



Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable

February 15th, 2014 Meeting
Denver, Colorado

A meeting of the Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable took place on February 15, 2014 in Denver. Fifteen Roundtable members were in attendance. Several Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff also attended the meeting (see Attachment 1 for details). This document summarizes the group's discussion and outlines next steps.

CPW UPDATES

The draft **SCORP** report is out. This report provides a mechanism to seek needed funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It covers outdoor recreation as a whole, presenting trends, economic impacts, priority areas, goals, objectives, and supporting actions. The SCORP can be found online. Public comment period ended the day before but members could have through the following weekend to send comments to Brian Kurzel at CPW.

Mule Deer strategy stakeholder process is underway. The scope of work has been completed and a request for bids was posted for an external facilitator to host 7 meetings across the state and a hold a statewide summit. Public meeting input will be combined with Sportsmen's Roundtable comments to inform actionable items and strategy. The strategy will need approval from CPW leadership and the Director and then lastly, the Commission.

Sage-grouse - Two species are proposed for listing (Gunnison Sage-Grouse decision due May 12, 2014; Greater Sage -Grouse decision due Sept 2015). For Greater Sage Grouse, BLM/USFS in western states are updating resource mgmt plans by this fall to help USFWS inform listing decisions. The Lesser prairie chicken listing decision should come within the next month. Listed species are prohibited from hunting under the ESA (except by regulation or permit issued for specific purposes consistent with the ESA), but the decision should not impact big game hunting access in their habitat areas. The decision does raise question about the effects to budgets. Listing might impact rate of funding (more or less) and development of public/private partnerships (everything is still on the table at this point – waiting for USFWS decision).

Sportsman's License Plate Tag – Legislation passed in 2012 calling for creation of a plate for wildlife sporting to generate funds supporting Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Funding will support shooting ranges and fishing opportunities. Discussion and comments provided CPW with direction on how the plate should look. This feedback will be passed on to the CPW Leadership Team and will inform the development of design options that will be released in a public poll.

UPDATES FROM ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

NW Region – held an outreach session with good participation from sportsmen. It was a 2-hr session about big game, fishing licenses, etc. Intend to have more meetings around the region.

NE region – held first regional meeting with a presentation from a fishing guide. Second meeting will be at Bass Pro Shop with a turkey presentation. Intend to keep moving meetings around in the future, with an effort to not overlap with BGSS meetings. The first meeting was promoted well. Working to make sure people want to come by getting good speakers. Using this forum to build recognition for the Roundtable.

SW region - appointing new members to represent different groups/diverse interests. Kirstie Pike has been appointed to represent women/youth.

Request for a region by region update on game herd situations regarding current conditions. CPW can email to group about current winter conditions.

Suggestion to use local sporting goods stores and local businesses to help with promotion; CPW marketing staff, Debbie Lininger, can help. Public-private partnerships can also be valuable and CPW may be able to help with this depending on staff availability and request.

PRESENTATIONS

Big Game Season Structure Update – CPW staff Craig McLaughlin gave an overview of the process and shared the power point presentation that is being shown at 16 public meetings around the state. Craig emphasized the focus on public involvement activities and encouraged members to inform others about BGSS and opportunities to get involved. Discussion followed about preference points and the possibility that changes could occur to this system, including revisiting banking. Members identified pros and cons of reestablishing banking and recognized that while the program has some benefits, it may result in unintended consequences.

Landowner Voucher – CPW staff Steve Znamenacek gave an overview and history of the landowner voucher program. Following the recommendations of the program committee, CPW is implementing several changes to the program that address applications and licensing, enforcement, information and education. Concerning regulatory changes, an issue paper will be out in March, a draft in April or May, and new regulations will be implemented in July.

Discussion:

- Questions arose about the cost of implementation and the concern over benefits to private landowners at sportsmen's expense. Costs associated with database/auditing and enforcement will fall in line with current staff responsibilities. There could be potential new costs with info/data collection. Full implementation is not until 2015-2016 and CPW is trying to use existing processes for data collection as much as possible. Members are interested in learning more about the costs associated with this program as it gets implemented and CPW is in a better position to understand and track these.

- With the new allocation, CPW believes land owners will be less likely to close their land to wildlife because they will be able to offset some of the cost of having wildlife on their property.
- Buying a voucher is very confusing for non-residents.
- Brokering/third party is going to be illegal. Anyone knowingly involved with purchasing/selling brokered vouchers can be disqualified. Communication and information sharing is essential. CPW is redoing website to help with communicating information/updates.

Game Damage – CPW Staff Mark Caddy gave an overview of the game damage program and issues and addressed questions that were emailed to him by Roundtable members. Legal basis for game damage program (statute/regulations) sets direction for CPW and defines landowner requirements. Mark explained the steps for responding to game damage claims as well as the division’s prevention programs. This program coordinates with the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP).

Discussion:

- Since this program is in statute, sportsmen (collectively) who are concerned about game damage policies need to present concerns to the legislature. In the past, these statutes have passed quickly with little public engagement.
- Members inquired about insurance program alternatives and identified positive and/or negative outcomes.
- In general, this program aims to improve hunting and increase populations by compensating landowners who support wildlife. In addition, it supports the management of species, such as bear. It is valuable for sportsmen to be educated and engaged on this issue. Members would like CPW to monitor the fairness of the program and continue to watch the trends in claims and minimize the expense to the division.

Revenue Concepts – CPW staff Brian Kurzel gave an overview of internal revenue discussions and revenue generating concepts. He presented a list of ideas, many of which were developed from this group. CPW would like feedback. CPW is working toward long-term financial sustainability looking at cuts as well as revenue generation. A Financial Sustainability Committee is helping to guide this process. So far 7 items have been approved by the Commission (5 wildlife, 2 parks) and 2 items have been implemented – nonresident big game/fishing combo license, pay to play fee increased across the board. CPW is currently working on the sportsmen’s license plate, hunting/fishing refund/reissue policies, and special activity fees for parks. Wildlife legislative concepts need to be well-defined by May 2014 if CPW was to pursue them in 2015. Some ideas being looked at are a senior fishing license, increasing resident fees, and increasing limited license application fees.

Discussion:

- Suggestion to work with CO Wildlife Heritage Foundation whose primary mission is to provide funding for non-game species in state. CPW is talking to them about hatchery projects now and will explore opportunities with them. Other relationships/partnerships with non-profit orgs could help.

- Some additional revenue ideas mentioned: Expanding Governor's tags, Super raffles, increasing GOCO portion, Reinstate senior fishing license, voluntary, fund-a-cause for kids fishing program, an endowment, waterfowl hunting stamp.
- Members emphasized engaging with non-consumptive community to jointly solve the revenue problem. The Roundtable could play a key role in moving a joint dialogue. Possible partners include environmentalists, Audubon Society, CO Mtn Club, the Nature Conservancy and outdoor recreation industry. Extractive industries also have a vested interest in conservation of wildlife. Further discussion is needed to explore ways to make this happen. As a statewide entity, the Roundtable is positioned to provide a key voice. Should look to Wyoming and other states to see what's working/not working. Will be looking at revenue ideas to identify where there is consensus/strong support.
- Preventing further budget cuts is also important. Current budget cuts are not sitting well with legislators (e.g., Fishing is Fun program – might have to be reinstated, which would mean money cut from elsewhere). It is helpful for Roundtable members to connect with legislators, educate them and build relationships. The Sportsmen's caucus is another way to participate. North American conservation sportsmen's gathering is in Denver and will be well-attended by NGOs and state directors. Organizations who contribute receive sponsor status. CPW and others are considering sponsoring the event.

Next Steps: CPW will follow-up with the Roundtable in regard to revenue items. Careful consideration will go into which ideas have strong support and how best to move these ideas forward successfully. If sportsmen are organizing around any legislation, please let CPW staff know.

HPP Programs – update by member Mick Davis. Up to 5% licenses fees are awarded on a game mgt. unit. HPP has generated \$94 million worth of projects. There is concern that this program revenue will decrease. Projects are being done by lots of entities – federal, local, state, NGO and private efforts. GOCO is a huge partner. If there is a habitat project that needs to get done, consider approaching the HPP committee in that area for support. There is a lot of money spent on habitat. It is also important to educate the public about this projects and these opportunities to get funding for projects. – Future presentation idea for the Roundtable.

Trails Grant Review for Wildlife Impacts – Tim Brass – postponed for later due to lack of time.

General Update on Wildlife Habitat Legislation – Ty Churchill – agrees to postpone this item since we are running short on time.

PROCEDURES

Roundtable email list. Messages sent to the DNR_CPW_Roundtable email list currently go just to Jody and then she approves them before they go to the whole group. If a message appears to be just for staff, Jody will not forward it. Everything else she will pass on. If you want to be sure that your email goes to the whole group, please specify in your email.

Roundtable Charter - procedures and Meeting Schedule/ charter. Going to switch from one or two year terms to two or three year terms. CPW staff will update the charter and send to members. CPW staff will also need to randomly select which members will have two vs. three year terms, but will preserve regional representation. Regional caucuses – Roundtable is statewide and regional. Caucus meetings are being held and planned for the regions.

NEXT STEPS

Future meetings – The Roundtable will meet again on a Saturday in August 2014. Jody will send a poll with dates for the August in-person meeting. Conference call meetings will now be every 6 to 8 weeks for 1.5 hours. Recommendation was made to move these to Wednesday and Jody will look into this.

CPW staff will follow-up with members in regard to the revenue concepts.

Attachment 1: Attendees at February 15th, 2014 Sportsmen’s Roundtable Meeting

Roundtable Member	Residence
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Tim Brass	Windsor
Tom Brown	Golden
Ty Churchwell	Durango
John Thatcher	Pueblo
Brad Patch	Salida
Kent Ingram	Littleton
Bob Hix	Aurora
Terry Meyers	Grand Junction
Jim Spehar	Pueblo
Mikk Anderson	Aurora
Mike Rivera	La Jara
Kristin Nestor (phone)	Silt
Mick Davis	Alamosa
Rob Winn	Rifle
CPW Commissioner	
Gaspar Perricone	Sportspersons Representative
CPW Staff	
Bob Brochied	Director
Dan Prenzlow	Regional Manager – SE
Brian Kurzel	Policy and Planning Supervisor
Chad Bishop	Assistant Director – Wildlife, Natural Resources
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assistant Director – Research, Policy, and Planning
Mark Caddy	Norwood District Wildlife Manager
Patt Dorsey	Assistant Regional Manager – NW
Ron Velarde	Area Wildlife Manager
Steve Yamashita	Regional Manager - NE
Greg Gerlich	Manager - Aquatic
Steve Znamenacek	District Wildlife Manager
Craig McLaughlin	Manager - Terrestrial
Dean Riggs	Deputy Regional Manager
Jennifer Matthies	Temporary
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Specialist