

## Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

### Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Thursday, December 9, 2021 • 1:00p - 3:00p

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

In Attendance via Zoom: Tom Waters, Kalem Lenard, Corrine Servis, Glenn Cottone, John Kreski, Jennifer Crawford, Tappan Brown, Paul Landahl (public), Perry Edwards (Salida District USFS Ranger)

#### Notes

#### AHRA Updates

##### Park Manager Updates

Tom Waters

##### Visitation numbers - winter update

AHRA's visitation counts for November are slightly higher than last year, just shy of 1.1m (882,000 in 2019). Vehicle counters are being installed and moved.

##### Salida East North

AHRA is soliciting name-change suggestions for Salida East North. This area is now being managed as day-use only. The new turn-in is marked with a sign and directs you to a newly-positioned parking lot.

##### Drones

Per the [Management Plan](#), drone use is prohibited within CPW owned/leased lands and above the river corridor within AHRA except as authorized by an AHRA Special Activity Agreement. To obtain a permit, complete the [Special Activities Event Permit Application](#) found on the [Publications](#) page of AHRA's website. Public concerns about drone usage within the park can be directed to [ahra@state.co.us](mailto:ahra@state.co.us).

##### FLAP Update

Improvements to the road leading into Ruby Mountain are projected to contract out after Labor Day 2023, continuing through December 2023. This site will be closed to the general public during this time, as no alternate entrances are available.

##### Low-head dam update

Considerations are in place for the removal of the Salida low-head dam. Removal of the dam would benefit both aquatic species and river enthusiasts. CPW applied for a Natural Resource Damages Grant and Restore Grant, which, if awarded, would each cover half of the project's cost.

### **Trail Improvement and Enviro Impact**

**Mike Sugaski / Tom Waters**

With increased visitation, environmental impact continues to be a concern for many sites and trail systems within the AHRA. Please contact [Tom Waters](#) with suggestions on areas that might benefit from a volunteer trail rehab project.

### **Rationing and Permit Updates**

**John Kreski**

#### **Private Boater page updates**

AHRA will continue private boater education voluntarily through next season. Updated draft wording for the [private boater page](#) was presented to the CTF for comment and will be made live on the website following the meeting.

#### **Preliminary Outfitter numbers**

Preliminary commercial use numbers were presented to the group and indicated an increase in clients and revenue from previous years. Final reports will be posted to the [River Outfitters](#) page of the AHRA website when complete.

### **BLM Updates**

**Kalem Lenard**

#### **[Chaffee County Camping and Travel Management Plan](#) Update**

The BLM will soon send a press release requesting public input on alternatives developed from the public input data collected last spring.

### **Roundtable and Enviro/Recreation Committee Updates**

**Bob Hamel**

Colorado River curtailment may impact water supply in a way that negatively impacts the VFMP. More updates to follow as they develop.

### **CTF Roundtable**

#### **Black Hills Property Update**

**Bob Hamel**

Construction on the Black Hills Property (City of Cañon City) is tentatively scheduled to begin at the end of Summer or Fall 2022.