



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

6060 Broadway • Denver, Colorado 80216
Phone (303) 297-1192 • FAX (303) 291-7109
wildlife.state.co.us • parks.state.co.us

High Prairie Farms Metro District
Parker, Colorado

Dear HPF Metro District Board,
Recently a deer that had been shot with an arrow was found dead on metro district property. Colorado Parks and Wildlife wanted to provide you and local resident's information about that incident and ways to help avoid similar situations in the future.

The deer was killed by an arrow that was tipped with a blunt style point. These points are typically used for hunting of small game. Due to the design of the point it is likely the person who shot the deer intended to "frighten" the deer away rather than kill the animal. Obviously the person involved made a poor choice. Unfortunately, this most recent case does not stand alone regarding actions taken by individuals to chase deer away that have resulted in presumably unintended consequences.

The following guidelines should be considered when evaluating methods to reduce deer damage:

- Animals learn through repeated conditioning. Deterrents that are present every time the animal does something undesirable have the greatest results (i.e. throwing something at a deer one out of every three times it eats your plants will do nothing to prevent the problem the next time you are gone, asleep, or just not watching).
- Do not shoot or throw any projectile at an animal that you would hesitate to have shot or thrown at you. Your sense of self preservation is a good measure of appropriate force.
- Do not devise traps or devices that may cause permanent injury to any animals (domestic or wild) or people.
- Do not take action outside of property you own (such as open space). Keep dogs and other scare devices from chasing deer beyond your property boundary.

Fencing is typically the most effective and long term solution to damage issues. There are several methods of building and placing preventative fences. For some guidelines and design ideas to find a method most suitable for individual and community needs it may be helpful to refer to the booklet titled "Fencing with Wildlife in Mind".

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/SiteCollectionDocuments/DOW/LandWater/PrivateLandPrograms/DOWFencingWithWildlifeInMind.pdf>.

An article addressing many other appropriate means of deterring deer damage is included in a paper provided by the Colorado State University Extension Office at this link:

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06520.html>. Aside from suggestions in this article other innovative methods such as motion activated sprinklers have been used

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: David R. Brougham • Gary Butterworth, Vice-Chair • Chris Castilian
Dorothea Farris • Tim Glenn, Chair • Allan Jones • Bill Kane • Gaspar Perricone • Jim Pribyl • John Singletary
Mark Smith, Secretary • Robert Streeter • Lenna Watson • Dean Wingfield
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

successfully as deer deterrents. Innovation regarding deer deterrents is an appropriate way to find what works for each individual and there are many ideas not listed herein but please keep in mind the above suggestions to limit personal liability and unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Casey Westbrook
District Wildlife Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Formerly Colorado Division of Wildlife)

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources

Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: David R. Brougham • Gary Butterworth, Vice-Chair • Chris Castilian

Dorothea Farris • Tim Glenn, Chair • Allan Jones • Bill Kane • Gaspar Perricone • Jim Pribyl • John Singletary

Mark Smith, Secretary • Robert Streeter • Lenna Watson • Dean Wingfield

Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar