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Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project Supports Amendment 83, Colorado's Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment

Denver CO — The Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project today announced its support for Amendment 83, Colorado's Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment. The measure affirms the intrinsic cultural value of legal, regulated hunting and fishing while preserving the authority of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to continue their 125-year history of science-based wildlife management.

"Hunting and fishing are integrally woven into the fabric of Colorado's outdoor heritage and provide meaningful ways for families to connect with nature and harvest healthy, sustainable food," said **Gaspar Perricone, Chair of the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project**. "Amendment 83 preserves those opportunities in perpetuity while ensuring wildlife management remains in the hands of the professionals responsible for conserving Colorado's fish, wildlife, and habitats."

The Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project, the state's largest coalition of hunting, fishing, and wildlife conservation organizations, enthusiastically supports Amendment 83 because it recognizes the broad public benefits of Colorado's conservation system. Hunters and anglers help fund wildlife management, habitat restoration, species recovery, research, and public access through license sales, habitat stamps, federal excise taxes, and private contributions. These investments support healthy landscapes and wildlife populations that benefit all Coloradans—not only those who hunt or fish.

Amendment 83 preserves CPW's authority to set seasons, licensing requirements, bag limits, and methods of take. Wildlife populations will continue to be managed through regulation informed by the best available science and biological expertise. Passage of Amendment 83 will codify the public's support of hunting and angling. Amendment 83 will not reinstate currently banned practices.

"Colorado's conservation record reflects a lasting partnership among hunters, anglers, wildlife professionals, landowners, conservation organizations, and the public," said **Patt Dorsey, Director of Conservation Operations, Mountain West**. "Amendment 83 reinforces that proven model of public stewardship, shared investment, and science-based management."

Hunting and fishing also contribute more than $3.25 billion annually to Colorado's economy and support more than 25,000 jobs statewide. Their economic contributions are especially significant in rural communities, where conservation and outdoor recreation support local livelihoods.

"Amendment 83 will affirm Colorado's legal, ethical, and regulated hunting and fishing opportunities," said **Liz Rose, Colorado Program Manager for the Theodore Roosevelt**

Conservation Partnership. “Protecting the framework that supports the conservation and recovery of species and the stewardship of millions of acres of public and private lands in Colorado will benefit all present and future anglers, hunters, and wildlife lovers.”

“Amendment 83 ensures Colorado’s wildly successful conservation funding mechanism for wildlife, habitat and access to wild places endures,” said **Lew Carpenter, director of Conservation Partnership for the National Wildlife Federation.** “Hunters and anglers provide nearly 70 percent of CPW’s funding. Without this strong constitutional amendment we risk a catastrophic collapse of the system that makes Colorado a place where wildlife and people thrive through a culture of science-based wildlife management and access to world class habitat.”

“In light of increasing attacks on hunting and fishing, establishing a constitutional right helps ensure the traditions, skills, food, and community these activities provide will be available for the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts” said **Brett Axton, President of Colorado Chapter of Safari Club International.**

“Amendment 83 is about carrying Colorado’s conservation legacy forward,” said **Mikk Anderson, Colorado Ducks Unlimited Volunteer State Policy Chair**. “It affirms the importance of hunting and fishing while preserving the professional, science-based management that keeps our wildlife resources healthy for generations to come.”

“During my time as Chair of the Parks & Wildlife Commission, the relationship between the commission and the administration was based on respect and shared goals with CPW’s constituencies,” said **John Howard, former CPW Commission Chair**. “Amendment 83 will help to hold accountable the current administration’s efforts to politicize the commission and will assist in a reinstating representative leadership and standards of good governance”

"The Right to Hunt and Fish is more than a statement about our outdoor heritage. This constitutional amendment protects the core activities that fund habitat, keep wildlife populations healthy and in balance with the ecosystem, and enhance the quality of all other outdoor recreation,” said **Brent Miller, Vice President - Policy, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation**. Sportsmen and women contribute 70% of CPW's total funding, and 85% of the funding CPW relies on for wildlife conservation efforts. Simply put, when hunting and fishing are secure, trails, wildlife viewing, and access to public lands are more secure as well."

About the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project

The Wildlife Conservation Project (CWCP) is an alliance of diverse wildlife organizations with a common interest in conserving wildlife and wildlife habitats, and in preserving our hunting, angling, and conservation heritage. We are steadfast in our efforts to continue the state’s long history of responsible, science-based wildlife management. CWCP is comprised of 22 organizations, collectively representing tens-of-thousands of outdoor enthusiasts across the state. From the field to the Capitol, CWCP is a united voice for hunters, anglers, and wildlife conservation.

www.cowildlifeconservationproject.org