



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Regional Office  
4255 Sinton Rd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5223

December 17, 2020

Land Use Review Division  
City of Colorado Springs  
c/o Katelynn Wintz - Senior Planner  
30 S Nevada Avenue, Suite 701  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Re: Project Proposal for 2424 W Garden of the Gods Rd.

Dear Ms. Wintz,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has analyzed the project proposal for 2424 W Garden of the Gods Rd. which includes a review of a master plan amendment, zoning change and a concept plan for future site development. CPW is familiar with the project site that borders the intersection of W. Garden of the Gods Rd. and N. 30<sup>th</sup> St. to its southeast and borders Flying W Ranch Rd. to its east. CPW staff has visited the site and offers the following comments for your consideration.

Fences can cause many problems for wildlife, including death, entanglements, and barriers to movements. CPW recommends the developers consult our publication "Fencing with Wildlife in mind." ([cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us). *Hanophy 2009*) when considering the design of fences within the development. The publication is available on our website and we would be happy to provide a link to the PDF specifically. The use of privacy fencing, chain link fencing, and other exclusionary fencing should be at least 6 feet high and should be restricted to the immediate area surrounding the buildings or within the designated building envelope and should not be used as a method to designate boundaries of larger lot sizes (> 1 acre). Fencing outside the immediate building envelope or area surrounding the buildings on larger lots within the known range of elk, deer and pronghorn should be a maximum top height of 42" with at least 12" spacing between the top two wires or rails and a bottom wire or rail at least 16" above the ground to allow passage of juvenile animals and pronghorn antelope. It is also recommended that the top and bottom wires be a twisted barbless construction. Construction of ornamental wrought iron fencing with closely spaced vertical bars (<12") and sharp projections extending beyond the top horizontal bar should be strongly discouraged in areas where deer, elk, and black bear are known to occur. This type of fencing typically ensnares deer and elk by the hips when trying to squeeze through and impales animals attempting to go over the top.

Black bears are common along the Front Range, and this development will have bears coming into and around the development. CPW recommends several measures to reduce the potential for human bear conflicts. First, we strongly recommend that home owners are advised to



purchase bear-resistant trash containers, and that potential home owners are advised that bears will be present in the area. Residents should also be advised that being located on the west side of I-25 the City of Colorado Springs has a new trash ordinance regarding trash containers and bears. The ordinance requires that all regular trash containers be kept inside a garage or shed and not be put out before 5:00 AM and brought back in by 7:00 PM on the day of trash pickup. If bear resistant trash containers are purchased and used the container may be left outside at any time. It is advised that residents routinely clean out their trash container to reduce bear/container interactions. Another possible alternative would be the use of a centralized and securely fenced trash collection site with the use of bear proof dumpsters that employees, customers, and the trash service provider would have access to. This would eliminate the need for individual trash cans.

Second, residents and food vendors should also keep their barbecues and any food locked away in the garage or a secure building. Finally, we would recommend that the use of bird feeders and hummingbird feeders be discouraged, since they also attract black bears. However, if feeders are used, they should be placed so they are inaccessible to black bears, raccoons, skunks, deer and other wildlife species that might cause damage or threaten human safety. A copy of a brochure entitled, "Living with wildlife in bear country" is available for reference upon request from CPW. Bears that become habituated to people and human foods ultimately have to be euthanized. Proper education and trash storage reduces the number of these "problem" bears.

Feeding of all wildlife should be prohibited, with the exception of songbirds and with the above paragraph in mind. It is illegal to feed big game including deer, elk, antelope, bear and mountain lion. CPW would recommend that home buyers are provided with educational material regarding wildlife either through the purchase process, or through the development itself. There is a sizeable resident herd of deer in the area. It is illegal to provide feed for deer because of health and safety concerns both for humans and the deer. Concentrations of deer will attract predators, including mountain lions. Dangerous conflicts with mountain lions are rare, however care should be used when living in mountain lion habitat.

CPW recommends that a Noxious Weed Management Plan be followed closely during the development of the neighborhood. All disturbed soils should be monitored for noxious weeds and noxious weeds should be actively controlled until native plant revegetation and reclamation is achieved. All areas disturbed by the development should be revegetated with native plant species.

The Rampart Range Bighorn Sheep herd lives near the proposed project area. CPW has worked with this herd intensively through counts, observations, trappings, and hunting activities. Work with these sheep mainly occurs on their primary habitat and favored location of the old mining scar and the steep hillsides nearby. These habitats lie roughly west and up the hill from the proposed project site.

Just southwest of the proposed project site are The Glen Eyrie and The Navigators properties. These properties are where the sheep from the Rampart Range Bighorn sheep herd graze, rest and move through. In addition to the before mentioned areas the Rampart Range sheep are also seen using and moving through the property of the Flying W Ranch. The sheep will move north through the Flying W Ranch to areas along Lanagan St. and then farther north to the Castle Concrete rock quarry west of Allegheny Dr.

Through all the work that CPW has done with the Rampart Range Bighorn Sheep herd there have been no observations of the sheep being on or using the proposed project area. The Rampart Range Bighorn sheep's main habitat lies uphill on the old mining scar and in and around the precariously steep walls of Queen's Canyon and any of the other steep hillsides and rock faces of the Rampart Range.

Included with this proposed project is a 55.43 acre open space that will be west of any new development that takes place. This open space will also sit between the development and any possible sheep use or movement. This open space will buffer any impact into areas where the sheep may pass through to get to more suitable habitat.

It is CPW's professional opinion that any new development at the proposed project site at 2424 W Garden of the God's Rd. will have little to no impact on the Rampart Range Bighorn Sheep herd.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager, Corey Adler, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-439-9637 or via email at [corey.adler@state.co.us](mailto:corey.adler@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



Frank McGee  
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: Corey Adler, DWM  
SE Regional File  
Area 14 File