

TRAPPING AND TRANSPLANTING WILDLIFE IN LA PLATA COUNTY

Generally speaking, wildlife causing damage to private property can be taken (killed) by landowners or their families and employees without a license or permit. Big game animals (deer, elk, bears, mountain lions) are an exception.

Trapping animals that are causing private property damage is a means of removing the offending individuals. In most cases, animals that are trapped alive may NOT be relocated—they must either be killed or released at the capture site.

Relocating animals that have learned to associate humans with food will be a problem wherever they are moved. Prohibiting relocation avoids transferring a problem to another location and also avoids the potential for moving possibly diseased animals to a location where others could be infected.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

What is “take”?

“Take” means to acquire possession of wildlife; killing or capturing are considered take.

What is “relocation”?

“Relocation” means movement of live wildlife captured by a person to another site which is not contiguous to the capture site.

| SPECIES/GROUP | MAY ANIMALS CAUSING DAMAGE BE TAKEN? | MAY LIVE ANIMALS BE RELOCATED? | REGULATIONS | COMMENTS |
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| Big Game: Deer, Elk, Bears, Mountain Lions | Only with special permit | No | Colorado Revised Statutes 33-3-106 | If you are experiencing property damage from big game animals, contact the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife in Durango at 970-247-0855 |
| Tree Squirrels: | Yes | YES-may be relocated without a | Parks and | Tree squirrels may be taken without a |

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| fox squirrel, Abert's squirrel, pine squirrel or chickaree. | | permit provided the Division of Parks and Wildlife has been notified in advance. The relocation site must be within ten miles of the capture site, it must be appropriate habitat for tree squirrels; and permission must be obtained from private landowners if they are released on private land | Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 303.A.3.b.1 | license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. |
| Badgers | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 | Badgers may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. |
| Beaver | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 | Beavers may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. Beavers caught alive must be killed or released on site. |
| Red fox | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 | Red fox may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. Red fox caught alive must be killed or released on site. |
| Bobcats | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 | Bobcats may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when |

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| | | | C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 | necessary to protect private property. Bobcats caught alive must be killed or released on site. |
| Skunks | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 | Skunks may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. Skunks caught alive must be killed or released on site. |
| Coyotes | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 | Coyotes may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. Coyotes caught alive must be killed or released on site. |
| Raccoons | YES | YES - Raccoons may be trapped in cage or box traps and may be relocated without a permit provided the Division of Parks and Wildlife has been notified in advance. The relocation site must be within 2 miles of the capture site, it must be appropriate habitat for raccoons; and permission must be obtained from private landowners if raccoons are released on private land. | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 303.A.3.b.1 | Raccoons may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. |
| Prairie dogs | YES | ONLY WITH SPECIAL PERMIT - Prairie | Parks and | Prairie dogs may be taken without a |

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| | | dogs may be relocated only with a permit from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. (Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3# 303.A.3.b.2 | Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3# 303.B.6 | license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. In addition, where necessary to control damage on private lands, prairie dogs can be taken with toxicants and handheld devices designed to deliver and then ignite explosive gases into burrows. |
| Rock squirrels | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3# 303.B.6) | Rock squirrels may be taken without a license by any person, member of the person's family, lessee, agent, designee, or any employee of the person when necessary to protect private property. In addition, where necessary to control damage on private lands, rock squirrels can be taken with toxicants and handheld devices designed to deliver and then ignite explosive gases into burrows. Rock squirrels caught alive must be killed or released on site. |
| Cottontail rabbits | YES | YES - Cottontail rabbits may be trapped in cage or box traps and may be relocated without a permit | Parks and Wildlife Commission | Cottontail rabbits can be legally taken to protect private property without a license. |

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| | | provided the Division of Parks and Wildlife has been notified in advance. The relocation site must be within ten miles of the capture site, it must be appropriate habitat for cottontail rabbits; and permission must be obtained from private landowners if they are released on private land. | Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 327 Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 303.A.3.b.1 | |
| Magpies | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 518 | Magpies may be taken without A Federal or State permit at any time of the year or at any time of the day or night when found committing or about to commit depredation upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance. |
| Woodpeckers | NO | NO | | Woodpeckers may not be taken to prevent damage without a federal permit. Woodpecker damage is best dealt with through prevention (see http://www.co.laplata.co.us/node/1268) |
| Snakes | NO | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 313.C | Prairie Rattlesnakes may be taken to protect private property. All other snakes are beneficial and are protected as Nongame Wildlife in Colorado and may not be taken to prevent damage. |

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| Bats, mice, voles, and rats | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 1000.A.5 | Bats, mice, voles, and rats may be captured or killed when creating a nuisance or causing property damage. |
| Marmots | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 306.A.2 | Marmots may be taken without a license by to protect private property. Marmots caught alive must be killed or released on site. |
| Porcupines | YES | NO | Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations, 2 C.C.R. 406-3 # 306.A.2 | Porcupines may be taken without a license by to protect private property. Porcupines caught alive must be killed or released on site. |