



## Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable

April 2013 Meeting  
Silverthorne, Colorado

The first meeting of the Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable took place on April 6, 2013, in Silverthorne. Twenty-three Roundtable members were in attendance, including fifteen individuals selected through a statewide application and eight individuals selected at regional caucus meetings. Three Parks and Wildlife Commissioners and several Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff also attended the meeting. This document summarizes the group's discussion and outlines next steps.

### Goals

The group began with a discussion about overall goals for the Sportsmen's Roundtable:

- *Improved communication.* The Roundtable can provide a venue for CPW and sportsmen to talk about important issues. Having open discussions in the early stages of decision-making can help identify shared priorities and cultivate agreement. Early engagement can build understanding before controversies erupt.
- *Information-sharing.* The Roundtable can provide a channel for CPW to provide data on wildlife issues and information about agency programs and activities. It can also provide a place for sportsmen to share information with CPW on their concerns and priorities. This mutual information exchange can provide a platform for informed discussion about appropriate actions to address important issues.
- *Coalition-building.* The Roundtable can provide a place for hunters and anglers to identify issues of common concern and work together. Over time, the group can also help educate other wildlife stakeholders about the concerns of Colorado's sportsmen.

### Operations

The Roundtable participants discussed several aspects of how the group could operate. Some highlights:

- *Focus on areas of agreement and respect disagreements.* There are many points of view in the hunting and angling community. The process should focus on issues where there is a high likelihood of potential agreement. The process should also respect areas of disagreement among participants and in the broader sportsmen's community.
- *Identify issues, gather data, and discuss strategies.* The Roundtable should take a thoughtful approach to issues that begins by looking at all the data and then considers

strategies. The group should strive to stay away from politics and personal opinion and focus on what the scientific data says about issues.

- *Outreach to other sportsmen.* The members of the Roundtable represent a variety of interests and are part of many different networks of other hunters and anglers. They should strive to get the word out through their involvement in organized groups and through outreach to rank-and-file sportsmen.
- *Consider proposals from participants.* The Roundtable can provide a venue for considering proposals and issues brought forward by individual participants.
- *Regional and statewide representation.* The group includes participants from all over Colorado. They were selected through different channels (regional meetings v. statewide application), but now everyone is a member of the same Roundtable. All members have equal standing to represent both statewide and regional interests of concern.
- *Rotating membership terms.* The Roundtable should be configured so that participants' terms overlap and the entire group does not turnover at once. This will help ensure continuity while also bringing new voices to the table. A future meeting should define the schedule for membership terms.
- *Youth participation.* Young people are underrepresented in most discussions of hunting, fishing, and conservation. The Roundtable should recruit youth representatives from each region to provide that perspective.
- *Nonresident participation.* Nonresidents are an important voice in the wildlife management discussion, and we should consider ways to represent them.

## Issues

The Roundtable discussed a variety of issues facing fish, wildlife, sportsmen, and CPW, both locally and statewide. The group settled on three main focus areas that capture the highest priority issues.

- *Recruitment and Retention.* Ensuring that Coloradans hunt and fish is important to keeping these traditions alive and maintaining support for wildlife management. This includes recruitment of new hunters and anglers, retention of existing hunters and anglers, enhancing access, and the protection of sportsmen's rights.
- *Habitat.* Healthy lands and waters are the foundation for fish and wildlife populations. Public lands and private lands are both important in Colorado. In addition to protecting habitat, there are many management needs that need to be considered. Finally, there is a real need to educate the general public about habitat issues.
- *Financial Sustainability.* Wildlife management depends on the funding provided by hunters and anglers through their licenses and equipment purchases. We need to continually

educate sportsmen and the public about this funding model, and we need to explore new sources of funding. Restraining costs is also an important part of financial sustainability.

### Next Steps

The Roundtable will meet again in August 2013. Thereafter, we will aim to meet every six months. In preparation for the next meeting, CPW staff will:

- Consolidate and confirm contact information for all participants.
- Develop an email list for Roundtable members to share information. (In addition, a subgroup of Roundtable volunteers will investigate options for using social media to communicate).
- Make arrangements for an August meeting in a central location.

**Attachment 1: Attendees at April 6, 2013 Sportsmen’s Roundtable Meeting**

<b>Roundtable Member</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Mikk Anderson	Aurora
Tim Brass	Boulder
Tom Brown	Golden
Ty Churchwell	Durango
Ray David	Montrose
Jason Eckman	Grand Junction
Hody Ewing	Arboles
Bob Hix	Aurora
Bruce Hutcheon	Colorado Springs
Kent Ingram	Littleton
Kenny Marcella	Grand Junction
Terry Meyers	Grand Junction
Catherine O’Grady	Pueblo
Dan Parkinson	Bayfield
Rod Patch	Salida
Mike Rivera	La Jara
Gregg Stults	Wray
John Thatcher	Pueblo
Jeff Travis	Wiley
Mick Davis	Alamosa
Jim Spehar	Grand Junction
Rob Winn	Rifle
<b>Parks and Wildlife Commissioners</b>	
John Singletary, Chair	Pueblo
Jeanne Horne	Meeker
James Pribyl	Boulder
<b>CPW Staff</b>	
Rick Cables	Director
Dan Prenzlow	Regional Manager – SE
Patt Dorsey	Regional Manager – SW
Ron Velarde	Regional Manager – NW
Kurt Mill	Regional Manager – NW
Kathi Green	Assistant Regional Manager – NE
Chad Bishop	Assistant Director – Wildlife, Natural Resources
Greg Gerlich	Aquatics Section Manager
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assistant Director – Research, Policy, and Planning
Craig McLaughlin	Terrestrial Section Manager
Dave Chadwick	Public Participation Specialist