

COLORADO WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

Title: **ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON STATE WILDLIFE AREAS**
Effective Date: June 7, 2007
Revised Date:

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the intent of the Wildlife Commission that State Wildlife Areas be managed to minimize the impact of energy development to the extent possible. Energy development includes the 1) exploration for mineral, solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric or other resources, 2) the development/extraction of those resources and 3) related transmission infrastructure (e.g. transmission lines, pipelines, service roads).

The Wildlife Commission shall consider the costs and benefits of energy-related development on State Wildlife Areas relative to impacts on the quality of habitat, wildlife populations, or recreational uses for which the State Wildlife Area was originally acquired.

In instances where the Wildlife Commission maintains sole ownership of surface and subsurface mineral rights, the Wildlife Commission may grant leasing rights for energy-related purposes provided the lessee agrees to no surface occupancy and/or mitigation stipulations developed by the Division of Wildlife and approved by the Wildlife Commission.

The Wildlife Commission recognizes that the Division may not possess the exclusive ownership of subsurface mineral rights associated with State Wildlife Areas. Ownership of the subsurface mineral rights may be distributed among a combination of private, Federal, and State entities. The Commission opposes the leasing of subsurface rights under State Wildlife Areas to any other entity unless mitigation and/or surface-occupancy stipulation measures exist to protect the quality of habitat and wildlife within the State Wildlife Area.

State Wildlife Areas incurring significant negative impacts to wildlife as a result of the activities above should be identified and given consideration for remedial funding.