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### RMR Weekly E-News

Hello RMR Faithful!

A few things that you might want to be aware of today:

#### **RMGO files suit against CSU for Gun Ban, while CU's Ban is Overturned on Appeal**

(Fort Collins) April 15, 1010

Today Colorado's largest gun rights organization, Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, filed a complaint against CSU's Gun Ban policy, asking a Larimer County District Court to overrule the Board of Governors.

This comes on the same day that the Colorado Court of Appeals reversed an earlier court's ruling on the CU Gun Ban case, clearing the way to what many legal scholars say is a certain overturning that ban.

"This is a good day for gun owners, and for the safety of students, faculty and citizens who frequent college campuses," said Dudley Brown, RMGO's Executive Director. "CSU's Ban only had one legitimate leg to stand on, and now even that's gone."

"CSU is hanging out a shingle that says only criminals are allowed to bring guns on campus," Brown said. "It didn't keep anyone safe at Virginia Tech, it doesn't work at schools around the country and it won't work in Fort Collins."

RMGO's suit against CSU is based on three facts:

1. The Ban is preempted by Colorado law (C.R.S. 18-12-204).
2. The CSU Board of Governor's authority does not allow it to conflict with state law (CRS 23-31-103, which provides that the BOG "has plenary power to adopt all such ordinances, bylaws, and regulations, not in conflict with the law").
3. The Ban is unconstitutional and unenforceable.

The complaint, which was filed late Wednesday, lists a number of citizens as plaintiffs, including Students for Concealed Carry on Campus at CSU, two student permit holders and one local businessman permit holder.

#### **RMEF TURNS UP HEAT ON PRO-WOLF GROUPS**

Pro-wolf groups were admittedly "surprised and disappointed" when the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation publicly challenged their mischaracterizations of the real impacts of wolves in the northern Rockies and are feeling even more heat today. Their recent call for a truce has been met with a scathing letter from RMEF President and CEO David Allen, who says Defenders of Wildlife, Western Wildlife Conservancy and others are

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party to what may become "one of the worst wildlife management disasters since the destruction of bison herds in the 19th Century."

Allen said, "These animal rights groups seem to think that every individual wolf is worth filing another lawsuit to protect, but the decimation of local elk herds is unimportant. What is truly ironic is these folks claim protection of the Canadian gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act. However these wolves are not endangered. There are thousands of them throughout North America. The ESA is being manipulated far beyond its intended purpose."

Factual examples cited in Allen's recent letter:

\*

The Northern Yellowstone elk herd trend count has dropped from some 19,000 elk in 1995 before the introduction of the Canadian Gray wolf to just over 6,000 elk in 2008. At the same time the wolf numbers in this same area are on a steady increase.

\*

Yellowstone's Madison Firehole elk herd trend count has fallen from 700 to 108.

\*

The Gallatin Canyon elk herd trend count between Bozeman and Big Sky, Mont., has declined from 1,048 to 338.

\*

Wolf numbers in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming have far exceeded the original goals of 30 breeding pairs and 300 total wolves. Population estimates now exceed 1,700 wolves. And yet and others want to push the total up to 2,000 to 5,000 wolves.

\*

Studies show that wolves kill up to 23 elk per wolf from November through April alone or up to 40,000 elk in just six months. A smaller but still significant number are killed from May through October; with total annual elk kills by wolves just for food potentially greater than 50,000 at the present level of wolf population. This accounts for only the elk needed for food, not surplus killing, which are elk killed by wolves and not eaten, which also occurs. The majority of all these kills are not elk that are sick or old.

\*

Elk calf survival rates where wolves (and bears) are present are extremely low in specific herds, resulting in a survival rate of 10 percent or less-too low to sustain the herd over the long-term. RMEF points out this is a major issue as elk numbers going into the future, where wolves are concentrated, will suffer even greater losses and replacement becomes out of balance.

"Pro-wolf groups like to cite statewide elk numbers because it glosses over the ongoing annihilation of local elk herds," said Allen. "They like to say that elk and wolves evolved together and would coexist now if man would just leave them alone, which completely ignores the fact that this is no longer the Old West and millions of us live here now. Habitat is shrinking at a rapid pace and the wildlife that lives here must be carefully managed. Man must manage wildlife and we have done so very successfully for over a century. We're long past the day when wolf populations can be left unchecked. Right now this is simply a wolf amnesty program and the results are becoming alarming."

"Managing wildlife in the courts, as opposed to science and the proven expertise of state conservation agencies, is a recipe for continued disaster," stated Allen "These groups do not want states to manage the wolves as they manage other wildlife including predators. Why? It is curious that Defenders of Wildlife and others now boast about the statewide elk management numbers, which are managed by the states; but they do not trust those same states to manage wolves. Again, one should ask why?"

In late February, Allen sent letters to legislators and newspapers across the West calling out Defenders of Wildlife, Western Wildlife Conservancy and others for misleading the public through disingenuous use of current data on wolves and elk. In late March, group representatives accused RMEF of polarizing sportsmen on the wolf issue, and, ironically, to ask for collaboration rather than conflict.

In his letter Allen challenged Defenders of Wildlife and the others to meet face to face. " I invite you to come to my office and let's personally resolve this issue for the sake of those responsible hunters and those responsible non-hunters. Enough of the legal maneuvering and posturing, let's resolve this now," Allen said in his letter.

"We will collaborate with those who believe in sound wildlife management, not promoting one species over others for what we believe are hidden agendas. There is no one proposing annihilation of the wolves, yet Defenders and others like to act as if such a threat exists.

It helps their fundraising efforts but does little to solve the issue. Constantly moving the goal line and ignoring the future consequences are just two reasons we do not collaborate with such groups," Allen added.

## **GUN QUESTION**

We have had several people ask what gun they need for the gun safety classes we offer. You don't have to have a heavy caliber gun to take the class. Actually, a .22 is perfect for the shooting portion of the class. The class is a basic pistol course and we teach safe gun handling and we make sure you are safe with whatever firearm you decide to bring. If you don't have a handgun, we have rental guns and ammo for you. So what are you waiting for? Come to a class this summer and let your friends know they are available from RMR.

The next gun safety class will be on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This class will give you the necessary certificate so you can get your concealed carry permit in Colorado, if you chose to do so. If you would like to take this class or know of someone who would, email me for details. Cost is still \$80.

## **DOG TRAINING AREAS MIGHT GO BYE-BYE**

Chatfield and Cherry Creek State Parks established Dog Training Areas over 20 years ago where Sportsmen could have a place to train their hunting dogs. Non hunting users have been allowed to encroach on those areas recently to the point where there exist a high level of conflict. The State Parks solution- is to entirely eliminate all Sportsmen at Cherry Creek from using the area and manage it as a dog park. And severely reduce Sportsmen's access at Chatfield ceding the bulk to other users (dog walkers).

**From State Parks web site- "There is no plan to close the two dog training areas or eliminate other users". Really?**

Here are the numbers.

Cherry Creek Dog Training Area 85 acres- Acres for Sportsmen under Plans A, B, and C- **0**

Non sporting users- all 85 acres.

Chatfield Dog Training Areas 74.5 acres- Acres for Sportsmen under plans A, B and C (\*see note below)- **8.5 acres of the least desirable part of the Dog Training Area** with no water. The other users would get 66 acres and all the water. **In other words, Sportsmen would get a total of 8.5 acres or about 5% of the total of the two properties and non sporting users 95%.** Sound fair, equitable, especially given the fact they were intended for Sportsmen? Shooting ranges are link to hunting, as dog training to bird hunting.

Brian Bowles 303-956-1115 Colorado Dog Training Association

## **LINK ON THE RMR WEBSITE**

If you have had a chance to look at the new RMR website, you can see under the AFFILIATES tab there are links to our page. If you would like to trade links from your website to ours, send me a note and we will do that.

## **TWO FOR THE ROAD**

A teacher is explaining biology to her 4th grade students; 'Human Beings are the only animals that stutter,' she says.

A little girl raises her hand. "I had a kitty-cat who stuttered."

The teacher, knowing how precious some of these stories could become, asked the girl to describe the incident.

'Well,' she began, 'I was in the back yard with my kitty, and the Rottweiler that lives next door got a running start, and before we knew it, he jumped over the fence into our yard!'

'That must've been scary,' said the teacher.

'It sure was,' said the little girl. 'My kitty raised her back, went "Sssss", "Sssss", "Sssss: And before she could say 'Sh\*t,' the Rottweiler ate her!'

The teacher had to leave the room.

+++++

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row please." she answered.

"You really don't want to do that", the usher said. "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired. "No." he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No." she said.

"Good," he answered.

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