

*Handout, a*  
**Crime Summary**

**\*\*This summary is to be given to cast members but NOT to students. The summary reveals details of the crime and the guilty persons—all of which the students will try to determine on their own.\*\***

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**October 10:**

Ryan Dixon left his home in Boulder, Colorado, and drove to his cabin in Ward. Later that day he went to the town market to buy day-old donuts, cantaloupe, and apples to use as bear bait. He set up the bear bait station in the forest behind the cabin. He set up a motion-detector camera at the bait station. The camera took a photo when any animal walked into the baited area. This is how he found out when bears were visiting the site at night and how many were visiting.

**October 11:**

Cory Lucero arrived at the cabin. Both men had hunting licenses for October 12–16. Cory had licenses for one elk and one mule deer. Ryan had licenses for one elk and one black bear.

**October 12–15:**

Cory legally killed a deer. Ryan legally killed an elk.

**October 12–14:**

Without Cory’s knowledge, Ryan staked out the bait station on the

nights of October 12 and 14. He killed one bear legally and removed the gall bladder and paws before taking the bear back to the cabin on the morning of October 15.

**October 16:**

Ryan and Cory left the cabin. Cory went home. Ryan said he was stopping by Shane Potter’s cabin on the way to the airport. He said he was to fly to St. Louis, Missouri, on business that week. Actually, Ryan did not visit Shane or fly to St. Louis. Instead, he returned to the cabin.

**October 16–21:**

Ryan shot four more bears at the bait station. Each time a bear was shot, Ryan used his ATV to drag the body a short distance from the bait station. Then he skinned it, cut off its paws, and took out the gall bladder. At one point, he cut his hand while taking the bear parts, used a rag to stop the bleeding, and dropped it on the ground. He drove his ATV back to the cabin with these body parts and left the bodies in the forest for scavengers.

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**Crime Summary**

**October 20:**

Ryan called his sister Eliza Lucero. She left her home in Boulder with a cooler of dry ice. As she was packing her car, neighbor Erika Crocker came over to give her a letter that had been delivered to the wrong address. Erika noticed the smoke coming from the cooler when Eliza's drink spilled in it. Eliza took the dry ice to the cabin where she helped package the bear paws and gall bladders in dry ice to be mailed to Ed Lee in San Francisco. She filled out the MailExpress package slip.

**October 21:**

MailExpress courier Linda Klemp picked up the package from the cabin. It was sent to Ed Lee. Ryan and Eliza returned home.

**October 22:**

The package arrived, along with a note from Ryan, at Ed and Becky Lee's house. Ed Lee had already paid Ryan \$500 for each gall bladder. The package was taken to a room where the Lees prepared traditional Asian medicines for their store. Ed dried the gall bladders and ground them into powder. Becky then sold the powder in their Traditional Asian Medicine store for liver, eye, asthma, and heart problems.

A note from Ryan told Ed Lee to send Ryan payment for the bear paws. After a search, the San Francisco police didn't find the paws and believe they had been sent overseas to a restaurant to make gourmet bear-paw soup. There is no bear-paw evidence.

*Handout b*

Cast of Characters (Suspects and Witnesses) and Character Statements

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**Suspects and Witnesses**

1. Cory Lucero—cabin co-owner, husband of Eliza Lucero

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

2. Eliza Lucero—cabin co-owner, wife of Cory Lucero, and sister of Ryan Dixon. Guilty of selling black bear gall bladders and paws.

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

3. Ryan Dixon—cabin co-owner, husband of Meagan Dixon, and brother of Eliza Lucero. Guilty of poaching black bears to sell gall bladders and paws.

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

4. Meagan Dixon—cabin co-owner, wife of Ryan Dixon

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

5. Erika Crocker—Colorado Springs neighbor of Luceros

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

6. Linda Klemp—MailExpress courier

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

7. Jack(ie) Wilmore—San Francisco police officer

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

8. Becky Lee—wife of Ed Lee and co-owner of Traditional Asian Medicines store

(played by \_\_\_\_\_)

**Character Statements**

*1. Cory Lucero, Cabin owner*

My wife and I live in Boulder, Colorado, and own the Ward cabin with Meagan and Ryan Dixon. We've had the cabin for eight years. I go hunting alone and with Ryan Dixon.

I was there just there a week ago. It was great! I went to the cabin after work on October 11 and got home on October 16. My wife Eliza stayed home because she had other plans. Ryan drove to the cabin early on the 11th. We left at the same time on the 16th. He stopped at the cabin of a friend, Shane Potter, before going on his business trip to St. Louis, Missouri.

Ryan couldn't sleep well on several nights, so he went for a long walk. He



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## Cast of Characters (Suspects and Witnesses) and Character Statements

came back long after I had gone to bed. He took some long afternoon naps.

I did not notice a cut on Ryan's hand while at the cabin. The tractor in the shed is mine. The Dixons own the ATV.

I had licenses to hunt deer and elk. I got a deer this month.

[Cory will give permission for the interview groups to get his fingerprints. The groups also will get copies of his hunting licenses.]

- Mule deer. 1st season, October 12–16. Filled. Carcass tag torn off.
- Elk. 1st season, October 12–16. Not filled.

### 2. Eliza Lucero, Cabin owner

My husband and I live in Boulder, Colorado, and own the Ward cabin with Meagan and Ryan Dixon. Ryan is my brother. We bought the cabin eight years ago. I did not go to the cabin this fall. Sometimes I go for a day or so while Cory and Ryan are there hunting, but this year I already had other plans.

Cory left for the cabin after work on October 11. He hunted with Ryan and came home on October 16.

[Eliza will give permission for the interview groups to fingerprint her.]

### 3. Ryan Dixon, Cabin owner

My wife and I live in Boulder, Colorado. We own the cabin in Ward with

Cory and Eliza Lucero. Eliza is my sister. We've had the cabin for seven or eight years. I go hunting alone and with Cory Lucero. I got to the cabin on October 11 and left at the same time as Cory on October 16. I cut my hand when hunting with Cory. [Ryan has a large Band-Aid on his left hand.]

My wife Meagan likes to come to the cabin with me, but was teaching during my hunting week. She's a high school science teacher.

On my way to the airport I stopped at the cabin of my friend, Shane Potter. He was hunting this week, too. Then I went directly to the Denver International Airport to catch a plane to St. Louis, Missouri. I design computer software and had meetings in St. Louis all week. I got home on the evening of October 21.

I own the ATV in the cabin's shed. The Luceros own the tractor.

I got a bear and an elk.

[Ryan will give permission for the interview groups to get his fingerprints. The teams will get copies of his hunting licenses.]

- Black Bear. 1st season, October 12–16. Filled. Carcass tag torn off.
- Elk. 1st season, October 12–16. Filled. Carcass tag torn off.

### 4. Meagan Dixon, Cabin owner

My husband and I live in Boulder, Colorado, and own the Ward cabin

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Cast of Characters (Suspects and Witnesses) and Character Statements

with Cory and Eliza Lucero. I am a high school science teacher. I go to the cabin with my husband and the Luceros whenever we can get away. I haven't been to the cabin since August. I was teaching during the week Cory and Ryan were hunting.

Ryan went to work on Monday, October 10, and then left for the cabin. He called me on the 16th to say he was leaving the cabin and heading for the Denver airport. He had to go to a business meeting in St. Louis. He got home on the night of October 21. He cut his hand while gutting one of the animals he killed.

[Meagan gave permission for the interview groups to fingerprint her.]

**5. Erika Crocker, Luceros' neighbor in Boulder**

I walk my dog every day. I remember seeing Eliza Lucero packing up her car with food and a small suitcase like she was going somewhere for awhile. This was on October 20, my day off. I went over to give her a letter that accidentally came to my house. I must have surprised her. She was arranging something in a large red cooler (she had on gloves) and her cup fell off the trunk of the car and spilled inside the cooler. Lots of steam came out. She said she was taking some food to a sick friend. I did not see her for a few days. Maybe she was staying with the friend. Cory was home.

**6. Linda Klemp, MailExpress courier**

I am new on the job. This was my first visit to that cabin in Ward. Usually people come to town to mail a package. I got a call from a woman asking for a pick-up on the morning of October 21. The package was about 3' x 2' x 2'.

I arrived about 15 minutes before the time they requested. A man answered the door. He wasn't happy that I was there early. He had gloves on but no jacket. He told me to wait. Before he closed the door I saw a large red cooler inside the cabin. I could hear a woman talking while I was waiting, but I could not understand what was being said. It was too muffled. When I got the box from the man, the packing slip said the contents were elk. I checked past MailExpress records for any packages sent from this address. They show that the Dixons and Luceros have sent packages of similar weight to Ed Lee in San Francisco for several years.

**7. Jack(ie) Wilmore, San Francisco Police Officer**

My police department has conducted an undercover investigation of Ed and Becky Lee. Here is what we know. They have lived at their current address for 10 years. They own a store called Traditional Asian Medicines. They receive packages from

*Handout, b*

## Cast of Characters (Suspects and Witnesses) and Character Statements

around the country containing products for the store, though many senders seem to be individuals who are not a part of any company. For several years the Lees have been receiving packages from Ward, Colorado. They mail packages regularly to locations in China, Korea, Japan, Australia, and Singapore.

An undercover officer met Ed Lee in his house to try to sell him some items for the store. He reported that the Lees have a lab in their house, where they prepare much of the medicines for their store. Lee's record book was opened to the most recent entries. These medicines were prepared after the date the package was sent from Colorado: Asthma Treatment, Liver Treatment, Eye Treatment, and Heart Treatment. He also got a photograph of a letter sitting on a table from "Ryan Dixon" to Lee. [A copy of the letter has been made for each investigative team.]

There was no sign of the bear paws, but a package was sent to Singapore a day after the Colorado package arrived.

We recommend that the Colorado wildlife investigators go undercover as customers to the Lees' Traditional Asian Medicines store. The un-

dercover investigators should buy these medicines: Asthma Treatment, Liver Treatment, Eye Treatment, and Heart Treatment. Then they should take the medicines to their forensic lab and compare the contents to the animals recently poached in Ward.

### *8. Becky Lee, Co-owner, Traditional Asian Medicines store*

I helped a group of customers that came into my store together. They needed medicines for their health problems. I sold one person Eye Treatment for her red itchy eyes. Another person had a relative who was recently diagnosed with liver failure. I am sure the Liver Treatment will help. Two others in the group bought Asthma Treatment and Heart Treatment for their own health problems.

Several people in the group wanted to see rare gifts I sell from around the world. I told them that if they returned this evening I could show them anything they wanted: skins of big cats, trinkets made from elephant tusks and sea turtle shells, even a live monkey they could buy as a pet. One person asked where I got them. I told them not to worry, that all the paperwork looks legal.

### Section 3: Investigating and Solving a Wildlife Crime

*Handout c*

## Suspects and Witnesses Time and Location for Wildlife Crime Interviews

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Dear Suspects and Witnesses:

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this unique educational opportunity for my students. I have filled in the date and times of your interviews in the form below. Student investigators from a class will be assigned to interview you. They will come to your location and talk with you as a group.

Suspect or witness name \_\_\_\_\_

Your (real) name \_\_\_\_\_

Interview date \_\_\_\_\_

Interview time \_\_\_\_\_

Your location \_\_\_\_\_

*Handout d*Logistics for Wildlife  
Crime Investigation Interviews

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**Before the Interviews(s)**

Location—Please fill in the “Your Location” line in “Suspects and Witnesses Time and Location for Wildlife Crime Interviews” (Handout c) and return to me so I can tell the investigators where to find you for your interview. Tell other staff in your work area your character’s name. They may need to guide students to you.

“Cast of Characters (Suspects and Witnesses) and Character Statements” (Handout b)—Read through the statement of your character and the other seven characters so you are ready to answer investigators’ questions.

Personal props—You may choose to add any props to your attire or office on the day of the interviews.

Required props will be given to several of you before the interviews.

- Cory Lucero—Copies of two hunting licenses
- Ryan Dixon—Copies of two hunting licenses
- Jack(ie) Wilmore—A handwritten letter to Ed Lee from Ryan Dixon
- Becky Lee—Four small containers of different powdered “medicines.”

**During the Interview(s)**

“Cast of Characters (Suspects and Witnesses) and Character Statements” (Handout b)—This handout has information that is important for you to convey to the interview teams. You can choose your personality, either offering information to student investigators or being more difficult and only answering questions that are asked. (This may mean they will need to interview you again later.) Please avoid making up details to answer questions. Such additional information may be contradictory to information other suspects and witnesses give and can send students on wild goose chases in a case that already holds many challenges to solve!

“Permission for an Interview” (Handout m)—Investigators will introduce themselves and ask you to sign the form “Permission for an Interview.” (You will keep this, add comments, and return it to me later.) Investigators will begin asking you questions they have prepared in class.

Questioning—If the answer to a question is not in the script, tell the investigators, “I don’t know.” Then



*Handout d*

Logistics for Wildlife  
Crime Investigation Interviews

the investigators will know that either you have not been given the information OR you are not allowed to share the information with them.

Fingerprinting—Cory and Eliza Lucero and Meagan and Ryan Dixon.  
Before the interviews(s).

**After the Interview(s)**

Return the “Permission for an Interview” handouts and props to me.  
Thanks again.

*Handout e*Investigation Day 1:  
Has a Wildlife Crime Been Committed?

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**Student Instructions***Your Job*

You are wildlife investigators of a crime committed in the forested mountains of Ward, Colorado. With your team, read the “Initial Crime Reports” and other documents in your Investigative Team Envelope. Each person in your team records information in his or her own Investigator Notebook and on his or her timeline (Handout j).

*Your Steps*

1. Your team has received an Investigative Team Envelope. Write team members’ names on your envelope. All team papers, including evidence your team collects during the investigation, must be kept here. Write your name on a folder for your individual papers. All papers and Investigator Notebooks must stay in the classroom throughout the investigation.
2. As a class, brainstorm what types of information would be important to record in your notebooks. Read “Initial Crime Reports” aloud in teams and write information in your Investigator Notebooks (e.g., when and where the crime occurred, who was there, who should be interviewed, what was found and seen).
3. On your timeline (Handout j), write key words for what happened each day.
4. Look at “Big Game Hunting Season for Colorado: Rifle Seasons.” On your timeline, write hunting seasons that were in effect near the time of the crime.
5. Read through “Hunting Laws and Regulations for Colorado.” Underline the key words that define poaching. Underline the key words in each description of an offense against wildlife.

### Section 3: Investigating and Solving a Wildlife Crime

*Handout e*

## Investigation Day 1: Has a Wildlife Crime Been Committed?

6. Look over the MailExpress receipt and record any useful information in your notebooks.
7. If there is enough time, make a list of people you think should be interviewed tomorrow.

# *Handout 1* Initial Crime Reports

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## **1. Interview of Adam Tweed, with wife, Patricia, and children, Luke and Wendy**

**Interviewed by:** Wildlife Officer Mark Rucks

**Location:** Cabin owned by Adam Tweed, located in Ward, Colorado (west of Boulder)

**Date:** October 22

We are on vacation at our cabin this week. Today our family was getting ready to go for a hike. We saw some ravens circling an area about 1/2 mile from the cabin. We decided to walk in that direction. When we got close we found what looked like a trashed campsite with scraps of food all over the ground. There was a camera set up on the edge of the clearing. It was hidden under a tarp. The grass was trampled down. Close to the food scraps was a place with lots of blood and hair. It looked like whatever had been there was big and was dragged away through the trees. My wife, Patricia, stayed there with the kids—Luke and Wendy—while I (Adam) followed the drag marks for several hundred yards. The smell was horrible! I found a bunch of large partially gutted, skinned animal bodies that were decomposing and being scavenged by the ravens. We imme-

diately went back to the cabin and called 911.

## **2. Wildlife Officer Report After Inspection of Crime Scene**

**Submitted by:** Wildlife Officer Mark Rucks

**Location:** Ward, Colorado

**Date:** October 22

### **Habitat of crime scene:**

Ward, Colorado, is located about 20 miles west of Boulder in Roosevelt National Forest. The crime scene is in montane forest (ponderosa pine, aspen, blue spruce), approximately 1/2 mile from the nearest cabin.

### **Findings:**

The crime scene is a probable wildlife bait station set along a wildlife trail. Scraps of donuts, cantaloupe, and apples were scattered in a small clearing in the trees. A motion-detector camera, covered by a waterproof tarp, was hidden on the edge of the clearing. These cameras are often used to find out what wildlife are in the area and when they pass through. Blood was found 10 feet from the food scraps. The plants were trampled in the area around the blood. Drag marks and tire tracks

## *Handout f* Initial Crime Reports

went from the blood site through the trees about 100 yards. Blood and hair were found along this trail.

The drag marks end at a dumping site for animal carcasses. The skinned bodies of four animals were found. One was a recent kill. All have been scavenged and are at different stages of decomposition. All feet have been cut off. It appears that the abdomens had been cut open instead of torn open by scavengers. A bloody rag was found near the carcasses.

The tire tracks went from the alleged bait site to the carcasses and finally to the Lucero/Dixon cabin's shed. The owners are neighbors of the Tweeds (reporting party).

### **Evidence collected from the scene:**

- Bloody rag
- Skull
- Animal track
- Hairs from the carcasses, from ground near the carcasses, and from the tarp over motion detector camera
- Tire tracks in forest

### **3. Second Interview of Adam and Patricia Tweed**

**Interviewed by:** Wildlife Officer Mark Rucks

**Location:** Ward, Colorado

**Date:** October 23

**QUESTION:** What do you know about your neighbors?

**RESPONSE:** The cabin is owned by a couple and a brother and sister. I think they all live in Boulder. Every once in a while we are both here on the same weekends. We know the men are hunters, and come up more during the hunting season. We do not know them very well, but we wave or say "hi" when we see each other.

**QUESTION:** Were your neighbors here this week?

**RESPONSE:** We saw one of the men a few times.

**QUESTION:** What was he doing when you saw him?

**RESPONSE:** We saw him going in and out of the forest. He was carrying a backpack. One early morning he was coming out of the forest on his ATV. Once at dusk someone left the cabin and walked into the forest. It was probably him. For several nights we were awakened by what sounded like gunshots.

## *Handout 1* Initial Crime Reports

That would have been between October 17 and 19. There was a MailExpress truck at the house yesterday morning. We have not seen anyone since then.

**QUESTION:** What wildlife do you normally see around your cabin?

**RESPONSE:** Mule deer, elk, raccoons, coyotes, hawks, owls, ravens and other birds, and squirrels. We've heard there are mountain lions, bobcats, and black bears, but we have never seen them.

**QUESTION:** How often do you come to the cabin?

**RESPONSE:** About once a month, usually only on weekends. We decided to take a longer vacation during the kids' fall break this year. It's the first time we've been up here during the week. It's so quiet! No one is here, except our neighbors.

### 4. Interview of Meagan Dixon

**Interviewed by:** Wildlife Officer Mark Rucks

**Location:** The Lucero/Dixon cabin in Ward, Colorado

**Date:** October 23

Meagan Dixon is co-owner (with her husband Ryan Dixon and Corey and Eliza Lucero) of the cabin next to the Tweeds' cabin. Her cabin appeared to be the destination of tire tracks coming from the alleged bait station and carcasses. She volunteered to come to the cabin from her home in Boulder to be interviewed.

**QUESTION:** There have been some unusual wildlife deaths in the area. I am interviewing cabin owners to see if they have seen or heard anything unusual. Who owns this cabin?

**RESPONSE:** My husband Ryan and I co-own it with Cory and Eliza Lucero.

**QUESTION:** Was anyone at this cabin during the past month?

**RESPONSE:** Ryan and Cory were here hunting last week. They did not mention seeing or hearing anything unusual.

**QUESTION:** Do you let other people stay at your cabin if you are not here?

**RESPONSE:** No.

*Handout f*  
**Initial Crime Reports**

**Evidence collected with signed search warrant:**

- MailExpress packing slip receipt
- Rifle
- Antler/horn
- Tire tread prints found in shed
- Tire tracks from driveway

*Handout 9*

Big Game Hunting Season for  
Colorado: Rifle Seasons

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**Combined Deer and Elk**

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First: Oct. 12–16  
Second: Oct. 19–30  
Third: Nov. 2–10

**Black Bear**

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First: Oct. 12–16  
Second: Oct. 19–30  
Third: Nov. 2–10

**Moose**

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First: Oct. 12–16  
Second: Oct. 19–30  
Third: Nov. 2–10

**American Pronghorn  
(antelope)**

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First: Sept. 28–Oct. 4  
Second: Oct. 5–11

**Mountain Lion**

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Jan. 1–March 31



*Handout h*

# Hunting Laws and Regulations for Colorado

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## License Requirements

1. You must have a license to hunt.
2. You must carry your license while hunting.
3. You can hunt only the animal and season specified on your license.
4. Licenses expire at the end of the season printed on them.
5. You can submit only one application in the license drawing per species per year.
6. You must complete a hunter education course before purchasing a hunting license.
3. Shoot from or use a motor vehicle, motorcycle, off-highway vehicle, snowmobile or aircraft to hunt, intercept, chase, harass, or drive wildlife.
4. Use aircraft to hunt, to direct hunters on the ground, or to hunt the same day or day after a flight was made to locate wildlife.
5. Hunt under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
6. Use electronic night-vision equipment, electronically enhanced light-gathering optics, or thermal imaging devices as an aid in hunting or taking wildlife.

## Hunting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset.

## Carcass Tag

You must attach your carcass tag (the lower part of the hunting license) to big game animals you kill until meat is processed.

## It's Against the Law to:

1. Have a loaded rifle or shotgun in or on a motor vehicle.
2. Hunt carelessly or discharge a firearm or release an arrow disregarding human life or property.
7. Use dogs or bait to hunt bears, deer, elk, pronghorn, or moose. Bait means to put, expose, deposit, distribute, or scatter salt, minerals, grain, animal parts, or other food as a lure, attraction, or enticement for big game. Scent sticks that smell like food are illegal for bears.
8. Use poison, drugs, or explosives to hunt or harass wildlife.
9. Fail to make a reasonable attempt to track and kill animals you wound.
10. Fail to use edible wildlife meat for human consumption.

*Handout h*

# Hunting Laws and Regulations for Colorado

11. Kill and abandon big game. Killing big game, removing only hide, antlers, or other trophy parts and leaving the carcass in field are illegal. (felony)
12. Sell, purchase, or offer to sell or purchase big game. (felony)
13. Sell, trade, barter, or offer to sell, trade, or barter bear gall bladders or edible portions of bears.
14. Kill cubs or black bears accompanied by one or more cubs. A cub is a bear less than a year old.
15. Have carcass, hide, skull, claws, or parts of bears or mountain lions without a valid hunting license or unless authorized by Division of Wildlife.
16. Hunt on private land without first obtaining permission from landowner or person in charge.

## **Penalties**

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Convictions of felony violations may result in lifetime suspension of hunting privileges, jail time, and fines.



*Handout, j*

# Timeline of Wildlife Crime in Ward, Colorado

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Timeline of Wildlife Crime in Ward, Colorado October/November

As you read voluntary statements and gather information from interviews, record what you were told happened on certain dates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

