

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
Resolution – 16-02
Regarding Support for the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's
Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts that established a fund financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen, and boaters to support conservation and science-based management of game and sport fish species, and

WHEREAS, this system of funding from the contributions of hunters and anglers has supported the development of the most effective wildlife management system in the world, recovering many of our most treasured game and sport fish species, and

WHEREAS, the need to protect and enhance the many species of native wildlife which are not ordinarily taken for sport, fur, or food has been clearly established by conservationists of this nation, and

WHEREAS, it is in the national interest of the United States to retain for present and future generations the opportunity to observe, understand, and appreciate a wide variety of wildlife, and to prevent wildlife from declining to the point of requiring federal protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife has created a State Wildlife Action Plan that was approved in 2015 by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Action Plan prioritizes Species of Greatest Conservation Need and key habitat types that require prescriptive actions to ensure persistence for future generations, and

WHEREAS, States have long recognized the need for more comprehensive fish and wildlife programs to conserve all species; however, adequate funding has remained elusive, and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of conservation and business leaders, was convened by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to provide recommendations for securing reliable and assured funding to advance the national interest in conserving all species of wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel has called for the enactment of federal legislation to provide critically needed \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program from existing revenue from development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to effectively implement State Wildlife Action Plans and conserve thousands of species in greatest need of conservation, and

WHEREAS, the culmination of these efforts must be to establish a permanent funding mechanism at the national level which will provide financial and technical assistance to the states,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of the Blue Ribbon Panel's deliberations, considerations, and recommendations to secure long-term, dedicated funding to protect fish and wildlife resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to support the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel in recommending Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife.

Adopted August 12, 2016



Chris Castilian, Chairman