Highlights from the Field

Commissioner Adams'

March 2023 Update

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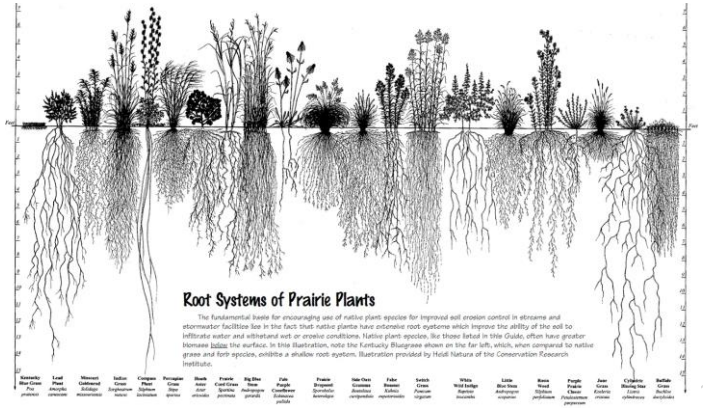
Colorado Natural Areas Program

February 2023 Updates

- **New proposed state natural area designation and expansions -** Coal Creek Tallgrass Prairie, White Rocks, and Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Areas Designation and amendments tentatively planned to be presented to PWC for approval in June 2023.
  - CNAP staff will be hosting a field visit for CPW commissions in April/May 2023. Please let us know if you would like to join us.

- ***2023 CNAP Meeting Dates -*** *March 30, June 6, September 28, and December 5*



50th Black Ski Summit at Vail, CO

- The National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS), in partnership with Vail Resorts, the Town of Vail, and the Vail Valley Partnership, hosted its Golden 50th Anniversary Summit. Over 10 days, the Black Ski Summit hosted over 2,000 participants from across the country and around the world.

- Founded in 1972, NBS was founded by Ben Finley and Art Clay. Ben told PlanetSki that the Brotherhood had: " introduced snow sports to the African American community, creating a huge family and squashing the idea that black folks don't ski."

- Activities included clinics on backcountry skiing, skiing competitions, a parade through Vail village, parties, and workshops!

Next 100 Colorado Elevating Voices Student Documentary Screening- Denver

- The Salazar Center for North American Conservation offers the Elevating Voices scholarship program to Colorado State University students who identify as Black, Indigenous, or persons of color, who then receive mentorship and hands-on learning opportunities related to conservation, storytelling, and film production.

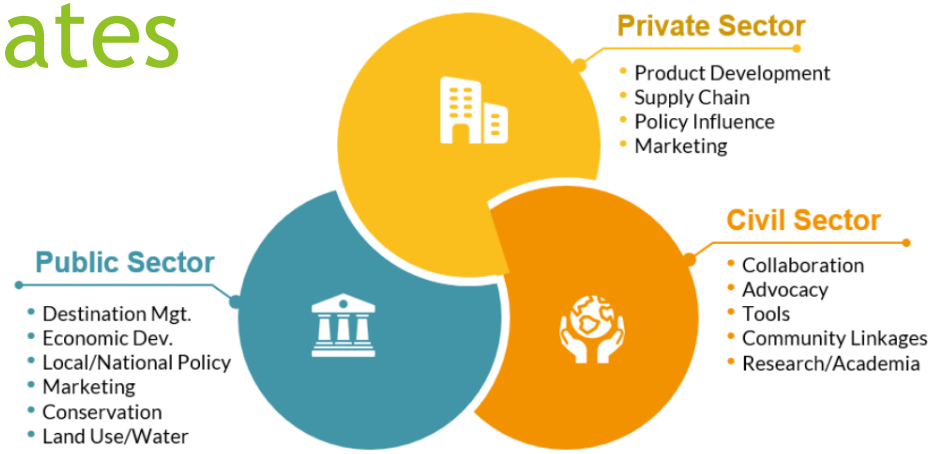
- The first cohort of students worked with mentors from Next100 Colorado to produce a documentary highlighting the important intersections of conservation and justice.

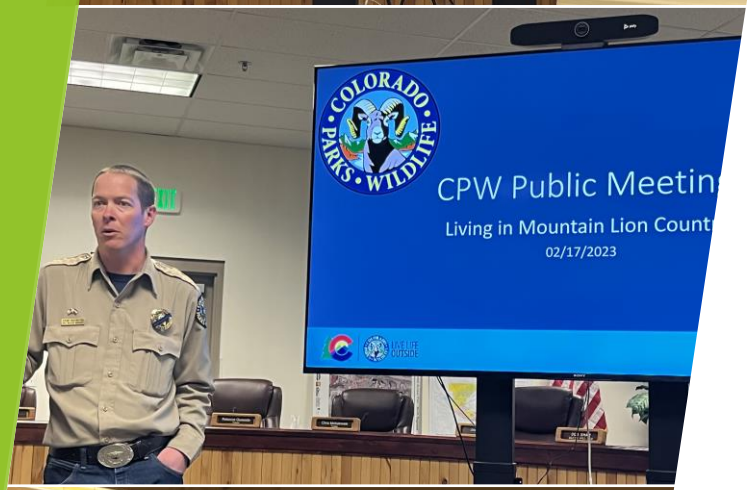
- On March 9 for the premiere of the documentary, accompanied by discussion with local environmental justice leaders and a reception.

Destination Stewardship Advisory Council Updates

- The advisory council is tasked with supporting the Colorado Office of Tourism in defining destination stewardship, informing research on progress towards a more regenerative approach to outdoor recreation. The council also informs marketing and communications.

- RESOURCE ALERT: Destinations at Risk: The Invisible Burden of Tourism" video, which outlines the unseen costs of tourism and brief solutions. The accompanying report calls for more science-based, data-driven analysis to address tourism risks and provides detailed recommendations for these changes:
  - Dedicated Destination Management Capacity
  - Holistic Accounting
  - Demand Management in the Public Domain
  - Tax Allocation
  - Financing of Destination Management
  - Intelligent Green Investments in Tourism Assets
  - Valuation





CPW Public Meeting: Living in Mountain Lion Country – Granby, CO 2/17/23

Thank you to Jeromy Huntington, Area Wildlife Office, Serena Rocksund, District Wildlife Officer, Gene Abram, District Wildlife Officer, and Racheal Gonzales, NW Region Public Information Officer, for an informative and actionable presentation about the escalating interactions and conflicts between mountain lion and community.

Considerations:

- Competition for reduced habitat and resources (food water, shelter, and space) with other species including big game populations.
- Recreation – approx. 92% of Coloradoans recreate at least every few weeks to four times per week (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). Recreation activities have direct impacts on wildlife and habitat by causing wildlife disturbance, habitat loss, habitat degradation, and habitat fragmentation.
- Human Population Growth & Transportation
- Technology

For more information, visit https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeLion1.aspx.

Assessing Drought in a Changing Climate Technical Workshop

February 28-March 1, 2023

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) program was authorized by Congress in 2006 (Public Law 109–430) and reauthorized in 2014 and 2019 with an interagency mandate to coordinate and integrate drought research, building upon existing federal, tribal, state, and local partnerships in support of creating a national drought early warning information system.
- NOAA and UCAR hosted a pre-workshop webinar and two day in person workshop for over 100 scientists, natural resource staff, and other stakeholders to collaboratively address drought at the intersection of aridification, humidifying climate, and risk.
- Cross Cutting Themes to include:
  - Time horizons for adaptation
  - Communication challenges
  - Planning and Policy challenges
  - Equity in drought assessment
- Required Reading Favorite: The Definition and Determination of climate Changes, Fluctuations, and Outlooks (Landsberg, 1975).
- SubTopic Focus: Aridification and team included representatives from BLM, Forest Service, USDA, university scholars, tribal representatives, and state natural resource staff.
- Pre-workshop webinar recording, readings, and presentations will be uploaded to the CPW Commissioner shared drive.