



Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable
August 6, 2016
Poncha Springs, Colorado

SUMMARY

An in-person meeting with the Sportsmen's Roundtable took place on August 6, 2016 in Poncha Springs, Colorado. Nineteen Roundtable members and ten CPW staff participated in this meeting (see attachment 1). This document summarizes the group's discussion.

Director Broscheid welcomed everyone to the meeting. All members introduced themselves, including six new members—three appointed by CPW staff as statewide members and three elected by their regional caucuses. Director Broscheid provided a brief summary of the purpose of the Roundtable, which includes providing a forum for exchanging information between sportsmen and CPW and sharing diverse perspectives on statewide issues.

Financial Sustainability

As Director Broscheid explained, CPW has been reaching out to sportsmen this summer, holding meetings across the state, to educate them about future revenue projections and get input on a potential proposal to raise resident hunting and fishing license fees. Without new revenues, CPW will have to cut programs. CPW does not have the authority to raise fees. The state legislature has this authority and must pass a bill.

Jody Kennedy, Public Involvement Specialist, provided an overview of CPW's outreach efforts. In addition to the public meetings, there is a [public comment form](#) that has been shared at meetings and is available on CPW's website. Similar questions were posed in a survey that CPW sent to a list of 3000 licensed resident hunters/anglers who were selected randomly. The results of this survey are intended to inform CPW about which messages are more compelling to sportsmen and to gauge general support for a license fee increase. In general, CPW has found that the more informed sportsmen are about the financial situation, the more likely they are to support a license fee increase.

In July, CPW held a meeting in Breckenridge with an invited list of sportsmen that included Roundtable members. At this meeting, participants discussed a calculator tool created by CPW to allow sportsmen to adjust the prices of particular license types and see the change in revenue generated. Everyone is invited to play with the calculator and share recommended price changes with CPW. To do this, make adjustments in the calculator spreadsheet, save it as a PDF and email it to jody.kennedy@state.co.us.

Roundtable members have participated in almost every outreach meeting. As informed sportsmen, Roundtable members are important spokespersons and educators of other sportsmen. Several Roundtable members touched on ways that they are reaching out to other

sportsmen to raise awareness about CPW's funding challenges, including presenting and sharing information at organizational meetings and events. CPW has outreach and educational materials available on the [website](#) and upon request. The schedule for outreach meetings is on CPW's "[Funding the Future](#)" webpage. Roundtable members encouraged each other to learn some of the key messages/talking points, to attend upcoming meetings, and to share the schedule with anyone who may be interested.

Members discussed opportunities to support outreach through Facebook and other social media as well as print media. CPW was encouraged to draft a story that might be more attractive to media and public.

Roundtable Caucus Updates & Discussion

Caucus meetings

The NW region held a Sportsmen's Caucus meeting in conjunction with the financial outreach meeting. Participants were interested in bear issues, including conflicts with bears, the loss of the spring bear hunt and in obtaining state General Fund dollars to support bear management. Sportsmen also raised the issue of preference point creep and the challenges with never being able to obtain enough points for some of the most sought after units.

The SE region also held a Caucus meeting in conjunction with a financial outreach meeting. Participants discussed the process for selecting delegates and their role. Sportsmen also addressed information sharing and wondered what happened to the regular updates that DOW used to print in the Colorado Springs newspaper.

The NE region had a Caucus meeting. Attendance was low. The meeting was held at Colorado Youth Outdoors, which has a great facility and a strong organization designed to get kids outdoors. The meeting included engaging presentations and discussion about elk populations that are too large in the Boulder area. Sportsmen pay for the game damage there, but hunting is not allowed.

Discussion

Members revisited how best to educate communities about the funding situation. One member suggested that financial information be provided in the big game brochure as a good opportunity to reach a lot of sportsmen. Members asked how many brochures CPW prints annually. CPW prints 630,000 big game; 323,000 fishing; and 143,000 small game brochures plus another 540,000 brochures for other species and activities. Adding language to these documents is expensive and must be considered in conjunction with the critical regulations information that needs to be printed.

Members highlighted interest in public access and creating a working group. Director Broscheid recommended waiting until the legislature addresses fee increases and once that is resolved, CPW can tackle access with a working group that has broad representation from across the state. A question was raised about conducting a cost-benefit analysis of areas

where access is limited and the tags do not sell as a result. The need for the legislature to approve habitat projects funded with habitat stamp dollars was raised as an access challenge.

Members inquired about seeking foundation dollars and collecting donations to support habitat projects and other work. Wyoming is an example of where this is done. CPW has this authority and the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation is working to better establish itself to play a larger role in this effort.

CPW Updates

Colorado the Beautiful

Margaret Taylor, Assistant Director of Capital, Parks, and Trails, presented the Governor's Colorado the Beautiful initiative. Governor Hickenlooper wants everyone in Colorado to have easy access to trails. There are three overarching components to this initiative. First, "16 in 2016" focuses on elevating the discussion around trails and identifying 16 priority projects for connecting trails and expanding networks. As a leader on funding trails, CPW is working to advance conservation and coordination with wildlife managers through this process. For the second component, CPW is putting together an interactive map of recreation trails, the first statewide, centralized clearinghouse of Colorado trail maps to help people plan their trips. The third component is updating the [statewide trails strategic plan](#), which sets the values and goals for expanding and maintaining trails across the state. The strategic plan was developed with extensive public input, including focus groups and public meetings across the state, seeking feedback from diverse interest groups, including sportsmen.

The CPW trails program is funded through motorized registration fees that pay for multiple use trails, GOCO and federal (LWCF) funds. Non-motorized users do not have a way to pay into this system. This is also true for search and rescue. Sportsmen pay for search and rescue through licenses, but the majority of people who use the service are not paying for it.

Members mentioned concerns about impacts of trails on wildlife. The number of trail users is increasing, along with the number of uses and user desire to have trails designated for specific uses. CPW trails program has a trails crew and provides grants to federal managers to maintain trails, enforce trail rules, promote stewardship and conduct education. A member suggested an online course for mountain bikers, especially targeted at youth, with a strong education and stewardship component.

Gold King Mine

Matt Thorpe, Area Wildlife Manager, provided a presentation and update on the Gold King Mine spill that happened one year ago. Since the spill, CPW has been conducting extensive monitoring of fish in the Animas River. After testing fish both upstream and down, CPW has not found a discernible difference in the health of fish populations as a result of the spill.

When compared to historic numbers of fish populations in the Animas, numbers are lower now than they were a long time ago. There are 400 abandoned mines in the San Juan Mountains

that contribute to the contamination of waters in the drainage area. Considering this larger context, the Gold King Spill itself did not have a significant impact.

A positive outcome has come from the spill in that the federal government and communities came together and committed to addressing the larger problem of mine contamination. The federal government is now bringing new expertise and funding to improve water quality.

Conservation Reserve Program

Mark Leslie, NE Regional Manager, spoke about the Conservation Reserve Program, a federal program that pays a yearly rental payment to farmers in exchange for conserving habitat and other environmentally sensitive land from production. Funding for Colorado projects under this program, which is administered by the USDA, is diminishing. CPW is exploring other options to work with agricultural partners and conserve habitat.

Shooting Sports

Mark Leslie also spoke about access for recreational shooting sports along the Front Range. The U.S. Forest Service is proposing to close 20-30 percent of forested public lands to dispersed shooting. CPW is collaborating with federal land managers to help them identify areas that can be closed to shooting while also leaving large areas open, developing an alternative proposal for the Forest Service's consideration. In addition, CPW wants to identify funding sources and partners to support new areas for recreational shooting. Forests across the state are facing this problem and they lack adequate personnel for enforcement and management.

Outdoor Expo

Director Broscheid announced that September 22-24, 2017, CPW will hold an Outdoor Expo at Cherry Creek State Park. We expect several thousand new people to learn about CPW and our mission through this event. The Expo will include a youth day and coincide with national hunting and fishing day. Please look for notices and opportunities to support this event. In addition, CPW will be looking for sponsorships at all levels.

WAFWA Conference

Director Broscheid is the 2016-2017 chair of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and CPW will host WAFWA's annual conference on July 6-11, 2017 in Vail. This event draws a national audience and is another good opportunity for partners to help and gain recognition through sponsorships, participation, and hosting social events.

On the topic of conferences, it was recommended that the annual CPW Partners in the Outdoors Conference include more programming that would attract sportsmen participation.

Predator Management Plans

Jeff Ver Steeg, Assistant Director of Research, Policy and Planning, announced upcoming meetings where CPW will present predator management plans to address mule deer declines in Colorado. One meeting will take place in Salida on Monday, August 15th, where CPW will

present a research project to monitor the effect of mountain lion populations on mule deer fawn survival. The other meeting will be at the Garfield County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, August 16th where CPW will present a research project to monitor the effect of bear population control on fawn survival on the Roan Plateau. A public meeting on both projects will take place at CPW's north Denver office on September 19th.

Legislative Updates

There was not time to discuss legislative updates. CPW will include this on the agenda for a future conference call.

Future Meetings

There will be a special in-person meeting this fall to discuss financial sustainability. All members will be invited and participation will be voluntary. A Roundtable conference call will also take place this fall. Look for details over email. The next regular in-person Roundtable meeting will take place early in 2017.

Attachment 1: Attendees, August 6, 2016 Sportsmen's Roundtable Meeting

Roundtable Member	Residence
Andy Trehorn	Louisville
Bear Miller	Littleton
Cody DeGuelle	Black Hawk
Dan Gates	Canon City
Dan Schwartz	Meeker
Dave Roudebush	SE
Jason Eckman	Grand Junction
Jennifer Gluck	LaSalle
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Kirsten Miller	Hayden
Mick Davis	Alamosa
Kent Ingram	Littleton
Tim Brass	Windsor
Steve Hilde	Loveland
Marty Holmes	Westcliffe
Roger Tucker	Colorado Springs
Ron Goodrich	Pueblo
Terry Meyers	Grand Junction
Willie Kalaskie	Colorado Springs
CPW Staff	Title
Bob Broscheid	Director
Dean Riggs	Deputy Regional Manager, NW Region
Margaret Taylor	Assistant Director, Capital, Parks, and Trails
Brett Ackerman	Deputy Regional Manager, SE Region
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assistant Director, Research, Policy, and Planning
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Planning Specialist
Matt Thorpe	Area Wildlife Manager, SW Region
Mark Leslie	Regional Manager, NE Region
Gary Thorson	Assistant Director, Information and Education
Katie Lanter	Policy and Planning Supervisor