



COLORADO'S
Outdoors Strategy

Colorado's Outdoors Strategy

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
July 16, 2026

Fletcher Jacobs, CPW Assistant Director of Outdoor
Recreation and Lands

Daphne Gervais, CPW Deputy Assistant Director of
Partnerships

Dan Zimmerer, GOCO Parks and Wildlife
Partnership Manager



Agenda

1. Quick Refresh on the Strategy
2. Implementation Update - One-Year Report
3. Next Steps - Looking Forward



Strategy Refresh



Strategy at a Glance

VISION

Colorado's Outdoors Strategy ensures a future where our outdoors, people, community character and ways of life endure for generations to come.

PURPOSE

Colorado's Outdoors Strategy advances coordination, tools, and funding to align, prioritize, and implement strategic actions on the landscape for conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience.



Strategy at a Glance

VALUES

*The Outdoors Are Essential - Action - Collaboration -
Community - Equity & Inclusion - Knowledge - Landscape Scale*

PARTNERS

Coordinating Partners

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
(Lead Coordinating Agency)
Great Outdoors Colorado
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office
Colorado Governor's Office

Key Partners

State, federal, and local governments;
Tribal Nations; private and agricultural
land/water rights owners and managers;
local communities; Colorado Regional
Partnerships Initiative; Colorado Outdoor
Partnership; Basin Roundtables; forest
health collaboratives; diverse private and
public sector partners in conservation,
restoration, outdoor recreation,
stewardship, climate resilience, and
equity, diversity, and inclusion.



Advisory Committees

Steering Committee

Becky Leinweber, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Carlos Fernandez, The Nature Conservancy
Chris Ham, U.S. Forest Service*
Cindy Williams, Envision Chaffee County*
Conor Hall, OREC*
Daylan Figgs, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources
Doug Vilsack, Bureau of Land Management
Erin Karney, Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Janelle Kukuk, Colorado State Recreational Trails Committee
Jared Romero, Minority Outdoor Alliance Board Member
Jason Bertolacci, Thiry-O'Leary Foundation*
Liz Rose, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Luke Schafer, Conservation Colorado
Meara McQuain, Headwaters Trails Alliance/Grand PLACES 2050
Patt Dorsey, National Wild Turkey Federation
Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Montezuma Land Conservancy/Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Topher Downham, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
Tony Hass, Las Animas County Commissioner
Suzanne O'Neill, Colorado Wildlife Federation*
Suzanne Stephens and Amy Beatie, Keep It Colorado

Technical Committee

Angela Boag, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Beatriz Soto, Protegete/Conservation Colorado
Brian Dreher, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Cate Townley, CDPHE
Chris Latimer, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
David Klute, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Drew Rayburn, The Nature Conservancy
Gemara Gifford, Mending Mountains Collective
Jackie Corday, Corday Natural Resources Consulting
Jeff Christenson, Bureau of Land Management
Kristen Weil, Trust for Public Land
Les Owen, Colorado Department of Agriculture
Linda Hwang, Trust for Public Land
Michelle Flenner, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Matt Reddy, Ducks Unlimited
Nic Kotlinksi, Colorado State Forest Service
Rani Kumar, CDPHE
Samantha Albert, OREC
Travis Belote, The Wilderness Society

*Steering members with asterisks also participated in
 Technical Committee





CLIMATE-RESILIENT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

GOALS

Colorado's Outdoors Strategy advances three interrelated 'North Star' goals for our outdoors. Each goal is essential to achieve a future where our people, outdoors, community character, and ways of life endure for generations to come.



EXCEPTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION



COORDINATED PLANNING AND FUNDING



CLIMATE-RESILIENT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Conservation and restoration of lands and waters help wildlife and biodiversity thrive; habitats are resilient and connected; communities benefit from healthy ecosystems and agricultural lands.



EXCEPTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION

A diversity of high-quality outdoor experiences are accessible, equitable, and inclusive; management and stewardship enhance benefits for and minimize impacts to people, landscapes, and communities.



COORDINATED PLANNING AND FUNDING

Planning and implementation are interdisciplinary; supported by robust funding and capacity; inclusive of diverse perspectives and communities; and drive meaningful action for the outdoors.



Public Lands, Private Lands, and Agricultural Lands



Colorado's Outdoors Strategy recognizes the important role that both public and private land and water resources play in supporting climate-resilient conservation and outdoor recreation.



The Strategy is not prescriptive; it advances coordination, funding, and tools while recognizing and respecting the management authority, property rights, and priorities of each of its partners and stakeholders



With approximately 60% of lands in Colorado in private ownership, working with private landowners is also essential to the success of Colorado's Outdoors Strategy.

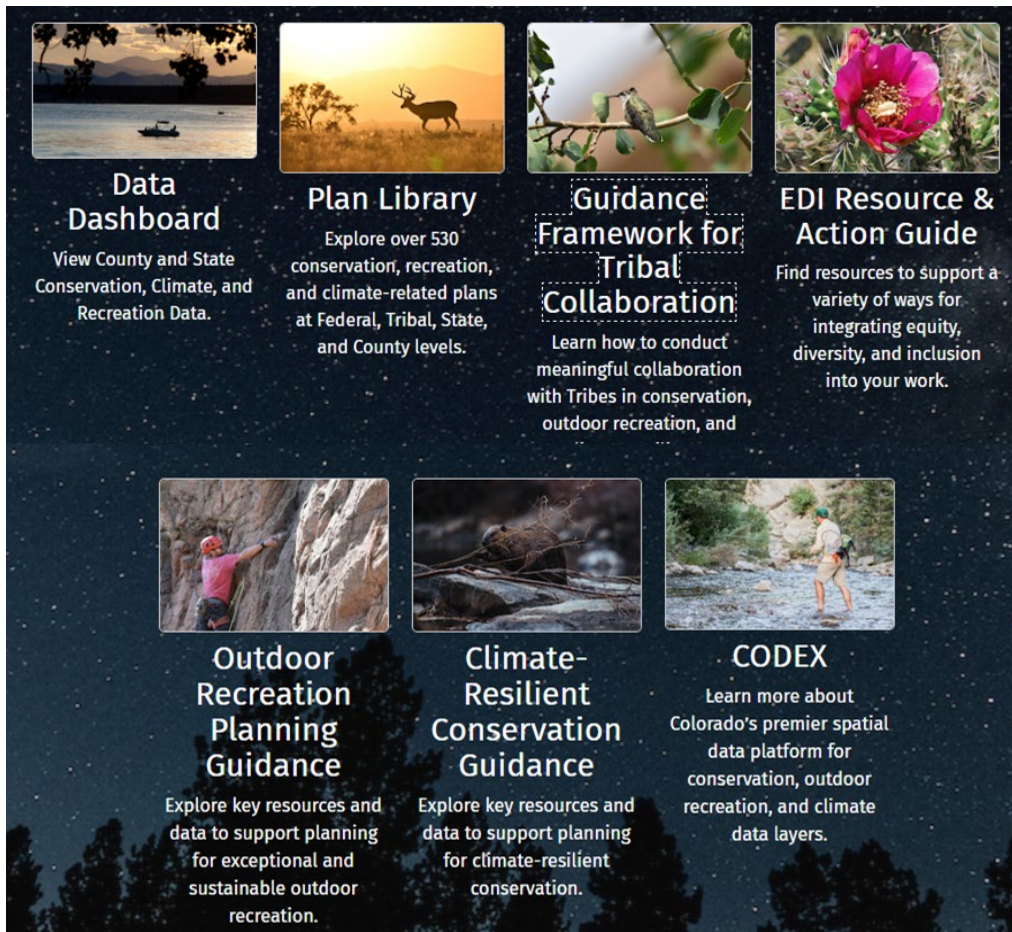


In addition to sustaining rural economics, cultivating community character, and providing food for Colorado and beyond, private and agricultural lands play a critical role in the conservation and restoration of wildlife, habitats, and ecosystem function.



Land and water management are integrally connected. Ecosystems, agricultural systems, communities, and recreation all benefit from collaborative planning between many land and water owners and managers and other stakeholders.

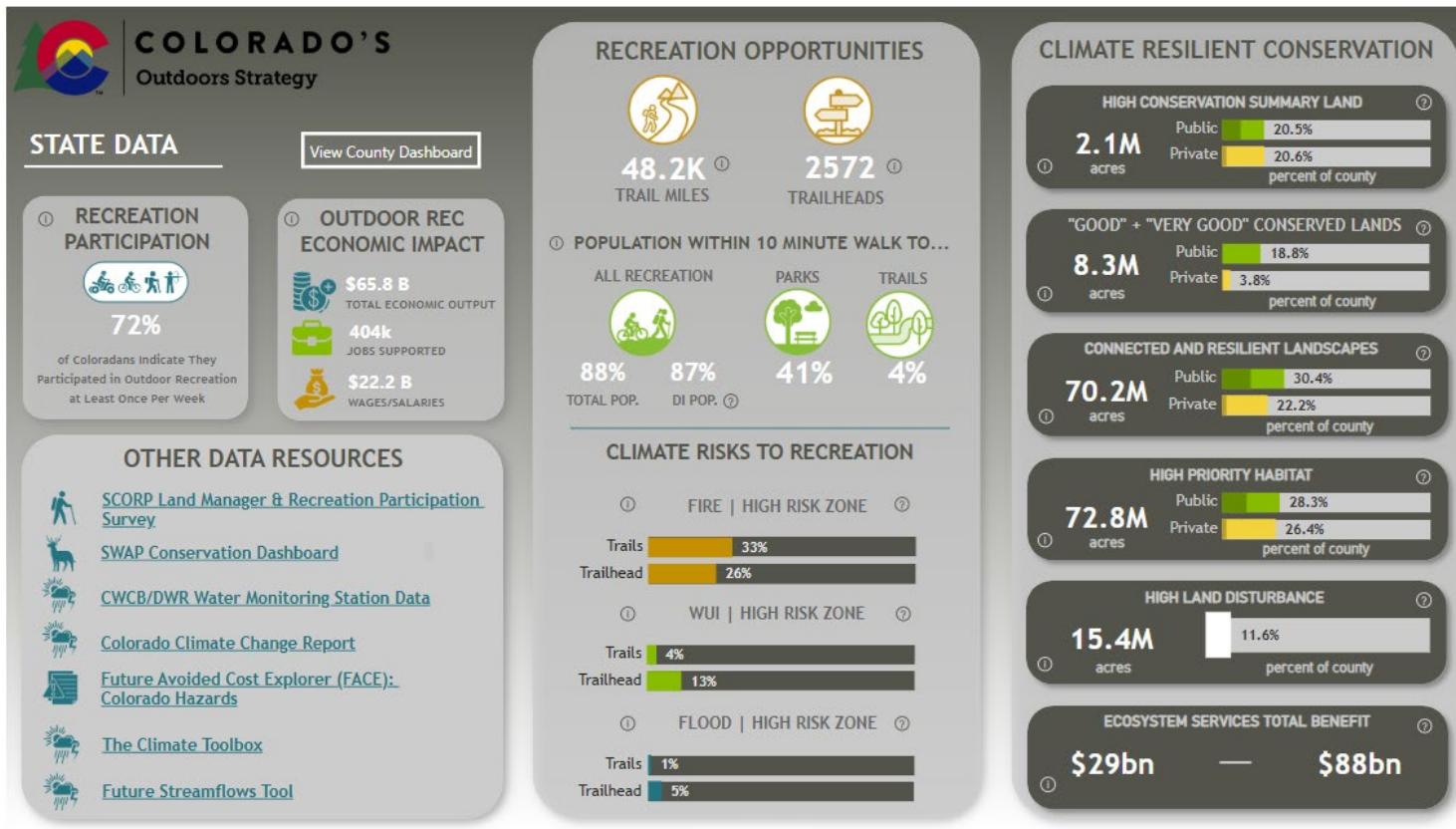
Online Data, Mapping Tools and Resources



 Data Dashboard View County and State Conservation, Climate, and Recreation Data.	 Plan Library Explore over 530 conservation, recreation, and climate-related plans at Federal, Tribal, State, and County levels.	 Guidance Framework for Tribal Collaboration Learn how to conduct meaningful collaboration with Tribes in conservation, outdoor recreation, and	 EDI Resource & Action Guide Find resources to support a variety of ways for integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion into your work.
 Outdoor Recreation Planning Guidance Explore key resources and data to support planning for exceptional and sustainable outdoor recreation.	 Climate-Resilient Conservation Guidance Explore key resources and data to support planning for climate-resilient conservation.	 CODEX Learn more about Colorado's premier spatial data platform for conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate data layers.	



Online Data, Mapping Tools, and Resources





Implementation

50+ Statewide Roadshow
Presentations/Trainings

10 Tribal Framework Trainings

Video Tutorials

Annual Report Highlights

Early Wins





COLORADO'S
Outdoors Strategy

Annual Report & Early Wins



HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF EARLY WINS



81,561

**ACRES CONSERVED
WITH HIGH
CONSERVATION
VALUE**

Source: Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP)

Note: \$138 million in state tax credits leveraged



185

**NEW OR
ENHANCED
RECREATION
AREAS**

Sources: CPW, GOCO, OREC, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)



24

**REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS
COVERING 91%
OF STATE**



190

**WILDLIFE HABITAT & CLIMATE
RESILIENCY PROJECTS**

Sources: CPW, GOCO, DNR, CWCB, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture



43

**OUTDOOR EQUITY, DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION PROJECTS FUNDED**

Sources: CPW, GOCO



1ST STATEWIDE

**DASHBOARD OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
PATTERNS ON PUBLIC LANDS**

Source: Statewide Mobile Location Data Dashboard



51

**SPECIES
PROTECTED WITHIN
CONSERVED ACREAGE**

Source: CPW's State Wildlife Action Plan, CNHP



Protecting What Matters Most

81,000+ acres

Conserved Acres with High Conservation Value

51

Species of
Greatest
Conservation
Need Protection

cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy



Opening Doors to the Outdoors

185

Number of New or Enhanced
Recreation Areas

cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy





Investing in Community Visions

\$31,028,536

Funding Awarded for Priority
Recreation Enhancement

cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy



Mapping the Future of Recreation

60 sites

CPW Mobile Data Program
Launch

cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy





Making the Outdoors Welcoming for All

43

projects
funded

\$7,859,791

Funding Awarded to Support Equity,
Diversity, and Inclusion in the Outdoors

cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy



Restoring Landscapes, Building Resilience

\$35,032,440

Funding Awarded to Habitat Restoration and
Climate Resilient Landscapes

cpw.state.co.us/coloradosoutdoorsstrategy

190
projects
funded



Outdoor Opportunities Act

Formalizes CPW as the lead agency coordinating outdoor recreation planning, visitor use management, coordination with relevant stakeholders, and data reporting. Provides dedicated, additional capacity in the agency:

In total, CPW will have spending authority to hire 9.0 FTE ongoing, with 4.0 starting in FY 2026-27, and the remaining FTE starting in a following years. Staff includes:



4.0 FTE Outdoor Recreation Managers

For each quadrant of the state to facilitate planning efforts at a regional level, liaison with local, tribal, and federal agencies, and support the development and maintenance of recreation infrastructure and visitor education;



1.0 FTE Supervisor

To supervise the outdoor recreation managers, coordinate efforts, and manage data;



3.0 FTE Regional Partnership Coordinators

To align planning efforts with statewide strategies, engage diverse partners, integrate data and state resources, and advance priority regional projects for future investment; and



1.0 FTE Staff Lead

To serve as CPW's staff lead, an existing position currently funded by Great Outdoors Colorado.

New CPW Position - Deputy Assistant Director of Partnerships (RLAD Branch)

The position serves as CPW's lead staff for Colorado's Outdoors Strategy (COS), aligning agency programs and initiatives to advance shared conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate goals.

1



Serves as CPW's strategic COS representative with statewide partnerships and collaboration across sectors.

2



Acts as the primary facilitator for **Colorado's Outdoors Strategy**, working to align agency efforts and partner initiatives to achieve shared goals.

3



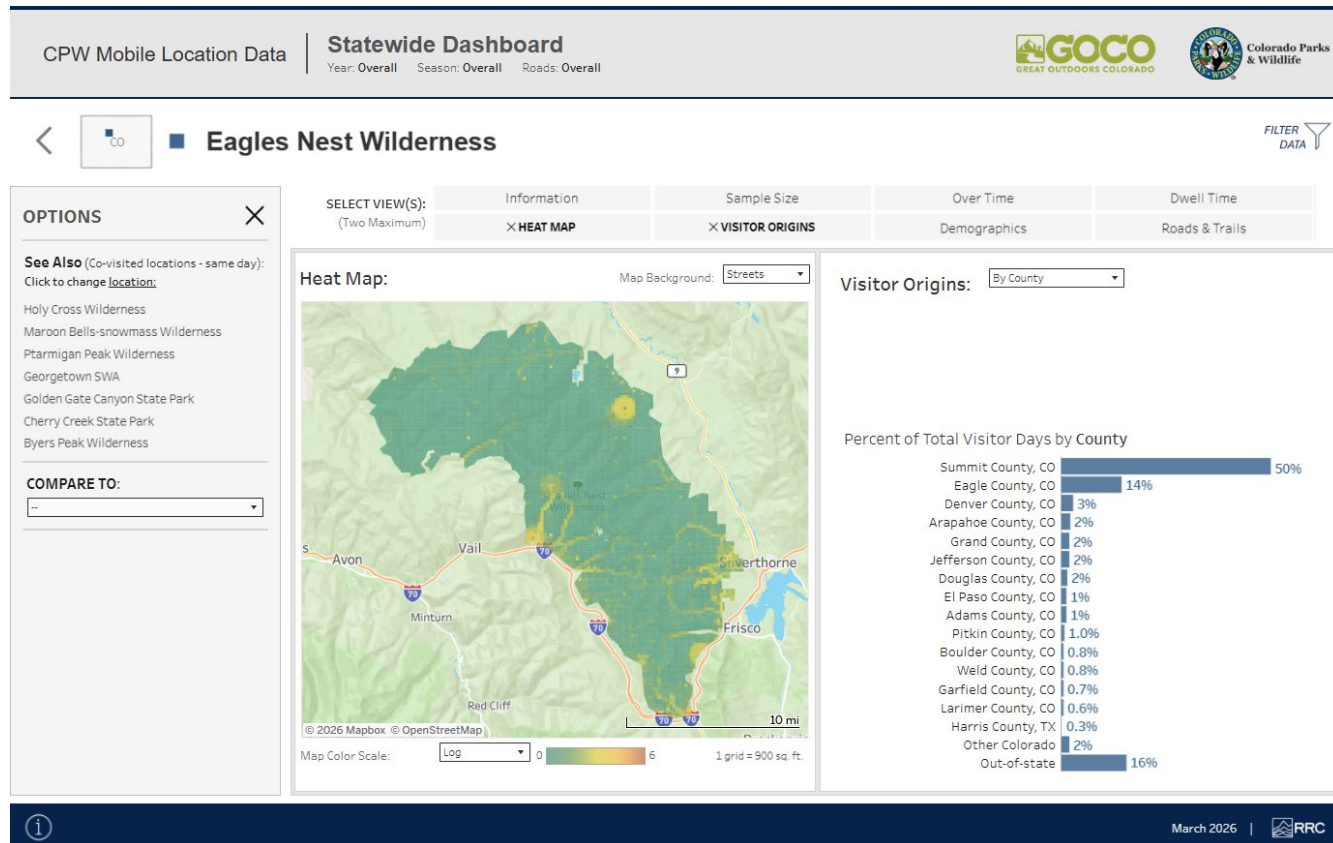
Provides strategic oversight to Partnership Section staff, who execute day-to-day and/or program specific engagement.

4



Develops relationships with diverse constituents, including agricultural groups, wildlife advocates, recreational organizations, and NGOs.

Mobile Location Data Dashboard



The Statewide Natural Heritage Survey

Statewide Survey Goals:



Support Regional Partnerships, open space, and planning efforts.



Support CPW through changes in statutory responsibility for taxonomic groups.



Enable pro-active planning for at-risk species, climate impacts, and biodiversity markets.



Identify best opportunities for collaborative conservation and create a baseline for progress.



Identify critical wetlands protecting communities from fire and drought.



Support recreation planning and sustained enjoyment of Colorado's biological wealth.



Enable successful accomplishment of the 10-year private lands conservation roadmap.



Level-up conservation data across all counties for equitable planning.

Key Outcomes and Deliverables:



Digital data layers incorporated into Colorado's Conservation Data Explorer (CODEX).



Story map and interactive website profiling landscapes, species, and communities.



Methods and results provided in a final report.



A Statewide Natural Heritage Survey Summit in 2029.



Adaptive Trails Data



Tolland Ranch Acquisition - An Emblem of COS Success

**Gov. Polis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and The Conservation Fund
Acquire Pristine Wildlife Habitat in Gilpin and Boulder Counties,
Land Will Become Colorado's Next State Wildlife Area**



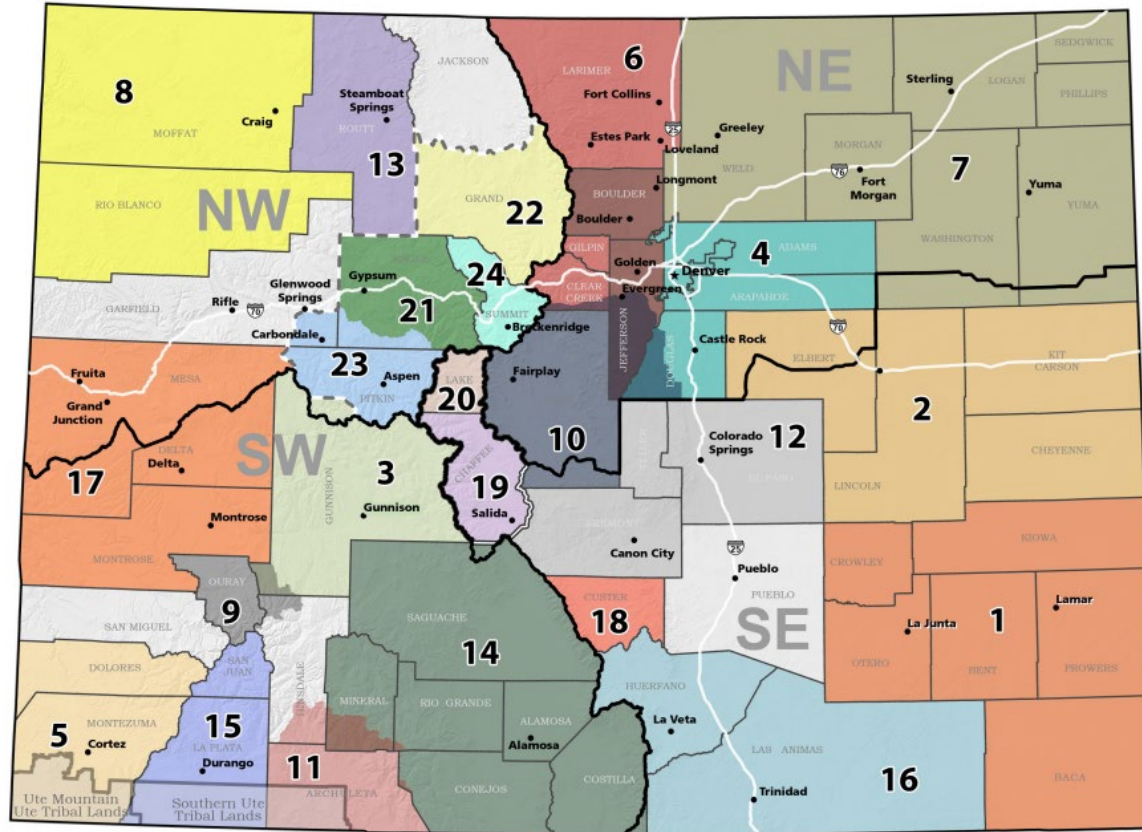
- Historic purchase of the 3,300+ acre Tolland Ranch, 5 miles west of Rollinsville near the Moffat Tunnel and Eldora Ski Area
- To become a State Wildlife Area for the benefit of wildlife habitat and wildlife-related public access.
- This is a significant fee title acquisition that made use of funding from Great Outdoors Colorado and Habitat Stamp revenues.
- This acquisition will contribute to habitat connectivity, bordering US Forest Service Land and the James Peak Wilderness Area, preserving a breath-taking property for the enjoyment of Coloradans and for the benefit of various species, including black bear, elk, moose, mountain lion, mule deer, cutthroat trout, boreal toads, beavers, river otters and many more.
- This property includes critical wetland and riparian areas, which could even help support the restoration of the greenback cutthroat trout.

Regional Partnerships

Regionally-driven collaboratives that bring together broad outdoor interests to develop vision and action plans that advance local sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation priorities.

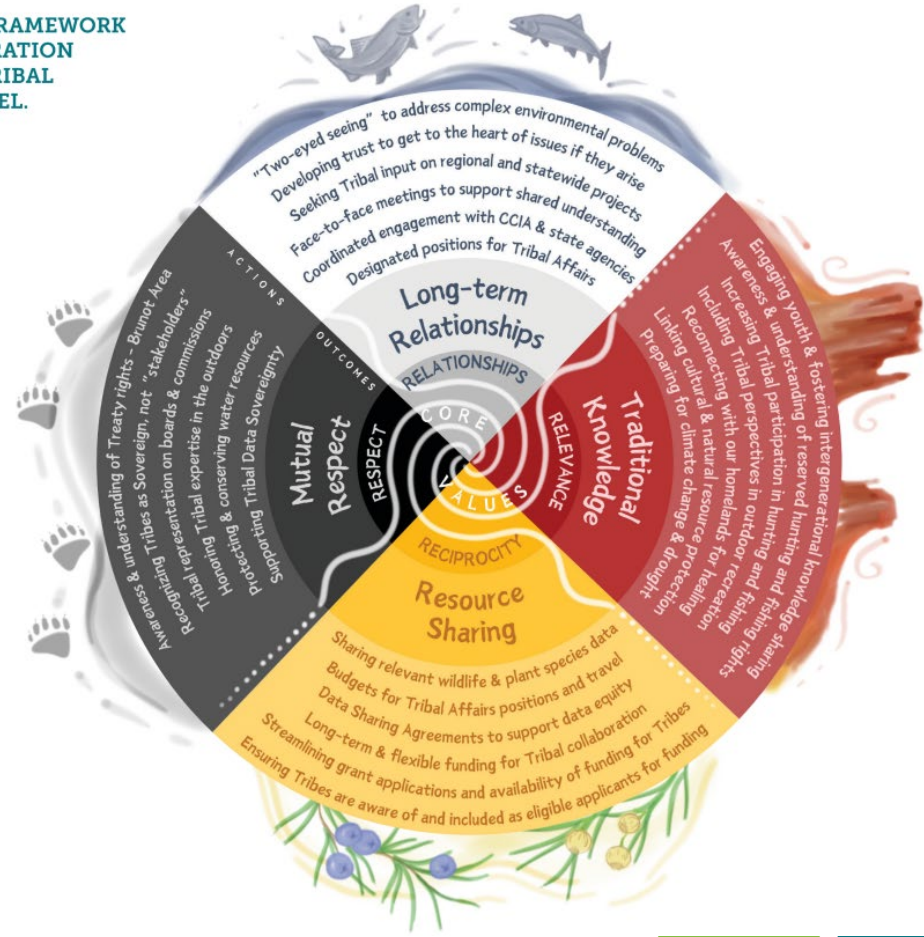
24 RPs
total

91%



Guidance Framework for Tribal Collaboration in Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, and Climate Resilience

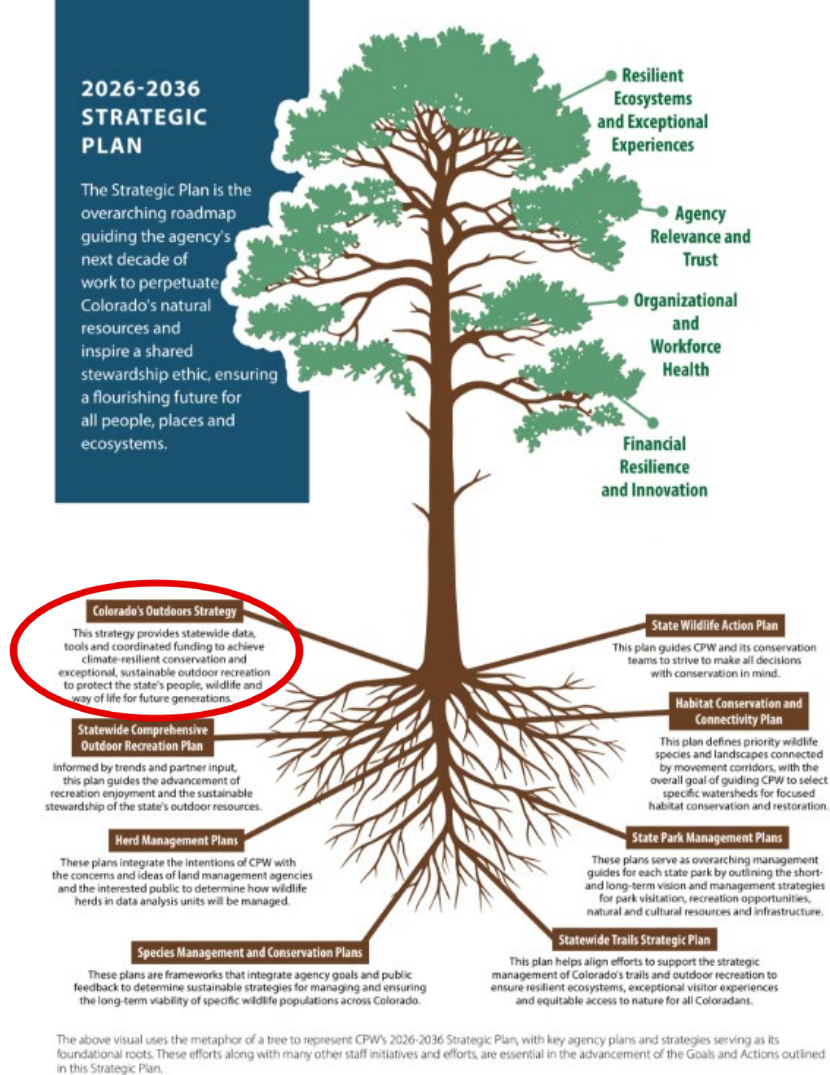
FIGURE 1: GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK FOR TRIBAL COLLABORATION IN THE OUTDOORS—TRIBAL COLLABORATION WHEEL.



This visual is informed by the work and perspectives of Mending Mountains Collective LLC, Keystone Policy Center, and representatives from the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes as part of Colorado's Outdoors Strategy and visualized by Tamara Layden. This visual is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#).

Strategic Plan Integration - CPW

Colorado's Outdoors Strategy directly supports all four of the goals in CPW's 2026-2036 Strategic Plan, and is considered a core "root" of Strategic Plan implementation.



Strategic Plan Integration - GOCO



MISSION & VALUE ALIGNED OUTCOMES

Resource Conservation, Outdoor Stewardship, Community Vitality, Equitable Access, Youth Connections



COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY (COS)

Elevating COS + Regional Partnerships



\$400+ MILLION OVER 5 YEARS!

> \$100M per constitutional purpose



Looking Ahead



COS Leadership Committee

The COS Leadership Committee will advise and provide strategic direction on the implementation, monitoring, and evolution of Colorado's Outdoors Strategy.

The Committee's purpose is to:



Prioritize Action: Advise on and provide strategic direction for COS priority actions.



Problem Solve: Support the advancement of collective strategies and agency actions, addressing emerging issues as they arise.



Ensure Data-Informed Decisions: Coordinate with appropriate members and convene technical subcommittees to ensure science and metrics inform implementation and measures of success.



Be Responsive: Provide a more nimble structure to act with exigency as circumstances require.



Ensure Accountability: Track progress on agency actions, holding Coordinating Partners accountable to Strategy implementation commitments.



Call to Action: Colorado's Outdoors Strategy Implementation

	COORDINATING PARTNERS	PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS
ROLES	Colorado Parks and Wildlife will steward Colorado's Outdoors Strategy by coordinating collaborative leadership and implementation of the Coordinating Partner actions with Great Outdoors Colorado, the Department of Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation Industry Office, and Governor's Office , along with other agencies and partners.	Successful implementation of the collective strategies identified in Colorado's Outdoors Strategy will require a variety of public and private partners and stakeholders to collaborate and leverage their own management authorities, plans, networks, knowledge, and resources.
IMPLEMENTATION	Drive implementation and investment for the Strategy's goals, objectives, and Coordinating Partner actions.	Reference, incorporate, and contribute as relevant to the achievement of the Strategy's vision, goals, objectives, and collective strategies (through plans, projects, land management agency authorities, etc.) while elevating community priorities.
COORDINATION	Foster coordination and alignment among all public and private partners.	Champion and implement coordinated conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience planning at a variety of scales.



COLORADO'S
Outdoors Strategy

Thank You

