

HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HPP)



July 2022

What is the Habitat Partnership Program?

The purpose of the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) is to reduce wildlife conflicts, particularly those associated with forage and fences, to assist Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in meeting game management objectives, to assist with private land conservation efforts, and enhance migratory corridors. HPP efforts are primarily aimed at agricultural operators, and focus on problems and objectives for deer, elk, pronghorn and moose.

How is HPP organized?

In the 1990s, big game/agricultural conflict areas were identified. Local committees were established and began working with local landowners and agencies to discuss the problems and come up with solutions.

Each HPP local committee has a 10-year Parks and Wildlife Commission-approved distribution management plan. These plans guide the activities of the local committees and authorize them to implement HPP in their local area.

How is HPP funded?

HPP receives five percent (5%) of the deer, elk, pronghorn and moose license revenue from each HPP area, which generally provides \$2.5 - 3 million each year for projects.

Where does HPP work?

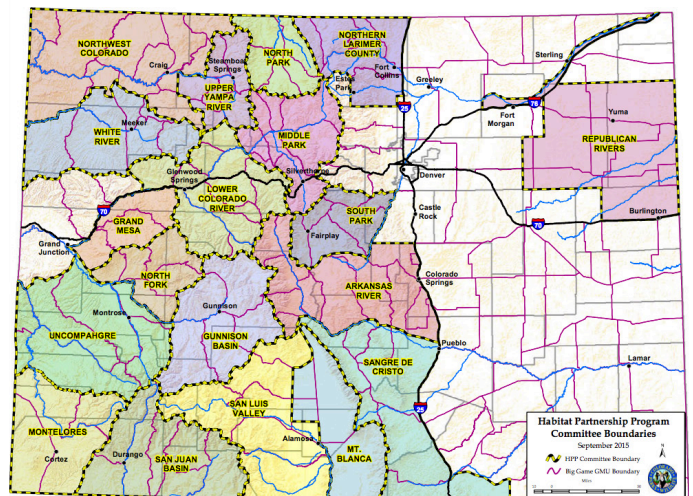
HPP is designed to work on private and public property; anywhere there is a problem or a solution.



Pronghorn drink water from an HPP tire tank.

Local HPP Committees and You

All HPP meetings are open to the public. Upcoming committee meetings and minutes of prior meetings are always posted on the HPP website, and local committee meeting notices are posted at the local CPW office. Most committees also maintain an email notification list of interested people.



HPP committee boundaries map

Partnerships needed?

Partnerships are a key ingredient in why HPP is a big success, and applicants will need to contribute to their project. Typical partner contributions include time, money, equipment and labor. While there isn't a required level of partnership to apply for HPP projects, most committees match projects on a 50/50 basis or on a materials/labor arrangement.

I have an idea for a project, where do I start?

Anyone can propose a project to the HPP program. The best way to gain program approval is to have the support of the local CPW District Wildlife Manager (DWM) or another committee representative before you present your idea.

Applicants will need to fill out a project proposal form and attend a committee meeting to discuss their proposal. Forms can be found on the HPP website or obtained from a Habitat Partnership Program administrative assistant.

TYPES OF HPP PROJECTS

What types of projects can I do?

While HPP does a variety of projects, related to HPP's main purpose: to reduce conflicts between livestock and big game, to help CPW achieve game management objectives, to assist with private land conservation efforts, and enhance migratory corridors.

Committees review projects that solve an immediate problem; for example, fence repairs. They also review projects that are longer term, such as habitat projects that take more planning time, implementation is more complex and results take longer. However, these types of projects, especially projects larger in scale and scope, are more valuable, cost-effective and have become a priority for HPP.

■ HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

These include seeding, fertilization, weed control, brush control, tree and shrub cutting, prescribed burns, water developments and grazing management. The intent is to improve and/or create habitat that will provide more forage in an area to be utilized by big game and livestock.

■ FENCE IMPROVEMENT OR REPAIR

The major emphasis is to reduce or eliminate constant fence repairs that landowners have to do and to make it easier for wildlife to cross. HPP may be involved in new wildlife-friendly fence construction, or may provide fencing materials for landowners to repair existing fences.

■ GAME DAMAGE ISSUES

HPP may assist landowners with materials or construction of stackyards, or they may also work with landowners to leave forage in the fields after harvest or grazing where wildlife can eat and not be disturbed, preventing problems with neighboring properties.

■ INFORMATION & EDUCATION

HPP is involved with increasing learning and awareness of the problems and solutions being tried to help landowners and land managers with big game problems. Brochures, signage, seminars and field trips are often used to accomplish this.

■ RESEARCH & MONITORING

HPP participates in research activities for wildlife and range purposes. Typical projects include radio-collaring of deer and elk to determine movements, habitat use and success of projects.

■ CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Working with a local land trust, HPP can pay some transaction costs to help a willing landowner establish a conservation easement on their property. Such costs include appraisals, surveys, baseline plans and legal reviews.



Fecon head used for tree and shrub cutting.

What are the benefits of HPP?

Landowners and land managers get a responsive and quick way to resolve conflicts. HPP and our project partners provide financial and other types of assistance for needed projects. Ultimately, both public and private land resources are improved.

CPW benefits by having improved relations with private landowners and public land managers, whose lands wildlife depends on for their survival.

Once the conflict issues are addressed, sportpersons benefit from increase hunting opportunities.

Habitat improvements benefit not only deer, elk, pronghorn and moose, but many other species as well.

Information regarding project applications, laws, contact people, past reports and other program information for HPP can be found on the CPW website: cpw.state.co.us/HPP



HPP has provided an opportunity for dialogue, education and understanding among landowners, land managers, sportsmen and CPW, regarding resolution to issues and conflicts experienced with big game management and agricultural problems. This has greatly improved, and continues to improve, relationships among all interests.