



Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable

August 2013 Meeting
Buena Vista, Colorado

A meeting of the Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable took place on August 3, 2013, in Buena Vista. Twenty-three Roundtable members were in attendance. Several Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff also attended the meeting. This document summarizes the group's discussion and outlines next steps.

Updates from CPW

Director Cables has resigned and Regional Manager Steve Yamashita will serve as Acting Director while the agency conducts a nationwide search for a permanent replacement. The Regional Managers present also provided several updates on key developments around the state.

Updates from Roundtable Members and Issue Identification

Roundtable members raised a variety of issues that have been percolating in the sportsmen's community over the last several months. The following list includes issues raised in regional caucus meetings and in other forums:

- Need flexibility for youth licenses- esp. for youth fishing licenses (who may not have SSN readily available).
- Need flexibility for short-term military licenses
- Right-to-hunt legislation
- Accessibility of Parks and Wildlife Commission Meetings (timing & locations)
- Preference point (a.k.a. pay to play) fees
- Shed antler hunting
- Lion populations and management
- Leftover licenses
- Use of auction/raffle licenses
- Landowner vouchers
- Need for CPW to have General Funds
- Time to consider alternative sources of funding
- Preference point bonus for seniors
- Reimbursement rates for license agents
- Big Game Access Program
- Mentored hunting – waiver of hunter education requirements
- Water management/drought
- Archery ranges
- Moose – human conflict
- Point restrictions for bucks
- Bear licenses
- Shooting ranges on public land

Issue Discussion

Following the open identification of issues, the group discussed three issue areas in greater depth.

Auction/Raffle Licenses: The group discussed some concerns with the use of licenses awarded through Auction and raffle programs. The open time window and statewide validity of these licenses can result in hunting that is effectively out of season in certain units. There have also been issues raised with respect to the hunting and spotting practices used by hunters on auction/raffle licenses, such as finder's fees for large bucks. Some also oppose the underlying concept of selling hunting privileges.

- CPW is considering an issue paper to start formal discussion of the issue with the Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- The Roundtable participants would like to plan a longer discussion at a future meeting and investigate potential changes to the program.

Preference Points: The preference point system has been controversial for many years. Many hunters face the problem of point creep in which their desired hunts always remain a few points out of reach. In 2009, the Commission adopted regulations to create a hybrid draw system to allow some hunters a random chance at premier hunts, but otherwise the system has not been substantially modified in years.

- The group would like to see a future meeting include a discussion focused on preference points, with additional data provided ahead of time by CPW.

Youth Engagement: The group discussed several ideas for facilitating greater participation by young people in hunting and fishing.

- Discounted licenses for nonresident youth.
- Using some kind of prepaid vouchers to provide licenses to youth without requiring full registration in the licensing system (data collection, etc).
- Mentored hunting (waiving hunter education requirements for youth accompanied by licensed adults).
- A fishing mentor stamp that anglers could purchase for a small additional fee to allow them to take unlicensed youth fishing.
- Making the age limit for "youth" consistent across licenses.

Financial Sustainability

The group reviewed information from CPW on the agency's current financial situation, including revenue projections for the next five years. CPW staff also provided an update on the process currently underway to identify immediate budget cuts.

The group brainstormed a variety of additional sources of revenue for CPW:

- Bike registration
- Nongame tax check off
- General fund
- Resident Fee increase

- CPI increase for resident licenses
- Increase the big game application fee (currently \$3)
- End free/ discounted licenses (e.g., seniors)
- End paper applications (and/or charge more for paper)
- Increase preference-point-only fee (a.k.a. pay-to-play fee, currently \$25)
- Increased fines for hunting law violators
- Professional/celebrity support and promotion for hunting and fishing
- Change Commission's policy on resident:nonresident drawing allocation
- Allow people to purchase preference points
- Auction preference points
- End limitations on the allocation of licenses for nonresidents
- Reduce expenses
- Recruitment incentive

For future funding discussions, the Roundtable would like to see more detailed information on license revenues and on proposals for increasing revenue.

Next Steps

The Roundtable will meet again on a Saturday in February 2014. In preparation for the next meeting, CPW staff will:

- Send out an online poll to identify a meeting date that works for the most Roundtable members.
- Circulate a summary of this meeting and post the meeting summary on the web.
- Plan regional caucus meetings in each region.
- Plan a regular monthly conference call with the Director between now and the end of the year.

Attachment 1: Attendees at August 3, 2013 Sportsmen's Roundtable Meeting

Roundtable Member	Residence
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Tim Brass	Boulder
Tom Brown	Golden
Ty Churchwell	Durango
Jason Eckman	Grand Junction
Hody Ewing	Arboles
Kent Ingram	Littleton
Kenny Marcella	Grand Junction
Terry Meyers	Grand Junction
Catherine O'Grady	Pueblo
Dan Parkinson	Bayfield
Mike Rivera	La Jara
Kristin Nestor	Silt
Mick Davis	Alamosa
Rob Winn	Rifle
CPW Staff	
Steve Yamashita	Acting Director
Dan Prenzlow	Regional Manager – SE
Kathi Green	Assistant Regional Manager – NE
Chad Bishop	Assistant Director – Wildlife, Natural Resources
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assistant Director – Research, Policy, and Planning
Aaron Fero	Manager, Rifle Gap State Park
Dean Riggs	Assistant Regional Manager – NW
Rick Basagoitia	Area Wildlife Manager
Dave Chadwick	Public Participation Specialist