

N E W S

HANG HOLIDAY DECORATIONS WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND



While holiday lights brighten the short days of early winter, Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds residents to hang outdoor decorations with wildlife in mind.

Every year CPW gets reports and photos of bucks snarled in decorations. In Salida recently, a buck deer became tangled in a rope being used as part of an outdoor display. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers and staff from the Salida fire department helped cut it loose ; but the deer is still dragging around some rope.

Deer are entering their mating season and bucks are moving around with only one thing on their mind: finding a mate.

To prevent animals from getting snared, CPW suggests that decorations be wrapped tightly around posts and trees. Lights that are hanging should be at least six feet off the ground for the entire length and fastened securely at the ends. Lights should not be draped over bushes or trees. And decorations attached to a house or building should be secured tightly.

CPW also suggests putting away other items that bucks can get tangled in, such as volleyball nets, tricycles, wire items used for gardening,

garden tools, hammocks, swings, etc.

If you see a buck that has become snared in decorations or some other item, call the nearest CPW office. A wildlife officer will attempt to find the animal and make a determination if it is in a life-threatening situation.

For office locations and phone numbers: <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>.

PLEASE, KEEP BIRD FEEDERS CLEAN TO KEEP BIRDS HEALTHY

Backyard birders love their feeders, but when birds get bunched up they can pass around diseases. You can help prevent diseases through proper use and regular cleaning of bird feeders and bird baths.

A recent observation in the Montrose area of house finches with swollen, crusty eyes sent up warning flags for Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists for house-finch eye disease. The disease, also called mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, is slowly spreading across the United States and Colorado birds are at risk. Although house-finch eye disease has not yet been confirmed in Colorado, it is important to remember that this disease and several others are commonly spread at bird feeders and bird baths. Other diseases include salmonellosis, trichomoniasis, avian pox, pigeon paramyxovirus and aspergillosis.

“Watching birds at feeders, especially during the winter, is a great way to enjoy and learn about the beauty of nature,” said Karen Fox, wildlife pathologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. “Unfortunately, bird feeders and bird baths can quickly become contaminated with bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi if visited by sick birds. These germs are then spread to other healthy birds visiting the same feeders. Crowding of birds makes it even easier for germs to spread and large numbers of birds can become sick and even die.”

Most bird feeders should be cleaned at least once a month and bird baths at least once a week. Platform-style bird feeders that allow birds to walk on top of – and defecate on – feed require more frequent cleaning in order to prevent the

spread of bacteria like Salmonella. Hanging-style feeders with perches are easier to keep clean; but be sure to clean under the feeders where bird feces and feed accumulate. Birds feeding off the ground can easily pick up bacteria from feces.

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE OFFERS THESE TIPS FOR THOSE WITH FEEDERS:

- Clean feeders at least once a month. Feeders can be washed in the dishwasher or with soapy water; rinse with diluted bleach solution – nine parts water to one part bleach.
- Clean bird baths and provide clean, fresh water at least once a week.
- Be sure to dry feeders thoroughly before refilling; always dispose of any feed that gets wet.
- Use multiple feeders and space them widely to prevent birds from crowding.
- Sweep or rake-up debris and droppings below feeders so that birds don't come in contact with waste material. Do not spread seed on the ground.
- If you see diseased birds, take down your feeders for at least two weeks; then clean feeders thoroughly prior to replacing seed.
- Wear gloves when handling feeders and wash hands afterward. Some diseases, such as salmonellosis, can cause illness in humans and domestic animals.
- Pets should never be allowed to play with or consume sick or dead birds.
- Please contact the nearest Colorado Parks and Wildlife office if you observe sick or dead birds at your feeders.

To learn more about birds and diseases, visit: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

THE 3RD ANNUAL GO INITIATIVE TURKEY TROT PRESENTED BY CAMP 4 COFFEE WILL TAKE PLACE ON THANKSGIVING DAY IN CRESTED BUTTE

The 5K starts at 8:30 a.m., and the 1K Gobble Wobble at 9:15 a.m. with awards/giveaways immediately following.

All proceeds will go to subsidizing and supporting mental health services in the valley for organizations like Living Journeys, Project Hope and our own mental health services provided under the gO Orthopedics roof. This year we hope to at least double our participation as the need is bigger than ever.

We would love it if you would help us support this cause either by participating in the event, donating a raffle item or signing up to volunteer!

We will also have lots of information on local resources on hand at the start/finish, so please tell all of your friends and colleagues so that we can bring attention to the help that is available right here in our valley.

Mental health is sometimes more important than our physical health and often times needs more attention than we think- please help us spread the word. THANK YOU!

Donations/Registration: <http://thegoinitiative.org/challenges/go-turkey-trot/>

Volunteer Signup: <http://signup.com/go/JEZhPnz>

CPW CELEBRATES FRESH AIR FRIDAY ON NOVEMBER 23



Colorado Parks and Wildlife is renewing its tradition of opening its parks to free entry on the day after Thanksgiving. CPW welcomes you to join us in celebrating Fresh Air Friday on November 23, transforming a day traditionally spent more on material goods and leftovers into a day spent appreciating nature and having some fun outdoors.

With support from our partners at Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), CPW invites you to connect with family and friends by getting outside and celebrating Fresh Air Friday with free admission to any of our 41 state parks. If you can't make it to one of our state parks, CPW still encourages Coloradans to get outside to their favorite local park, open space or trail system to enjoy quality time with loved ones and create outdoor memories that last a lifetime.

"There's no denying how grateful we as Coloradans are for our outdoor way of life," said CPW Director Bob Broscheid. "So instead of spending the day after Thanksgiving surrounded by crowds and hunting for deals, we hope people will choose to get their friends and families outside to be surrounded by nature instead."

Starting a Fresh Air Friday tradition in Colorado is easier than ever. Aspiring adventurers can download the free COTREX trails app to choose where they'd like to hike, bike or ride. If you'd like to avoid leftovers, find a fresh catch with help from the CPW Fishing App. Families with young children can even check off activities from Generation Wild's 100 Things to Do Before You're 12 list right in their own backyard. Or if you simply need to move around after a large meal on Thursday, visit a local trail, park or open space near you for a family dog walk or to view some wildlife.

Use our park finder to decide which state park you'll visit on Fresh Air Friday. No matter where you go, get out and turn Black Friday into a blue skies Friday, a green trees Friday, a white snow Friday... a Fresh Air Friday! For a list of specific park activities, visit cpw.state.co.us.

BAD WEATHER DRIVING...SOME CALL IT SKI SEASON TROOPER TIPS BY TROOPER GARY CUTLER

It's that time of year again, which means snow storms are on the horizon. Bad weather isn't all that bad, because with it comes all of the fun activities we like to do in Colorado such as skiing, sledding, skiing, hiking, and skiing/snowboarders.

I joke about the ski season, but when we see a good snow storm, that's when skiers and snowboarders head to the slopes in larger groups than normal. Let's talk about the situations where we just have to get around in snow storms.

Reduced speed is always a key factor to staying safe when driving on snow, or ice packed roadways. It's winter, so make sure you take that extra step to have the time to drive to your destination safely, which means slower than normal speeds. Bad weather doesn't necessarily mean we have to have bad driving.

One situation that worries me is black ice. Ice is the unseen danger that is often a factor in winter time driving. I've seen people going lower speeds when they are on snow packed roads only to speed up to, or beyond the speed limit once the road clears. The road may still be wet, and with cold temperatures that means it can and often freezes to the road surface. Just because you don't see it, doesn't mean it's not still there.

Slick roads also mean it's harder to stop when less than favorable road conditions exist. Give that extra distance needed to stop when snow or ice are present. It's hard to give just one correct distance for bad road conditions. Use good common sense and the rule of thumb that it could take double the distance on wet roads and up to as much as 10 times the distance on snow and ice packed roadways to safely stop.

Also be prepared to travel in bad weather. This means having enough "survival gear" to make it through a dangerous situation if you get stuck on the roadway. This doesn't always mean you're stuck because you have crashed or slid off the roadway. It could be just that the weather is so bad the roadways have been shut down and you are stuck with everyone

else traveling with no way to get off the road for a while.

Even when you are just going on a short trip, there can be situations where you need emergency equipment with you. The items that can save a life are: blankets, flares/emergency triangles, water, shovel, food/snacks, and cell phone. I probably don't have to remind anyone to make sure they bring their phone though.

Here are my final tips for winter driving. When roads are dry, drive as if it's raining. When roads are wet, drive as if it's snowing. When roads have snow on it, drive as if it's ice. When roads have ice on it, think about staying home that day.

So there you have it, a few simple tips to help keep you safe when driving in bad weather this year.

As always, safe travels!

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION APPROVES LICENSE, CAMPING, PARK FEE CHANGES



The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission voted Thursday to approve increases to hunting and fishing licenses, camping and daily and annual park pass fees. The changes to these fees are a result of the passage of Senate Bill 18-143 this spring. These approved fee increases will take effect on January 1, 2019.

Senate Bill 18-143, known as the “Hunting, Fishing, and Parks for Future Generations Act,” was signed into law in May of this year. The bill gives the CPW Commission authority to review and approve fee changes for licenses and park fees within limits set forth in the bill. Fee increases have been approved in each of the following categories.

WILDLIFE LICENSE CHANGES

With a few exceptions, resident license fees will increase by \$8.

The commission also approved new licenses or license fees as follows:

- A qualifying hunting license purchase for the current year must be made in order to apply for any big game license. A qualifying license includes: 1) an annual resident or nonresident small game hunting license; 2) an annual resident or nonresident spring turkey license; or 3) resident small game/fishing combination license (only available to residents).
- Preference points fees will be charged for sheep, moose and goat applicants in 2019. Preference point fees for each of these species will be \$50 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents.
- The application fee for the limited license drawing will increase to \$7 for residents and \$9 for nonresidents.
- A new resident fishing license for youth ages 16 & 17 was created and will be priced at \$8 (instead of full price).
- Resident senior annual fishing licenses (ages 65+) will cost \$8 (instead of free).

This allows the agency to collect federal matching funds

- The wildlife education fee, assessed on most wildlife licenses, will increase from \$0.75 to \$1.50.
- The Colorado State Waterfowl Stamp fee will increase to \$10.

Nonresident license fees will not be increased in 2019. Resident and nonresident license fees will be reviewed and considered for adjustment based on annual Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Consumer Price Index changes beginning in 2020.

Nonresident bear licenses for all seasons will be reduced to \$100.

PARKS PASSES CHANGES

Fee increases for daily and annual parks passes are noted below:

- The price of an annual pass will increase to \$80 for a standard annual affixed vehicle pass, \$40 for a multiple annual

affixed vehicle pass, and \$70 for an aspen leaf annual pass.

- The price of daily vehicle passes will increase by \$1, increasing to \$8 for most parks and to \$9 for Cherry Creek, Chatfield, Boyd Lake and Eldorado Canyon state parks.
- The price of an individual daily pass (for access outside of a motor vehicle) will also increase to \$4.

This fee now applies for any person entering Barr Lake, Crawford, Colorado State Forest, Eldorado Canyon, Elkhead Reservoir, Harvey Gap, Highline Lake, James M. Robb - Colorado River, Lory, Pearl Lake, Rifle Gap, Rifle Falls, Stagecoach, Steamboat Lake, Sweitzer Lake, Sylvan Lake, Trinidad Lake, Vega and Yampa River State Parks

- The Commission also established a pilot program for a new hangtag pass that does not need to be affixed to a vehicle windshield, which has been frequently requested by park visitors. It will be priced at \$120.

The annual hangtag pass is issued to an individual, not a vehicle. Only one vehicle at a time can use an annual hangtag pass, as the hangtag pass owner must be in the vehicle using the pass. Only one lost or stolen replacement hangtag pass will be offered annually for \$60, or 50% of the full pass price.

- The price of daily dog off-leash passes will increase to \$3 and the price of annual dog off-leash passess will increase to \$25.

CAMPING/FACILITIES PERMIT CHANGES

The Commission has also opted to implement camping fee changes for the first time since 2015. The Commission has approved eliminating the \$10 reservation fee previously charged for camping permits, instead increasing campsite base pricing statewide.

- Fees for camping permits will increase between \$8 to \$13, depending on the type of campground site.
- The fees for cabins and yurts will increase by \$10.
- Park managers have the ability to discount camping permit fees annually; modifications must be made by March 1 for the following reservation year.

It is important for camping customers to check individual park pages to learn fees for each specific park and site.

- The price of group picnic areas will increase between \$20 to \$60 depending on the park and the type of group picnic area.

Park Managers have the ability to discount facilities fees annually; modifications must be made by March 1 for the following reservation year.

- The group facility reservation fee will remain at \$10/facility.

As outlined in the Future Generations Act, CPW is committed to working toward 10 key goals by 2025. The agency is responsible for reporting the impact of fee increases and expenditures in meeting those goals to the legislature annually. A list of all 10 goals and a full listing of all approved fee changes is available at cpw.state.co.us.

CPW WARNS PUBLIC TO LEAVE BABY WILDLIFE ALONE AFTER OFFICER TAKES MOUNTAIN LION KITTEN TAKEN FROM A HOME WHERE IT WAS FED BRATWURST AND FELL ILL



After removing a mountain lion kitten from a private home, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is reminding the public it is illegal to possess wild animals and dangerous to the animals' health.

Although sick from being fed bratwurst, the kitten appeared to be in good health otherwise, said Travis Sauder, CPW district wildlife manager, after he retrieved the kitten and sent it to the nonprofit Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation in Wetmore.

But the incident could have turned out much differently since the kitten, estimated by wildlife biologists to be under six months of age, was fed human food when it probably was not yet weaned from its mother's milk and may have only eaten regurgitated solids from its mother.

"If you find wildlife you believe to be orphaned, leave the

area immediately and call CPW,” Sauder said. “By leaving the area, mom will feel safe to come back and retrieve her young.”

“Many animals intentionally leave their young behind when startled, relying on the built-in camouflage of the youngsters’ spotted fur to keep them safe. The mother will then return to retrieve its young once the area is safe.”

The people in possession of the kitten published photos Monday on social media showing it in a cage. They claimed they found it in a snowbank after a snowplow passed by. They also claimed they released it back to the wild after allowing it to “thaw out.” In fact, Sauder collected the kitten from their home in Walsenburg on Tuesday. He then transported it to the rehab center.

“Wild animals do not need to ‘thaw out’ because they are equipped by nature to survive cold and snow,” Sauder said. “When we do have orphaned wildlife, it’s important we get them to licensed rehabilitators who specialize in raising these wild animals, who know what to feed them and how to care for them so we can successfully release them back into the wild once they mature.”

Sauder said this kitten was kept far too long by humans to return to where it was found.

“It had been almost 30 hours since it was picked up Monday and its mom would not be in the area any longer,” he said. “This is why it’s vital to leave baby wildlife where you find them and call us immediately.”

ONE VEHICLE HAZMAT-SEMI ROLLOVER LEAVES HIGHWAY 550 CLOSED SOUTH OF SILVERTON

The Colorado State Patrol is investigating a single-vehicle semi rollover on Highway 550 at milepost 69.8. Highway 550 remains closed between milepost 50 at the bottom of Coal Bank Pass and milepost 70 at Silverton.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on November 14, 2018, a red Peterbilt truck-tractor hauling a tank semi-trailer lost control while northbound on Highway 550 at milepost 69.8, just south of Silverton. The semi drove across the oncoming (southbound) lane and up a small embankment. The semi overturned onto its right side. The tank trailer separated from the tractor and rolled an additional ½ time coming to rest on its left side, near the road.

The driver of the semi, Micah Rodgers, 45, of Pineville, LA, was transported to Montrose Memorial Hospital for evaluation. The semi, operated by Miller Transporters of Jackson, MS, was hauling stabilized methyl methacrylate monomer (MMA), a very flammable liquid used in a variety of plastics. The tank did not rupture, but an undetermined amount leaked from a valve. Colorado State Patrol Hazardous Materials technicians as well as clean-up and remediation crews are on scene. Plans are underway for an operation to empty the tank before it can be safely righted and removed.

Highway 550 remains closed due to flammability concerns. There are no health hazards or concerns at this time. Motorists and pedestrians will be required to keep a safe distance, behind the road closure. At this time, off-loading, righting, and removal operations will take place in the daylight, and may conclude as early as early afternoon on November 15. Highway 550 will remain closed until that time.

Silverton San Juan Fire and Rescue Authority, Silverton San Juan County Ambulance Association, San Juan County Sheriff’s Office, Durango Fire Rescue, and the Colorado Department of Transportation are assisting with this incident.

COLORADO PUC CHAIRMAN NAMED CO-CHAIR OF NEW NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON COMPREHENSIVE ELECTRICITY PLANNING

Colorado PUC Chairman Jeff Ackermann will co-chair a new national task force to help develop new approaches to better align electric distribution system planning and resource planning processes. The task force is a partnership between the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO).

The Joint Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning was announced yesterday at the 2018 NARUC annual meeting in Orlando. The two-year collaborative initiative of NARUC and NASEO, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy, will provide a forum for participants from 12 to 15 states to examine key planning process intersections to test

concepts, learn from national-caliber experts, and outline policy and technical needs.

Ackermann will co-chair the task force with Dr. Laura Nelson, Executive Director of the Utah Office of Energy Development. The task force will provide a forum for the development of state-led pathways toward a more resilient, efficient and affordable electric grid.

“As the electric sector, and surrounding energy economy, undergoes pressure to evolve, there are expectations upon the regulatory process to keep up,” Ackermann said. “This will require an unprecedented level of regulatory and policy coordination at the state level, specifically between regulatory commissions and state energy offices.”

The full roster of task force participants will be announced in February. The first task force working meeting will occur in spring of 2019.

A FEW MORE PLACES LEFT IN THE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Several places remain at the Leadership training workshop on Thursday, November 29, from 9:00-4:00 at the United Methodist Church in Montrose, 19 South Park Avenue.

This workshop will explore the difference between effective management and effective leadership, and help everyone recognize their potential and how to apply it in their organization. Trainers are Denise Clark of Telluride and Emily Shamsid-Deen of Denver, both experienced and savvy nonprofit professionals.

The workshop is co-sponsored by the San Juan Nonprofit Council of Montrose, Gunnison, Ouray, Hinsdale and San Miguel Counties; the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley; and the Community Resource Center of Denver. Their collaboration and sponsorship means that the fee is only \$60 if you register in advance online, or \$65 at the door.

For more information, or to receive the registration link, contact Maryo Ewell at the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley, maryo@cfgv.org or 641-3570.

