Ron Stewart Preserve
Elk and Vegetation Management Update

2017/2018 Season
Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee Retreat
February 10, 2018
Therese Glowacki
Hunting

- 32 hunters participated

- 27 of 37 were successful (73%) Some hunters/two weeks

- Good Collaboration
  CPW hunt coordinator
Public Comment

Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain
Elk & Vegetation Management Plan

2017-2018 Implementation

The Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain will be open to the public Monday through Wednesday from September 13, 2017, through January 19, 2018, to allow hunting. Only bowhunting with nocked arrows will be allowed on the property during that time. The two horses on the property will be permitted on the Preserve, with a horse trailer to be allowed on the property during that time. All hunters who discuss the 2017 Rabbit Mountain Access Permit will receive a short, high-quality, two-page informational guide.

Feeding and baiting will not be allowed to reduce the grazing and browsing impacts on the native vegetation and increase open ranges.

Boulder County staff will provide regular updates on this page and to the Board of County Commissioners. The county will evaluate the wildlife management plan every year and will announce the plan for the next year before the CPW season begins in early April for the 2018-2019 hunting season.

Public Comment

- 6 in first week
  - 3 in favor, 3 opposed
  - Most RE: closure

- Less than 10 total

- 2 neighbor calls/email
  - CPW & POS responded
Violations of Closure

• 4 Tickets
• 2 on Jan. 29!
Field Trip for Natural Areas Association Conference – October 2017
Elk Counts

- September  203  (120 on Indian Mountain)
- October    102  (tall corn obstruction)
- November   255  (Rabbit)
- December   230  (private property east)
- January    246  (most on Rabbit)
• One elk made it to Allenspark and back many times. June tracking data.
Rabbit Mountain Elk Collars

Week of October 9
- 38784
- 38786
- 38787
- 38789

Week of October 16
- 38784
- 38786
- 38787
- 38789
December 2015
December 2016
Elk on Heil Valley Ranch

- Most still migrate
- Monitoring non-migrating elk
- Replacing Collars
- Less cropland in area
What’s Next

- Hunter Surveys
- Sub-Unit Harvest Numbers
- Winter elk count for comparison
- Replace collars
  - Started Feb.1
  - 8 traps
  - 7 collars for Rabbit herd
  - 3 for Heil herd
Monitoring vegetation and shrub plots to compare the core use area, peripheries and control areas. Also, monitoring restoration efforts in pine pockets.

Monitoring every other year.

Adaptively adjust monitoring as/if elk use changes. Perhaps start monitoring on Indian Mountain.
What’s Next

- Fencing Pine Pockets in April
  - Material is on site

- Hazing as necessary

- Evaluating Program for next year
  - Hunting season and numbers
  - Propose opening after hunters are successful
SARII Update

- The Initiative was officially tabled by BOCC on Oct. 25, 2017.

- The Haley property was recently put out for lease RFP.
  - Three proposals were submitted and we selected the Greg Domenico family, from Platteville, CO. as the new stewards.

- POS has held two outreach meetings with GE tenant farmers (FAIR). While these meetings were productive, no clear-cut action plan for On-Farm Research has been established to date.

- Fall Cereals Demonstration Plots.
  - Spring Plots are Pending? Lack of funding / man-power.
SARII Update (cont.)

- POS reached out to Dr. Rebecca Larson, of Western Sugar Cooperative, she suggested several potential research topics they would be willing to cooperate on. They have global expertise in eco-systems analysis a strong research backbone and great connections with FAIR tenants.

- Phase II of Carbon Sequestration with CSU is pending, but likely will not happen at any scale until 2019. Many tenants already trying compost.

- MAD Agriculture is also interested in working with GE tenants on improving Soil Health. If we can move quickly with some help from Sustainability, we may be able to pilot a Carbon Farming to scale demonstration this year... It would be geared more toward farm economics and soil health than C-sequestration per-se.
POSAC Retreat
February 10, 2018

GE Transition and Neonicotinoid Updates

• Per new Cropland Policy, the last year to plant GE Corn is 2019
  (or two more growing seasons, counting 2018).

• Per new Cropland Policy, the last year to plant GE Sugar beets is 2021
  (or four more growing seasons, counting 2018).

• Same 2021 ending is set for Neonicotinoid use.

• Actual acres of the only two permitted GE crops have fluctuated even
  before the new Cropland Policy was adopted. (see next slide for graphical summary)
  • Trends are due to market factors (variable commodity prices for corn and sugar)
  • Lesser effects may be attributed to available acres in normal rotational sequence,
    weather patterns, water supply and/or Prior Policy requirements that limited back to
    back planting of RUR crops.

• Perception is the new Policy has had little if any effect to-date on planting
  intentions.
Total Acreage of GE Corn and Sugar Beets on BCPOS Properties by Year

Variance Mostly Due to Market Factors and Rotations... **NOT** Due to Policy
## Availability of Private Property for Farmers affected by the new GE Transition Policy

*top Ten Affected Growers*  *Coded by Tenant in 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenant</th>
<th>Total Operation Acres</th>
<th>COUNTY Land Acres</th>
<th>Percent of operation on COUNTY land</th>
<th>OTHER Land Acres</th>
<th>Percent of operation on OTHER land</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tenant A</td>
<td>1262</td>
<td>1012</td>
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<td>250</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>21%</td>
<td>1426</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenant F</td>
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## POSAC Retreat
**February 10, 2018**  
**Insecticide Soil Residue Analysis 2015 - 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Clothianidin</th>
<th>p-3-DDE</th>
<th>p-3-DDT</th>
<th>Dieldrin</th>
<th>Terbufos</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Strawberry</td>
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</table>
POSAC Retreat
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• Three years (2015-2017) of multiple property pollen samples on Corn (Total of 6 samples) for Trace levels of seven (7) known Neonic insecticides and have yet to find a single detectable level of ANY Neonic Insecticide residue in Corn pollen.

• Combined we have spent ~$35,000 for soil, pollen and water samples over 3 years.

WE SIMPLY DO NOT FIND NEONIC RESIDUES!

• Do you want us to:
  1. Continue monitoring as past?
  2. Expand testing until can find something?
  3. Reduce monitoring with a more systematic (time series) approach following known applications on fewer sites?
Thank You POSAC for All You Do for Ag Research & Our Farmer Tenants