

Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable
Saturday, February 29, 2020
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Buena Vista Community Center
715 E Main St, Buena Vista, CO 81211, USA

SUMMARY

The Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable met on February 29, 2020 in Buena Vista, Colorado. Seventeen Roundtable members, fourteen CPW staff, the DNR Deputy Director and two Envision Chaffee County representatives participated in this meeting (see Attachment 1). This document summarizes the group's discussion.

Outcomes:

- CPW will present research, public feedback and a staff recommendation on wildlife contests to the Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) March 18. [Note: due to cancelation of March Commission meeting, this information will be provided to the Commission in writing]
- CPW will announce open Roundtable seats for regional delegates to select new members this April.
- Feedback from this group will be provided to the Planning Trails With Wildlife in Mind task force.
- The next Roundtable meeting was modified from its original date and is scheduled to take place on August 8th. The location will be determined later this year and will try to accommodate other activities happening around the same time.

Director's Welcome & Updates

CPW Director Dan Prenzlou welcomed members and recognized the dedication, energy and expense involved with serving on the Roundtable. He shared his appreciation for outgoing members Cody DeGuelle, Dan Gates, Jennifer Gluck, Ron Goodrich, Steve Hilde, Denny Behrens, Kevin Alexander and Willie Kalaskie. The entire group observed this as the last day in a long and devoted career for Dean Riggs, CPW NW Deputy Regional Manager.

DNR Update

Tim Mauck, DNR Deputy Director, shared that Alice Cosgrove replaced Doug Vilsack as legislative liaison. DNR is looking at new Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for FY21 which would add a new water goal while maintaining goals for CPW around revenue generation and increasing public access. DNR is also a partner in the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative aimed at increasing the resilience of forests, habitat, communities, recreation opportunities, and water resources across all lands in the Rocky Mountains.

Discussion:

- Similar efforts are being engaged both by CPW and GOCO, who are working closely with counties and local partners to support large landscape conservation.
- Members requested an update on funding to be received by CPW from the USFWS's Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (PRDJ) acts. (See [DOI Release](#))

CPW Staff Updates

Wildlife Contests:

Katie Lanter, CPW Policy and Planning Supervisor, provided an update on wildlife contests. The Policy and Planning section provided the Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) with the requested overview of the topic and current regulations within Colorado and across the country in January of 2020. Currently, Colorado has a contest ban on big game, but partial contests are allowed for most small game and furbearers. Bag limits are not to exceed five per person per contest and contests cannot include valuable prizes. CPW received a citizen petition from the Humane Society of the United States requesting a ban on all wildlife contests. CPW will likely recommend a prohibition of contests for furbearers and some species of small game. The current Colorado Wildlife Regulations surrounding contests and manner of take can be found in Chapter W-03 Article #303.

Discussion:

- Clarification was requested on what is considered a wildlife contest. Fishing contests are not covered by Article #303.
- Feedback from Roundtable members was mixed and no group consensus was reached. Some members felt that it is not contest hunting that is opposed by some but all hunting in general. These individuals expressed concern that changes to limit contests would be yet another step towards other hunting restrictions. Other roundtable members were more open to limiting contests but like the others, would not want to see changes beyond that scope.
- There was curiosity around the use of contests as a recruitment tool.
- At its [March 18-19 meeting in Aurora, CO](#), the PWC was planning to consider the citizen petition, CPW's recommendation and public comment. This meeting has been cancelled. Please check the Commission's webpage for updates.

Fishers Peak and Public Access Program:

Brett Ackerman, CPW Southeast Regional Manager, provided an update on Fishers Peak progress and public access. There is expected to be some access at Fishers Peak by the summer of 2020, with a full opening to follow. Partial funding for the property came from Habitat Stamp funds and hunting access is expected to be available on the south side of the property. Fishers Peak offers a unique opportunity to study impacts of recreation on wildlife because the area is currently closed to the public so we can obtain data on wildlife behavior, distribution and abundance on the property prior to the opening of the state park and as trail development and recreation increases over time once the park opens.

Adding to an existing 500,000 acres, CPW has recently enrolled an additional 100,000 acres to the [Public Access Program \(PAP\)](#) on the eastern plains. CPW is looking to nominate another 400,000 acres spread out over the next two years, totaling approximately one million acres of public access. Parcels can be nominated for consideration by the PAP. This will be further discussed at the April meeting of the [State Land Board \(SLB\)](#) and the May meeting of the PWC.

Discussion:

- Members encouraged messaging which would ensure public awareness of the contribution from hunting and fishing.
- Discussion surrounded both outfitter and fishing access to state trust lands. It was noted that per agreement with the SLB, outfitter access must be mutually beneficial and a concerted effort is being made to ensure that PAP nominations include fishing access.

Legislative Update

Jeff Ver Steeg, CPW Assistant Director, Research, Policy and Planning provided an update on the six bills currently involving CPW. Since this meeting took place, the Colorado General Assembly suspended the 2020 session for at least two weeks due to the coronavirus.

- [HB20-1087](#), - This bill updated and provided clarifying language to remove vague and obsolete laws from Title 33. It was approved by the House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor for signature.
- [SB20-003](#) - This bill appropriates general fund money for Fishers Peak and park infrastructure needs. It was amended and passed by the Senate and is on its way through the House.
- [SB20-041](#) - This bill would grant free entrance to state parks for members of the National Guard. This bill requires the General Fund to replace revenues lost by CPW. It has been assigned to a committee, but has not been scheduled for a hearing yet.
- [SB20-069](#) - This bill would allow disabled Colorado resident veterans to use a transferable annual park pass in addition to/in lieu of the license plate currently allowed. It has passed both chambers.
- [SB20-121](#) - This bill, which directs CPW to manage gray wolves in Colorado, has not been assigned to a committee or calendared for a hearing yet.
- [SB20-130](#) - The Backcountry Search and Rescue bill directs DNR to report to the legislature on local coordination, resources, training, reimbursement opportunities and current funding mechanisms. Senate Appropriations referred the amended bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole on the consent agenda.

Discussion:

- The Roundtable asked for clarification on CPW's jurisdiction for gray wolf reintroduction. Currently, CPW does not have jurisdiction for reintroduction as this would require authority granted by the Colorado Legislature in addition to either endangered species delisting or federal permitting.

- The Roundtable requested data on Backcountry Search and Rescue funding input and usage. CPW shared the 2019 Search and Rescue Fund Fact Sheet (DOLA) with the Roundtable via email.
- Opportunities were discussed for involvement at the Capitol including the Sportsmen's Caucus at the Capitol.

Roundtable & Caucus Updates

Regional Caucus Updates

The Southeast Regional Caucus met in early January. They had an in-person attendance of 68 people and over 6,010 views via Facebook Live with a goal of staying attuned to varied interests. Topics included small game updates, public access, a State Wildlife Area Spotlight, a USFS update and Fishers Peak. Brett Ackerman encouraged members to consider stepping up to take Willie Kalaskie's seat as Caucus Delegate and recognized Willie for his commitment and successful efforts.

The Northwest Regional Caucus met in late February. Attendance was limited and this was attributed to public meeting saturation involving West Slope mountain lion plans. Various mountain lion meetings garnered strong stakeholder attendance. The region is getting involved in fishing regulations through angler focus groups starting in April. More information and involvement opportunities will be provided to this group when finalized.

The Southwest Regional Caucus was also held in late February. This was combined with a meeting on the West Slope mountain lion plan and DAU management. Attendance at the mountain lion meetings ranged from 40 to 140 stakeholders.

The Northeast Regional Caucus meeting has not yet been held but the region is looking at new strategies to increase participation at these events in the future. A planned meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Discussion:

- A key takeaway for staff and members was the overall increase in participation.
- Efforts to broaden the audience have been successful through strategic planning of format, venue and agenda/topics.
- There was discussion about the tendency to concentrate on big game at caucus meetings; members encouraged branching out to other topics like waterfowl, fish and small game. Submitting comments to the Commission on such non-big game topics was also encouraged.

Recruitment, Retention and Outreach Activities

Ducks Unlimited hosted a Ladies Day Outdoors Shotgun Clinic for women interested in waterfowl hunting at Barr Lake State Park. Turnout was successful and after the initial clinic, the group was able to hunt at one of the premier private properties in the state.

The CPW Southwest Region hosted a [Hunting for Sustainability](#) crash course weekend with curriculum developed by Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. The majority of attendees were female and two were PWC commissioners.

[Angling University](#), in partnership with CPW, the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA, have been hosting outdoor programs for children ages 8-18 and field work programs for those over 18.

Discussion:

- A key takeaway was the opportunity to perpetuate the involvement developed in beginner outreach activities through follow up and further programming.
- This group recognized the importance of exposing kids to the outdoors, having a place for people to learn and practice, and actively sharing these opportunities with one another and outside of the Roundtable as leaders in the community.

Roundtable Items of Interest

Partners in the Outdoors Conference

CPW staff followed up with the Roundtable to encourage members to attend and present at the [Partners in the Outdoors Conference](#) [note: this event has been postponed; CPW will provide updates as they become available]. The session schedule can be viewed [here](#). The guiding document through which session proposals are determined is the [2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#). CPW's goal is to broaden the base of support and knowledge around outdoor recreation and conservation while continuing to partner with traditional groups who are core to the success of Colorado's outdoors.

Discussion:

- This group discussed the opportunity to ensure that consumptive recreation activities, funding and wildlife issues are on the Partners agenda through submitting session proposals and attending.

Wolves in Colorado

Members sought information regarding the testing of wolf scat found in Moffat County. This scat is currently being analyzed at UCDavis.

Sustainability of Sportspersons Activities

The Roundtable discussed the importance of shooting and fishing sports and educational programs for children. Director Prenzlou acknowledged the role that this group and regional partnerships have had in maintaining and creating new opportunities at shooting ranges across the state. These efforts are being recognized through awards and are ongoing.

Trails in Colorado

Challenges presented by proposed new trails which overlap wildlife habitat was brought up. Interest was expressed in knowing more about how CPW provides comments on proposed

trails. This topic carried over into the next on CPW’s revision of the Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind handbook.

Presentations

Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind

CPW State Trails Program Manager Fletcher Jacobs updated the Roundtable on the administration of grant funding for trail-related projects. With CPW’s Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) app, over 45,000 miles of trails are mapped and available to the public. The majority of trails are managed by federal and open space agencies, with CPW managing 1.8%. Currently, the CPW Trail Program is facilitating an update to Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind, a guiding document adopted in 1998. The task force includes CPW staff and external partners from counties, local coalitions and federal agencies. The goal is to better help partners manage trails in Colorado through funding and design. Fletcher gathered feedback from Roundtable members regarding trails in their areas and will provide this to the task force.

Envision Chaffee County

Cindy Williams, Board President of the Central Colorado Conservancy and Owner of Geolnsights Inc. and Greg Felt, Chaffee County Commissioner and newly appointed Colorado Water Conservation Board member, presented their regional partnership to the Roundtable. Envision Chaffee County started in 2016 as a response to challenges regarding growth and direction. Since then, the group has forged common ground among the region’s recreation, conservation and agricultural communities. Through iterative and participatory stakeholder engagements, this locally driven initiative has achieved community and institutional support.

Roundtable Business

The next Roundtable meeting was modified from its original date and is scheduled to take place on August 8th. The location is yet to be determined and will recognize coinciding time commitments of members. Until then, Regional Caucus Meetings will be taking place. Jody requested the help of Roundtable members in forming agendas and encouraging the participation of stakeholders in their communities. The Roundtable now has several open seats. Jody recognized the dedication and success of termed members and requested that those interested in filling delegate seats or inviting new members reach out to her. Jody will also reach out to those eligible for a second term about their interest in continuing to serve on the Roundtable.

Attachment 1: February 29, 2020 Sportsperson’s Roundtable Participation List (* indicates termed member)

Caucus Delegate	Residence
Denny Behrens*	Grand Junction
Kevin Alexander*	Gunnison

Willie Kalaskie*	Colorado Springs
Statewide Member	Residence
Dale Coombs	Grand Junction
Cody DeGuelle*	Black Hawk
Cody Doig	Durango
Dan Gates*	Canon City
Emily Orbanek	Denver
Jennifer Gluck*	LaSalle
Mark Scofield	Colorado Springs
Paul Finley	Hot Sulphur Springs
Ron Goodrich*	Pueblo
Roy Karo	Grand Junction
Steve Schake	Kremmling
Ryan McSparran	Littleton
Brian Braaten	Colorado Springs
Adam Gall	Paonia
CPW/DNR Staff and PWC Commissioners	Title
Dan Prenzlow	Director
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assist. Director Research, Policy & Planning
Tim Mauck	Deputy Director, DNR
Charlie Garcia	Parks and Wildlife Commissioner
Betsy Blecha	Parks and Wildlife Commissioner
Katie Lanter	Policy & Planning Supervisor
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Planning Specialist - organizer
Brett Ackerman	SE Region Manager
Cory Chick	SW Region Manager
Fletcher Jacobs	Trails Program Manager
Dean Riggs	NW Deputy Regional Manager
Lauren Truitt	Assist. Director Information & Education
Mark Leslie	NE Region Manager
Reid DeWalt	Assist. Director Aquatic, Terrestrial & Nat. Resources, DNR
JT Romatzke	NW Region Manager
Sarah Studebaker	Policy & Planning Research Associate
Jim Aragon	Area Wildlife Manager - Area 13
Invited Guests	Title
Cindy Williams	Board President of the Central Colorado Conservancy and Owner of GeoInsights Inc.
Greg Felt	Chaffee County Commissioner, Colorado Water Conservation Board Governor Appointee