



Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable  
March 10, 2018  
Buena Vista, Colorado

SUMMARY

The Colorado Sportsmen's Roundtable met on March 10 in Buena Vista Colorado. Sixteen Roundtable members, 10 CPW staff and two members of the public attended (see Attachment 1). This document summarizes the group's discussion.

Director Broscheid opened the meeting with a welcome and thank you to Roundtable members. He recognized the value of the Roundtable to the work of CPW. Efforts on financial sustainability and Roundtable support for the Future Generations bill has been invaluable. He also thanked members for participation in the survey providing CPW with feedback about Roundtable operations.

**State Legislative Updates** - Katie Lanter, Policy and Planning Supervisor

Hunting, Fishing and Parks for Future Generations (SB18-143) CPW's financial sustainability bill passed out of Senate Finance Committee unanimously and Senate Appropriations with strong support. At the time of this meeting, the bill had two readings on the Senate Floor. Update - the bill passed through the Senate 35-0. Next the bill was heard in the House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee on March 26 and passed to House Finance on a 9-4 vote. Some interest remains among the public and legislators to include youth free fishing licenses, which would have an impact on CPW revenues and result in a loss of Dingell-Johnson federal match. Members requested information on the financial impact of this change, which was provided after the meeting. [Update: since this meeting, Future Generations passed the House and is awaiting the Governor's signature.]

The Mussel-free Colorado bill (HB 18-1008) is moving forward. At the time of this meeting, the bill passed out of Senate Finance and was headed to Senate Appropriations. The legislature is looking at options for severance tax and how to cover funding gaps including \$2 million for CPW's Aquatic Nuisance Species program. [Update: since this meeting, Mussel-free Colorado passed and was signed by the Governor.]

Several bills address conservation easements, including one that proposes a moratorium on conservation easements tax credits. The Lottery reauthorization bill is moving through quickly with lots of support.

**Federal Legislative Updates** - Director Broscheid

The President's budget proposes cuts to several programs that benefit state fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation programs, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Dingell-Johnson is separate; the President cannot cut this program. Now is just the beginning of the federal budget process and it is too early to know how this proposal will play out with Congress. The Director is coordinating with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on the budget process and other federal initiatives that could affect fish and wildlife management in Colorado.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act - would allocate \$1.5 billion of federal appropriations from offshore oil and gas revenues to states to fund state wildlife action plans. The act passed out of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. This bill is the result of a collaborative effort with many partners (NWF, WTF, CSF, and more). If successful, \$20 million would come to Colorado. These funds would address endangered species, helping to delist them.

The Pitman-Robertson Modernization Act - would allow use of PR funds for recruitment/retention in addition to current programs (e.g. restoration, etc.), allowing agencies to address current needs.

### Selling GPS Information

Member Steve Hilde inquired about situations where hunters sell GPS locations on wildlife, continuing a topic brought up on the Roundtable google group. Outfitting is regulated by the state Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and DORA's outfitting statute 12-55.5-101 - 118, C.R.S. indicates physically accompanying someone is what triggers the requirements of the outfitting statute. DORA has its own citizen petition process, if there is interest in seeking a regulatory change to the outfitter definition. Steve offered to work with any other Roundtable members who want to explore this topic further.

Discussion identified several key issues, including fair chase, keeping pace with technological advances, and the norms/expectations of future generations. Fishing is facing these challenges. Fishing reports, scouting, and real-time data including photographs change the landscape for outfitters.

Other states, such as Wyoming and Nevada are exploring how to define fair chase and possible regulatory changes. Members communicated interest in continuing this discussion at future meetings.

### **Regional Caucus Updates**

Northeast Region - Steve Hilde and Kent Ingram gave an update on the NE Region Caucus meeting. There was strong attendance, about 50 people and 1700 views on Facebook live. Many new people attended the meeting. Discussion included the Rabbit Mountain elk hunt, recreational shooting, and wildlife migratory patterns. Participants discussed the need to establish recreational shooting locations by providing some amenities as a draw for people to designated locations. Regional staff and sportsmen are following U.S. Forest Service's planning process. CPW supports minimal closures and is concerned with enforcement challenges with more extensive closures. Participants also discussed the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program and Future Generations Bill.

Northwest Region - Terry Meyers provided an update on the Caucus meeting in Eagle. About 28 public attended in addition to a strong CPW turnout. They discussed the new licensing system, wolf coalition meetings, and the Grand Slam Raffle bill. They also covered the Future Generations Act and participants showed broad support. During public comment, issues raised included banking/preference point creep, declining elk in Eagle valley, limited bull licenses, and habitat. There was a lot of discussion on antler closures. In general, there was a lot of support for these in Eagle County. Questions raised addressed enforcement and penalties. Other issues raised included CWD mandatory testing, fishing maps, Sylvan Lake dam replacement, OHV stickers for bicycles and lion quotas.

Southwest Region - Mia Anstine reported that there were 30-40 people participating through video conference from several district offices. There was trouble with Monte Vista system and they could not connect with the larger meeting. Sportsmen discussed bears, including the impact of warming conditions and winter bear activity. Antler collection came up and some communicated that the new rules were unfair. Most appeared to understand the need. Ty Churchwell gave a Hermosa Creek presentation that people really enjoyed. CWD could become an issue in the SW. There is interest in doing more studies and members voiced interest in submitting a grant to help. Discussion on the Future Generations Act received positive response. An update on the Grand Slam Raffle generated some questions; however, the response was mostly positive. CPW provided an update on the IPAWs new license system and encouraged sportsmen to set up accounts before applying.

Kevin Alexander reported on an event called Wildlife 101: Management in the Gunnison Basin. Organized in partnership between the university and local organizations, the program included a three night series (consecutive Thursdays) with three presenters each night and then Q & A. 90-105 people attended each night. Participating students received college credit and hunter education. Numerous sponsors provided food and beverage. The strong turnout resulted in part because it was community organized, rather than an agency event. Kevin is happy to share lessons learned and believes this could serve as a model for other areas across the state.

Southeast Region - Dave Roudebush reported on the Caucus meeting, which took place in Pueblo with about 30 attendants. Issues discussed included the mild winter and IPAWs licensing application system. Regarding shed hunting, participants were interested in whether CPW had a measurable objective or a way to know if regulatory changes are making a difference. Attendees discussed the Future Generations bill and specific language on youth fishing licenses. In general, participants communicated that \$8 was a reasonable fee for youth and that the new proposal is clean and logical. There was broad support and not a lot of questions.

Willie Kalaskie reported on the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) upcoming event called The State of the Outdoors, which includes a Governor's forum. The Mayor of Colorado Springs will open; Luis Benitez of the Outdoor Recreation Industry Office will close. PPORA met with Senator Gardner and in partnership with CPW, organized Get Outdoors Day. This group is organizing outdoor recreation interests and may serve as a model for other areas.

### **Open Roundtable**

Wolves - Interest in supporting outreach/education to clear up misconceptions and communicate the important aspects/stories about the issues with reintroduction. Interest in future conversations on this topic.

Alternative funding - DNR released an RFP to hire a consultant to explore opportunities for diversifying sources of revenue for CPW. Sportsmen need to discuss this topic and determine interests/agenda concerning this topic. Roundtable member Dan Gates and Chris Journey met with DNR to discuss the importance of transparency and maintaining open dialog with sportsmen throughout the research project and as efforts evolve on this topic. Key

considerations include TABOR, the growing population, and how best for sportsmen to engage.

Habitat - The Parks and Wildlife Commission met with the Habitat Stamp Committee. The Commission has indicated support for a 2018 RFP process with broader eligibility for non-traditional projects like wildlife crossings, Corners for Conservation, etc. The Habitat Stamp Committee will have an open session at the Partners in the Outdoors Conference. Roundtable members are encouraged to attend. There should be an official Commission decision on the RFP at the Commission's May meeting. If the RFP includes nontraditional projects, there will need to be a new scoring and evaluation process.

#### **Roundtable Member Survey - Jody Kennedy**

Eighty-one percent of Roundtable members participated in an online survey to gather feedback on priorities and satisfaction with current email communications. The survey asked three questions. Jody provided an overview of the results -- see the attached summary. The first question asked about primary functions of the Roundtable. The second asked about priority topics the Roundtable identified when it first convened in 2013. The final question asked about the level of satisfaction with the two Roundtable Email lists. The survey also included an opportunity for general comments.

#### Discussion

During a follow-up discussion, members communicated an interest in hearing about all the regional Caucus meetings, not just the ones in their regions. From now on, CPW will include the entire Roundtable on caucus meeting announcements. They also requested more broad distribution of CPW press releases and Gary Thorson committed to follow up with options for receiving those messages. Members also asked CPW to help the Roundtable clearly understand CPW's needs and how they can best assist.

After review of the Roundtable's three priority areas, members requested a fourth topic for emerging issues that could change depending on what is most important at the time.

Members also discussed recruitment, retention and mentorship and how important these issues are when considering changing demographics. The Director referenced a US Fish and Wildlife Service Survey that shows changes in participation in hunting, fishing and wildlife related recreation and related expenditures. Looking at the growth and visibility of outdoor recreation as whole, members discussed the importance of connecting with the larger recreation sector rather than considering hunting and fishing separate. The Outdoor Retailers shows create an opportunity for hunters and anglers to be leaders for the sector. Members mentioned the need to keep hunting and fishing relevant, as well as making hunting and fishing less complicated.

Looking ahead, members felt the Roundtable should collaborate with the Wildlife Council and participate in their future campaigns. Gary Thorson will inquire about including the Roundtable on Wildlife Council communications.

Habitat will continue to be a critical issue. Especially with increasing growth and pressure on public lands.

The Roundtable requested follow-up discussion on issues of fair chase and scouting practices.

**Chronic Wasting Disease** - Reid DeWalt, Assistant Director Wildlife and Natural Resources and Matt Eckert, Terrestrial Programs Supervisor

Matt provided a presentation with background on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and recent trends in Colorado. Staff also provided a presentation on CWD to the Parks and Wildlife Commission at the February 2018 meeting. The [presentation](#) and [handout](#) are available on the Commission webpage. CWD has been detected in deer, elk, and moose herds throughout Colorado. The prevalence of CWD appears to be increasing in some herds. CPW is committed to addressing CWD through monitoring, investigating and reporting. This spring, CPW will convene an advisory group to inform the development of a CWD response plan. The advisory group will discuss various management strategies and current reimbursement policies. Meetings will start in April, taking place about once a month. This will be an intensive process with a significant time commitment. If you have questions about CWD, please contact Matt Eckert ([matthew.eckert@state.co.us](mailto:matthew.eckert@state.co.us)). [Update: since this meeting, the advisory group convened with representation from the Roundtable.]

### **Regional manager updates**

JT Romatzke, Northwest Regional Manager, provided the following updates: Cameo Shooting Range is making good progress with construction work starting the Monday following this meeting. Sage grouse collaboration continues while ruffed grouse trap and transplants have been very successful. CWD is affecting the region with the White River herd down from around 100,000 to about 30,000. Access is declining, in part due to oil and gas operations and changes in access with new owners. The Region is in conversation with companies and working to address this issue. CPW is working to prevent ANS infestations. This year, monitoring activities have already stopped two boats coming from Lake Powell infested from zebra mussels. Bears are coming out hibernation early and the region is responding to lots of calls.

Patt Dorsey, Southwest Regional Manager, provided the following updates: A local brewery is supporting the locavore movement by hosting an event with beer/game pairings including mountain lion ham. CPW is engaging kids and local communities in a popular activity to relocate turkeys in the Valley. Snow reports are very low as are water levels and the region is expecting a tough year for fish and wildlife. Several forest plans and the BLM travel plan updates are underway with opportunities for public comment. The region is looking for hunter education instructors, please spread the word and contact Patt if interested.

Mark Leslie, Northwest Regional Manager, provided the following updates: Rabbit Mountain offers a unique hunting opportunity in Boulder County - thanks to Roundtable members for supporting the county in making this happen. Last season, hunting took 24 elk on open space and six in the surrounding area. It was a successful season. Looking to remove a few more animals to achieve habitat objectives. The region is working with Larimer County on a potential new recreation site to become part of the state system. In conjunction with the Outdoor Retailer Summer Show this July, Cherry Creek State Park will host Demo Days. This is a great opportunity to interface with the broader recreation community.

(Dan Prenzlou, Southwest Regional Manager had to leave early for an event.)

### Next Steps

The next Sportsmen's Roundtable meeting has not been scheduled. Please contact Jody with possible agenda topics.

### Attachment 1: March 2018 Sportsmen's Roundtable In-person Meeting Participation List

Roundtable Member	Residence
Cody DeGuelle	Black Hawk
Dan Gates	Canon City
Dan Schwartz	Meeker
Dave Roudebush	Southeast CO
Jennifer Gluck	LaSalle
Kevin Alexander	Gunnison
Kent Ingram	Littleton
Mia Anstine	Pagosa Springs
Roger Tucker	Colorado Springs
Tim Brass	Windsor
Ron Goodrich	Pueblo
Steve Hilde	Loveland
Terry Meyers	Grand Junction
Tom Kenyon	Grand Junction
Ty Churchwell	Durango
Willie Kalaskie	Colorado Springs
CPW/DNR Staff	Title
Bob Broscheid	Director
JT Romatzke	Northwest Regional Manager
Patt Dorsey	Southwest Regional Manager
Dan Prenzlou	Southeast Regional Manager
Mark Leslie	Northeast Regional Manager
Gary Thorson	Assistant Director, Information and Education
Reid DeWalt	Assistant Director Wildlife and Natural Resources
Katie Lanter	Policy and Planning Supervisor
Jody Kennedy	Public Involvement Specialist
Matt Eckert	Terrestrial Programs Supervisor
Public	
Chris Journey	
Steve Lohr	