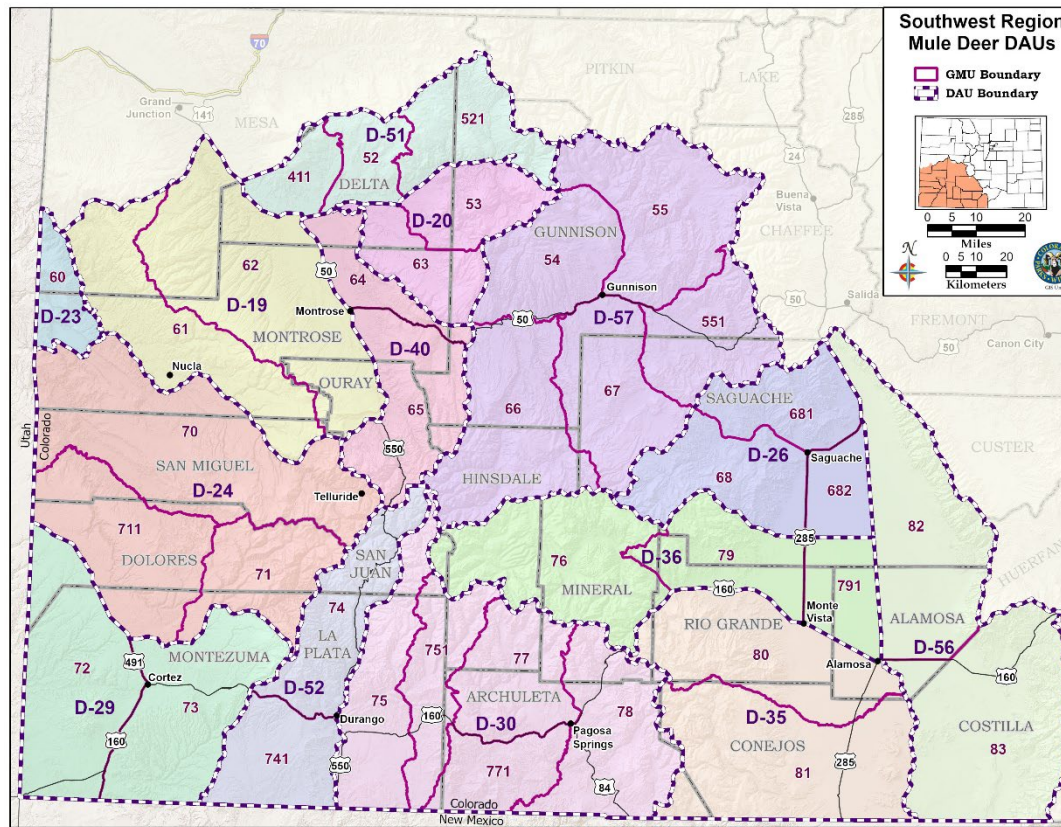


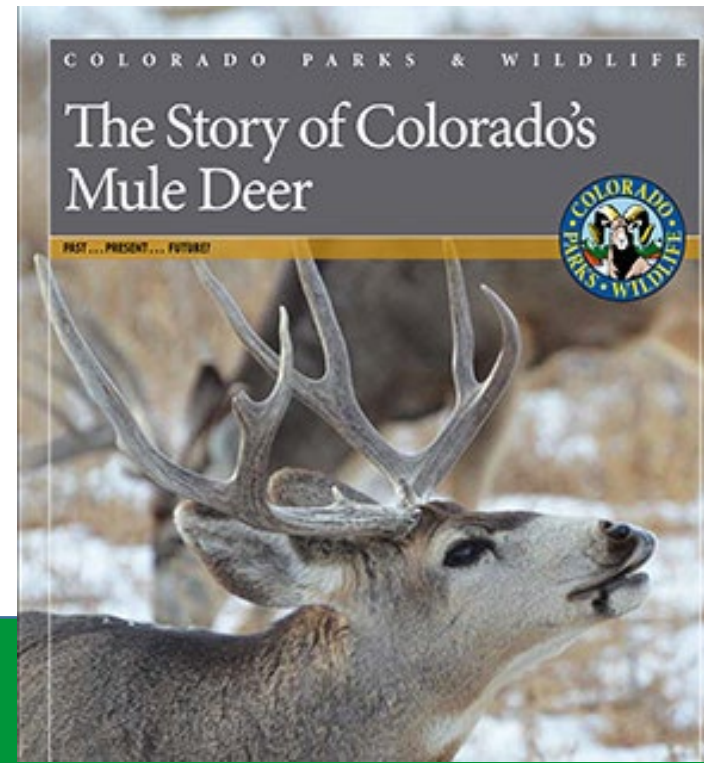
Southwest Region Mule Deer Herd Management Plans



January 10-11, 2024
Denver, Colorado

Background

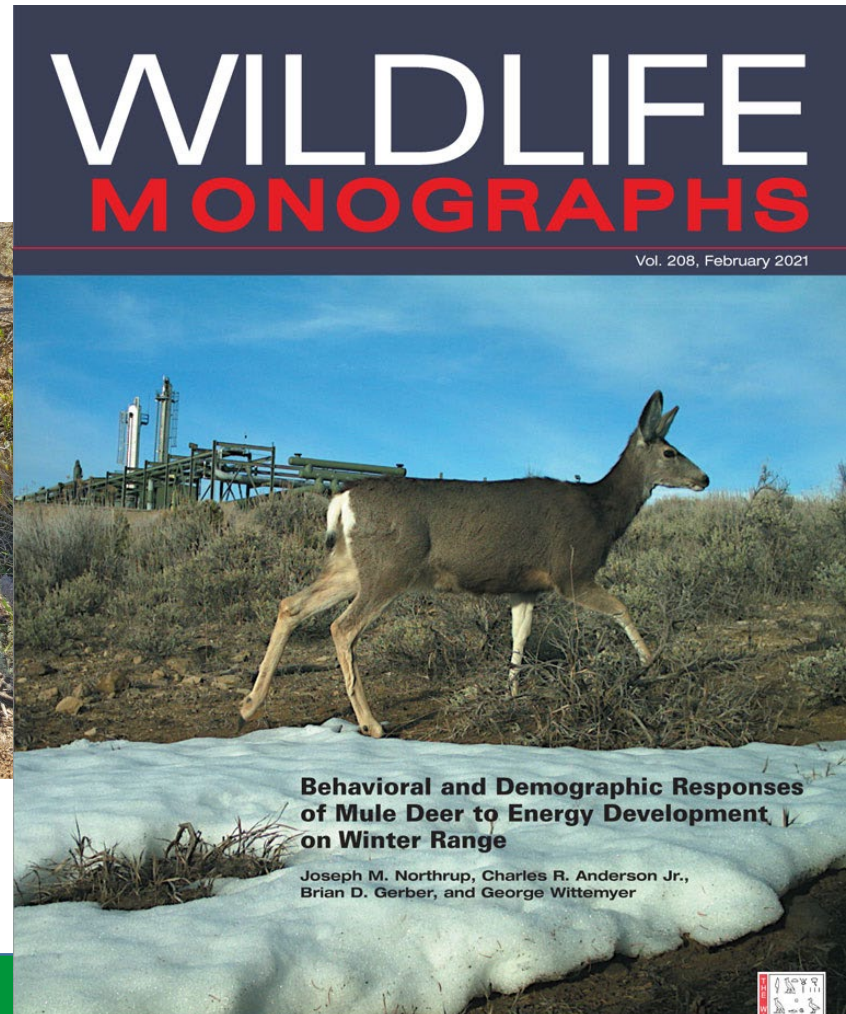
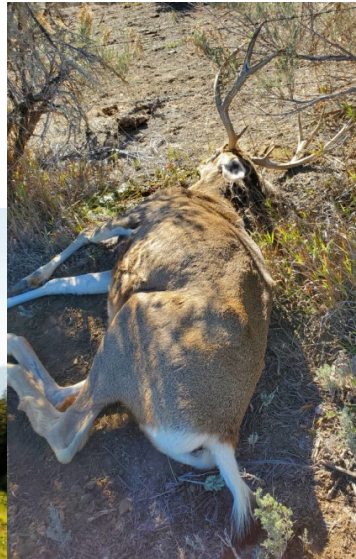
- 1960s/1970s: Mule deer populations in CO likely number > 1 million deer
- Colorado currently supports ~390K mule deer, still the largest herd in North America
- Conservation/research efforts to stabilize populations
- 14 herds in southwest Colorado total ~130K mule deer, representing 33% of statewide total



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Common Management Issues

- Human Development/Expanding Anthropogenic Influence
 - Habitat Loss/Degradation
- Increasing Recreation Pressure
- Chronic Wasting Disease

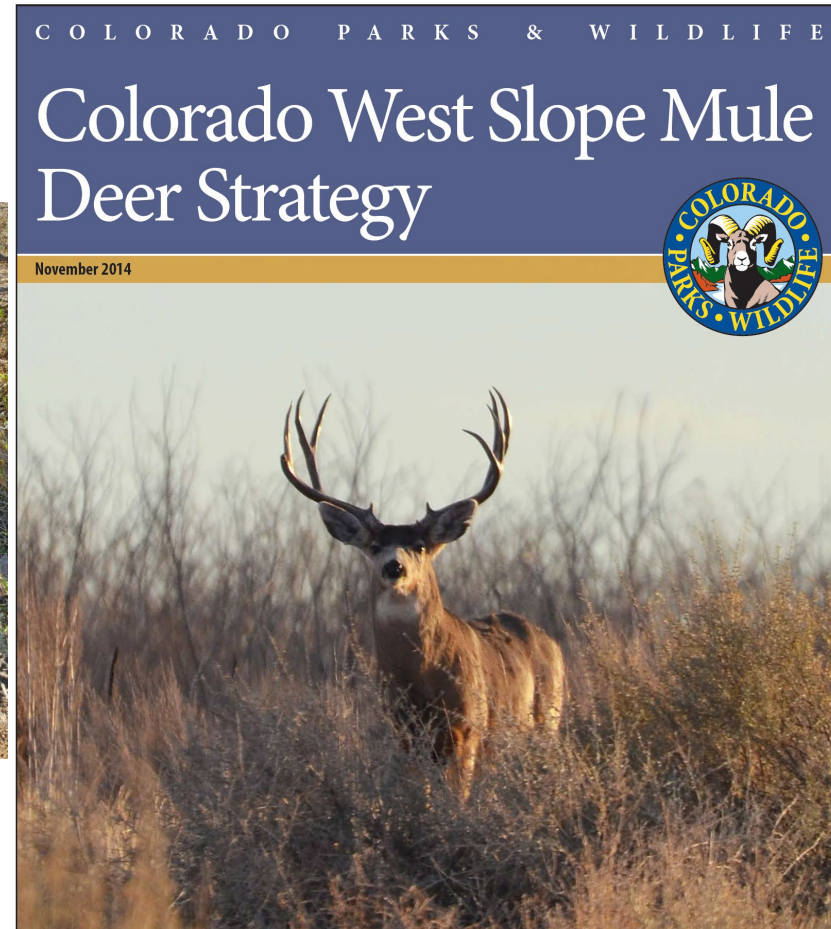
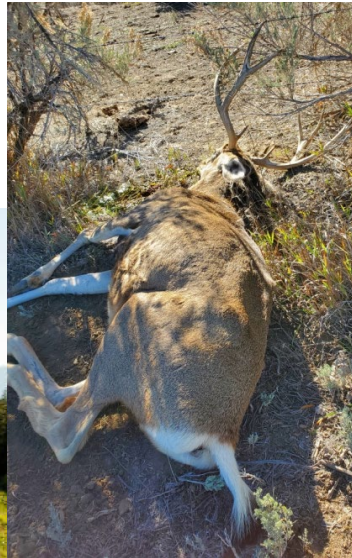


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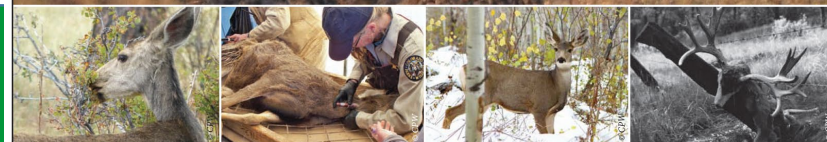


Common Management Issues

- Human Development/Expanding Anthropogenic Influence
 - Habitat Loss
- Increasing Recreation Pressure
- Chronic Wasting Disease



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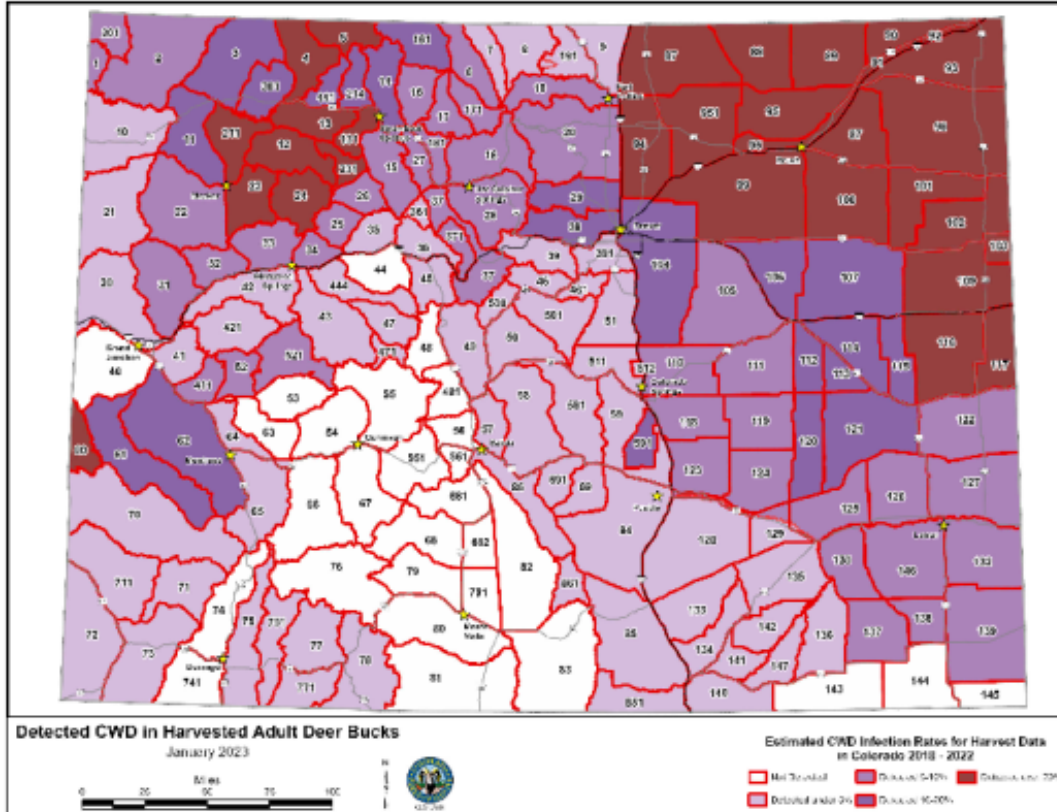
Chronic Wasting Disease



Colorado Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan

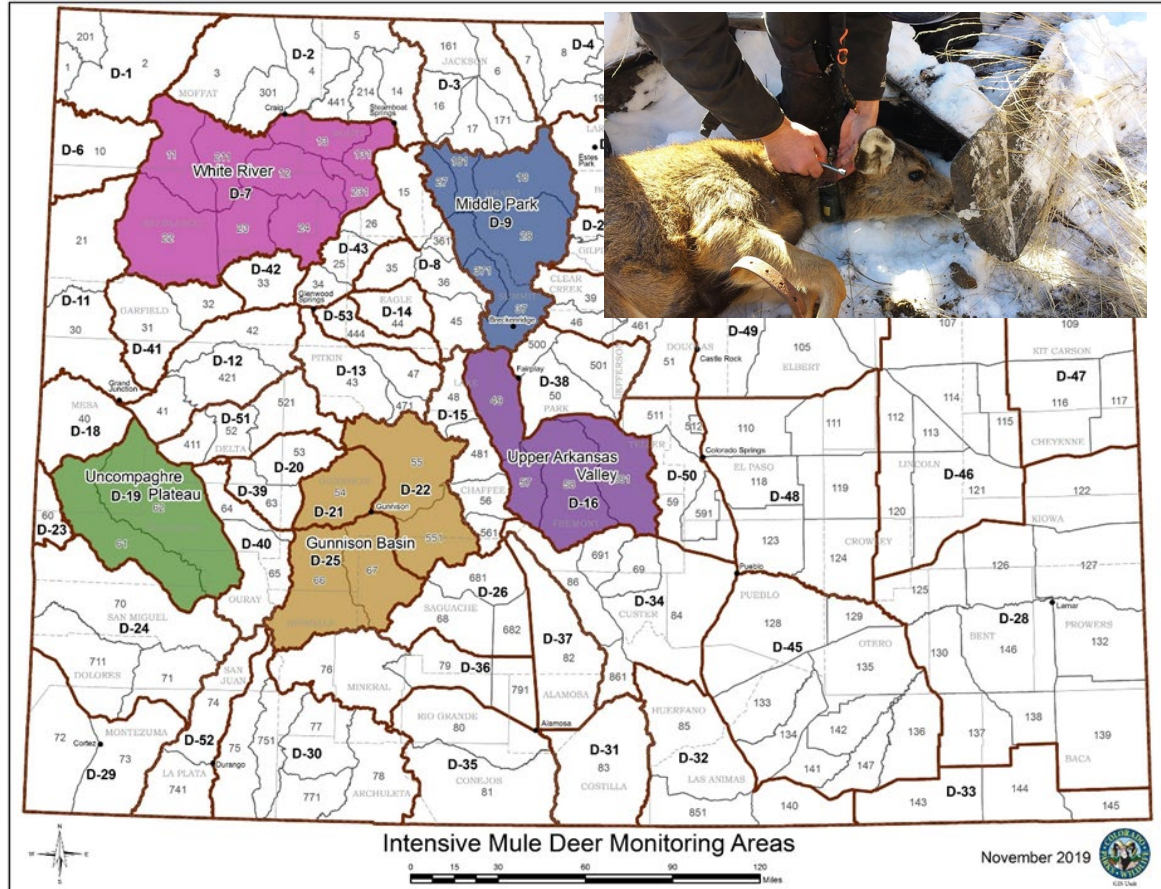


December 2018



Intensive Deer Monitoring Areas

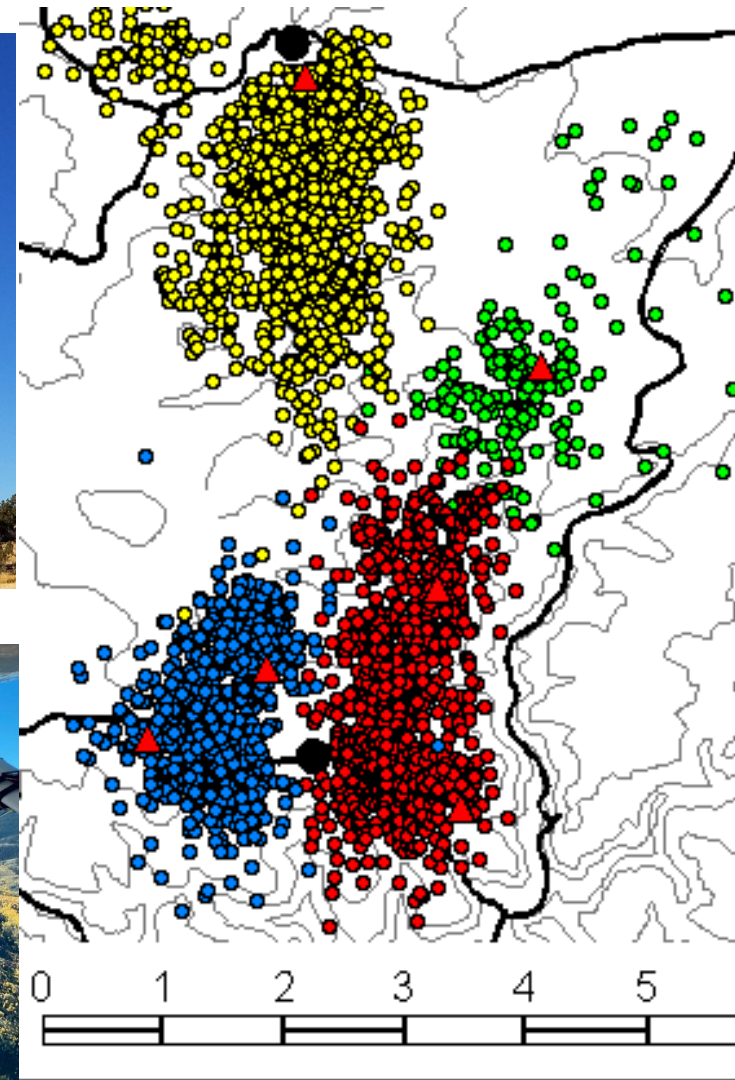
- Annual Adult Survival
- Overwinter Fawn Survival
- Cause-specific Mortality
- Migration/Corridors
- Habitat Use



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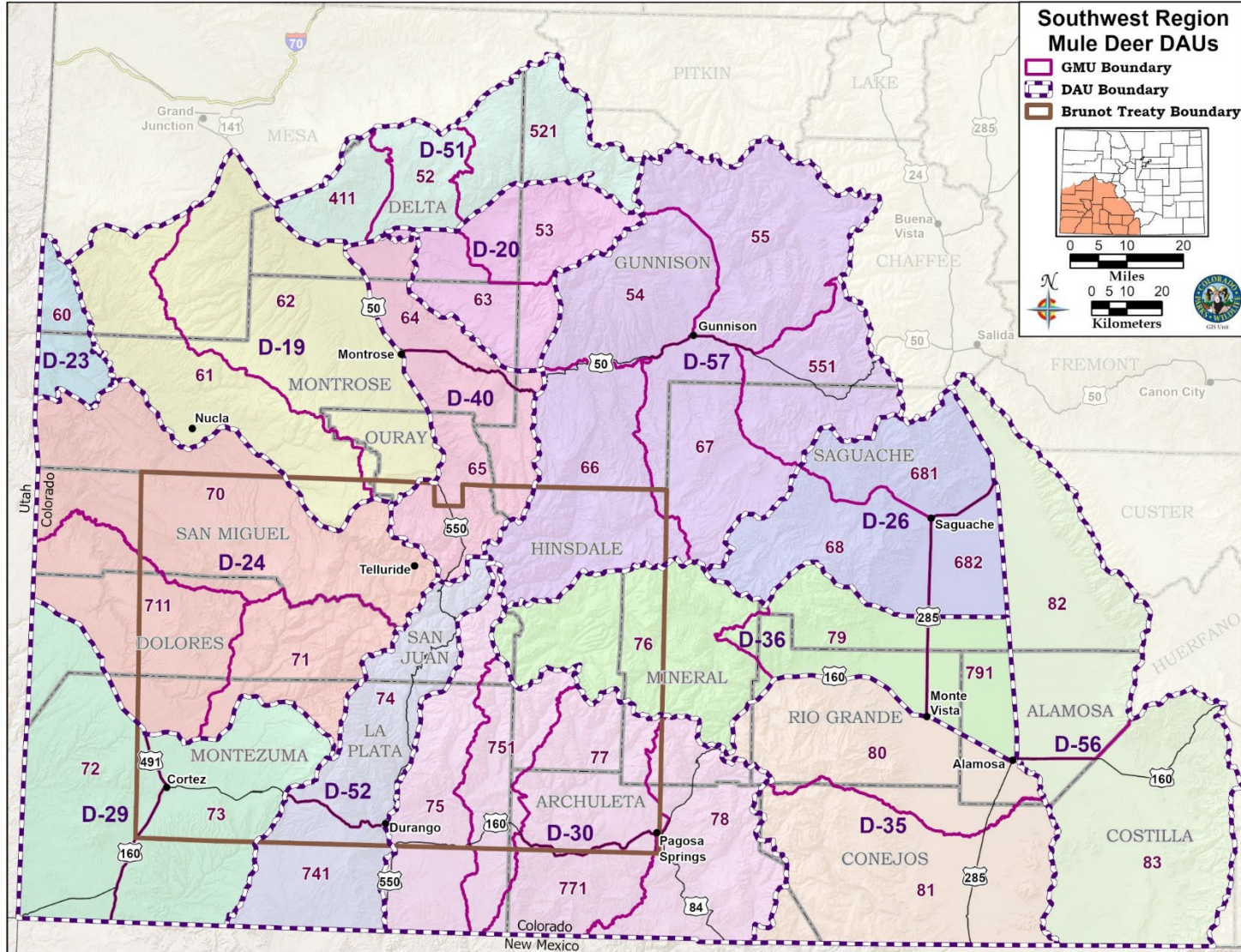
Intensive Deer Monitoring Areas

- Annual Adult Doe Survival
- Overwinter Fawn Survival
- Body Condition
- Cause-specific Mortality
- Migration/Corridors
- Habitat Use

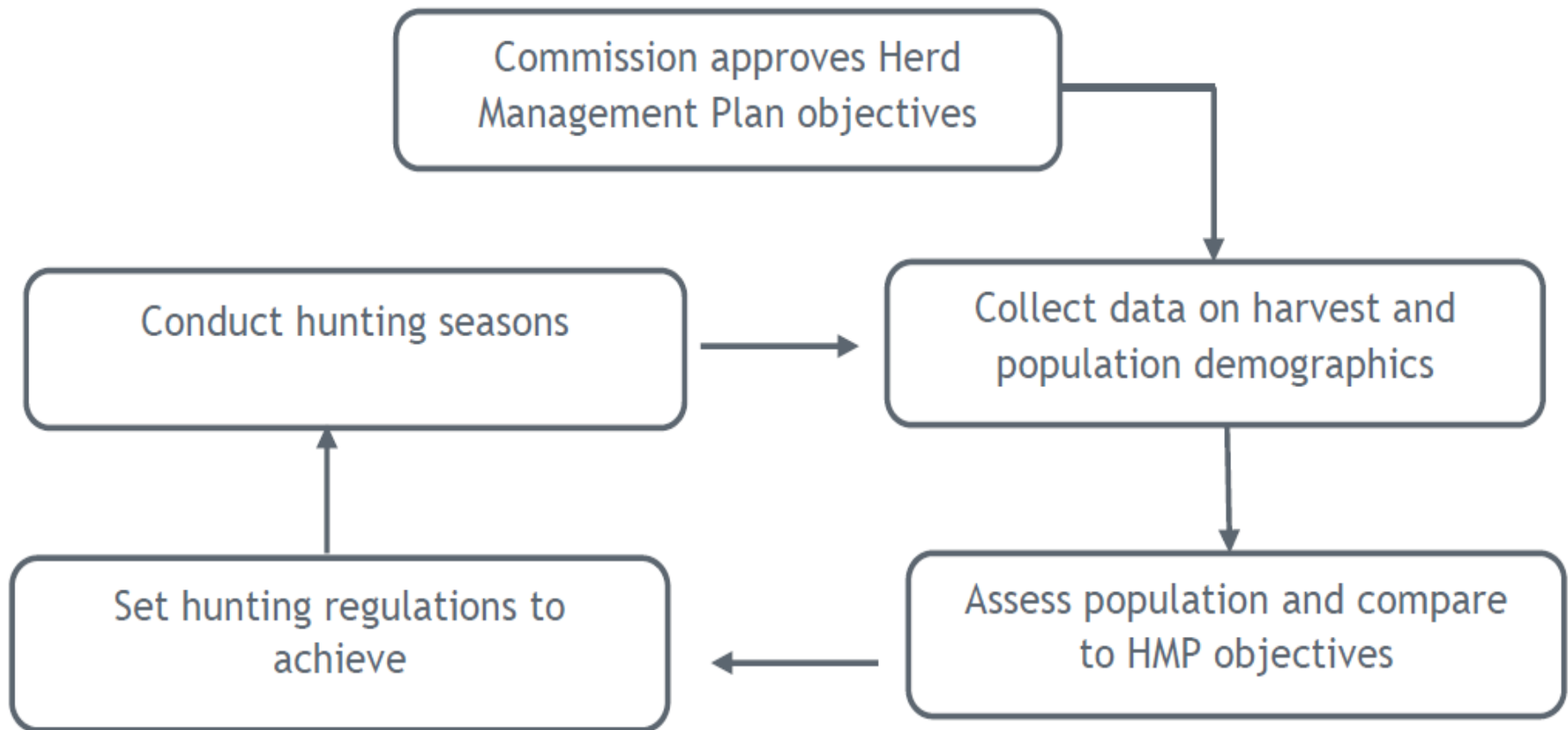


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The Brunot Agreement of 1873



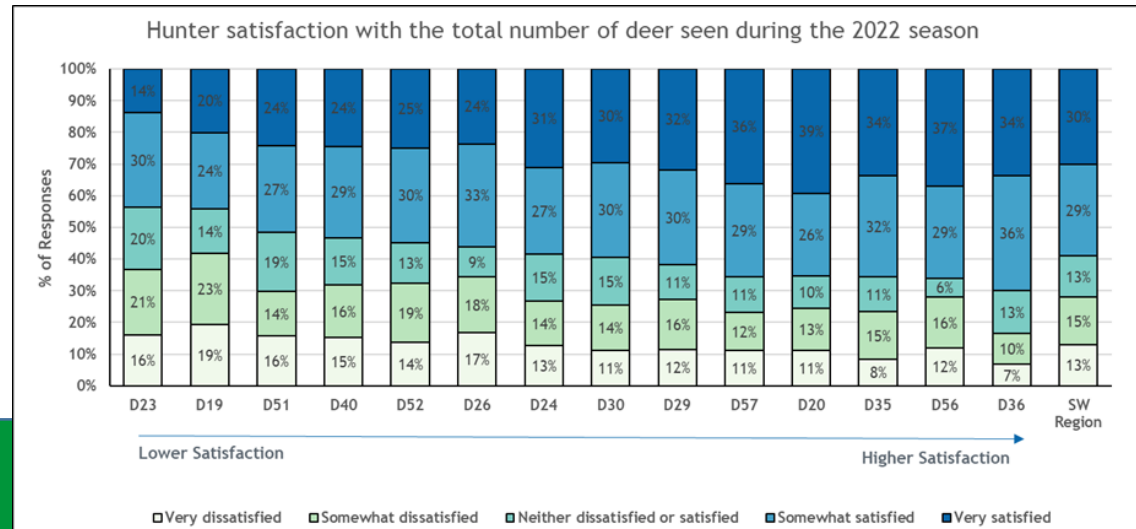
COLORADO'S BIG GAME MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVE PROCESS



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Public Process

- Hunter Surveys
- Landowner Surveys
- Public Meetings
- Sportsperson's Roundtable
- Habitat Partnership Program Committees
- Engagement with Local and Tribal Governments, Interest Groups, and Federal Land Managers
- 30-day public comment and press releases



DAU	Mule Deer Herd	Current Herd Management Plan Approved	Current Population Objective	2022 Post-hunt Population Estimate	Current Buck Ratio Objective	3-Yr Avg Observed Buck Ratio	Buck CWD Prevalence	Proposed Population Objective	Proposed Buck Ratio Objective
D-19	Uncompahgre Plateau	2006	36,000-38,000	10,300	34-36	33	13.8%	12,000-15,000	30-35
D-20	North Fork Gunnison River	2018	7,500-9,500	8,700	33-38	34	0%	Extension	Extension
D-23	La Sal	2008	2,500-3,000	1,500	25-30	33	21.0%	1,500-1,800	20-25
D-24	Groundhog	2014	15,000-19,000	18,300	23-28	27	3.1%	19,000-23,000	23-28
D-26	Saguache	2019	5,500-6,500	5,500	26-29	29	0%	Extension	Extension
D-29	Mesa Verde	2014	5,500-7,000	9,300	23-28	30	2.3%	9,000-12,000	23-28
D-30	San Juan Basin	2020	23,000-27,000	22,700	25-30	31	<1%	Extension	Extension
D-35	Lower Rio Grande	2018	5,500-6,500	6,800	23-25	30	0%	6,000-8,000	25-30
D-36	Upper Rio Grande	2022	2,200-2,800	2,600	23-28	29	0%	Extension	Extension
D-40	Cimarron	2022	6,500-8,500	5,900	25-30	19	3.7%	Extension	22-27
D-51	South Grand Mesa	2018	8,000-10,000	9,100	25-30	26	7.0%	Extension	Extension
D-52	Hermosa	2010	4,000-6,000	4,500	25-30	31	0%	Extension	Extension
D-56	Sand Dunes	2010	4,300-5,500	3,400	25-40	35	0%	4,300-5,500	30-35
D-57	Gunnison Basin	2013	15,400-16,900	18,900	35-40	45	0%	17,000-20,000	35-40



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Acknowledgements

- Brad Weinmeister, Wildlife Biologist, Durango
- Alyssa Meier, Wildlife Biologist, Gunnison
- Brent Frankland, Wildlife Biologist, Monte Vista
- Alyssa Kircher, Wildlife Biologist, Montrose
- Evan Phillips, Wildlife Biologist, Montrose
- Area 15, Durango
- Area 16, Gunnison
- Area 17, Monte Vista
- Area 18, Montrose
- Southwest Region Staff



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