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THE FIELD COYOTE UPDATE

The male coyote that has been demonstrating progressively aggressive behavior towards users of the Field Open Space and their leashed dogs reached the point that Broomfield staff and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff believed that the animal must be removed by lethal control. This specific coyote was removed on the evening of July 15. The coyote displayed "dangerous coyote" behavior per Broomfield's Coexistence with Wildlife Policy. The Policy provides that dangerous coyotes posing a significant threat to human safety may be removed by lethal control.

Broomfield staff with consultation with CPW staff has been hazing this particular male coyote over the past two months. Broomfield has taken a series of actions to reduce coyote conflicts at the Field that included 1) the placement of warning signs about coyote activity at the Field; 2) trail closures to decrease the potential for coyote/human interactions; 3) the use of Coyote Crew volunteers for public outreach; 4) high intensity hazing using paintball guns; 5) the study of coyote movements via cameras and on-site observation to understand movement patterns; 6) the mowing of the grasses along the sides of the trails to decrease potential hiding places and increase trail users visibility of the path; and 7) a broad array of public education efforts (newspaper articles, web site information, mailings). Most recently, Broomfield's Open Space and Public Works staff used rubber buckshot in addition to paint balls to haze the coyote and reestablish fear of humans in the animal.

However, on the morning of July 15 at approximately 6 a.m., the coyote charged and threatened an adult resident and his two large on-leash dogs. This incident is very similar to two recent coyote incidents involving residents each having a leashed dog in the same vicinity. In these two separate cases, the same coyote was within 10 feet of the residents, bared its teeth, and charged each citizen and leashed dog into Midway Boulevard.

While Broomfield values the wildlife within the community and it is regrettable to have to remove a coyote, in this case, the action was necessary to protect public safety. Relocation is not an option as CPW does not relocate coyotes for four main reasons: 1) moving aggressive coyotes is moving a problem from one place to another; 2) there is potential for moving disease; 3) most animals die trying to return to their home range (Gehrt study); and 4) there is no land in Colorado available to take problem coyotes.

Please see additional information about coyotes on the CPW web site at:

<http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeCoyote.aspx>

Broomfield's web site also has information on coyotes at:

<http://www.broomfield.org/index.aspx?nid=440>

For further questions, please contact Jennifer Churchill, Public Information Officer, Northeast Region, CPW at 303.829.7143.