



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program 2024 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Proposal Instructions

June 6, 2024: Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is pleased to request proposals for the 2024 Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP). Application materials may be found on CPW's website. www.cpw.state.co.us/CWHP

Proposal Deadline: Thursday, October 10, 2024, 5:00pm

The CWHP 2024 RFP APPLICATION has three parts:

Part 1 - Funding Proposal:

Answer all questions with accurate details. Limit answers to the specific question asked in the space provided. If a question does not apply, indicate with "N/A."

Part 2 - Proposal Budget Form:

Detail where all of the project's money is coming from and how it will be spent.

Part 3 - Supplemental Information:

Provide documents that support the proposal. Property legal descriptions are required. Other documents may include an appraisal, mineral assessment, baseline, environmental hazard, survey, etc. Letters of support are recommended.

*See the "How to Submit a Proposal" instructions on the RFP's webpage, listed above.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their local CPW Area Wildlife Manager to discuss the proposal. CPW staff can provide assistance and help answer questions about the property's wildlife and habitat values. Local CPW contact numbers can be found on CPW's website: <https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Pages/CPW-Office-Location-Map.aspx>

PROGRAM CONTACT: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Real Estate Section, Denver, CO. Amanda Nims, Program Manager. (303) 291-7269, amanda.nims@state.co.us

Please contact Program Manager in advance of submitting a proposal. Mistakes are often submitted in the budget form and it is *strongly* recommended that mistakes be fixed before the proposal is formally submitted, in advance of the RFP deadline.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

PURPOSE

The CWHP is a statewide program focused on habitat protection and public access. This voluntary, incentive-based partnership program supports CPW's mission through acquisitions of conservation easements ("CEs"), public access easements ("AEs"), and occasionally fee title acquisitions. The CWHP is authorized by Colorado Statute and administered by CPW.

CWHP funding priorities and preferences are established by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

2024 CWHP FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Acquiring significant public access for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing
- Protecting big game winter range and migration corridors
- Protecting habitat for species of concern (specifically those Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in CPW's State Wildlife Action Plan)
- Protecting riparian areas and wetlands
- Landscape-scale parcels
- Parcels that provide connectivity

2024 CWHP FUNDING PREFERENCES

- Properties that include Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat
- Properties that exhibit biodiversity
- Provides public Right of Way across private land to provide access to landlocked public land
- Working farms and ranches
- Properties that support wildlife crossings

APPLICANTS

The landowner is the applicant. A land trust, local government, conservation organization, or other representative (third party) may submit a proposal on behalf of a landowner. If the proposal involves a third party CE, the third party must be qualified to hold conservation easements under federal and state law.

PROJECT FUNDING

The 2024 CWHP budget is \$11,000,000 but additional funding may be possible for high-value, once-in-a-generation projects that create lasting impacts on Colorado and future generations. Projects recommended for funding in the spring of 2025 will have funding available in July 2025; funding will not be accessible until the project has been successfully negotiated and all conditions have been met by the applicant.

CWHP funds may be used to acquire real estate interests and to assist with eligible third party project costs. See Appendix 1 - ELIGIBLE TRANSACTION COSTS.

Third party CE holders are subject to CRS 33-4-102.7(d): *"No third-party conservation easement shall be obtained using proceeds from the sale of habitat stamps unless the requesting organization contributes at least fifteen percent (15%) of the purchase price of the easement or fifteen percent of the purchase price is secured using other sources of nondivision funding; however, if, in the commission's discretion, sufficient hunting or fishing access is provided, the fifteen percent contribution requirement may be waived."*

PROCESS / PROJECT SELECTION

For more information on habitats and species considered by the CWHP, see Appendix 2 - HABITAT & SPECIES INFORMATION, and Appendix 2A, Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat, at the end of this document.

Proposals are reviewed by CPW staff and the Colorado Habitat Stamp Committee. They evaluate each proposal's conservation impacts, ecological and biological significance, public benefit, public access, and feasibility. Proposals are confidential during the evaluation process as permitted by Colorado law.

Proposals that demonstrate partner contributions, cash, in-kind, and donated value will be given additional consideration in the scoring process. For scoring information, see Appendix 3 - SCORING CRITERIA, at the end of this document. CPW reserves the right to speak with funding partners related to the application.

When a proposal is recommended for funding by the Commission, that recommendation is not a final approval and funding is not guaranteed. Closing is contingent on multiple levels of approval and all projects are conditioned on funds being available.

Projects are expected to be selected by the Parks and Wildlife Commission within 7-8 months following the close of the RFP deadline.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If landowners wish to offer CPW the option of either fee title acquisition or a CPW-held CE, two separate applications must be submitted.

CE projects funded through the CWHP require a management plan agreed upon by the landowner and CPW prior to closing. The management plan typically includes provisions for the type, timing, and duration of livestock grazing and recreational activities, and overall management of vegetation to protect or enhance the property's conservation values identified in the CE. Landowners are encouraged to provide a clear vision of the future of their property, ideally in the RFP application, prior to entering CE and management plan negotiations.

CEs must be monitored annually in order to fulfill stewardship responsibilities. Third party CE holders will submit an electronic copy of the annual monitoring report to CPW for each CE that receives funding through the CWHP. The annual deadline for submitting these reports for the prior year is January 31st.

CPW has a fiduciary responsibility to oversee investments in third party conservation easements. In the unlikely event that a third party CE holder fails to fulfill its stewardship obligations, all third party CEs must include language whereby CPW reserves the right, but not the obligation, to enter the property and enforce the terms of the CE.

Fee title purchases by CPW may be considered for properties with exceptional habitat or recreational values where a CE or a public AE is not possible.

A State Wildlife Area is a property where public use has been acquired by CPW. A State Habitat Area (SHA) is a property that was acquired primarily for habitat protection but does not provide public access. If a public AE is conveyed to CPW as part of a proposal, the subject property will be designated a State Wildlife Area. If only a CE is conveyed to CPW (no public access is granted), the property will be designated a State Habitat Area (SHA). CPW will work with the landowner to

install appropriate signage reflecting the property's SWA designation. Whether signage is required for an SHA depends upon the financing for the CE.

Under Colorado law, CPW is subject to the terms of the Colorado Open Records Act, CRS §24-72-101, et seq. and the terms of the transaction become a matter of public record after the project is completed and closed. Additionally, it is important for CPW and funding partners to provide accurate information to the public regarding the CWHP efforts to protect vital Colorado habitats and provide hunting and fishing access. Applicants should be aware that after a project has closed, information about the transaction, including funding amounts provided by CPW, may be used for public information purposes.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not provide legal advice to applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult their legal, financial, and tax advisors when contemplating any real estate transaction associated with the CWHP.

If applicants would like a review of their proposal, parts or the entire proposal may be sent up to six weeks before the October 10th deadline. Send draft applications to Amanda.nims@state.co.us no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, September 5th.

When answering application questions, do not instruct evaluators to refer to other parts of the application for answers. Take the time and space provided to answer each question fully. Be strategic with where information is provided and avoid providing duplicative information throughout the application.

Include page numbers at the bottom of each page of Part 1 - Funding Proposal.

PROPOSALS

The CWHP RFP process includes evaluation of each proposal by dozens of people across Colorado. The application materials may request the same information in different ways to help the different types of evaluators fulfill their specific role in determining whether the proposal should be prioritized for funding.

2024 proposals must be accurate and complete. Write "N/A" if specific questions are not applicable to the proposal. Incomplete applications will be not be considered for funding. Any request for significant modifications or changes to a proposal after the proposal deadline will not be considered.

Applicants must use the 2024 application form and not previous funding cycles' application forms. RFP application materials reflect current priorities and preferences set by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and CPW's Executive Management Team. Proposals submitted on the wrong forms will have the opportunity to update them until the RFP's deadline of 5pm on Thursday, October 10, 2024.

Proposal Title Page

Proposals should be named using the following structure:

“Property Name: Conservation Real Estate Interest(s) Proposed for Funding”

Conservation Real Estate Interests Funded by CWHP:

CE = held by CPW or third party
CPW AE = held by CPW
CPW Fee Title = “Fee Title” conveyed to CPW

Proposal Name Examples:

Colorado Ranch: Third party CE
Colorado Ranch: CPW CE
Colorado Ranch: AE
Colorado Ranch: Third party CE & AE
Colorado Ranch: CPW CE & AE
Colorado Ranch: Fee Title

For your proposal, “property” should only refer to the land to be encumbered by CE or public AE, or to be offered for fee title acquisition.

Throughout the application, be mindful to speak only of the property being offered for conservation in 2024. Be careful not to refer to any excluded parcels for consideration as “property.”

Proposal Contact Information

Contact CWHP Manager with any questions about these sections: Amanda.nims@state.co.us or 303-291-7269.

Data Abstract Sheet

A “property’s total acreage” may differ for the CE and public AE. For example, a property may be a total of 500 acres, and a CE is offered on all 500 acres, but public access may only be offered on 450 acres. The answer to this question is 500 acres.

Before a proposal is submitted, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult a qualified appraiser to estimate the value of the fee title, CE, and/or public AE being offered.

Capital Costs refer to the amount CPW will contribute towards the purchase price of the property interest (CE, AE, fee title). Transaction Costs refer to non-Capital Costs required to get to closing. These include but are not limited to the price of the appraisal, baseline report, closing costs, etc.

To estimate the donation value of a CE or AE, subtract the total funding amount requested of CPW from the estimated value of the CE or AE and total matching funds. For example:

Estimated value of CE: \$2,000,000
CE - Total matching funds provided: \$1,000,000
CE - Total funding amount requested of CPW: \$500,000
Estimated landowner donation value of the CE: \$500,000

Estimated value of the AE: \$800,000
AE - Total matching funds provided: \$0
AE - Total funding amount requested from CPW (purchase price): \$800,000
Estimated landowner donation Value of the AE: \$0

For the questions asking for the “total funding amount requested from CPW,” this figure should mirror Part 2 - Proposal Budget Form, under Sources of Funds / Total Sources of Funds / CPW Funds. The total funding amount requested from CPW should include what is being requested for both Capital and Transaction Costs

For information on funding restrictions, please see “Funding & Financial Information,” below.

Vicinity & Property Maps

Maps

Maps are required and must match the legal description provided by Applicant in Part 3 - Supplemental Information.

1. The Vicinity Map should display identifiable landmarks and show boundaries of the property and its relationship to the surrounding landscape. It should also depict the surrounding land ownership (state, federal, other CEs, and private land) and the current development and infrastructure (subdivisions, roads, streets, power lines, railroad lines, existing wildlife crossings, etc.).
2. The Property Map should clearly identify the property’s boundaries and depict human-made and important natural features. The Property Map must identify the location of existing physical and legal access to the property and any building envelopes proposed. If applicable, identify public access location information: if a public AE is being offered on part but not all of a CE property, the AEs boundaries should be identified separately from the CEs boundaries. Ideally this map should be laid on a color aerial photograph. If a public Right of Way is being offered, it should be demonstrated on the Property Map.

Additional maps relevant to the proposal will also be accepted, but only in the designated area at the end of Part 1 - Funding Proposal.

Third party applicants are required to submit maps as separate attachments in jpeg, PDF, or other standard viewable file format. More information about this is below, under “How to Submit a Proposal.” Third party applicants are also required to submit GIS shapefiles of the property’s geographic boundary, proposed building envelopes, and other relevant shapefiles (roads, subdivision lines, etc). Shapefiles should be projected as UTM Zone 12 or 13 in NAD 1983 datum.

Landowners offering a CE or fee title to be acquired by Colorado Parks and Wildlife may, but are not required to, submit their maps separately.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should summarize all salient features of this proposal. In this section, please include the name of property; property location; acreage; what conservation real estate interests are being offered and to whom; the property’s conservation values; the urgency of the project; details of the public AE, if applicable; what reserved rights are being requested for a CE, if applicable; if there are conservation lands adjacent to the property; how much funding is being requested of CPW and how that will be broken down by totals requested for Capital and Transaction Costs; the donative value provided by the landowner; who the other funding partners are involved in the project and what they are contributing; any other information the applicant finds critical to convey. It is important to speak to how the proposal addresses the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program’s 2024 funding priorities and preferences. The Executive Summary should not exceed 500

words.

Real Estate Interest Offered

Conservation Easement (CE) to CPW or a third party

A CE is a perpetual real estate interest in land created by a legal agreement between a landowner and qualified entity which limits uses of the land in order to protect the property’s conservation values. Conservation values may include, but are not limited to, wildlife habitat and agricultural land. Each CE is drafted to address a property’s specific conservation values. When a CE project closes, the landowner maintains ownership of the property while the qualified entity “holds” the CE as well as the rights to enforce and defend the terms of the CE in perpetuity.

A CE is documented by a deed that is recorded at the local Registry of Deeds. The Deed of Conservation Easement runs with the land and all future landowners are required to abide by the terms of the CE in perpetuity.

Samples of CE and management plan language can be found at:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/CWHP>

Building Envelopes

A building envelope is an area within a CE boundary that is reserved for existing and future building sites, and is subject to the rights and restrictions outlined in the CE. Alternatively, a landowner may choose to exclude a portion of land from the CE entirely for existing or future building sites. In this case, no portion of the building site would be subject to the CE. Either scenario has appraisal implications which should be discussed with a qualified appraiser.

For a graphic illustration of the difference between a building envelope and an excluded parcel, please see CPW’s website:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/CWHP>

Building envelopes must be identified on the proposal’s Property Map.

An example of how to fill out the “Proposed Building Envelope Table” found in Part 1 - Funding Proposal:

#	<u>Name of (BE)</u>	<u>Size (Acreage)</u>	<u>Approximate Location</u>	<u>Intended Use</u>	<u>Existing Structures</u>	<u>Planned Structures</u>
1	Headquarters BE	10 acres	SE corner of property off HWY 40	Residential and ag operations	Residence, Garage, Shop, Barn, Shed	Hay shed, shop, barn, other ag buildings as needed
2	Agricultural BE	5 acres	North central part of ranch	Ranching operations	None at this time	Large hay barn
3	Cabin BE	5 acres	SW corner of property	Single family home and associated outbuildings	None at this time	Cabin, garage, shop, shed

Public AE to CPW

CPW public AEs provide members of the public access to a landowner’s property for the purposes of hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, or a combination of the three. Or in some cases, the AE may provide Right of Way access through the property to other non-private land(s). An AE may be term-limited or perpetual, and may provide limited or unlimited public access. Please discuss what would be appropriate for you and your property with your local CPW Area staff. For contact numbers, visit https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Maps/CPW_Areas.pdf

Proposals that include perpetual public access with a wide-range of wildlife-related recreational opportunities are generally more competitive in the scoring and evaluation process.

In order for the proposal to be considered, specific and detailed descriptions of the public access offered must be provided.

An example of how to fill out the “Proposed Public Access Table” found in Part 1 - Funding Proposal:

<u>Public Access Offered (Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife Viewing, Other)</u>	<u>Access: Year round or seasonal?</u>	<u>Access restrictions/ limitations:</u>	<u>Future Improvements Needed to accommodate public access:</u>	<u>Estimated costs for future improvements</u>
Fishing Access	Year Round	Walk-in only	Parking lot	\$3,000
Big Game Hunting	Seasonal	Walk-in only	Parking lot	\$2,500

Answers to the “estimated costs for future improvements” question help CPW understand how much CPW will need to budget to build these improvements. Improvements related to public access are generally paid for by CPW.

Fee Title to CPW

To acquire the real estate interest of fee title is to acquire a property in its entirety. Fee title purchases by CPW will be considered in circumstances where CEs or public AEs are not possible and where the property contains exceptional habitat or recreational values. Fee title purchases are considered primarily for properties that are within or adjacent to State Wildlife Areas, where the purchase is a strategic priority, and where the purchase would enhance management of an SWA. All reasonable options in lieu of fee title purchases will be pursued per CPW Policy and Title 33-4-102.7 C.R.S.

Habitat Information

This section asks for the habitat information’s “Data Source” to inform proposal reviewers where the answer came from. Please respond with the layman proposal evaluator in mind. For example, answer by responding with the public agency, company, individual, or other data source, rather than answering with, “publicsamdata.lpk.”

Land Management

“Working farm or ranch” may be defined as agricultural land actively used for crop production and/or the raising of livestock.

Water Interest - Mineral Rights & Alternative Energy

Please contact CWHM Manager with any questions about these sections.

General Property Information

Legal Description

Accurate and complete property legal descriptions are required. Legal descriptions for most Properties can be found in the property's vesting deed(s). Include the accurate and complete legal description of the property as one of the attachments required in Part 3 - Supplemental Information. If more than one parcel is involved, include the legal descriptions for each parcel offered in this proposal. If they exist, include legal descriptions for any building envelopes, Rights of Way, etc. Incomplete or inaccurate legal descriptions may disqualify a proposal from consideration.

Funding and Financial Information

Funding Restrictions: There may or may not be restrictions for the money CPW applies to proposals recommended for funding. It is important for the proposal to indicate the source of all matching funds so CPW may identify any potential funding conflicts. Federal funding requires the landowner meets specific qualifications and that additional restrictive language be added to the CE.

To verify value, all proposals will be subject to an independent appraisal and appraisal review. Funding requests in this proposal will be used to estimate total project costs, expressed as a percentage, and later applied to the actual and final appraised value such that:

If the appraised value is lower than the value estimated in this proposal, CPW will offer the amount equal to the percentage requested of CPW. For example, if the value estimated in the application is \$200,000, and the applicant requests CPW provide \$150,000 (applicant providing 25% match), the applicant is requesting 75% from CPW. Therefore, if the appraisal is \$150,000, CPW can only offer 75% of the appraised value (\$112,500).

If the appraised value is higher than the value estimated in the proposal, CPW will offer the dollar amount requested from CPW in the proposal.

Photos

In addition to requiring photos embedded within Part 1 - Funding Proposal, high resolution photographs of the property are also required as separate attachments to this proposal in JPEG or other standard viewable file formats. Please limit the number of photographs to no more than six (6) High-quality images.

Photographs will be published in presentation and printed materials related to the CWHM evaluation process. By submitting this proposal, the landowner agrees to allow CPW's use of the photographs without restriction.

Drone Video Footage

While not required, CPW will accept drone video footage as part of the 2024 application. Including a drone video will not provide extra points, nor deduct points during the proposal's evaluation. If interested, please submit a maximum of 1-3 minutes of footage in a standard video file. Like photographs, by submitting this footage, the landowner agrees to permit CPW's use of the drone video without restriction.

Supplemental Maps

In addition to the Vicinity Map and Property Maps required at the beginning of Part 1 - Funding Proposal, applicants may also submit additional maps that demonstrate information the applicant finds relevant to the proposal. For example, supplemental maps may include particular wildlife habitats, land use and threats, detailed water resources, etc. These maps may be included only at the end of Part 1 - Funding Proposal.

Signatures Page & Conflict of Disclosure Form

Please contact CWHP Manager with any questions about this section.

Support Letters

Provide up to 5 letters of support.

PART 2 - PROPOSAL BUDGET FORM

When filling out the Proposal Budget Form, be sure to read all notes at the bottom of the form. Estimate your funding request carefully, accurately, and realistically. Contact the CWHP Manager in advance of formally submitting the Proposal Budget Form.

Proposals that demonstrate funding leverage (partner contributions, cash match, in-kind value) will receive additional points in the scoring process.

For landowners who wish for CPW to hold their conservation easement: Under "Sources of Funds / Total CPW Request," include only Capital Costs for the conservation easement and/or public access easement.

PART 3 - SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

PART 3 - Supplemental Information must be submitted in order for the proposal to be considered complete. In one single PDF file, in the order they are listed on the checklist, include the property's legal description(s) and related property reports. When submitting the full proposal, place the first page of Part 3 - Supplemental Information on top of all the supplemental documents so it acts as a cover sheet.

Appendix 1 - ELIGIBLE TRANSACTION COSTS

Fee title, CE, or public AE acquisitions are eligible for CWHP funding. CPW will not reimburse indirect costs incurred by a third party involved in a transaction, including staff time or in-house counsel. The purpose of this document is to outline which *additional costs* are also eligible for CWHP funding.

Transaction Costs listed below are eligible for reimbursement and may also be used as matching funds:

- Title Policy
- Appraisal
- Mineral Remoteness Letter
- Baseline Documentation Report
- Environmental Hazards Assessment
- Survey, if required by CPW
- Closing Costs
- Third party attorney fees - costs of legal services, excluding in-house counsel, for representation of a third party in the transaction. There is a cap of \$20,000 per project on CPW's reimbursement of attorney fees. Landowner attorney fees are not eligible to receive CPW funds or to be used as a match.

Copies of invoices or other proof of expense will be required for reimbursement.

CPW will also consider the following eligible cost:

CE Stewardship Endowment. If the project budget includes a request for funding a third party's stewardship endowment, detailed information must be provided on how the endowment request is calculated. CPW funds may be used for post-closing monitoring and reporting, but not legal defense. Requests must be matched by an equivalent cash contribution by the applicant and/or partners; CPW will pay up to and including 50% of the total endowment, up to a cap of \$10,000.

For CEs and public AEs to be held by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, CPW will pay for the required Transaction Costs required to get to closing. CPW encourages all landowners to retain personal legal, financial, and tax representation. This representation cannot be paid for by CWHP funding.

Failure to close:

In the event a project fails to close, CPW has the authority, but is not obligated, to reimburse third party Transaction Costs, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix 2 - HABITAT AND SPECIES INFORMATION

Habitat and Species Information for CWHP Proposals.

Big Game: Bighorn sheep, elk, moose, mountain goat, mule deer, pronghorn, and white-tailed deer.

Big Game Migration Corridors: A relatively narrow, well-defined area where higher than average density of animals traditionally make movements between seasonal ranges (emphasis on sagebrush,

mountain shrub, pinyon-juniper, oakbrush, and aspen habitats). Applicants should consult the local CPW Area Wildlife Manager or his/her designee to determine if the project property is considered part of a migration corridor.

Big Game Winter Range: Habitat that supports high concentrations of wintering big game species (emphasis on sagebrush, mountain shrub, pinyon-juniper, oakbrush, and aspen habitats). Applicants should consult the local CPW Area Wildlife Manager or his/her designee to determine if the project property lies within identified winter range.

DAU: Data Analysis Unit

Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Wildlife species identified by Colorado's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) that are in need of conservation attention. A comprehensive revision to the SWAP was recently approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in March 2016. For species information, please see the following link to the SWAP:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/pages/statewildlifeactionplan.aspx>

Species Richness: The number of different species supported by the project property.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Those species that have federal or state threatened or endangered status designations. A list of threatened and endangered species is found on CPW's website: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/pages/soc-threatenedendangeredlist.aspx>

Wetlands: Wetlands are transitional lands between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season (Cowardin et al. 1979).

Wetland types include:

- Submerged aquatic (semi-permanent flooding with aquatic plants)
- Emergent marsh (seasonal or semi-permanent flooding)
- Wet meadow (high water table with grass/sedge/rush community)
- Shrublands and floodplains (seasonal flooding with shrubby vegetation)
- Peatlands/fens (flooded during growing season, low decomposition rate)
- Springs, seeps and sloughs (groundwater discharge site)
- Riverine (sand/gravel bars, other wetlands associated with stream channel)
- Playas (temporary lakes in pastures or prairies, flooded seasonally or less often)
- Lakes and reservoirs (included here because of their association with strategic wetlands and migratory waterfowl habitat)
- Artificial wetlands

Riparian Areas: Riparian areas are those plant communities adjacent to and affected by surface or ground water of perennial or ephemeral water bodies such as rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, or playas or drainage ways. These areas have distinctly different vegetation than adjacent areas or have species similar to surrounding areas but exhibit more vigorous or robust growth form (Definition used in CPW's riparian mapping project). For more information, visit:

<https://cnhp.colostate.edu/cwic/tools/mapper/>

For the purpose of evaluation, the significance of a wetland or riparian habitat is how it supports

priority wildlife species listed below. While the size of the target habitat will have some influence in judging the merits of the habitat, the availability and persistence of habitat useful to priority wildlife species and documented use by any of these species are most important.

Priority Waterfowl Species associated with wetlands/riparian areas:

Mallard
Northern Pintail
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal Lesser Scaup

Priority Nongame Species associated with wetlands/riparian areas:

Birds

Bald Eagle Least Tern
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
Piping Plover
Western Snowy Plover
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Long-billed Curlew
Greater Sandhill Crane
American Bittern
Short-eared Owl
Red-naped Sapsucker
Lewis's Woodpecker

Fish

Northern Redbelly Dace
Southern Redbelly Dace
Brassy Minnow
Arkansas Darter
Plains Orangethroat Darter

Herptiles

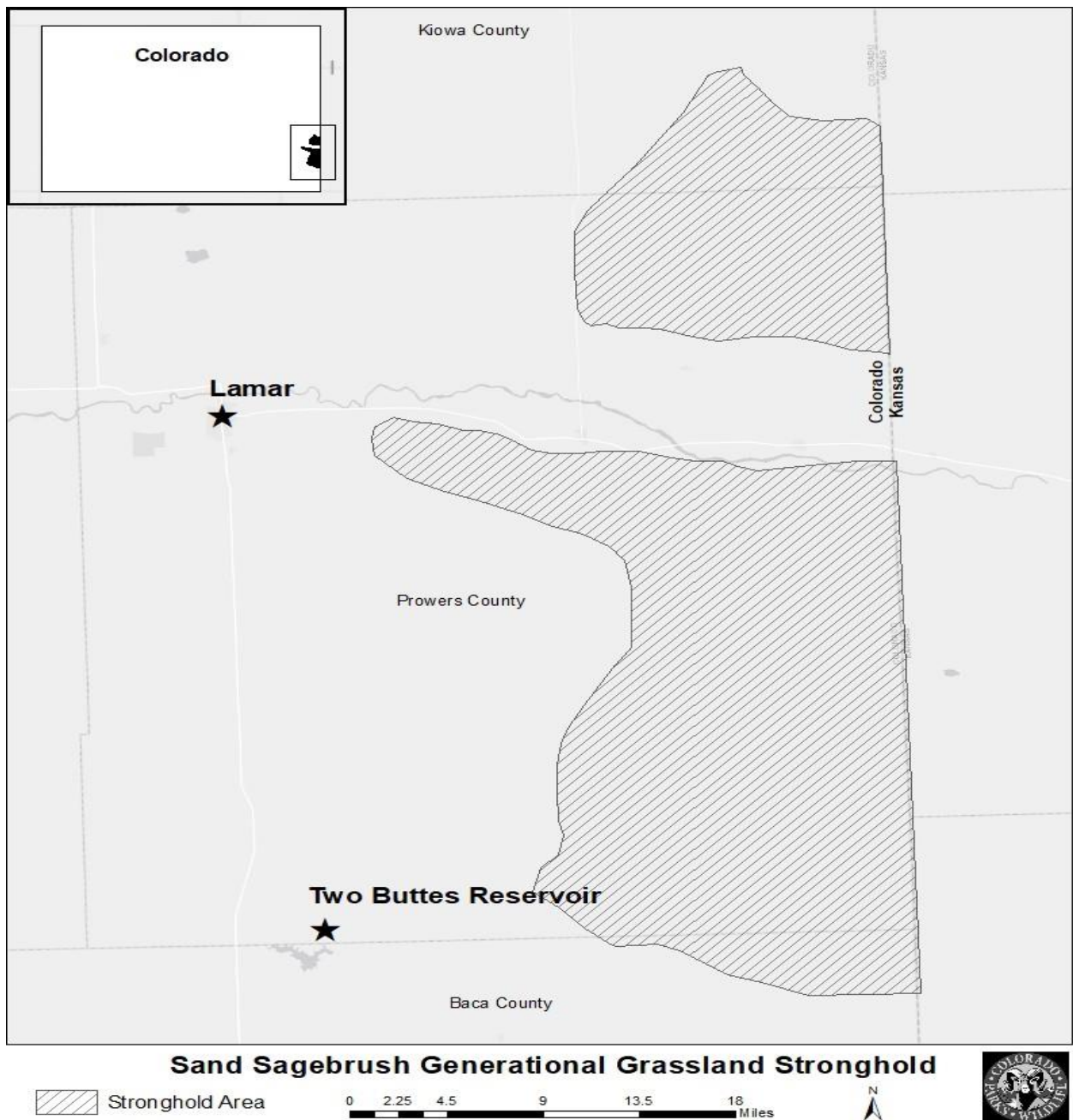
Yellow Mud Turtle
Common Garter Snake
Boreal Toad (S. Rocky Mtn. Population)
Northern Leopard Frog
Plains Leopard Frog

Mammals

Meadow Jumping Mouse (both species)
River Otter
Dwarf Shrew

Appendix 2A - Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat

A preference for the 2024 Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program includes funding properties that include Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat. Specifically, lesser prairie-chicken Estimated Occupied Range (EOR) and the Prowers County Sand Sagebrush Generational Grassland Stronghold. Additionally, points will be given there is an active lek within six miles of the property, if it is a fee title proposal, or if a CE landowner is willing to enter into a management plan that requires rotational grazing and deferred grazing on approximately 1/3 of the property for at least three years.



Appendix 3 - SCORING CRITERIA

2024 CPW Scoring Criteria - Each proposal will be evaluated by CPW staff to determine:

- 1) Strategic Conservation Impact - up to 50 points
 - Project impact
 - Connectivity to a larger conserved landscape
 - Property Condition
 - Urgency
 - Proximity to CPW lands
- 2) Big game Habitat Values - up to 45 points
 - Species richness
 - Relative importance to breeding grounds
 - Winter range
 - Migration corridors
 - Adjacency to wildlife crossings
- 3) Riparian/Wetland Habitat Values - up to 40 points
 - Habitat for priority waterfowl species
 - Habitat for wetland-dependent non-game species
- 4) Hunting Access Values - up to 40 points
 - Public hunting opportunity/Level of CPW control of access
 - Harvest potential
 - Accessible acres
- 5) Fishing Access Values - up to 40 points
 - Lake or stream acreage
 - Fishery quality
 - Public fishing opportunity/Level of CPW control of access
- 6) Other Scoring Considerations - up to 100 points
 - Working Farm or Ranch status
 - Lesser prairie chicken habitat
 - Biodiversity
 - Rights of Way to access landlocked public land
 - Public Access for Wildlife Viewing
 - Third party CE acquisition
 - Local, state, regional, or federal conservation plans
 - Special status species (species of concern)
 - Funding Leverage
 - Facilitates sustainability and protects wildlife diversity
 - Facilitates partnerships
- 7) Adverse Considerations - up to 75 points may be subtracted
 - The project includes a known factor that diminishes the quality of the habitat now or in the future; or the project includes a known factor that would impact conservation values or impede CPW's ability to close the transaction.
 - The project has an impractical cost or funding request is unrealistic, or the proposal

does not support CPW's mission.

- Incomplete proposal or lacks pertinent information.

Score is determined by adding the points for all categories, dividing by the maximum points possible, then multiplying by 100. The maximum possible score for CPW staff criteria is 100.

2024 Habitat Stamp Committee Scoring Criteria - Each proposal will be evaluated by the Habitat Stamp Committee to determine:

- 1) Effectiveness of the project - up to 65 points
 - Protecting big game winter range.
 - Protecting big game migration corridors.
 - Acquiring public access to wildlife-related recreation, including fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing.
 - Protecting habitat for species of concern (special status species or threatened and endangered species).
 - Preserving the diversity of wildlife enjoyed by Coloradans.
 - Riparian areas.
 - Wetland habitats.
 - Proximity to protected lands.
- 2) Project Leverage - up to 15 points
 - Partnership contribution, cash, in-kind, or donated property value match.
 - Opportunity to leverage conservation on adjacent or associated lands.
 - Cost effectiveness.
- 3) Urgency and Opportunity - up to 10 points
 - Effectiveness of addressing habitat threats.
 - Uniqueness of the opportunity to act proactively to achieve significant conservation.
- 4) Socioeconomic Values and Feasibility - up to 10 points
 - Level of local non-financial support for the project.
 - Readiness of the project to be completed quickly.

**Up to 5 points may be subtracted for each of the following elements:*

- *Restrictions on water rights needed for habitat;*
- *Potential for mineral development that negatively impacts habitat;*
- *Fee title proposals that do not provide adequate recreational opportunities;*
- *Pending litigation that could decrease the value of the property.*

Maximum score for the Habitat Stamp Committee criteria is 100 points.

(Done)