

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

TITLE: STATE PARK, RECREATION AREA AND STATE WILDLIFE AREA PLANNING

Effective Date: September 6, 2019

I. PURPOSE

This policy supports the development of resource stewardship and management plans for State Park and Recreation Areas, and the development of State Wildlife Area management plans. Such planning informs short and long-term decision processes, resulting in benefits for current and future generations of Coloradans and our visitors.

II. AUTHORITY

- A. C.R.S § 33-10-101 (1) - It is the policy of the State of Colorado that the natural, scenic, scientific, and outdoor recreation areas of this state are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and visitors of this state. It is further declared to be the policy of this state that there shall be provided a comprehensive program of outdoor recreation in order to offer the greatest possible variety of outdoor recreational opportunities to the people of this state and its visitors and that to carry out such program and policy there shall be a continuous operation of acquisition, development, and management of outdoor recreation lands, waters, and facilities.
- B. C.R.S § 33-10-106 (2) - CPW Commission shall adopt rules as may be reasonably necessary for the administration, protection, and maintenance of all state parks and recreation areas under the direct control of the division.
- C. C.R.S § 33-1-101 (1) - It is the policy of the State of Colorado that there shall be a continuous operation of planning, acquisition and development of wildlife habitats and facilities of wildlife-related opportunities.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

Property specific planning is essential to protect the unique natural, cultural and recreational resources in each Colorado State Park, State Recreation Area or State Wildlife Area for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Plans are important tools for prioritizing management actions and budget expenditures. Other benefits of planning include the creation of collaborative interdisciplinary staff teams to, highlight current and future property management needs, foster sustainable property management and visitation, build public support, appropriate distribution of staff and capital resources, and meet regulatory requirements (e.g., leased lands often need plans to meet federal or other requirements).

The Commission directs CPW staff to prioritize planning for existing and new properties as an essential activity for meeting the agency's mission. When considering new state parks or the expansion of existing parks, CPW should use its evaluation criteria to inform such a decision. Plans are most successful when they are current, realistic, specific, allow for flexibility, resolve key issues, integrate with other plans, and involve stakeholders.