

Sportsmen Advisory Group (SAG) Statewide Meeting
Buena Vista, Colorado
Best Western Vista Inn, 733 US Hwy. 24 No.
Saturday June 6, 2009
10:00am – 3:30pm

ATTENDEES:

Denny Behrens, Colorado Mule Deer Assoc.
Brian Bowles
Wolf Brueggemann, Colorado Hawking Club
Dennis Buechler, Colorado Wildlife Commissioner
Lisa Buechler
Bill Canterbury, Colo. Cattlemen's Assoc.
Dave Chadwick, CDOW
Mick Davis, SLV HPP Committee
Dave Dunsmoor, Colorado Mule Deer Assoc.
Bill Dvorak, National Wildlife Federation
Lynn Ensley, Colorado Sportsmen's Wildlife Fund
Ron Ferris
John Gale, National Wildlife Federation
Matthew Garrington, Environment Colorado
Dan Gibbs, State Senator
Dave Gill, Colorado State Shooting Assoc.
Bill Goodhart, Colo. Resident Hunters Equality Task Force
Ken Greninger, Colo. Resident Hunters Equality Task Force
Tony Gurzick, CDOW
Randy Hampton, CDOW
Steve Hilde, Colorado Bowhunters Assoc.
Lyn Huber, CDOW
Bruce Hutcheon, SCI
Ivan James, Colorado Bowhunters Assoc.
Bill Johnson, Colorado Mule Deer Assoc.
Phil Kelly, Pheasants Forever
Tom Kenyon, Colorado Mule Deer Assoc.
Katie Knoll, CDOW
Eddie Kochman
Dan Larkin, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society
Mary Lloyd, CDOW
Jerry Mallett
Tim Mauck, CDOW
Read McCulloch
Dave Moore, Trout Unlimited
Allen Moores
Betsy Murray

Paul Navarre, Colorado Bowhunters Assoc.
Suzanne O'Neill, Colorado Wildlife Federation
Dan Prenzlow, CDOW
Dick Ray, Colorado Outfitters
Dwayne Robey, Outdoor Buddies
Ed Robinson
Chris Roe
John Smeltzer, Colorado Wildlife Federation
Dick Steele, Colo. Resident Hunters Equality Task Force
Richard Strauss
Bill Sustrich
Arden Trewartha
Roger Tucker, Colorado Hawking Club
Ron Velarde, CDOW
Eddie Vita
Sean T. Walsh, Colo. Resident Hunters Equality Task Force
Opal Watts, Colorado Trapper's Assoc.
Les White, SW SAG Rep. /Habitat Stamp
Steve Yamashita, CDOW
Joe Zbylski, SCI-SSCI
Dick Ziminski

Co-Chair opening remarks/agenda review/Ron Velarde

- Thanks to the group for being here. Current sportsmen Co-Chair Kent Ingram could not be here at this meeting. Today a new Co-Chair/sportsmen will be selected.
- Ron introduced State Senator Dan Gibbs in attendance at this meeting. Dan gave his thanks to those in attendance and appreciates their voice at the Capitol. If anyone has any issues, make sure to contact your Representative, Senator, member of the Congress or come down to the Capitol. Dan is the Co-Chair of the Sportsmen's Caucus at the Capital and a National Board member of the National Assembly of Sportsmen Caucuses.
- Agenda addition – Richard Strauss will discuss “Recreational Access to/from and Use of Streambeds” at the end of the current agenda.
- Lynn Ensley presented a check to CDOW from the Colorado Mule Deer Assoc. This was from the sale of the Governor's Mule Deer Tag.
- Denny Behrens presented an award to Dick Ray, prior Wildlife Commissioner – “Wildlife Commissioner of the Year”. Dick is appreciated for his dedication and time commitment.

Co-Chair/Sportsmen election

- There are two nominations; Chris Roe and Ivan James. It was asked if there are any other nominations, and there were not. Each nominee will talk to the group and then votes will be taken; DOW and Wildlife Commissioner Buechler will not participate in the vote. Ballot votes will be counted. The term of the new Co-Chair will be two years unless the SAG group comes up with something different.

- Ivan James – Started hunting over 60 years ago and in Colorado the last 15 years. For the last 6 years he has been on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Bowhunters Assoc. (CBA); and the last 4 years has been the Legislative Director. He has testified at the Capitol on various bills and joined the SAG group 4 years ago. He supports the diversity and the commitment of sportsmen’s organizations and he would like to see this organization be strong and serve as a voice for hunters and fishermen.
- Question to both nominees from Dick Ray – Wanted to know what their stance is on and their definition of commercialization of wildlife. Ivan said that times have changed and it used to be that neighbors let sportsmen hunt on their lands. Now there are buying and selling transactions going on for animals and he does not agree with that.
- Chris Roe – He is a Wildlife Biologist and owns his own consulting company. He is a conservative and is a sportsman who bow and rifle hunts, has trapped, and fishes. On the business side of things he deals with lots of controversial issues especially on the Front Range. He speaks his mind. He thinks this group needs to have good dialog and critical thinking. His definition of commercialization of wildlife is when either individuals or groups make money off of wildlife to the detriment of others. Such as if there are those out there who are affecting how wildlife move or influencing politics to exclude other people. Regarding this group he would like more people involved and have critical discussions. If members bring controversial issues to the table, then we have a pile of comprehensive issues that need to be discussed. He looks at this Co-Chair position as less of a legislative person. He will represent general sportsmen and will make sure you are educated on the issues so you can go back to educate your groups. He would like to see external communication sources via the internet for regular dialog continually on these issues.
- A member of the group is uncomfortable about Chris’s statement “to the detriment of others” specifically as a landowner directly addressing the voucher issue versus sportsmen and opposing viewpoints. It seems that Chris is straddling the fence as far as his position. Chris believes firmly in landowner rights; the landowner is providing habitat and feeding those animals 365 days a year. However, if that landowner fences off grounds and blocks a bunch of people out and starts feeding the animals knowing that the elk will pile down into the property and excluded from the public; and then that landowner charges a premium for the tags and tries to keep the public out; that is a detriment to others (hunters).
- Question regarding the Habitat stamp money and how and what it was used for and changes and if they agree with those changes. Chris – Some of the changes he likes and some he does not. He was always a proponent to having a one \$10 stamp and is glad about that. He has reservations about the non-consumptive users being out of the loop, especially on the long term participation of that group at the table discussing issues if there are not stepping up and providing some sort of effort. Ivan – This year there were a number of ideas that floated around to get commonality from all interest groups (landowners, sportsmen). Ivan was a proponent for the “clean bill” that did not have set asides for specific activities.

The way the process works is that the DOW puts out RFPs for nominations. Nominations are for a variety of projects but you can't guarantee that nominations will fit a whole bunch of set asides. The last three years the nominations came in and the committee would rank those based on the criteria on what the legislation said and go down the ranking to fund. Only about a dozen would get funded and were very selective. If you set aside a certain amount for this particular kind of habitat or access, then you may or may not have a real high ranking. That is what we started off with. The Colorado Mule Deer Assoc. wanted to continue to have a majority to go for big game habitat and in particular migration corridors. The funding for the first three years, the projects were for big game habitat and sage grouse and covered the 60 percent set aside for it. He discussed some of the amendments and thinks that overall it is a good bill.

- Votes were written down, collected, and counted. The vote: Chris Roe-23. Ivan James-22. Chris Roe is the new Co-Chair/Sportsmen.

Legislative Review – Tim Mauck/please refer to attachment “2009 Legislative Summary SB-235 and SB-24.doc”

- Game Damage Bill updates - Please refer to attachment *“Game Damage as Passed and Sent to Gov SB 24.pdf”* and refer to the **Game Damage** portion of the attached summary.
- Habitat Stamp Bill updates - Please refer to attachment *“Final SB 235 Sent to Gov.pdf”* and refer to the **Habitat** Stamp portion of the attached summary. A SAG member from the Colorado Hawking Club had a question about Falconry licenses. Those are purchased every 3 years and buying them ahead of time is a problem. This issue will be worked out per Ron. A question to Tim from one of the group was why the passport program, which is an independent program is part of the bill? Due to the fact that it was a component of the original program and to try to engage the non-consumptive users to pay into wildlife management in Colorado. The new program is similar to the old program.
- Dick Ray asked if sportsmen have a strong gain, loss, or did they hold their own regarding the bills this year? Tim said they came out strongly. Search and Rescue fee increase bill was beat down this year. Thanks to those involved for getting that done. Oil and Gas rule making – big benefit, we came out ahead. It helps to have more sportsmen be heard at the legislature. Tim's emails will be sent out to the SAG group from now on. Contact Tim with any feedback you have. His email is Tim.Mauck@state.co.us Also mentioned was that there is room for improvement for attendance by sportsmen at the Sportsmen Caucus meetings at the Capital.
- Public Advisory Education Council (PEAC) mention – Lynn Ensley. The legislature wants to take some of the funds and advertise out of state which would be a threat to the fund. Question is what we are doing at the legislature to protect those funds? Tim - next year we need to pay attention to this one. SAG members should contact your legislators and let them know we want to keep the funds and what the ads are doing here in Colorado. These are not DOW ads. The sportsmen brought forward that we need to educate the non-hunting and fishing public about hunting and fishing and how wildlife management is funded in this

state. Mentioned was to eliminate DOW's image from those ads; the perception is that the ads are for advertising and enhancing DOW and are not generating good will for DOW. Tom Kenyon stated that DOW should not pull back and should now cower from criticism and to not eliminate DOW's image from those ads. Ron will get with the PEAC council to have them provide bullet points/information that can be shared with the SAG members so they can contact their legislators with these issues. **This information has been requested from PEAC and will be sent as soon as we receive it.**

Priorities for Voucher Program update – Katie Knoll

- Katie Knoll updated the group on the process for moving forward with a discussion about the landowner voucher program. The Division would like to bring together a group of landowners, outfitters and sportsmen to discuss the program. The Division supports the landowner voucher program and would like this group to have a positive and productive discussion about opportunities to make the program better. At this time, the Division is looking for individuals who would be interested in participating in such a group. The kickoff meeting for this process will be held sometime in July or August and will be open to the public. The focus of the meeting will be to get everyone on the same page as far as how the landowner voucher program works, allow sportsmen, landowners and outfitters to meet and chat with the individuals who will be representing them as part of this group, and to start talking about some of the potential opportunities for change to the program. As a starting point for this kickoff discussion, Katie has also requested that sportsmen submit up to 3 priority topics they would like to see discussed as part of this process.
- **Please send 1) your priority topics and/or 2) your name and contact information if interested in participating in this discussion group to: Dave Chadwick – dave.chadwick@state.co.us or 303-291-7174.**

Big Game Season Structure 2010-2014 review and updates – Mary Lloyd

- Please refer to attachments – *“BGSS Division’s Draft Alternatives WC May09.pdf”* and *“BGSS Draft Guidelines WC May09.pdf”* Every 5 years the DOW looks at how the big game seasons are set up - to look at the big picture. Over the last year this review has been going on. The Wildlife Commission will vote on the final for 2010-2014 at the September 2009 meeting.
- Another process being reviewed at the next Wildlife Commission meeting will be the nomination of elk units E41 and E43 for totally limited licenses. That nomination will be reviewed and at the June Commission meeting and it will be decided if there is enough support for the nomination to move forward.
- The DOW has all of the information about the BGSS and the nomination on their website. To see that information you can go to the website www.wildlife.state.co.us/BGSS The email address to make comments regarding the Big Game Season Structure is wildlife.bgss@state.co.us or you can contact Mary at Mary.Lloyd@state.co.us
- Questions or comments? One comment made is that the Governor does not have a Sportsmen’s Advocate Group which is a problem. Dick Ray mentioned that the

process generated a lot of comments so why were there not more alternatives that came out? Was the Wildlife Commission not taking those seriously and bringing them forward? Mary said that all comments have been reviewed and that if there are any comments or ideas you can still bring them forward. The DOW alternatives have not yet come out but those should be available to review on the DOW website by the end of June. Mary will speak more with Dick about his comments. One attendee in the group mentioned that big game hunters evolve from small game hunters as a general rule and is concerned about youth hunting opportunities. Youth recruitment has been an issue and is being worked on. Chris Roe reinforced that Denny Behrens and the Conservation Summit is addressing youth recruitment.

Access concept/Habitat Stamp – Eddie Kochman

- Eddie referred to the South Park Ranch Recreation Program. The access issue is critical. Please refer to attachment – **“South Park Access Program.doc”** A lot of the conservation easements do not have hunting access and are closed to public access. With population growth it will be more difficult to hunt on private lands. Eddie would like to use the South Park program as a model. DOW is not administering this program; it is administered by Park County. With this program you reserve a spot to fish and there are only approximately 4 people on a 3 mile stretch of the river at a time. This is a catch and release fishing opportunity. The county keeps a portion of the money and the program is paying for itself. For additional information about this program go to website: www.parkcountyheritage.com He is suggesting that a portion of Habitat Stamp money be used to facilitate this type of program and GOCO. Eddie would like to see more of these programs in the state. Eddie’s recommendation to SAG is looking at reauthorization on Habitat Stamp with emphasis on money going back to counties to help facilitate these programs.
- There was a question about the option of using existing Habitat Stamp money for existing properties. At this time there is a lack of clarity on that. Diane Gansauer will look into a legislative analysis on this.
- Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program 2009/Request for Proposals (RFP) process – Diane Gansauer. Please refer to attachment – **“CO WL Habitat Protection Program 2009.pdf”** RFP applications are encouraging landowners in addition to conservation easements to provide access, which is an emphasis this year. Chris asked Diane how significant is the rating criteria as far as access? It is an element or key element but DOW has not finished how to deal with that yet. We may pull out access as its own rating function. Dan Larkin emphasized that access has always weighted as a great component by the Habitat Stamp Committee with habitat as number one. Recommendation to this group is to re-address existing properties for money to manage those properties and to give DOW that option. Contact Diane if you have any questions – email her at Diane.Gansauer@state.co.us Whether or not access will be a ranking factor, we don’t want to detour someone from applying.

Energy Development/Oil Shale – Bill Dvorak

- Refer to attachment/powerpoint presentation – “SAG Oil Shale Presentation.pdf”
This presentation was made at the meeting.
- Bill also mentioned an article in the March 2009 issue of National Geographic magazine - <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/03/canadian-oil-sands/kunzig-text>
- Suzanne O’Neill said that information on this issue can be viewed at the Colorado Wildlife Federation website – www.coloradowildlife.org
- DOW’s perspective is that we are concerned about oil shale development along with other energy development.

Search and Rescue/Policy position – Ivan James

- HB1071 was introduced in the last legislative session and would have increased the Search and Rescue fee from \$.25 to \$1.00. This bill got killed in Appropriations Committee. Sportsmen are already paying far more than their fair share into this fund compared to their small percentage of the rescues. At the end of the year any remaining funding is used for training and equipment. The original intention is that the excess would go back into DOW game cash. A couple of the representatives on the Appropriations Committee would like to see sportsmen sit down with the proponents and see what their needs are and what could be worked out. This issue is probably not dead and sportsmen need to come up with a policy position and a strategy to implement it. Suzanne also said that we are committed to work with this group as to what the needs are. Also discussed was that the ski industry pays nothing into the fund and also mentioned were hikers, snowmobilers, and rafters. The annual report is available at the DOLA website – www.dola.Colorado.gov Also the website for the Colorado Search and Rescue Board is www.Coloradosarboard.org

Outdoor Heritage Day/Grand Junction – Randy Hampton

- Refer to attachment/powerpoint presentation – “SAG OHD 09.pdf” The second annual Outdoor Heritage Days (OHD) for the Grand Valley area was held on April 25, 2009 at Riverbend Park in Palisade. Randy referred to Lt. Governor Barbara O’Brien’s campaign to connect more kids to the outdoors. She is traveling around the state and talking to communities.
- OHD was started last year to get kids and families in the Grand Valley outdoors and involve them in outdoor activities. DWM Frank McGee worked with local sportsmen organizations. Although there was not a lot of promotion last year there was good participation. This year’s event was more promoted and there were approximately 1,250 participants (kids and parents). Routt County and Delta County are looking into doing something similar. If your sportsmen organizations would like to get something put together, we have a good picture of what we have put together and are willing to share that information. Early planning is the key. Ron said that there is a long term benefit to this type of program, he has been out and about and people are still talking about it and it has made a lasting impression. Randy said that next year we are planning to add a photo contest.

- If anyone/your organization at this meeting is having a youth outreach program, email Chris at Chris@yourwildlife.com He will get a comprehensive list together. Chris will get the information to Suzanne Roller the Co-Chair of the Conservation Summit Youth Outreach Committee. There is a lot of sincere people concerned about getting kids outdoors.
- The Outdoor Heritage Day website is – www.outdoorheritageday.org

SAG Networking/Communicate more effectively – Bruce Hutcheon

- Bruce wanted to show the group this website: www.linkedin.com as an idea for the SAG group to manage information, have discussion groups and to disseminate information without a cost. Refer to attachment – “*Linkedin.pdf*” “Linkedin” is a free tool and Bruce would be willing to manage it or whoever else. Chris Roe would like to explore this idea more. Ron said that if this is something that the group would like to do and have DOW involved; he would need to discuss it with DOW staff and get approval first. It was said that the information posted would be monitored and posts could be removed and blocked. Chris will talk with Ron and will explore this option and others and will send out an information email to the SAG group.

Preserving dog training areas – Brian Bowles

- There is a need to establish and preserve dog training areas in the State. There were approximately 30,000 waterfowl stamps sold in this state this year and upland stamps. Approximately 1/3 of the South Platte has hunters with dogs and there are no public lands to train them on. A few SWAs allow it but are poorly suited for that purpose. Brian mentioned other states that have dog training areas. He has talked to sportsmen all over the state and asked them and they do not have areas to train their dogs. Land and water is what is needed. Brian mentioned that most bird hunters are not aware of the SAG. Ron said that he tried to bring them into the group but has been unsuccessful and that they are welcome. Chris asked Brian if he has checked into county open spaces such as gravel pits with water. Brian said that counties have leash laws in force. Some counties are open to communication on changing an area to allow that. After more discussion Brian was asked how far someone is willing to drive and he indicated that since it would be mostly on weekends and after work, probably 30 – 35 minutes; the closer the better. The key area for the need is the Front Range. Regional Managers are in control of their SWAs. Steve Y. has spoke with Brian before and would like Brian to put together a project proposal and let him know what is needed. It was mentioned that DOW does not have the funding for this and that SWA maintenance funds are the first dollars cut in the DOW budget. Brian said the bird hunters are willing to participate in work and some are talking about buying equipment. The RMs will talk and see what they can do. Chris has contact information for private lands.

Recreational Access to/from and Use of Streambeds – Richard Strauss

- Refer to attachment – **“Recreational Access to/from and Use of Streambeds1.pdf”** For both private and public lands there is fishing access issues. Richard has put together some solutions – foot bridges, public bridges, rice and whey, set up access and use advisory boards, create an access and use guide and include in the DOW fishing regs., and expand the existing DOW walk-in access program to include fishing. The problem that needs to be solved is to allow people access to and from streambeds that are not available to them now. The ownership of the bottom of streams is different for Colorado than other states. A lot of them are owned by private citizens. Chris said we could explore some of the suggestions first before legislatively. Maybe incentive based programs. It was mentioned that maybe Richard could discuss this issue with CDOT and see if something would be available for this issue through their funding.

Wrap up:

- The next statewide SAG meeting will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 in Silverthorne.
- A question to Ron – In regards to SWAs. Some can be used commercially and others cannot be used commercially; and wanted clarification as to why and why not? Ron said that the DOW Commercial Use policy is the start. It is a Wildlife Commission policy and then a regional policy. It is not allowed when there is a detriment to the area sportsmen are using.

Adjourn

Attachments:

“2009 Legislative Summary SB-235 and SB-24.doc”

“Game Damage as Passed and Sent to Gov SB 24.pdf”

“Final SB 235 Sent to Gov.pdf”

“BGSS Division’s Draft Alternatives WC May09.pdf”

“BGSS Draft Guidelines WC May09.pdf”

“South Park Access Program.doc”

“CO WL Habitat Protection Program 2009.pdf”

“SAG Oil Shale Presentation.pdf”

SAG OHD 09.pdf”

“Linkedin.pdf”

“Recreational Access to/from and Use of Streambeds1.pdf”