



Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II Project

San Juan Institute of Natural and Cultural Resources - Fort Lewis College - Durango, CO 81301 - (970) 247-7245

January 31, 2008

Dear Private Landowner:

On behalf of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and the Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership (CBAP), I am writing to request permission to access your private lands to conduct fieldwork for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II Project (Atlas II). Atlas II is a 5-year, statewide effort to collect data on the distribution, abundance, habitat use, and breeding phenology of the avifauna breeding in Colorado. Fieldwork for Atlas II was initiated in 2007 by the CDOW and the CBAP, and is scheduled to be completed by 2011. The results of Atlas II will be compared to the results of the first Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas (initiated in 1987) and will provide important information on population status and trends of Colorado's breeding birds.

Atlas II data are being collected throughout the state per U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps (quads). Each quad has been divided into halves vertically, and thirds horizontally, resulting in six equal blocks. The southeast block of each quad is the priority block for Atlas II data collection, and the project's goal is to collect data in every priority block in the state (100% of the quads). Reaching this goal requires careful coordination with private landowners, such as yourself, who own lands that fall within priority block areas. We are therefore requesting permission to access your lands to conduct Atlas II fieldwork. Fieldwork is being conducted primarily by volunteers, but some paid field technicians may also be involved. If you grant permission to conduct fieldwork on your property, a volunteer or technician will coordinate closely with you regarding:

- 1) the date(s) and time(s) of day for which fieldwork would be conducted on your land
- 2) your preferred method/protocol for accessing your lands
- 3) any additional rules/stipulations you may require of visitors to your lands

If access to your property is denied, we will respect your wishes and at no time attempt to access your lands without permission. Please feel free to contact me directly at any time if you have questions or concerns about our request or about the Atlas II project. For more information, please visit our website at: www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org. I appreciate your attention and hope we can work together to gather important information on Colorado's breeding birds.

Sincerely,

Lynn E. Wickersham
Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II Project Manager