Backcountry Search and Rescue

Updates and Step 1 of 2 of Proposed Regulations

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History

1987- The “Search and Rescue Fee” is created on each hunting and fishing license sold in Colorado ($.25 per license)

1992- The SAR fee is amended to be included on every OHV, Snowmobile and Boat registration in Colorado ($.25 per registration)

2001- The “Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue” Card (CORSAR) is instituted and made available for purchase- $3 for 1 year, $12 for 5 years

Current SAR Fund Revenues

~ $600,000 generated annually

- Approximately 80% of the fund is driven by CPW product SAR fees ($0.25 on every hunting and fishing license, OHV/Snowmobile and Boat registration)
- Approximately 20% of the fund is driven by CORSAR card sales

- Reimbursements: ~ $30,000 is requested annually by counties for incident reimbursement

- Funds remaining in the account at the end of the fiscal year are distributed to counties as grants for equipment and training: ~$480,000 annually

Historical BSAR Operations

- Operational Authority lies with the elected County Sheriff (24-33.5-707(10)(a) CRS)
  - Sheriff sponsored/employed SAR teams
  - Nonprofit volunteer groups under the authority of the Sheriff

- Technical expertise developed by individual SAR groups and Colorado Search and Rescue Association (CSAR)
  - MOU with CO Dept of Homeland Security- Emergency Management
  - Maintains Volunteer BSAR Coordinators
  - Training and certification opportunities for specialty technical skills

Recent Legislation

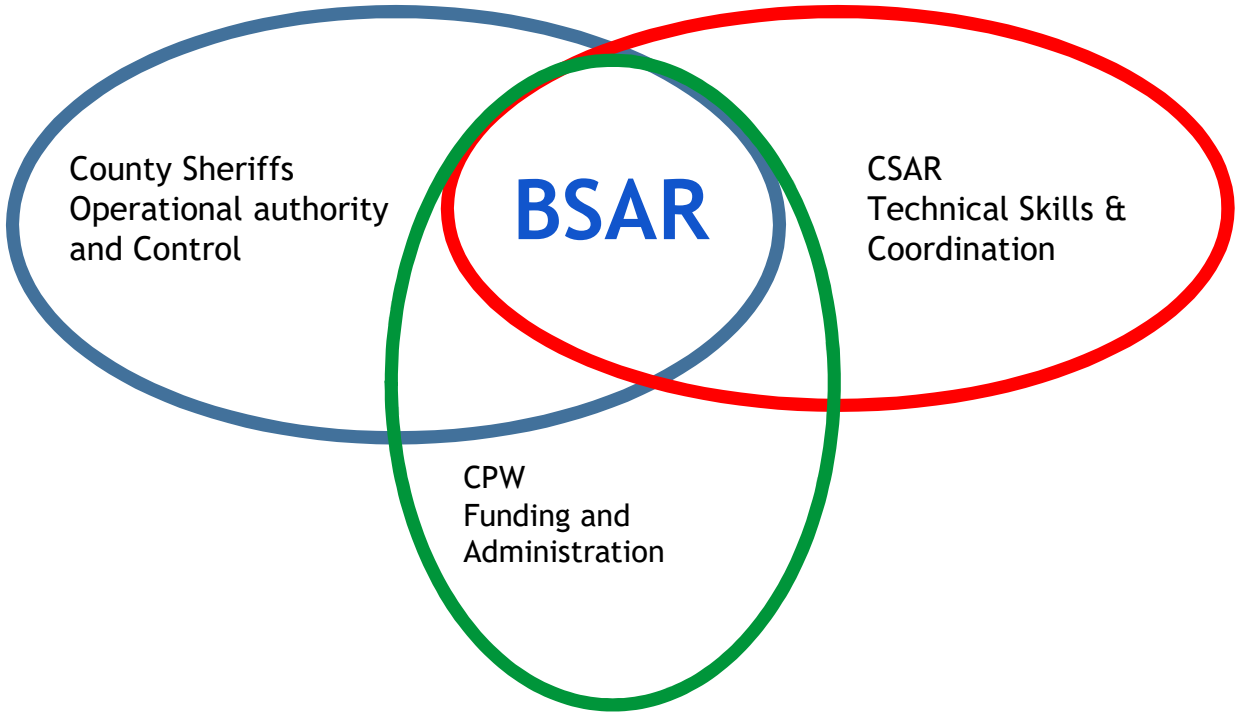
- SB21-245; Defined Backcountry Search and Rescue, established study and pilot programs

- SB21-249; Keep Colorado Wild Act; generating upto $2.5m annually to help fund Backcountry Search and Rescue programs

- HB21-1326; dedicated $2.25m to support BSAR efforts; including response costs and equipment

- SB22-168- Provided $1m in BSAR bridge funding and moved administration and SAR/BSAR fund from Dept. of Local Affairs to CPW, provides immunity, injury/death benefit for volunteers, effective Jan 1, 2023

Evolving BSAR Model in Colorado



Efforts in the Last Year

- "1326" Grant Funding $2.25m
  - Total awarded to date - $1,156,984
  - Current grant opportunity - $1,093,016
- Behind the scenes logistics
  - Marketing, internet/online migration of program
  - Conversion to IPAWS
  - Movement of SAR fund, BSAR funds, grants and contracts from DOLA to CPW
- BSAR Summit in November 2023
- Preparing a regulatory package for Commission consideration

Tasks in the Hopper

- Determining an incident database
- Credentialing volunteers
- Determine appropriate workers compensation for volunteers
- Continue mental health training for volunteers
- Development of funding strategies once KCW funds become available (on July 1, 2024)

Step 1 of 2 for proposed BSAR regulations

- Legislatively, SAR Regulations held in DOLA rolled over to CPW on January 1, 2023, even though they are not "physically" contained in our regulations now

- The regulation language and package is largely the same as they have been in DOLA rules

- Generally, updates to the regulations fall into these categories:
    1. Conformity to CPW format and language
    2. Update to the BSAR Council composition and role
    3. CORSAR card price increase

Step 1 of 2 for proposed BSAR regulations

1. Conformity to CPW format and Language
   - BSAR regulations largely moved into:
     - Chapter W-16 (Process and Procedures)
     - Chapter P-7 (CORSAR Card and Registration SAR Fee)
     - Chapter W-0 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing SAR fees)

   - References to DOLA changed to CPW, Division and Director

Step 1 of 2 for proposed BSAR regulations

2. Update to the BSAR Council and Role

#1681. Rules and Operating Procedures for use of funds credited to the BSAR fund pursuant to §33-1-112.5(1)(c)(II) C.R.S.

5. BACKCOUNTRY SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL

a. The Backcountry Search and Rescue Council will be composed of the following members:
    i. 3 - elected county sheriffs
    ii. 2 - members of Colorado Search and Rescue Association
    iii. 2 - employees of Colorado Parks and Wildlife
    iv. 2- At-large members
b. All council members must be appointed to the council by the Division Director
c. The Backcountry Search and Rescue Council shall meet to discuss reimbursements and the distribution of grant funds from the BSAR fund in accordance with CRS 33-1-112.5, in conjunction with analysis and consultation with Division staff.
    i. The Division Director, or their designee, will give final approval for all reimbursements and distribution of funds.

Step 1 of 2 for proposed BSAR regulations

3. CORSAR Card Price Increase
   - Since 2001, the CORSAR Card pricing has been set at
     - $3 for a 1 Year Card
     - $12 for a 5 Year Card

   - Demographics for these sales tend to be driven by the outdoor recreational community; hikers, skiers, mtn. bikers, visitors
   - Many vendors have been located in ski areas and tourist destinations throughout Colorado
   - Important to Note- this is NOT a Search and Rescue Insurance Card

Step 1 of 2 for proposed BSAR regulations

3. CORSAR Card Price Increase

Chapter P-7: Passes, Permits and Registrations

Article I - GENERAL PROVISIONS AND FEES RELATING TO PASSES, PERMITS AND REGISTRATIONS

#708 - PASS AND PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

14. Colorado Search and Rescue (CORSAR) Cards

    a. 1 year CORSAR Card….$5.00
    b. 5 year CORSAR Card….$20.00

15. It is unlawful for any person to transfer, sell, or assign any pass or permit issued by the Division, including special activity permits, campground use permits, and group picnic area permits, unless otherwise permitted by these regulations.

Step 1 of 2 for proposed BSAR regulations

3. CORSAR Card Price Increase

Revenue projection from cost increase:

Total Sales	**1 Year**	**5 Year**	**Total**
SFY 2020	$ 13,871	$ 97,989	$ 111,860
SFY 2021	$ 11,434	$ 102,807	$ 114,241
SFY 2022	$ 17,312	$ 93,894	$ 111,206
Average	**$ 14,206**	**$ 98,230**	**$ 112,436**
Projected Increase	**1 Year**	**5 Year**	**Total**
SFY 2024	$ 28,411	$ 139,159	$ 185,546
		Increase of	**$ 73,109.89**

Questions?