AGENDA: Endangered Species Act Congressional Field Tour

University of Colorado Boulder. Natural Resources Law Center

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Citation Information

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2005 Legislative Field Tour on the Endangered Species Act

TUESDAY August 16th
Participants arrive in Colorado. Super shuttle arrangements from Denver International Airport to Holiday Inn Denver, Downtown. 1450 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80202
Tel: (303) 573-1450; Fax: (303) 572-1113

WEDNESDAY August 17th
8:00-8:30 am Introduction
Introduce participants and outline the tour and how it will illuminate aspects of the ESA.
Presenter: Mark Squillace, NRLC Director.

8:30-10:00 am Science and the ESA
What is sound science and peer reviewed science and are the limits, what are the in-house capabilities of the USF&WS, examples of when science has become an issue with ESA.
Panel:
Dr. Joy Nicholopoulos, USF&WS Region 2
Dr. William Lewis, University of Colorado

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30am Biodiversity and Critical Habitat
Overview of biodiversity hot spots and the importance private lands. Overview of critical habitat, safe harbor agreements and what private landowner incentives exist.
Panel:
Charles Bedford, The Nature Conservancy, Colorado State Director
Federico Cheever, University of Denver, College of Law
Tim Sullivan, Environmental Defense

11:30-12:00 Break to prepare for catered lunch

12:00-1:00 Lunch; Reauthorizing the ESA
What has worked well, what has been criticized about the ESA, and what are the legislative options for change? How have regulatory changes affected implementation of the ESA without legislative changes?
Presenter: Mark Squillace, NRLC Director

1:30-4:30 Drive to Glenwood Springs
4:30-6:30 Check in to Hotel Denver and time on own; 402 7th Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601; (970) 945-6565
6:30 Dinner
THURSDAY August 18th

7:30-8:00 am Check out and drive to presentations and light breakfast.

8:00-9:30 am Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
Overview of the recovery planning process and implementation actions and players. Panel:
Bob Muth, Program Director USF&WS Region 6
Tom Pitts, Water Consult
Dan Luecke, Conservation interests

9:30-10:00 am Colorado Native Aquatic Species Restoration Program
State program to breed and release threatened and endangered aquatic species into Colorado’s rivers and streams.
Presenter: Dave Schnoor, Colorado Division of Wildlife

10:00-2:00 drive to Crested Butte with picnic lunch along the way; at lunch discuss economics, agency budgets, and their implications for ESA implementation; Susan Linner, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, USF&WS Region 6

2:00-4:00 pm Candidate Conservation Agreements and Collaborative Multi-party Agreements
Using the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an example, examine how diverse parties can come together to protect species and prevent an ESA listing.
Panel:
Al Pfister, USF&WS Western Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Gary Skiba, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Tim Lehmann, Gunnison Stock Growers Association

4:00-5:00 pm Canada Lynx Reintroduction
State efforts at reintroduction of the Canada Lynx and an overview of the state’s role with species recovery and the ESA.
Panel:
Gary Skiba, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Rob Edward, Sinapu
Bonnie Kline, Colorado Woolgrowers Association

5:00-6:00pm check in to The Grand Lodge Crested Butte (Mt. Crested Butte)
6 Emmons Loop, Mt. Crested Butte, CO 81225
1 - 888 - 823 - 4446

Informal dinner arrangements and personal time.
FRIDAY August 19th
7:00-8:00 breakfast and check out.

8:00 am-12:30 pm
Drive toward Denver with a brief stop to view a sage grouse lek area.

12:30 – 2:00 Section 7 Consultation
Stop at Manitou Experiment Station near Deckers for a picnic lunch and discussion of ESA Section 7 consultation in general and wildfire hazardous fuels mitigation projects in particular.
Panel:
Susan Linner and Leslie Elwood, USF&WS, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Steve Culver, U.S. Forest Service

2:00-3:30 Habitat Conservation Plans
Discuss Habitat Conservation Plans and the Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse. Meet in Trumbull near Deckers.
Panel:
Susan Linner, USF&WS Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Anne Ruggles, Bear Canyon Consulting
Anne Winans, Denver Water

3:30-5:30 Drive to downtown Denver; hotel check in (Holiday Inn 14th/Glenarm)

5:30-6:30 States and the ESA: WGA Recommendations and the DOT Experience
Presentation and discussion of the state role in the ESA and the Western Governor’s Association ESA recommendations including incentives for private landowners
Presenters: Pam Inmann, WGA and Tom Norton, Colorado Department of Transportation

7:30 Dinner with special guests, Wynkoops, Denver

SATURDAY August 20th
Super Shuttle arrangements to airport for departing participants.
The Natural Resources Law Center (the Center) is a research and educational program located within the University of Colorado School of Law. The Center evolved from an informal program of natural resource conferences sponsored by the law school focused primarily on federal public lands, western water law and policy, and environmental protection. In 1982, the Center was formally established to organize and manage these conferences and to develop a natural resources research program.

For the past 23 years, the Center has engaged in research aimed at influencing public debate and policy-making concerning natural resources, and helping decision-makers resolve the conflicts surrounding resource development and preservation. At the heart of this mission is the notion of sustainability, which includes preservation of the West's social, environmental, economic, and cultural resources. The Center searches for pragmatic ways to secure these broad and related elements of sustainability, concentrating in particular on the region's unique natural resources.

**Mission Statement:**

"To promote sustainability in the rapidly changing American West by informing and influencing natural resource laws, policies, and decisions."

**Activities and Products**

Through a network of leading legal and policy decision-makers, natural resource administrators, researchers, stakeholders, and concerned citizens, and in conjunction with the School of Law and the broader University of Colorado community and regional and national natural resources institutions, the Center focuses substantial intellectual and practical expertise on natural resources issues of importance in the American West.

The Center focuses this expertise into a variety of activities and products:

**Conferences and Other Events.** The Center has sponsored approximately 30 major (3-day) conferences, including 18 on water resources, 4 on public lands, and others on topics as diverse as hazardous wastes, Indian country, regulatory takings, endangered species, national forests, and recreation. Shorter events have included the Denver-based “Hot Topics in Natural Resources” luncheon series and a variety of
specialized workshops on issues ranging from directional drilling technology to the 25th anniversary of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.


**Visiting Scholars.** A visitors program brings scholars, practitioners, government officials and other fellows to the Center for a few days to a year or more to pursue their research, and engage with the Law School and the metro-Denver community.

Center activities and products are aimed at promoting real and immediate policy innovation in natural resources decision-making, and also addressing the long-term and incremental nature of more fundamental reform. The form, content, and distribution of these activities and products mirror the diversity of public and private decision-makers associated with natural resources. Center constituents include all levels of government, community and environmental groups, attorneys, Native American Tribes, academics, students, and the general public.

**LOOKING FORWARD**

In order to improve the formulation and implementation of public policies, the Center will continue to provide governments, conservation organizations, business groups, community members, and other decision-makers in the West with timely, practical, problem-solving research; help national policy-makers understand western trends, challenges, and innovations; and foster national policies that reflect western realities. To accomplish these goals, the Center will continue to expand its audience of decision-makers, broaden its network of partners and collaborators, and improve communication with its constituents.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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*Director:* Mark Squillace, Professor of Law  
*Professional Staff:* Doug Kenney, Kathryn Mutz, Gary Bryner
Start address: 1450 Glenarm PI
Denver, CO 80202

End address: 1634 18th St
Denver, CO 80202

Distance: 1.0 mi (about 2 mins)

1. Head northeast from Glenarm PI - go 0.3 mi
2. Turn left at 18th St - go 0.7 mi

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, or other events may cause road conditions to differ from the map results.

Map data ©2005 NAVTEQ™, Tele Atlas
8:00 – 8:30 INTRODUCTION
• Mark Squillace, Director, Natural Resources Law Center

_The ESA at 30: Time for Congress to Update & Strengthen the Law_, House Committee on Resources


_Testimony of Ray Vaughan Before the House Committee on Resources_, Ray Vaughan, Wildlaw, April 30, 2005.

8:30 – 10:00 SCIENCE AND THE ESA
What is sound science and peer reviewed science and what are the limitations? A discussion of the in-house capabilities of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and examples of the impacts of science on various aspects of implementing the ESA.

Panel:
• Dr. Joy Nicholopoulos, Acting Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services - Southwest Region - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
• Dr. William Lewis, University of Colorado


10:30 – 11:30 BIODIVERSITY AND CRITICAL HABITAT
Overview of biodiversity hot spots and the importance private lands. Discussion of critical habitat, safe harbor agreements, and existing private landowner incentives.

Panel:
• Charles Bedford, The Nature Conservancy, Colorado State Director
• Federico Cheever, University of Denver, College of Law
• Tim Sullivan, Environmental Defense


12:00 – 1:00 REAUTHORIZING THE ESA

What has worked well, what has been criticized about the ESA, and what are the legislative options for change? How have regulatory changes affected implementation of the ESA without legislative changes?

Presenter:
- Mark Squillace, Director, Natural Resources Law Center

8:00 – 9:30 Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
Overview of the players, planning process, and implementation of the Upper Colorado River endangered fish recovery program.

Panel:
- Bob Muth, Program Director, Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6
- Tom Pitts, Water Consult
- Dan Luecke, Conservation interests


General Program Overview, Recovery of Upper Colorado River Basin Fish, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.


River Reparation, AZCentral.com, April 11, 2005.

9:30 – 10:00 Colorado Native Aquatic Species Restoration Program
Discussion of State program to breed and release threatened and endangered aquatic species into Colorado’s rivers and streams.

Presenter:
- Dave Schnoor, Colorado Division of Wildlife

Saving Suckers, Dancing with Dace, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Fall 2003.

ESA Discussion while Driving
Economics, agency budgets, and their implications for ESA implementation
- Susan Linner, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. FWS

2:00 – 4:00 Candidate Conservation Agreements and Collaborative Multi-Party Agreements
Using the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an example, examine how diverse parties can come together to protect species and prevent the need for an ESA listing.
Panel:
• Al Pfister, Fish & Wildlife Service, Western Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
• Gary Skiba, Colorado Division of Wildlife
• Tim Lehmann, Gunnison Stock Growers Association


Gunnison Sage-Grouse, General Information, Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan, Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse, General Information, Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Rangewide Conservation Plan, Colorado Division of Wildlife.


4:00 – 5:00 CANADA LYNX REINTRODUCTION
Discussion of state efforts to reintroduce the Canada Lynx and an overview of the state’s role in species recovery and the ESA.

Panel:
• Gary Skiba, Colorado Division of Wildlife
• Rob Edward, Sinapu
• Bonnie Kline, Colorado Wool Growers Association, Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority

Canada Lynx, General Information, Colorado Division of Wildlife.


Map of All Lynx Locations Within the White River National Forest Boundary, Colorado Division of Wildlife, April 2005.

Lynx Protection Plan Revised, The Denver Post, April 2, 2005

Day 3: Friday, 19 August 2005
Manitou Experiment Station & Denver

12:30 – 2:00 SECTION 7 CONSULTATION

Drive to Denver with a brief stop to view a sage grouse lek area. Stop at Manitou Experiment Station near Deckers for a picnic lunch and discussion of ESA Section 7 consultation in general and wildfire hazardous fuels mitigation projects in particular.

Panel:
- Susan Linner, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. FWS
- Leslie Elwood, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. FWS
- Steve Culver, Fisheries Biologist, U.S. Forest Service

Map of 2002 Hayman Fire Burn, U.S. Forest Service.


Forest Health Restoration Treatments: Helping Recover a Threatened Species.

2:00 – 3:30 HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

Discuss Habitat Conservation Plans and the Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse. Meet in Trumbull near Deckers.

Panel:
- Susan Linner, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. FWS
- Anne Ruggles, Bear Canyon Consulting
- Anne Winans, Denver Water


5:30 – 6:30 States and the ESA: WGA Recommendations and the DOT Experience
Presentation and discussion of the state role in the ESA and the Western Governors’ Association ESA recommendations including incentives for private landowners.

Presenters:
• Pam Inmann, Executive Director, Western Governors’ Association
• Tom Norton, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation


Western Governors Urge Congress to Increase ESA’s Effectiveness, Support Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Conservation Efforts, Western Governors’ Association, March 1, 2005.

Western Governors to Consider Recommendations for Improving Species Recovery, Western Governors’ Association, December 4, 2004.