Scott Braden: recreation sustainability 8.20.19

focus: where conservation, recreation and rural economics intersect

CoCO asked Scott to think about: realization that recreation can have negative impact.

too much visitation: expenses, insufficient revenue. Is revenue for mitigation, building infrastructure.

Given sympathetic Polis, CPW Commission, and legislature, can we envision something big re: recreation. What are others thinking, defining the problem… Scott developing policy manual and design public education campaign.

Michelle Zimmerman: we hear from hunting, agriculture and outfitters – not wildlife advocates concerned about recreation. Make it happen regularly. Members of the public in Rifle. Keep the drumbeat going. “You have a lot of power and we hope you will keep wildlife in the forefront as we cope with increasing demands of recreation.”

Scott feels there would be broad agreement within SRCA.

Scott agrees that need to prioritize natural resources, but feels important to educate recreation users.

CoCO probably moderate

Buckets of policy reforms proposed by Scott:

1. agree more new **revenue** for wildlife and management of recreation (how, who, and distribution of $) scott reluctantly supports mtn bike registration as long as substantial expenditure for wildlife and management. Under $10 million. Need something like hunter license. May give CPW a role
2. optomize existing revenue; need steady stream: LWCF is not best option for non-motorized, better if CPW used for habitat restoration and acquisition. CPW asks 1 million per year from GOCO and GOCO thinks CPW should ask for substantially more. Something like Good Management for motorized. Fletcher wants to keep the high volunteerism.
3. maximize the power and authority of CPW in outdoor recreation. elevate and expand the State Trails Program – own director and leadership – expand to include management, DEI. Currently Trails Committee somewhat dominated by motorized due to interpretation of statute. Tim Mach deputy director DNR. Feds don’t have resources.
4. proactive planning/suitability mapping
5. empower counties – recreation visions locally
6. outdoor equity funding – racial minorities and underserved populations; education, stewardships, access.

Keith Baker, Chafee Co Commissioner – 4 laws of ecology.

updates via email from Scott Braden:

September 6, 2019

1) Things have refined considerably on my end, so the trail program idea is not front burner anymore.

2) The things that look the most promising are:

-creating regional outdoor recreation advisory councils convened by CPW

-CPW creating a master outdoor recreation vision document for state including zoning of wildlife protection areas, etc.

-creation of an outdoor equity fund

-work to make sure any mountain bike registration effort is strong on conservation, not just a trail building fund