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 Subject: Habitat Stamp SB 175
 Date: February 20, 2013 9:26:27 AM MST
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Hello Gail,

Thank you very much for carrying this bill which is so important to all anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers in Colorado .

Public access is vital to all of us and especially the average sportsman who does not have the money or time to travel as much.

During the 52 years I have fished and hunted all around this state the biggest single change has been the reduction of public access to quality spots.

I think that this bill would be improved if there were no priority or percentages stipulated and if these funds could be used on existing DPW properties.

The selection committee and DPW personal would be free to use their judgement about the most pressing priorities as opportunities and needs arise.

Conditions facing fish, wildlife, hunters, anglers and watchers will be constantly and geometrically changing as significant increases in human population and wildlife habitat occur. I belong to 55 sportsman and enviro organizations and the overwhelming consensus is that Climate Change (whatever and whoever the cause) will be causing huge changes in our entire outdoor situation. Thus making public access and habitat protection opportunities all the more urgent. Go into any mountain town in Colorado, walk down Main Street, look in the windows of the Real Estate companies and see ranches with "live water" for sale. And talk to the brokers about how many super rich finance and computer millionaires are in the market.

Colorado is roughly on the Southern Rim of a rather surprising number of our favorite critters: Trout, Pheasants, Moose, Walleye, RM Bighorn Sheep, RM Goats, Smallmouth Bass, Sage Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chickens, Bobwhite Quail, Antelope, Wolverine, Lynx and even Mule Deer and Elk (which are already losing several hundred thousand acres of sage brush, aspen and now pinyon pine). These species do not do well near Phoenix. Hotter and drier is bad news for each of the above. The most graphic maps which come to mind are three overlapping maps of Lesser Prairie Chickens , the Dust Bowl of the 1930's and the current hot spot drought down in SE Colo and into nearby Nebr, Okla, Texas, NM. I would not be surprised to hear of listing talk for this gamebird.

The significance of this line of thought is that as habitat responds to hotter and drier these critters will suffer along with the farmers, ranchers, water developers, skiers, and insurance companies. This will most certainly adversely affect DPW which will be dealing with more T and E (ESA) expenditures while facing declining fishing and hunting revenues as sportsmen experience lower success in the field. I am experiencing first hand the challenges of recruiting my grandkids into fishing and shooting with fewer successful opportunities in the field as I compete with their team sports, video games and college resume building. Some of the fish and wildlife experts are talking about population reductions of 50%. I remember the year we had a 1 mallard limit and I seldom heard a shot along the South Platte out in the Ft. Morgan area (even though I was covered with decoying Greenheads) because many hunters just stopped hunting. Quality fishing and hunting opportunities on both State and Federal lands will be even more necessary and valuable. Habitat Stamp and GOCO funds can play an important role even if not big enough to provide complete solutions. The worse Climate Change gets the more the public will need good public spots.

I would welcome the opportunity to sit down and share details and sources about these scenarios .

Again, thank you for your work on this very useful and necessary Habitat Stamp Bill.

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