

1. Does your agency give landowners big game permits or vouchers that they can use or sell to compensate landowners or offset crop damage? If so, are the permits for antlerless animals, bucks/bulls, or both? Please explain the details of these permits or vouchers?

(Yes) <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/Regulations/Ch02.pdf>

1. Special Game Damage Seasons for Big Game Ungulates:

W2, Article XII, #271(B): *The Director has the authority to establish special hunting seasons for big game ungulates, between August 15 and February 28, when necessary to control damage to property for the taking of antlerless or female animals, unless the Director determines that taking antlered animals is necessary in order to alleviate damage.*

Game damage hunts are limited to a maximum of 50 licenses per species per Game Management Unit or 30% of the antlerles, either sex, or doe licenses issued for the Data Analysis Unt (whichever is greater).

2. Special Game Damage Licenses for Bear and Mountain Lion:

W2, Article XII, #271(C): *The Director has the authority to establish special hunting licenses for mountain lion and bear, which allow for take in excess of the otherwise applicable limited license numbers or quotas, when necessary to control damage to private property.*

AWMs are authorized to issue these bear and mountain lion licenses to address specific animals determined after an investigation to be causing damage to private property.

3. Excessive damage to property - permit to take wildlife:

C.R.S. 33-3-106 (1): *Where wildlife is causing excessive damage to property, as determined by the division after consultation with the property owner, the division is authorized to issue a permit to the property owner, a designee, or to other person selected by the division to kill a specified number of the species of wildlife causing excessive damage.*

Any wildlife killed shall remain the property of the state and shall be field dressed promptly and such killing shall be reported to the division within 48 hours, except that killing of bear or mountain lion shall be reported within 5 days.

2. Are landowners allowed to remove big game animals depredating on private lands in an effort to protect their agricultural resources? If so, under what circumstances?

(Yes) **C.R.S. 33-3-106 (1):** *Where wildlife is causing excessive damage to property, as determined by the division after consultation with the property owner, the division is authorized to issue a permit to the property owner, a designee, or to other person selected by the division to kill a specified number of the species of wildlife causing excessive damage.*

Any wildlife killed shall remain the property of the state and shall be field dressed promptly and such killing shall be reported to the division within 48 hours, except that killing of bear or mountain lion shall be reported within 5 days.

C.R.S 33-3-106 (3): *Bears, mountain lions, or dogs may be killed without a permit in situations when it is necessary to prevent them from inflicting death, damage, or injury to livestock, real property, a motor vehicle, or human life.*

3. Does your agency call depredation hunts to target populations on private lands?

(No), CPW does not call these hunts “depredation hunts” but rather “game damage hunts”, which are outlined in question #1 and are used to target populations causing damage on private lands.

4. Does your agency have “private lands only” permits that are issued to the public, or a similar program that promotes hunting on private property?

(Yes) Colorado offers private land only hunting opportunities for elk, deer, pronghorn and black bear. The use of these hunts varies between data analysis unit and species.

5. What type of landowner incentive programs does your agency have that promotes wildlife and allows public hunters on private property (e.g., ranching for wildlife in CO or CWMU’s in UT - programs where landowners financially benefit from big game)?

(Yes) 33-4-103 C.R.S. “Landowner preference for hunting licenses” “LPP Program”:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/LandownerPreference.aspx>

Designed to encourage hunter access to private land by enabling landowners to apply for licenses using applications based upon land ownership and wildlife benefit.

Hunt Coordinators - <https://cpw.state.co.us/hpp>

HPP committees may use private hunt coordinators to access private property with public hunters. Coordinators relieve landowner concerns about trespass, gates, unsafe areas while assisting CPW to achieve harvest goals and reduce depredation issues.

Ranching for Wildlife - <https://cpw.state.co.us/rfw>

Requirements: Minimum of 10,000 contiguous acres of deeded land that provides suitable habitat for deer, elk, pronghorn (additional species in program include: black bear, turkey, moose and bighorn sheep).

Participating ranches are evaluated based on their commitment to habitat improvement, public hunter satisfaction on the ranch, contributions to herd management objectives, and additional criteria beneficial to the management of wildlife on the ranch and in surrounding landscapes. Based on these evaluations, ranches are tiered and a percent split between private vouchers and public (licenses) is established. Ranches receive transferable antlered vouchers for private

use/sale. Based on the number of antlered vouchers allocated to the ranch, a percentage of antlered licenses are made available to the public via draw. In addition, all female licenses are allocated to the public draw. Ranches enrolled in the program are not eligible for game damage claims.

6. Does your agency provide damage payments or fencing for big game on private lands? If so, how much per year is paid and how is it funded?

(Yes), the state is liable for certain damages caused by big game wildlife, as enumerated in:

33-3-104 C.R.S.:

1. *Damages to livestock or personal property used in the production of raw agricultural products*
2. *Damages to real or personal property caused by wildlife being moved under direct control of division personnel at the time damage occurs.*
3. *Damage to real or personal property caused by the use of damage prevention materials if use is under the control of any personnel who are under direction of division personnel at the time damage occurs.*
4. *Damage caused by "big game" wildlife to orchards, nurseries, crops under cultivation, harvested crops, lawful fences, and damages to livestock forage.*

PWC Regulations, Chapter 17:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/Regulations/Ch17.pdf>

Summary of CPW's Game Damage Program:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/GameDamage.asp>

Game Damage compensation is funded by annual appropriations from the Wildlife Cash Fund per 33-1-112. FY19 expenditures for claims totalled \$683,291, while the 5 year average total claim expenditures average \$739,400 (FY14-FY18)- Source; Annual Report FY19.

7. What mitigation measures does your agency employ to reduce big game damage (e.g., provide temporary fencing, hazing animals, agency removals of big game)?

(Yes) CPW provides “**temporary**” and “**permanent**” prevention materials to eligible landowners.

Temporary materials means “materials of adequate substance that are utilized to protect private property for a period of time agreed upon by the landowner and the division” and include: transferable wooden elk panels, apiary protection fencing or pyros.

Every landowner shall be eligible to receive sufficient and appropriate temporary game damage prevention materials. (C.R.S. 33-3-103.5)

Permanent materials means “materials of adequate substance that are erected to protect private property for the expected normal life of the materials” and include: stackyard, orchard and nursery fencing materials.

The normal life of the materials shall be specified in a written agreement between the landowner and CPW.

Detailed information on damage prevention materials can be found in:

PWC Regulations, Chapter 17, Article II: Damage Prevention Materials

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/Regulations/Ch17.pdf>

AND, **33-3-103.5 C.R.S: Game damage prevention materials**

Game Damage Licenses may be issued for antlerless ungulates, bear and mountain lion, as described in question #1 and authorized in PWC Regulation W2, Article XII, #271(B) & (C)

“**Kill Permits**” Issued to prevent excessive damage to property, as described in question #1 and #2 and authorized by C.R.S. 33-3-106 (1)

8. Does your agency have an urban deer program? If so, what does that entail?

No, Colorado does not have an urban deer program, but does offer some hunting opportunities around urban areas to target harvest in these areas.

9. What other programs does your agency have in place to promote tolerance of big game on private lands?

(Yes) Habitat Partnership Program - <https://cpw.state.co.us/hpp>

HPP was started to address big game conflicts on private lands. Private landowners are critical to Colorado’s big game populations but past efforts of damage payments weren’t adequately addressing the wildlife or the landowner problems. Also, political pressures were mounting for the agency to do something or else it was likely that big game herds would have been significantly reduced to address landowner issues, perhaps by as much as 50%.

HPP is organized around local committees made up of livestock growers, federal land managers, sportspersons and CPW staff. Committees operate with a Commission approved plan and solicit local projects, which require matching contributions to be approved.. Each

committee has a budget and the authority to implement projects on both private and public lands to minimize deer, elk, pronghorn and moose conflicts. Typical projects include vegetation manipulation, water developments, weed control, fencing, etc.

HPP enjoys strong agency, landowner and political support and has greatly improved landowner relations and dialogue between CPW, landowners and others.

For more information refer to:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/HabitatPartnershipProgram.aspx>

10. Does your agency respond to all wildlife conflict calls or is it limited to specific species or guilds of species?

(Yes) We will respond to anyone that calls into our offices with a wildlife conflict to provide information, offer strategies to reduce or minimize conflicts, etc. Most of the time a phone call will empower the caller to resolve their own issue, but depending on the issue we may also recommend that they contact a commercial nuisance wildlife company to help them deal with their issues.

In person response is much less common and varies based on the specifics involved. We will always prioritize an in-person response for issues that involve human health and safety.

11. What program(s) in your agency provide response to negative wildlife interaction (wildlife conflict) complaints and depredation. If the responsibility is split or shared between programs (i.e. Wildlife Program/Enforcement Program) or contracted or referred to another agency or private party, please describe how the work is assigned or shared. (e.g. by species, commercial agriculture versus residential, public safety versus property damage, etc.)

(Yes) In Colorado, CPW is mandated by statute to provide game damage prevention materials to eligible landowners and to compensate eligible persons for big game wildlife damages enumerated in C.R.S. 33-3-104.

CPW is not liable for damage caused by migratory birds, coyotes, bobcats, beavers, or domestic dogs. Wildlife Services sometimes handles these conflicts, depending on the situation or location. USFWS may also issue "resident canada goose nest and egg depredation permits in areas with excessive damage.

Badger, muskrat, beaver, red fox, bobcat, skunk, coyote, racoon, prairie dog, pocket gopher, rock squirrel, Richardson's and thirteen-lined ground squirrel, jackrabbit, marmot, porcupine, black-billed magpie, common crow, rattlesnakes, common pigeons, and starling may be taken year-round as necessary to protect private property.

CPW also issues 30 day trapping permits, authorized per 33-6-207 C.R.S. for landowners' protection of crops and livestock.

We have specific policies that guide our decision making when responding to incidents involving bears and mountain lions. These incidences are classified into categories based on the severity and/or risk to the public (e.g., nuisance bear, depredating bear, dangerous bear).

In some Areas, CPW personnel work closely with Wildlife Services personnel to verify livestock losses and remove predators that are causing damage to livestock. Large livestock producers and CPW also contract with Wildlife Services to achieve this.

Producers and landowners may remove animals caught in the act of depredation or may receive “kill permits” to remove animals causing chronic losses in a particular area.

Depredating Animal Regulations:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Depredating%20Animal%20Regulations%20version%205.pdf>

12. Please describe what funding sources support wildlife conflict response and depredation payments if applicable in your agency. Please include specifics regarding where the funding comes from for expenses such as staff and equipment, commercial crop loss compensation, livestock predation compensation, non-lethal deterrent programs, outreach and education, or any other services or materials provided in response to wildlife conflict issues.

In general, Colorado’s Wildlife Cash fund is used to fund staff time and programs pertaining to conflict. Colorado’s Game Damage program is funded by annual appropriations from the Wildlife Cash Fund per C.R.S. 33-1-112 (i.e., sportspeople’s dollars). FY19 expenditures for claims totalled \$683,291, while the 5 year average claim expenditures average \$739,400 (FY14-FY18)- Source; Annual Report FY19.

Game Damage Annual

Report: <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/LandWater/PrivateLandPrograms/GameDamage/Annual-Report.pdf>

Colorado’s Habitat Partnership Program is funded by an annual transfer of 5% of deer, elk, pronghorn and moose license revenue from the Wildlife Cash Fund per C.R.S 33-1-112. In recent years, this has been \$2.5-\$2.8 million dollars per year.

Approved HPP projects typically require a match from the applicant which can be an actual cash match, in kind cash match or labor. We usually leverage 2-5 times the HPP contribution from this requirement.