

# *Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission*

## *Resolution - 19-02*

### *Reaffirming Support for the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources*

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WHEREAS, the States are principally responsible for the management of fish and wildlife within their borders, including on federal lands and waters, and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts that established a fund financed by hunters, recreational shooters, fishermen and boaters and their industries 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, despite the success of those funds, states still lack a robust, dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism that enables the management and conservation of all species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates that are within their public trust responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, the need to protect and enhance the many species of native wildlife which are not ordinarily pursued 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 which 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 to effectively implement State Wildlife Action Plans and conserve thousands of species in greatest need of conservation as identified by State Wildlife Action Plans, and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel further recommended examining how programs and agencies can transform to engage and serve broader constituencies, and

WHEREAS, bi-partisan legislation was recently introduced into the U.S. Congress by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) (Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019 {H.R. 3742}) calling for an annual dedication of \$1.3 billion in existing federal revenue to state fish and wildlife agencies for proactive conservation and implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans, and

WHEREAS, securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a non-federal state match similar to that in place for the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts, 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, and

WHEREAS, this resolution builds upon Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Resolution #16-02, which was adopted in August 2016, to support implementation of the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations, which were instrumental in launching the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife: a diverse coalition of conservation organizations, industry associations, businesses and scientists that all support permanent, dedicated funding of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program,

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, that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission supports the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel in recommending Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program to diversify funding and management of all wildlife, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission respectfully requests the Colorado Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation that would implement this recommendation.

Adopted November 15, 2019



Michelle Zimmerman, Acting Chair  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission

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