



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Regional Office
4255 Sinton Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
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April 07, 2022

El Paso County Planning and Community Development
ATTN: Nina Ruiz, Project Manager
2880 International Circle, Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Re: Flying Horse North SKP

Dear Ms. Ruiz,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the plans for Flying Horse North SKP and is familiar with the project site located southwest of the intersection of Hodgen Road and Black Forest Road in Northern El Paso County. The area included within the Flying Horse North SKP boundaries will sustain numerous wildlife species including deer, elk, pronghorn, turkey, black bear, mountain lion, coyote, fox, raptors, songbirds, and numerous small mammals. CPW makes the following recommendations.

Flying Horse North SKP falls within potential Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) range. PMJM critical habitat borders the southwest section of the proposed development area. PMJM is currently on both the federal and state threatened species list. CPW recommends contacting the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for information regarding developing in potential PMJM habitat.

Fences can cause many problems for wildlife, including death, entanglements, and barriers to movements. CPW recommends the developers consult our publication *Hanophy, Wendy "Fencing with Wildlife in mind." CPW.state.co.us. 2009* when considering the design of fences within the development. The publication is available on our website and we would be happy to provide a link to the PDF specifically. The use of privacy fencing, chain link fencing, and other exclusionary fencing should be at least 6 feet high and should be restricted to the immediate area surrounding the buildings or within the designated building envelope and should not be used as a method to designate boundaries of larger lot sizes (> 1 acre). Fencing outside the immediate building envelope or area surrounding the buildings on larger lots within the known range of elk, deer and pronghorn should be a maximum top height of 42" with at least 12" spacing between the top two wires or rails and a bottom wire or rail at least 16" above the ground to allow passage of juvenile animals and pronghorn antelope. It is also recommended that the top and bottom wires be a twisted barbless type or smooth



wire or rail construction. Construction of ornamental wrought iron fencing with closely spaced vertical bars (<12”) and sharp projections extending beyond the top horizontal bar should be strongly discouraged in areas where deer, elk, and black bear are known to occur. This type of fencing typically ensnares deer and elk by the hips when trying to squeeze through and impales animals attempting to go over the top. It should be noted that it is very distressing to find wildlife in or impaled on fences.

Due to the potential presence of black bears CPW recommends several measures to reduce the potential for human bear conflicts. First, we recommend that potential owners invests in bear-resistant trash containers. Trash containers should be stored in the garage or in a solid locked storage shed until the morning of trash collection during those months when bears are most active (April - November). Another possible alternative would be the use of a centralized and securely fenced trash collection site with the use of bear-resistant dumpsters what employees, customers, and the trash service provider would have access to. This would eliminate the need for individual trash cans. Second, residents and food vendors should also keep their barbecues and any food locked away in the garage or a secure building. Finally, we would recommend that the use of bird feeders and hummingbird feeders be discouraged, during the months mentioned above, since they also attract black bears. However, if feeders are used, they should be placed so they are inaccessible to black bears, raccoons, skunks, deer and other wildlife species that might cause damage or threaten human safety. A copy of a brochure entitled, “Living with wildlife in bear country” is available for reference upon request from CPW.

The relationship between the golf courses and wildlife is complex and CPW has taken special note of the golf courses proposed. Golf courses can be habitat for many species, including song birds and waterfowl, especially if the course has a wildlife friendly design. Conversely, some species of wildlife create substantial problems on golf courses. Specifically, in the Black Forest, elk, deer, Canada geese, turkeys, and rodents may be attracted to the proposed golf course. These species have the potential to damage greens, fairways, and decorative shrubs. Animal waste on golf courses, especially from geese and turkeys, can also be unpleasant for golf course patrons. Numerous resources specifically discussing wildlife management on golf course are available online.

CPW is concerned about the trees that will be removed for the project because the trees may be currently occupied or historic bird nesting sites. Please take care to avoid removal of trees with occupied nesting birds. We recommend leaving as many native healthy trees on site and replacing trees that are removed with comparable native species on a 3:1 basis.

Feeding of all wildlife is prohibited, with the exception of songbirds and squirrels with the above paragraph in mind. It is illegal to feed big game including deer, elk, antelope, bear and mountain lion.

CPW recommends that a Noxious Weed Management Plan be developed for the proposed project site. All disturbed soils should be monitored for noxious weeds and noxious weeds should be actively controlled until native plant revegetation and reclamation is achieved. All areas disturbed by the development should be revegetated with native plant species.

CPW appreciates being given the opportunity to comment on this project. Please feel free to contact Wildlife Officer Corey Adler at 719-439-9637 or corey.adler@state.co.us should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kroening', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Kroening
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: Corey Adler, DWM
SE Regional File
Area 14 File