

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Wednesday, March 03, 2021 • 9:30a - 12:00p
Zoom Meeting ID: 831 2287 2099, Passcode: 606908

Present via Zoom: Larry Payne, Bob Hamel, Trey Shelton, Dede de Percin, Leslie Tyson, Christina King, Logan Myers, Justin Zeisler, Marshall Butler, Greg Felt, JW Wilder, Don Harville, Mike Smith, Mike Sugaski

In Attendance via Zoom: Tom Waters, Kalem Lenard, John Kreski, Tappan Brown, Jennifer Crawford, Steven Wyatt, Alex Townsend (CPW Aquatic Biologist), Cindy Williams (Envision Chaffee County), Matt Nykiel (public)

Notes

Public Attendees and CTF Members Roundtable

CPW Aquatic Biologist Introduction

Alex Townsend introduced himself to the group as the new CPW Aquatic Biologist.

Envision Chaffee County

Cindy Williams gave an update on the Chaffee Rec Plan. Based on collected data, it can be expected that visitation will continue to increase exponentially in coming years. The report card indicates heaviest impacts on dispersed camping sites, with 14% degradation per year. Because of the increased visitation, there are approximately 40% fewer dollars per visitor available to manage the lands that they enjoy.

Additional resources: [Envision Chaffee County's](#) web page, [Wildlife Decision Support Tools for Recreation](#), [Strategies by Group](#), or contact [Cindy Williams](#)

Slideshow was emailed to CTF and is attached.

CTF Business

Nomination Process

Based on the new AHRA Management Plan, CTF held their annual review of "clearinghouse" groups. It was suggested that nominees be asked to self-nominate or seek nominations "similar to" those groups listed. This language matches what is currently in the management plan - no action required.

Meeting Format

CTF meeting information emails will include the CTF ad hoc contacts moving forward, to include partners and interested parties, and will link the CTF website for agenda items. AHRA will inform the newspaper of upcoming meetings to encourage public participation. Guest members of the public are encouraged to attend, but are asked to schedule a slot in the meeting for concerns that will occupy more than 5 minutes of time (during roundtable). Those items brought up in a meeting that will last longer than 5 minutes will be scheduled for a later meeting.

Volunteer Time

CTF members were reminded to enter volunteer hours on the [CPW Volunteer website](#). For login or help entering time, contact [Jen](#) at AHRA.

AHRA Updates

Park Manager Updates

Staffing Updates (Old Biz, 11/2020)

Corrine Servis was selected as AHRA's Operations Manager and is in the process of moving to Salida. A Park Resource Technician was selected and will start in March or April. Alex Townsend was selected as the Area 13 Aquatic Biologist, and was introduced at the beginning of the meeting.

Tree Removal

The strainers (trees) in Cañon City are being removed tomorrow.

Cliff Jumping

There is some movement within CPW that may prohibit cliff jumping within State Parks. AHRA requests feedback from CTF on this issue.

Parking at Salida East, Rincon, and Salida Boat Ramp

AHRA is seeking volunteers to serve as Ramp Hosts to assist in parking and traffic flow issues during busy times. Where necessary, LE staff may also assist in this process.

Numbers Campground

The AHRA is working on the potential of a campground at the Numbers. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Tennessee Pass Revival

The comment period for the revival of line traffic in Tennessee Pass has been extended.

Silver Bullet Easement

CPW is working with the Skarat family to enter into an easement agreement which would allow the AHRA to get heavy equipment into the Silver Bullet area when necessary.

Salida Low Head Dam

A meeting will take place tomorrow regarding the potential for removal of the Salida Lowhead Dam. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Rationing and Permit Updates

Private Boater Capacity Education Efforts

John presented the draft version of the [private boater page](#) updates which will contain wording and problem dates as part of the user education and redistribution effort for Browns Canyon. AHRA will look into the possibility of fulfilling CTF's request to post follow-up numbers after each posted date.

Commercial Boating 75% of Capacity Report

John presented the Commercial Boating 75% of Capacity Report. This report may be found on the [AHRA River Outfitters website](#).

Labor Day Section 5 Capacities

The AHRA will monitor Section 5 traffic on Labor Day weekend to gather more information regarding the amount and type(s) of traffic on the water. This data will be used to potentially propose changes to commercial vs private allocations within this section on these dates.

Grandfathered Use, “Boat is a Boat” (Old Biz, 01/2020)

The AHRA proposes to switch to “a boat is a boat” rationing methodology, allowing any commercially allocated boat to be used as a kayak, or vice versa. This change, along with the potential removal of grandfathered use, will reduce the amount of exceptions and conversions required to complete year-end reporting for both outfitters and AHRA staff.

BLM Updates

Camping Management Plans and Strategies in progress - keep an eye out to offer input when asked.

Set date for next meeting, adjourn

Next meeting set for Thurs, May 6.

Items Previously Tabled / Marked for Follow-Up

- Barbed wire, “Private Property” signs at CR371 Bridge (Old Biz, 01/2020)
- [Patagonia’s ArtiFISHal](#) discussion (Old Biz, 04/2020)