

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Start Time 9:30 am

Phone-in Meeting

Present via Phone: Larry Payne, Braden Baker, Bob Hamel, Bill Dvorak, Dede de Percin, Leslie Tyson, Christina King, Logan Myers, Justin Zeisler, JW Wilder

In Attendance: Rob White, Kalem Lenard, Glenn Cottone, John Kreski, Jennifer Crawford, Mike Atwood (CPW Biologist)

Notes

Park Manager Updates

CTF Membership Nominations Status

Applications are still being completed and processed and will be submitted to the Region for final approval. New and returning delegates will be notified and take their seats by the next meeting.

COVID-19 Virus Impact on CPW/AHRA • [VC News Release](#), [Camping News Release](#)

The park and visitor center have remained open until last week, when the visitor center was closed to the public. Minimal staff remain in the building to serve the public via phone and email, while others work from home. Maintenance staff, who are generally outdoors, are continuing with increased precaution. Law enforcement staff continue to patrol. Temp hiring is currently on hold for the season. Based on the stay-at-home order from CO Governor Polis and the advice of the CDPHE and CDC, campgrounds were closed, but day use and restrooms remain open to the public.

COVID-19 Virus Impact on Commercial Outfitter Operations

Commercial operations are currently suspended through at least April 14, as they are not considered an essential business, by order of the Colorado Governor's office. Chaffee County has issued a stay-in-place order through April 11. Private boaters are encouraged to socially distance themselves.

CORE Placering Proposal - Numbers Area

Two private mining claims have been filed on USFS lands, with the Placer property separating the claims from the river. The individual wishes to divert water for operations. Next steps include a request for permission from CPW to place a pipe across the property.

OroVista Placering Proposal - Numbers Area

USFS is seeking public comment on the approval of a placer mine, located above the old Numbers site launch, on river-right. The claim includes land on river-left, extending to the Placer property. **Action (optional):** Public comment closes April 25.

Comments should be mailed to:
USFS - Leadville Ranger District
Attn: Amy Titterington
810 Front Street
Leadville, Colorado 80461

Comments can also be submitted by phone at (719) 486-0749

Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word document (.doc) to patrick.mercer@usda.gov

Address any comments as "Attention: Oro Vista Mine"

Parkdale Quarry • [BLM ePlanning](#)

CPW submitted comments on the proposed enlargement, similar to previously stated concerns: dust, noise, operations visibility, and truck traffic. Wildlife submitted concerns regarding big game and smaller animals.

Point Barr Recreation Site Campground Upgrades

Upgrades to the Point Barr Campground include a reconstructed road and the introduction of 12 formalized/designated sites with fire ring, picnic table, tent pad, and parking. Improvements/designated sites are expected to minimize human impact on the area. Upon re-opening, camping will be by reservation only, and day use and camping fees will apply. Placing permits for the area are expected mid-July, pending approval at the (previously postponed) commission meeting.

Hecla Junction Boat Ramp Extension

The lower end of the Hecla boat ramp, previously constructed of concrete block held by steel cable, has not performed as expected and has become a hazard to people and boats. This section of the boat ramp has been removed and replaced with a solid concrete slab, and was extended by another 20 feet. The boat ramp is now open for use.

Vallie Bridge Downriver Boat Ramp

A new boat ramp will be constructed at Vallie Bridge, downstream on river-left. The current (upper) boat ramp, when water is low, does not provide deep enough water for trailering in a boat. Because of the presence of a sensitive plant species in the area, installation will likely take place in the fall.

Three Panel Sign Frame Additions

The wooden three panel signs at the entrance of many AHRA fee sites are beginning to rot. These signs will be replaced with steel frames. Estimated completion in Spring.

Granite Boat Chute

Reconstruction of the Granite Boat Chute is on hold due to COVID work/travel concerns. Planned Spring work included lower-end modifications to the v-wave and potentially the fish ladder, to be completed at a later date. Site remains open for private use. A 200 ctf release is planned for April 15.

Granite Rock Recreation Site

CPW, with direction from BLM, are developing a plan for the Granite Rock Recreation site, to include road and parking improvements and the installation of boulders and buck-n-rail to mitigate vehicle damage to the area. A trail is to be developed, leading to the backside of the climbing area.

Fishery Stocking Plan

CPW is moving forward with the plan (discussed at previous meeting) to stock approximately 50,000 Gunnison River Rainbow Trout into the Arkansas River next fall. These fish are currently in the egg stage at Rifle Falls Hatchery, and will be stocked in 6 different sites between Buena Vista and Parkdale, with the main focus on areas below the burn scar. The hope is that these Rainbows will have a chance to grow and naturally reproduce in the burn scar area before the Brown Trout return.

CPW will be commenting on the mining/suction dredging proposals.

Action: Suggested that CTF watch [Patagonia's ArtiFISHal](#) and discuss at a later CTF meeting.

COVID check-in meeting set for Thursday, May 28.
Next meeting set for Thursday, August 13.