

Conservation Update

August 18, 2008

Did you know that an Initiative on the November ballot would send at least \$25 million annually to Great Outdoors Colorado for preservation of wildlife habitat?

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Recently, CCLT joined over 50 others to endorse Governor Ritter's "Smarter Colorado" initiative. We want to give all of you the opportunity to understand why we took this action, as well as to learn what you can do to help.

[Links to More Information](#)

This email includes details about the proposal, plus an invitation to join us on a conference call learn more. Please join us:

[A Smarter Colorado Official Website](#)

[Rocky Mountain News](#)
- May 28, 2008

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Call-In: (800) 351-4893 (passcode 91097)

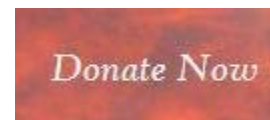
[Sonoran Institute](#) - July 23, 2008

The agenda will include a discussion of the content of the proposal and statewide campaign, the reason CCLT as well as The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and Colorado Conservation Trust have endorsed it, and a question and answer session with campaign staff.

[Denver Post](#) - May 28, 2008

About "A Smarter Colorado"

In November, Coloradans can support protecting wildlife by voting to retire a \$300 million corporate tax subsidy that only the oil and natural gas industry enjoys. The subsidy is unique to Colorado, and was put in place decades ago to foster oil and natural gas development. That industry is now thriving and it is time to retire the subsidy to ensure this important industry pays its fair share towards state priorities. Even without the subsidy, the state's tax rate for oil and natural gas will still be lower than



rates in New Mexico and Wyoming.

Here's how it will benefit Coloradans:

-**60%** for the Colorado Promise Scholarship Fund. This is not a handout. It is an opportunity for students who are willing to work hard to get the skills they need for the jobs of the future.

-**15%** for local areas directly impacted by oil and natural gas development, restoring roads damaged by heavy trucks and protecting water quality.

-**15%** to preserve Colorado's mountains, water and wildlife for generations to come.

-**10%** to foster Colorado's new energy economy and renewable energy projects.

Here's how the ballot measure works for wildlife:

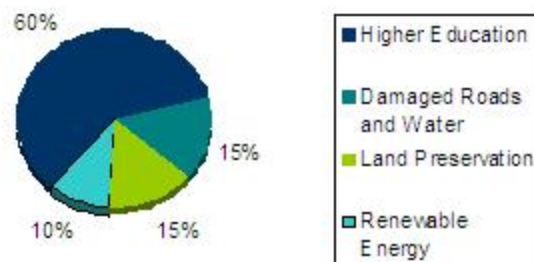
-Invests in protecting important wildlife habitat, including streams, to ensure healthy and sustainable wildlife and fish populations over the long term.

-Helps to prevent the burden on the State and private landowners that would be associated with future endangered species listings (such as greater sage grouse).

-Benefits local communities which rely on sustainable wildlife resources for their economic well-being through hunting, fishing, and other wildlife recreation.

-Enables competitive grants to nonprofit conservation organizations, local governments, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Division of State Parks to protect important wildlife habitat. Projects may include conservation easements and fee title acquisition; access may be considered on a project by project basis.

A Smarter Colorado Benefits



Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the purpose of this initiative?

A Smarter Colorado will end a \$300 million tax subsidy that only the oil and gas industry enjoys. Colorado must make smarter investments in scholarships to help families and students with the rising costs of higher education, preserve our water, wildlife and mountains, support clean energy projects and help local communities deal with the impacts of oil and gas development.

How much money will this raise each year?

The measure will raise \$250-\$325 million a year, with 60 percent going to the Colorado Promise Scholarship Fund. The remaining funds will be split: 10 percent to renewable energy projects, 15 percent to wildlife habitat and 15 percent to local communities for road and water projects.

Will this impact small oil-and-gas companies more than the big companies?

No. In fact the measure flattens the severance tax rate so that any producer with a gross income less than \$300,000 is exempt from paying.

Who is supporting this initiative?

This common-sense measure has broad support from education officials and students, businesses that recognize the need to compete, conservationists, sportsmen, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, renewable energy supporters and local governments. The campaign co-chairs are Ray Baker, Al Yates and Peter Teets.

Why divide the funds that way?

This state has seen rushes on gold and silver come and go - this initiative will make sure that when the current rush on oil and gas is over, Colorado will continue to have a competitive economy and a livable environment. It ensures that as finite resources in the state are extracted, we make an investment in our future. The corporate subsidy was written nearly three decades ago when gas was less than \$1 per gallon. It has served its purpose, and now the responsible thing to do is to invest in Colorado's future.

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