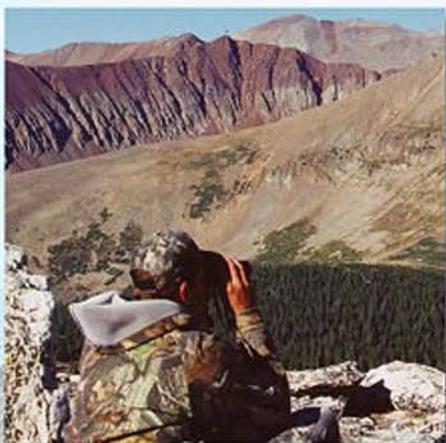


Wise Wildlife Encounters

South Park and the surrounding mountains provide wonderful opportunities to watch a variety of wildlife. Viewing wildlife is most rewarding when you avoid disturbing them.



Wildlife Watching Tips

- Mornings and evenings are the best times to see wildlife activity
- Use binoculars, a spotting scope or a long lens from a camera for a better view
- Read a guidebook to learn which animals live where
- For your safety and theirs, don't feed or approach them

Any changes in wildlife behavior may mean you're too close! Their survival depends on being able to continue finding food, raising young, hiding from predators, or simply conserving energy.



Tap, tap, tap of a woodpecker

Wildlife is elusive.

so look and listen for signs of their presence.



Animal tracks and scat.



Elk scars from chewing on aspen bark

Wildlife Safety:

To avoid encounters with black bears and mountain lions:

- Keep small children close
- Leave pets at home or on a leash
- Stay out of areas where bears or lion sitings are known
- Avoid surprising them by traveling in groups and making noise
- Stay away from any animal's feeding site
- Keep a clean campsite and prevent access to food, toiletries or other attractants

IF YOU DO encounter a bear or mountain lion in the back country:
Do not run. Stay calm. Talk calmly yet firmly to the animal. Pick up any children and back away, moving slowly. Raise your arms to appear larger. Do not crouch down or turn your back. If the animal behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches, or anything within reach. These animals are unpredictable. They view you as a food source once they've found you. If attacked, FIGHT BACK!

