

Winter Ranges

Where seasonal climates vary, elk, deer and bighorn sheep will migrate between higher and lower elevations. These large home ranges are divided into summer ranges and winter ranges. Winter ranges provide many benefits to big game including:

- South facing slopes which make it easier for animals to feed (shallower snow pack)
- Lower elevations with warmer temperatures
- Habitat made up of sheltered forests and open meadows, allowing animals to move in-between areas to feed and take shelter from winter weather

Herds will use known migration corridors to move from summer ranges to winter ranges. These corridors are used over multiple generations as calves, fawns and lambs learn them by following their mothers. Animals can find all the **natural food** they need to survive on these ranges.

ATTENTION!

Just because local feed stores sell artificial feed, it doesn't mean it's OK to feed wildlife in Colorado. Placing bait stations or bait piles of any kind and salt blocks or feed blocks is still illegal and can result in a citation from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

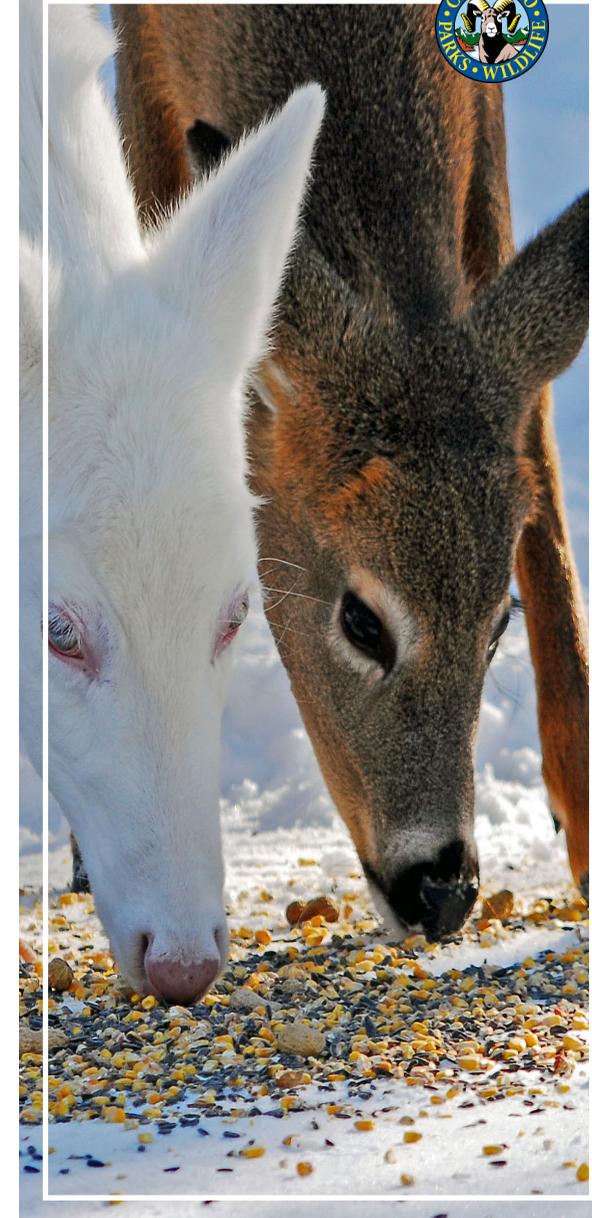
To report wildlife feeding in your neighborhood or community, please call CPW at 303-291-7227.



SCAN ME!
To learn more

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216
303-291-7227 • cpw.state.co.us

Save a Life... Don't Feed Wildlife





A woman in Black Forest, CO was gored by a buck that had been illegally hand raised and fed by a neighbor, CPW

Human Health & Safety

Colorado's population has increased substantially and human-wildlife conflicts have been on the rise across the state.

Wildlife that have been fed lose their natural fear of humans. They will start approaching people seeking attention and looking for more handouts, sometimes aggressively. Big game animals can cause serious injuries with their sharp antlers and strong hooves and attacks on people lead to the death of the animal.

In addition, animals that congregate in yards at feeding stations or bait piles, also attract predators, like mountain lions, who follow them into neighborhoods.

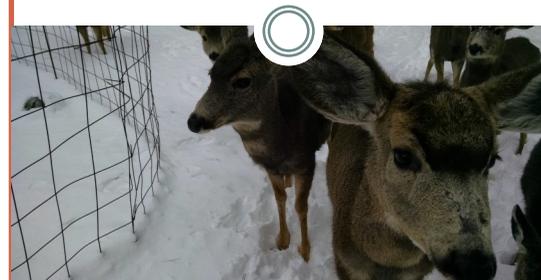
LET WILDLIFE BE WILD! Animals do not need human help to survive. They are adapted to their environments and know where to find food on the natural landscape.

Damaging Habitat

Big game animals that are fed by people will modify their behavior and stay in an area for a prolonged period of time, causing an unusually high number of animals to concentrate in one place, creating what's known as a resident herd.

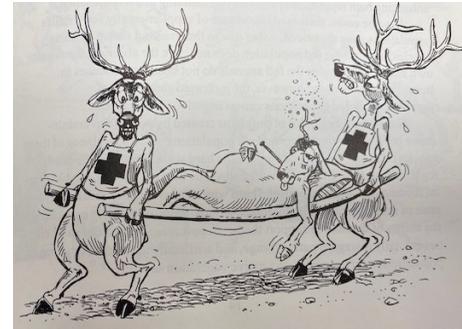
Resident herds damage their habitat by overusing it, never moving on to find fresh food sources. Overused habitat can have a multitude of problems including increased erosion and an inability to regenerate new growth.

It's important to allow animals to go through their natural cycles of migration and movement, so overuse of an area does not occur and food resources are spread across the landscape where animals kind find them easily.



Wildlife Health

When wildlife gather in high numbers around bait stations or piles, the potential for disease to spread significantly increases. Highly contagious diseases, like Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), can be spread between individuals through direct contact (saliva, feces and carcass parts) and indirect contact



Courtesy of the Wildlife Management Institute. Text by Scott Williamson and artwork from Dale Crawford

(through soil in contaminated habitats).

Additionally, artificial food sources (hay, grain, alfalfa, corn, etc.) can also upset the natural digestive process of big game animals and cause diseases like lactic acidosis (the build up of lactic acid in the stomach) and enterotoxaemia (caused by an increase in bacteria which produce neurotoxins in the stomach) which are fatal.

More Harm Than Help

People feed wildlife because they want to see them or they think wildlife needs our help to survive. **The reality is, feeding is more harmful than helpful.**

- Animals that are fed become demanding and dangerous



A woman in Woodland Park, CO was attacked by a deer that had been fed by a neighbor, CPW

- Concentrating animals can lead to the spread of fatal diseases (like CWD)
- Artificial feed (corn, grain, alfalfa, etc.) upsets the natural digestive process in big game animals
- Feeding can change an animal's natural behavior and cause them to become habituated (too comfortable around people).