



Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable
August 22, 2015 Meeting
Buena Vista, Colorado

MEETING SUMMARY

A meeting of the Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable took place on Saturday, August 22 in Buena Vista, Colorado. Seventeen Roundtable members and ten Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff attended the meeting (see Attachment 1 for details).

Director Bob Broscheid welcomed members of the Sportsmen's Roundtable and thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in the meeting. He then asked all new Roundtable members to introduce themselves and give a short explanation of why they applied to become part of the roundtable. Director Broscheid gave a brief explanation of his experience and how he came to be director of CPW.

Purpose of the Roundtable

Following introductions, Director Broscheid gave an overview of the purpose of the Roundtable. He noted that the Roundtable was a place to foster dialogue between CPW and dedicated sportsmen. He reminded the members that they are part of the Roundtable because they are partners with CPW.

Legislative Update

Director Broscheid then gave an update regarding recent hearings of the Capital Development Committee in which habitat efforts were approved. He also discussed the requirements that would be involved in either gaining authority for the Commission to set fees or to obtain a fee increase from the General Assembly.

Several members mentioned interest in contacting DNR regarding CPW's financial future and requested information from staff to support this effort.

CPW staff will organize monthly phone calls for Roundtable members interested in financial sustainability updates starting in September.

Caucus Updates

NW Region - Terry Meyers presented an update from the Northwest Region caucus meetings. He noted they spent a lot of time discussing financial sustainability of CPW. He noted that many Caucus attendees were supportive of strengthening CPW's financial situation once they discussed a few common misconceptions.

NE Region - Members recapped the caucus meeting in June in which it was noted that most people were interested in an online interaction because attending meetings was increasingly difficult. Members noted that it was a great opportunity to interact with Steve Yamashita. Much of the conversation also focused on financial sustainability with a variety of ideas put forth. NE regional attendants also requested a meeting dedicated to fishing as many of the topics were hunting related. NE Region staff is setting up a meeting with aquatic biologists and anglers to have an open conversation.

SW Region - Members also discussed financial sustainability and had a positive conversation similar to the NW. Only 9 people attended, but meetings on the Animas spill were being held at the same time. Patt Dorsey is also looking for electronic options, especially as movement from one city to another in the Southwest Region requires driving over at least one mountain pass.

SE Region - A regional meeting with sportsman took place at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in conjunction with a strategic plan open house. In attendance at the regional meeting were a number of sportsmen and stakeholders as well as Commissioner Vigil. Numerous topics were discussed, with much of the discussion focusing on financial sustainability and the upcoming strategic plan.

Some Roundtable members commented that it is difficult for the public to participate in Commission meetings. The suggestion was made to allow people to testify remotely as is possible at the Capitol.

Focus Areas:

Habitat

Habitat Partnership Program (HPP)

Pat Tucker, Habitat Partnership Program Manager presented information on HPP. He noted that HPP started as an alternative to the game damage program that is based in local communities across the state. The funds are derived from 5% of big game license revenue, resulting in approximately \$2.2-\$2.3 million per year. Local committees made up of sportsman, a CPW representative, federal land representatives, and landowners, solicit, review, approve and fund projects, both short- and long-term in nature. He noted that HPP helps increase landowner tolerance for deer and elk and helps maintain herd sizes and increase usable habitat.

Arkansas River Restoration

Doug Krieger, Aquatics Section Manager discussed the Arkansas River progress over the last 30 years since a mining spill occurred, relating it to the current condition of the Animas River. He noted that although the water is safe for people to recreate, the presence (and continued additions) of heavy metals are suppressing fisheries within the area.

In the 1990's, a diverse stakeholder group worked together to gain Superfund status for the mines in Leadville that were the source of the heavy metals. Twenty-five years later, biologists are still seeing improvements year after year now that metal concentrations are being flushed out of the system. He noted that unique partnerships were also used to help divide the river into segments and manage flows to ensure that boating and fishing could co-exist and thrive. The Arkansas River is now the most popular river for Colorado anglers and CPW added over 100 miles to the Gold Medal waters list. Krieger noted this as another example of how partnerships can produce real results on the ground.

Perins SWA

Matt Thorpe, Area Wildlife Manager from Durango presented habitat restoration efforts that have occurred on the Perins Peak State Wildlife Area over the last decade. The area is just outside Durango and the area is facing increasing pressure from population growth. Using partnerships with the BLM and additional funding from the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act (ARRA), CPW contributed just over \$100,000 and staff time for over \$800,000 worth of habitat improvements.

Recruitment and Retention

Steve Yamashita, NE Regional Manager presented on a wide variety of recruitment, retention and reengagement efforts occurring within the different regions across the state. He noted that CPW succeeds when individuals self-identify as hunters and anglers. Many of the efforts presented are focused on longer term experiences for individuals or families. Some of those efforts include three-day hunter education programs with overnights at a partner ranch and mentored hunts. Recent efforts also target older individuals for recruitment, including those in college and young adults in their 20's and 30's who have the capacity to continue hunting and fishing on their own.

Financial Sustainability

Julie Stahli, Policy and Planning Analyst provided a short update on current efforts around Financial Sustainability and presented options for sharing information that could be used to bring the discussion about CPW's current financial health to the general sportsmen. The group provided suggestions on how to improve the informational products before distribution.

Next Steps

CPW will schedule the next Sportsmen's Roundtable meeting which will be a conference call in September. This date has been selected for Thursday, September 24, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM.

CPW will provide information to members on CPW's financial situation, as requested, to help inform communication with DNR and others.

Attachment 1: Attendees at August 22, 2015 Sportsmen's Roundtable Meeting

Roundtable Member	Residence
Andy Treharne	Louisville
Jason Eckman	Grand Junction
Tom Brown	Golden
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Kent Ingram	Littleton
Jim Spehar	Grand Junction
Mikk Anderson	Aurora
Mick Davis	Alamosa
Dan Schwartz	Meeker
Marty Holmes	Westcliffe
Dan Gates	Canon City
Ron Goodrich	Pueblo
Roger Tucker	Colorado Springs
Dan Murphy	Lake City
Terry Meyers	Grand Junction
Kristen Nestor	Grand Junction
Bruce Hutcheon	Colorado Springs
CPW Staff	
Bob Broscheid	Director
Steve Yamashita	Regional Manager - NE
Patt Dorsey	Regional Manager - SW
Brett Ackerman	Deputy Regional Manager - SE
Doug Krieger	Acting Manager - Aquatic
Julie Stahl	Policy and Planning Analyst
Pat Tucker	HPP Manager
Matt Thorpe	Area Wildlife Manager SW
Reid Dewalt	Assistant Director
Dean Riggs	Deputy Regional Manager - NW