

## Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

### Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 • 9:00a - 11:00a

In attendance: Tom Waters, John Kreski, Jennifer Crawford, John Nahomenuk, Bob Hamel, Trey Shelton, Greg Felt, Logan Myers, Mike Sugaski, Christina King, Dede de Percin, Justin Zeisler, Kalem Lenard, Sean Shepherd, Tappan Brown, Leslie Tyson, Braden Baker, Corrine Servis, unknown attendee (ap0526), Glenn Cottone

#### Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions Bob Hamel, CTF Chair
  
2. Public Attendees and CTF Members Roundtable Bob Hamel
  - 2.1. CPW will implement the Keep Colorado Wild (KCW) pass beginning January 2023, offering Colorado residents a \$29 park pass tied to vehicle registration. Individuals may choose to opt out at the time of vehicle registration.
  
3. CTF Business Jennifer Crawford
  - 3.1. Solicitation for Nominations
    - [Nomination/Application Form](#) is located on [CTF site](#)
  
4. AHRA Updates
  - 4.1. Park Manager Updates Tom Waters, AHRA Park Manager
    - Visitor Satisfaction Survey findings presented
      - [Presentation](#)
      - [Summary Report](#)
    - Hill v Warsewa  
The case is still in litigation and will be heard in State court.
    - Lowhead Dam  
Half of this funding was received from NRD. The project's cost has since increased, and we are still trying for funding from additional sources. Construction will be delayed until at least 2023.
    - Salida East project  
Phase 1 of this project started yesterday, including the reconstruction of the boat ramp and day-use area. The boat ramp is a priority and will remain at least partially accessible during construction. Boat ramp modifications include widening the ramp, armoring sides, and fixing the wash. Phase 1 to be completed by Spring. Phase 2 will be the redevelopment of the campground and will start this fall.
    - State Wildlife Area pass requirement will be actively enforced in July (education phase started in 2020).
    - Granite Bridge construction will start in 2023. During the commercial boating window, access across the bridge will remain open. Access will be available to residents.

- Water Update (VFMP)  
Met yesterday, will import a bit less water than the previous year's water call. Cautiously optimistic about the upcoming season. The next meeting is May 3; Tom will send out an update following this meeting.
- Temporary Staffing  
AHRA is actively working to bring staff on. Recruitment issues, including housing and pay, are proving difficult.

4.2. Rationing and Permit Updates John Kreski, Rationing & Permits

- Outfitter Meeting  
This year's Outfitter Workshop will be held on April 12, in-person at Steamplant for commercial outfitters.
- Rec District Instructional Boating  
The cities of Cañon City and Salida want to instruct children about how to get out of the river/water safely and not have to get a special commercial permit to do instruction. Developing a special cooperative or intergovernmental agreement to accomplish this goal. Youth paddling programs are proposed on a limited basis (time, location ie whitewater parks only so it does not negatively affect rationing limits). Issues considered include Guide qualifications, liability, etc... will work with municipalities. Main goal is not to compete with commercial outfitter operations. Could spark interest in local youth to become future guides.
- General Updates  
[Private Boater page](#) is still live and has been updated with new 2022 dates.

5. BLM Updates Kalem Lenard, RGFO Asst Field Manager  
In the middle of seasonal hiring; 5 seasonals are needed, struggles with recruiting.

[Chaffee County Camping and Travel Management Plan](#): Closed in late January for public scoping; had over 400 comments. Kalem is looking through comments and creating a preferred alternative. Impact analysis will be completed before going back to the public.

Browns Canyon: Creating interp and signing plan. Pulling interp items out of the Management Plan into a usable plan.

Elephant Rock: Day use Corps work finishing up this week. Site will be designated dispersed but remain free. Section west of the railroad track will be converted to day use only. Two boat-in campsites will be added near the river.

Ruby Mountain: FLAP access grant to widen road scheduled tentatively for Fall 2023. NEPA happening this summer.

Midland Tunnel Work: Road closures will occur while Midland Tunnels are repaired, beginning April 11. Signs will be placed at the BV boat ramp and Railroad Bridge informing of closures. Outfitters will be notified at the upcoming Outfitter Workshop.

6. Roundtable and Enviro/Recreation Committee Updates Bob Hamel  
Zephyr Mine @ Upper Grape Creek:- withdrew permit for at least two years

Black Hills property: Some soil mitigation complete; otherwise, not much change.

[Water Forum](#): April 28-29 in Salida, networking and water tours

Oro Vista: Mining at Oro Vista is still pending.

Basin Implementation plans are complete.

Chaffee County Trails Strategy: Looking for a grant to fund motorized and Non-Motorized trails in the Bailey area.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- email update scheduled for late June/early July