



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region, Area 14
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5223

February 12, 2018

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

Re: Winding Walk PUDSP, File number PUDSP182

Dear Ms. Ruiz,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the Winding Walk in El Paso County. CPW staff has visited the site and offers the following comments for your consideration.

The proposed development area is relatively small, with fragmented riparian habitat and few existing trees. The vegetation is comprised mainly of short grass prairie species. This habitat type will sustain numerous wildlife species including deer, coyote, fox, raptors, songbirds and numerous small mammals. The site has had previous earth moving activities on it and shows signs of disturbance.

We would request that all areas of disturbance and exposed soils above the ordinary high water mark be re-vegetated with a native seed mix. This will contribute to the replacement of lost riparian vegetation values and minimize establishment of noxious weeds. The placement of willow sprigs or bare root stock should also be considered along the banks, especially in those areas which have been disturbed. We recommend planting of vegetation along the bank to help reduce and control erosion and contribute to bank stability over the long term. The site should be monitored for a period of at least two growing seasons. Any stands of noxious weeds that become established should be controlled with appropriate mechanical and/or chemical methods suitable for the proposed location. CPW recommends using a clean fill material, if needed, that would be conducive to growing native vegetation that will help stabilize the banks. Non-native vegetation can overrun native vegetation and can become problematic. A seed mixture of native grasses is also recommended to provide a good support system in the soil.

There is suitable habitat on the site for nesting raptors and migratory birds. CPW recommends the use of preconstruction surveys to identify raptor nests within the project area and implement appropriate restrictions. CPW recommends adherence to the recommended buffer distances and timing stipulations identified in the attached document "Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors". 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, winter night roosts should be considered when evaluating disturbance during construction.



CPW recommends the development and implementation of a noxious weed control plan for the site. There are several noxious weed species identified on site and the construction plans should include measures to prevent the spread of those weeds to adjacent areas. All disturbed soils should be monitored for noxious weeds and noxious weeds should be actively controlled until native plant revegetation and reclamation is achieved.

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.

1. Pets should not be allowed to roam free and fences should be installed to decrease or eliminate this problem. 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 mountain lions, coyotes, foxes or owls.
2. Trash should be kept indoors until the morning of trash pickup. The CPW recommends using bear resistant trash containers. Bears, skunks, raccoons, and neighborhood dogs are attracted to garbage and do become habituated.
3. 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 bears, raccoons or skunks and other wildlife species that might cause damage or threaten human safety. It is illegal to feed big game including deer, elk, antelope, moose, bear and lion.
4. Pets should be fed inside or 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.
5. When landscaping lots, it is strongly recommended that native vegetation be used that wildlife is less likely to be attracted to. Planting of trees and shrubs that are attractive to native ungulates should incorporate the use of materials that will prevent access and damage (fencing, tree guards, trunk guards, etc.).
6. Fences, other than those around the immediate domicile and serving to protect landscaped trees and shrubs, should be designed so as not to impair wildlife movements. Ornamental fences with sharp vertical points or projections extending beyond the top horizontal rail should be strongly discouraged in areas where deer and black bear are known to occur. This type of fencing typically ensnares deer by the hips when trying to squeeze through and impales animals attempting to go over the top. Wildlife friendly design recommendations can be provided upon request.
7. It is strongly encouraged that dog kennels have a top enclosure, regardless of the height of the kennel.
8. Barbecue grills should be placed in a secure area when not in use.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this major amendment, final PD site plan and plat approval. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact District Wildlife Manager Benjamin Meier at 719-227-5231 or via e-mail benjamin.meier@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Frank McGee
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: Area 14 Files
SE Regional Office
Benjamin Meier, DWM