

Highlights from the Field

Commissioner Adams'
June 2021 Update

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Policy Spotlight:

Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program has Passed!

Every Coloradan deserves to experience our state's great outdoors, but underserved communities of color don't enjoy equal access. Thank you to leadership of Representative Leslie Herod, her bill cosponsors, a coalition of 60+ organizations, the Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program has passed!

This bill will give underserved youth greater opportunities to access and recreate in the outdoors by bolstering community-led organizations, nonprofits, Tribal governments, and school and recreational districts with the funding needed to make the outdoors a space that serves ALL of Colorado's youth and families.

This program will be housed under Colorado Parks and Wildlife via an independent citizen board.

**The Outdoor
Equity Grant
Program
Passed!!**



Colorado Natural Areas Program

June 2021 Updates

Field Visit to Castlewood Canyon State Park and Natural Area



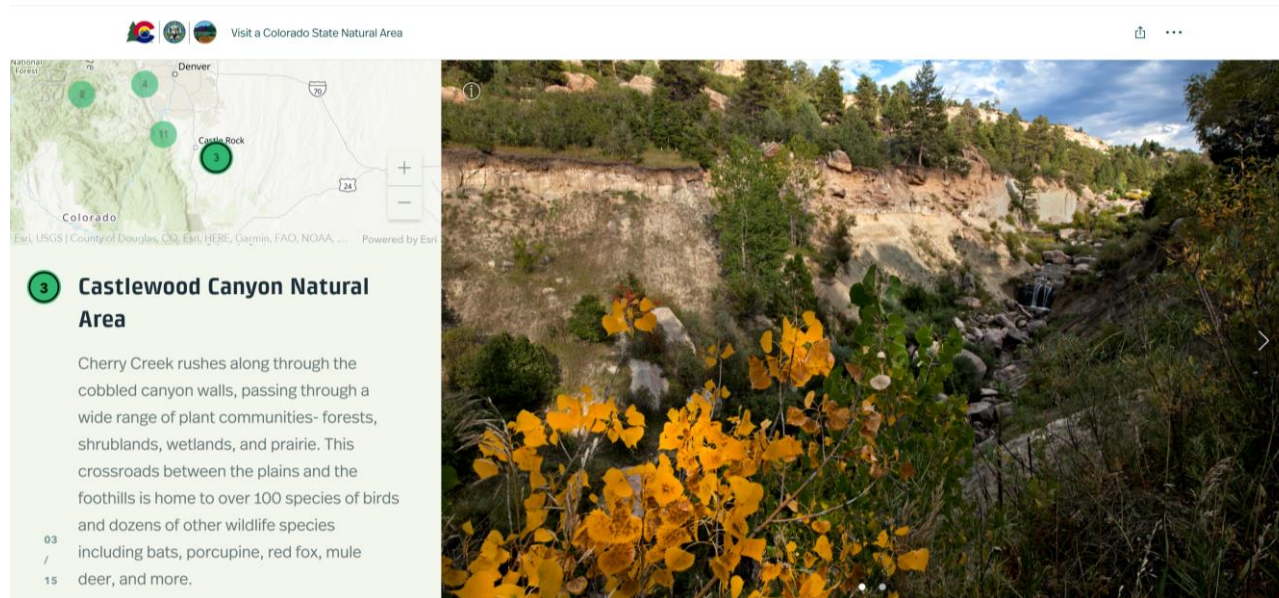
Colorado Natural Areas Program

June 2021 Updates

NEW Visit a State Natural Area webpage

cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Visit-a-State-Natural-Area.aspx

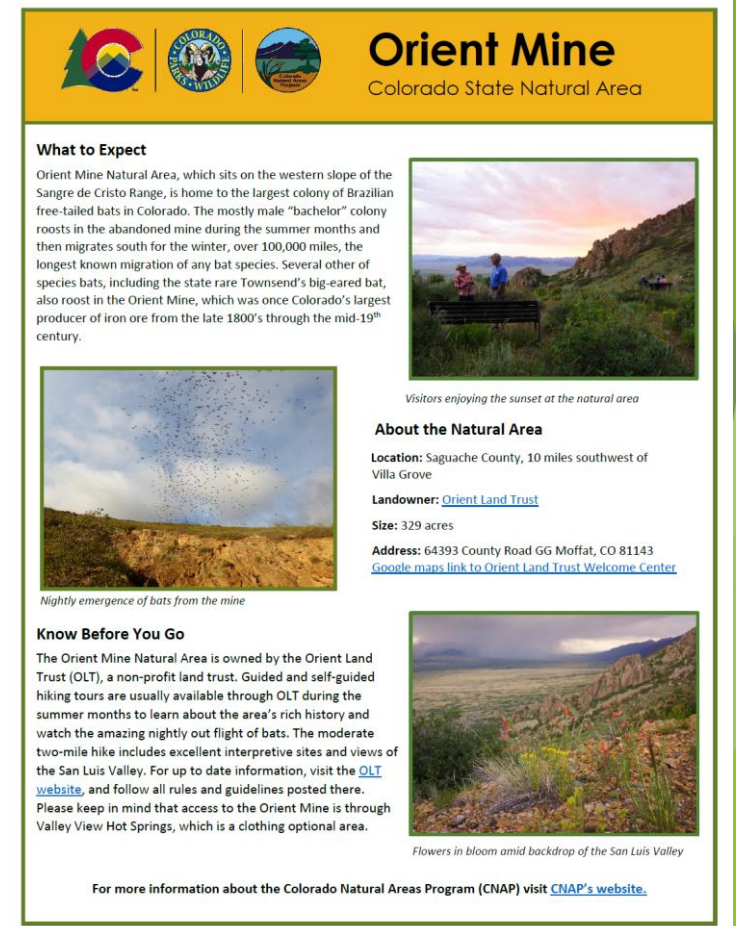
- New story map featuring natural areas that can be visited by the public
- Downloadable flyers featuring 15 visitable state natural areas
- More resources to help plan your visit



Visit a Colorado State Natural Area

3 **Castlewood Canyon Natural Area**

Cherry Creek rushes along through the cobbled canyon walls, passing through a wide range of plant communities- forests, shrublands, wetlands, and prairie. This crossroads between the plains and the foothills is home to over 100 species of birds and dozens of other wildlife species including bats, porcupine, red fox, mule deer, and more.



Orient Mine
Colorado State Natural Area

What to Expect

Orient Mine Natural Area, which sits on the western slope of the Sangre de Cristo Range, is home to the largest colony of Brazilian free-tailed bats in Colorado. The mostly male "bachelor" colony roosts in the abandoned mine during the summer months and then migrates south for the winter, over 100,000 miles, the longest known migration of any bat species. Several other of species bats, including the state rare Townsend's big-eared bat, also roost in the Orient Mine, which was once Colorado's largest producer of iron ore from the late 1800's through the mid-19th century.

Visitors enjoying the sunset at the natural area

About the Natural Area

Location: Saguache County, 10 miles southwest of Villa Grove

Landowner: [Orient Land Trust](#)

Size: 329 acres

Address: 64393 County Road GG Moffat, CO 81143
[Google maps link to Orient Land Trust Welcome Center](#)

Know Before You Go

The Orient Mine Natural Area is owned by the Orient Land Trust (OLT), a non-profit land trust. Guided and self-guided hiking tours are usually available through OLT during the summer months to learn about the area's rich history and watch the amazing nightly out flight of bats. The moderate two-mile hike includes excellent interpretive sites and views of the San Luis Valley. For up to date information, visit the [OLT website](#), and follow all rules and guidelines posted there. Please keep in mind that access to the Orient Mine is through Valley View Hot Springs, which is a clothing optional area.

Nightly emergence of bats from the mine

Flowers in bloom amid backdrop of the San Luis Valley

For more information about the Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) visit [CNAP's website](#).



In the Field Spotlight: *Spring Turkey Hunt*



Trust happens at the speed of relationships. - Rue Mapp

Thankful for the relationships that I have formed during my time on the commission including the **Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers** for their Hunting for Sustainability Course, Hunters of Color, and my hunting mentors Leslie Kaminski, BHA leader, Crystal Egli, **Inclusive Journeys**, and Rue Mapp, **Outdoor Afro**.

Commemorating Juneteenth - Saturday, June 19th

On Saturday, June 19, 2021, Outdoor Afro will be commemorating Juneteenth. Juneteenth is an annual recognition of the moment when 250,000 enslaved Black Americans in Galveston Texas were told they were free on June 19, 1865 - 2.5 years after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.

1) On June 19th, 2021, visit a nearby park, forest, beach, or your backyard for 2.5 hours [in honor of the 2.5 years freedom was denied for 250,000 enslaved people in Texas].

2) After gathering your thoughts and your web-enabled device, please visit www.outdoorafro.com/juneteenth2021 and submit your reflections. These reflections may be published and shared with the public.

Learn more about us by visiting www.outdoorafro.com or engaging with them on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter (@outdoorafro).

About Outdoor Afro

Started by Rue Mapp as a blog about her passion for nature in 2009, Outdoor Afro has since grown into a cutting-edge nationwide network with 100+ volunteer leaders in 33 states and 56 cities, including Colorado. The volunteer leaders guide more than 1,000 events each year, reconnecting over 47,000 Black people to nature through activities like hiking, biking, camping, fishing, birding, gardening, skiing, and more.

