

**Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable**  
March 1st and 2nd, 2021, 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Virtual Meeting

**Summary**

The Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable met virtually on March 1st and 12th, 2021. Twenty-two Roundtable members, nineteen CPW staff, three Parks & Wildlife Commissioners and the DNR Assistant Director for Parks, Wildlife and Lands participated in this meeting (see Attachment 1). This document summarizes the group's discussion.

**Director's Welcome & Updates**

Director Dan Prenzlou welcomed sportspersons to the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and commitment for the betterment of Colorado's wildlife. The Director provided program updates on Public Access Program expansion, hunting opportunities at Fishers Peak State Park and the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program. He notified members about upcoming Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) meetings. Topics of interest to the Roundtable to be discussed at the March PWC meeting included decoy usage, State Wildlife Area (SWA) license requirements and wolf restoration planning.

**Wolf Management and Restoration**

Assistant Director for Wildlife and Natural Resources Reid DeWalt gave an update on wolf restoration and management. During the January PWC meeting, CPW staff presented a proposed timeline and planning process, a proposed public outreach and participation strategy, and basic wolf biology. The February PWC Wolf Workshop provided additional guidance to the agency regarding the planning process, work groups and education and listening sessions. The planning process will include hiring an external facilitator as well as convening a Technical Working Group and a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). Final approval of the planning process and timeline lays with the PWC. CPW recognized current and future staffing requirements. Funding discussions at the legislature are ongoing and CPW is exploring various funding alternatives. Members are encouraged to stay informed via CPW's Wolf Management webpage and eNewsletters.

**Discussion:**

- Additional details were requested regarding the Stakeholder Advisory Group, which was open for public applications throughout March. CPW aims to maintain a group size conducive to functional conversations and anticipates substantial time commitment required of members.
- Eric Odell, CPW Species Conservation Program Manager provided clarification on wolf population objectives. Recovery goals and population objectives are yet to be determined and will require technical and stakeholder input to ensure a decision grounded in science and social acceptance.

- The group discussed the implications of federal ESA delisting and the potential for re-listing. CPW is closely monitoring litigation surrounding management authority and how listing status impacts wolf restoration and management opportunities.

### **Wildfire**

Northeast Regional Manager Mark Leslie and Acting Northwest Regional Manager Jacob Brey led a discussion on 2020 wildfires and their impacts on agency operations, recreation, wildlife and habitat. Both regions experienced several record-breaking fires with significant impacts on natural and built environments. Additional effects on water quality and erosion are anticipated and being monitored. Significant local and federal land and road closures were enacted to protect human life and property. CPW worked closely with partners to assist the public and minimize impacts on hunting seasons. Flexibility was incorporated in refund and preference point restoration policies in light of unique safety and access circumstances. The impact of unused licenses will be taken into consideration for upcoming PWC quota recommendations. Although some direct terrestrial mortality occurred and additional assessments are needed, an early study using real-time GPS data during the Cameron Peak Fire gave reason for optimism in big game fire resilience. Impact assessments for aquatic species are ongoing. Members and staff noted the hunter displacement which occurred in relation to fires and increased recreation pressure during the pandemic. Staff will continue to coordinate with local and federal partners on mitigation, prevention and preparedness.

### **Discussion**

- The group discussed land closure coordination among land management agencies. Closures, forest management and emergency planning are discussed between CPW and partners routinely. Members were encouraged to bring access-related issues to CPW's attention so that CPW may communicate with associated partners.

### **SWA Pass Process**

Lauren Truitt, Assistant Director for Information and Education, gave the group an update on the process to put in place pass requirements to access State Wildlife Areas. In July, the PWC directed CPW to develop an alternative pass to access these 350 properties to alleviate pressures on wildlife and habitat. Lauren recognized the Roundtable members who served on a stakeholder working group and engaged in a public planning process. In December, the working group recommended a \$46 annual pass along with discounted and single day options. A \$10 Habitat Stamp is included to ensure continued matching contributions for habitat and conservation. During the March meeting, the PWC approved the pass available and it will be available starting May 1st. SWA access with a valid hunting or fishing license will continue to be an option as well. The next phase of the pass process will assess usage of unique properties to determine if they continue to fit the SWA definition and strategies for managing recreation pressure.

### **Legislative Update**

Jeff Ver Steeg, Assistant Director for Research, Policy & Planning, provided an update on the current bills and legislative concepts pertaining to CPW.

### Wolf-Related Bills

- [HB 1037](#) addressed the location where wolves could be released. This bill was postponed indefinitely.
- [HB1040](#) addressed the types of funding allowed for wolf reintroduction. This bill was postponed indefinitely; however, the discussion for funding wolf reintroduction continues.
- [SB 105](#) specified the process that the PWC must follow in soliciting and considering public input in drafting the gray wolf reintroduction and management plan. This bill was postponed indefinitely.

### Other Bills

- [HB 1116](#) would create free park entrance for Purple Heart Veterans.
- [HB21-1118](#) would direct CPW and DNR to undertake a study of backcountry search and rescue usage, produce recommendations and identify potential efficiencies.
- [HB 1089](#) would create legal responsibility for wakeboard parks.
- [SB21-112](#) appropriates \$20 million from the general fund to State Parks capital construction. This bill was signed by the Governor.
- [SB21-150](#) would cap big game licenses that can be issued to nonresidents during the limited license draw. This bill was postponed indefinitely.

### Legislative Concepts

- **Keep Colorado Wild Pass:** This would provide access to state parks via the annual vehicle registration renewal process. This pass would considerably reduce the annual pass price while aiming to increase sustainable parks funding. The bill is still in the process of being drafted and identifying sponsors.
- **Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS):** CPW is working to obtain the authority for roadside boat inspections as a means of proactively intercepting ANS.

### **Regional Caucus Updates**

The Southeast Region held its caucus online via Zoom and Facebook Live on January 19th, 2021 (recording can be found [here](#)). The meeting had 111 live viewers and 9,000 total views. Discussions included the trapping citizen petition, oil and gas regulations related to wildlife, and SWA regulations. Southeast Regional Manager Brett Ackerman gave updates on wildlife and wolf restoration efforts.

The Southwest Region met virtually on February 18th, 2021. They covered many of the same topics as well as Chronic Wasting Disease, electric bicycles, trail cams, shed hunting, droughts, outreach and recreational impacts on wildlife. Members appreciated Commissioner attendance and hope to continue growing participation.

The Northeast Region met virtually on January 26th, 2021 accompanied by YouTube streaming (recording can be found [here](#)). Discussion also included wolves and SWA regulations but

focused on fire-related impacts, hunter displacement, pandemic-driven increases in recreation, the Herd Management Plan process, and youth hunting opportunities.

The Northwest Region met virtually on January 7th, 2021 with 14,000 total views via Facebook Live (recording can be found [here](#)). The group similarly focused on minimizing fire-related impacts and mitigation, collaborating with local and federal partners, CWD and season structure.

### Open Roundtable Discussion

- The 3 year Piceance predator study ended and a report is undergoing peer review.
- The group discussed overcrowding and hunter displacement experienced this year exacerbated by wildfire closures and increasing recreation pressure.
- Related to overcrowding and displacement, OTC license considerations were discussed in depth. Although members differed on support for limiting OTC licenses, it was recognized as a potential opportunity to alleviate pressure points with fine-scale tools.
- The complexities of preference point systems were discussed. CPW staff clarified that once all members meet the point requirement, group draws are based on the highest point holder and all preference point holders use all their points.
- The group discussed Big Game Season Structure and the importance of balancing quality with opportunity. Staff noted that although season dates are set in advance, there are opportunities for sportspersons to provide input during the planning process and special management seasons can be added to meet objectives outside of BGSS timelines.
- Members requested an update from CPW staff on resource management plans as they pertain to competition between domestic and wild sheep on public lands.
- The group thanked and recognized SW District Wildlife Manager Tony Bonacquista as the John D. Hart Wildlife Officer of the Year and Jim Hawkins as Ranger of the Year.

### Attachment 1: March 1st and 2nd, 2021 Sportsperson’s Roundtable Participation List

Roundtable Member	Residence	March 1	March 2
Aaron Jones	Antonito	x	x
Adam Gall	Crawford	x	x
Adam Oberheu	Delta	x	x
Brandon Sagrillo	Grand Junction	x	x
Brian Braaten	Colorado Springs	x	x
Brian Soliday	Frederick	x	x
Chloe Lomphey	Colorado Springs	x	x
Dale Coombs	Grand Junction	x	x
Emily Orbanek	Denver	x	x
Erik Myhre	Black Hawk	x	x
Kim Kokesh	Austin	x	x
Larry McCormack	Colorado Springs	x	x
Mark Scofield	Colorado Springs	x	x

Mia Anstine	Pagosa Springs	x	x
Roger Cesario	Crested Butte	x	x
Ron Goodrich	Pueblo	x	x
Roy Karo	Grand Junction	x	
Ryan Britten	Haswell	x	x
Ryan McSparran	Littleton	x	x
Steve Schake	Kremmling	x	x
Trent Peterson	Snyder	x	x
Willie Kalaskie	Colorado Springs	x	x
<b>CPW/DNR Staff and Commissioners</b>	<b>Title</b>		
Dan Prenzlów	Director	x	
Carlee Koutnik	Deputy Director	x	x
Jeff Ver Steeg	Assist. Director for Research, Policy & Planning	x	x
Doug Vilsack	Assist. Director for Parks, Wildlife and Lands, DNR	x	
Charlie Garcia	Parks and Wildlife Commissioner	x	x
Betsy Blecha	Parks and Wildlife Commissioner	x	x
Marie Haskett	Parks and Wildlife Commissioner	x	x
Katie Lanter	Policy & Planning Supervisor	x	x
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Planning Specialist	x	x
Brett Ackerman	SE Region Manager	x	x
Brian Dreher	Terrestrial Section Manager	x	x
Cory Chick	SW Regional Manager	x	x
Dan Zimmerer	Statewide Partnership Coordinator	x	
Eric Odell	Species Conservation Program Manager	x	
Jacob Brey	Northwest Deputy Regional Manager	x	x
Lauren Truitt	Assist. Director for Information & Education	x	x
Mark Leslie	NE Region Manager	x	
Reid DeWalt	Assist. Director for Aquatic, Terrestrial & Nat. Resources	x	x
Heather Dugan	Assist. Director for Field Services	x	
Deon Kuhl	Statewide Business Operations Coordinator	x	x
Randy Hampton	NW Public Information Officer	x	x
Sarah Studebaker	Policy & Planning Associate	x	x