

2014 Path Forward

Key Challenges and Issues



- **Population and Demographic Change.** Important changes in Colorado's population that may affect CPW customers are: a rapidly increasing portion of the population over 65, growth in the Hispanic portion of the population, continued growth along the Front Range and urban areas of the state, and in-migration from other states, primarily by young adults and families, due to improved economic prospects in Colorado.
- **Financial Sustainability.** CPW receives no general fund taxpayer support, and relies instead on a variety of user fees, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Colorado Lottery Support, federal grants, and a variety of other sources.
- **Connecting People to the Outdoors.** Nationwide, fewer people are enjoying many benefits of spending time outdoors. CPW is at the forefront connecting all ages to the outdoors.
- **Environmental Change.** Climate change, forest health fire mitigation, and invasive animal and plant species (e.g. zebra mussels, tamarisk, and other noxious weeds) pose increasing threats to native wildlife and outdoor recreation activities across Colorado.
- **Habitat and Natural Resource Preservation.** CPW is charged with managing game and non-game wildlife species and ensuring their long-term viability. Increased population growth, development, and unauthorized recreational use all affect our ability to effectively preserve our state's abundant wildlife populations.
- **Public Health and Outdoor Recreation.** Colorado's state parks, state wildlife areas, and CPW's Outdoor Recreation Programs play an increasingly important role in providing healthy outdoor recreation opportunities for Colorado's citizens. While Colorado is consistently ranked as one of the least obese states in the nation, the state's obesity rate increased by more than 80 percent between 1996 and 2011.

For more information please visit:
wildlife.state.co.us/About/Pages/PathForward.aspx