

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Committee members, and sponsors,

My name is Patt Dorsey, and I am a Colorado native and resident of La Plata County. I am a lifelong hunter, angler, wildlife photographer, and an avid outdoor enthusiast. I had the privilege of working for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for 28 years and served as the non-voting CPW representative on the Habitat Stamp Committee for 4 years.

I am here today in support of **SB 49**. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this important bill.

Colorado is a unique and special place. We are home to a wide variety of wildlife—from bats to black bears, mountain lions to mule deer. Our landscapes are just as diverse, ranging from grasslands to glaciers.

The **Colorado Habitat Stamp Program** is a key part of keeping Colorado special. Since 2006, the program has conserved over **291,000 acres** across the state. What makes it special . . . is that it goes beyond wildlife habitat and broadly benefits all Coloradans, without placing a financial burden on taxpayers. That is important.

All 291,000 acres conserved have been in partnership with willing landowners and most have been through easements that allow landowners to keep their working lands working and in family-ownership. Working lands and families are important.

In addition to protecting wildlife corridors, winter range, and riparian habitat, these conserved lands play a crucial role recharging groundwater, improving water quality, and ensuring that we have clean water. Clean water is important.

Our health and quality of life are importantly tied to these lands. Your decision today is important and will have a lasting impact on Colorado. By supporting **SB 49**, you're supporting our wildlife, our working lands, and our communities. I urge you to vote **in favor** of this important legislation.

Thank you again for your time and for the work you do for Colorado.

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

04/03/2025 Upon Adjournment

SB25-049 Continue Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Breanna Bashford For themselves	<p>Hello Representatives, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Breanna Bashford, I live in Arvada. I advocate today as a conservationist, and as a hunter, advocating for your approval of SB49, "Continue Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program."</p> <p>I am passionate about wildlife and have dedicated my professional career to conservation education. I received a Bachelor's of Science in conservation biology at Colorado State University and I have significant knowledge in the conservation funding mechanisms available in this country. I also know that many wild species face great challenges in our human dominated world. As a result, I am an advocate for funding strategies to help wild species overcome challenges - most being man-made.</p> <p>As all Coloradans benefit from protected habitats, thriving species and the recreational opportunities Colorado Parks and Wildlife provides, I would like to see additional funding mechanisms that all citizens contribute to. In the meantime, the funding mechanism of requiring a hunter or angler to purchase an annual Habitat Stamp is attractive to me because I know hunters and anglers are passionate conservationists and most are honored to financially support fish and wildlife through our licenses, equipment purchases and stamps.</p> <p>My passion for wildlife developed as a child hiking Colorado's mountains, but as an adult-onset hunter, my passion has been concreted by connecting to nature in a much more intimate way. This deep connection with wildlife is only made possible because of the success of long standing conservation programs requiring hunters and anglers to financially support wild species and habitats. Wildlife will only thrive if we are intentional in our stewardship and management. I would like to continue supporting habitats through my annual purchase of a Habitat Stamp. Please approve SB49 to continue the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program ensuring I and future generations can connect to wildlife in Colorado's wild spaces. Thank you for your time.</p>
Brien Webster For	Madam. Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB49, an important bill that will ensure the continued success of the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program. As the Public Lands Campaign Manager for

Conservation Colorado	<p>Conservation Colorado and the current Chair of the Habitat Stamp Committee, representing sportsmen and women in Northwest Colorado, and as an avid hunter and angler who has proudly purchased the habitat stamp every year for as long as I can remember, I am aware of the impact and importance of this program.</p> <p>Colorado's wildlife are integral to our state's identity. They are not just symbols, but cornerstones of our economy, our culture, and our well-being. Yet, our wildlife populations face unprecedented threats from development, habitat loss, and fragmentation. Habitat is one of the most important limiting factors in sustaining healthy wildlife populations and relatedly, the loss of access is commonly cited as the number one reason hunters and anglers give up their sporting heritage. For these reasons it is critical that our state continues investing in habitat conservation and access programs like this.</p> <p>The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program is a powerful tool in this toolbox. This program, funded by sportspeople through the purchase of habitat stamps, has proven to be a resounding success. By partnering with willing landowners, we have conserved and expanded hundreds of thousands of acres. These are not just numbers; they represent a commitment to conserving wildlife and our sporting and agricultural heritages for future generations.</p> <p>With \$189.2 million invested, this program has generated significant returns for our state, supporting local economies, bolstering wildlife populations, and enhancing opportunities for hunting and fishing.</p> <p>I urge this committee to support SB49 and ensure the continued success of this vital program.</p> <p>Thank you, Brien Webster</p>
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