

**COLORADO'S WILDLIFE IN 2058:  
Our Shared Commitment to the Future  
A Consensus Statement of the 2008 Colorado Conservation Summit**

We, the participants of the 2008 Colorado Conservation Summit, have come together because we share these fundamental beliefs about our state and natural resources:

- We have been entrusted with the stewardship of one of the best places on Earth.
- We must redouble our efforts to maintain and enhance the habitat that Colorado's fish, wildlife and native plant populations need to survive, if we are to fulfill our responsibilities to future generations.

Colorado's wildlife is a public trust – a defining resource that is key to our Western heritage, traditions and place within the Western landscape. Wildlife-based recreation is a multi-billion dollar industry with the potential to grow in importance as resources in other portions of the world are depleted. Equally important are the intangible aesthetic and spiritual connections to our wildlife that tie us to the land and define us as a people and region.

The broad cross-section of Coloradans who have come together for this Summit understand that increasing development pressures both within our state and the surrounding region are creating an intense competition for our resources. Threats include:

- Rapid population growth in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West.
- Increasing demand for water within Colorado and in states that rely on rivers originating in Colorado.
- A dramatic increase in energy development on public and private lands.
- Increased demand for outdoor recreation among some groups, which creates industries that both depend on healthy, intact natural systems *and* have the potential to damage these values.
- Declining participation by children and families in outdoor activities, which threatens to erode the constituency for wildlife and habitat protections.
- Rapid and unpredictable climate shifts.

With these and other factors in mind, we recognize that we must act today if our wildlife heritage is to be sustained for future generations. If we fail to act now, we will certainly leave our children a Colorado diminished by our lack of determination.

To accomplish our ambitious goals, we recognize the need for an improved public dialogue to build a constituency that supports policies and practices in the public and private sectors that are specifically designed to maintain and enhance healthy wildlife populations and habitat through 2058.

This dialogue must lead to specific actions by our elected officials and government agencies at all levels that leads to the rethinking of existing mechanisms that guide our stewardship of natural resources. These steps must be sufficient to secure both the protection and enhancement of the habitat that fish and wildlife need to survive – and the responsible management required for the long-term sustainability of our wildlife resource.

If we are to accomplish our goals, elected leaders, state and federal agency heads, private industry, agriculture, landowners, universities, wildlife conservation and environmental organizations must be equally involved—and equally committed—to a shared vision for the future of Colorado's wildlife.

We hereby embrace our obligations as trustees of Colorado's wildlife heritage. We resolve to continue our work beyond the Colorado Conservation Summit – to inform and engage the public and government leaders, to support promising new approaches and to advocate for decisions needed to address the complex problems threatening our most treasured natural resources.

Finally, to the citizens of Colorado and the nation: We recommit ourselves to the resolute stewardship of this priceless and irreplaceable resource, Colorado's wildlife. We invite you to join us in this unprecedented endeavor.

Signed,  
[ALL PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS]

*Oct. 8, 2008*