

1. Goals

- a. During 2012, the Wildlife SIG will be responsible for:
 - i. Developing presentations related to the wildlife topic for the months of January and October
 - ii. Arranging and coordinating the monthly outings for the months of January and October
 - iii. Identifying a potential location for photography after coffee outings for the months of January and October
- b. The Wildlife SIG will help other members of FCDCC improve their wildlife photography skills by developing learning opportunities including, but not limited to, biology, animal behavior and animal tracking.
- c. The Wildlife SIG will help other members of FCDCC improve their wildlife photography skills by building a set of wildlife resources. These resources may include information about third-party educational courses and programs, a list of helpful references and information about locations. This information will be housed on the FCDCC web site under the Wildlife SIG page.
- d. For the protection of wildlife and to prevent disturbing their natural patterns, the Wildlife SIG members will help other FCDCC members learn about how to find wildlife but will not reveal specific locations of wildlife.
- e. The Wildlife SIG will develop an animal-of-the-month program to help other FCDCC members learn about various animals found in Colorado, particularly near Fort Collins.
- f. The Wildlife SIG will welcome and encourage new members but outings will be for Wildlife SIG members only. This is for the protection of the wildlife to prevent any disturbance of their routine, habitat or privacy.

2. Animal of the month

- a. The animal of the month program will be information posted on the Wildlife SIG page on the FCDCC web site. This information will be used to build a database for FCDCC members about various animals, including birds, fish, etc.
- b. Members of the Wildlife SIG will supply information about animals each month to Mike Barry for posting on the web site. These postings will include:
 - i. Photo(s) of the animal
 - ii. General location for spotting the animal (i.e., Big Thompsen Canyon for bighorn sheep; not: there is a herd living behind the Drake firehouse)
 - iii. Behavior of that animal (i.e., birthing season, mating season, food it eats, etc)
 - iv. How to spot and find the animal (i.e., look for the white butts of bighorn sheep on south facing slopes of rocky mountain sides)
 - v. Where to spot/find the animal throughout the year (i.e., bighorn sheep give birth at higher elevations in April to late June; once young are bigger and stronger, they will come down to lower elevations to feed; rams do not stay with the herd except during rutting season in November and December; bighorns come down to much lower elevations during the

winter where food is more plentiful and where they can lick salt off roads; etc.)

- vi. Identify why the animal was selected for that month (i.e., bighorns in November because it is rutting season – good time to see rams fighting)
- vii. References to learn more (i.e., book titles, web sites, etc.; try to always include a link to the Division of Parks and Wildlife web site page for that animal)

c. Animal of the Month for 2012

- i. Bald eagle, sandhill cranes and snow geese
- ii. Mule deer
- iii. Red fox
- iv. Grouse (to include sage, blue, prairie chicken and ptarmigans)
- v. Egrets and herons (nesting)
- vi. Baby animals
- vii. Moose
- viii. Mountain goats
- ix. Bison
- x. Elk
- xi. Bighorn sheep
- xii. Snowshoe hares

3. Monthly outings

a. January: Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and other New Mexico destinations

- i. When: January 20-23, 2012
- ii. Subject/topic: sandhill cranes, snow geese and other migratory birds at the refuge
- iii. Itinerary:
 - 1. Friday, January 20: leave Fort Collins between 5 & 6 a.m. to arrive in Socorro between 2 & 3 p.m.; photography sunset at Bosque
 - 2. Saturday, January 21: photograph sunrise at Bosque; mid-day outings may include trip to National Radio Astronomy Observatory VLA Telescope site, historic buildings in downtown Socorro and/or staying in Bosque area to photograph birds; sunset at Bosque; photograph stars in evening (new moon)
 - 3. Sunday, January 22: photograph sunrise at Bosque; drive to and visit Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (1.25 hours); drive to Albuquerque (1.5 hours) to stay Sunday night
 - 4. Monday, January 23: drive to Ghost Ranch (2 hours; photo contest until Dec. 31); drive to Fort Collins (7.5 hours)
- iv. Hotels
 - 1. Friday and Saturday evenings: Best Western, Socorro
 - 2. Sunday evening: La Quinta Inn, Albuquerque
 - 3. Email to go out to FCDCC members 11/13/11 with information

b. October: Rocky Mountain National Park

- i. When: October 12-14, 2012
- ii. Subject/topic: elk rut season and other fall wildlife in the park

- iii. Itinerary:
 - 1. Camp for two nights in Rocky Mountain National Park (working on identifying a group campsite)
 - 2. Further details TBD
- iv. Accommodations: camping in group campsite; details being finalized

4. Summer evening outings

- a. Wildlife SIG is not responsible for any months during the summer evening outings schedule (May to September)
- b. Wildlife SIG members may schedule evening outings for Wildlife SIG member during the summer months

5. Coffee outings

- a. January: Educational Learning Center (date TBD)
- b. October: Owl Canyon Road/Red Mountain (date TBD)

6. Presentations

- a. January:
 - i. Option one: Andy Long, professional wildlife photographer (sent an email 11/13/11 to see if he is interested)
 - ii. Option two: All about the Wildlife SIG (12 months of animals)
- b. October:
 - i. Option one: TBD
 - ii. Option two: TBD

7. Alternate topics

- a. January: animal tracks (snow, mud, etc.)
- b. October: TBD

8. Information for the Wildlife SIG page on FCDCC web site

- a. Will determine at next Wildlife SIG meeting

9. Wildlife events of interest for FCDCC members

- a. Will work on start of list at next Wildlife SIG meeting

10. Next meeting and meeting frequency

- a. Next meeting: Sunday, Dec. 11 after the Wildlife SIG outing
- b. Meeting frequency: one time per month; Sunday nights work well

11. Wildlife SIG outings

- a. Dec. 11: Eagle driving tour
 - i. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the NE corner of Harmony Transportation Center parking lot
 - ii. Outing will start at Arapaho Bend Natural Area to look for and photograph bald eagles
 - iii. Tour will continue east to see Windsor eagle locations (nest, lake, etc) then to North Platte River (see CO Wildlife Guide book) then head south from Fort Morgan to Barr Lake State Park and/or Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge and then back up I-25 to Fossil Creek Reservoir Open Space
 - iv. Goal: learn about migratory eagles in Colorado in the winter as well as nesting, year round resident eagles; photograph as many as possible

- b. Wildlife SIG will strive to have one Wildlife SIG outing a month, preferably focused on the next month's animal (see list above)

12. Action items

- a. Send out email to FCDCC members about January outing arrangements: Dawn, completed 11/13/11
- b. Contact Andy Long about speaking at January club meeting: Dawn, completed 11/13/11; will update Wildlife SIG prior to Dec. 11
- c. Look into availability of a group campsite for October outing: Gerry
- d. Research and bring ideas to Dec. 11 meeting for Wildlife SIG group information for FCDCC web site: all members
- e. Wildlife life events of interest for FCDCC members: all members; bring to Dec. 11 meeting