

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

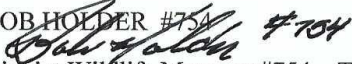
Please accept this letter as **EMPHATIC** support for the Friends of Trinidad Lake State Park, Friends of Fishers Peak State Park and The Friends of Reservoirs **MOSSBACK GRANT** application for **Mossback artificial fish habitat structure**. As District Wildlife Manager (Game Warden) for Colorado Parks and Wildlife for half a century, Trinidad Lake State Park is in my district management purview. Having been assigned here during construction of Trinidad Lake, I have firsthand knowledge of the lack of fish structure remaining from the old communities and farms that were erased for construction.

Since that time the Colorado Division of Wildlife, now Colorado Parks and Wildlife, has managed a very successful fishery for sportsmen and sportswomen. One of the limiting factors, however, has been structure for cover, reproduction, feeding etc. This Mossback artificial fish habitat structure will measurably increase the efficacy of fishery management on Trinidad Lake which has become a destination of choice for sports persons from the front range of Colorado and neighboring states of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. Trinidad Lake is known for the variety and quality of fish species available to the angling public.

Contrary to the application narrative, the Colorado Division of Wildlife has made several attempts to infuse structure in Trinidad Lake by annually collecting Christmas trees, linking them with metal cables and weighting them with cinderblocks. Those structures were beneficial and I saw additional crappie production and return to the creel. The structures that Mossback have developed would be a long term practical, positive and cost effective addition to any reservoir! I appreciate the opportunity to be part of furthering the trophy, consumptive, recreational aspect of the Trinidad Lake fishery.

The applicant, KIM FALEN, has been a dynamic and progressive voice for wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic, for several years. KIM FALEN has worked tirelessly with CPW personnel on grants and on the ground construction addressing bees to bears, turkeys to toads! This application reinforces that commitment to the environment and its human and wildlife components. Ms. Falen's application not only takes in to account the necessity for fish structure, but, if examined closely addresses safety for recreationists as well as the angling constituent by lessening floating debris through addition of permanent fish structures.

Please consider this application as a positive effort for the fishery, and the fishermen and fisherwomen that reap the benefits of that fishery: either through consumptive use or simply hours of angling recreation. Please call if there are any questions on support or credentials. Total support from the local Game Warden.....

BOB HOLDER #754

District Wildlife Manager #754 – Trinidad West District
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
1203 San Juan
Trinidad, CO 81082
(719) 680-1410