



April 20, 2010

Dear Denny,

Thank you for your generous invitation to address the audience at the Colorado Mule Deer Association (CMDA) banquet this month. I sincerely regret missing the opportunity to discuss my vision for McInnis for Wildlife with the important conservationists and sportsmen who attended the event.

I wanted to be sure that you and CMDA were aware of the platform I am developing to ensure that conservationists and sportsmen continue to be a driving force behind Colorado's conservation movement. I look forward to my Administration working with those who have a strong background in science and key public policy issues who are willing to collaborate on tough, but not insurmountable, multiple-use issues.

I agree with the Colorado Mule Deer Association that the only way to further the hunting heritage and tradition of conservation in Colorado, while addressing 21st century challenges, is through a collaborative approach that brings conservationists, sportsmen and government together. This will help us find the best approaches to address habitat improvements and education of the public.

Colorado is blessed with federal, state and private lands with vast natural resources and opportunities for hunting and fishing. Conservationists and sportsmen in Colorado need leadership that understands how to maintain the Colorado Division of Wildlife's responsibility to manage our wildlife, while at the same time, who can work with Congress and the federal agencies on access, habitat enhancement, and restoration of federal lands.

I have a record of successful implementation of collaborative approaches on sportsmen's issues. For example, I ensured continued access for hunting in the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Park. I worked with the conservation and sportsmen communities to pass the Healthy Forests Restoration Act 2003 into law, which allows for expedited treatment of fuels projects on federal lands in areas identified as vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire.

Scott McInnis for Governor

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I recognize the need for Colorado's executive branch to have stronger collaboration with the conservation and sportsmen's community, which is why I will create a position for a special advisor to the Governor on natural resources issues. Conservationists and sportsmen will have a point person to work with on issues and will know that I am personally involved in the decisions.

In addition, I will appoint directors to the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Wildlife that will collaborate with you on priority issues.

As you all well know, it is the mission of the Colorado Division of Wildlife is to "perpetuate the wildlife resources of this state and provide people the opportunity to enjoy them." The Division's budget is directly tied to licenses fees. I understand that access and habitat are vital to Colorado's sportsmen and that in order to maintain funding for wildlife management and ensure Colorado's hunting heritage, we need to reverse declines in hunting and fishing participation. We can do this by supporting opportunities for encouraging our youth to enjoy Colorado's outdoors and become aware of the lifelong benefits of hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities.

I will work with conservationists and sportsmen to build public/private partnerships to create facilities like the Ben Avery Target Center in Phoenix, Arizona, to provide opportunities for shooting sports and archery, education and hunter safety throughout the State of Colorado to spearhead youth outreach efforts.

Colorado's natural resources are its greatest treasures. I will work with you to ensure we are all better connected to the decisions that affect their management and their conservation.

Sincerely,

Scott McInnis