

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Roundtable Meeting

JoAnn Hackos. March 1, 2021 :

I am the Evergreen Audubon representative to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Roundtable. In that role, I recently attended the first quarterly meeting of 2021. Here is a brief overview of what was discussed.

State Wildlife Area Pass

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is moving forward on issuing a Colorado State Wildlife Area Pass, designed specifically for people who are not hunters or anglers. Without this proposed new Pass, anyone visiting a Colorado State Wildlife Area (SWA) for birding or other non-consumptive activities recently has been required to purchase a hunting or fishing license. Those who want to be known as birders, not hunters or fishermen or women, have asked for another type of pass. Such a pass is particularly important so that CPW understands that those of us who are not hunters or anglers also contribute to the upkeep of our SWAs.

License Required to Visit all State Wildlife Areas



The current proposal under review suggests a SWA Pass that will cost \$46.50, about the same as a fishing license, for a year. The cost includes \$35 for the license, \$10 for habitat restoration, and \$1.50 to support education. The SWA Pass would also be available to seniors for a little over \$10, the same as a fishing license. Children 16 and under are free. Also under consideration is the possibility of reduced costs for low-income individuals.

There has also been discussion of combining the SWA Pass with the State Parks Pass. [Learn more about it.](#)

You can review and submit comments on the [CPW public comment webpage](#). Comments are due by March 12.

One of the concerns that I raised at the meeting was the requirement for an SWA Pass to hike at Elk Meadow a Jefferson County Open Space property. One of the main Elk Meadow trails passes through an

SWA. During the discussion, the CPW Director, Dan Prenzlou acknowledged possible conflicts and said that specific areas are being looked at for exemptions, but there are no promises.

30 X 30 Initiative

The Roundtable members also discussed what is known at the 30 X 30 Initiative, supported by the Biden administration. The initiative calls for the conservation of 30% of the land and water of the United States by 2030. It is part of a worldwide initiative to combat climate change and promote biodiversity.

The United States has a long history of protecting public land, and the 30 X 30 Initiative continues that history. It is backed by scientists who believe it is essential to reversing climate change and protecting the million species at risk of extinction. To reach the 30 X 30 goal, an additional 440 million acres of land in the United States will need to be protected in the next 10 years, a formidable goal.

For more information on 30 X 30, see the [National Geographic article](#)

Roundtable participants noted that more than 30% of Colorado's land is already protected but the state may not reach the 30 X 30 goal because of the way much of the land is currently managed.

Pollinator License Plate

We also heard about a proposal for a Pollinator license plate that will be considered later this year. It is being promoted by the People and Pollinators Action Network. [Sign the petition](#) electronically.