

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN AND AMONG
STATE OF NEW MEXICO,
STATE OF COLORADO,
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH,
AND
COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) establishes and formalizes the intent to cooperate through the sharing of data, coordinated planning and joint development of strategies to facilitate the management of shared wildlife corridors between the State of New Mexico and the State of Colorado.

WHEREAS, the States of Colorado and New Mexico are members of the Western Governors’ Association;

WHEREAS, a Western Governors’ Association initiative is to identify and protect Wildlife Corridors across the Western United States;

WHEREAS, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish are responsible for managing wildlife in their respective States;

WHEREAS, both the States of Colorado and New Mexico recognize the necessity for many species of wildlife to migrate from one location to another at different times of the year irrespective of political boundaries and that many of these animals migrate across the Colorado-New Mexico border, and;

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado and the State of New Mexico are concerned about potential negative impacts to the habitat connectivity, travel and migration corridors as a consequence of a variety of land use activities on the landscape.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the State of New Mexico through the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the State of Colorado through the Colorado Division of Wildlife, will work together as a team to:

- Identify key habitat connectivity, travel and migration corridors used by elk, deer, pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep, and, as identified by the two states, other key species of wildlife that migrate across the shared border between the State of Colorado and the State of New Mexico;

- Evaluate and prioritize these corridors, using the best available science, in respect to their importance and identify key habitat connectivity, travel and migration corridors to be further evaluated;
- Consult with and involve the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Tribe, and/or Jicarilla Apache tribal governments when a key habitat connectivity, travel and migration corridor crossing tribal land is identified;
- Map the key habitat connectivity, travel and migration corridors to the greatest extent possible using a mutually agreeable geospatial mapping system and consistent protocols to inform the decision-making processes in both States;
- Identify existing and potential land use changes and other impediments that are limiting, may limit or may eliminate the viability of key wildlife corridors;
- Develop and prioritize strategies that will positively contribute to the protection of key wildlife corridors, consistent with shared conservation objectives;
- Share recommended strategies with land management agencies, counties, municipalities, non-governmental entities, and the public, to inform and guide future decision-making processes.

FURTHER, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD THAT,

- This MOU and resulting work products shall not restrict or impede legal authorities, responsibilities or obligations vested in either State or their respective agencies.
- Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer or expenditure of funds, services or property among the parties to this MOU will require the execution of separate agreements or contracts.
- Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the parties to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract or other obligations.
- This MOU may be modified or amended upon written request of either party and the subsequent written concurrence of the other party. Participation in this MOU may be terminated with a 60-day written notice to the other party.
- This MOU shall have a term of 5 (five) years from the date of approval. At the end of this period this MOU shall expire unless canceled, extended or renewed.

Agreed upon this 4th day of December, 2009.



Bill Richardson, Governor
State of New Mexico



Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor
State of Colorado

Tod W. Stevenson

Tod Stevenson, Director
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Thomas E. Remington

Tom Remington, Director
Colorado Division of Wildlife

Rev. 12.4.09