



**COLORADO**

**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

## Wildlife Impacts Assessment Guidelines State Recreational Trails Grant Programs

This document is intended to inform applicants on the wildlife review criteria that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Staff will use to evaluate trail grant applications. While no action is required on behalf of the applicants regarding the below criteria, *please remember that all applicants must submit a basic project scope and map to Area Wildlife Managers (AWMs) by September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020*. CPW Area Wildlife Managers by district throughout Colorado can be found here: [AWM Contact Information](#)

CPW emphasizes the importance for grant applicants, land managers, and trail constituents to include CPW wildlife staff early in their trail planning processes. The planning phase is the ideal time to evaluate and address any possible wildlife concerns.

### Wildlife Review Criteria

- **Special Status Species:** Known (or likely) special status species present on the proposed project site.
  - Federally or State listed threatened, and/or endangered species
  - Tier 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan
- **Habitats and their Values:** Known important, productive or pristine wildlife habitat in the project area.
  - Impacts to crucial or limiting wildlife habitat(s) for a particular species (e.g. winter ranges, migration routes, or areas with high value for nesting, feeding, or birthing).
  - Existing developments and development trends that place the proposed trail project in a landscape context. This may include existing human impacts, existing land uses that may already have degraded habitat values, or proximity to existing roads or transmission lines.
- **Wildlife Impacts:** Short-term (during project activity) and/or long-term impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat.
  - Extent to which potential spatial and temporal impacts to wildlife exist;
  - Population trends for impacted species and habitats in the project area and CPW population objectives for those species; and
  - Appropriate avoidance, minimization, mitigation measures to address impacts and population objectives to ensure consistency with CPW's Mission.
- **Environmental Compliance:** Required regulatory compliance, applicable permits and/or agency concurrent procedures.



- o Migratory Bird Treaty Act/Eagle Act
  - o Compliance with CPW Raptor Buffer Guidelines
  - o Concurrence from USFWS for effect determinations
  - o US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits
- **Education/Interpretation:** Identify project potential for education and/or interpretation.
  - o Opportunity or need to educate recreationists through environmental education interpretation or programs
  - o Opportunity for watchable wildlife
- **Recommended Design Features and Mitigation:** Summary of design features and other recommended measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to known wildlife species and habitats from proposed trail development, such as:
  - o Alternative design or trail route selection to avoid specific habitats or sensitive areas
  - o Consolidation of routes or limits on trail density
  - o Screening of users from sensitive areas or channeling use through less sensitive areas
  - o Incorporation of buffers around sensitive wildlife features (e.g. active nests, leks, den sites)
  - o Timing of construction/maintenance activities during sensitive periods
  - o Seasonal closures during sensitive periods
  - o Improvement (i.e., restoration) of impacted habitat areas
  - o Habitat replacement for unavoidable impacts