

From the Archives – Conservation Reports

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The August, 1979, Dipper reported that TENAS'* Conservation Committee and Board met with Jefferson County Commissioner, Jim Martin, "to discuss matters of local interest concerning the environment." According to board member Bill Zwartjes, Commissioner Martin "would appear to be heavily in favor of unlimited population growth and development in this area with his major concerns being the provision of adequate facilities...including more roads, commercial establishments and water facilities." In response to the suggestion of possible water shortages, Commissioner Martin reportedly said, "Wyoming and Montana have plenty of water which could be piped." Commissioner Martin felt that it was more important to build recreational facilities and was opposed to purchasing more large ranches, saying that Evergreen didn't need more open space because of [the large amount of] federal lands in the area. In Bill's opinion, Martin's philosophies were, "oriented towards business and development...and he [was] not a wise or impartial judge for proper growth in Jefferson County."

In August, 1989, the Dipper requested that members write to President George Bush in opposition to the proposed Two Forks Dam (ultimately defeated). The Dipper also reported that Colorado Senator Bill Armstrong "continue[d] to insist that there be no additional wilderness areas designated in Colorado unless the legal status of water rights for those areas [was] established," using this tactic to block attempts for more Colorado wilderness areas. The Colorado house passed a bill that allowed pollution of surface and ground water (there was hope for a veto), and defeated two bills requiring compensation for water removed from the Colorado River basin. Locally, it was reported that Evergreen Metro District asked TENAS to fund the purchase of live traps to be used to trap and remove beavers from Evergreen Lake, to the tune of \$1,000. The Board turned down this request.

In August, 1999, conservation news in the Dipper focused on the Colorado legislature and included a lengthy article about wolf recovery and Colorado HB1229 "Reintroduction of Endangered Species" which had recently been passed. According to then Conservation Chair Dave Jones, the bill meant that Colorado would be relying on the "head-in-sand" method of species recovery. Dave wrote, "Perhaps those of us who support a diverse natural world failed to express ourselves adequately—after all, our representatives cannot read our minds." Dave concluded by saying, "We must continue to push for the conservation and restoration of all species. The people of Colorado are not willing to abandon the ark."



Beaver with kit (c) National Park Service

What are the issues we face in August, 2019? Local and regional headlines show that we're not always happy with our legislators, from county commissioners to our representatives in Washington. Open space preservation, population growth, zoning and land use, roads and traffic, and water continue to be of concern. Here in Evergreen, just this past Sunday, there was an informational meeting about reintroducing wolves to Colorado. Evergreen Audubon continues to monitor important state and federal legislation and to encourage participation in the legislative process as individual members, and to participate as a chapter through Audubon Colorado Council and the National Audubon Society. It seems that about the only thing that isn't still a concern is trapping beavers in Evergreen Lake. But you never know! Just a few weeks ago we received word of a confirmed sighting of a very busy *Castor canadensis* cruising our Evergreen Lake.

*TENAS refers to The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc., Evergreen Audubon's official name at the time.