

# **COLORADO'S Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy**

**Linking Conservation and Transportation Planning  
August 15, 2006**



***Comprehensive Strategy***

# The Input Process

- Input from DOW experts

- List of scientific experts

- Mailing to 1000 stakeholders

- News releases

9/2004

- Public meetings on issues

- One meeting/region

11/2004

Input from 117 wildlife experts on species and habitat

02/2005

- Science Forum

- Priorities for actions, etc.

03/2005

- Draft CWCS

- Wildlife Commission update-May

- Environmental Roundtable-May, June

- Partners in Flight -April

04-06/2005

- CWCS – complete draft

- Public meeting – review draft

- Notice of availability on website

- Electronic review on website; email comment format-30 days

- Briefing w/TNC and CDOT

07/2005

*Comprehensive Strategy*

# The Input Process

- Continued electronic input through August 8

- 1600 visits to website

- 200 comments/91 persons

- Revision of CWCS from Aug 8-25th

- Wildlife Commission provided executive summary on 9/01 and full strategy upon request

- Final revisions to CWCS through 9/19

- Final review by Director's Staff

Submit to FWS

08/2005

09/2005

09/30/05

*Comprehensive Strategy*

# The Status of our CWCS

Submittal to the USFWS on September 29, 2005  
for their review and decision on acceptance.

## Options:

- **Approval** – Colorado qualifies for approx. \$1.3 million/year starting in FY2006
- **Conditional approval** – qualification pending needed revision prior to FWS approval
- **Rejected** – Colorado not eligible for SWG funding in 2006

# *Priorities and Emphasis?*

## **Priorities:**

- *Eastern Colorado landscapes*
- *Sagebrush communities*
- *Bird conservation*

## **Increase emphasis on:**

- *Corridors, connectivity, crossings*
- *Road and transportation management*

# Key Issues Affecting the Future of Wildlife in Colorado

- **Transportation and Infrastructure**
  - Development of corridors/passages for transportation, pipelines, communications structures
  - Affect wildlife by increasing wildlife mortality and fragmentation of habitat
    - Roads, railroad, overhead utility lines and towers
  - Increase emphasis on road/transportation management

# Potential conservation actions

- **Maintaining and re-establishing habitat and landscape connectivity**
  - Removing/modifying barriers, fences
  - Wildlife friendly roadway crossings
  - Riparian area restoration
  - Develop standards for new roads, etc.
  - Identify corridors on landscape scale
  - BMPs for transportation development

# Potential actions by taxon in Colorado

- **Affected wildlife: Mammals**
  - shortgrass prairie, foothills, mountain grassland
- **Potential actions:**
  - Identify and manage large blocks of habitat; habitat conservation in corridors/crossings
  - Facilitate connectivity, reduce fragmentation
  - Minimize damage from road development



# Potential actions by taxon in Colorado

- **Affected wildlife: Fishes**
  - eastern plains river and streams
  - western rivers
- **Potential actions**
  - Restore independent movement around instream barriers to maintain connectivity or translocate to maintain genetic connectivity
  - Provide secure passage across, over or under roadways acting as barriers

# Potential actions by taxon in Colorado

- **Affected wildlife: Reptiles and Amphibians**
  - Shortgrass prairie
  - Sand sage and big sagebrush
  - Mid-grass prairie
- **Potential actions**
  - habitat conservation in wildlife corridors, crossings

# *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*

- *205 species identified in greatest need of conservation*
- *Status and trend determination signified as data-based or opinion-based*
- *33 species (16%): data inadequate for status*
- *81 (40%) data inadequate for trend*
- *87 species of most concern from Forum (vs DOW 52)*
  - *We already have over 70 plans for the 52 species of concern*

# Research and survey needs

- Projections of future conditions related to road building
- Improve threat prediction for vulnerable species re: migration pathway barriers

# ***How public/private partners will be involved***

- ***CWCS is designed to be used for planning and prioritization by any entity***
- ***Comprehensive data integration and sharing will enhance involvement***

## **Summary messages from process:**

- **Broad diversity of stakeholders**
- **Better integration and sharing of objectives, data, accomplishments, planned actions**
- **Conservation at the community and landscape level; multiple species benefits; monitoring to evaluate progress**
- **Greater profile for wildlife values at stake in all decision-making forums**
- **Better education on benefits of wildlife**