

# Message From Marsha



July 8, 2008

## **HUNTERS, NATURE & OFF-ROAD ENTHUSIASTS TAKE NOTE...**

For generations hunters, nature and off-road enthusiasts have enjoyed Colorado's millions of acres of pristine, public lands for recreation. Travel onto these public lands was typically allowed **except** when there were signs that **restricted** access to a particular road or area. Basically if an area was posted with "No Trespassing" signs, that public land or public road was clearly recognized as being designated off limits to the public.

All of that has now changed, thanks to HB1069! Effective July 1, 2008, HB1069 reverses this long-standing practice regarding motor vehicle travel restrictions on federal public land and **prohibits** operating a motor vehicle on any public land, trail or road **unless that area is signed for access!** Effective immediately, if you plan on operating a motor vehicle on public lands there **MUST** be a sign that **allows** the operation of that vehicle, or you may be cited for violating the law.

I, along with 29 other legislators, opposed HB1069. Restricting public access to public lands by the public **UNLESS** there is a sign explicitly granting them access is "BIG BROTHER" at its worst! My view is that tougher penalties for those who are trespassing, along with educational and outreach programs for those interested in visiting Colorado's public lands, would have been preferable to these new, heavy-handed policies of Division of Wildlife authorized by the majority of our General Assembly.

Please become familiar with these new restrictions and the penalties for violating this new law before traveling to your Colorado public lands this summer or in the upcoming hunting season. It would ruin anyone's day if they were cited and fined \$200 and 15 hunting points for violating this new law!

A complete list of these new restrictions, violations and the penalties associated with this new law will be posted on my website at [WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG](http://WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG), or you can email me at [marshalooper@gmail.com](mailto:marshalooper@gmail.com) or call me at 238-5600 if you would like additional information.

If you are interested in learning more about state policies that affect you and your family, please join me at one of our next Town Hall Meetings scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup>, Edison School 7:00-8:30pm; July 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 pm, Falcon Fire Dept. 7:00-8:30 pm; July 23<sup>rd</sup> Fountain City Hall 7:00 – 8:30 pm; and, July 26<sup>th</sup> for coffee & donuts at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Ellicott from 8:30 – 10:00 am. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Respectfully,

***Marsha Looper***

Marsha Looper,

Colorado State Representative HD#19