



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Area 14- Southeast Region
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July 26, 2023

Justin Kilgore, Planning Manager
Planning and Community Development
El Paso County
2880 International Circle Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Subject: El Paso County Landscape Code Update 2023

Dear Justin Kilgore,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has received the request to review the Landscape Code Update 2023 for El Paso County, Colorado. CPW is familiar with the county and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) does not foresee significant impacts to wildlife, wildlife habitat, or aquatic resources. However, CPW does have the following additional recommendations that are not outlined in the amended code text.

Fencing:

CPW has reviewed the fencing code and recommends that the following be included. 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 domicile or within the designated building envelope and should not be used as a method to designate boundaries of larger lot sizes (> 1 acre) unless a waiver is granted. Fencing outside the immediate building envelope or area surrounding the domicile 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 young animals and pronghorn.

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.



Bears:

Due to the presence of bears in El Paso County, CPW recommends that the landscape code include plans for bear resistant trash containers. Bears most commonly occur west of I-25, but occasionally follow drainages to the east to areas such as, but not limited to; Monument, Fountain, and eastern Colorado Springs. Unsecured trash is one of the leading causes of human-bear conflicts. By utilizing bear resistant trashcans or dumpsters, human-bear conflicts may be reduced by approximately 60% (Johnson et al. 2008).

Planting to Deter Wildlife:

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.).

Thank for your consideration and review of our suggestions concerning this proposal. Please feel free to contact, Land Use Coordinator, Cassidy English, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-828-4877, or via email at cassidy.english@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Tim Kroening

Tim Kroening

Area 14 Wildlife Manager

CC: SE regional files

Area 14 files

LITERATURE CITED

Johnson, H. E., D. L. Lewis, S. A. Lischka, and S. W. Breck. 2018. Assessing ecological and social outcomes of a bear-proofing experiment. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 82:1102-1114. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.21472>