

Colorado was a strong supporter of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act during its consideration by Congress. It should be noted that Colorado was responsible for securing the support of a number of other states for the Act. This support was obtained on the basis that the Act contained the provision that 60% of the funds would be allocated to the states. Reduction in the percent of funds granted to the states cannot be justified, and it seems to us that such a change in the basic formula at this time would be a violation of the trust placed by the supporting states in the Administration.

We also strongly support and recommend the continuation of the use fee concept as exemplified by the Golden Eagle Passport. We also recommend proper enforcement of the provisions requiring that users purchase the Golden Eagle Passport before entering the areas requiring its possession. There has been opposition to the Golden Eagle Passport as there has been to all new fees assessed. It appears that time has now almost eliminated that opposition. With the provisions equitably enforced, the opposition reduced, the income from that source should increase. The use fee concept has one undeniable point in its favor. This is the fact that it is people who use the area that are the ones who are paying toward its use. In Colorado we have found one extremely important side benefit that was not anticipated when Colorado's use fee was put into effect. Vandalism has been eliminated or appreciably decreased on areas where user fees are required.

We also support and encourage the allocation of all revenue obtained under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 (67 Stat. 462; 43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), as amended and from the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 437; 30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), that is legally possible to appropriate to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We do thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make this presentation which emphasizes the importance of (1) increasing the appropriation to the L&W Conservation Fund; (2) retention of the original concept of 60% of the L&W Funds allotted to the several states; (3) the continuation of and particularly the enforcement of the provisions of the Golden Eagle Passport; and (4) maximum legal appropriation of funds derived from the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

HOUSE BILL No. 1088

An Act relating to the financing of outdoor recreation resources.

(Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.)

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

Section 1. Article 14 of chapter 62, Colorado Revised Statutes 1963, is hereby amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTIONS, to read:

62-14-7.—Declaration of purpose.—It is hereby found and declared that the tourist industry and outdoor recreation have become a major element of Colorado's economic structure and one of the largest sources of income and pecuniary benefit to the people of this state and that there is an increasing need for outdoor recreational facilities, both for the citizens of Colorado and its visitors. In recognition of these increasing public demands for outdoor recreational opportunities, and to further assure that present and future generations be provided adequate outdoor recreation resources, it is desirable that all levels of government take prompt and coordinated action to the extent practicable, without diminishing or affecting their respective powers and functions, to conserve, develop, and plan outdoor recreation resources. That in order to insure accomplishment of such objectives, within individual areas throughout the state, consideration shall be given of all authorized uses, purposes, and other pertinent factors relating to such individual area. Plans for development of recreational resources shall be confined to certain types of public recreation resources within the individual areas, or in portions thereof, as may be considered necessary by the game, fish, and parks commission.

62-14-8.—Definitions.—(1) "Outdoor recreation" means any activity conducted in an outdoor environment by an individual, such as hiking, camping, boating, fishing, and the like.