

# *Wildlife Commission Resolution - HB 07-1298*

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**Whereas** pursuant to House Bill 07-1298 the Colorado Wildlife Commission has been directed to consult with the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission in the OGCC's consideration of regulations intended to establish standards for minimizing adverse impacts to wildlife resources affected by oil and gas operations and to ensure the proper reclamation of wildlife habitat during and following such operations;

**Whereas** pursuant to its May 1, 2008 and July 10, 2008 Resolutions the Wildlife Commission previously provided comments to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission regarding draft rules under consideration by the OGCC as part of its rule-making process;

**Whereas** the Wildlife Commission understands that the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has now given preliminary approval to draft rules intended to minimize the adverse impact of oil and gas operations to state wildlife resources affected by oil and gas operations and the Commission wishes to publicly express its appreciation and strong support for the efforts of the OGCC, including the adoption of new reclamation standards, the adoption of general operating requirements applicable statewide and for sensitive wildlife habitat, the creation of restricted surface occupancy areas, and the establishment of the consultative process whereby all involved parties - the Division of Wildlife, the surface owners, the oil and gas operators and the OGCC staff - will be able to effectively address site specific issues as they may arise; all of which are regulatory concepts that the Wildlife Commission believes are necessary and appropriate mechanisms for minimizing adverse impacts to wildlife resources affected by oil and gas operations;

**Whereas** the Colorado Wildlife Commission also understands that the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has as part of its current rule-making process deferred certain issues affecting wildlife interests for further development by stakeholder groups and future consideration and possible action by the OGCC, including the adoption of more specific interim reclamation standards applicable to oil and gas operations and additional protections for or standards applicable to riparian areas within Colorado, and;

**Whereas** the Colorado Wildlife Commission wishes to express its strong support for further consideration of the very important issues of interim reclamation and riparian protection by the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and in that regard would offer its continued assistance to the OGCC in any future rule-making process, including direct participation by a Wildlife Commissioner in the proposed OGCC stakeholder process.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Colorado Wildlife Commission states its appreciation and strong support for the efforts of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission in its attempts to find the appropriate balance between protection of wildlife resources and the development of oil and gas resources as mandated by House Bill 07-1298.

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**Be it further resolved** that the Colorado Wildlife Commission has appointed Commissioner Dennis Buechler as its representative to participate with the staff of the Division of Wildlife in the stakeholder processes to develop more specific interim reclamation standards applicable to oil and gas operations and additional protections for or standards applicable to riparian areas within Colorado.

Adopted October 2, 2008



Robert Bray  
Chair  
Colorado Wildlife Commission