



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region - Area 14
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5264

May 23, 2022

Ryan Howser
Planner 2880 International Circle,
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Subject: Meadow Lake Commercial Park (CS)

Dear Mr. Howser

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is in receipt of the above referenced permit application and is familiar with the site. This area included within the Development boundaries will sustain numerous wildlife species including aquatic species, deer, pronghorn, coyote, fox, raptors, songbirds, and numerous small mammals. The following can be found and CPW recommends the following:

Trash

Trash should be kept indoors until the morning of trash pickup. Skunks, raccoons, and other scavenging wildlife are attracted to garbage and do become habituated.

Landscaping

When landscaping lots, it is strongly recommended that native vegetation be used, as wildlife can be attracted to ornamental and floral landscaping features. Planting of trees and shrubs that are attractive to native ungulates (deer, elk, and pronghorn) should incorporate the use of materials that will prevent access and damage (fencing, tree guards, trunk guards, etc.).

Fencing

CPW recommends the developers consult our publication Hanophy, Wendy "Fencing with Wildlife in mind." (CPW.state.co.us. 2009). Fences can cause many problems for wildlife, including death, entanglements, and barriers to movements. 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. 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. To allow passage of juvenile animals and pronghorn antelope the bottom wire or rail should be at least 16" above the ground. 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 and pronghorn are



known to occur. This type of fencing typically ensnares deer and pronghorn 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.

Riparian Corridor

CPW recommends there be minimal impact to the streambed, both during construction and after, and the streambed should be handled as a stream crossing whether or not water is present at the time of construction. Minimizing impact to these streams is a priority for CPW and avoidance is best whenever possible. Erosion and sediment control precautions should be in place to avoid deposition into waterways. Destruction of riparian vegetation and truck/heavy machinery stream crossings should be avoided.

CPW further recommends crossing riparian corridors and streams at a perpendicular angle, in order to reduce impacts to natural resources, as well as spanning the corridors with structures located outside the riparian and stream zone. CPW recommends avoiding treed areas of cottonwood and willow, as these areas provide bird and wildlife habitat. During construction, stream crossing by construction vehicles should be avoided. CPW requests that any new service roads that are proposed for construction in conjunction with the project avoid crossing creeks or streambeds to avoid impacts to wildlife and habitat. If any new access or maintenance roads will be constructed that cross-stream habitat, CPW would like to be consulted on best management practices and options for construction to minimize impacts. A construction design for any new or reconstructed riparian crossing that actively minimizes barriers to fish passage at all water levels and mitigates any existing barriers where possible would minimize the negative impact of the project on native fish species.

Burrowing Owl Active and Potential Nest Sites

Burrowing owls are listed as State Threatened, and nest in active or inactive prairie dog (black-tailed or white-tailed) burrows. If development is proposed to occur in a prairie dog colony that has been active within the past 10 years, CPW recommends the adherence to CPW's Burrowing Owl survey protocol if development occurs during the spring or summer months (Feb 1 to Oct31). If nesting burrowing owls are present, no human encroachment or surface disturbance should occur within a 200-meter buffer of nesting burrows from **March 15 to August 31**. If burrowing owls occupy the site, CPW recommends that earthmoving and other disturbance activities be delayed until late fall after they have migrated.

Swift Fox Potential Denning Habitat

CPW would recommend identifying and avoiding all maternal swift fox den sites. Swift fox live here year-round, breed, during December, and raise their young into the next fall. Any disturbance or destruction of dens while pups are den dependent should be avoided. It is recommended that swift fox surveys include daylight searches for den areas and nighttime spotlight searches. CPW recommends no human encroachment, surface disturbance, or construction activity within 0.25-mile of an active den site from **March 15 through June 15**. Swift fox is a species of state and federal concern that lives in and around the proposed area.

CPW appreciates being given the opportunity to comment. Please Feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager Sarah Watson at 719-439-9636 or sarah.watson@state.co.us should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Kroening". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Kroening
Area 14 Wildlife Manager

Cc: Sarah Watson, DWM
SE Region File
Area 14 File