



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region, Area 14
4255 Sinton Road • Colorado Springs, CO 80907
PH: (719) 227.5200

05/06/2026

Maria Lancto
El Paso County
2880 International Circle,
Colorado Springs, CO, 80132

Re: Church at Bent Grass Final Plat

Dear Maria,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the plans for Church at Bent Grass Meadows Final Plat on the northwest corner of Bent Grass Meadows Drive and Meridian Road in El Paso County. This area included within the Development boundaries will sustain numerous wildlife species including deer, coyote, fox, raptors, songbirds, and numerous small mammals. Overall, the impact to wildlife and habitat will be minimal with the exception of the prairie dog colony that currently exists on the property. CPW has the following recommendations.

Burrowing owls are classified as a state-threatened species that are highly associated with prairie dog colonies. CPW recommends that a site survey be completed before any disturbance occurs to determine if there are any burrowing owls present within the project area. CPW recommends adherence to the recommended buffer distances and timing stipulations identified in the document “Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors” (can be provided upon request). Burrowing owls are typically found in Colorado starting mid-March through the end of October. If dirt work or prairie dog removal begins between March 15th and October 31st, it is recommended that a burrowing owl survey be conducted. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has developed survey protocols and guidelines for buffer zones for nesting burrowing owls. Those survey protocols and buffer guidelines can be found at:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Recommended-Survey-Protocol-Burrowing-Owls.pdf>



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Richard Reading, Chair · James 'Jay' Tutchton, Vice-Chair · Eden Vardy, Secretary · Jessica Beaulieu · Frances Silva Blaney · John Emerick · Tai Jacober · Dallas May · Jack Murphy · Gabriel Otero · Murphy Robinson

Care should be taken to avoid the destruction of any dens or nests during any construction activity. Possible dens or nests should be monitored for species activity. Please take care to avoid removal of occupied nests within the prairie dog colony. For raptors, an active nest is any nest that is frequented or occupied by a raptor during the breeding season or which has been active in any of the five previous breeding seasons. Many raptors use alternate nests in various years; therefore, a nest may be active even if it is not occupied in a given year. Removal or relocation of any active raptor or migratory bird nest will require consultation with CPW and US Fish and Wildlife Service prior to disturbance. Both active and potential nest sites should be considered when evaluating disturbance during construction.

With consideration for the prairie dogs themselves, CPW recommends that humane removal of prairie dogs should be completed prior to any construction or dirt work being done on the property. Removal should be completed before March 15th or after October 31st.

CPW appreciates being given the opportunity to comment. Please Feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager Aaron Berscheid at 719-439-9601 or aaron.berscheid@state.co.us should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Travis Sauder

Assistant Area Wildlife Manager



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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