



## Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable

August 17, 2019

Buena Vista Community Center

Buena Vista, Colorado

### SUMMARY

The Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable met on August 17, 2019 in Buena Vista, Colorado. Participants included fifteen Roundtable members, twelve CPW staff, and the DNR Deputy Director (see Attachment 1). This document summarizes the group's discussion.

#### Outcomes

- CPW will revise the Roundtable charter to require membership participation at meetings and/other Roundtable activities.
- The next Roundtable agenda will include the topic of increasing outdoor recreation pressures on wildlife habitat.
- The Roundtable set dates for the 2020 in-person meetings for February 29 and August 15.

#### Director's Welcome & Updates

CPW Director Dan Prenzlou welcomed the Roundtable members and provided updates on Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and the Governor's Wildly Important Goal (WIG) for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to increase public access for recreation, hunting and fishing.

Congress introduced RAWA in July with broad bipartisan support. If passed, the bill would allocate \$1.3 billion of existing federal revenue to implement State Wildlife Action Plans. At the time of this meeting, none of the Colorado delegation had signed on in support of this legislation. (See attachment for more information.)

Increasing public access is one of the Governor's top priorities for CPW. CPW just secured public access to over 75,000 new acres of State Trust Lands. Another 25,000 acres are expected to be added to the Public Access Program this fiscal year and 200,000 acres in both FY 21 and FY 22, for a combined addition of 500,000 acres over three years. Maps and property [details](#) are available on the CPW website.

The week following this meeting, the Governor will hold a signing ceremony for a wildlife corridor Executive Order. Roundtable members were invited to attend.

DNR Deputy Director Tim Mauck announced that Doug Vilsack's position with DNR is now Assistant Director for Parks, Wildlife and Lands. DNR is hiring a legislative liaison and a policy analyst.

## **Roundtable Background & Origins**

Jody Kennedy provided a brief overview of the origins of the Sportsperson's Roundtable. Historically the Sportsmen's Advisory Group, the Roundtable reformed in 2013. As stated in the charter, the Roundtable provides a forum for sharing information between sportspersons and CPW to improve communications, share diverse perspectives and discuss issues of interest. At inception, Roundtable members identified three core priority areas of focus: recruitment & retention, habitat, and financial sustainability

The Roundtable serves many important functions. Accomplishments include informing Big Game Season Structures (BGSS), supporting efforts to get youth outdoors, increasing sportsperson participation in the Partners in the Outdoors Conference, engaging in development of the mule deer strategy, and supporting funding for habitat restoration and conservation. The Roundtable's greatest accomplishment is the collaborative effort that helped secure passage of the Future Generations Act in 2018.

### **Discussion**

- Members highlighted numerous youth programs and conservation organizations. Many organizations, not represented on the Roundtable, have regular meetings/events and offer an opportunity for greater collaboration. Sharing Roundtable meeting notes with these groups is one way to start building a connection.
- Looking ahead, another Governor WIG is broader sustainable funding. The Roundtable can support this effort. Members discussed ways to improve procurement of private funds.
- Private funding was essential in supporting the Highway 9 wildlife-crossing project led by CPW. There is momentum to enhance wildlife migration corridors.
- There is opportunity for the Roundtable to engage more in the recruitment and retention of sportspersons.

## **Roundtable Charter**

Jody Kennedy gave an overview of updates CPW made to the Roundtable charter. CPW adjusted language regarding term limits to allow for the occasional use of 3-year terms in order to stagger terms and avoid complete turnover of members in one region at the same time. In addition, CPW changed the name from "Sportsmen's Roundtable" to "Sportsperson's Roundtable."

### **Discussion**

- Members proposed requiring members to attend meetings or participate and support the Roundtable outside of meetings.
- Members requested that CPW schedule meetings in advance.
- CPW will revise the Charter to reflect these suggestions.

## Regional Caucus Updates

The Southeast Regional Caucus met in Pueblo. The agenda included a welcome by the new Southeast Regional Manager Brett Ackerman and an overview of the Governor's WIGs. President of the Senate, Leroy Garcia, attended along with Rep. Valdez. Discussion topics included bobcats, BGSS, John Martin, urban deer, and other concerns about user conflicts and the need to educate people about being good stewards.

The Northeast Region held a meeting in Fort Collins. The agenda covered BGSS and engagement on season dates and timing for plains rifle deer. Attendees discussed ideas for improving meeting participation and CPW communications. The meeting received 6,500 views on Facebook live as of Aug 15.

The Northwest Region had a small meeting where they discussed the White River Travel Management Plan, shed antler hunting, BGSS, and the wolf sited in North Park.

The Southwest Region did not have a meeting. The new Southwest Regional Manager, Cory Chick, will follow up with the Southwest roundtable members to schedule something in the future.

## Discussion

- Suggestions for how to improve meeting attendance included having an activity and getting sponsors to provide food and drinks.
- Inquired about charging for recreation on State Wildlife Areas, which was tried before unsuccessfully. CPW is looking at options including restricting SWA access to only people with hunting and/or fishing licenses.

## Open Roundtable Discussion

- Increasing outdoor recreation is challenging for wildlife habit. A recent [5280 article](#) addressed some of these issues. Members see CPW as an important voice for addressing outdoor recreation pressures. A group in Gunnison convened to address these challenges in the region.
  - CPW will put this topic on the agenda for the next Roundtable meeting. Considerations include how to make outdoor recreation sustainable, how to pay for increasing amenities/infrastructure, balancing recruitment with capacity, planning, and education.
- Ducks Unlimited hosted a ladies waterfowl and shotgun event. Members discussed ideas for increasing participation, including allowing time to build contacts and interest.
- Ryan McSparran is taking over administration of the member's managed Google group email.

## Big Game Season Structure

Danielle Isenhardt, CPW License, Pass and Reservation Section Manager (previously Regulations Manager), provided a status update on the process to develop the 2020-2024 Big Game Season Structure (BGSS). Recommendations and decisions made at the July Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) are available in the [PWC materials](#).

At the time of this meeting, one issue still being considered was the dates for the plains rifle deer season. Danielle presented possible season date changes to the Roundtable members. Discussion addressed CWD, challenges with game damage, and timing with the corn harvest. In general, members discussed an interest in maintaining the current number of weekend days in the plains rifle deer-hunting season.

## CPW Staff Updates

- Policy. Assistant Director Jeff Ver Steeg summarized a potential bill in the 2020 session that would clean up language in Title 33. Proposed revisions would make the definition of “take” broader to include non-hunters, allow citations via certified mail, suspend hunting privileges for unpaid citations, address firearms carried on a snowmobile, and create “midrange” fines to better match the circumstances of an infraction.
- Furbearer licenses. Danielle Isenhardt updated members on dispatch, release, and furbearer licenses. The Parks and Wildlife Commission denied a citizen petition to ban bobcat hunting at the May meeting ([final decision](#)). CPW is looking at dispatch regulations. From a comparison with other states, CPW release regulations are among the most considerate of wildlife needs.
- Northeast. A new hunter reservation system is online with a new reservation system phone number for northern regions.
- Southeast. In addition to expanding lands available in the public access program, CPW is working toward the acquisition of the Fisher’s Peak property in Trinidad that sits adjacent to two State Wildlife Areas and a New Mexico State Park. Travis Black is the new Deputy Regional Manager.
- Northwest. The Cameo complex is now fully staffed. Dealing with lots of bear break-ins. Discussions are ongoing over the Basalt shooting range following the 2018 fire. A Ruffed grouse transplant is going well and there are new Mesa County school district funds for the Outdoor Wilderness Lab program.
- Wildlife and Natural Resources. There is a new fishing length record setting program.
- Southwest. The region is engaging in management planning processes, exploring opportunities for wildlife corridors, and testing water at Smith Reservoir due to an algae bloom.

## Roundtable Priorities

Jody Kennedy facilitated a discussion about the Roundtable's priority issues. Members brainstormed areas of interest to help inform future Roundtable meeting agendas and focus areas. Following small group discussions, members reported the following topics:

- Address increasing recreation pressure and resource sustainability --CPW will follow-up on this at this next meeting.
- Promote alternative fees:
  - Look at models where everyone pays. Ideas included river access fees, a backcountry license, and a Search and Rescue fee on ski passes.
  - Create a foundation to collect private donations
  - Use eBay/auctions for priority licenses
  - Develop new creative ideas for charging for preference points
- Promote a strong culture of stewardship among sportspersons in collaboration with educational institutions.
- Provide information on wolves to address misconceptions.
- Promote retention and recruitment.
- Create a strategic vision and planning for the Roundtable to articulate priorities, action items and next steps.

## Next Steps

- CPW will revise the Roundtable charter to reflect meeting suggestions.
- CPW will include a topic about increasing outdoor recreation pressure on wildlife habitat on the agenda for the next Roundtable meeting.
- The 2020 Partners Conference will take place at Vail Resorts, April 27-29, 2020. Please attend if you can.
- The Roundtable will meet again in-person on February 29, 2020 and August 15, 2020. Locations are to be determined.

## Attachment 1: August 2019 Sportsperson's Roundtable In-person Meeting Participation List

Roundtable Member	Residence
Adam Gall	Paonia
Brian Braaten	Colorado Springs
Cody DeGuelle	Black Hawk
Emily Orbanek	Denver
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Jennifer Gluck	LaSalle
Kare Armano	Hesperus
Mark Scofield	Colorado Springs
Mark Smith	Alamosa
Ron Goodrich	Pueblo

Roy Karo	Grand Junction
Ryan McSparran	Colorado Springs
Steve Schake	Kremmling
Steve Hilde	Loveland
Willie Kalaskie	Colorado Springs
<b>CPW/ DNR</b>	<b>Title</b>
Dan Prenzlou	CPW Director
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assistant Director, Research, Policy and Planning
Cory Chick	Southwest Regional Manager
Katie Lanter	Policy and Planning Supervisor
Brett Ackerman	Southeast Regional Manager
Windi Padia	Deputy Northeast Regional Manager
Reid DeWalt	Assistant Director Wildlife and Natural Resources
Danielle Isenhardt	License, Pass and Reservation Section Manager
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Specialist
Dean Riggs	Deputy NW Regional Manager
Tim Mauck	Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources
Torrey Davis	Policy and Planning Assistant