

WILD, NOT FREE

Colorado Parks and Wildlife relies on license sales, and therefore our customers, to fund wildlife and fisheries management. Thank you sportsmen for your continued support.



Funded by sportsmen's dollars, CPW embarked on an extensive process to bring together sportsmen, landowners, outfitters, biologists, wildlife managers, government agencies, local elected officials and other interest groups to address declining mule deer populations.

“The wildlife and its habitats cannot speak, so we must and we will.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages the largest elk herd in North America.



Wild doesn't mean free.

For over 100 years, hunters and anglers have funded and supported wildlife management in Colorado. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) does not receive general tax dollars. In addition, wildlife fees and grants are spent only on wildlife-related expenses, just as state park fees and grants are spent only on park-related expenses. The variety of wildlife and the diversity of wildlife recreation are possible because you buy your license every year. However, wildlife management costs continue to increase while revenues remain stagnant.

As sportsmen, we share a love of wildlife and wild places. We all have great memories of our outdoor experiences: helping a child land their first fish or making that perfect cast just above your favorite fishing hole; hearing an elk bugle among the aspens on a crisp autumn morning or feeling the cold wind blow off the lake as you set your decoys; watching a bald eagle taking flight from a tree along the Arkansas River or actually “feeling” the impact of bighorn rams crashing into each other. We all have dozens of unique stories and memories we tell our family and friends.

Conservation and Cooperation

Colorado has prime elk herds, substantial mule deer populations, Gold Medal Waters and diverse small-game opportunities because of strong wildlife management, great private landowners and support from hunters and anglers.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife is dedicated to providing the best wildlife management and customer service we can. However, as budgets shrink, our ability to maintain the same level of services also diminishes. Like many businesses and households, CPW has had to make tough financial decisions. Since 2009, CPW has cut \$40 million in wildlife expenditures and defunded approximately 50 wildlife positions. In addition, we have taken advantage of opportunities to increase federal funding and work closely with partners to maximize grants. Yet, despite these financial hurdles, CPW has protected 211,976 acres of land since 2007, established an additional 195 miles of Gold Medal Waters, managed the country's largest elk herd of 264,000 elk and developed programs and opportunities to engage kids in hunting and fishing.

We need your help! Financial sustainability for CPW is key to maintaining our wildlife, parks, and outdoor heritage. Please visit cpw.state.co.us/ FinancialSustainability for more information and make

sure that your friends and neighbors realize how valuable license fees are to CPW's operations. Long term goals and financial sustainability work hand in hand, so we also encourage you to check out our Strategic Plan. Your ideas and continued support of CPW will help ensure Colorado's outdoors are available not only for you and your family now, but well into the future.

Economic Impact

Sportsmen's dollars support wildlife recreation that has a huge impact on Colorado's economy: hunting contributes \$919 million in total economic effects while fishing contributes \$1.9 billion and wildlife viewing adds an additional \$2.3 billion.



Watchable wildlife and nongame species, such as these American avocets, also benefit from hunting license sales.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife raises and stocks more than 90 million fish a year.