

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-0 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XI - Special Restrictions

#021 - Feeding or Attracting Wildlife

- A. Except as provided in subsections (A)(1-4) of this regulation no person shall place, deposit, distribute, or scatter grain, hay, minerals, salt, or other foods ~~the person knows or reasonably should know so as to intentionally~~ constitute a lure, attraction or enticement for big game not lawfully held in captivity.
 - 1. Crops and crop aftermath, including hay, alfalfa and grains, produced, harvested, stored or fed to domestic livestock in accordance with normal agricultural practices shall not be subject to this regulation.
 - 2. When the Director determines it necessary to authorize feeding to prevent damage to private property.
 - 3. When the Director determines it necessary to authorize feeding to mitigate the population loss anticipated by a predicted winter mortality that will exceed 30 percent of the adult female segment of a big game ungulate population in any one Game Management Unit.
 - 4. When the Director determines it appropriate to feed big game as a part of a research or management program.
- B. ~~No person~~ shall ~~be unlawful to~~ place or deposit minerals or salt ~~the person knows or reasonably should know in an area so as to~~ constitute a lure or attractant for wildlife. Nothing in this regulation shall restrict the use of salt or mineral blocks in normal agricultural practices.
- C. Except as provided in subsections (A)(1-4) of this regulation no person shall place, deposit, distribute or scatter any food or other substance ~~the person knows or reasonably should know so as to intentionally~~ constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement for coyotes or fox in an area where the discharge of firearms is precluded by law. This regulation shall not apply to any person using any bait or other attractants for the purpose of luring coyotes and fox for take as otherwise authorized by law.
- D. No person shall fail to take remedial action to avoid contact or conflict with black bears, coyotes or fox, which may include the securing or removal of outdoor trash, cooking grills, pet food, bird feeders or any other similar food source or attractant, after being notified by the Division that black bears, coyotes or fox are in the area and advised to undertake such remedial action. Further, after an initial contact or conflict with a black bear, coyotes or fox, no person shall continue to provide, or otherwise fail to secure or remove, any likely food sources or attractants, including, but not limited to, outdoor trash, grills, pet food or bird feeders.

ARTICLE XIII - Game Management Unit Boundaries

#024 - Game Management Unit Boundary Descriptions for All Terrestrial Game Species, Except Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat

B. Unit descriptions

- UNIT 97 Those portions of Logan, Washington and Morgan counties bounded on the north and east by Colo 61; on the south by US 34; and on the west by I-76 ~~Business/US 34 spur and I-76.~~
- UNIT 98 Those portions of Logan, Phillips, Yuma, and Washington counties bounded on

the north by Colo 6; on the east by the Colorado-Nebraska state line; on the south by US 34; and on the west by Colo 61.

UNIT 99

Those portions of Weld, Morgan, and Adams counties bounded on the north by I-76; on the east by I-76 Business/US 34 and Colo 71; on the south by US 36; on the west by Colo 79 and 144th Avenue; on the south and west by Adams Co Rd 25N, 152nd Avenue, and I-76; and on the west by I-76.

Basis and Purpose:

Modifying the culpable mental state for luring or attracting wildlife

Feeding wildlife, particularly big game, is a widespread issue in Colorado, especially near cities. This practice is prohibited because it can spread disease, harm animals with unnatural food, increase conflicts with people, and unnaturally inflate animal populations. While regulations prohibit this, it's currently very hard to enforce. Prosecutors must prove a person intended to attract wildlife, which is difficult to show. This high burden of proof means successful prosecutions are rare. To fix this, the proposed change would lower the mental state standard from "intentionally" to "knows or reasonably should know." This would make violations easier to prove and encourage people to stop feeding wildlife. The change aims to improve public safety, reduce disease spread, and create healthier, more manageable wildlife populations.

Realigning the boundaries of game management units 97 and 99

Previously, the boundary descriptions for the Southwest corner of GMU 97 and Northeast corner of GMU 99 were incomplete and missing a section. The net change from this realignment of the boundaries will result in shifting 1.3 sq. miles from GMU 97 to GMU 99. This GMU boundary realignment will have no impact to DAU objectives or any big game species within the respective GMUs and DAUs.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be viewed and copies obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager, Policy and Planning Unit, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 2, 2026 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 14TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

APPROVED:
Richard Reading
Chair

ATTEST:
Eden Vardy
Secretary

Phil Weiser
Attorney General

Natalie Hanlon Leh
Chief Deputy Attorney General

Shannon Stevenson
Solicitor General

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Office of the Attorney General

Tracking Number: **2025-00591**

**OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RENDERED IN
CONNECTION WITH THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (406 Series, Wildlife)
ON 01/14/2026**

**2 CCR 406-0
CHAPTER W-0 - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The above-referenced rules were submitted to this office on 01/15/2026 as required by section 24-4-103, C.R.S. This office has reviewed them and finds no apparent constitutional or legal deficiency in their form or substance.

January 28, 2026 09:45:56 MST

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell D. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Philip J. Weiser
Attorney General
by Russell D. Johnson
Deputy Solicitor General