

## Yeti, Bigfoot or Sasquatch; does he exist in Colorado?



### Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

When folks hear the word “Yeti,” most think of coolers or beef jerky. There is, however, a group of people who think of something else. Many believe that the “something else” exists here in Colorado.

Yeti, also called Sasquatch or Bigfoot is a creature with characteristics of ape and man, and reaching enormous sizes. It is reported that Bigfoot stands 8 feet tall and weighs over 500 pounds. He is a very hairy and shy creature, trying to avoid contact with man at all costs. Harry, from “Harry and the Henderson’s,” is probably pretty close to what Yeti looks like.

Footprints are about the only recorded evidence found of Bigfoot’s existence. Those footprints can reach 24 inches in length and 8 inches wide. There have been many plaster casts made of those prints around the country.

There are about a thousand sighting of Bigfoot each year around the country. About one-third are in the Pacific Northwest, with the remainder scattered about the United States and British Columbia. About a dozen sightings are reported each year in Colorado.

Similar creatures have been sighted around the world for centuries. Many believe it to be nothing more than folklore but there are those who will argue the creature’s existence. Ask the people of the small Mississippi River town of Louisiana, Missouri.

The “summer of ‘72” had a different meaning for the Harrison children when they were scared out of their wits by an 8 foot tall, ape like creature, covered in blood and holding a dead dog. The kids all reported the smell of the creature was horrendous.

The creature was dubbed Mo-Mo, short for the Missouri Monster. It terrified the small river community for the entire summer of 1972. A 20-man team that included police and conservation officers, blanketed the area of the sightings, but turned up nothing.

As with many Bigfoot sightings, Mo-Mo did leave tracks in many places. The last encounter with him showed tracks entering a garden area and suddenly disappearing. The tracks seemed to show no exit from the garden, as if the creature vanished into thin air. There has not been a sighting of Mo-Mo since in

the small town.

Closer to home, we have had reports of Bigfoot. Some of these reports have depicted a violent side of the creature. One report is from a Colorado hunter who claims a Sasquatch tried to rape him.

Darrel Whitaker, 57, of Glenwood Springs was walking to his hunting cabin to assess any damage it may have sustained over the winter. A large “gorilla like” creature dropped from a tree in front of him. Whitaker claims the creature punched him in the face.

Whitaker described the Sasquatch as being 8 feet tall, and that the punch knocked him out cold. While he was trying to recover from the punch, the creature began howling and tried to remove Whitaker’s clothes.

The report Whitaker gave, detailed how the creature tore his pants and was tearing through his underwear, when he stabbed the creature with a hunting knife in the shoulder, causing him to run away. The incident was reported to the Glenwood Springs Police Department and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Offices, and an investigation is ongoing. So much for Sasquatch having a political career.

A photo allegedly showing Bigfoot running in a field, with the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge train in the background, was published in the Durango Herald a few years ago. The photo, taken near Silverton, was submitted seven years after it was taken.

More recently, a photo taken by Jeff and Theresa Yelek

claims to have captured evidence of Bigfoot lurking in the woods. The photo appears to show the creatures nose, black colored eye and hair. The picture was snapped near North Park.

Colorado hosted the Mile-High Mystery Conference, May 4 through 6 of 2018. The conference was put on by a group of UFO followers and Sasquatch believers. The event featured speakers and experts delivering lectures on these and other topics of mysteries.

One of the organizers, Jim Meyers, owns and operates a Bigfoot themed store near Bailey, Colorado. At their store is a map, where people can place stickpins, identifying locations of Bigfoot sightings. The map became so full of pins they had to replace it with a new one. Meyer’s claims the new one is filling up with reported sightings rapidly.

If you want to search for a Bigfoot on your own, consider heading to Colorado Springs. This area has been host to a large number of sightings, especially on the way up the road to Pike’s Peak.

There is an official Bigfoot Crossing sign posted on the highway up to the top of the peak because of the numerous sightings of Bigfoot in the area. The sign warns drivers to be cautious and to watch for him crossing the highway.

About half way up the highway to the summit, travelers will see a Bigfoot statue. Next to the statue is a parking area and a gift shop, where Bigfoot souvenirs can be purchased.

For a lot of us, a souvenir statute is as close we will ever be to this creature.

I am not sure whether Sasquatch really exists. He may be a mythical creature similar to mermaids and hodags or he may be the result of a night of debauchery.

In any case, I decided to contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife, or CPW. CPW manages over 900 animals in the state, and if anyone would know, it should be them. I placed a call.

CPW Public Information Officer Joe Lewandowski, from the Southwest Region, told me he had extensive experience with the Yeti creatures and made this statement:

“Biologist’s consider ‘Harry and the Henderson’s’ not to be a feature comedy, but rather one of the quintessential documentaries of Bigfoot biology. It is a must watch program

for children of all ages who are interested in Sasquatch biology and cultural relevance. CPW will never expend any financial or intellectual resource to study Bigfoot, but we do encourage anyone else who wants to throw their money into the wind to do so, and thus support Colorado’s rural economies.”

As for myself, I will continue to lay footprints over as much of Colorado’s backcountry as I can. If I run into ol’ Bigfoot, I shall introduce myself and leave him to his business. He is just a mite too big to argue with.

Mark Rackay is a columnist for the Montrose Daily Press and avid hunter who travels across North and South America in search of adventure and serves as a director for the Montrose County Sheriff’s Posse. For information about the Posse call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email [info@mcspsi.org](mailto:info@mcspsi.org)



(Metro Creative Graphics)



I have tried for years too find a Yeti in Colorado, with no success. Unable to find a ‘confirmed’ photo of a Yeti, these coolers by ‘Yeti’ were the closest I could come up with. (Special to the Montrose Daily Press/Mark Rackay)



## Montrose County

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## Job Connection!

The Job Connection special section is new for 2019. It will feature ads as well as business profiles, tips and stories. It will be published each month and will be distributed through the paper, several drop locations around Montrose County and will be available online under our special sections tab. The first special section published on Jan. 18, 2019.

We are encouraging businesses to include a business profile into the special section each month. The profiles are designed to let the readers know what the business does, who business is and where the business is going in the future. To submit a profile send an email to [deannes@montrosepress.com](mailto:deannes@montrosepress.com).

