



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region, Area 14
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200

May 23, 2025

El Paso County
ATTN: Ashlyn Mathy
2880 International Circle,
Colorado Springs, CO 80132

Re: 4-Way Commercial Site Development Plan

Dear Ashlyn Mathy,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the plans for the 4-Way Commercial Site Development Plan in El Paso County. This area included within the Development boundaries will sustain numerous wildlife species including deer, pronghorn, coyote, fox, raptors, songbirds, and numerous small mammals. CPW makes the following recommendations.

It was noted in the "Landscape Plan Drawings" document that a fence described as, "FENCE A - 7' HT ALUMINUM SPEAR-TOP". The fence being 7 feet tall is good for exclusionary purposes related to wildlife, however the spear top is concerning. If the fence is a rod-iron style it can also cause issues with wildlife entrapment. 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 pronghorn 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.

CPW further 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



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
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mes Jay Tutchton · Eden Vardy

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.

CPW recommends that all landscaping in the developed area should be comprised of native species. Using native species with high food and cover values in an open space area is beneficial to wildlife. This can encourage wildlife to concentrate in areas that minimize human conflicts and optimize wildlife-watching opportunities. Native plant species can also provide an aesthetically pleasing landscape that requires little maintenance and are frequently more drought-tolerant than non-native species.

Care should be taken to avoid the destruction of active dens and nests while constructing structures, ponds, and trails. Possible dens or nests should be monitored for species activity.

CPW appreciates being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager Aaron Berscheid at 719-227-5231 or aaron.berscheid@state.co.us should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Tim Kroening
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: SE regional files
Area 14 files
Aaron Berscheid, DWM