



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northeast Regional Office  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216  
P 303.291.7227

January 17, 2020

Paul Workman, Senior Planner  
Community Development  
Town of Parker  
20120 E. Main Street  
Parker, CO 80138

RE: Parker Pointe Minor Development Plat (SUB19-052)

Dear Mr. Workman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Parker Pointe Minor Development Plat project in Douglas County, Colorado. The mission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. Our goal in responding to land use proposals such as this is to provide complete, consistent, and timely information to all entities who request comment on matters within our statutory authority.

District Wildlife Manager Katie Doyle recently analyzed the project site. The project is located on the southeast corner of S. Parker Road and E. Stroh Road in Douglas County, and the location is in the corner of the Colorado Gulf Club residential area and just north of Kinney Creek. The proposed subdivision divides the land into 15 commercial lots and 2 tracts and is a total of 14.66 acres. CPW would expect to find occasional use of the proposed site by small ground-dwelling mammals, small birds, raptors, and other common urban species.

Prairie dogs occur within or near the proposed development site, and as a result, the potential may also exist for the presence of burrowing owls. Burrowing owls live on flat, treeless land with short vegetation, and nest underground in burrows dug by prairie dogs, badgers, and foxes. These raptors are classified as a state threatened species and are protected by both state and federal laws, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These laws prohibit the killing of burrowing owls or disturbance of their nest. Therefore, if any earth-moving will begin between March 15th and October 31st, a burrowing owl survey should be performed. Guidelines for performing a burrowing owl survey can be obtained from your local District Wildlife Manager. If prairie dogs are present and any earth-moving is to be done on site, CPW recommends euthanasia or relocation (with the appropriate permit) prior to any work being done. If relocation is chosen, please consult with the local district wildlife manager for the required permit.

Care should also be taken to make sure no raptor nests will be impacted during this project. Raptors are protected from take, harassment, and nest disruption at both the state and federal levels. CPW recommends that buffer zones be implemented around any nest discovered within the project vicinity during any period of activity that may interfere with nesting season. This will prevent the intentional or unintentional destruction of an active nest. For further information on this topic, a copy of the document "Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors," is available from your local District Wildlife Manager. Following the recommendations outlined in this document



will decrease the likelihood of unintentional take through disturbance.

Current CPW policy directs our efforts towards proposals that will potentially have high impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat. The emphasis of CPW's concerns is on large acreages, critical habitats, wildlife diversity, and impacts to species of special concern, or those that are state or federally endangered. Due to the small acreage of the proposed project and limited disturbance to nearby habitat areas, impacts of the development can be characterized as minimal. This may not mean that the landscape has no value to wildlife or value to the community. It is important to remember that incremental and cumulative loss of natural areas and open spaces will, over time, significantly degrade the overall quality of wildlife habitat in the area. Therefore, in this case, we want to focus our recommendations on planning and implementing your proposal to minimize negative impacts and maximize potential enhancements to support living with wildlife in our community. If you have any further questions, please contact District Wildlife Manager Katie Doyle at (720) 930-8039.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matt Martinez".

Matt Martinez  
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: M. Leslie, K. Cannon, K. Doyle