A FEW FINAL NOTES...

- All animals are listed from highest likelihood of being viewed to least likelihood.
- There is NO guarantee that wildlife will be visible.
- Some animals may only be “viewed” by what they leave behind, such as tracks & scat, bedding nests and/or dens, etc.
- Please do your best to leave the wildlife undisturbed by your presence.
- Please DO NOT feed wildlife or try to coax them closer to you.
- Remember that while the wildlife appear to be somewhat ‘tamed’ they are still wild and their actions are unpredictable.
- Please see the Birding Checklist @ the Visitor Center for specific info. on birds.
- Share with us! If you observe a unique or unusual species we’d love to hear about it!
**ELK RIDGE**

**Recommended Trails:** Wapiti, Sunset Ridge, Skyline Loop, Twin Fawn, Pinyon Park

Due to high visitation and heavy traffic in the Dutch Charlie entrance, wildlife can be difficult to find. However, the trail system around the Elk Ridge Campground provides excellent opportunity to see some of the following:

- Mule Deer
- Birds
  - Chickadees & Nuthatches
  - Songbirds
  - Woodpeckers
  - Hummingbirds
- Rodents & Chipmunks
- Mountain Cottontail Rabbits
- Striped Skunk
- Black Bear
- Elk
- Red Fox

**UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER/PONDS**

**Recommended Trails:** River Walk, Oak Leaf, & paths around the ponds

The Uncompahgre River empties from the reservoir in the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk entrance. Restoration projects along the river in combination with the nearby fishing ponds have created a very appealing habitat for many animals.

- Fish
  - Rainbow Trout
  - Brown Trout
  - Cutthroat Trout
  - Cut-bow Trout
- Birds
  - Bald & Golden Eagles
  - Ducks
  - Great Blue Heron
  - Owls
  - Songbirds
  - Woodpeckers
  - Garters
- Snakes
  - Western Smooth Green
- Mountain Cottontail Rabbits
- Beavers
- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Bobcat

**CONFLUENCE—RESERVOIR**

**Recommended Trail:** Dallas Creek Trail

At the south end of the Dallas Creek entrance lies the confluence of Dallas Creek and the Uncompahgre River. The two meet and flow into the Ridgway Reservoir. The river corridor and the reservoir’s shoreline ‘flats’ have ample opportunities for viewing a wide range of birds and mammals. Some of the most common to be viewed are as follows:

- Mule Deer
- Birds
  - Bald Eagles
  - Great Blue Herons
  - Canadian Geese
  - Western Bluebirds
  - Gulls & Shorebirds
  - Ducks
  - Hawks
  - Owls
  - Pelicans
  - Sandhill Cranes
  - Golden Eagles
- Yellow-Bellied Marmots
- Mountain Cottontail Rabbits
- Coyote
- Red Fox
- Northern River Otters
- Black Bear
- Elk
- Mountain Lion
- Bobcat
- Snakes
  - Garters
  - Western Smooth Green

**MARI NA & SHORELINE ROADS**

A drive down Marina Road to the upper boat ramp parking lot or down Shoreline Road, at the right time of day can be perfect for viewing many animals, Mule Deer especially! Access to the shoreline allows an opportunity to spot animals associated with the water source.

- Mule Deer
- Birds
  - Hawks & Eagles
  - Great Blue Herons
  - Owls
  - Ducks, Geese & Shorebirds
- Striped Skunk
- Fish
  - Kokanee Salmon
  - Rainbow Trout
- Coyote

- Rodents & Chipmunks
- Mountain Cottontail Rabbits
- Beavers
- Black Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Bobcat