

Colorado Parks & Wildlife HB 1298 Internal Definitions for Maps

RESTRICTED SURFACE OCCUPANCY AREA shall mean the following:

- **Rocky mountain bighorn sheep production areas;**

Definition in 1298: That part of the overall range of bighorn sheep occupied by pregnant females during a specific period of spring. This period is May 1 to June 30 for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Data are from yearly Species Activity Mapping (SAM) efforts with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) district wildlife managers (DWM) and biologists.

- **Desert bighorn sheep production areas;**

Definition in 1298: That part of the overall range of bighorn sheep occupied by pregnant females during a specific period of spring. This period is February 28 to May 1 for desert bighorn sheep. Data are from SAM maps.

- **Areas within 0.6 miles of any greater sage-grouse, Gunnison sage-grouse, and lesser prairie chicken leks (strutting and booming grounds);**

Definition in 1298: All active leks. Lek sites typically, although not always, are located on open ridges, grass/sage brush knolls or slight rises in topography where vegetation is sparse. Data are from CPW grouse databases.

Greater sage-grouse active leks are defined for large populations as an area where at least two male grouse have displayed in two of the past five years. For small populations an active lek is an area where one or more sage-grouse have been observed in the past five years. These definitions of active leks are from the Greater Sage-grouse Colorado Statewide Plan.

Gunnison sage-grouse active leks in the Gunnison population are defined as an area where at least two male grouse have been observed displaying at two separate times during a single breeding season in the past five years. For the satellite populations of grouse the definition of an active lek is one where a male grouse has been observed displaying once during the past five years. These definitions of active leks are from the Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan.

Lesser prairie-chicken active leks are defined as an area where male grouse have displayed once in the past ten years.

- **Areas within 0.4 miles of any Columbian sharp-tailed grouse or plains sharp-tailed grouse leks (strutting grounds);**

Definition in 1298: All active leks. Lek sites typically, although not always, are located on open ridges, grass/sage brush knolls or slight rises in topography where vegetation is sparse. Data are from CPW grouse databases.

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse active leks are defined as an area where male grouse have displayed in two separate years in the past five years.

Plains sharp-tailed grouse active leks are defined as an area where male grouse have displayed once in the past five years.

- **Areas within 1/4 mile of active Bald Eagle nest sites, Golden Eagle nest sites, or Osprey nest sites;**

Definition in 1298: The location around a known active nest where Eagles or Osprey have nested in the last five years. Data are from CPW raptor database.

- **Areas within 1/2 mile of active Ferruginous Hawk nest sites, Northern Goshawk nest sites, Peregrine Falcon nest sites, or Prairie Falcon nest sites;**

Definition in 1298: The location around a known active nest where Hawk or Falcon have nested in the last five years. Data are from CPW raptor database.

- **Areas located within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of any stream segment or lake located within designated Cutthroat Trout habitat;**

Definition in 1298: These waters are designated in the Colorado Parks & Wildlife regulations in Appendix C: Stocking Restricted Cutthroat Waters of chapter 0 – General provisions. All streams and lakes delineated on the USGS National Hydrography database for the given appendix C watershed are in the designation.

- **Areas within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of a stream or lake designated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as “Gold Medal.”**

Definition in 1298: Gold medal waters are designated by the Colorado Parks & Wildlife commission. These are typically waters that produce a minimum trout standing stock of 60 pounds per acre or a minimum average of 12 quality trout per year. The current list of Gold medal waters (streams and lakes) is included in the yearly CPW Colorado Fishing brochure.

SENSITIVE WILDLIFE HABITAT shall mean:

- **Mule deer critical winter range (being both mule deer winter concentration areas (that part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% of the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in 5 out of 10 winters), and mule deer severe winter range (that part of the winter range where 90% of the individuals are located during the average 5 winters out of 10 from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up)) (west of Interstate 25 and excluding Las Animas County);**

Definition in 1298: As above.

Proposed alternative: Mule deer critical winter range is all mule deer winter concentration areas (that part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% of the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in 5 out of 10 winters) and only severe winter range (that part of the winter range where 90% of the individuals are located during the average 5 winters out of 10 from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up) in data analyses units (DAU's) where deer densities are > 7 deer per sq km (west of Interstate 25 and excluding Las Animas County). Data are from SAM maps and DAU plans.

- **Elk winter concentration areas (west of Interstate 25 and excluding Las Animas County);**

Definition in 1298: That part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten (west of Interstate 25 and excluding Las Animas County). Data are from SAM maps.

- **Pronghorn antelope winter concentration areas (west of Interstate 25);**

Definition in 1298: That part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten (west of Interstate 25). Data are from SAM maps.

- **Bighorn sheep winter range;**

Definition in 1298: That part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located during the average five winters out of ten from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a sites specific period of winter as defined for each DAU. Data are from SAM maps.

- **Elk production areas (being that part of the overall range occupied by the females for calving) (west of Interstate 25 and excluding Las Animas County);**

Definition in 1298: That part of the overall range of elk occupied by females from May 15 to June 15 for calving (Only known areas are mapped and this does not include all production

areas for the DAU and excludes areas east of Interstate 25 and all of Las Animas County). Data are from SAM maps.

- **Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and plains sharp-tailed grouse production areas (being an area that contains 80% of nesting and brood rearing habitat for any identified population);**

Definition in 1298: An area that includes nesting and brood rearing habitat for sharp-tailed grouse. This is mapped as a 2 km radius (1.24 mile) buffer zone around active leks. Data are from CPW grouse databases.

- **Greater sage-grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse production areas (being an area that contains 80% of nesting and brood rearing habitat for any population identified in the Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (CDOW, 2008) or the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Range-Wide Conservation Plan (May 2005), respectively);**

Definition in 1298: An area which includes all nesting and brood rearing habitat of sage-grouse. This is currently defined as a 6.4 km radius (4 mile) buffer zone around active leks. Non-habitat is clipped out of the buffers. Habitat is determined from the Colorado Vegetation Classification Project dataset. Lek data are from CPW grouse databases.

Proposed alternative: Greater sage-grouse priority habitat (being areas of high probability of use (modeled summer or winter, or breeding) within a 4 mile buffer around leks that have been active within the last 10 years within occupied range. This map is called the Colorado Greater Sage-grouse Priority Habitat Map (current version 2012). Gunnison sage-grouse production areas will be defined as a 6.4 km radius (4 mile) buffer zone around active leks.

- **Lesser prairie chicken production areas (being an area that includes 80% of nesting and brood rearing habitat);**

Definition in 1298: An area which includes all nesting and brood rearing habitat of lesser prairie-chicken. This is currently defined as a 3.5 km (2.2 mile) radius buffer zone around active leks. Data are from CPW grouse database.

Proposed alternative: Lesser prairie-chicken focal areas (being an area that includes core populations and habitat necessary for a viable population). The map comes from the Range-wide Conservation Plan (RWP) for the Lesser Prairie-chicken. The focal areas are delineated by CPW biologists and are taken from maps in the RWP.

- **Black-footed ferret release areas;**

Definition in 1298: An area in prairie dog colonies where black-footed ferrets have been released or documented since 2001. Data are provided by biologists in Area 6.

- **Bald Eagle nest sites and winter night roost sites;**

Definition in 1298: A specific location in which a pair of bald eagles have at least attempted to nest within the last five years. This includes a ½ mile buffer on the nest site. Groups of or individual trees that provide nocturnal perches for wintering bald eagles; includes a buffer zone extending ¼ mile around these sites. These trees are usually the tallest available trees in the wintering area and are primarily located in riparian habitats. Data are from SAM maps and raptor database.

- **Golden Eagle nest sites;**

Definition in 1298: The location and a buffer zone extending ½ mile around a known active nest where eagles have nested in the last five years. Data are from CPW raptor database.