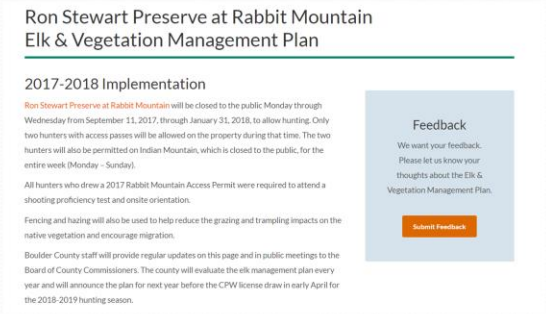
Ron Stewart Preserve Elk and Vegetation Management Update

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

Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain will be closed to the public Monday through Wednesday from September 11, 2017, through January 31, 2018, to allow hunting. Only two hunters with access passes will be allowed on the property during that time. The two hunters will also be permitted on Indian Mountain, which is closed to the public, for the entire week (Monday – Sunday).

All hunters who drew a 2017 Rabbit Mountain Access Permit were required to attend a shooting proficiency test and onsite orientation.

Fencing and hazing will also be used to help reduce the grazing and trampling impacts on the native vegetation and encourage migration.

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

Feedback

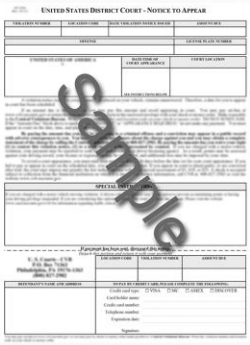
We want your feedback. Please let us know your thoughts about the Elk & Vegetation Management Plan.

Submit Feedback

- 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!



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - NOTICE TO APPEAR

VIOLATION NUMBER	LOCATION CODE	DATE VIOLATION NOTICE ISSUED	AMOUNT DUE

OFFENSE	LICENSE PLATE NUMBER

YOU MUST APPEAR IN COURT AT ADDRESS:	DATE/TIME OF COURT APPEARANCE	COURT LOCATION
	(SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW)	

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

If you must pay here you demand a trial.

U. S. Courts - CVB P.O. Box 70939 Philadelphia, PA 19176-1303 (800) 827-2982	LOCATION CODE	VIOLATION NUMBER	AMOUNT DUE
DEFENDANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS	PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:		

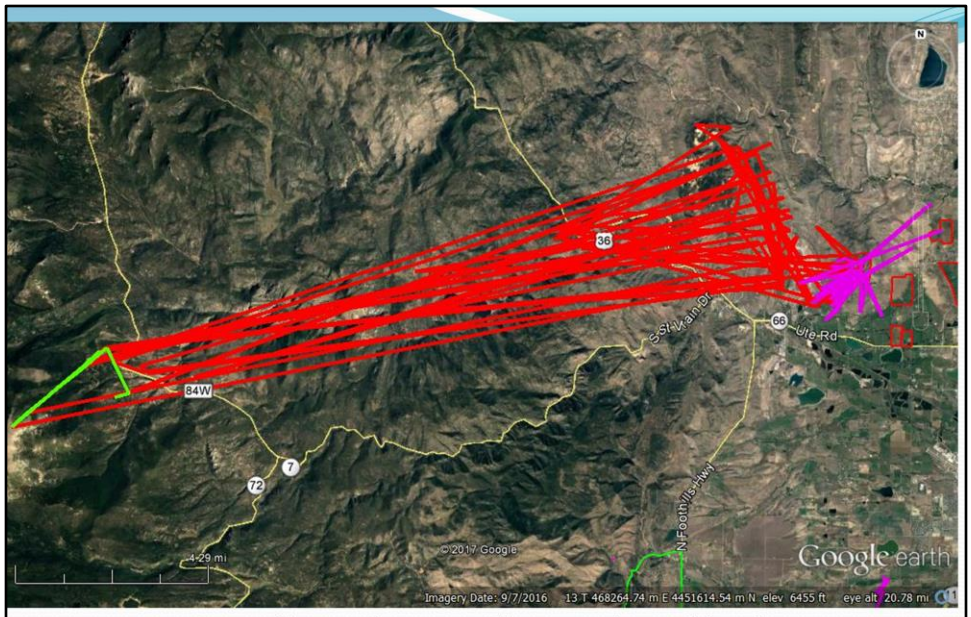
Credit card type: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER
Cardholder name:
Credit card number:
Telephone number:
Expiration date:
Signature:

Sample

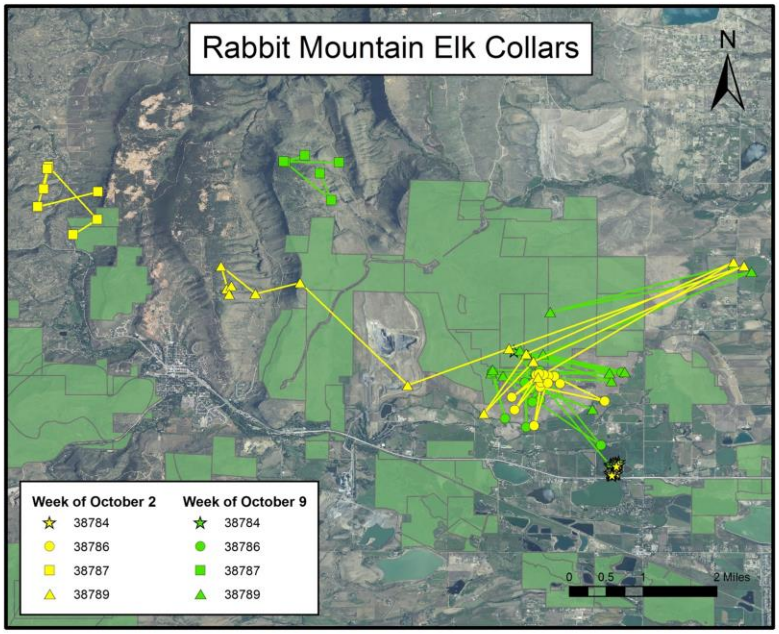
- Field Trip for Natural Areas Association Conference – October 2017

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
N
Week of October 2
38784
38786
38787
38789
Week of October 9
38784
38786
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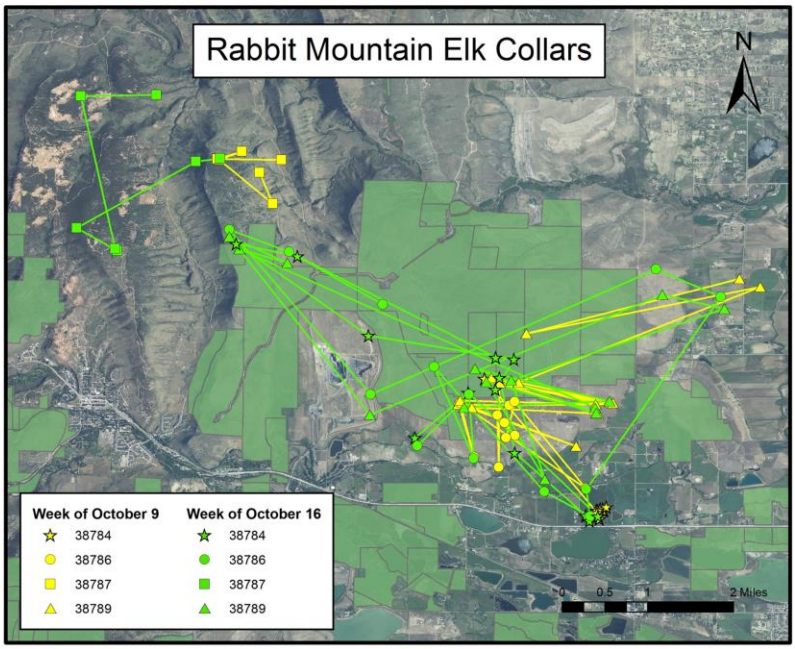
38789
0
0.5
1
2 Miles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Week of October 9
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Week of October 16
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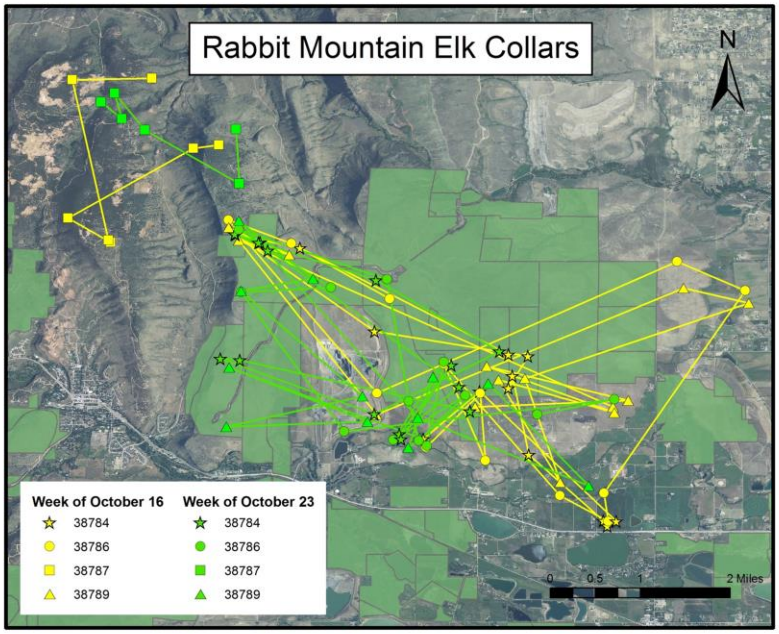
2 Miles


Rabbit Mountain Elk Collars
N
Week of October 16
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Week of October 23
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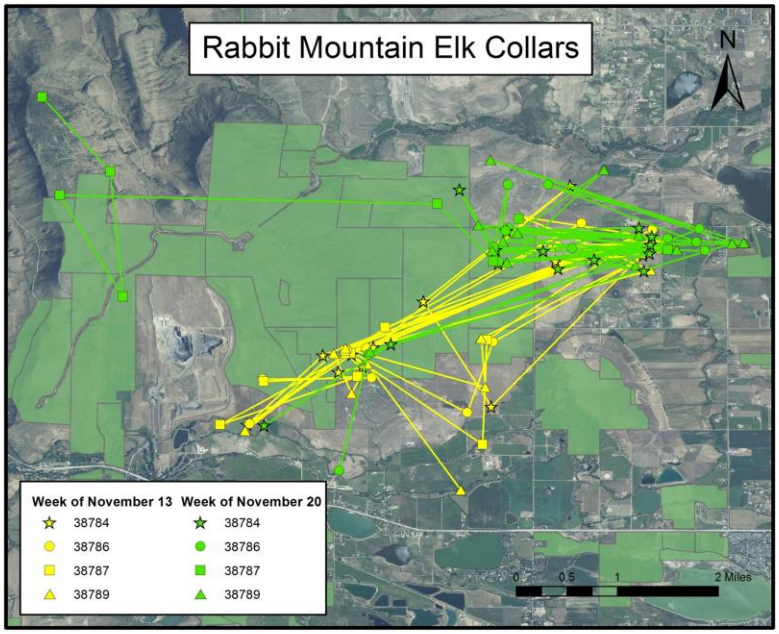
2 Miles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N
Week of November 13
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Week of November 20
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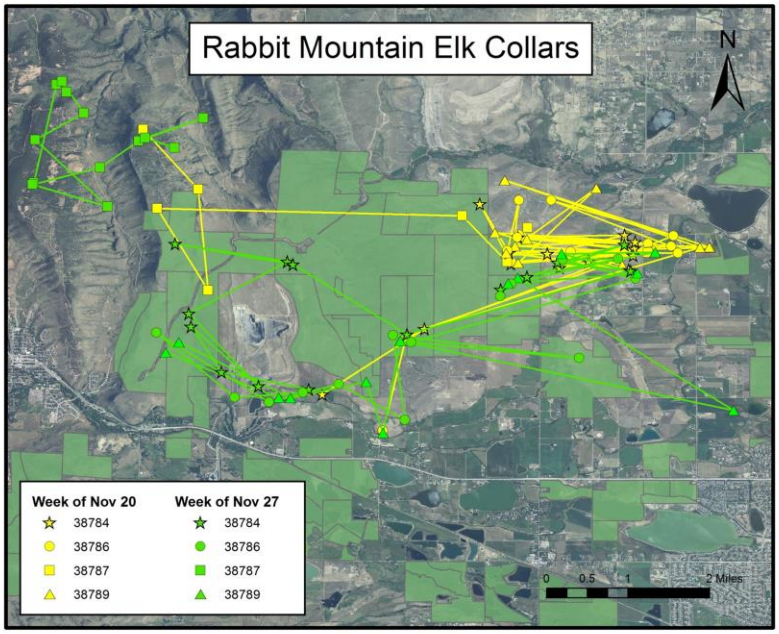
2 Miles


Rabbit Mountain Elk Collars
N
Week of Nov 20
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Week of Nov 27
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0
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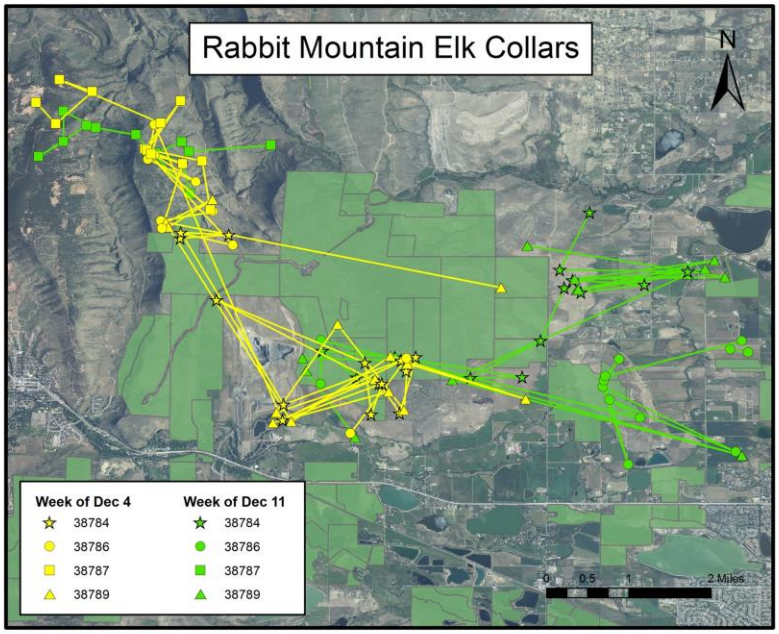
1
2 Miles


Rabbit Mountain Elk Collars
N
Week of Dec 4
38784
38786
38787
38789
Week of Dec 11
38784
38786
38787
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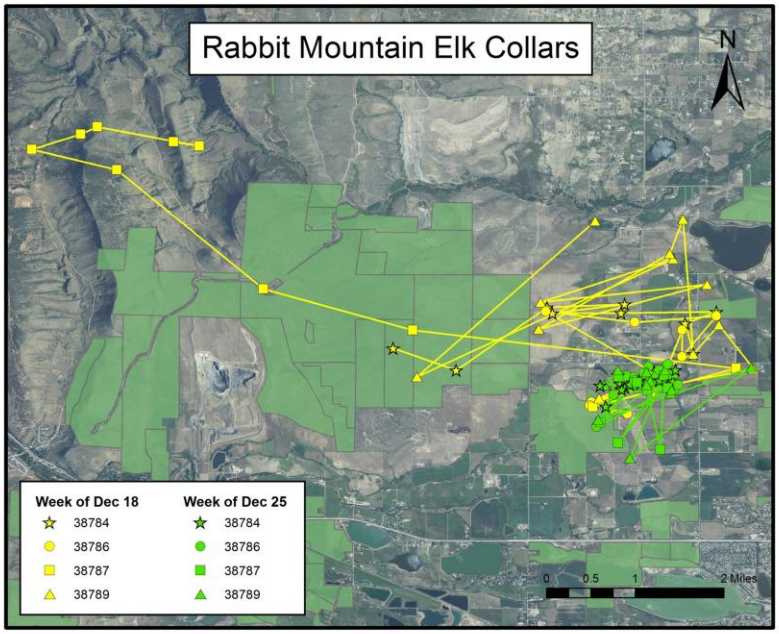
0
0.5
1
2 Miles


Rabbit Mountain Elk Collars
N
Week of Dec 18
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Week of Dec 25
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0
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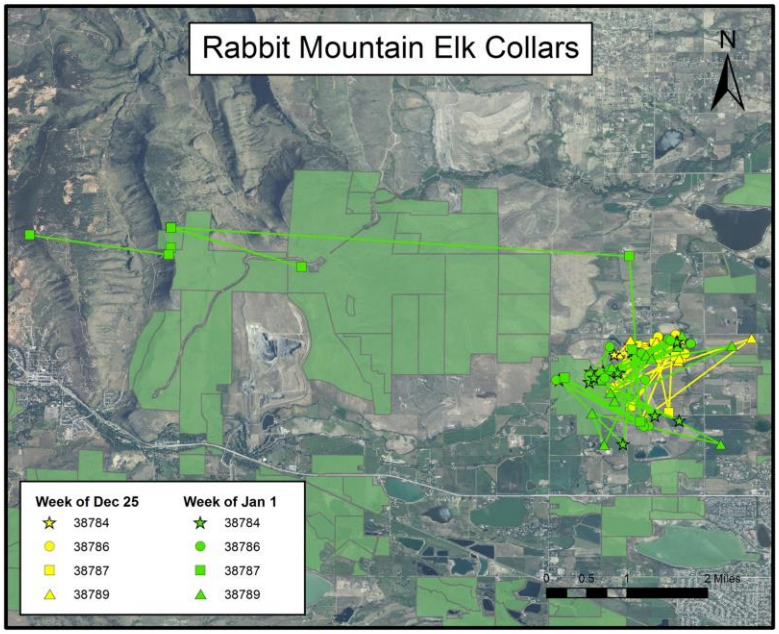
1
2 Miles


Rabbit Mountain Elk Collars
N
Week of Dec 25
38784
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Week of Jan 1
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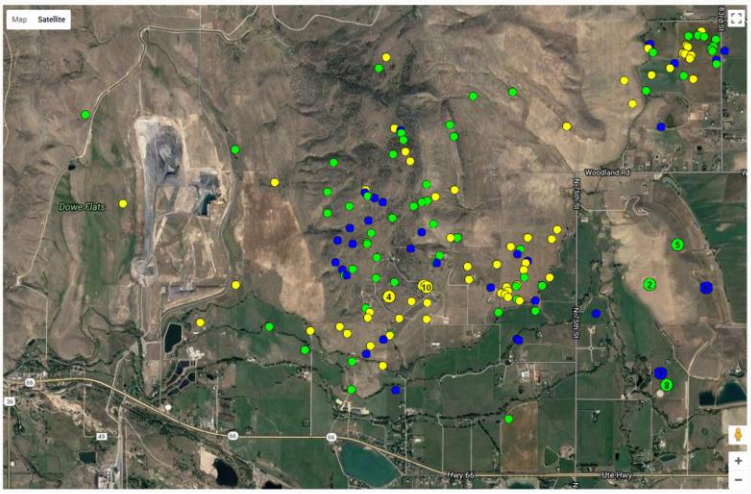
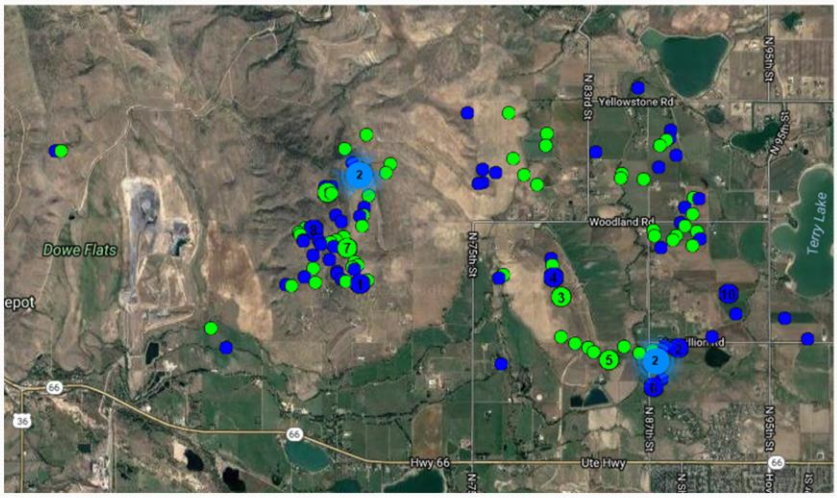
0
0.5
1
2 Miles

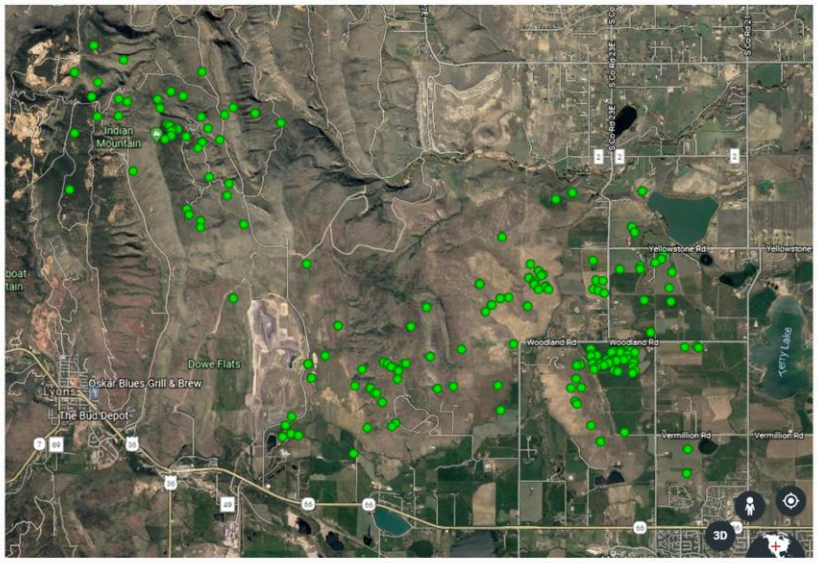
December 2015



December 2016



December 2017

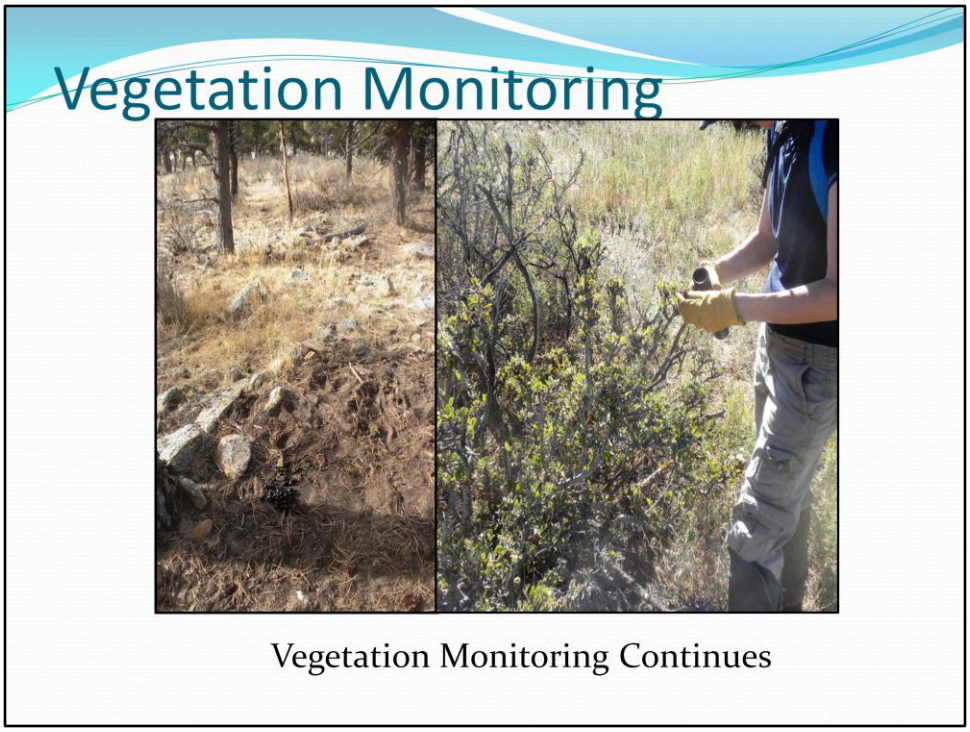


Elk on Heil Valley Ranch

- 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

POSAC Retreat

February 10,2018

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

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.

POSAC Retreat

February 10,2018

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

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

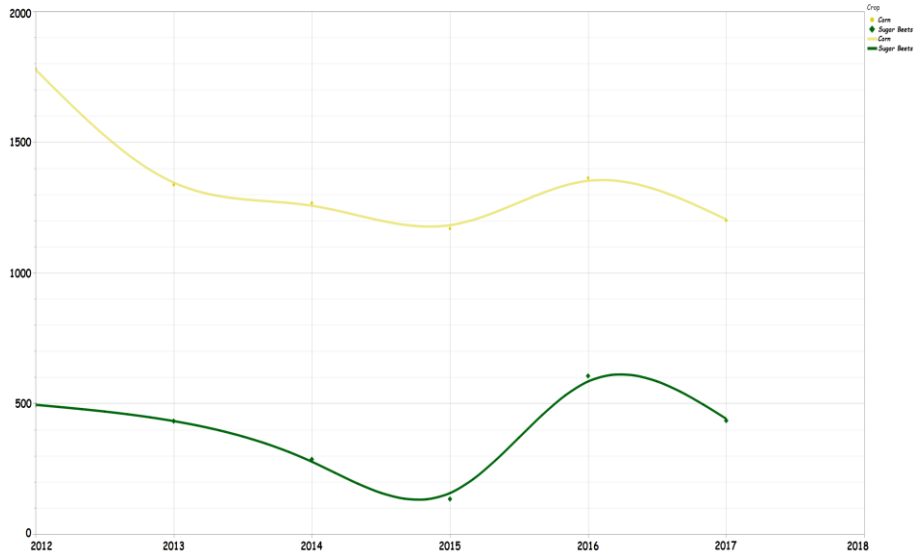
Boulder County Parks & Open Space

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)

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	Total Operation Acres	COUNTY Land Acres	Percent of operation on COUNTY land	OTHER Land Acres	Percent of operation on OTHER land
Tenant A	1262	1012	80%	250	20%
Tenant B	3467	2467	71%	1000	29%
Tenant C	1000	400	40%	600	60%
Tenant D	1860	910	49%	950	51%
Tenant E	1800	374	21%	1426	79%
Tenant F	1202	962	80%	240	20%
Tenant G	1016	476	47%	540	53%
Tenant H	1200	155	13%	1045	87%
Tenant I	985	985	100%		0%
Tenant J	664	358	54%	306	46%

POSAC Retreat

February 10,2018

Insecticide Soil Residue Analysis 2015 -2017

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

10 GIS Referenced Samples Composited / Property
mg/Kg = ppm

Property	YEAR	Crop	Clothianidin	p,p-DDE	p,p-DDT	Dieldrin	Terbufos	
Ertl	2015	alfalfa, wheat	0.0110	0.0120	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Ertl	2016	corn, alfalfa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Ertl	2017	alfalfa, wheat	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Ludlow	2015	triticale, corn	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Ludlow	2016	corn, pinto bean	0.0000	0.0140	0.0000	0.0000	4.5000	Counter 20G
Ludlow	2017	white wheat	0.0000	0.0088	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Macy	2015	barley, wheat	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0075	0.0000	
Macy	2016	barley, corn	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0074	0.0000	Aldrin
Macy	2017	barley, corn	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0080	0.0000	
Montgomery	2015	corn	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Montgomery	2016	wheat, alfalfa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.5000	Organic - Asbury
Montgomery	2017	corn, wheat, alfalfa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Strawberry	2015	mixed veggie	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
Quicksilver	2016	barley	0.0000	0.0870	0.0200	0.0000	0.0000	
Quicksilver	2017	sugar beet	0.0300	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	

POSAC Retreat

February 10,2018

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

- 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?**

Boulder County
Parks & Open Space

Thank You POSAC
for All You Do for Ag
Research & Our Farmer
Tenants