

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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TO: Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,
Livestock & Natural Resources
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Natural Resources & Energy

FROM: Mike King, Executive Director, *M.K.*
Department of Natural Resources

DATE: January 17, 2012

RE: Parks and Wildlife Commission Makeup

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
Executive Director

The merger of the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks and Outdoor Recreation created a single agency, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, on July 1, 2011. The bill (SB11-208) that enacted that merger included reporting requirements. Complying with those requirements, the Department of Natural Resources submitted an interim progress report to both Agriculture committees on November 30, 2011, and is preparing to submit a more comprehensive update on February 29, 2012. That forthcoming report will include details of the progress made so far in the merger, as well as specific plans as we move forward with a combined organization.

This legislative session, Representative Sonnenberg and Senator Schwartz will be carrying a bill that includes the makeup of the new, permanent, Parks and Wildlife Commission. The sitting Commission, comprised of the members of the former Parks Board and the former Wildlife Commission, spent several months considering the existing allocation of seats and how best to create a final makeup. Public input in the form of online comments and a series of public meetings was integral to those discussions. The Commission voted unanimously on December 8, 2011 to advance the attached recommendations; the Department of Natural Resources is now transmitting those recommendations to the legislature for its review. Rather than have the Agriculture committees wait for the full report in February, this recommendation is relevant to pending legislation and is therefore being submitted for your information today.