

Colorado Parks and Wildlife



FY20 GAME DAMAGE ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared for the Colorado General Assembly pursuant to C.R.S. 33-3-111

*Prepared by
Beverly Herdt; CPW Montrose
Andy Holland; CPW Fort Collins
Luke Hoffman; CPW Montrose*

Contents

Part 1 - Game Damage Program

Section A: Game Damage Compensation

Section B: Game Damage Prevention Materials

Section C: Permits Issued to Take Wildlife Pursuant to Section 33-3-106

Part 2 – Status of Big Game Populations

A. Background

B. Summary of Elk, Deer, and Pronghorn Hunters, Harvest and Population Size

C. Elk Herds (DAUs) Over Objective

D. Elk Herds (DAUs) Below Objective

E. Deer Herds (DAUs) Over Objective

F. Deer Herds (DAUs) Below Objective

G. Pronghorn Herds (DAUs) Over Objective

H. Pronghorn Herds (DAUs) Below Objective

GAME DAMAGE PROGRAM

Section A: Game Damage Compensation

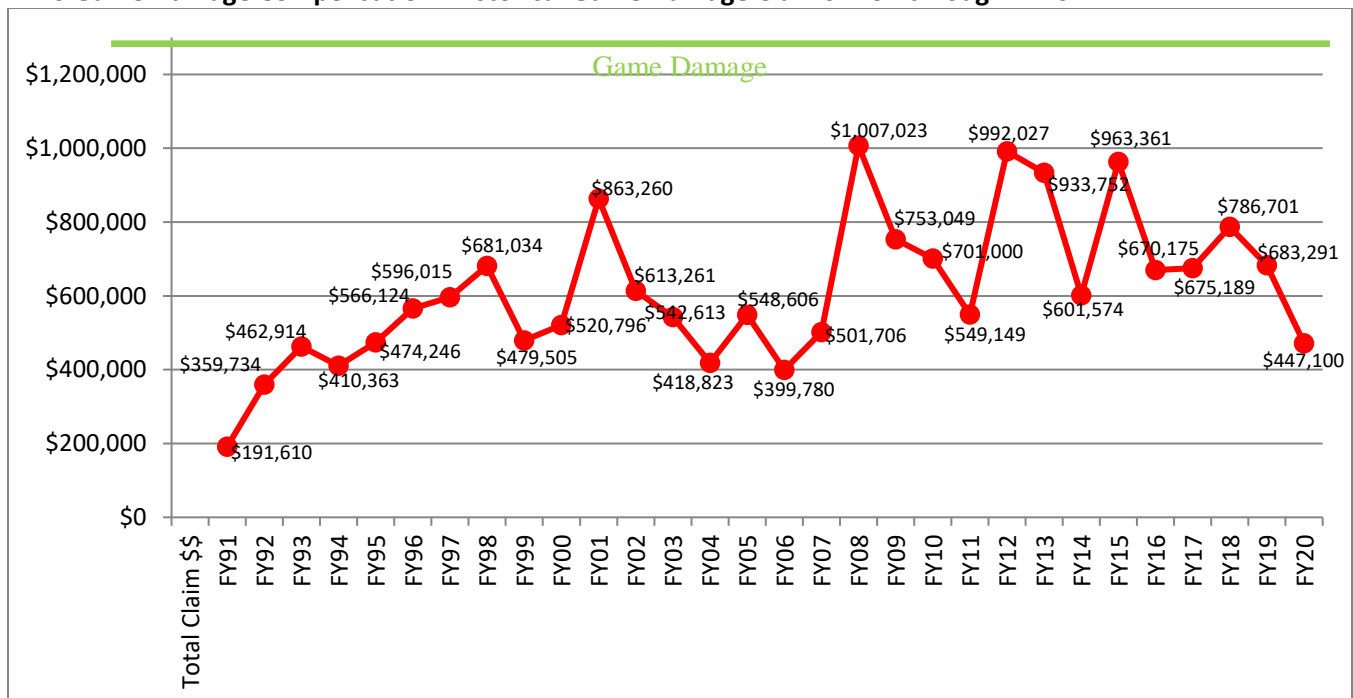
Annual Allocation for Claims & Prevention	\$1,282,500
FY20 Expenditures for Claims	\$ 447,100

Colorado's game damage program is authorized in Article 3 of Title 33 Colorado Revised Statutes. Since its original inception over 90 years ago, the program's goal of mitigating and compensating agricultural producers for damage suffered by big game wildlife has changed very little. Over the years, the program has been refined most notably through the integration of the prevention materials program. The Game Damage program is funded entirely by license revenues through an annual appropriation from the Game Cash fund. The FY20 line item appropriation was \$1,282,500. This appropriation funds the two key program components; damage compensation and damage prevention materials. Resources are utilized among each program component based on annual needs.

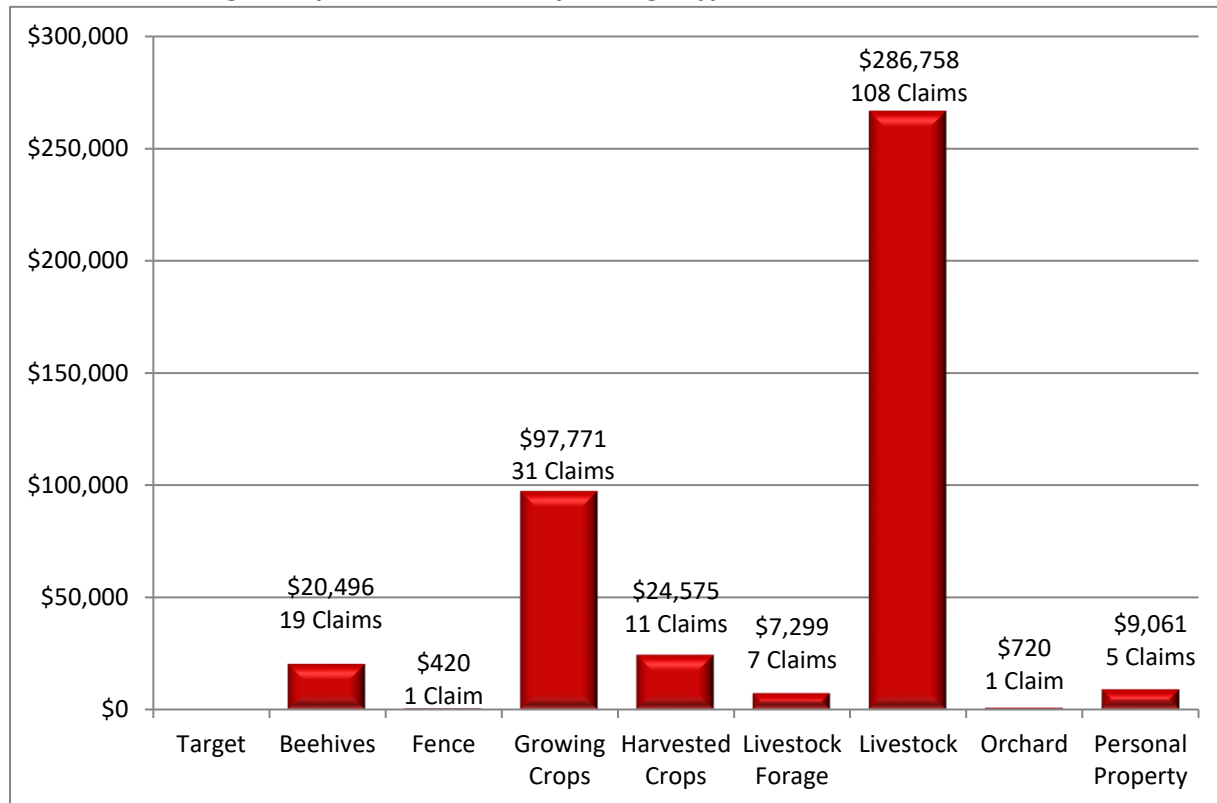
FY20 Game Damage Compensation - Overview

The compensation component of the game damage program provides reimbursement for qualifying agricultural claimants suffering eligible losses caused by big game wildlife. In FY20, compensation costs amounted to \$447,100 in settlement of 183 claims. These costs are ~\$308,644 below the past 5-year average of \$755,744 (FY15-FY19), a 40.84% decrease. This decrease is largely attributed to fewer and lower claims for bear depredation on livestock and a 33% reduction in growing crop claim compensation compared with last year. The total number of claims paid (n=183) in FY20 was below the past 5-year average of 236. CPW denied two claims total in FY20 (1.1% of all claims filed).

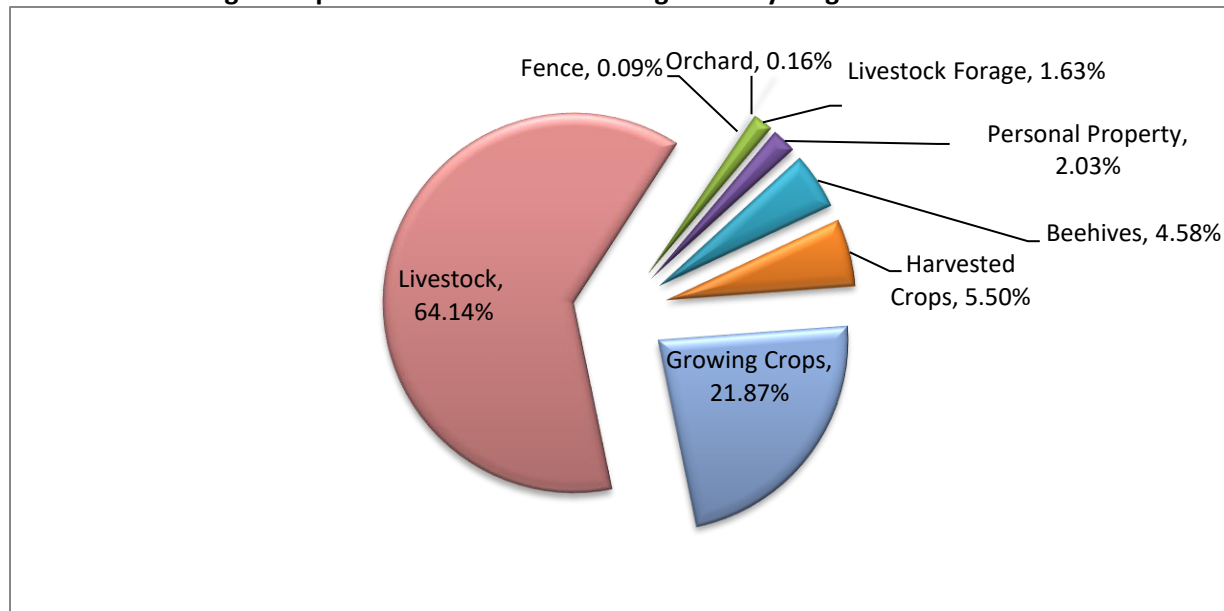
FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Historical Game Damage Claims FY91 through FY20



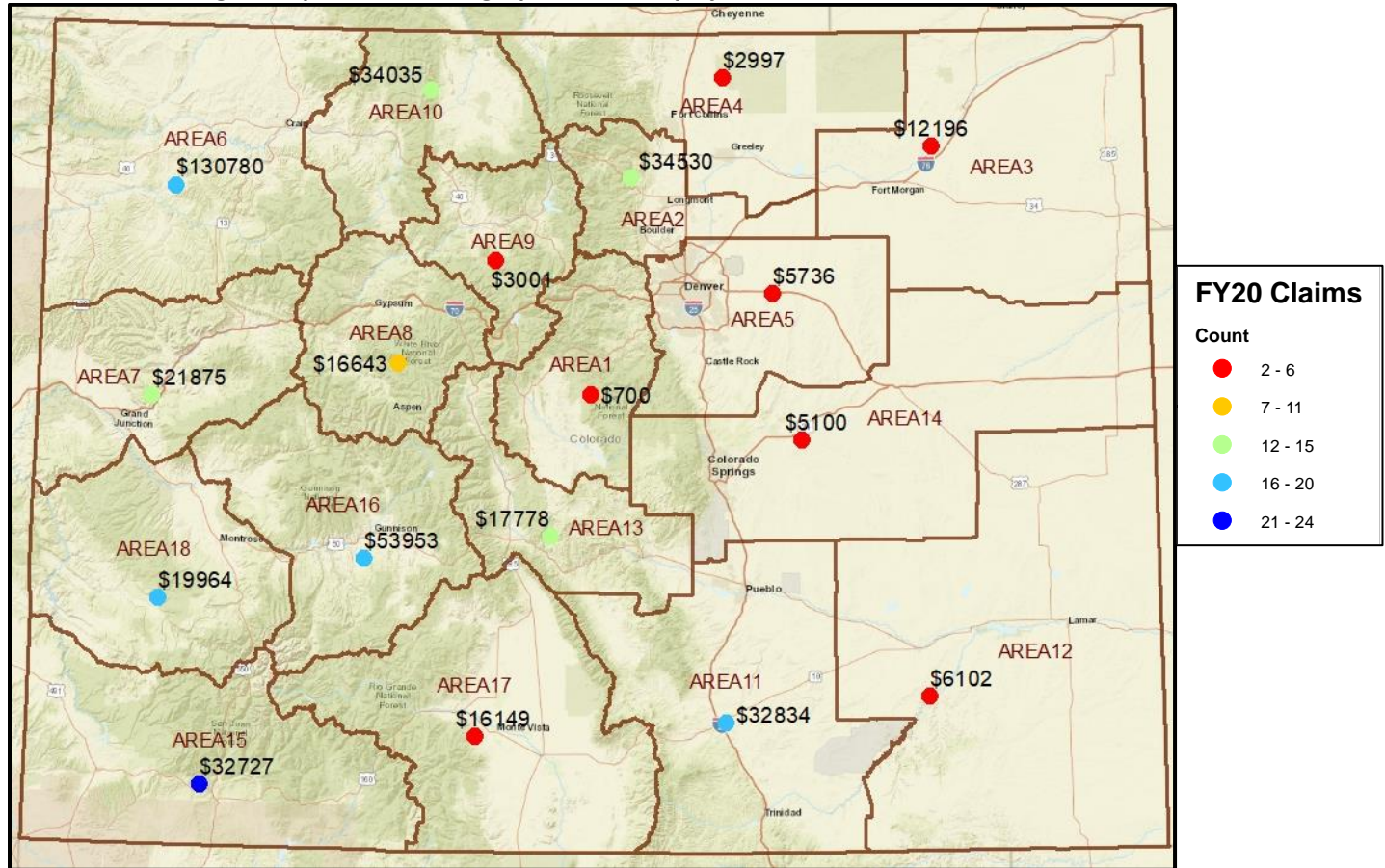
FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Claims by Damage Type



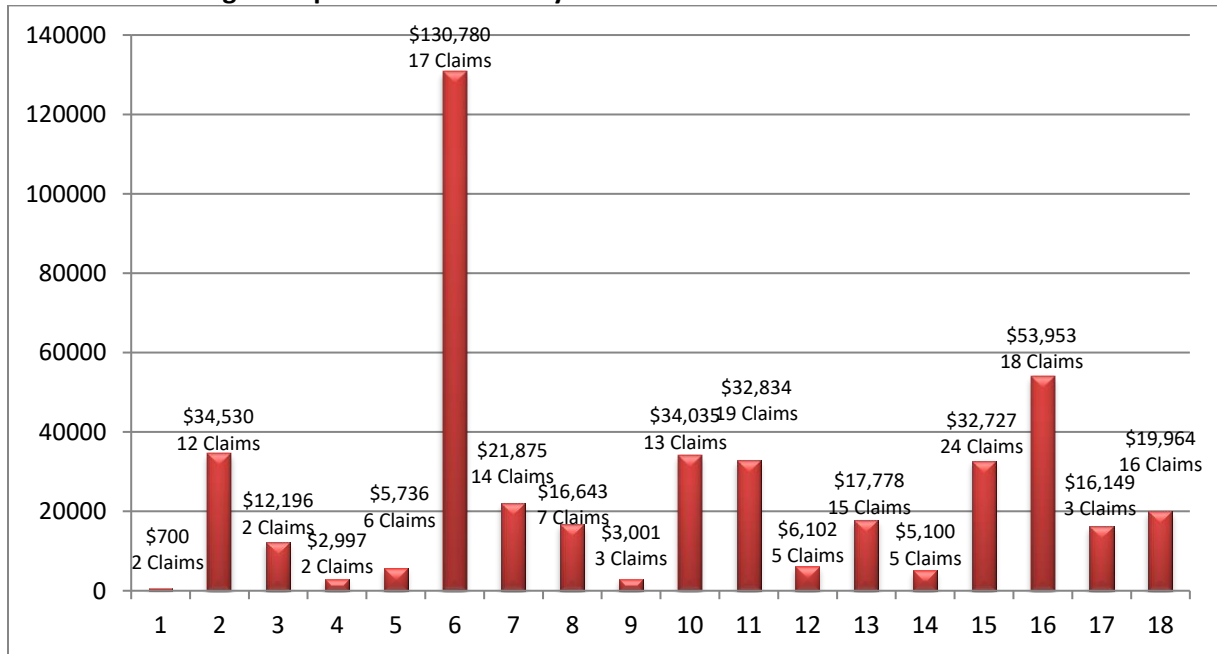
FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Percent of Damage Cost by Target



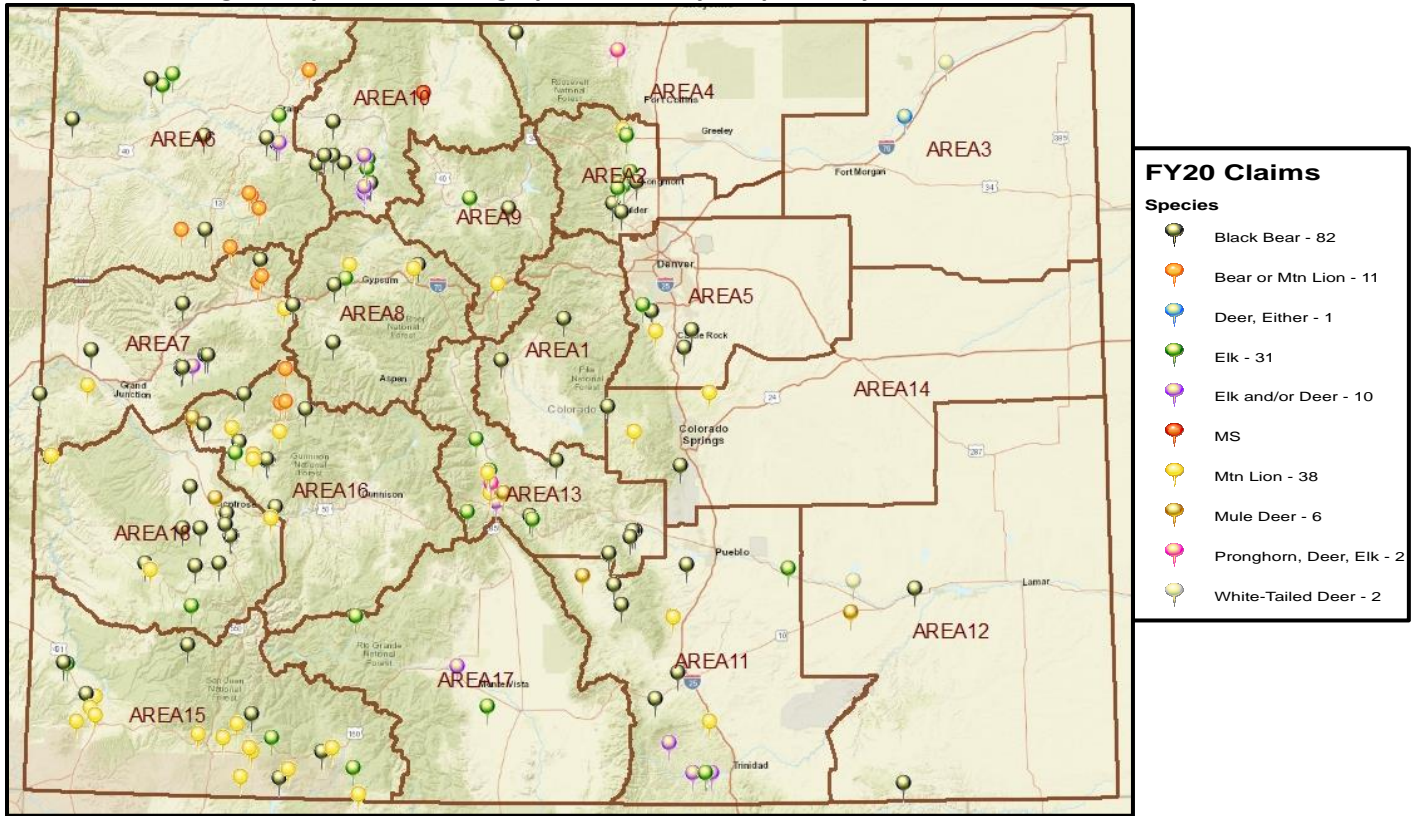
FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Geographic Summary by Area



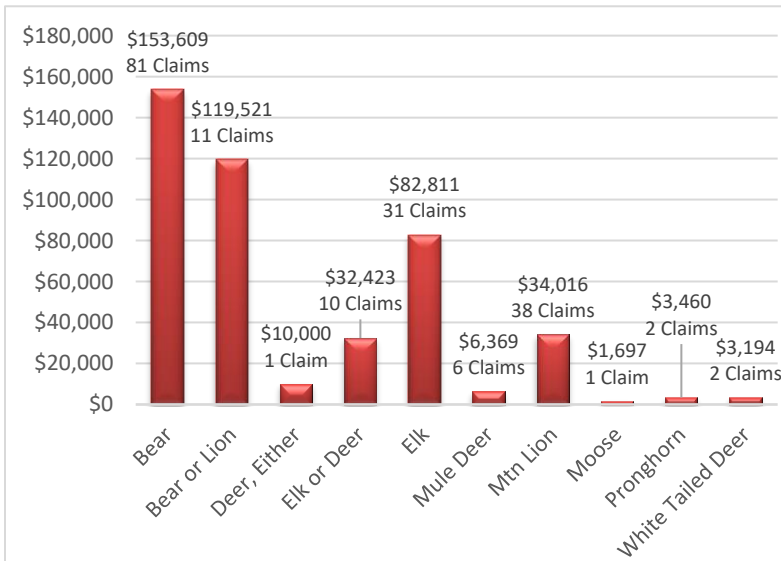
FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Claims by Area



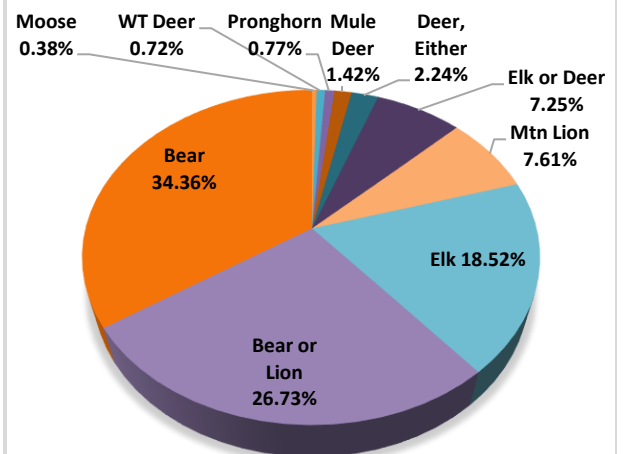
FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Geographic Summary of Species by Area



FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Claims by Species



Percent of Damage Cost by Species



FY20 Game Damage Compensation: Summary by Species/Target

Species/Target	Claim Paid	Count	No. Claims	Species/Target	Claim Paid	Count	No. Claims
Black Bear:				Elk and or Deer:			
APIARIES				GROWING CROPS			
Beehives	\$20,496	100	19	Hay	\$31,668		9
FENCE				Oats	\$755		1
Fence	\$420		1	Moose:			
GROWING CROPS				HARVESTED CROPS			
Corn	\$1,131		1	Hay	\$1,697		1
LIVESTOCK				Mountain Lion:			
Cattle	\$13,755	14	12	LIVESTOCK			
Elk	\$4,700	3	1	Cattle	\$1,819	2	1
Fallow Deer	\$7,500	4	2	Goats	\$8,707	43	17
Goats	\$4,770	24	8	Horse	\$9,622	8	3
Llama	\$500	1	1	Llamas	\$800	1	1
Mule Deer	\$5,000	1	1	Sheep	\$13,068	36	16
Pigs	\$2,350	3	2	Mule Deer:			
Poultry	\$2,190	172	10	GROWING CROPS			
Sheep	\$87,456	443	21	Corn	\$1,960		2
PERSONAL PROPERTY				Hay	\$3,248		2
Irrigation Equipment	\$3,341	3	2	HARVESTED CROPS			
Bear and or Mountain Lion:				Christmas Trees	\$441		1
LIVESTOCK				ORCHARD			
Sheep	\$119,521	525	11	Apple Trees	\$720	9	1
Deer, Either:				Pronghorn Antelope, Deer and or Elk:			
GROWING CROPS				GROWING CROPS			
Corn	\$10,000		1	Hay	\$790		1
Elk:				LIVESTOCK FORAGE			
GROWING CROPS				Hay Meadow	\$2,670		1
Corn	\$12,958		1	White-Tailed Deer:			
Hay	\$27,265		9	GROWING CROPS			
Pumpkins	\$226		1	Corn	\$2,196		1
Vegetables	\$4,576		1	Watermelons	\$998		1
HARVESTED CROPS							
Hay	\$22,437		9				
LIVESTOCK FORAGE							
Hay Meadow	\$4,629		6				
LIVESTOCK							
Horse	\$5,000		1				
PERSONAL PROPERTY							
Irrigation Equipment	\$5,720		3				

FY20 Game Damage Compensation – Denials

Area	Damage Type	Claim Request	Basis for Denial
2	Ornamental Trees by Elk	\$5,600.00	Regulation #1700(G) – Did not qualify for Orchard claim; did not meet criteria Regulation #1740.A – No preponderance of evidence damage caused by big game wildlife (Elk)
15	Corn by Elk	\$5,696.69	Regulation #1760(A)(2) – No proof by a preponderance of evidence that big game did damage to his crops #1731(A) – Proof of Loss forms shall be submitted within 90 days of the last notification

Section B: Game Damage Prevention Materials

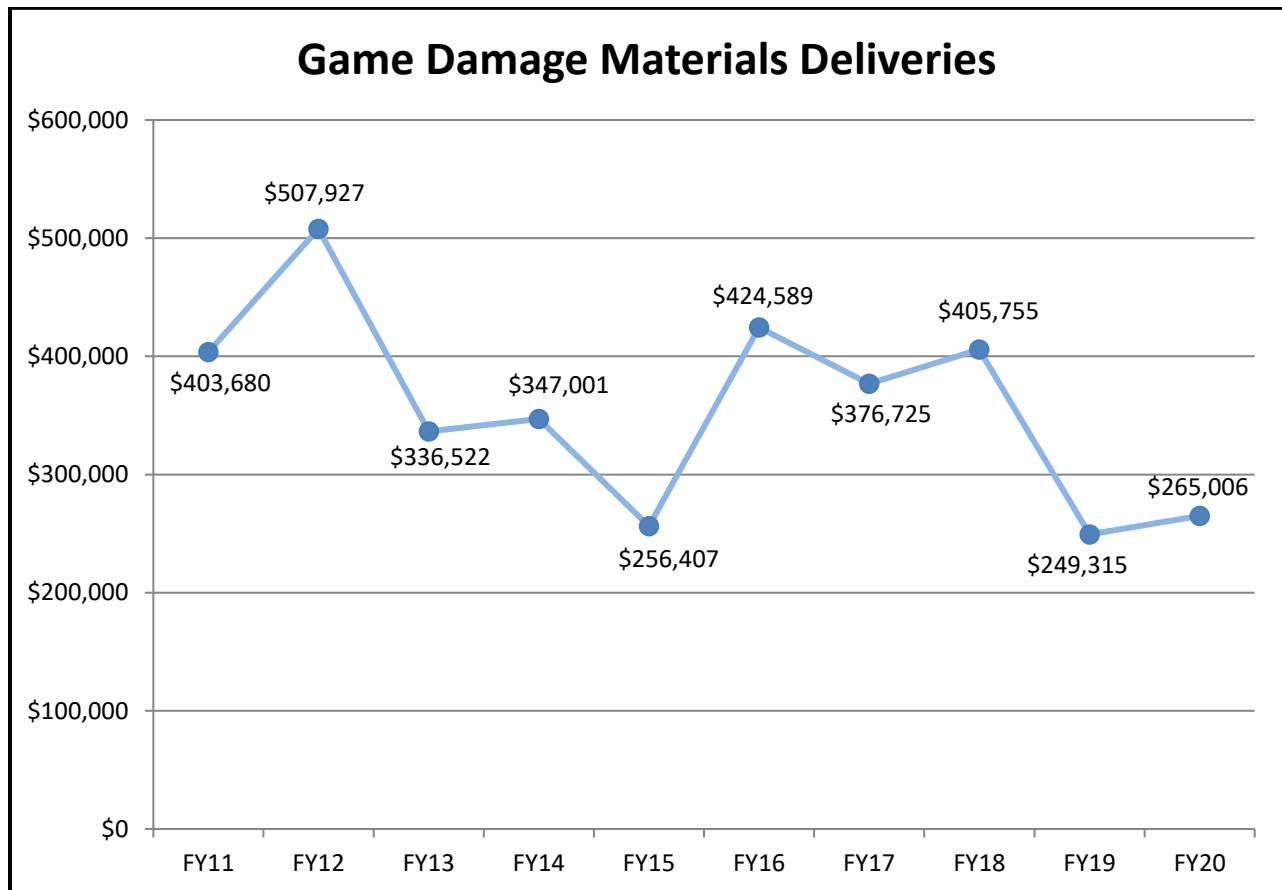
Annual Allocation for Claims & Prevention	\$1,282,500
FY20 Expenditures for Permanent Prevention Materials	\$ 206,346
(Includes Apiary Fencing Materials)	
FY20 Expenditures for All Other Temporary Prevention Materials	\$ 58,660
TOTAL FY20 Expenditures for Permanent and Temporary Prevention Materials	\$ 265,006

The damage prevention materials program became an integrated component of the Game Damage Program over 20 years ago. The prevention materials component provides both permanent and temporary materials to landowners to eliminate or minimize damage caused by big game wildlife. Apiary fencing, orchard fencing and stackyard fencing comprise the majority of the requests for materials.

FY20 Game Damage Materials – Overview

Total expenditures for damage prevention materials (\$265,006) in FY20 decreased by 22.25% compared to the past 5-year average (\$340,825), and the number of deliveries (n=164) decreased by 29.73% from the past 5-year average (n=233.4). Stackyard requests (n=34) were below the past 5-year average by 25.55% (n=45.6). Apiary fence requests (n=105) were below the past 5-year average by 17.1% (n=126.6).

FY20 Game Damage Materials – Multi-Year Overview



FY20 Game Damage Materials – Summary

The Game Damage Program filled 164 requests for Prevention Materials throughout the state.

Over 96 miles of permanent fencing were delivered. Game Damage also delivered 55 apiary fences, while an additional 50 requests were filled from caches located at Area offices. Deliveries required traveling more than **51,104** miles. The game damage technicians worked several efficiencies into route planning, netting a savings of over 10,000 miles, along with a reduced number of deliveries.

Game Damage delivered pyrotechnics and 8 x 8 wood panels to Area offices in order to provide landowners with temporary prevention materials more efficiently.

The Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) requested materials for cooperative habitat or fencing projects with landowners. Game Damage delivered **\$52,147** worth of materials for **16 HPP** projects, which was reimbursed to the Game Damage Program.

Area offices requested nuisance bear deterrent materials. Game Damage provided the deterrents, worth **\$19,813** in FY20, which was reimbursed by the Areas. Fencing materials were also provided to State Wildlife Areas at a cost of **\$37,665** for 5 projects, which was reimbursed to Game Damage.

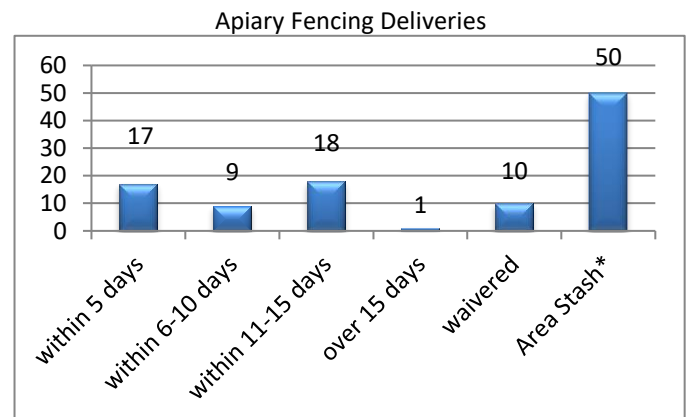
Facility Type	Number of Deliveries	FY20
Apiary	105	\$46,970
Commercial Garden	8	\$28,323
Nursery	4	\$22,835
Orchard	10	\$43,364
Stackyard	34	\$55,981
Vineyard	2	\$4,839
Unique Fencing	1	\$4,034
PERMANENT MATERIALS & APIARY FENCES Total	164 deliveries	\$206,346
TEMPORARY MATERIALS for distribution by area offices		
Pyrotechnics	18	\$14,133
Wood Elk Panels (1328 Panels)	10	\$44,527
		\$265,006

DELIVERY TIME SPANS

Effective July 1, 2009: Senate Bill 09-024 required delivery within 15 business days for temporary materials or 45 days for permanent materials from initial request.

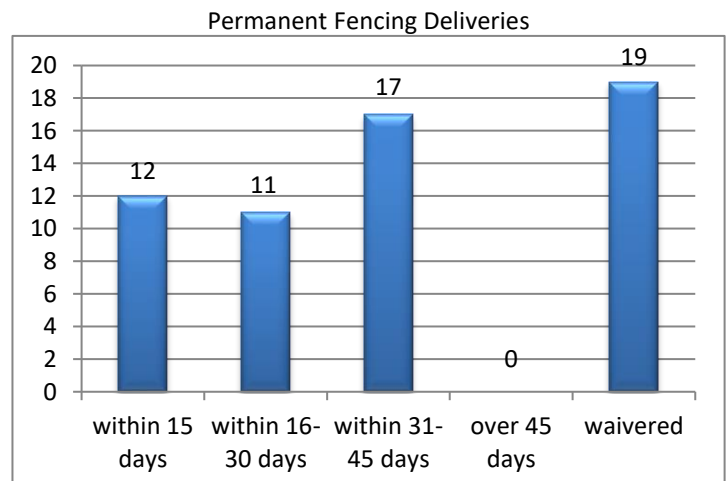
Apiary fencing requests, which are considered temporary fencing, were delivered on time, as mandated in statute (n=55). Only 1 apiary fence was delivered late; the material was given to the DWM to deliver, at his request. The remaining 10 deliveries were requested to be delivered later than 15 business days.

* - Deliveries from Apiary caches were filled on the same day as the landowner requests.

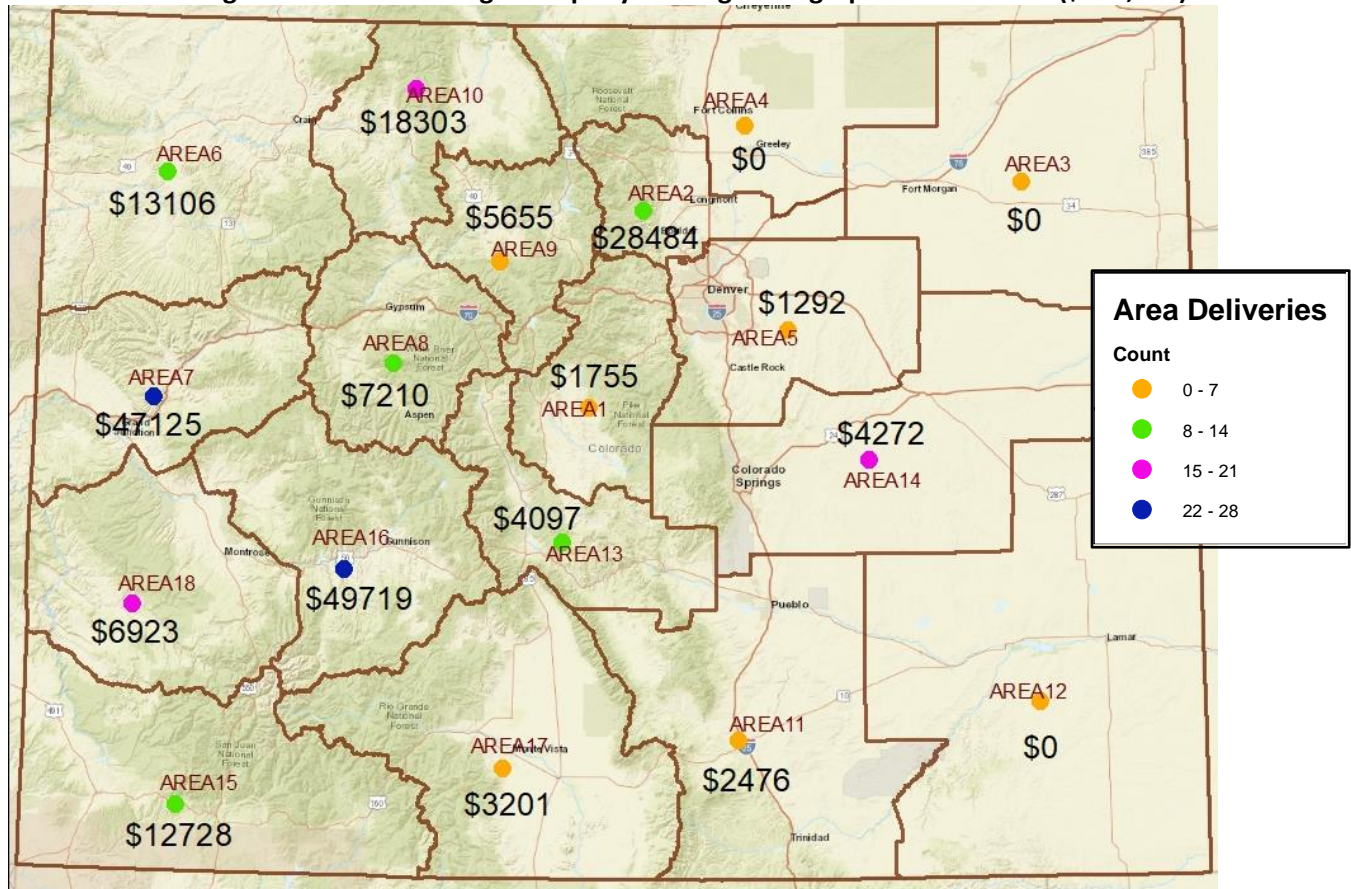


All deliveries for permanent game damage materials (n=59) were made within the 45 day limit or the deadline date was waived by the landowner.

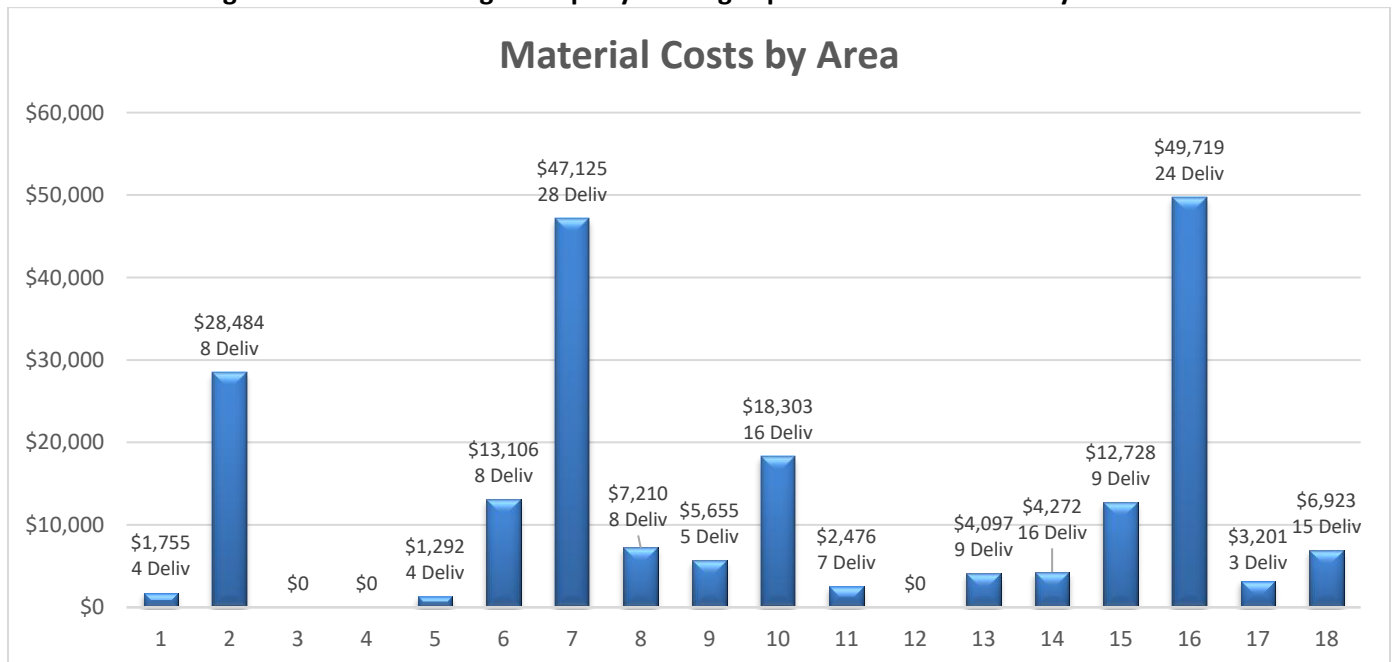
- Zero (0) requests were delivered after the 45 day deadline.
- Nineteen (19) landowners requested the delivery date past 45 days via waiver.



FY20 Game Damage Permanent Fencing and Apiary Fencing – Geographic Distribution (\$206,346)



FY20 Game Damage Permanent Fencing and Apiary Fencing Expenditure – Deliveries by Area



Section C: Permits Issued to Take Wildlife Pursuant to Section 33-3-106:

CPW Areas issued 13 permits during the Fiscal Year to kill specified numbers of wildlife causing excessive damage to property by request of the property owner. Thirty-seven animals were harvested, including 20 elk, 11 mule deer and 6 whitetail deer. There were no permits reported as being denied by CPW.

Area	No. Permits	Number and species
5	2	0 elk
6	3	9 elk
10	2	2 elk
14	2	2 mule deer, 6 whitetail deer
15	1	3 elk
17	1	5 elk
18	2	9 mule deer, 1 elk
TOTAL	13	20 elk, 11 mule deer, 6 whitetail deer