**MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 20, 2017

To: All Dinosaur National Monument Employees

From: DINO Natural Resource Specialist

Re: Procedures for handling dead animals in developed areas and reporting injured/sick wildlife

**\*\*PLEASE SHARE WITH STAFF MEMBERS WHO DO NOT REGULARLY RECEIVE EMAIL\*\***

Procedures for reporting, handling, and disposal of dead animals and reporting sick/injured wildlife that are discovered outdoors within developed areas of the Monument are hereby revised. Developed areas include campgrounds, visitor centers, housing areas, maintenance yards, and areas/attractions the public can access with vehicles, such as Josie Morris Cabin and Harper’s Corner Road.

The purpose of this memo is to clarify when employees *should* and *should not* report dead and sick animal sightings to Resource Management, Maintenance, and Law Enforcement personnel.

PLEASE **DO** REPORT: Groupings of dead animals of the same species. This is the first indication that there may be a wildlife disease outbreak, such as tularemia or plague.

*Example: You wake up one morning and there are 4 dead bunnies in your and your neighbor’s front yards.*

WHAT TO DO: If you observe such a die-off, do not handle dead or sick animals and keep pets away. Call or email Emily Spencer (970-374-3055; emily\_spencer@nps.gov) with the location and nature of the issue. Resource Management and Maintenance divisions will coordinate the safe handling and disposal of affected animals and will work with the Interpretation division to issue Monument-wide communication to employees and visitors on how to reduce risk of exposure.

PLEASE **DO NOT** REPORT: Dead individual animals and roadkill. These are likely animals that happened to die in areas where people also occur. These individuals pose no elevated risk to human health or safety.

*Example: A visitor reports a dead bird in the Quarry Visitor Center parking lot.*

WHAT TO DO: Gently pick up the dead animal while wearing nitrile gloves or with a shovel. Carry the animal beyond the edge of the developed area and dig a shallow grave and bury it or place the animal into the bushes and grass where it can decompose naturally, or become a meal for scavengers, such as magpies. It is not necessary to bag them or place them in the trash or dumpster. Boxes of nitrile gloves are available from Maintenance. Shovels are available from Tamara or from Maintenance. If you are particularly squeamish about handling dead animals, please call Maintenance or Resource Management staff for assistance.

EXCEPTION: If you find a dead golden or bald eagle please DO report that to Emily Spencer and/or a lead ranger.

\*These revised procedures DO NOT REPLACE or SUPERCEDE procedures for disposing of mice captured in traps inside of buildings. If you need information on those procedures, please contact Tamara Naumann.\*

PLEASE **DO** REPORT: Sick or injured wildlife, especially bats and eagles, in developed areas and areas of high visitation.

*Example:* *A visitor reports a mule deer tangled in the fence along Harpers Corner Road.*

 *You observe a bighorn sheep coughing in Jones Hole.*

WHAT TO DO: If you observe a sick or injured animal, do not approach it and keep pets and visitors away. Call or email a lead ranger and/or Emily Spencer with the location and nature of the issue. Resource Management and Law Enforcement divisions will coordinate a response. Do NOT call the state wildlife agency directly. Dinosaur NM staff will contact other authorities if needed.