



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources  
Northeast Regional Office  
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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 8, 2023

TO: Fletcher Jacobs, State Trails Program Manager

FROM: Mark Leslie, Northeast Regional Manager

Subject: Wildlife Impacts Review, 2024 Non-Motorized Trail Grant Cycle

There are a total of twenty-eight (28) non-motorized grant applications within the Northeast Region requesting funding from the State Trails Program for the 2024 grant cycle process. These applications were distributed to CPW Area Field Staff (Area Wildlife Managers, District Wildlife Managers) for review and comment. In addition, the comments were reviewed by Northeast Region Staff including Regional Manager Mark Leslie, Deputy Regional Manager Shannon Schaller, and Regional Trails Coordinator Luke Svare. Below is a list by application name with a summary of our comments and concerns.

#### Construction Grant Applications:

- Partnership for Stewardship
  - Brainerd Lake Trail Segment
    - No significant wildlife impacts.
  - Crooked Trout Trail Segment
    - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Country Park Trailhead
  - There is currently a localized herd of approximately 100 to 150 pronghorn isolated by human development that reside at the Plains Conservation Center and open space throughout the area. Development of this project has the potential to further encroach upon this limited and dwindling pronghorn habitat.
  - As black-tailed prairie dog towns are likely to be established at or around the area, CPW would recommend that a Burrowing Owl survey be conducted prior to development of the trailhead parking area.
  - In addition, CPW would recommend that a raptor nesting survey be conducted along this portion of East Tollgate Creek and depending upon nesting raptor survey results, to include as much as possible that the timing of trail development occurs away from and outside of the raptor nesting season.

Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Dallas May, Chair • Richard Reading, Vice-Chair • Karen Bailey, Secretary • Jessica Beaulieu  
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- Rails to Trails Parking
  - All three proposed sites are on disturbed sites near roadway intersections so any wildlife impacts will be minimal.
- Ramp and Stairs Improvement Project
  - If prairie dog towns are present at or near the site, CPW would recommend that a burrowing owl survey be conducted.

**Maintenance Grant Applications:**

- East Harvard Gulch Trail
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Roaring Creek Maintenance
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- South Valley Trail
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- CDTC Maintenance
  - Herman Gulch Maintenance
    - Area staff suggests moving the camping location further away from Herman Gulch to protect the stream and riparian area which is home to a population of pure strain Greenback Cutthroat Trout.
  - Grays Peak Maintenance
    - No significant wildlife impacts.

**Planning Grant Applications:**

- Coyote Ridge Open Space Planning
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Fall River Trail Final Design
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Pike NF Trail Condition and Assessment Survey
  - No significant wildlife impacts.



- Poudre River Trail - Narrows Planning
  - Area staff is in support of this application. They do not want the trail to go any further north than it is now, as the trail's location has a natural buffer between wildlife utilizing the river habitat to the north, and that habitat should be left alone. Due to the river being mapped as High Priority Habitat for a large range of wildlife, it would be best to ensure that appropriate timing stipulations regarding raptors and deer are followed.

**Support Grant Applications:**

- Woodland Conservation Fund Gear and Volunteer Support
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Wildlands Restoration Volunteers - Capacity, Training and Leaders
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- CDTC Regional Representative Support
  - No significant wildlife impacts.

**Trails Stewardship Applications:**

- Boulder Climbing Community
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- City of Greeley Natural Areas and Trails
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Larimer County Department of Natural Resources
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Colorado Mountain Bike Association
  - No significant wildlife impacts.



## Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Applications:

- Centennial Park Improvement Project
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- 47<sup>th</sup> and Walden - New Park Development
  - Area staff suggests doing raptor surveys before any construction will begin. There are not any mapped raptor nests in the area, but this information can change season-to-season. If there are prairie dogs present, Burrowing Owls may also exist. Area staff recommends performing surveys before any construction or ground-moving.
- Mt. Sanitas Trail Projects
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Schofield Farm Open Space
  - No comments were received.
- Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground
  - No significant wildlife impacts. Bears are occasionally seen in the immediate area and there are sometimes conflicts with bears and development. It is imperative that bear-proof trash cans are used and landscaping should incorporate native trees, shrubs, and grasses.
- Diversifying Recreational Uses in Idaho Springs
  - No significant wildlife impacts.
- Bennett Future Park Phase III
  - Prairie dog towns are likely to be present around or throughout the site. Area staff recommends that a burrowing owl survey be conducted if construction occurs between March 15 and August 31. Area Staff recommends that an active weed management plan be implemented in accordance with Arapahoe County standards in order to control and eliminate the spread of noxious weeds. Area staff would encourage dogs on leashes throughout the park. Area staff would strongly discourage the human feeding of all wildlife species which in some cases is illegal, in order to minimize human and wildlife interactions. Garbage receptacles should possess locking or snug-fitting lids to reduce the attraction to wildlife species that commonly get into human trash and waste.

