

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Thursday, December 15, 2022 • 9:30a - 11:30a

Hybrid Meeting Options:
AHRA Visitor Center @ 307 W Sackett Ave, Salida, CO 81201
Zoom Registration: ahra.mobi/ctf

Anglers: Larry Payne, Braden Baker • Commercial Permittees: Bob Hamel, Trey Shelton
Private Boaters: Dede de Percin, Leslie Tyson • Environmental Interests: Christina King, Logan Myers
Water Users: Justin Zeisler, Ed Perko • Government Organizations: Dwayne McFall, Greg Felt
River Front Property Owners: Drew Elder, Gail Tubbs • Outdoor Recreation/Other: Gary Gossage, Mike Sugaski

Attendees: Bob Hamel, John Kreski, Jennifer Crawford, Larry Payne, Trey Shelton, Mike Sugaski, Steve Fleming (Mountain Mail), Kalem Leonard, Tom Waters, Corrine Servis, Dede DePercin, Logan Myers, Justin Zeisler, Glenn Cottone, Drew Elder

Via Zoom: Christina King, Gail Tubbs, Dwayne McFall, Ed Perko, Kiersten King, Leslie Tyson, Braden Baker, Ashli C (unknown participant; pushed to waiting room w/ chat, left meeting)

Notes

- ❖ Welcome & Introductions Bob Hamel, CTF Chair
- ❖ Public Attendees and CTF Members Roundtable 5 minutes/person
 - Hill vs Warsewa Update (ARK River Access)
 - “Hill’s case was originally dismissed, but an appeals court ruled that part of his case had standing. After the appeals court ruling revived the case, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser asked the Colorado Supreme Court to step in.” (Cook)
 - Friends of Brown’s Canyon- Dark Sky Update
- ❖ AHRA Updates
 - Park Manager Updates Tom Waters, AHRA Park Manager
 - Salida East:
 - Salida East is currently under construction. The campground is closed, but the boat ramp and river access remain open. Construction is set to be complete by Memorial Day. An additional closure will occur in the first two weeks of March, closing the site for 6-7 days while a cement apron is poured at the highway entrance to the site.

- Kiosk/KCW:
 - Self-serve fee tubes have been removed at all sites with credit card kiosks. Fee tubes have been closed over, and the passes have been removed at less-used sites due to theft and the cost of maintenance during these slower months.
 - The new Keep Colorado Wild (KCW) Pass sales will go live on January 3, 2023, and will be available to Colorado residents upon registration of their vehicle. Park passes will remain available for sale as they were prior to the introduction of KCW. [FAQ](#)
- Black Hills
 - Cañon City passed Issue 2C. Working out details for the City to acquire and improve the area for a river takeout/put-in.
- Big Bend
 - AHRA is in the draft phase of a traffic plan for Big Bend, hoping to reduce congestion at the site. AHRA met with the Regional engineer to create a draft plan for access. An outfitter requested boat-in-only camping for multi-day trips with access prohibited from the road. If you have comments, please let Tom (tom.waters@state.co.us) know.
- Rincon
 - This capital project request is complete. It has been challenging to get permits with CDOT. Maybe unnoticed changes but they are critical. Thanks to the staff.
- Low-Head Dam (Plans/CPW funding)
 - Still an active project in CPW. Received initial funding from the Natural Resources Damages Committee. Now seeking funding to complete \$831 (was 50%), but now costs have increased to an estimated \$1.6-\$2.2M. Fish and Wildlife awarded a grant to complete drawings. Also working with them to fill the gap, CPW will put \$650 in.
- Fred Rasmussen Nominations
 - Two nominations were received. Discussion regarding the two nominees at the next meeting.
- Hayden Ranch Agreement
 - CPW is working with Aurora to renew the agreement to manage the property. Should be re-signed by the end of the year.
- Parkdale Fall 2023
 - AHRA was awarded the large-cap project to redo the boat ramp. The in-channel permit is complete. While AHRA has been awarded the money, the bid process now starts. AHRA is working with the Army Corps of Engineers and Fremont County. Improvements to start the week after Labor Day 2023. Not sure about access, the plan is to first get cement (concrete apron) poured. We will keep you posted.
- Ruby Access Grant
 - The plan at this point is for work to begin in the Fall of 2023, after Labor Day, to widen the road. There will be hard closures on the road, with scheduled pass-throughs. More to come.

- Milk Run Access Near Johnson Village.
 - If you have ideas for put-ins or how to address this issue, contact Tom. Right now Wilderness Aware or BV are the only put-ins.
- AHRA Budget Requests:
 - If you have ideas for budget requests, let Tom know. We can work toward a single important project to move forward with (as opposed to many projects).
- Tubing
 - Current regulation states that tubers must wear a lifejacket.
 - Possible education at 166 to help
 - People are renting tubes but are uninformed, this leaves potential for issues at the dam.
 - Will more Ranger presence help?

❖ Rationing and Permit Updates

John Kreski, Rationing & Permits

- Commercial Use Numbers
 - Total numbers will be published, along with detailed reports, at the beginning of January.
- Private Boater Numbers
 - Presented a brief amount, which will be published in January with the Commercial Report.
 - User education dates will be determined based on the previous year.
 - John will create a chart to show three education dates, commercial vs private.

❖ BLM Updates

Kalem Lenard, RGFO Asst Field Manager

- Request for three career seasonal positions approved, screening now
- Camping plan
 - Currently going through comments, hopeful for a decision in January.
- Conversations are being had with potential regional partnerships. (city and federal partnerships)

❖ CTF Chair/Roundtable and Enviro/Recreation Committee Updates

Bob Hamel

- Colorado Water Conference, Jan. 2023
- The Colorado River Water Users Association is meeting in Vegas to determine how to divide up the Colorado River.
- Colorado Airborne Technology Group (lidar technology)
 - Water entities are looking at how to support this technology to determine the amount of water content in snowpack.
 - New, enhanced Snotel being installed.
 - Studies start in January and technology should be up and going by 2023.

- Water Forum April 25-26 will be talking about Lidar and Snowtel (experts coming)

Upcoming meeting dates:

- January 18
- February 15
- March 15

Work Cited

Cook, Lanie Lee. "Who owns rivers? Colorado Supreme Court to hear case." KDVR, 13 December 2022,
<https://kdvr.com/news/local/who-owns-rivers-colorado-supreme-court-to-hear-case/>.
Accessed 15 December 2022.

DONE