

**Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA)
Citizens Task Force (CTF) Meeting
January 10, 2018
Conference Call**

Arkansas River Management Plan (RMP) update:

- AHRA has reviewed the RMP, made edits and responded to comments and consultant has created a “final” version for BLM review based on AHRA changes. BLM has not reviewed and accepted yet. 2 items need completing before they share plan. 1) a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) needs to be completed, which is almost done AND 2) a Programmatic Agreement [PA] between State and Federal Agencies needs to be written, which is not done.
- Expect the final RMP to be shared with the public April/May 2018 timeframe. No more public comment periods, AHRA will adopt plan then and not before that point. Rob White said we should expect a final plan close to what we saw in the proposed alternative of the [draft plan version before all public comments](#).

Recreation Site updates:

- Ruby Mountain: AHRA will close on a private land sale just below current launch area and plans to open up more downstream boat staging capacity just below the launch area to reduce boat congestion. Work to be done this Fall for Ruby expansion. AHRA anticipates increased commercial use of Ruby under the new mgmt. plan but will set conditions for increased commercial use.
- The Numbers: new launch site should be one by July 1, downstream of current site. Will improve access, closer to river, stone steps.
- Ark River Placer Site: new launch site and campsite planned for future dependent on land exchange with the US Forest Service.
- Granite: Diversion structure work will include boat chute and fish ladder. AHRA will contribute \$500,000.00 towards the ~\$6M portion of the project. Plan to start work Fall 2018, will have portage trail during construction so river will not be closed. More communication to come fall 2018.
- City of Salida boat ramp: AHRA working to develop an alternate boat ramp either above or below existing due to so much congestion.
- Salida East: Since becoming an AHRA fee site in Nov 2017 has been already improved. There has been decreased trash and drug use at the site. This Spring it will get more sprucing up. In ~3-4 years a major improvement project will include group picnic/campground with 7 full hookups (elect and water) for future consideration.
- Texas Creek: AHRA developing an additional/alternate launch site on HWY 50 side (river right). Will be more convenient especially when Texas Creek flash floods during summer monsoons.
- Pink House: Royal Gorge takeout lease is done April 2018. AROA takes over lease for commercial use only. AHRA pursuing Black Hills energy site on river left below Pink House for an alternate public takeout area before Canon City.

Water flows:

- Voluntary Flow Program – there is water for program but AHRA looking for more water in anticipation of low runoff.
- Flows this past Fall 2017 were higher than normal- water users moving water. Concerns about negative effect in fishery this coming winter and spring. Since the water was moved earlier than normal, will lower flows this winter and coming spring leave the brown trout eggs exposed and dried out = reduced fish fry. Will discuss with water users to avoid this potential fishery issue.

CTF Nomination process:

- Feb 28, 2018 is the deadline to apply and/or reapply for CTF membership to AHRA. Current member list below.
- <http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea/Documents/CTF/CTFMemberContactList.pdf>
- CTF process is at this link below.
<http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea/Pages/CitizenTaskForce.aspx>

Other Business: AHRA’s Stew Pappenfort retired last month. AHRA’s Rose Bayless is retiring this month. Retirement party for both will be Feb 16, 2018 at the Victoria Tavern in Salida. More details will be coming for those that want to attend.

Next CTF Meeting: March/April 2018. AHRA will send out a potential list of dates to see what works best.