



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northwest Regional Office
711 Independent Ave.
Grand Junction, CO, 81505
P 970-255-6100 | F 970-255-6111

March 28, 2022

Sulphur Ranger District
Attn: Lands Staff, Alden Whittaker, acting
P.O. Box 10
Granby, CO 80446

RE: Willow Creek Land Exchange

Dear Alden Whittaker,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) thanks you for the opportunity to comment. CPW's statutory mission is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the State, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as strategic stewards of Colorado's natural resources. CPW has reviewed the proposal and supports the land exchange for the following reasons.

The USFS would be receiving 50 undisturbed acres of publically accessible land in an area highly regarded for year round recreation, in exchange for 6 acres of federal property which borders development near Winter Park, CO. CPW recognizes that the public will gain significantly from this exchange. The 50 acre non-federal parcel, owned by TMII Development LLC, encompasses Shiras moose priority habitat, as well as elk and mule deer summer range. Sportspeople's and outdoor recreationists will have a net increase of quality land to pursue moose during hunting seasons, a new stretch of Willow Creek for fishing, and additional hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities.

CPW appreciates the opportunity to review the Willow Creek Land Exchange. If there are any questions or need for additional information, please do not hesitate to contact District Wildlife Manager Jeff Behncke at (970) 531-7711, or by email at Jeff.Behncke@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Travis Black
Northwest Regional Manager

CC: Jeromy Huntington, Area Wildlife Manager (CPW)
Jeff Behncke, District Wildlife Manager (CPW)
Elissa Slezak, Area 9 Wildlife Biologist (CPW)

