

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 12/08/2021

ISSUE:	Should regulations be adopted for the new SKCK Fishing Access Easement?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The SKCK on the Yampa River was submitted during the 2019 RFP application process by Yampa Valley Land Trust, now Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust. The SKCK Ranch comprises approximately 518 acres of land located in Routt County approximately one half mile north of the town of Phippsburg to the east of Hwy 131. The Ranch contains approximately 2.4 miles of the Yampa River corridor including both sides of the river. Riparian habitats are the most bio-diverse habitats in Colorado, connecting food webs from within the stream channel to the surrounding land including invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds, and so on. The Ranch is home to big game animals such as deer and elk and other federally protected migratory birds. This Ranch is adjacent to several other properties that currently have conservation easements and the addition of the SKCK property means a near complete protection of this river from Stagecoach Reservoir upstream to the town of Phippsburg. This property will provide seasonal public fishing access on the Yampa River from an eight-vehicle access point off County Road 12. CPW will manage the property as a State Wildlife Area (SWA) for the protection of the habitat and wildlife resources, public use, and continued agricultural practices.</p> <p>Adjacent property owners have raised concerns about trespassing. CPW has committed to placing signage at the Ryan Carter/Gregory properties that comprise the gap in access to the river between the two stretches of SKCK property. Signs will also be placed on the south side of County Road 12 to reduce the chance of trespass fishing onto the property owner to the south. CPW will also sign the county road to indicate that parking is not allowed along the county road.</p> <p>CPW’s access corridor conforms to the riparian edge, with a minimum in places of 100 feet. Anglers must stay within this area and a map will be provided at the parking lot to ensure compliance. The parking area will be directly next to the access corridor allowing anglers to access this corridor directly from the parking lot.</p> <p>The following regulations were created during negotiations with the landowner to minimize impacts to agricultural production and to minimize conflict with public access to an otherwise private property.</p>	
WHO ARE THE EXTERNAL PUBLICS IMPACTED BY THIS ISSUE? WHAT PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED, IF ANY? *IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.	
<p>1) Public anglers 3) Adjacent landowners. County Commissioners held a public meeting about the property and heard concerns about the possibility of trespassing. 4) The SKCK ranch.</p> <p>Internal parties are Area 10 DWM’s, biologists, and staff.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: Should the new W9 regulations be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public access is prohibited from December 1 through March 31. b. Camping is prohibited. c. Public access is prohibited from sunset to sunrise daily. d. Fires are prohibited. e. Dogs are prohibited. f. Vehicle access is prohibited beyond the parking area. g. Hunting and discharge of firearms is prohibited. h. Walk-in public fishing access is allowed only from designated parking areas and is prohibited beyond the riparian area as indicated on the sign at the parking lot. 	
Issue Raised by:	Area 10 Staff
Author of the issue paper	Adam Gerstenberger

(if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Kris Middledorf, Area 10 AWM Josh Dilley, Area 10 AAWM Tyler Jacox, Area 10 Technician Libbie Miller, Area 10 Biologist Bill Atkinson, Area 10 Aquatic Biologist Kevin Rogers, Aquatic Researcher Lori Martin, Aquatic Biologist NW region JT Romatzke, NW Regional Manager
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	NW Region
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	NW Region
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 12/08/2021

ISSUE: Should there be a regulation change for the Big Springs, Brett Gray Ranch, Karval and Punkin Center State Trust Lands (STL) to prevent overcrowding and provide consistent regulations for all State Trust Lands in close proximity to each other?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

The Big Springs (8,530 acres), Punkin Center (5,431 acres), Karval (647 acres), Brett Gray Ranch (49,501 acres) and Turkey Track Ranch (8,887 acres) are State Trust Land (STL) parcels leased under the Public Access Program (PAP) by Colorado Parks and Wildlife for big game and small game hunting. They are currently open for hunting from September 1 (August 15th for Turkey Track Ranch STL) through the end of February. These STLs are located in El Paso and Lincoln counties near the population centers along the Front Range.

The 2021 hunting season is the inaugural year for all of the properties except the Brett Gray Ranch and Turkey Track Ranch STLs and wildlife officers received reports of hunters parking along the roadside and accessing the property by hopping fences instead of designated parking areas and fence stiles installed by CPW. The locations of the designated access points were agreed on by CPW, the State Land Board, and the agricultural lessees of the properties. The designated parking areas also help manage the numbers of hunters on the property at a given time by limiting the number of vehicles that can park within each parking area. This helps address overcrowding which can lead to safety issues when too many hunters are on one property accessing from multiple directions. Limited parking has been proven to be effective at managing this type of issue at the Turkey Track Ranch STL in which this type of parking and access system was introduced in 2019.

The proposed regulation change is to provide consistency for all State Trust Lands in El Paso and Lincoln Counties so hunters know what to expect when using any of the properties in those counties. These regulations will be consistent with the Brett Gray Ranch State Trust Land, which had problems associated with fence damage, safety concerns, and overcrowding in certain areas of the property during its first two years of being open for public hunting access. Since the addition of the Brett Gray STL property specific regulations in 2020, District Wildlife Managers have noticed fewer violations and issues on the property, which gives them more time to spread out to other areas of their districts that have privately owned land.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

- 1) State Land Board: Previous comments on the Brett Gray Ranch STL and they are in favor of the proposed changes.
- 2) Agriculture Lessees: Previous conversations on the placement of the designated parking areas.
- 3) Hunters on the Brett Gray STL contacted in the 2019 and 2020 season: We listened to their frustrations and concerns and proposed solutions. The hunters were very receptive to the solutions that were given.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. *Preferred Alternative*:

Add Big Springs- El Paso County to regulation #903(A) with the property specific regulations of:

- a. Access is prohibited except by foot from designated parking areas only.
- b. Parking is prohibited except in designated areas.
- c. Camping is prohibited.
- d. Overnight parking is prohibited.

Add Karval- Lincoln County to regulation #903(A) with the property specific regulations of:

- a. Access is prohibited except by foot from designated parking areas only.
- b. Parking is prohibited except in designated areas.
- c. Camping is prohibited.
- d. Overnight parking is prohibited.

Add Punkin Center- Lincoln County to regulation #903(A) with the property specific regulations of:

- a. Access is prohibited except by foot from designated parking areas only.
- b. Parking is prohibited except in designated areas.
- c. Camping is prohibited.
- d. Overnight parking is prohibited.

Edit 2 CCR 406# 903(A)(22) to read:
 Brett Gray Ranch- Lincoln County

- a. Access is prohibited except by foot from designated parking areas only.
- b. Parking is prohibited except in designated areas.
- c. Camping is prohibited.
- d. Overnight parking is prohibited.

2. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Sarah Watson (DWM) and Ethan Pruitt (DWM)	
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Cody Wigner (AWM)	
CC:		
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brett Ackerman	
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	SE Region	
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 12/08/2021

ISSUE:	Should Fish Creek State Wildlife Area have a seasonal closure from December 1st to June 30th annually?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>Fish Creek State Wildlife Area (SWA) is a 314-acre property located in Dolores County approximately 23 miles northeast of Dolores, Colorado. Fish Creek SWA and the surrounding landscape, mostly San Juan National Forest lands, provide valuable habitat for elk and mule deer, as well as many other species. Notably, Fish Creek SWA provides important habitat for wintering elk and for elk calf production. Access to surrounding National Forest lands is by foot and horseback only.</p> <p>Public access to Fish Creek SWA is provided by Dolores County Road 44, which is open to the public year round. However, due to heavy snow during the winter months, the County plows to and creates a snow berm at the entrance of Fish Creek SWA where access until spring thaw is very minimal. Although the property provides fishing access to Fish Creek, spring runoff precludes fishing generally until mid to late June.</p> <p>Use of Fish Creek SWA during the winter and spring by the public can have negative impacts to wildlife that depend on the habitat. Recently, calf/cow ratios in this area have been very low and wildlife managers are implementing management techniques to try to improve calf numbers to help this elk herd. Restricting human disturbance to winter range and elk calving areas will help with the management objective to increase elk numbers, something that the public has recently expressed support for. CPW wildlife managers are also working with other land management agencies to implement similar timing closures to trails in the area to minimize impacts that human recreation can have on elk during critical time periods.</p> <p>We propose a closure to Fish Creek State Wildlife Area from January 1st through June 30th annually to protect calving and winter range habitat for elk.</p>	
STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:	
IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.	
Anglers Hunters (Lion/Spring Turkey) Hikers/Horseback recreation	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. *Preferred Alternative*: Close Fish Creek State Wildlife Area to public access from December 1st through June 30th annually to protect elk winter range and elk production areas. 2. Status quo, no seasonal closure of Fish Creek State Wildlife Area. 	
Issue Raised by:	DWM Matt Sturdevant, DWM Andy Brown, WT Ryan Lane, AAWM Steve McClung, Terrestrial Biologist Brad Weinmeister
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	AWM Adrian Archuleta, RM Cory Chick
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	SW / Area 15
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO