

May 31, 2023

Colorado General Assembly
Capital Development Committee
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver CO 80203

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Director Jeff Davis
6060 Broadway
Denver CO 80216

Dear Chair Story and Members of the Capital Development Committee,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to you on behalf of tens of thousands of Colorado's hunters, anglers, and other conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts to express our support for Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) proposal to renew a lease with the State Land Board for the continuation of the State Trust Land Hunting and Fishing Access Program.

As the demand for publicly accessible areas to hunt and fish continues to grow in Colorado, approving CPW's request for renewing the lease of the State Trust Land Hunting and Fishing Access Program is one simple way we can help ensure that all Coloradans and visitors to the State have an equal opportunity to hunt, fish, and enjoy Colorado's outdoors.

In recent years, Colorado has made great strides towards expanding the acreage of the state's trust lands open to public hunting and fishing from 500,000 acres to 965,520.51 acres of land identified to have wildlife recreational values for the public. This recent expansion of new public access provides hunters and anglers with access to approximately 35% of the state's 2.8 million acres of trust lands. The outdoor sporting community regularly utilize these lands in pursuit of their passions and they play a critical role in providing opportunity for hunting and fishing to people throughout the state and across the nation.

The request for funding the State Trust Land Hunting and Fishing Access program initially came from members of Colorado's outdoor sporting community. Additionally, funding for this important program, paid for from CPW's Wildlife Cash Fund, license sales, and federal funding is generated primarily by sportsmen and women through excise taxes on certain hunting and fishing related items, equating to over \$100 million to on the ground conservation in 2021. Furthermore, in addition to direct financial contributions, sportsmen and women monetarily support local economies near these state trust lands through lodging, food, gas, and other necessary expenditures. The outdoor sporting community continue to demonstrate its dedication and commitment to conserving Colorado's conservation legacy for future generations.

We encourage you to APPROVE this property transaction and renew the State Trust Land Hunting and Fishing Access Program for another 10 years.

Sincerely,
Members of the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project:

National Wildlife Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Safari Club International
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society
Mule Deer Foundation
Colorado Bowhunters Association
Ducks Unlimited
Colorado Outfitters Association
Muley Fanatic Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association