



Wildlife Habitat Management

Wildlife habitat is a combination of food, water, cover, and space needed by wildlife species in order to survive and sustain viable populations.

Wildlife habitat is important in order to continue to have wildlife species exist in Colorado. The health of wildlife populations indicates the health of the environment.

In Colorado, wildlife includes both aquatic species, such as fish, and terrestrial species, such as elk and mountain lions.

Wildlife habitat management is important in reducing threats to wildlife due to habitat loss, disease, and invasive species, to name a few.

There are three types of habitat that are common in Colorado. These include:

- **Upland Habitat** - also known as shrub, grass, and forest lands that support a diversity of wildlife including deer, pronghorn, sage grouse, pheasant, songbirds, and swift fox.
- **Riparian Habitat** - the transitional area between a stream, river, or waterbody and the adjacent upland habitat.
- **Wetland Habitat** - an area that is permanently or seasonally saturated by surface or groundwater and are able to support vegetation that is adapted to saturated soil conditions.

Wildlife habitat management requires thoughtful, long-term planning for wildlife and habitat on Colorado's land.

Identifying conservation priorities helps NRCS work together with landowners and other entities toward a common goal.

Practices Used in the Development of Wildlife Habitat:

The list below contains only a few of the many biology practices that are used to develop and manage wildlife habitat.

- Prescribed Grazing
- Range Planting
- Field Windbreaks
- Prescribed Burning
- Brush Management
- Riparian Livestock Fencing
- Livestock Stream Crossing
- Streambank Stabilization
- In-stream Habitat Improvement
- Shallow Water Development
- Wetland Enhancement
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Habitat Buffer

For more information, contact your local
USDA NRCS office or visit
www.co.nrcs.usda.gov