



Date: May 4, 2011  
Contact: Kristin Salamack, Wildlife Habitat Council  
(303) 376-7549 or [ksalamack@wildlifehc.org](mailto:ksalamack@wildlifehc.org)

Jon Haubert, Western Energy Alliance  
(303) 623-0987 or [jhaubert@westernenergyalliance.org](mailto:jhaubert@westernenergyalliance.org)

## Oil and Natural Gas Companies and Wildlife Organizations Partner to Preserve Bat Habitat in Colorado

(Denver)-- Today, Western Energy Alliance and Wildlife Habitat Council announced a joint venture to finance, build and install twenty bat boxes at Denver Water's Bob Taylor Ecological Area in southwest Denver, near Chatfield State Park. The boxes, which will provide permanent day roosts for approximately 10,000 bats, are crucial to help preserve local ecosystems and protect bats' changing native habitat. A ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. on May 6, 2011 at the Bob Taylor Ecological Area ([map enclosed](#)).

Bat boxes are commonly used in wildlife conservation projects to provide roosting structures and protection from threats such as habitat disturbance. While not everyone can buy land to protect areas where bats roost or hibernate, anyone can build a bat box, and this is one way the average person can make a real difference. The project will also provide learning opportunities for Denver children participating in environmental education programs led by local non-profits such as the Thorne Ecological Institute and Environmental Learning for Kids.

"We are thrilled to work with local energy companies on such important wildlife issues," said Kristin Salamack, Intermountain Region Biologist for Wildlife Habitat Council's Denver Office. "More than one million bats have died in the past few years from a condition called 'white-nose syndrome' which has been observed in hibernating bats as far west as Oklahoma. Scientists are still searching for the cause of this syndrome. This makes providing safe roosting habitat for bats in states like Colorado that have not yet been impacted by white-nose syndrome so important."

The installation of the boxes is part of a joint effort to bring corporate involvement to enhance the Bob Taylor Ecological Area. Wildlife Habitat Council is working with Denver Water and others to establish long-lasting corporate, agency, and local non-profit organization collaboration to enhance the property for wildlife habitat and for the local stakeholders visiting the grounds.

The contributing companies include Western Energy Alliance and Wildlife Habitat Council members such as Ensign US Drilling, J-W Energy Company, R 3 Steel, Newfield Exploration Company, Bill Barrett Corporation, Kinder Morgan, QEP Resources, Kleinfelder/Buys & Associates and Noble Energy. Additional financial support for this project was provided by ExxonMobil and BP. Nine companies donated the funds needed to purchase the materials and fifty local employee volunteers constructed the bat boxes, which will enhance habitat for bats and increase overall species diversity at the Bob Taylor Ecological Area.

(more)

“It was easy to engage our members to support this effort,” said Spencer Kimball, Manager of Government Affairs for Western Energy Alliance and appointee to the Western Governors’ Wildlife Council Stakeholder Advisory Group. “Western oil and natural gas producers have a rich legacy of going the extra mile to improving wildlife habitat in the areas where they work and live. Our members take their stewardship responsibilities seriously and over the years have voluntarily taken on many projects to improve habitat throughout the Rockies,” continued Kimball.

**Representatives of both Western Energy Alliance and Wildlife Habitat Council will be available to answer questions about the joint project at the unveiling at 11:00 a.m. on May 6, 2011 at Denver Water’s Bob Taylor Ecological Area in southwest Denver.**

- Who:** Members of Western Energy Alliance and Wildlife Habitat Council
- What:** Ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration of installation of 20 bat boxes
- When:** 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m, Friday, May 6, 2011
- Where:** Bob Taylor Ecological Area in southwest Denver (Chatfield State Park)

###

**About Wildlife Habitat Council**

*The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 43 states, the District of Columbia and nine other countries. To learn more, visit [www.wildlifehc.org](http://www.wildlifehc.org).*

**About Western Energy Alliance**

*Western Energy Alliance, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. More information on Western Energy Alliance and its members is available at [www.westernenergyalliance.org](http://www.westernenergyalliance.org).*

**About Denver Water**

*Denver Water proudly serves high-quality water and promotes its efficient use to 1.3 million people in the city of Denver and many surrounding suburbs. Established in 1918, the utility is a public agency funded by water rates, new tap fees and the sale of hydropower, not taxes. It is Colorado’s oldest and largest water utility.*