

# Supporting Wildlife Habitat in a Cabin Community

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Humans can have a significant impact on wildlife and not necessarily in a bad way. If you are mindful of the way you interact with the environment you can provide benefits to wildlife in many ways. The quality of Wildlife habitat depends on four main attributes; Food, Water, Shelter, and Space. The following list provides things to consider and actions you can take to provide opportunities to enjoy wildlife while lessening negative impacts in areas that we share space with them.



**Food** : Wildlife won't use an area where they don't have food. You can support wildlife through these practices:

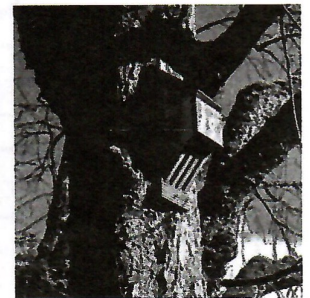
- Plant a variety of native plants to provide year round food (See back for plants list appropriate for your area)
- Install a bird or squirrel feeder
- Supply insect habitat with native plants and pollinator friendly flowers – insects make great food for many other animals
- Choose non-toxic forms of pest control

**Water** : Water in wildlife summer range is one of the most important requirements to sustain healthy populations. You can help wildlife by doing the following:

- Install a bird bath
- Place a bee watering station in a warm sunny spot
- Create a water feature like a pond or fountain

**Shelter** : Often homeowners have issues with wildlife using their property for shelter which can lead to conflict. Providing cover on the property away from areas where wildlife is unwanted will both provide important habitat and draw animals away from the home. To do this consider trying the following:

- Landscape using wood, rock, or brush piles
- Leave a dead snag or install a large log
- Leave leaf litter and other debris whenever possible
- Leave a wild patch
- Hang a bird house or bat box
- Plant low growing plants and ground cover
- Hang mason bee boxes or leave hollow stems uncut



**Safety** : Consider making your property a safer place for wildlife in these ways:

- Leave animals undisturbed
- Keep cats indoors
- Maintain bird-safe windows by using window decals
- Turn off lights in the evening to help nighttime migratory birds stay on track
- Keep your dogs on a leash

**Invasive Species Removal** : The plants in your landscape may not only impact your property but if they become invasive they could alter the plant communities of the surrounding area as well

- Get to know invasive plants and animals in your area and learn how to best remove them
- Be mindful of what you decide to plant – No Invasive Species!

The following list consists of native plants appropriate for the ecosystem in the Monte Cristo area. These species provide food and shelter for a wide variety of Deer, Bird and Pollinator species. Availability varies but Granite Seed ([www.graniteseed.com](http://www.graniteseed.com)) is a great place to look for seeds of the plants listed below.

<b>Grasses</b>	
Great Basin Wildrye	Leymus cinereus
Mountain Brome	Bromus marginatus
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	Pseudoroegneria spicata
<b>Wild Flowers</b>	
Sulfur-flower Buckwheat	Eriogonum umbellatum
Prairie Coneflower	Ratibida columnifera
Prairie Aster	Machaeranthera tanacetifolia
Western Yarrow	Achillea millefolium
Rocky Mountain Penstemon	Penstemon strictus
Silvery Lupine	Lupinus argenteus
<b>Shrubs/Trees</b>	
Golden Currant	Ribes aureum
Mountain Big Sagebrush	Artemisia tridentata vaseyana
Saskatoon Serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia
Antelope Bitterbrush	Purshia tridentata
Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany	Cercocarpus ledifolius