

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Thursday, October 28, 2021 • 1:00p - 3:00p

Present via Zoom: Christina King, Dwayne McFall, Leslie Tyson, Logan Myers, Trey Shelton, Bob Hamel, Braden Baker, Justin Zeisler, Dede de Percin, Larry Payne, Ed Perko, Greg Felt

In Attendance via Zoom: Tom Waters, Corrine Servis, John Kreski, Glenn Cottone, Tappan Brown, Jennifer Crawford, Brad Askins, Kalem Lenard, Drew Elder

Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Public Attendees and CTF Members Roundtable

- Improvements to the road leading into Ruby Mountain, funded by the FLAP grant, are tentatively scheduled for 2023.
- Follow-up meetings will be held regarding recreational, agricultural, and cultural resource interpretive signs, as part of the Browns Canyon National Monument management plan. Regarding the interpretive sign work on County Road 45, current signs are set to be replaced with no changes to the existing information or layout.

CTF Business

Welcome New Delegates (Dwayne/Gary)

The AHRA and CTF board welcome our new delegates, Dwayne McFall (Government Organizations) and Gary Gossage (Outdoor Recreation/Other).

Nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The CTF elected Bob Hamel to remain in the position of chairperson, and Braden to remain in the position of vice-chairperson.

Fred Rasmussen Award

Bob Hamel was selected as the first recipient of the Fred Rasmussen Exceptional Achievement Award.

CTF Bylaws Discussion

- Reviewed CTF section of Management Plan to address concerns.
- Request for “State of the State Park” update with projects and happenings mid-summer when CTF is not meeting as regularly.

Solicitation for agenda items for future meetings

Agenda items can be requested by contacting either of the chairpersons or by emailing ahra@state.co.us.

AHRA Updates

Park Manager Updates

Visitation numbers

AHRA visitation numbers were presented, suggesting that visitation counts will likely be over 1 million people again this year. June visitation was up from the previous year. Though July and August showed a decrease from the previous year, the long-term curve is still trending upward. An early winter month visitation update will be presented at the next CTF meeting.

Life Jacket Loaner Stations, new signs

Life jacket loaner stations are in place in Cañon City, Salida, and Buena Vista. AHRA has been working with a contractor to add new signage which will include play park etiquette. A more permanent station is expected to be installed in Buena Vista next spring. Donations of pfds are appreciated.

Infrastructure Improvements

NEPA @ campgrounds & access points prior to start

CPW has a programmatic meeting with BLM to discuss upcoming projects for the year and agencies continue to communicate regularly throughout the year. NEPA is always conducted prior to the start of projects.

Lowhead Dam

A grant application was submitted to the Natural Resources Damages Trustees, who met with AHRA on-site this week. Another meeting is scheduled for December 1st. If awarded, this project will likely take place in late fall, 2023.

Salida East renovation

CPW is currently in the drafting stage of a renovation project at Salida East. The SE Region Engineer expects the bid to go out this week. Once construction begins, the campground will be closed, but the boat ramp will remain open.

Elephant Rock

AHRA staff has completed some work at Elephant Rock to convert the site from a dispersed campground to a designated campground. Once complete, the campground will offer 12 drive-in sites and 3 boat-in sites, all of which will be available without reservations or fees. Youth Corps was scheduled to assist with this project but had to reschedule work for next spring. They plan to assist in installing buck-n-rail and signage in the area.

Five Points Campground improvements (NPLD)

A National Public Lands Day event was held at Five Points Campground, where volunteers assisted in installing new fire rings and campsite markers.

Granite Rock trail

A trail crew has been rescheduled for next spring to finish work on a trail that is being installed to access the climbing area at Granite Rock.

Black Hills

The Black Hills property in Cañon City has a request for proposals out right now. An onsite meeting is scheduled for today, and again on November 2nd, for interested contractors. The site plans include a parking area and a request for a 130' boat ramp which could serve as a take-out for the Royal Gorge and a put-in for Cañon City Whitewater Park.

Play Park wave improvements

The City of Salida intends to do some maintenance work on the existing Scout wave in town. The City of Buena Vista has a maintenance project planned for an existing wave as well. Both CPW and the cities recognize that fish passage is important and will be taken into consideration throughout the course of the project. AHRA was able to take the Army Corps of Engineers out in a boat on the river to show them concerns, which has helped increase communication. Construction is expected during low later, likely in October or November of 2022.

Silver Bullet work/Skarett Easement

The outfitting community still has some issues with the way the feature sets up in Silver Bullet at higher water levels and would like to see some work done. CPW was able to secure a construction easement through the property prior to its sale, and the new owners seem open and understanding of the situation. Next steps include working with an engineer to get a model, and requesting funding through a capital construction request.

Gear Boats Ruby

Following the loss of River Runners as a put-in, AHRA entered a trial season allowing gear boats to launch from Ruby Mountain between 8a and 10a, then anytime after 2p, pending notification to and approval from AHRA. The trial allowed no more than 2 launches in the morning and 2 launches in the afternoon. It appears that the trial season went smoothly, and will likely be replicated next year.

Trespassing Issues

With increased park visitation, AHRA was pleased to receive very few reports of trespassing issues this year. However, a few private landowners have reached out requesting assistance on signage, especially in areas where it's difficult to determine whether an individual is on private or public lands. One of these areas is at Jump Rock, upstream of Brown's Canyon. If CTF members are a landowner or hear from a landowner regarding a trespassing issue, please communicate those issues to AHRA so we can assist where possible.

Oro Vista

The Army Corps of Engineers put in (with AHRA) a request for comments regarding Oro Vista #1, a mining claim upstream of the Numbers put-in. This request is similar to, but not the same as the request from April 2020. This submission included comments from the previous submission as well as some from CPW biologists. AHRA is making CTF aware of the situation as CTF comments may be requested if the project continues to move forward.

VFMP Updates

The VFMP went really well this year. The group worked with the Pueblo Board of Water Works, which ran 6,000 acre-feet of water starting on approximately July 4, postponing the need to get into project water. This, along with rain events, left the VFMP with a small remainder of the 10,000 acre-feet available. A review of the prior year will happen before Nov 15.

Rationing and Permit Updates

Private Boater Redistribution Efforts Totals and lessons learned

The Private Boater Education and Redistribution numbers, taken from photo counts, were shared with the group. Final numbers show that only two days were over 75%, which was not enough to constitute triggering of the next step, as laid out in the Management Plan. AHRA plans to continue with voluntary education efforts next season, including education efforts on the [AHRA Private Boater webpage](#).

AHRA Admin Updates

Park Map Update Suggestions

CPW entertains annual requests for updates to park maps. AHRA is requesting assistance from CTF on ideas to make our current map and brochure more user-friendly. The [current map](#) can be found on the AHRA [Publications webpage](#).

Volunteer Project User Group Ideas

The AHRA would like to increase its volunteer base and offer more opportunities for people to get involved with the park and CPW. If CTF members have any ideas for volunteer opportunities within the park, please email them to ahra@state.co.us. Support and volunteer efforts from CTF user groups would be appreciated when volunteer opportunities become available.

BLM Updates

- The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office Visitation counts more than doubled in 2020 vs 2019. This year, visitation is down a bit from 2020, but still up 1 million users from 10 years ago.
- The BLM is working alongside Envision Chaffee County to develop a [camping management plan](#) for the area. BLM held public pre-scoping in May 2021 to understand what the public thought about camping in the area. This information was used to develop alternatives for the plan, which will go back out for public review around December 2021.

Roundtable and Enviro/Recreation Committee Updates

- Roundtable has been working to create a [Basin Implementation Plan \(BIP\)](#), a master list of water-related projects throughout the state, that will aid in a general understanding of current and upcoming projects and their related timelines, and to assist in a foundation for the water plan. (Related article attached.)
- Other roundtable discussions include the understanding that the Colorado River is not generating historical flows, yet demand continues to increase. An effort is underway by staff and board members to determine whether alternative mechanisms are available.
- Transmountain Diversions Map attached.

Member Roundtable

- If individuals have any pfd's they'd like to donate to the pfd loaner station project, please email contact information to [Tappan Brown](#).

Set date for next meeting, adjourn

Bob and AHRA staff will work to get the next few meetings on the calendar and share them with CTF.

From: Bob Hamel <bobhamel54@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:10 PM
To: 'Crawford - DNR, Jennifer'
Subject: FW: Take Action: Comments needed on the Colorado Water Plan updates

Here is the article and link to forward on to the CTF members to comment on the BIP.

Bob Hamel
719 371 3172

From: email@salsalabs.org [mailto:email@salsalabs.org] **On Behalf Of** Colorado Trout Unlimited
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Bob Hamel
Subject: Take Action: Comments needed on the Colorado Water Plan updates



Your Voice Matters for Colorado's Rivers!



Dear Bob,

Leaders across the state in nine "Basin Roundtables" are working to update their local water and river management plans, or "[Basin Implementation Plans \(BIPs\)](#)", and they're taking public comment from community members, like you. The Colorado Water Plan was first developed in 2016 with an unprecedented amount of stakeholder input (over 30,000 comments!). Now is the time to make your voice heard again as the BIP's undergo their first update in 6 years!



What do you think needs to happen in your local watershed for the health of your local rivers, the environment, and water supply? TU and our partners in Water for Colorado have compiled 6 key recommendations that you can review [here](#).

Meaningfully commenting on your local plan can be as simple as asking your Basin Roundtable representatives to prioritize and protect local river flows and ensure opportunities for river enjoyment and recreation by all. Water for Colorado will be collecting the comments, which will then be submitted on your behalf to your local Basin Roundtable once the public comment period ends on **Nov. 13**.

Don't miss your chance to participate in a recently-opened public comment process that will influence Colorado's Water Plan update. [Your voice is important – use Water for Colorado's simple alert to weigh in](#). Or if you want to dive more deeply into the details of your basin's plan, you can also comment directly through the Colorado Water Conservation Board's [comment page](#).

Take Action

Colorado Trout Unlimited

1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 320 | Denver, Colorado 80202

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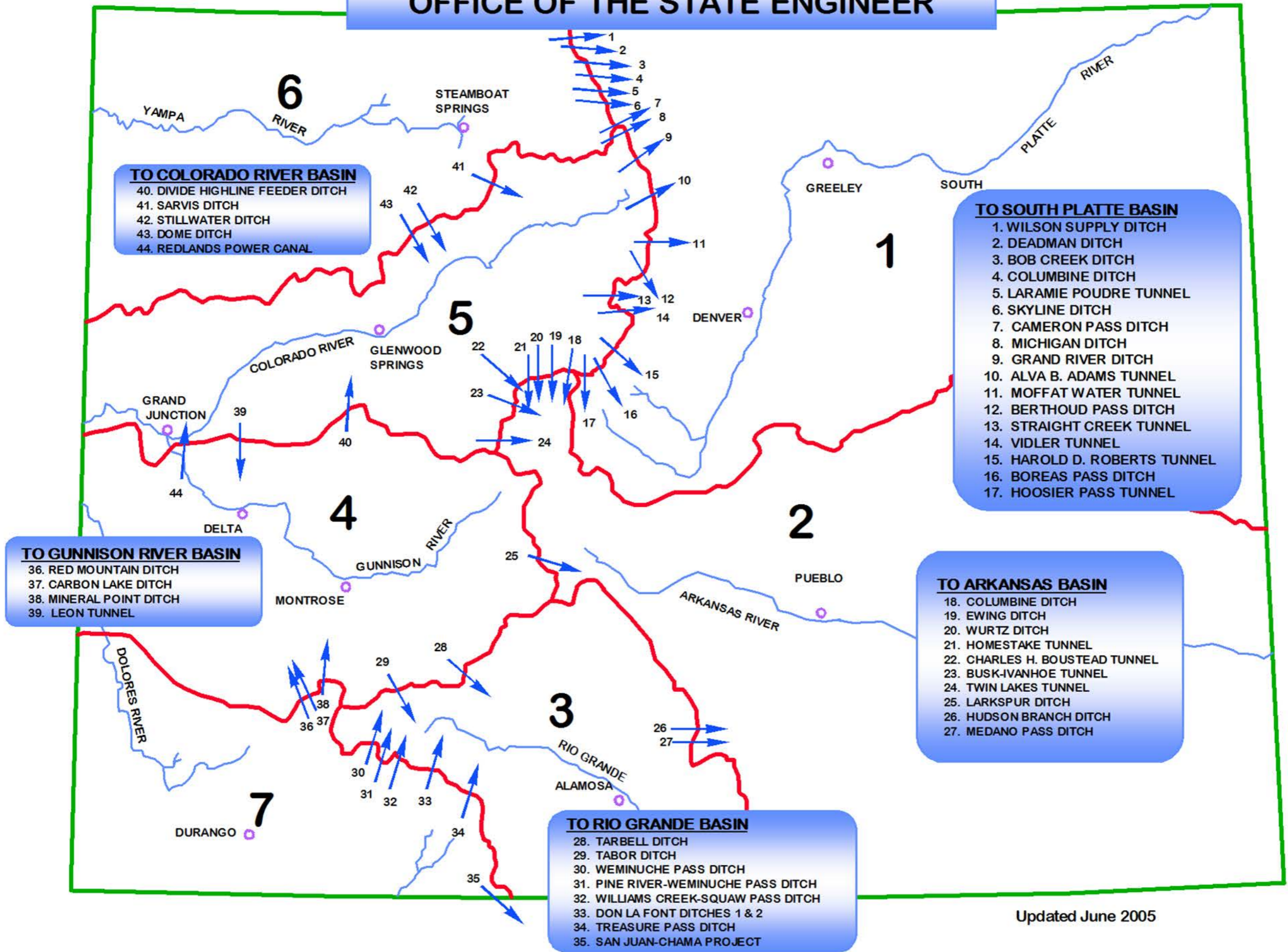
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TRANSMOUNTAIN DIVERSIONS

OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER



- TO COLORADO RIVER BASIN**
- 40. DIVIDE HIGHLINE FEEDER DITCH
 - 41. SARVIS DITCH
 - 42. STILLWATER DITCH
 - 43. DOME DITCH
 - 44. REDLANDS POWER CANAL

- TO SOUTH PLATTE BASIN**
- 1. WILSON SUPPLY DITCH
 - 2. DEADMAN DITCH
 - 3. BOB CREEK DITCH
 - 4. COLUMBINE DITCH
 - 5. LARAMIE POUDBRE TUNNEL
 - 6. SKYLINE DITCH
 - 7. CAMERON PASS DITCH
 - 8. MICHIGAN DITCH
 - 9. GRAND RIVER DITCH
 - 10. ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL
 - 11. MOFFAT WATER TUNNEL
 - 12. BERTHOUD PASS DITCH
 - 13. STRAIGHT CREEK TUNNEL
 - 14. VIDLER TUNNEL
 - 15. HAROLD D. ROBERTS TUNNEL
 - 16. BOREAS PASS DITCH
 - 17. HOOSIER PASS TUNNEL

- TO GUNNISON RIVER BASIN**
- 36. RED MOUNTAIN DITCH
 - 37. CARBON LAKE DITCH
 - 38. MINERAL POINT DITCH
 - 39. LEON TUNNEL

- TO ARKANSAS BASIN**
- 18. COLUMBINE DITCH
 - 19. EWING DITCH
 - 20. WURTZ DITCH
 - 21. HOMESTAKE TUNNEL
 - 22. CHARLES H. BOUSTEAD TUNNEL
 - 23. BUSK-IVANHOE TUNNEL
 - 24. TWIN LAKES TUNNEL
 - 25. LARKSPUR DITCH
 - 26. HUDSON BRANCH DITCH
 - 27. MEDANO PASS DITCH

- TO RIO GRANDE BASIN**
- 28. TARBELL DITCH
 - 29. TABOR DITCH
 - 30. WEMINUCHE PASS DITCH
 - 31. PINE RIVER-WEMINUCHE PASS DITCH
 - 32. WILLIAMS CREEK-SQUAW PASS DITCH
 - 33. DON LA FONT DITCHES 1 & 2
 - 34. TREASURE PASS DITCH
 - 35. SAN JUAN-CHAMA PROJECT

Updated June 2005