

# 2006 Annual Report



## Director's Message

After 33 years with the Division, I continue to marvel at the commitment shown by landowners, conser-

vationists, sportspersons, wildlife enthusiasts, volunteers and our employees in conserving our abundant wildlife resources. Our partnerships with Coloradans are key to our success. Under the leadership of our Wildlife Commission, 2006 once again was filled with tremendous advances in our biological knowledge of wildlife resources and expanding programs for pursuing the wildlife experience.

We put in place new opportunities for our hunting public, including an expanded walk-in access program to various regions of the state. Our efforts to introduce youths and women to the hunting experience continue to pay off and were recently featured on a special segment on ABC's *World News Tonight*.

Our fishing programs continue to expand angling opportunities throughout the state and with a diverse variety of species. In 2006, the number of fishing licenses sold remained steady despite the fee increase. In part, this is the result of the record-breaking fish production and stocking activities of our hatcheries throughout the state and an initial marketing program by the Division's first marketing director. This was also the first year we offered a free seniors' fishing license.

This year we unveiled our newly redesigned Division of Wildlife (DOW) Web site. The response has been outstanding with more than 6 million visitors to our Web site. In addition, we saw a dramatic increase in the number of license buyers using our online system, growing from 23 percent in 2005 to over 50 percent in 2006.

Our wildlife viewing programs continue to increase the number of outdoor enthusiasts who attend the growing number of wildlife viewing festivals now occurring on an annual basis throughout the state. Our education program remains in high demand with our training program for teachers and angling education for our youth.

As an Enterprise Agency, our revenues continued to grow from license sales from hunters and anglers. The revenues we receive through the Great Outdoors Colorado Program (GOCO) remain critical to doing habitat improvement and wildlife education.

This year, we all witnessed the launching of a legislatively created Wildlife Management Public Education Advisory Council campaign through television and radio spots highlighting wildlife and the role of sportmen and wildlife management funding in the state under the slogan "Keeping Colorado Wild."

But, 2006 has been a year of facing the challenges of maintaining a

healthy wildlife population and the habitat in which they thrive. As we continue to witness the loss of important habitat due to the pressures of continued population growth, in June we announced a \$20 million Request for Proposals (RFP), calling for habitat conservation proposals from landowners and conservation groups to secure critical habitat in perpetuity for migration corridors for big game, riparian corridors and other at-risk species. This RFP was sparked by the successful first-year implementation of 2005 legislation creating the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program. Raising in excess of \$3.7 million through the habitat stamp monies, in combination with GOCO funds and other sources, allowed us to announce this ambitious proposal. As a result, we have received many excellent proposed habitat conservation projects, many of which include matching donations by the landowners, and soon we will have secured significant wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

We continue to witness the accelerating development of oil and gas resources throughout Colorado. Our wildlife managers and biologists have been hard at work identifying the impacts to wildlife and are working with the energy industry to minimize such impacts through best management practices.

This year, the Colorado Inventoried Roadless Area Review Task Force reviewed management options for over 4 million acres of U.S. Forest Service lands in Colorado. Since these lands in many instances represent biological strongholds that provide essential habitat for a diversity of wildlife, our input on articulating the impacts to wildlife were instrumental in shaping the final recommendations.

Our ongoing efforts to protect at-risk species and re-introduce species to the state continue to thrive, including our sage grouse program and our lynx and moose re-introduction programs. We continue to watch the avian influenza virus in birds worldwide and have a significant "early warning" system in place. Our surveillance and prevention programs to prevent the spread of invasive species, whirling disease and chronic wasting disease remain solid.

Once again, Division's employees continue to show steadfast devotion to wildlife, with our world-class biological expertise, and our wildlife managers working hand-in-hand with local landowners and other agencies. And, of course, the level of volunteerism at the Division continues to grow. This year alone two of our employees received national and state awards for excellence in hunter ethics, and wildlife education and our law enforcement section received a national reward.

As we remain vigilant in the protection of a diverse and thriving wildlife population, I want to thank DOW employees and our residents for their continued commitment as we *Keep Colorado Wild*.

Bruce L. McCloskey  
Director, Colorado Division of Wildlife



Colorado continues to offer a wide variety of outstanding hunting opportunities, including big game, small game, waterfowl and up-land bird hunting. Pictured are two pronghorn bucks.

## Hunting

Colorado continues to rank as one of the top western states for providing hunting opportunity. Perennially known for its over-the-counter bull elk tags and the vast array of public land opportunity, the real Colorado story in recent years has been the phenomenal deer hunting and 2006 was no exception. Deer hunters bagged an estimated 44,784 deer in 2006, up from about 42,000 the last two years. Success rates were estimated at 46 percent, the highest in recent history and slightly above the average of 45 percent since 2000. Pronghorn hunters enjoyed a 64 percent success rate comparable to recent years, and harvested 7,300 animals.

At the beginning of the 2006 seasons, the potential for high success rates for both deer and elk hunters existed throughout most of the state. Herds remained at, or close to, objectives for both species. The weather during the big game seasons was not quite as consistent. Archery season began with cool and wet weather in many areas. These unfavorable conditions kept many hunters in their camps or out of the mountains completely. Late in the archery season and on into the early rifle seasons the weather turned more favorable and higher success rates were observed by DOW field staff. Mother Nature turned again in portions of the state for the later rifle seasons. Snow, in the right amount, benefits elk and deer hunters, but too much snow can keep hunters from accessing the back-country. Hunters in some areas of the state seemed to benefit from the winter weather that marked the later rifle seasons while in other areas became inaccessible. Even with less than desirable conditions in some areas of the state, elk hunters harvested a very respectable 56,933 animals for a 24 percent success rate.

The 2006 small game season marked the expansion of the Walk-In Access Program to include specific waterfowl hunting properties on the Western Slope and 60,000 acres of scaled quail habitat in the southeast portion of the state. The tremendously successful Walk-In Access Program opened more than 200,000 acres of private land to small game hunters last year.

The waterfowl season structure in the Central Flyway portion of Colorado was changed in an effort to provide additional opportunity to those who enjoy pursuing ducks and geese east of the Continental Divide. Waterfowl hunters seemed to take advantage of the regulation change that allowed them to hunt further into winter in the most eastern portion of the state. Early indications are that the new season structure allowed waterfowl hunters to take advantage of some late season weather events.

## Aquatics And Fishing

The state of the aquatic resources at the end of 2006 is the best it has been in five years, with increasing angling opportunities throughout the state. The Division's Aquatics Section continues to ensure that more recreational opportunities are available to the public. The Division continues to use improving conditions to help protect some of Colorado's more fragile aquatic species.

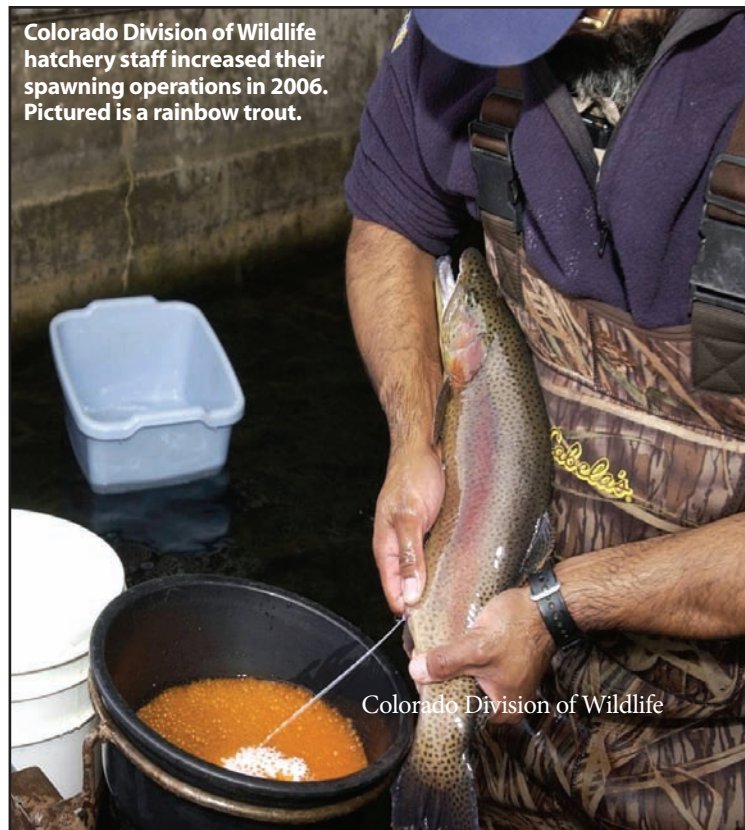
Fishing license sales have continued to increase since 2002 with more than 730,000 licenses issued in 2006. The Master Angler Program run by the Aquatic Wildlife Section saw numerous applications for Master Angler awards in a wide range of species, highlighting Colorado's variety of opportunities. Aquatic staff continues to reach out to the angling public through angler roundtables and the Division produces the highly popular weekly fishing report during the busy fishing season. In order to increase angling opportunities, the Division continues its active management of approximately 2,800 lakes, reservoirs and ponds, and 5,400 stream segments on more than 10,000 miles of streams.

### Fishing Stocking Efforts Continue To Grow

In 2006, the state's hatchery system did an outstanding job of rearing and stocking 73 million warm-water fish (an increase of more than 30 percent over 2005), 3.5 million catchable size trout and 15.5 million cold-water sub-catchable size fish of various species and strains. All numbers show an increase from the 2005 stocking season because of innovative techniques used at Division facilities to provide both quality and quantity of fish for the fishery biologists in order to maintain the highly sought after and diverse fishing recreation opportunities in the state. The Division transported more than 1.8 million pounds of fish, traveling over 425,000 miles.

Hatcheries continue to work on native cutthroat restoration. The Division produced more than 79,000 fingerling greenbacks, and Rio Grande and Colorado River cutthroats in 2006. In order to increase the success rates of these native species, over 360,000 were stocked in high mountain lakes and drainages.

In order to increase the populations of popular fish species, the Division worked hard to collect eggs throughout the state from fish during their spawning runs. In 2006, the Division had a tremendous increase in kokanee and walleye eggs at its wild spawning operations. Division personnel



Colorado Division of Wildlife hatchery staff increased their spawning operations in 2006. Pictured is a rainbow trout.

Colorado Division of Wildlife



collected over 14 million kokanee eggs, over 100 million walleye eggs and 1 million brown trout eggs.

### At-Risk Species Protections Increase

The John W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF) continues to develop refugia and develop brood stocks for threatened and endangered species, both state and federal, along with species of concern. The species presently at the facility are Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail chub, roundtail chub, Rio Grande sucker, Rio Grande chub, suckermouth minnow, northern and southern redbelly dace, common shiner, Arkansas darter and plains minnow. Over 100,000 fish of these species were reared and released to the wild or held for future brood stock.

After the discovery of a new population of Rio Grande sucker in Crestone Creek at the Baca National Wildlife Refuge in 2005, the Division in 2006 captured some of these fish and brought them to NASRF to establish a captive brood stock. The new population will be evaluated as the Division continues its brood stock development to develop self-sustaining populations in the Rio Grande drainage.

### Reducing Disease And Invasive Species Remain A High Priority

Work continued in 2006 to rid the Pitkin and the Crystal River hatcheries of whirling disease. Recently, the Pitkin Hatchery tested negative and is ready to begin stocking in the high-mountain reservoirs in 2007. New construction and securing water supplies are some of the many avenues the Division are pursuing to control whirling disease. Work with the Hofer rainbow strain is progressing. This strain is resistant to whirling disease and the Division is integrating the Hofer into its system.

Additionally, the threat of other aquatic nuisance species looms large for fishery managers. Educating anglers and boaters about the dangers of moving "hitchhikers" into Colorado is a high priority to the Division. The discovery of the New Zealand Mudsnail in Colorado makes the ongoing threat of invasive species a reality for fisheries. Proactive work on a statewide Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan is scheduled for this year.

## Law Enforcement

The DOW's success at enforcing wildlife laws earned the agency international acclaim in 2006. The DOW was honored by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) for its efforts to protect Colorado's wildlife resource from poachers with focused winter range patrols. The 2006 AFWA Conservation Law Enforcement Award was presented to DOW officials at the AFWA annual convention in Snowmass Village.

Winter range patrols were undertaken in late 2003 to reduce the poaching of trophy mule deer bucks during the critical winter months. As Colorado's mule deer population has steadily rebounded, wildlife officers discovered more poaching activity during winter months when animals are concentrated in lower elevation areas closer to communities and roadways.

The initial winter range patrol took place along the Colorado/Utah border. The effort involved saturation patrols by marked wildlife units, decoy operations, day and night airplane flights by the DOW Terrestrial Section, unmarked patrols and media alerts to inform the public about the poaching problems and Operation Game Thief-sponsored billboards to help bring in public tips. The program was expanded in recent years.

### Other Notable Cases Made By DOW Law Enforcement Officers In 2006:

- Officers Darryl Crawford and Mark Reeves found a dead trophy-class bull elk on an open hillside and there had been no attempt to field dress the carcass. Good detective work determined that two members of a nearby hunting party had shot at an elk herd from a very long distance. A



Law enforcement remains a high priority for the Division of Wildlife. District Wildlife Manager Zach Holder checks a hunter's license.

cow and a bull elk were killed. All four members of the hunting party were aware of the dead bull elk and decided not to do anything about it. After evaluating evidence, it was determined that an unlicensed member of the hunting party who had admitted to shooting at the elk had killed the bull. The subject was charged with illegal possession of the bull elk, the Samson surcharge, hunting without a proper and valid license and waste of game. The fines totaled \$13,137 and the subject was issued 45 points against his hunting and fishing privileges in Colorado and 23 other states. The other three members of the hunting party were charged with waste of game and fined \$411 apiece and assessed 15 points against their hunting and fishing privileges.

- A natural gas worker from Provo, Utah, was arrested for illegally killing a trophy buck mule deer north of Parachute on Thanksgiving Day. The arrest came as part of the DOW's ongoing effort to reduce poaching incidents in the expanding gas fields of western Colorado. The man was charged with willful destruction of wildlife, a class 5 felony, hunting out of season, illegal possession of wildlife and transportation and exportation of wildlife.
- A Durango man paid over \$4,000 in fines and is prohibited from hunting and fishing for two years in Colorado and 23 other states after he got greedy with an additional archery cow license. The man illegally killed a small 5x5 bull during archery season, bragged about it and then purchased an additional archery cow license. The defendant was convicted based on the testimony of several concerned sportsmen.

## Wildlife Education

Colorado residents have an ever-increasing interest in wildlife, its habitat and how best to experience it – whether as a hunter or wildlife viewer. Critical to maintaining a thriving wildlife population for future generations is an educated public with an understanding of wildlife management principles, hunting codes of conduct and ethics and an appreciation of the delicate balance of wildlife needs and human behavior.

### Hunter Outreach Attract Youths And Women

The Hunter Outreach Program continued to expand opportunities for youths and women hunters to participate in educational hunting activities across the state. The program added new landowners and ranches in their partnership effort to expand the hunting heritage of Colorado's future generations. New laws and regulations approved by the Legislature and Wildlife Commission extended the youth hunting age to include 16-



The Women Afield Program provides shooting clinics, waterfowl and upland bird hunts – as well as big game hunts – to meet the growing interests from women.



and 17-year-olds, established a dream hunt program for terminally ill youths and provided a special licensing program to support educational youth hunting activities. The Women Afield Program continues to expand to meet the growing interest from women in hunting and shooting sports. Women participated in shooting clinics, waterfowl and upland bird hunts as well as big game hunts.

### Archery In Schools Is A Big Hit

The Colorado Archery in the Schools Program completed its first full year with over 50 schools participating in the archery education program. Over 75 physical education teachers from Colorado middle and high schools have been certified to teach archery in schools.

### Hunter Education Remains In High Demand

The hunter education program has continued to grow, with over 17,000 students registered for courses. Hunter education instructors, who are volunteers, put on more than 700 classes including classroom, home-based and internet-based classes. The number of qualified hunter education instructors increased by 4 percent. The number of students increased by 4 percent. The Division continues to conduct outreach to youths and women hunters, with more than 4,000 women taking hunter education classes.

### With Encouragement, Kids Love To “Go Fishing”

The Division’s Angler Education Program has continued to reach large number of youths and adults. A key facet of the program is to always encourage parents or guardians to accompany their kids to clinics and actively participate.

Clinics conducted by Division staff were held for the Ute Mountain Ute Indian and the Southern Ute Indian tribes that provided youths from both of the tribes hands-on instructions. A variety of women’s clinics were held either through the Women Afield Program or with the Ladies

Let’s Go Fishing Program. Overall 200 clinics and activities were held statewide and over 20,000 participants attended these events.

### Project WILD: Teaching Our Teachers To Teach Our Children

It was another great year for Project WILD, reaching 1,100 new Colorado educators in more than 50 Project WILD workshops. Since its inception, over 40,000 Colorado educators have been trained. The Division trained 19 new volunteer facilitators to become a vital part of the 145-member Volunteer Facilitator Team.

The WILD Colorado Schoolyard Habitat Grant Program funded an additional 12 Habitat Grant Projects across the state. These grants provide funds for teachers and students to get outside and improve their schoolyard for wildlife and for kids. At the end of its 19th year, this program has awarded a total of more than \$116,000 to 222 Colorado schools.

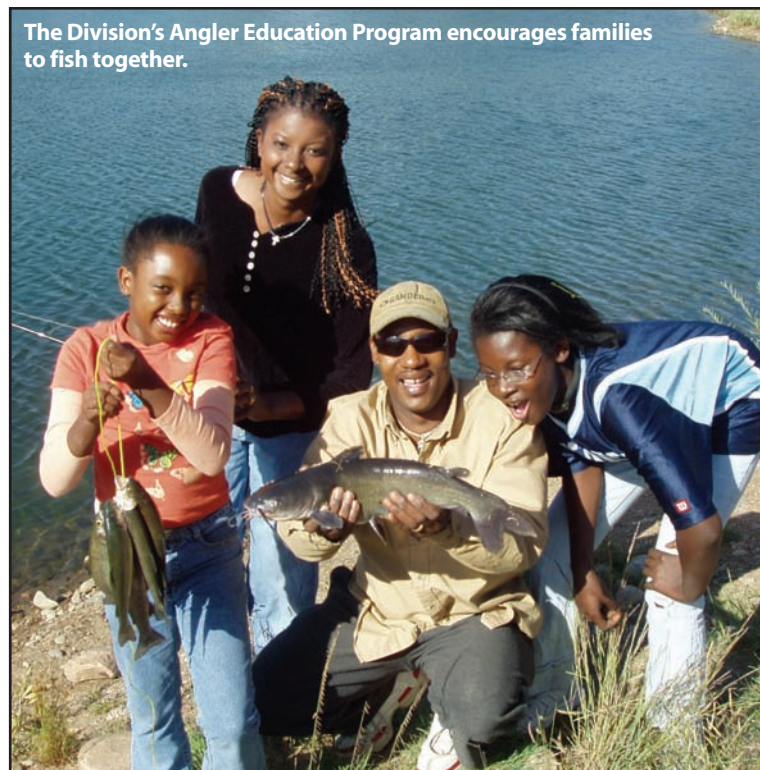
### Wildlife Viewing Opportunities Continue To Grow

In 2006, wildlife viewing continued to grow in popularity throughout the state. While hunting and fishing opportunities are unmatched in the nation, nature enthusiasts continue to be drawn to the Colorado outdoors to see our wonderful diversity of wildlife.

In addition to enhancing designated viewing areas statewide for the outdoor enthusiast with interpretive signing, kiosks, blinds and boardwalks, the Division has promoted wildlife viewing festivals, many of which have become a nationally recognized drawing card for viewing Colorado species. With support from Great Outdoors Colorado and typically organized by local sponsors, the Division was an active participant in many watchable wildlife programs and festivals.

The Division has taught more than 1,000 people wildlife viewing skills. The Division’s Watchable Wildlife Pavilion at the Annual Denver RV and Travel show continues to draw in excess of 10,000 people. Soon the Division, in cooperation with a host of local sponsors, will be announcing the Southeast Colorado Birding Trail Initiative, one of only a few such efforts nationwide.

The Division’s Angler Education Program encourages families to fish together.





# Species Conservation

The DOW's continued leadership in protecting at-risk species in Colorado has paid great dividends. Numerous species are being assessed or reviewed for federal listing protection as threatened or endangered to determine whether or not listing is even necessary. With the cooperation of landowners and the extensive biological work of our researchers and officers, 2006 was a good year for species conservation.

## Boreal Toads Released To Enhance Population

The Division released 6,374 toads at various locations around the state in an effort to enhance toad populations. The boreal toad is listed as endangered by Colorado. The Division continues to evaluate introductions on the Grand Mesa near Kannah Creek as part of a three-year study to establish new populations in historic habitats. Survey work continues to evaluate populations with the number of breeding sites at 69 and the number of stable populations at 37.

## Cutthroat Trout

The Division continued implementation of the Trappers Lake Management Plan for recovery of the cutthroat in The Flattops Wilderness. Over 46,000 pure Colorado River cutthroat were stocked in Trappers Lake. In 2006, The Weminuche strain of the Colorado River cutthroat trout was introduced into 12 previously fishless streams in the San Juan Mountains, adding 26 miles of occupied habitat for the species. The Division, in cooperation with other members of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Conservation Team, started work on its first range-wide assessment of the historical range and current status of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Colorado and New Mexico.

## Mining Bat Conservation

The DOW and the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service are working together to preserve bat habitat through the Bats/Inactive Mines Project. Because of public safety concerns, the Reclamation Division is working to safeguard the openings of abandoned mines. However, some mines also provide important bat habitat, so DOW staff is evaluating mines that are scheduled for closure.

Since the DOW's involvement with the program in 1990, nearly 800 gates have been recommended for installation. In 2006, DOW staff surveyed 232 mines and recommended gates at 43 sites. It's estimated that there are more than 23,000 abandoned mines in Colorado.

## Gunnison Sage-Grouse Cooperation

For more than a decade, the DOW has been working with private property owners in western Colorado to restore and enhance habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse. That work continued in 2006 with the DOW helping property owners enroll in the CCAA Program that is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. CCAA stands for "Conservation Candidate Agreement with Assurances." The agreement stipulates that if landowners agree to a management plan for their properties, they are not subject to further restriction if the bird is listed as a threatened species by the federal government. During 2006, 19 landowners who own nearly 59,000 acres have signed up to be part of the program.

Private property owners are working closely with the DOW in the Gunnison region to maintain habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse. The landowners have established conservation easements on large tracts that will maintain grouse habitat in perpetuity.



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The Division of Wildlife is preserving bats and improving public safety through the Bats/Inactive Mines Project by installing grates at abandoned mines.

## The Mountain Plover

In 2006, The Division worked aggressively to ensure the long-term conservation of the species. Special attention was given to the Mountain Plover Nest Conservation in Cultivated Field Project, where in 2006, 96 landowners enrolled over 100,000 acres. The program helps identify nests on farmland prior to cultivation. In partnerships with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, agricultural and ranching groups and other nonprofit organizations, we are gaining a better understanding of the in excess of 10,000 mountain plovers on the Eastern Plains of Colorado and South Park. Through the Shortgrass Prairie Initiative and other partnerships, we are encouraged by the health of this species and others that thrive in its community.

## DOW Volunteers Continue To Help Wildlife

Managing more than 300 projects this year, in excess of 2,600 registered volunteers provided over 66,000 volunteer hours – the equivalent of 32 full-time personnel at a value in excess of \$1.2 million. Volunteers participated in such activities as hunter education, birding and wildlife viewing festivals, wildlife transport, conservation of bats in inactive mines, fish spawning, tree planting and fence removals, counts of birds and mammals, bird banding and working with schools and children on important conservation projects.

# Habitat Conservation

The loss of habitat continues to be the greatest threat to wildlife. The Division, in partnership with Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado landowners and ranchers and nonprofit conservation groups, has made tremendous strides in protecting critical habitat.



The Division of Wildlife is making great strides in protecting critical habitat for wildlife by working with its partners that include Great Outdoors Colorado, landowners, conservation groups and others.



### **The Division Issues A \$20 Million Request For Proposals To Conserve Habitat**

As we continue to witness the loss of important habitat due to the pressures of continued population growth, in June the Division announced its largest Request for Proposals (RFP) in its history, calling for habitat conservation proposals from landowners, conservation groups and others to secure critical habitat in perpetuity for big game migration corridors, riparian habitat and other at-risk species. This \$20 million RFP was sparked by the successful first-year implementation of the 2005 legislation creating the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program. Raising in excess of \$3.7 million through sale of the Colorado Habitat Stamp, these monies – in combination with GOCO funds (lottery) and other sources – allowed the Division to initiate this precedent setting project and protect habitat.

### **Creating Incentives To Preserve Habitat Through Leveraged Federal Dollars**

The Division assisted the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in improving over 12,000 acres of habitat for at-risk species. Thirty-nine Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contracts were approved with private landowners at a cost in excess of \$700,000. The Division continues to assist NRCS in developing new incentives for at-risk species. Incentive payments are now available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for landowners who implement certain conservation practices or management activities that provide benefits for declining species.

### **Balancing Energy Development And Wildlife Impacts**

It doesn't take more than a drive along I-70 west of Rifle for anyone to realize that energy development is booming in Colorado. According to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, there were nearly 6,000 new permits to drill approved statewide in 2006. That's a new record and an increase of 35 percent over the previous year. Garfield County leads the state in drilling activity with 1,844 applications to drill in 2006, up from 796 in 2004.

The Division is working with industry, land managers and the public to address the potential impacts on wildlife from energy development. The hiring of an energy liaison in the Northwest Region has proven so effective that the Division is hiring additional staff members to address rapidly growing energy development in the region and statewide.

As this publication went to press, comprehensive energy development and wildlife impact legislation was still under debate in the Colorado State Legislature.



Coiled-tubing drilling rig

### **\$91 Million Federal-State-Local Partnership Preserves Land And Water On The Eastern Plains**

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pheasants Forever, the Republican River Water Conservation District, farmers and the state of Colorado, more than \$91 million was allocated to address water and wildlife issues in the agricultural Eastern Plains. By increasing in-stream flows, planting of native grasses, and improvement of riparian buffers and seasonal wetlands throughout a five-county area, the Division hopes to improve habitat for over 200 species of birds, 37 mammal species and several native fish species. Lands enrolled in the High Plains Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will also provide additional acres of public hunting access through the Walk-In Access Program. Two CREP agreements could result in over 100,000 acres of improved habitat and significant improvements to water quality and quantity, benefiting wildlife and farmers in the Republican River basin.

### **Wetlands And Watershed Conservation Is Critical To At-Risk Species**

The Division increased its commitment to private lands conservation efforts. The program initiated in 2003 between the DOW, the NRCS, and the Colorado Watershed Network provides wildlife-related technical assistance for Farm Bill program implementation in Colorado. Stationed throughout the state, these biologists have collectively assisted the NRCS and the Division in preserving and/or restoring more than 30,000 acres for wildlife and have written wildlife management plans for more than 105,000 acres of private land.

The Division assisted the NRCS conserve over 2,400 acres of wetland habitat through the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Biologists provided wildlife technical assistance for WRP and WREP projects totaling over \$3.8 million in 2006. One biologist secured a Wetland Reserve Enhancement grant for \$1.7 million that will be used to conserve 1,300 acres of southwest willow flycatcher habitat in the San Luis Valley.

### **Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program Leverages Public-Private Partnerships**

The DOW assists private landowners with habitat enhancements through the Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP). In 2006 the DOW partnered with private landowners, federal agencies and conservation organizations to enhance 7,366 acres of habitat on private lands. The majority of the 22 projects completed or initiated in 2006, provided benefits for declining species inhabiting either riparian-stream or short-grass prairie ecosystems. Division dollars were leveraged at a 5:1 ratio with the total value of all projects exceeding \$400,000.

### **Colorado Roadless Task Force Includes Recommendations On Impacts To Wildlife**

A 13-member Colorado Inventoried Roadless Area Review Task Force created under Senate Bill 05-233 reviewed management options for over 4 million acres of U.S. Forest Service lands in Colorado. Since these lands in many instances represent biological strongholds that provide essential habitat for a diversity of wildlife, the Division's field managers and biologists carefully considered each of the areas throughout the state and made extensive comments about impacts to wildlife on each Inventoried Roadless Area in the state.

### **The Colorado Species Conservation Partnership Program Thrives**

The Division continues to work with the many conservation partners in the state to ensure the long-term conservation of species of concern within the state. Through the Colorado Species Conservation Partnership Program, the Division and its partners completed the following projects, all of which ensured long-term land protection through perpetual easements: Five Pine Mesa Ranch, Routt County - 2,050 acres; Lypps/Ballantyne Conservation Easement, Gunnison County - 1,580 acres; Ballantyne Ranch, Gunnison County - 560 acres; Van Loan Ranch, Mesa County - 1,840 acres and the LeValley Ranch, Montrose - 310 acres.

## **Species Re-Introductions**

### **Black-Footed Ferret Show Positive Signs**

The effort to recover black-footed ferrets celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2006. Biologists report another positive monitoring season for existing ferret populations in northwest Colorado. While tracking these nocturnal tunnel-dwellers is extremely difficult, the '06 spotlighting efforts located nine individual ferrets including two ferrets that were born in the wild earlier in the year. The first wild-born black-footed ferret in Colorado was found by searchers in 2005, so the discovery of two additional wild-born ferrets is significant. Since recovery efforts began in Colorado in 2001, more than 220 black-footed ferrets have been released in the state.

One of the wild-born kits was reared by the 2005 wild born female, documenting two generations of reproduction. This second generation wild-born ferret is a promising sign for the re-introduction effort of North America's most endangered mammal back into Colorado.

### **National Boone And Crockett Award Given To Colorado DOW Hunter Outreach Program Coordinator**

Jim Bulger, Hunter Outreach Program Coordinator with the Division, was honored with the 2006 Boone and Crockett Award. Now in its 18th year, the award is sponsored by the Boone and Crockett Club in cooperation with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for outstanding achievement in promoting and encouraging programs in outdoor ethics. Bulger has worked hard in the last five years to make the program a success, even being featured on national television. The Hunter Outreach Program teaches novice and inexperienced hunters – of all ages – the knowledge, skills, ethics and traditions of hunting. This past year Colorado youths participated in over 1,100 hunt days including hunts for elk, deer, turkeys, pheasants, ducks and geese. In addition, hundreds of women participated in sport shooting and pheasant hunts throughout the state.

### **Moose Re-Introduction Continues On Pace**

Efforts to re-introduce moose to the Grand Mesa in western Colorado continued in 2006. Including a January 2007 capture operation in northern Utah, the Grand Mesa is now home to an estimated 100 moose. In addition to the moose that have been transplanted by wildlife officials and volunteers, biologists were able to confirm seven calves born on the Grand Mesa in 2006.

### **Lynx Growing At Home In Colorado**

In 2006, for the first time since the re-introduction program began in 1999, a lynx born in Colorado gave birth to kittens. The mother lynx, born in 2004, gave birth to two male kittens in mid-June. The birth is a significant milestone for the re-introduction program. It shows that the lynx transplanted from Canada are adapting to the Colorado high country, are finding mates and reproducing successfully. Since the program began a total of 218 lynx have been transplanted from Canada and Alaska, and it's estimated that more than 200 lynx are alive, primarily in Colorado's southern and central mountains.

Providing a further boost to the lynx program, The Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation made a \$250,000 donation to the Colorado Wildlife Commission to help support the program.



In 2006, for the first time since the re-introduction began in 1999, a wild born lynx gave birth to lynx kittens in Colorado.



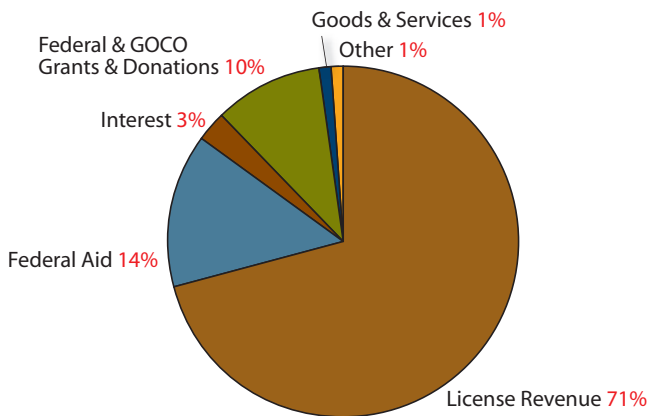
# Financial Statements

The Division of Wildlife uses the state fiscal year for accounting and reporting financial data. The fiscal year is the period July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

## Statement of Revenue, FY 2005-2006

Revenues are all sources of income the Division has – primarily license fees, Colorado’s share of federal taxes on hunting and fishing equipment (Federal Aid), Great Outdoors Colorado (lottery) grants and interest on fund balances.

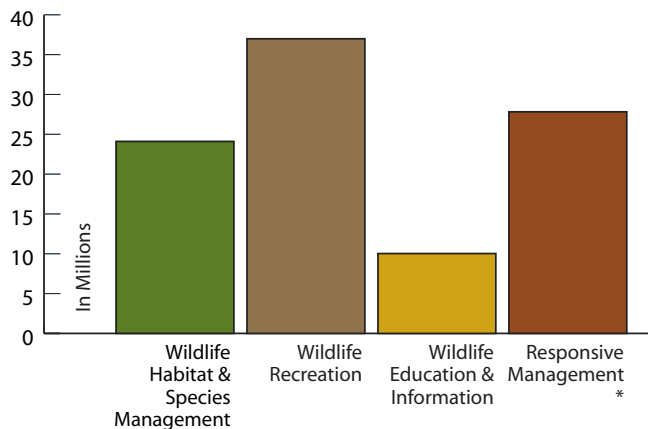
Source	FY 03-04	FY 04-05	FY 05-06
License Revenue (in millions)	\$67.4	\$65.0	\$74.5
Federal Funds	16.0	13.4	14.3
Interest	1.8	1.9	2.6
GOCO Grants & Donations	13.0	17.0	10.5
Goods & Services	0.8	0.7	1.1
Other	1.3	0.6	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100.3</b>	<b>\$98.6</b>	<b>\$104.2</b>



## Expenditures, FY 2005-2006

Expenditures are all those payments made within a fiscal year for salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, services, acquisitions, leases and construction and are shown below according to the strategic areas that incurred them.

Strategic Area	FY 05-06 Expenditures
Wildlife Habitat & Species Management (in millions)	\$24.1
Wildlife Recreation	37.0
Wildlife Education & Information	10.0
Responsive Management*	27.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$98.9</b>



\* Includes expenditures for services to support core Division programs, such as vehicles, facilities, O&M, public involvement, telephone, computer, office support, purchasing and accounting, legal services and engineering.



## State of Colorado

Bill Ritter, Jr. ....Governor

## Department of Natural Resources

Harris D. Sherman .....Executive Director

## Wildlife Commission

Thomas M. Burke, Chair .....Grand Junction  
 Claire O’Neal, Vice Chair .....Holyoke  
 Robert W. Bray, Secretary .....Redvale  
 Dennis G. Buechler .....Centennial  
 Brad Coors .....Denver  
 Jeffrey A. Crawford .....Englewood  
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 Roy McAnally .....Craig  
 Richard H. Ray .....Pagosa Springs

## Ex Officio Members

Harris D. Sherman and John Stulp

## Division of Wildlife Directors’ Staff

Bruce L. McCloskey .....Director  
 Mark Konishi .....Deputy Director  
 John Bredehoff .....Assistant Director, Field Operations  
 Steve Cassin .....Chief Financial Officer  
 Marilyn Salazar .....Assistant Director, Support Services  
 Jeff Ver Steeg .....Assistant Director, Wildlife Programs

## Regional Offices and Service Centers

**Headquarters:** 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216, (303) 297-1192

**Northeast Region and Denver Service Center:**

6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216, (303) 291-7227

**Northwest Region Service Center:**

711 Independent Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81505, (970) 255-6100

**Southwest Region Service Center:**

151 E. 16th St., Durango, CO 81301, (970) 247-0855

**Southeast Region Service Center:**

4255 Sinton Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80907, (719) 227-5200

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the state agency responsible for managing wildlife and its habitat, as well as providing wildlife-related recreation. The Division is funded through hunting and fishing license fees, federal grants and Colorado Lottery proceeds through Great Outdoors Colorado.



## Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp

Purchase your Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, online at [www.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.wildlifelicense.com) or call (800) 244-5613.