

# Keep Colorado Wild Pass



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How much does the Keep Colorado Wild Pass cost?

The cost of the pass is \$29, which is less than half the cost of an annual vehicle pass (which currently sells for \$80).

### Why is the state of Colorado issuing the Keep Colorado Wild Pass with vehicle registrations?

Colorado's great outdoors and wildlife are among our most treasured resources. Coloradans depend on Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to deliver on its mission to ensure that the benefits of our outdoors and wildlife are sustained for future generations. However, rapid growth in demand for and impacts from outdoor recreation are challenging CPW's ability to conserve our outdoor spaces and wildlife resources.

To achieve and maintain financial sustainability, CPW needs to expand the options and paths for financial contributions to a broader audience. A new pass available through the vehicle registration process gives all Coloradans an easy way to support the state's natural resources in a meaningful and impactful way.

### Where does the money go from the newly issued pass?

Funds generated from pass sales will be directed toward achieving ten goals to focus on future investments in public lands, conservation, outdoor recreation and wildlife management. The ten goals are broken into three buckets:

#### Strengthen Our Existing State Park System

**Goal 1:** Provide a simple and affordable state parks and public lands access pass to ensure that Colorado's outdoors are welcoming and accessible to all and that all users contribute to keeping Colorado wild.

**Goal 2:** Ensure sufficient staffing and resources to manage and conserve Colorado's 42 existing state parks.

#### Protect and Educate Outdoor Recreationists

**Goal 3:** Support Search and Rescue volunteers responding to backcountry emergencies and develop educational programs and campaigns to promote backcountry safety.

**Goal 4:** Protect winter recreationists by supporting Colorado Avalanche Information Center backcountry safety programs.



Ridgway State Park



## Invest in the Future of Wildlife Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

**Goal 5:** Build new state parks in partnership with local governments, conservationists, recreationists, and other land management agencies.

**Goal 6:** Increase capacity to address the impacts of outdoor recreation on public lands.

**Goal 7:** Increase funds for new trails, trail stewardship and river recreation projects.

**Goal 8:** Dedicate resources for the State Wildlife Action Plan to conserve vulnerable species and habitats.

**Goal 9:** Support CPW initiatives focused on equity, diversity and inclusion in the outdoors.

**Goal 10:** Fund Regional Outdoor Partnerships to support community-driven planning and projects.



Staunton State Park

### How long is the Keep Colorado Wild Pass valid?

The pass is valid for one year or until the current vehicle registration expires.

### Where will the Keep Colorado Wild Pass grant me access?

The new pass will provide access to Colorado's 42 (soon to be 43) state parks and other participating public lands yet to be determined.

### How much of an increase in visitation is CPW reporting at Colorado state parks?

While we have long known that Coloradans live life outside, the recent pandemic brought to the forefront how much people look to nature during challenging times. CPW has seen an average of a 30% increase in visitation at state parks across Colorado over that past year. Visitation has been increasing steadily for the past five years, but the pandemic elevated the need to address funding challenges experienced by our state park system.

### How is CPW going to address the impacts of a potentially greater increase in visitation as a result of the Keep Colorado Wild Pass?

Funding generated through this new pass would help ensure that CPW has the ability to implement new visitation-management systems at existing state parks, which may include shuttle services, timed entry reservations, or other tools yet to be determined. It may also allow CPW to find opportunities to build new state parks to provide expanded recreational opportunities.

### How will Wild Pass funds contribute to wildlife conservation and what will it mean for the already important contributions of hunters and anglers?

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass is focused on providing sufficient funding and support for our state park system and other recreational lands in Colorado, with additional opportunities to fund wildlife management and programming.

The 50% of funds in excess of those needed for state parks and outdoor safety will be available to support the implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan, which helps fund conservation work for the 960 species CPW manages, which now includes gray wolves. This new funding could help ensure that fees from hunters and anglers are not used to cover these costs.

### I have multiple vehicles - do I have to pay for a Keep Colorado Wild Pass when I register each vehicle?

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass is tied to a vehicle registration and will not be transferable between vehicles. If a car registrant opts out of the Keep Colorado Wild Pass for a vehicle, they will have to purchase a daily or annual pass at a higher price than the Keep Colorado Wild Pass to enter a state park or other covered property.

While a pass must be purchased for each car, the Keep Colorado Wild Pass system allows for two passes to be offered at a lower price than one current state parks pass that costs \$80 per vehicle.

### How will I receive/be able to use my Keep Colorado Wild Pass after I register my car?

Your Keep Colorado Wild Pass will be available for purchase at the same time as your annual car registration. When you have the Keep Colorado Wild Pass, a CPW logo will be displayed on your registration. Other options to indicate participation, such as digital and printable passes for car registrants that are walking or biking into a park, are also being explored.

### Will I have to pay for the Keep Colorado Wild Pass when registering other vehicles, like snowmobiles, boats or OHVs?

Purchasing the Keep Colorado Wild Pass is not required when registering other vehicles like snowmobiles, boats or OHVs. The Keep Colorado Wild Pass is only applicable to passenger vehicles, light trucks, motorcycles and RVs.

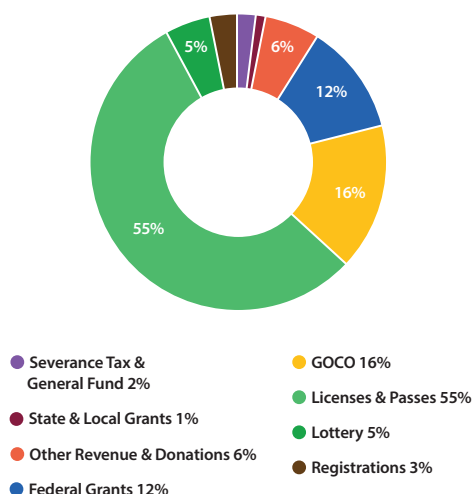
### How is Colorado Parks and Wildlife funded?

Although CPW became a merged agency in 2011, state statute and federal regulations require that the budgets for parks and wildlife remain separate. Annual revenue and expenditures for each budget are provided in the chart below.

## Funding Sources

### All Parks and Wildlife Revenue

FY 2019-20 Total Parks and Wildlife Revenue: \$308 Million\*



Additional detail regarding CPW's sources and uses of funds can be found in the [Sources & Use of Funds fact sheet](#) or on the [CPW Funding webpage](#).

Hunters and anglers primarily fund fish and wildlife conservation programs, while park visitors support the management of recreational lands. This funding is accomplished through purchases of park passes, hunting and fishing licenses, and habitat stamps.

### How will the Keep Colorado Wild Pass benefit Colorado?

Coloradans have a rich outdoor heritage that involves living life outside and coexisting with wildlife in their natural habitats. To date, Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages 42 state parks, 350 state wildlife areas, 715 miles of trails, 400,000 acres of public land, and 19 fish hatcheries that stock over 90 million fish annually. This new pass will help increase and sustain the funding to protect state lands, secure a successful wildlife legacy in Colorado and provide varied outdoor recreation activities.

As human populations grow and park visitation increases, so does the pressure of human impact on natural resources and wildlife populations. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is exploring new sources of revenue that will be used to ensure Colorado's private and public lands support wildlife, outdoor recreation, agricultural heritage, and economic well-being for generations to come.

### What if I don't want to access state parks or to purchase the pass?

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass will be automatically added to the price of annual vehicle registrations, but those not interested in the pass will have the option to opt-out of the pass purchase during the registration/renewal process. CPW will work with the Department of Revenue, Office of Information Technology, and County Clerks statewide to develop an efficient opt-out process.

### Will I be able to purchase daily passes for occasional visits?

Additional state park pass options will remain available for those who would prefer to visit with daily passes, those who qualify for specific discounted passes and out-of-state visitors to Colorado's state parks.

### I typically ride my bike into state parks. How will the Keep Colorado Wild Pass work for walk-in and bike-in users?

Digital and printable passes for car registrants that are walking or biking into a park are being explored. In addition, existing \$4 daily passes will continue to be offered for bike/walk-in users that opt-out or do not own a vehicle.

### What access to state parks does the Keep Colorado Wild Pass provide?

Coloradans with a Keep Colorado Wild pass will have access to all Colorado state parks. However, park capacity limits will still apply so park entry is not guaranteed, as is the case with current state park annual passes. Current camping fees, event rental fees, fishing licenses and other park privileges remain separate from the Keep Colorado Wild Pass.

The Wild Pass was designed to increase accessibility to our state parks and other public lands for under-resourced communities. The bill also requires that an even-lower-cost option be developed for under-resourced individuals and households in consultation with organizations that represent these communities.