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OUTSIDE**

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## **COLORADO OUTDOOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS Spring 2023 Grant Information and Resources**

Letter of Interest due by Friday, April 7, 2023  
Complete Application due Friday, April 28, 2023

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) offer grant funding for regional collaboration under the Outdoor Regional Partnership Initiative to ensure that Colorado's land, water, and wildlife thrive while also providing for equitable access to quality outdoor recreation experiences.

The 2023 Spring funding cycle will support new and existing coalitions that meet criteria under a state-level vision and advance the development of local and regional plans to help inform a statewide conservation and outdoor recreation plan (Statewide Plan).

### **PROGRAM VISION**

The Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP), established in 2017, commits to a collaborative effort to advance a vision that *in 2050, Colorado's people and economy will thrive because of our healthy lands, water, wildlife, working farms, and ranches, accompanied by improved, inclusive outdoor recreation, hunting, and angling opportunities for all.*

The Outdoor Regional Partnership Initiative convenes outdoor interests, across sectors, to identify priorities and strategies to achieve this vision while considering the unique needs of Colorado's communities.

### **GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants should represent a coalition that engages conservation, outdoor recreation, working lands, under-represented populations, and government interests OR demonstrate a commitment to building a coalition with these interests.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to advancing both conservation and outdoor recreation objectives and to advancing conservation and recreation planning at a regional or landscape scale which will inform a Statewide Plan.

Applicants should represent new or existing coalitions in areas that do not have a Regional Partnership OR represent an existing Regional Partnership or the expansion of an existing

coalition. Please see the [Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership map](#) to see if there is a Partnership in your area.

**Letter of Interest Deadline: Friday, April 7, 2023**

**Application Deadline: Friday, April 28, 2023**

## APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Jody Kennedy with CPW at [jody.kennedy@state.co.us](mailto:jody.kennedy@state.co.us) to address questions on the Regional Partnership Initiative and this funding opportunity.

### Letter of Interest

Applicants should submit a letter of interest to [jody.kennedy@state.co.us](mailto:jody.kennedy@state.co.us) by Friday, April 7, 2023. Letters can be in the body of an email and should include the following information:

- Organization name, lead contact name, email address, phone number and physical address.
- Brief description of the geographic area that your proposal will cover.
- Summary of your collaborative effort, which includes a *brief* overview of the following:
  1. The interest areas and sectors collaborating to advance this work.
  2. How this work will support conservation and recreation planning at a regional or landscape scale.

### Application

Applicants who submit a letter of interest will receive feedback from CPW and information regarding application next steps. Applicants who meet the basic grant requirements will receive a link for an online application. Final applications require a budget, timeline, and narrative description of how coalitions are committed to advancing the Outdoor Partnership Initiative criteria. Detailed requirements and criteria are described below. Applicants may be invited to present their proposals to the CO-OP Scoring Committee.

### Fall 2023 Funding Application Timeline:

- ❑ February 28, 2023: Application Period Opens
- ❑ March 13, 12-1 PM: Informational Webinar Q & A Session. [Registration \(required\) link](#)
- ❑ April 7, 2023: Letter of Interest Deadline
- ❑ April 28 at 5:00 PM: Application Deadline
- ❑ May 1 - May 31, 2023: Review by CPW Staff and CO-OP Scoring Committee
- ❑ May or early June, 2023: Applicant presentations to the CO-OP Scoring Committee
- ❑ June, 2023: Awards & Partnerships Announced

## GRANT AMOUNT AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Two grants are offered through this program for the duration of one to two years: 1) Partnership Capacity, and 2) Plan Development and Research. For Partnership Capacity grants, applicants may request between \$25,000 and \$150,000 to support coalition building,

facilitation, administration, and coordination. For Plan Development and Research grants, CPW will consider requests between \$50,000 and \$250,000 to support capacity AND plan development expenses such as public involvement, applied research, mapping/geospatial analysis, and assessments of current conditions.

CPW requires a 10% match of financial and/or in-kind contribution.

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## APPLICATION GUIDE

The following information provides a guide as you prepare to complete the full online application. ***Applicants must submit a letter of interest and meet the basic grant requirements in order for CPW to consider a full application.***

### **Application Requirements:**

- Successful proposals must address how coalitions are committed to advancing the criteria described below. The application provides one answer field per criterion with a limit of 2,500 characters.
- Submit a letter of support or resolution from a Governing Body, such as the County Commission(s) whose geography is covered by your coalition. Additional letters of support from partner organizations or agencies are encouraged and will strengthen your proposal.
- Funding proposals must submit a budget and timeline, templates are provided below.
- Submit relevant documents pertaining to your organization, if applicable. This could include your coalition's governance charter or other planning documents.

### **Selection Criteria:**

**State-level Vision & Planning Process:** The Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP) adopted a vision that *in 2050, Colorado's people and economy will thrive because of our healthy lands, water, wildlife, working farms, and ranches, accompanied by improved, inclusive outdoor recreation, hunting, and angling opportunities for all.* This vision embraces [Colorado's Outdoor Principles](#) and acknowledges that outdoor recreation and conservation should reflect, respect and value the demographic and cultural diversity of our state.

CPW, DNR and GOCO, in partnership with the CO-OP, are drafting a framework for a statewide Conservation, Outdoor Recreation and Climate Resilience Plan. Through collaboration with the CO-OP and Outdoor Regional Partnerships, this process will reflect the unique needs and priorities of Colorado's communities, and identify strategies for incorporating climate considerations into conservation and recreation planning.

The following criteria were developed with the CO-OP to inform this effort.

1. **Wildlife & Natural Resources:** How will this proposal help recognize and prioritize high-priority public and private land and wildlife conservation needs and identify geographic locations to consider for future conservation and restoration projects? Examples of work products to advance this criteria:

- Incorporate geospatial tools and best available data to visualize conservation needs and identify high-priority conservation projects which ensure lasting protections for wildlife, habitat, migration corridors, and resilient landscapes.
  - Advance opportunities to research and monitor visitor use and impacts from recreation to better understand where resource impacts are occurring and to help inform future stewardship projects and recreation planning.
  - Identify opportunities that serve both conservation and recreation priorities identified above as well as areas where there are potential opportunities for reclamation, rehabilitation, or mitigation.
2. **Sustainable Outdoor Recreation:** How will this project help recognize high-priority outdoor recreation needs for maintaining and improving equitable access and quality outdoor recreation experiences? Examples of work products to advance this criterion:
- Incorporate geospatial tools and best available data to visualize existing and planned recreational uses, document and inventory access and land-use regulations, identify areas of high demand/competing uses, and identify high-priority outdoor recreation locations.
  - Identify recreation projects that enhance opportunities for all people with attention to equity, diversity, and inclusion.
  - Identify opportunities that serve both conservation and recreation priorities identified above as well as areas where there are potential opportunities for restoration of unsustainable recreational facilities, maintenance and enhancement of existing recreational facilities, and the development of new recreation locations where appropriate.
3. **Collaboration:** How will this project convene new or existing coalitions with a broad representation of outdoor-related interests that include the following sectors: outdoor recreation users, agriculture/private lands, economic development, wildlife conservation and land conservancies, under-represented populations, hunting/fishing, local government, CPW, and other land management agencies? Explain how this project will demonstrate the following:
- Partnerships operate or work towards operation under a guidance document or charter and mission statement.
  - Partnerships consider opportunities to work with neighboring jurisdictions (counties, cities, tribal governments, etc.) and across land ownership boundaries to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation and the growing demand for outdoor recreation access.
  - Partnerships adopt the [Colorado's Outdoor Principles](#) to show their commitment to collaboration to ensure the state will remain a beautiful and healthy place to live, work, and play for generations to come.
4. **Statewide Framework & Plan:** How will this project advance conservation and recreation planning at a regional or landscape scale which informs the development of a statewide framework and plan and measurably contributes to the state-level vision? How will your coalition forming and/or planning efforts help to identify priorities and strategic actions for your area or region?

5. **Community Need:** How will your planning or coalition formation efforts address community needs for outdoor recreation and conservation of public and private lands, water, and wildlife? Does it impact other community needs, such as economic prosperity and public health?
6. **Public Comment & Involvement:** How will this project engage the public and capture community input to inform the development of balanced conservation and recreation priorities? How does it provide meaningful public engagement opportunities to solicit input, co-produce locally driven conservation and recreation priorities, and mitigate potential conflicts between user groups? Does it promote stewardship and public engagement by enhancing the capacity of outdoor recreation providers, organizations, and agencies to engage volunteers and/or employ youth and young adults? Does it support public education, outreach, and messaging?

### **Statewide Plan Key Elements:**

Below outlines the elements for the Statewide Conservation and Recreation Plan with the intent of capturing local and regional values, needs, and priorities under a shared strategy. By following these planning elements, we can create consistency statewide while supporting planning at a more local level (for definitions of planning terms, see [link](#)). In a closed question format, the online application will ask whether you agree to use the following Key Elements to guide a Regional Conservation and Recreation Plan.

- I. **Vision:** identify the vision for an established area or region. How does this vision support the State-level Vision? Does the vision reflect a desired future condition for a defined area?
- II. **Goals & Measurable Objectives:** What are the desired outcomes or goals of this collaborative effort and how will they help achieve the regional and state-level visions? How will you measure success or progress in reaching these goals and what is the timeline?
- III. **Conservation Goals & Needs:** What are the conservation-specific goals? What is the current situation or existing condition with private and public lands? What are the trends, threats and opportunities to achieve desired future conditions? How do these needs address equity, diversity, and inclusion? Have you captured community voices in identifying these goals? How do your community's conservation goals incorporate climate considerations?
- IV. **Outdoor Recreation Goals & Needs:** What are the outdoor recreation-specific goals? What is the current situation or existing condition of outdoor recreation opportunities and infrastructure? What are the trends, threats and opportunities to achieve desired future conditions? How do these needs address equity, diversity, and inclusion? Have you captured community voices in identifying these goals?
- V. **Priority Actions & Projects:** What are the strategies for balancing conservation and outdoor recreation goals? Can you identify geographic locations for conservation and recreation projects? When considering the challenges and opportunities, what are the top priority actions and projects?

- VI. **Implementation & Monitoring:** What are the strategies for advancing priority actions and projects? What are the funding needs to support this work? How will you measure and monitor progress over time? What methods will you use to gain community support for the local/regional planning elements?

### **Budget**

Provide an estimated budget for your coalition's proposal. Your budget should incorporate how funds will generally be used within a one or two-year window. Two types of funding are offered:

- 1) Partnership Capacity Funding (\$25,000 - \$150,000)
  - a) Examples of how funding may be used include: capacity building, facilitation, administration, and coordination.
- 2) Plan Development and Research Funding (\$50,000 - \$250,000)
  - a) Examples of how funding may be used include: the capacity building categories above as well as plan development expenses, applied research, mapping/geospatial analysis, and identifying current conditions.

\*Please use this [Budget Form](#) template or contact [Jody Kennedy](#).

### **Timeline**

Provide a breakdown of project checkpoints and the estimated completion dates. Please use this [Timeline Form](#) template or contact [Jody Kennedy](#).

### **Resources:**

#### **Definitions**

[Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Executive Order](#)

[Colorado Outdoor Partnership \(CO-OP\)](#)

[State Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Executive Order](#)

[Conserving Colorado's Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors](#)

[State Wildlife Action Plan](#)

[2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#)

[Currently funded Regional Partnerships](#)