



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region
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Colorado Springs, CO 80907
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February 11, 2025

Joe Letke
El Paso County Dev. Services Department
2880 International Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80910-6107

Subject: Triple H Ranch Rezone

Dear Mr. Letke,

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is in receipt of the above referenced permit application and is familiar with the site. The proposed area of development is characterized by short grass prairie. Native short grass prairies are highly valued for their ability to support obligate species and the development boundaries will sustain numerous wildlife species including deer, pronghorn, coyote, fox, raptors, songbirds, and numerous small mammals.

The following is a list of general recommendations the CPW would like to be taken into consideration with the residential side of this development in order to avoid nuisance conflicts with wildlife. Many times these conditions can be enforced through the local Homeowner's Association or through covenants.

Pets

Pets should not be allowed to roam free and fences should be installed to decrease or eliminate this problem. It is strongly encouraged that dog kennels have a top enclosure, regardless of the height of the kennel. Dogs and cats chase or prey on various wildlife species. One benefit to keeping animals under control is that they are less likely to bother other people, be in roadways or become prey for coyotes, foxes, eagles, hawks or owls. Feeding of all wildlife should be prohibited, with the exception of songbirds. The use of bird feeders, suet feeders, and hummingbird feeders are discouraged. However, if feeders are used, they should be placed so they are inaccessible to raccoons or skunks and other wildlife species that might cause damage or threaten human safety. It is illegal to feed big game including deer and pronghorn.

Attractants

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. Pet food is also attractive to scavengers, so pets should be fed inside. If pets are fed outside, feeding should occur only for a specified period of time and food bowls returned afterwards to a secure site



for storage. Pet food left outside attracts various wildlife species, which in turn attracts predators.

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 and pronghorn) should incorporate the use of materials that will prevent access and damage (fencing, tree guards, trunk guards, etc.).

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.

Vegetation

Also of importance of revegetation of disturbed soils and the control of noxious weed species through the development of a noxious weed management plan prior to initiating construction activities. The Colorado Weed Management Association provides the booklet “Noxious Weeds of Colorado” that provides information on identification and management of noxious weeds in Colorado. CPW prefers that native vegetation be retained on site during the operational lifespan of the project, both as habitat for wildlife and to ensure successful reclamation of the project area. Proper reclamation, from a wildlife perspective, involves not only stabilizing the soil and establishing ground cover, but also fostering plant communities with a diversity of species and plant types- grasses, woody plants, and broadleaf forbs, which will fully serve the nutritional needs of wildlife.

Once again, we appreciate being given the opportunity to comment on the Triple H Ranch Rezone. 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,

Tim Kroening
Area 14 Wildlife Manager

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