

Arkansas Headwaters

Swimming/Personal Floatation Device

Rule Addition

Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 100d(10)(c)

Basis and Purpose:

With the advent of new recreational opportunities on the Arkansas River in the form of manmade/altered sections of river also known as “whitewater parks” in high density population areas (i.e. Salida, Buena Vista and Canon City), there has been an increase in the number of recreational swimmers in the Arkansas River, most of who are young children.

While swimming has been an activity in the Arkansas for many years, these play parks are proving to be attractive and easily accessible to younger groups of people and school age children. These play parks also facilitate and encourage entry into the river with trails along the river, eddy pools and white water features in the form of surf waves.

Currently there is a regulation that requires recreationists on an inner tube or air mattress on the Arkansas River within the AHRA to wear a personal floatation device. However, if the occupant lets go of the tube or mattress they are not required to wear a personal floatation device.

This new regulation is going to be applied to swimmers under the age of 13 and apply to the entire river section that AHRA manages, from the headwaters of the confluence of the East Fork/Lake Fork to the boundaries of Lake Pueblo State Park. Applying this to the entire area that AHRA manages will ensure consistency in enforcement from AHRA staff, County Sheriff’s and local police departments.

James M. Robb

Hunt Areas

Rule Amendment

Chapter 1, Article IV, Section 106, Hunt Areas, c(2)

Basis and Purpose:

Currently, there is limited hunting at the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park. Division of Wildlife staff and State Parks are working together to identify areas in which hunting opportunities may exist. Due to the developed facilities and high recreational use of the properties that make up the Colorado River State Park, open, unrestricted hunting on these properties will not be possible. Restricting waterfowl hunting on these properties to designated blinds will ensure that hunting can take place safely, and without causing damage to improved parks' facilities.

There are a significant number of waterfowl hunters in the Grand Valley, and the demand for public hunting blinds far exceeds the supply. It is common, particularly on opening and closing weekends, and on weekends in general, for hunters to have to arrive many hours in advance of hunting hours to secure one of the first come, first serve waterfowl blinds in Mesa County. In some cases hunters will arrive at the hunting area the night before, and sleep in their vehicles to secure one of these hunting locations. Complaints of people "stealing" blinds, by parking vehicles at hunting areas and leaving them, or by taking blind placards are common. In addition to working to increase the number of blinds available, the DOW hopes transitioning to reservation based system will help prevent conflicts between hunters, and increase hunter opportunity and satisfaction.

Bow/Spearfishing

Rule Amendment

Chapter 1, Article IV, Section 106A(b), Bow Fishing

Basis and Purpose:

Recent regulation changes by the Division of Wildlife have expanded spearfishing opportunities in Colorado. In order to avoid conflicts with other park users (swimmers, boaters, etc.), we propose that underwater spearfishing may be used as a method of fishing in accordance with regulations issued by the Department of Wildlife, and that underwater spearfishing be prohibited within 100 feet of any marina, boat ramp, swim beach or dam infrastructure.