

University of Colorado Law School

Colorado Law Scholarly Commons

Outdoor Recreation: Promise and Peril in the
New West (Summer Conference, June 8-10)

1998

6-9-1998

Fish and Wildlife Funding—Past and Future [abstract]

R. Max Peterson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.law.colorado.edu/outdoor-recreation-promise-and-peril-in-new-west>



Part of the [Finance Commons](#), [Natural Resources and Conservation Commons](#), [Natural Resources Law Commons](#), [Natural Resources Management and Policy Commons](#), [Recreation Business Commons](#), [Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Commons](#), and the [State and Local Government Law Commons](#)

Citation Information

Peterson, R. Max, "Fish and Wildlife Funding—Past and Future [abstract]" (1998). *Outdoor Recreation: Promise and Peril in the New West (Summer Conference, June 8-10)*.
<https://scholar.law.colorado.edu/outdoor-recreation-promise-and-peril-in-new-west/8>

Reproduced with permission of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment (formerly the Natural Resources Law Center) at the University of Colorado Law School.



R. Max Peterson, *Fish and Wildlife Funding—Past and Future* [abstract], in *OUTDOOR RECREATION: PROMISE AND PERIL IN THE NEW WEST* (Natural Res. Law Ctr., Univ. of Colo. Sch. of Law 1998).

Reproduced with permission of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment (formerly the Natural Resources Law Center) at the University of Colorado Law School.

ABSTRACT
FISH AND WILDLIFE FUNDING—PAST AND FUTURE

By R. Max Peterson

The trend is for increased funding for fish and wildlife agencies, but the primary source of those funds, except for a few exceptions, continues to be from anglers and hunters. In fact, general fund support continues to decrease as a percent of the total except for states such as Missouri and potentially Arkansas, where the voters approved a 1/8 percent sales tax. This financing trend is coming at a time when the public expects a state fish and wildlife agency to have a broad wildlife program that serves the increasing numbers of people who may not be active hunters and anglers. In heavily populated areas, state agencies are increasingly being asked to deal with wildlife that are either causing damage or present a nuisance or danger to people. With this type of future, it is unrealistic and inappropriate to expect that traditional sources of funding will provide either the breadth or quality of fish and wildlife programs the public will expect. Many states are now searching for additional sources of funds. The Teaming with Wildlife Initiative is a major effort to both broaden the funding and permit the states to meet current and future public expectations for fish and wildlife programs by extending the current manufacturer's level excise tax (user fee) to some additional outdoor recreation products to create a third fund.

Patterned after the highly-successful Pittman-Robertson and Wallop-Breaux programs, the proposal has attracted widespread support from a very large coalition of organizations and businesses that now numbers almost 2,800. The future of fish and wildlife management will be heavily impacted by the outcome of this effort.