

Wildlife Viewing Pass Now Required

JoAnn Hackos. May 3, 2021 :

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) manages over 350 state wildlife area lands around the state. These areas have primarily been funded through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses in the past. Until 2021, birders and other wildlife watchers could only enter state wildlife areas legally if they had a fishing or hunting license. That meant that everyone, including birdwatchers, was counted as either a hunter or a fisherperson by CPW. As a consequence, CPW has devoted most of its work to supporting hunting and fishing. Now we can let them know that birders and other wildlife watchers are an important part of the Colorado outdoor economy. In fact, by some estimates, we already spend more money in the state than hunters and fish people combined.



Effective May 1, 2021, carrying a hunting or fishing license is no longer the only option for legally accessing state wildlife areas in Colorado. We can now buy state wildlife viewing passes from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Visitors aged 18 years of age or older may pay \$46.48 for an annual state wildlife area pass or \$9 for a one-day pass. Annual passes for Senior citizens age 65 and older, low-income individuals, and young people ages 16-17 are \$10.07. Fees include a \$1.50 Wildlife Education Fund surcharge.

The annual state wildlife area pass is valid from March 1st to March 31st of the following year, which aligns with the 13-month season for fishing licenses in Colorado.

Wildlife Area passes can be purchased by visiting any CPW office or online at cpwshop.com. They are also available anywhere fishing licenses are sold, including sporting goods stores, and bait shops. Here in Evergreen, Blue Quill Angler, Big R and Walmart sell the passes.