



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northwest Regional Office  
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**TO:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission  
Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
Members, Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resources Committee, Colorado House of Representatives  
Members, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee, Colorado State Senate

**FROM:** State Council, Habitat Partnership Program  
Dan Prenzlöw, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**DATE:** October 20, 2020

**RE:** Habitat Partnership Program Annual Report - FY 2020

As required by statute, attached please find the FY 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) report for the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP). HPP is authorized by the state legislature and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to "reduce wildlife conflicts, particularly those associated with forage and fence issues, and to assist the Division of Parks and Wildlife in meeting game management objectives through duties as deemed appropriate by the Director." HPP revenue in FY 20 was \$2,792,238, of which \$2,693,482 was derived from 5% of big game (deer, elk, pronghorn, moose) license revenues from HPP areas, as provided for in 33-1-112 8 e 1 CRS.

In FY 2020, 19 local HPP committees and the State Council, made up of nearly 150 volunteers representing livestock growers, sportspersons, federal land management agencies and CPW staff met throughout the year across much of Colorado to cooperatively discuss and, operating under CPW Commission approved plans, worked towards reducing conflicts between big game and agricultural operators and assisting CPW to meet game management objectives.

2020 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Habitat Partnership Program, arguably one of the most successful programs undertaken by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Since its inception, HPP has focused on the resolution of agricultural/big game conflicts and this continues to be our primary purpose. The commitment made to agriculture and landowners in 1990 remains strong and we remain focused on providing a responsive and effective way to resolve issues associated with deer, elk, moose and pronghorn wherever those problems or solutions may exist. During the past 30 years, HPP and our partners have resolved many of those conflicts or have put a process in place to handle them should they occur.

One of the founding principles for HPP was partnerships and this remains an integral part of the program today. The development of successful partnerships has allowed HPP to work with and establish relationships with many different people and agencies; it has allowed everyone to accomplish more at a lower cost than would have been possible if acting independently; we have accomplished projects that might not have been possible to do without them and our partnerships have created opportunities for future work together. In FY 2020, HPP expended \$2,966,500.24 and



leveraged cash contributions of \$5,473,213, in kind services valued at \$1,405,168 and 18516 hours of labor from our partners in efforts to reduce conflicts and meet game management objectives.

Current HPP statutes also provide for HPP to assist CPW in achieving game management objectives and, as with conflicts, the focus remains on deer, elk, pronghorn and moose objectives. Local HPP committees and the State Council are implementing this part of HPP while ensuring conflict resolution remains a high program priority for landowner concerns.

As with the rest of the world, the Covid-19 pandemic affected the HPP program. In March 2020, HPP ceased in person meetings and began using video and phone conferencing exclusively to conduct business. Due to the strength of our established relationships and the determination of our members and staff, HPP barely missed a beat and kept performing our important work. However, HPP committees and the State Council are looking forward to resuming in person meetings and re-establishing those important personal relationships.

**SPOTLIGHT:** HPP works extensively on weed control on both public and private lands where weed control is essential for better range and wildlife habitat conditions. It is readily acknowledged that noxious weeds present a serious and growing threat to native plants, range conditions and wildlife habitat. HPP's involvement takes many forms depending on local committee practices, requested assistance and the local situations. For instance, HPP may buy herbicide for a landowner/land manager to use or we may provide an herbicide voucher to be redeemed at the local county weed office. In other situations, HPP and the landowner/land manager share the cost of a private weed control contractor. In one area, HPP works with the US Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to hire a back country weed sprayer who concentrates largely on headwater wilderness areas. In FY20, HPP and our partners treated 1762 acres and completed 164 weed control projects of varying scale and scope for a total HPP and cooperator costs of \$248,629. HPP's involvement complements CPW's weed control efforts on state lands and is a significant component in the overall effort by many private landowners, public land managers and others to control noxious weeds on the landscape.

As was mentioned last year, critical HPP statutes related to funding and fund carryover (33-1-112 8 e IV) will be repealed on July 1, 2023. The State Council has been diligently working on a legislative package that, when enacted, will not only maintain funding stability but will also clarify the intent of other existing statutes as well as introduce statutes which improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the program as well. Much has changed in 30 years of the programs existence since the original statutes were enacted and these changes are critical to the ongoing success of HPP.

There is much more detailed information available about the HPP program and projects undertaken by the local committees. Interested parties are encouraged to contact a local CPW office or you may visit the HPP website, <http://cpw.state.co.us/HPP> for more program and project information.

If you have any specific questions or would like additional program information, please contact Pat Tucker, HPP Coordinator, at (970) 255-6188 or via email at [pat.tucker@state.co.us](mailto:pat.tucker@state.co.us).

### **33-1-110**

(6.7) The director shall certify to the state controller that commitment or payment vouchers submitted by local habitat partnership committees are consistent with distribution management plans and guidelines approved by the commission. Such certification is the only requirement necessary to authorize the state controller to disburse funds from the habitat partnership cash fund.

(7) (a) The director, with approval of the commission, shall appoint a committee of nine persons to act as the "habitat partnership council", referred to in this section as the "council". The council shall have statewide responsibility and authority.

(b) (I) The council shall consist of the following members: Two sports persons who purchase big game licenses on a regular basis in Colorado; two persons representing livestock growers in Colorado; one person from the United States department of agriculture forest service; one person from the United States department of the interior bureau of land management; one person from the Colorado state university range extension program; one person representing agricultural crop producers; and one person from the Colorado division of parks and wildlife. All persons on the council shall be residents of the state of Colorado.

(II) Members of the council who will represent livestock growers and agricultural crop producers shall be chosen by the director from persons nominated by the local habitat partnership committees, pursuant to subparagraph (VI) of paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of this section.

(III) For the initial appointments to the council, the terms of the four members representing sports persons and livestock growers shall be two years for one member of each group and four years for the other member of each group, after which all appointments shall be for four years. The term lengths for the members representing the various agencies shall be at the discretion of the respective agencies. There shall be no limit on the number of terms a member may serve.

(c) The duties of the council are:

(I) To advise local habitat partnership committees;

(II) To assist in the dissemination of information concerning the habitat partnership program;

(III) To review draft plans for compliance with program guidelines established by the commission and to recommend appropriate action by the commission;

(IV) To monitor program effectiveness and to propose to the commission changes in guidelines and land acquisition planning and review as appropriate;

(V) To advise the director whether or not payment vouchers submitted by local habitat partnership committees are consistent with distribution management plans approved by the commission;

(VI) To report to the commission and to the senate agriculture, natural resources, and energy committee and the house of representatives agriculture, livestock, and natural resources committee pursuant to [section 33-1-112 \(8\)](#).

(d) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 1727, § 1, effective June 3, 1996.)

(8) (a) The habitat partnership program is hereby created to assist the division of parks and wildlife by working with private land managers, public land management agencies, sports persons, and other interested parties to reduce wildlife conflicts, particularly those associated with forage and fence issues, and to assist the division of parks and wildlife in meeting game management objectives through duties as deemed appropriate by the director.

(b) The director, with the approval of the commission, shall have the authority to appoint a "habitat partnership committee", referred to in this section as a "committee", in any area of the state where conflicts between wildlife and private land owners and managers engaged in the management of public and private land exist.

(c) A committee shall consist of the following members: One sports person who purchases big game licenses on a regular basis in Colorado; three persons representing livestock growers in the area of the state in which the committee is being established; one person from each of the federal agencies that has land management responsibilities in such area of the state; and one person from the Colorado division of parks and wildlife. All persons on any such committee shall be residents of the state of Colorado.

(d) The duties of a committee are the following:

(I) To develop big game distribution management plans to resolve rangeland forage, growing hay crop, harvested crop aftermath grazing, and fence conflicts subject to commission approval;

(II) To monitor program effectiveness and to propose to the council changes in

guidelines and land acquisition planning and review as appropriate;

(III) To request for the committee, on an annual basis, funds from the council consistent with the distribution management plan developed by any such committee;

(IV) To expend funds allocated by the council or acquired from other sources as necessary to implement distribution management plans;

(V) To make an annual report of expenditures and accomplishments of the committee to the council by August 15 of each year;

(VI) To nominate a person to act as a representative of agricultural livestock growers or crop producers to the habitat partnership council for the area of the state where such committee is organized;

(VII) To reduce wildlife and land management conflicts as the conflicts relate to big game forage and fence issues and other management objectives.

(e) The committee shall be authorized to procure from land owners, land managers, or other providers, materials or services necessary for carrying out activities identified in the distribution management plans pursuant to subparagraph (IV) of paragraph (d) of this subsection (8); except that all such procurements shall be certified as within the scope of the activities and funding levels authorized in such distribution management plans before any such procurement may be authorized.

### **33-1-112**

(8) (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the habitat partnership cash fund. The moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall consist of those moneys annually transferred from the wildlife cash fund in accordance with paragraph (e) of this subsection (8) for the partnership program and any gifts, grants, donations, and reimbursements made to the program from other sources. The moneys in the fund shall be used in accordance with the duties of the habitat partnership council as specified in [section 33-1-110 \(7\)](#) and (8), including, but not limited to, reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by council members in the fulfillment of their duties, as approved by the director. All interest derived from the investment of moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall be credited to the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the fund subject to the limitations provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection (8).

(b) The council shall submit an annual report to the commission, the senate and house agriculture committees, and the executive director of the department of natural resources specifically stating the items for which it has expended moneys from the fund and the purpose of such items.

(c) If the council ceases to exist, all moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall revert to the wildlife cash fund.

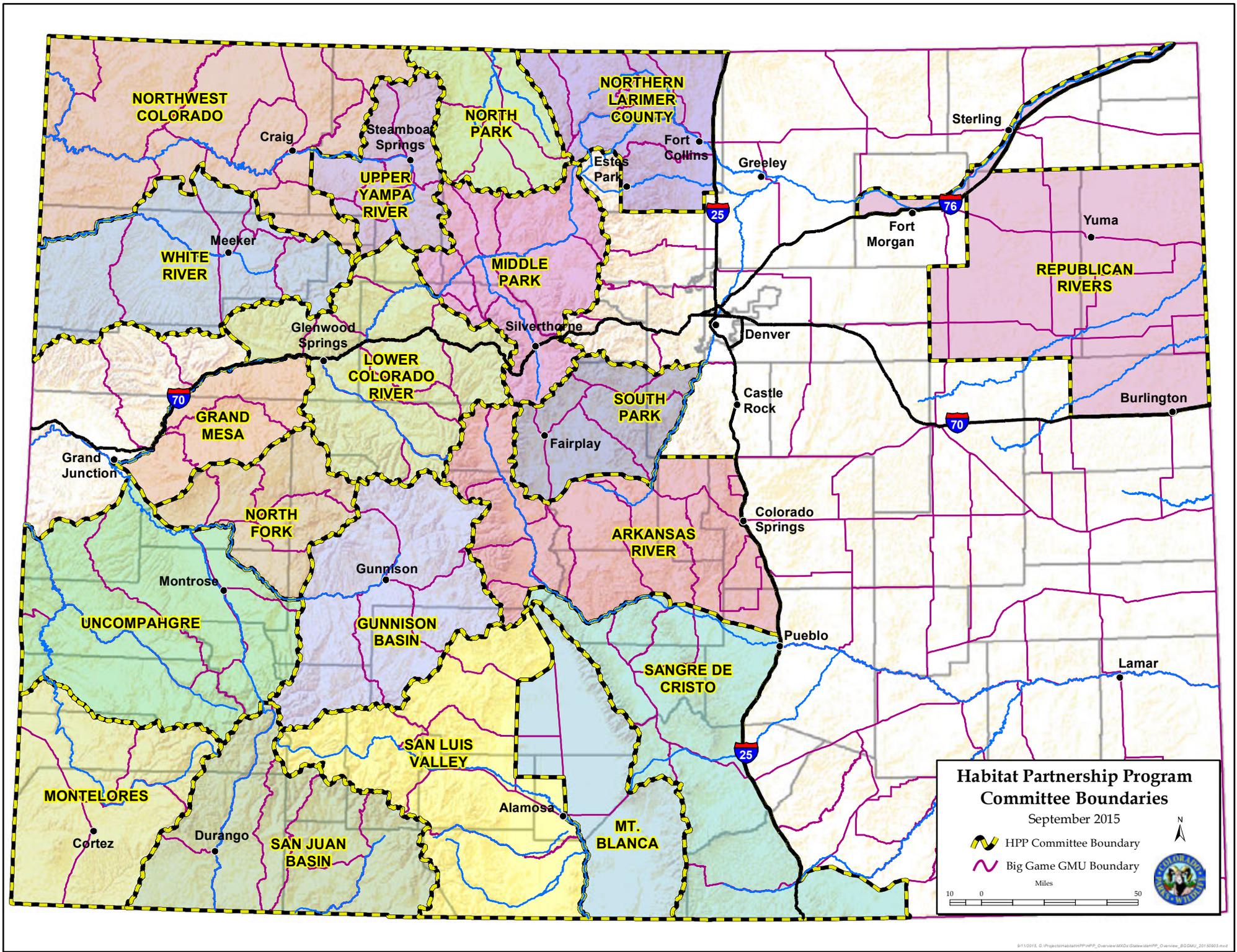
(d) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 1729, § 2, effective June 3, 1996.)

(e) (I) On July 1, 2002, and each year thereafter, there shall be transferred from the wildlife cash fund to the habitat partnership cash fund an amount equal to five percent of the net sales of big game licenses used in the geographic areas represented by local habitat partnership committees from the previous calendar year.

(II) All moneys in the habitat partnership cash fund shall be continuously appropriated to the division of parks and wildlife for the purpose of funding the habitat partnership program.

(III) Any balance in the habitat partnership cash fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed the total amount of the wildlife cash fund transfer from the beginning of that fiscal year. Any excess moneys shall revert to the wildlife cash fund.

(IV) This paragraph (e) is repealed, effective July 1, 2023.





## Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program State Council Members

2020

Mick Davis - Sportsmen Representative, Alamosa

Terry Everhart - Livestock Producer Representative, Pueblo

John Hardwick - Crop Grower Representative, Vernon

Greg Jungman - Sportsmen Representative, Dillon

Sheila Lamb, US Forest Service Representative, Pike/San Isabel National Forest, Fairplay

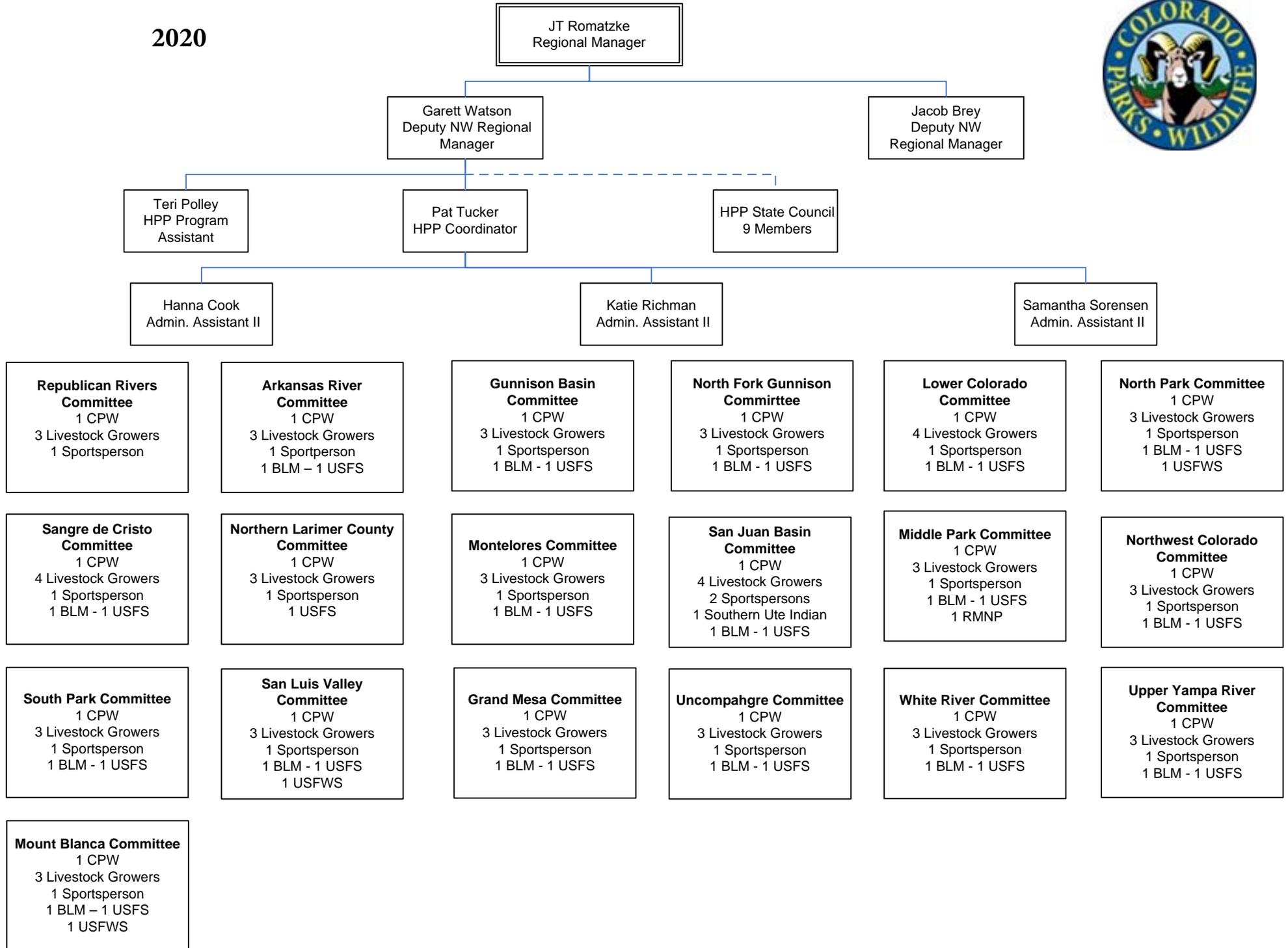
Robbie LeValley - Colorado State University Range Extension Service Representative, Delta

Ken Morgan - Colorado Parks and Wildlife Representative

Hunter Seim - US Bureau of Land Management Representative, Little Snake Field Office, Craig

Gary Visintainer - Livestock Producer Representative, Craig

2020





## Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program

### Program Accomplishments, HPP and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2020

Units	Description	Accomplishments
Acres Burned	Habitat Improved	5211
Acres Fertilized	Habitat Improved	10435
Acres Irrigated	Habitat Improved	300
Acres Mech. or Hand-Treated	Habitat Improved	5135
Acres of Weed Control	Habitat Improved	1762
Acres Seeded / Planted	Habitat Improved	1830
Cattleguards, Gates, etc	Constructed	5
Hunt Coords	Hired	3
Miles of New Fence	of New Fence Built	63
Plans	Written	4
Proj-repair, vouchers, etc	for Minor Fence Repair	417
Seeding/Planting	Projects	7
Stackyard Repair	Projects	1
Stackyards	Materials Provided	5
Tons	of Forage Purchased	240
Vinyl Rolls	Provided	88
Water Dev	Built and/or Maintained	232
Weed control projects	Projects	164

'Acres of Weed Control' is used when a treatment has been applied to a specific area and the acreage can be accurately determined.

'Weed control projects' is used when a treatment has been applied over a large area and the acreage cannot be accurately determined and if used, would inflate the actual number of acres treated. Costs vary greatly depending on scope of the project.

'Water Dev' denotes many types of water projects, such as the cleanout of an existing pond, well drilling, solar pump installations, new pond creation, spring development, pipeline installation, holding tanks and tire tanks. Costs vary greatly depending on the scope of the project.

**Note:**

Project accomplishments are shown as whole units but may have been rounded from actual project numbers.



## Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program

### Program Accomplishments, HPP and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2020

Type	#Projects	Detail
Information/Education	5	
Monitoring/Research	5	
Other	1	Archeological Clearances
Other	5	Conservation Easements 3214.65 Acres Conserved



## Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program

### HPP Program Costs and Hours by GBL, Fiscal Year 2020

GBL	Description	Total Cost	HPP Cost	Match \$	In-Kind \$	In-Kind Hrs
ADM	Administrative	\$1,115,275.18	\$1,114,675.18	\$600.00	\$0.00	1957
FEN	Fencing	\$784,334.98	\$394,625.63	\$233,446.98	\$156,262.37	6518
GDM	Game Damage	\$85,515.17	\$72,206.60	\$13,308.57	\$0.00	304
INF	Information/Education	\$43,722.20	\$43,722.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
MAN	Habitat Manipulation	\$3,690,810.00	\$1,211,519.39	\$2,161,654.46	\$323,636.15	9371
MTC	Maintenance	\$1,466.52	\$1,237.38	\$19.14	\$210.00	66
OTH	Other	\$3,968,203.00	\$30,980.00	\$3,023,523.00	\$913,700.00	0
RES	Monitoring & Research	\$149,554.86	\$97,533.86	\$40,661.00	\$11,360.00	300
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$9,838,881.91</b>	<b>\$2,966,500.24</b>	<b>\$5,473,213.15</b>	<b>\$1,405,168.52</b>	<b>18516</b>

ADM costs include \$513,163.84 for FY19 reversion to wildlife cash fund (33-1-112 8e III) and \$492,722.70 for CPW personal services.



**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**  
**Habitat Partnership Program**  
**Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2020**  
**Summary of Committee Finances**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>HPP Cost</b>	<b>Match Amt</b>	<b>In-Kind Amt</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>Private Cost</b>	<b>Public Cost</b>	<b>In-Kind Hrs</b>
Arkansas River	\$27,960.15	\$1,217,140.75	\$0.00	\$1,245,100.90	\$9,013.64	\$12,256.37	498
Grand Mesa	\$118,824.34	\$108,515.56	\$13,000.00	\$234,339.90	\$108,657.73	\$9,950.00	4940
Gunnison Basin	\$46,359.48	\$123,969.29	\$42,676.00	\$213,004.77	\$3,771.47	\$42,361.23	490
Lower Colorado River	\$100,029.44	\$102,772.40	\$20,382.45	\$223,184.29	\$30,678.19	\$65,371.25	909
Middle Park	\$82,954.23	\$45,430.44	\$11,040.59	\$139,425.26	\$62,761.25	\$20,021.50	1732
Montelores	\$34,135.12	\$110,478.00	\$4,579.85	\$149,192.97	\$33,998.74	\$0.00	120
Mount Blanca	\$62,663.34	\$4,950.00	\$0.00	\$67,613.34	\$62,368.58	\$0.00	325
North Fork Gunnison	\$74,042.11	\$167,056.44	\$24,429.68	\$265,528.23	\$60,448.54	\$13,500.00	320
North Park	\$26,987.98	\$55,808.57	\$0.00	\$82,796.55	\$20,955.29	\$5,951.84	751
Northern Larimer County	\$12,957.18	\$1,157.71	\$0.00	\$14,114.89	\$12,934.02	\$0.00	224
Northwest Colorado	\$153,508.57	\$378,246.63	\$39,940.00	\$571,695.20	\$126,558.08	\$26,875.00	1246
Republican Rivers	\$66,654.66	\$24,439.50	\$39,110.52	\$130,204.68	\$48,384.11	\$18,117.22	599
San Juan Basin	\$112,605.92*	\$225,783.33	\$36,404.95	\$374,794.20	\$56,588.19	\$41,536.93	880
San Luis Valley	\$88,952.93	\$82,248.14	\$8,388.57	\$179,589.64	\$6,905.71	\$80,250.00	261
Sangre de Cristo	\$96,571.41	\$919,116.04	\$519,700.00	\$1,535,387.45	\$18,587.77	\$67,660.00	1005
South Park	\$64,878.55	\$19,375.00	\$91,659.00	\$175,912.55	\$25,132.79	\$39,400.00	319
State Council	\$1,242,321.86	\$16,933.59	\$39,085.00	\$1,298,340.45	\$0.00	\$87,529.02	2476
Uncompahgre	\$123,722.27	\$88,389.07	\$30,200.00	\$242,311.34	\$112,622.84	\$10,695.77	360
Upper Yampa River	\$95,420.29	\$1,183,824.43	\$450,500.00	\$1,729,744.72	\$41,660.14	\$6,098.00	462
White River	\$334,950.41	\$597,578.26	\$34,071.91	\$966,600.58	\$81,364.81	\$207,385.60	599
<b>HPP Program Totals:</b>	<b>\$2,966,500.24</b>	<b>\$5,473,213.15</b>	<b>\$1,405,168.52</b>	<b>\$9,838,881.91</b>	<b>\$923,391.89</b>	<b>\$754,959.73</b>	<b>18516</b>

\* - difference of \$5594.70 between CORE and this report due to credit issued in FY20 for canceled warrant in FY19. This also caused a difference in the FY19 report, which was noted.



**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**  
**Habitat Partnership Program**  
**Project Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2020**

**HPP Program Totals**

<b>Cooperator Name</b>	<b>HPP Cost</b>	<b>Match Amt</b>	<b>In-Kind Amt</b>	<b>In-Kind Hrs</b>
		\$0.00	\$0.00	0
BLM (Bureau of Land Management)		\$552,793.83	\$9,299.24	516
BLM Grazing Adv Board		\$14,500.00	\$0.00	0
College/Univ		\$0.00	\$0.00	120
County Gov't		\$829,231.00	\$15,000.00	160
CPW (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)		\$335,292.33	\$56,545.52	2446
CSFS (Colorado State Forest Service)		\$2,600.00	\$0.00	200
GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado)		\$1,032,700.00	\$0.00	0
HPP Committee Members		\$0.00	\$106.00	1415
Indian Tribe		\$15,661.00	\$1,360.00	0
Local Gov't		\$0.00	\$5,125.00	25
Local Land Trust		\$4,200.00	\$3,200.00	0
Local Soil Cons. Dist		\$0.00	\$0.00	20
Local Weed Control Dist		\$5,300.00	\$0.00	5
MDF (Mule Deer Foundation)		\$17,266.67	\$0.00	0
NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)		\$1,266,942.80	\$520.00	0
NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation)		\$54,361.00	\$0.00	330
Other Wildlife Group		\$22,114.90	\$27,100.00	55
Private Business/Org		\$5,276.41	\$40,800.00	0
Private Landowner/Permittee		\$711,545.07	\$1,149,532.76	12948
Private Local Assoc.		\$29,299.30	\$0.00	96
RMEF (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)		\$58,000.00	\$0.00	0
SLB (State Land Board)		\$37,500.00	\$0.00	0
State Gov't		\$71,778.75	\$0.00	0
TNC (The Nature Conservancy)		\$0.00	\$0.00	0
USFS (United States Forest Service)		\$342,690.09	\$96,580.00	180
Water Cons or Irrig Dist		\$64,160.00	\$0.00	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,966,500.24</b>	<b>\$5,473,213.15</b>	<b>\$1,405,168.52</b>	<b>18516</b>