

HABITAT CONSERVATION



Colorado Parks and
Wildlife

Ken Morgan Private Lands
Program Manager

CPW's Habitat Conservation Efforts Encompass a Range of Programs

TWO CATEGORIES
INCLUDE:

- ▣ Acquisition of Habitat
- ▣ Stewardship and Development of Habitat



Wildlife Branch– Terrestrial Section

Habitat Unit

- ▣ Wetlands Coordinator
- ▣ Private Lands Program Manager
- ▣ Plains Grassland Coordinator
- ▣ Sagebrush Steppe/Mountain Shrub
- ▣ Pinyon Juniper/Desert Shrub
- ▣ Colorado Natural Areas Program
- ▣ Stewardship Program



Wetland and Riparian Conservation

- Habitats comprise 2% of land area, used by 75% of wildlife species
- Program inception 1997 (\$4.4 million GOCO Legacy Grant)
- Goals: waterfowl/public hunting; “at-risk” species conservation
- Guided by Strategic Plan emphasizing Adaptive Management
- Recognized through awards by USFWS and USFS



Accomplishments

- ▣ >280,000 acres cumulative
- ▣ Fiscal Year 2010-11:
 - 49 projects
 - 9,854 acres
 - \$1.2 million CPW funds
 - \$1.4 million partner funds



WETLANDS PROGRAM PARTNERS



Statewide



North Park and
Lower South Platte

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (southeast)

Wetland Ecological Services Team (San Luis Valley)

CO Youth Corps Association (Lower Colorado River
Valley)



WETLAND/RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Typically 30-60 active projects

~50% on State Wildlife Areas

Typical Annual Funding ~\$1.2 million:

- \$700,000 GOCO
- \$350,000 game cash/capital construction
- \$150,000 waterfowl stamps

Next RFA (Request for Applications) in early 2012



Wetland Project Example: Andrick Ponds State Wildlife Area (lower South Platte River)

Objective: Create wetlands for wildlife habitat and water augmentation/recharge

Species benefitting: waterfowl, other waterbirds, frogs

Partner: V3 Company of Colorado, Inc.

Riparian Project Example: Chico Creek

(tributary to lower Arkansas River)



Objective: Restore native woody vegetation (cottonwood, willow, upland shrubs) to a prairie spring site by removing exotic tamarisk and Russian olive and revegetating

Species benefitting: cavity-nesting birds, neotropical migrant songbirds

Partners: Chico Basin Ranch, State Land Board, NRCS, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Private Lands Programs

- ▣ NRCS Programs
 - Grassland Reserve, Wetlands Reserve, Farm and Ranchland Protection

- ▣ Other Farm Bill Programs
 - WHIP, EQIP, CSP, TSP
 - Habitat improvement thru private lands biologists and Wildlife Subcommittee

Project Examples

FOREST MANAGEMENT



GRAZING MANAGEMENT



GUNNISON SAGE GROUSE BROOD REARING HABITAT



CRP MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT



CONSERVATION OF NATIVE FISH

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN INITIATIVE



Wetland Improvement on Private Lands

NORTHERN LEOPARD
FROG -

THRU WRP PROGRAMS











CRP enhancement and voluntary public access funding – thru the Farm Bill



Private Lands Wildlife Biologist Program– Farm Bill

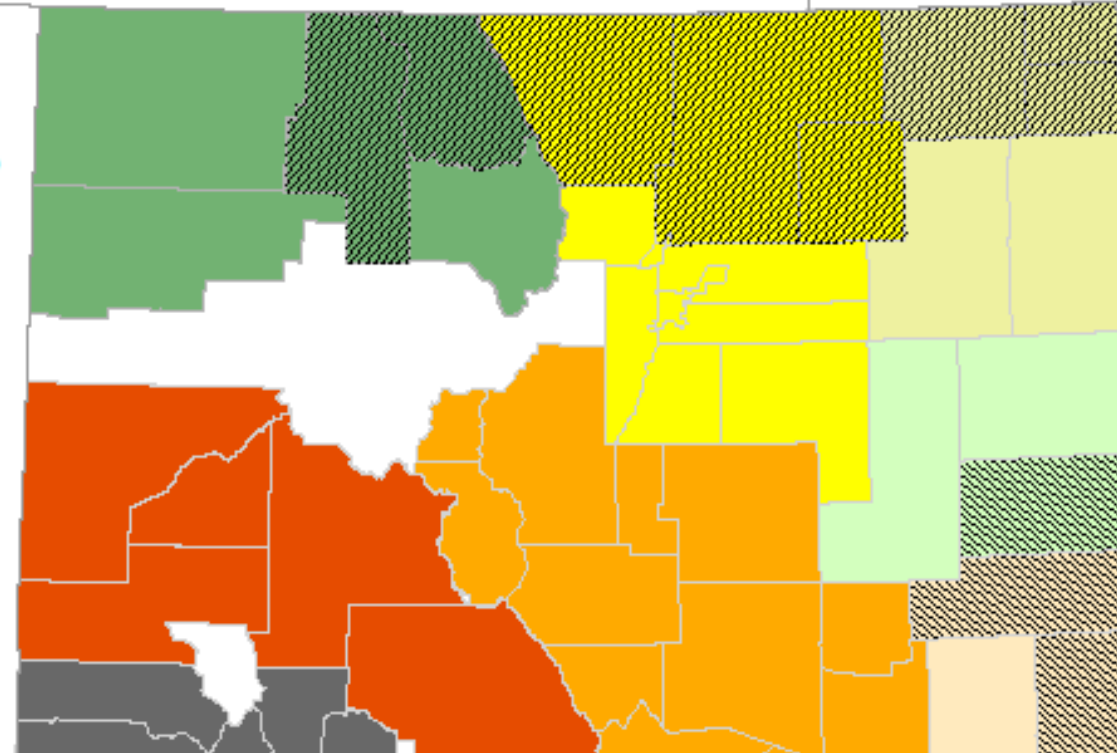
Colorado Private Lands Partner Biologists

RMBO Positions

	Kelly Corman (Lamar)
	Colin Lee (Greeley)
	Noah Bates (Kremmling—shared area)
	Brandon Miller (Steamboat Springs—shared area)
	Martin Moses (Durango)
	Christina Santana (Gunnison)
	Nathan Schmitz (Col. Springs)
	Noe Marymor (Greeley)

PF Positions

	Don Kahl (Lamar)
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Continue to identify opportunities to partner with organizations and landowners



Plains Grassland

- Farm Bill programs
 - ▣ Pheasant Habitat Improvement Program (PHIP)
- Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat Improvement Program (LPCHIP)
- Walk-in Access program
- Lesser prairie chicken lek grazing exclosures
- Habitat treatment test plots, CPW, NRCS, private landowners

Farm Bill Programs on Grasslands

- ▣ NRCS
- ▣ FSA
- ▣ Partnerships with NGOs



Pheasant and Lesser Prairie Chicken Incentive Programs (PHIP and LPCHIP)



Mid-Contract Management



Consultation
on grass
mixes
suitable for
wildlife



Disking and Inter-seeding = Great Brood Habitat



Forest Restoration and Fuel Treatment

- Hydroax and tree shear projects to restore forest health and reduce the fire risk



Pinyon Juniper Removal



Little Snake SWA Riparian Burn



Decker --

BEFORE HYDROAXING

AFTER HYDROAXING



Aquatic Habitat Restoration/Enhancement

CONSERVATION OF HABITAT
FOR ALL NATIVE FISH SPECIES

CONSERVATION OF HABITAT
FOR NATIVE AMPHIBIANS



Questions?

