



Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Division of Wildlife (www.dnr.state.co.us)

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Recognizing that wildlife viewing is a favorite recreational activity of most Coloradans, the Colorado Division of Wildlife has established a program to encourage and facilitate "Watchable Wildlife." Nearly all wildlife is "watchable wildlife," if you have the patience. The Colorado Division of Wildlife lists some good-sense rules for wildlife watching etiquette:

- 1. Observe animals from a safe distance.** Get close by using binoculars, a spotting scope or a camera with a telephoto lens. You probably are too close if animals are looking at you with head up and ears pointed toward you or are "jumpy" when you move or make a noise. If you see these signs, sit quietly or move slowly away until the behavior changes. Be especially sensitive to adults with young.
- 2. Move slowly and casually, not directly at wildlife.** Allow animals to keep you in view; do not surprise them.
- 3. Never chase or harass wildlife;** Harassment of wildlife is unlawful.
- 4. Leave pets at home.** At best they hinder wildlife watching; at worst they can chase, injure or kill wildlife.
5. Using the animals' behavior as a guide, **limit the time you spend watching** if animals appear to be stressed.
- 6. Respect others who are viewing** the same animals.
- 7. Do not feed wild mammals.**
- 8. Respect private property;** ask first to watch on private land.
9. Resting is critical behavior for many animals; **don't encourage them to "do something" for you or your camera.**
- 10. Avoid animals that behave strangely or aggressively.** They may be ill.