



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: January 19, 2016

RE: Habitat Partnership Program Annual Report - FY 2015

As required by statute, attached please find the FY 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) 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 2015 was \$2,141,574.

In FY 2015, 19 local HPP committees as shown on the attached map and the State Council met throughout the year across much of Colorado to cooperatively discuss and work towards reducing conflicts between big game and agricultural operators. These committees and the Council are made up of nearly 150 volunteers representing livestock growers, sportsmen, federal land management agencies and CPW staff.

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.

HPP is funded by sportsman's license dollars and substantial contributions from our many partners. In FY 2015, HPP expended \$1,577,591.96 and leveraged cash contributions of \$3,917,803.24, in kind services valued at \$3,115,712.26 and 26,820 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 25 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.

A major HPP accomplishment has allowed CPW to maintain big game herd sizes at levels that provide 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.

2015 was noteworthy to the Habitat Partnership Program for two reasons. First, it was the 25th anniversary of HPP and after 25 years, HPP remains the premier model for collaborative conflict resolution for wildlife issues. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, HPP state council and committee members and the many partners we work with are very proud and appreciative of the efforts and the success of the HPP program.

Secondly, critical funding statutes were set to expire on June 30th but the legislature approved the renewal of these statutes for an additional 8 years. These statutes provided for the 5% funding, the ability to carry over unspent funds (subject to a cap) and continuously appropriated those funds. These statutes provide funding stability for the program as well as the ability to respond to opportunities or challenges if needed and remain critical to the success of HPP.

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 - abbreviation used for administrative projects, ie. committee administrative assistants, state council meeting costs, etc.

EQP - abbreviation used for equipment purchased by committees for project work

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

GBL - Category of HPP project type

GDM - abbreviation used for game damage projects, ie. new stack yard construction, stackyard repairs, forage purchases or hunt coordinators

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

INF - abbreviation 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 - abbreviation 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 - abbreviation used maintenance projects, ie. supplies and repairs for HPP owned equipment, minor project issues.

OTH - abbreviation used for conservation easement transaction costs and archaeological clearances

Private Cost - HPP dollars spent on private land projects

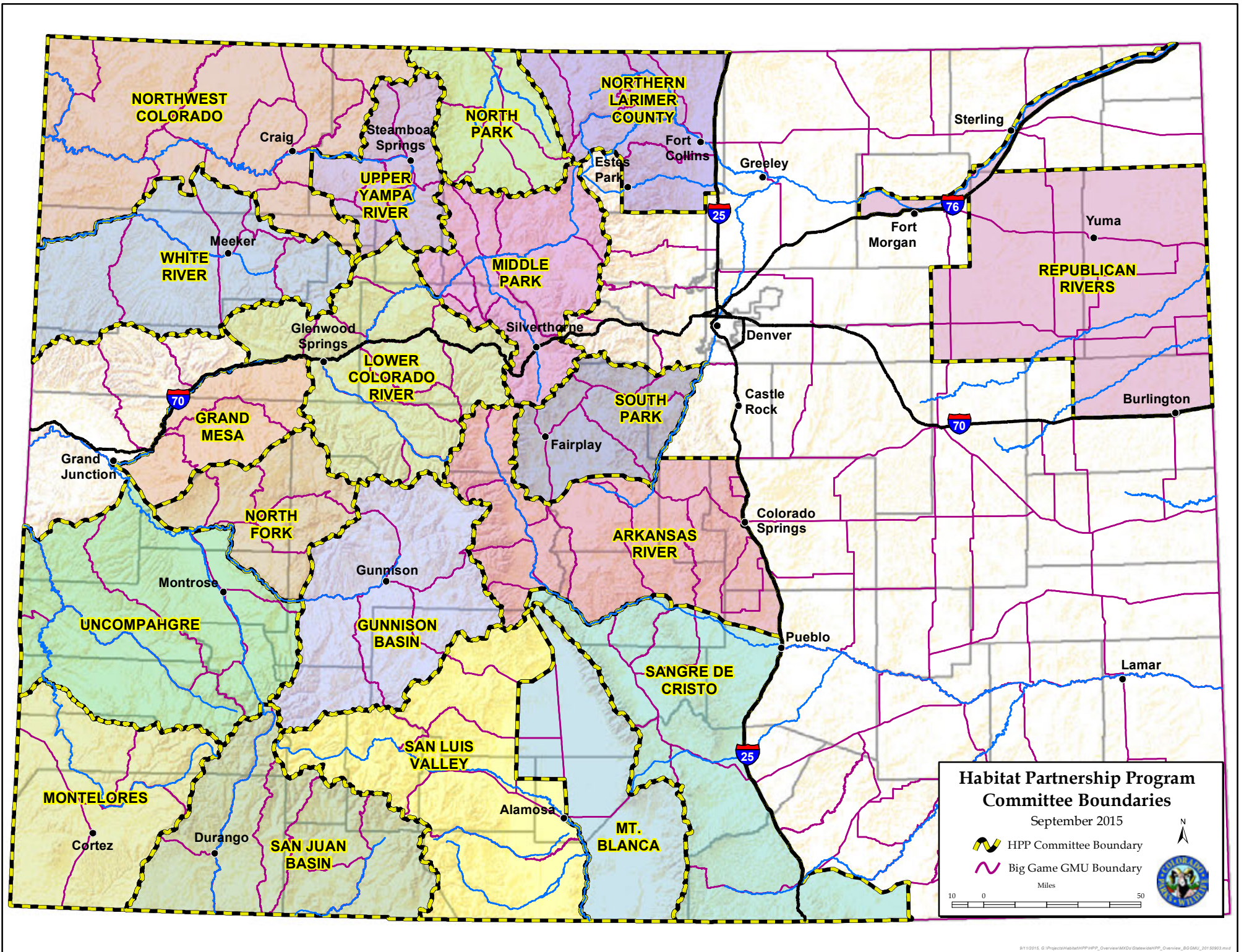
Public Cost - HPP dollars spent on public land projects

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

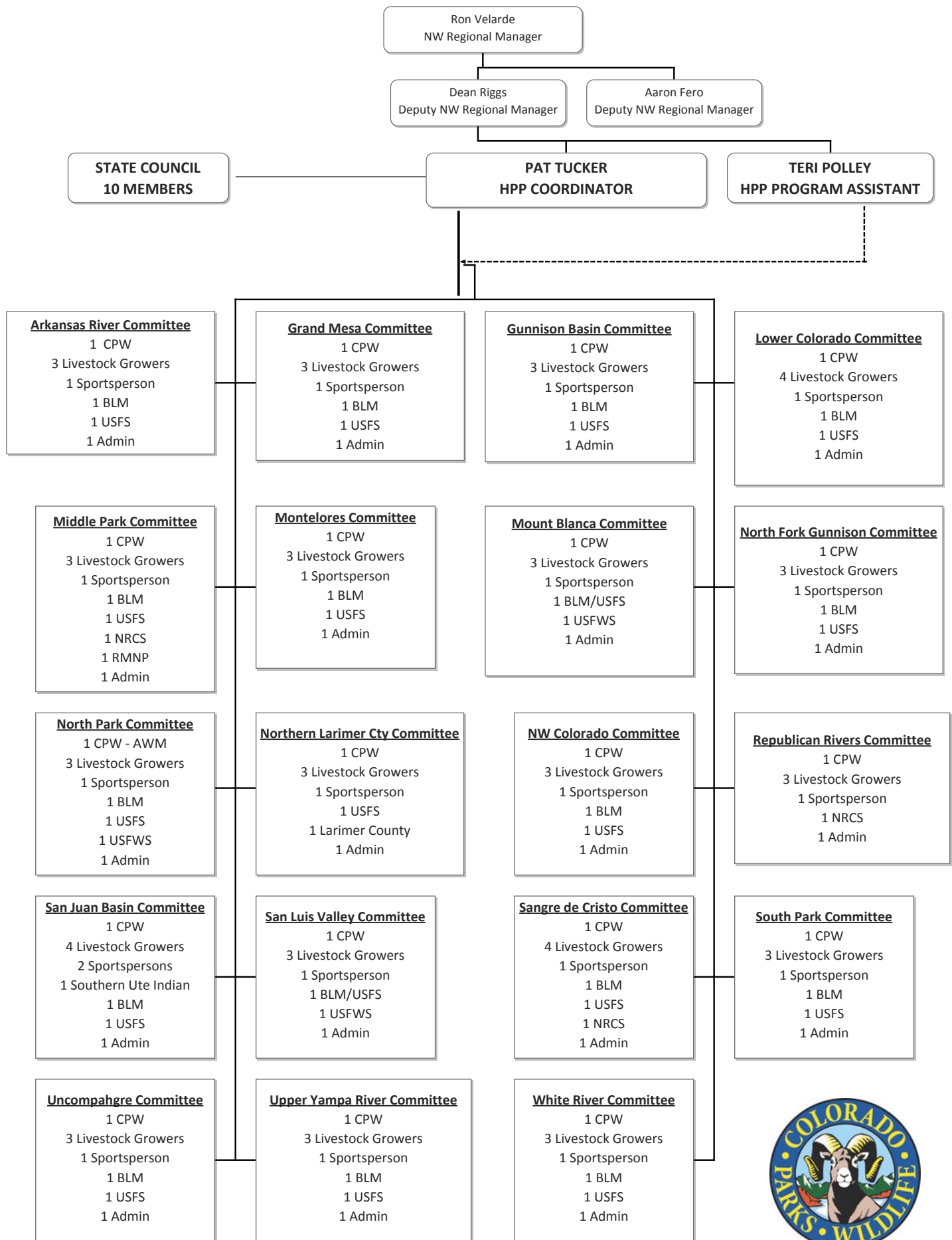
Total Cost - the sum of HPP cost, matching funds and in kind funds contributed to a project

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
TNC - The Nature Conservancy
UP Project - Uncompahgre Plateau Project
USFS - United States Forest Service
USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service



Habitat Partnership Program





**Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program
State Council Members
2015**

Paul Crespin – US Forest Service Representative

Mick Davis – Sportsmen’s Representative

Terry Everhart – Livestock Producer Representative

John Hardwick - Crop Grower Representative

Greg Jungman – Sportsmen’s Representative

Robbie LeValley – Colorado State University Range Extension Service Representative

Ken Morgan – Colorado Parks and Wildlife Representative

Hunter Seim – US Bureau of Land Management Representative

Gary Visintainer – Livestock Producer Representative



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program

Program Accomplishments, HPP and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2015

Units	Description	Accomplishments
Acres Burned	Habitat Improved	7453
Acres Fertilized	Habitat Improved	10149
Acres Irrigated	Habitat Improved	368
Acres Mech. or Hand-Treated	Habitat Improved	4748
Acres of Weed Control	Habitat Improved	4253
Acres Seeded / Planted	Habitat Improved	3507
Cattle/Wildlife Exclosures	Built	6
Cattleguards, Gates, etc	Constructed	28
Hunt Coords	Hired	3
Miles of New Fence	of New Fence Built	16
Plans	Written	5
Proj-repair, vouchers, etc	for Minor Fence Repair	391
Scare Devices	Provided	3
Stackyards	Materials Provided	1
Tons	of Forage Purchased	145
Vinyl Rolls	Provided	64
Water Dev	Built and/or Maintained	113
Weed control projects	Projects	109

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

'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 actual number of acres treated. Costs vary greatly depending on scope of the project.

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

Note:

Project accomplishments are shown as whole units but may have been rounded from actual project numbers.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program

Program Accomplishments, HPP and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2015

Type	#Projects	Detail
Information/Education	3	
Monitoring/Research	7	
Other	1	Archeological Clearances
Other	8	Conservation Easements



Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program
Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2015
Summary of Committee Finances

Committee	HPP Cost	Match Amt	In-Kind Amt	Total Expenses	Private Cost	Public Cost	In-Kind Hrs
Arkansas River	\$58,936.31	\$51,983.79	\$65,346.00	\$175,766.10	\$5,244.01	\$48,645.05	5603
Grand Mesa	\$85,451.83	\$53,137.42	\$18,948.00	\$157,537.25	\$66,261.08	\$14,000.00	644
Gunnison Basin	\$60,205.27	\$94,210.50	\$19,059.00	\$173,474.77	\$11,713.88	\$15,360.00	883
Lower Colorado River	\$135,031.88	\$184,201.00	\$36,650.00	\$355,882.88	\$82,053.38	\$47,979.75	1568
Middle Park	\$84,265.45	\$1,370,600.00	\$292,590.00	\$1,747,455.45	\$51,841.01	\$23,857.42	893
Montelores	\$33,482.96	\$468,257.00	\$577,800.00	\$1,079,539.96	\$8,098.62	\$4,950.00	328
Mount Blanca	\$69,102.38	\$59,595.00	\$1,600.00	\$130,297.38	\$45,461.38	\$19,864.89	230
North Fork Gunnison	\$108,095.50	\$133,600.00	\$294,381.00	\$536,076.50	\$59,748.50	\$25,513.28	1135
North Park	\$8,219.97	\$23,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$36,719.97	\$3,623.32	\$3,588.42	811
Northern Larimer County	\$35,682.52	\$32,288.15	\$800,000.00	\$867,970.67	\$15,234.33	\$0.00	370
Northwest Colorado	\$108,066.62	\$120,744.63	\$14,790.00	\$243,601.25	\$89,653.12	\$13,563.50	601
Republican Rivers	\$21,290.82	\$5,599.00	\$5,450.00	\$32,339.82	\$14,045.82	\$2,905.00	240
San Juan Basin	\$103,886.32	\$69,333.50	\$10,738.76	\$183,958.58	\$66,476.01	\$35,000.00	1609
San Luis Valley	\$92,291.97	\$147,147.83	\$55,966.77	\$295,406.57	\$6,232.09	\$79,968.43	1138
Sangre de Cristo	\$122,564.24	\$635,385.76	\$851,148.00	\$1,609,098.00	\$16,145.00	\$91,019.24	7216
South Park	\$69,380.85	\$61,460.00	\$25,495.00	\$156,335.85	\$12,482.95	\$50,808.73	1477
State Council	\$39,294.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,294.74			150
Uncompahgre	\$119,225.08	\$236,796.96	\$11,025.00	\$367,047.04	\$106,912.61	\$10,000.00	764
Upper Yampa River	\$32,064.71	\$24,850.00	\$7,673.74	\$64,588.45	\$31,055.88	\$507.62	480
White River	\$200,552.54	\$145,112.70	\$22,050.99	\$367,716.23	\$126,957.54	\$23,020.00	680
HPP Program Totals:	\$1,587,091.96	\$3,917,803.24	\$3,115,712.26	\$8,620,107.46	\$819,240.53	\$510,551.33	26820

Habitat Partnership Program Cash Fund Expense Reconciliation Note: Total CORE expenses for the HPP fund was \$1,577,591.96. The \$20,000 duplicate payment from FY14 was reconciled in FY15; \$110 One Card charge in the San Luis Valley committee was incorrectly allocated in CORE; \$10,500 discrepancy in the White River committee is due to an internal state accounting error. This reconciliation note applies to all FY 15 reports.



**Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program**

HPP Program Costs and Hours by GBL, Fiscal Year 2015

GBL	Description	Total Cost	HPP Cost	Match \$	In-Kind \$	In-Kind Hrs
ADM	Administrative	\$106,634.37	\$106,634.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	2954
FEN	Fencing	\$492,475.62	\$271,109.91	\$196,724.81	\$24,640.90	4479
GDM	Game Damage	\$35,832.23	\$34,232.23	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	110
INF	Information/Education	\$7,616.48	\$7,016.48	\$600.00	\$0.00	0
MAN	Habitat Manipulation	\$3,431,496.29	\$1,026,448.50	\$1,986,515.43	\$419,032.36	18633
OTH	Other	\$4,443,395.00	\$66,800.00	\$1,713,615.00	\$2,662,980.00	204
RES	Monitoring & Research	\$102,657.47	\$74,850.47	\$20,348.00	\$7,459.00	440
Totals:		\$8,620,107.46	\$1,587,091.96	\$3,917,803.24	\$3,115,712.26	26820



Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program
Project Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2015

HPP Program Totals

Cooperator Name	HPP Cost	Match Amt	In-Kind Amt	In-Kind Hrs
BLM		\$287,803.79	\$23,706.00	779
BLM Grazing Adv Board		\$25,080.07	\$0.00	30
College/Univ		\$2,098.00	\$1,412.00	200
County Gov't		\$165,500.00	\$6,000.00	100
CPW		\$60,000.00	\$34,080.00	1325
CSFS		\$3,657.50	\$0.00	0
GOCO		\$425,000.00	\$0.00	0
HPP Committee Members		\$0.00	\$0.00	2954
Local Land Trust		\$8,500.00	\$12,800.00	104
Local Metro Dist		\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Local Soil Cons. Dist		\$400.00	\$0.00	0
Local Weed Control Dist		\$0.00	\$0.00	30
MDF		\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	0
NRCS		\$842,663.00	\$11,000.00	100
NWTF		\$5,500.00	\$0.00	0
Other Wildlife Group		\$101,951.25	\$0.00	0
Private Business/Org		\$59,299.68	\$21,000.00	1140
Private Landowner/Permittee		\$1,137,356.45	\$2,820,155.26	10447
Private Local Assoc.		\$10,750.00	\$7,050.00	50
RMEF		\$89,250.00	\$0.00	0
SLB		\$62,400.00	\$200.00	43
State Gov't		\$38,200.00	\$88,032.00	7160
TNC		\$9,505.50	\$0.00	0
UP Project		\$2,500.00	\$500.00	0
USFS		\$570,188.00	\$84,777.00	2358
Water Cons or Irrig Dist		\$200.00	\$0.00	0
Totals	\$1,587,091.96	\$3,917,803.24	\$3,115,712.26	26820

33-1-110. Duties of the director of the division

(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 commission. Such certification is 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 sports persons 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 parks and 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 sports persons 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:

(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 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 parks and wildlife by working with private land managers, public land management agencies, sports persons, and other interested parties 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.

(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 sports person 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 parks and 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.

3-1-112. Funds - cost accounting - definition - repeal

(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 parks and 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, 2023.