



Colorado Parks & Wildlife Volunteer Raptor Monitor Program



Opportunity

Colorado State Parks is looking for volunteers to monitor raptor activity year-round. There are approximately 24 parks where we are currently monitoring raptor activity, with potential to expand our raptor monitoring program in parks across the Western Slope. State Parks need help from volunteers who can commit to a park and collect raptor activity data on a regular basis. You can help – you can become a Raptor Monitor!

Required Background / Skills

We need volunteers who are willing and able to visit one or more of our state parks on a regular basis to collect raptor activity data. Some of our parks require hiking to make raptor observations while some may be accessed by car. Many of our volunteers have experience as bird-watchers and possess knowledge of raptor ecology and natural history. However, some are just dedicated to getting outside and learning as much as they can. We welcome both and are willing to provide in-the-field training to get a volunteer ‘up to speed’ on raptor monitoring. People who would consider themselves ‘birders’ would be ideal, but again a desire to learn goes a long way.

Responsibilities

We ask that volunteers become very familiar with one or more of our state parks and visit their site every 2 to 4 weeks, throughout the year. We also ask volunteers to follow a standardized monitoring protocol for both winter monitoring and nest monitoring seasons. Volunteers will work with Park staff and a small group of volunteers to assure high quality data collection. Data collected in the field is entered into a user friendly database for stewardship review, so some computer skills are required. Finally, Parks staff will hold informal meetings and trainings that volunteers should attend.

Benefits

Through their monitoring, the raptor volunteers have the opportunity to experience an important and exciting component of our State Park ecosystems. Volunteers will get involved in public land stewardship and may contribute to State Park management. After 48 hours of volunteer service, volunteers will receive a free Volunteer Parks Pass, among other benefits.

Contact

If you are interested, please contact Resource Stewardship at (303) 291 – 7282 or email at DNR_CPWresourcestewardship@state.co.us