



Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable
June 20, 2015 Meeting
Denver, Colorado

MEETING SUMMARY

A meeting of the Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable took place on Saturday, June 20 in Denver Colorado. Nine Roundtable members and ten Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff attended the meeting (see Attachment 1 for details). This document summarizes the group's discussion and outlines next steps.

Director Bob Broscheid welcomed members of the Sportsmen's Roundtable and thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in this meeting. He then welcomed and introduced James Ogsbury, Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association.

Executive Director Ogsbury gave an overview of the Western Governors' Association. The WGA represents the Governors of 19 Western states and 3 U.S.-flag islands. The association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information exchange and collective action on issues of critical importance to the Western United States. Many of the issues that WGA addresses are important to sportsmen in Colorado, including energy development and sage-grouse conservation. In regard to the greater sage-grouse, a governors' task force, staffed by WGA, created an inventory of public and private conservation efforts demonstrating how effective local and state initiatives have been at addressing management challenges. The WGA opposes a federal listing. In recent years, the WGA has been strategically focusing on high-level initiatives of the western governors. The WGA greatly appreciates partnering with CPW, other state agencies and WAFWA, in addressing natural resources issues in the west.

Roundtable & Caucus Updates

Caucus Meetings

NE Regional Manager, Steve Yamashita, highlighted the recent NE Regional Sportsmen's Caucus meeting held on June 9. Region staff conducted a survey prior to the meeting asking sportsmen several questions, including how they felt about attending meetings or if they would prefer a different forum for engaging with CPW. Most survey respondents replied that they prefer not to attend in-person meetings. Respondents suggested holding web-based meetings instead where they could ask and respond to questions online. At the recent caucus meeting several issues were raised including, access especially for upland hunting, license distribution between residents and nonresidents, habitat conservation, crowding in hunting areas, and opportunities for new hunters to support recruitment. Participants also discussed CPW's efforts to achieve financial sustainability and suggested that the agency collect contributions/donations from sportsmen, allow paid advertising in our brochures and guides, and do more to promote our activities and highlight successes such as the improved condition of rainbow trout.

Kent Ingram, NE Region Caucus Representative, commented that the regional caucus meeting was well attended and that participants had a lot to contribute. He also noted that there were not a lot of young people at the meeting and he suggested that, for the next meeting, we should try outreach methods and a venue that might appeal to younger sportsmen.

Members from the SW region highlighted some takeaways from their last regional caucus meeting held in Gunnison. Members felt that several participants at this caucus meeting were disrespectful and overly vocal about concerns with quotas and population counts. In response, members felt that more structure and ground rules might be beneficial for future caucus meetings.

Members discussed planning for regional caucus meeting and suggested allowing more time for coordination between Roundtable members, staff and region representatives in selecting dates and developing agendas.

Roundtable Structure

Recognizing that this was the last meeting for some members, participants discussed the usefulness of the Roundtable and whether CPW had feedback on the value of the volunteers. Staff emphasized the Roundtable's value to CPW and that the engagement of members on key issues that impact sportsmen in Colorado is vitally important. Members said that it would be helpful if the Roundtable revisited some of the same issues at every meeting in order to look at progress over time. They suggested that future Roundtable meetings should focus on 3 core priority areas identified at the initial Roundtable meeting held in 2013. These were:

- *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.¹

¹ CPW Sportsmen's Roundtable April 2013 Meeting Summary

In general, members agreed that bringing back these primary core areas to address at Roundtable meetings was a good idea and that we should include a fourth category for other emerging issues that might not fit in these categories.

Members discussed having more connection to the Parks and Wildlife Commission and requested that Commissioners are invited to future meetings. The issue of presence in the General Assembly also came up and the recognition that sportsmen's issues need more attention from legislators and the Governor's office and that sportsman should spend more time engaging with state level decision makers.

Strategic Plan Update

Jody Kennedy, CPW Public Involvement Specialist, presented an update on the agencies 2015 strategic planning process. CPW collected information on trends and demographic data, which is summarized in a report available on CPW's [website](#). Also online is a summary report of the public input received during a two month public comment period which included 11 public and 5 staff workshops held across the state. A draft strategic plan will be presented to the Commission and available for public comment in mid August.

Financial Sustainability Presentation

Julie Stahl, CPW Policy Analyst, presented information on CPW's financial situation, including recent cuts the agency made and upcoming expenses that will exceed current revenues. She touched on the challenges CPW faces with the declining real value of resident license fees, which were last increased by the General Assembly in 2005. Members showed particular interest in the fact that resident license fees are not tied to the consumer price index, meaning that as daily prices increase with inflation, the revenues from resident tags remain the same. Members discussed options for increasing license fees, including the senior fishing license which is currently free, and other tags that members felt were undervalued. Several members emphasized the need for sportsmen to be engaged and coordinating with each other to help CPW achieve financial sustainability and avoid future cuts in core programs.

CPW is convening a group of sportsmen on July 13 to discuss financial sustainability in greater detail. Roundtable members are invited and Jody will share details on the meeting location and time via email.

Roundtable Membership

Jody Kennedy gave an update on CPW's process to appoint new statewide members to the Roundtable. For current members whose terms expire in 2015, this was their final meeting. These members are invited to apply for a second term. The application deadline was June 24. CPW staff will review applicants and make appointments this July.

Jody has received requests from the public to include members' emails on the Sportsmen's Roundtable website. Members discussed and agreed that Regional Caucus liaisons should have their email addresses posted online since they serve as representatives to their region. However, statewide members do not need to share their emails online, since they do not serve as representatives for the public.

5 Year Fishing Rules Review

Fishing rules are up for review. These rules are reviewed every five years to allow fish populations to respond to regulation and management changes and to allow time to collect and review data before new changes are made. The Commission will consider draft regulations this September and these will go into effect in April 2016. CPW has received about 500 public comments to inform this process and are holding public meetings across the state. Draft management changes will be posted online this August and public comments will be welcome on the draft. CPW is not considering any large statewide changes; instead this process will likely result in tweaks for individual species on specific bodies of water.

License Allocation Update

Craig McLaughlin, Terrestrial Manager, gave an update on license allocation for high demand hunts. During the Big Game Season structure process in 2014, the Commission froze the current list of high demand hunts that meet the 80/20 split for license allocation between resident and nonresident licenses. At that time, a Commission subcommittee reviewed this issue and recommended that this list of hunts stay the same for at least one more year to allow staff time to review the issue further and come back to the Commission with more information; the Commission directed staff to provide a review in 2015. This July, CPW staff will present the Commission with information on how many hunts currently fall under 80/20 allocation rules and the effect that preference point creep would have on the number of these licenses if the calculation for high demands hunts was updated. Based on direction from the Commission, staff will explore this issue further and consider presenting alternatives to the Commission in the fall.

Big Game Attitude Survey

Jody Kennedy presented for Stacy Liscka, CPW Human Dimensions Researcher. Early in 2014, Stacy conducted a Big Game Attitude Survey to measure satisfaction with Big Game hunting seasons and licensing process among deer, elk, black bear and mountain lion hunters. This survey gathered data from a random sample of both resident and nonresident hunters who purchased licenses in 2012. The information provides baseline data to help inform the effect of management decisions and apply an adaptive framework to decision-making. Data from the survey can also be used to inform future discussions on issues such as allocation. The complete presentation is available on the CPW [website](#).

Summary of survey results:

- Resident hunters have smaller parties, harvest for meat and want frequent opportunity

- Non-resident hunters hunt less regularly, hunt in parties with few residents and seek trophies
- Overall satisfaction is high
- Deer and elk hunters are satisfied with season structure
- Satisfaction with the ability to obtain a license is high, except for pronghorn
- There is considerable communication opportunity around preference points.

Next Meeting

Working on logistics for the next meeting in August, members should expect a doodle poll with possible dates. Jody requested that members send her ideas for agenda items. Members suggested that the agenda focus on the 3 priority areas and emerging issues. They also requested information on recent CPW accomplishments and what we are working on now for the priority areas, a summary of the habitat work that is happening across the state, and work on water resources.

The next meeting will be the first meeting for new members, and meeting participants stated that it was important to orient these new members and allow time on the agenda to hear about their interests and issues.

Participants agreed that Saturday is still a good day to hold Roundtable meetings.

CPW regions may hold caucus meetings between now and the August meeting, except for the NE region, which just held one.

Next Steps

Select a date for the next Sportsmen's Roundtable meeting which will be in-person and in August.

Schedule Regional Caucus meetings and develop agendas in coordination with Roundtable members from that region.

Structure the next in-person meeting by these four categories: habitat, recruitment and retention, financial sustainability and emerging issues.

Attachment 1: Attendees at June 20, 2015 Sportsmen’s Roundtable Meeting

Roundtable Member	Residence
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Jason Eckman	Grand Junction
Tom Brown	Golden
Ty Churchwell	Durango
Kent Ingram	Littleton
Jim Spehar	Grand Junction
Mikk Anderson	Aurora
Mick Davis	Alamosa
Bob Hix	Aurora
CPW Staff	
Bob Broscheid	Director
Brad Henley	Deputy Regional Manager - SE
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assistant Director - Research, Policy, and Planning
Steve Yamashita	Regional Manager - NE
Heath Kehm	Deputy Regional Manager - SW
Aaron Fero	Deputy Regional Manager - NW
Doug Krieger	Acting Manager - Aquatic
Craig McLaughlin	Manager - Terrestrial
Julie Stahl	Policy and Planning Analyst
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Specialist