



# Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind Update



# Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind 2020 ~ Engagement Summary

## Revised and Refined “Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind” Guide, 2020 Edition



**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-October 2020

### 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 – January 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 – December 2020

### 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 – October 2020

# 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 from Advisory Groups

- Increased collaboration between conservation and recreation interests, especially early on in the process.
- Increased broad public participation in planning stages.
- Clear public communication and education.
- Seasonal trail closures.
- Increased focus on maintenance of existing trails.
- Increased public access to scientific findings.
- Increased consideration of human psychology and desires in trail recreation.
- Define where this document fits in the larger context of guidance and policy.
- Access to trails in underserved populations.

# Next Steps

- Integrate feedback/share with Task Force and Advisory Group - September 2020
- Round of Advisory Meetings - October 2020
- Task Force Meeting #7 - October 2020
- Integrate feedback and share Final Draft- November 2020
- Task Force Meeting #8 - December 2020/January 2021
- Prepare for Production - Spring 2021



Work together

Recognize our Impacts

Public & private lands

Plan & educate

Incorporate science

Invest in the outdoors



LIVE LIFE  
OUTSIDE





Questions?



LIVE LIFE  
OUTSIDE