

DESCRIPTION

Wildlife Protection Plans are a new requirement under rules 1201.a and 1201.b of the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission's (COGCC) update on 11/29/2020.

- Detailed wildlife plans are a new requirement and were not previously required.
- All new or amended oil and gas operations will require:
 - For operations *outside* of a High Priority Habitat (HPH), a Wildlife Protection Plan (rule 1201.a)
 - For operations *inside* of a High Priority Habitat, a Wildlife Mitigation Plan (rule 1201.b)

REQUIREMENT

Operators will submit a formal **Wildlife Protection or Mitigation Plan** as an attachment to their **Form 2As**. These plans were not previously required. The plans will address the following:

1201.a Wildlife Protection Plans

- Required when proposing *outside* of HPH areas.
- CPW consultation or approval is **not required**.
- The plan must describe the operating practices and measures that an operator will implement to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to wildlife.
- A single plan may address multiple oil and gas locations.

1201.b Wildlife Mitigation Plans

- Required when proposing *inside* of HPH areas.
- CPW consultation or approval **is required**.
- The plan will represent agreements between the operator and CPW regarding how to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to wildlife resources for a single location.
- For multiple locations, the plan may also address habitat fragmentation and cumulative impacts to wildlife.
- Updates to rules 1202 & 1203 should also be considered in the preparation of the mitigation plan.
- Existing CPW mitigation plans may be honored and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

DELIVERABLES

A detailed review of **Environmental compliance & design solutions** will ensure you are following the current and established industry regulations from local authorities with jurisdictions. **We can help.**

- Assist with interpretation of the revised draft rules (1200-series) regarding the protection of wildlife resources.
- Write a new or amend existing Wildlife Protection Plans for oil and gas locations outside HPH areas.
- Work in cooperation with CPW personnel to develop approved Wildlife Mitigation Plans for new or amended oil and gas locations inside HPH areas.
- Perform an Alternative Location Analysis for new or amended oil and gas locations within HPH areas.
- Identify site-specific measure for new or amended oil and gas locations within HPH areas to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to wildlife resources, including Best Management Practices.
- Recommend the appropriate and applicable Operating Requirements for any new or amended oil and gas locations statewide, including bear-proofing, fencing and netting of pits, installation of wildlife escape ramps in trenches, seed mix selection for reclamation, and choosing wildlife-compatible fencing designs.
- Recognize and create GIS maps of the 20 High Priority Habitats, including the biological fieldwork to find nearby active raptor nests, active grouse lek sites, and winter bat hibernacula.
- Develop Compensatory Mitigation Plans for unavoidable direct or indirect impacts to wildlife resources in HPH areas.
- Submit necessary forms to the COGCC, including Form 4, Sundry Notice, or Form 2A, Oil and Gas Location Assessment.
- Works with CPW staff to obtain, when appropriate, variances to the 1200-series Rules for certain situations.

WHY HALKER?

Halker uses a people-first approach to every step of project execution, assembling the best teams, gathering input from everyone, and leveraging the power of this open and inclusive environment to develop industry-leading designs. We leverage process, methodology, standards and policy to scale productivity and continually improve quality and efficiency.

Given our broad background in engineered solutions, we understand the factors beyond project objectives that go into everything we work on, including evolving regulations and environmental impacts. By addressing these aspects head-on at the start of every project, **Halker** is better able to design effective, compliant projects and reduce rework.

We dig deep to fully understand your strategic objectives and what you need to accomplish. This sets **Halker** up to deliver fit-for-purpose solutions as well as additional, value-added project approaches that make a real difference to your bottom line.

To find out more about how **Halker** can help move your project forward in a safe, professionally engineered and optimized manner, contact us today.

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