Northwest Colorado Oil & Gas Wildlife Consultations Update
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

What we do...

• Colorado Parks & Wildlife is the state agency responsible for the management of fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, boating, outdoor recreation and motorized and non-motorized trails.

• CPW manages 41 state parks, 960 wildlife species and more than 350 state wildlife areas covering approximately 900,000 acres.

• Conservation - the wise use of natural resources - is CPW’s primary purpose and the major theme of the agency’s mission statement: “... 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.”

How we are funded...

• CPW is primarily self-funded, relying on hunting and fishing license sales, state parks fees and registration fees to fund its operations. Despite this fact, the agency is still part of state government and our expenditures are allocated by the legislature.
CPW’s role in oil and gas permitting...

Habitat Stewardship Act of 2007 (House Bill 1298)

- HB 1298 Changed the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission’s (COGCC’s) mandate from strictly oil and gas extraction to one that:

  “balances development with wildlife conservation in recognition of the State’s obligation to protect wildlife resources and the hunting, fishing, and recreation traditions they support, which are an important part of Colorado’s economy and culture”
Rule 303 - Oil and Gas Location Assessment

- Requires Operators to submit a “Location Assessment Application” (Form 2A) for facilities requiring new surface disturbance

- Operator must identify on Form 2A whether a new facility falls within “Sensitive Wildlife Habitat” (SWH) or a “Restricted Surface Occupancy Area” (RSO)

- CPW Staff (Energy Liaisons & Land Use Specialists) get an email notification from COGCC anytime a Form 2A application is submitted that falls within SWH or RSO habitats

  - Triggers wildlife consultation process
CPW has 4 Regional Energy Liaisons and 2 Land Use Positions across the state

- Northwest Region Energy Liaison - Taylor Elm
  - Land Use Specialist - Brett Smithers

- Southwest Region Energy Liaison - Jon Holst
  - Land Use Coordinator - Brian Magee

- Southeast Region Energy Liaison - Karen Voltura

- Northeast Region Energy Liaison - Brandon Marette
CPW Wildlife Consultations 101

- Typically request onsite review of proposed facility
- 40 days to complete consultation
- All recommendations from CPW are voluntary and must be agreed to by operator & landowner
- CPW’s goal is to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife & habitats

1. Avoid (RSO and SWH Habitats)
2. Minimize (Seasonal timing, etc.)
3. Mitigate (Compensatory Mitigation)
Common Minimization Measures

- Seasonal timing restrictions
- Remote telemetry at well pads
- Reduced speed limits
- Multi-well pads
- Remote fracking operations
- Simultaneous operations
- Daily timing limitations
Form2A Consults by Operator (NW CO since 2013)

- Southwestern Energy Production Company
- Axia Energy LLC
- Vanguard Operating LLC
- SWEPI LP
- GRMR Oil & Gas LLC
- Sandridge Exploration & Production
-Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc
- Ursa Operating Company LLC
- EE3 LLC
- Laramie Energy LLC
- Caerus Piceance LLC
- Terra Energy Partners
- WPX Energy Rocky Mountain LLC
Form 2A Consults Per Year (NW CO)

1,225 total Form 2A consultations since HB1298 Implementation
Form2As Received by County

- Garfield: 195
- Rio Blanco: 65
- Moffat: 48
- Jackson: 46
- Mesa: 38
- Routt: 12
- Pitkin: 4
- Eagle: 1
Wildlife Mitigation Plans

• Comprehensive review of proposed activities within a larger geographical area

• Allows more efficient planning & reduces wildlife impacts

• Legal agreement between the operator and CPW

• Provides streamlined permitting for operators
  - No wildlife surprises at time of permitting
  - CPW agrees to quickly process Form2A permits

• Provides opportunities for CPW to accomplish meaningful projects for wildlife
  - Wildlife habitat enhancement projects, research projects, etc.
Mitigation Plan Information to Date:

- 18 separate wildlife mitigation plans have been negotiated *(not all currently active)*
- 13 different oil and gas operators with mitigation plans
- 634,648 acres included in wildlife mitigation plans
- $2,370,129 contributed by industry for habitat work and research *(Since 2009)*
  * Figure does not include administrative or other “in-kind” contributions