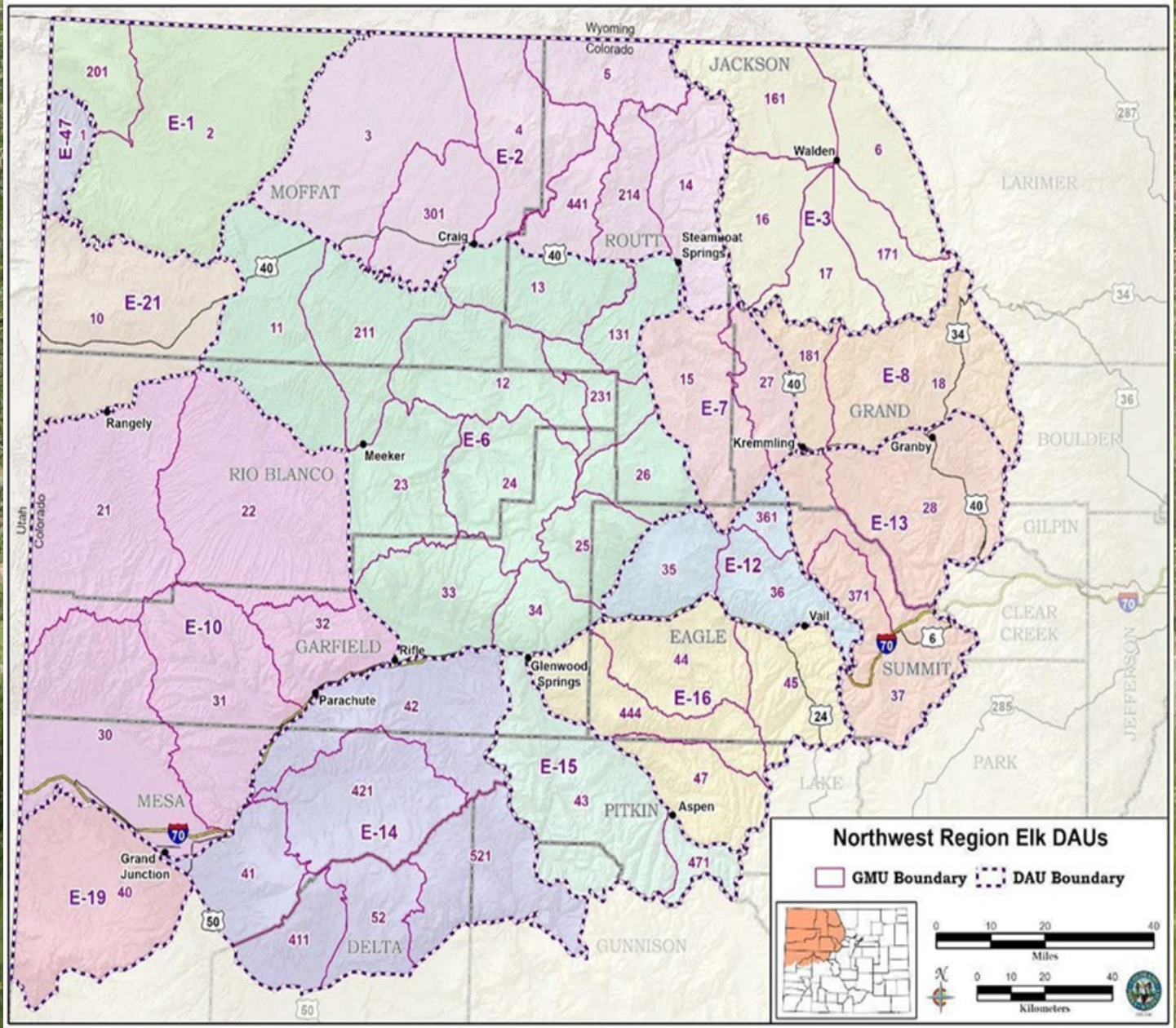


Northwest Region Elk Herd Management Plans



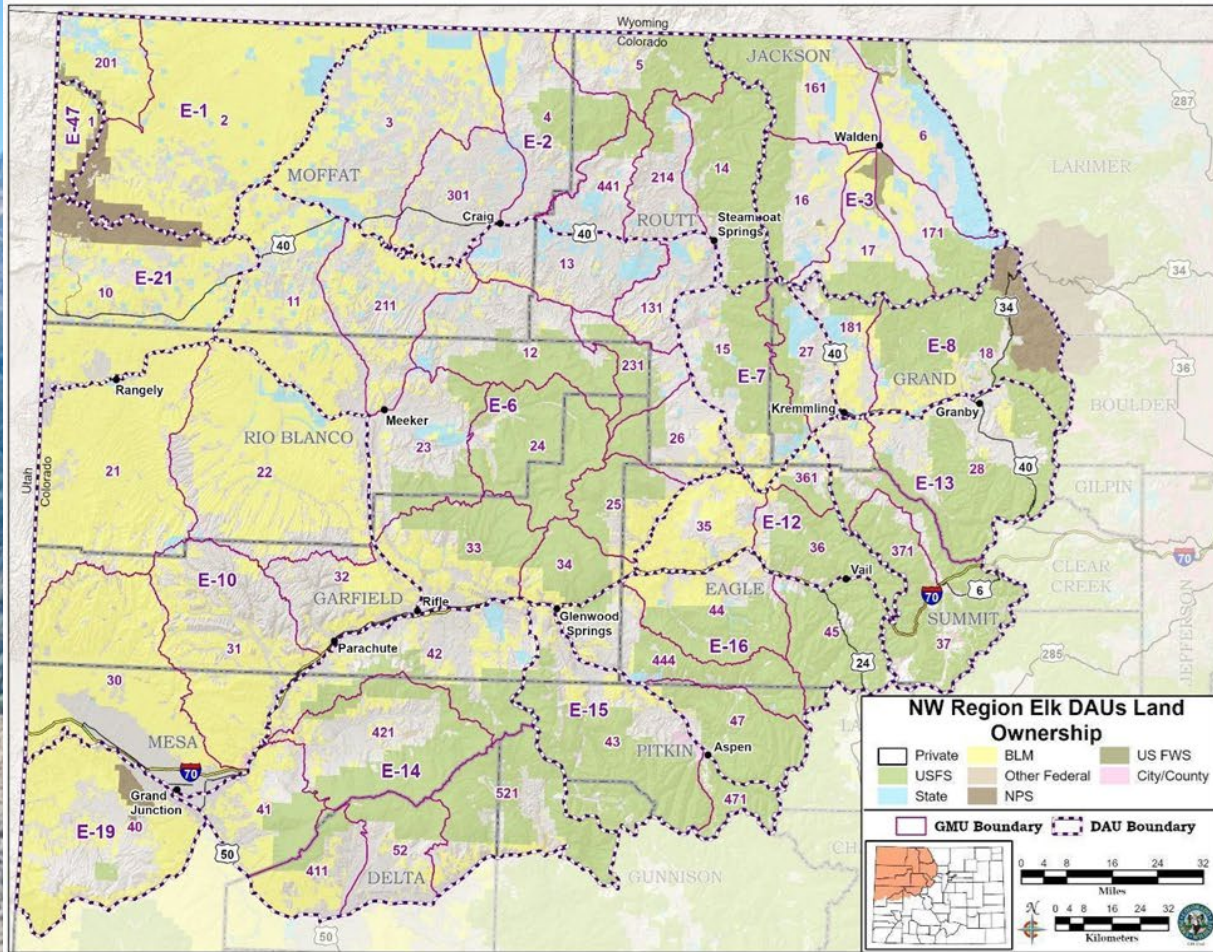
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July 18-19, 2024
Meeker, Colorado



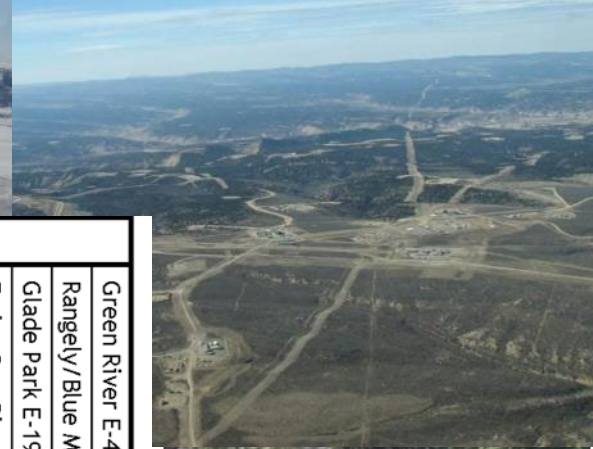
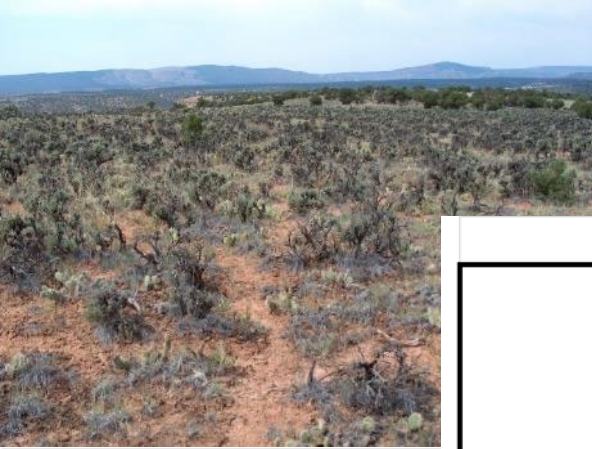
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Background



- 115,390 elk (38% of statewide total)
- Counties: Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit
- 23,746 sq. mi with a human population of 416,549 (and growing)
- Landownership: 32% BLM, 30% USFS, 2% NPS, 3% State, and 33% Private



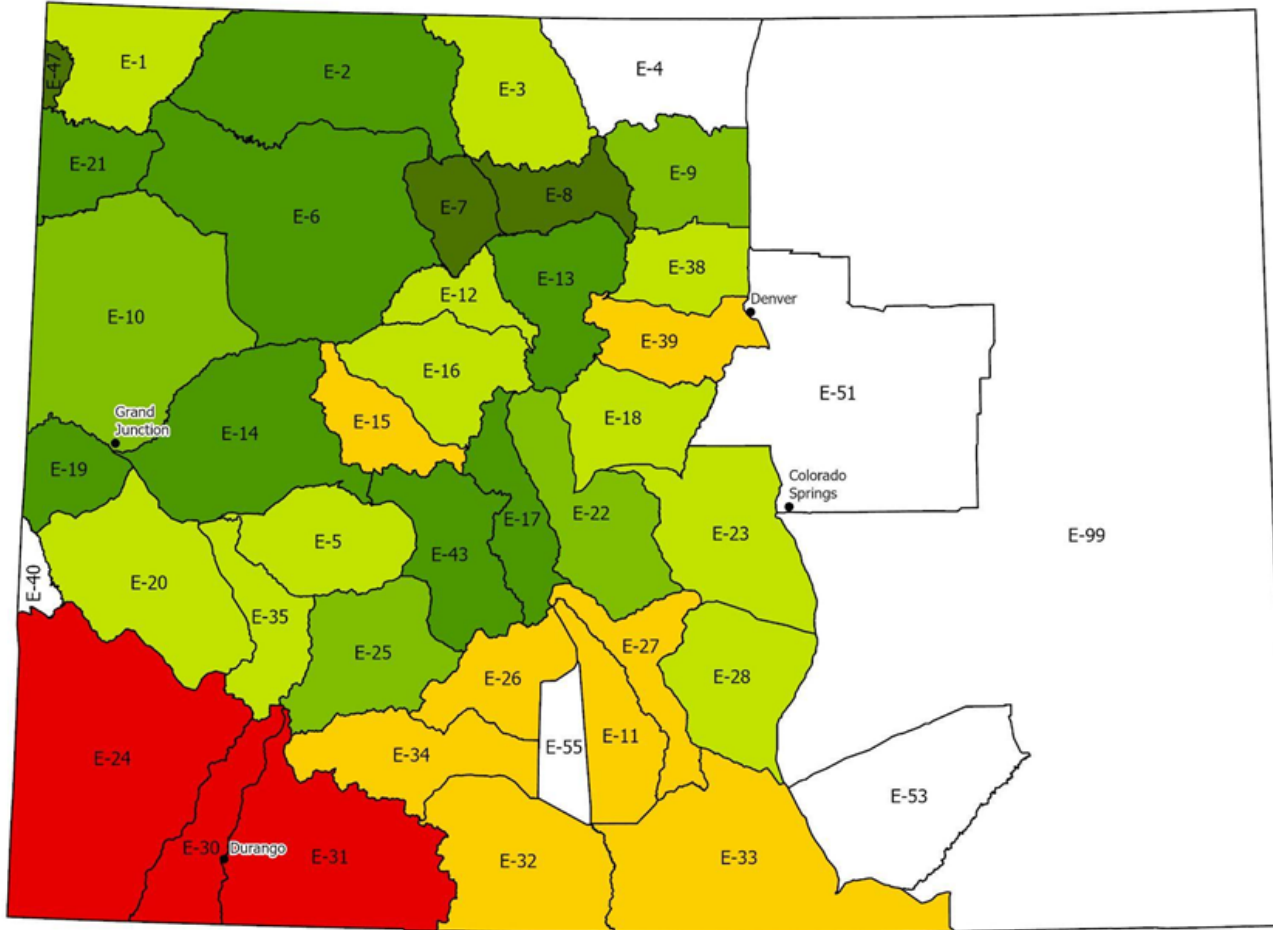


Elk Management Issues	Data Analysis Units (DAU)														
	Cold Springs E-1	Bears Ears E-2	North Park E-3	White River E-6	Gore Pass E-7	Troublesome Creek E-8	Yellow Creek E-10	Piney River E-12	Williams Fork River E-13	Grand Mesa E-14	Avalanche Creek E-15	Frying Pan River E-16	Glade Park E-19	Rangely/Blue Mountain E-21	Green River E-47
Oil and Gas Development															
Predation/Wolves															
Residential Development															
Drought/Severe Winter/Climate															
Habitat quality/quantity															
Roadkill															
Free-roaming horses															
Agricultural game damage / forage competition															
Recreation															
Chronic Wasting Disease															
Wind/Solar Development															
Fencing															
Calf recruitment															



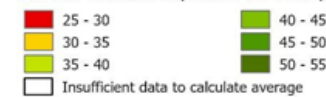
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Calf Recruitment

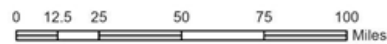


Elk Calf Cow Ratios Post-Hunt
5-Year Average 2018 - 2022

Elk Calf Cow Ratios (Calves/100 Cows)



*Average calves per 100 cows for herds with at least 3 years of inventory data.



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Habitat

- Wildlife abundance is ultimately limited by the quality and availability of habitat
- Are more elk better?

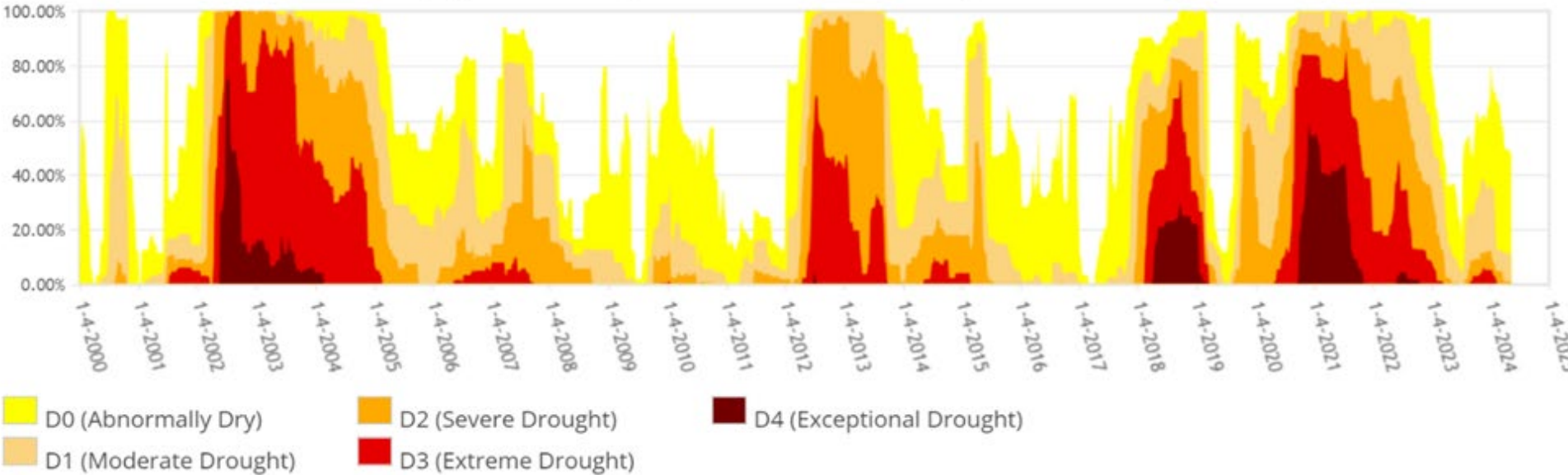


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Weather



HUC 14 (Upper Colorado) Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



From the U.S. Drought Monitor website, <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>, 5-22-2024

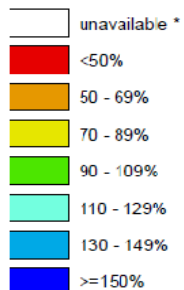


Weather

Mar 21, 2023

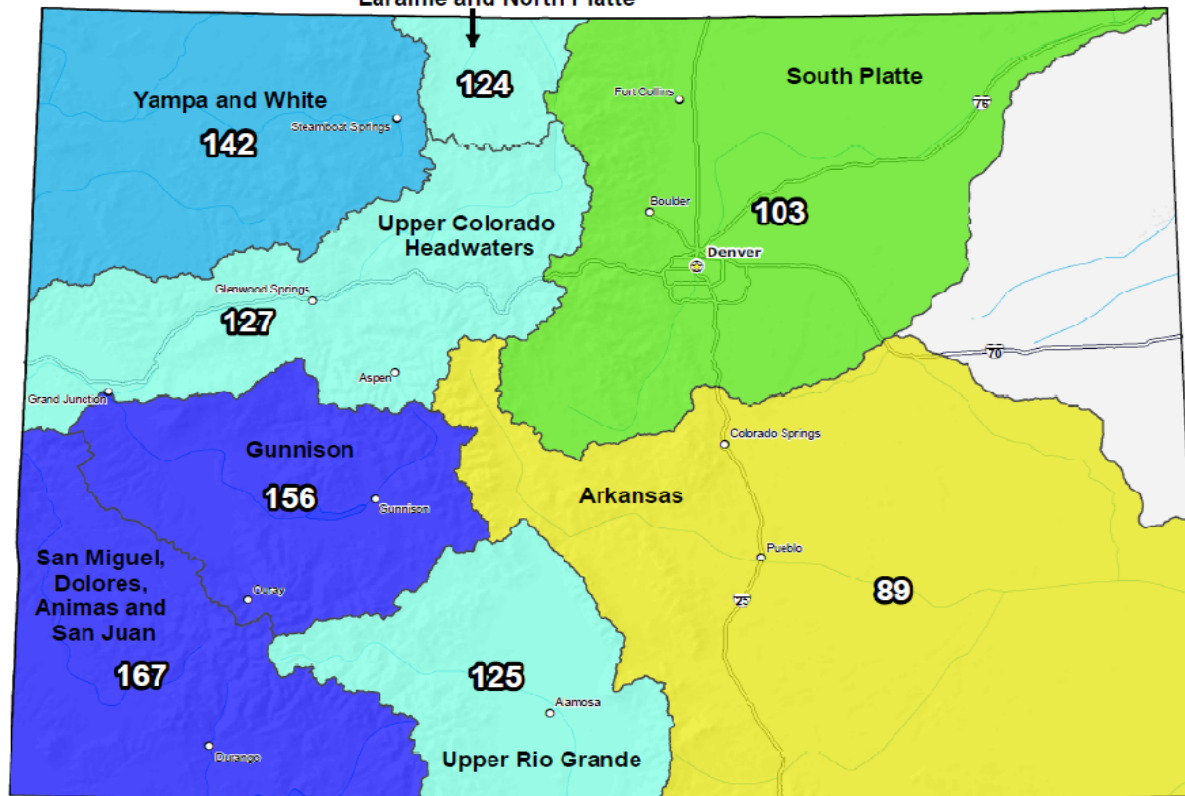
Colorado SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal Laramie and North Platte

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative of this time of year

Provisional Data
Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>



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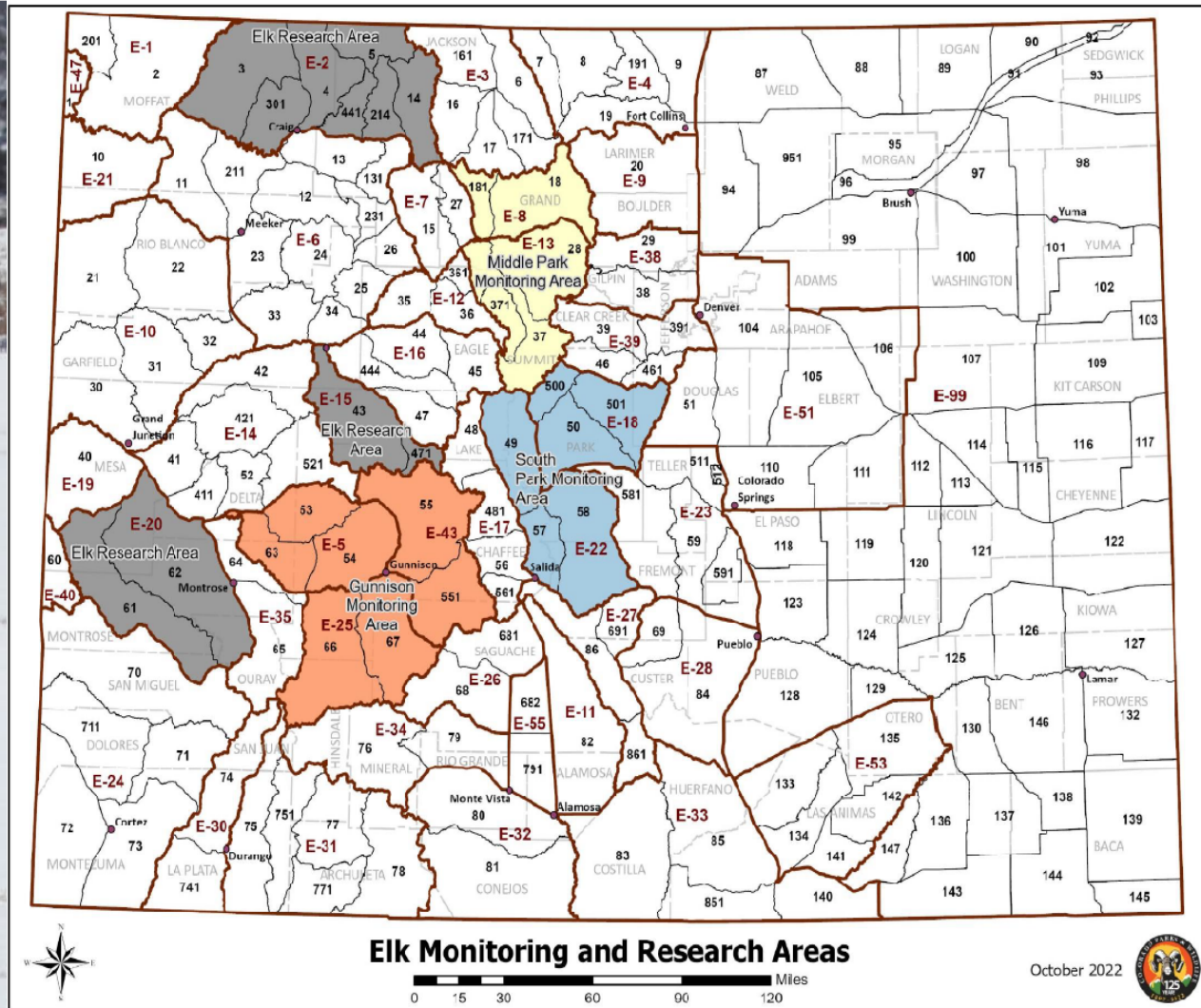
Predation

Changes related to weather, disease, and habitat all have an important effect on prey numbers and how effective predators are at preying upon elk



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Elk Monitoring Studies



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Proposed Elk HMP Objectives

DAU	Elk Herd	Current DAU Plan Approved	Current Population Objective	2023 Post-hunt Population Estimate	Current Sex Ratio Objective	3-Yr Avg Observed Sex Ratio	Male CWD Prevalence	Proposed Population Objective	Proposed Observed Sex Ratio Objective
E-1	Cold Springs	2013	700-1700	1,130*	40	41	Not detected	1000-2000	>40
E-2	Bears Ears	2008	15,000-18,000	10,567	20-25	14	2%	Status quo	15-25
E-3	North Park	2008	4,000-4,500	5,794	20-23	15	2%	Status quo	20-25
E-6	White River	2005	32,000-39,000	30,376	22-27	21	5%	Status quo	15-25
E-7	Gore Pass	2020	4,000-5,000	3,759	24-28	25	4%	Extension	Extension
E-8	Troublesome Creek	2010	3,600-4,300	3,611	21-26	30	0%	3,400-4,400	23-29
E-10	Yellow Creek	2022	8,500-10,500	16,114	18-25	26	0%	Extension	Extension
E-12	Piney River	2013	3,000-4,600	3,852	22-44	20	Not detected	3,000-5,000	15-43
E-13	Williams Fork River	2010	4,700-5,500	2,887	24-31	27	0%	4,000-5,500	23-29
E-14	Grand Mesa	2010	15,000-19,000	15,406	20-25	22	0%	Status quo	18-25
E-15	Avalanche Creek	2013	3,600-5,400	4,237	17-27	22	Not detected	Status quo	19-30
E-16	Frying Pan River	2013	5,500-8,500	9,823	18-30	22	Not detected	Status quo	17-29
E-19	Glade Park	2010	2,800-3,800	5,554	30-35	30	Not detected	Status quo	30-40
E-21	Rangely/Blue Mountain	None	1200	2623*	40	47	1%	1000-2000	>40
E-47	Green River	None	170	99*	30	140	Not detected	150-250	>40



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Acknowledgments

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