

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 • 9:30a - 11:30a

Hybrid Meeting Options:
AHRA Visitor Center @ 307 W Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201
Zoom Registration: ahra.mobi/ctf

Anglers: Larry Payne, Braden Baker • Commercial Permittees: Bob Hamel, Trey Shelton
Private Boaters: Dede de Percin, Leslie Tyson • Environmental Interests: Christina King, Logan Myers
Water Users: Justin Zeisler, Ed Perko • Government Organizations: Dwayne McFall, Greg Felt
River Front Property Owners: Drew Elder, Gail Tubbs • Outdoor Recreation/Other: Gary Gossage, Mike Sugaski

In Attendance: Tom Waters, Steve Flemming, Larry Payne, John Kreski, Mike Sugaski, Logan Myers, Braden Baker, Bob Hamel, Glenn Cottone

In Attendance via Zoom: Tom Martin, Christina King, Ed Perko, Gail Tubbs, Dan Sullivan, Dede de Percin, Lisa Walters, Leslie Tyson, Ryan Dalton (Pueblo Water)

Notes

- Welcome & Introductions Bob Hamel, CTF Chair
- Public Attendees and CTF Members Roundtable 5 minutes/person
- CTF Business Jennifer Crawford, AHRA Admin Asst
 - Solicitation for Nominations
 - [Nomination/Application Form](#) is located on [CTF site](#).
 - Delegates with 2-yr term expiring 04/2023: (THANK YOU!)

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- AHRA Updates
 - Park Manager Updates Tom Waters, AHRA Park Manager
 - VFMP
 - Lowered anticipated imports to 52.9k acre feet (from 59k).
 - Collection basin is currently at 100%.

- Upper basin is looking good.
- Request to separate Upper and Lower Basin in Snotel
- Request to educate journalists on what numbers mean instead of giving an entire state snowpack %
- Black Hills Property
 - City Council is still discussing ownership.
 - Mitigation/remediation is complete. A report has been given to Council with what's been done.
 - No determination yet on ownership of property.
- Recreational Ranger Program
 - Envision Chaffee County and Chaffee County are funding a position to help with dispersed/no-fee areas.
 - The pilot program went well, and we got good feedback from the Recreational Rangers.
 - BLM and USFS also have their own Rec Rangers.
 - Currently working with CMC on an internship program (internship would be unpaid)
 - Trying to give the option to transition into an apprenticeship program as Rec Rangers and get paid.
- Changing room/Accessibility discussion
 - Meeting the Challenge assessed 6 of our sites for accessibility.
 - Based on the report, we will start to improve accessibility within the park.
- Salida East Update
 - Concrete is getting poured today while the weather is nice.
 - We are on track for a Memorial Day open.
 - The boat ramp is and will remain open.
 - The ability to reserve a site is still closed.
- Public comments on USFS camping
 - Soliciting comments until March 20.
 - Available online
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/psicc/news-events/?cid=FS-EPRD1089842>
- LCOSI update
 - Currently looking at Hayden Meadows.
 - Parks Recreation and Open Space group to be considered as part of local gov.
 - Hiring leadership, then backfilling other positions.
 - They are currently focused on the Leadville South area.
 - Goal is to have a management plan before the southern part will open.
 - Ranch buildings are currently owned by CMC

- Looking to transfer property with structures to someone else.
 - Consultant working to help figure out how and who to transfer property to.
 - Tennessee Pass line by Rio Grande Pacific - looking for comments.
 - Still considering line from Eagle to Parkdale (160 miles).
 - Commuter and local freight. (Add comment link)
 - May 13th Summer kick-off event
 - AHRA wants to promote safe, fun, responsible recreation.
 - Event will happen at Riverside Park in Salida.
 - We have invited the BLM, USFS, Rec Depts, and Salida Fire.
 - The goal is to target youth and provide information about life jackets and how to properly fit them
 - Cleanup-Greenup (CUGU) and the local Whitewater festivals to promote events.
 - [Information](#) or [Comment](#)
 - Suggestion: Is it possible to get a sign of just the whitewater park?
 - Add a better map of each feature and where to get out, etc. (For all whitewater parks)
 - Private use numbers
 - AHRA is going to look at actual numbers in the Brown's Canyon area and outside.
 - Potential to hire a specific person to gather this data
 - We are also wanting to look at vehicle traffic.
 - Numbers and types of use
 - Lowhead Dam
 - We are still hoping that work will begin this fall.
 - We have put out a request for qualifications
 - to request contractors for design work
 - We have applied for grants and other funding.
 - Potential for American Whitewater to fill the gap in funding (talk to Logan)
 - Ruby Mtn FLAP Road Widening
 - Planning on Fall construction
 - Potential for intermittent closures
 - Signs will be placed at the top of Bald Mtn Gulch Road for offroaders.
 - Presentation of Fred Rassmussen Award to Jo Nahomenuk on behalf of John "Nomi" Nahomenuk @ 11:00 am
- CTF Chair/Roundtable and Enviro/Recreation Committee Updates Bob Hamel
 - Arkansas River Basin Water Forum at CO Springs Double Tree.

- Meet people who control the flows.
- Lots of learning opportunities.
- arbwf.org April 25-26 2023 [ARBWF Registration](#)
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
- GARNA will be taking the lead

- Roundtable

(All)

- Friends of Browns Canyon (FOBC) has received grant funding to become a Dark Sky Location.
 - FOBC has purchased dark sky meters and will be taking measurements.
 - Browns Canyon may be named a Dark Sky Park, depending on the readings.