

Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Summary

The Colorado Sportsperson's Roundtable met virtually on December 13th, 2022. Twelve Roundtable members, eleven CPW staff, one Parks & Wildlife Commissioner, and the Acting Director for Colorado Parks and Wildlife participated in this meeting. This document summarizes the group's discussion.

Acting Director's Welcome

Acting Director Heather Dugan welcomed sportspersons to the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and commitment. The Acting Director gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting, which included an update on wolf restoration and management, and the upcoming Big Game Season Structure timeline.

Wolf Restoration and Draft Plan Update

Reid DeWalt, the Assistant Director for Aquatic, Terrestrial and Natural Resources, informed the Roundtable that the Draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan is now [available](#) for public review. The Parks and Wildlife Commission will host meetings around the state to discuss the draft plan and to hear public comment. The meetings are as follows:

- January 19th, Colorado Springs
- January 25th, Gunnison
- February 7th, Rifle
- February 16th, Virtual
- February 22nd, Denver

The February meeting in Denver will conclude the series and possible changes to the draft plan may be requested by the Commission. The final draft of the Wolf Restoration and Management Plan will be presented to the Commission in April 2023 with final consideration and adoption scheduled at the May 3-4, 2023 meeting in Glenwood Springs. This timeline leaves the fall of 2023 to prepare for wolves to be brought into the state by December 2023.

One member asked for additional research on the possible impact of wolf reintroduction on big game hunting and noted that a drop in hunting related revenue may affect both CPW and local businesses.

Additional comments on wolf reintroduction can be made at CPW's official Public Engagement website, engagecpw.org.

Big Game Season Structure and License Distribution

Policy and Planning Supervisor Katie Lanter gave an overview of recent big game license distribution changes approved by the Commission, and potential issues to be addressed by CPW in the 2025-2029 Big Game Season Structure (BGSS).

In November, the Commission approved a change to license allocation, as proposed by staff, that updates the three-year preference point average and threshold used to determine high demand hunt codes. High demand hunt codes will now be determined using a rolling three-year average with a one year lag for licenses requiring six or more preference points. This change will add about 1,200 deer and elk hunt codes to the 80% resident/20% nonresident high demand allocation. The Commission may also consider additional license allocation and preference point related changes that would be effective in 2024 or later. Additional license allocation changes being considered at this time are an across-the-board allocation of 75% resident/25% nonresident or updating the 80% resident/20% nonresident high demand hunt code allocation to 90% resident/10% nonresident. Preference point related changes still being considered are a preference point banking system and averaging group applicant preference points.

The current BGSS goes through 2024, and planning is under way for the upcoming BGSS beginning in 2025. It will take about 18 months from beginning the BGSS planning process until adoption by the Commission. In January, CPW staff will present proposed BGSS topics and an overview of the planning process. By June of 2024, CPW is aiming to have the next BGSS plan approved by the Commission. Roundtable members are encouraged to stay involved and can do so via the CPW public engagement site at engagecpw.org.

Legislative Update

Jeff Ver Steeg, Assistant Director for Research, Policy & Planning, provided an update on the upcoming legislative agenda and proposed bills concerning parks and wildlife. Few actions have been officially announced, but Senate legislators must introduce their bills by January 5th, and House legislators by January 30th. Late bills may be introduced but undergo a more rigorous review process.

Few bills related to parks, wildlife, or natural resources have been formally announced at this time. However, several pertinent bills may be introduced during this legislative session, including:

- *Stream Restoration and Water Rights bill* that would establish stream restoration as separate from water diversion or storage.
- *Species Conservation Trust Fund bill* that allocates tax revenue to support conservation efforts for species of concern in Colorado.
- *Wolf License Plate bill* that would generate revenues towards wolf reintroduction and management.
- *Lead Ammunition bill* that would limit the use of lead ammunition.
- *Keep Colorado Wild Revenue bill* that would allocate a portion of the funds generated by the Keep Colorado Wild passes to county road improvements around state parks.

- *Tribal Wildlife Licenses bill* that would provide free hunting and fishing licenses to tribal members in Colorado.
- *High Capacity Magazine bill* that would prohibit the use of high capacity magazines in Colorado shooting competitions.
- *Chatfield Water Authority Project bill* that would add a special fee for Chatfield State Park visitors to be used for water projects at Chatfield Reservoir.

Open Roundtable Discussion

- The group discussed the impact of wolf depredation on Colorado outfitters and stock animals. Concerns were raised regarding compensation caps for lost horses and safety concerns for clients.
- The Commission considered an issue paper in November concerning limiting archery elk licenses in the Grand Mesa area. Further action will occur in January, and it is possible that archery elk will be limited around the Grand Mesa area in 2023.
- The group discussed the possibility of changing resident/non-resident big game license allocation, and the associated loss of revenue. CPW conducted a [financial analysis](#) related to license allocation alternatives.
- Some roundtable members feel that preference point creep remains an issue and expressed interest in giving seniors preference, similar to the youth preference system. Additionally, a member raised the idea of a locals-only day when leftover licenses are first released.

Future Meetings

The next Statewide Sportsman's Roundtable meeting will be Saturday, March 4th in Salida. More details will be sent to Roundtable members.

The Southeast Region will hold a regional sportsman's caucus meeting on January 11th, at 6pm, at the CPW Colorado Springs office. Door prizes will be given out.

Other regional caucus meetings will also be scheduled for before the March 4th Statewide Sportsman's Roundtable meeting.

Adjourn

Attachment 1: Sportsperson's Roundtable Meeting Attendee List

Roundtable Members:

Brian Braaten
Loren Williams
Steve Schake
Kim Kokesh
Willie Kalaskie
Shannon Roy
David Dillon
Kayla Benjamin
Lester Smith
Robert Terwilliger
Roger Cesario
Ron Goodrich

CPW Staff:

Jeff Ver Steeg
Shana Waldman
Jonathan Boydston
Amanda Biedermann
Heather Dugan
Katie Lanter
Brian Dreher
Cory Chick
Kristin Cannon
Mark Leslie
Mitchell Martin
Reid DeWalt

Parks and Wildlife Commissioner:

Marie Haskett