

# Platte Valley Habitat Partnership

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Jessica Clement, PhD  
Jessica.clement@mail.com



# Overview

1:00 Introductions and Project Progress: Update on January 24 meeting with BLM, USFS, WGFD and the Conservation District.

1:30 Start Coordinating the writing of the PVHP Plan: Discuss Plan Outline, Writing of the plan, Discuss Deadlines

2:30 Discuss Adaptive management Process: How will PVHP continue next year and the years after that? How often? When?

3:30 BLM: Mule deer habitat improvements for the Plan

4:30 USFS: Mule deer habitat improvements for the Plan

5:30 Joe Parsons: SERCD support with private

# Platte Valley Habitat Plan Collaborative Process

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Gain common understanding of issues, definitions and process.	Mule Deer Nutritional Needs, Vegetation Ecological Dynamics, Potential Improvement Actions. <b>Focus on Private and Public Lands in Separate Meetings</b>	Determine what steps PVHP wants to take to address habitat improvement in Plan #1	Determine Monitoring Variables to track change.  Monitoring logistics.  Create Adaptive Management Feedback Loops in PVHP	Draft Plan  Review  Publish Plan  May 2013  New: Step 6 Implement Plan and Collaboratively Adapt
August	December	February	Late March	



## **Five Finger Scale:**

A more precise indication of support for a decision. Everyone can judge whether the degree of support warrants continued action. Participants show by the number of fingers they hold up their level of agreement to a given proposal:

- 1 Finger:** Complete Support (I like it very much)
- 2 Fingers:** Support (I'm very comfortable with this)
- 3 Fingers:** Agreement with Reservations (I can live with it)
- 4 Fingers:** Mild Agreement (I don't like this, but my reservations are not enough to hold up the process)
- 5 Fingers:** Disagreement (I won't support the proposal)

If all members of the group present express approval at levels 1, 2, 3 or 4, then the proposal is agreed to. If some members present continue to disagree (level 5), then agreement has not been reached. The challenge to the group is to see what interest must be addressed in the proposal to move people present at 5 to 4 (or higher) and from 4

## First PVHP Plan: USFS – Mostly on Summer and Transition Ranges.

1. USFS will contribute info. Re. past, present and planned treatments that also meet mule deer habitat objectives. USFS will make these contributions in map form, showing acres, and provide descriptions for the plan.
2. Types of treatments under consideration: several options for silvicultural prescriptions, prescribed burns, noxious weed treatments, aspen treatments, grazing management tools and improvement.
3. USFS needs telemetry data to show deer movements to help identify watersheds for treatments for the next five years.
4. USFS would also like to discuss mule deer habitat and forests in the context of resiliency in the face of many types of changes and dynamic processes.
5. In the future, USFS may want to consult with PVHP on:
  - regeneration of lodgepole pine communities,
  - travel management (year round).

## First PVHP Plan. BLM - predominantly transition range.

1. BLM will contribute information regarding past, present and planned treatments that also meet mule deer habitat objectives. USFS will make these contributions in map form, showing acres, and provide descriptions for the plan.
2. Types of treatments: mechanical, spike, burn, fence conversions, Plateau treatments, riparian management, aspen regeneration, conifer encroachment, noxious weeds.
3. BLM will be assessing the watershed area in the lower and upper Platte Valley, including from a mule deer habitat perspective, over the next few years.
4. In the future, BLM may want to consult with PVHP on:
  - Travel management (seasonal access).
  - As part of this assessment BLM will continue to evaluate juniper treatments in riparian areas. For the first plan, no juniper treatments will be included on BLM lands. BLM may work with private landowners to explore treatment methods that benefit mule deer.
  - The discussion and learning needs to continue around effective habitat improvements and the associated required treatments to benefit mule deer.

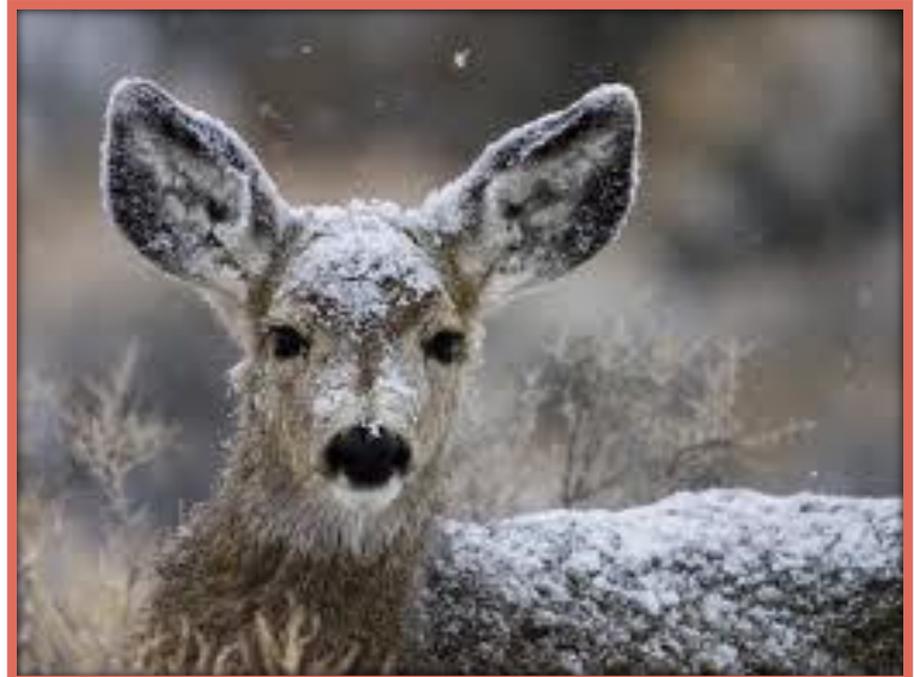


Time to make Collaborative Decisions

# Platte Valley Habitat Partnership Vision, Goal and Objectives



The following Vision, Goal and Objectives were proposed, collaboratively altered and unanimously agreed to by all Participants present. The Criteria were proposed for each Objective and still require final decision-making by the group.



# PLATTE VALLEY HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

## VISION

The Platte Valley Habitat Partnership considers the quality and quantity of the mule deer population in the Platte Valley important to its landscape and communities to preserve biodiversity, economic, recreational, cultural and aesthetic values.

## GOAL

The Platte Valley Habitat Partnership's goal is to improve wildlife habitat with emphasis on sustainable mule deer populations.

## Objective and Criteria 1: Biodiversity Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 1: To improve habitat conditions to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

### **Proposed Criteria :**

- ❖ **Monitor species diversity of flora.**
- ❖ **Age Class Diversity of Shrubs**
- ❖ **Browse Class**
- ❖ **Shrub and herbaceous productivity.**
- ❖ **# of acres treated.**
- ❖ **Shrub recruitment.**
- ❖ **Pregnancy rates of mule deer (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Fat reserves of mule deer (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Population #'s of mule deer (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Doe-fawn ratios (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Mortality ratios (WGFD)**

## Objective and Criteria 2: Economic Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 2: To enhance economic benefits to landowners, communities and dependent interests by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

### **Proposed Criteria :**

- ❖ **# of hunters and other mule deer related recreationists (work with WGFD).**
- ❖ **Outfitter revenues (work with Chamber)**
- ❖ **Hospitality revenues (work with Chamber)**
- ❖ **Livestock AUM's (work with Conservation District)**
- ❖ **# of license applicants (work with WGFD)**

## Objective and Criteria 3: Recreational Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 3: To enhance recreational benefits by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

### **Proposed Criteria :**

- ❖ **Hunter Satisfaction Surveys (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Revenue**
- ❖ **Visitor Surveys (USFS)**
- ❖ **Field personnel contacts (BLM and USFS)**
- ❖ **Increase in political support**
- ❖ **Increase in support from more groups and funders (Attendance and \$\$)**
- ❖ **Types of Chamber of Commerce Requests (Chamber)**

## Objective and Criteria 4: Cultural and Aesthetic Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 4: To maintain the character of the Platte Valley landscape, culture and aesthetics by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

### **Proposed Criteria:**

- ❖ **Modify existing USFS visitor use surveys to address Cultural and Aesthetic Values.**
- ❖ **Modify WGFD hunter satisfaction surveys to address Cultural and Aesthetic Values.**
- ❖ **Look at BLM public perception surveys.**
- ❖ **Develop Community Survey for Platte Valley, baseline and changes.**
- ❖ **Develop landowner survey.**
- ❖ **Look at WGFD's PVMDI survey**

## Objective and Criteria 5: Mission Compatibility for State and Federal Agencies

- ❖ **Objective #5: To facilitate state and federal agencies to serve their constituents in a manner compatible with their missions by working to improve habitat for mule deer and other species and purposes.**

### **Proposed Criteria:**

- ❖ **# of projects that cross ownership and jurisdictional boundaries**
- ❖ **Mix of funding to complete projects.**

# Platte Valley Habitat Partnership

