

North Plains Area Plan	COMMENTS	CMP COMPARISON
<p>Wildlife & Native Vegetation</p> <p>Wildlife provides benefits to both human beings and the environment. For humans, wildlife contributes to psychological well-being and is a very important element of the community's character. The North Plains area affords residents and visitors the unique opportunity to observe a variety of wildlife species in an area only minutes away from the metropolitan area.</p> <p>Two major continental biomes, the Grassland Biome and the Coniferous Forest Biome, meet along the Front Range, creating a rich variety of habitats and species. Development in the area should be carefully planned, carefully implemented and continually monitored to assure maintenance of this ecologically significant resource.</p> <p>A list of the North Plains area's most prominent wildlife and vegetation is contained in the Appendix.</p>	<p>Modify CMP</p>	<p>Add to the first paragraph of the Introduction to the Visual Resources chapter</p> <p>Wildlife is a unique resource that draws people to Jefferson County and adds to the residents' quality of life. Wildlife requires habitats in which to live. Two major continental biomes, the Grassland Biome and the Coniferous Forest Biome, meet along the Front Range, creating a rich variety of habitats and species. The quality of wildlife habitat is determined by the environment's ability to support life by providing food, cover, water, and space. A shortage of any life-supporting component of a habitat can limit the number and distribution of wildlife species. The absence of any component can prevent wildlife from using the space as habitat.</p> <p>Add list to appendix of CMP</p>
<p>GOAL</p> <p>Development should accommodate and protect wildlife habitats, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The preservation of riparian areas, waterways, their banks, and adjacent vegetation areas; * The protection of habitat, hunting and nesting areas of threatened or endangered species, primarily birds of prey; * The preservation of unobstructed movement corridors for deer, elk, and other species; * The preservation of hunting territories for bobcats, mountain lions and other large predators in the mountain areas; * The preservation of native and naturalized vegetation, particularly tallgrass prairie remnants; * The preservation of water quality in bodies of water used by wildlife; and * The preservation of key open areas used by wildlife.. 	<p>If specific habitats are listed, can inadvertently exclude other habitats. The more generic the goals, the broader their application.</p>	<p>Goal: Support the preservation and/or protection of wildlife habitats, natural areas and movement corridors to maintain a healthy ecosystem and healthy wildlife populations.</p> <p>Goal: Support the management of wildlife populations and biological diversity to maintain viable populations and species health.</p> <p>Goal: Minimize and/or mitigate impacts to wildlife and their habitats as development occurs.</p> <p>Goal: Educate the public on ways to coexist with wildlife.</p> <p>Goal: Protect a diversity of wildlife and wildlife habitats to maintain a healthy ecosystem for current and future generations.</p>
<p>POLICIES</p> <p>A. General</p> <p>The community should consider preparing a publication about wildlife in the area, past and present. When the community expresses a desire for a wildlife exhibit, this should be developed. To maximize the educational benefits, coordination with the R-1 School District should occur when feasible.</p>	<p>Modify CMP</p>	<p>Modify to say:</p> <p>The community should consider preparing a list of prominent wildlife and vegetation for each Community Plan area. When the community expresses a desire for a wildlife exhibit, this should be developed. To maximize the educational benefits, coordination with the R-1 School District should occur when feasible.</p>

<p>B. Wildlife Habitat Protection</p> <p>1. There are many ecosystems in the North Plains area which are vital to the survival of wildlife. The vegetation in these areas provides food, shelter and safe corridors for the movement of wildlife. These areas are particularly sensitive to development and should be maintained in a natural state to ensure that the native wildlife continues to flourish. A list of such wildlife areas found in the North Plains area includes, but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Canals and ditches (Farmer's Highline, Croke, Wannamaker) * Streams (Van Bibber Creek, Clear Creek, Coal Creek, Ralston Creek) * Lakes (Hyatt, Kelly, Boyd) * Wetlands and floodplains (Swamp Angel) * North Table Mountain * Mt. Olivet open area (West and North corner) * Reservoirs (Standley, Arvada, Great Western/Ralston) * Leyden Gulch * North and West sides of Standley Lake * The Hogback * Plains of Rocky Flats * Ralston Buttes * Native grasslands 	<p>Specific list – should stay in local plan</p>	<p>Wildlife & Vegetation</p> <p>Protection of Wildlife Habitat Policy: Protect the quality and quantities of wildlife habitats, including forage areas, access to water and access to cover. Objective: Maintain a healthy ecosystem by establishing, protecting, buffering, and improving a set of core habitat areas connected by movement corridors and overland connections.</p> <p>Wildlife and Development Goal: Minimize and/or mitigate impacts to wildlife and their habitats as development occurs. Objective: To reduce the degradation of habitat, carefully site and design development projects to minimize impact to wildlife. Policy: Avoid development in maximum/critical wildlife quality areas. Transfer the density that would have been allowed in these areas to other portions of the site. Policy: Allow development in high and moderate wildlife quality areas only when excellent site design is achieved.</p>
<p>2. Wildlife migration corridors in the North Plains area should be protected because suitable habitats are often separated by long distances.</p>	<p>Map of this habitat will be included in Local plan</p>	<p>Wildlife & Vegetation</p> <p>Protection of Wildlife Habitat Policy: Identify important habitat and movement corridors on the Wildlife Resources Map in each community/subarea plan.</p>
<p>3. Conservation measures which should be used to protect these ecosystems include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The preservation of riparian areas, biologically significant wetlands, waterways, their banks, and adjacent riparian vegetation areas. The riparian corridors should be wide enough to maintain portions of adjacent plain, to allow a mix of habitats in close proximity. b. The protection of habitats and hunting and nesting areas of threatened or endangered species, primarily birds of prey. c. The preservation of unobstructed movement corridors for deer. This can be achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Providing roadway crossing opportunities where needed; and * Using perimeter fencing, when necessary, which can be crossed by wildlife. d. The preservation of hunting territories for bobcats, mountain lions and other large predators in the mountain areas. e. The preservation of native and naturalized vegetation to promote native species. Techniques to achieve this include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * incorporating existing vegetation into site landscaping whenever possible; * minimizing construction disturbance area, especially west of Colorado State Highway 93; and * maintaining the rocky soil types and unusual hydrologic conditions characteristic of much of the North Plains. f. Assessing the potential harmful effects on wildlife caused by pollution which is identified when water monitoring is performed. g. Placing trails adjacent to, but not in, the riparian zones when hiking or other trails are proposed in these areas. h. Reforesting disturbed land to expand habitat areas. i. Conserving soil to support vegetation. j. Using management strategies to control the wildlife population in relation to the available habitat, in coordination with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. These strategies should not include eradication. 	<p>Modify CMP</p>	<p>Wildlife & Vegetation</p> <p>Protection of Wildlife Habitat Policy: Protect the quality and quantities of wildlife habitats, including forage areas, access to water and access to cover. Policy: Protect the habitats and hunting and nesting areas of threatened and endangered species, primarily birds of prey. Policy: Identify important habitat and movement corridors on the Wildlife Resources Map in each community/subarea plan. Policy: Protect wetlands, riparian areas, natural springs, ponds and drainages.</p> <p>Wildlife and Development Policy: Restrict development in and establish setbacks for riparian areas. Policy: Protect vegetation important to wildlife. Policy: Minimize the use of fencing that is exclusionary or dangerous to wildlife, except within building envelopes when required, for human safety, for protection of at-risk crops, and for domestic animal containment. All other fencing in sensitive wildlife areas should be wildlife-friendly.</p> <p>Management of Wildlife Policy: Support efforts by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to manage wildlife populations and wildlife habitat lands.</p> <p>Water Resources</p> <p>Wetlands Policy: Wildlife access to wetlands should be protected and where possible, enhanced. Policy: Development proposals affecting wetlands other than those identified as significant, particularly those with a large size, hydrologic connections, wildlife habitat value, or human interest, should also be evaluated for potential impacts and mitigation measures.</p> <p>Riparian Areas Policy: Wildlife access to water and riparian habitats should be protected and where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>Floodplains Policy: Protect riparian and wildlife management corridors to link habitat.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Ensure language is in the Design Guidelines to address a.-c. and e.-j.</p> <p>Modify "d." to say: Recognize the importance of hunting territories for bobcats, mountain lions, and other large predators for the management of other animal populations.</p> <p>Add as Policy 2 under the Wildlife & Vegetation chapter, Protection of Wildlife Habitat, Objective C.</p>

<p>C. Wildlife Inventory & Habitat Maps The Colorado Department of Wildlife, under House Bill 1041, has mapped the important wildlife areas in the North Plains area. The North Plains Plan should incorporate these documents. A biologic inventory of the North Plains area, to include species not mapped by the Department of Wildlife, e.g., reptiles, amphibians and plants, should be completed and included or referenced in this Plan. The Jefferson County Nature Association Critical Natural Areas overlay is on file at the Jefferson County Planning Department.</p>	<p>We will show the latest wildlife areas from CDOW in the plan</p>	<p>Wildlife & Vegetation Protection of Wildlife Habitat Objective: Maintain a healthy ecosystem by establishing, protecting, buffering, and improving a set of core habitat areas connected by movement corridors and overland connections. Policy: Identify important habitat and movement corridors on the Wildlife Resources Map in each community/subarea plan. i. Implementation: Identify available funding sources to acquire wildlife habitat, migration corridors, and sensitive habitat areas. ii. Implementation: Work with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife Service to regularly revise the Wildlife Resources Map to reflect changes.</p>
<p>D. Public & Private Open Space Networks There should be public and private open space networks to ensure protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the continued presence of wildlife in the North Plains area. This could be achieved through the purchase of public open spaces, or by voluntary private actions, which are described in the Open Space, Trails & Recreation section of this Plan.</p>	<p>Duplicative</p>	<p>Wildlife & Vegetation Protection of Wildlife Habitat Goal: Support the preservation and/or protection of wildlife habitats, natural areas and movement corridors to maintain a healthy ecosystem and healthy wildlife populations. Objective: Acquire and/or protect critical wildlife areas through a variety of methods. Implementation: Identify available funding sources to acquire wildlife habitat, migration corridors, and sensitive habitat areas.</p>
<p>E. Development Review Process Wildlife management practices should reflect the recommendations of this Plan. The governing jurisdiction, in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, should review all development proposals for impacts on wildlife. To accomplish this, all development proposals should be referred to the Colorado Division of Wildlife for review. It should be their joint responsibility to maintain a conscious effort to protect, maintain and ensure that existing wildlife and native vegetation continues to flourish after development occurs.</p>	<p>Duplicative</p>	<p>Wildlife & Vegetation Wildlife and Development Policy: Refer development proposals that would impact wildlife critical areas to the Colorado Division of Wildlife for suggestions and mitigation techniques. Sustainability Objective: Ensure that proposed land uses shall be compatible with the ecosystem of critical wildlife habitats and not pose immediate and potential detrimental impacts to such habitats. Policy: Land use proposals shall be evaluated taking into account their proximity to critical wildlife habitats, ranges and migration routes. Policy: Land use proposals that have the potential to cause detrimental impacts to critical wildlife habitats should submit a report mitigating the proposal's impacts on the wildlife habitat.</p>