

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area  
**Citizen Task Force (CTF)**

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Anglers: Braden Baker • Larry Payne  
Commercial Permittees: Joe Greiner • Bob Hamel  
Environmental Interests: Logan Meyers • Christina King  
Local Governments: Greg Felt • Marshall Butler  
Private Boaters: Leslie Tyson • Dede de Percin  
Property Owners: Rob Ferris • JW Wilder  
Water Interests: Ed Perko • Justin Zeisler

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Thursday, June 20, 2019

Start Time 9:39 am

Location: Shavano Conference Room  
Touber Building • 448 E 1<sup>st</sup> St, Salida

Present: Bob Hamel (CTF Chairman, Commercial Permittees), Larry Payne (Anglers), Joe Greiner (Commercial Permittees), Logan Meyers (Environmental Interests), Christina King (Environmental Interests), Justin Zeisler (Water Interests), Marshall Butler (Local Governments), Ed Perko (Water Interests), Braden Baker (Anglers), Rob Ferris (Property Owners), JW Wilder (Property Owners)

In Attendance: Rob White (AHRA Park Manager), Keith Berger (Royal Gorge Field Manager), Jennifer Crawford (AHRA Admin Asst.), John Kreski (Rationing and Agreement Coordinator)

### **Welcome & Introductions**

#### **Roundtable: Public Attendees and CTF Members**

No roundtable discussion was brought forward.

#### **Fred Rasmussen Achievement Award**

Parameters for the Fred Rasmussen Achievement Award were set as follows:

Nominees must be

1. An active CTF member.
2. An individual who has gone above and beyond to bring new ideas to the table or who went out of their way to solve a problem.

AHRA/CTF will solicit annual nominations for this award.

## **Management Plan**

A promotional video featuring the AHRA, which was recently presented at the CPW Commission Meeting, was shared with CTF members.

A PowerPoint slideshow was presented explaining the Management Plan process. The completed Management Plan and accompanying Cooperative Management Plan (CMA) and Programmatic Agreement (PA) is expected to be signed/completed by the beginning of July 2019. The final document will be posted to the AHRA webpage for public viewing. Capacity changes will take effect next season, Spring/Summer 2020.

## **Park Manager Updates**

### **Hayden Ranch**

A youth crew will complete volunteer work at Hayden Ranch next week, adding crusher fine materials to trails and buck and rail around Arkansas River Ranch, Kobe, and the BLM parking area.

### **Granite Diversion**

The Granite Diversion project is still in progress; the fish ladder was completed last fall, the boat chute and diversion construction are expected to be complete by end of year.

### **Numbers**

Within the week, Numbers usage will switch from the current location to the new Numbers site. A CXT (bathroom/change facility) is on order and will be installed at the new site. Stairs in the old site will be removed, and the area will be re-vegetated. The USGS gage will be moved to downstream of Scott's Bridge, river right.

In phase 2 of the Numbers renovation, there are plans to exchange river left (CPW land) for river right (USFS land) where a campground will potentially be built.

### **Fisherman's Bridge**

A BLM Programmatic Agreement (PA), initiated for the proposed install of a shade shelter, identified a large amount of Native American use at this site. AHRA, alongside the BLM, has determined an acceptable location for the shade shelter, which was installed on the downstream side of the parking lot, overlooking the river.

### **Salida East**

Salida East will continue to see more improvements this year as AHRA plans to upgrade the remaining primitive sites to basic.

### **Salt Lick**

Three boat slide rails will be installed on the steps at the Salt Lick site. The install will be limited to one boat slide at a time, allowing the site to remain open.

### **Ford Crossing**

A parking lot and boat ramp were created at Ford Crossing for use as a fishing launch. A jetty was built to create an eddy and seems to be functioning well.

## **MacKenzie**

Canyon City entered into a 30-year lease agreement, allowing the use of the MacKenzie site in exchange for evaporative loss water rights. Canyon City has asked AHRA to manage this site. AHRA installed a concrete driveway from the county road down to site to reduce spin-out when users attempt to exit the site.

## **Tunnel View**

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) completed a project at Tunnel View that transformed 38 dispersed sites into 18 designated dispersed with buck and rail entrances for each location. The VOC added rock steps to a user-created trail to the river to help avoid erosion.

Chaffee County 1A, along with CPW, funded boulders being placed on-site limiting where individuals can drive, in turn protecting resources and limiting ground disturbance. AHRA rangers will continue monitoring the area.

## **Membership Update**

Thank you to new and continuing appointees for your willingness to offer expertise as members of the CTF board. The new AHRA management plan allows the addition of one user group to CTF, which will be deemed "Outdoor Recreation/Other."

The new CTF board will be led by Bob Hamel continuing as Chairman and Braden Baker as Vice Chairman.

CTF acts as a critical link between user groups and AHRA management. Under the new Management Plan, AHRA will have the ability to make changes more easily where deemed necessary.

## **BLM Royal Gorge Field Manager Updates**

### **Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan**

The BLM is currently going through an Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan update. A draft plan published on the BLM website: [eplanning.blm.gov](http://eplanning.blm.gov). A 90-day public review plan begins tomorrow, June 21. A meeting will be held in Salida on July 8 regarding the Management Plan. CTF members are asked to encourage attendance within their user groups.

### **Browns Canyon National Monument (BCNM) Management Plan**

The BCNM Management Plan scoping period ends today. Cooperating agencies will meet tomorrow to sort public comments. A draft plan will be published for public review around October 2019.

## **CTF President Updates**

### **Browns Canyon working group**

There was some discussion on the current language in the Browns Canyon National Monument Management Plan draft. The Browns Canyon working group came up with a document to submit for review. CTF members are also encouraged to submit concerns or suggestion as part of the draft process.

## **Enviro / Rec Committee**

- Several entities are working together to come up with a diversion structure at Oil Creek.
- The acquisition of the Black Hills property is currently on hold.
- Fire mitigation has been occurring and will continue within the Hayden burn scar.
- The Basin Implementation Plan, part of the Colorado Water Plan, is a wish list of water-related projects people would like to see in the basin. CTF may be able to help prioritize projects within the AHRA and support the projects that are submitted to the roundtable.

## **AROA Updates**

### **AED Program**

This season, 12 AEDs have been placed along the river, one of which has already been used. AHRA has moved some of the units out of high water advisory areas and into more heavily-trafficked areas. GPS coordinates are available through the AHRA for locations. AHRA will continue to maintain and monitor AEDs.

### **Arkansas River Conservation Cooperative**

AROA has been working on an entity that could help support water flows above 700 through August 15. AROA is looking for other businesses or community members who might support/benefit from water.

## **Roundtable Updates**

- A Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant has been submitted in hopes of widening the road into Ruby.
- Hecla road will be graded, and magnesium chloride will be applied to reduce dust. Private and commercial CTF representatives should encourage individuals to slow down on this road.
- A company was hired to look at the Silver Bullet Boat Chute and ensure that it is functioning well at high water. The portage trail is washing out at high water and will need modification.

Adjourn: 12:21p

Next meeting: Thursday, October 24, 2019