



President's Report
March 6th, 2023

While the legislative session is in full gear. Many Gun Ban Bills along with other bills that will effect habitat, hunting issues and our way of life continue to be introduced with four new gun bills introduced this week that will essentially alter who can have what and what you won't be able to acquire.

The final public comment meeting on the Wolf Introduction Plan was on February 22nd, and now it is in the hands of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission with the final vote coming at the Commission Meeting in Glenwood Springs on May 4th and 5th.

The Federal comment period on the 10J Rule Making Process began in February and runs through April 18th, with three in-person Statewide Meetings on March 14th, 15th and 16th. These are the times when public comment could be made or you can go online and comment as well. Click the attached link <https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2023-02/public-invited-comment-draft-rule-deis-proposed-colorado-gray-wolf> or search Wolf 10J Comment for Colorado and it will take you to the US Fish and Wildlife Website.

The March Commission Meeting is on March 15th and 16th in Aurora, Colorado and even if you can't make it you can live stream the meeting by going to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website, click the **About Us** page, then click the **Meetings page**, then go to the **March Commission Meeting** then scroll down to the **Live Stream** component.

There is a ton of stuff being discussed, planned and voted on in the next 6 plus months.

February 7th at the Buckhorn Exchange in Denver we helped plan and facilitate the Sportsmen's Legislative Reception along side the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project <https://www.cowildlifeconservationproject.org/> which is the 21 Group Collaboration that we formed on the eve of Senate Bill 31 in February 22 when we defeated the Lion and Bobcat Ban Bill. We had 29 Legislators and about 100 Sportsmen and Women that attended for networking, relationship building and a Wild Game Feast.

On top of multiple days at the Capitol, Wildlife related meetings and behind the scenes negotiations I and Karen also attended former CPW Director Dan Prenzlows retirement party in Denver on February 28th.

On March 4th, I presented on behalf of the association to the Fremont County Cattlemens Association and then that evening presented at the Safari Club Banquet in Colorado Springs as well.

20 days out of the last 40 have been engulfed in Capital Hearings, Commissions Meetings, along with

20 plus Zoom Meetings on top of trying to run a business and supposedly have a life. All of this is a full-time job in itself. Additionally, on January 28th at Rocky Mountain Roosters we partnered with SCI, Colorado Youth Outdoors and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in providing a Youth Pheasant Hunt for 40 kids and some parents as an outreach and education opportunity for recruiting more kids into hunting. It was funded through a grant that we received from CPW and was over a year in the making.

The Fur Auction in Hugo actually turned out to be a great success given the market and a big thanks needs to go out to Auction Manager Greg Ashmore and his team for continuing to put their nose to the grind stone and make this happen.

We had our Winter Board and Membership Meeting there as well with a good presentation from Biologist Shane Frank who is working on a CPW Bobcat Study in the Northwest part of the State that started this season but is planned to go through the next 4 or 5 years. This is something that we have been working on for funding and such for quite sometime and are supporting whole heartedly. Also, something to put on your radar is the recent release of the Pine Marten Video that the association not only helped with but made it a success with the study that was done in the winter of 2022 to establish population density for Pine Marten which again shows that science based, management especially in this landscape, is our main line of information. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5nkIJSFMdw>

Plans continue to be built around the Outdoorsmen's Days CTPHA collaborative Convention in Florence, Colorado on August 11th and 12th. This is really shaping up to be significant event and be sure to mark your calendar. It is not going to be like anything we have done since the fur booms of the 80's. It is a different landscape today than what we had back then and this event is going to be quite different as well.

Stockshow Manager Don Clifford has decided to step aside after several decades of service and we are working on a transition team to not only help fill the Board Position but also to build a rock solid plan for continuing the Stockshow CTPHA Sales and Education Booth. Information will be provided as this process moves forward.

While this is somewhat of a lull time for the association between seasons and so forth things definitely don't slow down on the engagement side of things. Go to the Colorado Trapper Association <https://coloradotrapperr.com/> website and Facebook page and go to Coloradans for the Responsible Wildlife Management <https://savethehuntcolorado.com/> Website and Facebook pages. Look up the video's and the commercials and see what is being done proactively and re-actively as well. There is a ton of moving parts and a ton of opportunities to engage and participate and as I have heard recently "It is your heritage, help protect it."

Reach out to a Board Member or ourselves. Don't stand on the sidelines, there is plenty to do and plenty to get done. And we will need volunteers to help with the convention ...

Aim small, miss small.

Dan Gates

