

Wildlife Habitat Protection



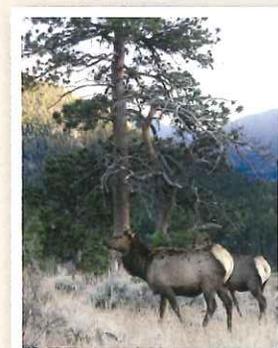
Protecting Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands

Privately-owned ranches and farms provide important habitat for fish and wildlife. However, development pressure and escalating bills often force landowners to subdivide and sell their land. Through the use of voluntary conservation easements, the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program helps landowners around the state protect their land for future generations. This helps keep the land in agricultural production while also providing habitat for fish and wildlife and access for hunting and fishing.



The Habitat Stamp: Small Stamp, Big Difference

With very few exceptions, everyone aged 18–64 who applies for or buys a hunting or fishing license in Colorado is required to buy a Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp. Purchases of the Habitat Stamp provide the core funds for the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program. The agency has leveraged a variety of other funds around this core—including Great Outdoors Colorado and federal State Wildlife Grants—to extend the program's reach. These combined funds have been focused on protecting fish and wildlife habitat and opportunities for hunting and fishing.



Habitat for Fish and Wildlife

Habitat loss is one of the leading issues impacting the survival of fish and wildlife. The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program protects a wide range of important lands and waters, including winter range and migration corridors for big game, rivers that provide habitat for fish,

and riparian and wetland areas important to a variety of species. The program also protects habitat for a variety of imperiled species, helping to prevent them from becoming endangered.

Access for Hunting and Angling

In addition to protecting habitat, the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program provides an option for landowners to open their land up to hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing while keeping it in agricultural production. In many parts of Colorado, protecting private lands can also help open up access to much larger areas of adjacent public land for hunting and fishing.



Working Together and Leveraging Funds



Colorado Parks and Wildlife works with a variety of partner organizations to identify and implement habitat protection projects. While the program is open to direct application from

landowners who want to protect their land, projects are also brought forward by land trusts, local governments, and statewide conservation organizations. These partner organizations bring significant additional funding to the table to help protect important lands and waters.

Habitat Stamp At Work

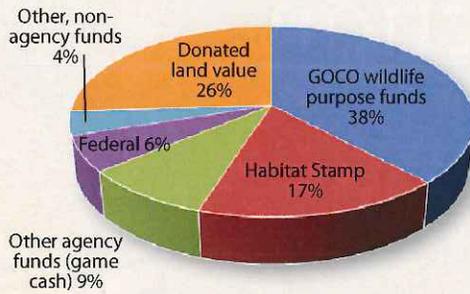
Since the Habitat Stamp's legislative inception in 2006, the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program has:

- Conserved 173,864 acres (more than 271 square miles) of key wildlife habitat
- Secured 78,693 acres of new public access
- Opened 25.85 miles of new fishing access
- Protected more than 100,397 acres of big game winter range/migration corridors
- Saved critical habitat for sage-grouse and other imperiled species



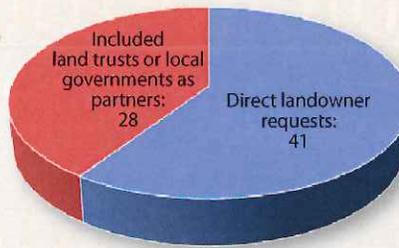
Funding Sources

Through December 2012



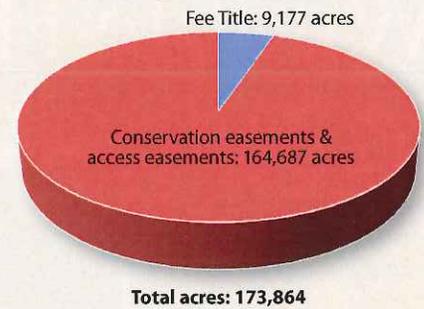
Source of Completed Projects

Through December 2012



Acres Protected by Type of Project

Through December 2012



Jumping Cow Ranch, Elbert County—12,613 acres protected with some public access, April 2010 (TNC photo)

Partners in Conservation

A wide variety of organizations and agencies have helped to implement the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program. These partners have identified conservation projects, worked with landowners, and provided matching funds to leverage Habitat Stamp dollars and extend the program's benefits for landowners, wildlife, and hunters. Some of these partners have included:

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- The Nature Conservancy
- Colorado Open Lands
- Park County
- The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Mesa Land Trust
- Chaffee County
- Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust
- Yampa Valley Land Trust
- Trout Unlimited
- Routt County
- The Trust for Public Land
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Pitkin County
- Ducks Unlimited
- Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas
- Montezuma Land Conservancy