

Wildlife Commission Resolution – 06-01
Regarding Energy Development and Wildlife Impacts in the State of Colorado

Whereas the Colorado Wildlife Commission upholds the legislative declaration under Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 33 Wildlife and Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Article 1 “Wildlife-General Provisions” that wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and it’s visitors; and

Whereas hunting, angling and wildlife viewing contribute more than \$2 billion annually to the economy of the State of Colorado, benefiting local economies and providing more than 30,000 jobs in such fields as manufacturing, retail sales, and wildlife related service industries such as, outfitting and guiding, etc.; and

Whereas wildlife in the State of Colorado provide extrinsic economic benefits, as well as intrinsic, positive enhancement of wildlife-related experiences for both residents of and visitors to the State of Colorado; and

Whereas the Colorado Wildlife Commission recognizes that significant energy development has occurred and will continue in habitats where important wildlife species exist in Colorado; and

Whereas the Colorado Wildlife Commission is concerned about the potential loss of species and impacts that could result in federal listing under the Endangered Species Act; and

Whereas the Colorado Wildlife Commission acknowledges that the estimated reserves of oil and natural gas are substantial within the State of Colorado which would likely lead to drilling additional oil and gas wells over the next 10 to 20 years; and

Whereas industrial disturbance to the landscape will likely result in greater impacts to wildlife and its habitat, and may create habitat fragmentation; and

Whereas the Colorado Wildlife Commission recognizes the important role energy companies play in providing clean, safe and efficient energy for America’s homes and businesses; and

Whereas the Colorado Wildlife Commission recognizes the substantial economic contribution of the energy industry resulting from jobs, taxes, mineral royalties, etc.; and

Whereas the Colorado Wildlife Commission acknowledges that the technological advances of industry may necessitate that more flexible consideration be given to energy development proposals.

Therefore be it resolved that the Colorado Wildlife Commission encourages responsible development of the State's economic mineral resources through the use of the best available technology to minimize environmental impacts to Colorado's wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Be it further resolved that the Colorado Wildlife Commission urges development to occur in as ecologically responsible a manner as possible, which balances multiple resources, conserves energy, reduces industry's environmental footprint, and preserves habitat for multiple wildlife species.

Be it further resolved that the Colorado Wildlife Commission petitions local government, Federal and State Agencies to collaborate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife with respect to energy development projects.

Be it further resolved that the Colorado Wildlife Commission encourages local government, Federal and State Agencies to comprehensively assess and mitigate, where necessary, energy development-related habitat impacts throughout Colorado.

Be it further resolved that the Colorado Wildlife Commission encourages industry to collaborate with the Colorado Division of Wildlife on research and monitoring projects that will assist with measuring and minimizing impacts now and in the future.

November 8, 2006