

State of Colorado  
Division of Wildlife

## **Habitat Partnership Program**

**Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee**

# HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

*2009 - 2013*

Approved: Colorado Wildlife Commission May 7, 2009

This plan is valid for 10 years from the approval date.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The plan is the basic framework for the Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee for the next five years – 2009 to 2013.

Conflict Areas have remained essentially the same with the exception of the Upper Huerfano conflict area which for the current time has subsided significantly due to the change in area demographics and values of current residents who do not see the presence of big-game species as a detriment or as competition for forage with domestic livestock. The remaining conflict areas (Hillside, Upper Purgatoire, Wet Mountain Front and Apishapa) are essentially the same from the past plan.

The current Committee membership has been stable for the past three years and two of the current members have continuously served this Committee since 1991.

Committee objectives and strategies have remained essentially the same. However, expanding sub-divisions and growth in general into previously undisturbed areas are a continuing concern. About three years ago, coal bed methane gas development almost instantly appeared on the scene and only promises to double or triple in activity and sites over the next five years.

Basic committee priority to habitat enhancement and protection continues to include identification and mitigation of forage conflicts and impacts, maintaining and developing communication links, enhancing stewardship opportunities and supporting habitat enhancement projects.

This Plan Updated and Submitted by

The SANGRE de CRISTO HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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*JOHN C. STROH II, Chair*

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*Date*

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*PAUL CRESPIAN, USDA  
Forest Service*

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*TERRY EVERHART, Livestock  
Producer Representative*

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*KENN LUTZ, Livestock Producer  
Representative*

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*DAVID GILBERT, USDOJ  
Bureau of Land Management*

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*RICH RHOADES, USDA Natural  
Resources Conservation Service*

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*ARLIE RIGGS, Livestock Producer  
Representative*

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*DWAINE ROBEY, Sportsman  
Representative*

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*MIKE TRUJILLO, AWM,  
Colorado Division of Wildlife*

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*SIG G. PALM, Committee Administrator*

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## Memorial Tribute

The Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee takes great pride in dedicating this third edition (2009 - 2013) of the "Habitat Management Plan" to:

### STAN BARRON,

served this Committee from its beginning.

*DWM Bob Holder's portrayal below sums up Stan's life very well:*

**S**...surveyor, story teller - no one who crossed his path was immune

**T**...tough as the mountains he surveyed; tender to the ones he loved

**A**...aviator; served his country with honor flying bombers in WW II

**N**...No nonsense; fought for right and justice when it came to natural Resources - wildlife, water, land protection, agriculture

**B**...best friend a person could have; if Stan liked you and respected you he would do anything for you

**A**...always there when you needed him

**R**...respected the land, the wildlife, the person

**R**...religious; instrumental in the Stonewall Community Church; donated land for Camp Salvation Bible Camp; active Masonic and Elk member

**Q**...One and Only Stan Barron

**N**...never walked away from a fight - or a friend

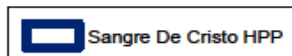
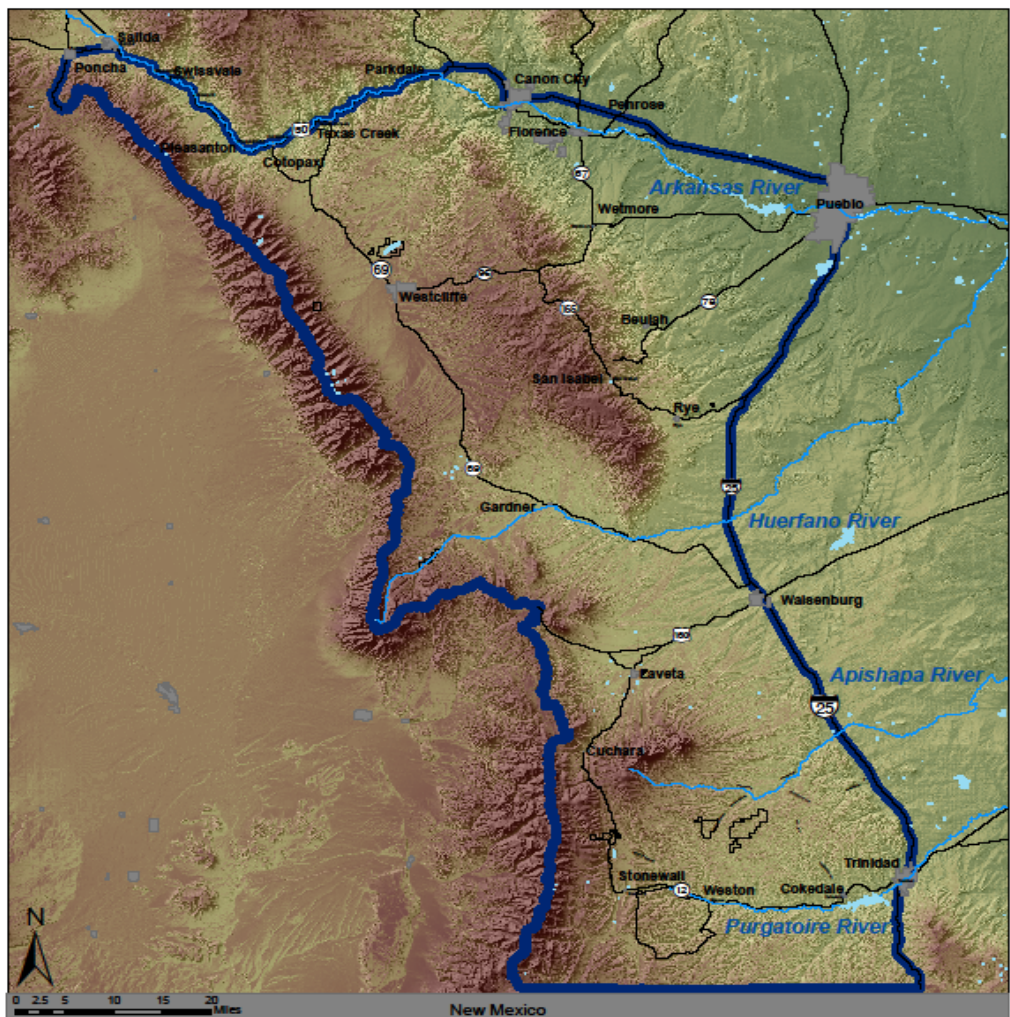
## GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

The Sangre de Cristo Habitat Partnership Program committee area includes Pueblo, Custer, Huerfano, and parts of Las Animas, Fremont and Costilla counties. The committee area encompasses 4,054 square miles and ranges in elevation from 4500' to over 14,000 feet above sea level.

The area contains several plant communities as diverse as low elevation riparian to alpine within elevation ranges of 4,500' to over 14,000' above sea level. One dominant mountain range, the Sangre de Cristo's, and a lesser range, the Wet Mountain, constitute the major geo-physical aspects of the program area.

The HPP area includes Colorado Division of Wildlife Area 11 and a part of Area 13. It includes GMU's 69, 691, 84, 85, 140, 851, 86, and 861.

### Sangre de Cristo Habitat Partnership Program Program Boundary



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Sangre de Cristo Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) Committee was established in 1991. The committee consists of nine members including three agricultural landowners, one sportsperson representative, and representatives from the USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDOl - Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and a committee administrator who performs administrative, monitoring and general support functions.

The Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee has two current members who have served ten years or more: John Stroh II and Terry Everhart as well as former committee members Stan Baron and Max Flint. We believe this is an indication of the dedication of our Committee.

### **SANGRE de CRISTO COMMITTEE VISION**

Establish habitat management strategies to resolve immediate fence and forage conflicts caused by big game and to identify adaptive, long-term collaborative strategies that clearly define, evaluate, and resolve conflicts by perpetuating responsible stewardship in the establishment of healthy and sustainable landscapes.

We encourage maintaining wildlife population levels and preservation to help insure healthy wildlife for the future.

Future impacts to Colorado's wildlife by energy development are unknown. However it is certain that energy development will affect wildlife habitat and management issues for many years to come. Energy development often stresses wildlife and its habitat with demands for more roads, pipelines, utility corridors, and more people significantly increase conflicts with wildlife.

It is essential that adequate wildlife habitat be preserved and enhanced in order to maintain healthy wildlife populations in Colorado.

Our collective Committee Vision can be summed up as follows:

Identify the Problem or Conflict  
Search for and Determine a Solution  
Take Action to Alleviate or Resolve the Issue

**SANGRE de CRISTO HPP COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
October 2008**

JOHN C. STROH II - Walsenburg, CO  
Chairman, representing livestock producers

PAUL CRESPIAN -- Canon City, CO  
Representing USDA - Forest Service

TERRY EVERHART- Pueblo, CO  
Representing livestock producers

DAVID GILBERT - Canon City, CO  
Representing USDOJ -- Bureau of Land Management

KENN LUTZ - Aguilar, CO  
Representing livestock producers

ARLIE RIGGS - Westcliffe, CO  
Representing livestock producers

DWAINE ROBEY - Westcliffe, CO  
Representing sportspersons

AWM MIKE TRUJILLO - Pueblo, CO  
Representing the Colorado Division of Wildlife

RICH RHOADES - Pueblo, CO  
Representing Natural Resources Conservation Service

SIG PALM - Pueblo West, CO  
Committee Administrator



## **SANGRE de CRISTO HPP COMMITTEE GOALS**

- GOAL:** Conflicts – Identify and mitigate forage and fence conflicts and impacts through a range of prescriptions on private and public lands to affect distribution and increase big game harvest.
- GOAL:** Communication – Develop and maintain communication links between private agricultural producers, sportspersons, energy development industries, and natural resource management agencies.
- GOAL:** Stewardship – Assist private landowners with technical and financial support in the development of conservation outcomes and habitat enhancements including the use of conservation easements, management plans and community-based collaboratives.
- GOAL:** Habitat Development – Establishment of cooperative projects with natural resource management agencies and private landowners on habitat improvement(s), which provide direct and positive conservation outcomes on private and public lands. Additionally, integrate resources from the wide array of other conservation groups willing to partner with HPP projects.

## OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee is concerned with mitigating agricultural conflicts with big game species in an area that contains a wide diversity of big game wildlife species (elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, and pronghorn).

**GOAL:**            Conflicts:

A. Objective: Minimize game damage on private and public lands.

B. Strategies:

1. Use habitat manipulation, dispersal hunts and other methods to improve herd distribution. Attempt to move animals away from conflict areas and into suitable habitat areas. Balance habitat manipulation priorities among federal lands, State Wildlife Areas and private lands.
2. Make recommendations to CDOW with possible harvest strategies.
3. Work with landowners who harbor elk during hunting season.
4. Provide technical information, materials and/or financial aid to landowners experiencing fence damages caused by big game.

**GOAL:**            Communication:

A. Objective: Improve opportunities for dialogue with identified groups – sportspersons, landowners, industry, agencies, and conservation groups. Make the Committee available to hear all conflicts and facilitate solutions to identified issues.

B. Strategies:

1. Host habitat and resource management training, write articles and publications as needed for media distribution, and conduct Holistic Resource Management workshops and tours.
2. Host public meetings to further the message of HPP and to obtain public input.
3. Schedule Committee meetings in the various communities throughout the Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee area on an occasional basis.

4. Offer education to interested parties in the management of wildlife resources and do so with partners (BLM, Forest Service, NRCS, ranching community, local governments, and other private landowners).

**GOAL:**

Stewardship:

A. Objective: Support agricultural community for continuance of healthy traditional agricultural operations, provide guidance to landowners for sound decisions of land management plans and a community-based collaborative effort.

B. Strategies:

1. Develop methods to “showcase” good stewardship that benefits wildlife habitat.
2. Avoid contributing to management practices detrimental to wildlife and agriculture.

**GOAL:**

Habitat Development:

A. Objective: Develop and implement habitat improvement projects designed to resolve wildlife conflicts. Foster relationships with agencies and organizations that will allow productive and frequent discussions dedicated to the benefit of wildlife habitat.

B. Strategies:

1. Prioritize projects that will leverage multiple benefits to the wildlife resource by using established criteria to evaluate proposals.
2. Maintain a strong positive relationship with natural resource managers.
3. Leverage funding from a variety of partnerships.
4. Develop and enhance habitat on public lands to support resource management objectives.
5. The Committee will give a high priority to forage enhancement and improvements on public lands when conservation partners and/or organizations demonstrate a significant cost share.

## **PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

These guidelines were established for assisting the Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee in the selection of management alternatives.

### **A. HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS:**

1. Projects are designed to improve rangelands and attract big game away from conflict areas and may include:
  - a. Brush manipulation
  - b. Silvicultural treatments and initiating grazing management systems (including pasture fencing where necessary).
  - c. Water development
  - d. Weed control
  - e. Protection of riparian areas
  - f. Fertilization
  - g. Artificial seeding of desirable forage plants
  - h. Use of attractants
2. Future management practices for the area being considered for improvement must be appropriate and consistent with established objectives for the habitat.
3. Projects on public lands adjacent to private land conflict areas will be given first priority; however, projects on private lands will be considered and given higher priority if the property is open to public hunting.
4. Alternative grazing management and vegetative manipulation, such as prescribed burning, reseeding, brush beating and timber harvest, will be considered when there is not a negative impact on non-target wildlife species.

### **B. DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:**

1. Designed to move and/or remove specific big game animals causing conflicts with private landowner interests.
  - a. This strategy is the preferred method to deal with perennial fall and early winter concentration problems that cannot be resolved using regular

season hunts. While these hunts are generally for affecting distribution, they can also be implemented to attain harvest of specific populations.

- b. Strategies for landowners who harbor elk – meet with landowners who harbor elk during hunting season and allow little or no hunting on their property to agree to some method of wildlife management on their deeded land(s) that will help achieve elk harvest objectives in the Committee area.
2. DMH's will be conducted as provided for in Wildlife Commission regulations and HPP program guidelines.
3. The committee may hire a hunt coordinator(s) to provide services to landowners and hunters during distribution management hunts.
4. The committee will continue to work to acquire public hunter access in order to achieve game management goals or to reduce conflicts.

**C. FENCING, GATES OR PERMANENT STACKYARDS:**

The Committee will develop and provide technical information, materials and/or financial aid to reduce wildlife conflicts.

**D. FORAGE PURCHASES:**

1. The Committee will consider forage purchases as a last resort for special conflict areas.
2. Forage purchases will be a low priority and will be entered into by the Committee when other management strategies are deemed ineffective or when such purchases, in connection with other management strategies, are necessary to resolve a conflict.

**E. CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:**

Conservation easements will be supported to the fiscal extent permissible for habitat protection thus minimizing development and other major conflicts to big game movement. Participation is limited to easement transaction costs.

**F. EDUCATION:**

Education will be accomplished in a variety of ways from one-on-one contacts, newspaper articles, media tours, brochures, professional journals, public meetings and workshops as the opportunity presents itself.

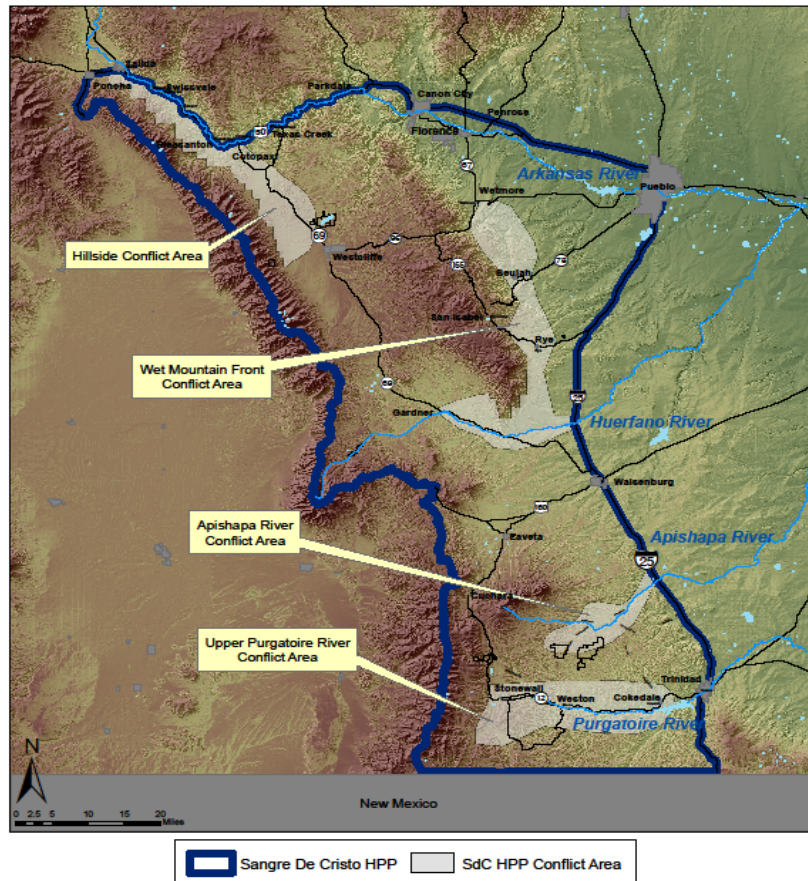
## CONFLICT AREAS

The areas include both public and private land where an excessive concentration of big game animals cause a problem with the management of those lands with respect to forage, growing crops, harvest aftermath, fences and/or general use. Additional conflict areas are "safe havens:" parcels of land where restrictions on hunting result in a significant concentration of animals and a corresponding reduction in harvest of big game animals that cause significant conflicts with fence and forage to other landowners in the area.

The Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee's focus is to resolve conflicts through the implementation of habitat prescriptions within an identified "Intensive Management Area." This fact is reflected by the budget allocation activities that concentrate expenditures in those areas where the conflict can be addressed. Recently the importance of planning projects well in advance has become apparent, and money has been earmarked to spend in those areas.

In south-central Colorado recent conflict areas have been identified through unsolicited reports to the Division of Wildlife and community meetings. These reports deal mainly with damage from elk in growing hay on private property. Efforts in these cases have been combinations of hazing elk from the hayfield and/or habitat development on nearby areas in an effort to draw the offending animals away.

# Sangre de Cristo Habitat Partnership Program Conflict Areas



## HILLSIDE

1. Conflict Area Description: The conflict area extends from the town of Salida to just south of Hillside. It is confined to the private lands immediately adjacent to highways 69 and 50.
2. Conflict Description: Conflicts are on growing hay fields during spring months and additional elk utilization of historic transitional areas on a year-round basis. Some private lands remain closed to hunting which reduces pressure to move these herds to surrounding public land and consequently reducing needed harvest. To a lesser extent deer problems mirror those of elk, but there seems to be a higher level of movement throughout this area.
3. Conflict Resolution:
  - a. Habitat Improvements:
    - (1). Vegetative manipulation will be implemented in dense oak brush shrub stands. Additional manipulation is an “ongoing effort” on coniferous forests within BLM and National Forest System lands adjacent to conflict areas.
    - (2). Fertilization of transitional ranges will be done to attract elk and deer use from conflict sites on private land.

b. Baiting:

Bait may be strategically placed on transitional ranges to attract wildlife from adjacent conflict sites on private land. This practice will cease if Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) or other ungulate disease(s) should be detected within the conflict area. This will be used infrequently and outside of any hunting season.

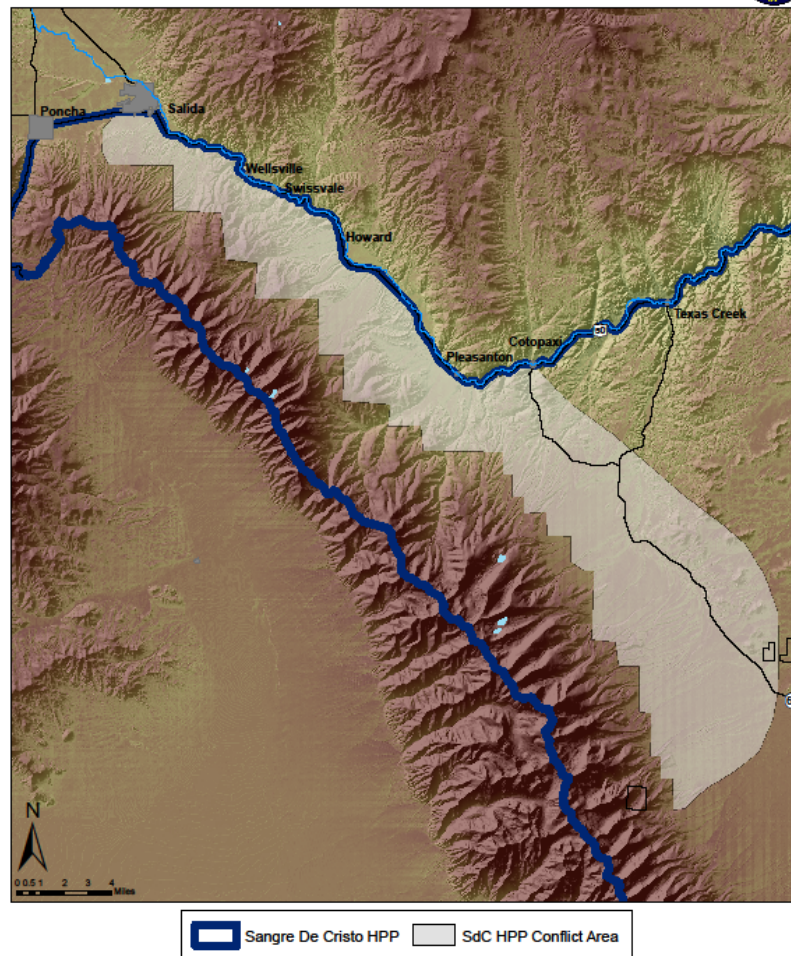
c. Additional Hunting Opportunity:

The addition of an extended "private land only" season from September 1 to December 31 has been implemented instead of the distribution hunts utilized in the past. This has resulted in additional harvest within the conflict areas.

d. Access:

The CDOW and the Committee will pursue access for hunters across private lands to public areas in order to increase harvest of conflict wildlife. The BLM has been successful in completing land exchanges to provide access to larger tracts of BLM lands as well as other public lands.



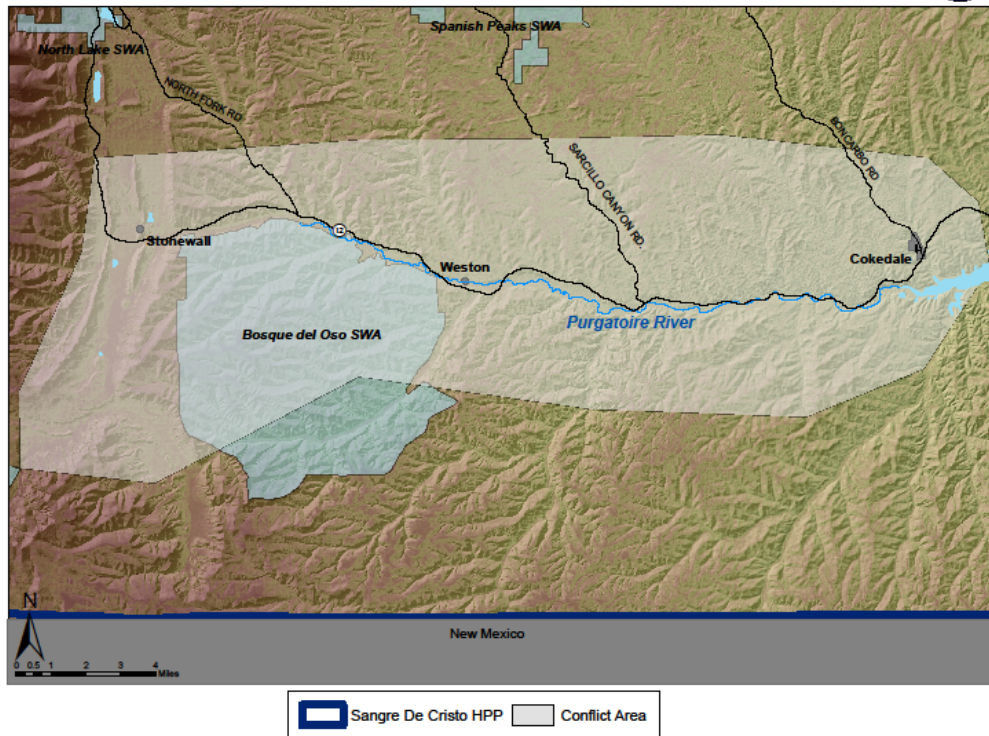


## UPPER PURGATOIRE

1. Conflict Area Description: This conflict area extends from the town of Torres down the Purgatoire River to the western edge of Trinidad Reservoir. It includes the tributary canyons on the north side of the river including but not limited to Sarcillo Canyon, West Canyon and Burro Canyon.
2. Conflict Description: The majority of this conflict area is under the private control of a limited number of landowners. The elk herd in this area is one of the fastest growing in the nation; and while the larger landowners derive an economic benefit from the number of quality (6 point +) bulls in this herd, the expansion spillover has a detrimental effect on smaller landowners. Problems have been exacerbated by the explosive subdivision and growth of methane extraction development in the area. The conflicts are on growing hay, elk utilization of grazing pastures and extensive fence damage.
3. Conflict Resolution:
  - a. Habitat Improvements:
    - (1). Fertilization of winter range and re-seeding of private lands heavily grazed by elk will help offset conflicts.

- (2). Vegetative manipulations to increase forage will be completed on both private and public lands. Very little of this conflict area exists on public lands. The desire is to move a large number of animals. Therefore, the majority of the “manipulations” need to take place on private land.
  - (3). Cooperative agreements may be entered into between the Committee and NRCS to provide the widest array of possible treatments on private lands, utilize NRCS range specialists, develop another monitoring tool and leverage specific “Wildlife Habitat Improvement Programs” (WHIP) to maximize effectiveness of Committee conflict resolution efforts.
  - (4). Implementation of forest management plans on the Spanish Peaks, Bosque del Oso, Lake Dorothey, and James M. John State Wildlife Areas will facilitate more desirable elk distribution. Specific goals are to maintain elk on the public lands where they are more susceptible to hunting pressure.
- b. Baiting - bait may be strategically placed on transitional ranges to attract wildlife from adjacent conflict sites on private land. This practice will cease if Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) or other ungulate disease(s) should be detected within the conflict area. This will be used infrequently and outside of any hunting season.
  - c. Distribution Hunts – As long as population estimates are higher than the long-term objectives, distribution hunts may be conducted throughout the conflict area to reduce problems as well as assist the CDOW attempts to bring the heard to objective. The CDOW will also use other season structures in its attempt to meet this goal.
  - d. Access – The committee and the DOW will seek opportunities for hunting access onto lands not previously open to hunting. The Committee will partner with agencies and organizations to protect large ranches. Technical support for grazing management projects will be provided to landowners who partner in providing additional access opportunities.
  - e. Monitoring – Since most of the projects in this area are on private land, the Committee will utilize local wildlife managers and cooperators for monitoring activities. Additionally, bi-annual tours of managed properties will allow the Committee to perform “on-the-ground” evaluations of habitat improvement projects.

## Sangre de Cristo Habitat Partnership Program Upper Purgatoire River Conflict Area



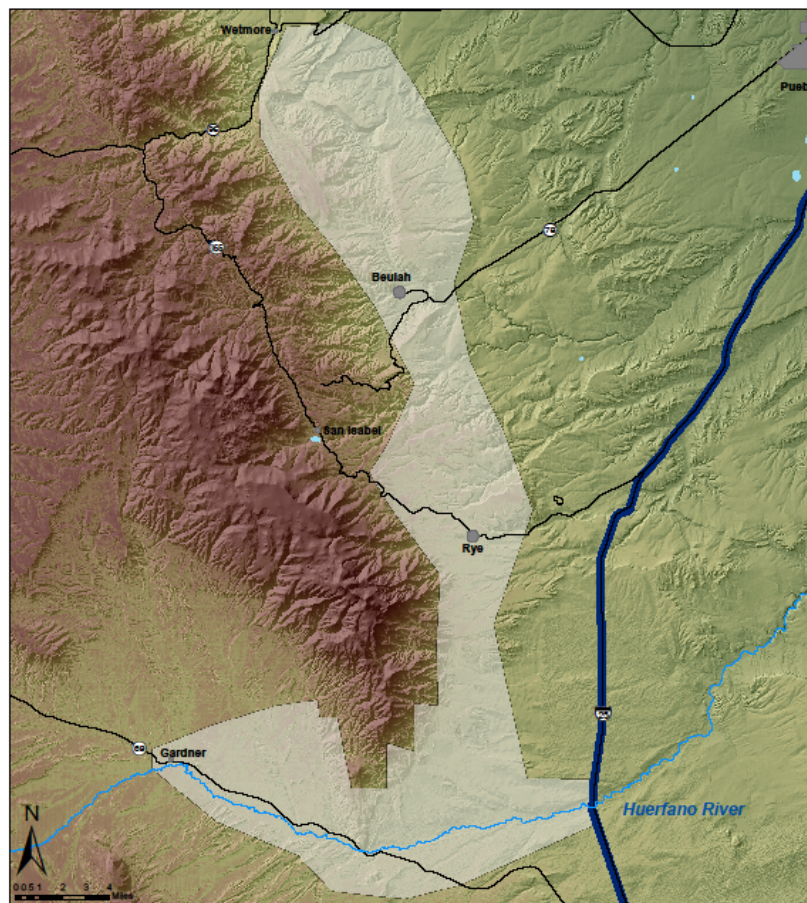
### **WET MOUNTAIN FRONT**

1. **Conflict Area Description:** The Conflict Area is located along the eastern edge of the Wet Mountains from the town of Wetmore south to the Huerfano River drainage.
2. **Conflict Description:** The elk population just west of I-25 has increased disproportionately compared to the remainder of GMU 84. Large tracts of land are being subdivided, and several years of low harvest have initiated some complaints on the number of elk in the area. Unit 84 is a quality elk unit with totally limited licenses. Many of the landowners who own large tracts of land lease their property for trophy bull elk hunting opportunities that limits opportunity for optimal cow harvest.
3. **Conflict Resolution:**
  - a. Habitat Improvements:
    - (1). Fertilization of public and private lands to help retain elk on public land and reduce impacts of elk grazing on private property.
    - (2). Timber thinning and small clear cuts on public and private property will improve and enhance the grass component.
  - b. Baiting - Bait may be strategically placed on transitional ranges to attract wildlife from adjacent conflict sites on private land. This practice will cease if Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) or other ungulate disease(s) should be detected within the conflict area. This will be used infrequently and outside of any hunting season.
  - c. Distribution Hunts – During years of poor harvest and serious damage complaints,

distribution hunts will be considered as an option for dealing with elk conflicts. These hunts will be primarily used to move elk from the problem areas.

- d. Access – A recent “private land only” (PLO) season structure change for Units 69 and 84 has afforded opportunity to harvest cows without interfering with bull hunts. Landowners will be encouraged to allow reasonable access during this time to improve cow harvest and reduce damage complaints.
- f. Fence – Where consistent fence damage occurs, fence design will be evaluated and landowners offered the opportunity to alter fence design or install crossing fence, such as pole construction. Permanent stack yards may be offered to hay producers who have consistent elk damage to hay stacks.
- f. Monitoring:
  - (1) Small enclosures may be placed on public and private land to measure the impact of grazing by livestock and elk.
  - (2). Aerial census of elk in unit 84 shall include the east side of the Wet Mountains.

### Sangre de Cristo Habitat Partnership Program Wet Mountain Front Conflict Area



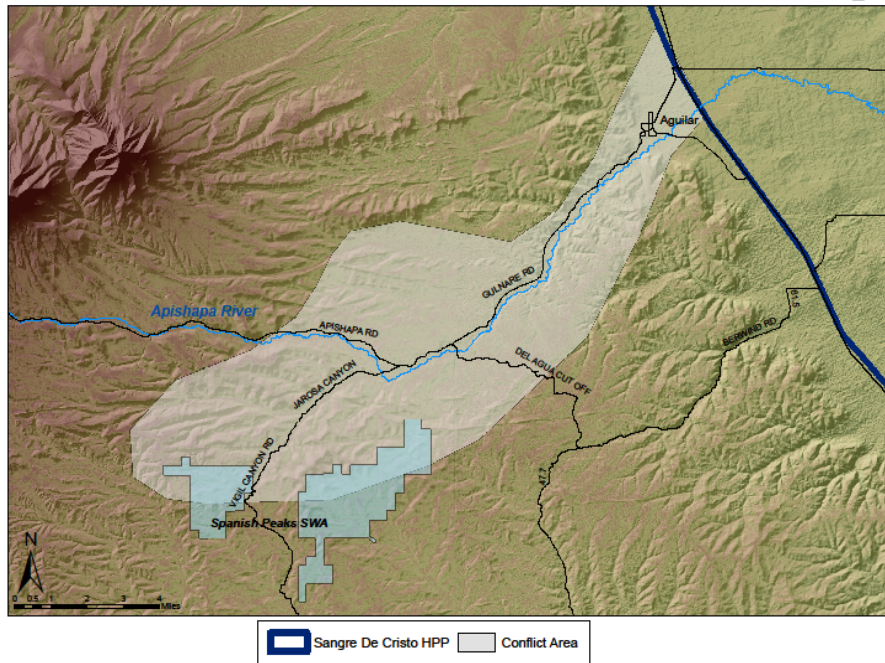
 Sangre De Cristo HPP  SdC HPP Conflict Area

## APISHAPA

1. Conflict Area Description: The Apishapa Conflict Area is part of Elk DAU-33 (Trinchera Elk). This conflict area is composed of numerous subdivisions, small family ranches, and a small portion of the Spanish Peaks SWA. Also within the framework is the Twin Peaks Ranch which is presently managed under Ranch for Wildlife guidelines to co-exist and enhance a cattle operation while benefiting wildlife. The elk herd continues to grow in the Apishapa, and, subsequently, game damage problems have increased in number and severity. Home sites and coal bed methane gas exploration and development are also more prevalent within this boundary, which exacerbates habitat conflicts and losses. It encompasses parts of western Las Animas County south of the Spanish Peaks along the upper Apishapa River.
2. Conflict Description: Conflicts in this area are spring and winter elk utilization of growing hay fields and grazing pasturelands. As the elk herd grows and is forced into new areas by methane development conflicts are anticipated to become worse.
3. Conflict Resolution:
  - a. Habitat Improvements:
    - (1). Fertilization of winter range and re-seeding or private rangelands heavily foraged by elk will help offset conflicts.
    - (2). Vegetative manipulations to increase forage will be completed on private lands. The only public lands within this conflict area are the Spanish Peaks SWA (partially lies within the Upper Purgatoire Conflict Area) and various isolated parcels of Bureau of Land Management and State Trust Lands. Therefore, vegetative manipulations will be limited to private lands on slopes and timbered sites that traditionally did not provide adequate cattle grazing opportunities.
    - (3). Cooperative agreements may be entered into between the Committee and NRCS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, etc. Cooperation and utilization of conservation entities may provide the greatest range of treatments possible on private lands. Utilize other agency or private consultants, develop monitoring options and leverage specific government or private consultant wildlife habitat programs to maximize effectiveness of the Committee conflict resolution attempts.
    - (4). Although contained within the Upper Purgatoire conflict designation as well, implementation of a timber management plan, which includes mechanical and prescribed fire treatments on the Spanish Peaks SWA, will attempt to assist with elk distribution. Goals are to increase habitat diversity, forage production and edge so as to attempt to keep elk on public lands where they are more susceptible to hunting pressure and subsequently reduce damage on private lands.

- b. Baiting - Bait may be strategically placed on transitional ranges to attract wildlife from adjacent conflict sites on private land. This practice will cease if Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) or other ungulate disease(s) should be detected within the conflict area. This will be used infrequently and outside of any hunting season.
- c. Distribution Hunts – Population estimates for this Conflict Area are higher than the long-term objectives. Distribution hunts will be conducted throughout the conflict area as a means of reducing problems as well as assisting Committee attempts to bring the herd to objective. The CDOW will also use other season structures and license types in its attempt to meet this goal.
- d. Access – The committee and the DOW will seek opportunities for hunting access onto lands not previously open to hunting. The Committee will partner with agencies and organizations to protect large ranches. Technical support for grazing management projects will be provided to landowners who partner in providing additional access.
- e. Monitoring – Since most of the projects funded in this area are on private land, the Committee will utilize local wildlife managers and cooperators for monitoring activities. In addition, tri-annual tours of managed properties will allow the Committee to do “on-the-ground” evaluation of activities.
- f. Information and Education:
  - (1). Development of educational opportunities for conflict area residents will be implemented to permit development of habitat management plans to minimize livestock / wildlife conflicts. Information and education opportunities relating to holistic resource management, timber management through mechanical and prescribed fire manipulation, range management and conflict resolution through communication may be beneficial to address current real or perceived issues.
  - (2). Public meetings will be held as deemed necessary (no longer than 3-year intervals) within the Apishapa Conflict Area to facilitate communication and identification of emerging issues.

Sangre de Cristo Habitat Partnership Program  
Apishapa River Conflict Area



### UPPER HUERFANO

This area is not a current major conflict area due to the demographics of the local population within the last five years. Depending on future elk management in and adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, elk could move east over the divide thus creating a major concern not currently present. CDOW personnel and the Committee need to continually monitor this situation.

## MONITORING

Monitoring habitat treatments in the Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee area will include:

- ✓ Evaluate the results of the management actions undertaken.
- ✓ Habitat improvements funded through the HPP will be evaluated for increased wildlife use.
- ✓ Conflict areas will be monitored to determine the extent of conflict reduction and confirm whether the prescription was appropriate to reduce or eliminate conflict.
- ✓ Harvest data from distribution management hunts will be compiled for all permit holders and provided to the terrestrial wildlife branch of the CDOW.
- ✓ Where appropriate, the Committee may determine the extent of need and assist in conducting additional post-season game counts.
  - Committees can assist in the collection and analysis of habitat data on big game forage conditions and habitat capabilities on public lands where additional information is required to settle forage/utilization disputes and seasonal distribution problems between livestock and big game in specific allotments.
  - Committees are also encouraged to monitor the success or failure of their projects using methodology acceptable to the Committee.
  - Committees can assist in the formation and implementation of any big game monitoring project.
- ✓ Permanent photo points will be established by the landowner and marked on the ground. Narrative documentation of follow-up evaluations will be prepared when measuring success of prescriptive treatments.
- ✓ At a minimum, applicant must agree to allow the Committee and the local Wildlife Manager / Biologist access to the project site(s) to evaluate and monitor success of treatment(s) supported through this cooperative funding. Before and after photos and other measurable data will be required as part of the application evaluation phase as well as follow-up inspection and monitoring.



## 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 the HPP areas. The Statewide HPP Council allocates funding to the individual HPP committees. The Sangre de Cristo 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.

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 Statewide HPP Council and the HPP Coordinator for special projects or unforeseen opportunities outside of the capacity of the local committees. These dollars supplement our existing budget and allow us to take on special projects from time to time.

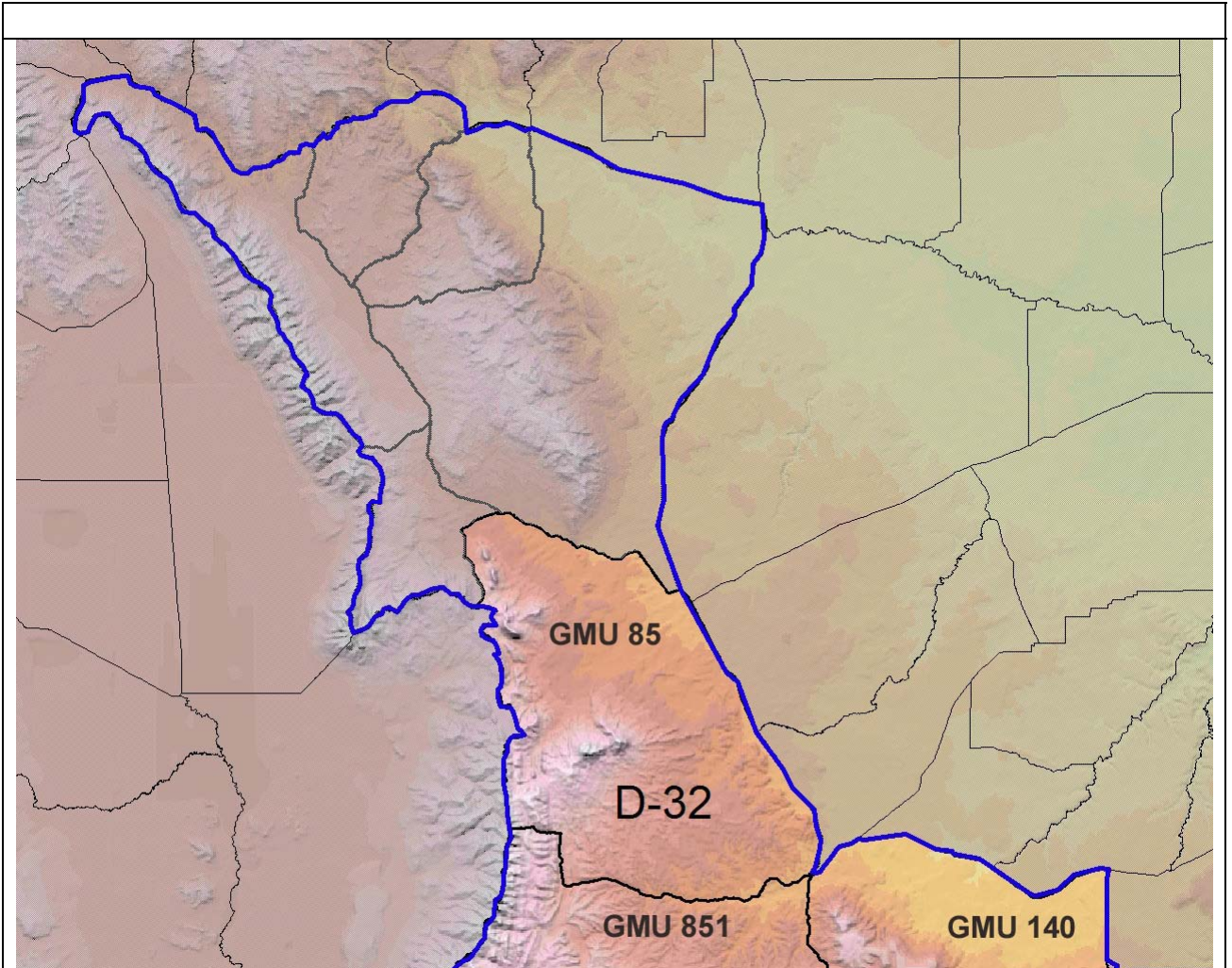
### SANGRE de CRISTO COMMITTEE BUDGET:




Habitat Manipulation	60%
Fencing	5%
Game Damage	5%
Information/Education	10%
Monitoring	10%
Conservation Easements/Clearances	5%
Administration	5%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

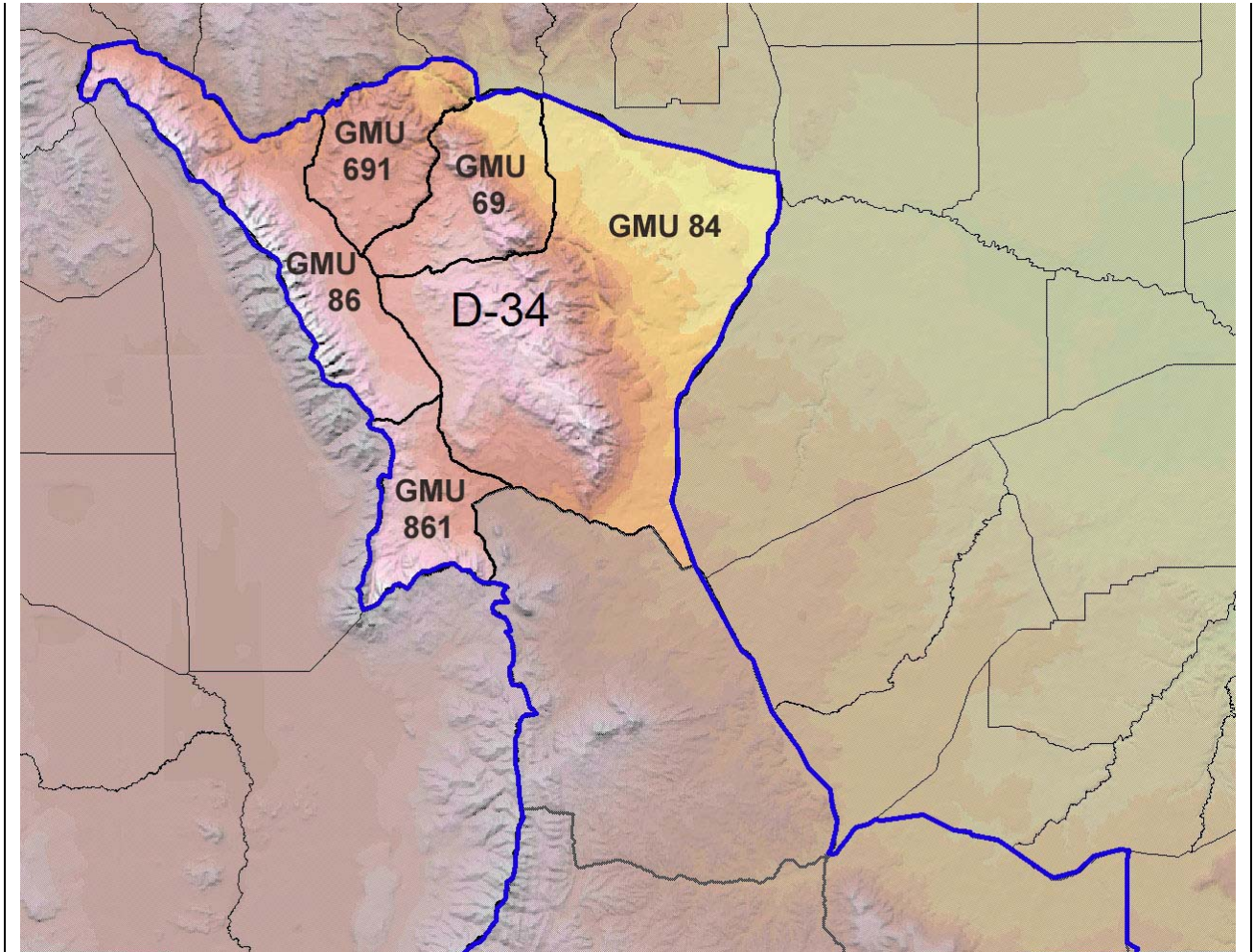
~ **A P P E N D I X E S** ~




## DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY – D32



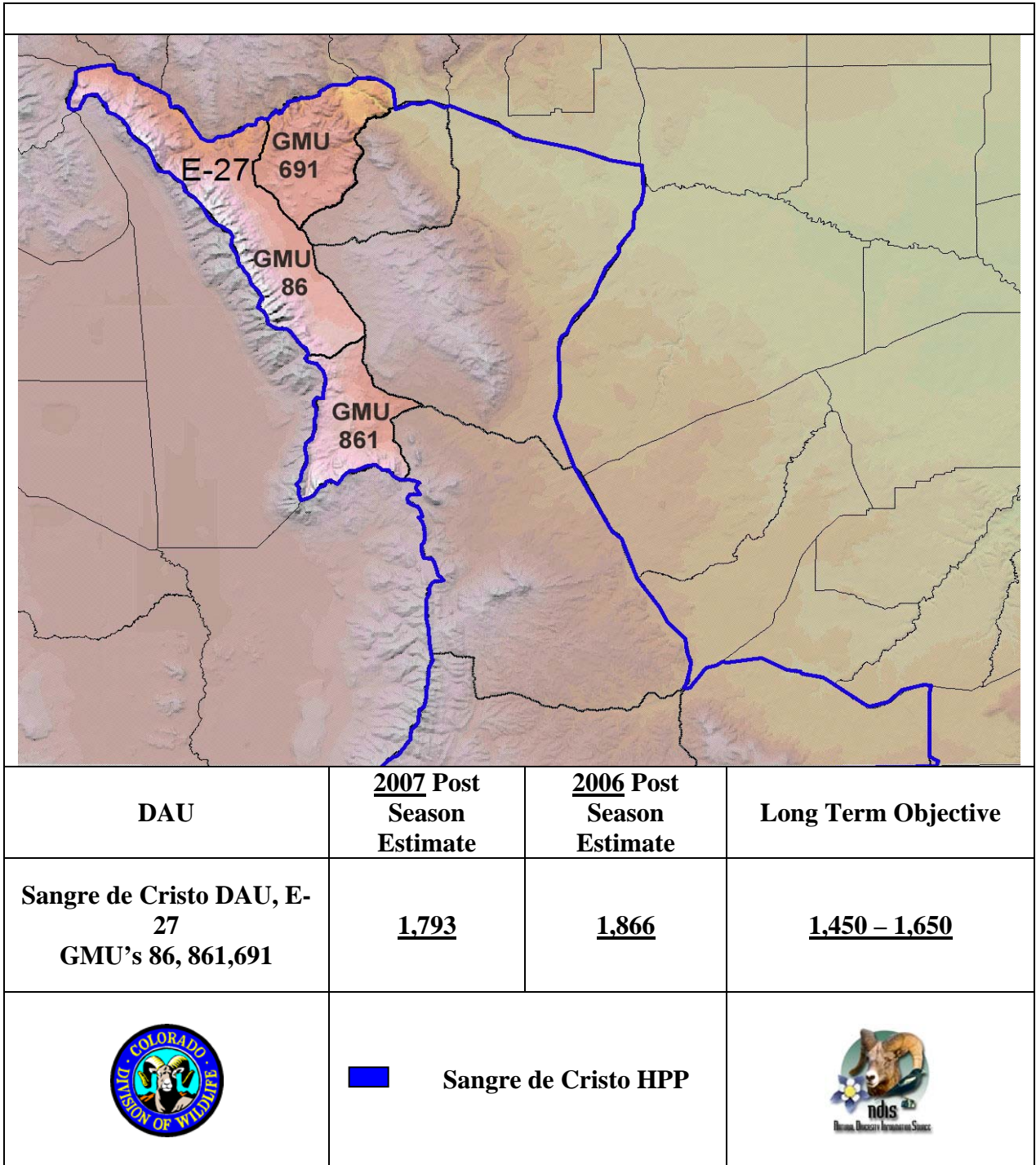
DAU	<u>2007</u> Post Season Estimate	<u>2006</u> Post Season Estimate	Long Term Objective
Trinidad DAU, D-32 GMU's 85, 851, 140	<u>4,817</u>	<u>5,360</u>	<u>9,800 – 10,000</u>
	 Sangre de Cristo HPP		

DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY – D34

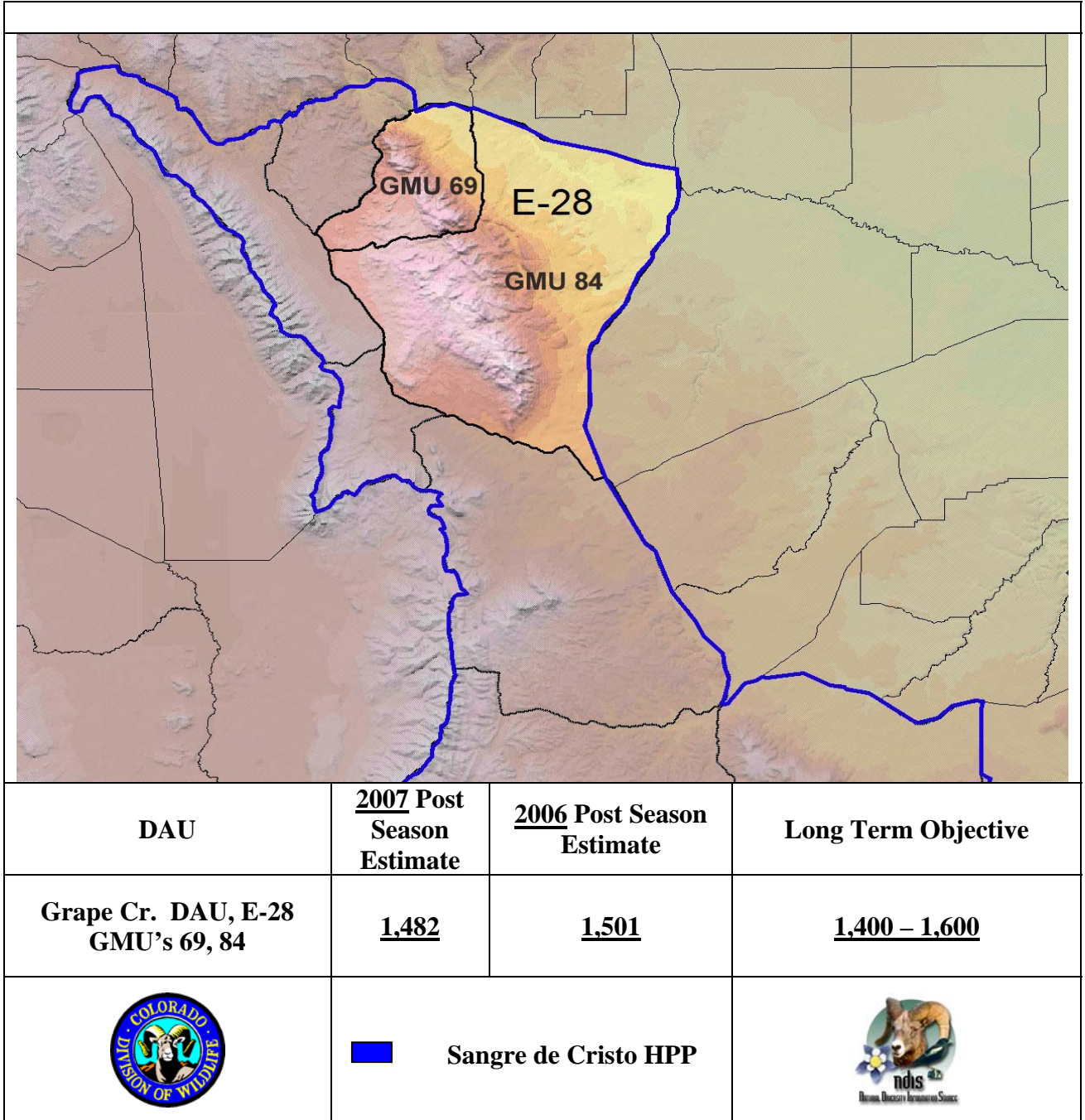


DAU	<u>2007 Post Season Estimate</u>	<u>2006 Post Season Estimate</u>	Long Term Objective
Wet Mtn. DAU, D-34 GMU's 69, 84, 86, 861	<u>17,249</u>	<u>17,189</u>	<u>16,500 – 17,500</u>
	 Sangre de Cristo HPP		

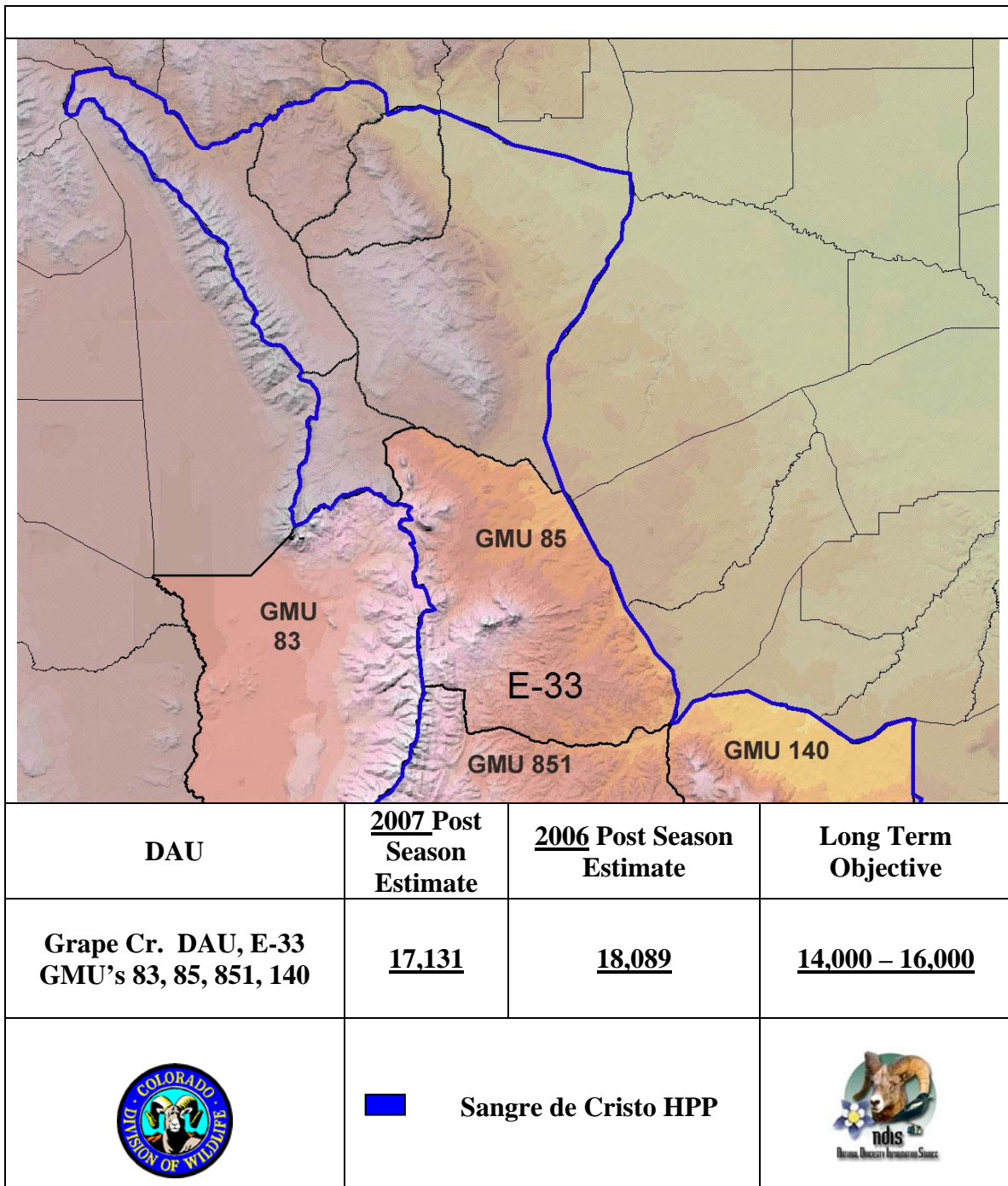
## DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY – E27



## DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY – E28



## DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY – E33



Note: Although GMU 83 is within DAU E-33, it is not a part of the Sangre de Cristo HPP committee area. It is administered out of the SW Region and the Monte Vista area office.

## GUIDELINES FOR PRIORITIZING PROPOSED PROJECTS

Step 1: The need for the proposed project is clearly described and includes a discussion of the conflict and the effects of the proposed project on big-game distribution (i.e., completed “*Project Proposal*” form attached).

Step 2: The Sangre de Cristo HPP Committee sets priorities for the proposed project based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. Is the project located with the Committee’s area of responsibility?
2. Is the project located within a Conflict, Security, or Habitat Enhancement Area identified in the Sangre de Cristo Habitat Management Plan (HMP)?
3. Does the project include habitat improvement practices endorsed in the HMP?
4. Has information or data been made available to assist in determining rangeland and resource condition?
5. Have impacts and/or conflicts, particularly those associated with forage and fence issues, been documented and confirmed?
6. Can the conflict and/or impact be resolved by other means (Distribution Hunts and licenses) before considering funding support from HHP for rangeland resource improvement or infrastructure investment?
7. What type of monitoring will be necessary to determine success and/or failure, and who will do it? Has that been well thought out and included in the proposal?
8. Does the request have the potential to become an ongoing committee funded project?
9. Has the applicant considered and exhausted all other opportunities of leveraging funds?
10. Has the Committee denied similar requests in the past? If so, why?
11. Does this project have multi-stakeholder benefits?
12. Does this project have multiple species benefits objectives?
13. How does this proposal fit into overall management objectives for the entire Management Area or ranch operation?
14. Does this project help the Colorado Division of Wildlife meet its harvest objective?
15. Does this project alter / affect wildlife distribution in Management Areas?
16. Does this project alleviate losses on their properties?



## PROJECT TYPES AND PRIORITIES

In order to accomplish the goals and objectives of the committee, the following types of projects may be utilized.

### PROJECT TYPES:

Habitat Manipulation – to include, but not limited to  
Prescribed burning                      Water Developments                      Weed Control  
Fertilization                                      Seeding  
Mechanical (chaining, roller chopping, hydro axing, etc.)

Fencing Projects – to include, but not limited to  
Fence vouchers distributed to landowners for materials  
Construction of new fences (usually > ¼ mile in length)  
Landowner reimbursement for fencing materials purchased  
Prototype or experimental fence designs for livestock and wildlife issues  
Wildlife crossings or retrofitting of fences to make more wildlife friendly

Game Damage Projects – to include, but not limited to  
Stackyard Repairs – materials and/or labor  
New stackyards – materials and/or labor  
Distribution Hunts  
Hunt Coordinators for distribution hunts, youth hunts, etc  
Forage purchases  
Baiting  
Small Game damage claims (last resort)

Information/Education Projects – to include, but not limited to  
Seminars  
Workshops  
Brochures  
Electronic media (websites, etc)

Research/Monitoring Projects – to include, but not limited to  
Habitat  
Population  
Inventory  
Movement

Conservation Easements (transaction costs only)

Archaeological Clearances (and other NEPA required clearances)

### PROJECT LOCATIONS:

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.