

## COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE TO BEGIN COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT COLORADO'S BIG GAME LICENSING SYSTEM

The Division of Wildlife is about to begin the most comprehensive review in its 100-year history of its big game license allocation system.

Over the next nine months key issues, including preferences for some groups and people, possible limitations on nonresident licenses, and special licenses for quality areas will be considered. Individual hunters and key interest groups will be invited to participate in a series of public meetings.

"The number of interrelated issues and the number of people and groups involved caused us to decide to take a comprehensive look at our big game licensing system," said Terrestrial Wildlife Manager Jim Lipscomb.

"We intend to carry out discussion on the allocation of big game licenses over the next three to four months," said Public Involvement Manger John Smeltzer.

"By May, we will bring specific recommendations on issues to be considered before the Wildlife Commission," Smeltzer said. "This will begin the Commission's formal three-step process which will occur at its May, July and September meetings. Final consideration will take place at the September meeting in Grand Junction."

The allocation of big game licenses is a key issue for Colorado

and the Division of Wildlife. Big game hunting injects more than \$500 million into the state's economy annually, and spending is especially important for dozens of small Colorado communities. The Division receives no state tax dollars and depends on big game licenses revenue for nearly three-quarters of its income.

Hunters spent more than \$42 million on Colorado big game licenses in 1996, far more revenue than in any other state. Resident and nonresident hunters have an equal opportunity to buy most big game licenses, including licenses to hunt deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and black bear. In addition to big game management, hunting license dollars help pay for a number of Division programs including fishing, nongame and endangered wildlife protection, watchable wildlife and habitat acquisition, management and protection.

In addition to the state's 300,000 hunters, big game licenses are also vitally important to a variety of groups including outfitters who guide hunters, sportsmen's groups, ranches and farmers, sporting goods dealers, federal and state land management agencies and cities and counties throughout the state.

As part of the process, the Wildlife Commission has already reiterated some basic policy guidelines. They include:

1. Wildlife is owned by all Coloradans.
2. Private property owners

have the right to determine who may use their property.

3. Any decision must assure that adequate license revenues will be available to allow for the Division's continued management of wildlife.

4. The Commission will consider changes in current landowners incentive programs, and landowners participating in the programs must be willing to cooperate on habitat protection and provide for reasonable access for public hunters.

5. Any program that grants special privileges for outfitters and their clients must also provide public wildlife benefits.

Smeltzer said some of the key issues include possible limits on the number of nonresident hunters, special license allocation preferences for outfitters, a policy on totally limited or "quality" hunting areas, preferences for private landowners who have game on their property, the preference point system for those who apply for limited drawing licenses, and landowners incentive programs.

"The product of this entire public effort is intended to be both policy recommendations -- including possible fundamental changes to or endorsement of current programs -- and/or recommendations for legislative action in 1998," Smeltzer said. "The majority of changes that would come out of the process would occur following the 1998 legislative session."

—COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

## WILDLIFE FOREVER, FNAWS CHAPTERS TEAM UP TO AID WLFA, CONSERVATION EDUCATION

A unique partnership has been formed to aid the conservation education of the non-hunting public. A match grant of \$22,500 has been provided by Wildlife Forever and three key chapters of The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) to assist in funding the Protect What's Right program of The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America (WLFA).

Protect What's Right is the WLFA's program of grass-roots based conservation education. It outfits nearly 1,000 sportsmen's groups in 49 states with a series of professionally produced educational materials designed to take to the non-hunting public the good news story of the sportsman's role in wildlife conservation.

Wildlife Forever, the non-profit affiliate of the North American Hunting Club and The North American Fishing Club, started the ball rolling when it

announced it would match contributions, up to \$10,000, for funding of the Protect What's Right Program. Three wild sheep hunters' organizations quickly answered the call, ponying-up \$12,500 among them in a matter of weeks.

For more information about Protect What's Right or other programs of The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, contact J.R. Absher at 614.888-4868.

—THE WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA

## YOUNG, PETERSON NAMED SCI FEDERAL LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

Minnesota Representative Collin C. Peterson, a Democrat from that state's 7th district, and Alaska's Don Young, a Boone and Crockett Club member and a 12-term Republican, received Safari Club International's Federal Legislator Awards on January 31 during the organization's 25th annual convention.

"Without Rep. Don Young's efforts a number of issues critical to sportsmen and conservation would have fallen by the wayside," said Safari Club International's Director of Legislative Affairs Ron Marlenee. "Improved access to public lands, expanded brown bear habitat and enhanced conservation of foreign wildlife populations are only a few examples of Young's dedication to

wildlife and conservation." In recognition of Rep. Don Young's tireless efforts to defend hunters' rights, this is the second year he has received SCI's National Legislator of the Year Award. Rep. Young chairs the committee on Resources, serves on several subcommittees including the subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Rep. Young is Alaska's only member in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Peterson's conservation work is nothing new. In 1981, while serving in the Minnesota State Senate he was named Conservationist of the Year by The Nature Conservancy. Rep. Peterson's background as a certified public accountant brings a perspective of financial responsibility to Congress. In addition, having

founded Detroit Lake Accounting Firm in 1968, a company he subsequently sold to comply with Congressional ethics rules, gives him in-depth insight on the challenges facing small businesses and family-owned farming and ranching interests...both critical components in many successful conservation programs.

"The very future of conservation may well be decided in the sometimes hostile political environment," said SCI President Robert Easterbrook, Sr. "Among those in congress, Young and Peterson are sterling examples of legislators that stick by what they believe in, and what is best for their constituents, rather than succumbing to pressure mounted by a small though vocal group of animal cultists intent on ending both hunting and fishing."

—SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

## KILLER DEER?

What's the most deadly animal in the United States? If you answer cougars, grizzlies or rattlesnakes, you're wrong. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are an average of 130 deer-related fatalities in the nation each year, mostly deer-auto collisions. Far back in second place in U.S. animal-caused deaths are bees, with an average of 43 fatalities per year from allergic reactions. Elephants, goats and jelly fish cause more deaths on the average than do bears, cougars, water moccasins or copperheads.

—PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS

## THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB AWARD

The Boone and Crockett Club Award, established in 1987, is sponsored by the Boone and Crockett Club and conferred by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies upon a state, provincial or territorial agency for outstanding achievement in promoting and encouraging outdoor ethics. A companion award is given to the individual who has been the prime mover in the recognized program.

The 1996 award is conferred on the Missouri Department of Conservation for its effective and innovative promotion of outdoor ethics, and the individual award to Jerry J. Presley for outstanding leadership in promoting outdoor ethics.

The Missouri Department of conservation has a long-standing commitment to the promotion, practice and encouragement of outdoor ethics. This commitment is reflected throughout the activities of the department, as embodied in programs such as the Missouri Stream Team Program, their Respect Landowners Initiative and the strong ethics component at

all levels of their Department-wide education programs. This is exemplified in such programs as the "Urban Fishing Program," touching more than 15,000 students annually, designed to develop respect for the resource and for ethical behavior; the "Conservation Kids Club," aimed at teaching youngsters between the ages of six and thirteen to respect and protect Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife; "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" Program which seeks to actively instill a deep-felt outdoor ethic in these new and influential participants in field sports, and the "Earth Angels Program" involving more than 200 young people annually from inner city areas across the state, designed to allow these young people from deep in the cities to grow and connect with nature.

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is proud to confer the Boone and Crockett Club Award on the Missouri Department of conservation and the individual award on Jerry J. Presley.

—INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

## SPORTSMEN STILL LEAD THE WAY

A new survey conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Fund of America (WCFA) indicates that sportsmen continue to lead the way in funding of state wildlife agencies. According to the report released in October by the WCFA, license revenues totalled \$943.3 million for fiscal year 1995, which accounted for 45.5 percent of the \$2 billion total funding revenue.

Since the WCFA survey was last conducted in 1991, the portion of federal funding to state agencies has increased more than 35 percent, totalling nearly \$490 million.

This marks the fourth such report compiled by the WCFA since 1979. It offers a complete, state-by-state listing of funding sources for individual state wildlife agencies and shows trends which have developed in this funding over the past three decades.

A free copy of the report may be obtained by contacting the WLFA office at 614.888-4868, fax 614.888-0326 or email at [wlf@ee.net](mailto:wlf@ee.net).

—THE WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA