

PRONGHORN HERD MANAGEMENT PLAN CHEROKEE PARK HERD

Data Analysis Unit PH-33

Game Management Units 9 & 191



2020

Created for



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources:

By:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cherokee Park Pronghorn Herd (DAU PH-33)	GMUs: 9 & 191
<u>Post-hunt Population:</u>	
Previous objective: 1,000-1,200	2019 Modeled Estimate: 1,066
CPW Preferred Alternative: 1,000-1,200	
<u>Post-hunt Sex Ratio (Bucks: 100 Does):</u>	
Previous post-hunt Objective: 20 -25	2019 Post-hunt Modeled: 71.5
CPW Preferred Alternative: 25-30	

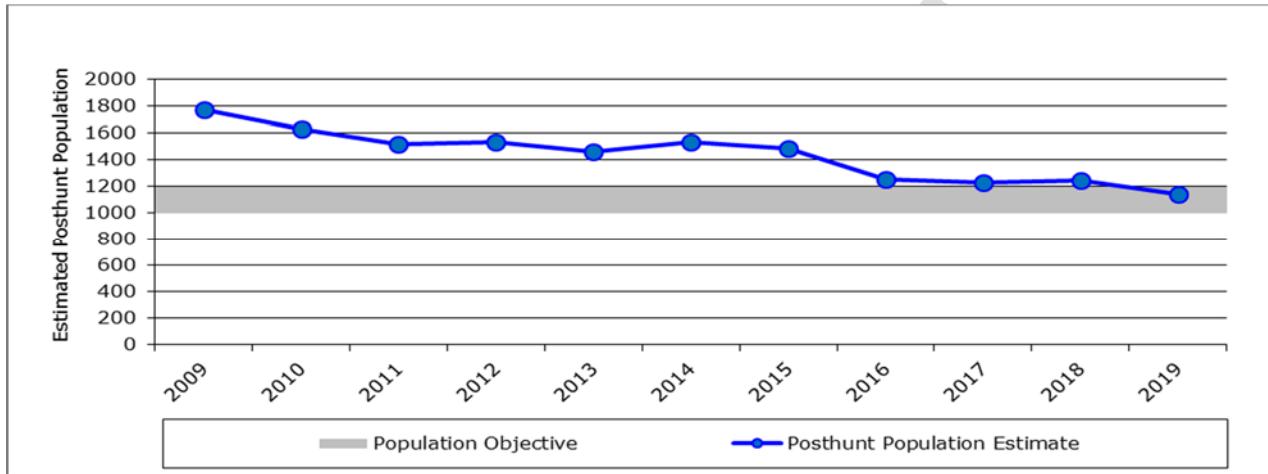


Figure 1. Cherokee Park DAU modeled post-hunt population and objective 2009-2019.

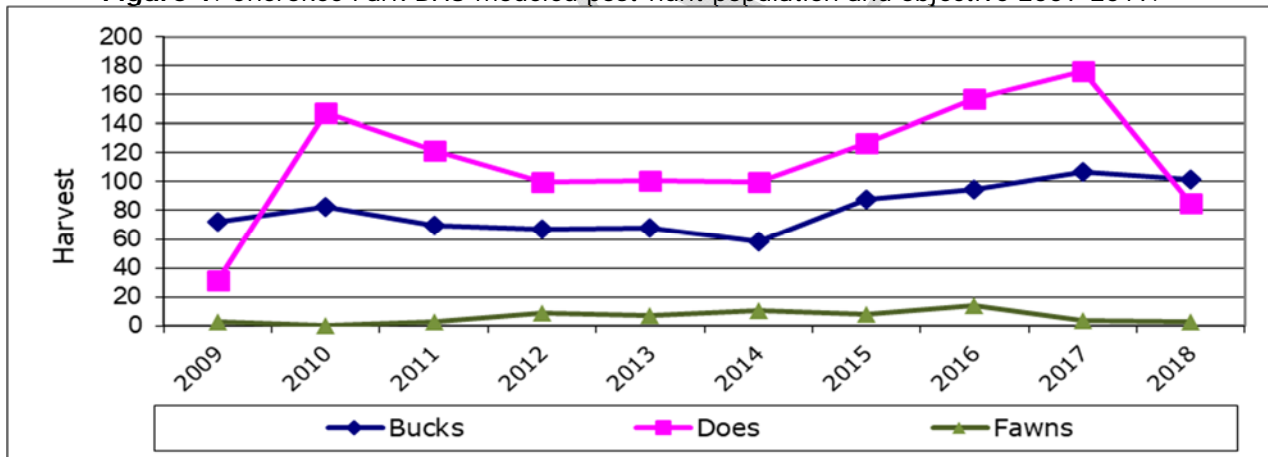


Figure 2. Cherokee Park DAU buck, doe, and fawn harvest estimates from 2009-2018.

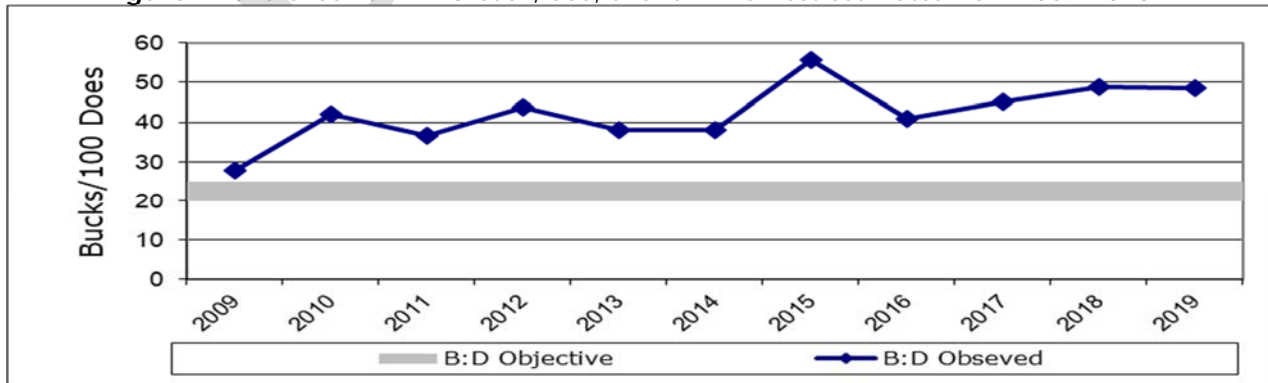


Figure 3. Cherokee Park DAU buck: doe ratio from 2009-2019.

Background and Management Information

The Cherokee Park pronghorn herd is a medium-sized state line herd. This herd occupies primarily private land north of Fort Collins along the U.S. highway 287 corridor. Yearly seasonal migrations occur between the border of Colorado and Wyoming.

The modeled population represents the year-around resident herd. However, in most winters the herd size increases substantially (1,000+ pronghorn) from the ingress of pronghorn from Wyoming. The herd size decreases again during the spring and summer migration. The 2019 estimated pronghorn modeled population is 1,066 and the modeled post-hunt buck ratio is 72: 100 does. The high post-hunt buck ratio can be contributed to the increase in doe harvest combined with a stable buck harvest over the past 5 years.

The increase in doe harvest is in response to an increase in agricultural damage that occurs during hard winters when pronghorn migrate down into Colorado from Wyoming. To help manage the influx of pronghorn and the associated game damage while also maintaining a sustainable resident herd, the late antlerless pronghorn rifle season has been extended through January 31 beginning in 2020.

Population Objective Alternatives:

Population Alternative #1: 700-900 pronghorn (~25% reduction)

To manage for this objective there would be an increase in licenses until the objective is reached and then license numbers would decrease to maintain the population.

Population Alternative #2 (preferred): 1,000-1,200 pronghorn (Status quo)

Doe licenses would decrease slightly to stabilize the population at this objective.

Population Alternative #3: 1,300-1,500 pronghorn (~25% increase)

Licenses for both bucks and does would decrease until the population objective is reached and then a lower number of licenses overall would be available.

Herd Composition-Sex Ratio Objective Alternative

Composition Alternative #1: 15-20 bucks: 100 does

To manage for this composition there would be an increase in buck licenses. However, due to the herds, in particular bucks, residing on mostly private lands this objective may not be achieved.

Composition Alternative #2: 20-25 bucks: 100 does (Status quo)

Status quo on number of buck licenses.

Composition Alternative #3 (preferred): 25-30 bucks: 100 does

This composition objective is an increase from the current objective. This composition aligns with our management capabilities because the majority of the herd resides on private lands making it difficult to achieve a lower buck to doe ratio.

This plan was approved by the Colorado Wildlife Commission on XXXX