



CPW LOCAL ACCESS FUNDING STUDY

*January 2024 Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Commission Meeting*



FEHR & PEERS





INTRODUCTIONS

CPW Staff Involvement:

- **Amanda Biedermann – Policy and Planning Project Manager**
- **Katie Lanter – Policy and Planning Supervisor**
- **Gene Potter – Capital Asset and Planning Manager**
- **Margaret Taylor – Capital Development Program Manager**
- **Scott Roush – Deputy Regional Manager, NE Region**
- **Andrea Gess – Licensing Deputy**



ABOUT RRC AND CONSULTANT TEAM



RRC

FEHR & PEERS

SE GROUP

Project Co-Leads:



Jake Jorgenson, Ph.D.
COO, RRC



Lucy Harbor
Director of Outdoor
Recreation Research, RRC



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- SB23-059 passed in May 2023.
- Application for funding to support transportation access to state parks (may include maintaining and constructing local roads, bicycle lanes, shuttle operations, and multimodal access routes).
 - Up to \$2 fee on state park daily vehicle passes allocated to local governments who apply for the fee.
- Requires CPW to establish a process and criteria for application by July 1, 2024, with fee collection to begin no earlier than January 1, 2025.

SB23-059

State Parks And Wildlife Area Local Access Funding

Concerning providing funding to local governments to support access to state-owned outdoor recreational areas, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SESSION: 2023 Regular Session

SUBJECTS: Local Government, Natural Resources & Environment, Transportation & Motor Vehicles

BILL SUMMARY

The act requires the parks and wildlife commission (commission) to promulgate rules authorizing a local government to request that the division of parks and wildlife (division) charge an additional per vehicle fee, not to exceed \$2, for each daily vehicle pass issued for a state park or wildlife area in the local government's geographic boundary. Upon the request, the commission must establish the fee, which will be collected on and after January 1, 2025, and transferred, minus an administrative deduction, to the local access route cash fund created by the act and then distributed to local governments to maintain and operate local access routes. The fee will be adjusted every 5 years for inflation or deflation.

PRIME SPONSORS



Senator
Mark Baisley



Senator
Dylan Roberts



Representative
Marc Catlin



Representative
Barbara McLachlan

COMMITTEES



IMPLEMENTING SB23-059

- Prior to the collection of any approved fees in January 2025, CPW is required to conduct a comprehensive study and local engagement process on local access to state parks.
- The study will address and identify the following topics and more:
 - Potential deficits with local transportation infrastructure providing access to state parks.
 - Sources of funding/partnerships to address these potential deficits.
 - Use of and effect on local transportation infrastructure and services of visitors traveling to state parks.
 - Incurred costs by local governments in supporting the state in managing access to state parks and the appropriateness of CPW or others to help support infrastructure funding.
 - Many additional topics (economic effects (both beneficial and adverse), financial demands, impacts on visitor experiences).



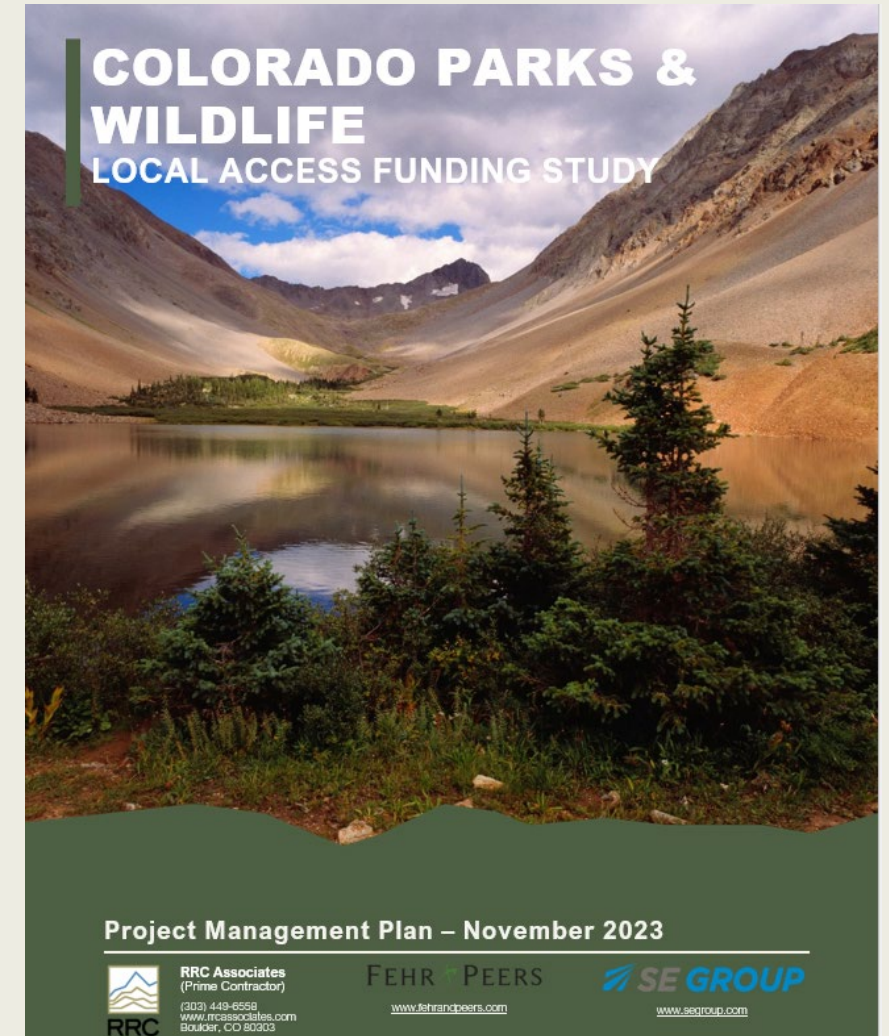
COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

- In October 2023, CPW contracted with the Consultant Team to conduct the comprehensive study and accompanying local engagement process outlined in SB23-059.
- **Three Phases:**
 - **Phase 1: (October-November 2023)**
 - ❖ Project kick-off and initial coordination on study management
 - **Phase 2: (December 2023 – September 2024)**
 - ❖ Process and criteria for state park access fee applications
 - ❖ Local government engagement and data collection
 - ❖ Evaluation of all state park local access routes
 - ❖ Draft comprehensive study
 - **Phase 3: (October – November 2024)**
 - ❖ Finalize study and present to Commission



PHASE 1 AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- Developed a comprehensive Project Management Plan with CPW staff to guide the process.
- Created a contact list of both internal and external stakeholders.
 - Continuing to build through additional meetings and outreach.
- Built a questionnaire to gather feedback from state park managers and local government entities during Winter 2024.
- Met with Deputy Regional Managers and state park managers in December to highlight project needs and gather feedback.

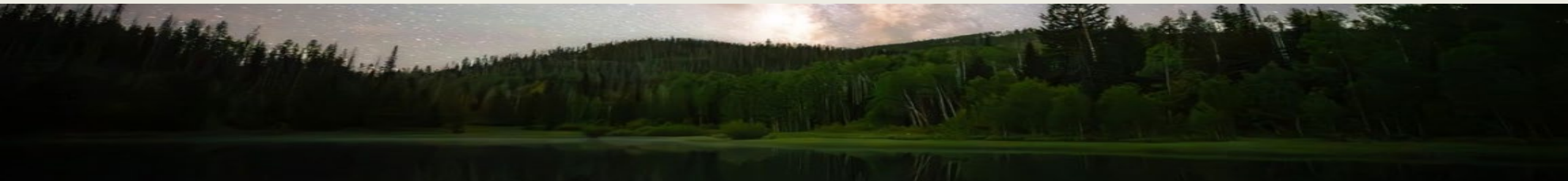




PHASE 2

Draft Criteria Process

- CPW staff and the Consultant Team are working to develop a process and comprehensive set of criteria for local governments to use to apply for the fee.
- Two Primary Goals:
 - Defining whether a roadway qualifies as a “local access route” under SB23-059.
 - Evaluating the financial need for additional funding.
- These criteria will be presented to the Commission for consideration in March and approval in May.





PHASE 2

Local Government Engagement

- One of the largest tasks involves coordinating with local governments near Colorado's state parks.
 - Understanding their perceptions and needs around local access issues, visitor experiences, and more.
- The goal of this task is to document, discuss, and gather a variety of available data sources that local governments may (or may not) have regarding transportation issues.





PHASE 2

Draft Study

- Use secondary data from local governments along with mobile location data to analyze access route visitor use and other issues near state parks.
 - Transportation deficit data;
 - Grant and Partnership opportunities;
 - Revenue and maintenance budgets;
 - Traffic counts and additional visitation metrics.
- Develop access summaries for all state parks to help evaluate the need for an additional fee.
- Identify possible alternative options for funding in areas where it may be necessary.
- Create a standardized process for collecting data needed for evaluating a local access route fee application.





PHASE 3

Finalize Study and Present to the Commission

- The last step in the process is to take all of the feedback collected from the Draft Study and create a final version of the study.
- The end product will be a balanced and holistic study fortified by data-driven insights and realistic suggestions, primed to inform legislative recommendations.
- The Final Study will be presented to the Commission during the November 2024 Commission meeting.
- The application process and criteria shall be in place by July 1, 2024, with fee collection for any approved applications to start no earlier than January 1, 2025.



CONCLUSIONS

- SB23-059 requires CPW to establish a process/criteria for an additional fee on daily vehicle passes and conduct a comprehensive study on local access issues to state parks.
- The Commission will be briefed throughout the process and will be asked to provide feedback at specific stages. Upcoming presentations:
 - March 2024 Commission Meeting – Draft criteria language for review
 - May 2024 Commission Meeting – Final criteria language for approval
 - November 2024 Commission Meeting – Final study presentation
- CPW Staff and the Consultant team are happy to answer any questions or clarify specific elements of the project along the way.