory, habitat, movement studies and project monitoring efforts

Total Cost - the sum of HPP cost, matching funds and in kind funds contributed to a project

COOPERATOR ABBREVIATIONS

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

CPW - Colorado Parks and Wildlife

CSFS - Colorado State Forest Service

GOCO - Great Outdoors Colorado

MDF - Mule Deer Foundation

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

NWTF - National Wild Turkey Federation

RMEF - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

SLB - State Land Board

UP Project - Uncompahgre Plateau Project

USFS - United States Forest Service

USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service



**Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program
State Council Members
2014**

Paul Crespin – US Forest Service Representative, Pike/San Isabel National Forest, Pueblo

Mick Davis – Sportsman Representative, Alamosa

Terry Everhart – Livestock Producer Representative, Pueblo

John Hardwick - Crop Grower Representative, Vernon

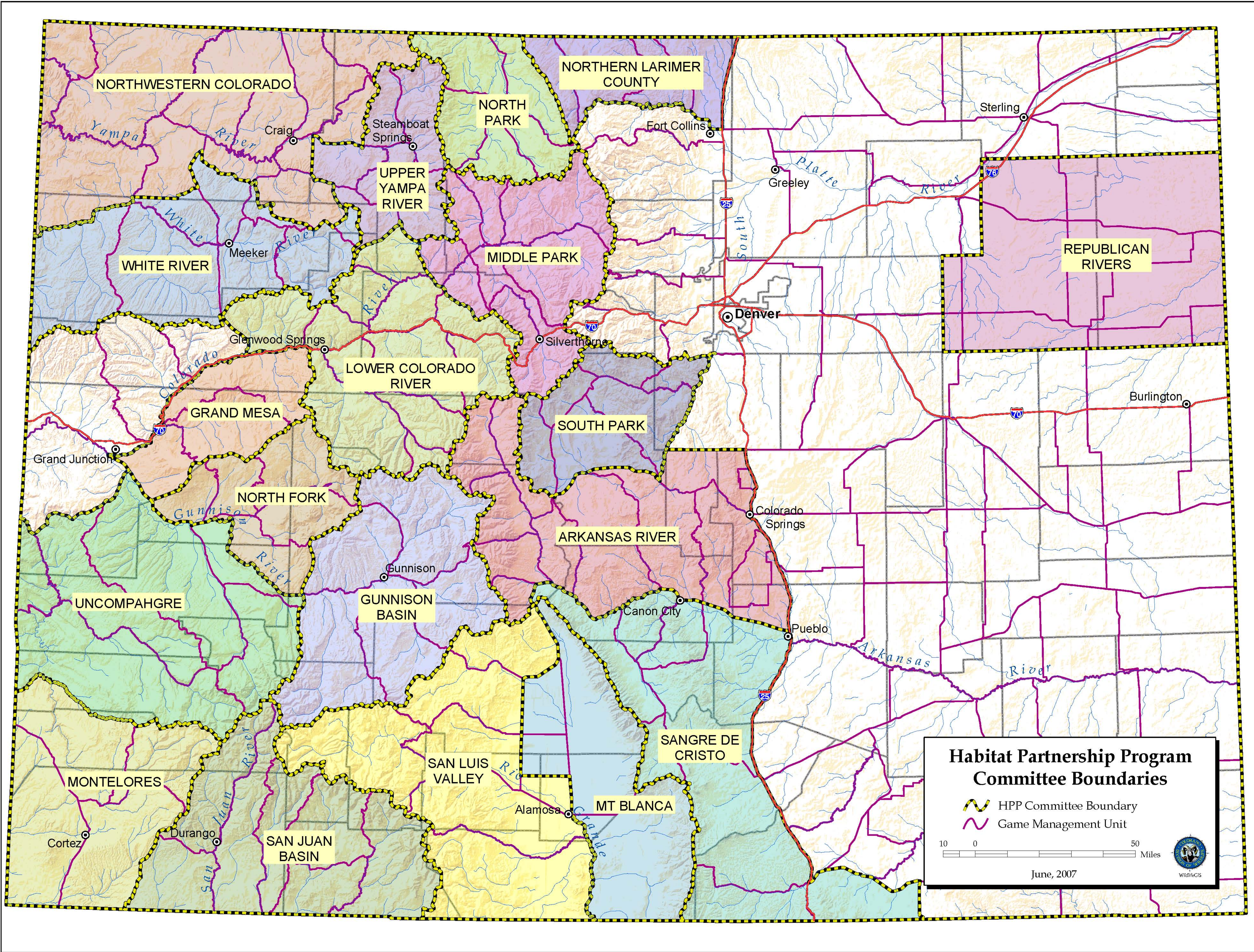
Greg Jungman – Sportsman Representative, Dillon

Robbie LeValley – Colorado State University Range Extension Service, Delta

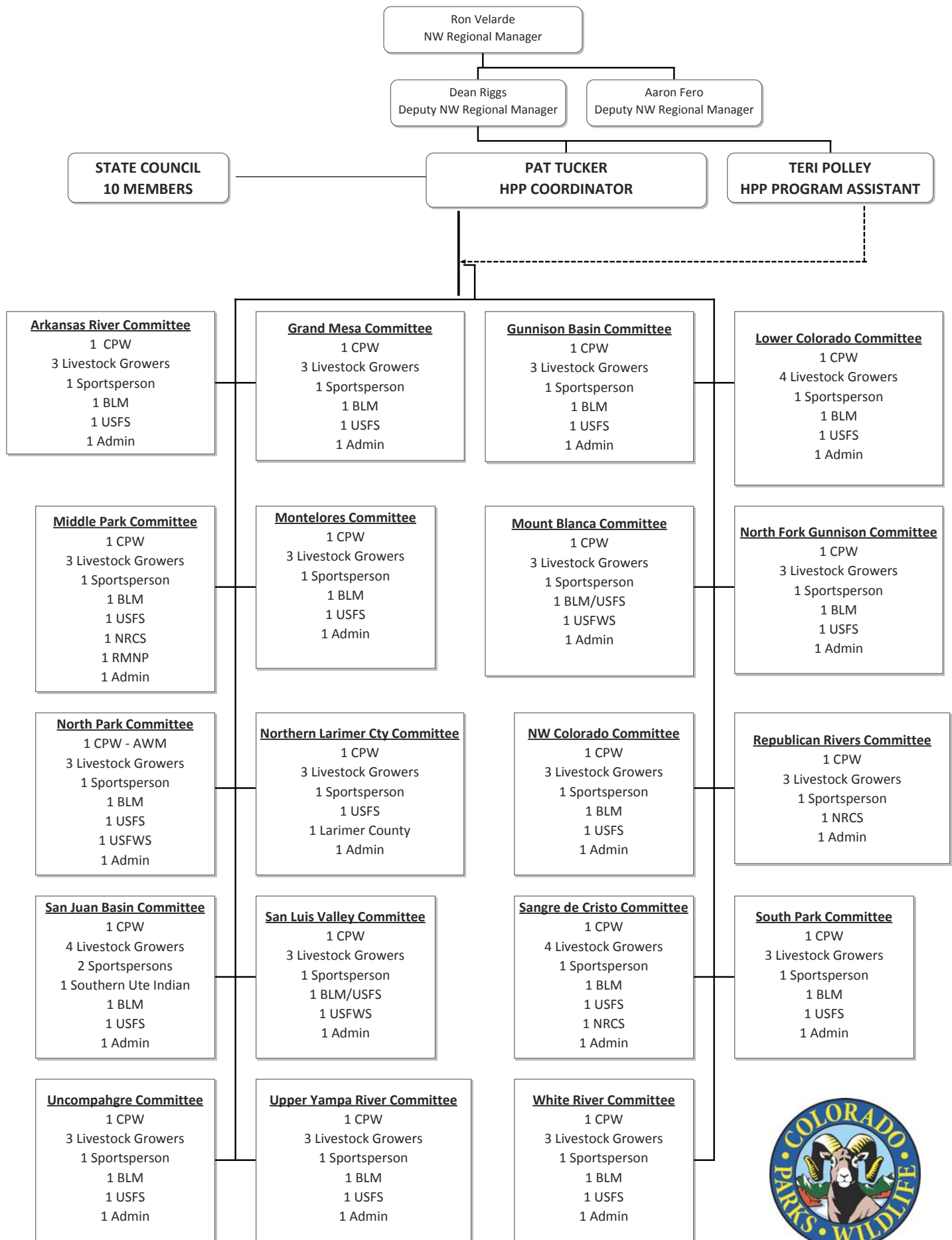
Ken Morgan – Colorado Parks and Wildlife Representative

Hunter Seim – US Bureau of Land Management Representative, White River Field Office, Craig

Gary Visintainer – Livestock Producer Representative, Craig



Habitat Partnership Program





Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program

Program Accomplishments, HPP and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2014

Units	Description	Accomplishments
Acres Burned	Habitat Improved	831.00
Acres Fertilized	Habitat Improved	7474.32
Acres Irrigated	Habitat Improved	542.00
Acres Mech. or Hand-Treated	Habitat Improved	4621.26
Acres of Weed Control	Habitat Improved	3357.00
Acres Seeded / Planted	Habitat Improved	7470.50
Hazing	Projects	1.00
Hunt Coords	Hired	4.00
Miles of New Fence	of New Fence Built	28.77
Plans	Written	22.00
Proj-repair, vouchers, etc	for Minor Fence Repair	389.00
Stackyard Repair	Projects	3.00
Stackyards	Materials Provided	1.00
Tons	of Forage Purchased	366.20
Vinyl Rolls	Provided	122.00
Water Dev	Built and/or Maintained	167.00
Weed control projects	Projects	184.00

Type	#Projects Detail
Equipment	1
Information/Education	6
Monitoring/Research	7
Other	7 Conservation Easements (transaction costs only)

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`Acres of Weed Control' is used when a treatment has been applied to a specific area and the acreage can be accurately determined.

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`Weed control projects' is used when a treatment has been applied over a large area and the acreage cannot be accurately determined and, if used, would inflate the number of acres treated. Costs for weed control projects vary greatly depending on the scope of the project.

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`Water dev' denotes many types of water projects, such as the cleanout of an existing pond, well drilling, solar pump installation, new pond creation, spring development, pipeline installation, holding tanks and tire tanks. Costs vary greatly depending on the scope of the project.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program

HPP Program Costs and Hours by GBL, Fiscal Year 2014

GBL	Total Cost	HPP Cost	Match \$	In-Kind \$	In-Kind Hrs
ADM	\$277,170.94	\$277,170.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	3277
EQP	\$4,986.09	\$4,986.09			
FEN	\$585,418.65	\$328,871.21	\$198,352.44	\$58,195.00	6335
GDM	\$50,316.69	\$45,116.69	\$4,700.00	\$500.00	64
INF	\$4,067.95	\$3,767.95	\$0.00	\$300.00	50
MAN	\$4,022,180.57	\$1,243,616.78	\$2,052,041.10	\$725,522.69	10181
OTH	\$6,447,073.00	\$51,050.00	\$2,961,702.00	\$3,434,321.00	210
RES	\$656,177.38	\$265,773.38	\$385,945.00	\$4,459.00	890
Totals:	\$12,047,391.27	\$2,220,353.04	\$5,602,740.54	\$4,223,297.69	21007

Habitat Partnership Program Cash Fund Expense Reconciliation Note: Total CoFRs expenses for the HPP cash fund was \$2,244,515.58. GBL ADM includes \$1661 treasury fee expense and \$125,393 transfer from the HPP cash fund to the Wildlife Cash fund per CRS 33-1-112 (8)(e)(III). GBL MAN expenses above do not include a \$4,000 refund check from US Forest Service related to a FY03 project and \$28,162.54 for expenses that were recorded twice in FY14 and will be corrected in FY15. This reconciliation note is applicable to all FY14 reports.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program
Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2014
Summary of Committee Finances

Committee	HPP Cost	Match Amt	In-Kind Amt	Total Expenses	Private Cost	Public Cost	In-Kind Hrs
Arkansas River	\$233,221.42	\$123,932.27	\$53,070.00	\$411,223.69	\$14,766.23	\$212,983.04	882
Grand Mesa	\$81,172.39	\$110,925.88	\$64,650.00	\$256,748.27	\$50,605.82	\$13,999.56	1681
Gunnison Basin	\$50,463.31	\$25,812.76	\$18,359.00	\$94,635.07	\$10,000.00	\$26,177.42	765
Lower Colorado River	\$142,212.62	\$232,527.46	\$110,057.99	\$484,798.07	\$112,385.80	\$24,831.82	1389
Middle Park	\$97,017.01	\$219,332.53	\$7,498.00	\$323,847.54	\$66,518.91	\$29,924.32	554
Montelores	\$74,478.07	\$482,013.00	\$491,750.00	\$1,048,241.07	\$32,912.50	\$18,995.00	1233
Mount Blanca	\$81,194.68	\$13,200.00	\$28,100.00	\$122,494.68	\$71,964.16	\$5,001.16	806
North Fork Gunnison	\$103,682.86	\$11,300.00	\$29,477.00	\$144,459.86	\$77,533.78	\$19,195.49	1282
North Park	\$12,693.61	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$12,893.61	\$11,820.87	\$0.00	1204
Northern Larimer County	\$34,522.41	\$16,916.55	\$0.00	\$51,438.96	\$28,767.94	\$0.00	385
Northwest Colorado	\$232,559.41	\$362,550.25	\$216,780.00	\$811,889.66	\$118,656.88	\$108,904.53	1150
Republican Rivers	\$11,205.76	\$300.00	\$1,878.70	\$13,384.46	\$4,650.00	\$0.00	162
San Juan Basin	\$83,780.33	\$25,546.00	\$4,950.00	\$114,276.33	\$60,873.23	\$17,420.69	1428
San Luis Valley	\$96,331.23	\$2,537,237.46	\$1,664,800.00	\$4,298,368.69	\$35,000.00	\$24,682.54	523
Sangre de Cristo	\$60,191.74	\$45,602.20	\$20,012.50	\$125,806.44	\$22,062.39	\$32,968.48	1380
South Park	\$62,821.37	\$313,301.50	\$1,462,821.00	\$1,838,943.87	\$12,771.39	\$32,999.98	1101
State Council	\$400,169.71	\$342,647.00	\$0.00	\$742,816.71	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	805
Uncompahgre	\$142,157.40	\$531,717.24	\$32,473.00	\$706,347.64	\$117,172.56	\$20,000.00	2616
Upper Yampa River	\$71,911.18	\$78,442.15	\$3,053.00	\$153,406.33	\$67,435.52	\$3,253.44	649
Yampa / White River	\$148,566.53	\$129,236.29	\$13,567.50	\$291,370.32	\$89,351.85	\$4,483.60	1012
HPP Program Totals:	\$2,220,353.04	\$5,602,740.54	\$4,223,297.69	\$12,047,391.27	\$1,005,249.83	\$600,821.07	21007



Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program
Project Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2014

HPP Program Totals

Cooperator Name	HPP Cost	Match Amt	In-Kind Amt	In-Kind Hrs
BLM		\$276,899.00	\$43,481.00	778
BLM Grazing Adv Board		\$19,060.00	\$0.00	20
College/Univ		\$2,098.00	\$1,412.00	200
County Gov't		\$405,422.00	\$201,473.00	2036
CPW		\$1,430,305.25	\$145,820.00	1098
CSFS		\$41,763.00	\$960.00	20
GOCO		\$1,029,950.00	\$0.00	0
HPP Committee Members		\$0.00	\$0.00	3127
HPP State Council		\$0.00	\$0.00	150
Local Gov't		\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0
Local Metro Dist		\$15,000.00	\$2,500.00	0
Local Soil Cons. Dist		\$290.00	\$1,000.00	0
Local Weed Control Dist		\$0.00	\$0.00	5
MDF		\$10,000.00	\$0.00	0
NRCS		\$678,187.25	\$14,820.00	6
NWTF		\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0
Other HPP Committee		\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Other Wildlife Group		\$55,417.00	\$20,000.00	0
Private Business/Org		\$36,201.68	\$5,000.00	300
Private Landowner		\$963,267.90	\$3,720,438.69	10900
Private Local Assoc.		\$2,895.00	\$5,000.00	0
RMEF		\$67,000.00	\$300.00	0
SLB		\$59,000.00	\$2,100.00	50
State Gov't		\$34,600.00	\$7,140.00	750
UP Project		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	0
USFS		\$444,134.46	\$41,823.00	1327
USFWS		\$27,250.00	\$6,030.00	240
Totals	\$2,220,353.04	\$5,602,740.54	\$4,223,297.69	21007

33-1-110

6.7) The director shall certify to the state controller that commitment or payment vouchers submitted by local habitat partnership committees are consistent with distribution management plans and guidelines approved by the wildlife commission. Such certification shall be the only requirement necessary to authorize the state controller to disburse funds from the habitat partnership cash fund.

7) (a) The director, with approval of the commission, shall appoint a committee of nine persons to act as the "habitat partnership council", referred to in this section as the "council". The council shall have statewide responsibility and authority.

(b) (I) The council shall consist of the following members: Two sportspersons who purchase big game licenses on a regular basis in Colorado; two persons representing livestock growers in Colorado; one person from the United States department of agriculture forest service; one person from the United States department of the interior bureau of land management; one person from the Colorado state university range extension program; one person representing agricultural crop producers; and one person from the Colorado division of wildlife. All persons on the council shall be residents of the state of Colorado.

(II) Members of the council who will represent livestock growers and agricultural crop producers shall be chosen by the director from persons nominated by the local habitat partnership committees, pursuant to subparagraph (VI) of paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of this section.

(III) For the initial appointments to the council, the terms of the four members representing sportspersons and livestock growers shall be two years for one member of each group and four years for the other member of each group, after which all appointments shall be for four years. The term lengths for the members representing the various agencies shall be at the discretion of the respective agencies. There shall be no limit on the number of terms a member may serve.

(c) The duties of the council are the following:

(I) To advise local habitat partnership committees;

(II) To assist in the dissemination of information concerning the habitat partnership program;

(III) To review draft plans for compliance with program guidelines established by the commission and to recommend appropriate action by the commission;

(IV) To monitor program effectiveness and to propose to the commission changes in guidelines and land acquisition planning and review as appropriate;

(V) To advise the director whether or not payment vouchers submitted by local habitat partnership committees are consistent with distribution management plans approved by the wildlife commission;

(VI) To report to the commission and to the senate agriculture, natural resources, and energy committee and the house of representatives agriculture, livestock, and natural resources committee pursuant to section 33-1-112 (8).

(d) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 1727, § 1, effective June 3, 1996.)

(8) (a) The habitat partnership program is hereby created to assist the division of wildlife by working with private land managers, public land management agencies, sportspersons, and other interested parties to reduce wildlife conflicts, particularly those associated with forage and fence issues, and to assist the division of wildlife in meeting game management objectives through duties as deemed appropriate by the director.

(b) The director, with the approval of the commission, shall have the authority to appoint a "habitat partnership committee", referred to in this section as a "committee", in any area of the state where conflicts between wildlife and private land owners and managers engaged in the management of public and private land exist.

(c) A committee shall consist of the following members: One sportsperson who purchases big game licenses on a regular basis in Colorado; three persons representing livestock growers in the area of the state in which the committee is being established; one person from each of the federal agencies that has land management responsibilities in such area of the state; and one person from the Colorado division of wildlife. All persons on any such committee shall be residents of the state of Colorado.

(d) The duties of a committee are the following:

(I) To develop big game distribution management plans to resolve rangeland forage, growing hay crop, harvested crop aftermath grazing, and fence conflicts subject to commission approval;

(II) To monitor program effectiveness and to propose to the council changes in guidelines and land acquisition planning and review as appropriate;

(III) To request for the committee, on an annual basis, funds from the council consistent with the distribution management plan developed by any such committee;

(IV) To expend funds allocated by the council or acquired from other sources as necessary to implement distribution management plans;

(V) To make an annual report of expenditures and accomplishments of the committee to the council by August 15 of each year;

(VI) To nominate a person to act as a representative of agricultural livestock growers or crop producers to the habitat partnership council for the area of the state where such committee is organized;

(VII) To reduce wildlife and land management conflicts as the conflicts relate to big game forage and fence issues and other management objectives.

(e) The committee shall be authorized to procure from land owners, land managers, or other providers, materials or services necessary for carrying out activities identified in the distribution management plans pursuant to subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (d) of this subsection (8); except that all such procurements shall be certified as within the scope of the activities and funding levels authorized in such distribution management plans before any such procurement may be authorized.

33-1-112

(8) (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the habitat partnership cash fund. The moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall consist of those moneys annually transferred from the wildlife cash fund in accordance with paragraph (e) of this subsection (8) for the partnership program and any gifts, grants, donations, and reimbursements made to the program from other sources. The moneys in the fund shall be used in accordance with the duties of the habitat partnership council as specified in section 33-1-110 (7) and (8), including, but not limited to, reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by council members in the fulfillment of their duties, as approved by the director. All interest derived from the investment of moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall be credited to the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the fund subject to the limitations provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection (8).

(b) The council shall submit an annual report to the commission, the senate and house agriculture committees, and the executive director of the department of natural resources specifically stating the items for which it has expended moneys from the fund and the purpose of such items.

(c) If the council ceases to exist, all moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall revert to the wildlife cash fund.

(d) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 1729, § 2, effective June 3, 1996.)

(e) (I) On July 1, 2002, and each year thereafter, there shall be transferred from the wildlife cash fund to the habitat partnership cash fund an amount equal to five percent of the net sales of big game licenses used in the geographic areas represented by local habitat partnership committees from the previous calendar year.

(II) All moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall be continuously appropriated to the division of wildlife for the purpose of funding the habitat partnership program.

(III) Any balance in the habitat partnership cash fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed the total amount of the wildlife cash fund transfer from the beginning of that fiscal year. Any excess moneys shall revert to the wildlife cash fund.

(IV) This paragraph (e) is repealed, effective July 1, 2015.