

PRONGHORN HERD MANAGEMENT PLAN CHEROKEE PARK HERD

Data Analysis Unit PH-33

Game Management Units 9 & 191



2020



Created for

COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

By:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cherokee Park Pronghorn Herd (DAU PH-33)	GMUs: 9 & 191
Post-hunt Population:	
Previous objective: 1,000-1,200	2019 Modeled Estimate: 1,066
Approved Objective: 1,000-1,200	
Post-hunt Sex Ratio (Bucks: 100 Does):	
Previous post-hunt Objective: 20 -25	2019 Post-hunt Modeled: 71.5
Approved Objective: 25-30	

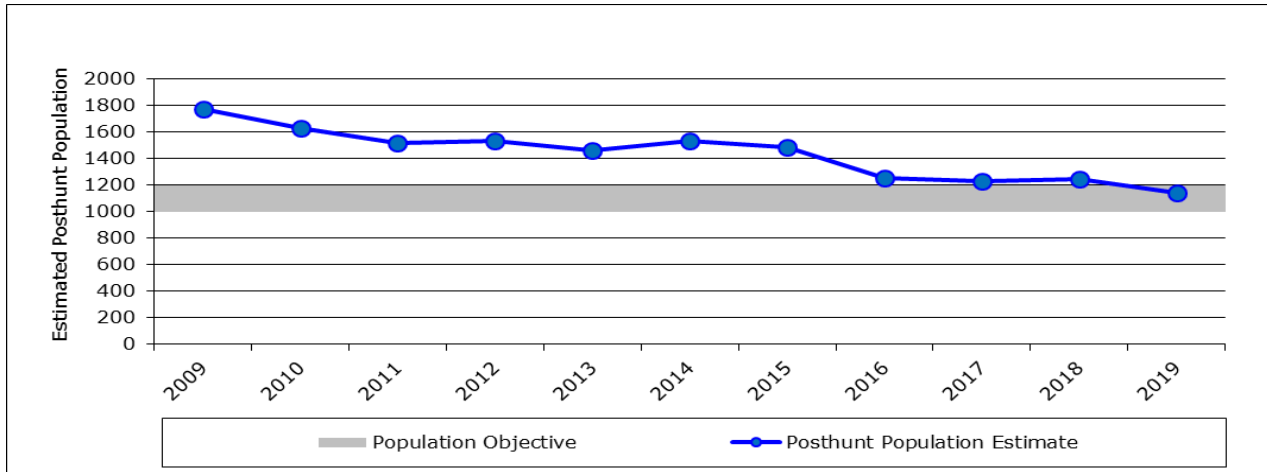


Figure 1. Cherokee Park DAU modeled post-hunt population and objective 2009-2019.

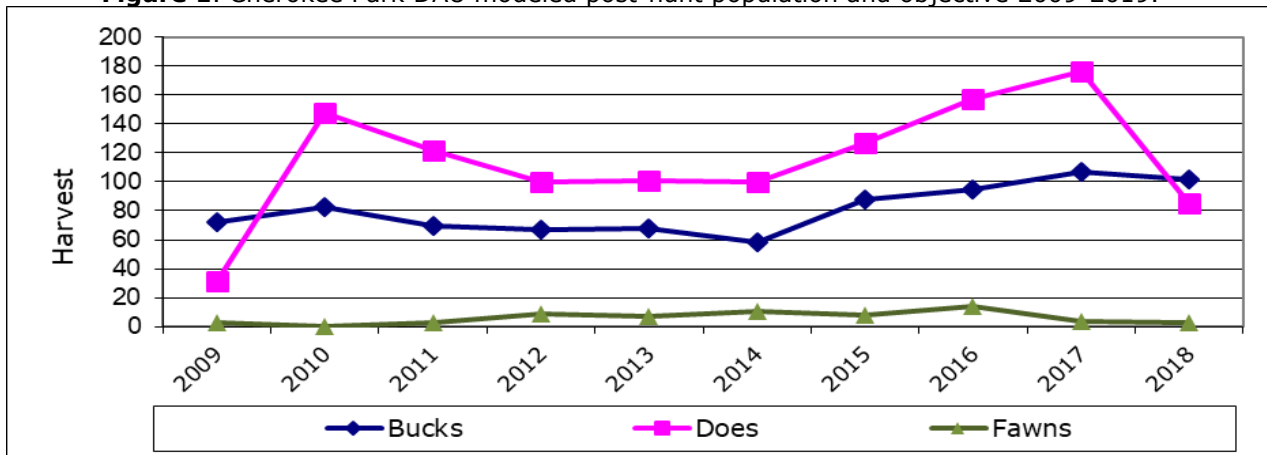


Figure 2. Cherokee Park DAU buck, doe, and fawn harvest estimates from 2009-2018.

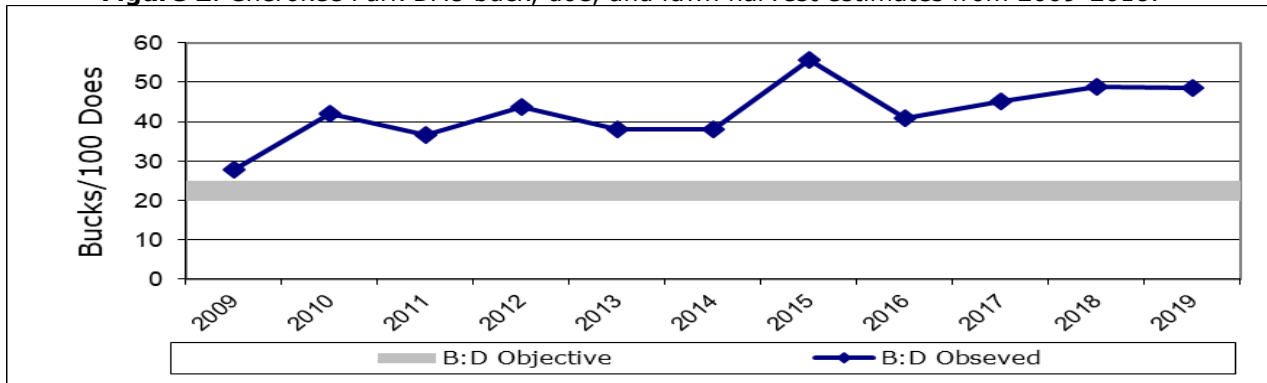


Figure 3. Cherokee Park DAU buck: doe ratio from 2009-2019.

Background and Management Information

The Cherokee Park pronghorn herd is a medium-sized state line herd. This herd occupies primarily private land north of Fort Collins along the U.S. highway 287 corridor. Yearly seasonal migrations occur between the border of Colorado and Wyoming.

The modeled population represents the year-around resident herd. However, in most winters the herd size increases substantially (1,000+ pronghorn) from the ingress of pronghorn from Wyoming. The herd size decreases again during the spring and summer migration. The 2019 estimated pronghorn modeled population is 1,066 and the modeled post-hunt buck ratio is 72: 100 does. The high post-hunt buck ratio can be contributed to the increase in doe harvest combined with a stable buck harvest over the past 5 years.

The increase in doe harvest is in response to an increase in agricultural damage that occurs during hard winters when pronghorn migrate down into Colorado from Wyoming. To help manage the influx of pronghorn and the associated game damage while also maintaining a sustainable resident herd, the late antlerless pronghorn rifle season has been extended through January 31 beginning in 2020.

Population Objective Alternatives:

Population Alternative #1: 700-900 pronghorn (~25% reduction)

To manage for this objective there would be an increase in licenses until the objective is reached and then license numbers would decrease to maintain the population.

Population Alternative #2 (preferred): 1,000-1,200 pronghorn (Status quo)

Doe licenses would decrease slightly to stabilize the population at this objective.

Population Alternative #3: 1,300-1,500 pronghorn (~25% increase)

Licenses for both bucks and does would decrease until the population objective is reached and then a lower number of licenses overall would be available.

Herd Composition-Sex Ratio Objective Alternative

Composition Alternative #1: 15-20 bucks: 100 does

To manage for this composition there would be an increase in buck licenses. However, due to the herds, in particular bucks, residing on mostly private lands this objective may not be achieved.

Composition Alternative #2: 20-25 bucks: 100 does (Status quo)

Status quo on number of buck licenses.

Composition Alternative #3 (preferred): 25-30 bucks: 100 does

This composition objective is an increase from the current objective. This composition aligns with our management capabilities because the majority of the herd resides on private lands making it difficult to achieve a lower buck to doe ratio.

This plan was approved by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
on July 16, 2020

CHEROKEE PARK
Pronghorn Herd Management Plan
DAU PH-33 (GMUs 9 & 191)

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Herd Management Plan for PH-33

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) manages big game, including pronghorn, for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of the state in accordance with the CPW's Strategic Plan (2010-2020). Pronghorn management is also determined by mandates from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) and the Colorado Legislature. Colorado's wildlife species require careful and increasingly intensive management to accommodate the many and varied public demands and growing human impacts. CPW uses a "Management by Objective" approach to manage the state's big game populations (Figure 4).

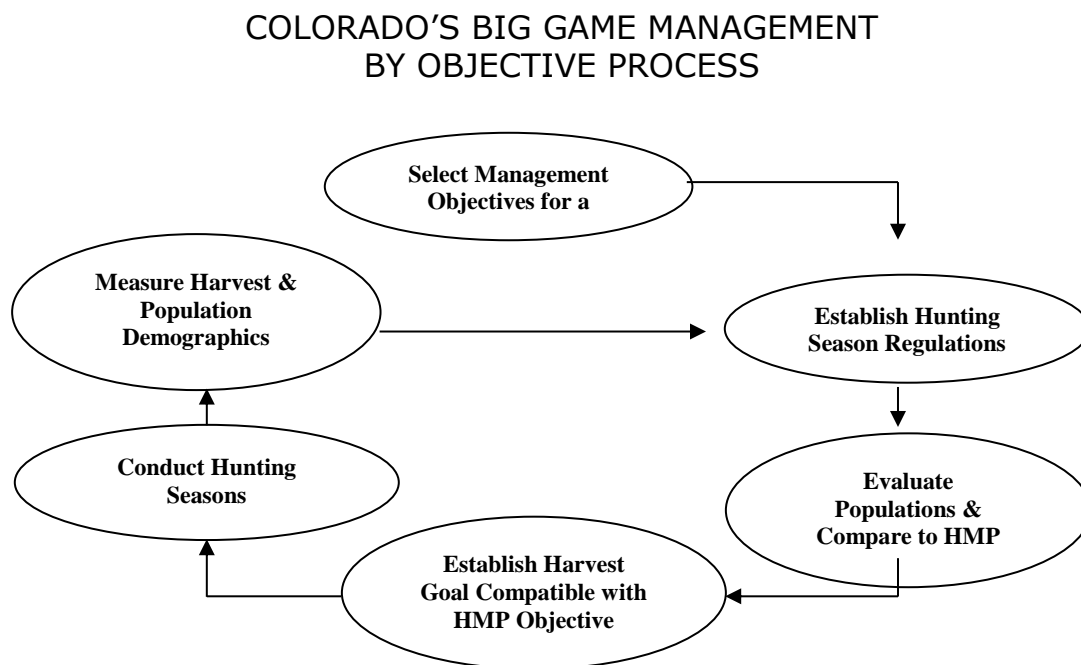


Figure 4. Management by objectives process used by the CPIW to manage big game populations on a HMP basis.

With the Management by Objective approach, big game populations are managed to achieve population objectives established for a Data Analysis Unit (DAU). A DAU is the geographic area that includes the year-round range of a big game herd. A DAU includes the area where most animals in a herd are born, live and die. DAU boundaries are delineated to minimize interchange of animals between adjacent DAUs. A DAU may be divided into several Game Management Units (GMUs) to distribute hunters and harvest within a DAU. Management decisions within a DAU are based on a herd management plan. The primary purpose of a herd management plan is to establish population and sex ratio (i.e., the number of males per 100 females) objectives for the DAU. The herd management plan also describes the strategies and techniques that will be used to reach these objectives. During the herd management planning process, public input is solicited and collected through questionnaires, public meetings, and comments to CPW staff and the PWC. The intentions of CPW are integrated with the concerns and ideas of various

stakeholders including the State Land Board (SLB), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), city and county governments, hunters, guides and outfitters, private landowners, local chambers of commerce, and the public. In preparing a herd management plan, agency personnel attempt to balance the biological capabilities of Figure 4. Management by Objective process used by Colorado Parks and Wildlife to manage big game populations by Data Analysis Unit (DAU). Commission approves Herd Management Plan objectives Collect data on harvest and population demographics Assess population and compare to HMP objectives Conduct hunting seasons Set hunting regulations to achieve harvest goals 7 the herd and its habitat with the public's demand for wildlife recreational opportunities and public tolerance for game damage. Herd management plans are approved by the PWC and are reviewed and updated approximately every 10 years. The herd management plan serves as the basis for the annual herd management cycle. In this cycle, the size and composition of the herd is assessed and compared to the objectives defined in the herd management plan and removal goals are set. Based on these goals, specific removal strategies are made for the coming year to either maintain the population or move it towards the established objectives (e.g., license numbers and allocation are set, translocation plans are made). Hunting seasons and/or translocations are then conducted and evaluated. The annual management cycle then begins again.

The purpose of this herd management plan is to set population and sex ratio objectives for the Cherokee Park pronghorn herd (PH-33). The herd management plan will be in place from 2020- 2030 with the expectation that it will be reviewed and updated in 2030.

DESCRIPTION OF DAU PH-33

Geography

Pronghorn Data Analysis Unit (DAU) PH-33 is located in Larimer and Weld Counties in north central Colorado (Figure 5). It consists of Game Management Units (GMU) 9 and 191. PH-33 is bounded on the north by the Wyoming state line, on the east by I-25, on the south by Colorado Highway 14, and on the west by Larimer County Roads 69, 68C, 74E (Red Feather Lakes Road), 179, 80C (Cherokee Park Road), and 59.

Elevations range from 8,100 feet at the highest point on the western edge of the DAU to 4,890 feet in the southeast corner near Fort Collins.

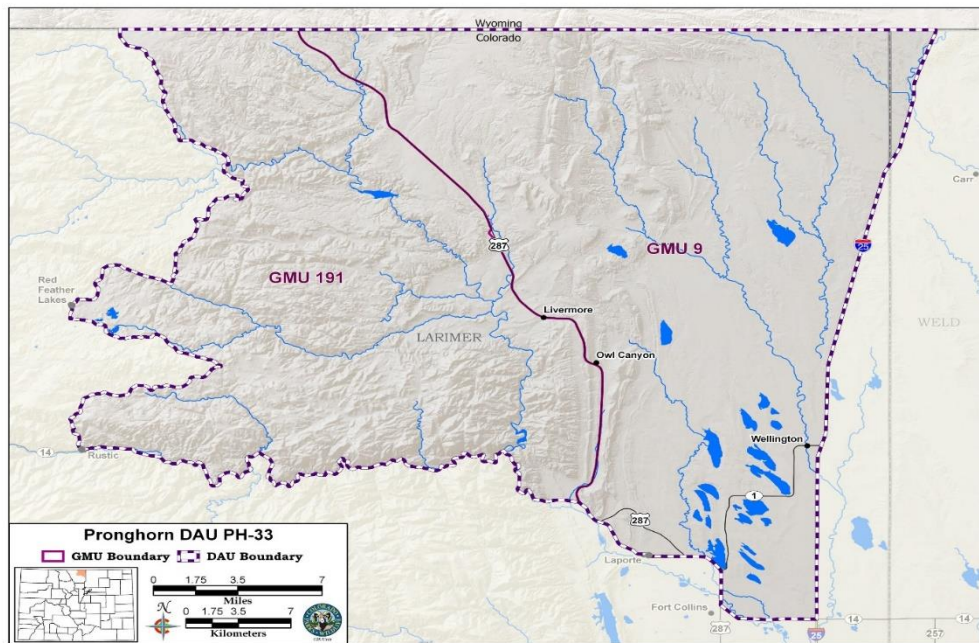


Figure 5. PH-33 Geography and GMU boundaries

Climate

The overall climate in PH-33 is relatively dry with low humidity. It is seasonal with a mild climate year-round. Climate varies across the DAW as a function of elevation. The principal pronghorn habitat in the DAW is dominated by mid- and short grass prairie. Weather-related winter mortality on pronghorn is usually not a factor.

Land Ownership and Use

The surface area of the entire DAW is 685 square miles. The majority of the DAW, (61%) landscape is owned by private landowners (Figure 6). The United States Forest Service (USFS) lands covers 14% and city/county governments account for 14% of land. The remaining is state lands, largely managed by the State Land Board (SLB) or CPW.

Lands located in the western and southern portion of the DAW is not pronghorn habitat. Pronghorn habitat is located on mostly private lands on either side of US 287 and on private and municipality owned lands in central and northern GMU 9.

Development of land in PH-33 for housing and subdivision of larger ranches have contributed to a decrease in pronghorn habitat, mostly in southern GMU 9. The purchase of Soap Stone Natural Area in 2004 by the City of Fort Collins combined with the City's existing land ownership in the northern portion of GMU 9 is a significant stride towards preserving the northern part of PH-33 as unbroken pronghorn habitat.

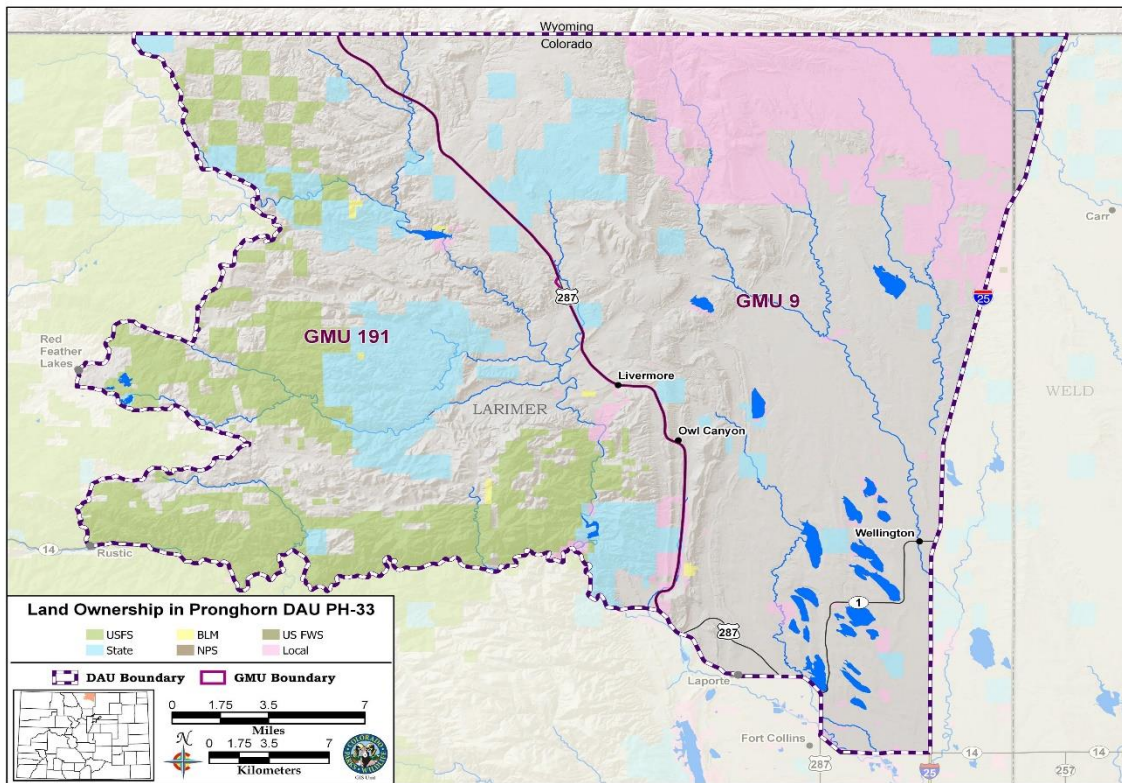


Figure 6. PH-33 Land Ownership

Vegetation

Pronghorn habitat is composed of midgrass and short grass prairie rangeland (Figure 7 and 8). Native grasses, non-native grasses, and croplands dominate this landscape, with areas of sagebrush, rabbit brush, and cacti. Riparian areas are spaced along drainage corridors where cottonwoods, alders and, willows are found.

The foothills ecological zone is found in the western part of PH-33. The elevation range is 5,500 to 7,000 feet and is characterized by various shrub types and ponderosa pine. Shrub types include antelope bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, juniper, and wild plum.

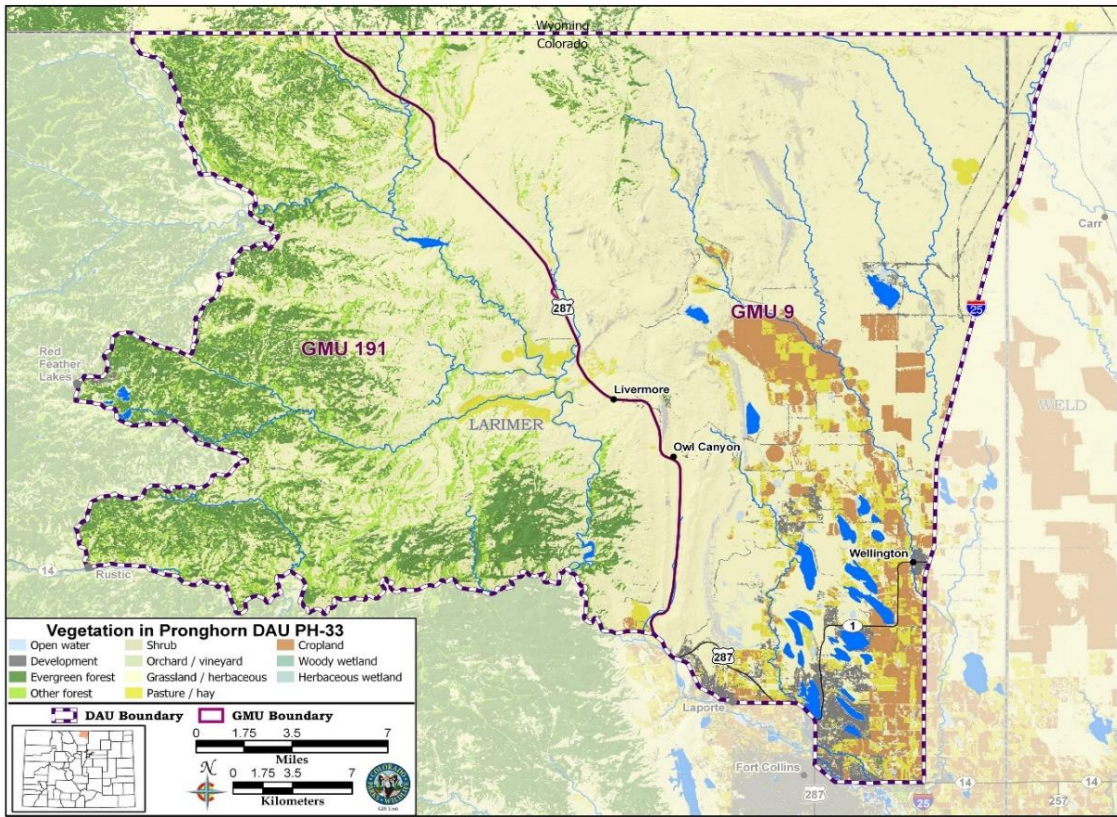


Figure 7. PH-33 Vegetation

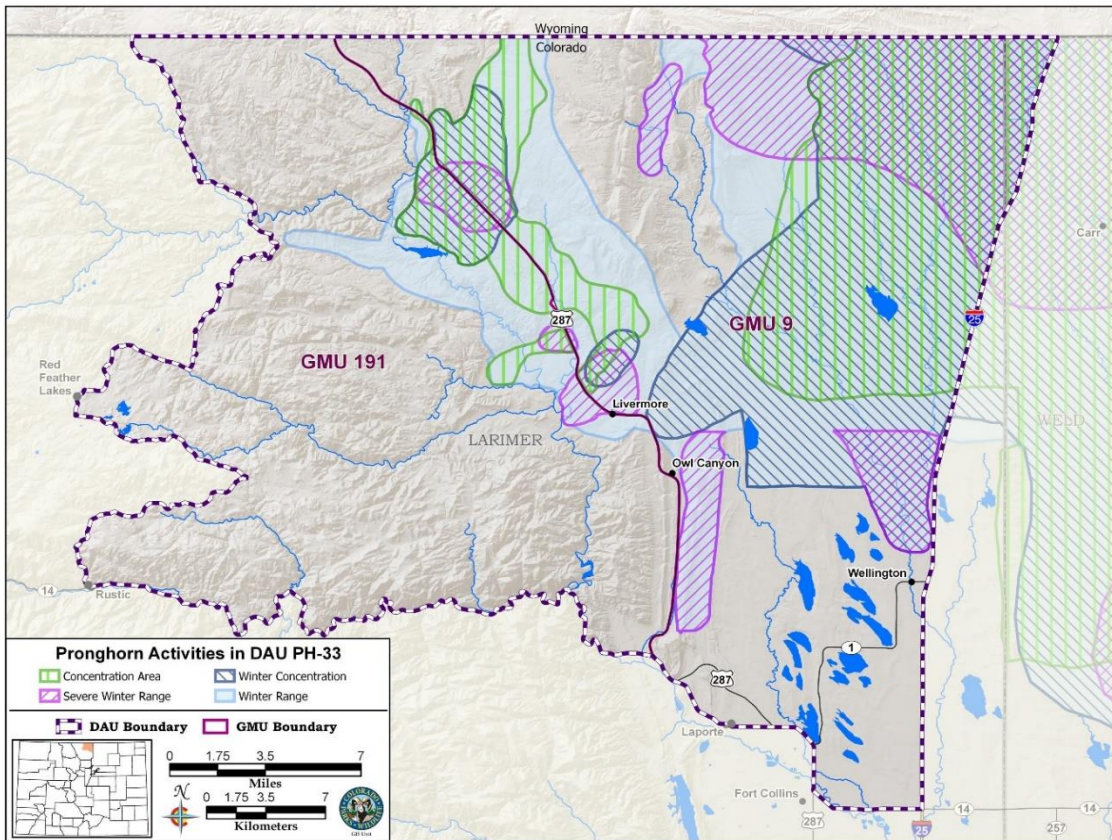


Figure 8. PH-33 Pronghorn Range

HERD MANAGEMENT HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

History

PH-33 has been managed consistently over the past 30 years. Changes in the number of licenses are in response to; herd size increase/decreases, drought, game damage, migration of pronghorn from Wyoming, and changes in habitat.

Population and Herd Composition

The relatively small population size of PH-33 and the winter immigration of pronghorn from Wyoming makes it difficult to estimate a population. For example, in August of 2015, there was a minimum count of 709 pronghorn in July; however, in January of 2016 there was minimum count of, 2,400 pronghorn. GMU 9 and 191 can get an influx of 1,000 plus pronghorn in the winter from Wyoming. The influx is dependent on the severity of the winter.

To obtain a population estimate for this DAU the population size is modeled using pre-hunt classification ratios and minimum counts. Beginning in the 1990's, PH-33 has been managed for a population objective of 1,100. In 2002, impacts from low fawn recruitment, possibly due to long-term drought, contributed to a steep reduction in population size. The population decline was severe enough that reductions in harvest was needed to keep the population from going below objective. The population began to recover and increase in size by the mid 2000's. The current population estimation for 2019 is 1,066. The steady increase in population in combination with the increase in frequency of ingress of pronghorn from Wyoming has resulted in increased agricultural damage.

The classification flight is flown pre-season and is used to gather herd composition data. The observed data does not include the winter immigration of pronghorn from Wyoming. Classification data in PH-33 has been collected in 8 of the last 10 years in late July or early August. Observed pre-season age and sex ratios have ranged between 24-67 fawns: 100 does and 27-55 bucks: 100 with an average of 42 fawns: 100 does and 44 bucks: 100 does. The 2019 observed fawn ratio was 45 fawns: 100 does with an observed buck ratio of 49 bucks: 100 does. The sex ratio has been trending upward which is expected with the large increase in antlerless licenses over the past 9 years and only a slight increase in buck licenses.

Licenses, Harvest, & Success Rates

In response to an increasing population, increasing buck: doe ratios and the immigration of pronghorn from Wyoming, rifle and muzzleloader allocations have been steadily increasing over the past decade. The majority of the license increases occurred in 2016 and 2017. In 2018, rifle allocations were 110 buck and 240 antlerless which is a 69% increase in rifle buck licenses and a 380% increase for rifle antlerless license since 2009. In 2019, rifle buck license were increased from 110 to 145 and antlerless rifle were decreased from 240 to 145. The increase in buck licenses was in response to being over the sex ratio management objective for several years. The decrease in antlerless licenses is due to the decrease in resident pronghorn observed during classification flights. The decrease in the resident herd is likely due to the increase in antlerless harvest that has been used to alleviate the

agricultural damage. However, the ingress of pronghorn from Wyoming does not take place every year resulting in harvesting more does from the resident herd. The average 3-year success rate for rifle buck is 79% and 52% for rifle antlerless licenses. Nearly all the pronghorn reside on private land in the DAU; this limits the hunter's access to the pronghorn and lowers success rates.

Disease

Disease is not an issue in PH-33. While chronic wasting disease has been detected in deer, elk and moose in the DAU, to date it has never been diagnosed in pronghorn.

Game Damage

From 2009-2020, there has been no pronghorn game damage claims in DAU PH-33.

Habitat Management

Municipalities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in PH-33 have focused on easement and fee title acquisitions. These land purchases have mostly been in pronghorn habitat and have helped to preserve some large tracts of range as undeveloped grassland. While the Larimer County Habitat Partnership Program committee (LCHPP) does not currently have any pronghorn-specific projects underway, the potential for funding does exist.

CURRENT HERD MANAGEMENT

Current Post-hunt Population

Based on the PH-33 population model, as well as observed data from aerial inventories, the 2019 post-hunt population is estimated at 1,066 (see Figure 1). This represents a herd at the long-term population objective; current management objective for the population is between 1,000 - 1,200 animals.

Current Sex/Age Composition

Annual computer modeling efforts project a 2019 post-hunt sex ratio of 72 bucks: 100 does. The high sex ratio is due to the increase in antlerless harvest over the past 5 years with little increase to buck harvest. The current 3-year average observed ratio is 45 bucks: 100 does. The observed pre-hunt ratio in August of 2019 was 49 bucks: 100.

Current Management Strategies

The current population size is estimated to be at objective, the goal for management has been to continue to stabilize the resident herd population between 1,000-1,200 animals and keep agriculture damage to a minimum. While there has only been one game damage payment in the last 34 years in PH-33, severe winter weather, as experienced in 2015-present, has contribute to an increase in conflicts. Observations during hard winters suggest that several large groups of pronghorn are at times, using a number of limited private pastures and

this has led to conflicts over forage with landowners. In 2019, the Wildlife Commission passed season structure that allows late antlerless pronghorn seasons to run until January 31st. The 2020 hunting season will be the first year for the longer season. The longer season will allow landowners the ability to disperse and move pronghorn away from their fields through hunting pressure. Addressing problems that remain on winter range with site-specific management techniques will continue to be used as tool after regular-season hunting options are finished.

Current Management Challenges

PH-33 is experiencing changes in pronghorn habitat through rural subdivision growth, small acreage development and the proposed Halligan expansion water project. As local municipalities (City of Fort Collins, Larimer County) purchase and manage large working ranches, the continuance of active wildlife management on those parcels is crucial. In most cases, herds can be managed via harvest to keep their size and distribution compatible with habitat on the property and to minimize impacts on surrounding landowners. Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins has collaborated with CPW to have successful limited access big game hunting programs on Larimer County Red Mountain Open Space and the City of Fort Collins Soapstone Prairie Natural Area. These access programs provide quality-hunting access for buck deer, bull and cow elk, and antlerless pronghorn to hunters each year with no conflicts with other open space or natural area users.

A surplus of +1,000 pronghorn from Wyoming will migrate into GMU's 9 and 191 during hard winters. The ingress of pronghorn has caused agricultural complaints by landowners. The pronghorn migrate back to Wyoming in the spring. To help reduce damage complaints, antlerless licenses have been increasing since 2015. In the years when the Wyoming herd does not migrate into the DAU, the rate of harvest is higher on resident pronghorn. In 2019, antlerless licenses were decreased to reduce harvest on the resident herd.

ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

Issue Solicitation Process

An online survey was sent out to landowners and hunters that applied in the draw for PH-33 over the last 3 years. The online survey was open for 30 days.

The draft plan was posted from April 13, 2020 to May 8, 2020 on the CPW website for additional public comments. Copies of the draft plan were made available to the USFS, Larimer County, City of Fort Collins, and Larimer County HPP committee.

Issue Identification

Two hundred and twenty-two surveys were completed for PH-33 (see Appendix A). The majority of the respondents are from Colorado and have either hunted or put in for a limited draw license in PH-33. In summary, respondents want management to remain the same with the opportunity to hunt pronghorn every year in the DAU, respondents would like to see an increase in access, and there is a concern about

more development within the DAU. For complete results and comments, see Appendix A.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

Post-hunt Population

Population Alternative #1: 700-900 pronghorn (~25% reduction)

This alternative represents the smallest population size among the options. A short-term increase in harvest would be used to reach the lower objective; once at this new population level, license numbers would be reduced below current levels. Preference points needed to draw a buck or doe license would increase.

Population Alternative #2 (preferred): 1,000-1,200 pronghorn (status quo)

Assuming no large changes in observed biological data (herd size, fawn: doe ratios) this option would continue the management and license levels currently in place. Annual adjustments in licenses would be directed at harvest of the migrating pronghorn from Wyoming.

Population Alternative #3: 1,300-1,500 pronghorn (~25% increase)

This alternative would manage for the largest population size of the three options. Doe harvest would be reduced for a number of years until the 25% increase has been achieved. Once at the new objective, this option would allow for a greater number of both buck and doe harvest than currently available. Landowner concerns over forage loss will likely increase.

Herd Composition-Sex Ratio Objective Alternative

Composition Alternative #1: 15-20 bucks: 100 does

This alternative represents the lowest proportion of bucks in the population and would result in an increase in buck hunting opportunity. This alternative would result in the lowest proportion of buck maturity/horn size among the three options. This ratio would increase buck hunting opportunity.

Composition Alternative #2: 20-25 bucks: 100 does (status quo)

This status quo alternative would represent the current level of buck hunting, buck maturity and horn size.

Composition Alternative #3 (preferred): 25-30 bucks: 100 does

This composition objective is an increase from the current objective. This composition aligns with our management capabilities because the majority of the herd resides on private lands making it difficult to achieve a lower buck to doe ratio. This alternative would represent the current level of buck licenses slightly decreased and an increase in the number of mature bucks and horn size on the landscape.

Appendix A –Public Survey with Results

1. Are you currently a resident of Colorado

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	95.50%	212
No	4.50%	10
	Answered	222
	Skipped	1

2. Do you currently live within any of the Cherokee Park Pronghorn herd GMUs?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	28.77%	63
No	71.23%	156
	Answered	219
	Skipped	4

3. Which of the following best describes how you interact with pronghorn in the Cherokee Park GMUs? (Please check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
As a viewer/ wildlife watcher	28.05%	62
As a landowner	11.76%	26
As a hunter	95.48%	211
As a livestock producer	7.69%	17
As an outdoor recreationist (e.g., hiker, mountain biker, horseback riding, etc...)	22.17%	49
As a guide/outfitter	1.36%	3
Other (please specify)	4.52%	10
	Answered	221
	Skipped	2

Other (please specify)

Fishing

I no longer hunt Cherokee Park

I volunteer as a guide for Outdoor Buddies to guide youth and disable hunters.

I hunt on Meadow Springs ranch next to Cherokee park

Teaching my 12yr old hunting

LAND CARETAKER

want to hunt there, but did not draw

Turned in my license

Handicap hunter

Sold property

4. Have you ever hunted pronghorn in any of the Cherokee Park pronghorn herd GMUs?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	80.82%	177
No	19.18%	42
	Answered	219
	Skipped	4

5. If you have hunted pronghorn did you hunt on:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Public	16.58%	33
Private	72.36%	144
Both	11.06%	22
	Answered	199
	Skipped	24

6. If you hunt private land: (Please check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Do you own the land you hunt	10.11%	18
Pay trespass	5.62%	10
Have permission to hunt without a fee	92.70%	165
	Answered	178
	Skipped	45

7. Do you hunt primarily in:

Answer Choices	Responses	
GMU 9	78.26%	162
GMU 191	21.74%	45
	Answered	207
	Skipped	16

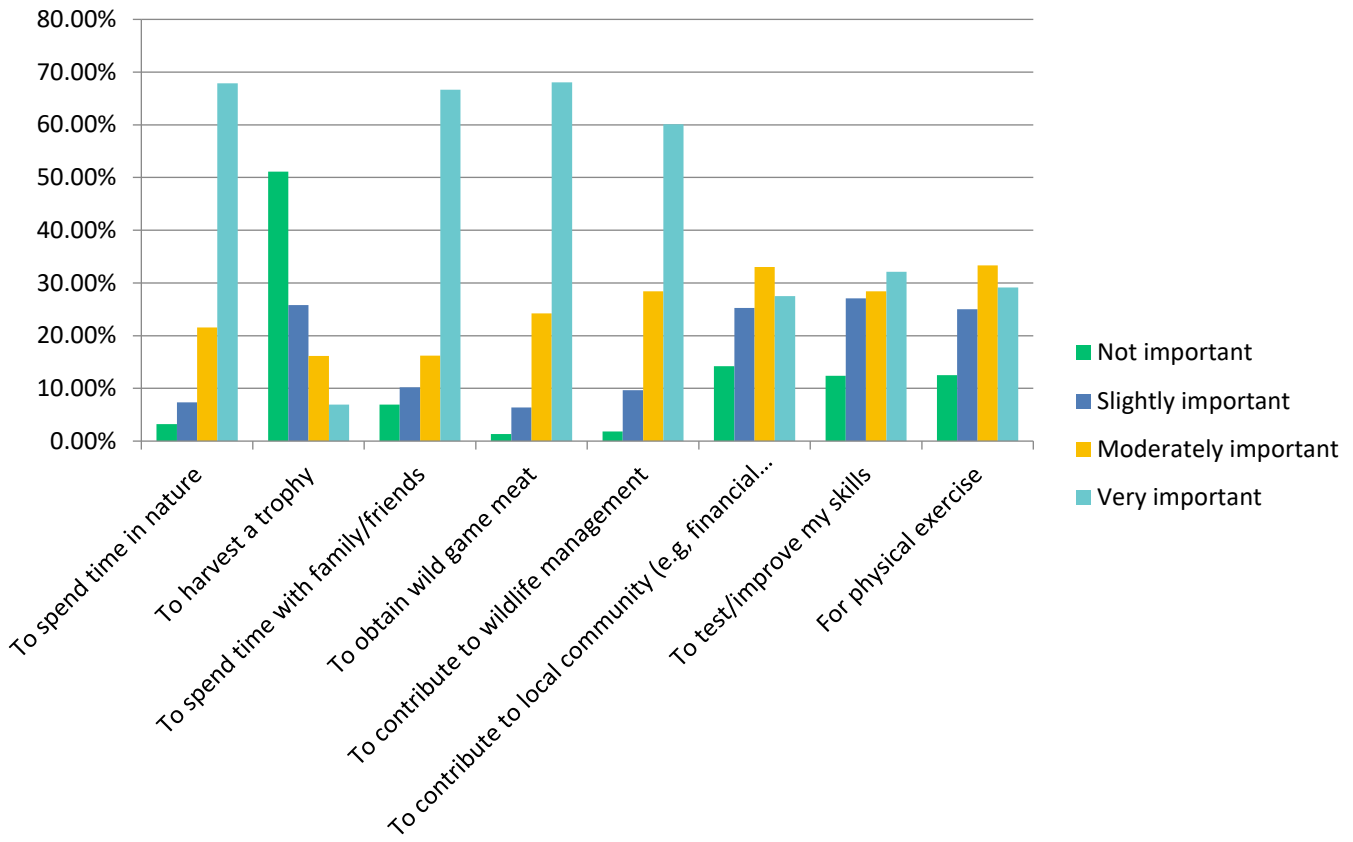
8. Overall, how satisfied were you with your pronghorn hunting experience in any of the Cherokee Park pronghorn herd GMUs during the previous 10 years?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very dissatisfied	8.25%	17
Somewhat dissatisfied	13.11%	27
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied	16.99%	35
Somewhat satisfied	19.42%	40
Very satisfied	42.23%	87
	Answered	206
	Skipped	17

9. To what extent have you felt crowded by other hunters while pronghorn hunting in any of the Cherokee park pronghorn herd GMUS?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Not at all crowded	54.68%	111
Slightly crowded	27.59%	56
Moderately crowded	13.79%	28
Very crowded	3.94%	8
	Answered	203
	Skipped	20

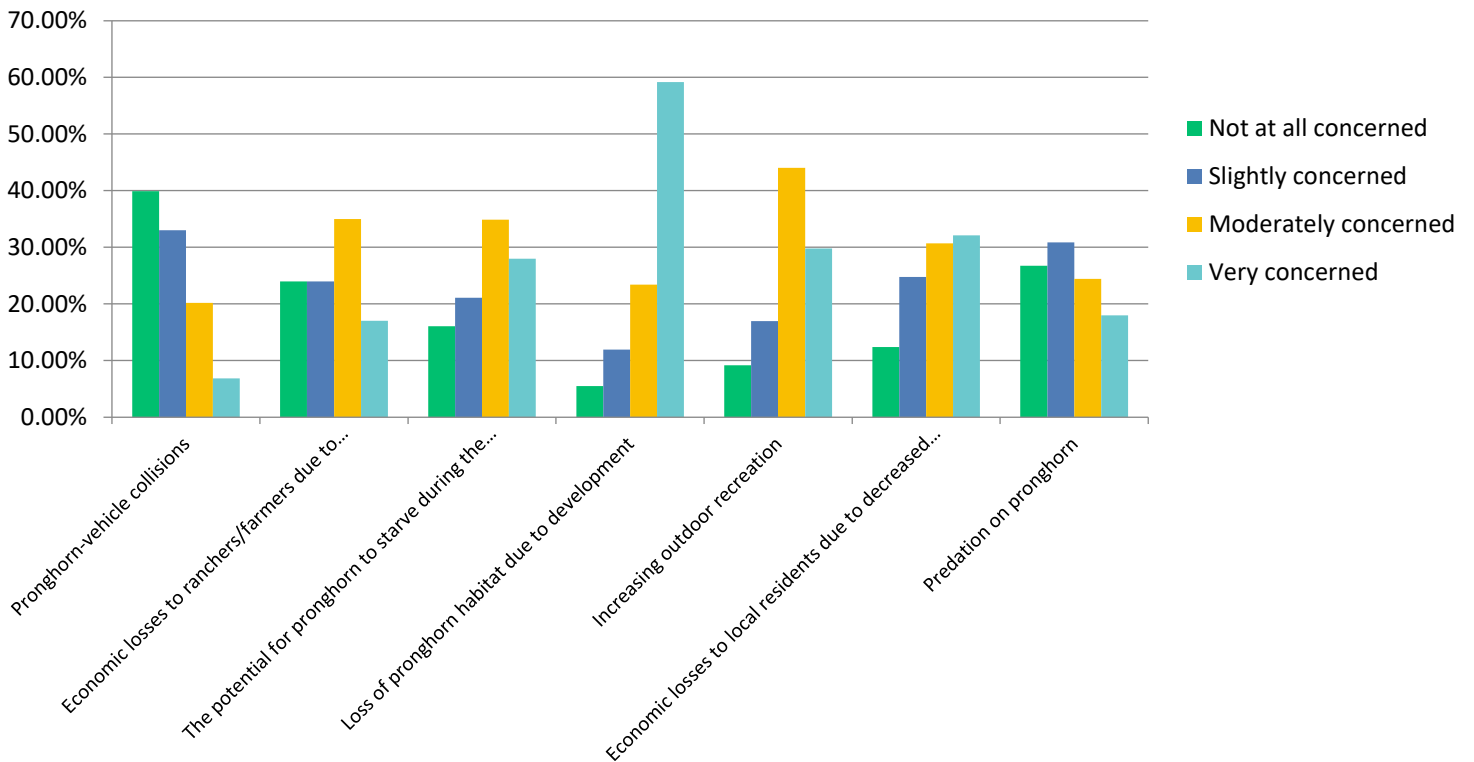
10. How important to you is each of the following reasons to hunt pronghorn in Colorado? (Please check one response for each statement)



Other (please specify)

1. As a volunteer guide, it is very important for me to share hunting with disabled and youth and assist them in their pursuit.
2. There is literally no better breakfast sausage if you get the right pronghorn who eats the colorado and prairie sage instead of the corn-fed ones. A little pork-fat and some sage-fed pronghorn - there is no better food on this planet!!
3. A trophy doe is just as important as a buck
4. Spending time with family that is otherwise ver engaged in electronics...
5. If we had more access to private property we would be able to better manage the herd.
6. it's a whole lot of fun
7. I'm a DAV so don't get much exercise
8. Sport
9. Remove qualified hunting license requirement
10. To help the rancher reduce his pronghorn numbers

11. Please indicate how concerned you are about each of the following in the Cherokee Park pronghorn herd GMUs: (Please check one response for each statement)



Other (please specify)

1. What predation on pronghorn, seriously?! That is a bit of a joke, biologically speaking, they are in high numbers in all the famers lands and we mismanage growth in this county, so no, anyone who answers the predation question differently is kidding themselves. We should be concerned there IS NO predation on pronghorn, it is weakening the species.
2. Quality of animals, I have seen a decline in mature bucks in the area I hunt.
3. While the population seems to be stable to increasing, we have never been successful harvesting a pronghorn due to the fact they are nearly all on private or unavailable land. Some sort of access assistance to hunt pronghorn (along with increased development and use of area) are my primary concerns related to pronghorn in GMU 191 and 9. The few that make it onto state managed land get pressured off quickly. I contacted 4 different private land owners regarding pronghorn hunting access and never heard back from any of them.
4. I've been hunting in unit 9 for 40 years. Herd size is definitely down with much fewer mature bucks
5. concerned about limited opportunity to pursue pronghorn on public land within the DAU

12. How, if at all, has the Cherokee Park pronghorn herd changed during the previous 10 years?

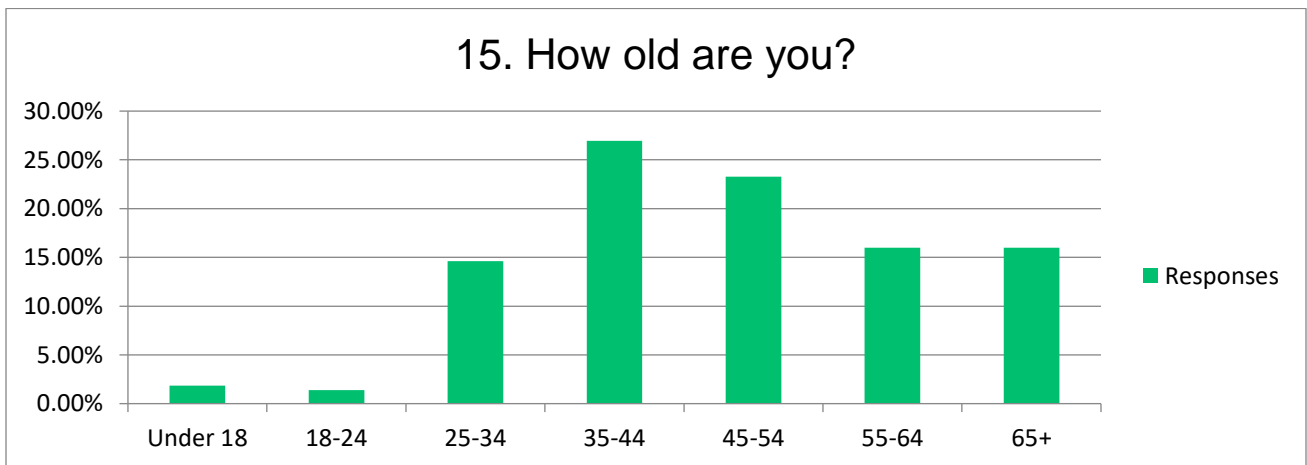
Answer Choices	Responses	
The number of pronghorn has increased	26.15%	57
The number of pronghorn has decreased	11.93%	26
The pronghorn herd has not changed	9.17%	20
I'm not sure	52.75%	115
	Answered	218
	Skipped	5

13. How important to you is that the population of the Cherokee Park herd...

	Not at all important to me	Somewhat important to me	Moderately important to me	Very important to me
...stay the same (i.e.,the current population range is maintained)	8.74%	21.36%	35.44%	34.47%
...increase somewhat	16.75%	20.20%	36.95%	26.11%
...decrease somewhat	57.07%	14.66%	16.75%	11.52%

14. How important to you are the following...

	Not at all important to me	somewhat important to me	Moderately important to me	Very important to me
Being able to hunt pronghorn in Cherokee Park pronghorn herd most years (either sex)	4.19%	7.91%	23.72%	64.19%
Being able to hunt mature bucks in the Cherokee Park pronghorn herd	17.76%	26.64%	27.57%	28.04%



With what gender do you identify?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	88.18%	194
Female	8.64%	19
Prefer not to say	0.91%	2
Other (please specify)	2.27%	5
	Answered	220
	Skipped	3

Appendix B- Letters of Support, Agency Comments, & Public Comment



April 30, 2020

Angelique Curtis
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
317 W Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

RE: Larimer County Habitat Partnership Program Comments - DAU PH-33

Dear Angelique:

One of the initial reasons for creating the Habitat Partnership Program was to provide local landowners and other interests an opportunity to give input into big game management in their areas. The diverse makeup of local HPP committees (3 livestock growers, Forest Service, BLM, CPW and sportsmen representatives) provide a good cross section of local interests to review DAU proposals and respond accordingly for CPW consideration.

HPP has two purposes; to resolve big game wildlife (deer, elk, pronghorn, moose) conflicts with agricultural landowners and to assist CPW to meet game management objectives for those same species. From those perspectives, the Larimer County HPP committee has discussed your presentation, reviewed the draft alternatives, and offers these comments for consideration.

The Larimer County HPP committee is in agreement with the following comments pertaining to proposals for the population range and sex ratio objectives for the above DAU plan.

The Larimer County HPP committee supports the draft alternative to keep the current population objective. We believe this alternative responsibly balances local range and habitat conditions with sportsmen desires and landowner concerns. We have not heard of any concerns about the current population or any desires to increase the local herd size and so we believe the current levels are where they should be. Any issues we have are more likely related to distribution of the herds in the area and not the overall population size.

The Larimer County HPP committee also discussed the proposed sex ratio alternative. We support raising the current sex ratio objective to provide larger bucks for sportsmen to pursue. We agree that this objective aligns with current management capabilities considering the restrictions for hunting on private land and the increased development and habitat fragmentation in this area.

As stated above, HPP is also directed by statute to assist the Division to meet game management objectives. The Larimer County HPP committee has worked with both public land managers and private landowners to improve the quality and quantity of the habitat in DAU PH-33. Adequate

habitat is critical to meeting game management objectives and we remain committed to maintaining and improving habitat in this area.

Our committee is confident about CPW being able to achieve the proposed objectives. We feel that the extension of the late antlerless pronghorn rifle season will help CPW to achieve and maintain the proposed objectives. Dispersal hunting helps to alleviate game damage issues, especially during winter months when antelope migrate from Wyoming.

The Larimer County HPP committee feels there is adequate habitat with adequate plans in place, such as the extended hunting season, to achieve the desired objectives. While the committee has confidence in the plan's objectives over the next ten years, beyond that they are concerned residential growth and increased recreation demands could hinder future population objectives.

Thank you for the presentation and the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lars Larson", written in a cursive style.

Lars Larson, Chair
Larimer County HPP Committee

Oberlag, Dale F -FS <dale.oberlag@usda.gov>

Wed, Apr 29, 4:16

to Katie, Dale, me

Hi Angelique, just replying to your message below for the USFS/CLRD. I discussed these 2 Draft pronghorn herd management plans briefly with our District Ranger Katie Donohue also. As I said Monday on our Larimer County HPP video call, we support the CPW preferred alternatives for both herds for post-hunt population objective (status quo from previous 10-year plans) and the CPW preferred alternative for post-hunt sex-ratio for both herd plans as well (slight increase for both). According to the plan and CPW herd data, both of these herds have very limited habitat or use occurring on FS lands, especially the Cherokee Park herd, and we are not aware of any current resource issues or concerns with either of these herds on USFS lands. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these draft pronghorn herd management plans for PH-33 and PH-36. -Dale-

Dale Oberlag
District Wildlife Biologist
Forest Service
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Caring for the land and serving people

Jeff Shamley <jeffshamley@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 14,
7:58 AM

to me

Hi Angelique,

I am writing to voice my support for the proposal to build up the pronghorn herds in northern Larimer county, specifically in GMUs 7,8,9,191. I'd also like to see efforts to build up herds in southern Larimer county at some point too but I understand that may not be possible at this time.

Please add my contact information to the notification lists.

Thank you for all your hard work!
-Jeff

Jeff Shamley
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