

# Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Wildlife Conflict Management and Game Damage 2024

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# Game Damage Program

Created in 1931

Damage payments and prevention

FY22 \$548,000



# Game Damage Statutes and Regulations

Colorado Revised Statute  
(C.R.S.): 33-3-102

“The State of Colorado is  
liable for certain damages  
caused by wildlife...”

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Commission Regulation:  
Chapter 17



# Game Damage Statutes and Regulations

In order to submit a game damage claim a landowner **must** do the following:

- Have legitimate damage to an agricultural product caused by big game
- Reasonably allow hunting access on the property where the damage occurred
- Not charge more than \$499.99 per hunter, per season
- Notify CPW within 10 days of the discovery of the damage
- Complete Proof of Loss forms and turn them into CPW staff within 90 days of the end of damage



# Game Damage-Harvested Crops

Usually caused by ungulates

Formulas used depending on damage



# Game Damage-Growing Crops

Both ungulates and bears

Formulas used to determine percentage of crop lost



# Game Damage-Orchards

Ungulates and bears

Damage type determines the damage claim



# Game Damage-Mitigation

## Permanent mitigation options

- Permanent stackyards
- Permanent exclusionary fencing
- Electric fencing for apiaries





# Game Damage-Mitigation

## Temporary mitigation options

- Pyrotechnics
- Rubber buckshot
- Damage panels
- CPW staff intervention
- Take permits vs. Damage hunts



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# Wildlife Conflict Management

Agricultural infrastructure

Non-eligible species

30 day trapping permits



# Wildlife Conflict Management: Expanding human interface



# Wildlife Conflict Management

Wildlife interaction with human environment

- Trash
- Salt
- Safe havens



LIVE LIFE  
OUTSIDE



# Importance of Relationships

Majority of wildlife winter range is on private agricultural land

- Inevitably there will be conflict, it is better to have an argument with someone you know rather than a stranger you are just meeting
- Honest and clearly communicated assessments are critical
- Relationships allow you to be proactive rather than reactive

# Importance of Relationships

Human development needs to take wildlife into mind

- Urbanization of historic winter range
- Human footprint on the landscape (ex. trails)
- Large continuous tracks of land are needed to facilitate wildlife movement
  - Fragmentation is an increasing issue faced by wildlife managers today

# Thank You

# Questions?