

*Parks and Wildlife Commission Resolution - 12-01*  
*Regarding the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs*

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**Whereas**, more than a century ago, hunters, anglers and trappers were among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

**Whereas**, hunters, anglers and trappers took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, that established game and fish agencies to protect fish, wildlife and their habitats and imposed upon themselves special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations; and

**Whereas**, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers and trappers supported excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery, as well as on hunting and fishing equipment, to raise additional revenues to fund restoration and enhancement efforts of state agencies; and

**Whereas**, this user pay - public benefit system, which became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, was then bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 and further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984; and

**Whereas**, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$13 billion since the program's inception; and

**Whereas**, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program has contributed more funding to conservation than any other single effort in American history and is now recognized as a fundamental component of the American system of conservation funding; and

**Whereas**, Colorado has received over \$340 million in conservation funding from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs since its inception; and

**Whereas**, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and hunting, fishing and boating equipment have collected excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel and distributed these funds to the states through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

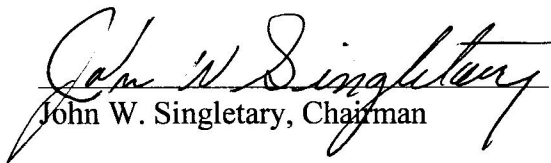
**Whereas**, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and hunting, fishing and boating equipment have supported the Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Programs and continue to exhibit a spirit of cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and

**Whereas**, the cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring wildlife populations from coast to coast; and

**Therefore be it resolved that: on the 75th Anniversary year of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs**, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission hereby recognizes the indispensable contributions made by hunters, anglers, trappers , boaters and recreational shooters across America and particularly across Colorado, by sporting goods manufacturers and retailers, and by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in restoring healthy populations of fish and wildlife, both game and nongame, along with other natural resources, to the abundance we see today;

**Be it further resolved that** an official copy of this resolution be provided to the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and local regional and national media sources so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and contributions from anglers, hunters, trappers, recreational shooters, industry, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of our nation's natural resources.

July 13, 2012

  
John W. Singletary, Chairman