



Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind Update

Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind

A HANDBOOK FOR TRAIL PLANNERS



Purpose:

Updating the 1998 document to align with our current knowledge of how Colorado land managers should plan for trails while incorporating plans to address wildlife impacts as well as highlight our Wildlife Impact Assessment process for how we evaluate trail grants through State Trails Program.

TRAILS AND WILDLIFE TASK FORCE • COLORADO STATE PARKS • HELLMUND ASSOCIATES



Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind ~ Engagement Summary



Revised and Refined “Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind” Guide

Vision: Trails in Colorado can connect people with nature and support a high quality of life for all; proper trail management, planning and design can minimize impacts and serve as a tool to support resilient landscapes, wildlife, and biodiversity.

Audiences:

- 1) **Land managers** at the local, state, and federal level, as well as private landowners, who are actively engaged in planning, managing, and building trails in Colorado,
- 2) **Nonprofit and public-sector organizations seeking grant funding** for planning, construction, or maintenance of trails who require approval from land managers to move forward with their vision.

Stakeholder Advisory Group



Purpose: Meetings with sportswomen and men, recreational users, stewardship orgs, and conservation groups to gain first-hand insight about how technical decisions affect the human dimension and experience.

Timing: May 2020-February 2021

Land Manager Task Force



Purpose: Integrate solutions that they and their colleagues will be able to implement across Colorado in different agencies and in diverse recreation settings when planning/managing trails.

Timing: January 2020 – April 2021

CPW Technical Oversight Team



Purpose: Broad representation from across the agency to offer programmatic and science-based oversight as we rewrite the document, as well as guide the overall implementation of the project from start to finish.

Timing: September 2019 – April 2021

Case Studies and Stories



Purpose: Better contextualize the new document and broaden the audience participation by collecting case studies and success stories of effective trail planning that works for wildlife and human communities.

Timing: May 2020 – April 2021

Document Goals

- Help people, organizations and groups be proactive in considering wildlife when thinking about trails, trail planning, and management.
- Offer high quality frameworks, processes, and models that can be utilized by individuals, organizations, and agencies for effective planning and management of trails and wildlife.
- Provide relevant up-to-date science surrounding the impact of trails and trail recreation on wildlife while remaining accessible to readers of all backgrounds.
- Improve communication between government agencies around trails and wildlife by establishing common language, and by providing consensus around best practices.
- Guidance for what wildlife issues should be considered for a state trails grant at the forefront.
- Easy to quickly share and reference in conversations with outside groups.

What the Document is Not

- The document is not intended to supersede agency-specific policies or processes - it is a guide for those that wish to enhance their policies or processes, and an explanation to the public for why certain policies and processes already exist.
- The document does not attempt to address broad environmental issues that are not related to trail construction or maintenance.
- The document does not attempt to address in great detail every discipline that intersects with trails (i.e. hydrology, GIS systems, park rangers, etc.), but provides access to those resources as appropriate.
- The document is grounded in the best science available, not anecdotes and “common knowledge.”

Themes Incorporated Into the Document

- Streamline the document
- Increase use of visuals and case study examples
- Create a Table that goes over the concept of the best available science and species-specific management practices
- Final additional for opportunities to add links to external resources
- Increased collaboration between conservation and recreation interests, especially early on in the process of planning.
- Define where this document fits in the larger context of guidance and policy.

Next Steps

- Share Second Draft w/ Advisory Groups, Land Managers - January 2021
- Gather All Feedback to Share with Task Force - February 2021
- Task Force Meeting #9 - March 2021
- Integrate feedback and finalize changes - April 2021
- Prepare for Production - May 2021
- Roll out and Implementation - June 2021



Next Steps



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