

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Habitat Partnership Program
Larimer County



DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT PLAN



Approved- Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission May 4, 2018
This plan is valid for 10 years from approval date.

2018-2028

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

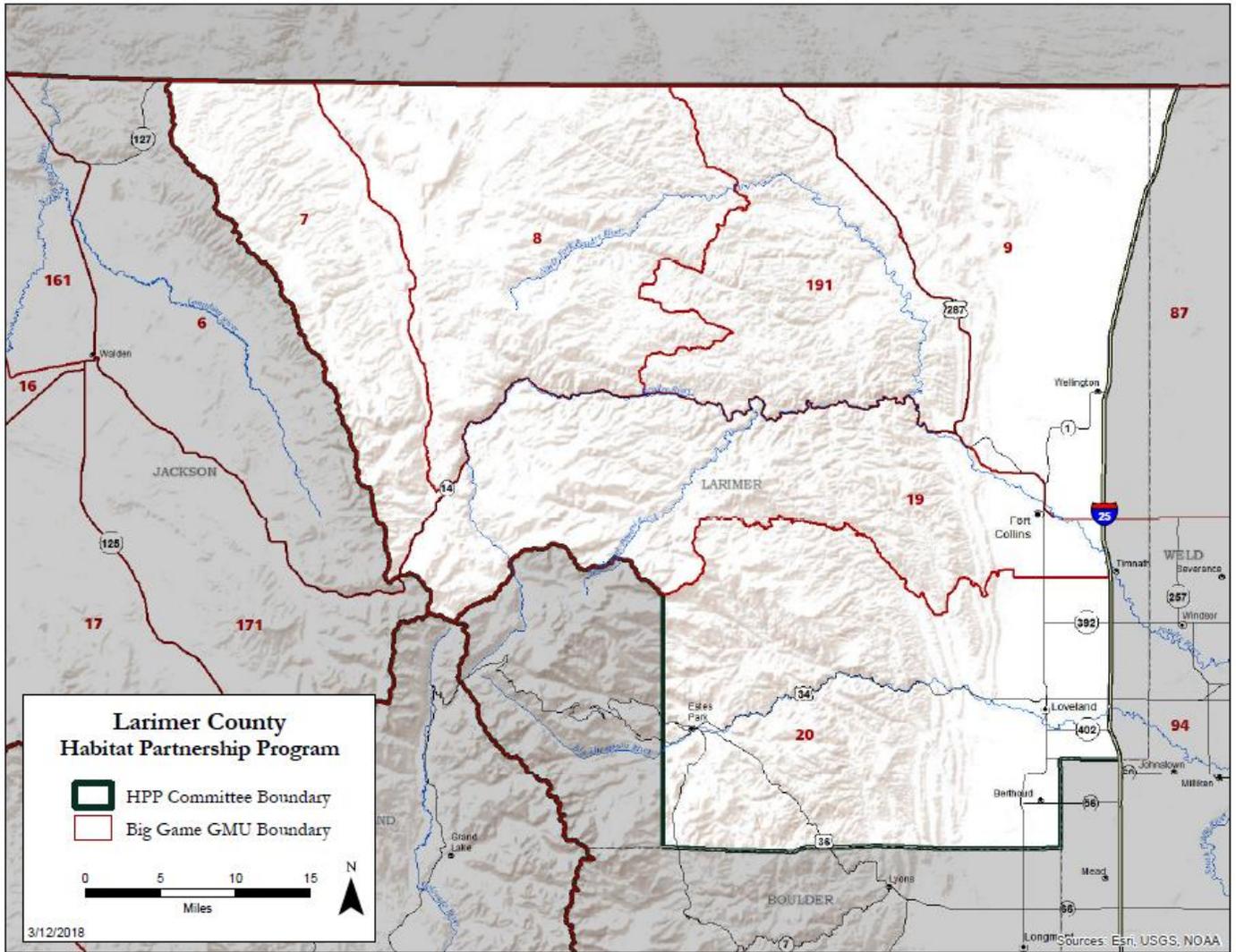
The Larimer County Habitat Partnership Program (formerly Northern Larimer County HPP) formed and completed its initial management plan in 2002. The updated plan drafted by LCHPP is centered on five key aspects including; partnerships between agencies, landowners, and sportspersons; assisting CPW in achieving game management objectives; resolving wildlife conflicts; water development for wildlife and livestock; and habitat and range improvement for wildlife and livestock.

The Larimer County committee area has seen many changes to wildlife habitat as a result of population growth, expansion of recreation, and subsequent habitat fragmentation. The committee will continue to monitor and adapt to these changes, and projects will be implemented wherever the committee believes that they will effectively reduce or eliminate big game conflicts and assist CPW in achieving game management objectives. Operating guidelines have been established to help inform funding decisions and prioritization of projects. Budget guidelines show likely allocations of funds based on past projects. Budget allocations may change as new opportunities arise. The committee has identified current and foreseeable issues for the area and has specified project types and management strategies that are aimed at adapting to these issues in order to continue reducing wildlife conflicts and helping CPW in achieving game management objectives.

In 2015 the Commission approved a temporary expansion of the committee boundary south to the Boulder County Line. The expansion was intended to provide HPP as an option to elk conflicts that were occurring south of the original committee boundary area. Elk conflicts in that area have since decreased but there is still potential to complete proactive projects that will prevent new conflicts from surfacing as well as assist CPW with game management objectives in this area. This plan proposes to make that expansion permanent.

This updated management plan reflects the broad view that the LCHPP is taking in funding projects that lead to increased productivity and better management of habitat that is key to livestock and wildlife

MAP OF LARIMER COUNTY HPP AREA



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Lars Larson, Livestock Grower Representative, Chairman Started HPP Term: Sep. 2002
2. Conrad Swanson, Livestock Grower Representative Started HPP Term: Aug. 2010
3. Dale Oberlag, United States Forest Service Representative Started HPP Term: Jan. 2008
4. Ty Petersburg, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Representative Started HPP Term: Feb. 2016
5. Vacant, Sportsperson Representative*
6. Vacant, Livestock Grower Representative*

* - applications for these vacancies have been received but have not yet been acted on by the committee and Commission prior to this plan being submitted.

INTRODUCTION

Impetus for the Larimer County HPP began at a Colorado Parks and Wildlife CWD committee meeting. At that meeting, two landowners from the Livermore area spoke to the group about concerns over potential impacts of Chronic Wasting Disease and CWD management on wildlife populations, livestock and lands in the north half of Larimer County. The CWD group recommended exploring the feasibility of a habitat partnership program in the Livermore area to address concerns over CWD and other wildlife related issues.

Historically, lands in the LCHPP have been used for agricultural production, natural resource management, and recreation. Like much of the Front Range, Larimer County has experienced tremendous growth in human population in the 2000s. Development in some rural areas is likely to change the character of land use in Larimer County, impacting traditional farming, ranching, and recreational activities. Increased traffic, transition of agricultural operations to rural subdivisions, increased demand for limited local water resources, and increased use and diversity of recreational resources on public and private lands may impact wildlife populations and the habitat upon which they depend. The long-term result may be loss of habitat quality, herd vigor, and proliferation of diseases including chronic wasting disease.

Although limited, opportunities exist for the Larimer County HPP committee to assist agricultural landowners with big game conflicts as well as to assist CPW with game management objectives. CWD remains a concern in this area for big game management. When possible, the committee desires to assist CPW to keep prevalence rates low and hunter satisfaction high. The committee will also continue to assist the USFS with habitat management projects.

HPP ORIENTATION

HPP was initially started to resolve fence and forage conflicts caused to agricultural operators by deer, elk, pronghorn and moose. While the law governing HPP was broadened in 2002 (“...reduce wildlife conflicts...game management objectives”) in 2017 the State Council and the NW Region Manager reaffirmed the intent and focus of HPP.

This direction provides for HPP participation, whether by local committees or the State Council, to be limited to those conflict resolution projects or game management objective projects that involve deer, elk, pronghorn and moose.

HPP STATUTE - (C.R.S. 33-1-110)

(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.

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Objective 1: To encourage partnership between wildlife managers, land and habitat managers, livestock growers, and sportspersons.

Strategy:

- The committee will encourage partnership and participation from all parties involved in big game conflicts and management in the area.
- The committee will encourage projects involving educational efforts, forums and discussions that facilitate understanding and cooperation between landowners and that further CPW game management objectives and management practices.

Objective 2: To assist CPW in achieving game management objectives for deer, elk, pronghorn and moose populations.

Strategy:

- The committee will support habitat and research projects as appropriate
- The committee will support CPW efforts on CWD management

Objective 3: To work with landowners experiencing big game conflicts to help them resolve issues.

Strategy:

- The committee will work with local District Wildlife Managers and landowners to identify big game conflicts and find solutions.

Objective 4: To develop springs, ponds and other water sources for livestock and wildlife.

Strategy:

- The committee will encourage projects that develop and enhance springs and other water features on private and public lands to benefit optimal use of habitat by wildlife and livestock.
- The committee will encourage projects that enhance water quality and monitoring of water quality as part of the project.

Objective 5: To maintain healthy, vigorous pasture, rangeland, riparian habitat and forests for wildlife and livestock.

Strategy:

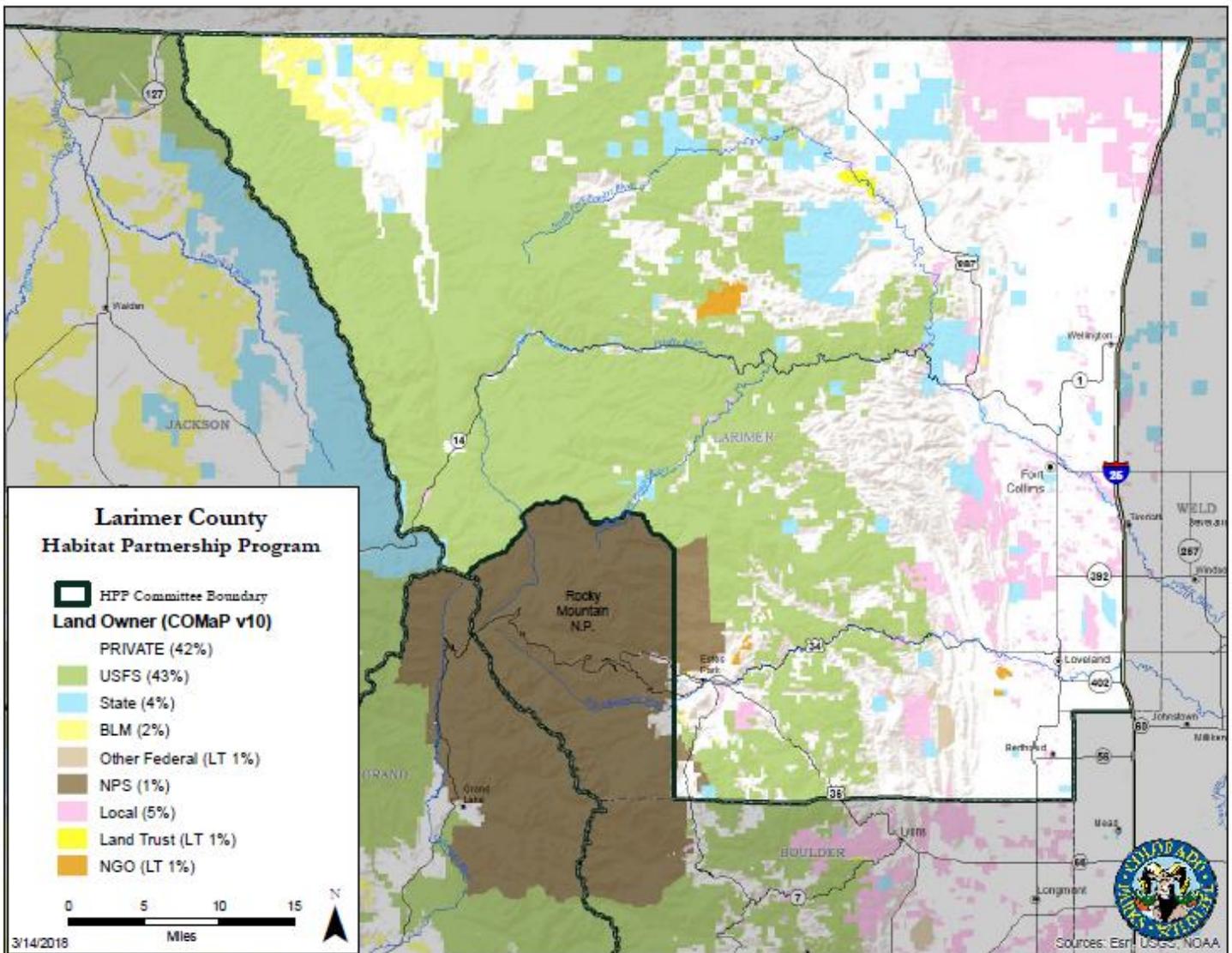
- The committee will encourage projects that maintain or enhance the quality of rangeland and forests using tools that positively impact plant communities and management of livestock and wildlife.
- The committee will support projects that enhance conflict resolution between ranching/farming interests and rural subdivision residents when they contribute to CPW game management objectives and management practices.

LARIMER COUNTY HPP AREA DESCRIPTION

The Larimer County Habitat Partnership Program encompasses most of Larimer County, including areas west of I-25 between the Boulder County line and the Wyoming border. The boundaries continue west to the Continental Divide, excluding the portions of Larimer County within Rocky Mountain National Park.

The boundaries of the program include portions of deer and elk data analysis unit (DAU) 4, including Game Management Units (GMU) 7, 8, 9, 19, 20 and 191. The HPP also incorporates Pronghorn DAU 33 (GMU 7 and 8) and Pronghorn DAU 36 (GMU 9, 19, and 191) within its boundary.

Larimer County is approximately 2640 square miles in size. Of that 42% of the land is private, 43% is US Forest Service land, 5% city or county property, 5% is state-owned, and 2% belongs to the Bureau of Land Management.



HABITAT DESCRIPTION

The LCHPP area extends from approximately 5,000 feet in elevation along the east boundary to 12,644 feet at South Rawah Peak on the west.

Because of variation in elevation and topography within the LCHPP, there are significant differences in habitat types. Piedmont plains characterized by aeolian soils are found from I-25 west to the sedimentary hogback ridges along US Highway 287. West of Highway 287, the plains give way to rolling hills and ridges of metamorphic and igneous rock composing the Laramie Range, and ultimately to the high peaks of the Medicine Bow Mountains.

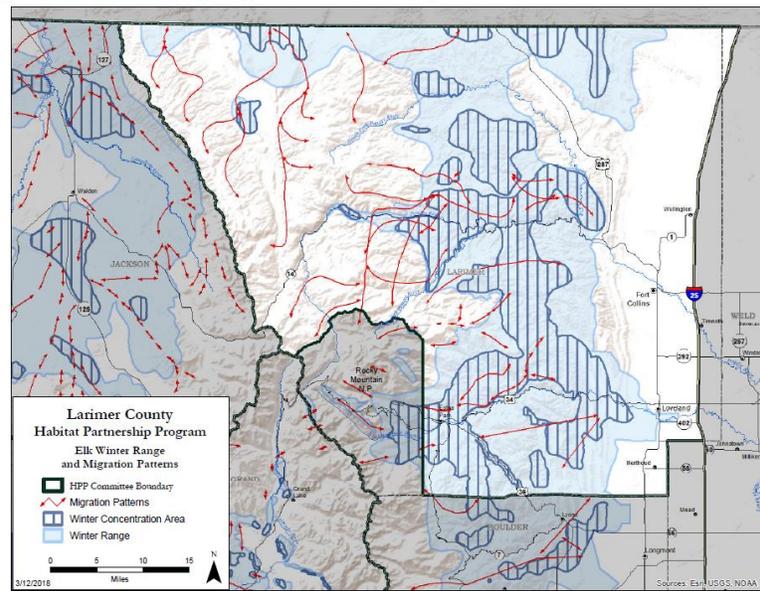
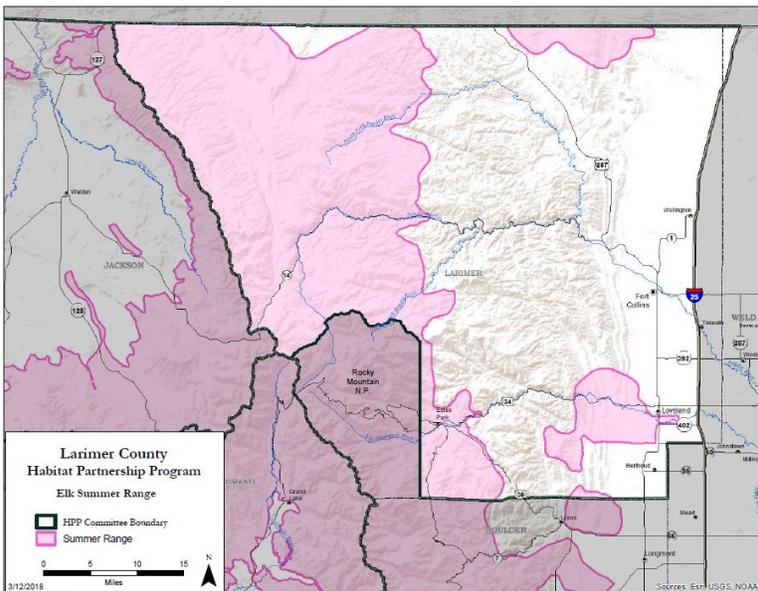
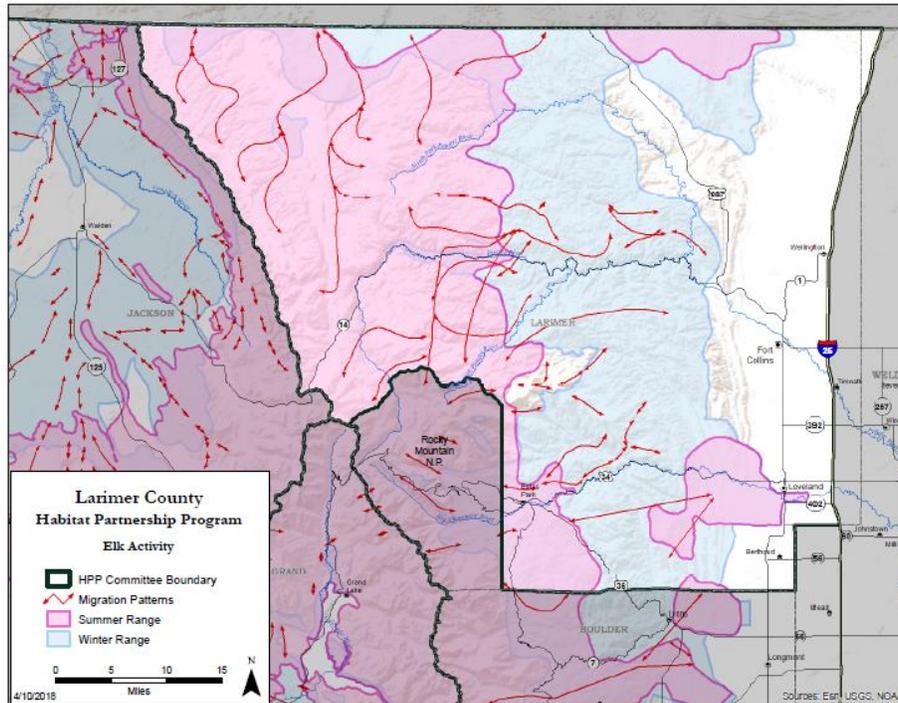
From I-25 west to the Livermore area the predominant habitat is short-grass prairies characterized by buffalo and blue grama grasses. Portions of the plains are farmed using irrigated and dryland agricultural practices. West of Highway 287 and scattered throughout the Laramie Foothills mixed-grass prairie and mosaic grasslands are cut by montane cliff and canyon systems, foothills shrublands on slopes, pinyon-juniper woodlands on hogbacks, with stands of Ponderosa Pine-spruce/fir forest. Subalpine forests of Lodgepole Pine, spruce and fir are found along the upper Poudre River, Green Ridge, Deadman Ridge, Bull Mountain and in the Medicine Bows. Open stands of aspen can be seen throughout the mountainous areas of the HPP. Higher elevations of the Medicine Bows (Rawah Wilderness) include krumholtz forest and grasses typical of the alpine zone.

The western portion of the HPP area is drained by the Laramie River, which flows north into Wyoming. The North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River drains the north central portion of the NLCHPP. The southern side of the HPP is drained by the Cache la Poudre River, and its tributaries. Intermittent drainages and small perennial streams flow across ranches and farms in the eastern third of the HPP. These rivers, streams and tributaries course through all elevations within the HPP and give rise to riparian plant communities. Narrow-leaf Cottonwood, Peach-leaf Cottonwood, willow, alder, River Birch, Chokecherry, miscellaneous species of wet meadow grasses, sedge, rushes, mesic forbs and cattails provide essential habitat for diverse terrestrial and aquatic species, including: Johnny Darter, Iowa Darter, Green-back Cutthroat Trout, Golden Eagle, American Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Lazuli Bunting, Hermit Thrush, American Dipper, McCowen's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Lark Bunting.

Riparian sites in the HPP provide essential habitat for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Colorado as a threatened species, as well habitat for the Boreal Toad (State Endangered) and the Wood Frog (Species of Concern). Wetlands, ponds, marshes and streams are also rich in invertebrate diversity. Shortgrass prairies along the piedmont plains also provide habitat for Black-tailed prairie dogs, Burrowing Owls (state threatened), Mountain Plover, Northern Leopard Frog, Common Garter Snake, Swift Fox and Northern Pocket Gopher, all of which are listed by Colorado as Species of Concern. Several plant species that are listed by the State or Federal government may also be found within the LCHPP area.

BIG GAME POPULATION SUMMARY

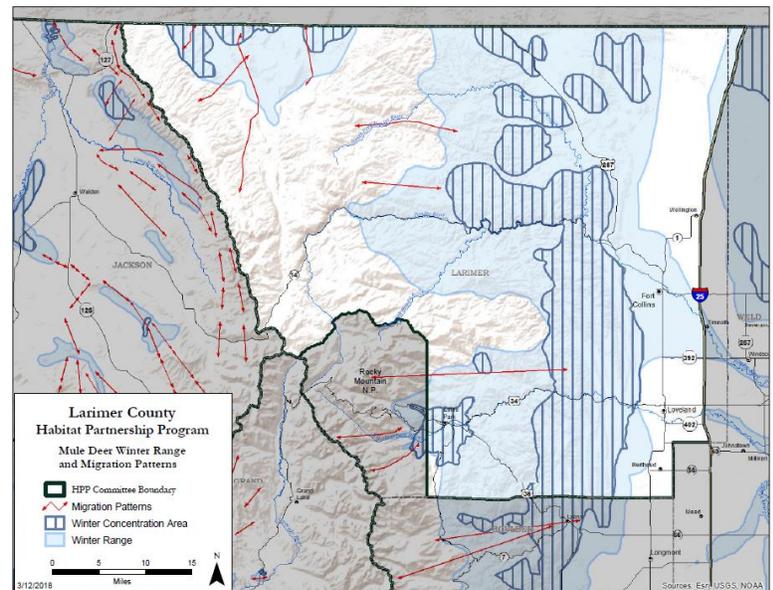
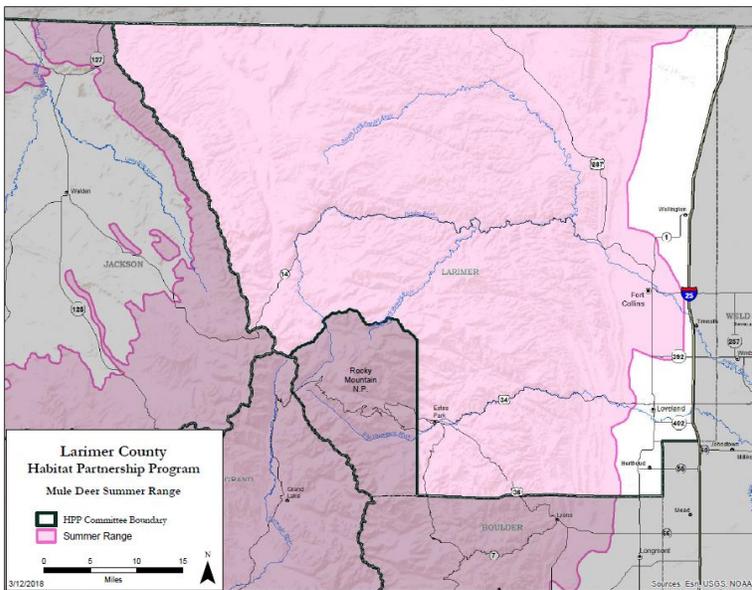
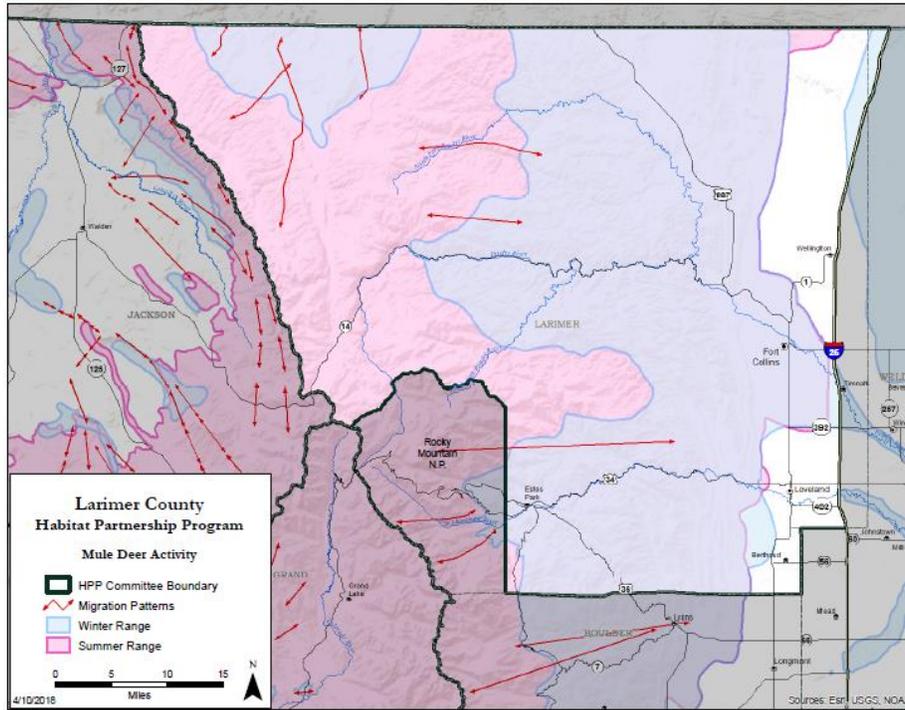
ELK RANGE MAPS



ELK - The Red Feather-Poudre Canyon elk herd (E-4) consists of Game Management Units (GMUs) 7, 8, 9, 19 and 191. It is located in northern Larimer County in the area north and west of Fort Collins. Recently, there have not been any significant issues raised by the public or through internal agency discussions. Over the last five years bull tags have been steadily increasing. CPW is working to implement a baseline population study for Elk in the area through the use of GPS collars.

The St. Vrain elk herd (E-9) consists of Game Management Unit 20. The LCHPP only includes a portion of E-9. Large numbers of elk migrate between RMNP and other areas within the DAU presenting challenges to maintaining herd numbers at objective.

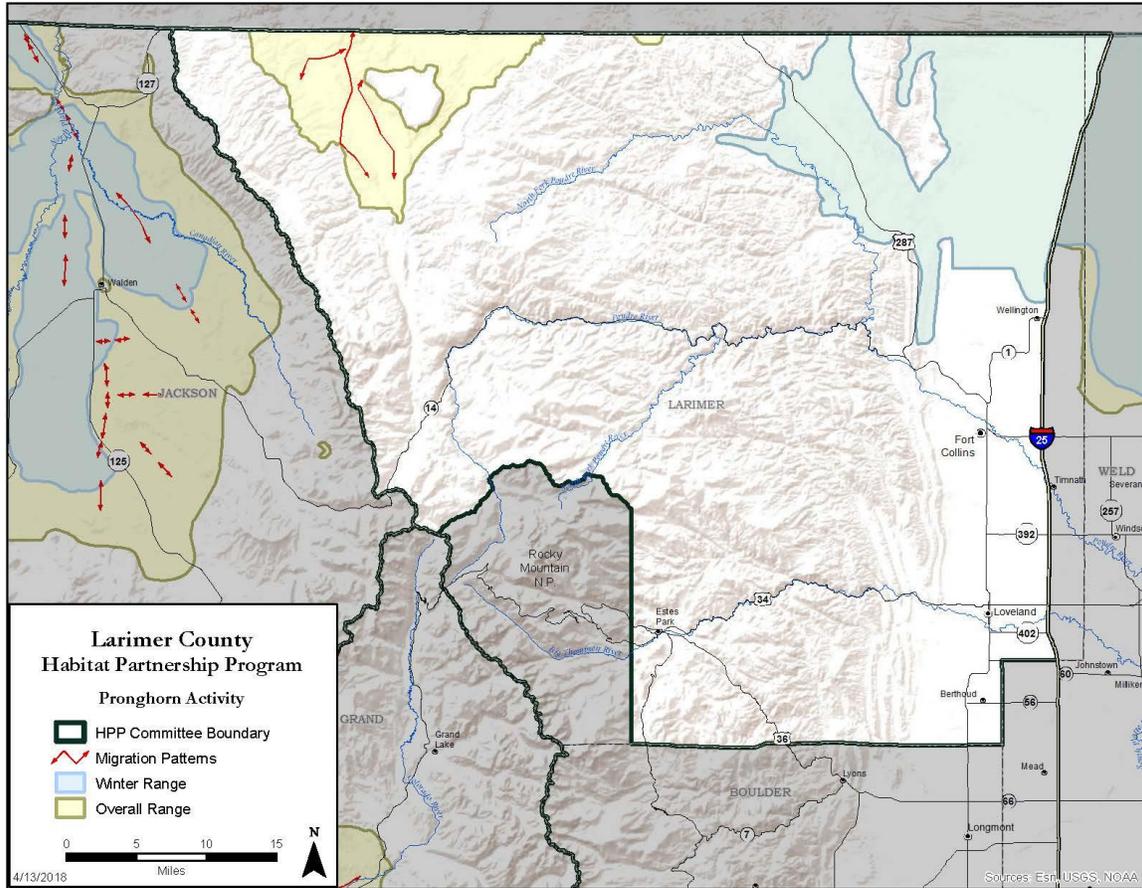
DEER RANGE MAPS



DEER- The Red Feather-Poudre Canyon deer herd (D-4) is located in northern Larimer County, north and west of Fort Collins consisting of Game Management Units (GMUs) 7, 8, 9, 19 and 191. The Big Thompson deer herd (D-10) is located in southern Larimer County consisting of GMU 20. The LCHPP only includes a portion of D-10. Chronic wasting disease remains a significant issue although prevalence has decreased from where it was during the 2000-2010 period. This may be due to management strategies that focused on reducing deer density, harvest timing, and maintaining a moderate proportion of mature bucks in the population. Habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation due to fire and development are of major concern.

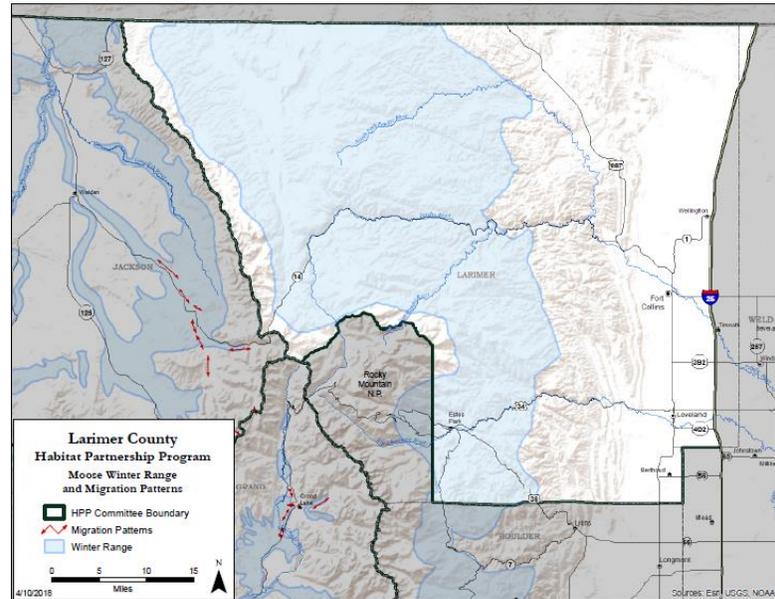
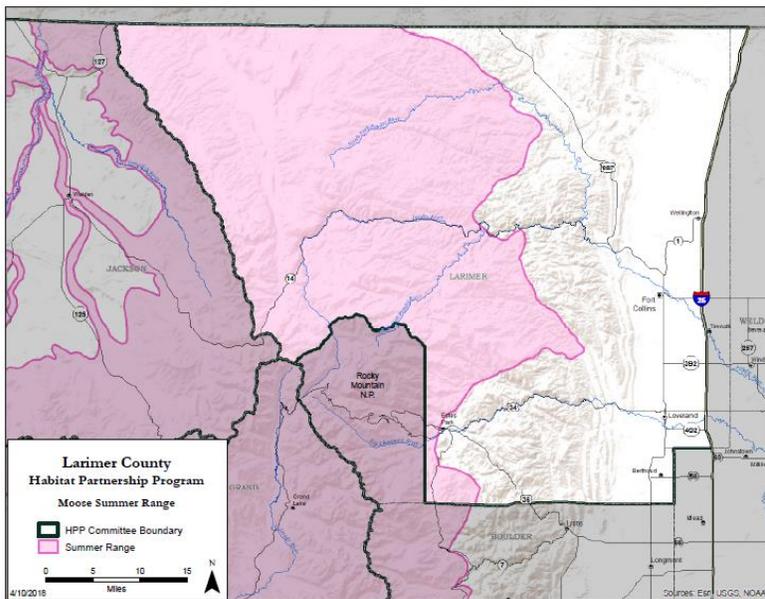
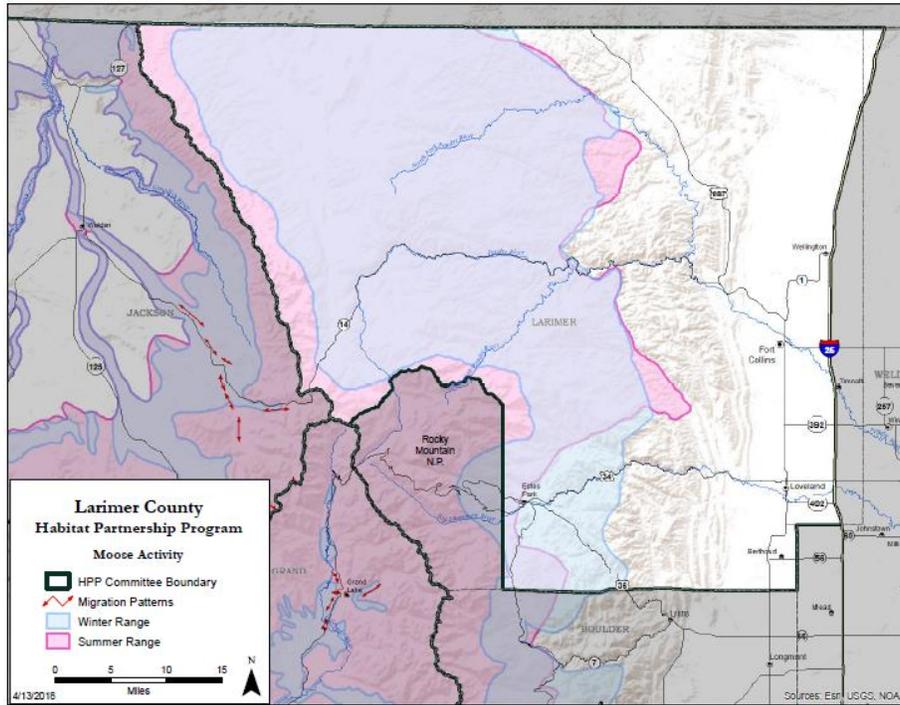
The D-4 and D-10 Herd Management Plans (HMP) have yet to be adopted by the Parks and Wildlife Commission. The HMP is expected to be put before the Commission during the summer of 2018.

PRONGHORN RANGE MAP



PRONGHORN- In PH33 in many winters (5 of the last 8 since 2010), a significant number of pronghorn move down from Wyoming in December or January. When these movements occur, the number of pronghorn wintering in PH33 can double exceeding the population objective and agricultural damage/conflicts arise on private lands. A late doe pronghorn season and game damage licenses have been used to address winter game damage.

MOOSE RANGE MAPS



MOOSE - Moose population numbers and trends are difficult and very expensive to estimate in Northeast Colorado due to behavior and habitat. Moose occur in small group sizes made up of singles, cows with young of the year, and during the mating season, temporary bull-cow pairings. Single animals and small groups are much easier to overlook than the large groups common with other ungulate species such as deer, elk and pronghorn. In Northeast Colorado, moose associate with heavy cover including narrow bands of willows in heavy conifer stands making moose difficult to observe during aerial or ground surveys. For these reasons, CPW has a research project underway to determine alternative metrics, rather than population estimates, to use in moose Herd Management Plans.

Moose DAU M2-Laramie River is entirely within the LCHPP area and a fraction (<10%) of DAU M7-St Vrain also overlaps the LCHPP. In terms of M2, 12 moose were reintroduced to the Laramie River valley in 1987. Numbers were estimated at 50 animals by the mid-1990s. Moose have expanded distribution to the south and east of the Laramie River Valley over the last 30 years. Currently, there are thought to be about 200-250 animals.

Moose in M7 are likely due to immigration from DAU M2 and from M3-Middle Park. In the 1990s, there were few and only occasional moose in what is now M7. Moose became established in the early to mid-2000s in M7 and numbers were great enough to open hunting in 2011. Given the difficulty in estimating moose numbers, there are thought to be about 90 moose in all of M7 currently. Again, less than 10% of M7 overlaps the LCHPP area and much of the moose habitat in that <10% is within Rocky Mountain National Park.

Table 1. Data Analysis Unit Summary for Larimer County HPP Area

Management Herd	1990s Population Avg	2000s Population Avg	2010 - 2018 Population Avg	Current Population Management Objective
Elk - Red Feather/Poudre Canyon E-4	5,400	4,900	4,200	3,600-4,200
<i>Game Management Units: 7,8,9,19,191</i>				
Elk - St. Vrain E-9*	3,600	3,000	2,300	2,200-2,600
<i>Game Management Units: 20</i>				
Deer- Red Feather/Poudre Canyon D-4	9,900	5,200	13,500	13,000-15,000
<i>Game Management Units: 7,8,9,19,191</i>				
Deer - Big Thompson D-10*	6,000	6,500	7,600	8,000-10,000
<i>Game Management Units: 20</i>				
Pronghorn-Cherokee Park PH-33	5,100	3,700	2,100	1,000-1,200
<i>Game Management Units: 9,191</i>				
Pronghorn-Laramie River PH-36	900	700	670	550-650
<i>Game Management Units: 7,8</i>				
Moose - Laramie River M2			200-250*	
Moose - St. Vrain M7			90*	

* Larimer County HPP area only includes portions of E-9, D-10, and M-7, however listed population estimates are for all of E-9, D-10, and M-7.

** See moose write up regarding population estimates

IMPACT AREAS

Projects will be implemented wherever the committee believes that they will effectively reduce or eliminate big game conflicts and assist CPW in achieving game management objectives within the Larimer County HPP area. Impact areas are limited to the remaining agricultural areas in the Red Feather Lakes, Laramie River and west Loveland areas. However, changing land use patterns, recreational pressures on wildlife habitat, and other new challenges may affect these impact areas as well as create new impact areas in the future. These issues may also create the need for projects intended to achieve/maintain desired management objectives.

GAME MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

In addition to resolving wildlife conflicts, HPP is also statutorily directed to “assist the division in meeting game management objectives....” This assistance will be directed towards a) maintaining/increasing the population in a given area primarily by habitat manipulation projects; b) maintaining/decreasing the population in a given area primarily by habitat manipulation projects and/or pursuing hunting opportunities; and c) participating in research activities aimed at habitat, population, disease, and/or movement factors that influence big game populations.

PROJECT TYPES & PRIORITIES

Habitat Manipulation: (including but not limited to)

- Prescribed burning
- Water developments
- Weed control
- Herbicide Vouchers
- Fertilization
- Seeding
- Hand thinning
- Mechanical treatment (chaining, roller chopping, hydro axing, etc.)

Fencing Projects: (including but not limited to)

- Fence vouchers for fence repair materials
- Construction of new fences (usually > ¼ mile in length)
- Landowner reimbursement for purchased fencing materials
- Prototype or experimental fence designs
- Wildlife crossings or retrofitting fences to be more wildlife-friendly

Game Damage Projects: (including but not limited to)

- Stackyards- materials and/or labor
- Distribution hunts
- Hunt coordinators for distribution hunts, youth hunts, etc.
- Forage purchases
- Baiting

Information/Education Projects: (including but not limited to)

- Seminars
- Workshops
- Brochures
- Electronic media: websites, etc.
- Comment letters
- Travel management: signage, temporary fencing, etc.

Research/Monitoring Projects: (including but not limited to)

- Habitat
- Population
- Inventory
- Movement

Conservation Easements (transaction costs only)

Archaeological Clearances (and other NEPA required clearances)

HPP projects may be undertaken on public lands, private lands or a combination of both as needed wherever the local committee believes the project has the best chance to effectively reduce, minimize or eliminate the big game/livestock conflict or assist CPW in meeting big game management objectives.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

In order to accomplish the goals and objectives of this plan, the Larimer County HPP committee will utilize the project types listed above in accordance with the following operating guidelines.

1. All projects should be reviewed by the local DWM before being presented to the committee. DWM support is very important to the committee when deciding on funding a project.
2. HPP is funded by the sale of big game hunting licenses, and the committee recognizes the necessity of supporting hunting as a big game management practice. The committee strongly recommends that project applicants allow a reasonable amount of hunting on their properties if they are requesting funding from HPP. They understand that there can be extenuating circumstances, so if the applicant does not allow hunting they should come prepared to explain their reasoning and it will be factored into the decision making. Applicants that allow hunting will generally be given preference over those that do not.
3. This is a partnership program, so the committee encourages applicants to have a 50/50 match for funding requests. This can be a cash match or an in-kind match.
4. Fences built using committee funds should be wildlife friendly.
5. The HPP project application is required for all projects.
6. The HPP project evaluation is required at the completion of all projects. The committee and/or its representatives will, as necessary, make site inspections to monitor progress and success of projects.

In an effort to be consistent and fair to all applicants, the committee has established operating guidelines that detail priorities, eligibility requirements, project rules and limits, and other policies. The committee retains the authority to review and update these guidelines as necessary to meet the changing needs of the area; however, these standard rules should apply to most HPP projects and will be enforced by the committee with few exceptions.

Monitoring projects are critical for the long term sustainability of the HPP program. To provide documentation, determine treatment effectiveness, and be able to convey results, monitoring will be done on all projects. Specific monitoring methodology shall be matched to the treatment. Monitoring data will be submitted to the HPP local committee and admins.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Management strategies were developed to achieve the committee's objectives. Strategies primarily involve resolving big game conflicts through habitat manipulation, fencing, and game damage projects; or achieving big game management objectives through information and education, research and monitoring, or conservation easements. Most HPP projects will fall into one of the following management strategy categories.

1. HABITAT MANIPULATION: Improving habitat on private, public, and tribal lands draws big game away from impact areas; improves big game distribution; holds big game for longer periods of time on public lands; or improves forage abundance, availability, or palatability such that it reduces competition between big game and livestock.
2. FENCING PROJECTS: Repair of existing fences and/or construction of new fences help alleviate ongoing big game damage, and offset the financial burden to landowners. Fences will be wildlife-friendly to HPP specifications. Maintenance of fences will be the responsibility of the landowner.
3. GAME DAMAGE PROJECTS: Providing stack yards for landowners otherwise ineligible for them and using hunt coordinators and forage purchases address pending damage problems that CPW may be financially liable for.
4. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION: Producing and distributing informative materials helps public land agencies and private land managers educate the public and provides information about the programs, agencies, conflicts and user responsibilities. Travel management may include signage or education on closures or activities that will benefit big game.
5. RESEARCH & MONITORING: Projects will include, but not be limited to, those focusing on habitat condition, populations, inventory and movement patterns. While these types of projects may be funded, the committee's primary focus will be on conflict resolution between big game and livestock.
6. CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: Conservation easements help to protect a property's conservation values, particularly agricultural productivity, wildlife habitat, and hunting access.

BUDGET GUIDELINES

The base-operating budget for the State HPP program is based on 5% of total annual revenues for big game license sales in Colorado. The HPP State Council then allocates funding to the individual HPP committees. The Larimer County HPP budget was developed to best meet the goals and objectives outlined earlier in the plan, while maintaining the flexibility to deal with emergencies and take advantage of opportunities.

Within certain parameters, the statewide HPP financial system allows local HPP committees to carry specific project dollars over from year to year if the project is ongoing or the funds have been committed. This allows us to better address long-term management and larger, more complicated projects as well as giving us the flexibility to more efficiently prioritize our projects.

Additional funds are also available through the HPP State Council for special projects or unforeseen opportunities outside of the capacity of the committee. These dollars supplement our existing budget and allow us to take on special projects from time to time.

The Larimer County HPP Committee has developed a budget allocation in line with our vision, which allows for short-term strategies to deal with immediate fence and forage conflicts caused by big game, but concentrates on adaptive, long-term management strategies leading to the establishment of healthy and sustainable rangelands. Our budget for the ten-year period has been broken down as follows:

BASE BUDGET ALLOCATION:

Habitat Manipulation	60%
Fencing & Game Damage	20%
Information & Education	5%
Research/Monitoring	5%
Conservation Easements & NEPA Related Activities	5%
Administration	5%

TOTAL ALLOCATION: 100%

It is important to acknowledge that the budget allocation is based on past projects, future projects that are likely to be proposed as well as committee emphasis in funding certain project types. While these are desired and/or likely allocations, the committee retains the ability to shift funds as needed between categories as projects and opportunities arise or as situations dictate.

CURRENT & FORESEEABLE ISSUES

The Larimer County HPP recognizes that land ownership, land use, and social policies will continue to change. This will result in new conflicts and challenges, but the LCHPP intends to remain flexible and seek out creative solutions to continue to reduce wildlife conflicts and assist CPW in achieving game management objectives. Current and foreseeable issues for the committee include, but are not limited to:

CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH AND HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

Development of private lands and open spaces leads to the fragmentation of quality big game habitat and subsequent redistribution of wildlife. This trend will persist as the population of Colorado continues to grow, and will create new challenges for the management of wildlife. Habitat fragmentation and loss of open space as a result of population growth will likely increase conflicts for agricultural producers as wildlife move to private lands to find shelter and forage.

WATER DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO THE POTENTIAL FUTURE EXPANSION OF HALLIGAN AND SEAMAN RESERVOIRS AND CONSTRUCTION OF GLADE RESERVOIR AND IMPACTS TO ELK WINTER RANGE AND MOVEMENT.

Expansion of existing reservoirs and construction of new reservoirs increases habitat fragmentation which leads to a decrease in available big game habitat and can reduce the quality and quantity of water available to wildlife and livestock. This may impact wildlife distribution and can lead to poor grazing management and/or degradation of important riparian areas.

RECREATIONAL PRESSURES ON WILDLIFE HABITAT

Recreation in Colorado is expanding as the population grows. Recreation influences big game distribution and tends to drive big game from public lands onto private lands. As a result, big game conflicts may become more common or amplified in some areas.

DECREASE IN HUNTER ACCESS; DECLINE OF HUNTER MEMBERS AND LOSS OF HUNTING AS A WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TOOL DUE TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND USE POLICIES.

The development of private lands creates a decrease in hunting opportunities. All of the issues listed above result in redistribution of big game, often pushing big game to lands where hunting is restricted. This drastically reduces the availability of hunting grounds and the effectiveness of hunting as a game management tool. This, along with a decrease in hunters, makes game management increasingly difficult.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease continues to be an issue in the Larimer County HPP area, although prevalence has decreased through management techniques. CPW will continue to monitor CWD and Larimer County HPP will continue to support projects that assist CPW in keeping CWD prevalence low.