

Colorado Sportsmen Wildlife Fund 2007 Newsletter

Website

The Colorado Sportsmen Wildlife Fund has a website to give teachers and the public the opportunity to see and access our educational programs. We also post pictures of the Rifle Gap Ice Fishing Tournament, Pathway to Fishing Program, Wild Game and the Youth Bird Hunts. We also have a calendar of events that lists special events and fund raisers sponsored by the CSWF. Please visit our site at www.coloradosportsmenwildlifefund.org.

Pathway to Fishing

Our 11th year teaching kids how to fish, using the Pathway to Fishing program was very successful. We reached 905 kids and 250 adults. Pathway to Fishing was developed by In-Fishermen Magazine, Berkley, and several federal agencies. We teach the students about aquatic ecology, fish biology, where fish live, lure presentation, how to handle fish, proper use of different kinds of rods and reels, fisherman ethics, knot tying and casting. At the end of the two-hour course each student receives a tackle kit, a rod & reel combo and literature about fishing.

The DOW and BLM have been instrumental in making the Pathway program work. The DOW supplied over 1000 rod & reel combos and the literature, the BLM and Colorado Mule Deer Association provided funds for tackle boxes and terminal tackle.

Sportsmen's Warehouse has been instrumental in getting tackle at competitive prices. Colorado River State Park is another important contributor to the program. Groups that we serve include the STARS, Mesa County School District, Delta Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts Head Start, Kiwanis International, and the public at large. We taught 100 students and their parents at Lion's Pond in Sept. in cooperation with the Rifle Chamber.

In Grand Junction, Central High School has been instrumental in providing students to teach Pathways. Volunteers are crucial to implementing the program, giving over 1200 hours of their time in 2006. If you know of a group that would like to learn how to fish or if you would like to volunteer, please call Lynn Ensley at 970/241-9556 or email lynn.promotools@bresnan.net. The DOW and the BLM help insure the safety of the participants by screening all volunteers. If you have a couple of hours to spend teaching kids give contact me at the above number.

Wildlife Management Public Education Advisory Council

The WMPEAC was formed by the Colorado Legislature to devise a plan to educate the public about the roles hunting & fishing play in wildlife management in Colorado. The Council has spending authority for 2006-2007 in the amount of \$800,000. Each time a sportsman buys a license there is a \$.75 surcharge that is used to fund WMPEAC. Two members of the CSWF sit on the WMPEAC Board that is currently running TV ads during local news programs. Ad time has also been purchased in NPR radio. With a good chance of a ballot initiative on lion hunting or wolf reintroduction in the next election, now is the time to continue the process of public education about the role of hunting in wildlife management. You can see more about WMPEAC work at www.wildlife-management-education.org.

Colorado's Wildlife Story

The CSWF has completed Colorado's Wildlife Story, the history of wildlife management in Colorado on DVD. We have a 7 minute version that has been placed in all State Visitor Centers. Over 1 million tourists pass through these centers each year. The Colorado Wildlife Commission voted unanimously to fund the kiosk for the Centers and mobile kiosks to be used in ski areas, Forest Service visitor centers and the like. We also have a 15 minute version to be used a service clubs and schools. Please contact CSWF if you belong to a service organization that is looking for 15 minutes of wildlife education at one of your meetings. The Wildlife Management Public Education Activities Council is looking into taking charge of the kiosk and placing a similar message in front of the public.

Wild Game

Stan Johnson, education coordinator for the West Region of the DOW has designed a board game called Wild Game. Students can demonstrate their verbal and cooperative skills while studying hunting & fishing economics. In the game, groups of 5 to 6 students try to build layers on the boards, which are cutouts of deer, elk, fish etc., by naming different products and services used by people who hunt and fish in Colorado. The Wild Game is designed for graders 6 through 8. CSWF's goal is to have students realize the economic benefit to their community by people who hunt & fish. If you would like to see Wild Game taught in your school, please contact Lynn Ensley @ 970/241-9556.

Rifle Gap Ice Fishing Tournament

Please be sure and thank and support the business who support the Tournament with prizes: EnCana Oil & Gas, Wal-Mart, Alpine Bank, Wells Fargo, Casey Concrete, Savage land Co., BTE Concrete Formwork, Mr. T's Hardware, Tim's Tools Timberline Sports, Sportsmen's Warehouse, Gene Taylor's, Pro Powder Coat, Fox Creek Lures, M&M Tasmanian Devil, Hunter's Taxidermy, Catcher Company, Comcast Cable, Bennett's Inc., Divide Creek Wood Turnings, Factory Surplus, Magnum Outfitters, Traffic Control Specialist, Down Valley Septic & Drainage, Grand River Hospital Dist., Mountain Air Mechanical, City Market, EGB America, Brumfield's Taxidermy, Hunters' Taxidermy, PowerPro.

Enjoy the tournament and thank you for your participation. The Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Sportsmen Wildlife Fund thank you for your support.

Habitat Stamp

The new Colorado Habitat Stamp has generated \$4.5 million to preserve critical habitat for big game and other conservation projects. The Stamp money has been leveraged to put \$22 million on the ground to conserve 6 properties including 4 miles of Gold Medal trout stream. About 50% of the property will have hunting and fishing access. This program is a win for wildlife and a win for sportsmen. As usual, sportsmen are Colorado's sole funders of wildlife habitat conservation. Thank you, sportsmen, for your generous help in making Colorado a great place to live. CSWF has two members on the Habitat Stamp Committee.

Sportsmen's Appreciation Day

On March 22, sportsmen will gather at the capitol to be recognized by the House of Representatives and to show the legislators what sportsmen do for Colorado's economy and for wildlife management. CSWF is working to get a bus to take sportsmen over the hill. If you want to attend, contact Lynn Ensley.

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