

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Thursday, November 2, 2023 • 10:00a - 12:00p

AHRA Visitor Center @ 307 W Sackett Ave, Salida • Zoom: ahra.mobi/ctf

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

NOTES

Present: Braden Baker, Larry Payne, Trey Shelton, Bob Hamel, Logan Myers, Christina King, Ed Perko, Gail Tubbs, Drew Elder, Mike Sugaski, John Gabriel, Hannah Harn, Ryan Dalton, Mike Holmberg, Sarah Mudge, Allegra Torres, Perry Edwards, Lisa Walters, Leslie Tyson, Mark Zinkula

Zoom: Christina King, Gail Tubbs, Drew Elder, Mark Zinkula, Sarah Mudge, Edward Perko, (BH?,) Ryan Dalton, Hannah Harn, Leslie Tyson

In attendance: Tom Waters, Kalem Lenard, Corrine Servis, Glenn Cottone, Serena Rocksund, John Kreski, Jennifer Crawford, Madi Mares

- **Welcome & Introductions** Bob Hamel, CTF Chair
- **Public Attendees and CTF Members Roundtable** 5 minutes/person
 - BV River Park- Barbara Whipple Bridge (tourists)
 - improve safety signage and AHRA loaner station
 - Lots of public involvement/support
- **AHRA Park Manager Updates** Tom Waters, AHRA Park Manager
 - Salida Lowhead Dam
 - Construction has already started
 - Construction is predicted through the end of December, possibly January
 - A lot of what is left is beautification/plant restoration, which is the goal once the dam is removed
 - Lisa: determining max CFS for the project
 - Plan is to restore to natural gradient
 - Scout Wave
 - Project 2.0 planned to fix the fish passage and structure itself
 - Construction is planned for January-February; Out of river by **Mar 1, 2023**
 - AHRA is expecting to see an updated drawing by Nov. 10
 - Pocket Wave (BV)
 - We are holding off on the project for now (Fall 2024)

2023-2024 CTF Meetings:

November 2, 2023 • December 7, 2023 • January 4, 2024 • February 1, 2024 • March 7, 2024

- Salida East Renovation
 - Work was finished this summer, and we have received good feedback about the improvements
 - We are attempting to get an acceleration/deceleration lane with CDOT
- Five Points Cleanup
 - AHRA has made a request to the state for money, and we continue to ask
 - Temp staff cleaned up the campground over the Summer
 - They replaced tent pads, replaced a few fire rings, and did an overall cleanup
- Parkdale Boat Ramp
 - Trying to finish up permitting with the Army Corps of Engineers
 - AHRA needs to get a wetland study first
 - The goal is to change the boat ramp to concrete to mitigate flooding
 - Talking to CDOT to widen the road for buses
 - Goal is Fall 2023
- River Station and Centennial Boat Ramps
 - Agreement with Canon has expired, we are hoping to renew
 - AHRA will continue to clean/pick up sites
 - City/AHRA/Feds are exploring options to accommodate public and commercial trips
- FLAP - Ruby Mountain Entrance Road
 - Fall 2024 is the plan
- Black Hills Property
 - Fix the Canon public/commercial problem
 - Negotiation with the City and Black Hills to make the area public access
 - Not much of an update at this point
- Park Manager II Positions
 - Welcome Serena Rocksund!
 - Taking Tappan's old position
 - We will welcome Jess King in January as the third PMII position at AHRA
 - Allegra (USFS) taking over for Dani Cook
- Recreation Rangers
 - Currently funded by BLM and Chaffee County
 - AHRA had four recreation rangers this year, three from local High School, one local adult with experience in connecting people to needed resources; USFS had three recreation rangers; BLM had one
- VFMP Wrap-Up
 - Successful season, we did not have to use 10,000 acre feet set aside
 - Due to projects from USBR and conditions of the season
 - Communication between stakeholders has been key
 - Stakeholders moved water at times that benefited the industry (especially Pueblo Water)
 - Late release of water got good response from both boaters and fishermen
 - When do water users anticipate moving winter water?
 - Evaluation of snowpack levels in February
 - March/April water move (after Elbert power plant back online)
- Walk/Wade Private Property
 - Do not need to report W&W on private property - ARK River Act

- Signage of private property boundaries is the responsibility of the land owner
 - Access to SWA/easements is from parking lot/designated shore
- Visitation
 - Do not have October visitation numbers yet
 - 1.2 million visitors at this point
- **AHRA Rationing and Permit Updates** **John Kreski, AHRA Rationing & Permits**
 - Private Boat Counts
 - John presented the 2023 private boat counts.
 - These will be posted online after being finalized (end of year 2023).
- **BLM Updates** **Kalem Lenard, BLM RGFO Asst Field Mgr**
 - Changes in staffing:
 - Trying to get “career” seasonals
 - Two people are to join in March (one OHV and one general park ranger)
 - Third person is funded by the Chaffee Commission/Common Ground
 - BLM estimates that about 33 tons of trash were cleaned up from dispersed sites
 - Worked on Brown’s Grotto, only boulder work is left
 - Mt. Shavano is the next proposed site to receive work to make designated sites (about 80 are predicted at this point)
 - Keith Berger retiring in late May; working on the announcement to back-fill
 - Visitation: End of September FYE; up slightly from 2019, down from 2022.
- **USFS Updates** **Perry Edwards**
 - Currently working on dispersed camping management plan
 - Numbers - long-term developed camping planned
 - downstream along the edge of river-right (land-swap for river left) or change the agreement with USFS w/ seasonal closure for wildlife
 - number of campsites not yet determined
 - Patrick Mercer - Leadville RD
 - USFS is working on filling vacant positions
 - Porter Gulch
 - The decision to re-route Porter Gulch trail was signed last Friday

- Working with Fremont County R&B to re-route
 - No trailers or camping
 - Monarch Park Campground
 - Currently in the final process of finishing up the project
 - Goal is to dredge two ponds
 - Add an ADA pier
 - Spring/Summer completion
 - Re-vegetation will happen after
- **CTF Chair/Roundtable & Enviro/Recreation Committee Updates** **Bob Hamel**
 - Brittany Peterson working to determine the needs of the area
 - Water Advisory Council; stakeholders and interest groups to learn about water and water needs in the area
 - Technical advisory group being formed
 - Haddie Johnson talked to Enviro Rec Basin roundtable representatives
 - Received a grant from CO Water Conservation Board (VFMP Is a model for the state)
 - Received South Platte Advancement Board grant for studies
- **Roundtable** **(All)**
 - Low Head dam removal: will there be changes to ponds or creeks shape/size/flow? No