
Independence for All!

From Roaring Fork Audubon Society <info-roaringforkaudubon.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

Date Sat 7/4/2026 2:33 PM

To k13w@hotmail.com <k13w@hotmail.com>



"Hope is like a bird that senses the dawn and carefully starts to sing while it is still dark." - Unknown Author

In this Edition

Independence for All - Take Action!

- Citizen's Petition for Rulemaking
 - Bombs are Back
- Protect Eagles and Falcons at Sweetwater

Beavers and BDAs to the Rescue!

Bird Tripping - Still time to Sign up!



Photo Credit: Steve Harding.

On this Day of our 250th Anniversary of Independence. Independence for All!

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Since the writing of the [Declaration of Independence](#) on July 4th in 1776, we've come to understand that these truths and rights extend beyond men, to all people. We've also come to realize that all life is connected and interdependent - from flowers and grasses, to songbirds, bees, butterflies, and soil microbes, to foxes, bears, mountain lions and wolves to deer, elk and pronghorn. Humans need them all and they all have their own sentient lives to live - independent of their value to humans. Both because humans are intimately connected and dependent on all these other lives on our planet, and because each life has intrinsic value, each life then has the same unalienable Rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

All living beings deserve to live free from persecution, poison, and cyanide bombs. They too deserve to be [secure in their homes](#) and live safe from human intrusion and destruction driven by power and greed. And, as guaranteed in the [First Amendment](#) to our Constitution we have the right "... to petition the Government for a redress of grievances" but because wildlife cannot petition the Government we must petition for them.

We can ensure that all life is protected and that they can live their lives free from human persecution to pursue their own Happiness. Please take the opportunity to embark on the path toward coexisting with the natural world by taking three actions today!

1. Write your [CPW Commissioners](#) asking them to hear and **support the Citizen's Petition for Rulemaking.**
2. Write Senators, Bennett and Hickenlooper, Representative Hurd and your County Commissioners asking them to **prohibit the use of Cyanide Bombs** on our public

lands.

3. Write the [CPW Commissioners](#) asking them to **abide by their own regulations** to **protect the homes of Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons** from the intrusion of recreational development into their home habitat.

MORE INFO IS PROVIDED BELOW ABOUT EACH OF THESE TOPICS AND ACTIONS.

A WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM THAT IS FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE. THE CITIZEN'S PETITION FOR RULEMAKING.

Please contact your [Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners](#) to ask them to Hear and Support the Citizen's petition for rulemaking.

On February 6th, 2026, citizens submitted a rulemaking petition to Colorado Parks and Wildlife requesting updates to its regulations regarding nonlethal conflict minimization methods and compensation for livestock losses to wolves.

This Citizen's Petition provides thoughtful, practical amendments to Colorado's gray wolf compensation regulations that ensure the long-term sustainability of the wolf program and strengthen the partnership between livestock producers, wildlife managers, and the broader Colorado community. This petition is about ensuring that the wolf compensation program is viable, reasonable, sustainable and fair - for producers, for CPW, and for the long-term success of the gray wolf recovery program.

A WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM THAT IS FAIR & SUSTAINABLE.

THE CITIZEN'S PETITION FOR RULEMAKING:
Concerning compensation for livestock losses to wolves.
WHAT IT DOES AND DOESN'T DO.



On February 6th, 2026, citizens submitted a rulemaking petition to Colorado Parks and Wildlife requesting updates to its regulations regarding nonlethal conflict minimization methods and compensation for livestock losses to wolves.

This Citizen's Petition provides thoughtful, practical amendments to Colorado's gray wolf compensation regulations that ensure the long-term sustainability of the wolf program and strengthen the partnership between livestock producers, wildlife managers, and the broader Colorado community. This petition is about ensuring that the wolf compensation program is viable, reasonable, sustainable and fair - for producers, for CPW, and for the long-term success of the gray wolf recovery program.

WHAT THIS PETITION DOES	WHAT THIS PETITION DOES <i>NOT</i> DO
Incentivizes conflict minimization, preventing conflict and reducing the probability of further conflict and lethal control of wolves.	Does not affect lethal control of wolves in confirmed chronic depredation situations (lethal control requires prior conflict minimization). Does not mandate the use of nonlethal conflict minimization methods.
Ensures that livestock producers receive full and fair compensation for verified livestock losses directly caused by wolves when nonlethal conflict minimization methods are proactively and appropriately implemented.	Does not change the compensation amount for verified direct livestock losses to wolves where nonlethal conflict minimization methods have been proactively and appropriately implemented.
Requires the "Duty to Mitigate" (doctrine of avoidable consequences) after a first confirmed wolf predation. Producers are expected to use nonlethal tools identified for that operation in a site assessment to remain eligible for compensation.	Does not differ from the "Duty to Mitigate" in CPW's Game Damage program.
Incentivizes the site assessment process, which identifies appropriate tools and strategies.	Does not require ranchers to adopt tools or strategies where they are not identified as appropriate for that landscape.
Requires evidence for indirect loss claims that rule out confounding factors (drought, poisonous plants, other carnivores) that can lead to false conclusions about wolves and indirect livestock losses - providing a system that is verifiable and financially durable.	Does not pay unverifiable indirect loss claims. Indirect losses were not included in Prop 114 and reauthorized only in subsequent legislation, but remain insufficiently defined and difficult to verify under current rules.
Focuses solely on livestock loss compensation rules and process.	Does not affect public lands grazing policies.
Supports voter-mandated wolf recovery in Colorado by incentivizing long-term nonlethal tools to enable coexistence between livestock and wolves.	Does not overly burden ranchers. Colorado's ranchers now have access to an unprecedented level of financial, logistical and technical support.

**Inhumane, Dangerous, and They're Back.
Cyanide Bombs on our Public Lands.**



M-44 Cyanide Bombs are back, and we must act quickly to stop the killing. M-44s, more descriptively called “cyanide bombs,” are inhumane, spring-loaded traps that are designed to spray sodium cyanide into the faces of unsuspecting wildlife lured by their scented bait.

Legislation was recently reintroduced by the current administration to again permit the use of cyanide bombs on public lands. Now, a government agency with little oversight has

partnered with private businesses to scatter deadly poison bombs across our public lands.

A federal bureaucracy called Wildlife Services, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has been slaughtering wildlife deemed “undesirable” by agribusiness and now these bombs are back in their killing toolchest.

These cyanide bomb traps are designed to indiscriminately kill predators--horribly, cruelly, releasing the toxic chemical, cyanide. They had been banned because of the deadly impact they have on wildlife, children and pets.

They're even more dangerous now because of the volume of people and pets that venture out into public BLM wildlands.

The bait used on these bombs attracts any animal that eats meat.

Birds: Raptors, including our national bird the Bald Eagle, Golden Eagles, Turkey Vultures and many other birds attracted to the scent of meat.

Mammals: All omnivores and carnivores, including bears, foxes, bobcats and endangered wildlife.

Pets: Dogs, cats and any other animal that pulls on the baited trigger can suffer torturous poisoning followed by a slow, agonizing death or severe injury.

Children and adults: Any that may be curious or try to save a pet.

Contact Senators [Michael Bennett](#) and [John Hickenlooper](#) and U.S. [Representative Jeff Hurd](#) to request that they vote down this recently reintroduced legislation.

Contact your [Pitkin County Commissioners](#), [Garfield County Commissioners](#), and Eagle County Commissioners, now and ask that they immediately prohibit this practice on our public lands.

Help Save the Raptors at Sweetwater Lake State Park!

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) shockingly proposed last week to ignore its own raptor protection guidelines at Sweetwater Lake State Park.

The year-round Bald Eagle nesting pair, and annually returning Peregrine Falcons desperately need our help. The CPW's own *Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors (2020)* are "based on the best available science and professional judgement" and are enforced at the other State Parks including Staunton, Barr Lake and Fishers Peak.

The Sweetwater Lake State Park plan will destroy 100.1 acres of avian habitat housing a documented 100 species of breeding migratory birds, including nine listed in the Statewide



Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) as species of conservation concern. According to CPWs own SWAP (approved 2026), avian species are in decline across the state and need our help and protections more than ever.

The Park's Development Plan also recommends starting construction before breeding season to deter the Peregrine Falcons from nesting.

**If CPW can ignore the very science it says guides its decisions,
Colorado's wildlife faces a dangerous future!**

Take Action Today!

Email the [CPW commission](#) and remind them they have a duty to enforce their own, science-based, [CPW](#)

[Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors](#) – 2020 and their own State Park.

Please also email each of the Commissioners individually - tell them to Enforce their own CPW Recommended Raptor Protection Guidelines!

James Jay Tutchton (Chair)
James.Tutchton@state.co.us
Gabriel Otero (Vice Chair)
gabriel.otero@state.co.us
Jessica Beaulieu
jess.beaulieu@state.co.us
Frances Silva Blayney
frances.silvablayney@state.co.us
Tai Jacober
tai.jacober@state.co.us
John Le Coq
john.lecoq@state.co.us
Peter Maguire
peter.maguire@state.co.us
Dallas May
Dallas.May@state.co.us
Jack Murphy
jack.murphy@state.co.us
Rebecca 'Becky' Niemiec
becky.niemiec@state.co.us
Richard Reading
richard.reading@state.co.us
Kate Greenberg
kate.greenberg@state.co.us
Laura Clellan - Director
dnr_cpw_director@state.co.us

Link to Draft EIS for Sweetwater Lake State Park [HERE](#)

[Get Wild: Beavers and Beaver Dam Analogs to the Rescue.](#)



One fine morning in early June, I set out with colleagues to conduct breeding-bird surveys along a high-elevation mountain stream to assess riparian ecosystem health. Bird communities are an excellent indicator of ecosystem health. At this time of year, songbirds are easy to detect — they're bursting with song, a joyful exclamation of the beauty and bounty of the breeding season. Male songbirds

sing to attract mates and defend their territory. What a marvelous way to interact with the world — no fighting, just singing.

This stream had been identified as a site suitable for the installation of beaver dam analog. Like many that traverse Colorado's public lands, the stream is downcut and disconnected from its surrounding floodplain. Stream downcutting often occurs where native riparian vegetation (water-loving vegetation that grows adjacent to lakes and streams) has been removed or damaged by excessive grazing from native ungulates (elk) or non-native livestock (cattle). Native riparian vegetation, like willows, has deep and dense root systems that hold onto soil, preventing streambank erosion even during floods. Conversely, where riparian plants are excessively grazed, they die and soils are left bare, without an anchor. As streams flow through these de-vegetated landscapes they erode the soil, cutting deep, narrow gullies.

Over time, overgrazed streambanks may become so deeply downcut that a stream can't escape its banks. Out-of-bank stream flows reconnect a stream with its floodplain — rewetting the floodplain "sponge" that rejuvenates wetland vegetation with water and nutrients. Where streams can't overflow onto their floodplains, the wetland sponge dries out, and water-loving riparian vegetation dies, leaving bare and drying soils that are often invaded by shallowly rooted non-native plants that can't hold onto soil. And so, wetlands continue to be lost, streams continue to dry, and wildlife dependent on wetland habitats decline.

[READ THE REST OF THE STORY HERE](#)



**BIRD TRIP TIME!
SIGN UP NOW FOR BIRD
TRIPPING!**

Thomas Lakes Trail to Hay Park

Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Time: 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Meeting location: Carbondale's large, dirt parking lot on Colorado Avenue between Town Hall and the Colorado Place Condos or 7:00 a.m. at the trailhead

Trip Leader: Mary Harris

Reservation: email Mary at smnharris@gmail.com

Description: This is a high elevation hike that starts at 8,600'. We will slowly ascend for about 1.5 miles through a spruce fir forest looking for Red-breasted Nuthatch; Western Tanager; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers; Dark-eyed Junco; Lincoln's Sparrow and more. Arriving at a lovely meadow, we should easily find Green-tailed Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wyoming ground squirrel and many species of wildflowers. We'll cross the meadow and spend a little time in the mature aspen forest looking for Northern House Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Warbling Vireo, Western Flycatcher and Hermit Thrush.

The walk downhill typically has loose rock. Exercise caution.

Trip guidelines: Please visit our website (roaringforkaudubon.org) for a list of all trip guidelines.

Independence Pass: Ptarmigan and Timberline Sparrow

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Time: 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Meeting location: Independence Pass parking lot

Trip Leader: Chris Daniels

Reservation: email Chris at chris.daniels@gmail.com

Description: We will take our chances on finding White-tailed Ptarmigan and Timberline Sparrow at Independence Pass. White-tailed Ptarmigans are the only birds in North America that spend their entire life cycle in the alpine tundra. They're notoriously hard to find due to their excellent camouflage, and Independence Pass is one of the best places in Colorado to try for them. Expect a 3- to 4-mile hike on uneven trail above tree line at high altitude (entirely above 12,000'). Wear warm layers and sturdy shoes; and bring water, snacks, sunscreen, a hat and poles if you wish. We will stop at Difficult Campground on the return to Aspen for some different birds.

Trip guidelines: Please visit our website (roaringforkaudubon.org) for a list of all trip guidelines.

Donate to Roaring Fork Audubon



Our intrepid leader, Mary Harris, wishes everyone Happy Birding!

Roaring Fork Audubon is a 501c3 Non-Profit

Roaring Fork Audubon Society | PO Box 1192 | Carbondale, CO 81623 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!