

PUBLIC MEETING INPUT
MOUNTAIN LION AND BEAR COMPONENT OF THE URBAN WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
JANUARY 20, 2010
(22 members of the public attended)

The following is public input received organized into discussion themes.

Communication and Education

It would be helpful to have a reverse 911 system in place to alert residents about lion and bear. Who do we call?

We need to utilize community teams to communicate and better educate each other about the issues.

A formal communication system is needed to effectively communicate overall safety concerns, especially regarding schools.

The Newlands neighborhood has established an effective communication system with the DOW and City, through an e-mails and meetings.

There needs to be a city-wide communication mechanisms established and a greater public understanding of the lion issues.

Greater public information needs to be provided in a timely fashion; lion sightings have increased.

Not everyone has internet (communication forms other than web and email, including potentially a daily list of animal sightings)

Trash/Waste Management

We should create a communal composting site that residents can readily access in order to reduce animal attractants (difficult to secure personal containers).

The city needs to work with trash companies to ensure that bear proof cans are available and that dumpsters are closed.

Bear containers at apartment complexes are hard to use and are not always locked.

Community composting is effective, we need a better way to manage our trash so it is not an attractant to deer and lion.

We need to better enforcement existing laws, including with those who feed animals and do not take care of their trash.

Rights and Responsibilities

Property owners have rights in regard to protecting property. We have a right to protect ourselves and something like the “Make My Day” law should be communicated.

We need to remember what the responsibilities are of residents living in a bear/lion environment. We need to determine what residents can do to improve the situation when working with the City and DOW.

Lion and Deer

We need to determine the carrying capacity of the land in Boulder in regard to the number of deer and take action to limit the number of deer in the area.

We need to better understand the relationship between lion and deer and determine where deer are located in the City of Boulder.

One answer to the issue of too many deer is to provide seasonal closures on open space for hunting deer, and lion.

There seem to be less deer in certain areas but and more fox which also attracts lions.

How have lions changed behaviorally? It appears that the lions and deer are less wary of humans; we need to track them and better understand their behaviors.

It is a small step for lions to go from viewing dogs/pets as prey to viewing a child as prey, we act in ways that are very similar to prey.

The deer in Boulder are unlike others across the country in terms of number and comfort with humans; we should be obligated to harass the wildlife and drive them way.

The plan is right to focus on lions in the city. We need to determine if a city is an appropriate place for lions.

Safety

150 people attended a Newlands meeting because concerns about public safety were high.

I fear an attack from mountain lions when walking in my neighborhood.

We need to further define the term safety and determine what animal behaviors cross “over the line”.

Need to know where we draw the line in terms of tolerating animal behaviors. Aggression of animals is increasing and “over the top”.

What behaviors are we willing to live with or not (thresholds?).

Decision Making

What are the responsibility and boundaries between the City of Boulder and Division of Wildlife regarding bear and lion decision making?

Who has the authority in regard to animal management decisions (re: culling), the City or DOW?

Other

How does the city feel about chickens as attractants and development of land in the mountains? Some residents are raising chickens.

Where will funds come from to implement the plan?

You should consult with technical experts when developing the Plan, especially recommended Dr. Temple Grandin from Ft. Collins- author of “Animals Make Us Human” (pg. 244 references Boulder).

Rabid raccoons and others should be included in the study; we need to know what to do when confronted?