



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

TO: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission

FROM: Jacob Brey, Northwest Deputy Region Manager

DATE: December 29, 2021

RE: Commission Policy- Naming of State Parks, State Recreation Areas, and State Wildlife Areas and Facilities and Features within such Areas

Through Policy A-227 the former Colorado Board of Parks Outdoor Recreation approved the naming of parks and recreation areas as well as some of their facilities and features. The Board granted Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation staff the authority to name some park facilities and features. The criteria to establish all names included emphasis on environmental, historical, geographical, geological or culturally significant aspect of the park or region.

To reflect our merged agency, a draft new Policy is being presented for Parks and Wildlife Commission approval. The draft includes all Colorado Parks and Wildlife properties and continues to require PWC approval for naming properties. The updated Policy gives staff authority to name park or wildlife area facilities and features as long as outlined criteria and guidelines are followed. The draft Policy also provides guidance for commemorative recognition in a manner that will not burden staff or budgets.

Policy A-228 established a policy to refer to all State Parks and State Recreation Areas as “State Parks” for marketing purposes. CPW generally follows this guidance with the current exceptions of Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area and Cameo Shooting and Education Complex. As we continue to add properties, some of which may be “recreation areas”, it is no longer fitting to have a specific policy that requires modifications with each new exemption to the list of “parks”.

Policies A-227 and A-228 as well as the draft updated Policy for your consideration is included with this memo.



STATE OF COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Board Policy A-227

**SUBJECT: NAMING OF STATE PARKS, STATE RECREATION AREAS
AND PARK FACILITIES AND FEATURES**

AUTHORITY: Colorado State Statutes 33-10-106, 33-10-107, 43-2-149

DATE APPROVED: November 20, 2009

REVIEW DATES:

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I. PURPOSE

To establish a policy for the naming of State Parks and State Recreation Areas, and naming features within specific park areas and facilities.

II. POLICY

A. It shall be the policy of the Colorado Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation that the naming of State Parks and State Recreation Areas and the naming of park facilities and features after individuals shall be approved by the Board. The Board grants Division staff the authority to name park facilities and features, so long as the naming is based upon some environmental, historical, geographical, geological, or culturally significant aspect of the park or region.

B. Criteria and guidelines used when establishing names include the following:

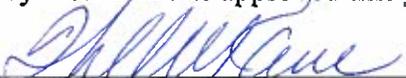
1. Preference at State Parks should be for emphasis on the natural qualities that influence acquisition.
2. Consideration should be given to historic developments in the area and to names already in common usage.
3. The names should be site specific to the area included within the park and not to nearby features.
4. Naming an area after a person should be done only in cases where an individual has made a significant contribution to the specific park area, or state park system, not to the neighboring community.
5. When appropriate, a feature or facility within a park may be named after an individual, rather than the park itself.

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6. Commemorative recognition should be in the form of a useful feature such as a trail, picnic shelter, overlook shelter or tree planting, as opposed to bronzed plaques, statues, or other memorials.
7. Contributions to the State for memorials should bear some reasonable proportion between the cost of a useful feature and the memorial itself. (A \$100 memorial to recognize an individual with a bronze plaque will not leave enough, if any, for a useful public feature.) The intention of a control on memorials is to prevent stone memorials with bronze plaques springing up all over various parks.
8. In the event of a public request for a memorial road sign within a State Park, requests will be handled in accordance with statutes 43-2-149. State Parks shall be exclusively responsible for the type, location and design of the memorial, and the memorial cannot interfere with management of the park system.

Policy No. A-227 is approved this 20th day of NOV 2009,

By 
Parks Board Chairperson

STATE OF COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Board Policy A-228

SUBJECT: REFERENCE TO ALL STATE PARKS AND STATE RECREATION AREAS AS “STATE PARKS”

AUTHORITY: Colorado State Statutes 33-10-102 (23) and (24)

DATE APPROVED: November 20, 2009

REVIEW DATES:

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I. PURPOSE

To establish a policy whereby all State Parks and State Recreation Areas (with the exception of Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area) are commonly referred to as “State Parks” for purposes of marketing, promotions, public information, signage, etc.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. “State park” means a relatively spacious fee title area having outstanding scenic and natural qualities and often containing significant archaeological, ecological, geological, and other scientific values so as to make imperative the preservation of the area by the division for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of residents and visitors.
- B. “State recreation area” means a relatively spacious and scenically attractive land and water area under the control of the division offering a broad range of outdoor recreational opportunities. A relatively spacious water body with limited land area under the control of the division may be classified as a state recreation area if it offers a full range of water-based recreational activities such as boating, water skiing, hunting, trapping, fishing, and swimming and has sufficient adjacent land acreage for the associated camping and picnicking. A relatively spacious land area without a significant water body may be classified as a state recreation area if it offers a full range of land-based recreational activities such as camping, picnicking, bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, environmental education, target shooting, hunting, trapping, and motorized recreation.

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III. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to maintain the technical designations of State Parks or State Recreation Areas, as those terms are defined in Section 33-10-102 (23) and (24), CRS (1984). However, for purposes of marketing, promotional, public information, signage, and other non-technical purposes, they all shall commonly be referred to as "State Parks" (with the exception of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area)

Policy No. A-228 is approved this 20th day of 10 2009,

By 
Parks Board Chairperson

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

TITLE: NAMING OF STATE PARKS, STATE RECREATION AREAS, AND STATE WILDLIFE AREAS AND FACILITIES AND FEATURES WITHIN SUCH AREAS

Effective Date:

I. PURPOSE

To establish a policy for the naming of State Parks, State Recreation Areas, and State Wildlife Areas and naming facilities or features within specific park and wildlife areas.

II. AUTHORITY

- A. C.R.S. § 33-10-106 establishes the Duties of the Commission, including promulgating rules and orders relating to parks.
- B. C.R.S. § 33-10-107 establishes definitions to guide the duties of the Commission.
- C. C.R.S §33-1-107 allows the Commission to adopt rules for wildlife areas under Commission control.
- D. C.R.S. § 43-2-149 establishes guidelines for the authorization of Roadside Memorials.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission that the naming of State Parks, State Recreation Areas, and State Wildlife Areas shall be approved by the Commission. The Commission grants Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff the authority to name park or wildlife area facilities and features without Commission approval, as long as the naming is based upon some environmental, historical, geographical, geological or culturally significant aspect of the park or wildlife area.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Criteria and guidelines used when establishing names include the following:

- A. Preference should be for emphasis on the natural qualities that influence acquisition.
- B. Consideration should be given to historic developments in the area and to names already in common usage.

- C. The names should be site specific to the area included within the park or wildlife area and not to nearby features.
- D. Naming an area after a person should be done only in cases where an individual has made a significant contribution to the specific area or to CPW.
- E. Commemorative recognition should be in the form of a useful feature such as a trail, picnic shelter, or overlook shelter, as opposed to bronzed plaques, statues or other memorials.
- F. Contributions to the State for memorials should cover the cost of the feature/facility and the memorial signage. The feature should cost significantly more than the memorial (e.g. a park picnic table or bench and a plaque). The intention of a control on memorials is to prevent stone memorials with bronze plaques springing up all over various parks and wildlife areas.
- G. When naming an existing structure such as a homestead house or when considering establishing a new structure, consideration should be given to: 1) the master plan for the property (does the proposed location make sense for long-term infrastructure needs) and 2) long-term (20 years or more) maintenance of the structure both from the perspective of budget and the donor's expectations that the structure be maintained long-term. For example, if a homestead house is in poor condition and will be expensive to repair/maintain, it may not be a good candidate for naming as CPW may need to eventually remove/raze the structure.
- H. In the event of a public request for a memorial road sign, requests will be handled similarly to the process outlined in C.R.S. § 43-2-149 (with the exception of section 2.a.II.C - fees shall remain within CPW). CPW shall be exclusively responsible for the type, location and design of the memorial and the memorial cannot interfere with the management of CPW properties.