



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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To: Members of the general public; Members of the Parks and Wildlife Commission

From: Heather Dugan, Acting Director, Division of Parks and Wildlife

Date: June 15, 2022

RE: Amendment to the Stakeholder Advisory Group Governance Charter

Purpose of this amendment

This amendment to the Stakeholder Advisory Group Governance Charter prohibits the audio and or video recording of Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) proceedings and the livestreaming of such proceedings.

Background

On November 3, 2020, Colorado voters approved [Proposition 114](#), Reintroduction and Management of Gray Wolves. The law, now codified at § 33-2-105.8, CRS, requires the Parks and Wildlife Commission (Commission or PWC) to develop a plan to restore and manage gray wolves in Colorado and take the steps necessary to begin reintroduction of gray wolves by December 31, 2023.

On [January 14, 2021](#), the Commission adopted the Division of Parks and Wildlife's (Division's) "proposed [blueprint](#) for public involvement to inform the development of a Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan." The blueprint contemplates the formation of advisory groups and states:

The PWC will convene two groups, in consultation with CPW, to support the management planning process: a Technical Working Group (TWG) and a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG; described below). These groups are advisory bodies to the PWC. They are not decision-making bodies and have no authority on wolf management policy, research, or operations. Blueprint, p. 2.

The SAG is comprised of 19 [individuals](#) "with a broad range of interests in wolves and wolf management and conservation." Blueprint, p. 3. The SAG has held numerous



meetings across the state and has made written recommendations to the Commission on the social considerations of wolf restoration, including payment of fair compensation to owners of livestock, wolf hazing, and wolf restoration logistics.

On June 30, 2021, the Division issued the SAG Governance Charter. The [Charter](#) explains the operating principles and responsibilities of SAG members and outlines procedures for reaching consensus recommendations. SAG meetings are to be conducted “in the most informal manner possible” and are “open to public observation in person.” Charter, p. 4.

The Division has recently learned that members of the public are using smart phones or other electronic devices to make audio or video recordings of SAG proceedings, specifically group deliberations and discussions. The purpose of this amendment is to expressly prohibit any person, including CPW staff, Keystone Policy Center staff, and members of the public from making audio and or video recordings of SAG discussions inside the meeting room and to prohibit any person from live streaming such meetings. This amendment does not prohibit still photography, stenography, or any other form of documenting the proceedings. This amendment only applies to proceedings in the meeting room and not to gatherings in the lobby or hallway outside such meeting room.

The SAG’s primary charge - to develop recommendations for the Commission regarding the social considerations of wolf restoration and management - touches on controversial and divisive topics. In order to promote candid discussion among SAG members on such topics, the Division, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission, has determined it is reasonably necessary to take the action described in this amendment.

Numerous SAG members have expressed concern that such recordings, if posted on social media or otherwise widely shared, could lead to undesirable outcomes, including threats, intimidation, and embarrassment, and otherwise chill participation. The Commission and Division appreciate the SAG members’ service, particularly that of the volunteer citizen members of the SAG, and believe such concerns are well founded.

Division staff shall post the attached notice on the meeting room for all future SAG meetings and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website.


Heather Dugan

Acting Director, Division of Parks and Wildlife

NOTICE: AUDIO AND OR VIDEO RECORDING OR LIVE-STREAMING OF STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP PROCEEDINGS IS PROHIBITED

1. No person shall use any electronic device to make audio and or video recordings of Stakeholder Advisory Group proceedings inside this meeting room or live stream such proceedings.
2. This prohibition does not apply to still photography, stenography, or any other form of documenting the proceedings. This prohibition only applies to proceedings in the meeting room and not to gatherings in the lobby or hallway outside such meeting room.
3. Staff of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife shall post this notice at all future SAG meetings.
4. Staff of the Division may take appropriate steps to enforce this policy by requesting that any person cease recording or live streaming, taking a recess, and, if necessary, clearing the public from the room for the remainder of the meeting.


Heather Dugan

Acting Director, Division of Parks and Wildlife