

C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

Post-Conference Report

2021 PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE

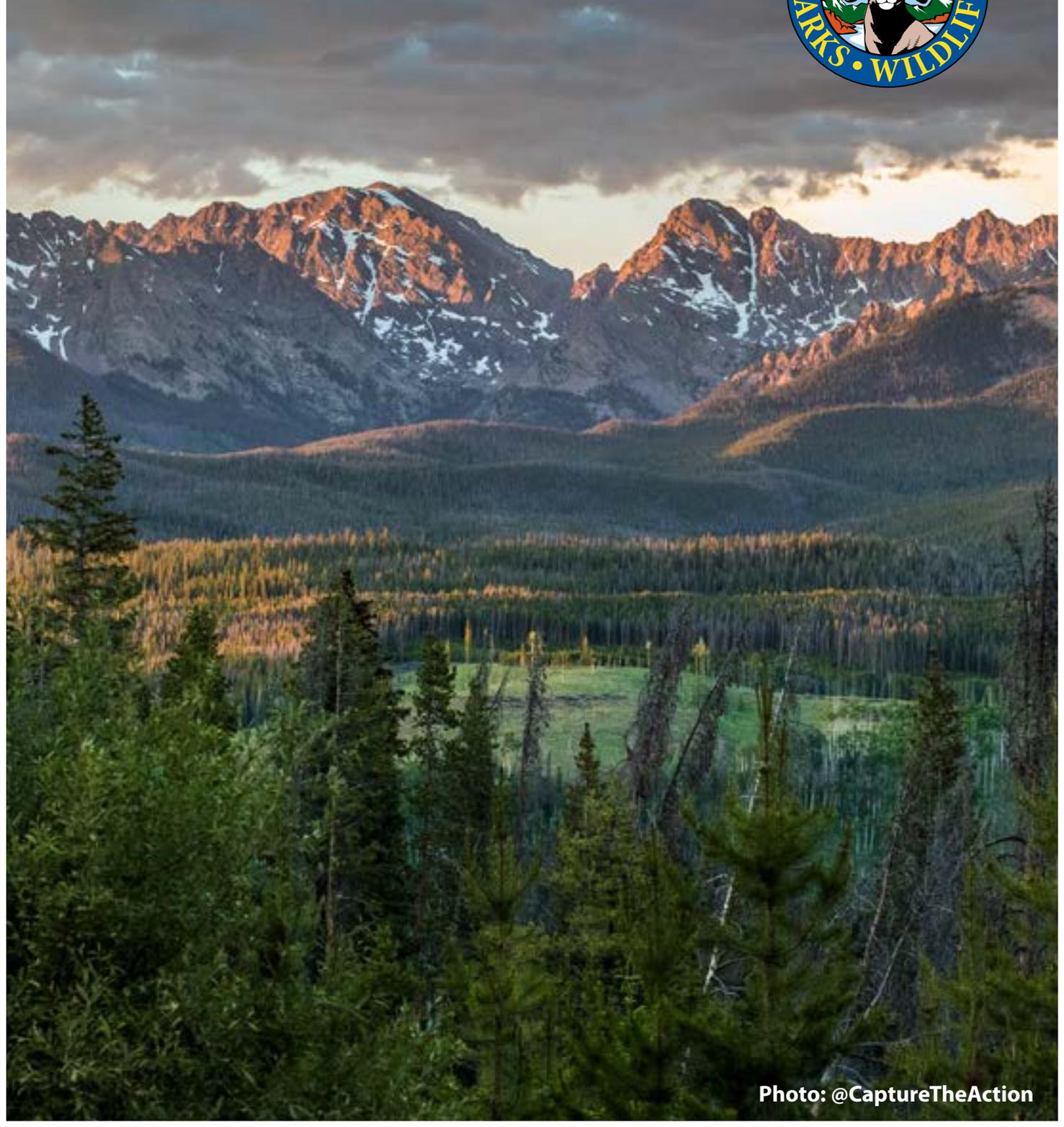


Photo: @CaptureTheAction

Partners in the Outdoors

Dear Partners in the Outdoors Conference Community,

Things were a little different this year... again. We didn't have the pleasure of meeting in person to network and build relationships in a face to face setting. However, as we learned last year, the pandemic has provided an opportunity to extend our reach beyond the physical walls of a conference venue.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), with the advice of the many partners serving on our conference planning committee (see page 14), determined that it would be best to host a scaled back virtual conference to address zoom fatigue and the saturated market of webinars that we are all experiencing. Accordingly, the conference agenda included a total of just nine virtual events. However, each of these events were timely and relevant to the outdoor and natural resource management industries in Colorado. I am pleased to report that we have continued our growth trajectory with over 2,250 people participating in our conference representing nearly 400 organizations! This includes the 950 people who attended our sessions live and another 1,300 views of our conference recordings.

We kicked things off in late April with two nationally renowned keynote speakers, Eduardo Garcia and Dr. J. Drew Lanham, who shared their inspiring stories related to their lives and careers in the outdoors. We then hosted a series of partner and CPW led sessions that supported the priority areas identified in our Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Finally we wrapped things up with a special closing keynote panel session featuring Governor Jared Polis and the Directors of both the Department of Natural Resources and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Dan Gibbs and Dan Prenzlów, who discussed the "state of the state" regarding Colorado's natural resources, outdoor recreation and use of our public lands.

A new component of our conference content this year is the addition of graphic recordings of each of these sessions courtesy of Heartwood Visuals. Be sure to check out these unique visual maps on the ensuing pages.

Most exciting, with cost savings realized from holding a virtual conference, we were able to double the size of our Partners in the Outdoors Grant Program - we were pleased to be able to provide over \$200,000 to 24 partner organizations working to advance our SCORP priority areas! Please see pages 15 and 16 for more information on the work these partners are doing in support of Colorado's outdoors.

So what does the future look like? Please save the date for next year's conference, April 18-20 2022, where we plan to gather in person at the Vail Mountain Marriott! We will again look to you, our partners, to provide top-notch, actionable sessions that help ensure the Colorado we know and love today endures for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Zimmerer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Zimmerer
Statewide Partnership Coordinator



Dan Zimmerer

WELCOME TO THE 2021

PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

DEAR PARTNERS in the OUTDOORS CONFERENCE ATTENDEES,

THANK YOU FOR A FANTASTIC 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE ORIGINAL KEEPERS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE DO OUR WORK.



THE 40 PLUS TRIBES THAT RECOGNIZE COLORADO AS PART OF THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS ARE VITAL PARTNERS IN THIS EFFORT.

We pay respect to these elders PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE.

BRINGING TOGETHER DIVERSE INTERESTS

TO ADVANCE AND BALANCE



OUTDOOR RECREATION & CONSERVATION in Colorado

EXPLORING BEST PRACTICES OF PARTNERING

DESIGNING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS



CULTIVATING COMMON GROUND

HOSTED by:



THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS!



DAN ZIMMERER

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE



JEREMY SIFUENTES

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ASSISTANT COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK

A BALANCE OF SESSIONS SUPPORTED the

4 PRIORITY AREAS

TO ADVANCE THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN COLORADO'S STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

AND SUPPORT COLORADO'S OUTDOOR PRINCIPLES

1 ENSURING ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY TO THE OUTDOORS FOR ALL COLORADIANS AND VISITORS

2 STEWARDSHIP OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

CONFERENCE KICKED OFF IN LATE APRIL WITH THE COMPELLING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS BY EDUARDO GARCIA & DEW LARSEN

3 LAND, WATER & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

4 FUTURE FUNDING THE OUTDOORS

SEE YOU IN-PERSON AT THE 2022 CONFERENCE - VAIL MARRIOTT APRIL 18-20

GRAPHIC RECORDING by CARRIE VAN HORN HEARTWOODVISUALS.COM



Thank you Sponsors!

PLATINUM



SILVER



Colorado's SCORP

For more information, including the full report, see coloradoscorp.org

Working Together to Advance the Priority Areas in our Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Objective I: Break Down Barriers - Better understand and address barriers to engaging people in outdoor recreation. Enhance efforts to engage Coloradans who currently lack or have limited opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation.
Objective II: Technology Connects More People to the Outdoors Advance easily accessible information that enhances user experience and offers tools to outdoor recreation providers.
Objective III: Private and Public Lands Support Outdoor Recreation - Develop strategies across Colorado to build support for sustainable outdoor recreation access. Advance "Colorado the Beautiful" vision that every Coloradan will live within 10 minutes of a park, trail or vibrant green space.

Objective I: Advance Landscape-scale Conservation - Work across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with the growing demand for recreation access. Collaborate to tackle pressing and emerging issues and to identify and safeguard important areas for conservation, working lands and recreation access across the state.

Objective II: Address Recreation Impacts Proactively manage visitors and maintain infrastructure to provide positive outdoor recreation experiences while limiting resource impacts. Utilize best practices when developing new trails or other outdoor infrastructure.



Objective I: Build an Outdoor Stewardship Ethic - Foster awareness and experiences that build an ethic of stewardship and responsibility to care for natural and cultural resources and outdoor recreation infrastructure.
Objective II: Enhance Stewardship Capacity - Increase capacity of outdoor recreation providers, stewardship organizations and agencies to engage volunteers, employ youth and young adults, and enhance other types of support for on-the-ground, action-oriented stewardship activities.

Objective I: Build Support for Conservation Funding - Raise political and public awareness for the value of Colorado's outdoors to Coloradans' quality of life, economic prosperity, heritage and public and environmental health so that more people contribute funds to support outdoor recreation and conservation.

Objective II: Diversify and Expand Funding Source(s) - Identify and pursue new funds available to organizations and management agencies that directly benefits outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources.



SOVEREIGN

SPORTSMAN SOLUTIONS

The Future of Conservation Technology is HERE.



GET INTO THE OUTDOORS.

FIND US ON **LinkedIn**

The Nature Conservancy
is a proud sponsor of the 2021
Partners in the Outdoors Conference

nature.org/Colorado



Nick Hall

Save the Date

PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS
CONFERENCE

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort • April 18-20, 2022

SAVE THE DATE

Opening Keynote

A Hungry Life: How my relationship with the outdoors became the most dynamic single contributor to my life's journey

Featuring Chef Eduardo Garcia

Growing up in southwest Montana, Eduardo developed a deep love and connection to the outdoors while becoming an accomplished hunter, angler and triathlete all while fostering a career as a classically trained chef. He then took his love for cooking to the high seas; working as a private chef on luxury yachts and more importantly, on the hunt for exceptional food experiences that can only be found by traveling the world.

Eduardo's zest for living was conveyed in his opening keynote address for this year's Partners in the Outdoors Virtual Conference. He opened up with his own production film that took us through what he discovered to be his secret sauce to life: infusing the outdoors into our meals. He brought all this sentiment together and ended his address with a Q&A discussion with the audience. Find out more about this event below!

[Click here to watch this video](#)



"A meal is more than just what we eat, but an integral part of what builds culture and brings people together."

- Eduardo Garcia



Thank You
Colorado Wildlife
Council!

Keynote Sponsor

PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE

A HUNGRY LIFE - HOW MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OUTDOORS BECAME THE MOST DYNAMIC SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR TO MY LIFE'S JOURNEY 2021

IT ALL STARTS WITH MY CHILDHOOD
RUNNING WILD
GROWING DEEP ROOTS IN MY OUTDOOR NEIGHBORHOOD

THANKS MOM!

- COOK
- PREP
- COOK
- DISHWASHER

COOKING CAME INTO MY LIFE AT 15 BY WAY OF **NEED**
TO FUEL MY OUTDOOR PURSUITS



BUT TOOK ANY CHANCES TO GET OUTSIDE

KNEW THAT I NEEDED TO STAY FOCUSED

THEN SPENT A DECADE AS A **YACHT CHEF**

MOVED TO SEATTLE for culinary school



STARTED TO YEARN COMING HOME

CONNECTING and celebrating THE WORLD'S CULTURES THROUGH **FOOD**



COOKED A GRIEVING FRIEND HER FAVORITE MEALS

MY **SECRET SAUCE** BECAME INFUSING THE OUTDOORS INTO OUR MEALS

THIS KEPT THE **FIRE ALIVE** INSIDE OF ME

I COOK TO MY WAKE-UP CALL **CONNECT**

CO-FOUNDED MONTANA-MEX and FILMED A REEL FOR A TV SHOW



COOKING WITH LOCALLY FOUND FOOD OUTSIDE ON COALS

LAUNCHED SERIES "A HUNGRY LIFE"

OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL BUSINESS PURPOSE

A WEEK BEFORE A MEETING WITH THE FOOD NETWORK WAS HIT BY A JOLT OF ELECTRICITY WHILE ELK HUNTING

2400 VOLTS

TRUCKING DEATH HELPED ME GAIN AND APPRECIATE LIFE

HAVING ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS WAS CRITICAL TO MY RECOVERY

IT RE-CONNECTED ME WITH THIS WILD PERSON INSIDE



MY JOURNIES HAS BEEN A DIRT ROAD AND THE OUTDOORS HAS FED ME

INFUSE INCLUSION INTO YOUR PROJECTS

SEASONAL COOKING WITH SAFETY

FOOD MEDICINE EVERYTHING HAS ENERGY

CALL TO ACTION TO GET OUR YOUTH OUTSIDE

LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING by CARRIE VAN HORN HEARTWOODVISUALS.COM



EDUARDO GARCIA

Opening Keynote



Coloring the Conservation Conversation

Featuring Dr. Drew Lanham

A native of Edgefield, South Carolina, Dr. Drew Lanham is a birder, naturalist, and hunter-conservationist who has published essays and poetry in various publications and in several anthologies, including “The Colors of Nature” among others. An Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Master Teacher at Clemson University, he and his family live in the Upstate of South Carolina, a soaring hawk’s downhill glide from the southern Appalachian escarpment that the Cherokee once called the Blue Wall.

Drew’s passion for the land and its wildlife was easily recognized by the audience and was apparent throughout his keynote address, which was an interview conducted by the host of the Mountain & Prairie Podcast, Ed Roberson. During this interview, Lanham discussed what it meant to embrace the full breadth of his African-American heritage, his deep kinship to nature and adoration of birds. He reminded us how conservation can and must be a rigorous science and evocative art. Most importantly, he emphasized how this art must invite diversity and race to play active roles in celebrating our natural world.

[Click here to watch this video](#)

“Learning is not just positive reinforcement, but sometimes the negative reinforcement of bitter history.”

- Dr. Drew Lanham



Thank You
Great Outdoors
Colorado!

Keynote Sponsor



PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE 2021

COLORING the CONSERVATION CONVERSATION



HOST OF THE MOUNTAIN & PRAIRIE PODCAST



LIVE INTERVIEW WITH ED ROBERSON

I DREAMED OF INTERVIEWING DR. LANHAM

WE ARE BOTH FROM the CAROLINAS

WITH GRANDMOTHER THROWING GRITS TO JUNCOS

I GREW UP WITH A CONSTANT OSCILLATION OF NATURE and NURTURE

JUST WATCH THEM

HANDS ON TP ROLLS INSTEAD OF SAND

LET IT COME TO YOU

SHARE THE MAGIC OF MIGRATION

ADVICE FOR ASPIRING BIRDERS

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST BIRD STORY?

THE WRENS ON MY GRANDMOTHER'S BACK PORCH I HELD ONE TOO TIGHT

IN CONSERVATION WE ARE IN A WORLD OF CONSTANT MOURNING



TAKE YOUR BINOS DOWN AND SEE THE WHOLE LANDSCAPE



WHEN A BIRD HAS STRESSORS IT CAN NEVER FULLY BE ITSELF

THEY FOUND AN IVORY BILL!

MY STUDENT CAME TO ME AND SAID

A MOMENT OF HOPE

AS BLACK AMERICANS WE NEED TO CONSTANTLY THINK ABOUT PLACES WHERE WE COULD BE PREYED UPON

BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH DISCOMFORT WE MUST HAVE AN EXCHANGE

MISSION STATEMENTS ARE MIRRORS

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO TODAY TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER?

BINOS UP... AND THIRD EYE LOOKING AROUND

WHAT IS MY SAFE RANGE MAP?



A BLACK COUNTRY MAN FROM THE SOUTH

I WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND MY PRISM

IDENTITY



NEWEST BOOK NATURE

PLACE

AUTHOR OF



... BUT FIRST THE TRUTH OF HOW WE DISPLACED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FROM THE LAND



HUNTING IS SOUL FOOD FOR ME

YET IT IS COMPLEX

J. DREW LANHAM

LEVELS OF WILDNESS NEED TO BE REVISITED

LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING BY CARRIE VAN HORN HEARTWOODVISUALS.COM



PROFESSOR OF WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AT

Closing Keynote

Colorado Natural Resources “State of the State”

Moderated by Lauren Truitt, Assistant Director of Information & Education for Colorado Parks & Wildlife

In this special closing keynote recording, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Dan Gibbs and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Director Dan Prenzlou discuss the “state of the state” regarding Colorado’s natural resources, outdoor recreation and use of public lands.

This outdoors discussion is moderated by CPW Assistant Director for Information & Education, Lauren Truitt, and includes a dialogue on the challenges the state is facing and actions being taken to advance and balance recreation and conservation in Colorado. We also learn more about some of the key measures recently passed in the state legislature, conservation initiatives of the agency and a vision for the future of Colorado’s outdoors

[Click here to watch this video](#)



Featuring



Lauren Truitt
Assistant Director, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Lauren has a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Northern Colorado. With a life-long passion for Colorado’s natural resources and recreation opportunities, working for Colorado Parks and Wildlife is a dream job. Her passion for CPW’s mission is a part of who she is.



Dan Prenzlou
Director, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Dan Prenzlou received his BS in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University in 1985. Prenzlou joined the Division of Wildlife in 1986 as a District Wildlife Manager patrolling the Castle Rock area. In 2005 he became Southeast Regional Manager based in Colorado Springs. He is married to Brenda Prenzlou and has two daughters, Danika and Alaura.



Dan Gibbs
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Dan Gibbs leads the development and execution of the Department’s initiatives for the balanced management of the state’s natural resources. Dan works on an array of issues pertaining to all of Colorado’s natural resources, including water, wildlife, state lands, oil and gas and mining. Dan enjoys skiing, running, mountain biking, hunting and fishing.



Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado

Since becoming Governor, Polis enacted laws to prioritize health and safety first when it comes to oil & gas drilling operations and empowered local communities to regulate oil & gas activities within their borders. He also signed legislation and an executive order to support a transition to electric vehicles, and is supporting various efforts to expand energy efficiency all through Colorado.

PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE

AN OUTDOORS CHAT WITH THE GOVERNOR 2021



LAUREN TRUITT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION & EDUCATION FOR COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE



JARED POLIS

GOVERNOR OF COLORADO



DAN GIBBS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



DAN PRENZLOW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO?

REFLECTIONS ON 2020...

DURING THE PANDEMIC WE KNEW WE WERE SAFER in the OUTDOORS

MANY OF COLORADO'S STATE PARKS & OPEN SPACES EXPERIENCED RECORD VISITATION in 2020

CPW WORKED HARD TO STAY

OPEN

OFFICES
STATE PARKS
FIELD OPERATIONS



THIS SUPPORTED THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR RESIDENTS

Silver lining

INCREASED COLLABORATION AND SYMBIOSIS ACROSS GOVERNMENTS

OVER 1 MILLION ACRES ON NEW STATE TRUST LAND (IN ONE YEAR)
ACCESS TO COLORADO'S 42 STATE PARKS & REC. AREAS AS PART OF



BILL TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR UNDERSERVED YOUTH

KEEP COLORADO WILD PASS

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY
GOV. POLIS SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER CONSERVING COLORADO'S WINTER RANGES & MIGRATION CORRIDORS

SAVES HUMAN & WILDLIFE LIVES

SHARED STEWARDSHIP in WILDFIRE MITIGATION

CONSERVATION RECREATION
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES



VISION FOR THE FUTURE

EXPANDING STATE PARKS HEALTHY REC. ECONOMY

PROVIDING & KEEPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADOANS

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING



PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS

GRAPHIC RECORDING by CARRIE VAN HORN

HEARTWOODVISUALS.COM

FOREVER COLORADO



A program of the
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
www.forevercolorado.org



jeffcoopenspace

Partners in the Outdoors Conference,
Virtual



PARTNERS Make it Possible



#RecreateResponsibly @JeffcoOpenSpace, in partnership with @BoulderOSMP & @CPW, recently received a \$100,000 grant from @GOCO to study trail conflict reduction through effective, persuasive signage with unified messaging. #partners



KEEP IT COLORADO

We envision a Colorado where
people, lands, waters and wildlife thrive.



www.keepitco.org



PLAY ON

Over the past 37 years, the Colorado Lottery has given back more than \$3.5 billion to Colorado Parks, trails, recreation centers and open spaces. When you play, Colorado wins.



© 2021 Colorado Lottery

Planning Committee

Interested in becoming part of this team next year? Email Dan Zimmerer at daniel.zimmerer@state.co.us

Len Necefer, *Native Outdoors*

Ashley Perillo, *Colorado Parks and Recreation Association*

Beau Kiklis, *Conservation Colorado*

CJ Goulding, *Children and Nature Network*

David Leinweber, *Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance*

Dean Titterington, *Pheasants Forever*

Erika Meyer, *Great Outdoors Colorado*

Jack Placchi, *Bureau of Land Management*

Jayne Thompson, *Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust*

Jessica Godinez, *Hispanic Access Foundation*

Katie Navin, *Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education*

Lenore Bates, *Colorado Scenic & Historic Byways, CDOT*

Mary Ann Bonnell, *Jefferson County Open Space*

Meredith Burke, *Garfield County Outdoors*

Samantha Albert, *Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office*

Sherry Fountain, *U.S. Forest Service*

Susan Alden Weingardt, *U.S. Forest Service*

Willie Kalaskie, *National Wild Turkey Federation*

CPW Staff: Daniel Zimmerer, Jennifer Anderson, and Jeremy Sifuentes

Thank you for your time, effort and dedication to our Partners in the Outdoors effort.



2021 Grant Recipients

See [previous grant recipients](#) from years 2014 - 2021 · Visit our [Apply for a Grant](#) page for more information

Through our Partners in the Outdoors efforts, we were able to provide over \$200,000 in grants this year to the following organizations.

- **Blackpackers:** will create more opportunities for a diverse population to be led into nature by Black women. This will give them the opportunity to see themselves as similar stewards of nature and will create the next generation of outdoor recreationists who will strive to protect Colorado's public/private lands.
- **Cal-Wood Education Center:** Cal-Wood seeks to expand their time-tested Latino Family Camp model to integrate stewardship focused on fire restoration at Cal-Wood. Their Latino partners and alumni families want to help with the restoration, and we believe that this is an exciting next step for this program.
- **Colorado's Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust:** will facilitate meaningful opportunities for Coloradans to better understand the critical relationship between agriculture, conservation, public lands, and natural resources management by providing more virtual ranch tours to the public.
- **Colorado Fourteeners Initiative:** plans to implement The Mount Wilson Workforce Development project that will seek to advance Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's two-season-long major trail reconstruction effort on Mount Wilson by collaborating with the newly established Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC).
- **Colorado High Country Educational Treks Inc.:** is projected to serve over 300 students through their partnership programming. This would include back-country horseback trips and monthly day trips for low-income students and families of color at no cost to them.
- **Colorado Tree Coalition:** will begin to implement a strategy in a way that breaks down barriers to accessing nature and its benefits; connects more people to and engages more people in shared stewardship of our urban & community forests; fosters collaborative and integrated landscape scale and multi-jurisdictional planning and action for people + nature.
- **Colorado Trout Unlimited:** will expand STREAM Girls, increase resources for camping, and offer new outreach and retention programming. They expect to connect at least 75% of youth participants with future outdoors recreation and nature resource opportunities.
- **Colorado West Land Trust:** will continue its collaborative effort with The Monument Corridor Restoration Project. The project's goals are to restore native vegetation for wildlife and bird habitat, enhance the experience of trail users, and to create greater awareness among trail users and youth restoration volunteers about the importance of native vegetation.
- **EUREKA! McConnel Science Museum:** Gear Up! is EUREKA!'s new after school biking and mentoring program for boys at Mt. Garfield Middle School (MGMS) in Clifton. Gear Up! will offer 2 hours of outdoor physical activity after school, twice a week, for up to 12 boys each day.
- **Greater Arkansas River Nature Association:** is increasing staff diversity and reaching up to 1,500 youth with free, experiential, hands-on, environmental education by creating a long-term youth program staff position to staff the following programs and others: Chaffee County Latinos Unidos and Lake County Familias Juntas.
- **Groundwork Denver:** plans to support Green Team youth employees in engaging in a three-day outdoor experience designed to break down barriers to outdoor recreation by increasing participants' confidence in outdoor recreation, building awareness about the significance of local public lands, and building connections to the land through service.
- **Hispanic Access Foundation:** is creating an inclusive outdoors in Colorado by creating a re-granting fund to support Latino Conservation Week events held by and for Colorado Latinos.
- **Keep It Colorado:** will establish a shared vision and a set of goals for Colorado's private lands conservation for the next 10 years that will, among other things: unify the work of land trusts and increase community-driven and community-focused conservation.

- **Lincoln Hills Cares:** will facilitate individualized outdoor experiences for community partners and marginalized youth and families in the Denver metro and Front Range mountain areas. These programs are designed to teach and encourage discussions with youth about the sciences and outdoor recreation through a dynamic STEAM-based curriculum.
- **Lucky to Ride and ELK:** seeks to support a collaborative program between Lucky to Ride and Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK). Together, they will be able to reach over 100 youth and family members and provide them with hands-on outdoor recreation and nature programming.
- **Montezuma Land Conservancy:** their project's purpose is to involve youth from the local high school's Native American club with the design and installation of interpretive signs along a new trail at Fozzie's Farm and along existing trails at Hawkins Preserve.
- **National Forest Foundation:** will continue to offer meaningful employment to mitigate the increased impacts to Colorado's natural resources that are a result of unprecedented numbers of visitors to the community. This will be done with The STOR Corps which stands for Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation:** aims to promote, enhance and defend the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. They plan to directly and intentionally include underrepresented communities and individuals in hunting, fishing and other outdoor traditions.
- **Town of Pagosa Springs:** The purpose of this project is to formalize this river access which has been historically used as a river take-out following the 14-mile Mesa Canyon trip down the San Juan River from downtown Pagosa Springs, and to improve the site to accommodate the growing traffic and use of this river access.
- **Vibe Tribe Adventures:** their project, BLACKOUT, seeks to be an expeditionary learning program built on the philosophy of exposing Urban Trekkers (students) to the diversity of people, places and natural landscapes outside the focus of their everyday lives.
- **Vida Foundation:** will continue their programs: the first initiative, Toma Mi Mano, engages 40 adolescents and teens from low-income neighborhoods. The second program, Destino Youth, is carried out in collaboration with the Eagle County middle schools and high schools during the home room period.
- **Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado:** through their recently established Affinity Partnership Program (APP), VOC can more intentionally welcome, develop, and deepen different perspectives and voices within the broader stewardship community.
- **Wilderness Workshop:** wants to continue and expand the successful engagement and education of the past year and a half. Providing access to public lands and an introduction to what public lands are, how they are managed and how members of the Latinx community can become more engaged will remain a critical component of their program.
- **Wildlands Restoration Volunteers:** will continue their Youth and Family Program which engages diverse youth in hands-on service-learning projects that make a positive impact on the environment and empowers young people, especially those from underserved communities, as environmental leaders along Colorado's Front Range.



PICTURED: FISHERS PEAK. PHOTO BY CAMERON DAVIDSON,
COURTESY OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY.

A 28-Year Partnership Working Wonders

In fiscal year '20, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invested \$48.2 million of Colorado Lottery proceeds in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). GOCO funding supports efforts to protect the state's rivers, plains, and mountains that hundreds of wildlife species call home, as well as wildlife watching opportunities, environmental education and internships programs, habitat management plans, and research projects. In addition, some of the investment provides critical support for the management and operations of Colorado's state parks. In the last two years, GOCO supported a collaborative effort between CPW, the City of Trinidad, The Trust for Public Land, and The Nature Conservancy and invested in the acquisition of Crazy French Ranch, home to Fishers Peak in Las Animas County. CPW now manages the property as Colorado's newest state park: Fishers Peak State Park.

Here's to 28 years of working together for conservation and recreation in Colorado!



Session Summaries

The web below shows you ways the public can go through our partner-led sessions post conference. Since all of our events were virtual this year, recordings for each session are available online for the remainder of 2021 (check out [Schedule Page](#)) and in this Post-Conference Report (See pages 19 and 20)



Recording

You can view each session in its entirety. See pages 19 and 20 and click on "Watch Recording"

Visual Map

We took the main ideas from each session and transformed it into a visual aid for better understanding

Virtual Session

Speakers

View a full list of our speakers and panelist's bios organized by session below (See page 28)

Mobile App

See "Partners in the Outdoors is still on Attendify!" below

Partners in the Outdoors is still on Attendify!

All webinars were recorded and are posted on [Attendify](#). Check out the sessions you may have missed or would like to revisit!



1. Search "Attendify" in the App Store or Google Play Store
2. Create a login and search "Partners in the Outdoors 2021"
3. Find webinar recordings on the schedule tab



Conference Schedule

This year's Partners in the Outdoors Conference was a multi-week virtual event: April - June 2021

Thursday, April 22nd

"A Hungry Life: How my relationship with the outdoors became the most dynamic single contributor to my life's journey"

Featuring: Eduardo Garcia

Eduardo shared why and how he fell in love with the outdoors in his special film production just for the conference. His journey was filled with adventures in the outdoors, traveling around the globe and unexpected tragedies. At its root, he shared how he built a career by cooking and connecting from the heart.

10:00 am - 11:15 am MT

[Watch recording](#)

"Coloring the Conservation Conversation"

Featuring: J. Drew Lanham

Lanham discussed what it meant to embrace the full breadth of his African American heritage and his deep kinship to nature and adoration of birds. He examined how conservation must be a rigorous science and evocative art, inviting diversity and race to play active roles in celebrating our natural world.

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm MT

[Watch recording](#)

Thursday, April 29th

"Laugh and Live: The joy of diversity in hunting and fishing"

Session Coordinator: Gabe Vasquez

From a variety of perspectives and experience levels, this lighthearted conversation helped bridge the gap between underrepresented communities in the hunting and angling community and more traditional populations of hunters and anglers.

10:00 am - 11:15 am MT

[Watch recording](#)

Thursday, May 20th

"Managing Our Public Lands in the Face of Wildfire: A US Forest Service Perspective"

Session Coordinator: Emily Olsen

The National Forest Foundation and 4 Forest Supervisors from the United States Forest Service got together to discuss how wildfire is influencing and impacting the management of our National Forest lands and how it affects the people of Colorado

9:00 am - 10:15 am MT

[Watch recording](#)

"Effectively Managing Increasing Visitation to Colorado's Public Lands"

Session Coordinator: Ben Lawhon

This session covered their land management survey findings which provided in-depth information on the following: gaining a broader understanding of outdoor recreation-related resource impacts throughout Colorado; overall effectiveness of visitor education and outreach efforts; examination of specific visitor management techniques; and opportunities for more effective visitor engagement and resource protection.

10:45 am - 12:00 pm MT

[Watch recording](#)



Thursday, June 3rd

“What Are the Impacts of Recreation on Wildlife?”

9:00 am - 10:30 am MT

[Watch recording](#)

Session Coordinator: Brian Dreher

We heard from a team of CPW biologists and researchers who explored recreation impacts as it relates to some of Colorado’s most iconic wildlife species. We also discussed ways that recreationsists and wildlife advocates can ensure these species remain an important part of Colorado’s future.

Tuesday, June 8th

“Funding Public Access and Habitat Conservation: Opportunities for Colorado”

11:00 am - 12:30 am MT

[Watch recording](#)

Session Coordinator: Amanda Nims

In this session, members of the Habitat Stamp Committee and CPW staff provided an overview of the program, partnerships, conservation successes, and the 2021 Request for Proposals. The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP) has invested over \$170 million dollars across Colorado to permanently conserve more than 280,000 acres of wildlife habitat and to provide access to the public on 119,000 acres.

Thursday, June 17th

“Envision Recreation in Balance: Practical advice for collaborative planning and transformative action”

9:00 am - 10:30 am MT

[Watch recording](#)

Session Coordinator: Cindy Williams

We heard from key members of the Envision Chaffee County Coalition about their findings and best practices as they get ready to release their Community Recreation Plan and Initiative implementation. As well, they offered tips and solutions for similar coalitions to maintaining healthy public lands, quality experiences and sustainable recreation economies.

Friday, June 25th

Colorado Natural Resources “State of the State”

Released 6/25/21

[Watch recording](#)

Session Moderator: Lauren Truitt

This outdoors discussion was moderated by Colorado Parks & Wildlife Assistant Director, Lauen Truitt, and featured agency leadership: Governor Jared Polis, Colorado Department of Natural Resources Executive Director, Dan Gibbs, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife Director, Dan Prenzl. This video includes a dialogue on the challenges the state is facing and actions being taken to advance and balance recreation and conservation in Colorado. We also learned more about some of the key measures recently passed in the state legislature, conservation initiatives of the agency and a vision for the future of Colorado’s outdoors.

PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE 2021

LAUGH and LIVE: THE JOY of DIVERSITY in HUNTING and FISHING



KAMI ELSIE
AMBASSADOR FOR ARTEMIS SPORTSWOMEN



RAY TREJO
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR COORDINATOR for the NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE FEDERATION



JEREMY ROMERO
REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY COORDINATOR for the NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



JAIME GLOSNAV
CO-FOUNDER OF NATIVE WOMEN LEAD

PANEL MODERATED BY



GABE VASQUEZ
FOUNDER - NUESTRA TIERRA CONSERVATION PROJECT

REPRESENTATION

RECONNECTING ACROSS GENERATIONS
WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HERE... IT IS TIME FOR US TO BE RECOGNIZED
A HUMBLE and PATIENT TEACHER OF INCLUSION YOUTH THEY WILL INHERIT THIS WORLD
MENTORSHIPS

IT'S ALL ABOUT SPENDING TIME TOGETHER OUTSIDE

BARRIERS
COST OF GEAR
CULTURAL MATERIALS & PROCLAMATION IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES
INCLUSIVENESS

HOW CAN TECH HELP?
MAPS TO KNOW WHERE TO GO



NAME THE TRUTHS... ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IS REAL

DON'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE MISTAKES and ASK FOR HELP

ADVICE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR WANTING TO GET INTO HUNTING AND FISHING

IT IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT

TRADITIONS
RESPECT FOR THE ANIMAL
DON'T TAKE MORE THAN YOU NEED
SHARE IN THE HARVEST
LEAVE THE SPACE BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT
CULTURAL CONSERVATION and FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



YOU DESERVE TO BE IN THESE SPACES

BE RESPECTFUL and ETHICAL STEWARDS OF THE LAND

PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE

MANAGING OUR PUBLIC LANDS IN THE FACE OF WILDFIRE: 2021



KARA CHADWICK
FOREST SUPERVISOR, FOR SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST



MONTE WILLIAMS
FOREST SUPERVISOR, FOR ASPEN-ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST



RUSS BACON
FOREST SUPERVISOR, FOR MEDICINE BOW ARCHER NATIONAL FOREST



SCOTT FITZWILLIAMS
FOREST SUPERVISOR, FOR WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



EMILY OLSEN
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, OF THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION

HOSTED BY:

A US FOREST SERVICE PERSPECTIVE

AREAS OF FOCUS in...



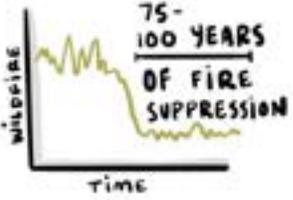
COLORADO

REALIZATION THAT THESE FIRES ARE NOT NORMAL

WELCOME TO the NEW NORMAL

WHY ARE WE IN THIS SITUATION?

- 1 FUELS
- 2 DEVELOPMENT
- 3 CLIMATE



SMALL CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE CAN HAVE MASSIVE IMPACTS ON FIRE BEHAVIOR



THE CHALLENGE IS THE SCALE & INTENSITY OF CURRENT MEGAFIRES

WE HAVE BEEN IN REACTIVE MODE

OVER 2,468,243 ACRES OF USFS LAND CLOSED IN 2020

WHAT ARE WE PROACTIVE ABOUT?

THIS HAD HUGE IMPACTS on the ECONOMY, RECREATION and WATER

ALLOWING FIRE TO RECLAIM ITS PLACE IN the LANDSCAPE

SHIFT TO A MULTI-FACETED LANDSCAPE-SCALE APPROACH

WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE...



BUT WITH

COMMUNITY SUPPORT, A SHIFT TO UPFRONT TREATMENT INVESTMENTS and a

RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

FOCUS ON ALL FOREST VALUES...

... THERE IS A PATH FORWARD



LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING by CARRIE VAN HORN



PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE

2021

EFFECTIVELY MANAGING INCREASING VISITATION to COLORADO'S PUBLIC LANDS

RECREATIONAL USE HAS INCREASED

IT WOULD HAVE LIKELY INCREASED ANYWAYS



HOW IS THIS IMPACTING OUR PUBLIC LANDS?

LAND MANAGER SURVEY

STATEWIDE SURVEY in MARCH 2021

HOW TO REACH NEW VISITORS



RESULTS

DUE TO COVID



GROUND MASKS

LET'S GET OUTSIDE... BUT AVOID OTHER PEOPLE

95% SAID THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN VISITATION

HOW MUCH? 42% GOT SENSE

HIKING AS THE MOST POPULAR OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

- IMPACTS
- #1 PARKING
 - #2 TRAIL IMPACTS
 - #3 OFF TRAIL TRAVEL
 - #4 VEG. DAMAGE
 - #5 TRASH
 - #6 PET WASTE
 - #7 ↑ DUE TO SOCIAL MEDIA
 - #8 PET MANAGEMENT

BIG IMPACT OBSERVATIONS



EFFECTIVENESS OF VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

PLANNING AHEAD

HOW TO REACH PEOPLE BEFORE THEY LEAVE HOME?

1. SOCIAL MEDIA
2. ON-TRAIL SIGNAGE
3. WEBSITES
4. DIRECT VISITOR CONTACT
5. WORKING w/ LOCAL GROUPS → hiking club
6. VOLUNTEERS for OUTREACH/ED.
7. PARTNERING with NGOs
8. MOBILE APPS (AllTrails, LOTREX, etc)

NEXT STEPS...

NEW USER RESEARCH

LAND MANAGER TRENDS

MANY OTHERS...



BEN LAWHON

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOR LEAVE NO TRACE CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING by CARRIE VAN HORN



PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE

2021

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF RECREATION ON WILDLIFE

COLORADO PARKS and WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS and RESEARCHERS...

HOSTED BY...



BRIAN DREHER
SENIOR TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGIST



JAKE IVAN
MAMMALS RESEARCHER



ERIC BERGMAN
MAMMALS RESEARCHER



TINA JACKSON
SPECIES CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

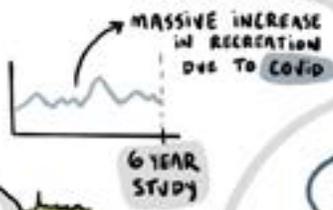


JEFF THOMPSON
RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR



MATT SCHULZ
FOREST MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

RECREATION IMPACTS ON ELK



LYNX & WINTER RECREATION



Partnership BETWEEN THE WILDLIFE & RECREATION WORLDS

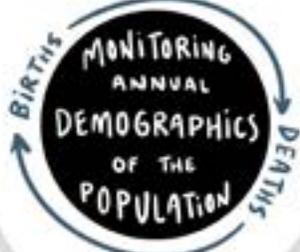
LOOKING AT THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES

DISEASE TRANSMISSION



HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER?

AND SPREAD AWARENESS



- RECREATIONAL INTENSITY
 - SKI AREAS - LYNX AVOID
 - WAIL PASS / LEADVILLE - LYNX BEGIN RESPONSE
 - SAN JUAN - LITTLE LYNX RESPONSE
- EXCEPT IN THE SEL AREAS
- CLEARLY THE INTENSITY OF RECREATION MATTERS AND THE TYPE OF RECREATION



PROTECTING RESOURCES AND PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES



RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

GOAL OF FUTURE GENERATIONS BEING ABLE TO USE THESE PLACES

- DATA AS THE FOUNDATION
- CONSTRUCTION IN FALL & WINTER TO AVOID THE BREEDING SEASON
- IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING

LEARN FROM THOSE WHO LIVE and WORK ON THE LAND

DATA ACCESS



HOW DO WE NOW UTILIZE THIS INFORMATION IN RECREATION PLANNING TO PROTECT WILDLIFE?

integrating

CONSERVATION & RECREATION IN STATE PARKS

GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FULL PICTURE



DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES



GRAPHIC RECORDING by CARRIE VAN HORN

HEARTWOODVISUALS.COM

PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE 2021

FUNDING PUBLIC ACCESS and HABITAT CONSERVATION: OPPORTUNITIES for LANDOWNERS

MODERATED by



AMANDA NIMS

LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST FOR COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

INVESTED OVER 170 MILLION ACROSS CO to permanently CONSERVE 280,000 ACRES OF HABITAT and PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS on 119,000 ACRES



DAN GATES

MEMBER OF THE HABITAT STAMP COMMITTEE

MUCH OF THE FUNDING FROM THE SALE OF...



ANNUAL FUNDING

Partnership between GOGO & CPW



TIM BRASS

MEMBER OF THE HABITAT STAMP COMMITTEE

MAINLY CONSERVATION EASEMENTS and PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS

and occasionally fee-title acquisition



A HUGE THANK YOU to MIKE THEOS!

THIS IS WHY THIS CONSERVATION EFFORT IS SO IMPORTANT!

7.5-8 MILLION PEOPLE in Colorado at any given time

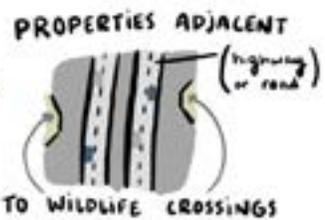
THE COLORADO WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM INCLUDING 360 MILES OF RIVER FRONTAGE



2021 RFP \$11 MILLION BUDGET

SUCCESS STORIES from throughout Colorado

ANDRICK PONDS SWA - MORGAN CO.



REACH OUT TO YOUR CPW LAND MANAGERS

PUBLIC ACCESS in COLLABORATION WITH LANDOWNERS



CITIZEN SCIENCE? OUTREACH CHANNELS?



PARTNERS IN THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE

ENVISION RECREATION in BALANCE: PRACTICAL ADVICE for COLLABORATIVE PLANNING and TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION 2021

CINDY WILLIAMS

CO-CHAIR OF ENVISION CHAFFEE COUNTY



CARLEE KOUTNIK

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

JAMIE GRIGGS

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST FOR COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE



GREG FELT

CHAIRMAN FOR CHAFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BEN LARA

RECREATION STAFF FOR UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE



KELLEN LENARD

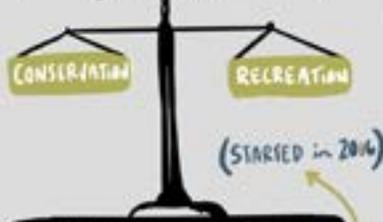
ASSISTANT FIELD MANAGER FOR ROYAL GORGE FIELD OFFICE BLM

DOMINIQUE WALLACE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GEORGE MEYERSON STATE NATURE ORGANIZATION



NEEDED TO FIND BALANCE between



(STARTED in 2016)

AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

EXAMPLE at a LOCAL SCALE:

OUR FORESTS, WATERS and WILDLIFE ARE HEALTHY & IN BALANCE WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION

ENVISION CHAFFEE COUNTY



by CHAFFEE COMMON GROUND



KEEP IT CLEAN

KEEP IT FUN

KEEP IT WILD

KEEP IT GOING



and SCIENTIFIC DATA

STRENGTHENING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION



CRITICISM MADE OUR PROGRAM BETTER

WE ARE ALL AT THE TABLE

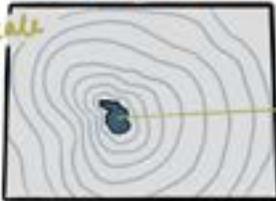
ensuring healthy landscapes FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

transformative FROM REACTIVE TO PROACTIVE

WORKING ACROSS JURISDICTIONS



COLORADO



RIPPLE EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURAL HEALTH ON THE ECOSYSTEM and ECONOMY

WILDLIFE MODELING

for 44 SPECIES



MAPPING TO GUIDE REL. DEVELOPMENT



this plan informs larger-scale planning efforts

AS THE OUTDOOR RECREATION POPULATION CONTINUES TO INCREASE... WE ARE WEAVING A NEW FABRIC OF BALANCE

GRAPHIC RECORDING by CARRIE VAN HORN



This is the Wild Life



**Where hunting
and fishing
benefit Colorado
year round.**



You may not realize it, but hunting and fishing benefit everyone in Colorado. License fees help stock over 400 Colorado lakes and streams and keep open spaces available for everyone to enjoy. Learn more at COwildlifecouncil.org.



**COLORADO
WILDLIFE COUNCIL**

Conference Presenters

Session 1: "Laugh and Live: The joy of diversity in hunting and fishing"



Kamila Elsie, Ambassador, Artemis Sportswomen

Kami Elsie (37) who is Navajo, lives in Albuquerque, NM where she works Full Time as a Paramedic in the Emergency Room and on an ambulance. Kami is also the Communications and Education Outreach Coordinator for the NMWF, the Central New Mexico Artemis Ambassador and she sits on the board for the Minority Outdoor Alliance. When Kami is not busy working you can find her out in the woods with her German Short-haired Pointer Sig Sauer and her Squirrel dog Annie.



Ray Trejo, Southern Outreach Coordinator, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Ray Trejo, an avid sportsman and conservationist, has spent the last 27 years of his career as a public-school teacher and administrator. Trejo also attended Western New Mexico University in Silver City where he earned a bachelor's degree in education, a master's degree in teaching, and a second master's in educational leadership. He was instrumental in helping to create the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument and has been actively involved in work along the Mexican border that affects wildlife, more public access and advocacy.



Jeremy Romero, Regional Connectivity Coordinator, National Wildlife Federation

Growing up in northern New Mexico and coming from a long lineage of ranching, hunting and public land users, Jeremy gained his appreciation for the outdoors at an early age. Jeremy now serves as the Regional Connectivity Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation. In this role, Jeremy works with local communities, tribes, private landowners, sportsmen, traditional land users and federal and state agencies to protect wildlife connectivity and ensure the conservation of our nation's land, water, wildlife, and cultural uses like hunting and fishing are protected for future generations.



Jamie Gloschay, Co-Founder, Native Women Lead

Jaime is also a Manager at Roanhorse Consulting, LLC and co-designs and develops initiatives on economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, and resource curation. She holds a BA in Native American Studies & Political Science and an MPA in Nonprofit Management. Jaime is a Matriarch of the Navajo, White Mountain Apache, and Kiowa Nations, and mother of three. Outside of work, Jaime finds balance by being outdoors: hiking, snowboarding, and partaking in cultural activities of her community. She has recently embarked and explored hunting as it relates to traditional food systems and food sovereignty.



Gabe Vasquez, Founder, Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project

Gabe Vasquez was born in El Paso, TX, and raised in Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, and is the founder of the Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project. Gabe grew up fishing the Rio Grande in Chihuahua and New Mexico with his father and learned early on about hunting and conservation traditions from his grandfather Javier. Gabe is a Las Cruces City Councilor and serves on the boards of the Outdoor Alliance and Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks. Gabe's passions include outdoor equity, fishing, hunting, and conservation.

Session Coordinator

Session 2: “Managing Our Public Lands in the Face of Wildfire: A US Forest Service Perspective”



Kara Chadwick, Forest Supervisor, San Juan National Forest

Chadwick began her U.S. Forest Service career in 1985 working on timber crews and fighting fires in Montana and Idaho on the Kootenai and Clearwater National Forests. From 1988 to 2002, she held various positions in Timber, Silviculture, and NEPA on the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests in Idaho, and Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. From 2008 to 2017, she was a Resource Unit Leader with the USFS Southern Area Type I Incident Management Team.



Monte Williams, Forest Supervisor, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest

Monte Williams has served as the Forest Supervisor for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland located in northern Colorado since 2015. Williams’ background includes serving as a Legislative Affairs Specialist in the Forest Service headquarters in Washington D.C. and acting Chief of Staff for Arthur ‘Butch’ Blazer, USDA Deputy Under Secretary Natural Resources and Environment.. Williams’ formal education is Watershed Management with a Bachelor of Science from Utah State University.



Russ Bacon, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest

Prior to becoming the Forest Supervisor in 2017, Russ was the Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest in western Colorado. Throughout his career, Russ has dealt with the nexus of recreation management, conservation, and wildfire management. Experiences range from managing wildfire in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in Central Idaho to managing a recreation program within a half day’s drive of Detroit and Chicago.



Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest

Scott has also served as the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Willamette National Forest in Eugene, Oregon and the Staff Officer for Recreation, Wilderness Lands and Minerals on the Tongass National Forest in Sitka, Alaska from 2001-2006. Additionally, he was the Public Affairs Officer for the Forest Service on the Bridger-Teton NF in Jackson Hole, Wyoming from 1992-1998. Scott has a BS in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin and a MS in Environmental Planning from the University of Colorado. Scott and his wife Lisa and their 19 year old son Sam live in Glenwood Springs, CO.



Emily Olsen, Rocky Mountain Regional Director, National Forest Foundation

Working alongside a small but growing team, Emily leads programs in Colorado and neighboring states to enhance forest health, support sustainable recreation, and connect communities to their public lands. Her work is possible because of durable partnerships with nonprofit, business, and community partners. Previously, Emily worked as a facilitator and policy analyst at the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy. She holds an M.S. from the University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation, where she specialized in forest planning, policy and conflict resolution.

Session Coordinator

Session 3: “Effectively Managing Increasing Visitation to Colorado’s Public Lands”



Ben Lawhon, Director of Education & Research, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

Ben Lawhon joined the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics staff in 2001 where he serves as Director of Education and Research. His primary responsibilities include research, curriculum development, management of national education and training programs, agency relations, and oversight of national outreach efforts. In his free time, Ben spends as much time outdoors as possible.

Session Coordinator



Jake Ivan, Mammals Researcher, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Jake’s recent projects include impacts of forest management on snowshoe hare density, impact of bark beetle outbreaks on wildlife, including Canada lynx and their prey; impacts of winter recreation on Canada lynx, and monitoring programs for rare carnivores. He holds a PhD in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from Colorado State University, and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana.



Eric Bergman, Mammals Researcher, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Most of Eric’s research focuses on population ecology, largely in the context of evaluating the effect of management actions on ungulate population performance. Eric has worked on mule deer, moose, and most recently elk, although he has also had small research projects focused on bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and pronghorn. He completed a MSc in 2003 at Montana State, where he focused on predator/prey spatial dynamics of wolves, elk, and bison in Yellowstone National Park. In 2013 Eric completed a PhD at Colorado State University.



Tina Jackson, Species Conservation Coordinator, Colorado Park & Wildlife

Tina joined Colorado Parks and Wildlife in 1997, serving as a Species Conservation Coordinator since 2003. In this position, she implements species conservation and recovery programs for black-footed ferrets, black-tailed prairie dogs, Preble’s and New Mexico meadow jumping mice, bats, and reptiles throughout Colorado. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental, Population, Organismic Biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master’s Degree in Natural Resource Law and Policy from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.



Jeff Thompson, Resource Stewardship Coordinator, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Jeff earned his master’s degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder in Natural Resource Law and Policy. He also holds degrees in Recreation Land Management, Biology, and Outdoor Leadership. Jeff’s work experience includes leading field crews in the inventory and monitoring of biological and recreation resources, applying field data to land management decisions in GIS applications, performing field and programmatic work for the Colorado Natural Areas Program, directing outdoor education programs, and park management and operations.



Matt Schulz, Forest Management Coordinator, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Matt manages several statewide conservation initiatives and partnerships for Colorado Parks and Wildlife covering a wide range of topics including citizen science, forest management, prescribed fire, cultural resources, paleontology and the soon to be minted Colorado Conservation Data Explorer (CODEX). Matt’s expertise is in forest ecology, GIS, resource planning and integration of scientific information into planning and management. Matt received his formal training from Colorado State University and worked with local governments on natural resource, recreation and water issues prior to joining CPW.



Brian Dreher, Senior Terrestrial Biologist, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Prior to joining CPW, Brian attended Colorado State University for a Bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Biology and a Masters Degree in Wildlife Biology from Michigan State University. After 3 years as an area wildlife biologist, Brian Promotes to a Senior Wildlife Biologist for the SE region of Colorado, where he supervised 6 biologists, an airplane pilot and a forest habitat coordinator. In December of 2019, Brian became the Terrestrial Section Manager, which oversees the terrestrial section at the statewide level.

Session Coordinator

Session 5: “Funding Public Access and Habitat Conservation: Opportunities for Colorado”



Tim Brass, Member, Habitat Stamp Committee

Tim Brass is the state policy and field operations director for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, where he helps direct the organization’s work to protect and enhance habitat and public recreational access to public lands. Tim’s work is focused on enhancing access to inaccessible public lands, while also balancing growing demands for recreational access and needs for undisturbed fish and wildlife habitat. Tim enjoys hunting waterfowl, big game hunting with a bow and fly-fishing high mountain lakes.



Dan Gates, Member, Habitat Stamp Committee

Colorado resident since 1976, Dan is an avid lifetime sportsman. Dan is deeply engaged in multiple sportsmen’s and conservation organizations, and sits on the Habitat Stamp Committee and CPW’s Executive Summit Council, and the Colorado Wildlife Council. His passion for the outdoors is a true representation of his beliefs in conservation. He and his wife Karen and son Ethan conduct their lives in a manner that benefits not only themselves but all of the sportsmen in Colorado.



Amanda Nims, Land Protection Specialist, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Amanda is responsible for managing the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program and CPW’s Conservation Easement Stewardship Program. Amanda has close to two decades of experience working in private land conservation across 3 states. Prior to joining CPW, Amanda worked for 6 years at Colorado Open Lands as a senior project manager, working with multiple partners to complete complex land, water, and public access conservation deals across the state of Colorado.

Session Coordinitor

Session 6: “Envision Recreation in Balance: Practical advice for collaborative planning and transformative action”



Dominique Naccarato, Executive Director, Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

A native of Salida, Colorado, Dominique Naccarato, MEM is a systems thinking professional who is passionate about community engagement and collaboration. She’s the Executive Director of the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA), a non-profit with a 25-year history which partners with public land agencies to inspire a conservation ethic by providing educational opportunities and experiences so that those who live, work and play in the Upper Arkansas Valley are motivated to take care of the natural resources and leave a legacy of responsible use of the natural environment.



Jamin Grigg, Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

I have been a wildlife biologist for CPW for the past 14 years, including the past 12 years as the wildlife biologist for the upper Arkansas River valley based out of Salida. Prior to working for CPW, I completed my master’s degree in Montana studying the impacts of road and trail networks on elk movement, distribution, and migration patterns. In my free time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, rafting, skiing, and philosophical discussions over beers with my mountain biking friends.



Greg Felt, Chairman, Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

A fly-fishing guide and outfitter for over 30 years (co-owner of ArkAnglers, LLC), Greg has had a deep and lasting involvement in natural resource issues and water planning. He has served on the state’s outfitter licensing board, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Citizen’s Task Force, and the Colorado Advisory Board for the Trust for Public. He represents Chaffee County on the board of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, and was appointed in 2020 by Gov. Jared Polis to serve as the Arkansas River Basin representative on the Colorado Water Conservation Board.



Ben Lara, Recreation Staff, United States Forest Service

Originally from the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado, Ben started his Forest Service career in the Inyo National Forest and Pacific Southwest Regional office in California. He has spent the better part of his career working on facilitating access to National Forests. Ben has a strong passion for connecting people to their public lands and building a strong stewardship ethic within the communities he serves. Ben's formal education includes a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management from Colorado State University and a Master of Science in Parks and Protected Area Management from San Francisco State University



Kalem Lenard, Assistant Field Manager, Royal Gorge Field Office BLM

He has been with the BLM in Canon City Colorado for the past 11 years working in recreation and as a supervisor over the recreation, wildlife, range, forestry, fisheries and archaeology programs. He began his career in eastern Nevada as an intern with the BLM inventorying invasive plants where he was introduced to land management and the complex field of outdoor recreation planning and management. He has a degree in Geography from Portland State University and enjoys exploring the west with his wife and two kids.



Carlee Koutnik, Deputy Director, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

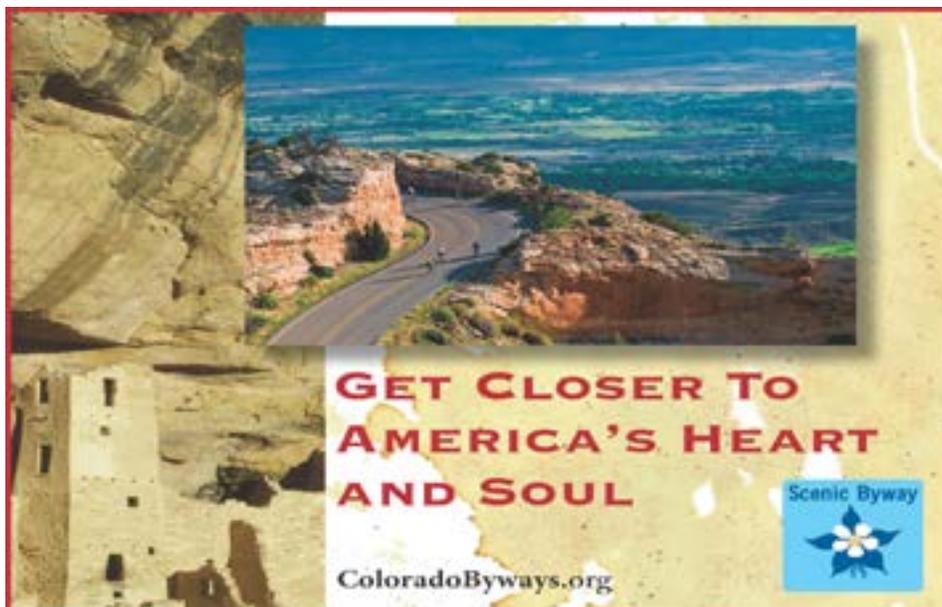
Carlee Koutnik is a Colorado native from La Veta who grew up with a wide appreciation for Colorado's public lands and wildlife. She graduated from the US Air Force Academy with an undergraduate degree in biology and shortly after, earned a master's degree from the University of Florida in forest resources and conservation. Carlee joined CPW in 2020 following eight years in the Air Force. While serving, she specialized in occupational and environmental health management, sexual assault victim advocacy in Florida and Alaska, and she proudly finished her military service in Colorado as an instructor of biology at her alma mater. Among Carlee's repertoire of interests, she's a lifelong hunter and enjoys hiking, triathlons, snowmobiling, pottery, and snowboarding



Cindy Williams, Co-Chair, Envision Chaffee County

Cindy is the Co-Chair of Envision Chaffee County and Chair of the Chaffee County Common Ground Fund. She is a Colorado native, tapping her experience to catalyzing citizens to support the community and landscapes that make Central Colorado special. Williams is an accomplished executive with 30 years of domestic and international experience including executive roles leading global exploration, innovation and technical services for Newmont Mining Company. She holds a BS and MSc in Economic Geology from Colorado.

Session Coordinitor



Our common ground



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

Colorado is home to 42 state parks, more than 350 state wildlife areas,
45,000 miles of trails and over 23 million acres of land to roam.
This land is our land, we're all the caretakers.

cpw.state.co.us

S A V E T H E D A T E

Partners in the Outdoors Conference

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort · April 18-20, 2022



Conference Benefits

Networking & Collaboration • Partner Recognition

Professional Development • Grant Opportunities

To Learn More:

cpw.state.co.us/partners

Dan Zimmerer

dnr_cpwpartners@state.co.us

Photo: @CaptureTheAction