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Response: Drawbacks to the Teaming with Wildlife Proposal [outline]

David Secunda

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**RESPONSE:
DRAWBACKS TO THE
TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE PROPOSAL**

David Secunda
Executive Director
Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America

Outdoor Recreation:
Promise And Peril in The New West

June 8-10, 1998

Natural Resources Law Center
University of Colorado
School of Law
Boulder, Colorado

RESPONSE: DRAWBACKS TO THE TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE PROPOSAL

By David Secunda

- I. Teaming With Wildlife Excise Tax**
- II. ORCA supports the goals of Teaming With Wildlife**
 - A. Maintaining habitat
 - B. Protecting natural resources
- III. ORCA and our members have stepped up to the plate:**
 - A. Leave No Trace
 - B. Conservation Alliance
 - C. Support of Land Agencies
 - D. Conservation Giving
- IV. ORCA invited IAFWA to meet with the industry**
 - A. 1994 Outdoor Retailer Show
 - B. Open forum with industry members and state fish and wildlife representatives
 - C. The industry was looking for solutions
 - D. IAFWA was pushing an agenda
- V. ORCA thoroughly examined the proposal**
 - A. Taxable list
 - B. State fish and wildlife as primary recipients
 - C. Lots of different types of recreationists as well as non-recreationists affected
 - D. IAFWA calls it a "user free"/user pay concept
- VI. After careful consideration, we could not support TWW**
 - A. Too broad to be a "user fee."
 - B. State F&W is too narrow a conduit for the type of recreation that will be taxed.

- C. The tax is inefficient and hidden.
- D. Too many unanswered questions.

VII. Too broad to be a “user fee”

- A. Hunting/fishing tax has worked, the taxed product is DIRECTLY connected to recreation.
- B. Many of the products in TWW will never be used outdoors.
 - 1. 69% of backpacks used for books
 - 2. 27% of sleeping bags for indoors
 - 3. 80% of outdoor footwear never hits a trail

VIII. Too broad to be a “user fee”

- A. Wildlife enhances, but is not the center of taxed recreation.
- B. Outdoor footwear vs. Urban ascent shoe
- C. There is not a tight enough connection to be a “user fee”

IX. State fish and wildlife is too narrow a conduit for the type of recreation that will be taxed.

- A. The natural resource needs of consumers who buy the products are FAR more diverse.
- B. The fishing pole to fish & wildlife model works, but the climbing equipment to fish & wildlife does NOT.
- C. Climbers, kayakers, hikers, mountain bikers, skiers, backpackers turn to ALL land agencies.

X. The tax is inefficient and hidden

- A. 5% at wholesale becomes 7-10% at retail.
- B. Retailers finance inventory and must pass on costs.
- C. Consumers will not see it on their receipt.
- D. Will manufacturers actually mark products?

XI. Too many unanswered questions

- A. Show me the money.
- B. Imports as well as domestically produced products?

- C. Define which boot or backpack should be taxed?
- D. Ensure that small companies as well as big companies taxed?

XII. What would we support?

- A. Real user fees
- B. Land and Water Conservation Fund
- C. Conservation giving
- D. Volunteer solutions
- E. Voluntary solutions