



Delwin E. Benson¹

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Benson, Delwin E./Managing recreation on



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Quick Facts

Include considerations for managing recreation as part of your normal agricultural operation.

Landowners should plan and request what behavior they expect enough in advance to avoid surprises for either party—you are in control—communicate your rules.

Keep records of outdoor users on the property.

Granting access to private land to fish, hunt, camp, or any kind of recreation is an unselfish act by the owner that provides welcomed experiences for recreationists. Access to private lands is a privilege respected by most visitors, but when some abuse the privilege access is often denied to all. NO TRESPASSING or NO HUNTING signs promote negative feelings by landowners and recreationists.

Access to private land can be dealt with in a positive way. If you choose to have recreationists on the property, know who you have and communicate the rules. Start by getting their address, car license number and signature. Explain where they may go and the allotted period of time (a morning, a hunting season, etc.). If you have special rules relating to wood cutting, collecting artifacts, use of roads, etc., be sure to communicate those rules. An arrowhead could be picked up with great excitement and pride knowing the landowner approves. Cutting up a dead tree and tossing it into a pickup may not seem inappropriate to a visitor who sees acres of forest, but as the landowner you may object. To allow the pocketing of a few pieces of flint or taking firewood home could enrich the recreational experience and appreciation of your land. Landowners should think about and request what behaviors they expect enough in advance to avoid surprises for either party—you are in control—communicate your rules.

The Colorado courtesy card (Figure 1) is available from the Division of Wildlife. It will help to record information about persons who are given permission to hunt, fish or trap on your property. The recreationist keeps the upper portion of the card that includes your signature and rules to follow.

COLORADO COURTESY CARD
SPORTSMAN'S COPY

I would like permission to hunt, fish or trap on your property.

Landowner's Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Permission Given From _____

To _____

Permission Given For _____ Area

Remember: Hunting & Fishing are Privileges—Not Rights
UNDERSTANDING + COURTESY = RESPECT

LANDOWNER'S COPY

Permission Given To _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Vehicle Style _____ Yr. _____ Color _____

Vehicle License # _____ No. in Party _____

Driver's License # _____

I Have Given Permission For _____ Period

UNDERSTANDING + COURTESY = RESPECT

Figure 1: Colorado courtesy card Front

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I HEREBY GIVE PERMISSION TO

to hunt, fish or trap on my property. He agrees not to commit any act of vandalism and to report to the landowner all such acts observed.

Signed _____ Date / /
Landowner



TOLL-FREE
1-800-332-4155
DENVER AREA
295-0164



"I hereby agree to conduct myself as a sportsman in the true sense of the word and I accept the responsibilities which are a part of hunting, fishing, trapping and outdoor recreation.

I will not commit any act of vandalism on the landowner's property. I will report all such acts observed.

I will not hold the landowner responsible for any accidents while on his property."

Signed _____ Date / /
Sportsman

DOW-M-P-2-83

This card courtesy of
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Landowner Recognition Program



Colorado courtesy card

Back

Personal bonds between recreationists and landowners can become quite strong. Visitors that have shared stories, lent helping hands and

left packages at the door step out of gratitude for access privileges are the "friends" that landowners look forward to seeing on opening day. Not all visitors and landowners encounters are this positive. The goal of the landowner should be to have persons on the property that are respectful and responsible.

Property visitors can become additional eyes and ears spotting lost cattle, trespassers or perhaps they can help mend a piece of fence the elk ran over while you were gathering cattle. All it might take to get some help is a request (obviously not during the hunt) and a quick lesson with the fence stretchers. They won't want to spend their whole trip on labor, but the odd jobs could be a welcome break from the camping trip or hunt and a way that they can demonstrate their appreciation and respect for you and the property.

Landowners can grant privileges to persons demonstrating good outdoor behavior, but equal care should be taken to exclude violators. You do not have to tolerate outdoor destroyers and violators. Laws against hunting without permission, littering and game violations have been tightened in the landowners favor. Recreation will be promoted when outdoor users learn they are welcomed when cooperative and penalized when disrespectful.

Include considerations for managing outdoor users as part of your normal agricultural operation. It is inevitable that you will be asked for access permission. Gather the appropriate information to establish guidelines to give the users sufficient information to keep them in line, look out for your needs, and have a quality experience on your property.