



Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable

March 25, 2017

Glenwood Springs, Colorado

SUMMARY

An in-person meeting with the Sportsmen's Roundtable took place on March 25, 2017 in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Twenty Roundtable members, eleven CPW staff, one Parks & Wildlife Commissioner, the DNR Legislative Liaison, and additional interested sportsmen participated in this meeting (see attachment 1). This document summarizes the group's discussion.

To start, Director Broscheid welcomed everyone and shared the primary focus for this meeting, which was to address upcoming consideration of a CPW financial sustainability bill by the state legislature.

Financial Sustainability

Participants discussed how sportsmen could serve their interests by working together to communicate the value of hunting and fishing in Colorado. Hunting and fishing dollars—In addition to habitat conservation funding through the habitat stamp—provide for valuable outdoor recreation opportunities as well as contribute to the state's economy and quality of life. Awareness of the contributions from hunting and fishing varies by legislator.

Participants discussed the importance of sportsmen educating community leaders and decision makers about the challenges facing hunting and fishing, including the increasing costs of management. A few members emphasized that sportsmen need to reach out to decision makers and help educate them if hunting and fishing are to remain relevant into the future.

CPW presented an overview of the proposed financial sustainability bill. The bill proposes granting the Parks and Wildlife Commission authority to gradually raise resident hunting and fishing license fees over a few years up to a cap that will be determined by the legislative process. The measure also creates a new registration on motorized and non-motorized watercraft to help fund the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.

Some groups/events were mentioned including the Sportsmen's Caucus which meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Sportsmen's Day at the Capitol is April 20th. All sportsmen are welcome to participate in these activities and to engage in the legislative process.

CPW will keep Roundtable members and other interested sportsmen/public informed throughout the process with informational materials and updates. The CPW website is a good source for background information and details on financial sustainability.

Roundtable Caucus Updates

Regional Sportsmen's Caucus Updates

All four caucuses met since the last Sportsmen's Roundtable. Delegates reported outcomes from these meetings.

Northeast Regional Caucus: Delegates would like to see more promotion of meetings and higher attendance. Issues discussed included elk damage in the Boulder area and support for greater management of the population.

Southeast Regional Caucus: There was strong attendance at their meeting (65). The meeting included a presentation by a falconer and discussion of several issues including financial sustainability and engaging youth. The meeting was held at Bass Pro, which helped with turnout.

Southwest Regional Caucus: In order to connect people across the region, their meeting was a video conference format although this did not generate as much participation as desired. Issues discussed included winter conditions, financial sustainability, the Aquatic Nuisance Species program, and the overlap of archery and muzzleloader seasons.

Northwest Regional Caucus: Meeting was well attended. Participants talked about bears and other predator management with an interest in increasing hunting opportunity for these species. Currently landowners are permitted to hunt predators all year. They also discussed antler shed hunting.

CPW Staff Updates

Access

Reid DeWalt, Assistant Director of Wildlife and Natural Resources presented on the CPW program Corners for Conservation. A presentation is available on CPW's [webpage](#). This program expands access and opportunity for hunting in the corner areas surrounding crop circles. CPW is working with landowners with good habitat to make these corners accessible to walk in hunters. In 2016, 84 corners were opened. In 2017, an additional 120 corners were enrolled.

Dan Prenzlou, SE Regional Director gave an update on the Big Game Walk-in Access Program. 40,000 acres will be available this fall in the southeast. CPW is working with partners to explore opportunities and expand if possible. With more resources, CPW would be able to do more.

Members discussed interest in forming a working group to discuss access. Looking ahead, members would like this conversation to continue and to identify priority tasks for stakeholders to work on.

Muzzleloader & Archery Season Overlap

Jody Kennedy provided an update on the issue concerning safety during the overlap of archery and muzzleloader seasons. Following a tragic accident in 2015, interest for exploring ways to address safety concerns was brought before the Commission. CPW will convene stakeholders to discuss this issue and possible next steps.

Winter Conditions

Patt Dorsey, SW Regional Manager gave an update on winter conditions and the impacts on wildlife in the Gunnison Basin. Given concerns about the severe winter, CPW implemented a big-game baiting operation and temporary closures. A video and background are on [CPW's webpage](#). Harsh conditions did abate and wildlife populations are believed to have managed reasonably well considering enormous amounts of snow in early winter. Members discussed the trade-offs involved with feeding wildlife. Staff explained that these decisions are complicated and require careful consideration.

Ron Velarde, NW Regional Manager followed up with an update on antler shed hunting closures. These closures minimized additional stress on animals during the harsh winter conditions. However, they may have also concentrated antler-shed hunters on other open areas. Members discussed interest in charging for antler-shed hunting.

Upcoming Events

Gary Thorson, Assistant Director of Information and Education shared information on upcoming events, including the [Partners Conference](#) May 11&12, the [WAFWA Annual Conference](#) July 6-11 in Vail and the [Outdoor Adventure Expo](#) at Cherry Creek State Park Sept 23-24. Sponsorships are essential to the success of these events. CPW will provide credit and name recognition for partner organizations who support them.

Attachment 1: Attendees, March 25, 2017 Sportsmen's Roundtable Meeting

Roundtable Member	Residence
Andy Treharne	Louisville
Cody DeGuelle	Black Hawk
Bob Cox	SW
Dan Gates	Canon City
Dan Schwartz	Meeker
Denny Behrens	Grand Junction
Jason Eckman	Grand Junction
Jennifer Gluck	LaSalle
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Margot Binetti	Grand Junction
Mia Anstine	Pagosa Springs
Mick Davis	Alamosa
Tim Brass	Windsor
Steve Hilde	Loveland
Roger Tucker	Colorado Springs
Ron Goodrich	Pueblo
Terry Meyers	Grand Junction
Willie Kalaskie	Colorado Springs
Ty Churchwell	Durango
Tom Kenyon	Grand Junction
Interested Sportsmen	
Josh Torrez	
Chris Journey	Colorado Outfitters
Tom Mikesell	
Susan Mikesell	
Marie Haskett	
Jamie Nogel	National Wild Turkey Federation
Jenny Burbey	Colorado Outfitters
Steve Lohr	Big Game forever
CPW Staff	Title
Bob Broscheid	Director
Dean Riggs	Deputy Regional Manager, NW Region
Reid DeWalt	Assistant Director, Wildlife and Natural Resources
Ron Velarde	Regional Manager, NW Region
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assistant Director, Research, Policy, and Planning
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Planning Specialist
Dan Prenzlów	Regional Manager, SE Region
Mark Leslie	Regional Manager, NE Region
Gary Thorson	Assistant Director, Information and Education
Katie Lanter	Policy and Planning Supervisor
Alex Dean	Policy and Planning Assistant
Commission	
John Howard	Parks and Wildlife Commissioner
DNR Staff	
Doug Vilsack	DNR Legislative Liaison

