UNCOMPAHGRE HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Approved, Colorado Wildlife Commission, May 6, 2010
This plan is valid for 10 years from the approval date.

Executive Summary

The Uncompahgre Habitat Partnership Program (UHPP) Committee was originally appointed in 1996. The committee's primary mission is to identify and solve livestock/big game conflicts pertaining to rangeland forage, growing and harvesting hay crops, harvested crop aftermath grazing, and fences on both private and public lands within the six Game Management Units around the Uncompahgre Plateau.

The UHPP has experienced a steady increase in big game/landowner conflicts due to a variety of reasons, occurring primarily on the exterior "fringes" of the Uncompahgre Plateau, on private lands and the public/private land "interface". Conflicts are due to the expanded and changing distribution of deer and elk within the program area, a long-term increase in elk numbers, activities and development associated with human population growth, habitat fragmentation, declining quantity and quality of big game winter habitat, and overall declining habitat diversity at the landscape level. These factors have resulted in an unpredicted and undesirable distribution of big game animals, impacting the forage base, agricultural crops, livestock operations, and fences on private and adjacent public lands.

The UHPP Committee role is, through public involvement, to identify the conflict and strategy to mitigate it. "Conflict zones" have been identified since 1996 through the Committees work and communication with the landowners experiencing the conflicts, and the local District Wildlife Managers. Strategies for conflict solutions can include outreach/educational programs, habitat improvement projects, special hunts, fencing, land protection approaches, population control, purchase of forage, and coordinated grazing plans. Impacted landowners submit an application form, the application is discussed at an UHPP Committee meeting and the Committee evaluates and prioritizes the proposed project based on guidelines standard to the Habitat Partnership Program.

Funds for implementing the Habitat Partnership Program are collected from 5% of the revenue generated from the sale of hunting licenses within the HPP area. The UHPP Committee then establishes their annual budget and allocates funding to accomplish goals and objectives. Funds are primarily used to cost share and in partnerships.

Since 1996 the UHPP has funded short-term projects such as fence repair and fertilization of impacted hay meadows to offset use by big game. Long-term projects include vegetative treatments to improve habitat and productivity (seeding, mechanical treatment, prescribed fire, weed treatment), water development, and permanent fence construction.

Notable changes in this Habitat Management Plan include the addition of Research/Monitoring Projects as a strategy for conflict resolution and the updated population targets for the Data Analysis Units.

This Habitat Management Plan revises and updates the previous plan and will be used by the UHPP as an overall guide which will assist us to collaboratively analyze, develop solutions and assist with funding to help mitigate the on-going and ever changing conflicts that arise between big game management and private landowners.

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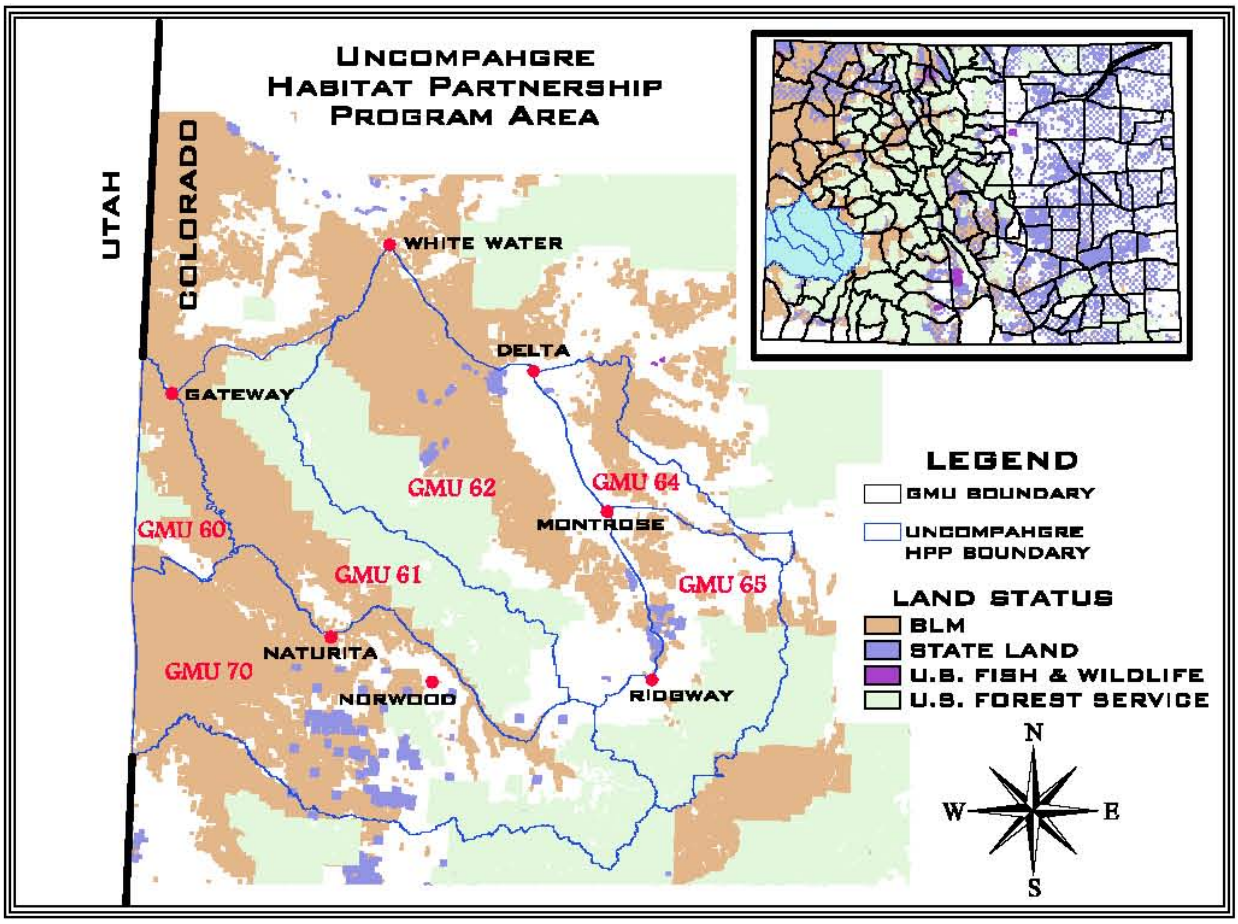


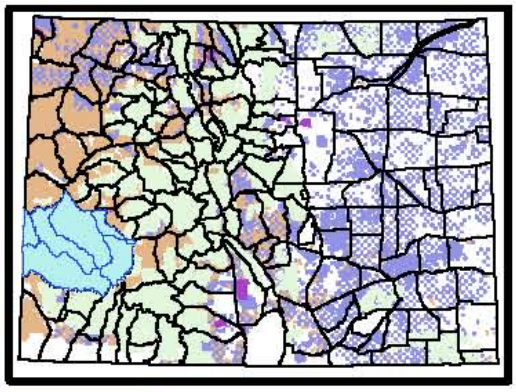
UNCOMPAHGRE HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE AREA

Members

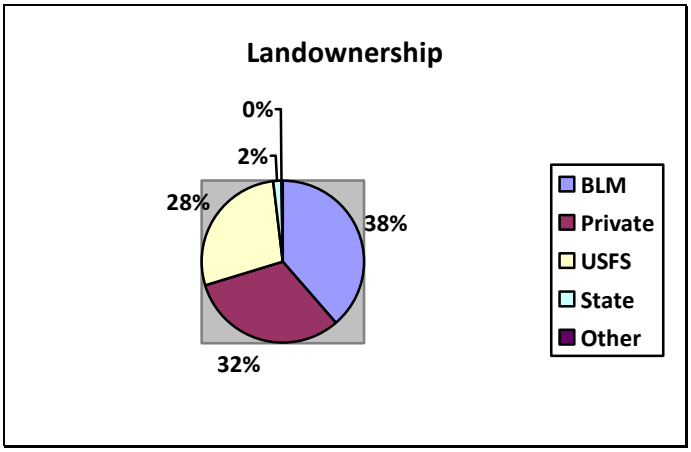
Mike Surber (chairman), US Forest Service representative – Grand Junction
Dave Andrews, livestock grower representative- Norwood
Bob Black, livestock grower representative- Whitewater
Kelly Crane, DOW representative - Ridgway
Bobby Gray, sportsman representative – Montrose
Todd Stewart – livestock grower representative- Montrose
Dean Stindt, BLM representative - Norwood

INTRODUCTION

The Uncompahgre Habitat Partnership Program (UHPP) Committee was appointed in September 1996 by Colorado Division of Wildlife Director, John Mumma. The present committee is composed of three livestock grower representatives, one sportsman, one US Forest Service representative, one BLM representative and one Division of Wildlife representative.



The UHPP area includes Game Management Units 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, & 70 (Map 1), and is located in west central Colorado, bordering Utah. The Uncompahgre Plateau is the most prominent land feature of the area, and is generally located in the center of the area. The perimeter of the area is bounded on the east by the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River, Big Blue and Cimarron Creeks, and Uncompahgre Peak, on the south by Red Mountain, Mt. Sneffels, Mt. Wilson, Lone Cone, and the Dry Creek Basin, on the west by the Dolores River, the Utah State line, and Unaweep Canyon, and on the north by the Lower Gunnison River. The area consist of approximately 4,994 square miles; 38.5% BLM, 31.7% private, 27.9% USFS, 1.7% State, and 0.2% other. The area ranges in elevation from a low of 4700 ft. at Gateway to over 14,309 ft. at Uncompahgre Peak.



The Habitat Partnership Program statutory direction is to reduce wildlife conflicts, particularly those associated with forage and fence issues and to assist the Division of Wildlife in meeting game management objectives. However, we also recognize there are factors outside the control of this program that create situations that cause conflicts, which may be symptoms of a larger scale concern. For this Committee to be most effective in accomplishing the HPP mission and achieving long term solutions, the mission must somehow be put into perspective with accomplishment of a larger scaled vision, one of landscape or ecosystem magnitude.

This HPP area, like others in the state, experienced a steady increase in big game conflicts in the past. Primary reasons appeared to be an expanded or changed distribution of deer and elk within the area, a long-term increase in elk numbers, activities and developments associated with an increasing human population, inadequate planning and zoning to protect critical wildlife habitats, fragmentation of wildlife habitats, declining quantity and quality of big game winter habitats, the location of cultivated areas within and adjacent to winter habitats, and a decline in habitat diversity at the landscape level, resulting in an unpredicted and undesired distribution of big game animals. Further, it appears that factors such as long-term land use conversion, fire suppression, and perhaps past game management and livestock grazing practices contributed to creating these situations.

VISION and GOALS

The UHPP VISION:

"To develop a dynamic program that encourages an atmosphere of cooperation and partnership among private landowners, wildlife and habitat managers, various public interest groups, and local governments to reduce or solve big game damage to private forage and fences, and that will result in "Win-Win" relationships.

The UHPP GOALS:

- Obtain adequate representation from the "West End" by appointing local representatives from that area.
- Ensure appropriate public involvement in identifying big game conflicts and solutions.
- Consider and integrate ecological, economic, and social values and the desires of stakeholders in our planning and decisions making process.
- Identify the location and nature of big game conflicts and possible solutions.
- Update the Habitat Management Plan, along with the appropriate Habitat Data Summaries and Data Analysis Unit Plans that identifies management strategies and funding means for resolving conflicts in a rapid, reasonable, and acceptable manner.
- Prioritize conflicts, and implement both short-term and long-term actions to resolve conflicts in a pro-active, timely and cost-effective manner.
- Make recommendations to stakeholders that encourage appropriate management actions for lands and populations that will reduce conflicts and help sustain individual operations, viable big game herds, and economic growth and development of our local communities.
- Improve communications among the Committee, the CDOW, ranchers, other private landowners, agencies, sportsmen, and local and state governments.
- Develop an Outreach/Education program that will provide information to stakeholders that will lead to a better understanding of the HPP program, and of management practices for all the resources in the area.
- Monitor the HPP program and report annually to the HPP Coordinator and the Statewide Council.
- Encourage funding partnerships to increase our ability to accomplish the identified projects.
- Improve the accuracy of population and habitat data collected within the UHPP area to improve a more appropriate basis for management decisions.

BIG GAME POPULATION PROFILE

Effect of Human Activities on Habitat

Human Population

The Uncompahgre Plateau/vicinity is surrounded by a growing human population that is placing increased demands on the area for development and recreation. Approximately 190,000 people live in the affected five counties. Habitat loss due to development and fragmentation is primarily occurring near the outer edges of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Relatively little development is occurring in the interior parts as these are primarily USFS and BLM lands. The most rapid residential development is occurring on the west side of the Uncompahgre Valley between Ridgway and Delta. Some of these developments, such as those on Loghill Mesa and in the Government Springs area, occur in important wintering areas for elk. Other areas of increased residential development in elk habitat include the Norwood and Nucla areas, Dallas Divide, Iron Springs Mesa, and Unaweep Canyon.

Agriculture

Agricultural use includes cultivated crop production and orchards on irrigated private lands below 6,000 ft in the Uncompahgre Valley and Nucla area, alfalfa and grass hay production primarily on irrigated private lands below 7,500 ft, and livestock grazing on private and public lands. As a result of extensive water distribution networks, the Uncompahgre Valley has become one of the major crop producing areas on the Western Slope and agriculture contributes greatly to the local economy. Major crops include corn, pinto beans, wheat, onions, and alfalfa. Elk can be found in crop producing areas and crop damage is increasing slightly. Crop damage by deer is a much greater problem. Problems with elk primarily relate to competition with livestock for range forage and fence damage.

Since the 1880's, livestock grazing has been a mainstay of the Uncompahgre region. Cattle grazing occurs throughout, including most of the Uncompahgre National Forest and most BLM lands. Sheep grazing occurs primarily on private land, BLM land on the east side of the Plateau south of Escalante Canyon and on high elevation USFS and BLM land. From the mid-1930's to the early 1970's, many range improvement projects were undertaken on BLM and USFS lands on the Plateau primarily to benefit livestock. Projects included contour ditching, chaining of pinyon-juniper woodlands, herbicide treatment of sagebrush and Gambel oak, water impoundments, and seeding with non-native species such as crested wheatgrass and intermediate wheatgrass. Deer and elk likely benefited from some of these livestock range improvement programs. In addition, intensive predator control with toxicants and other methods was undertaken on the Plateau between the late 1950's and the early 1970's.

Habitat Condition

Land health problems on the Uncompahgre Plateau/vicinity that have been identified by the BLM include accelerated erosion, noxious weed invasion, low levels of perennial grasses, lack of cool season grasses, lack of forbs, low plant species diversity, pinyon and juniper invasion into sagebrush and mountain shrub communities, dominance by late seral vegetation, lack of age-structure diversity, and dense mature shrub communities with low vigor. On the Uncompahgre National Forest land health concerns include noxious weed invasion, conifer invasion into aspen communities, sudden aspen decline, dense mature forest and shrub communities with low productivity and tree invasion into open parks and meadows.

Big Game Populations

Deer Population

The 2009 objective for deer is 36,000-38,000. The population had been holding steady on the upper end of the objective prior to the winter of 2007-2008, however, since then the population has fallen to below objective based on low winter survival during the 07-08 winter and poor recruitment since. The estimated population numbers are also slightly lower due to population model revision. It is likely that the mule deer status on the Uncompahgre Plateau and throughout most of the western United States is multi-factorial with habitat loss and fragmentation, decadent and maturing habitats, increased human activity, predation, disease, and elk competition each playing a role. There is a resident deer herd in the Uncompahgre Valley associated with the agricultural fields which is being actively managed for herd reduction.

Elk Population and Factors Affecting Elk Harvest

The recommended (2009) post-hunt objective for elk on the Uncompahgre Plateau is 8,500-9,500. The 2008 post-hunt estimate was ~10,500 elk. Factors affecting the number of elk harvested each year include: (1) hunting pressure from over-the-counter license holders (i.e., archery either-sex and general rifle bull hunters choosing to hunt in Unit 62); (2) the number of limited licenses issued (i.e., antlerless licenses in Unit 62 and all licenses in Unit 61); (3) season structure and antler point restrictions; (4) weather; (5) population size and structure, (6) increase of hunting restrictions on private lands and (7) private rangelands being subdivided for dwellings.

Big Game Conflicts

Conflicts with Deer

A resident deer population has established itself in the irrigated lands of the Uncompahgre Valley. The deer in this population do not migrate. Hunting opportunities are limited in the valley due to safety and access reasons. Damage occurs to sweet corn and field corn crops. In the highest damage areas a concerted effort has been made to decrease or stabilize the deer population. Deer can also cause damage to ornamental plants in residential areas and other non-agricultural areas such as open space and golf courses. Deer/vehicle accidents are a major concern on the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Conflicts with Elk

Many landowners in the Uncompahgre Plateau/vicinity have expressed concern about perceived and realized elk conflicts. On the other hand, it should be noted that many landowners realize significant economic benefits from elk by leasing hunting rights, selling priority landowner vouchers, guiding elk hunts, and charging hunter trespass fees.

Elk conflicts include elk grazing spring pastures and hay meadows in the Unaweep Canyon and Nucla area, fence damage, elk competition with domestic livestock (cattle) for range forage on private and public lands, and elk damage to cured forage. In addition to agricultural damage, elk can also cause damage to lawns and ornamental plants in residential areas and other non-agricultural areas such as open space and golf courses. Elk/vehicle accidents, although much less common than deer/vehicle accidents, are another concern.

DATA ANALYSIS UNIT & HABITAT DATA SUMMARY PLANS

DAU plans are population management plans developed by the Division of Wildlife for elk, deer and pronghorn antelope. DAU plans examine discrete populations to include herd size objective and a summary of pertinent data about the populations. The DAU plan for this area has been completed.

HDS plans are summaries of habitat capabilities and conditions within the above mentioned population areas, and include information about forage production and utilization, and habitat condition and trend. The HDS plan is under development.

Pre-hunt 2009 populations are:

	Deer		Elk		Pronghorn Antelope	
	Population Target	Current Population	Population Target	Current Population	Population Target	Current Population
GMU 60	2500-3000	1,760	900-1,100	1,260		
GMU 61 & 62	36,000-38,000	24,700	8500-9500	10,680	350	63
GMU 64 & 65	13,500-15,000	9,260	5,000-5,500	5,830		
GMU 70	34,000	26,119	17,000-19,000	19,386		

The data shows that since 1980 deer numbers declined, sharply in some places, throughout the 90's but have recently increased. Elk populations had increased in the late 1990's and early 2000's, but have since been reduced to similar population numbers that were present in the 1990's. Harvest appears to have closely followed these trends, but has been a major factor in the reduction of elk populations in the area. Some people do not believe the CDOW population and harvest estimates are correct. However landowners and sportsman have been reporting decreased elk numbers and increased deer numbers. The main conflict area where we may be seeing more elk is in Nucla and a few isolated areas in GMU 62. The locations of deer and elk severe winter ranges and winter concentration areas, in relationship to conflict areas are shown in Maps 3 and 4.

We need to continue to collect data to improve our knowledge about big game population and harvest numbers, the location of critical habitats and movement corridors, and the condition and trend of habitats.

2009 DAU and License Summary for Area 18

DEER

DAU D-19- Uncompahgre

Objective Population 36-38,000	Objective Sex Ratio 34-36 males:100 females
Current Status 24,700	34.8 males:100 females 3 year average

Population estimates below objective reflect a change in model as well as a significant loss due to last winter's conditions. Over-winter fawn survival last year was 54.2% on the Uncompahgre Plateau, down significantly from previous years. Also, based on the poor conditions the does were in going into fawning season, I believe summer fawn survival was poor causing our low observed fawn:doe ratios this past Fall. Due to the continued lag affect from last winter, license numbers were reduced in most hunt codes by 15% and public land doe licenses were reduced by almost 50%. The primary exceptions were the PLO licenses, which remained the same or were reduced by 15% to keep pressure on resident deer populations and to manage other game damage situations.

DAU D-23- La Sal

Objective Population 2,500-3000	Objective Sex Ratio 25-30males:100females
Current Status 1,760	(No observation data in last 3 years)

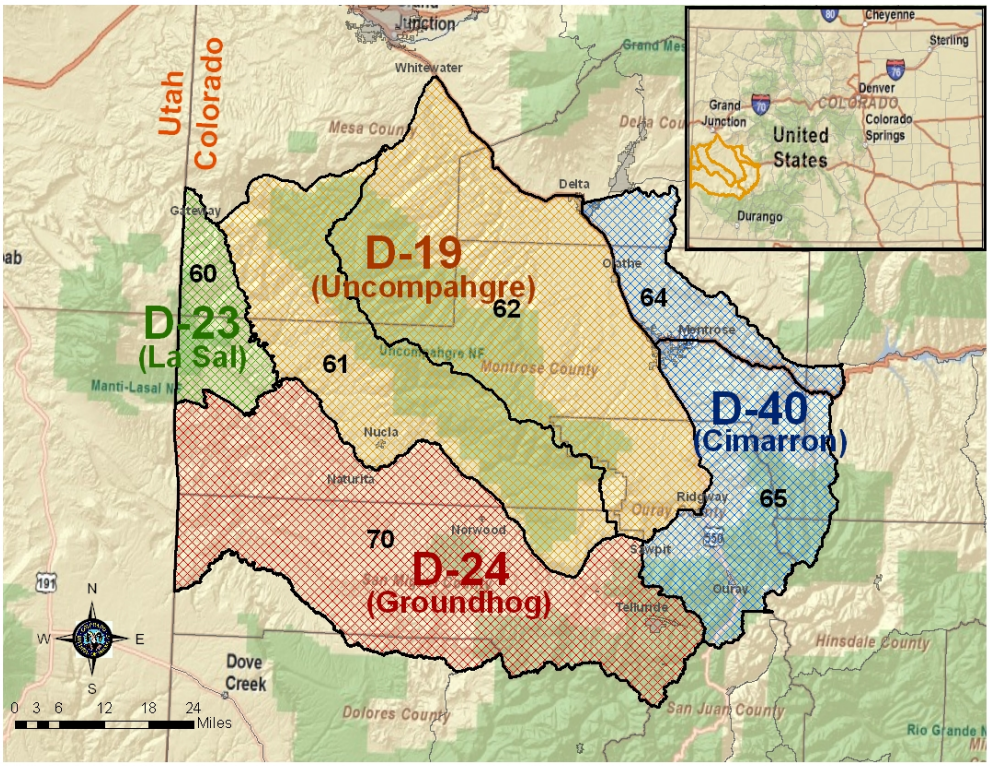
Population appears stable to increasing based on harvest success. Majority of deer migrate into unit from Utah. CWD found nearby in Utah (at least 26 cases). Little inventory data available because of highly variable interstate movement across the state line. Harvest depends largely on movement of Utah deer into unit.

DAU D-40- Cimarron

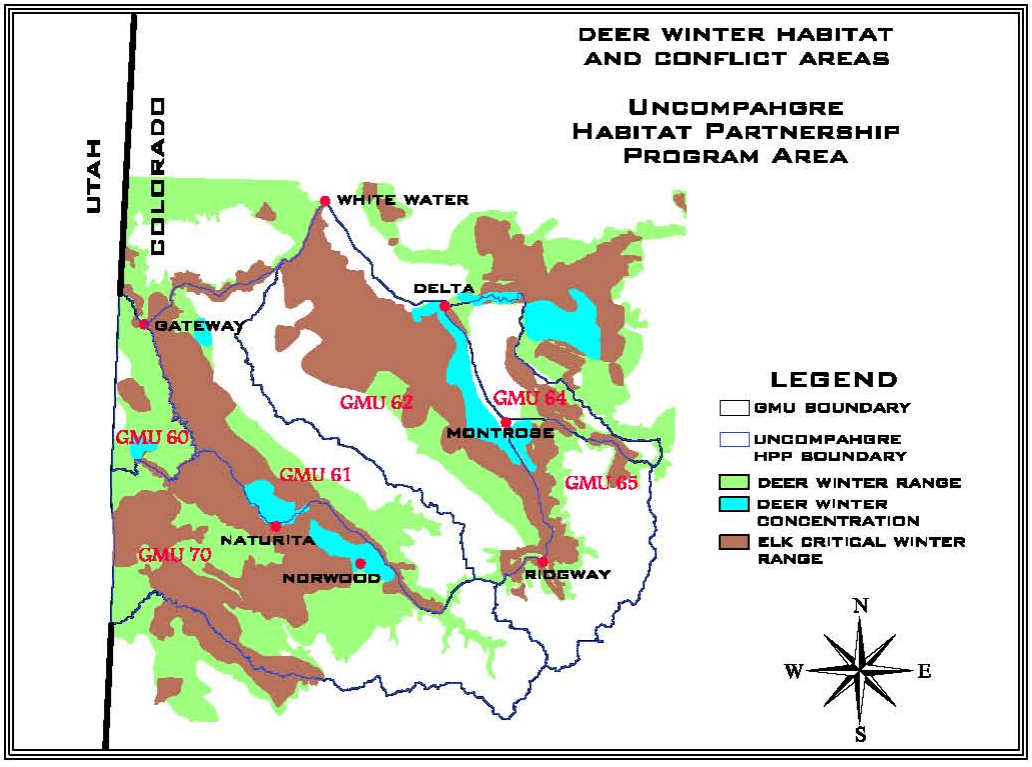
Objective Population 13,500-15,000	Objective Sex Ratio 25-30 males:100 females
Current Status 9,260	25.5 males:100 females 3 year average

Based on a new model, low hunter success, decreased sex ratios, and winter loss with subsequent low recruitment into the population, license numbers are proposed to be reduced again in 2009. License reductions are primarily associated with archery, muzzleloader, and PLO buck licenses at an equal proportion to the decrease in license numbers last year in the 2nd and 3rd general licenses.

DEER DAU's



Mule Deer Winter Habitat



ELK

DAU E-20- Uncompahgre

Objective population 8,500-9,500	Objective Sex Ratio 16-20 males:100 females
Current Status 10,680	22.5 males:100 females 3 year average

Population decreasing but still above objective this year. Bull harvest higher than expected this year, however cow harvest was down due to poor hunting conditions. Elk were observed scattered from high elevation winter range to the far extreme low elevation winter ranges. Antlerless license numbers were increased to bring down the population to objective.

DAU E-35- Cimarron

Objective population 5,000-5,500	Objective Sex Ratio 20-25 males:100 females
Current Status 5,830	23.2 males:100 females 3 year average

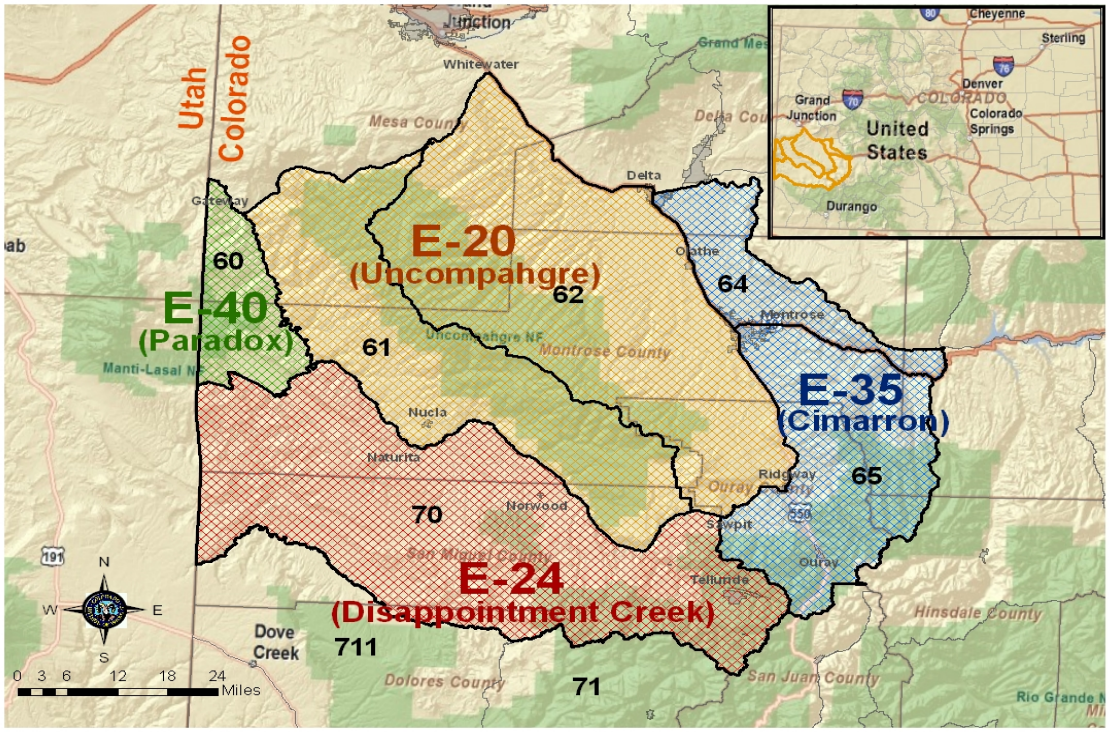
Modeled population is still slightly above objective; however, internal personnel and external publics believe that the elk population is probably as low as would be preferred. Elk observations in winter have been down and damage has been down as well. The only proposed changes are to decrease December public antlerless licenses and January PLO licenses to spread out hunters, decrease harvest, and hold more elk on public land.

DAU E-40- Paradox

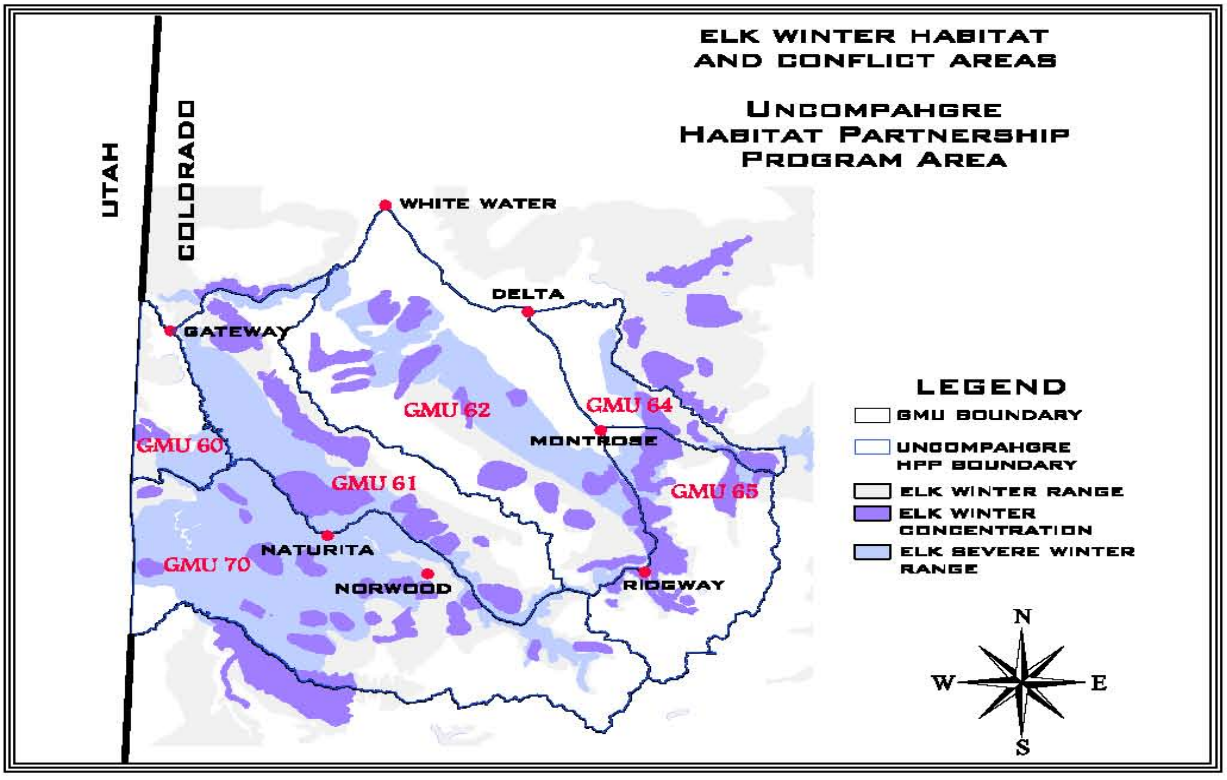
Objective population 900-1100	Objective Sex Ratio 25-30males:100females
Current Status 1,260	29.4 males:100 females (from 2005)

Population appears stable. Majority of elk migrate into unit from Utah. CWD found nearby in deer in Utah, but no elk cases have been found. Little inventory data available because of highly variable interstate movement across the state line. We are not proposing any changes for 2008 based on low demand. Harvest depends largely on movement of Utah elk into unit.

ELK DAU's



Elk Winter Habitat

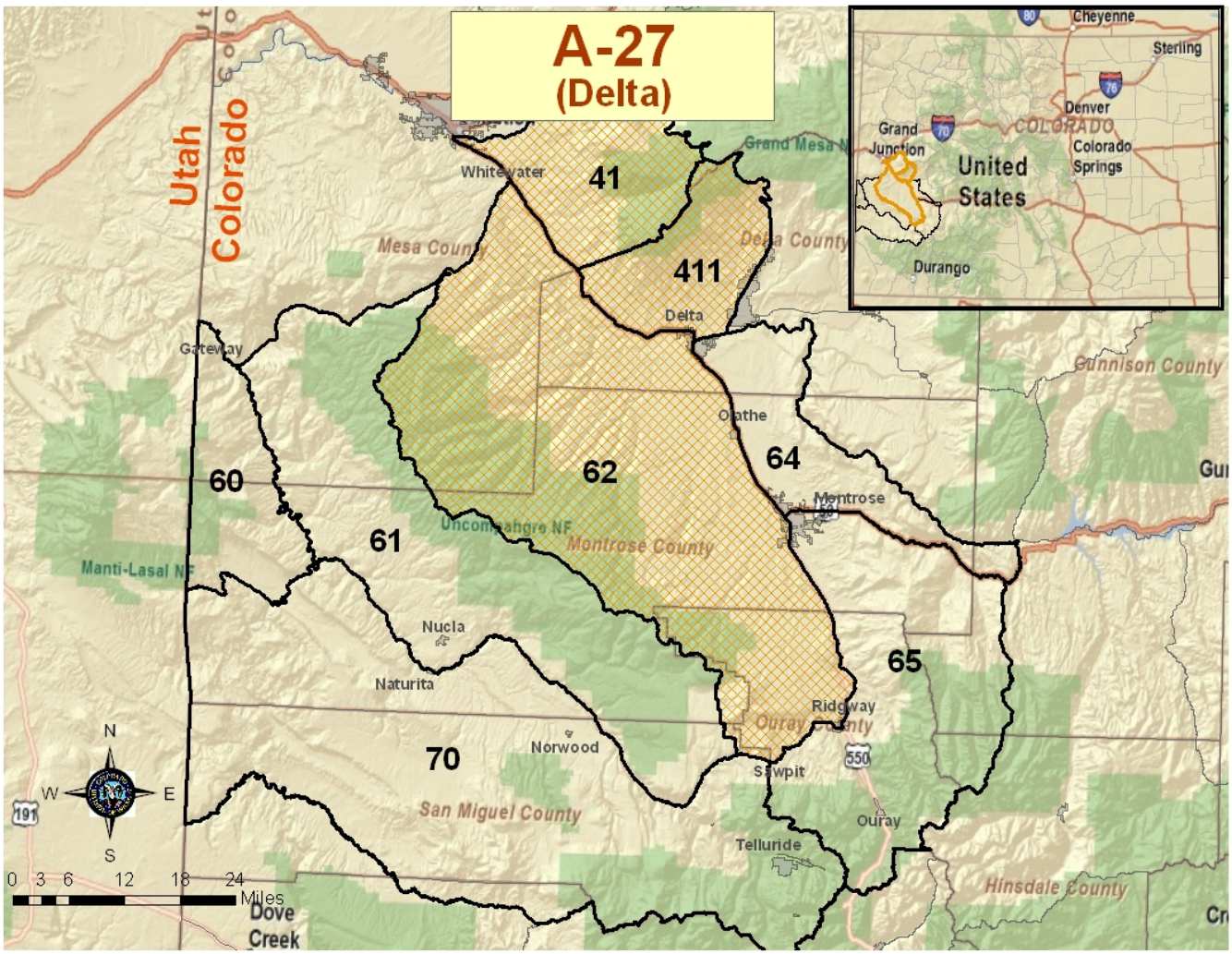


PRONGHORN

DAU A-27- Delta

Objective population 350 (provisional)	Objective Sex Ratio 40 males:100 females
Current Status 63 (not realistic)	38.2 males:100 females (pre-hunt 3yr avg)

New model being developed this year. Modeled estimate is not realistic based on classification of 63 in August 2008. Population probably around 150-175 and declining slowly due to habitat conditions. We recommend no changes in licenses. DAU plan revision is scheduled for this year and one point of discussion will be at what population level we should stop hunting this pronghorn herd.



PUBLIC INPUT ON CONFLICT IDENTIFICATION

Since 1996, the Committee has been working and communicating with people experiencing conflicts and with the local District Wildlife Managers. Along with fence damage, which is frequently reported by most landowners, the 3 most serious conflict categories are:

1. Spring, summer and fall damage to pastures and growing and harvested crops by deer and elk in the valleys.
2. Elk use of early forage green up ahead of cattle being moved to spring range.
3. Competition between cattle and elk.

PROBLEM (or CONFLICT) ASSESSMENT

For the entire HPP area there appears to be six major factors creating big game/landowner conflicts:

1. Declining conditions and distribution of natural habitats, especially winter ranges.
2. Undesirable distribution of deer and elk throughout the area.
3. Most agricultural areas are in the natural winter ranges of deer and elk.
4. Long term land use conversion, especially winter range and in spots, summer range.
5. Fragmentation of habitat causing disruption to the natural movement patterns.
6. Inadequate harvest on elk.

Deer and elk distribution appears to be more of a challenge than population numbers. The lack of hunter access to large concentrations of elk on private lands, and elk moving to the lower elevations in the pinyon-juniper zone early in the season make it difficult to achieve the harvest necessary to control or reduce herds.

Generally within the UHPP area, native vegetation on winter ranges appear to be declining in condition and the amount of winter range and its arrangement throughout the landscape is declining. Therefore, during winter deer and elk are attracted to, and concentrate on, agricultural areas where an increased abundance and quality of forage is present compared to what the adjacent native ranges can offer. Also contributing to this problem is that winter habitat is being converted to other land uses and increasing human disturbances drive wintering animals onto smaller and smaller areas of remaining winter range.

Winter ranges, during the past 70-100 years, appear to have experienced an aging process, due primarily to the lack of disturbance which reset vegetative succession producing succulent foraging areas. Presently, a large portion of the forage producing plants is in a mature, decadent, and unproductive state. This condition is caused in part by the lack to fire, which is the primary natural disturbance factor for this area. Fire rejuvenates the vegetation and creates a desirable mosaic of different vegetative states across the landscape. Contributing to this decline in habitat quality is a reduced amount of fine fuels which are available to carry fires. Fires have not been started and sustained often enough to reset the vegetation on enough of the area to create a mosaic that provides a good arrangement of feeding and cover areas, helping to hold deer and elk away from agriculture areas. In addition, housing development is occurring within critical winter ranges and movement corridors, fragmenting and reducing the connectivity of these habitats, and many existing grazing management plans do not achieve an acceptable level of land health.

The GMUG National Forest Travel Plan recognizes the impact of increased human population and activities upon big game distribution, problems of traffic and deer/elk conflicts. The Travel Plan has been revised for the Uncompahgre National Forest to address this issue. Implementation is anticipated to greatly improve hunter success and big game security.

There is a problem assessment section presented for each conflict area to help the Committee better understand the overall problems causing conflicts.

CONFLICT DEFINITIONS

Conflict zones are defined as:

1) Both public and private lands where big game animals concentrate, causing problems with the management of those lands with respect to forage (native or cultivated), growing crops, harvest aftermath, fences, and/or general use.

2) Zones of "safe havens", where restrictions on hunting have resulted 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 adjacent landowners.

3) Any other place outside of concentration areas where damage occurs to forage (native or cultivated), growing crops, harvest aftermath, fences, and/or general use.

Resolving conflicts in these zones is a high priority for the UHPP Committee. Budget allocations will be concentrated in the zones where the most severe conflicts occur. The importance of being proactive and planning projects in advance has become apparent. Funds have been earmarked annually to spend in severe conflict zones.

Additional definitions of zones are:

Federal Zones: Conflict zones on federally owned land. There is a lack of residual forage on big game winter range following livestock use of public lands.

Enhancement Zones: Locations on public or private lands where there are opportunities to improve, protect and/or enhance habitats to reduce or mitigate conflicts.

Security Zones: Public and private locations where concentrations of big game animals are managed for emphasis on big game use.

STRATEGIES FOR CONFLICT SOLUTIONS

➢ INFORMATION/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Inform and educate the public, participants, non-participating local landowners, agencies, city/county officials, and others who may be interested in the basic and state-of-the-art management practices which may help solve conflicts, or avoid creating situations that may lead to conflicts. Tools would include:

1. Informational brochures, CDs or scientific papers on various issues such as respect for property, fence construction and design, country living tips, and specific management practices will be made available to sportsmen and landowners.
2. Holistic Resource Management seminars may also be made available to help landowners and land managers gain a better understanding of resource management principals, and be better able to make decisions as it relates to their property by giving them the latest up-to-date information.
3. Training for other grazing or land management disciplines may be made available where appropriate.
4. Distribution of newsletters and/or minutes of HPP meetings to cooperators in the Partnership Areas to keep them better informed on what is going on.

➢ HABITAT MANIPULATION PROJECTS

Improvement of the quality, quantity, and distribution of desired habitats or forage throughout the landscape to help redistribute big game concentrations that are causing, or may cause conflicts. Additional focus will be placed on public and

private lands away from problem areas. UHPP will work cooperatively with the Uncompahgre Plateau Project (UP) on the Uncompahgre Plateau to restore healthy landscapes and reduce big game conflicts.

1. Water Developments to improve the distribution of big game animals in dry areas.
2. Habitat Projects such as: burning, seeding, fertilization, herbicides, brush manipulation, wood cutting, roller chopping, discing, tree and/or shrub planting, implementing acceptable grazing management strategies, road closures.
3. An integrated noxious plant control approach that utilizes grazing management, mechanical treatments, chemical treatments, and promotion of desirable plant species. Work with local Weed Districts, public land agencies, and private landowners to coordinate and assist in the noxious plant control effort.
4. Coordinate habitat improvement projects between UP and UHPP on the Uncompahgre Plateau to maximize benefits and achieve mutual goals.

- SPECIAL HUNTS
  1. Distribution Management Hunts are a preferred method to deal with perennial fall and early winter concentration problems that cannot be resolved using regular season hunts. These hunts are designed to put pressure on big game animals at the time and place of conflict.
  2. Youth Hunts provide a quality experience for youth and can decrease herd size, redistribute large groups of elk in Dec/Jan. Funds could be used for hunt coordinator.
  3. The committee may hire a hunt coordinator(s) to provide services to landowners and hunters during distribution management hunts.

- FENCING PROJECTS
  1. Repair and Construction to alleviate potential damage, or to help offset the financial burden to landowners who constantly experience fence damage caused by big game animals. New fence designs, materials, and technology that are most durable and compatible with wildlife and livestock safety will be suggested. Construction of permanent stackyards will be included.

- LAND PROTECTION APPROACHES
  1. Conservation Easements (transaction costs only) can be used to secure desired big game habitat as long term solutions to conflicts.
  2. Land Purchase, exchange and or leases may be recommended by the Committee to land management agencies or other appropriate interested partners who can deal in such affairs, to help seek a long term solution to a specific perennial problem.
  3. Seek to obtain access through private land to public lands so hunters can access concentrations of big game animals causing or that may cause conflicts.

- PURCHASE OF FORAGE

Direct cash payments to landowners to compensate for forage used by conflicting big game animals on private land. This strategy will be a last resort effort, when other approved strategies have failed.

- COORDINATED GRAZING PLANS
  1. Develop coordinated livestock management plans that leave residual forage for big game on public lands, reduce conflicts through timing/duration of use, and encourage big game use of public lands.
  2. Develop coordinated livestock management plans to ensure success of land treatments conducted on public and private lands.

- RESEARCH/MONITORING PROJECTS

  Projects that will be considered will include, but not be limited to, projects focusing on habitat, populations, inventory and movement patterns.

PROJECT TYPES

Habitat Manipulation – to include, but not limited to
- Prescribed burning
- Water development
- Weed Control
- Fertilization
- Seeding
- Mechanical (chaining, rollerchopping, 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

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

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

Coordinated Grazing Plans

Conservation Easements (transaction costs only)

Archaeological Clearances (and other NEPA required clearances)

GUIDELINES FOR PRIORITIZING PROJECTS

Step 1: Applicant submits a completed application form. 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.

Step 2: Application is discussed at an UHPP Committee meeting.

Step 3: The UHPP Committee shall evaluate and set the priority for the proposed project based on the following criteria:

Will the proposed project distribute the conflicting animals to security zones?	Will the proposed project enhance/improve habitat conditions on security zones and effectively address the conflict over the long run by attracting conflicting animals to a security zone?
Does the proposed project address a recurring conflict that involves a herd unit or a significant number of animals?	Will the proposed project benefit the landowners, agencies, big game, and the public? (i.e. is constructing a tall fence at a known big-game crossing point asking for failure?)
Have non-structural solutions been tried, such as distribution hunts, propane cannons, management changes, etc.?	Does the proposed project replace or maintain an existing fence? If so, what is the condition of the existing fence?
Does the applicant/landowner allow low-fee or no-fee public hunting such as PLO (private land only) licenses, big game distribution hunts, or general public access?	Is the landowner willing to participate financially (direct funds and/or labor) in the project? Are there other matching funds available for cost-share?
Is the proposed project experimental?	Has the project been developed in coordination the local DWM or appropriate land management agency?
Have the special considerations for Gunnison Sage Grouse populations & habitat been addressed?	

Special Considerations for: GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE POPULATIONS

Potential impacts to existing Gunnison Sage Grouse populations &identified Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat

The current status of the Gunnison Sage Grouse warrants that special consideration is given to existing populations of Gunnison Sage Grouse or identified Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat. The purpose of this section is to insure that any proposed UHPP projects that fall within the areas identified as Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat or where populations of Gunnison Sage Grouse are known to exist (see maps) will be evaluated by CDOW to determine if the propose project will in any way negatively impact Gunnison Sage Grouse.

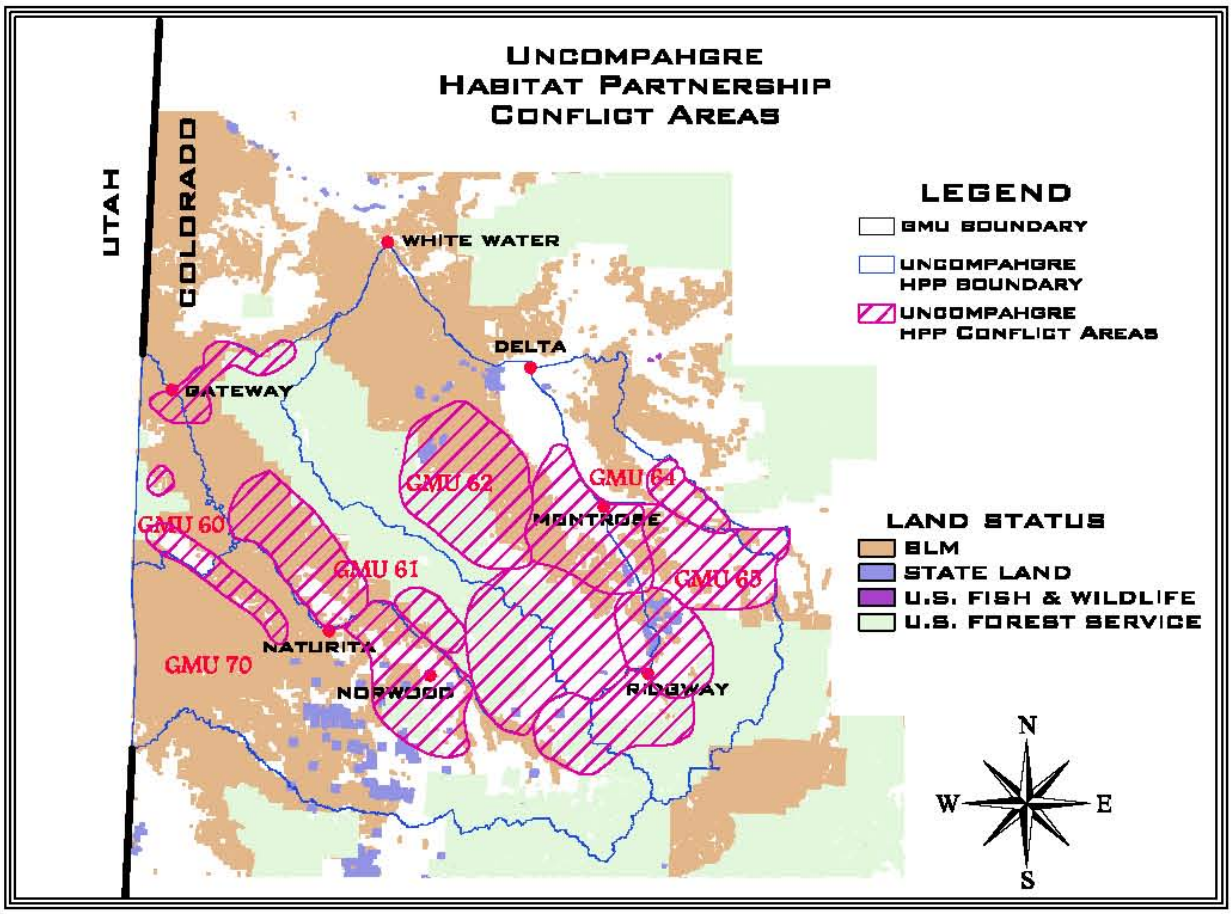
For proposed UHPP projects that fall within these identified areas, the following procedure will be used to evaluate the project with regards to Gunnison Sage Grouse (GUSG):

- CDOW will evaluate all projects for potential impacts to GUSG. If, in the opinion of the CDOW, a project could potentially impact GUSG, compliance with habitat enhancement guidelines specified in the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Range wide Conservation Plan will be required. For all projects in the San Miguel Basin that could affect GUSG, the San Miguel Basin Gunnison Sage-Grouse Working Group will be given an opportunity to provide comments.

- CDOW will determine if a project can be designed to have a neutral effect or, preferably, a beneficial effect, on GUSG while still accomplishing the purpose of the project.

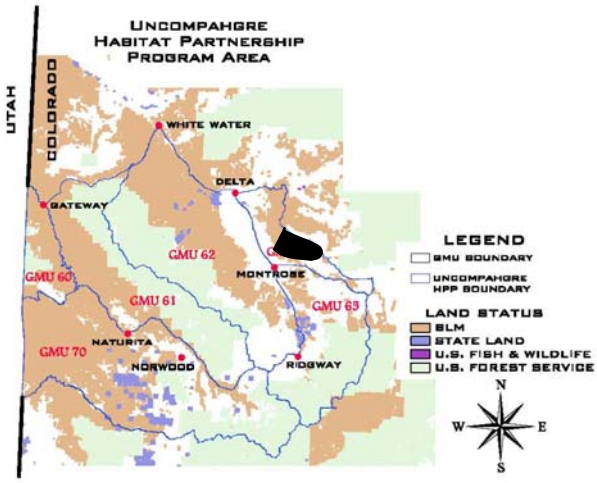
- Projects that could negatively impact GUSG in the opinion of the CDOW will not be considered for approval by the UHPP Committee.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT BY ZONES



ZONE 1 - Bostwick Park

Fisher, Fred	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	75-100
Leckleiter, Stewart	Deer	Fence/Forage	Spring/summer/fall	100+
Purdum, Merilyn	Deer	Fence/Forage	Fall/winter/spring	100+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Fall/winter	0-50
Stewart, Sam	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	100+
Weber, Don	Deer	Forage	-	0-25
Weber, Ken	Deer	Fence/Forage	Fall	0-25
Wise, Tom	Deer	Forage	Spring	0-25



Conflict description:

- Mostly by deer in winter, but some deer stay in this area all year.
- Spring deer damage to hay pastures as they green up, reducing crop production, and/or competing with cattle grazing at that time.
- Deer eat field crops, especially corn.
- Fence damage all year.
- Haystacks damage all year, esp. in winter.
- Fence damage by elk during winter months.

Problem assessment:

- Farm areas border deer winter range and offer better food than native range.
- Winter habitat bordering farming areas is in poor condition in most places.
- Development is occurring throughout the area reducing the amount of winter range available, and causing greater pressure by deer on the remaining area.
- Difficult to hunt animals in a safe manner.
- The presence of noxious weeds.

Conflict solutions/management strategy:

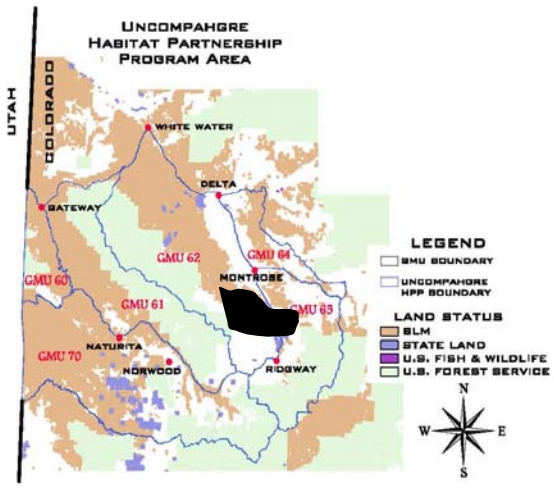
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution management or special hunts to hold deer and elk numbers down, and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private/public lands to improve winter range.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage use of conservation easements to secure critical winter habitat for the future.
- Encourage special hunts for shotguns, archery, and handguns.

ZONE 2 - Cedar Creek/Cimarrons

Claassen, Hans	Deer	Fence/forage	Winter/spring	75-100 head
	Elk	Fence/forage	Fall/winter	50-200+
Hawks, John	Deer	Fence/forage	All year	75-100
	Elk	Fence	Winter/spring	50-100
Shippy, Robert	Deer	Fence	Spring/Summer/Fall	
	Elk	Fence	Spring	50-100
Gray, Nick	Deer	Fence/forage	All year	50-100
	Elk	Fence/forage	All year	200+

Conflict description:

- Spring deer and elk use on hay fields, meadows and rangeland forage.
- Elk using forage as it greens up in spring ahead of cattle.
- Deer and elk destruction of harvested hay crops.
- Deer use of livestock salt and minerals.
- Fall deer and elk damage to fences, especially during hunting seasons.
- Hunters disregard for private land and roads during hunting seasons creating new 2-track roads that others follow.



Problem assessment:

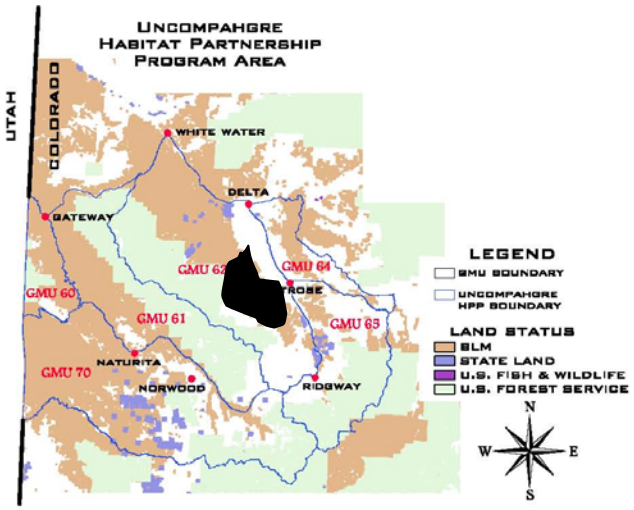
- The presence of elk ranches may attract elk.
- Farming areas are interspersed in the primary winter range.
- Winter habitat conditions are poor in spots.
- High hunter pressure on the small amount of public land available keeps elk moving, increasing fence damage.
- Hunter access is limited on private lands making it difficult to harvest problem animals.
- The presence of noxious weeds.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution mgmt or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter range.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical winter habitat for the future.
- Encourage additional hunter access on private lands.

ZONE 3 - Montrose/Olathe

Catlin, Greg	Deer	Sweet corn	Summer	25-30
Catlin, Keith	Deer	Sweet corn	Summer	25-30
DelTonto, Joey	Deer	Field corn	Summer/Fall	30-50
Distel Brothers	Deer	Field corn/Alfalfa	Fall/Winter	25-30/30-100
Etchart Livestock	Deer	Field corn	Summer/Fall	15-30
Friend, Randy	Deer	Sweet corn seed/Field corn	Summer/Fall	25-30
Frigetto, Gary	Deer	Sweet corn	Summer	25-30
Garrett, Dave	Deer	Alfalfa/Pasture	Fall/Winter	25-50
Goodhue, Dave	Deer	Field corn	Fall	10-15
Homewood, Duane	Deer	Sweet corn	Summer	25-30
Johnson, David O.	Deer/Elk	Alfalfa fields	All year	25-30/10-30
	Deer/Elk	Field corn	All year	25-30/10-30
Massey, Oscar	Elk	Forage/Pasture	Fall/Winter	
Scharf, Mike	Deer	Field corn	Summer/Fall	30-50
Seacat, Ron	Deer	Field corn	Fall	25-50
Shide, Keith	Deer	Field corn	Fall	25-50
Stewart, Sam	Deer	Field corn	Fall	25-50
Woods, Ben	Deer	Field corn/Pasture	Summer/Fall	10-150



Conflict description:

- Damage to hay pastures by deer and elk in spring at green up, reducing crop production.
- Competition with cattle grazing spring pastures at green up (does this reduce crop production?).
- Deer foraging on field crops, especially sweet and field corn.
- Damage to fences by deer and elk, all year.
- Damage to stacked hay by deer and elk, all year, but mostly during the winter.

Problem assessment:

- There is a resident deer herd in the valley, harvest is limited.
- Number of elk wintering in valley is increasing and a few may stay all year.
- Development is occurring throughout the area, reducing the amount of available winter range, forcing higher densities of animals onto the few larger landowners left.
- The winter range is fragmented.
- Farms and ranches border, or are in, deer and elk winter range.
- Farms are adjacent to areas with heavy cover - river, brushy ravines.
- Winter habitat on public lands is in poor condition; forage available on private land is more desirable.
- Winter habitat on public lands has high levels of human activity which pushes animals onto private lands where they are less disturbed.
- It is difficult to hunt in a safe manner due to presence of homes.
- Presence and abundance of noxious weeds in increasing.
- Poor hunting season conditions lead to lower harvest.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

- Conduct damage hunts (preferably pre-migration) on the resident deer population that is impacting growers on private land.
- Construct/repair fences, including stackyards; identify perennial crossings and use visible tape/pole for top rail.
- Fertilize and seed pastures/hay crops.
- Conduct distribution/damage hunts to distribute elk and/or increase harvest.
- Improve winter range conditions on public lands adjacent to private lands.
- Improve habitat on private lands where landowners are willing to have deer and elk.
- Sensitize/educate landowners and county officials to the impacts of growth on wildlife, in particular, wintering/migratory wildlife.
- Improve livestock practices.
- Secure winter range protection through conservation easements or fee title acquisition.

ZONE 4 - Colona/Cow Creek

Edgar Hotchkiss	Deer	Forage	All year	75-100
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	50-100
OXO Ranch	Deer	Forage	Spring/Summer/Fall	25-50
	Elk	Forage	All year	50-100
Sawtooth Ranch	Elk	Fence	All year	200+
Wolf Land and Cattle	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer	200+

Conflict description:

- Winter and spring deer and elk damage to hay fields and meadows.
- Deer and elk damage to harvested hay crops.
- Fall deer and elk damage to fences.
- Elk use forage as it greens up in spring /summer ahead of cattle on way to high country.
- Winter elk competition with cattle for hay on feeding grounds.
- Elk and deer graze fall planted grain crops.
- Very high levels of road kill - especially deer.

Problem assessment:

- Meadows and hay fields are located and interspersed in the primary elk winter range.
- Winter habitat in short supply, and poor winter habitat conditions.
- Fence damage occurs as animals use the area, also, high hunter pressure in spots keeping elk moving and causing damage.
- Hunter access is limited on private lands making it difficult to harvest problem animals.
- Development is occurring, reducing the amount of winter range available and causing greater pressure by deer and elk on the remaining native area, and hay fields and meadows.
- The presence of noxious weeds.
- State highway located in winter range; very high levels of traffic.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

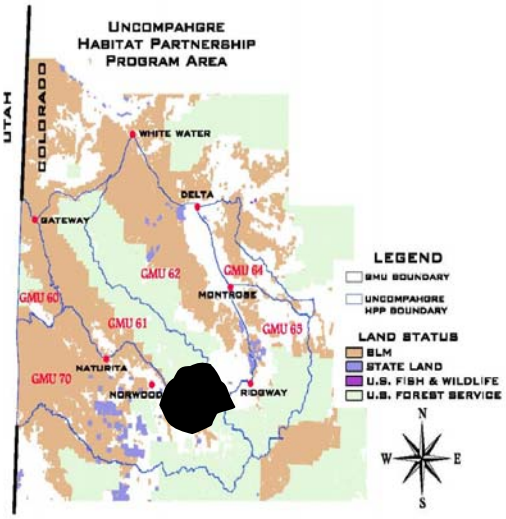
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution mgmt or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter range. Specifically look at the Billy Creek Wildlife Area.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical winter and summer habitat for the future.
- Encourage additional hunter access on private lands.
- Wildlife underpasses and/or overpasses in conjunction with corridor fencing from Colona to Montrose.

ZONE 5 - Dallas Creek/Ridgway

Adams, Denise	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	Varies
Hudson, Vernon	Deer	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer/Fall	25-50
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer/Fall	0-50
Wolf Land and Cattle	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer/Fall	200+

Conflict description:

- Winter and spring deer and elk damage to hay fields and meadows.
- Elk destruction of harvested hay crops.
- Deer and elk damage to fences all year.
- Elk using forage ahead of cattle as it greens up in spring and summer.
- Winter elk competition with cattle for hay on feeding grounds.



Problem assessment:

- Meadows and hay fields are located and interspersed in the primary elk winter range.
- Fences are damaged as elk and deer use the area.
- Hunter access is limited on private lands making it difficult to harvest problem animals.
- Development is occurring, reducing the amount of winter range available and causing greater pressure by deer and elk on the remaining native area and hay fields and meadows.
- Native winter range bordering hay pastures and meadows are in short supply, and in poor condition.
- The presence of noxious weeds, leafy spurge on Miller Mesa.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

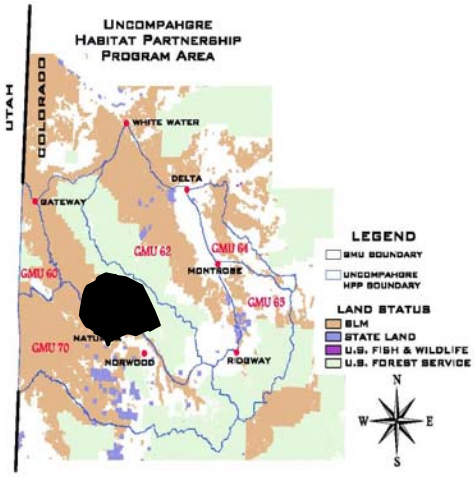
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution management or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter habitat.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical winter habitat for the future.
- Encourage additional hunter access on private lands.

ZONE 6 - Horsefly

Raish Jr, Carol	Elk	Fence	Spring	0-50
Irvine, Doyle	Deer	Forage	Spring/Fall	100+
	Elk	Forage	All year	200+
Snyder, Raymond	Elk	Fence/Forage	Summer	200+
Stewart, Sam	Elk	Fence/Forage	Summer	200+

Conflict description:

- Winter and spring deer and elk damage to hay fields and meadows.
- Elk destruction of harvested hay crops in stacks.
- Deer and elk damage to fences all year.
- Elk using forage ahead of cattle as it greens up in spring and summer.
- Much of the area is being bought up and livestock grazing removed, causing forage to become rank and unpalatable to elk, then elk move to areas grazed by livestock to get fresh green feed.
- A belief that more elk are present than the CDOW says.
- Competition between livestock and elk on spring and summer range.



Problem assessment:

- Hunter access is limited on private lands making it difficult to harvest problem animals.
- Much of this area is private land and large blocks are being purchased by non-ranching people for future development. As grazing is removed it appears that refuge areas are created for large numbers of elk, but vegetative qualities may be declining causing them to seek better conditions on the nearby grazed areas.
- Not enough information available to accurately assess size and location of conflicts, or which class of animals is causing over grazing problems on USFS lands.
- May need to look at elk numbers in this area and assess if too many are here, or if distribution can be improved.
- Unit 61 is a "trophy" unit and Unit 62 is not, which may be causing more elk to use 61.
- The presence of noxious weeds.
- High road density.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

- Fence repair and construction.
- Summer rangeland fertilization on private and public lands.
- Distribution management or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution; may need to look at earlier hunts.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of spring and summer range.
- Landowner education on how to improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical summer habitat for the future.
- Encourage non-grazing landowners to work with livestock operators to create disturbances throughout the ungrazed areas and reset vegetative succession to produce more succulent spring and summer elk forage.
- Support USFS efforts to collect data to identify the locations and size of the conflict.

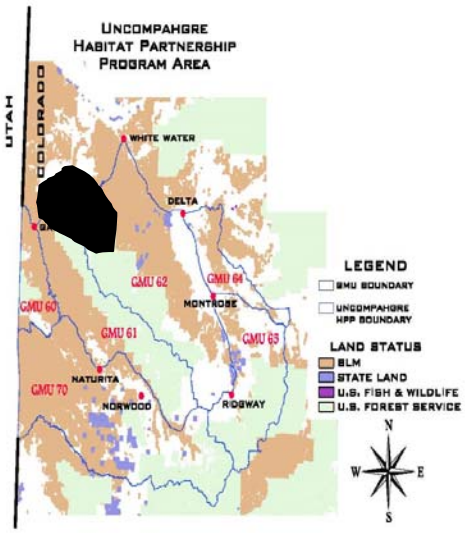
- Encourage the CDOW to reassess elk numbers and movement patterns in this area, and compliment the USFS study efforts.
- Evaluate the effects of the "trophy" hunt regulation on units 61 & 62.
- Close roads to reduce activity that disturbs elk and deer.

ZONE 7 - Winter/Monitor

Boyd, Larry/Wanda	Deer	Forage	Summer/Fall	-
	Elk	Forage	Summer/Fall	150-200
Burch, Bradley	Elk	Fence/Forage	Summer/Fall	200+
Cobb, Jerry/Ginger	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	25-50
	Elk	Forage	Summer	200+
Lechleiter, Stewart	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200+

Conflict description:

- Rangeland forage damage by elk; more in some spots than others; Crisswell Basin has high elk use.
- Destruction of harvested crops by deer and elk.
- Elk eat rangeland forage before cattle are moved on.
- Deer/elk damage to fences year round.
- Some elk herds in this area are large, increasing the potential for damage to occur, and during hunting seasons they stay on private lands and are not broken up and scattered.



Problem assessment:

- Evaluate nature of elk &livestock use in this area to determine if, and to what extent there is a conflict, and also to more accurately identify movement patterns and numbers of elk.
- Habitat quality/quantity is declining, and the arrangement of feeding and cover areas is poor.
- The presence of noxious weeds.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

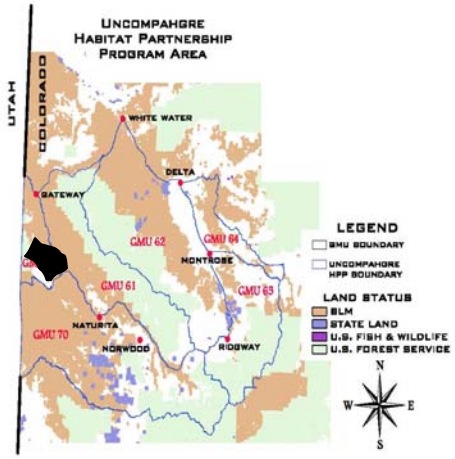
- Fence repair and construction.
- Winter range habitat improvement projects on private/public lands to improve amount/quality.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Evaluate the effects of the "trophy" hunt regulation on units 61 & 62.
- Close roads to reduce disturbance to deer and elk.

ZONE 8 - Dry Park

Cooper, Dan/Cheri	Deer	Fence/Forage	Spring/Fall	100+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring	200+
Weimer Ranches	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Fall	200+

Conflict description:

- Spring and fall deer and elk use on hay fields, meadows, and range forage.
- Destruction of harvested crops by deer and elk.
- Not enough permits available to hunt problem animals.
- Fence damage by deer and elk while they are using the area



Problem assessment:

- Farming areas are located in middle of winter area.
- High number of poaching cases.
- The presence of noxious weeds.
- High road density.
- Historic winter range in this area is in short supply, its quality and quantity is declining, and the arrangement of feeding and cover areas is poor.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

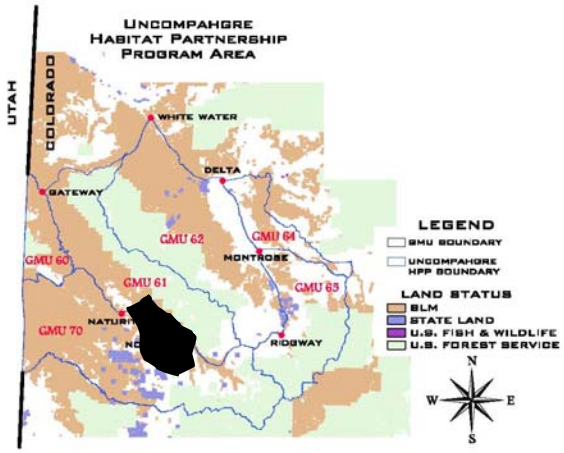
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Consider distribution management or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter range.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Close roads to reduce disturbances to deer and elk.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements.
- Increased efforts through Operation Game Thief.

ZONE 9 - Norwood / Mailbox Park / Maverick Draw

Alexander Ranches	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	25+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter	50+
Cadgene, MJ	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer/Winter	30+
Campbell, Lyman	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter	30+
Lemon, Dale	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	25+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter	100
McKinney, Ivan	Deer	Fence/Forage	Summer/Winter	100+
	Elk	Forage	Summer/Winter	200+
Snyder, Terry	Elk	Forage	Winter	100
Story, Al	Deer	Fence	All year	75-100
	Elk	Fence	Fall	0-50
Sutherlin, Tabor	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Winter	30+
Thompson, Randall	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	25+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter	100
Williams, Keith	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer/Fall	30+
Wilson, Donald	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer/Fall	30+

Conflict description:

- Deer and elk eat down hay meadows in early summer and fall before livestock are moved on.
- Deer and elk using forage ahead of cattle as it greens up in spring and summer.
- Deer stay in farm area all year causing fence and forage damage.
- Elk remove forage in fall/winter from hay fields. Some elk remain in zone during early summer removing forage form irrigated hay fields.
- Elk movement causes damage to fences.



Problem assessment:

- Farming areas are located in primary winter range, and offer better food than native range.
- There is a shortage of quality winter range on neighboring public lands that is dominated by pinion/juniper woodlands. Quality and quantity is declining, and the arrangement of feeding and cover areas is poor.
- It is difficult to safely hunt animals causing problems.
- The presence of noxious weeds.
- Roller chopping projects on BLM may influence winter range quantity and quality.
- Changing land use (more private land development) in big game winter range.
- Recent large-scale wildfire will significantly influence winter range capacity and animal distribution.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

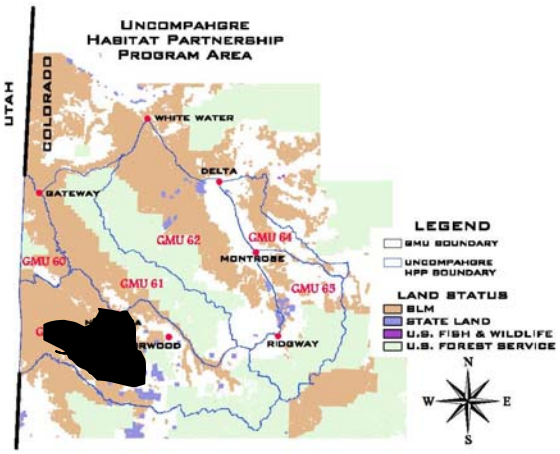
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution management or special hunts to reduce yearlong elk numbers.
- Habitat improvement projects on public lands to encourage big game use, ie. Burn Canyon, Mailbox Park
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical winter habitat for the future.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.

ZONE 10 - Dry Creek Basin

Anderson, Wayne	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	150-200
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	150-200
Barrett Brothers	Deer	Fence/Forage	Winter	100+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200+
Bollen, Jim	Deer	Fence/Forage	Winter	500+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter	500+
Davis, Roy	Deer	Fence/Forage	Winter/Fall/Spring	100+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter/Fall/Spring	200+
Bray Ranches	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	1000+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200+
Snyder, Raymond	Deer	Fence/Forage	Winter/Fall/Spring	1000+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200+

Conflict description:

- Fall, winter, and spring deer and elk use on hay fields, pastures, and rangeland forage, extremely heavy in winter and spring.
- Deer and elk damage to harvested hay crops.
- Deer and elk damage to fences.
- At higher elevations elk using forage ahead of cattle as it greens up in spring and summer.



Problem assessment:

- Farming areas are located in primary winter range, and offer better food than native range.
- This area is a major wintering area for deer and elk.
- The presence of noxious weeds.
- Significant sagebrush mortality.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

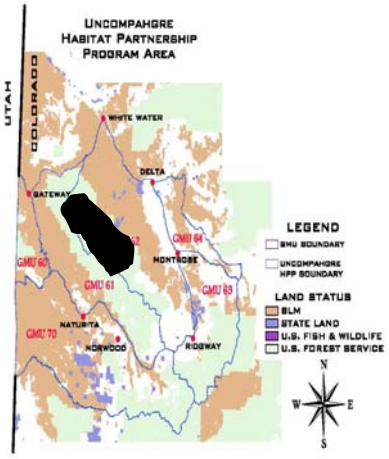
- Participate in the Dry Creek Basin coordinated resource management planning effort.
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution mgmt or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter range.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical winter habitat for the future.
- Encourage non-grazing landowners to work with livestock operators to create disturbances throughout the ungrazed areas and reset vegetative succession to produce more succulent spring and fall elk forage.
- Encourage special hunts for shotguns, archery, and handguns.

ZONE 11 - Mesa Creek/Tabeguache

Burbridge, Ward	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter/Spring	100+
Enstrom, Herb	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter/Spring	100+
Garvey, Stan	Deer	Fence/Forage	Winter	
	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter	Varies
Hendricks, John	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter/Spring	200+
Morgan, Frank	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter/Spring	100+
Naslund, Dean	Elk	Fence/Forage	Fall/Winter/Spring	159-200
	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	100+
Nylund, Robert	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter/Spring	200+
Richards and Richards	Elk	Fence/Forage	Winter/Spring/Summer	100+/30
Weimer Ranches	Deer	Forage	Winter/Spring	100+
	Elk	Forage	Spring/Fall	200+

Conflict description:

- Elk using spring and summer pasture and rangeland forage ahead of cattle as it greens up.
- Fence damage by deer and elk during winter and spring.
- Fall, winter, and spring elk use on hay fields and pastures.
- Destruction of harvested hay crops by deer and elk.



Problem assessment:

- Farming areas are located in primary winter range, and offer better food than native range.
- There is a shortage of winter range around farming area, its quality and quality is declining, and the arrangement of feeding and cover areas is poor.
- The presence of noxious weeds.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution management or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter range.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical winter habitat for the future.
- Encourage non-grazing landowners to work with livestock operators to create disturbances throughout the ungrazed areas and reset vegetative succession to produce more succulent spring and fall elk forage.

ZONE 12 - Paradox Valley

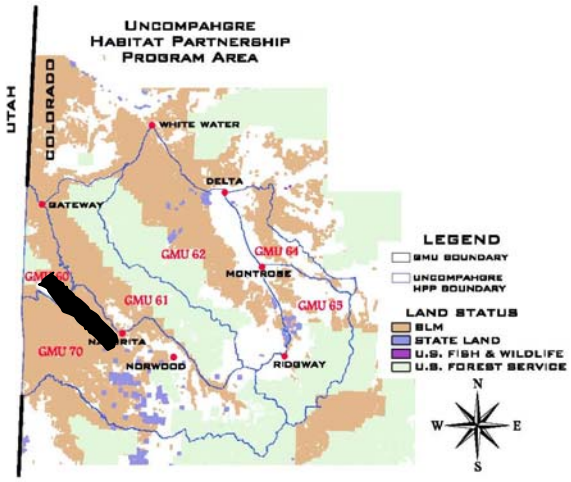
Wayne Button	Deer	Forage	All year	80
Joe Dickey	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	80
Clinton Oliver	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	60
Dale Phippeney	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	60
Redd Ranches	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	80
Ted Swain	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	20
Jerry Vanness	Deer	Forage	All year	80

Conflict description:

- Elk live year around in the agricultural part of Paradox Valley and feed on corn, barley, alfalfa and wheat.
- Elk do damage to growing crops.

Problem assessment:

- Farming areas are located in the Paradox valley where there is water, good feed in the evenings and good cover in the pinion/junipers around the edges of the valley during the day. The elk also take refuge along the river in the thick tamarisk.
- Large presence of noxious weeds.



Conflict solution/management strategy:

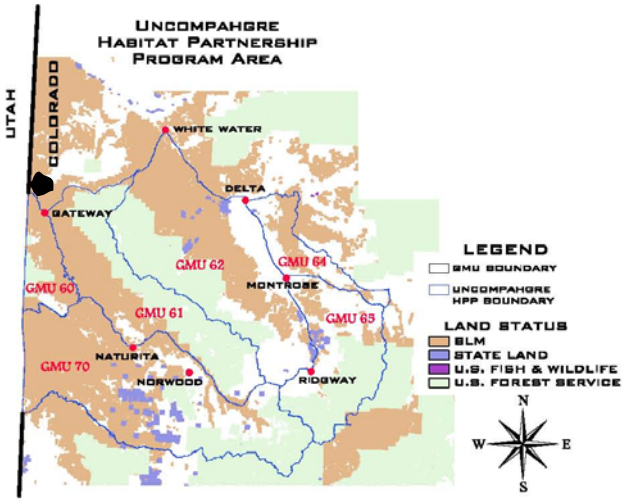
- Distribution management or special hunt to reduce resident herd and promote better distribution out of the valley.
- Work with landowners on other elk hazing ideas and practices.
- Add a new hunt (Private Lands Only) to Paradox Valley with season starting in September.

ZONE 13 - Sinbad Valley

Campbell, Greg	Deer	Forage	Fall/Winter/Spring	100+
Raddon Brothers	Deer	Forage	Fall/Spring	100
Ames	Deer	Forage	Fall/Spring	100

Conflict description:

- Fall, winter, and spring deer use on hay and wheat fields, pastures, and rangeland forage.
- Destruction of harvested crops by deer and elk.
- Deer and elk fence damage associated with above described use.



Problem assessment:

- Farming areas are located in primary winter range, and offer better food than native range.
- The presence of noxious weeds.
- There is a shortage of winter habitat around farming area, its quality is declining, and the arrangement of feeding and cover areas is poor.
- Poor livestock management on public and private lands, better grazing management that is followed.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

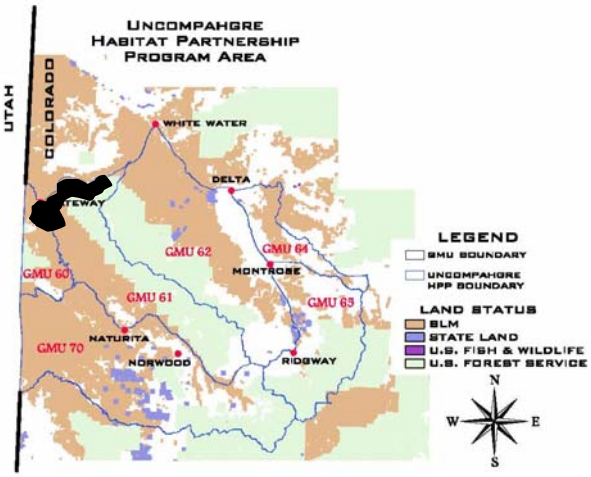
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter range.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.

ZONE 14 - Unaweep Canyon / Gateway

Beeman Casto	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	70
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	70
Jack Casto	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer/Fall	50
John Hendricks	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	100
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	100
Oscar Massey	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	40
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	40
Robert Massey	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	50
James McCurter	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	200
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200

Conflict description:

- Deer use on hay fields in spring after cattle, causing hay crop to be late and smaller in size, and during fall before cattle.
- Elk use on hay fields, pastures, and rangeland forage.
- Destruction of harvested hay crops by deer and elk.



Problem assessment:

- Farming areas are located in primary winter range, and offer better food than native range.
- There is a shortage of winter habitat around farming area, its quality is declining, and the arrangement of feeding and cover areas is poor.
- The presence of noxious weeds.
- First vegetative growth and green up occur in Unaweep canyon floor where all the private land occurs.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

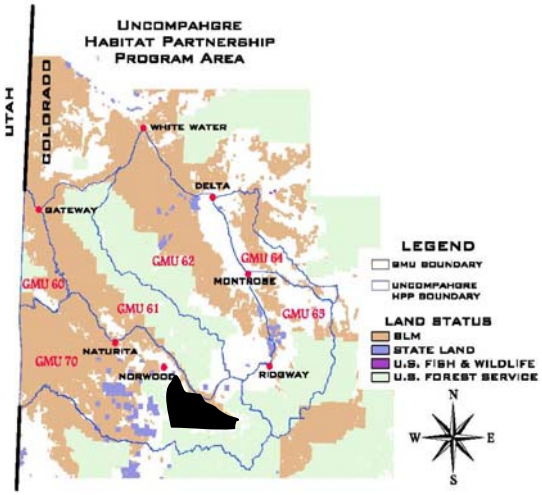
- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Hay crop fertilization and farm ground seeding projects.
- Distribution mgmt or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private/public lands to improve the amount/quality of winter range and transition ranges to hold elk later in fall and earlier in spring.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.

ZONE 15 - Beaver/Wilson Mesas

Hughes, Howard	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	100+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200+
Skalla, Dean	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	100+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200+
Swyhart, Dick	Deer	Fence/Forage	All year	100+
	Elk	Fence/Forage	All year	200+
Wolf Land and Cattle	Elk	Fence/Forage	Spring/Summer	200+
Zadra Ranch	Elk	Forage	Spring/Summer	100+

Conflict description:

- Damage to fences by elk all year, by deer fall and spring.
- Elk using forage ahead of cattle as it greens up in spring and summer.



Problem assessment:

- Hunter access is limited on private lands making it difficult to harvest problem animals.
- Development is occurring, reducing the amount of winter range available and causing greater pressure by deer and elk on the remaining native area and hay fields and meadows.
- Fences are damaged as elk and deer use the area.
- The presence of noxious weeds.

Conflict solution/management strategy:

- Fence repair and construction, including stackyards.
- Distribution management or special hunts to hold elk numbers down and improve their distribution.
- Habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to improve the amount and quality of winter habitat.
- Landowner education on how to minimize affects to wildlife habitat.
- Improve livestock management practices.
- Encourage the use of conservation easements to secure critical winter habitat for the future.
- Encourage additional hunter access on private lands.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MONITORING PROTOCOL

Monitoring habitat treatments in the Uncompahgre 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 Uncompahgre 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 may allow local HPP committees to carry specific project dollars over from year to year if the project is ongoing or the funds have been committed.

The use of rollover funds will only be utilized in rare instances and with the approval of the Statewide HPP Coordinator and Statewide HPP Council.

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.

The Uncompahgre 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 five-year period has been broken down as follows:

UHPP ESTIMATED BASE BUDGET ALLOCATION:

Habitat Manipulation	60 %
Fencing	20 %
Game Damage	5 %
Information & Education	5 %
Conservation Easements/NEPA Related Activities	0 %
Research/Monitoring	5 %
Administration & Monitoring	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.

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.