



# THE 2019 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN







December 11, 2018

Dear Fellow Coloradans,

It gives me great pleasure to present Colorado's 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Colorado's outdoor heritage, natural beauty, and diverse landscapes make our state the perfect place to enjoy all forms of outdoor recreation.

As Governor, I launched the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative with the vision that, within a generation, every Coloradan will live within ten minutes of a park, trail, or vibrant green space. I created the second Outdoor Recreation Industry Office in the country to ensure this growing sector, which contributes \$62 billion to Colorado's economy, continues to thrive. And this October, I signed Executive Order 2018-10 to highlight the inextricable link between our growing outdoor recreation sector and the important conservation work that has gone on for decades in Colorado. The Executive Order directs state agencies to create the Inter-Agency Trails and Recreation Council, work with partners to implement the 2019 SCORP, and continue the important work under Colorado the Beautiful.

Outdoor recreation opportunities contribute to increased quality of life, economic prosperity, and the health of Colorado communities and residents. The returns we enjoy from our investment in the outdoors are extraordinary. And while there are clear economic and social benefits to encouraging more people to pursue outdoor recreation in Colorado, the need to balance growth of outdoor recreation with preservation and enhancement of water, land, and wildlife is as important as ever. The SCORP calls for all Coloradans and visitors to have outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation while encouraging greater responsibility and stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

I applaud Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the SCORP Advisory Group, including the Colorado Outdoor Partnership, for crafting the 2019-2023 SCORP, and I certify that the plan was developed with extensive data collection and public involvement. This is a plan for all Coloradans. Now, it is up to all of us -- local, state, and federal governments, conservation and recreation professionals, volunteers, and recreationalists -- to act upon the information and strategies provided in the plan.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor



The 2019-2023 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a collaborative effort administered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). This plan was developed with the assistance of a diverse group of outdoor recreation stakeholders. This plan was financed in part by a grant awarded to the State of Colorado from the National Park Service through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Colorado Parks and Wildlife would like to thank the many contributors who provided their time, expertise and support to the successful development of the 2019-2023 SCORP.

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Colorado provides its residents and visitors with boundless outdoor recreational opportunities. It is a synergistic relationship – the natural beauty of the state beckons people outdoors, and they spend countless hours and much of their hard-earned money to pursue outdoor recreation. In return, Colorado’s outdoor recreationists gain appreciation for sustaining the state’s outdoor resources.

However, conservation and recreation in Colorado are facing challenges. Our state has one of the fastest growing populations in the country, with a current population of 5.5 million projected to jump to 8.5 million people by 2050. More residents and high tourist visitation means public recreation areas are facing crowding, maintenance backlogs and conflicting outdoor recreation pursuits. Also, increased use and year-round activity can impact natural landscapes and native wildlife. These are challenges that need to be met head on, with thoughtful planning coordinated by a wide range of stakeholders.

Every five years, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) leads development of a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to maintain eligibility for funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to inform additional investments from other federal, state, local and private programs. Given the significance of outdoor recreation in the state, this plan is much more than a federal requirement for funding.

**Colorado’s 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was developed in close collaboration with a wide range of partners to provide a shared vision for the future of Colorado’s outdoors.**

This plan is the first time a Colorado SCORP considers both conservation and recreation together as values that are closely intertwined. In addition, the SCORP looks at current and changing demographics and recreation trends to help the outdoor recreation sector be culturally relevant and respond to future shifts. While SCORP is a comprehensive plan that does not focus on individual recreation uses, it supports all user groups and seeks broad engagement of outdoor recreationists and conservationists as well as including community voices in solutions and action.

**Recreation Participation in Colorado**  
**Approximately 92% of Coloradans recreate in the outdoors at least once every few weeks** and some four or more times per week. It is essential to understand the needs of these outdoor recreation users, as well as the land managers providing outdoor recreational experiences, in order to successfully plan for the future of conservation and recreation in Colorado. As part of the 2019 SCORP development process, Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff identified activities Coloradans enjoy, why they are motivated to participate, what barriers stand in their way, and what types of outdoor recreation experiences they prefer both locally and statewide.



Those who recreate outdoors had a variety of motivations, the most popular being **to enjoy nature, to relax, for social purposes** such as spending time with loved ones, and to **improve personal health**. The most common recreational activity statewide and regionally is **walking**, followed closely by **hiking/backpacking** and then **picnicking and tent camping**.

With this in mind, the public's recreation priorities focus on the **development of local walking trails and paths, increasing opportunities to view wildlife, and establishing playgrounds with built natural materials**. Having the ability to recreate close to home remains popular in terms of current activity participation (e.g. walking or jogging outdoors) and preferences for future opportunities (e.g. walking trails/paths, built playgrounds, etc.).

The top three barriers to Coloradans' recreation participation were **limited time, traffic congestion and crowding**. To address these issues, the public prefers that recreation providers prioritize long-term planning and management, maintenance of existing infrastructure, and local, regional and statewide trail networks.

When surveyed, land managers expressed concerns about the inability to curtail issues associated with crowding. Their top management issue is **maintaining existing recreation infrastructure and resources, followed by challenges adapting to changing user needs or preferences, coordinating with other outdoor recreation agencies and organizations, and the capacity to serve a growing population**. The top three visitor service issues identified were enforcing responsible use, providing programs to engage youth, and maintaining visitor safety. These high priority issues were similar with tribal land managers, however they added cultural resource management and programming as a significant issue. Although land managers identified these as challenges, most also expressed concern about financial challenges in addressing these issues.

**Outdoor Recreation Economic Impacts in Colorado**

Colorado's outdoor recreation economy generates substantial economic benefits to the state through direct spending on travel and equipment purchases as well as through positive ripple effects across other sectors. In 2017, outdoor recreation in Colorado contributed:

- **\$62.5 billion in economic output**
- **\$35.0 billion in Gross Domestic Product (10% of the entire state GDP)**
- **\$9.4 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue**
- **511,000 jobs in the state (18.7% of the labor force) – a majority outside of Metro Denver**

Outdoor recreation is not only a robust sector, but a growing one. Since 2014, total economic output and tax revenue from outdoor recreation in Colorado nearly doubled and jobs increased by almost 200,000. Outdoor recreation is engrained in Colorado's culture, landscape and quality of life, as well as its economic stability.

**2019 SCORP Priority Areas**

Working together, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Colorado Outdoor Partnership and the SCORP Advisory Group identified four priority areas on which to focus over the next five years. Building on the 2008 and 2014 SCORPs, these priorities reflect the current trends, opportunities and challenges facing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources today. These priorities are interconnected and critical components to achieving a future vision where Colorado's outdoors continues to provide rich recreation experiences while conserving natural and cultural resources.

In addition, [Colorado's Outdoor Principles](#) were integrated in the 2019 SCORP Priority Areas. These seven core principles for advancing outdoor recreation and conservation were adopted by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2016. These principles are part of a broader national movement to "Shape How we Invest for Tomorrow" (SHIFT) that's intended to refine a collective outdoor ethic promoting both recreational enjoyment and thoughtful conservation of special places.



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW

**PRIORITY I. Sustainable Access and Opportunity**

**Goal:** More Coloradans and visitors benefit from outdoor recreation and conservation.

**Objective I: Break Down Barriers** - Better understand and address barriers to engaging people in outdoor recreation. Enhance efforts to engage Coloradans who currently lack or have limited opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation.

- Strategy 1:** Compile research about the barriers Coloradans face and the motivations they have for participating in outdoor recreation. Better understand why people of all backgrounds engage in different types of outdoor recreation activities. Utilize information to better understand what drives Coloradans to recreate with the intent of minimizing barriers.
- Strategy 2:** Build trust, relationships and networks through enhanced public engagement, education and community outreach focused on breaking down identified barriers.
- Strategy 3:** Utilize and support existing programs (community, local, state, tribal, federal) that are effectively working to get underrepresented users outdoors.
- Strategy 4:** Advance collaborative efforts between community groups and health and recreation providers to increase prescriptions for nature-based recreation and other policies and practices that promote outdoor recreation for improving public health. Consider the potential barriers to certain populations for fulfilling outdoor recreation prescriptions (Strategy 1).
- Strategy 5:** Engage diverse types of users (demographic, geographic, cultural, socioeconomic, activity preference, etc.) in the management, planning and design of outdoor recreation spaces and access opportunities.
- Strategy 6:** Recruit and retain an outdoor recreation workforce that is diverse and representative of Colorado's demographics.

**Objective II: Technology Connects More People to the Outdoors** - Advance easily accessible information that enhances user experience and offers tools to outdoor recreation providers.

- Strategy 1:** Better understand and inventory technology and online resources (apps, websites, social media, etc.) that help promote and connect people to the outdoors. Compile data on how these tools are reaching underrepresented users.
- Strategy 2:** Inventory and utilize existing technologies that improve user experience by dispersing users to locations that can accommodate recreational activity. Compile data on how technologies are being effective. When possible utilize voluntary data sharing (i.e. GPS tracking, expanding trail/parking lot cameras, etc.).
- Strategy 3:** Find and leverage partners to support the development and maintenance of apps, websites, social media and other tools that address gaps identified in Strategies 1 and 2.

**Objective III: Private and Public Lands Support Outdoor Recreation** – Develop strategies across Colorado to build support for sustainable outdoor recreation access. Advance Colorado the Beautiful vision that every Coloradan will live within 10 minutes of a park, trail or vibrant green space.

- Strategy 1:** Coordinate with local, regional, state, federal and tribal planning efforts currently underway to better understand and address needs to maintain and expand access for outdoor recreation. Consider needs and potential opportunities to work with private landowners.
- Strategy 2:** Incentivize willing private landowners to allow for public access. Maintain and enhance funding for access and conservation easements. Combine with education on the value of private land, recognizing how farms, ranches and other private lands play a critical role in providing habitat, viewsheds and other benefits to outdoor recreation and conservation.



**PRIORITY II. Stewardship**

**Goal:** Coloradans and visitors enjoy and care for natural and cultural resources and commit to stewarding them for future generations.

**Objective I: Build an Outdoor Stewardship Ethic** - Foster awareness and experiences that build an ethic of stewardship and responsibility to care for natural and cultural resources and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Encourage organizations, and local, state and federal partners to adopt Colorado's Outdoor Principles (modeled after the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation) to endorse an outdoor ethic that promotes both recreational enjoyment and conservation.

**Strategy 2:** Work in partnerships to utilize and bolster marketing/media and education efforts to promote stewardship, conservation and respect for other users and infrastructure. Coordinate with and complement existing efforts (See the Colorado Outdoor Partnership website for list).

**Objective II: Enhance Stewardship Capacity** - Increase capacity of outdoor recreation providers, stewardship organizations and agencies to engage volunteers, employ youth and young adults, and enhance other types of support for on-the-ground, action-oriented stewardship activities.

**Strategy 1:** Promote and implement the Colorado Outdoor Stewardship Coalition best practices, tools, trainings and resources to advance on-the-ground stewardship.

**Strategy 2:** Strengthen public-private relationships and collaboration efforts to connect more people to on-the-ground activities, enhance habitat restoration and conservation, and build capacity for organizations engaged in this work.



**PRIORITY III. Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation**

**Goal:** Private and public lands and waters are conserved to support sustainable outdoor recreation, the environment and wildlife habitat.

**Objective I: Advance Landscape-scale Conservation** - Work across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with the growing demand for recreation access. Collaborate to tackle pressing and emerging issues and to identify and safeguard important areas for conservation, working lands and recreation access across the state.

**Strategy 1:** Initiate and support planning efforts to gather and aggregate data and produce maps that factor in landscape-scale considerations (including migration corridors and unfragmented habitat) and inform land use decisions (private, local, state, federal and tribal). Convene diverse outdoor interests with land managers to compile and interpret data and to develop effective collaborations throughout the planning process.

**Strategy 2:** Incorporate outcomes of Strategy 1 into land use decisions by promoting and utilizing consistent maps and datasets to illustrate the overlap of recreation and conservation interests. Collaborate with private, local, state, federal and tribal land managers/property owners to inform decisions in support of conservation and recreation objectives.

**Objective II: Address Recreation Impacts** - Proactively manage visitors and maintain infrastructure to provide positive outdoor recreation experiences while limiting resource impacts. Utilize best practices when developing new trails or other outdoor infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Compile existing research and conduct new research to better understand the impacts of recreation on land, water, wildlife and cultural resources. Incorporate findings into the development of management guidelines that optimize conservation while maintaining infrastructure and recreation experience.

**Strategy 2:** Share outcomes from Strategy 1 with outdoor recreation partners (private, local, state, federal, tribal and NGOs). Convene partners to build broad support and commitment to address findings and mitigate impacts of recreation on natural resources.

**PRIORITY IV. Funding the Future**

**Goal:** Coloradans and visitors contribute to diverse funding sources that are dedicated to support outdoor recreation and conservation. Existing sources of funds are preserved.

**Objective I: Build Support for Conservation Funding** - Raise political and public awareness for the value of Colorado's outdoors to Coloradans' quality of life, economic prosperity, heritage and public and environmental health so that more people contribute funds to support outdoor recreation and conservation.

**Strategy 1:** Develop and implement a public awareness/education initiative and share coordinated messages to help build support for statewide funding.

**Strategy 2:** Continue to urge and advocate for Congress and the Colorado General Assembly to fully fund outdoor recreation and conservation programs.

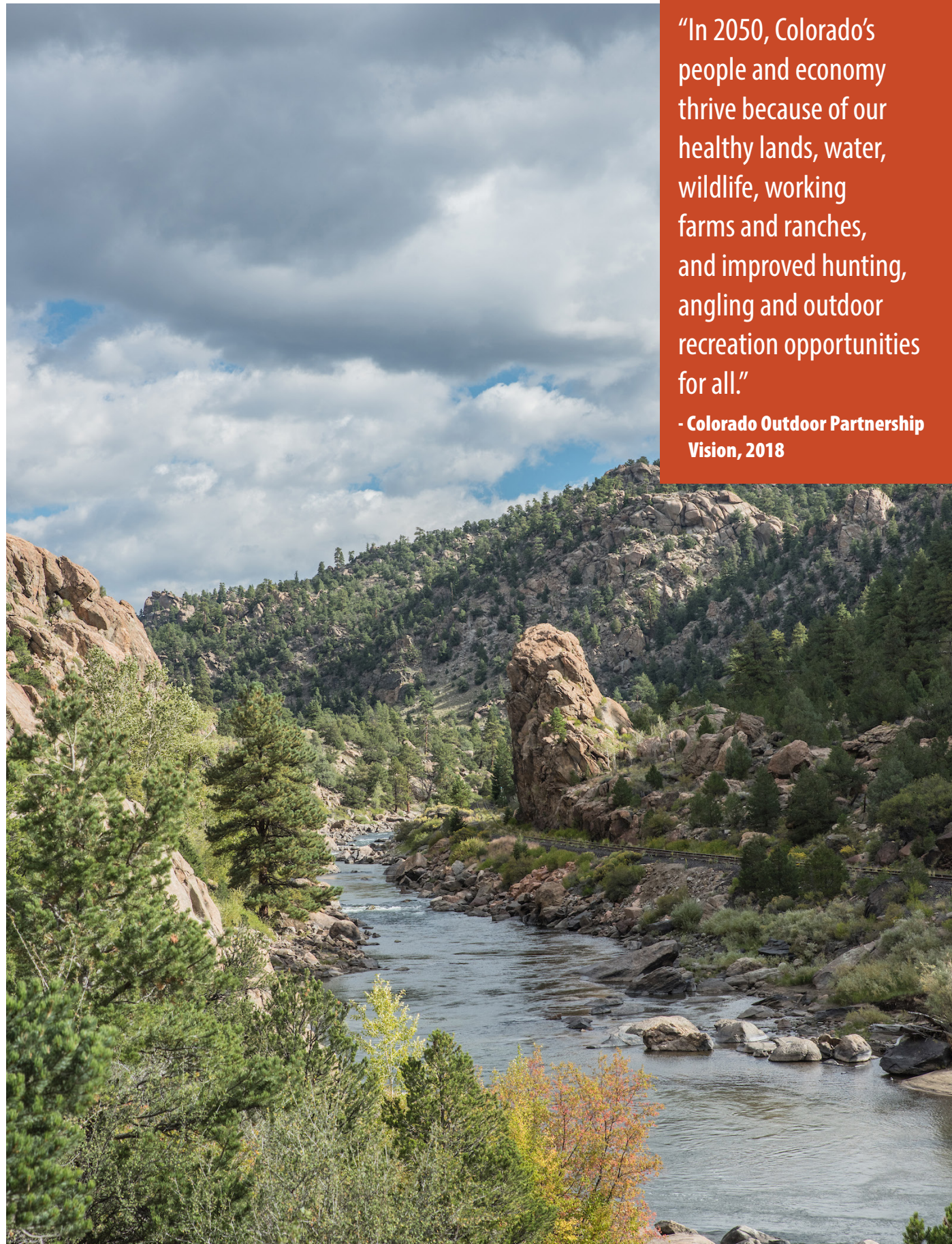
**Objective II: Diversify and Expand Funding Source(s)** - Identify and pursue new funds available to organizations and management agencies that directly benefits outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources.

**Strategy 1:** Engage and collaborate with a wider community of user groups, businesses and constituents on innovative funding strategies. Identify paths to make it easier for users, businesses and others to contribute.

**Strategy 2:** Connect grant funding to outdoor recreation and conservation priorities and encourage other funders to do the same.

**Strategy 3:** Identify and establish new funding mechanisms utilizing findings from the CPW Funding Study, recommendations from the Colorado Outdoor Partnership and other sources to support the shared strategy presented in this plan.





“In 2050, Colorado’s people and economy thrive because of our healthy lands, water, wildlife, working farms and ranches, and improved hunting, angling and outdoor recreation opportunities for all.”

- Colorado Outdoor Partnership Vision, 2018

DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW

Over 125 years ago, Colorado’s spacious skies, purple mountain majesties and fruited plains so inspired Katharine Lee Bates that she wrote the words for America the Beautiful after a trip to the summit of Pikes Peak. Our great state was then, and remains today, a stunning place of natural beauty that beckons for people to get outside and recreate.

In fact, outdoor recreation is a significant driver in Colorado’s economy generating \$62.5 billion towards the state’s economy and supporting 511,000 jobs. Whether it is improving the quality of life for Colorado residents, or tempting visitors from far and wide to revel in the wild Rocky Mountains, it is the diversity of outdoor experiences that draws people to our state. It is also this outdoor lifestyle that drives a very active citizenry with the lowest obesity rate in the country.

However, we must be mindful and plan for the challenges that outdoor recreation will face as our state’s population grows and tourism increases.

As more people move to Colorado, more land is lost to development, trailheads become crowded, and increased year-round recreation impacts native fish and wildlife. **It is essential to proactively plan for sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation to ensure the natural beauty that makes Colorado unique is maintained for future generations.**

Colorado’s 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) charts the course for conservation and recreation in the state for the next five years. This plan reflects the shared vision and commitment of Colorado outdoor recreation and conservation partners to advance strategies to ensure all people can easily connect to Colorado’s outdoors and enjoy the state’s natural beauty and healthy, active lifestyles.



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW



**Why a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan?**

Every five years, Colorado Parks and Wildlife leads development of a SCORP. Each state is required to develop a SCORP to be eligible for federal funding tied to the 50-year-old Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Colorado’s plan, however, goes beyond federal requirements to capture the state’s top priorities for outdoor recreation. To develop Colorado’s 2019 SCORP, CPW worked for over a year actively engaging a wide variety of partners

and the public to reflect on evolving outdoor recreation and conservation challenges and opportunities. SCORP provides the framework to strategically allocate LWCF dollars (combined with investments from other federal, state, local and private funding programs) and support collaborations with outdoor recreation providers that promote both recreational enjoyment and thoughtful conservation of Colorado’s special places.

**Colorado’s 2019 SCORP is a tool that:**

- Provides background information on demographics and outdoor recreation, including statewide trends.
- Shares research that documents the economic importance of outdoor recreation to the state, public opinion on statewide and local priorities, and emerging issues and needs in land management.
- Addresses both conservation and recreation and the challenge of providing quality outdoor experiences while conserving the natural resources we depend on for recreation and so much more.
- Recommends shared strategies generated by partners across the state that ensure Colorado’s conservation and outdoor recreation heritage is maintained and improved for future generations.
- Highlights local and statewide initiatives guiding the long-term maintenance and enhancement of Colorado’s outdoor recreation resources.



KEN PAPALEO/CPW

**Land and Water Conservation Fund in Colorado**

LWCF provides federal matching grants to states and local governments for outdoor recreation enhancement, developing and acquiring land and water areas, natural resource protection and conservation (See Appendix A for more information about LWCF). LWCF grants increase recreational opportunities for Colorado’s citizens and its visitors through cooperation with local communities and state agencies. **Since 1965, Colorado has received approximately \$61 million through LWCF to fund over 1,000 recreation projects implemented through state and local governments.**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is designated as the agency to administer LWCF and serve as the liaison between the State of Colorado and the Secretary of the Interior for the LWCF. As such, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is responsible for receiving and allocating LWCF funding. The State Trails Program and State Trails Committee establish procedures and requirements for all LWCF applications at the state and local level using the SCORP as a guide.

**Colorado’s Recreation Trails Grant Application and Review Process**

Starting in 2000, CPW began working with local government parks and recreation leaders to use the existing Colorado Recreation Trails Grant Program process to award LWCF funds for non-motorized trail projects. The grant scoring criteria, developed by CPW’s trails program staff and approved by the Recreational Trails Committee, serve as Colorado’s Open Selection Process for the distribution of LWCF grant funds.

The Recreational Trail Grant Applications follow a set recommendation and approval process that includes review and evaluation by CPW regional field staff, scoring and evaluation by three Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittees (i.e., Large Trail Maintenance or Construction, Small Trail Maintenance or Construction, and Trail Planning or Support grant application categories), ranking and funding recommendations by the Recreational Trails Committee members. Final review and funding approval is made by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

This process invites public review and comment at four separate stages: upon submission and posting of the application by CPW, before the subcommittees, before the Recreational Trails Committee and before the Commission. The complete grant process, including the detailed LWCF Grant Requirements is included in Appendix B.



TONY GURZICK/CPW



The 2019-2023 Colorado SCORP development process spanned just over one year. Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Policy and Planning Section coordinated this work with the support of an internal CPW team, the Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP) and the SCORP Advisory Group. The internal team provided valuable input at critical decision points throughout the process. CPW administered several statewide surveys to inform management priorities. These included large-scale com-

prehensive surveys of the general public and land management agencies and organizations. Additional outreach was conducted to reach communities that were underrepresented in the responses received through the surveys. Survey data collection and analysis occurred from November 2017-May 2018. Writers and designers drafted the main document from June-August of 2018 followed by a public comment period and further revisions. By the end of 2018, the final plan was reviewed by the Governor of Colorado and the National Park Service.

2019-2023 SCORP Planning Process



SCORP Advisory Group

Extensive engagement of partner organizations and agencies invested in outdoor recreation and natural resources informed the development of this five-year plan. In order to ensure broad and comprehensive input into shaping this plan, the SCORP Advisory Group (see Acknowledgements) included representatives from recreation, industry, transportation, hunt-

ing, fishing, tourism, conservation, stewardship, agriculture, education, health and organizations representing diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors. Convening this group throughout several stages of the SCORP process, CPW aimed to incorporate relevant, informed and diverse feedback from professionals directly linked to outdoor recreation.



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW



Rocky Mountain National Park

MIKE DELIVERNY/CPW

Colorado Outdoor Partnership



The formation of a new collaborative, the [Colorado Outdoor Partnership](#) (CO-OP), offered an opportunity to bring lasting leadership to SCORP. The CO-OP, comprised of outdoor recreation, conservation and agricultural interests, believes leaders across the state must collaborate and innovate to ensure private and public lands and water remain healthy to support Colorado's diverse wildlife, outdoor and agricultural heritage, and economic wellbeing. In 2017, the CO-OP committed to promoting the importance and stewardship of public and private lands and waters to support sustainable habitat conservation and responsible outdoor recreation. Supporting and strengthening public and private funding is another primary focus of the CO-OP. The CO-OP provided leadership in drafting and reviewing the strategic direction presented in the SCORP and will play a pivotal role in ensuring its success.

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM 2014 SCORP

Advisory Group and Partner Engagement:

- **May 2018 Workshop:** Over 65 individuals participated in a visioning session at the CPW Partners in the Outdoors Conference. Participants brainstormed what success looks like in the year 2023 for each of the four priorities. CPW synthesized the results into draft goal and objective statements.
- **June 2018 Workshop:** The Keystone Policy Center facilitated a full day workshop where the SCORP Advisory Group refined goals and objectives and generated specific strategies for success. They also discussed possible metrics to measure outcomes. From this work, Keystone compiled input into 3-5 detailed strategies for each objective. The Advisory Group worked throughout summer 2018 to refine these.
- **2018 Quarterly CO-OP Meetings:** The Colorado Outdoor Partnership reviewed and adopted key strategic planning elements throughout 2018.



Outdoor recreation supports the economy, human health and well-being and spending time in natural settings when recreating is often the greatest motivation for supporting conservation. However, all outdoor recreation has an impact on natural areas and native fish and wildlife, so it is essential to develop a strong conservation ethic in people who enjoy outdoor recreation. Nationally, conservation and recreation interests are working together to Shape How we Invest For Tomorrow (SHIFT) in order to address challenges for natural resource conservation and the future of outdoor recreation. Together, these partners developed the SHIFT principles to

more closely integrate conservation and recreation. In 2016, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, with endorsement by the Colorado Outdoor Partnership, became the first state in the nation to formally adopt these principles.

Colorado's Outdoor Principles, an adapted version of the original SHIFT principles, represent an effort to further refine an outdoor ethic that promotes both recreational enjoyment and thoughtful conservation of Colorado's special places. Colorado's Outdoor Principles were a foundation for the priority areas included within this plan, making it the state's first SCORP to include conservation as a priority area.

### Colorado's Outdoor Principles

**Preamble:** We believe the uniquely American public land heritage is a privilege and a birthright, and Colorado's abundant open space and outdoor recreation opportunities contribute to our quality of life and economic vitality. Combined with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and private land conservation, Coloradans and our visitors enjoy spectacular landscapes in which to work, play and live. We celebrate the contributions of all sectors of our economy to sustaining a healthy balance of our state's ecosystems. Responsible recreation respects all interests on lands and waters, and works to eliminate conflicts.

For these reasons, Coloradans should feel compelled to care for and conserve landscapes, waterways and wildlife to sustain them and eliminate conflicts for generations to come by adopting the following principles.

- 1. PUBLIC LANDS** – Outdoor recreation and conservation require that a diversity of lands and waters be publicly owned, available for public access and cared for properly.
- 2. PRIVATE LANDS** – Within Colorado's diversity of land and waters, private land plays a critical role in preserving the ecological integrity of a functional landscape that is necessary for robust and meaningful outdoor recreational experiences.
- 3. WORKING TOGETHER** – Both recreation and conservation are needed to sustain Colorado's quality of life. Both are beneficial to local economic well-being, for personal health and for sustaining Colorado's natural resources.
- 4. MINIMIZE IMPACT** – All recreation has impact. Coloradans have an obligation to minimize these impacts across the places they recreate and the larger landscape through ethical outdoor behavior.
- 5. MANAGEMENT & EDUCATION** – Proactive management solutions, combined with public education, are necessary to care for land, water and wildlife, and to provide the protections needed to maintain quality recreation opportunities.
- 6. SCIENCE-BASED DECISIONS** – Physical, biological and social science must inform the management of outdoor recreation.
- 7. STABLE FUNDING** – Stable, long-term and diverse funding sources are essential to protect the environment and support outdoor recreation.

Organizations and individuals can sign on in support of the Colorado Outdoor Principles at [copartnership.org](http://copartnership.org)







Roxborough State Park

DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW

Colorado welcomed 84.7 million U.S.-based travelers and nearly 1 million international travelers in 2017 – generating a record \$20.9 billion in visitor spending.<sup>1</sup>

While Colorado is known for its mountains, our state offers a wide variety of natural habitats that invite residents and visitors to spend time in the outdoors. Whether you like to bike, hike, hunt, fish, trap, ski, run, ride, picnic, boat or camp – there are opportunities for everyone in every region of the state. And there’s no doubt that Colorado’s residents take advantage of this; approximately 92% of Coloradans recreate in the outdoors and most of the visitors to our state are coming, in part, for the unique recreational opportunities it provides.

To develop an outdoor recreation and conservation plan for the entire state, it is essential that we understand who the people of Colorado are, how they recreate and the economic implications of outdoor recreation on the state’s economy. As part of the 2019 SCORP planning process, Colorado Parks and Wildlife conducted public surveys and economic impact research to inform the direction of the plan.

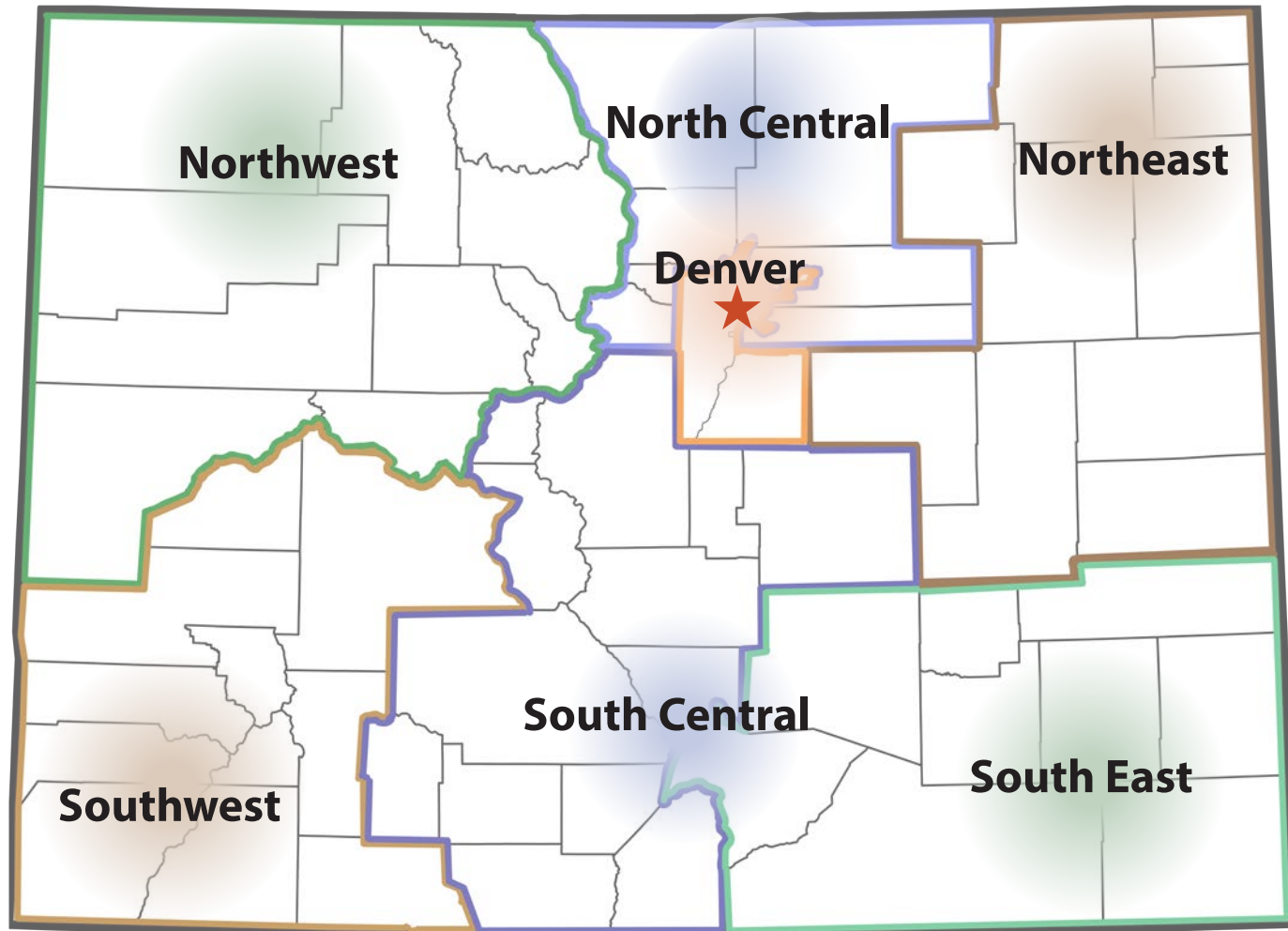


NORA LOGUE/CPW



Colorado's Tourism Office identified seven distinct travel regions in the 1990s, each defined by their unique characteristics. Within each of these regions there are many partners and providers of outdoor recreational opportunities (See Appendix

C). These regions serve as the areas in which Colorado Parks and Wildlife conducted its public outreach efforts in the process of developing the 2019 SCORP. These regions were re-defined in 2018. To see the new regions, please go to [www.colorado.com](http://www.colorado.com).



**Denver**  
Denver is the most densely populated metropolitan area in the state, but that doesn't mean there are no outdoor recreation opportunities. County governments, non-profit organizations and local parks departments have worked hard to develop trail systems, public parks, wildlife viewing areas and

more. Great Outdoors Colorado and local land trust funds have conserved precious open spaces in this rapidly developing area. There might be fewer backcountry experiences but plenty of hiking, biking, fishing, climbing, watersports and much more!



**Northwest**  
The Northwest region falls west of the Continental Divide, north to the Wyoming border and west to the Utah border. This region is home to Grand Junction, Colorado's largest city on the west slope, and to storied ski areas like Breckenridge, Vail and Steamboat. Federal public lands abound here including two National Monuments (Colorado and Dinosaur). Some of the state's best hunting can be found in this region, and tributaries to the Colorado River offer outstanding white water and fishing adventures.



**Southwest**  
The San Juan mountains descend to the Colorado Plateau in the Southwest region where Durango is the largest town. Telluride and Crested Butte provide prime winter recreation, and access abounds in the region's vast Forest Service and BLM public lands. Visitors can see Colorado's recent past in old mining towns – as well as its ancient past in Mesa Verde National Park and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. This cultural legacy continues as the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian tribal lands are located here.



**South Central**  
The South Central region includes Colorado Springs and dives down into the San Luis Valley. The Arkansas River provides outstanding rafting through Browns Canyon National Monument. In the spring, migrations of sandhill cranes converge on the wetlands of Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge near Alamosa. Who needs a beach when you can enjoy the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve? And Colorado's three tallest "fourteeners" – Mount Elbert, Mount Massive and Mount Harvard – are found in the Sawatch Range.



**Southeast**  
With high mountain rivers flowing to the plains, the Southeast region offers the shortgrass prairie of the Comanche National Grasslands and was home to the state's first white American settlement, Bent's Fort. The Santa Fe Trail allows travelers to learn about the state's native and cultural history. This region provides upland as well as big game hunting and plenty of fishing opportunities. Pueblo and Trinidad are the region's two largest cities, but the region's small towns preserve Colorado's farming and ranching heritage.



**Northeast**  
The South Platte River flows into the Great Plains through the Northeast region of Colorado, offering a range of recreation opportunities through a string of state wildlife areas. Throughout the region, the grasslands are vast and provided the home for many of the state's pioneer residents that arrived as the state began to grow. Today historic communities love to share their heritage. Home to the Pawnee National Grasslands and the Pawnee Buttes, this region revels in its agricultural history.



**North Central**  
Defined as the area north and the foothill regions west of the Denver Metro Area, the North Central region includes such vibrant towns as Fort Collins, Boulder, Greeley, Idaho Springs and Estes Park. There are state parks for camping, county open spaces for hiking and biking, and public waterways for fishing or boating. Home to Rocky Mountain National Park, the Flatirons, Poudre Canyon and Long's Peak, this region offers a breadth of outdoor experiences from neighborhood parks to remote wilderness.

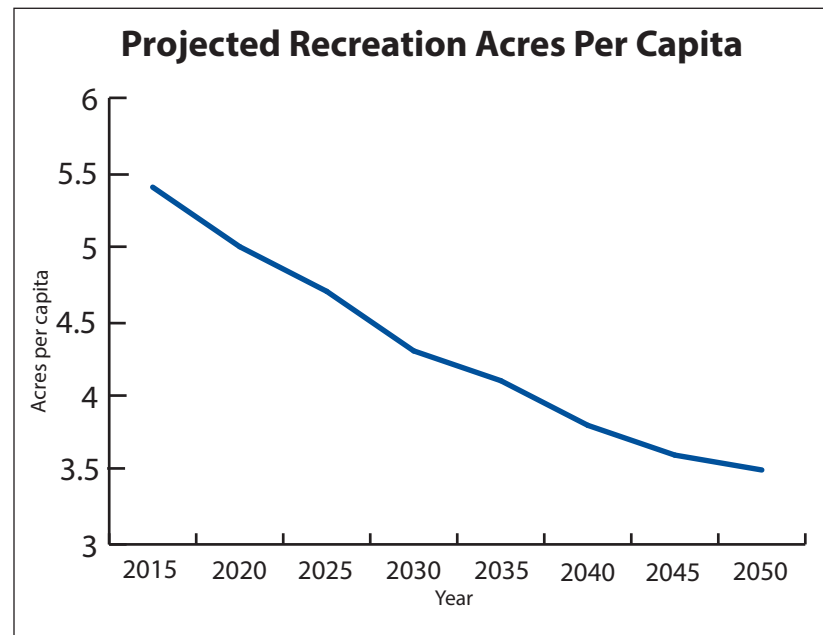


Between 2000 and 2016, it is estimated that the population of Colorado increased by 1.2 million people to a total population of 5.5 million.<sup>2</sup> Colorado is the 7th fastest growing state in the nation with a 10-year population growth rate of 17%.<sup>3</sup> Just over one million of that population increase is living in the Denver Metro Area and North Central region. In addition, almost 60% of the new population are people who moved to Colorado,<sup>4</sup> and most of the new residents are millennials between the ages of 18 and 34 years old.<sup>5</sup>

While this growth has been dramatic, the state's population could increase to nearly 8.5 million people by 2050, according to the Colorado State Demography Office.<sup>6</sup> This is driven in part by continued migration, but also because Colorado is a place where people move – and stay. As a result, it is anticipated that by 2040 the percentage of the population over the age of 65 will be three times what it is today, growing twice as fast as the total population.<sup>7</sup>



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



CPW

In addition to the overall population growth, we are seeing increased diversity in the state's population. As of 2015, it was estimated that 31% of Colorado's population was considered a minority, with 22% of that being residents of Hispanic origin. Predictions by the U.S. Census Bureau suggest that by 2050, minorities will make up 47% of Colorado's population, with 36% of the residents being Hispanic.<sup>8</sup>

**Population Changes Affect Outdoor Recreation**

Undoubtedly, the quality of life Colorado offers plays a key role in attracting new residents, however, as our state's population increases, there are associated challenges to conservation and outdoor recreation. While the population of Colorado continues to grow, the amount of land available for recreation and wildlife habitat is finite and there is a related decline in per capita protected areas as the population grows.

With the expansion that will be necessary to accommodate new residents, more of the undeveloped land that defines Colorado will be lost. Recreation areas are becoming increasingly crowded; often, there are reports of no available parking and conflicts occurring between different types of outdoor recreation users. The rapidly increasing population will only exacerbate these challenges.

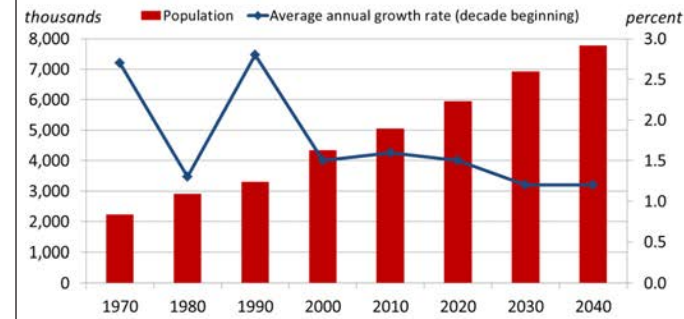
Colorado's native wildlife, an attraction for residents as well as tourists to the state, are feeling the squeeze. Development fragments their habitat and new homes and shopping centers are being built in or close to important seasonal habitats. With more human recreation on the landscape, fish and wildlife may be affected particularly as recreation spans to more year-round activities. Recreation compacts soils, brings in weeds that overtake native forage vegetation, and the growing number of people in the backcountry means that it becomes harder for wildlife to avoid human interaction.

In addition, as the demographics change within the state, outdoor recreation must be culturally relevant and planners must evaluate the different ways in which people recreate. Providing the same types of recreation options that we have for many years may not accommodate the unique needs and interests of different racial and ethnic groups, people with disabilities, an aging population and more.

The implications of rapid population growth on our natural areas, our native fish and wildlife, and our outdoor recreation experiences manifests through a variety of different land and recreation management challenges. Anticipating these challenges and planning for the future to ensure the balance of Colorado's open spaces, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation will set the stage for how our state manages its natural and cultural resources.

**COLORADO POPULATION 1970-2040**  
Slower growth, rapid aging, and increased diversity

Colorado's population was just over 5 million in 2010. Growth rates are expected to decline slowly over the next few decades to reach just under 8 million by 2040.

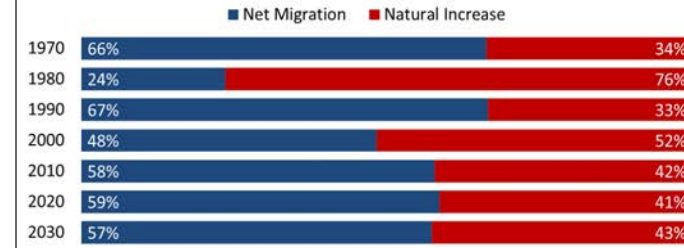


Growth rates vary significantly across Colorado. The majority of Coloradans are expected to continue to reside along the front range.

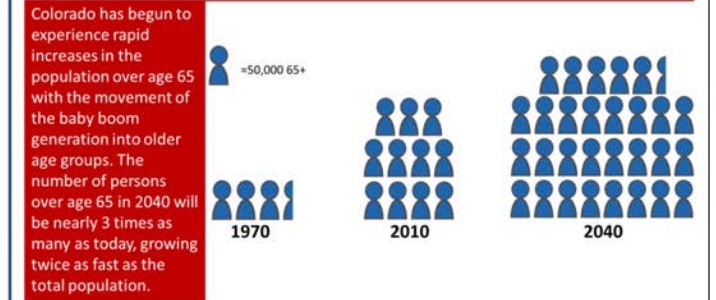


**Components of Change**

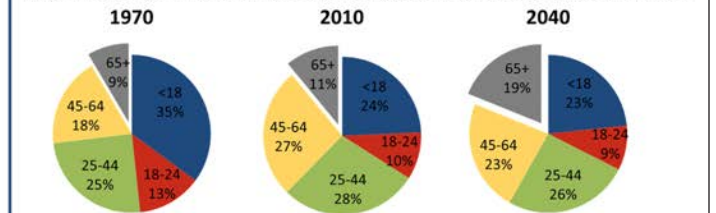
Population growth in Colorado was dominated by migration in the 1970's and 90's. Migration due to job growth and the replacement of retired workers will continue to fuel Colorado's population growth.



**Aging of the Population**

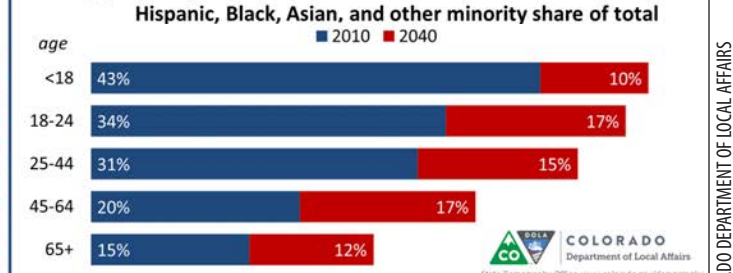


The aging of Colorado residents will generate rising shares of its older population. The majority of change will occur this decade, leveling off to relatively stable shares after 2030.



**Diversity by Age**

Increases in diversity will be most significant for older age groups as younger, more diverse populations age.



Twin Silo Park, Ft. Collins

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS



To successfully plan for the future of conservation and recreation in Colorado, it is essential to understand the needs of Colorado's outdoor recreation users and land managers. Through a series of surveys, Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff identified what activities Coloradans enjoy, why they are motivated to participate, what barriers stand in their way, and what types of outdoor recreation experiences they prefer both locally and statewide. These data help land managers and others interested in natural resource conservation to balance biological factors with social desires. In addition to collecting data about public interests and preferences, it is equally important to understand the issues, concerns and potential opportunities facing agencies and organizations responsible for managing parks, open space and trails across Colorado.

Two survey instruments were used to collect quantitative data for the 2019-2023 SCORP. The first was mailed to a random sample of Coloradans and the second was sent via email to a range of individuals responsible for managing land in Colora-

do. The purpose of the former, the Public Survey of Outdoor Recreation, was to identify statewide recreation trends with respect to activity participation and to understand the types of services and recreation preferences Coloradans are interested in both locally and statewide. The Land Managers Survey sought to identify the core issues, concerns and opportunities facing agencies and organizations responsible for managing parks, open space, trails and recreation areas throughout Colorado. See Appendix D for the complete technical report from both surveys and more information on specific user groups.

The findings are organized into two sections beginning with results from the Public Survey followed by the Land Managers Survey. However, it is important to consider the implications of both outreach efforts holistically. Many of the sentiments shared by the public were also expressed, albeit in somewhat different ways, by land managers. It is important to note that several survey questions from previous SCORP outreach efforts were retained to allow for comparisons between the 2014 and 2018 surveys.

### Top Ten Activities in Colorado

1. Walking
2. Hiking/Backpacking
3. Picnicking and Tent camping
4. Fishing
5. Playground activities
6. Jogging/running outdoors
7. Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding
8. Wildlife viewing\*
9. RV camping/cabins
10. Team or individual sports

\* bird watching was a separate category

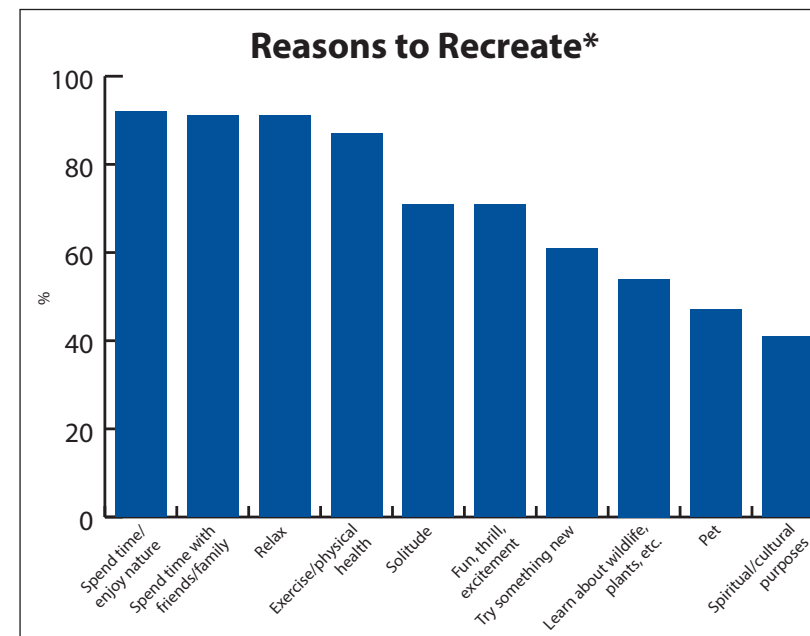


DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW

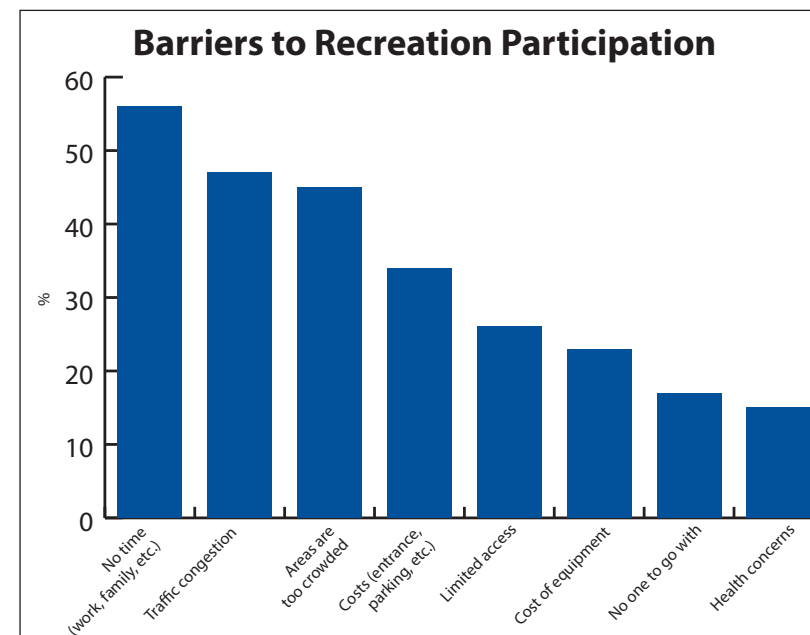
**Coloradans' recreation participation and priorities have not changed markedly since 2014.**

- Coloradans spend a lot of time recreating outdoors. Approximately 92% of Coloradans recreate at least every few weeks to four (or more) times per week (91% in 2014).
- Walking remains the most popular activity both statewide and regionally and was also ranked first in 2014.
- Statewide, hiking/backpacking was the second most popular activity followed by tent camping.
- Regional results were highly variable in terms of both the number of Coloradans who participated in a given activity and the average number of days spent enjoying various activities.

- Both local and statewide recreation priorities mirrored results from the 2014 SCORP, indicating the public's desires to have:
  1. Local walking trails/paths (ranked 1st in 2014),
  2. Opportunities to view wildlife (ranked 2nd in 2014), and
  3. Established playgrounds built with natural materials (ranked 3rd in 2014).
- In addition, Coloradans would prefer recreation providers prioritize:
  1. Long-term planning and management (ranked 2nd in 2014),
  2. Operation/maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities (ranked 1st in 2014), and
  3. Local, regional and statewide trails (ranked 3rd in 2014).



Respondant's motivation to recreate outdoors \* Results comprise moderately-to-very important reasons to recreate.



Potential barriers to respondents' outdoor recreation participation.

**Coloradans' recreation motivations are diverse.**

- The majority of respondents recreate outdoors for a variety of reasons. Those at the top of the list include recreating to enjoy nature, to improve personal health (i.e., relax, physical exercise), and for social purposes (i.e., spend time with loved ones).
- Land managers interested in developing programs that appeal to a range of Coloradans could target nature-based, health-focused, socially-oriented motivations, or a combination of each.

**Structural constraints hinder Coloradans' recreation participation.**

- The top three barriers to Coloradans' recreation participation were:
  1. Limited time due to family/work/other commitments,
  2. Traffic congestion, and
  3. Crowding.
- Crowding was also acknowledged as a core management issue in the Land Managers Survey.



**Management issues mirror the public’s priorities and barriers for outdoor recreation.**

- Land managers identified maintaining existing recreation infrastructure/resources as the number one management-related issue they face.
- They also identified a lack of capacity to serve a growing population (e.g., crowding/overuse) as the fourth overall management issue.
- Together, these findings are somewhat disconcerting. They illustrate a precarious situation, one in which land managers are struggling with basic upkeep of the areas and structures they oversee while at the same time, lacking the capacity to handle increasing public demand.
- This is reflected in the public’s perception as well. Many Coloradans indicated a desire for recreation providers (i.e., land managers) to prioritize the maintenance of existing infrastructure (see above) and minimize the level of perceived crowding they experience (3rd overall public barrier).

**Visitor service issues reflect capacity and visitation challenges.**

- Each of the top three visitor service issues (i.e., enforcing responsible use; providing programs to engage youth; and maintaining visitor safety), represent, to some extent, a lack of capacity, an increasing number of visitors, or perhaps both.
- For example, it is unclear if managers are unable to “enforce responsible use” due to the sheer number of visitors, a lack of staff/resources, or because visitor behavior is becoming increasingly negative.

**Land managers are dealing with uncertainty and finding solutions.**

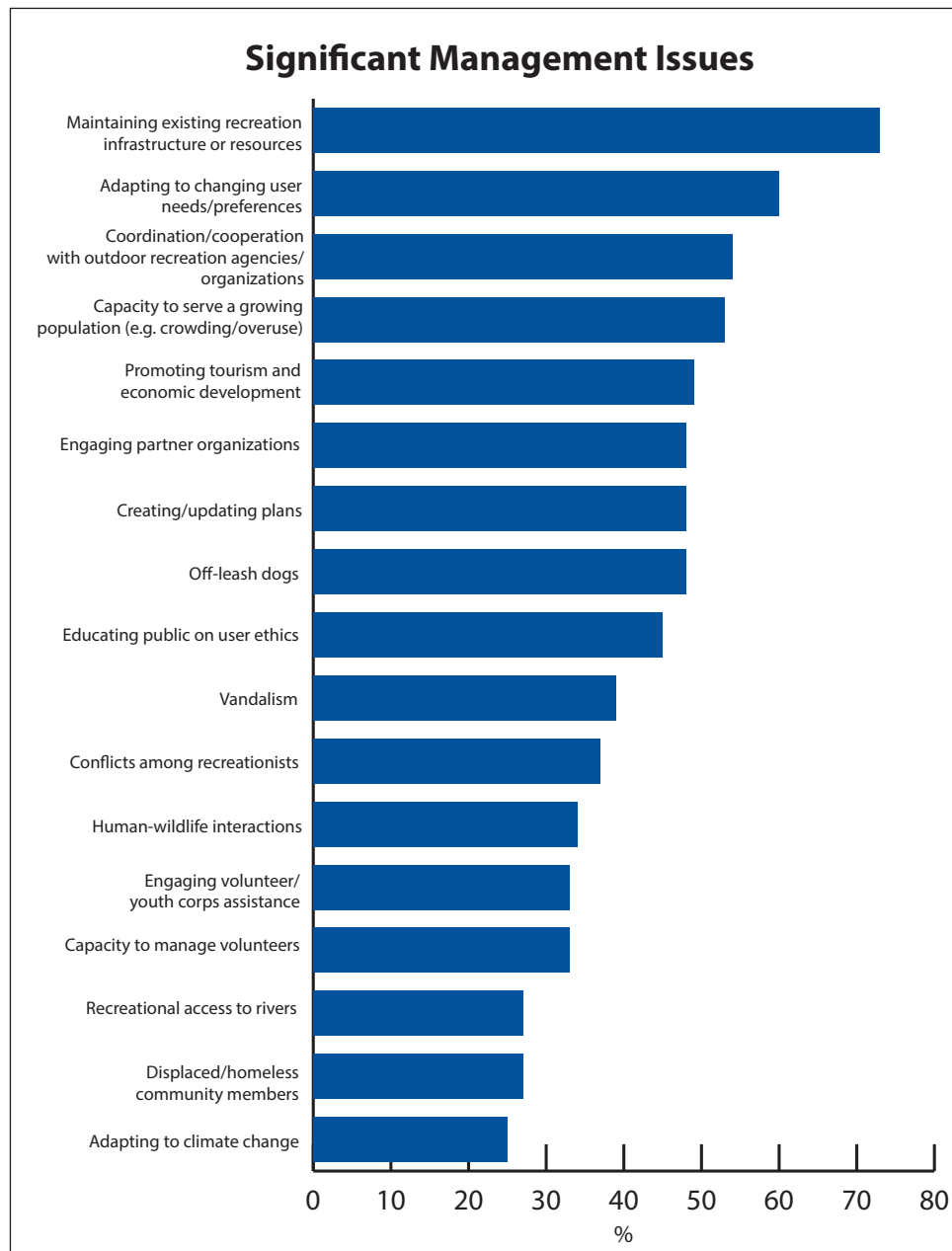
- Agencies and organizations often struggle with unmet financial needs and respondents were no different. Many indicated financial shortfalls less than \$150,000 annually but for some, the unmet needs were greater than \$3 million each year.
- Responding to such uncertainty typically involved applying for grants – which was described as relatively successful – and reduc-

ing services or staff. The latter being far less successful in the eyes of respondents.

- Others described a reliance on volunteers to provide services or programs in the vicinity of 1.8 million volunteer hours annually. This is the equivalent of 865 full time employees. It is important to note that this number may be an under-representation since about half of respondents indicated that they are not tracking volunteer hours.

Not surprisingly, outdoor recreation plays and will likely continue to play an important role in the lives of Coloradans.

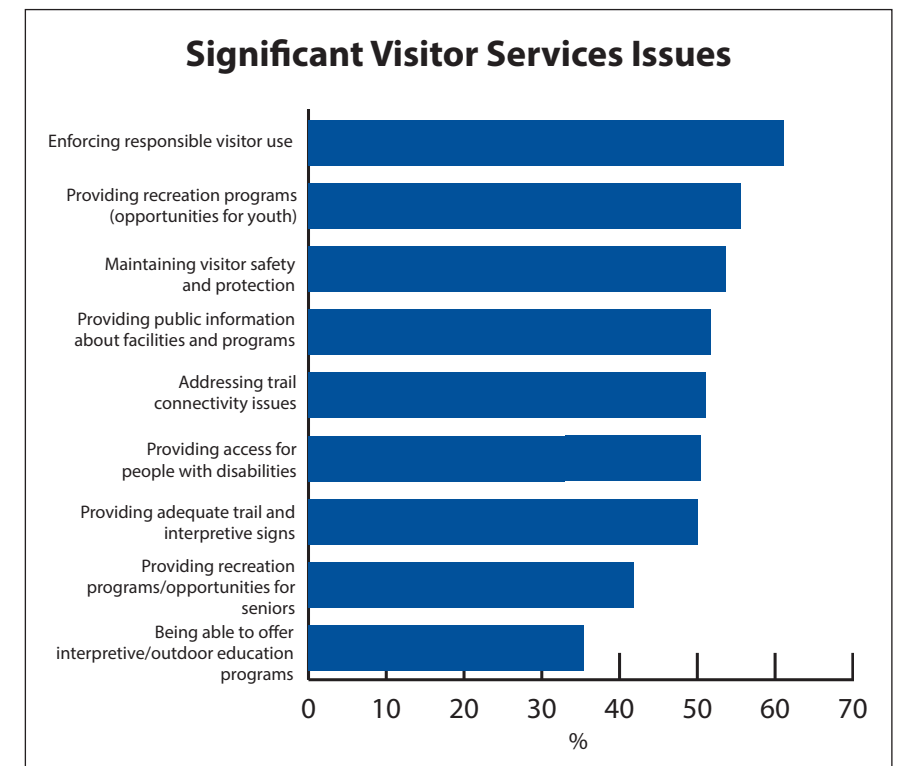
As the state’s population increases, the demand for outdoor recreation experiences will likely continue to increase as well. Thus, it is important to understand both what Coloradans want to do outdoors and what land managers are able to provide.



Most significant management issues identified by agencies/organizations (moderately-to-very significant issues combined).

Clearly, having the ability to recreate close to home remains popular in terms of both activity participation (i.e., walking, jogging/running) and in terms of future “local” desires/preferences (e.g., walking trails/paths; built playgrounds, etc.).

Land managers expressed concerns about their ability to curtail issues associated with crowding/overuse and being able to provide programs and opportunities for visitors.



Most significant visitor services issues by agencies/organizations (moderately-to-very significant issues combined).



Bureau of Land Management lands near Craig, CO.



To gather information from user groups that were not well represented in the broader, statewide public and land managers surveys, two additional targeted public engagement efforts were used: the Tribal Land Managers survey and the Targeted Outreach comment form (See Appendix E for the complete report from this outreach).

Recognizing that Colorado’s tribes were not consulted during the previous SCORP, a Tribal Land Managers survey was developed from the Land Managers survey with review by the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA). CCIA helped establish contacts with Colorado’s two federally recognized Tribes, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for survey distribution.

The Targeted Outreach comment form, aiming to address socio-demographic gaps within the 2018 Public Survey, was emailed to individuals within fifteen local and national organizations engaging youth and people of color in outdoor recreation. These key partners then distributed the comment form to their members and contacts. This was not a representative sample. Rather, this effort represents an attempt to learn about the interests and recreation preferences of racial/ethnic minority groups who tend to be under-represented in outdoor recreation-related inquiries.

**Key Findings: Tribal Land Managers Survey**

Note: These findings represent the views of the one Tribe who responded to the survey.

Tribal, federal, state and other land managers identified similar high priority management issues and needs.

- Overall, the participating Tribe identified 15 out of 18 potential management issues as “very significant.” Additionally, “cultural resources management” was listed as a very significant issue within the “other” response option.
- Two significant management issues for the participating Tribe - expanding local and statewide trails and maintaining infrastructure - proved to be important to Coloradans in general as they were also major themes from the Public and Land Manager Surveys.

Tribes aim to meet future needs by improving opportunities and infrastructure.

- The following five items represent new outdoor recreation sites or activities the participating Tribe identified as high priorities in the next five years: developing team sports facilities, expanding opportunities or access for water-based recreation, expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing, developing local agriculture, and improving outdoor interpretive/educational facilities or programs.

- In addition, creating “Dedicated cultural awareness” was also identified as a “high priority,” listed in the “other” response option.

Tribes advocate for higher quality cultural resource management and programming.

- Cultural resources are very important to the participating Tribe. In fact, they listed and often described the importance of cultural resources in four out of six open-ended survey questions tied to current recreation issues.
- Two potential ways to preserve these resources include using indigenous terms to name recreational areas and providing educational signage on trails.

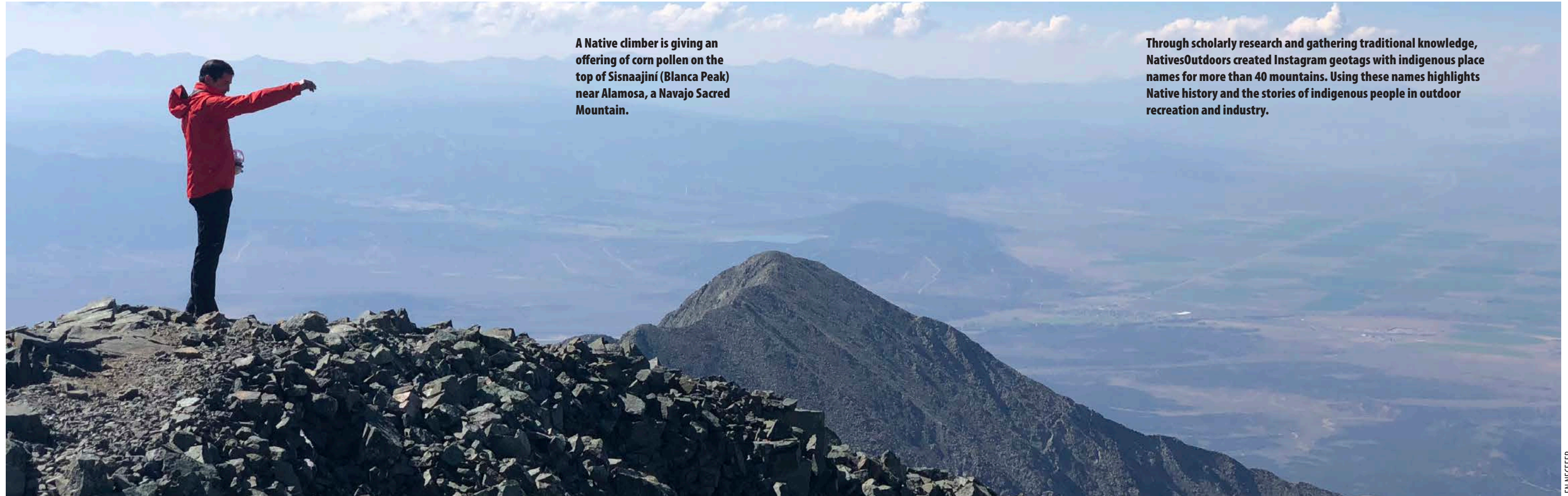
**Key Findings: Targeted Outreach comment form**

Recreational preferences and barriers remain fairly constant across Coloradans.

- City/local parks are the top recreational areas identified in the Targeted Outreach comment form and in the Public Survey.
- Lack of time due to work, family or other commitments was the number one barrier identified in the comment form and traffic congestion and crowding ranked second and third, respectively. To note, these were also the top three barriers identified in the Public Survey.

- Hiking/backpacking replaced walking as the number one activity in the Targeted Outreach comment form compared to findings from the Public Survey.
- Open-ended comments in both the comment form and Public Survey showed similar concerns, although ethics and education (i.e., stewardship and understanding of outdoor spaces) rose significantly in rank in the Targeted Outreach comment form from the tenth to the third most frequent comment.

Although the Tribal Land Manager survey and Targeted Outreach comment form do not have the same statistical representation of the Public and Land Manager surveys, their findings inform the larger SCORP. The comment form, for example, helps to summarize the views of Colorado’s population, specifically, those who identify as Hispanic/Latino. Both the Tribal Land Manager survey and Targeted Outreach comment form also illustrate the inherent importance of and interest in cultural resources and stewardship programming or messaging. As Colorado’s population continues to expand and diversify, these topics may become increasingly salient to Coloradans. These surveys also support findings from the Land Managers and Public surveys, creating more urgency and unification around priority issues, recreation needs and interests, and management concerns facing Coloradans.



**A Native climber is giving an offering of corn pollen on the top of Sisaajini (Blanca Peak) near Alamosa, a Navajo Sacred Mountain.**

**Through scholarly research and gathering traditional knowledge, NativesOutdoors created Instagram geotags with indigenous place names for more than 40 mountains. Using these names highlights Native history and the stories of indigenous people in outdoor recreation and industry.**



Colorado's outdoor recreation generates substantial economic benefits to the state through direct spending on travel and equipment. However, the economic impacts do not stop there – outdoor recreation spending has positive ripple effects across other sectors through supply purchases, wages and other factors. People and businesses are drawn to Colorado by its outdoor recreation opportunities, further driving the state's economic engine.

Southwick Associates conducted a study for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to estimate the economic contributions of outdoor recreational activity in Colorado during 2017. An overview of key findings is provided in this section; the complete report can be found in Appendix F.

In 2017, outdoor recreation in Colorado contributed:

- **\$62.5 billion in economic output**
- **\$35.0 billion in Gross Domestic Product (10% of the entire state GDP)<sup>9</sup>**
- **\$9.4 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue**
- **511,000 jobs in the state (18.7% of the labor force) – a majority outside of Metro Denver**

The following factors were used to gather a comprehensive picture of **economic output**:

- **Direct contribution:** the initial purchase made by the consumer, i.e. the original retail sale
- **Indirect contribution:** secondary effects generated from a direct contribution, such as a retailer buying additional inventory
- **Induced contribution:** results from the salaries and wages paid by the directly and indirectly affected industries

This study utilized spending profiles (i.e., spending per day or participant on all gear-related expenses and associated travel) from the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA, 2017). However, methodologies between the OIA and Southwick studies differed. Southwick expanded the OIA study to look at a larger pool of outdoor recreation activities, including those in our local communities like walking, playground activities, and team sports.

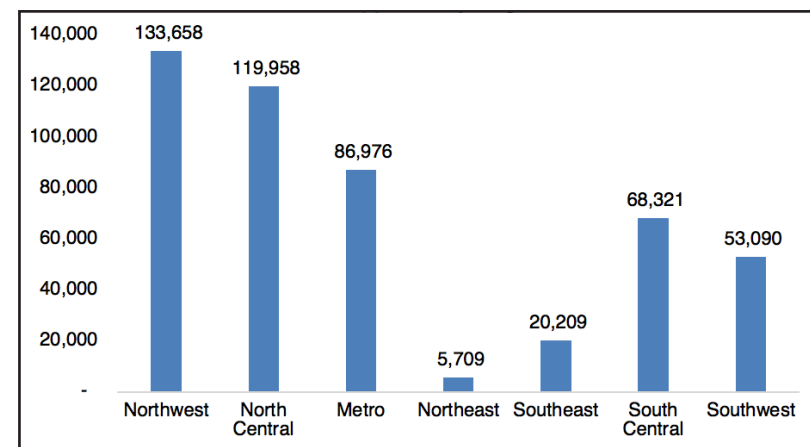
These figures also differ from the new Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) established by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The ORSA provides an estimate of the outdoor recreation economy's contribution to current dollar gross domestic product (GDP) and illustrates the contributions of individual industries to the outdoor recreation economy.



OHV and Snowmobile registrations have funded 63 Trail Maintenance Crews. These crews work on trails to provide access for all trail users in every season.

MIKE JONES/BLM GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

Jobs Supported by Region



Outdoor Recreation Economic Growth in Colorado Since 2014

	2014 SCORP	2019 SCORP	% growth
<b>Economic Output</b>	\$34.5 billion	\$62.5 billion	81%
<b>Jobs</b>	313,000	511,000 (19% of CO labor force)	63%
<b>Local, state, and federal taxes</b>	\$4.9 billion	\$9.4 billion	92%
<b>Salaries and wages</b>	\$12.4 billion	\$21.4 billion	73%
<b>Direct consumer expenditures</b>	\$21 billion	\$36.8 billion	75%

Rapidly Expanding Economy

Outdoor recreation is not only a robust sector, but a growing one. Since 2014, **total economic output and tax revenue from outdoor recreation in Colorado nearly doubled and jobs increased by almost 200,000.** What's causing this rapid growth?

Participation in outdoor recreation remains high—92% of Public Survey (Appendix D) respondents indicated they participated in outdoor recreation activities, similar to the overall level of participation seen in the SCORP five years prior. However, some recreation activities showed strong increases. The number of days Coloradans recreate on a trail grew 44% between 2012 and 2017. In addition, spending profiles increased across most activities with trail sports, snow sports, RV camping and running contributing the largest increases. It's important to note some background trends, including the fact that **Colorado has one of the fastest growing economies over the past five years and has been identified as having the best state-level economy in the nation.**<sup>10</sup> Between 2012 and 2017, **disposable personal income of Colorado residents grew 24% (60% faster than the U.S.).**<sup>11</sup>

Top 15 Activities Based on Annual Spending

1. Skiing (alpine/tele)/Snowboarding
2. Hiking/Backpacking
3. Tent camping
4. RV camping/Cabins
5. Jogging/Running (outdoors)
6. Wildlife viewing\*
7. Fishing
8. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) or 4-wheeling/motorcycling
9. Road biking
10. Snowshoeing/Cross country skiing
11. Horseback riding
12. Mountain biking
13. Rock climbing
14. Golfing
15. Canoeing/Kayaking

\*Bird watching was a separate category

Tourism contributes to this economic development. Colorado's tourism industry generates about \$20 billion in traveler spending annually through attraction of more than 84 million U.S. based and nearly 1 million international visitors. Combined these travelers generate \$1.2 billion a year in state and local taxes. The Colorado tourism industry has enjoyed strong growth over time, with overnight trip expenditures by Colorado visitors increasing from **\$9.6 billion in 2012 to \$15.3 billion in 2017.**<sup>12</sup>

Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

Recognizing the increase in outdoor companies, the natural assets found in the state, and a workforce emboldened by the outdoors, Governor Hickenlooper launched the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (OREC) in 2015. OREC is one of only eight offices in the nation that provides a central point of contact, advocacy and resources at the state level for the diverse constituents, businesses and communities that rely on the continued health of the outdoor recreation industry. The mission of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office is to inspire industries and communities to thrive in Colorado's great outdoors.

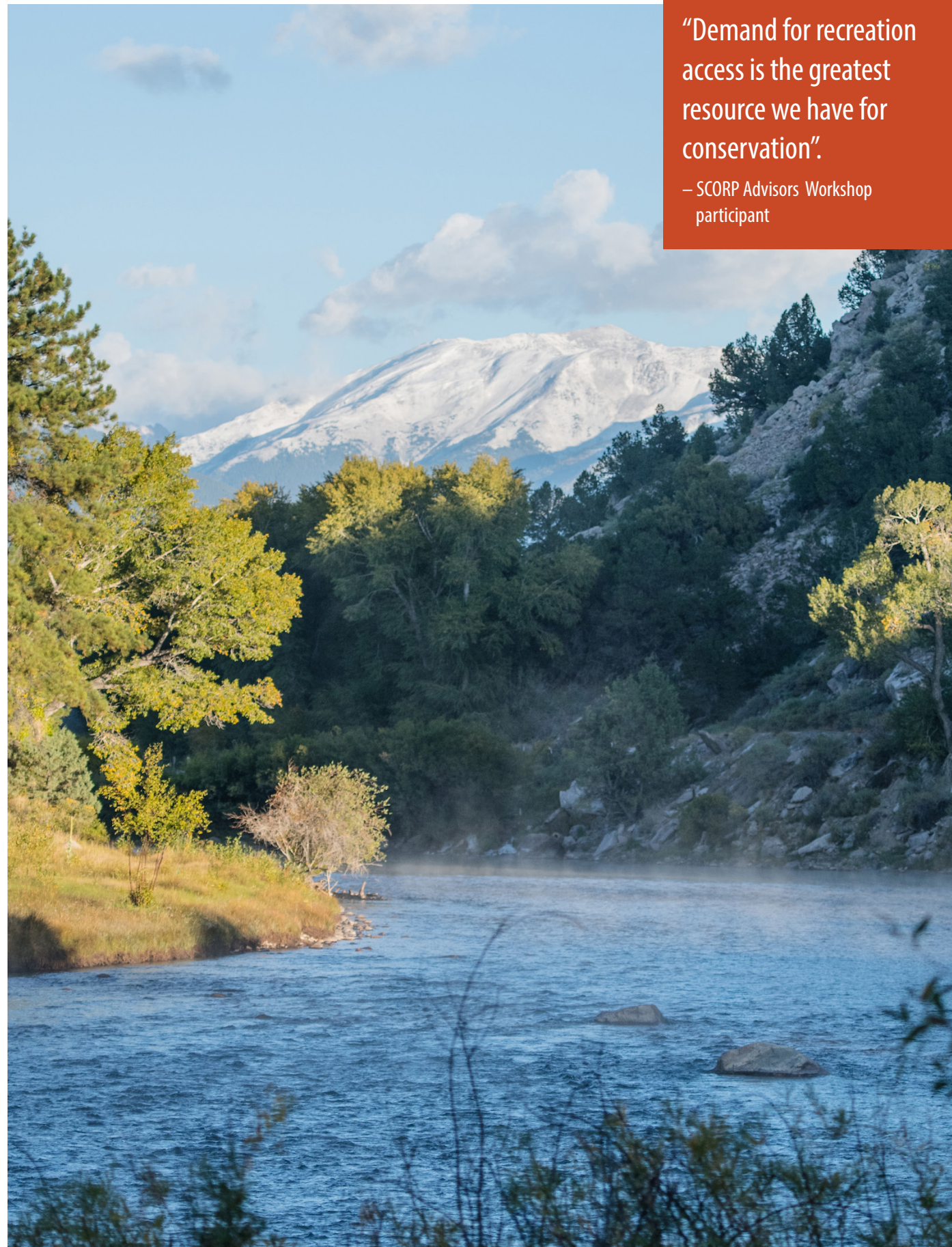
In Summer 2018, Colorado joined seven other states in adopting **"The Confluence Accords,"** a roadmap for the outdoor recreation industry that promotes four key pillars:

- Conservation and Stewardship
- Education and Workforce Training
- Economic Development
- Public Health and Wellness

With considerable overlap of Colorado's Outdoor Recreation Priorities, the Accords offer a framework for engaging industry in ensuring this plan's lasting success.

This combination of factors has also contributed to higher spending on outdoor recreation. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, national consumer spending on outdoor recreation increased by 37% between 2011 and 2016.<sup>13,14</sup> Comparing this to Colorado's outdoor spending growth (see table) reveals a remarkable interest and support for our state's outdoors **that is potentially outpacing national trends.** Colorado's visitors, residents and businesses are investing in outdoor recreation.





“Demand for recreation access is the greatest resource we have for conservation”.

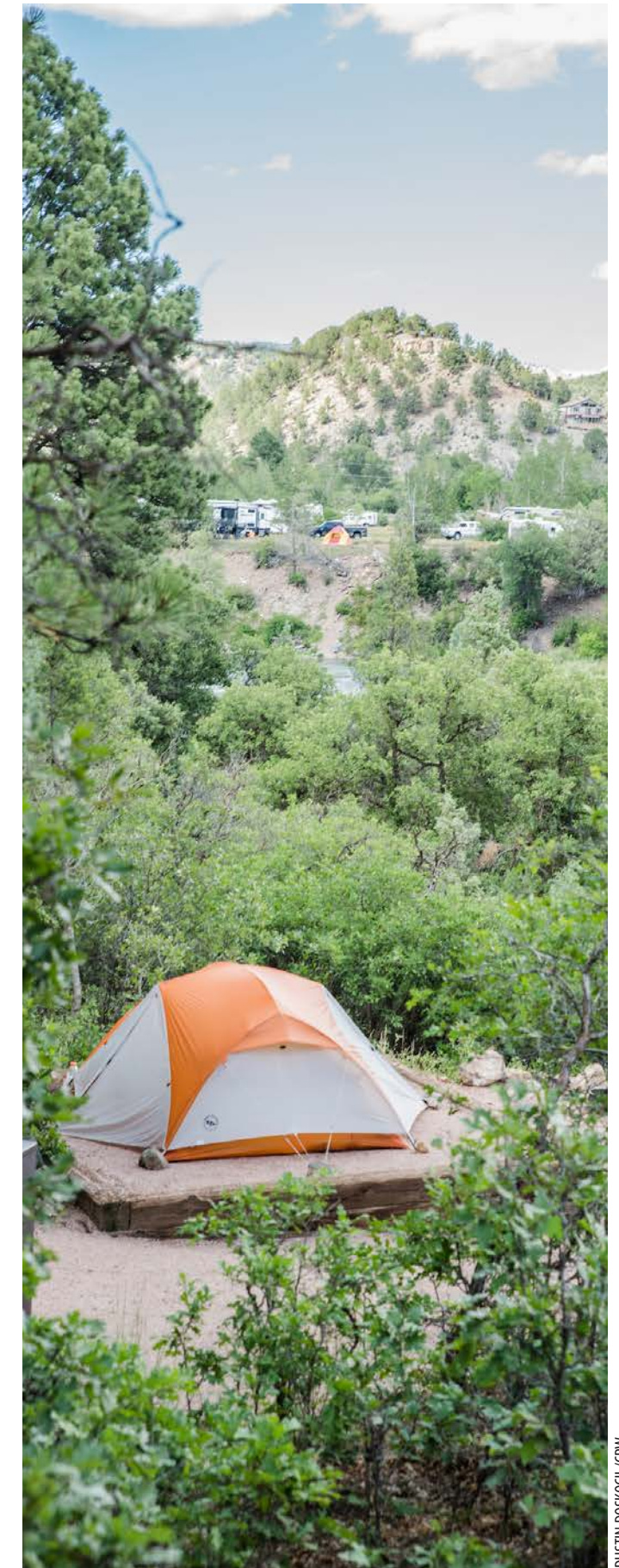
— SCORP Advisors Workshop participant

DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW

Working together, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Colorado Outdoor Partnership and the SCORP Advisory Group identified **four priority areas** on which to focus over the next five years. Building on the 2008 and 2014 SCORPs, these priorities reflect the current trends, opportunities and challenges facing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources today, and add the new component of conservation in recreation planning. They are **interconnected** and critical components to achieving a future vision where Colorado's outdoors continues to provide rich recreation experiences while conserving wildlife habitat and the integrity of natural resources.

[Colorado's Outdoor Principles](#) provide a foundation that is evident throughout this plan. The priority areas tie back to the Principles and demonstrate efforts to integrate them into outdoor recreation and conservation efforts across Colorado. In addition, each of the priorities incorporates statewide considerations including responding to an expanding and changing population, being nimble and adaptive to an evolving landscape, and building partnerships and collaborating across sectors.

These aren't just Colorado Parks and Wildlife's priorities, **they are for all of Colorado**. As a statewide plan, this document required high levels of involvement from outdoor recreation stakeholders. All partners, beyond those who helped develop the plan, are instrumental to its success and are called upon to participate in the plan's implementation.



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW





**Priority Areas for Colorado's SCORP for 2019-2023**

**Sustainable Access and Opportunity – Ensure quality access to Colorado's outdoors for all of the state's communities and visitors.**

**Goal:** More Coloradans and visitors benefit from outdoor recreation and conservation.

**Stewardship – Build Colorado's commitment to stewardship of the outdoors, improving recreation infrastructure, and promoting responsible use of the environment.**

**Goal:** Coloradans and visitors enjoy and care for natural and cultural resources and commit to stewarding them for future generations.

**Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation – Increase a conservation ethic for Colorado's outdoors and promote landscape-scale conservation.**

**Goal:** Private and public lands and waters are conserved to support sustainable outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat.

**Funding the Future - Address financial challenges to ensure that adequate funds are available to support sustainable outdoor recreation.**

**Goal:** Coloradans and visitors contribute to diverse funding sources that are dedicated to support outdoor recreation and conservation. Existing sources of funds are preserved.

To achieve the goals within each priority area, partners identified specific objectives and strategies, which are defined as:

**Objective:** An action or result necessary to achieve the goal within the priority area.

**Strategy:** Planned methods or tactics to advance objectives and achieve the goal.

**Sustainable Access and Opportunity**

The outdoor recreation and conservation community recognizes the critical need to actively engage all citizens of Colorado and our visitors in supporting Colorado's Outdoor Principles to expand recreational access while ensuring conservation of our healthy ecosystems. As Colorado's population grows and changes, there are increasing challenges with providing sustainable recreational access and opportunity.

Colorado's public lands, parks and open spaces offer places for families to gather together, for youth to learn about conservation and the environment, and for everyone to find peace

and serenity in a natural environment. Outdoor recreation provides emotional and physical health benefits and all Coloradans should have access to places to recreate regardless of race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability or preferred activity. Different user groups have different recreational needs, and a challenge for land managers is to ensure that all of these needs are met.

Whether it is providing closer-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities for urban populations or helping families become more comfortable with camping, hiking, fishing or hunting, recreation managers must adapt to the needs of a changing and growing population.

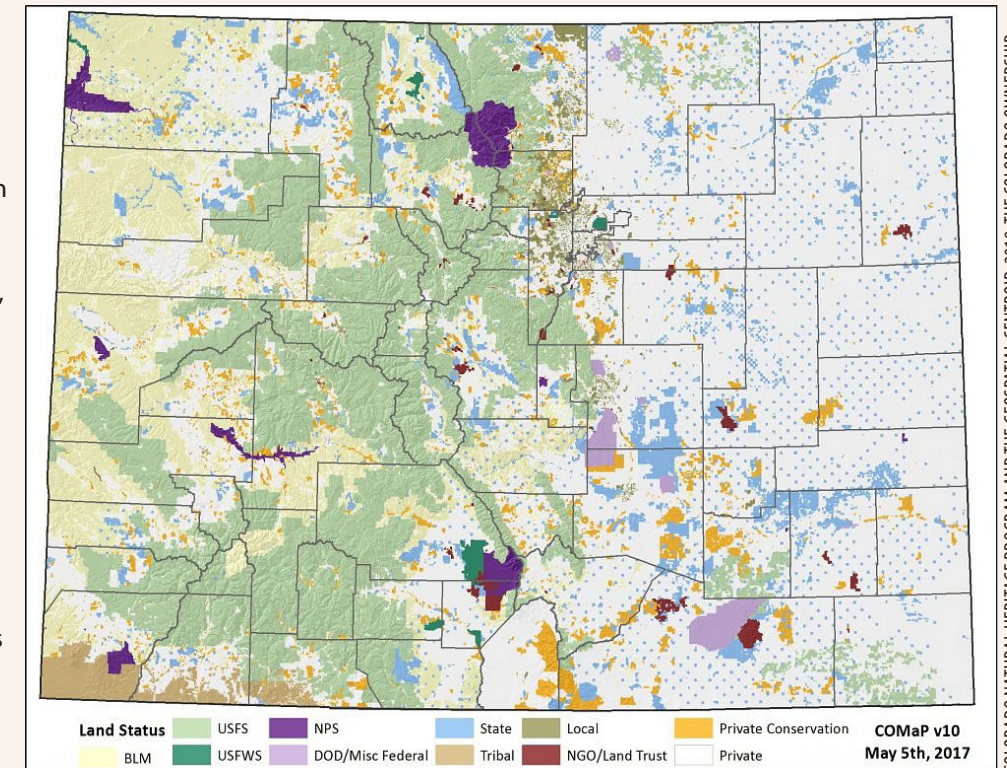
**ACCESS**

Nearly 45% of Colorado is public land,<sup>15</sup> offering a variety of opportunities for citizens across the state to get outdoors and recreate. State and federal agencies, local governments and partners have made significant effort to provide access to trails – the top priority expressed in recreation surveys in past SCORPs as well as in this year's research. Current estimates are that there are **over 33,000 miles of trails in Colorado**. Of that total, approximately **58% (19,168 miles) are on federal lands**, principally those managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. **Local and Regional governments provide about 18% of the total (6,200 miles)**, while the **remaining 24% (7,970 miles) are managed by CPW** in state parks or state wildlife areas or by CDOT in highway corridors.<sup>16</sup>

However, there are many different types of outdoor recreation and ensuring that all users have the opportunity to recreate – with minimal conflict – is essential. Formalized trails and trail systems are important, but dispersed backcountry recreational access is valuable too. All the while, land managers must ensure that wildlife habitat is not fragmented more and wildlife disturbance is limited during sensitive time periods. In addition, with a growing population comes more crowded trails, parks and recreational areas.

Increased development in metropolitan areas can also reduce the amount of natural areas available for recreation.

These are all challenges that Colorado's land managers will need to collaborate on in order to ensure adequate and equitable access for all.



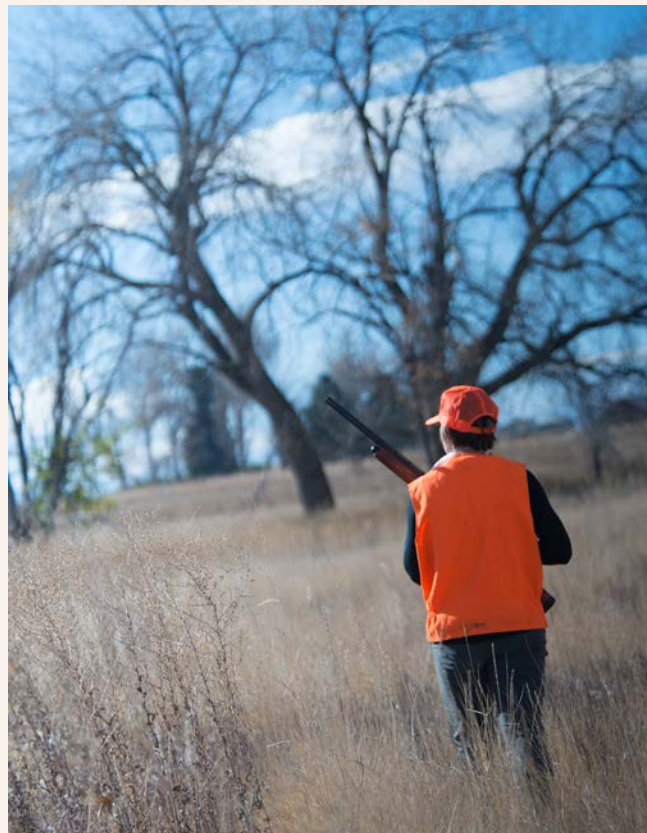
COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM AND THE GEOSPATIAL CENTROID. 2018. THE COLORADO OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION MAP (COMAP). V20180412. COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FT. COLLINS, CO.



ACCESS

Maintaining and Expanding Sportsmen's Access

Hunting and fishing have a long and valued legacy in Colorado thanks to our healthy wildlife populations and vast areas of public lands open to sportsmen and women. Access is threatened by development adjacent to public lands that blocks entry points and, increasingly, private ranchlands that used to be open to hunters and anglers are closed to public access. Colorado Parks and Wildlife and partners in non-profit sportsmen's organizations have worked together on a variety of opportunities to increase access to public and private lands. Programs like the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program through the Farm Bill, as well as targeted recreational access easements through the federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund are helping. Maintaining access is a critical challenge that needs to be addressed in order to support efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters and anglers in the state. Partners are also working to ensure recreational shooting opportunities are provided which foster hunting and contribute to wildlife conservation through the federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program.



CRYSTAL EGLI/CPW

Colorado the Beautiful

In 2016, Governor John Hickenlooper launched the Colorado the Beautiful Initiative through the Department of Natural Resources with a long-term goal of ensuring that **all Coloradans live within a 10-minute walk of a trail**, park or open space. One of the initial tasks was to map the existing trails in the state to find the current gaps. The resulting Colorado Trail Explorer online mapping system provides an interactive visual way to identify nearby access and trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreation. In addition, the state identified 16 priority trails, trail segments and trail gaps to prioritize for future funding.

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM 2014 SCORP

A 2015 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was used by Larimer County Natural Resources Department to build a 2.2-mile concrete trail that connects 49 miles of concrete trail in Fort Collins with 17 miles of concrete trail in Loveland. This project helped to unite over 65 paved trail miles of the Colorado Front Range Trail, one of the Colorado the Beautiful priority trails.

COURTESY CITY OF FORT COLLINS



HEALTH

Colorado's current levels of bicycling and walking help to **prevent 335 deaths per year** resulting in approximately **\$3.2 billion in annual health benefits** across the state. Increasing the number of Coloradans who walk or bike by **10 percent to 30 percent** could add **\$500 to \$968 million in health benefits**.<sup>22</sup>



CHRIS STARK/CPW

Colorado currently enjoys the number one spot as **"healthiest state"** with our **adult obesity rate of 22%**, the lowest in the nation.<sup>17</sup> However, Colorado's obesity rate has more than tripled since 1990. One in four Colorado children is now obese, representing one of the fastest growing rates of childhood obesity in the country.<sup>18</sup> In addition, Colorado struggles on other health indicators, including the **8th highest rate of suicide**<sup>19</sup>, the **7th highest non-medical use of prescription pain relievers**,<sup>20</sup> and **significant racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality and life expectancy**.<sup>21</sup>

Physical activity and outdoor recreation can play a key role in reducing obesity and other health conditions and improving emotional health. Colorado's recreation partners are positioned to increase access and opportunities for recreation to residents of all races, ages, abilities, and socioeconomic levels, helping meet the Center for Disease Control's recommendation of a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity a day. Interconnected networks of trails and neighborhood parks tie communities more closely together and make it easier for individuals to walk, bike, or jog on a regular basis.

Outdoor Rx

In the fall of 2017, Colorado's State Outdoor Recreation Industry Office convened Colorado's Outdoor, Nature and Health Collaborative (The OutdoorRx Collaborative) based on the belief that health is determined by multiple factors – social, economic, built environment, individual behavior and more. In order to achieve better health for Coloradans, a much bigger, system-level, cross-sectoral approach is needed.<sup>23</sup> Nature-based recreation can play a key role in improving the overall emotional and physical health of Coloradans. The outdoor business, conservation and health sector leaders engaged in the OutdoorRx Collaborative are identifying ways that outdoor recreation can help to address some of the many factors that impact the health of our residents.

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM 2014 SCORP





**EDUCATION**

Creating the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists requires actively reaching out to youth and families to get outdoors. It can be as simple as providing that first fishing opportunity, coordinating hiking or biking clubs, providing hands-on nature education experiences, mentoring a first hunt, and more. These activities can open the door to an active outdoor recreation lifestyle. Providing opportunities for Coloradans to participate in “gateway activities” in close-to-home parks, trails and open space areas is a way to get youth and families connected to the outdoors.

In addition, the tools and tactics that can be used to connect with younger audiences are rapidly changing with technology. Working to get kids to unplug from indoor technology in order to spend time outdoors can be a challenge, but there may be opportunities to use mobile technology to connect them to the natural world. As education and technology changes, outdoor recreation and conservation providers will also need to adapt.

Many Colorado land managers and outdoor recreation providers have strong education programs, providing training and resources for efforts to engage new recreation and conservation interests. Colorado developed an [Environmental Education Plan](#) in 2012 that provides a framework to improve environmental literacy and get more of Colorado’s youth outdoors. However, continued investment in education is essential to ensure that future generations of Coloradans are active in the outdoors and passionate about conserving our state’s natural and cultural legacy.



THOMAS KIMMEL/CPW



CPW

**GOCO Inspire Initiative**

As the cornerstone of the Great Outdoors Colorado [Strategic Plan](#), GOCO created the [Inspire Initiative](#) to encourage youth and their families to develop an appreciation for the great outdoors. The Inspire Initiative establishes places for kids and their families to play and connect with the outdoors, programs that activate those places, and pathways to outdoor stewardship and leadership roles. To amplify the Inspire Initiative’s message and help it achieve its goals, a social change movement called [Generation Wild](#) was launched in 2017.

Across the state in **Generation Wild** communities, hard-working local coalitions are bringing projects to life using a community-led, youth-driven, collaborative approach to creating equitable access to the outdoors. Through this initiative, **GOCO partners are impacting 85,000 kids around the state and creating more than 1,400 jobs.**<sup>24</sup> This innovative framework is being looked to as a national model, and each coalition’s approach will serve as examples to other rural, urban, suburban or mountain communities across the country.

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM  
**2014 SCORP**

**CULTURAL RELEVANCY**

According to national research on outdoor recreation participation conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association, **70% of people ages 6–24 who spend time in the outdoors are white**, followed by **Hispanics at 12%, African Americans at 9%** and **Asians at 7%**.<sup>25</sup> In addition, the 2017 North American Camping Report showed that **74% of campers are white**, but the fact that more than one-quarter of campers are non-white is a big improvement as the rate doubled since the first survey in 2012.<sup>26</sup> Nearly **40% of new campers in 2016 were non-white**.

Recognizing that current participation statistics are skewed, a **poll of voters of color** conducted by the Next 100 Coalition found that **70% of those polled participate in outdoor activities and 57% had visited public lands**.<sup>27</sup> The survey also found that an interest in the outdoors is strong, which challenges the stereotype that communities of color are uninterested in the outdoors. The Next 100 survey found that the biggest barrier is lack of knowledge about where to go and how to access public lands, and that there are different preferences for outdoor experiences. From the comment form, people of color tend to support more urban parks, more historical and cultural programming, enhanced recruitment and hiring diversity. They would also like to see more focus on contributions of communities of color to tell the story of protected sites.

Ensuring diversity in the outdoors requires managers to look beyond ethnicity and race to provide a welcoming experience for everyone. Considerations for people with disabilities, an aging population, sexual orientation and more must be implemented to ensure the demographics in the outdoors corresponds with the demographics of our state’s population. Continued work is needed to break down barriers and increase opportunity for all to participate in outdoor recreation. Community voices need to be included in determining what data to collect, how to interpret the data, and how to communicate findings so there is collaboration in solutions and action.



**Denver Parks and Recreation Department and Trust for Public Land used a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to restore 4.5 acres of the Montbello Open Space project to a prairie habitat area. Walking trails, nature play and exploration activities (led by Environmental Learning for Kids) acquaint urban youth and their families with their natural environment. Youth can engage in protecting local ecosystems, education programming and hands-on and experiential activities that emphasize STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education concepts, environmental health, academic excellence, conservation and stewardship.**



DUSTIN DOSKOICL/CPW



**PRIORITY I. Sustainable Access and Opportunity**

**Goal:** More Coloradans and visitors benefit from outdoor recreation and conservation.

**Objective I: Break Down Barriers** - Better understand and address barriers to engaging people in outdoor recreation. Enhance efforts to engage Coloradans who currently lack or have limited opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation.

- Strategy 1:** Compile research about the barriers Coloradans face and the motivations they have for participating in outdoor recreation. Better understand why people of all backgrounds engage in different types of outdoor recreation activities. Utilize information to better understand what drives Coloradans to recreate with the intent of minimizing barriers.
- Strategy 2:** Build trust, relationships and networks through enhanced public engagement, education and community outreach focused on breaking down identified barriers.
- Strategy 3:** Utilize and support existing programs (community, local, state, tribal, federal) that are effectively working to get underrepresented users outdoors.
- Strategy 4:** Advance collaborative efforts between community groups and health and recreation providers to increase prescriptions for nature-based recreation and other policies and practices that promote outdoor recreation for improving public health. Consider the potential barriers to certain populations for fulfilling outdoor recreation prescriptions (Strategy 1).
- Strategy 5:** Engage diverse types of users (demographic, geographic, cultural, socioeconomic, activity preference, etc.) in the management, planning and design of outdoor recreation spaces and access opportunities.
- Strategy 6:** Recruit and retain an outdoor recreation workforce that is diverse and representative of Colorado's demographics.

**Objective II: Technology Connects More People to the Outdoors** - Advance easily accessible information that enhances user experience and offers tools to outdoor recreation providers.

- Strategy 1:** Better understand and inventory technology and online resources (apps, websites, social media, etc.) that help promote and connect people to the outdoors. Compile data on how these tools are reaching underrepresented users.
- Strategy 2:** Inventory and utilize existing technologies that improve user experience by dispersing users to locations that can accommodate recreational activity. Compile data on how technologies are being effective. When possible utilize voluntary data sharing (i.e. GPS tracking, expanding trail/parking lot cameras, etc.).
- Strategy 3:** Find and leverage partners to support the development and maintenance of apps, websites, social media, and other tools that address gaps identified in Strategies 1 and 2.

**Objective III: Private and Public Lands Support Outdoor Recreation** – Develop strategies across Colorado to build support for sustainable outdoor recreation access. Advance Colorado the Beautiful vision that every Coloradan will live within 10 minutes of a park, trail or vibrant green space.

- Strategy 1:** Coordinate with local, regional, state, federal and tribal planning efforts currently underway to better understand and address needs to maintain and expand access for outdoor recreation. Consider needs and potential opportunities to work with private landowners.
- Strategy 2:** Incentivize willing private landowners to allow for public access. Maintain and enhance funding for access and conservation easements. Combine with education on the value of private land, recognizing how farms, ranches and other private lands play a critical role in providing habitat, viewsheds and other benefits to outdoor recreation and conservation.

**Stewardship**

Colorado's public lands are at a crossroads. With a rapidly growing population and increased demands on Colorado's open spaces and public lands, the need for responsible stewardship of our state's special places is urgent. This priority emphasizes the need to continue the 2014 SCORP efforts to build a stronger ethic among everyone who spends time in our public lands and open spaces, preventing degradation to landscapes and respecting enjoyable recreational experiences for all.

Outdoor volunteerism, conservation corps and other stewardship organizations provide an important source of support in maintaining recreational land use, rehabilitating areas damaged by floods and fire, educating the public about natural resources, and cultivating leaders who care for public and private lands. A 2015 report by the Colorado Outdoor Stewardship Coalition found

that in 2014 over 63,000 volunteers contributed 1.4 million hours of service to public lands in Colorado. The **total labor value rate of this volunteer work throughout all agencies equated to nearly \$35 million.**<sup>28</sup>

Recreationists need to be part of the solution for stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

However, the quality, scalability and impact of volunteers is hampered by lack of coordination, inconsistent work practices, and trust gaps between organizations and land managers. Recreationists need to be part of the solution for stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

**Colorado Tourism's Leave No Trace Initiative**

A first for any state, Colorado's Tourism Office entered into an agreement with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics in 2017 to encourage the more than 80 million visitors to the state to practice the seven Leave No Trace principles during their visit. The partners developed a brochure for tourists asking if they are "Colo-Ready." The brochure provides helpful tips on recreating in the outdoors, from appropriate apparel and gear to bring, to understanding the outdoors "lingo" that Coloradans toss around regularly, to understanding the challenges with altitude and spotty cell coverage. More importantly, the brochure offers visitors the seven Leave No Trace principles: Know Before You Go, Stick To Trails, Leave It As You Find It, Trash the Trash, Be Careful with Fire, Keep Wildlife Wild, and Share Our Trails & Parks.

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM 2014 SCORP

**"This new relationship, at its core, is a response to the heartfelt concerns many Coloradans express about the impacts of visitation on the places they love. By sharing the Leave No Trace Seven Principles in compelling ways, we can inspire and empower visitors and locals to leave our state better than they found it."**

—Colorado Tourism Office Director Cathy Ritter

**Stay the Trail**



Stay The Trail is a program of the Responsible Recreation Foundation ([www.staythetrail.org](http://www.staythetrail.org)). Their education program promotes a responsible recreation ethic as a means to maintaining motorized access on our public lands and protecting the natural resources that we are all out there to enjoy.



COLORADO OUTDOOR STEWARDSHIP COALITION

In 2017, the Colorado Outdoor Stewardship Coalition (which is administered by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado) along with Great Outdoors Colorado launched the **Statewide Stewardship Initiative** to increase public engagement in land stewardship. Together the partners developed common stewardship best practices and tools that foster strong and sustainable programs capable of responding to Colorado's growing stewardship needs.

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM 2014 SCORP



## Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM  
2014 SCORP

Colorado's 54 peaks above 14,000 feet are a defining visual feature – and a recreational destination for thousands of hikers. Every season, there are more than **334,000 trips up one or more of Colorado's iconic "Fourteeners."** But this growing interest in summiting Fourteeners is having an impact on the sensitive high elevation habitats, affecting fragile alpine systems, and potentially impacting water quality at the very source. In 2015, the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative issued a statewide report card that ranks the condition of 42 existing trails and found that it will cost at least \$24 million to bring these trails up to ideal, long-term sustainable conditions — \$6 million to improve 26 Forest Service-planned routes and \$18 million to build 16 new planned trails where only user-created routes exist. Sixteen additional routes need to be inventoried.<sup>29</sup>



DENVER POST FILE PHOTO

Since 48 of Colorado's Fourteeners are found on national forest land, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) launched the Find Your Fourteener campaign to help address these challenges. In the past year, NFF worked with partners to identify "pinch points" that are currently frustrating progress on Fourteeners by partner organizations and the U.S. Forest Service. In 2017, these partners began to implement solutions on three different peaks: Mount Elbert, Quandary Peak, and Pikes Peak.

### PRIORITY II. Stewardship

**Goal:** Coloradans and visitors enjoy and care for natural and cultural resources and commit to stewarding them for future generations.

**Objective I: Build an Outdoor Stewardship Ethic** - Foster awareness and experiences that build an ethic of stewardship and responsibility to care for natural and cultural resources and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Encourage organizations, and local, state and federal partners to adopt Colorado's Outdoor Principles (modeled after the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation) to endorse an outdoor ethic that promotes both recreational enjoyment and conservation.

**Strategy 2:** Work in partnerships to utilize and bolster marketing/media and education efforts to promote stewardship, conservation, and respect for other users and infrastructure. Coordinate with and complement existing efforts (See the Colorado Outdoor Partnership website for list).

**Objective II: Enhance Stewardship Capacity** - Increase capacity of outdoor recreation providers, stewardship organizations and agencies to engage volunteers, employ youth and young adults, and enhance other types of support for on-the-ground, action-oriented stewardship activities.

**Strategy 1:** Promote and implement the Colorado Outdoor Stewardship Coalition best practices, tools, trainings and resources to advance on-the-ground stewardship.

**Strategy 2:** Strengthen public-private relationships and collaboration efforts to connect more people to on-the-ground activities, enhance habitat restoration and conservation, and build capacity for organizations engaged in this work.

## Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation

Conservation is intrinsically linked with recreation – our land, water and wildlife provide the natural beauty on which our entire recreation economy is built. Conservation of these resources is essential to ensure the quality of our outdoor recreational experiences, and the sustainability of the land, water and wildlife themselves. However, all recreation has an impact on these natural resources.

Protecting open space for recreation also conserves important habitat for fish and wildlife (see Appendix G for more on wetland conservation in Colorado), but increased human presence in natural areas can have far reaching impacts on those populations. In addition, there is now more year-round recreational use and potential for higher levels of recreation in even the most remote places. As a result, wildlife is forced to adapt to higher levels of disturbance for longer periods of time, which can impact their survival. Even seemingly low-impact recreation can create disturbance and fragmentation of habitat. Users of recreational trails can cause erosion of soils, impact water quality and carry invasive weeds into areas where they never before had a presence.

Interestingly, when recreational users are asked who is having the greatest impact on natural systems, they often believe it is a different user group; in reality, all users have impacts. Everyone who spends time in Colorado's outdoors needs to understand and minimize their own impacts. Users should also recognize that management decisions may need to happen that will restrict or change recreational access in critical habitats or at sensitive times of the year.

So how can we ensure continued recreational access while maintaining air and water quality, conserving fish and wildlife, and minimizing impacts to soil and vegetation? Outdoor recreationists should be key supporters of land, water and wildlife conservation efforts. Their experience in nature should spawn their active engagement to ensure that the land, water and wildlife that defines Colorado is conserved for future generations.



416 OFFICIAL FIRE FACEBOOK

**In addition to population growth, Colorado is facing increasing environmental stressors such as fire and drought. These events impact our natural resources and recreation activities as well as the outdoor and travel industries. For example, in the summer of 2018 the 416 Fire closed the San Juan National Forest for three weeks, cancelled reservations for the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and reduced visitation to the communities nearby. In addition, after already experiencing abnormally low flows, dirt and ash run-off into the Animas River caused fish die-offs and temporary closures for fishing. Poor air quality also impacted local residents and further compromised recreation.**

## Ranchers Host Birders at Mountain Plover Festival

Mountain plovers are known as the Ghost of the Prairies for a good reason – they're really hard to see! The little birds nest on the shortgrass prairie in the eastern part of Colorado, but in the early 2000's, concerns about declining populations led to a petition to list the birds as an endangered species. While doing population surveys, a biologist with CPW spotted Mountain Plovers nesting on a ranch near the town of Karval and recognized an opportunity. CPW, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and their partners started working with private landowners to implement conservation measures that benefited the birds – and the ranches. Locals became enamored with mountain plovers and recognized that birdwatchers across the country wanted to see the "ghosts." Seeing the opportunity to bring people into their community, Karval started the annual Mountain Plover Festival. Hotels are limited in the area so ranchers literally welcome birdwatchers into their homes and host evening barbecues, while biologists lead birdwatching trips to show off the rare birds. The result has been a conservation collaboration that has helped to keep mountain plovers off the endangered species list and provided the local community with the opportunity to bring passionate birders to their town.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



### Need for Research on the Impacts of Recreation on Wildlife

A key strategy identified by partners is improving knowledge about the ways recreation impacts wildlife and how to reduce negative impacts. One research priority for Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Mammals Research Section is to determine how ungulates respond to recreational development and activity. This information will be useful in future planning for trails and protecting wildlife habitat and migration corridors. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service has committed to developing a research plan for needs related to sustainable tourism. Their proposed research focuses on identifying what information is needed for public land managers to maintain and enhance community well-being while protecting the natural and cultural heritage on our public lands.



ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM  
2014 SCORP

### Planning for Conservation and Recreation

Colorado Parks and Wildlife completed a [Strategic Plan](#) and its [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) in 2015 providing guidance on stewardship of the state's fish and wildlife species, as well as CPW's role in supporting outdoor recreation. Many of the priorities closely match with the priorities of the conservation and recreation community identified in the 2019 SCORP planning process. In addition, GOCO uses the strategies identified within the SCORP for their own strategic planning. With the strategies so closely aligned, CPW and its partners will continue to work together to ensure the conservation of the land, water, and wildlife in Colorado.



CPW Strategic Plan Goals:

1. Conserve wildlife and habitat to ensure healthy sustainable populations and ecosystems
2. Manage state parks for world class outdoor recreation
3. Achieve and maintain financial sustainability
4. Maintain dedicated personnel and volunteers
5. Increase awareness and trust for CPW
6. Connect people to Colorado's outdoors

### PRIORITY III. Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation

**Goal:** Private and public lands and waters are conserved to support sustainable outdoor recreation, the environment and wildlife habitat.

**Objective I: Advance Landscape-scale Conservation** - Work across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries to plan for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with the growing demand for recreation access. Collaborate to tackle pressing and emerging issues and to identify and safeguard important areas for conservation, working lands and recreation access across the state.

**Strategy 1:** Initiate and support planning efforts to gather and aggregate data and produce maps that factor in landscape-scale considerations (including migration corridors and unfragmented habitat) and inform land use decisions (private, local, state, federal and tribal). Convene diverse outdoor interests with land managers to compile and interpret data and to develop effective collaborations throughout the planning process.

**Strategy 2:** Incorporate outcomes of Strategy 1 into land use decisions by promoting and utilizing consistent maps and datasets to illustrate the overlap of recreation and conservation interests. Collaborate with private, local, state, federal and tribal land managers/property owners to inform decisions in support of conservation and recreation objectives.

**Objective II: Address Recreation Impacts** - Proactively manage visitors and maintain infrastructure to provide positive outdoor recreation experiences while limiting resource impacts. Utilize best practices when developing new trails or other outdoor infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Compile existing research and conduct new research to better understand the impacts of recreation on land, water, wildlife and cultural resources. Incorporate findings into the development of management guidelines that optimize conservation while maintaining infrastructure and recreation experience.

**Strategy 2:** Share outcomes from Strategy 1 with outdoor recreation partners (private, local, state, federal, tribal and NGOs). Convene partners to build broad support and commitment to address findings and mitigate impacts of recreation on natural resources.

Federally threatened  
Greenback Cutthroat trout



### Collaboration for Greenback Cutthroat Trout Wins Forest Service Award

A variety of recreation and conservation partners outside of Colorado Springs formed the Bear Creek Roundtable to conserve the federally threatened greenback cutthroat trout in Bear Creek. To date, the Bear Creek Roundtable and Forest Service collaboration has resulted in a watershed assessment, removal of 20 tons of sediment, fish population monitoring, decommissioning and rerouting of 4.5 miles of trail outside of riparian areas, and storm-proofing of trails and roads. The collaboration was so successful that the Pikes Peak Ranger District on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region and the Bear Creek Roundtable were recognized as **co-winners of the U.S. Forest Service's 2016 Rise to the Future Award in the Collaborative/Integrated Aquatic Stewardship category.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM  
2014 SCORP



### Funding the Future

All strategies to implement the conservation and outdoor recreation priorities require one primary element – funding. Colorado's parks, recreation areas and open spaces are a key part of public infrastructure that help improve economic development, property values and public health. They also support environmental health, because healthy ecosystems provide clean air and water, stormwater management, and much more. Land conservation, wildlife management, trail and park development, maintenance of facilities and related recreation, and conservation programs require stable funding in order to be implemented.

Current funding for these efforts in Colorado comes from a variety of sources, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Colorado Lottery and Great Outdoors Colorado, Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Funds (federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment), hunting and fishing license fees, habitat stamps, user fees, state severance tax appropriations, local bond or sales tax spending directed to conservation, and, of course, through investments by private entities such as land trusts and recreation organizations.

While Colorado has many conservation and recreation funding programs, financial challenges within the state grow as our population increases. The cost of land leases or acquisitions increases as land values go up. The need for additional facilities and maintenance of existing facilities rise along with increased recreational participation. Finding new and creative ways to encourage outdoor stewardship and foster conservation ethics in future generations is essential, but costly.

In addition, funding for wildlife conservation is largely based on licenses and equipment purchased by hunters and anglers, but there are growing conservation challenges for game and non-game species. All recreational users have impacts on the state's land, water and wildlife, but not all recreational users pay into the "user-pay" system that has been successful for fish and wildlife conservation.

With increasing costs for all levels of conservation and recreation programs, there is a growing need for more stable funding sources – a challenge being faced by many states across the country. The Colorado Outdoor Partnership is committed to addressing this challenge, and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources initiated an alternative funding study to identify potential new streams of revenue that can be targeted toward anticipated needs.

### Future Generations Act

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is [funded primarily through user fees](#), not general tax dollars. However, those fees have not kept pace with rising operational costs. Without additional funding, **CPW was forecasting budget shortfalls of \$30 million annually for wildlife and \$11 million annually for parks.** CPW and partners statewide worked together to raise awareness of the challenges the agency faces in providing conservation and recreation services for the benefit of future generations. Due to broad support, the Colorado State Legislature passed the Hunting, Fishing and Parks for Future Generations Act, signed into law by Governor John Hickenlooper on May 4, 2018.



The additional funding will help CPW fulfill its top ten goals by 2025:

1. Grow the number of hunters and anglers in Colorado.
2. Expand access for hunters, anglers and outdoor recreationists.
3. Identify and begin planning Colorado's next state park.
4. Reduce CPW's dam maintenance and repair backlog.
5. Increase the number of fish stocked in Colorado waters through hatchery modification and renovations.
6. Attract and retain high-caliber employees.
7. Improve species distribution and abundance monitoring through partnerships with private landowners.
8. Increase and improve big game populations through investments in habitat and conservation.
9. Engage all outdoor recreationists in the maintenance of state lands and facilities and the management of wildlife.
10. Provide quality infrastructure at CPW properties by completing much needed construction and maintenance.



### Colorado Lottery



The Colorado General Assembly approved the Colorado Lottery as an enterprise fund in 1982 under the Colorado Department of Revenue. By statute, Lottery proceeds are distributed "according to the will of the voters through a 1992 amendment to the state constitution." This amendment directed Lottery proceeds to the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO). Since its inception, the Colorado Lottery has returned more than \$3.2 billion to Colorado's parks, recreation, trails, pools, wilderness, open space, wildlife projects and public school construction. In 2018, The Lottery was reauthorized by the General Assembly and will continue to operate to 2049. Overall, lottery proceed distributions are as follows:<sup>30</sup>

- 50% to the GOCO Trust Fund (based on an inflation-indexed formula established in 1992).
- 40% to the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) under the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. These proceeds are provided to counties, cities, towns and special districts that provide park and recreation services and support projects such as the creation of parks and facility maintenance.
- 10% to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to support projects such as wildlife habitat protection, maintenance of facilities, trail construction and visitor education.
- Spillover funds support the Colorado Department of Education/Capital Construction Fund's Building Excellent Schools Today Program (BEST).

### Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)



Since 1992, GOCO has invested its funding from Colorado Lottery proceeds in "improving Colorado's trails, parks, wildlife, open spaces and rivers."<sup>31</sup> A 17-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and approves investments in CPW. GOCO, which uses no tax dollars, operates under a constitutionally mandated annual funding cap, which when adjusted for inflation was **\$66.2 million in FY 2018**. The Colorado Constitution requires GOCO to allocate funds equally over time to achieve outcomes in four areas: outdoor recreation, local governments, wildlife, and open space. GOCO has committed more than **\$1.1 billion in Lottery proceeds to more than 5,000 projects in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support**. This translates to more than 1 million acres of land conserved; 1,000 miles of river protected; 900 miles of trails built or restored; 1,600 community parks and outdoor recreation areas created and improved; 43 endangered or threatened wildlife species supported; and dozens of school playgrounds transformed.<sup>32</sup>

#### PRIORITY IV. Funding the Future

**Goal:** Coloradans and visitors contribute to diverse funding sources that are dedicated to support outdoor recreation and conservation. Existing sources of funds are preserved.

**Objective I: Build Support for Conservation Funding** - Raise political and public awareness for the value of Colorado's outdoors to Coloradans' quality of life, economic prosperity, heritage and public and environmental health so that more people contribute funds to support outdoor recreation and conservation.

**Strategy 1:** Develop and implement a public awareness/education initiative and share coordinated messages to help build support for statewide funding.

**Strategy 2:** Continue to urge and advocate for Congress and the Colorado General Assembly to fully fund outdoor recreation and conservation programs.

**Objective II: Diversify and Expand Funding Source(s)** - Identify and pursue new funds available to organizations and management agencies that directly benefits outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources.

**Strategy 1:** Engage and collaborate with a wider community of user groups, businesses and constituents on innovative funding strategies. Identify paths to make it easier for users, businesses and others to contribute.

**Strategy 2:** Connect grant funding to outdoor recreation and conservation priorities and encourage other funders to do the same.

**Strategy 3:** Identify and establish new funding mechanisms utilizing findings from the CPW Funding Study, recommendations from the Colorado Outdoor Partnership and other sources to support the shared strategy presented in this plan.





KEN PAPALEO/CPW

There is no doubt that Colorado is unique – our state’s beauty and vast recreational opportunities entice Coloradans and visitors to get outside and enjoy nature, no matter their preferred recreational activity. However, there are many challenges ahead to maintain a healthy environment and outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities. It is an obligation for everyone who is engaged in recreation and the conservation of our natural landscapes to ensure Colorado’s beauty and recreational opportunities are available for current and future generations.

The 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides a road map for all Coloradans to actively engage in the future of conservation and recreation. No one entity can tackle these challenges alone—successfully implementing SCORP will require the continued active involvement of many individuals and organizations.

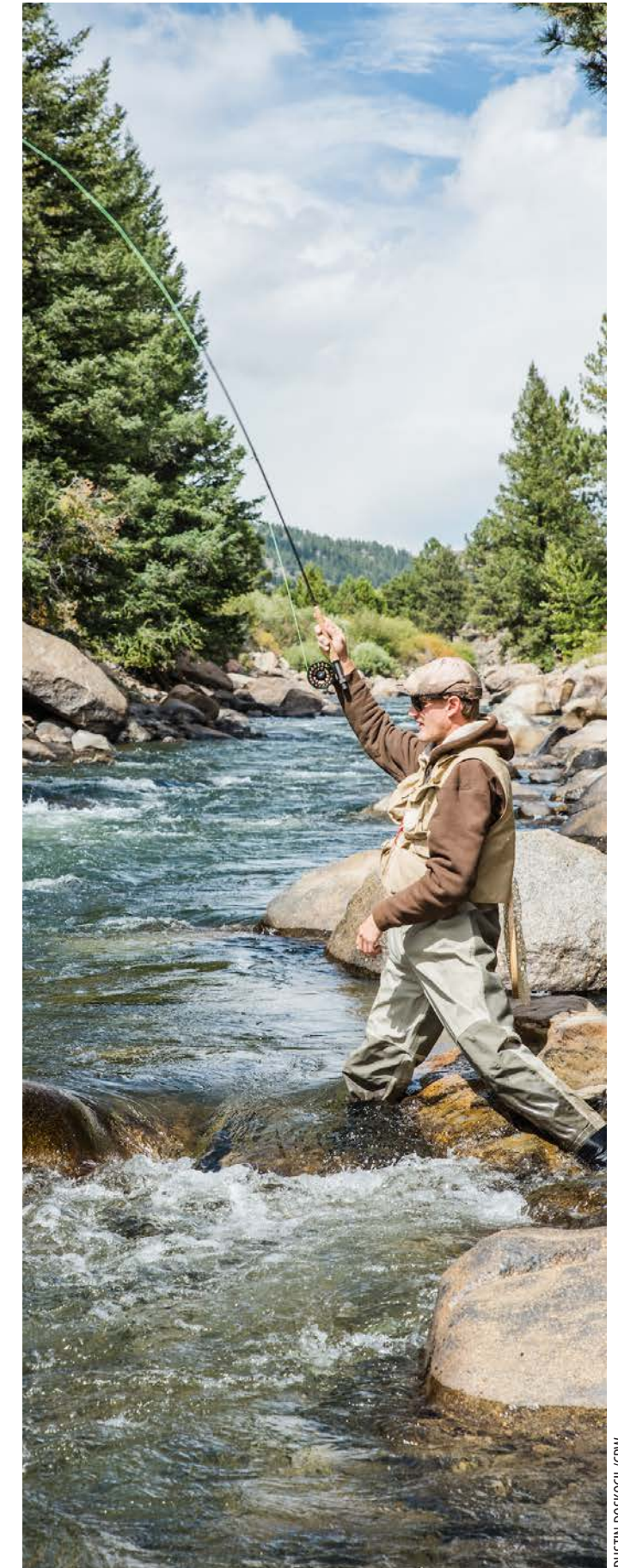
**Call to Action!**

The four Priority Areas and Shared Strategies presented in this plan offer a direction for collective action over the next five years and are the sideboards to developing the full SCORP Implementation Plan. Through implementation, these Strategies support lasting opportunities for meaningful outdoor experiences while taking care of our natural and cultural resources. SCORP connects to and builds on the synergy of existing initiatives occurring across the state. Success will come from working across sectors and interests to enact statewide and local solutions.

During the annual [Partners in the Outdoors Conference](#), where many of Colorado’s leaders in outdoor recreation and conservation gather together, there will be opportunities to highlight progress made toward SCORP’s Priority Areas. At this event, partners will share updates on the status of implementation planning and progress in achieving success. In 2019, the conference theme will be “SHIFT from Planning to Action” and pose the question “How can we work together to implement the SCORP?” Conference presentations will fall under tracks based on the SCORP Priority Areas and there will be opportunities for participants to collaborate on shifting from the planning process to on-the-ground implementation.

**GET INVOLVED!**

- Adopt [Colorado’s Outdoor Principles](#)
- Join [CPW’s Partner Network](#) and receive its newsletter
- Attend the [Partners in the Outdoors Conference](#)
- Visit <http://cpw.state.co.us/partners> for more!



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW



<sup>1</sup> “Colorado Tourism Sets All-Time Records for Sixth Consecutive Year.” Come to Life Colorado | Colorado.com. June 28, 2017. <https://www.colorado.com/news/colorado-tourism-sets-all-time-records-eighth-consecutive-year>

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<sup>7</sup> “Colorado Population Change 1970-2014.” Chart. Colorado State Demography Office. 2014. <https://demography.dola.colorado.gov/demography/infographics/#infographics>

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<sup>15</sup> “2014 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: Executive Summary.” Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. 2014. <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Trails/SCORP/2014/StandAloneExecutiveSummary.pdf>

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<sup>18</sup> “Childhood Overweight and Obesity in Colorado.” Department of Public Health and Environment. 2017. [www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DC\\_CD\\_fact-sheet\\_Childhood-Obesity.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DC_CD_fact-sheet_Childhood-Obesity.pdf)

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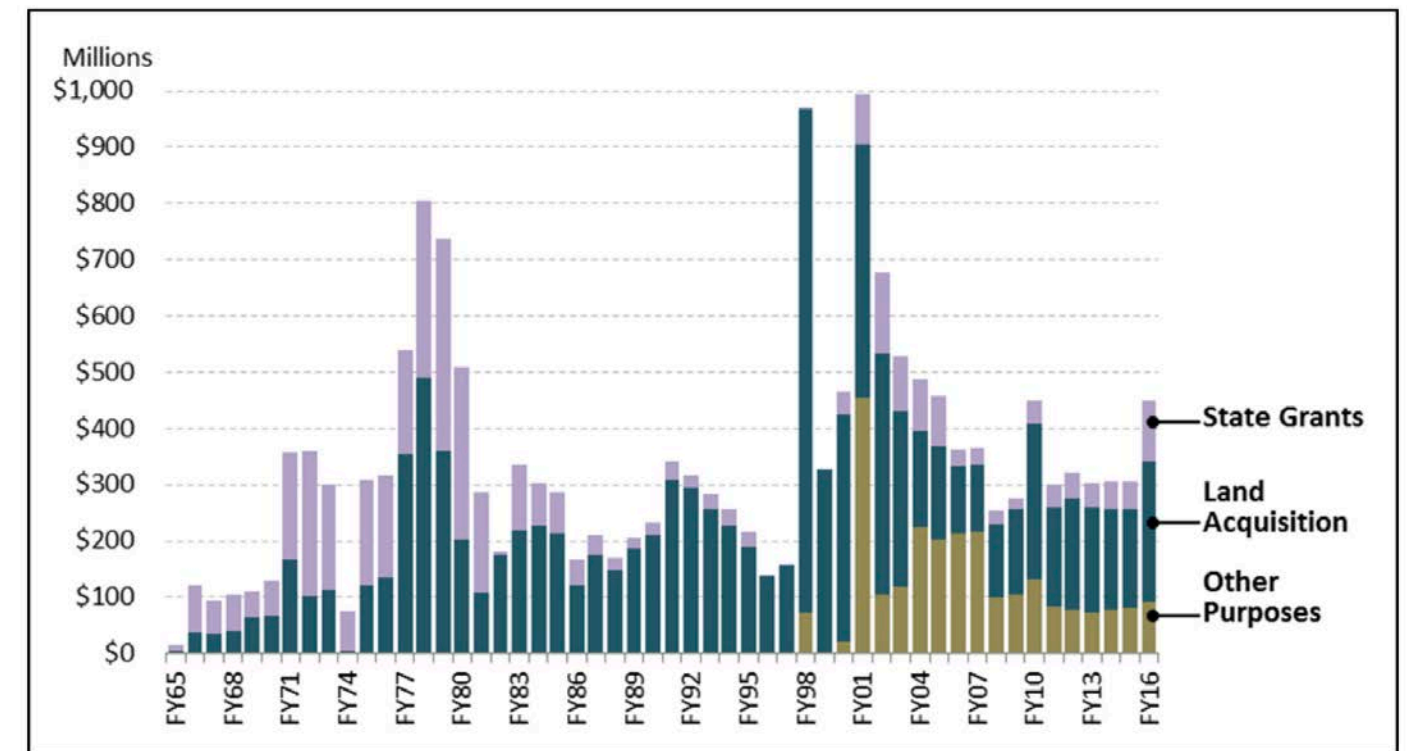
**History of the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

In the early 1960’s, faced with growing concerns about the nation’s environment and public health, an Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) recommended the development of a national recreation policy. The goal was to “preserve, develop and make accessible to all Americans the resources needed for individual enjoyment and to assure the physical, cultural, and spiritual benefits of outdoor recreation.” The Commission also recommended a federal funding program to support state and local recreation programs as well as federal funds to acquire lands for conservation and recreation.

Signed into law in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) implemented the recommendations made by the Commission. LWCF funding is focused on two areas: funding for acquisition of federal agency land and water for recreational purposes, and a state matching grant program to states and local governments for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas, natural resource protection, and recreation enhancement.

Later updates to the law designated offshore oil and gas receipts as the revenue stream and ultimately authorized the program to receive up to \$900 million per year. However, Congress must appropriate LWCF funds annually and typically funding falls well short of the authorized level, limiting funding for states.

**Annual LWCF Appropriations, FY 1965-FY2016 (in millions of dollars, not adjusted for inflation) – Source Congressional Resource Service<sup>2</sup>**



In 2006, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) was signed into law designating a portion of new offshore oil and gas leasing revenues in the Gulf of Mexico to coastal conservation and restoration as well as state LWCF programs. As a result, there have been additional apportionments to states and with Phase II of GOMESA going into effect in 2017, the allocations have increased substantially.

- Increase protected state and local outdoor recreation resources and ensure they are available for public use in perpetuity.
- Encourage sound planning and long-term partnerships to expand the quantity and ensure the quality of state and local outdoor recreation resources.

Since the inception of the LWCF, over \$4.2 billion has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 42,000 projects throughout the nation. The overall goals of LWCF state and local grant funds, including funds allocated through GOMESA, are to:

- Meet state and public outdoor recreation resources needs to strengthen the health and vitality of Americans.

Also, as envisioned by the original ORRRC, planning of conservation and recreation activities is a key component of LWCF. Since the original LWCF Act was signed into law, states have been required to develop Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) that are updated every five years in order to receive their share of funding.

Sources:  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/lwcfhistory.htm>  
[https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20160906\\_RL33531\\_ac1555f37bb1a30bee404e6a00ad1b22af2e9f8e.pdf](https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20160906_RL33531_ac1555f37bb1a30bee404e6a00ad1b22af2e9f8e.pdf)



Colorado LWCF Apportionments – 2014 to 2018

Year	Regular Apportionment	GOMESA Apportionment	Total
2014	\$745,258	\$24,748	\$770,006
2015	\$745,258	\$14,149	\$759,407
2016	\$1,685,444	\$1,531	\$1,686,975
2017	\$1,670,488	\$5,511	\$1,675,999
2018	\$1,777,444	\$1,095,669	\$1,095,669

Note: GOMESA stands for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, federal law that allocates funding from new offshore oil and gas leasing revenues in the Gulf of Mexico to coastal conservation and restoration as well as state LWCF programs.



VERDON TOMAJKO/CPW

Colorado LWCF Projects 2014-2017

Award Year	Project Name	Recipient/Location	Award Amount	Work Summary
2014	Lyons St. Vrain Corridor Trail Recovery Project	Town of Lyons	\$350,000	0.7 miles of concrete path and 3 pedestrian bridges to support regional trail system
2015	CFRT - Loveland to Fort Collins Connection	Larimer County Natural Resources Department - Loveland, CO	\$221,700	2.2 miles of 10-foot trail connecting over 65 nearby paved trails
	CFRT - Erger's Pond Open Space Section	City of Brighton	\$55,000 (LWCF) + \$128,300 (RTP)=\$350,000 Total	23,000-foot concrete trail and supporting infrastructure to increase user access
	Pagosa Regional Trail Project	Archuleta County - Pagosa Springs, CO	\$199,645	10,730 lineal feet of trail to safely connect recreational trails/areas
	West Tollgate Creek Replacement - E. Iliff Ave. to E. Hampden Ave.	City of Aurora	\$308,629	1.6 miles of trail replacement with 10-foot wide concrete path
	Montbello Open Space	Denver Parks and Recreation	\$250,000	Restoration of 4.5 acres of open space to a prairie habitat to support urban environmental education programs
2016	HLC Trail Connection	City of Cherry Hills Village	\$130,000	665'x10' path to connect two underpasses and ensure safety for pedestrians and cyclists
	Ute Pass Regional Trail 1	El Paso County Community Services Department	\$150,000	0.66-mile trail and implementation of first phase of regional trail master plan, providing the only non-motorized connection in the area
	Bennett Open Space Trail	Town of Bennett	\$128,000	2 miles of 8-foot wide soft-surface trail and supporting structures to provide safe recreation
2017	Cuerno Verde Trail	State of Colorado - Walensburg, CO	\$525,000	Resurfacing 3 miles of high use trail into a 6-foot wide concrete path
	Idaho Springs Greenway	City of Idaho Springs	\$400,000	2,900 lineal feet of concrete path connecting surrounding trails
	Legacy Loop	City of Colorado Springs	\$400,000	0.25 miles of concrete trail and underpass to improve multi-functionality of trails
	Clear Creek Trail	City of Wheat Ridge	\$124,793	Reconstruction of 0.2 miles of trail to meet ADA standards and improve overall access
	2019-2023 SCORP	State of Colorado	\$114,000	Development of SCORP to guide recreational efforts statewide
	Sylvan Lake Spillway Replacement	State of Colorado - Eagle, CO	\$1,039,275	Improvements to high hazard spillway to continue providing recreation and water storage area



### Colorado's LWCF Grants Program

In Colorado, LWCF state matching grants are administered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Since 1965, over 1,025 grants totaling more than \$61 million have funded local government and state park outdoors investments statewide.

Currently the congressionally appropriated annual Colorado LWCF state matching grants are apportioned to trail-related projects sponsored by eligible local governments and programs administered by CPW. CPW initially works with local government parks and recreation leaders to utilize the state Trails Program grants process to allocate LWCF funds and then works with the CPW Trails in State Parks and Capital Program to allocate the remaining LWCF funds. This process is consistent with statewide surveys that continue to rank community and regional trail systems among Colorado's highest priority outdoor needs.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

To review information of all local government and state park grants since the 1965 LWCF Program's inception, please contact CPW's trails program staff at [trails@state.co.us](mailto:trails@state.co.us) for LWCF program information.

*A special set of guidelines for LWCF-funded projects stems from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578). The federal requirements involve additional processing of project information and project approvals through the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service. If a grant is funded by LWCF, the applicant should be prepared to complete the additional paperwork needed for NPS approval. State Parks cannot complete the Project Agreement until the NPS approval process is completed. Because of this additional step, grant applicants should plan on commencing project work up to a year AFTER the State Parks grant award. The guidelines for LWCF grants are outlined below:*

### Eligible Applicants for CPW's LWCF Trails Grants

While municipalities, counties, special districts and agencies recognized as political subdivisions of the State of Colorado are eligible for competitive grants offered through the Colorado State Parks Trails Program, only state and local governmental agencies are eligible to receive LWCF grant awards. All LWCF grants must be consistent with priorities identified in the 2019 SCORP in accordance with LWCF program regulations. Colorado's 2019 SCORP can be viewed on CPW's website, [coloradoscorp.org](http://coloradoscorp.org). LWCF grants must be used either for acquisitions of land or water to be used for public recreational purposes or for construction or redevelopment of publicly accessible, outdoor recreational facilities including trails.

<sup>1</sup> 2003 SCORP, Chapters 2 and 3

<sup>2</sup> 2008 SCORP, Chapters 3 and 5

<sup>3</sup> 2014 SCORP, 2013 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey and the 2013 Local Government Survey

### Colorado State Parks LWCF Projects

Parks and programs administered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division are also eligible for LWCF funding. Awards to the Parks and Wildlife Division are determined by Colorado Parks and Wildlife Leadership Team. Project selection is independent of the State Trails Program grant process that grants LWCF funds to local governments for trails projects. Parks and Wildlife Division grants must also be consistent with priorities identified in the SCORP. As with local governments, LWCF funding to CPW must be used for acquisitions of land or water property interests to be used for public recreational purposes; for construction or redevelopment of outdoor recreational facilities; or for planning that addresses needs, problems or issues identified in the Colorado's SCORP or that fund production of an upcoming SCORP.

### Local Government LWCF Trail Projects

Local government LWCF grant funds are distributed as part of CPW's annual trail grant review and award process. Only local and state government grant applicants are eligible for LWCF grant awards. The maximum LWCF grant award through the annual trails grant application process is \$750,000. The trail grant application process falls under the purview of Colorado's State Recreational Trails Committee and the Parks and Wildlife Commission. For additional information on Colorado's Trails Program grants process, please refer to CPW's website at [cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/trails.aspx](http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/trails.aspx).

### The Colorado Recreational Trails Committee

The authorities and the roles of the Recreational Trails Committee (the Committee) are set forth in sections 33-11-105 through 33-11-107, Colorado Revised Statutes. The Committee consists of nine members appointed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission representing each of Colorado's seven congressional districts, with one additional member appointed from the state at large and one member that represents the Colorado's Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board. The Committee oversees the annual trail grant application reviews, scoring and ranking processes and formulates recommendations for grant funding strategies to the Parks and Wildlife Commission for their review, consideration and final approval.

### Colorado's Recreational Trails Program

CPW's Trails Program was created with the adoption of Colorado's "Recreational Trails Act of 1971" codified in sections 33-11-101 through 33-11-112, Colorado Revised Statutes. CPW's Trail Grant Program provides funding for trail planning projects as well as small and large trail construction and maintenance projects. The Grant Program is a multi-agency partnership that includes CPW, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Colorado Lottery, Federal Highway's Recreation Trails Funds (RTP) and federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF).

*(note: This program also has OHV and Snowmobile grants that are funded by registration dollars and RTP)*

### Colorado's Recreation Trails Grant Application and Review Process

All trail grant applications are sent out by e-mail, ground mail and are posted on CPW's Trails Program website each year. Trail grant opportunities are publicized annually through press releases, newsletters, the state website and e-mail information networks. Technical assistance for grant preparation is provided by CPW Trails Program staff to potential applicants upon request. The submission deadline for CPW's Recreational Trail Grant Applications is always the first business day in November of each year.

The Recreational Trail Grant Applications review and ranking processes follow a four-tiered recommendation and approval protocol. Prior to public distribution, all grant applications are reviewed by CPW regional field staff. At this stage local concerns with the application are addressed between the field staff and the applicant. Applications are then scored and evaluated by the three Grant Review and Ranking Subcommittees (i.e., Large Trail Maintenance or Construction, Small Trail Maintenance or Construction, and Trail Planning or Support grant application categories) which score and rank grant applications in order of their recommended funding priority. Subcommittee members include Recreational Trail Committee members, representatives from GOCO, CPW Trails Program staff, Colorado's State LWCF Liaison Officer, and outside peer reviewers.

Grant scoring criteria are developed by CPW's trails program staff and approved by the Recreational Trails Committee. The criteria are included with each grant application distributed. The criteria serve as Colorado's Open Selection Process for the distribution of LWCF grant funds.

The ranked applications are then passed from the subcommittees to the Recreational Trails Committee which evaluates the applications in ranked order and recommends funding strategies to the Commission. The Commission provides the final funding approval to the projects receiving grant allocations.

This three-tier process invites public review and comment at four separate stages; upon submission and posting of the application by CPW, before the subcommittees, before the Recreational Trails Committee and before the Commission.

Local government applicants that are awarded LWCF grant funds must have adequate control and tenure for the property to be improved with grant funds in order to provide reasonable assurances that a conversion under 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act will not occur without NPS approval. In most cases, such control and tenure involve either fee title ownership or easements that provide for permanent recreation use. In some cases, long term leases or Rights of Way agreements may be deemed adequate by the NPS. See Part C in this document, Additional LWCF Grant Requirements, for additional information on Control and Tenure guidelines.

### LWCF Grant Requirements

#### A. General Requirements

- All LWCF grants must be matched on a 1-to-1 basis by the grant applicant. Generally, other federal funds may not be used to meet the match requirements.
- An awarded grant must be completed within three (3) years after the State of Colorado approves the Grant Agreement.
- Any environmental analysis must be complete within 90 days after receipt of the grant award letter. Otherwise, the award may be forfeited.
- Property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance must be retained and used for outdoor recreation providing public access to the greatest extent feasible. Changes of use require approval by Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division and/or the National Park Service (Please see the LWCF Change of Use Process web pages on this website at <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/SCORP.aspx>).
- The grantee is responsible for continued operation and maintenance of funded facilities to ensure continuing public use in a safe and sanitary manner.

#### B. General Compliance/NEPA Requirements

All projects must comply with applicable Colorado State statutes, regulatory requirements and policies. Projects being completed on federal land, and/or by a federal agency, and/or utilizing federal funds must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Because it is often difficult to provide documents supporting NEPA compliance by the application deadline, the documents may be submitted to CPW's Trails Program within 90 days following the grant award. If the NEPA documents are not submitted with the original application or are not received by the 90-day deadline, the project may be removed from funding consideration. These requirements are identical to those that apply to all CPW State Trails Program grants.

#### Permitting Requirements

LWCF local government grant projects may involve work that requires permits and clearances from various local, state and federal agencies.

- Applicants are encouraged to arrange pre-application meetings with appropriate federal, state, CPW field staff and local government agencies to determine requirements, processes, time schedules and documentation required for proposed permit applications.
- If awarded a grant, the applicant is responsible for conducting environmental assessments and obtaining all applicable permits and clearances. Construction funds will not be released until all applicable permits and clearances are in place. This is the responsibility of the applicant.



Project applicants should review the items listed below to assist in determining if the project may require permits and/or clearances. Will the project:

- Affect any (a) federally listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat or (b) species listed as wildlife of special concern in Colorado?
- Include introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the project location?
- Affect any recognized state natural area, prime or unique ecosystem, geologic feature or other ecologically critical area?
- Involve habitat alteration or land use changes such as planting, burning, removal of native vegetation, clearing, grazing, water manipulation or modification of public use?
- Involve any new or modified construction or development in floodplains or wetlands?
- Require ground or surface water through contract of acquisition for long-term project viability?
- Include use of any chemical toxicants?
- Result in any discharge which will conflict with Federal or State air or water quality regulations?
- Affect any archaeological, historical or cultural site that will alter the aesthetics of the subject area?
- Impact on designated wild or scenic river, wilderness area, national trail or other protective national or state designation (i.e., Unique Waters, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, National Conservation Area, etc.)?
- Have any substantive environmental impacts not addressed above, or result in cumulative impacts, which separately do not require assessment but together must be considered substantial?

**References**

- 1) Section 7, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- 2) Administration of Clean Air Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-604) and Federal Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 92-500), Executive Order 11738; and Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977 (P.L. 95-217)
- 3) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542)
- 4) Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577)
- 5) National Trails Act (P.L. 90-543)
- 6) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 1969; CEQ guidelines, Federal Register 43(230), 11-29-78, §§ 1507.3 and 1508.4; Federal Register 44(112), 6-8-79, pp. 33160-33162
- 7) Colorado Weed Management Act, §§ 35-5.5-101 through 119, C.R.S. (2000).
- 8) Eradication of Tamarisk on State Lands, Colorado Executive Order D 002 03.
- 9) Development and Implementation of Noxious Weed Management Programs, Colorado Executive Order D 006 99.
- 10) Colorado Nursery Act, §§ 26-1.0 through 26-7.2, C.R.S. (1999).
- 11) Colorado Seed Act, §§ 35-27-101 through 125, C.R.S. (1993 Supp).

- 12) Colorado Mosquito Control, Administrative Directive B-300.
- 13) Colorado Forest Management, Administrative Directive B-301.
- 14) Colorado Native Vegetation, Administrative Directive B-302.
- 15) Colorado Wildlife and Hunting, Administrative Directive C-275.
- 16) Colorado Rare Plants, Administrative Directive C-276.
- 17) Colorado Noxious Pests, Policy B-300.

**Physically Challenged**

Facilities must be designed to reasonably meet the needs of persons with disabilities. In so doing, the participant must comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, (Public Law 101-336, 42 U.S.C. 12101-12213).

**C. Additional LWCF Grant Requirements**

In addition to the general requirements and compliance requirements outlined above, an extensive set of additional LWCF Program Requirements must also be satisfied, as outlined below.

**Control and Tenure**

For lands included in a project proposal, the project sponsor must have title or adequate control and tenure of the project area in order to provide reasonable assurance that a conversion under Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act will not occur without NPS approval. For additional information, see Conversion of Use section pages on this website, [cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Trails/LWCF/LW-CFChangeofUseProcess.pdf#search=lwcf](http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Trails/LWCF/LW-CFChangeofUseProcess.pdf#search=lwcf).

*Control and Tenure guidelines:*

- In most cases, control and tenure involves either fee title ownership or easements that provide for permanent public recreation use. In some cases, long term leases or Rights of Way agreements may be deemed adequate by the NPS.
- Copies of the property titles, leases, easements or other appropriate documents must be submitted by the project sponsor to State Parks. The Parks and Wildlife Division is required to keep these documents on file and available for NPS inspection.
- Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) easements and Right of Way or construction permits cannot contain language that can cancel, withdraw or revoke the permit at any time for any reasons due to highway issues. There must be wording that states if a highway issue arises, it will have priority but the LWCF project re-alignment/replacement will be mitigated in consultation with all involved parties.
- Properties subject to outstanding interests, such as mineral rights that, if exercised, may not be compatible with the continued viable use of the area for

outdoor recreation, may be agreed to under certain specific conditions. NPS will make decisions on a case by case basis, and may agree to such a future conversion only if:

- The State of Colorado through CPW and the project sponsor must certify that the possibility that the outstanding rights being exercised is remote; and
- It is understood that the lands will be replaced on a 1 to 1 basis under Section 6(f)(3) provisions of the LWCF Act if such rights are exercised.
- Other outstanding rights and interests which, if exercised, will not adversely affect the recreation utility or viability of the area can be excepted from Section 6(f)(3) purview upon recommendation of the Parks and Wildlife Division and concurrence by NPS.

**Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Map**

The purpose of a Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Map is to define the area being improved, developed or acquired with LWCF grant money. This area will be given the protection of Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act, which states that property acquired or developed with LWCF money shall not be converted to uses other than public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

A Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Map also ensures that the area defined by the boundary line is a self-sustaining recreation unit. The defined area must be capable of being self-sustaining without reliance upon adjoining or additional areas not identified in the scope of the project. Typically, this area will be the park, open space, or recreation area being developed or added to. Exceptions may be made only in the case of larger parks where logical management units exist therein. In no case will the areas covered by Section 6(f)(3) be less than that acquired with LWCF assistance.

It is important to not include within 6(f)(3) boundaries facilities or grounds not dedicated to outdoor recreation, such as non-recreation office buildings, firehouses, helipads, cell towers, etc., as these things, if included, would also be encumbered in perpetuity by the Section 6(f)(3) conditions.

The project sponsor is not required to submit the Section 6(f)(3) boundary map with the original project grant application, but it will be necessary to furnish one for NPS approval of the project. NPS approval of the 6(f)(3) map is required before the State of Colorado can complete the grant agreement with the project applicant.

**What to Include in the Map (use attachments if necessary):**

- Project Title and Project Number
- Date of map preparation
- Signature block (blank) for approval by designat-

ed LWCF State Liaison Officer

- North arrow
- Scale in feet
- Approximate total acreage within the 6(f)(3) boundary
- Section(s), Township and Range of the project area
- Area(s) under lease and term remaining on the leases
- All known outstanding rights and interests in the area held by others. Known easements, deed/lease restrictions, reversionary interests, etc. are to be included.
- The project area in sufficient detail so as to be legally sufficient to identify the Section 6(f)(3) property location. A formal survey is not required. Acceptable methods include: (1) Deed references; (2) Adjoining ownerships; (3) Adjoining easements of record; (4) Adjoining water boundaries or other natural landmarks; (5) Metes and bounds; and (6) Government survey.
- 6(f)(3) boundary lines must be specifically identified and drawn in a manner which will assure their clarity should the map be photocopied. As such, the boundaries must be colored red, with additional thickness to distinguish them from other boundary lines in the map.
- The finished map should be submitted in a format no larger than 11" x 17".

**Environmental Review**

The project sponsor is required to fill out the LWCF Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form (PD/ESF) at the time of the application submission. NPS approval of this additional review is required before the State of Colorado can complete the grant agreement with the project applicant.

The purpose of this Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form (PD/ESF) is to provide descriptive and environmental information about a variety of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) state assistance proposals submitted for National Park Service (NPS) review and decision.

The ESF portion is designed for States and/or project sponsors to use while the LWCF proposal is under development. Upon completion, the ESF will indicate the resources that could be impacted by the proposal enabling States and/or project sponsors to more accurately follow an appropriate pathway for NEPA analysis: 1) a recommendation for a Categorical Exclusion (CE), 2) production of an Environmental Assessment (EA), or 3) production of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The ESF should also be used to document any previously conducted yet still viable environmental analysis if used for this federal proposal. The completed PD/ESF must be submitted as part of the State's LWCF proposal to NPS.



If the project will not incur significant impacts to the environment it may be classified as a Categorical Exclusion and an informal analysis with the following components must be completed by the project applicant. This analysis is designed to demonstrate that significant impacts to the environment will not occur, thereby eliminating the need for the preparation of a formal EIS.

**LWCF Environmental Analysis components:**

- Environmental Impact Summary. A determination that this project will result in minimal adverse environmental impacts and is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the environment.
- Determinations if the project will have any of the following impacts. Questions answered affirmatively require an explanation as to why it will not significantly impair the environment. Typically, these explanations will state that any impacts are temporary and will not result in permanent significant impacts.
  - Change existing features of any body of water such as lakes, bays, rivers or substantial alteration of ground contours?
  - Change river, lake, stream or ground water quality or quantity, or alter existing drainage patterns?
  - Change scenic view sheds or vistas from existing residential areas of public lands or roads?
  - Change the land use pattern, scale or character of the general area surrounding the project?
  - Significantly affect plant or animal life?
  - Significantly increase amounts of solid waste or litter?
  - Will any heavy metals be used in production? If so, has a disposal site been located?
  - Change emissions or prevalence of dust, ash, smoke, fumes or odors in the vicinity?
  - Change existing noise or vibration levels in the vicinity, including during the construction phase of project, if applicable?
  - Use filled land or land with a slope of 15 percent or more?
  - Affect vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns?
  - Affect the use of a recreational area or an area of significant aesthetic value?
  - Significantly affect an historical or archaeological site or its setting?
  - Encourage development of presently undeveloped areas or intensify development of already developed areas?
  - Involve the removal, construction or demolition of 500 or more dwelling units?
  - Significantly affect public services and/or public facilities?
  - Have other significant ecological impacts?

Alternatives Examined. A brief narrative explaining that No Action was considered, and/or if alternatives with more limited or intensive development were considered.

• **State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal Consultations**

The National Park Service has the responsibility to institute procedures to assure that LWCF assisted projects are carried out in a manner consistent with national goals relative to the preservation and enhancement of non-federally owned sites, structures and objects of historical, architectural or archeological significance. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires NPS to determine whether LWCF assisted projects affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. NPS is also required to assure that if a property listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register is to be affected as a result of a LWCF assisted project, steps are taken to ensure documentation of the property.

States have been given by NPS the responsibility to comply with these requirements. Once CPW approves a LWCF funded grant, its staff will request the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to review the project for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act requirements. CPW may receive project clearance from the SHPO, or it may receive recommendations such as the undertaking of a professional survey of all or part of the project area which may be impacted by the project if the area has not been previously been adequately surveyed. Such surveys must be arranged and financed by the grant applicant.

It is strongly recommended that the project sponsor conduct a cultural resources inventory prior to applying for Land and Water Conservation Funds.

The National Park Service will initiate the Tribal Consultation for the awarded project after SHPO has determined there are no adverse effects to the project site. The Tribes are given 30 days to respond to the proposed project.

• **The LWCF Sign**

Although the use of temporary signs during project development is optional, permanent signs displaying the LWCF symbol are required once the project is completed. The sign represents public acknowledgment of LWCF and recognition of the federal-state-local partnership that creates and maintains quality outdoor recreation areas. While the symbol format may not be altered, such considerations as method of sign construction, size and placement are matters for determination by the project sponsor. CPW encourages project sponsors

to include the LWCF symbol in other informational signs at the project site, especially those that acknowledge other project participants. Similarly, NPS encourages its use at entrances to outdoor recreation sites, at other appropriate on-site locations, and in folders and park literature.

CPW's Trails Program will make available LWCF logos to project sponsors. The Trails Program can also supply electronic copies of the logos, or printed signs available upon request by project sponsors.

The acknowledgment of LWCF assistance will be checked during subsequent post-project completion inspections.





This appendix outlines Colorado's major outdoor recreation providers. While some agencies and organizations in Colorado directly provide outdoor recreation opportunities, others do so indirectly. Such agencies and organizations contribute significantly to Colorado's unique outdoor recreation opportunities by preserving wildlife habitat, improving air and water quality, and providing important buffers for development. While this list is not exhaustive, it does provide insight into the major outdoor recreation providers statewide.

**Federal Land Managers**

**U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**

The USFS operates as an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Its mission is to “sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.” Nationwide, the USFS fulfills its mission and provides the public with outdoor recreation opportunities via National Forests and National Grasslands.<sup>1</sup> Eleven National Forests and two National Grasslands in Colorado are accessible for outdoor recreation.<sup>2</sup> Outdoor recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, shooting, off-highway vehicle touring and wildlife viewing.<sup>3</sup>

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

The BLM operates as a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Its mission is to “sustain the health, diversity and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”<sup>4</sup> Nationwide, the BLM fulfills its mission and provides the public with outdoor recreation opportunities via rustic and diverse recreation sites including, but not limited to, non-motorized and motorized trails, waterways, cultural heritage sites, climbing walls and wilderness areas.<sup>5</sup> 187 recreation sites in Colorado are accessible for outdoor recreation.<sup>6</sup> However, few of these sites are developed and focus on the “visitors’ freedom to choose where to go and what to do.”<sup>7</sup>

**National Park Service (NPS)**

The NPS operates as an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Its mission is to preserve “unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.”<sup>8</sup> Nationwide, the NPS fulfills its mission and provides the public with outdoor recreation opportunities via National Parks, Monuments, Battlefields, Military Parks, Historical Parks, Lakeshores, Seashores, Recreation Areas and Scenic Rivers and Trails.<sup>9</sup> Four National Parks, two National Historic Sites, five National Monuments, one National Recreation Area, four National Trails, and one Wild and Scenic River in Colorado are accessible for outdoor recreation.<sup>10</sup> Outdoor recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to, hiking, camping, historical sight seeing and wildlife viewing.<sup>11</sup>

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

The USFWS operates as a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Its mission is to work “with others to conserve,

protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.” Nationwide, the USFWS fulfills its mission and provides the public with outdoor recreation activities via National Wildlife Refuges and National Fish Hatcheries.<sup>12</sup> Eight National Wildlife Refuges<sup>13</sup> and four National Fish Hatcheries<sup>14</sup> in Colorado are accessible for outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing.<sup>15</sup>

**Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)**

Reclamation operates as a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Its mission is to “manage, develop and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner and in the interest of the American public.”<sup>16</sup> Nationwide, Reclamation fulfills its mission by addressing contemporary water issues between residential, industrial, agricultural, hydropower generation, environmental and recreation needs.<sup>17</sup> Reclamation provides the public with outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado via 15 reservoirs and lakes. Outdoor recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to, fishing, boating and camping.<sup>18</sup>

**Army Corps of Engineers**

The Army Corps of Engineers operates as a branch of the U.S. Army guided by environmental sustainability and engineering expertise. Its mission is to “deliver vital public and military engineering services; partnering in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risk from disasters.”<sup>19</sup> The Corps fulfills its mission and provides the public with outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado via 10 reservoirs and lakes. Outdoor recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to, swimming, boating and picnicking.<sup>20</sup>

**State Land Managers**

**Colorado State Land Board (SLB)<sup>21</sup>**

The Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners (the State Land Board) is a constitutionally created agency that manages a \$4 billion endowment of assets for the intergenerational benefit of Colorado's K-12 schoolchildren and public institutions, including the ‘Park Trusts.’

The agency is the second-largest landowner in Colorado and generates revenue on behalf of beneficiaries by leasing nearly three million surface acres and four million subsurface acres for agriculture, grazing, recreation, commercial real estate, rights-of-way, renewable energy, oil, gas and solid minerals.

The Colorado Constitution spells out a dual obligation for the State Land Board: a) generate reasonable and consistent income over time; and b) protect and enhance the natural values of state trust lands. Unlike public lands, trust lands are not open to the public unless a property has been leased for public access.

The agency is entirely self-funded and receives no tax dollars. The Board manages eight public trusts; 98% of the board's portfolio is the State School Trust to support K-12 public schools. Remaining assets benefit other public institutions, including the ‘Park Trusts.’

The State Legislature designates Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as a beneficiary of the Internal Improvements Trust and the Salt Springs (Saline) Trust, collectively known as the ‘Park Trusts,’ which together amount to 56,923.93 acres. Of this acreage, CPW utilizes 8,817.58 as part of various State Parks through the ‘Interagency Property Agreement for Park Trust Lands.’ While not all Park Trust lands are open to outdoor recreation, they indirectly contribute to outdoor recreation in Colorado by supporting CPW.

Because the State Land Board is constitutionally mandated to manage the land in ways that generate income for beneficiaries, trust lands are not open to the public unless a property has been leased for public access. Interested parties may apply for recreation leases on state trust lands not currently open to the public. Common uses of state trust lands leased for outdoor recreation include hunting, fishing, shooting ranges, horseback riding and hiking. The agency accepts these five-year leases based on compatibility with existing and/or potential uses, and the rates are determined based on the intensity and duration of the proposed use. They are typically a ‘layered’ use, most commonly with a separate agriculture lease existing on the same property.

For example, the agency has a lease agreement with CPW; the lease is commonly referred to as the [Public Access Program \(PAP\)](#). The PAP provides limited sportsmen/sportswomen's access to 500,000 acres of trust land across the state, primarily for big game hunting and fishing. As the lessee, CPW is responsible for managing public hunting and fishing activities per property-specific rules and regulations.

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)<sup>22</sup>**

CPW operates as a division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Its mission is to “perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.” CPW fulfills its mission and provides the public with outdoor recreation opportunities via [41 State Parks](#) and more than [300 State Wildlife Areas](#). Outdoor recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, climbing and off-highway vehicle touring.

**Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)<sup>23</sup>**

The CSFS is an agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. The agency provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Its mission is to “achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations.” The CSFS additionally manages the Colorado State Forest in Jackson County. Colorado Parks & Wildlife leases the Colorado State Forest for public recreation from the Colorado State Land Board.

**Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)**

The CWCB provides policy direction on statewide water issues. The agency provides technical assistance to further the utilization of Colorado's waters. Its mission is to “Conserve, Develop, Protect and Manage Colorado's Water for Present and Future Generations.” The CWCB also supports implementation of the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act.<sup>24</sup> The Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act concerns “the negotiation of interbasin compacts regarding the equitable division of the state's waters, and make[s] an appropriation in connection therewith.”<sup>25</sup>

**Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR)<sup>26</sup>**

The DWR operates as a division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. The DWR addresses water challenges including, but not limited to, water origin issues, water rights, wetlands protection and management, endangered species recovery, and interstate water issues. The mission of the DWR is:

- “To provide competent and dependable distribution of water in accordance with statutes, decrees and interstate compacts.
- To ensure public safety through safe dams and properly permitted and constructed water wells.
- To maintain and provide accurate and timely information concerning water.
- To promote stewardship of all human, fiscal and natural resources.
- To serve the public through the generation of creative solutions to problems.
- To help the public understand complex water issues.
- To promote stability in the use of the state's limited water resources.
- To apply modern technology to its greatest advantage.”

**Local Land Managers**

**Open Space Programs<sup>27</sup>**

Publicly funded open space programs at the local and regional levels are most prominent along the Northern Front Range and metro regions. Towns, cities, counties, special districts and non-profit organizations in Colorado manage over 30 open space programs statewide. Open space programs promote land conservation through public and private partnerships and provide the public with outdoor recreation opportunities primarily through trail-based recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities.

**Special Recreation Districts<sup>28</sup>**

Colorado law limits the types of services that county governments can provide to their residents. As such, Title 32-1 Special Districts, including park and recreation districts, fill gaps in the services that Colorado residents might desire or need. The majority of special districts draw their boundaries in unincorporated county land, but residents of a municipality may be included in one or more districts. Special recreation districts offer residents similar services as those provided by local parks and recreation departments.



**Local Parks and Recreation Departments**

Towns, cities and counties provide outdoor recreation opportunities to Colorado residents locally, directly within communities. Such outdoor recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to, free play at playgrounds, swimming at public pools, jogging on community trails, and athletics. Towns, cities and counties may also provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public via greenways, stream corridors and mountain parks.

**Private-Protected Land Managers**

Individuals and private entities may choose to open private land to recreation, or manage private land for conservation purposes, by obtaining fee titles, covenants or conservation easements. Conservation easements limit activity and prevent development from taking place on private land in perpetuity, as long as the land remains in private hands.<sup>29</sup>

**Land Trusts**

Land trusts are non-profit organizations that collaborate with private landowners to conserve land without government regulation. Landowners independently elect to conserve their land in partnership with a land trust.<sup>30</sup> Over 30 land trusts operate in Colorado,<sup>31</sup> driven to increase open space and preserve agricultural land, waterways, wildlife habitat, trails, and scenic vistas.<sup>32</sup>

**Tribal Land Managers\*****Ute Mountain Ute Tribe**

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Montezuma County manages 575,000 contiguous acres that extend into Utah and New Mexico, held in trust by the federal government.<sup>33</sup> The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe provides the public with outdoor recreation opportunities via the Ute Mountain Tribal Park, a 125,000-acre scenic and archaeologically dense protected area in the Mesa Verde/Mancos Canyon.<sup>34</sup> Visitors must take guided tours of the park where Ute guides interpret Ute Indian history, Ute pictographs, geological land formations, and Ancestral Puebloan petroglyphs, artifacts and cliff dwellings.<sup>35</sup> The Tribe also operates a fee-based primitive campground on the reservation.<sup>36</sup>

**Southern Ute Indian Tribe**

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe in La Plata County resides on a “checkerboard reservation,” comprised of both tribal member allotments as well as tribally owned land. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe manages 307,838 acres of tribally owned land. There are many outdoor recreation [opportunities](#) on or near the Southern Ute Indian Reservation Land such as tent and RV camping, hunting, fishing and archery.<sup>37</sup>

\*While there are over forty Tribes historic to Colorado, for purposes of the SCORP and the land management survey, CPW solely surveyed those Tribes that directly manage land within the state.

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**Statewide Public and Land Managers Survey**

Prepared by Mike Quartuch, Human Dimensions Specialist/Researcher, CPW Policy and Planning Unit

**Surveys Background**

Outdoor recreation plays a vital role in Colorado’s economy and contributes to Coloradans’ sense of place and appreciation of the outdoors. Thus, an important component of Colorado’s SCORP is to identify what activities Coloradans enjoy, why they are motivated to participate, what barriers stand in their way, and what types of outdoor recreation experiences they prefer both locally and statewide. These data help land managers and others interested in natural resource conservation to balance biological factors and social desires. In addition to collecting data about public interests and preferences, it is equally important to understand the issues, concerns, and potential opportunities facing agencies and organizations responsible for managing parks, open-space and trails across Colorado.

**Research Methods**

Data for the 2019-2023 SCORP were collected using two different survey instruments. The “Public” questionnaire was mailed to a random sample of 7,000 Coloradans. The second targeted land managers, or any individual working within an agency or organization currently managing land in Colorado for outdoor recreation purposes. In total, 926 individuals were invited to participate in the Land Managers survey. Results from each of these efforts were analyzed by CPW staff and are organized according to each of the respective survey instruments (below).

**“Public” Survey**

*Questionnaire development*

The 2018 “Public” survey was titled, “Your Perspectives about Outdoor Recreation in Colorado” and developed via an internal team of CPW staff. When applicable, questions from the 2014 Public survey were retained to allow for comparisons to be made over time. However, it is important to note that substantive changes were made to reduce overall survey and question length. The questionnaire consisted of 20 questions spanning five overarching sections (e.g., “Health and Outdoor Recreation”) (Appendix D1).

*Survey sample*

Survey Sampling International™ was hired to develop the sample of Colorado residents. Using a similar approach as the 2014 Public survey, approximately 1,000 people from each of the seven tourism districts were included in the final sample (Table 1). Individuals were identified using both listed sources (i.e., landlines) and cellular telephone billing addresses. The latter was included in an attempt to reach younger residents. However, respondents diverged from the demographics of the state in a few notable areas (see results section above right).

Table 1. Sample size per Colorado tourism district.

Tourism district	Total sample size
1 Northwest	1,000
2 North Central	1,000
3 Metro	1,154
4 Northeast	841
5 Southeast	992
6 South Central	1,170
7 Southwest	843

*Survey implementation*

The questionnaire was implemented following a modified Dillman Tailored Design method (Dillman, Smyth, and Christensen, 2014). A hard-copy questionnaire and invitation letter was mailed to individuals on November 27, 2017. A link to the online questionnaire was included in the invitation for respondents who preferred to participate electronically and a description of the survey and web link were translated in Spanish. About one week later (December 5, 2017), non-respondents received a reminder postcard encouraging them to participate. A second questionnaire was mailed approximately four weeks after the reminder on January 5, 2018. A second and final reminder postcard was mailed January 11, 2018.

**Land Managers Survey**

*Questionnaire development*

An internal team of CPW staff and several individuals from external agencies/organizations developed the Land Managers survey instrument, using the Colorado SCORP’s 2014 “Local Government Provider” survey as a useful starting point. However, the majority of questions were substantively edited, re-ordered or removed altogether, making direct comparisons between the 2014 and 2018 questionnaires difficult. For example, items that were “not applicable” or were less significant (on a scale of least-to-most significant) in the 2014 survey were removed. The final online questionnaire contained 26 questions which were organized within eleven primary sections (e.g., “Volunteers; Outdoor Recreation Needs”) (Appendix D2).

*Survey sample*

The sampling frame for the Land Managers survey included a robust list of individuals representing local, state, and federal agencies as well as several non-governmental organizations and private entities. The addition of several federal agencies and other non-governmental groups represents an improvement from the 2014 effort. We chose to expand the sampling frame to be more inclusive of constituents and groups who manage land in Colorado. In total, 1,056 individuals were invited to participate in the study, though the final sample included 960 people.

*Survey implementation*

The online survey instrument was implemented using SurveyMonkey. On March 7, 2018 all individuals received an email invitation, describing the study and encouraging them to participate in the online survey. The email invitation also served

as a filter, identifying individuals who were no longer employed by a particular agency/organization. In total, 130 individuals were removed from the sample. However, because this was a purposeful sample (i.e., not random), researchers contacted other individuals in a particular agency/organization in hopes of reaching the appropriate employee. This process yielded 34 “substitutes” and, as indicated above, the final sample included 926 individuals. Three follow-up, reminder emails were sent to non-respondents on March 15, March 28, and on April 4.

**Analyses**

Descriptive statistics (e.g., percentages, frequencies, and/or means) were calculated for all quantitative survey results using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 25). All open-ended, qualitative results were analyzed using a two-step coding process (when applicable). For example, question number 26 on the Land Managers survey asked respondents to “share additional thoughts or comments” on the final page of the survey. First, responses were reviewed and organized into broad categories (e.g., “Funding”). Second, similar statements within each of the larger categories were further grouped into sub-categories (e.g., “lack of funds/disagreement on park or trail development plans”). However, any statements spanning multiple categories were included in each rather than forcing them into only one. For example, the statement provided above was included in each of the two broad categories: (1) “Funding/staffing,” and (2) “Cooperative management/planning.”

**Results: Statewide “Public” Survey**

*Response rate and respondent information*

In total, 7,000 questionnaires were mailed and 1,910 surveys were returned completed. After removing 549 surveys due to undeliverable addresses (484) and incomplete surveys (65), our adjusted response rate was approximately 30%. While we attempted to reach younger adults using multiple sampling strategies, the average age of respondents was 62 years old and nearly 85% were over 50 years old. In addition, women and people of color were under-represented in our sample. About 37% of respondents were female even though women comprise about 50% of the statewide population. Hispanics, the largest minority group in Colorado, make up 21% of the state population but only comprised about 6% of respondents. Because these data differ substantially from Colorado census data, they were weighted to address potential sampling bias and to allow researchers to generalize findings to the broader population of Coloradans.

*Recreation participation*

Findings from the 2018 Public survey indicate that the vast majority (92%) of Coloradans recreate at least once every few weeks to upwards of more than four times per week (Figure 1). Results from the 2014 Public survey provided similar evidence indicating that nearly 90% of Coloradans recreate outdoors. In addition, about 69% of all respondents indicated recreating between once and four times per week.

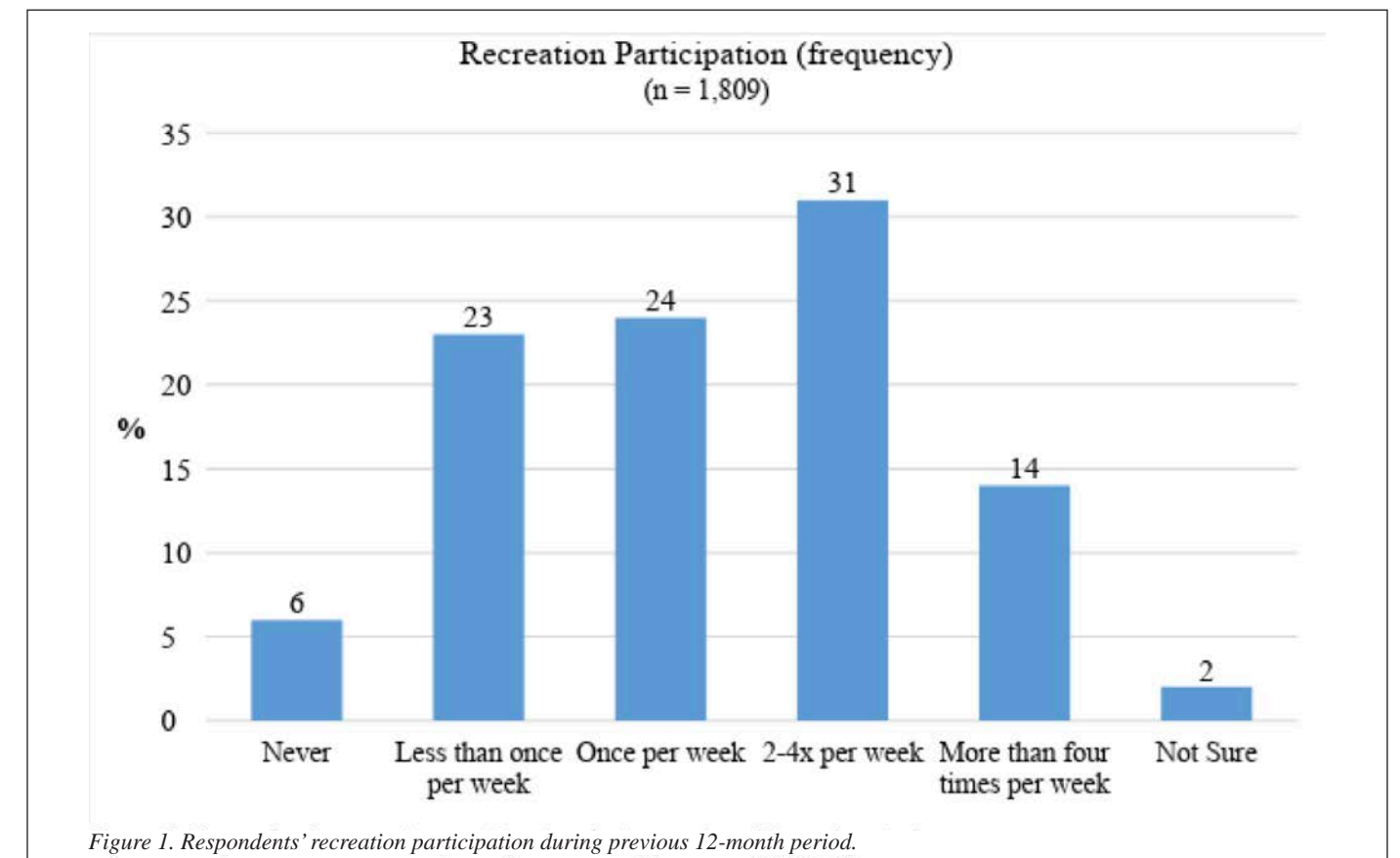


Figure 1. Respondents’ recreation participation during previous 12-month period.



With respect to where Coloradans spend time outdoors, findings indicated that nearly two-thirds (64%) are using parks, open space and trails in their local communities to recreate between one and more than four times per week (Figure 2).

Statewide estimates illustrate a similar trend. About 85% indicated using State parks, forests or wildlife areas and 82% used national parks, forests and recreation areas during the previous twelve month period (Figure 3).

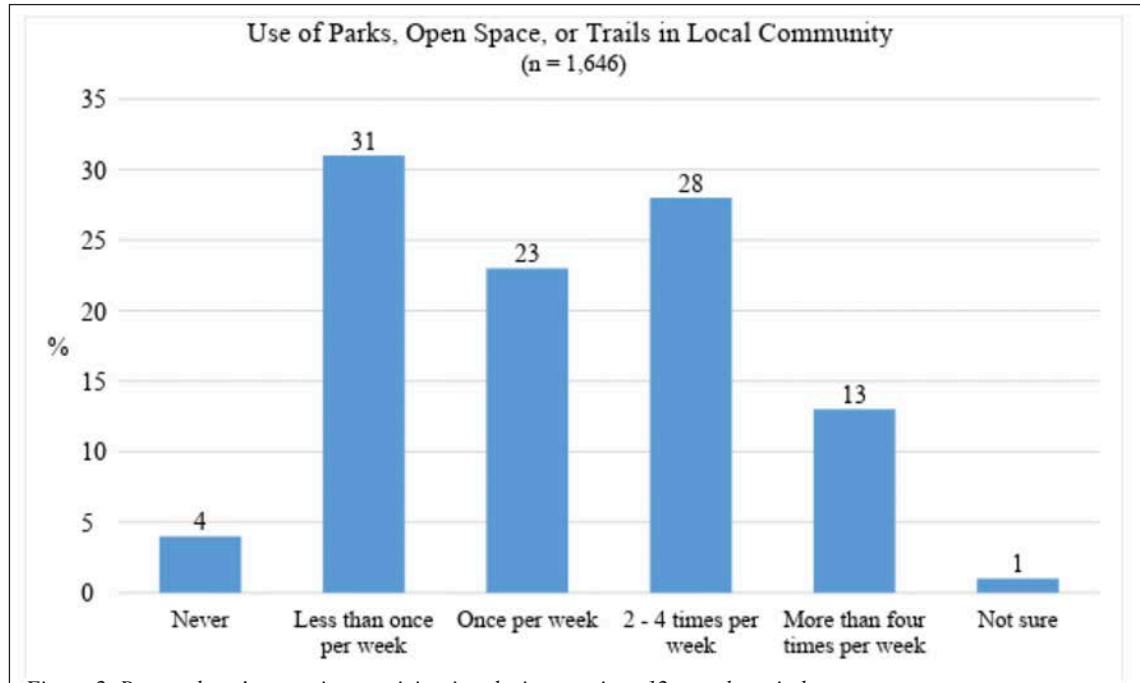


Figure 2. Respondents' recreation participation during previous 12-month period.

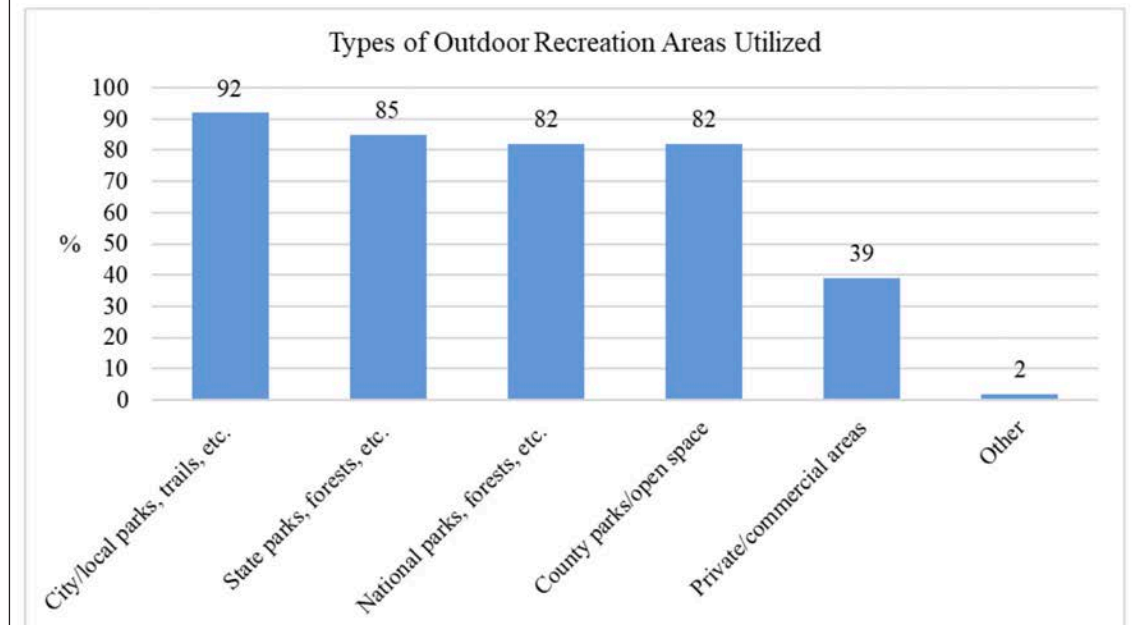


Figure 3. Respondents' recreation participation during previous 12-month period.

Activity participation

To understand Coloradans' recreation preferences, trends and where, specifically, they are recreating, respondents were asked to indicate how many days they engaged in a particular activity across the state. A map dividing the state into seven tourism

districts is provided (Figure 4) along with a list of different outdoor activities (Appendix D1). Results from this question can be analyzed and subsequently interpreted in two ways, both of which offer unique insight into respondents' recreation preferences and are presented below.

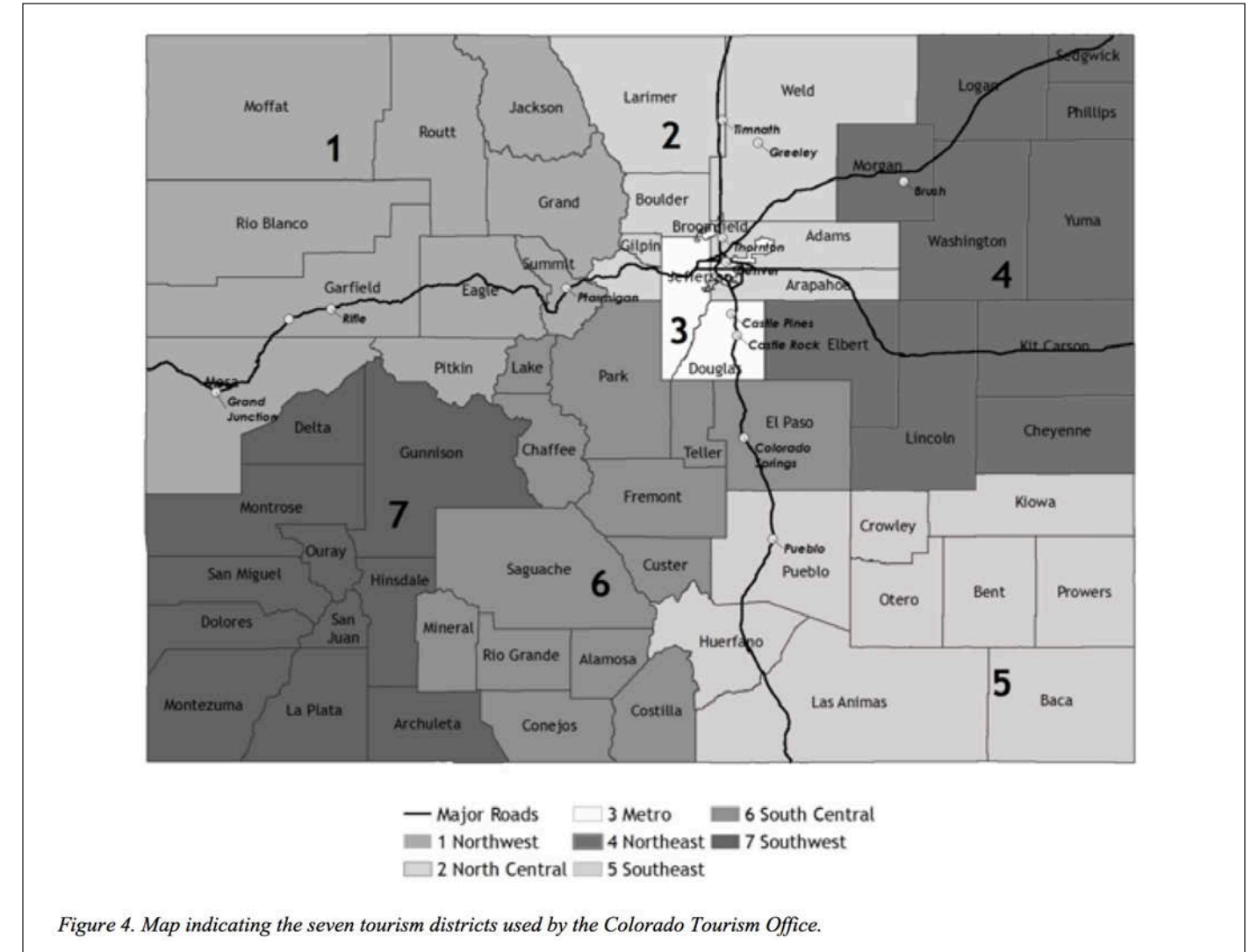


Figure 4. Map indicating the seven tourism districts used by the Colorado Tourism Office.

First, the number of people who engaged in a particular activity illustrates which outdoor recreation activity (or activities) resonated the most across our sample of respondents and in turn, Coloradans. Second, the number of days respondents partici-

pated in any particular activity represents a measure of avidity, or dedication for a particular activity expressed by a subset of respondents. This measure was also extrapolated to the population of Coloradans using the weighting factors described above.



Overwhelmingly, walking was the most frequently engaged in or “popular” activity statewide (Table 2, left side). Approximately 3.1 million Coloradans went walking somewhere in the state during the previous 12 months. Hiking/backpacking was the second most popular activity statewide (2.2 million) followed by picnicking and tent camping (1.3 million). It is also important to track activities that may not resonate with stakeholders. To this end, the five least frequently engaged in activities among Coloradans included: snowmobiling (301,424), horseback riding (299,158), rock climbing (283,293), water/jet

skiing (149,579) and sailing (129,182). However, it is important to acknowledge the degree of comparability, or lack thereof, with respect to many of the outdoor recreation activities listed in this question. For example, fewer Coloradans may rock climb than go picnicking but the degree of difficulty/skill level required to do the former is demonstrably greater than that of the latter. In addition, the number of people who engage in an activity is only one measure. Fewer people may go horseback riding across the state, but those who do, go riding often (Table 2, right side).

**Table 2. Recreation activities ranked by number of respondents and average number of days Coloradans engaged in a particular activity (only top ten activities provided).**

Number of Coloradans who participated in a given activity**				Average number of days Coloradans participated in a given activity**		
Rank	Activities	# People	% of survey respondents	Rank	Activities	# Days
1	Walking	3,193,283	74	1	Walking	75
2	Hiking/backpacking	2,257,282	52	2	Jogging/running (outdoors)	50
3	Picnicking	1,389,271	32	3	Road biking	35
3	Tent camping	1,389,271	32	4	Bird watching	32
4	Fishing	1,266,888	29	4	Team or individual sports (outdoors) (e.g., basketball, golf, tennis, etc.)	32
5	Playground activities	1,248,757	28	5	Playground activities	30
6	Jogging/running (outdoors)	1,228,360	28	6	Horseback riding	28
7	Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding	1,205,697	27	7	Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)	25
8	Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)	1,162,636	26	7	Hiking/backpacking	25
9	RV camping/cabins	1,137,706	26	8	Mountain biking	23
10	Team or individual sports (outdoors) (e.g., basketball, golf, tennis, etc.)	1,071,982		9	Fishing	17
	N/A			10	Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding	14

\*\*Data are weighted based on U.S. Census Data.

At the regional or tourism district level, responses tend to be more variable with respect to the second and third most popular activities. Walking remains number one across all districts and hiking/backpacking ranks number two in all districts

except in the Northeast (region 4) and Southeast (region 5) where hunting and RV camping rank second, respectively. The third activity is highly variable but fishing ranked third in the Southeast, South Central and Southwest districts (Table 3).

**Table 3. Top three most “popular” activities by tourism district.**

Rank	Northwest	North Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	South Central	Southwest
1	Walking	Walking	Walking	Walking	Walking	Walking	Walking
2	Hiking/backpacking	Hiking/backpacking	Hiking/backpacking	Hunting	RV camping/cabins	Hiking/backpacking	Hiking/backpacking
3	Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding	Playground activities	Jogging/running (outdoors)	Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)	Fishing	Fishing	Fishing

\*Results should be interpreted with caution due to small sample sizes.

The story changes slightly when considering the number of days Coloradans engage in a particular activity. However, walking still ranks first overall. Statewide, Coloradans spent an average of 75 days walking outside in the previous 12 months (Table 2, right side). This far exceeds every other activity. Jogging/running ranked second at 50 (average) days followed by road biking at 35 average days.

*Reasons to recreate and barriers to recreation participation*  
It is important to understand what motivates Coloradans to recreate outdoors. Motivations represent critical psychological constructs, encouraging individuals to try to and continue to participate in a given activity. The latter is more likely when expectations about an experience are realized and when experiences are positive. Overall, Coloradans recreate for a variety of reasons (Figure 5). The three most important reasons to recreate included: (1) to enjoy/spend time in nature (92%), (2)

to relax (91%) and to spend time with friends and family (91%), and (3) to exercise/improve physical health (87%).

The factors motivating people to recreate outdoors help them get and stay involved but the constraints they face inhibit future participation. Respondents were asked to indicate how much of a barrier a variety of reasons were to their future outdoor recreation participation (Figure 6). Overall, few of the reasons provided represented substantive barriers to respondents. However, over half (56%) of respondents indicated a lack of time, specifically, due to various commitments (e.g., work, family, friends) as a moderate-to-major barrier to their outdoor recreation participation. Similarly, 47% identified traffic congestion as a moderate-to-major barrier and nearly half (45%) indicated crowding as deterring them from recreating outdoors. Lastly, about 34% of respondents identified costs associated with entrance fees, parking and other user fees as a substantive barrier.

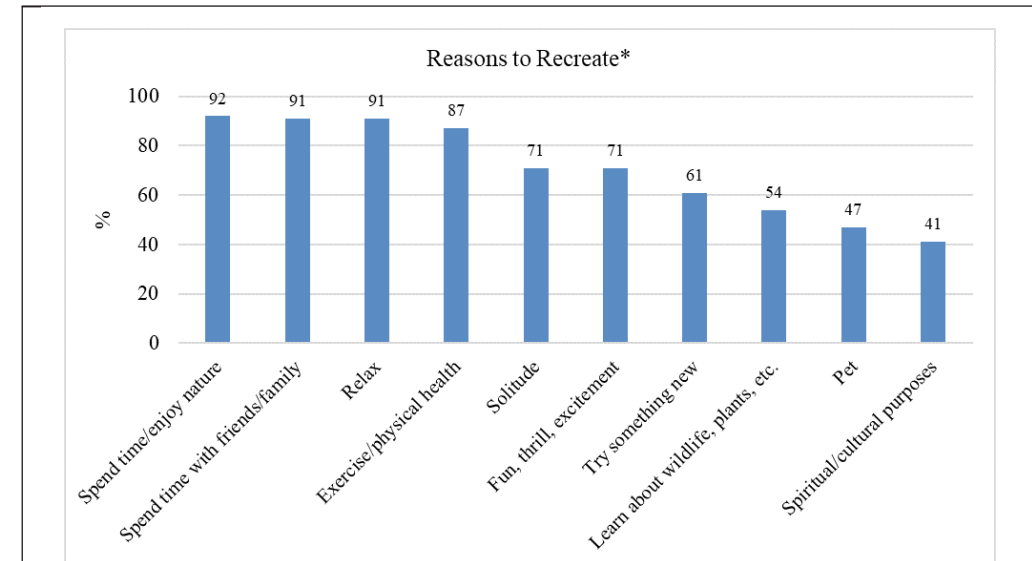


Figure 5. Respondents’ motivations to recreate outdoors. \*Results comprise moderately-to-very important reasons to recreate.

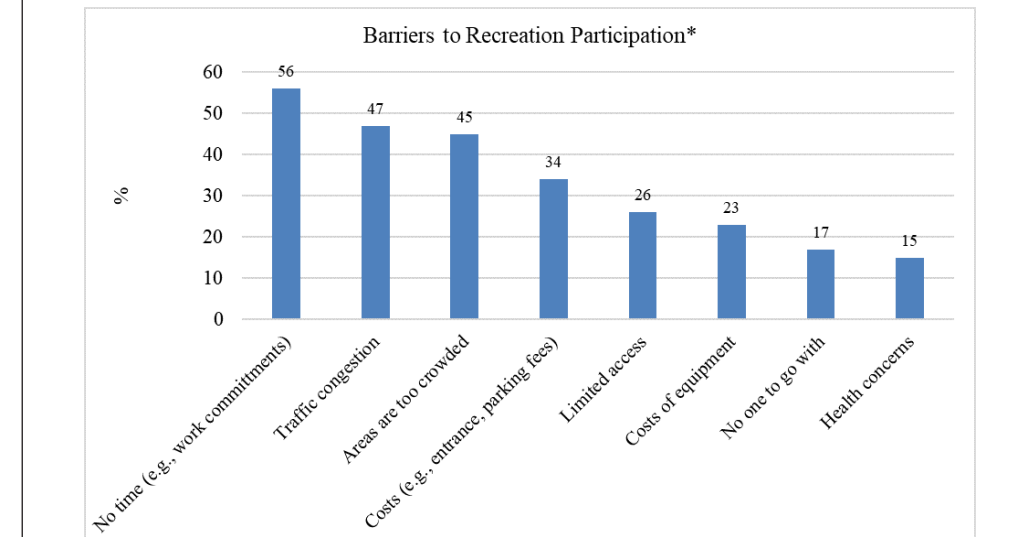


Figure 6. Potential barriers to respondents’ outdoor recreation participation. \*Six items were not included in Figure 5 due to lower concern about each. Results comprise moderate-to-major barriers to recreate.



Health and outdoor recreation

The personal health benefits associated with outdoor recreation have been well documented across diverse fields including natural resources, recreation and tourism, and public health. Put simply, the more time people spend outdoors, the more likely they are to live healthier lives. Given this connection, respondents were asked whether they participated in any physical activities or exercises in the outdoors aside from their regular job.

Seeing as nearly 92% of respondents recreate outdoors, it is not necessarily surprising that 77% of respondents indicated they do, in fact, exercise outdoors during a typical week. In addition, over half (53%) are not provided with programs, incentives or opportunities to do so from their current employer (Figure 7). It is important to also note that this question was not applicable to nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents.

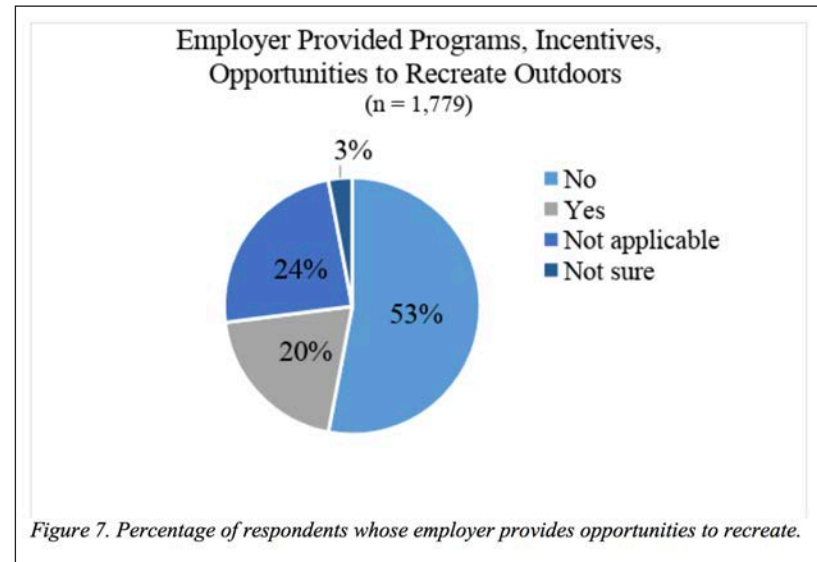


Figure 7. Percentage of respondents whose employer provides opportunities to recreate.

Preferred services and recreation preferences

An important component of the Colorado SCORP is to identify what types of outdoor recreation opportunities and preferences Coloradans desire. Two questions were used to measure this. The first asked respondents to indicate how much of a priority various types of recreation areas should be for future investment where they live (i.e., local-level assessment). The second measured respondents' perceptions about activities recreation providers should prioritize in Colorado (i.e., statewide assessment). The same questions were included in the 2014 SCORP "public" survey and results mirror one another.

The types of recreation areas Coloradans want to see in their local area have not changed substantially since 2014. In fact, the top three priorities - dirt/soft surface walking trails and paths, nature and wildlife viewing areas, and playgrounds and play areas built with natural materials - remained the same during this time (Table 4, top portion).

Similarly, 72% of Coloradans continue to believe recreation providers should prioritize long-term planning and management (number 2 in 2014) and 70% suggested operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities (number 1 in 2014). Local, regional and statewide trails ranked third in both the 2018 and 2014 surveys (Table 4, lower portion).

Local area priorities	2018 Rank* (%)	2014 Rank* (%)
Dirt/soft surface walking trails and paths	1 (52)	1 (54)
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	2 (46)	2 (46)
Playgrounds and play areas built with natural materials.	3 (41)	3 (44)
Picnic areas and shelters for small groups.	4 (34)	4 (30)
<b>Statewide priorities</b>		
Long-term planning and maintenance	1 (72)	2 (69)
Operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities	2 (70)	1 (72)
Local, regional and statewide trails	3 (60)	3 (58)

\*Identified by combining "high" and "essential" priorities.

Open-ended comments

In total, 569 respondents included open-ended comments about outdoor recreation in Colorado. Of those respondents, 178 revealed issues associated with age or specific health limitations. As such, their comments were categorized as "not

applicable" and removed from these analyses. The vast majority of comments described issues associated with access, conservation, infrastructure/maintenance and opportunities associated with hunting, fishing and shooting sports. Any comments spanning multiple categories were recorded as such.

Comment category ("Theme")	% of respondents who commented
Access (overall)	41
- Physical accessibility	13
- Decrease fees	12
- Overcrowding	9
- Time, other limitations	7
Conservation/development issues	19
New infrastructure/maintenance	15
Hunting, fishing, shooting opportunities	11

Access (160 comments)

Broadly, the topic of "access" was described by over 40% of respondents. Statements about access, or lack thereof, often included issues associated with limitations to an individual's ability to recreate. Given the wide range of such issues, we further divided access into four sub-themes (Table 6). Approximately 13% of respondents mentioned proximity to recreation areas, trail closures, ADA accommodations and other accessibility issues. For example, one respondent suggested that "family-friendly outdoor recreation (accessible, safe, local) is important to me..."

Decreasing fees was also indicated by about 12% of respondents. These comments ranged from an interest in and desire to have "free" recreational access to discounted rates for seniors. The following statement summarizes this perspective: "Cost of activities should be kept reasonable for all."

Overcrowding at recreation areas due to population growth and increasing recreation participation presented another concern for nearly 9% of respondents. One individual described this issue as a key factor in his/her decision about where to live: "I chose to move from the front range to the western slope to get away from the overcrowding."

In addition, limitations on people's time due to other commitments continues to present barriers for the public. This comes as no surprise given the relatively high percentage of respondents who indicated "time" as being a substantive barrier earlier in the questionnaire. Several respondents described a deep, personal enjoyment derived from outdoor recreation but feeling unable to participate as frequently as they prefer. The following statement captures this sentiment: [I] "like to use all outdoor recreation places as much as time allows, but that hasn't been much lately."

Conservation/development issues (71 comments)

The second most frequent open-ended comment included statements about conservation and/or development issues, more generally. This concern was shared by nearly 20% of respondents. Comments describing this category included a desire to limit development (and pollution), expand acquisitions and connections, enhance wildlife management, and, in general, to protect and expand recreation areas. The following statement aptly illustrates this concern, "[N]atural spaces and wildlife are what makes Colorado, Colorado...Park space should be protected."

New infrastructure/maintenance (58 comments)

Comments in this category included specific requests by various user groups, such as "more RV hook ups in campgrounds" and "more horse campgrounds and staging areas." Other comments pertained to general infrastructure development, including an interest in seeing more restrooms and trails created as well as an interest in simply maintaining existing facilities.

More hunting/fishing/shooting opportunities (44 comments)

One respondent wrote, "Public land hunting opportunities in my area are diminishing in quality and are becoming overcrowded" (also included in the "overcrowding" category). This statement represents one of the major concerns of recreationists; others include requests for increased fish stocking, higher quality fishing opportunities, hunting license reform and increased access to lands for hunting.



**Results: Land Managers Survey**

*Response rate and respondent information*

960 individuals representing 564 agencies/organizations were invited to participate in the study. 480 individuals completed the survey, resulting in a 50% response rate. While informative, this response rate represents the number of individuals who participated and does not offer insight about the types of agencies/organizations who participated. In many instances, multiple individuals within a particular agency/organization were asked to participate. The response rate actually increases to nearly 65% when calculating whether at least one individual from each agency/organization completed the survey.

About half of all respondents (47%) represented cities or towns with about 27% divided between counties and metro districts/municipalities. Another 10% of respondents work for a state agency (Table 6). We also wanted to gauge how long respondents have worked for their respective agency/organization. Approximately, one-third (34%) of respondents were relatively recent employees, having worked less than one to five years for the agency/organization and another 16% have worked for their current employer between 6-10 years. In other words, half (50%) of all respondents have worked for their respective agency/organization for less than 10 years (Table 7).

**Table 6. Percent of respondents separated by type of employer.**

Agency/Organization (n = 480)	%
City/Town	47
Metro districts/Municipality	14
County	13
State agency	10
Federal agency	7
Other (please specify): (e.g., special district [parks and recreation; taxing], wildlife consulting firm)	5
Land Trust	3
Private institution	1

**Table 7. Number of years respondents have been employed with their agency/organization.**

Years with Agency/Organization (n = 320)	%
0 – 5 years	34
6 – 10 years	16
11 – 15 years	17
16 – 20 years	14
21 – 25 years	8
26 – 30 years	4
31 – 43 years	7

*Long-term planning*

Land managers in Colorado are often tasked with meeting both social and ecological needs. This balancing act is becoming increasingly complicated as the demand for unique outdoor recreational experiences increases. Given the increasing pressure on land managers to meet the needs of a growing population of outdoor enthusiasts, it is important to understand how management decisions are made. Thus, respondents were asked whether their agency/organization utilizes a planning document to guide decision making for parks, trails or open space, and if so, what it entails.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of respondents indicated having a planning document in place and nearly half indicated that the plan addresses specific natural resources management alternatives (46%) and also encourages public or stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process (49%). In slightly more than half of cases (54%), the planning document was formally adopted by a governing body such as a board of directors (Figure 8). Plans that identify strategies for increasing diversity, inclusion, and equity in outdoor recreation or those that establish regulatory policies are less common (24%, and 33%, respectively).

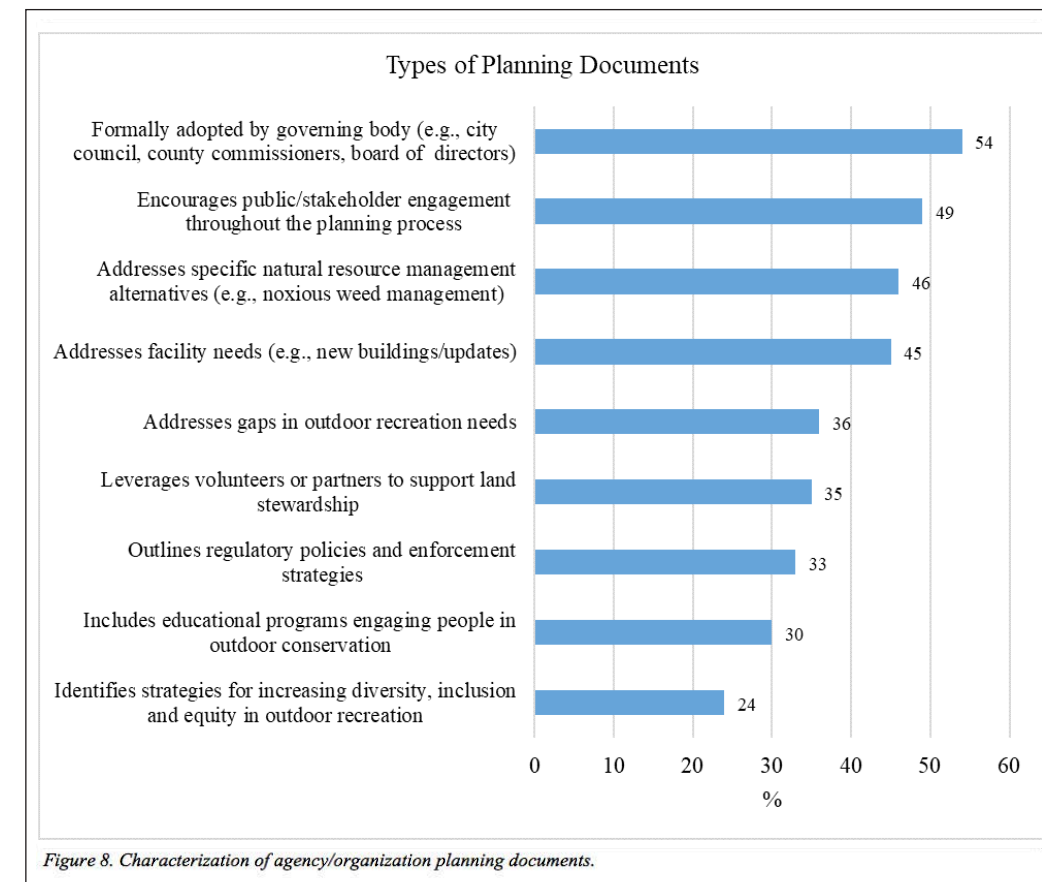


Figure 8. Characterization of agency/organization planning documents.



*Types of lands managed*

Using a purposeful sampling approach allowed us to reach a wide variety of land managers across the state. Not surprisingly, respondents indicated managing a wide range of parks, trails and open-space and an equally variable number of acres across categories. Over half (55%) indicated managing neighborhood/community parks. Another 41% currently manage special use parks such as skateboard or dog parks and more than one-third (38%) currently manage open space and natural areas (Figure 9).

Respondents also indicated the number of acres they are responsible for managing across each category described above (Table 8). In total, respondents manage approximately 37 million acres throughout the state of Colorado.

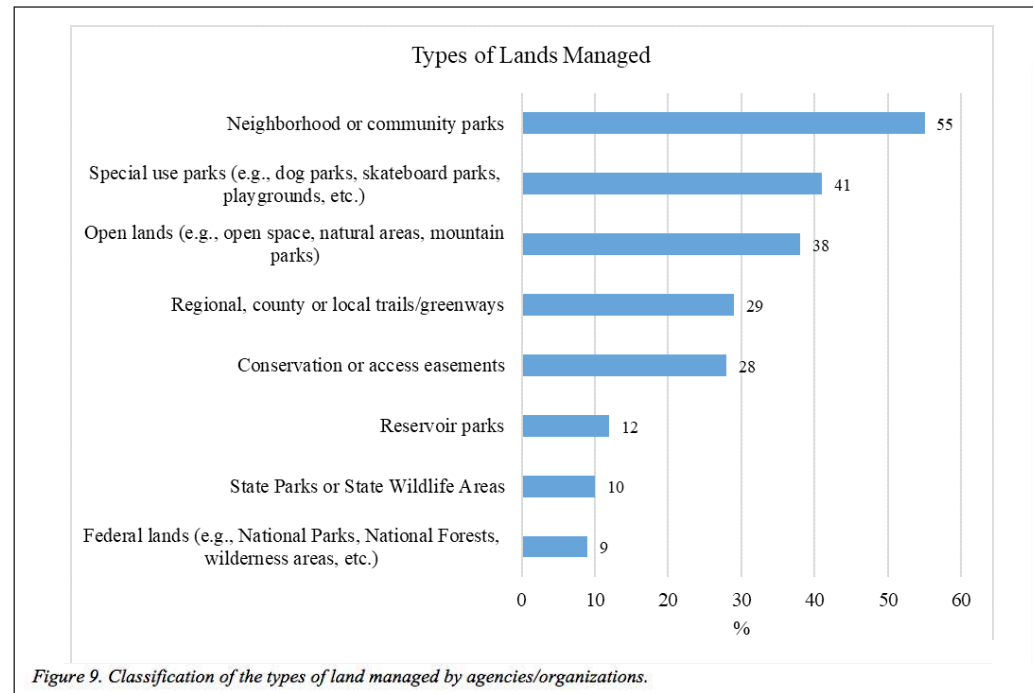


Figure 9. Classification of the types of land managed by agencies/organizations.

Table 8. Approximate acres of land managed by respondents within their jurisdiction.

	Managed by Respondents
Federal lands (e.g., National Parks, National Forests, wilderness areas, etc.)	34,212
Conservation or access easements	1,285
State Parks or State Wildlife Areas	576
Open lands (e.g., open space, natural areas, mountain parks)	417
Reservoir parks	30
Neighborhood or community parks	26
Regional, county or local trails/greenways	16
Special use parks (e.g., dog parks, skateboard parks, playgrounds, etc.)	6

*Programs provided and volunteer assistance*

In addition to knowing how many acres respondents manage, it is equally important to understand what programs land managers provide for their users and how, specifically, they are able to provide such programs. In many instances, land managers rely on outside partner organizations or volunteers to implement various programs and provide a suite of services. To ascertain these data, respondents were asked whether they offer programs on their own or if they seek assistance from other organizations to do so. Three broad programmatic categories included: recreation (i.e., sports, fitness and athletics), environmental/conservation education (e.g., interpretive programs), and health (i.e., nutritional guidance, general wellness and weight loss initiatives, etc.).

Overall, less than half of respondents indicated being able to provide such services on their own (Table 9, column 3). In fact, less than 40% of respondents are able to provide health and environmental/conservation education programs without the help of partners. After including support from partners/outside groups, 44% of respondents indicated being able to offer health programs; 57% environmental education and 55% recreation programs (Table 9, column 5). Regardless of how such programs are implemented, they reach a substantive number of people each year. Approximately, 495,000 people participate in health programs, 1.3 million experience environmental/conservation education programs, and about 21.7 million enjoy recreation-related programs during a twelve month period.

Table 9. Types of programs offered by agencies/organizations.

Type of Program Offered	No (%)	Yes (%)	are provided by another partner or outside group (%)	own or with a partner/outside group (%)
<u>Health</u> : Wellness, nutritional guidance, weight loss initiative, etc.	52	30	14	44
<u>Environmental/Conservation education</u> : Interpretive, outdoor or environmental education programs	40	37	20	57
<u>Recreation</u> : Sports, fitness, athletics	42	47	8	55

Volunteers represent another critical component for land managers and without them, managers would be hard pressed to accomplish their goals. On average, respondents benefited from approximately 1.8 million volunteer hours during the previous twelve month period. This is the equivalent of 865 full time employees. Despite the importance of volunteers, more than half (51%) do not track volunteer hours, which means this number may be an under-representation.

Of the 49% of respondents who do track volunteer hours, about 25% track the total number of hours. The remaining 24% track hours across volunteer categories (see Figure 10 for examples). Volunteers are used for a wide variety of support. More than half of respondents (56%) employ volunteers for maintenance and construction needs and about half (46%) draw upon volunteers to assist with natural resource management issues such as habitat restoration (Figure 10).

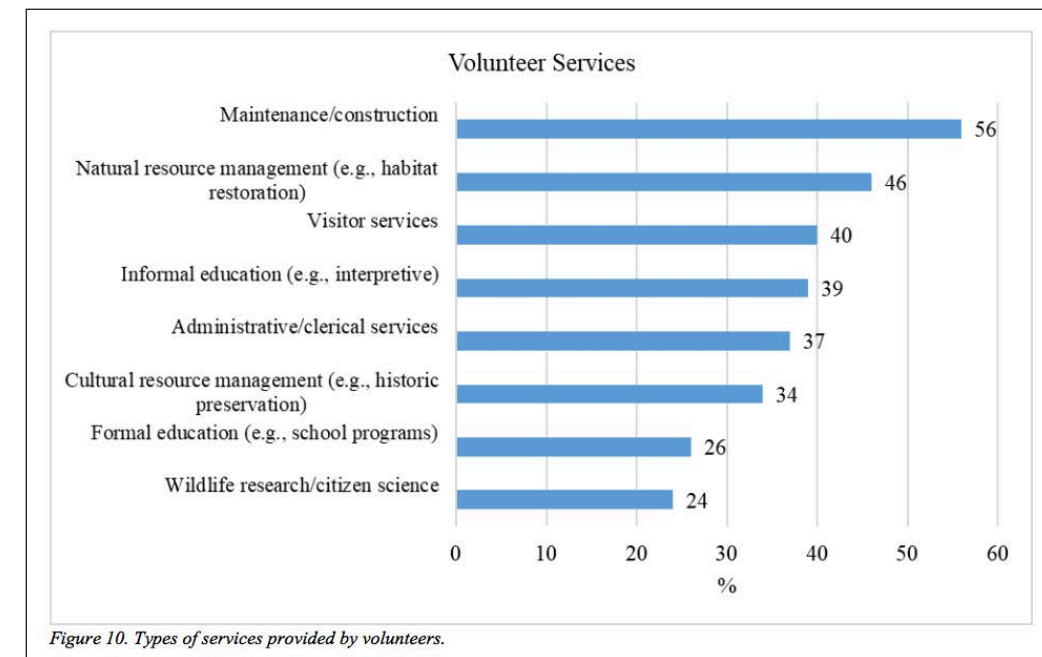


Figure 10. Types of services provided by volunteers.



*Funding and financial concerns*

One of the goals of the Land Managers survey is to better understand the issues and concerns facing land managers in Colorado and, as expected, funding represents an important piece of that pie. Respondents were asked to estimate their agency/organizations unmet financial need with respect to outdoor recreation, parks, open-space, etc. Nearly one-fourth (23%) of respondents indicated having no unmet financial needs. Another 40% indicated an unmet need less than \$150,000 annually (Table 10). About 10% of respondents indicated an unmet financial need of more than \$3 million.

Next, respondents were asked how they typically addressed financial shortfalls and the extent to which these efforts were successful. More than half (56%) applied for grants to address unmet needs and nearly 40% reduced services or staff (Figure 11). The latter may serve as an important reason why land managers identified several of the management and visitor service issues they indicated later in this survey (see next page). The level of success of each effort was highly variable, though most were described as being somewhat-to-very successful with one notable exception. About 43% of respondents whose agency/organization reduced services or staff suggested such efforts were somewhat-to-not at all successful (Table 11).

**Table 10. Approximate unmet financial need of agencies/organizations.**

Unmet Financial Need	%
No unmet financial need	23
Less than \$50,000 annually	21
\$50,001 - \$150,000 annually	19
\$150,001 - \$350,000 annually	9
\$350,001 - \$550,000 annually	6
\$550,001 - \$1,000,000 annually	6
\$1,000,001 - \$3,000,000 annually	5
Greater than \$3,000,000 annually	10

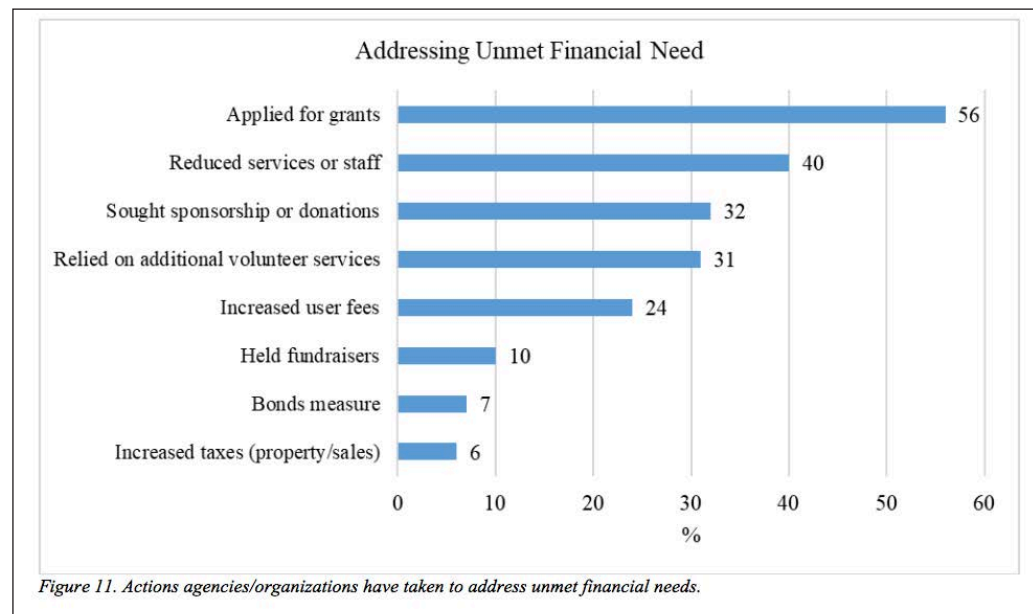


Figure 11. Actions agencies/organizations have taken to address unmet financial needs.

**Table 11. Relative "success" of efforts used to address unmet financial needs.**

Financial Effort	Not at all successful (%)	Somewhat successful (%)	Moderately successful (%)	Very successful (%)	Not applicable (%)
Applied for grants	4	28	28	32	8
Increased user fees	7	17	21	9	46
Sought sponsorship or donations	7	28	20	7	37
Reduced services or staff	11	33	19	4	33
Relied on additional volunteer services	8	24	21	10	37
Held fundraisers	8	10	8	2	71
Increased taxes	5	4	4	6	80
Bond measure	5	1	3	11	80

*Management issues*

Respondents were asked how much of an issue 17 different management concerns were to them. Potential concerns ranged from issues related to off-leash dogs and vandalism to serving a growing population to human-wildlife conflict. The following items represent the top three management-related issues: (1) maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources (73%), (2) adapting to changing user needs/preferences (60%), and (3) coordinating with other outdoor recreation agencies/organizations (54%). (Figure 12). Clearly there is a correlation between what the public would like managers to prioritize statewide (see Table 5, bottom portion) and with the types of management issues identified by nearly three-quarters of land managers.

public as well (see Figure 6). Almost half (45%) of Coloradans identified crowding as a significant barrier to their recreation participation. On the other hand, this concern may also be related to managers' perceptions about how their agency/organization responded during times of financial hardship. Recall, nearly 40% of respondents suggested their agency reduced services or staff to address unmet financial needs. Given such a reduction, it would come as no surprise that land managers would find it difficult to meet the needs of outdoor recreationists.

Also of importance, more than half (53%) of respondents indicated the capacity to serve a growing population (e.g., crowding/overuse) as a significant issue. On one hand, this finding illustrates land managers' challenges in handling (or responding to) an increasing volume of outdoor enthusiasts in parks, open-space and other areas. A similar concern was expressed by the

Lastly, some of the management issues respondents identified were also concerns expressed during the 2014 inquiry. For example, maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources was the number one concern identified in 2014. Coordinating with other outdoor recreation agencies or organizations was the fourth overall management issue identified during the 2014 effort. To reiterate, caution is advised when comparing findings from the two surveys given substantive changes in the survey instruments, including the way questions were worded.

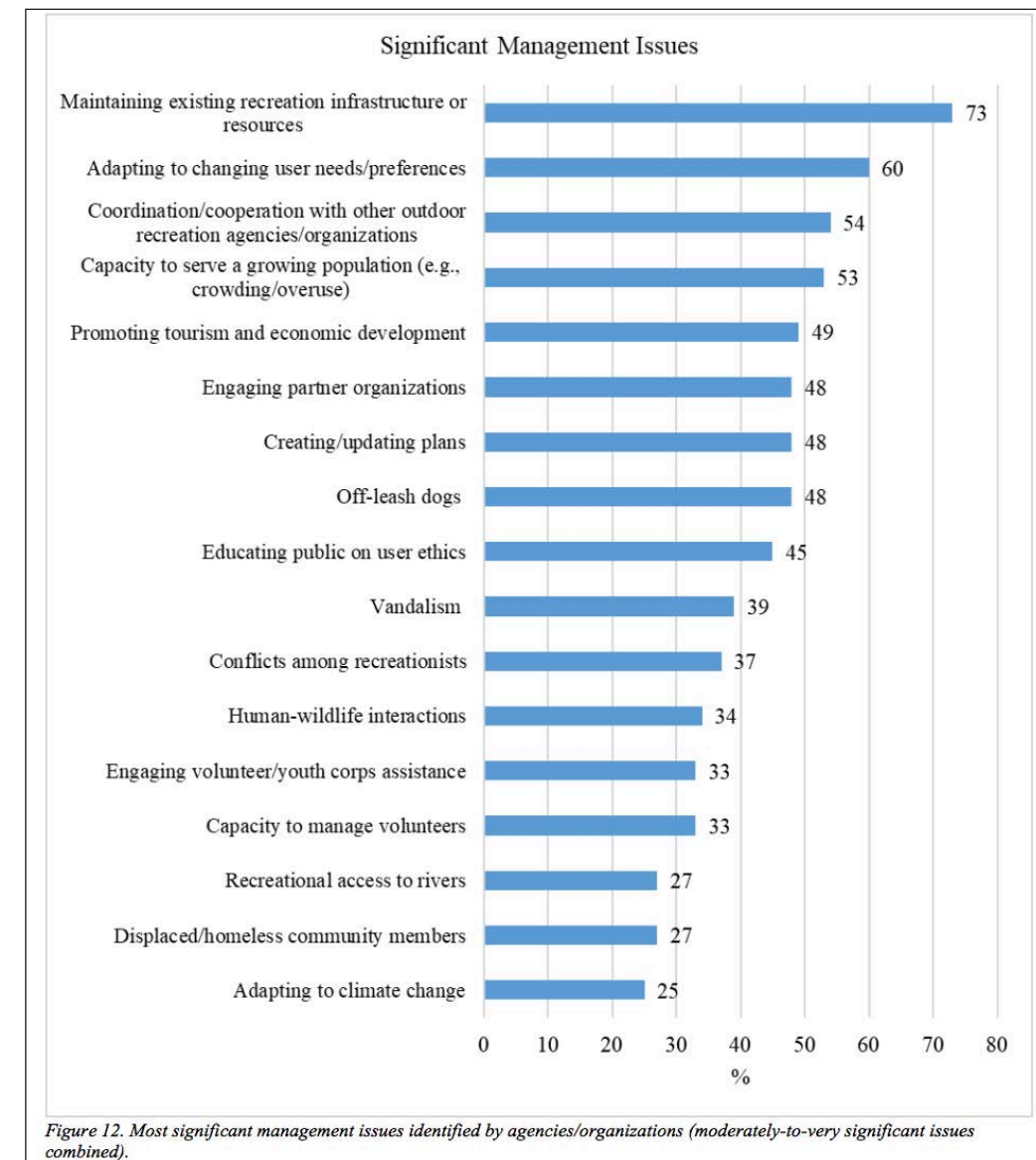


Figure 12. Most significant management issues identified by agencies/organizations (moderately-to-very significant issues combined).



Visitor service issues

Similar to the previous question, respondents were asked how significant nine visitor service issues were for their agency/organization. Nearly two-thirds (63%) indicated concerns about enforcing responsible visitor use and 59% identified providing recreation programs or opportunities specifically for youth as a substantive issue (Figure 13.)

The third overall visitor service issue, maintaining visitor safety and protection, was a challenge for 57% of land managers. Another important point to illustrate about visitor service issues involves the relative importance of nearly every possible issue. Seven out of nine issues provided represent significant issues to at least half of those who responded.

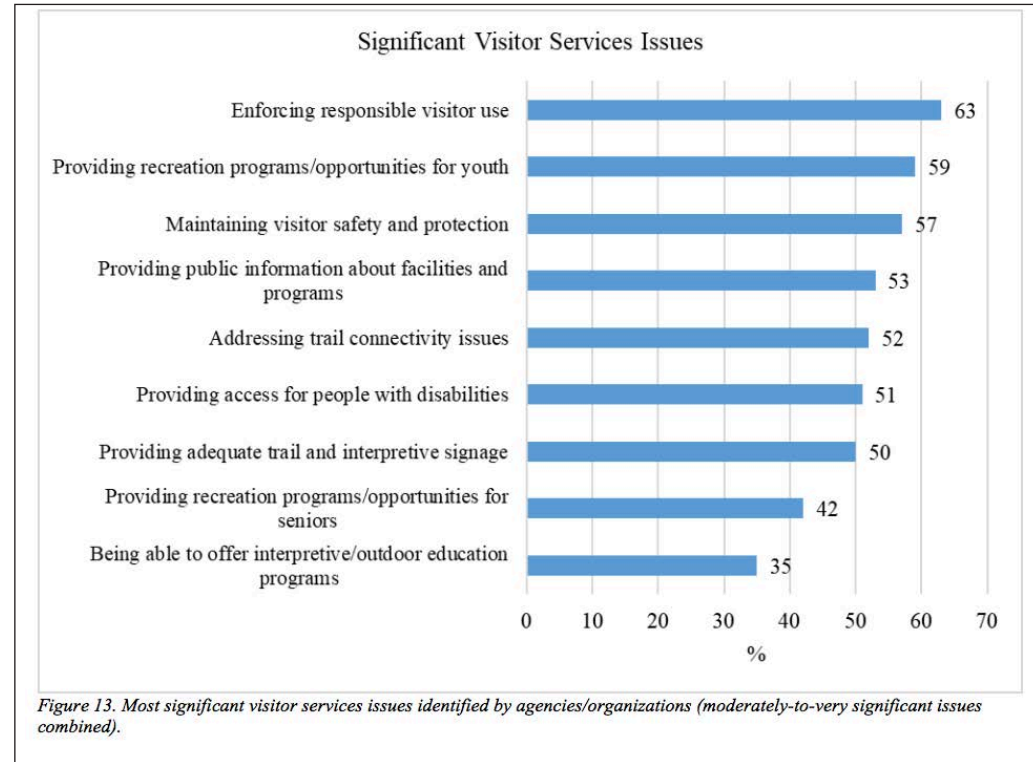


Figure 13. Most significant visitor services issues identified by agencies/organizations (moderately-to-very significant issues combined).

Natural resource issues

An open-ended format was used to determine the most significant threats to conservation/natural resources facing agencies/organizations. In total, 250 comments were provided and placed in one or more of the 12 categories (Table 12). About one-third (32%) of comments described topics related to increased visitation, visitor management and/or access, summed up by one participant's comment regarding "growth that exceeds the ability to provide services." Approximately 28% of comments involved residential or commercial development and/or resource fragmentation. One

participant succinctly described this threat as "development, loss and fragmentation of natural resources." Nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents' statements spanned topics related to financial concerns, agency/organization funding, or issues associated with a lack of staffing. For example, "lack of staff to oversee properties, convey a stewardship ethic, create a presence on-site." This statement was also included in the category labeled, "Public engagement; misuse/ethics."

Table 12. Most significant natural resource/conservation issues.

Comment Categories	%
Increased visitors; management; access	32
Development; visitor impacts	28
Funding/staffing issues	24
Water resources	13
Regulations, enforcement, maintenance	10
Public engagement; misuse/ethics	8
Climate Change	6
Invasive/nuisance species	5
Cooperative management/planning	4
Wildfires	4
Forest Health	3
Agriculture	1

Trail-related priorities

Results from the 2014 SCORP public outreach underscored the vital role that trails play in connecting Coloradans to the outdoors. Thus, respondents were asked the extent to which ten trail-related management responsibilities represent current priorities for their agency/organization. Approximately two-thirds (64%) identified maintaining existing trails as a substantive

priority and over half (53%) suggested providing connections between existing trails as an important priority for their agency/organization (Figure 14). Additionally, 50% of respondents indicated the need to create opportunities for non-motorized trail users (e.g., hikers) as an important priority for their respective agency/organization.

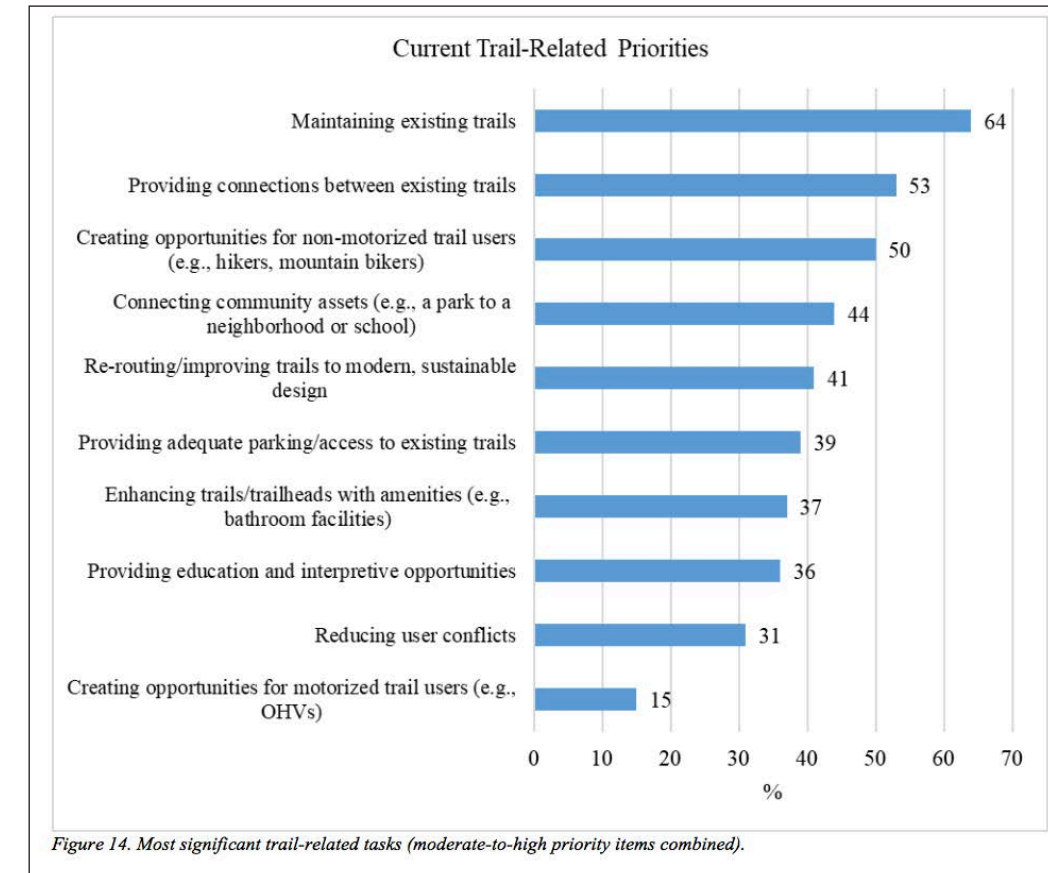


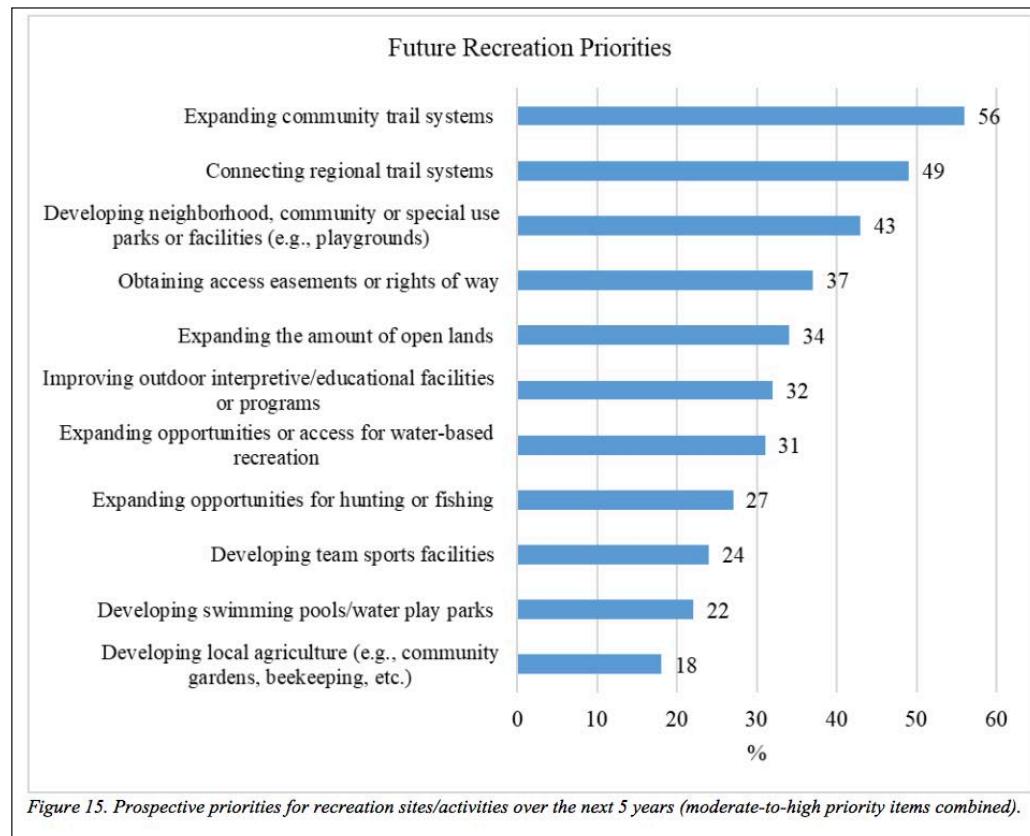
Figure 14. Most significant trail-related tasks (moderate-to-high priority items combined).



*Outdoor recreation needs (future priorities)*

The results described above illustrate the complex issues facing land managers in Colorado. As the state’s population continues to increase and diversify, it is possible that agencies/organizations may need to shift or adjust their priorities to meet the growing demand for outdoor recreation experiences. To examine this assumption, respondents were asked to consider how much of a priority several new outdoor recreation sites or activities will be for their respective agency/organization. Interestingly, the top two responses were also ranked first and

second in the 2014 survey. According to more than half of respondents (56%), expanding community trail systems will be an important priority in the future (Figure 15). Similarly, nearly half (49%) identified connecting regional trail systems as a significant priority in the next five years. Lastly, about 43% of respondents indicated developing neighborhood, community or special use parks or facilities (e.g., playgrounds) as a priority they will need to address in the coming years.



*Additional thoughts/comments*

The final question on the survey asked respondents to share any additional insight they have about ways to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado. In total, 93 open-ended comments were “coded” or organized into similar categories (Table 13). Almost half (40%) of comments involved the topic of funding. Specifically, statements emphasized the need to increase, diversify or stabilize funding. Two respondents adequately captured this sentiment:

*“Need to find means financially to enhance trail opportunities, work out connecting trails between counties...”*

*“I think we need to be planning ahead...Surveying visitors to assess their evolving needs/desires as well as securing new funding sources...”*

Comment Categories	%*
Funding: increase, diversify, stabilize	40
Conservation	26
Partnerships, interagency/organization support	19
Access (recreation opportunity)	18
Small, disadvantaged towns	13
No suggestions/supportive comments	13
New infrastructure, maintenance	13
Increased visitors and management	9
Regulations, enforcement	9
Ethics, education	9
Planning efforts	6
Miscellaneous	3

\*Some comments were coded into multiple categories which is why they do not equal 100%.

More than one-quarter (26%) of respondents described a general need to conserve, connect or acquire land (i.e., “Conservation”). The notion of partnerships and issues associated with access/recreational opportunity were described in 19% and 18% of open-ended statements respectively. The following statement succinctly spans both categories:

*“Rural areas need more help in marketing their outdoor recreational opportunities on a national level.”*

In addition, about 13% of comments highlighted the need to maintain, improve or develop new infrastructure. This sentiment was also expressed in the quantitative survey findings (See Figure 12 on page 75).

*“The City of (name removed) is a disadvantaged community in Southern Colorado with an aging population. We don’t have funding to expand our parks and rec opportunities or add trails, open space but do need to refurbish our existing parks.”*



# Your Perspectives about Outdoor Recreation in Colorado



## About This Questionnaire

Vea la descripción en español a continuación.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is interested in understanding your perspectives about outdoor recreation in Colorado. We are interested in everyone's responses, not just outdoor recreation enthusiasts or individuals from a certain area of the state. Even if you do not regularly recreate outdoors, we still need to hear from you.

Please complete this survey as soon as possible. When you are finished, please return it in the postage-paid envelope. The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete. Your identity will be kept confidential and the information you give us will never be associated with your name.

If you would rather complete this survey **online**, please type the entire web address below directly into your browser's address bar. Do not use Google or a similar search engine to access the survey.

<https://www.research.net/r/SCORP2017English>  
<https://www.research.net/r/SCORP2017Espanol>

If you choose to participate online, you will be asked to enter the unique number associated with the paper survey located at the bottom of the last page.

**Surveys must be complete by December 18, 2017**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife [Vida Silvestre y Parques, CPW por sus siglas en inglés] está realizando esta encuesta para aprender más sobre los comportamientos e intereses recreativos al aire libre de los habitantes de Colorado. Si prefiere completar la encuesta en línea, por favor escriba la dirección web completa en la barra de direcciones de su navegador. Si usted desea recibir una copia de este cuestionario en español o si tiene preguntas sobre la encuesta, comuníquese conmigo, Mike Quartuch.

**La encuesta debe de ser llenada para el 18 de diciembre del 2017**

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Mike Quartuch at [mike.quartuch@state.co.us](mailto:mike.quartuch@state.co.us)  
 If you have any questions about Colorado's SCORP, please contact Jody Kennedy at [jody.kennedy@state.co.us](mailto:jody.kennedy@state.co.us)



For purposes of this survey, please consider **OUTDOOR RECREATION** to mean **any form of outdoor activity pursued during your leisure time that provides personal enjoyment and satisfaction**, including activities like camping, hunting, jogging, fishing, hiking, picnicking, playing outdoor sports (e.g., golf, soccer), etc.

**To note:** All findings presented in this report were weighted using United States Census Bureau estimates and represent percentages unless otherwise indicated; “n” = sample size;  $\bar{X}$  = mean (average).

**Your Outdoor Recreation Participation**

1. On average, how often did you **recreate outdoors** during the previous 12 months? (Please check one.) (n = 1,846)

- [6.4]<sub>1</sub> Never → → (If “Never” please **SKIP** to question 7)
- [23.0]<sub>2</sub> Less than once per week
- [24.0]<sub>3</sub> Once per week
- [30.4]<sub>4</sub> 2-4 times per week
- [14.1]<sub>5</sub> More than 4 times per week
- [2.1]<sub>6</sub> I am not sure

2. On average, how often did you use the **parks, open space, or trails** in your local community during the previous 12 months? (Please check one.) (n = 1,729)

- [3.5]<sub>1</sub> Never
- [31.4]<sub>2</sub> Less than once per week
- [23.3]<sub>3</sub> Once per week
- [27.7]<sub>4</sub> 2-4 times per week
- [12.8]<sub>5</sub> More than 4 times per week
- [1.4]<sub>6</sub> I am not sure

3. Approximately what percentage of your outdoor recreation trips were over-night rather than day-trips during the previous 12 months. (Please write-in the percentage of over-night trips here.) (n = 1,177,  $\bar{X}$  = 22.52)

Categories	%
1-5	34.3
6-10	20.0
11-25	21.9
26-50	10.9
51-100	12.5

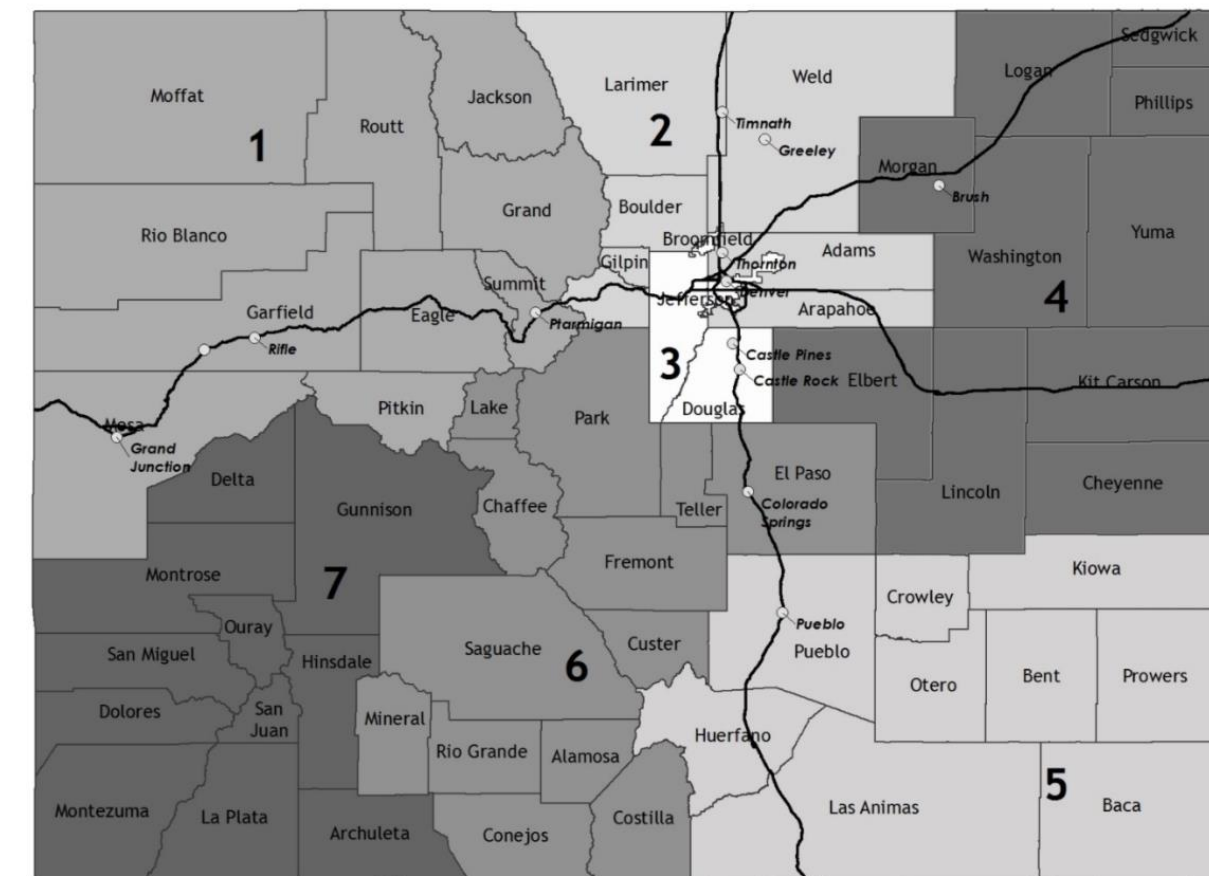
\*Results were recoded into categories for ease of interpretation (Zeros were removed).

4. When spending the night away from home to participate in outdoor recreation, what accommodations did you use during the previous 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

- [23.3]<sub>1</sub> I did not stay overnight (n = 445)
- [12.9]<sub>2</sub> Friend or relative’s home (n = 246)
- [32.9]<sub>3</sub> Tent camping (n = 629)
- [17.9]<sub>4</sub> RV camping (n = 343)
- [33.0]<sub>5</sub> Hotel/motel (n = 630)
- [11.4]<sub>6</sub> Cabin/yurt (n = 217)
- [5.5]<sub>7</sub> Bed and breakfast (n = 106)
- [5.1]<sub>8</sub> Luxury accommodations (e.g., high-end hotel or resort) (n = 98)
- [5.4]<sub>9</sub> Other (Please specify): (n = 104) (e.g., Air B&B, boat, Condominium, hostel, truck camper, etc.)

We are interested in understanding where and how often Coloradans participate in outdoor recreational activities. The map below shows how the state of Colorado is divided into 7 regions for purposes of recreation planning. Please refer to the numbered regions when answering the following question.

**Tourism Districts in Colorado**



— Major Roads    3 Metro    6 South Central  
 1 Northwest    4 Northeast    7 Southwest  
 2 North Central    5 Southeast



5. For each of the following outdoor activities, please enter the approximate number of days in the past year that you participated in each region. Even if you are not sure of the number of days, please enter your best guess. *If you DID NOT participate in an activity or you did not participate in an activity in a particular region, please leave that activity blank.*

*To note: Results represent the “number of respondents” who participated in a particular activity within each of the seven tourism districts. These are the only non-weighted data in this report.*

	region 1	region 2	region 3	region 4	region 5	Region 6	region 7
<b>Trail/road Activities</b>							
Walking	482	596	512	84	132	399	227
Jogging/Running (outdoors)	119	214	208	11	21	103	44
Hiking/Backpacking	415	402	346	26	53	321	148
Horseback riding	40	29	36	11	11	35	19
Road biking	90	188	133	24	20	53	21
Mountain biking	104	126	94	5	14	83	62
Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) or 4-wheeling/ motorcycling	178	104	34	14	30	111	106

	region 1	region 2	region 3	region 4	region 5	region 6	region 7
<b>Water-based Activities</b>							
Swimming (outdoors)	94	172	98	17	40	78	58
Power boating	73	59	46	10	22	34	32
Water/Jet skiing	11	5	28	4	10	2	8
Sailing	22	4	30	1	1	2	2
Canoeing/ Kayaking	60	108	59	1	13	35	26
Whitewater rafting	69	53	23	0	3	26	46
Stand up paddleboarding	71	67	50	0	7	8	37

<b>Winter Activities</b>	region 1	region 2	region 3	region 4	region 5	region 6	region 7
Skiing (alpine/tele)/ snowboarding	356	103	33	1	3	80	81
Sledding/tubing	141	109	66	5	10	62	30
Snowmobiling	59	27	19	0	4	12	17
Snowshoeing/ cross country skiing	129	103	32	1	4	33	48

<b>Wildlife-related Activities</b>	region 1	region 2	region 3	region 4	region 5	region 6	region 7
Hunting	134	54	29	37	45	73	51
Fishing	202	200	101	14	56	226	135
Bird watching	73	120	117	17	28	61	44
Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)	180	146	145	27	29	163	69
Ice fishing	41	48	11	3	6	47	38

<b>Other Outdoor Activities</b>	region 1	region 2	region 3	region 4	region 5	region 6	region 7
RV camping/ cabins	205	103	80	25	59	199	135
Tent camping	248	165	100	23	47	165	127
Picnicking	188	229	189	17	38	113	56
Team or individual sports (outdoors) (e.g., basketball, golf, tennis, etc.)	49	218	205	10	25	55	25
Target or skeet shooting	57	88	38	26	34	50	38
Rock climbing	40	57	26	10	1	34	14
Playground activities	71	244	181	16	21	75	29



6. During the last 12 months, how often did you use each of the following types of outdoor recreation areas? (Please indicate whether you've used any of the following types of areas **AND** write-in the number of days you participated in any outdoor recreation activity at each type of area visited.)

Types of areas	% Participation (n)	$\bar{X}$ (mean number of days)
City/local parks, trails, and recreation areas	[8.5] <sub>0</sub> No [91.5] <sub>1</sub> Yes (n = 1,616)	69
County parks/open space	[18.1] <sub>0</sub> No [81.9] <sub>1</sub> Yes (n = 1,428)	34
State parks, forests, or wildlife areas	[14.9] <sub>0</sub> No [85.1] <sub>1</sub> Yes (n = 1,504)	19
National parks, forests, and recreation areas	[17.8] <sub>0</sub> No [82.2] <sub>1</sub> Yes (n = 1,516)	15
Private/commercial recreation areas	[61.5] <sub>0</sub> No [38.5] <sub>1</sub> Yes (n = 1,146)	29
Other (please specify): (e.g., BLM, golf course, my land/backyard/private, wilderness/areas)	[20.4] <sub>0</sub> No [79.6] <sub>1</sub> Yes (n = 31)	N/A

**Reasons to Recreate and Barriers to Future Participation**

7. How important to you is each of the following reasons to recreate outdoors in Colorado? (Please check only one response per reason.)

Reasons to recreate outdoors	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important
To relax (n = 1,796, $\bar{X}$ = 3.50)	[3.1] <sub>1</sub>	[5.9] <sub>2</sub>	[28.6] <sub>3</sub>	[62.4] <sub>4</sub>
To exercise/improve physical health (n = 1,788, $\bar{X}$ = 3.45)	[3.0] <sub>1</sub>	[9.6] <sub>2</sub>	[26.7] <sub>3</sub>	[60.7] <sub>4</sub>
To spend time with friends/family (n = 1,780, $\bar{X}$ = 3.52)	[2.5] <sub>1</sub>	[6.7] <sub>2</sub>	[27.2] <sub>3</sub>	[63.5] <sub>4</sub>
To enjoy or spend time in nature (n = 1,774, $\bar{X}$ = 3.57)	[2.0] <sub>1</sub>	[5.8] <sub>2</sub>	[25.1] <sub>3</sub>	[67.1] <sub>4</sub>
To do something new (n = 1,709, $\bar{X}$ = 2.77)	[15.2] <sub>1</sub>	[23.7] <sub>2</sub>	[30.0] <sub>3</sub>	[31.2] <sub>4</sub>
To learn about wildlife, plants, insects, etc. (n = 1,724, $\bar{X}$ = 2.63)	[13.5] <sub>1</sub>	[32.1] <sub>2</sub>	[31.8] <sub>3</sub>	[22.6] <sub>4</sub>
For spiritual/cultural purposes (n = 1,701, $\bar{X}$ = 2.32)	[29.6] <sub>1</sub>	[29.4] <sub>2</sub>	[20.5] <sub>3</sub>	[20.5] <sub>4</sub>
To exercise my pet (n = 1,696, $\bar{X}$ = 2.37)	[37.9] <sub>1</sub>	[14.0] <sub>2</sub>	[21.0] <sub>3</sub>	[27.0] <sub>4</sub>
For fun/thrill/excitement (n = 1,190, $\bar{X}$ = 3.00)	[10.9] <sub>1</sub>	[18.0] <sub>2</sub>	[30.7] <sub>3</sub>	[40.4] <sub>4</sub>
For solitude (n = 1,227, $\bar{X}$ = 3.07)	[12.5] <sub>1</sub>	[12.0] <sub>2</sub>	[31.2] <sub>3</sub>	[44.2] <sub>4</sub>

8. The following is a list of possible reasons that may limit your participation in outdoor recreation. For each one, please indicate how much of a barrier it is in preventing you from participating in outdoor recreation in Colorado. (Please check only one response per reason.)

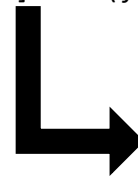
Potential barriers	Not a barrier	Slight barrier	Moderate barrier	Major barrier
Limited <b>access</b> to outdoor recreation areas (n = 1,734, $\bar{X}$ = 1.83)	[52.7] <sub>1</sub>	[21.0] <sub>2</sub>	[17.1] <sub>3</sub>	[9.2] <sub>4</sub>
<b>No one</b> to go with (n = 1,751, $\bar{X}$ = 1.60)	[61.5] <sub>1</sub>	[21.6] <sub>2</sub>	[11.9] <sub>3</sub>	[5.0] <sub>4</sub>
Not enough <b>time</b> due to work/family/other commitments (n = 1,755, $\bar{X}$ = 2.62)	[20.5] <sub>1</sub>	[23.4] <sub>2</sub>	[29.3] <sub>3</sub>	[26.8] <sub>4</sub>
<b>Health</b> concerns (n = 1,780, $\bar{X}$ = 1.50)	[70.5] <sub>1</sub>	[14.6] <sub>2</sub>	[9.7] <sub>3</sub>	[5.2] <sub>4</sub>
<b>Cost</b> of equipment/gear needed to participate (n = 1,750, $\bar{X}$ = 1.82)	[46.6] <sub>1</sub>	[31.9] <sub>2</sub>	[14.3] <sub>3</sub>	[7.2] <sub>4</sub>
Outdoor recreation areas are too <b>crowded</b> (n = 1,756, $\bar{X}$ = 2.36)	[24.6] <sub>1</sub>	[30.8] <sub>2</sub>	[28.8] <sub>3</sub>	[15.8] <sub>4</sub>
Lack of or high costs associated with <b>transportation</b> (n = 1,740, $\bar{X}$ = 1.57)	[59.8] <sub>1</sub>	[27.9] <sub>2</sub>	[8.0] <sub>3</sub>	[4.2] <sub>4</sub>
Outdoor recreation areas are <b>not developed</b> enough (e.g., limited picnic tables, restrooms, etc.) (n = 1,752, $\bar{X}$ = 1.48)	[68.0] <sub>1</sub>	[19.8] <sub>2</sub>	[8.5] <sub>3</sub>	[3.7] <sub>4</sub>
Concern about <b>safety/crime</b> in outdoor recreation areas (n = 1,758, $\bar{X}$ = 1.47)	[68.1] <sub>1</sub>	[20.7] <sub>2</sub>	[7.3] <sub>3</sub>	[3.8] <sub>4</sub>
Not enough <b>information</b> about outdoor recreation (n = 1,743, $\bar{X}$ = 1.51)	[64.0] <sub>1</sub>	[24.6] <sub>2</sub>	[8.4] <sub>3</sub>	[3.1] <sub>4</sub>
High <b>costs</b> associated with entrance, parking, or other <b>user fees</b> (n = 1,767, $\bar{X}$ = 2.08)	[37.2] <sub>1</sub>	[29.4] <sub>2</sub>	[22.0] <sub>3</sub>	[11.5] <sub>4</sub>
Limited <b>access</b> for those with physical disabilities (n = 1,751, $\bar{X}$ = 1.34)	[78.6] <sub>1</sub>	[12.6] <sub>2</sub>	[5.3] <sub>3</sub>	[3.4] <sub>4</sub>
<b>Traffic</b> congestion (e.g., I-70; I-25) (n = 1,770, $\bar{X}$ = 2.38)	[29.4] <sub>1</sub>	[23.4] <sub>2</sub>	[26.9] <sub>3</sub>	[20.3] <sub>4</sub>
Nearby outdoor recreation areas are <b>dirty or poorly</b> maintained (n = 1,744, $\bar{X}$ = 1.58)	[59.3] <sub>1</sub>	[26.8] <sub>2</sub>	[10.5] <sub>3</sub>	[3.3] <sub>4</sub>
Other (Please specify): (e.g., age, health, closures, ATVs, no restrooms) (n = 81, $\bar{X}$ = 3.45)	[7.5] <sub>1</sub>	[6.9] <sub>2</sub>	[19.3] <sub>3</sub>	[66.4] <sub>4</sub>



**Health and Outdoor Recreation**

9. During a typical week, other than your regular job, do you participate in any physical activities or exercises in the outdoors? (Please check one.)  
(n = 1,782)

- [22.6]<sub>0</sub> No (If “No” please skip to question 10) (497)
- [77.4]<sub>1</sub> Yes (If “Yes” please answer question 9a below) (1,286)



9a. About how many minutes per week do you spend being physically active in the outdoors? \_\_\_\_\_ **Minutes/Week**  
(n = 1,351)

Categories*	%
1-30 minutes	6.8
31-60 minutes (1hr)	19.3
61-180 minutes (3hrs)	39.1
181-300 minutes (5hrs)	18.1
301-480 minutes (8hrs)	9.9
>480minutes (8hrs+)	6.7

\*Results were recoded into categories for ease of interpretation

10. How could outdoor recreation areas/facilities assist you in achieving your health and fitness goals or priorities? (Please check all that apply.)

- [33.3]<sub>1</sub> Provide more long distance trails/pathways (n = 637)
- [16.6]<sub>2</sub> Provide more fitness/exercise stations at outdoor areas/facilities (n = 316)
- [11.8]<sub>3</sub> Provide informative and educational health-related signage (n = 226)
- [43.9]<sub>4</sub> Protect and encourage more natural settings at outdoor recreation areas/facilities (n = 838)
- [19.9]<sub>5</sub> Support health and fitness community events (e.g., 5K races, adventure races, etc) (n = 380)
- [19.3]<sub>6</sub> I don't have health/fitness goals or priorities (n = 369)
- [7.9]<sub>7</sub> Other (Please specify): (n = 151) (E.g., ADA/disabilities issues; bathroom facilities, dogs; better trail maintenance; eliminate bicycles; less people, etc.)

11. Does your workplace/current employer provide programs, incentives, or opportunities for you to participate in outdoor recreational activities? (e.g., paid “walk breaks”) (Please check one.)  
(n= 1,778)

- [53.2]<sub>0</sub> No (If “No” please skip to question 12) (n = 946)
- [19.5]<sub>1</sub> Yes (If “Yes” please answer question 11a below) (n = 347)
- [23.6]<sub>3</sub> Not applicable (n = 420)
- [3.7]<sub>4</sub> I am not sure (n = 65)

If Yes...



11a. Do you participate in any of these programs, incentives, or opportunities? (Please check one.)  
[28.1]<sub>0</sub> No (n = 97)  
[71.9]<sub>1</sub> Yes (n = 249)

**Services and Types of Recreation Opportunities**

12. How much of a priority do you feel each of the following types of recreation areas should be for future investment **where you live?** (Please check one for each item.)

	Essential priority	High priority	Moderate priority	Low priority	Not a priority
Playgrounds and play areas built with natural materials (e.g., logs, water, sand, trees) (n = 1,765, $\bar{X}$ = 3.10)	[14.4] <sub>1</sub>	[26.5] <sub>2</sub>	[29.2] <sub>3</sub>	[14.5] <sub>4</sub>	[15.3] <sub>5</sub>
Playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured materials (e.g., swing sets, slides) (n = 1,747, $\bar{X}$ = 2.72)	[9.6] <sub>1</sub>	[16.0] <sub>2</sub>	[31.7] <sub>3</sub>	[22.2] <sub>4</sub>	[20.5] <sub>5</sub>
Picnic areas and shelters for small groups (n = 1,778, $\bar{X}$ = 3.04)	[9.3] <sub>1</sub>	[24.0] <sub>2</sub>	[37.0] <sub>3</sub>	[21.2] <sub>4</sub>	[8.5] <sub>5</sub>
Picnic areas and shelters for large groups (n = 1,749, $\bar{X}$ = 2.71)	[7.3] <sub>1</sub>	[16.9] <sub>2</sub>	[30.9] <sub>3</sub>	[29.5] <sub>4</sub>	[15.5] <sub>5</sub>
Paved/hard surface walking trails and paths (n = 1,742, $\bar{X}$ = 2.88)	[11.7] <sub>1</sub>	[20.5] <sub>2</sub>	[28.9] <sub>3</sub>	[21.8] <sub>4</sub>	[17.2] <sub>5</sub>
Dirt/soft surface walking trails and paths (n = 1,774, $\bar{X}$ = 3.49)	[19.8] <sub>1</sub>	[31.9] <sub>2</sub>	[31.1] <sub>3</sub>	[11.4] <sub>4</sub>	[5.8] <sub>5</sub>
Off-highway vehicle trails/areas (n = 1,732, $\bar{X}$ = 2.40)	[9.8] <sub>1</sub>	[14.1] <sub>2</sub>	[18.5] <sub>3</sub>	[21.3] <sub>4</sub>	[36.3] <sub>5</sub>
Nature and wildlife viewing areas (n = 1,769, $\bar{X}$ = 3.28)	[16.3] <sub>1</sub>	[29.5] <sub>2</sub>	[28.9] <sub>3</sub>	[16.5] <sub>4</sub>	[8.8] <sub>5</sub>
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, baseball, etc. (n = 1,750, $\bar{X}$ = 2.65)	[8.4] <sub>1</sub>	[19.7] <sub>2</sub>	[24.2] <sub>3</sub>	[24.2] <sub>4</sub>	[23.6] <sub>5</sub>
Off-leash dog areas (n = 1,758, $\bar{X}$ = 2.72)	[13.2] <sub>1</sub>	[19.9] <sub>2</sub>	[21.8] <sub>3</sub>	[15.6] <sub>4</sub>	[29.5] <sub>5</sub>
Other (Please specify): (n = 48, $\bar{X}$ = 4.49)	[69.2] <sub>1</sub>	[18.0] <sub>2</sub>	[9.1] <sub>3</sub>	[0] <sub>4</sub>	[3.7] <sub>5</sub>



13. Outdoor recreation providers often need to prioritize their efforts. How do you think that recreation providers should prioritize the following activities on recreation areas in Colorado? (Please check one for each item.)

	Essential priority	High priority	Moderate priority	Low priority	Not a priority	I am not sure
Providing educational programs and visitor services (n = 1,771, $\bar{X}$ = 3.15)	[6.4] <sub>1</sub>	[16.1] <sub>2</sub>	[40.8] <sub>3</sub>	[21.5] <sub>4</sub>	[10.4] <sub>5</sub>	[4.8] <sub>6</sub>
Operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities (n = 1,776, $\bar{X}$ = 4.07)	[31.4] <sub>1</sub>	[38.7] <sub>2</sub>	[22.9] <sub>3</sub>	[2.5] <sub>4</sub>	[2.4] <sub>5</sub>	[2.1] <sub>6</sub>
Acquisition of new parks and open space (n = 1,781, $\bar{X}$ = 3.73)	[20.8] <sub>1</sub>	[29.0] <sub>2</sub>	[34.6] <sub>3</sub>	[8.7] <sub>4</sub>	[3.8] <sub>5</sub>	[3.1] <sub>6</sub>
Development of new facilities at existing recreation sites (n = 1,775, $\bar{X}$ = 3.32)	[10.7] <sub>1</sub>	[26.7] <sub>2</sub>	[34.9] <sub>3</sub>	[20.1] <sub>4</sub>	[5.2] <sub>5</sub>	[2.4] <sub>6</sub>
Local, regional, and statewide trails (n = 1,780, $\bar{X}$ = 3.85)	[22.8] <sub>1</sub>	[37.1] <sub>2</sub>	[26.8] <sub>3</sub>	[7.4] <sub>4</sub>	[3.1] <sub>5</sub>	[2.7] <sub>6</sub>
Long-term planning and management (n = 1,778, $\bar{X}$ = 4.29)	[41.7] <sub>1</sub>	[30.7] <sub>2</sub>	[18.5] <sub>3</sub>	[3.0] <sub>4</sub>	[2.4] <sub>5</sub>	[3.8] <sub>6</sub>

**About You**

14. In what year were you born? (Please write-in four-digit year here.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(n = 1,798,  $\bar{X}$  = 1969 [49 years old])

Categories (years old)	%
18-24	1.0
25-34	7.0
35-44	36.7
45-54	16.9
55-64	18.6
65-74	13.4
75+	6.4

15. With what gender do you identify? (Please check one.) (n = 1,783)  
[50.0]<sub>1</sub> Male (n = 892)  
[50.0]<sub>0</sub> Female (n = 891)

16. What is your current zip code? (Please write-in five-digit number here.) \_\_\_\_\_  
N/A

17. Approximately how many years have you lived in Colorado? (Please write-in your response here.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS (n = 1,810)

Categories (years lived in CO)*	%
1-5	6.4
6-10	8.7
11-20	15.6
21-35	23.4
36-50	29.2
51+	16.5

\*Results were recoded into categories for ease of interpretation.

18. How would you describe your racial or ethnic background? (Please check one.)  
[72.2]<sub>1</sub> White, non-Hispanic/Latino (n = 1,280)  
[10.7]<sub>2</sub> Hispanic/Latino (n = 190)  
[1.5]<sub>3</sub> Black or African American (n = 26)  
[2.1]<sub>4</sub> American Indian or Native Alaskan (n = 36)  
[0.9]<sub>5</sub> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (n = 17)  
[4.7]<sub>6</sub> Asian (n = 83)  
[8.0]<sub>7</sub> Other (Please specify): (n = 142)

19. What is your approximate annual household income? (Please check one.)  
[6.0]<sub>1</sub> Less than \$20,000 per year (n = 100)  
[9.8]<sub>2</sub> \$20,000 to \$39,999 per year (n = 165)  
[14.7]<sub>3</sub> \$40,000 to \$59,999 per year (n = 248)  
[12.6]<sub>4</sub> \$60,000 to \$79,999 per year (n = 212)  
[17.0]<sub>5</sub> \$80,000 to \$99,999 per year (n = 286)  
[22.3]<sub>6</sub> \$100,000 to \$149,999 per year (n = 375)  
[17.8]<sub>7</sub> Over \$150,000 per year (n = 299)

20. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments you may have about outdoor recreation in Colorado.  
(n = 1,911 [outdoor recreation-related])

Thank you!



**Managing Lands and Providing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in Colorado**

**To note:** All findings presented in this report represent percentages unless otherwise indicated; “n” = sample size;  $\bar{X}$  = mean (average).

**Background**

1. Please indicate which of the following agencies or organizations you work for. (Please check only one.)

(n = 480)

Agency/organization	%
Federal agency	7.1
State agency	10.4
Private institution	1.0
City/Town	46.7
County	13.1
Metro districts/Municipality	13.8
Land Trust	2.7
Other (please specify): (e.g., special district [parks and recreation; taxing; etc], wildlife consulting firm	5.2

2. Please indicate your current job title:

N/A (n = 480)

3. Please provide your e-mail address.

N/A (n = 480)

**Agency/organization characteristics**

4. Does your agency/organization have one or more planning documents that guide decisions related to the use/management of parks, trails, and/or open space? (Please check one.)

(n = 469)

Response Options	%
No	24.4
Yes	73.3

5. Which of the following characterizes your agency/organization’s planning document(s)? (Please check all that apply.)

Response Options	%
Addresses specific natural resource management alternatives (e.g., noxious weed management, habitat restoration, etc.) (n = 219)	45.6
Encourages public/stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process (n = 236)	49.2
Formally adopted by governing body (e.g., city council, county commissioners, board of directors) (n = 260)	54.2
Leverages volunteers or partners to support land stewardship (n = 166)	34.6
Includes educational programs engaging people in outdoor conservation (n = 145)	30.2
Addresses gaps in outdoor recreation needs (n = 172)	35.8
Addresses facility needs (e.g., new buildings/updates) (n = 214)	44.6
Outlines regulatory policies and enforcement strategies (n = 158)	32.9
Identifies strategies for increasing diversity, inclusion, and equity in outdoor recreation (n = 116)	24.2
Other (please specify) (n = 24): (e.g., wildlife management/conflict mitigation; staffing ratios; health benefits; regional participation; fire mitigation; historic preservation; planning documents; Master/trail plans, etc.)	

**Outdoor recreation profile**

6. Please select the type(s) of land, park, open space, etc. your agency/organization is responsible for managing (Please check all that apply.)

Response Options	%
Neighborhood or community parks (n = 262)	54.6
Special use parks (e.g., dog parks, skateboard parks, playgrounds, etc.) (n = 199)	41.5
State Parks or State Wildlife Areas (n = 50)	10.4
Open lands (e.g., open space, natural areas, mountain parks) (n = 181)	37.7
Conservation or access easements (n = 136)	28.3
Federal lands (e.g., National Parks, National Forests, wilderness areas, etc.) (n = 42)	8.8
Reservoir parks (n = 56)	11.7
Regional, county, or local trails/greenways (n = 138)	28.7
Other (Please specify): (n = 51) (e.g., historic sites; welcome centers; regional parks; sports fields [golf courses, baseball fields, etc.]; pools; fairgrounds)	10.6



7. Approximately how many acres of land, open space, parks, etc. do **you** manage within **your jurisdiction**? To note: If unknown, please leave blank.

	n	Range (acres)	$\bar{X}$ (average acres)
Neighborhood or community parks	170	0.42 – 3,688	151.83
Special use parks (e.g., dog parks, skateboard parks, playgrounds, etc.)	117	0.25 – 900	49.73
State Parks or State Wildlife Areas	42	2 – 84,000	13,708.88
Open lands (e.g., open space, natural areas, mountain parks)	109	0.50 – 90,000	3,825.72
Conservation easements	61	2 – 559,000	21,061.86
Federal lands (e.g., National Parks, National Forests, Wilderness Areas, etc.)	40	1 – 8,300,000	
Reservoir parks	30	1 – 6,000 acres	987.50

8. Approximately how many miles of trails/greenways do **you** manage within **your jurisdiction**? (If unknown, please leave blank.)

n = 207  
 $\bar{X}$  = 173.70  
 Range = 0 – 8,000

9. Does your agency/organization offer programs related to the following topics? (Please check one per topic.)

	No	Yes	Yes, but programs are provided by another partner or outside group	I am not sure
<u>Health</u> : Wellness, nutritional guidance, weight loss initiative, etc. (n = 410)	52.4	30.0	14.1	3.4
<u>Environmental/Conservation education</u> : Interpretive, outdoor, or environmental education programs (n = 410)	40.2	36.6	19.5	3.7
<u>Recreation</u> : Sports, fitness, athletics (410)	42.0	46.6	8.3	3.2

10. Approximately how many people, on average, annually attend the following types of programs offered by your agency/organization? Note: If your agency does not offer a particular program, please enter zero (“0”).

	n	Range	$\bar{X}$ (average # of people)	Total (# of people)
<u>Health</u> : Wellness, nutritional guidance, weight loss initiative, etc.	100	1 – 200,000	4,954	495,476
<u>Environmental/Conservation education</u> : Interpretive, outdoor, or environmental education programs	150	2 – 387,000	8,935	1,340,283
<u>Recreation</u> : Sports, fitness, athletics	154	2 – 12,000,000	141,025	21,717,867

**Volunteers**

11. Do volunteers assist your agency/organization in providing any of the following? (Please check only one per item.)

	No	Yes	I am not sure
Visitor services (n = 364)	55.8	39.8	4.4
Maintenance or construction (n = 372)	41.1	55.6	3.2
Natural resource management (e.g., habitat restoration) (n = 375)	49.1	46.1	4.8
Cultural resource management (e.g., historic preservation) (n = 365)	58.6	33.7	7.7
Administrative or clerical services (n = 365)	57.8	37.3	4.9
Informal education (e.g., interpretive/naturalist) (n = 364)	55.5	38.7	5.8
Formal education (e.g., school programs) (n = 361)	68.1	25.8	6.1
Wildlife research/citizen science (n = 361)	66.8	24.1	9.1
Other (please specify): (n = 18) (e.g., sports activities/coaching)		3.8	

12. Does your agency/organization track annual volunteer hours? (Please check one.)

(n = 376)

Response Option	%
Yes, we track <b>total hours</b> only (If “Yes” please ALSO answer question 12)	24.7
Yes, we track total hours by volunteer <b>project/service</b> (If “Yes” please ALSO answer question 12)	23.9
No, we do not track hours (If “No” please skip to question 14)	51.3



13. Approximately how many total volunteer hours did your agency/organization track during the previous 12 month period? *(Please write-in your best estimate here.)*

n = 153  
 $\bar{X}$  = 12,088.89  
 Range = 2 – 400,000  
 Total number of volunteer hours = 1,849,600

**Funding and investment needs**

14. Please indicate whether your agency/organization receives dedicated funding for park, open space, trail investments, etc. through any of the following *(Please check all that apply.)*

Response Options	%
Great Outdoors Colorado grants (Colorado Lottery distributions) (n = 208)	43.3
Conservation Trust Fund (Colorado Lottery distributions) (n = 263)	54.8
Fee-in-Lieu (n = 53)	11.0
Use or property tax (n = 91)	19.0
Congressional appropriations (n = 33)	6.9
Sales tax (e.g., County Open-Space; Pittman-Robertson or Dingell-Johnson excise tax) (n = 98)	20.4
Bonds (n = 30)	6.3
Impact fees (n = 53)	11.0
Local government general funds (no dedicated source) (n = 144)	30.0
My agency does not have dedicated funding for park, open space, trail investments etc. (n = 18)	3.8

15. How significant are the following **funding issues** related to outdoor recreation, parks, open-space, etc. for your agency/organization? *(Please check only one response for each potential funding issue.)*

	Not at all significant	Somewhat significant	Moderately significant	Very significant	Not applicable
Year-to-year stability of your agency/organization’s budget (n = 366)	7.4	16.7	22.4	49.2	4.4
Insufficient resources to fund your agency/organization’s budget (n = 360)	10.8	20.6	21.9	38.1	8.6
Insufficient user fee revenue (n = 358)	14.5	20.7	20.4	18.2	26.3
Need to create a dedicated funding source (n = 359)	13.9	17.3	17.8	25.1	25.9
Funding for partnerships with volunteer and/or youth organizations (n = 359)	16.7	22.0	22.0	19.5	19.5
Decrease in tax revenue in recent years (n = 355)	21.1	19.2	11.5	20.3	27.9
Other (please specify <b>AND</b> also indicate the level of significance): (n = 9) <i>(e.g., need to reauthorize taxes/modify existing sources of funding; public support through donations/user fees; TABOR restrictions)</i>					

16. Approximately what is your agency/organization’s unmet financial need related to outdoor recreation, parks, open-space, etc. in Colorado? *(Please check one.)*

(n = 357)

Response Options	%
No unmet financial need	23.0
Less than \$50,000 annually	21.0
\$50,001 - \$150,000 annually	19.0
\$150,001 - \$350,000 annually	9.0
\$350,001 - \$550,000 annually	5.9
\$550,001 - \$1,000,000 annually	6.4
\$1,000,001 - \$3,000,000 annually	5.3
Greater than \$3,000,000 annually	10.4



17. Which of the following has your agency/organization done during times of financial shortfall? (Please check all that apply.)

Response Options	%
Applied for grants (n = 270)	56.3
Increased user fees (n = 114)	23.8
Sought sponsorship or donations (n = 154)	32.1
Reduced services or staff (n = 190)	39.6
Relied on additional volunteer services (n = 147)	30.6
Held fundraisers (n = 49)	10.2
Increased taxes (property/sales) (n = 28)	5.8
Bonds measure (n = 33)	6.9
None of the above (if "None" please SKIP to question 19) (n = 34)	7.1
Other please specify (n = 16) (e.g., Loans; Friends Groups; Partner organizations; Delayed capital improvement spending; etc.)	3.3

18. Please indicate the extent to which your efforts were successful at meeting your agency/organizations unmet financial need. (Please check one response per effort.)

	Not at all successful	Somewhat successful	Moderately successful	Very successful	Not applicable
Applied for grants (n = 311)	3.9	28.3	28.0	31.8	8.0
Increased user fees (n = 286)	7.0	17.1	20.6	9.1	46.2
Sought sponsorship or donations (n = 296)	7.4	28.0	20.3	7.4	36.8
Reduced services or staff (n = 297)	11.1	33.0	19.2	4.0	32.7
Relied on additional volunteer services (n = 297)	8.1	23.9	20.9	10.1	37.0
Held fundraisers (n = 283)	7.8	10.2	8.1	2.5	71.4
Increased taxes (n = 276)	4.7	4.3	4.3	6.5	80.1
Bond measure (n = 271)	5.5	1.5	2.6	10.7	79.7
None of the above (n = 113)	1.8				98.2
Other (please specify AND also indicate the level of success): (n = 5) (e.g., loans; other excise taxes; alternative funding resources to the General Fund [GOCO/Conservation Trust Fund])					

Management issues

19. How significant are the following management issues for your agency/organization? (Please check only one response per management issue.)

	Not at all significant	Somewhat significant	Moderately significant	Very significant	Not applicable
Capacity to serve a growing population (e.g., crowding/overuse of parks, trails, etc.) (n = 349)	19.8	16.9	18.9	34.1	10.3
Coordination/cooperation with other agencies/organizations that manage outdoor recreation (n = 349)	14.0	21.2	24.1	30.1	10.6
Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources (n = 348)	4.9	15.2	23.0	50.0	6.9
Adapting to changing user needs/preferences (n = 348)	9.8	21.6	32.8	27.3	8.6
Conflicts among recreationists (n = 346)	21.4	25.1	20.2	17.1	16.2
Human-wildlife interactions (n = 348)	23.3	27.6	20.1	13.5	15.5
Off-leash dogs (n = 342)	14.9	27.2	24.3	23.7	9.9
Capacity to manage volunteers (n = 347)	21.3	26.2	21.0	11.8	19.6
Displaced or homeless community members (n = 345)	25.8	18.8	12.8	14.2	28.4
Creating or updating your agency/organization's parks, trails, and/or open space plan (n = 345)	13.6	27.8	25.8	22.3	10.4
Vandalism (n = 335)	15.2	36.4	25.7	13.4	9.3
Engaging partner organizations for programs or agency/organization needs (n = 346)	11.8	26.9	31.2	17.3	12.7
Engaging volunteer or youth corps assistance for programs/agency needs (n = 347)	18.4	27.4	21.3	11.8	21.0
Adapting to climate change (n = 347)	27.1	24.8	15.3	10.1	22.8
Recreational access to rivers (n = 340)	20.0	16.8	14.1	13.2	35.9
Educating public on user ethics (n = 346)	14.7	23.4	24.9	19.7	17.3
Promoting tourism and economic development (n = 345)	13.0	19.7	23.8	24.6	18.8
Other (please specify AND also indicate the level of significance): (n = 3) (e.g., Private residents' use in subdivision, and where children are safe is very important)					



Visitor Service Issues

20. How significant are the following **visitor service issues** for your agency/organization? *(Please check only one response per management issue.)*

	Not at all significant	Somewhat significant	Moderately significant	Very significant	Not applicable
Being able to offer interpretive/outdoor education programs (n = 340)	17.6	24.4	19.7	15.6	22.6
Providing access for people with disabilities (n = 339)	10.3	28.3	27.7	23.3	10.3
Assessing visitor expectations, experiences, or satisfaction (n = 337)	9.2	25.8	28.2	23.1	13.6
Addressing trail connectivity issues (n = 338)	10.7	18.6	21.6	30.5	18.6
Providing recreation programs/opportunities for <i>seniors</i> (n = 337)	13.9	30.3	22.0	19.9	13.9
Providing recreation programs/opportunities for <i>youth</i> (n = 338)	7.4	20.4	27.8	31.4	13.0
Providing public information about facilities and programs (n = 337)	13.1	20.2	30.6	22.0	14.2
Providing adequate trail and interpretive signage (n = 338)	11.2	20.7	26.3	24.0	17.8
Maintaining visitor safety and protection (n = 339)	10.0	22.7	20.4	36.3	10.6
Enforcing responsible visitor use (n = 334)	9.3	18.0	26.0	37.1	9.6
Other (please specify AND also indicate the level of significance): (n = 5) (e.g., keeping up with high visitation; small number of visitors outside subdivision use; providing public restrooms)					

Natural Resource Management/Conservation Issues

21. What is the **most significant** threat your agency/organization is currently facing with respect to **conserving natural resources** in Colorado? *(Please use the space below to write-in your response.)*

(n = 250)

Open-ended Response Category*	% of Comments
Increased visitors, visitor management, access	32.4
Development, visitor impacts, continuing conservation	27.6
Funding, staffing	24.0
Water	12.8
Enforcement, maintenance, regulations	10.0
Public engagement, misuse and ethics	7.6
Climate Change	5.6
Invasive/nuisance species	4.8
Cooperative management, planning	4.4
Wildfires	3.6
Forest Health	3.2
Agriculture	1.2

\*Results were coded into categories for ease of interpretation. Individuals who wrote “no comment” or similar statements were removed from this table.



Outdoor recreation needs

22. Looking ahead at the next five years, how much of a priority do you think the following types of new outdoor recreation sites or activities will be for your agency/organization? (Please check only one response per item.)

	Not at all a priority	Low priority	Somewhat of a priority	Moderate priority	High priority	Not applicable
Expanding the amount of open lands (n = 317)	12.9	24.0	15.5	15.8	18.0	13.9
Developing neighborhood, community or special use parks or facilities (e.g., playgrounds) (n = 335)	12.2	14.3	17.3	19.4	24.2	12.5
Obtaining access easements or rights of way (n = 333)	11.4	18.3	19.8	16.8	20.1	13.5
Developing team sports facilities (n = 333)	24.6	14.4	11.4	11.7	12.3	25.5
Expanding opportunities or access for water-based recreation (n = 333)	16.2	18.6	14.1	17.4	13.8	19.8
Expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing (n = 331)	21.1	16.6	12.7	11.2	16.3	22.1
Expanding community trail systems (n = 332)	7.8	10.5	12.3	19.3	36.7	13.3
Connecting regional trail systems (n = 331)	8.8	10.3	17.8	13.9	35.3	13.9
Developing local agriculture (e.g., community gardens, beekeeping, etc.) (n = 333)	20.4	26.4	15.0	9.9	7.8	20.4
Improving outdoor interpretive/educational facilities or programs (n = 333)	12.0	21.0	22.5	18.6	12.9	12.9
Developing swimming pools/water play parks (n = 333)	28.8	14.7	10.5	9.3	12.6	24.0
Other (please specify <b>AND</b> also indicate the level of priority): (n = 8) (e.g., renovating, developing, or increasing community facilities for sports or wellness programs; preserving historic sites)						

Trails

23. Please indicate the extent to which any of the following represent current trail-related priorities of your agency/organization. (Please check one response per priority.)

	Not at all a priority	Low priority	Somewhat of a priority	Moderate priority	High priority	Not applicable
Reducing user conflicts (n = 314)	13.1	21.0	16.9	14.0	16.9	18.2
Connecting community assets (e.g., a park to a neighborhood or school) (n = 331)	8.2	13.9	15.7	17.5	25.7	19.0
Creating opportunities for motorized trail users (e.g., OHVs) (n = 329)	31.6	16.7	13.1	7.6	6.7	24.3
Creating opportunities for non-motorized trail users (e.g., hikers, mountain bikers) (n = 329)	7.9	10.6	16.1	22.2	27.7	15.5
Maintaining existing trails (n = 330)	3.9	5.2	12.1	18.5	45.5	14.8
Providing connections between existing trails (n = 330)	7.6	10.3	13.3	20.0	32.7	16.1
Re-routing/improving trails to modern, sustainable design (n = 327)	9.2	16.2	15.6	17.1	23.5	18.3
Providing education and interpretive opportunities (n = 328)	11.9	14.3	22.3	18.6	17.4	15.5
Providing adequate parking/access to existing trails (n = 328)	9.8	15.5	18.9	22.0	17.4	16.5
Enhancing trails/trailheads with amenities (e.g., bathroom facilities) (n = 329)	12.2	15.2	19.1	19.8	17.0	16.7
Other (please specify <b>AND</b> also indicate the level of priority): (n = 2) (e.g., issues with public bathrooms)						



**About You**

24. What is the zip code of your current employer? *(Please write-in five-digit number here.)*

N/A (n = 320)

25. Approximately how many years have you worked for your agency/organization?

(n = 320)

Response Options*	%
0 – 5 years	33.8
6 – 10 years	16.3
11 – 15 years	16.9
16 – 20 years	14.1
21 – 25 years	8.1
26 – 30 years	4.4
31 – 43 years	6.6

\*Results were recoded into categories for ease of interpretation.

26. Please use the space provided below to share any additional thoughts or comments with us about ways to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado.

(n = 93)

Open-ended Response Category*	% of Comments
Funding: increase, diversify, stabilize	40.86
Connectedness, conservation, acquisitions	25.81
Partnerships, interagency/organization support	19.35
Access (rec opportunities)	18.23
Small, disadvantaged towns	12.9
No suggestions/supportive	12.9
New infrastructure, maintenance	12.9
Increased visitors and management	8.6
Regulations, enforcement	8.6
Ethics, education	8.6
Planning efforts	6.45
Misc.	3.23

\* Results were coded into categories for ease of interpretation.

**Thank you!**

**Coloradans' Top 30 Outdoor Recreation Activities**

- |  |  |                             |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Walking   | 11. Team or individual sports (outdoors)<br>(e.g., basketball, golf, tennis, etc.) | 21. Canoeing/Kayaking       |
| 2. Hiking/Backpacking                                | 12. Swimming (outdoors)  | 22. Power boating           |
| 3. Tent camping                                      | 13. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) or<br>4-wheeling/motorcycling                        | 23. Stand up paddleboarding |
| 4. Picnicking  | 14. Sledding/tubing  | 24. Whitewater rafting      |
| 5. Fishing   | 15. Road biking  | 25. Ice fishing             |
| 6. Playground activities                             | 16. Bird Watching  | 26. Snowmobiling            |
| 7. Jogging/Running (outdoors)                        | 17. Mountain biking  | 27. Horseback riding        |
| 8. Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding                 | 18. Hunting  | 28. Rock climbing           |
| 9. Wildlife viewing (not including<br>bird watching) | 19. Snowshoeing/cross country skiing   | 29. Water/Jet skiing        |
| 10. RV camping/cabins                                | 20. Target or skeet shooting   | 30. Sailing                 |



VIC SCHEDEL/CPW



VIC SCHEDEL/CPW



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW



NORA LOGIE/CPW



THOMAS KIMMEL/CPW



VIC SCHEDEL/CPW



**Targeted Outreach**

**Tribal Land Managers Survey**

*Background*

While there are over 40 tribes historic to Colorado, two federally recognized Tribes, the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian, continue to steward a substantive portion of land in Colorado. However, neither was included in the previous (2014) SCORP outreach effort. To address this shortcoming, CPW attempted to learn from the two Tribes by implementing a survey instrument. These findings helped provide a more comprehensive perspective regarding land managers' interests, issues and recreation-opportunities in Colorado. In addition, they helped inform management priorities for the 2019 SCORP.

*Methodology*

The Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, the state's official tribal liaison, helped CPW establish points of contact with both the Southern Ute Indian and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes and also provided feedback on the survey instrument. The latter included approximately 20 questions, most of which were modified from the Land Managers survey (in Appendix D). A questionnaire was sent via Email to each of the two Tribes.

*Participation and Results*

CPW received a response from one out of the two Tribes invited to participate. An overview of their responses is provided below, with some comparison to the Land Managers and Public survey findings:

- Management issues: Of the 18 management issues provided, the participating Tribe selected 15 as "very significant." This matches several high priority management issues in the Land Managers survey, such as maintaining infrastructure (number one priority in Public survey), adapting to changing user needs and coordinating with other agencies. The participating Tribe placed less emphasis on the capacity to serve a growing population (number four land management issue and number two public barrier) and greater importance on cultural resource management.
- Visitor services issues: Findings from both the Tribal and Land Manager surveys demonstrated significant concern about a majority of the visitor services issues listed. These include enforcing responsible visitor use and increasing opportunities for youth. The participating Tribe also listed cultural awareness as a "very significant" visitor issue.

- Top threat to resource conservation: Lack of understanding and knowledge of native culture is the primary threat identified by the participating Tribe, compared to visitor management and access, broadly, from the Land Manager survey.
- Outdoor recreation needs: The Tribal Survey yielded less concern with expanding community and regional trail systems than the Land Manager survey, and more concern with improving programs, cultural awareness, and local agriculture. Both illustrate an interest in developing more special-use recreational facilities.
- "Trail-related" priorities: Reducing user conflicts, providing education and interpretive opportunities, increasing non-motorized trail opportunities and maintaining existing trails were ranked as areas of "high priority" by the participating Tribe. The latter two were also top priorities in the Land Managers survey. This complements findings from the Public survey, which emphasized the importance of local and statewide trails.
- Open-ended question: The participating Tribe stated that cultural resources are integrally part of recreation. Two potential ways to preserve these resources include using indigenous terms to name recreational areas and providing educational signage on trails.

*Application*

- The participating Tribe's survey responses issue a resounding call for greater cultural awareness, programming and management. Some crossover was present with the public and other land managers' issues, needs and priorities, such as maintaining infrastructure and adapting to changing user needs. "Education and ethics" as a broad category appeared in the open-ended comments for both the Land Manager and Public surveys, although few comments specifically mentioned cultural resources and education.
- It is important to recognize the disparate interests and needs of land managers throughout the state, as well as converging interests. Tribal governments offer important perspectives in land management that help shape a more inclusive statewide recreation plan. This has implications in stewardship, education and programming, conservation, funding, visitor service issues and other topics strategized for in the SCORP.

**Targeted Outreach: Comment Form**

*Objective*

In order to address sociodemographic gaps of respondents in the 2018 Public survey, CPW implemented a Comment form to understand the outdoor recreation habits, preferences and priorities of racial/ethnic minorities in Colorado. Specifically, the purpose of this targeted outreach was to learn from more people of color, particularly those who identify as Hispanic/Latino. Similar to findings from the Tribal survey (above), results from the Comment form helped to inform management priorities for the 2019-2023 Colorado SCORP.

*Methodology*

Given the purposeful nature of this inquiry, CPW attempted to reach as many individuals constituting racial/ethnic groups as possible. In other words, the sample was not, nor was it intended to be, statistically representative of any particular stakeholder group. Rather, CPW invited organizations that support people of color in the outdoors to help disseminate the Comment form to their respective constituents/members. Groups asked to distribute the comment form fit within one of four categories (Table 13).

Table 13. Categorizations of organizations who received the Targeted Outreach form.

Targeted Outreach form grouping	Type of organization
Form #1	Three Colorado organizations that support people of color in the outdoors
Form #2	One nationwide organization with a Colorado office that supports people of color in the outdoors
Form #3	Four Colorado organizations that support underserved youth in the outdoors
Form #4	Seven Colorado organizations that collaborate with Great Outdoors Colorado

*Participation*

CPW received 171 Targeted Outreach form responses. Hispanic/Latino input more than doubled from the Public survey, better reflecting the population of the state. However, significant racial/ethnic discrepancies remain (see Table 14). CPW

received 11% more White/Caucasian input than is represented by the greater population of Colorado, 8% less Hispanic/Latino input than Colorado's statewide population reflects, and 5% less or zero Black/African American input.

Table 14. Comparison of survey participants' race/ethnicity to state demographics.

Race/Ethnicity	Public survey (n=1,789)	Targeted Outreach form (n=171)	Percentage discrepancy ⇒ ⇐	Percentage of state
White/Caucasian	88%	78%	+11%	67%
Hispanic/Latino	6%	13%	-8%	21%
Other	4%	0.1%	-2.9%	3%
American Indian/Native Alaskan	1%	<0.1%	-2%	2%
Asian	1%	<0.1%	-3%	3%
Black/African American	1%	0%	-5%	5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	0%	-0.2%	0.2%



Results

Overall, 99 percent of respondents reported outdoor recreation as part of their lifestyle. They ranked very similarly to the Public survey with regard to recreational activities, areas for recreation and barriers to future recreation. Although, some questions, such as reasons to recreate, varied slightly from responses to the Public survey.

Reasons to Recreate: The top four motivators for recreation are listed below, all notably reaching over ninety percent. The Public survey yielded identical top motivators, with the exception that “spending time with family/friends” shifted to the second most prevalent reason.

- 1) To spend time in nature (100%)
- 2) To relax (99%)
- 3) To exercise/improve health (97%)
- 4) To spend time with friends/family (91%)

Areas for recreation: Respondents favored local, state and federal recreational areas.

- 1) City/local parks, trails, other rec areas (98%)
- 2) National Parks, Forests, other rec areas (92%)
- 3) State Parks, Forests, or Wildlife Areas (91%)

Top recreational activities: With over twenty options listed, respondents narrowed the scope to the following three favorite activities. Walking superseded hiking/backpacking as the most popular activity in the Public survey, and picnicking tied with camping for the number three position.

- 1) Hiking/backpacking (78%)
- 2) Walking (73%)
- 3) Tent/cabin camping (72%)

Barriers to future recreation: The following barriers ranked the highest, matching results from the Public survey.

- 1) Time (45%)
- 2) Traffic congestion (40%)
- 3) Crowding (39%)

Open-ended comment: Fifty-eight people responded to the final question, which asked participants to provide any other comments they had regarding outdoor recreation. Figure 18 provides the results ordered from highest to lowest frequency.

The category “conservation, limit development” drew the highest amount of comments (17, or nearly 30%) and included such concerns as wildlife management, stress to resources and habitat connectivity. “Physical accessibility and traffic” (12 comments, roughly 20%) incorporated distance to recreational areas and continued access among population growth challenges. Finally, “ethics and education” (10 comments, over 15%) included topics like stewardship and understanding of outdoor spaces.

The open-ended comments from the Targeted Outreach form overlap with those from the Public survey, although they highlight different priorities to inform recreation management:

- Although “conservation, limit development” was the most frequent open-ended comment in both surveys, the Targeted Outreach form showed greater emphasis (20% more comments) in this area.
- “Ethics and education” shifted from the number ten open-ended comment in the Public survey to number three in the Targeted Outreach form, gathering over 10% more comments.

Application

In seeking the input and connections of specific organizations, CPW gathered a non-random sample. The race/ethnicity table informs us that we did not entirely reach our target audience, possibly because the form failed to reach the full breadth of people that the organizations serve. The form may also have been filled out by the program staff, volunteers and supporters who were not necessarily part of the target audience.

However, the findings of the Targeted Outreach form help us to better understand the full spectrum of recreational interests and issues across Colorado. One of the primary objectives under the SCORP’s “Opportunity and Access” goal is to forge a path for more diversity and inclusion in outdoor recreation. Whether it be race, gender, sexuality, ability status or socioeconomic status, none of these factors should define one’s opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. This has implications in marketing efforts, education and programming, social science research, workforce recruitment and many other operations that we aim to positively affect through the SCORP. Please see the “Opportunity and Access” section for specifics on priorities and actions for achieving a more diverse recreating population.

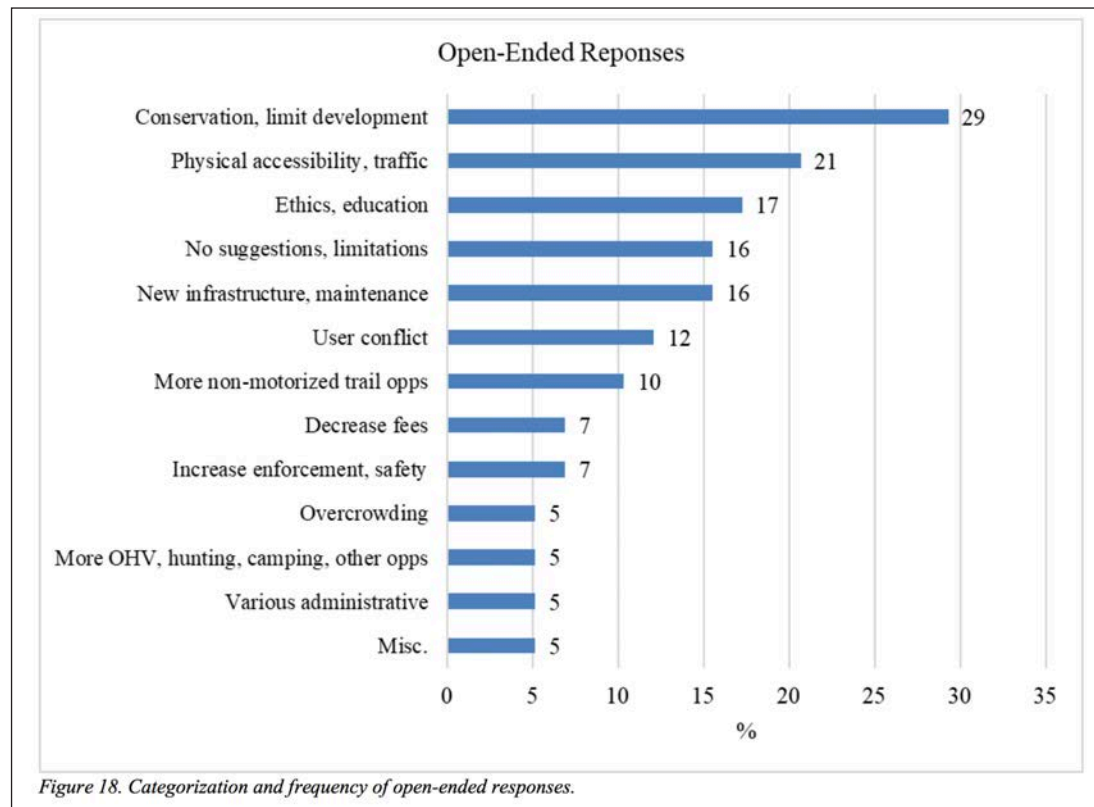


Figure 18. Categorization and frequency of open-ended responses.



July 23, 2018

# The 2017 Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado

A regional and county-level analysis



Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Denver, CO



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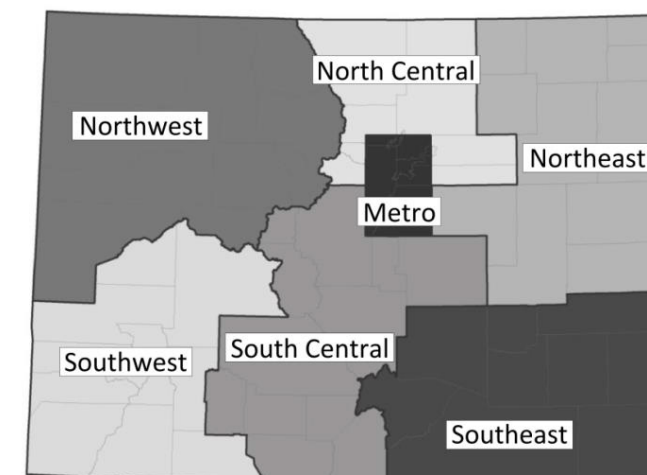
## Executive Summary

This study, conducted by Southwick Associates for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, estimates the economic contributions of outdoor recreational activity in Colorado during 2017. The results are provided at the state-level as well as for 7 regions within the state.<sup>1</sup> Focusing on the state-level results below, the total economic output associated with outdoor recreation amounts to \$62.5 billion dollars, contributing \$35.0 billion dollars to the Gross Domestic Product of the state. This economic activity supports over 511,000 jobs in the state, which represents 18.7% of the entire labor force in Colorado and produces \$21.4 billion dollars in salaries and wages. In addition, this output contributes \$9.4 billion dollars in local, state and federal tax revenue. Similar interpretations can be applied to the regional results. Outdoor recreation constitutes a substantial part of the Colorado economy.

Total Economic Contribution of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado, by Region (\$ values in millions)

	Northwest	North Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	South Central	Southwest	State
Output	\$14,879	\$13,846	\$10,648	\$505	\$1,648	\$6,384	\$5,009	<b>\$62,540</b>
Salaries & Wages	\$5,088	\$4,384	\$3,862	\$166	\$494	\$1,845	\$1,673	<b>\$21,372</b>
GDP Contribution	\$8,276	\$7,487	\$6,167	\$254	\$808	\$3,201	\$2,657	<b>\$34,997</b>
State/Local Taxes	\$1,231	\$1,002	\$743	\$51	\$184	\$615	\$490	<b>\$4,369</b>
Federal Taxes	\$1,195	\$1,074	\$934	\$39	\$121	\$439	\$380	<b>\$5,125</b>
Jobs	133,658	119,958	86,976	5,709	20,209	68,321	53,090	<b>511,059</b>

SCORP Regions



<sup>1</sup> Part of the analysis for this study was based on work performed or supported by the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA, 2017). This study uses a broader definition of outdoor recreation, and for this reason the results of these two studies should not be directly compared. Rather, these two studies should be used together to gain a better understanding of the economic contributions of outdoor recreation to the Colorado economy.



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## 1. Introduction

This study, conducted by Southwick Associates for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), was undertaken to quantify the economic contributions of outdoor recreation in Colorado for 2017. This investigation updates a similar study completed in 2014 (CPW, 2014). Both the current and original study are part of a broader CPW effort to characterize outdoor recreation both statewide and regionally for the Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Recreation contributions of multiple recreational activities were estimated. Fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching were of particular interest, and the specific contributions of these three activities were also examined. Additionally, the county-level contributions of hunting were estimated for a more detailed view of the economic contributions of hunting in Colorado.

Part of the analysis for this study was based on work performed or supported by the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA). In particular, the statewide economic contributions relied on data from a 2017 OIA study (OIA, 2017).<sup>2</sup> Although components of the analysis presented here relied on OIA data, the results of this study differ somewhat from the state-level results of the OIA study for two reasons. First, this study incorporates a wider range of outdoor recreation activities, which leads to larger economic estimates of outdoor recreation. Second, this study relies principally on the SCORP survey data to characterize participation, and these numbers differ from the OIA-based participation numbers as a consequence of using different data sources. For this reason, the results of these two studies should not be directly compared, but rather should be used together to gain a broader understanding of the economic contributions of outdoor recreation to the Colorado economy.

## 2. Data Sources & Methods

Outdoor recreation in this study includes a set of activities corresponding to questions in a CPW survey sent to 7,000 Colorado residents in early 2018 as part of the Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP, 2018)<sup>3</sup>. Spending in Colorado was estimated by applying spending profiles to participation numbers for the SCORP activities. Statewide spending was estimated using appropriate data sources for each activity group (Appendix D). In constructing spending profiles for each activity, this study largely relied on spending data from an OIA survey, administered for the purpose of quantifying the economic contributions of outdoor recreation with the U.S. and each of the 50 states (OIA, 2017). Because this study incorporated a wider range of activities than the OIA study, additional data sources were incorporated in characterizing spending profiles for certain activities. The estimation of

spending varied by activity as a result. Detailed descriptions of these procedures are included in Appendix E.

The spending estimates were analyzed using standard economic models to quantify economic contributions<sup>4</sup>. The definitions of key economic terms are presented in Appendix A. The IMPLAN economic modeling software was used to estimate economic contributions. Details of the economic contribution methodology are presented in Appendix B.

## 3. Outdoor Recreation Participation

The 2018 SCORP survey of Outdoor Recreation was used to characterize participation in Colorado regionally and statewide for residents of the state (SCORP, 2018). The survey included a set of 30 activities that were grouped into 5 larger categories (Table 1). The survey results suggest that outdoor recreation is very popular among Colorado residents, with an estimated 3.8 million adults (90% of adult residents) having engaged in at least one of the 30 activities in 2017. Trail activities were the most popular, with nearly 83% of adults participating. The Northwest and North Central regions were the two areas where the largest proportions of participants recreated, with 49% and 46% of Colorado adults taking part in outdoor recreation in those regions, respectively.

**Table 1.** SCORP Survey Activity Groups (SCORP, 2018)

Activity Group	Activities in Group
Trail/Road	Walking, Jogging/Running (outdoors), Hiking/Backpacking, Horseback riding, Road biking, Mountain biking, Off-highway vehicle (OHV) or 4-wheeling/motorcycling
Water-based	Swimming (outdoors), Power boating, Water/Jet skiing, Sailing, Canoeing/Kayaking, Whitewater rafting, Stand up paddle-boarding
Winter	Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding, Sledding/tubing, Snowmobiling, Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing
Wildlife-related	Hunting, Fishing, Ice fishing, Bird Watching, Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)
Other Outdoor	Developed/RV camping, Tent camping, Picnicking, Target or skeet shooting, Rock climbing, Team or individual sports (outdoors), Playground activities

<sup>2</sup> The Outdoor Recreation Economy (OIA, 2017). <https://outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/>

<sup>3</sup> Additional details about the SCORP survey are included in Appendix G.

<sup>4</sup> All monetary values are reported in 2017 dollars. For example, spending profiles based on 2016 data were scaled up by 2.1% to account for inflation (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).



**Table 2.** SCORP Survey Participants (thousands) for Activity Groups by Region (SCORP, 2018)

Activity	North				South			State
	Northwest	Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	Central	Southwest	
Trail/Road	1,603	1,706	1,469	273	356	1,250	710	<b>3,628</b>
Water-based	506	676	378	54	141	325	273	<b>1,758</b>
Winter	983	481	226	16	43	275	231	<b>1,747</b>
Wildlife-related	860	759	504	161	244	773	443	<b>2,201</b>
Other Outdoor	1,117	1,238	1,003	206	309	950	598	<b>3,070</b>
Any Outdoor Activity	2,049	1,942	1,628	452	569	1,579	972	<b>3,796</b>

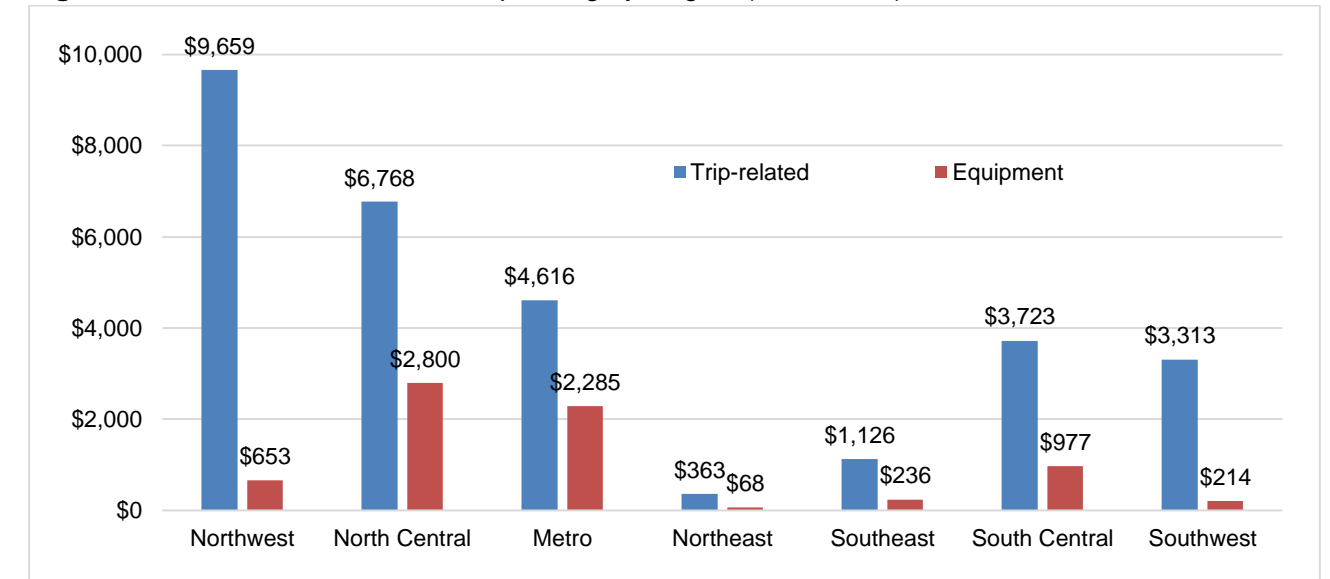
#### 4. Outdoor Recreation Expenditures

The popularity of outdoor recreation by both Colorado residents and nonresidents leads to significant consumer spending in the Colorado economy. Outdoor recreationists in Colorado spent over \$36.8 billion dollars on trips and equipment in 2017 (Table 3). The Northwest region included the largest amount of outdoor recreation spending at \$10.3 billion, followed by the North Central region at \$9.6 billion. Combined, these two regions accounted for over half of all the outdoor recreation spending within Colorado. Because retail sales are concentrated in more populous regions, the ratio of equipment to trip-related sales varies widely from one region to the next (Table 3). Figure one shows trip and equipment spending separately as well as the differences in magnitude between those two spending categories by county. Partly as a result of these differences, the nature of economic contributions (e.g., industries impacted, types of jobs supported) varies regionally.

**Table 3.** Spending by Region (millions) for Trip-Related versus Equipment Spending

	North				South			State
	Northwest	Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	Central	Southwest	
<b>Total Spending</b>								
Trip-related	\$9,659	\$6,768	\$4,616	\$363	\$1,126	\$3,723	\$3,313	\$29,569
Equipment	\$653	\$2,800	\$2,285	\$68	\$236	\$977	\$214	\$7,233
Total	\$10,312	\$9,568	\$6,901	\$431	\$1,363	\$4,700	\$3,527	\$36,802
<b>Percent Spending by Type</b>								
Trip-related	93.7%	70.7%	66.9%	84.3%	82.7%	79.2%	93.9%	80.3%
Equipment	6.3%	29.3%	33.1%	15.7%	17.3%	20.8%	6.1%	19.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Figure 1.** Total Outdoor Recreation Spending by Region (in \$millions)





### 5. Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation

As a result of the economic multiplier effect, the \$36.8 billion dollars of outdoor recreation spending produces additional rounds of economic activity throughout the state's economy. These include indirect contributions, arising from additional spending within industries, and induced contributions, which result from spending of salaries and wages by employees of these industries. These indirect/induced effects total \$29.0 billion, and when combined with direct expenditures, account for \$62.5 billion dollars of output in the Colorado economy (Table 4). This total output includes \$35.0 billion to the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is equal to 10.2% of the state's total GDP (BEA, 2018).<sup>5</sup>

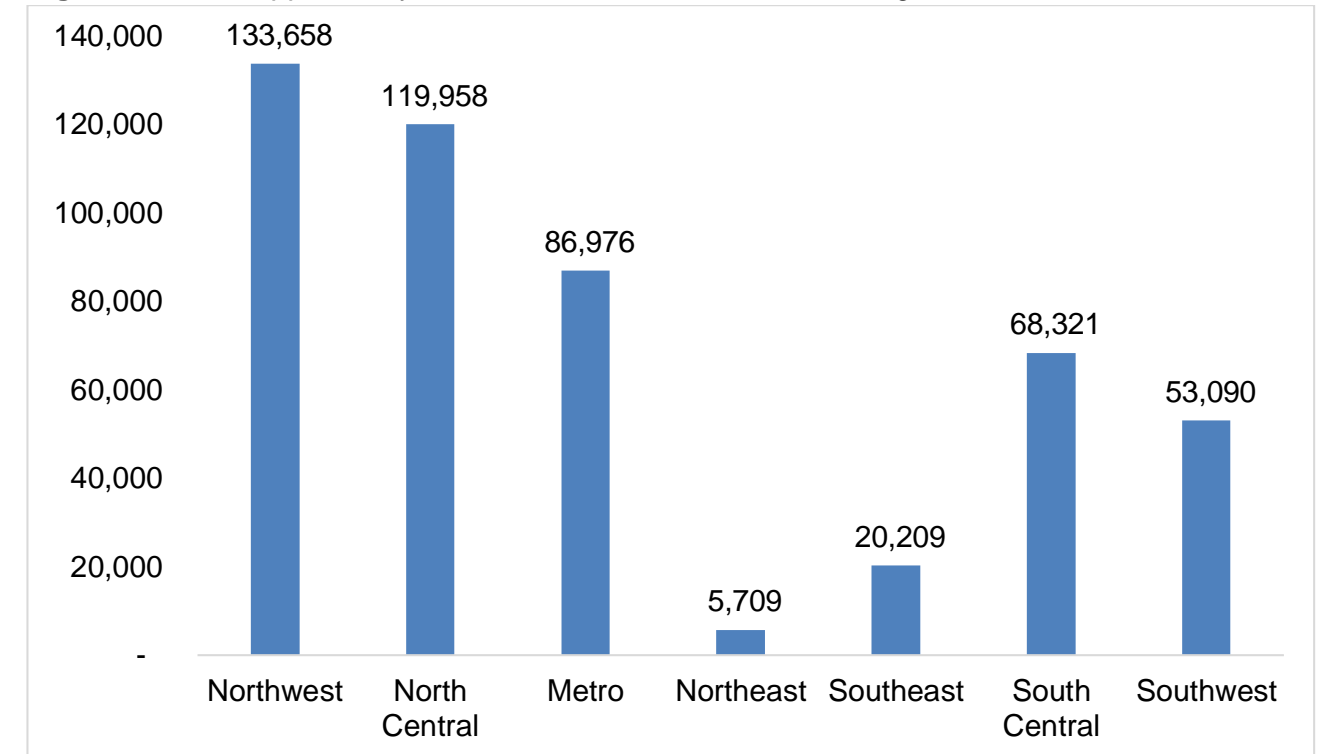
**Table 4.** Economic Contributions by Region (dollar values in \$millions)

	Northwest	North Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	South Central	Southwest	State
<b>Direct</b>								
Output	\$10,312	\$9,568	\$6,901	\$431	\$1,363	\$4,700	\$3,527	\$36,802
Salaries & Wages	\$3,288	\$2,699	\$2,242	\$128	\$339	\$1,180	\$1,119	\$11,206
GDP Contribution	\$5,206	\$4,569	\$3,479	\$188	\$558	\$2,068	\$1,713	\$18,354
State/Local Taxes	\$902	\$760	\$537	\$43	\$157	\$507	\$393	\$2,977
Federal Taxes	\$773	\$667	\$543	\$30	\$85	\$289	\$256	\$2,749
Jobs	92,805	85,833	60,144	4,703	16,064	51,647	38,080	328,632
<b>Indirect/Induced</b>								
Output	\$5,567	\$5,096	\$4,377	\$133	\$498	\$2,131	\$1,857	\$29,039
Salaries & Wages	\$1,800	\$1,685	\$1,620	\$38	\$155	\$665	\$554	\$10,166
GDP Contribution	\$3,070	\$2,918	\$2,688	\$66	\$250	\$1,134	\$943	\$16,643
State/Local Taxes	\$329	\$242	\$206	\$8	\$27	\$108	\$97	\$1,392
Federal Taxes	\$422	\$407	\$390	\$9	\$36	\$150	\$124	\$2,376
Jobs	40,853	34,125	26,831	1,006	4,145	16,675	15,010	182,427
<b>Total</b>								
Output	\$14,879	\$13,846	\$10,648	\$505	\$1,648	\$6,384	\$5,009	\$62,540
Salaries & Wages	\$5,088	\$4,384	\$3,862	\$166	\$494	\$1,845	\$1,673	\$21,372
GDP Contribution	\$8,276	\$7,487	\$6,167	\$254	\$808	\$3,201	\$2,657	\$34,997
State/Local Taxes	\$1,231	\$1,002	\$743	\$51	\$184	\$615	\$490	\$4,369
Federal Taxes	\$1,195	\$1,074	\$934	\$39	\$121	\$439	\$380	\$5,125
Jobs	133,658	119,958	86,976	5,709	20,209	68,321	53,090	511,059

<sup>5</sup> GDP contribution is smaller than total output because GDP measures only the value-added production of goods and services (i.e., any intermediate inputs are excluded). While total output is a broader measure of economic activity, GDP contribution is included for comparison to the other GDP-based measures.

An important result of outdoor recreation spending is the number of jobs supported in the state. An estimated 511,000 jobs in Colorado are supported by outdoor recreation expenditures, which accounts for 18.7% of all jobs in Colorado, larger than the combined construction and manufacturing labor force in the state (BLS, 2018). These jobs are especially important to the economies of specific locales in the state. In the Northwest region alone nearly 134,000 jobs are supported by the total economic contribution of outdoor recreation (Figure 2).

**Figure 2.** Jobs Supported by Outdoor Recreation in Colorado Regions





### 6. Economic Contributions of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Watching

Outdoor recreation includes a diverse set of activities that participants pursue in Colorado. Of particular interest for this study are the contributions of fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching. These three activities together produce over \$5 billion dollars of economic output, which supports nearly 40,000 jobs within the state. Fishing alone contributes \$2.4 billion dollars in economic output per year, supporting over 17,000 jobs in Colorado (Table 5).

**Table 5.** Total Economic Contributions of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Watching by Region

	Northwest	North Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	South Central	Southwest	State
<b>Economic Output (\$millions)</b>								
Fishing	\$239	\$691	\$512	\$29	\$109	\$353	\$120	\$2,445
Hunting	\$136	\$221	\$166	\$20	\$24	\$93	\$55	\$843
Wildlife Watching	\$161	\$762	\$682	\$23	\$55	\$277	\$86	\$2,436
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages (\$millions)</b>								
Fishing	\$74	\$194	\$165	\$9	\$33	\$97	\$39	\$757
Hunting	\$50	\$65	\$53	\$8	\$8	\$28	\$22	\$280
Wildlife Watching	\$49	\$184	\$191	\$7	\$17	\$72	\$28	\$637
<b>GDP Contribution (\$millions)</b>								
Fishing	\$122	\$321	\$261	\$13	\$53	\$162	\$61	\$1,227
Hunting	\$77	\$113	\$90	\$11	\$12	\$46	\$31	\$457
Wildlife Watching	\$88	\$310	\$320	\$10	\$28	\$121	\$45	\$1,071
<b>State &amp; Local Taxes (\$millions)</b>								
Fishing	\$17	\$40	\$28	\$2	\$12	\$29	\$11	\$143
Hunting	\$9	\$11	\$8	\$2	\$2	\$6	\$5	\$44
Wildlife Watching	\$11	\$33	\$31	\$2	\$5	\$14	\$7	\$111
<b>Federal Taxes (\$millions)</b>								
Fishing	\$18	\$47	\$40	\$2	\$8	\$22	\$9	\$180
Hunting	\$12	\$16	\$13	\$2	\$2	\$6	\$5	\$66
Wildlife Watching	\$12	\$44	\$47	\$2	\$4	\$16	\$6	\$154
<b>Jobs</b>								
Fishing	1,930	4,919	3,355	284	1,298	3,368	1,185	17,114
Hunting	1,488	1,885	1,238	368	443	1,213	869	7,937
Wildlife Watching	1,283	3,936	4,313	191	569	1,916	825	13,243

Pursuing big game is the most popular form of hunting in Colorado among both residents of the state and those traveling from other locations. Residents make up a majority of days spent hunting in the state at 69.8% (CPW, 2013a). The average non-resident big game hunter spends more money per day, and the economic output contributed by non-resident big game hunters makes up nearly 40 percent of the total (Table 6).

**Table 6.** Total Economic Contributions of Big Game Hunting in Colorado

	Output (\$millions)	Labor Income (\$millions)	GDP Contribution (\$millions)	State/Local Taxes (\$millions)	Federal Taxes (\$millions)	Jobs
Resident	\$374.3	\$124.5	\$197.4	\$21.3	\$29.1	2,999
Non-resident	\$228.2	\$95.1	\$138.6	\$13.0	\$21.3	3,305
Total	\$602.4	\$219.6	\$336.0	\$34.4	\$50.4	6,304

### 7. Hunting Economic Contributions by Destination County

Hunting is a popular form of outdoor recreation in Colorado, with participants that are typically active over many years. The type of hunting that Colorado residents and visitors engage in varies greatly by location. Through extensive surveys of hunters, CPW has been able to characterize hunting effort by destination county within the state over a range of species pursued (CPW, 2013). Using these survey results allowed us to estimate hunter effort by county of activity for three species groups; big game, small game, and waterfowl. Pursuing big game is the most popular hunting activity in Colorado, and the Northwest region includes the largest contribution of hunting effort by a fairly large margin (Table 7).

**Table 7.** Hunting Effort by Region in 2017<sup>6</sup>

	Northwest	North Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	South Central	Southwest	State
<b>Hunter Days per Year</b>								
Big Game	760,237	110,277	28,392	43,840	85,998	237,109	342,758	1,608,611
Small Game	113,185	69,838	4,500	123,235	39,273	47,007	40,378	437,417
Waterfowl	16,701	76,185	958	32,842	15,826	8,028	6,704	157,244

(CPW, 2012 Big Game, Small Game & Waterfowl Hunter Days by County, 2013)  
(CPW, 2017 Big Game Hunter days by County, 2018)

<sup>6</sup> Note that small game and waterfowl days estimates were not available in 2017. We increased the 2012 days by 7.9% to produce a corresponding 2017 estimate. This percentage equals the observed change in Colorado big game hunter days over that time period.



The detailed hunting effort data also allowed economic contributions of hunting effort to be examined at the county level. The economic contributions of the top ten counties by total output from hunting are included in Table 8. Detailed contributions for all counties are displayed in Table 9.

**Table 8.** Top 10 Counties for Total Hunting Economic Contributions by Output

County	Output (\$thousands)	Labor Income (\$thousands)	GDP Contribution (\$thousands)	State/Local Taxes (\$thousands)	Federal Taxes (\$thousands)	Jobs
El Paso	\$61,819	\$16,451	\$28,871	\$3,097	\$3,774	577
Denver	\$55,018	\$18,123	\$31,082	\$2,430	\$4,081	362
Jefferson	\$50,820	\$14,811	\$24,828	\$2,663	\$3,604	467
Arapahoe	\$50,793	\$16,103	\$28,776	\$2,646	\$3,945	398
Larimer	\$46,843	\$13,725	\$23,341	\$2,950	\$3,314	549
Adams	\$32,169	\$9,368	\$16,592	\$1,886	\$2,310	344
Weld	\$30,724	\$9,225	\$14,734	\$2,020	\$2,185	402
Boulder	\$29,753	\$8,367	\$14,579	\$1,599	\$1,890	262
Douglas	\$29,437	\$9,213	\$16,291	\$1,764	\$2,330	316
Mesa	\$26,868	\$8,380	\$13,483	\$1,712	\$2,035	392

**Table 9.** Total Hunting Economic Contributions by County

County	Output (\$thousands)	Labor Income (\$thousands)	GDP Contribution (\$thousands)	State/Local Taxes (\$thousands)	Federal Taxes (\$thousands)	Jobs
<b>Northwest Region</b>						
Eagle	\$14,109	\$5,786	\$8,917	\$986	\$1,334	144
Garfield	\$15,249	\$6,700	\$8,961	\$1,369	\$1,457	217
Grand	\$11,220	\$4,120	\$6,518	\$1,174	\$936	251
Jackson	\$4,533	\$1,416	\$2,222	\$607	\$333	51
Mesa	\$26,868	\$8,380	\$13,483	\$1,712	\$2,035	392
Moffat	\$11,942	\$4,271	\$6,293	\$807	\$1,037	312
Pitkin	\$3,839	\$1,685	\$2,536	\$282	\$333	40
Rio Blanco	\$9,433	\$4,741	\$5,086	\$1,229	\$708	172
Routt	\$13,264	\$5,540	\$8,222	\$1,157	\$1,306	219
Summit	\$6,243	\$2,143	\$3,696	\$505	\$537	74
<b>North Central Region</b>						
Adams	\$32,169	\$9,368	\$16,592	\$1,886	\$2,310	344
Arapahoe	\$50,793	\$16,103	\$28,776	\$2,646	\$3,945	398
Boulder	\$29,753	\$8,367	\$14,579	\$1,599	\$1,890	262
Clear Creek	\$984	\$443	\$620	\$96	\$90	24
Gilpin	\$462	\$232	\$311	\$35	\$51	14
Larimer	\$46,843	\$13,725	\$23,341	\$2,950	\$3,314	549
Weld	\$30,724	\$9,225	\$14,734	\$2,020	\$2,185	402
<b>Metro Region</b>						
Broomfield	\$3,687	\$1,203	\$2,190	\$233	\$295	34
Denver	\$55,018	\$18,123	\$31,082	\$2,430	\$4,081	362
Douglas	\$29,437	\$9,213	\$16,291	\$1,764	\$2,330	316
Jefferson	\$50,820	\$14,811	\$24,828	\$2,663	\$3,604	467
<b>Northeast Region</b>						
Cheyenne	\$265	\$72	\$102	\$48	\$18	3
Elbert	\$874	\$348	\$506	\$95	\$88	24
Kit Carson	\$1,071	\$413	\$600	\$103	\$91	48
Lincoln	\$1,117	\$400	\$619	\$122	\$83	25
Logan	\$3,392	\$1,518	\$2,077	\$292	\$343	53
Morgan	\$5,835	\$1,948	\$3,039	\$608	\$488	129
Phillips	\$524	\$257	\$329	\$44	\$51	10
Sedgwick	\$996	\$236	\$436	\$132	\$52	11
Washington	\$800	\$391	\$434	\$91	\$81	28
Yuma	\$2,272	\$989	\$1,284	\$226	\$214	41



(Continued) Total Hunting Economic Contributions by County

County	Output (\$thousands)	Salaries & Wages (\$thousands)	GDP Contribution (\$thousands)	State/Local Taxes (\$thousands)	Federal Taxes (\$thousands)	Jobs
<b>Southeast Region</b>						
Baca	\$570	\$145	\$271	\$81	\$33	7
Bent	\$1,079	\$382	\$586	\$130	\$79	28
Crowley	\$301	\$103	\$162	\$39	\$22	8
Huerfano	\$2,100	\$669	\$1,054	\$246	\$180	48
Kiowa	\$367	\$89	\$165	\$56	\$20	5
Las Animas	\$3,395	\$1,613	\$1,922	\$344	\$342	85
Otero	\$1,594	\$495	\$793	\$173	\$127	39
Prowers	\$868	\$294	\$453	\$93	\$69	20
Pueblo	\$10,846	\$3,404	\$5,802	\$893	\$827	165
<b>South Central Region</b>						
Alamosa	\$1,480	\$501	\$801	\$147	\$117	35
Chaffee	\$2,971	\$1,074	\$1,642	\$279	\$245	72
Conejos	\$2,418	\$915	\$1,320	\$269	\$218	83
Costilla	\$756	\$285	\$419	\$87	\$60	24
Custer	\$1,558	\$589	\$841	\$162	\$154	51
El Paso	\$61,819	\$16,451	\$28,871	\$3,097	\$3,774	577
Fremont	\$2,593	\$915	\$1,412	\$257	\$206	81
Lake	\$924	\$343	\$519	\$106	\$70	23
Mineral	\$940	\$355	\$532	\$104	\$98	18
Park	\$3,364	\$1,138	\$1,774	\$403	\$279	76
Rio Grande	\$2,440	\$839	\$1,287	\$257	\$211	61
Saguache	\$3,963	\$1,548	\$2,253	\$432	\$302	131
Teller	\$1,566	\$575	\$876	\$150	\$142	32
<b>Southwest Region</b>						
Archuleta	\$4,683	\$1,723	\$2,597	\$471	\$389	85
Delta	\$6,225	\$1,944	\$3,085	\$641	\$455	129
Dolores	\$2,328	\$909	\$1,306	\$309	\$150	71
Gunnison	\$8,442	\$3,096	\$4,804	\$825	\$730	155
Hinsdale	\$1,067	\$221	\$464	\$161	\$56	13
La Plata	\$8,877	\$3,332	\$4,971	\$627	\$748	121
Montezuma	\$2,855	\$1,185	\$1,600	\$263	\$253	70
Montrose	\$8,299	\$2,682	\$4,288	\$771	\$646	175
Ouray	\$1,686	\$780	\$979	\$144	\$151	27
San Juan	\$713	\$205	\$341	\$88	\$50	8
San Miguel	\$2,832	\$1,170	\$1,735	\$273	\$254	35

8. Comparison to Previous Studies

Previous studies have been undertaken to estimate the economic impacts of fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Colorado. CPW supported studies in 2004, 2008, and 2013 to estimate these economic contributions (CPW, 2004; CPW, 2008; CPW, 2013). Additionally, USFWS estimates expenditures for fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching by state every five years based on a National Survey (USFWS, 2011)<sup>7</sup>. The direct expenditure estimates of these studies are comparable in scope; retail trip and equipment expenditures made by fishing, hunting, and wildlife watchers in a given year. The spending estimates from each of these studies are summarized in Table 10 and compared to spending estimates utilized for this current study.

Table 10. Estimates of Annual Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Watching Expenditures from Comparable Data Sources

Data Source	Fishing and Hunting Expenditures	Wildlife Watching Expenditures
CPW (2004)	\$845,300,000	\$526,000,000
CPW (2008)	\$1,017,800,000	\$703,200,000
USFWS (2011)	\$1,551,577,000	\$1,432,579,000
CPW (2013)	\$1,604,218,256	\$1,322,968,136
Current Study	\$1,875,008,881	\$1,495,180,053

Different studies incorporate different data sources to characterize participation and spending habits of outdoor recreationists, the resulting expenditure estimates vary as a result. The current study relies largely on the USFWS National Survey to characterize average spending for fishers, hunters, and wildlife watchers. Because the participation numbers used in this study are similar to those estimated by USFWS, the overall statewide expenditures estimates are also similar.

<sup>7</sup> The most recent (2016) National Survey did not include estimates at the state level at the time of the writing of this report.



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## Appendix A Definitions for Economic Contribution

**Economic benefits** can be estimated by two types of economic measures: economic contributions and economic values. An **economic contribution** addresses the business and financial activity resulting from the use of a resource. **Economic value**, on the other hand, is a non-business measure that estimates the value people receive from an activity after subtracting for their costs and expenditures. This concept is also known as consumer surplus.

There are three types of economic contribution: direct, indirect and induced. A **direct contribution** is defined as the economic contribution of the initial purchase made by the consumer (the original retail sale). **Indirect contributions** are the secondary effects generated from a direct contribution, such as the retailer buying additional inventory, and the wholesaler and manufacturers buying additional materials. Indirect contributions affect not only the industry being studied, but also the industries that supply the first industry. An **induced contribution** results from the salaries and wages paid by the directly and indirectly effected industries. The employees of these industries spend their income on various goods and services. These expenditures are induced contributions, which, in turn, create a continual cycle of indirect and induced effects.

The direct, indirect and induced contribution effects sum together to provide the overall economic contribution of the activity under study. As the original retail purchase (direct contribution) goes through round after round of indirect and induced effects, the economic contribution of the original purchase is multiplied, benefiting many industries and individuals. Likewise, the reverse is true. If a particular item or industry is removed from the economy, the economic loss is greater than the original lost retail sale. Once the original retail purchase is made, each successive round of spending is smaller than the previous round. When the economic benefits are no longer measurable, the economic examination ends.

This study presents several important measures:

**Retail Sales** – these include expenditures made by outdoor recreationists for equipment, travel expenses and services related to their outdoor activities over the course of the year. These combined initial retail sales represent the “direct output”.

**Total Economic Effect** – also known as “total output” or “total multiplier effect,” this measure reports the sum of the direct, indirect and induced contributions resulting from the original retail sale. This figure explains the total activity in the economy generated by a retail sale. Another way to look at this figure is, if the activity in question were to disappear and participants did not spend their money elsewhere, the economy would contract by this amount.

**Salaries & Wages** – this figure reports the total salaries and wages paid in all sectors of the economy as a result of the activity under study. These are not just the paychecks of those employees directly serving recreationists or manufacturing their goods, it also includes portions of the paychecks of, for example, the truck driver who delivers food to the restaurants serving

recreationists and the accountants who manage the books for companies down the supply chain, etc. This figure is based on the direct, indirect and induced effects, and is essentially a portion of the total economic effect figure reported in this study.

**Jobs** – much like Salaries and Wages, this figure reports the total jobs in all sectors of the economy as a result of the activity under study. These are not just the employees directly serving recreationists or manufacturing their goods, they also include, for example, the truck driver who delivers food to the restaurants serving recreationists and the accountants who manage the books for companies down the supply chain, etc. This figure is based on direct, indirect and induced effects.

**GDP Contribution** – this represents the total “value added” contribution of economic output made by the industries involved in the production of outdoor recreation goods and services. For a given industry, value added equals the difference between gross output (sales and other income) and intermediate inputs (goods and services imported or purchased from other industries). It represents the contribution to GDP in a given industry for production related to outdoor recreation.

## Appendix B Methodology for Economic Contribution

The extent of the economic contributions associated with spending for outdoor recreation can be estimated in two ways:

- **Direct effects:** These include the jobs, income and tax revenues that are tied directly to the spending by outdoor recreationists without including multiplier effects.
- **Total effects:** These include the jobs, income and tax revenues that are tied directly to the spending by outdoor recreationists plus the jobs, income and tax revenues that result from the multiplier effects of outdoor recreation spending. The multiplier effect occurs when a direct purchase from a business leads to increased demand for goods and services from other businesses along their supply chain. Also included is economic activity associated with household spending of incomes earned in the affected businesses.

The economic contributions from outdoor recreation, both direct effects and total effects, were estimated with an IMPLAN input-output model for the state and regional economies of Colorado, and the county economies for hunting economic contributions. The IMPLAN model was developed by MIG, Inc. originally for use by the U.S. Forest Service. Inherent in each IMPLAN model is the relationship between the economic output of each industry (i.e. sales) and the jobs, income and taxes associated with a given level of output. Through those models, it is possible to determine the jobs, income and taxes supported directly by wildlife-based recreationists with and without the multiplier effects.



Input-output models describe how sales in one industry affect other industries. For example, once a consumer makes a purchase, the retailer buys more merchandise from wholesalers, who buy more from manufacturers, who, in turn, purchase new inputs and supplies. In addition, the salaries and wages paid by these businesses stimulate more benefits. Simply, the first purchase creates numerous rounds of purchasing. Input-output analysis tracks the flow of dollars from the consumer through all of the businesses that are affected, either directly or indirectly.

To apply the IMPLAN model, each specific expenditure for outdoor recreation activities was matched to the appropriate industry sector affected by the initial purchase. The spending was estimated with models of the Colorado economy, therefore all of the resulting contributions represent salaries and wages, total economic effects, jobs and tax revenues that occur within the state of Colorado. Likewise, models based on specific regions or counties represent the economic effects within the selected region or county. The results do not include any economic activity or indirect contributions that leak out of the state, region, or county of interest. As a result of this leakage, economic contributions at the state level are larger than the sum of corresponding regional or county contributions. This occurs because a portion spending in a particular region (or county) leaks to other regions (or counties) within the state, and this within-state leakage is captured in the Colorado model.

### Estimating Tax Revenues

The IMPLAN model estimates detailed tax revenues at the state and local level and at the federal level. The summary estimates provided in this report represent the total taxes estimated by the IMPLAN model including all income, sales, property and other taxes and fees that accrue to the various local, state and federal taxing authorities.

## Appendix C Spending Methodology

### I. Overview

Spending in Colorado was estimated by applying spending profiles to participation numbers for 30 outdoor recreational activities (Table 11). The procedure involved first estimating participation and spending at the state level and then allocating spending to each region.

### A. Estimating Participation

For most of these activities, a single data source was not sufficient to characterize both resident and non-resident participation in Colorado (Table 12). Procedures used to estimate final participation numbers varied between activities due to differences in the data available for each. The specific procedures used are detailed within sections II and III.

### B. Estimating Spending at the State Level

Spending profiles for each activity group included a set of expenditures by item for a typical participant. Each spending profile included two components; equipment spending, and trip-related spending. Spending profiles were applied differently by activity due to differences in source data (Sections II and III).

### C. Allocating Spending to each Region

Spending totals were allocated to regions differently for equipment and trip spending. We assumed that most consumers would not make many equipment purchases during a trip. Instead, they would likely purchase equipment prior to going on a trip. As a result many equipment purchases would be expected to occur in different regions than trip-related purchases. In order to more accurately reflect locations of equipment purchases, we used retail trade sales data by county (CDOR, 2012; Appendix H) to allocate these expenditures regionally. SCORP survey data was used to allocate trip-related expenditures. The percentages used to allocate regional expenditures are shown in Tables E2, F2, and G3.

Regional Allocation Calculations:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{equipment spending in region } j &= (\text{equipment spending}) \times (\text{retail trade \% in region } j) \\ \text{trip spending in region } j &= (\text{trip spending}) \times (\text{participation days \% in region } j) \end{aligned}$$



## II. Applying Profiles – General Approach

At the most basic level, spending was estimated using two data sources:

1. SCORP Survey: Used to estimate number of participants and days of participation
2. Secondary Source: Used to estimate spending per participant and/or per day

For each activity, spending in Colorado was estimated by multiplying the SCORP participation numbers by the relevant spending profile. Spending profiles are divided into two categories; trip spending (food, travel expenses, etc.) estimated on a per day basis, and equipment spending (apparel, gear, etc.) estimated on a per participant basis. Spending estimates are therefore based on two basic formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{equipment spending} &= (\text{count of participants}) * (\text{equip spending per participant}) \\ \text{trip spending} &= (\text{days of activity}) * (\text{trip spending per day}) \end{aligned}$$

### Notes on Methodology Updates

It is important to note that the methodology used for this study was simplified from the previous (2014) report. The methodology in the previous report included a number of additional adjustments to avoid double-counting spending across activities. We were able to simplify our approach for the current study since these adjustments were already made in the secondary source estimates. So, for example, the OIA study was used to estimate hiking spending profiles. The adjusted trip profile is calculated by simply taking the total number of OIA hiking days divided by the total OIA hiking trip spending (which already includes adjustments to avoid double-counting).

Another change relates to the activity grouping used in the previous study. Because the most recent OIA study included larger sample sizes, we were able to incorporate spending profiles on a per-activity basis, so activity grouping was not necessary.

## III. Applying Profiles – Selected Activities

Spending for several activities was estimated in a unique way due to the particular nature of the data that were used. Each of the following sub-sections includes the estimation details for the corresponding activity.

### A. Fishing

In 2017 there were 776,472 anglers who purchases fishing licenses in Colorado (USFWS, Historical Fishing License Data, 2017). The per participant spending profile from the National Survey (\$1,746.59 per person) was applied to estimate total fishing spending at the state level (USFWS, 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 2016).

### B. Hunting

Hunting spending profiles were also constructed using the USFWS 2016 National Survey. Hunter days by county (Table 17) were combined to estimate total hunter days in Colorado for residents and non-residents combined (CPW, 2018; CPW, 2013)<sup>8</sup>. For each hunting type<sup>9</sup> hunter day estimates were applied to the respective spending profiles to estimate total spending for hunting in Colorado. Trip spending by county was allocated using CPW participation estimates, and equipment spending by county was allocated using county trade sales data (CDOR, 2017; Appendix H).

### C. Wildlife Watching

The 2018 SCORP survey was used to estimate total wildlife viewing days by Colorado residents. This was multiplied by the 2016 National Survey spending profile (\$18.34 per day). For non-residents, the 2016 National Survey profile was multiplied by the most recent estimate of non-resident participation; the 2011 National Survey.

### D. Golfing

The impact of golfing on the Colorado economy is based on national average spending by golf facilities for operations and capital investments, as well as estimated spending by golfers for equipment, apparel and media at on-course and off-course retail outlets (TEconomy Partners, LLC, 2018). Total spending in Colorado was estimated by multiplying the average per facility by 297 golf facilities in Colorado as reported by the National Golf Foundation and included in the TEconomy report. This estimate represents direct golf spending and does not include golf-related real estate, golf tourism or charitable events. Golf participation was not broken out as a separate activity in the SCORP survey. Therefore, the total golf spending was combined with other team or individual sports spending collected in the SCORP survey and distributed to regions based on total category regional participation.

### E. Target Shooting

Data from a recent study of target shooting for the National Shooting Sports Foundation were used to estimate spending profiles for target shooters in Colorado (Southwick Associates, 2018). Detailed estimates of average spending per Colorado resident were used to construct the target shooter spending profile. This average spending profile was then applied to the regional SCORP survey participation numbers to estimate total spending per SCORP region.

<sup>8</sup> Note that small game and waterfowl days estimates were not available in 2017. We increased the 2012 days by 7.9% to produce a corresponding 2017 estimate. This percentage equals the observed change in Colorado big game hunter days over that time period.

<sup>9</sup> Three hunting profiles were used: Big Game (\$231.00 per day), Small Game (\$142.99 per day), and Migratory Bird (\$293.39 per day).



**G. Running**

The activity of running was defined differently for the OIA-based spending. In the OIA study, running participation was restricted to durations of 30 minutes or more, whereas the SCORP survey includes no such specification. As a result, the participants and days in the SCORP survey consists of a much broader range of activity than the corresponding OIA activity. For this reason, OIA estimates of total running spending were incorporated directly (i.e., not based on SCORP participation). This accounted for an estimated \$1.6 billion in expenditures on running-specific equipment and trips.

**Appendix D Activity-specific Data**

**Table 11. SCORP Outdoor Recreation Activities**

SCORP Survey Activity	Activity for Economic Estimates
<b><u>Trail</u></b>	
Walking	Trail (apparel only)
Jogging/Running (outdoors)	Running
Hiking/Backpacking	Hiking
Horseback riding	Horseback Riding
Road biking	Road biking
Mountain biking	Mountain biking
Off-highway vehicle (OHV)	Off-road
<b><u>Water-based</u></b>	
Swimming (outdoors)	Trail (apparel only)
Power boating	Power Boating
Water/Jet skiing	Water Skiing
Sailing	Sailing
Canoeing/Kayaking	Canoeing/Kayaking
Whitewater rafting	Whitewater rafting
Stand up paddleboarding	Stand up paddleboarding
<b><u>Winter</u></b>	
Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding	Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding
Sledding/tubing	Sledding/tubing
Snowmobiling	Snowmobiling
Snowshoeing or cross country skiing	Snowshoeing or cross country skiing
<b><u>Wildlife-based</u></b>	
Hunting	Hunting
Fishing	Fishing
Bird Watching	Wildlife Watching
Wildlife Watching (excluding birding)	Wildlife Watching
Ice fishing	None (captured in fishing overall)
<b><u>Other Outdoor</u></b>	
RV camping/cabins	RV Camping
Tent camping	Tent Camping
Picnicking	Trail (apparel only)
Target or skeet shooting	Target Shooting
Rock climbing	Rock Climbing
Team or individual sports (outdoors)	Trail (apparel only)
Playground activities	Trail (apparel only)



Table 12. Data Sources Used to Estimate Participation and Spending Profiles<sup>10</sup>

Activity	Spending Profile Data Source	Resident Participation Data Source
<b>Trail</b>		
Walking	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Jogging/Running (outdoors)	OIA (2017)	OIA (2017)
Hiking/Backpacking	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Horseback riding	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Road biking	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Mountain biking	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Off-highway vehicle (OHV)	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
<b>Water-based</b>		
Swimming (outdoors)	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Power boating	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Water/Jet skiing	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Sailing	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Canoeing/Kayaking	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Whitewater rafting	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Stand up paddleboarding	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
<b>Winter</b>		
Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Sledding/tubing	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Snowmobiling	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Snowshoeing or cross country skiing	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
<b>Wildlife-based</b>		
Hunting	USFWS (2016)	CPW (2018), CPW (2013)
Fishing	USFWS (2016)	USFWS (2018)
Bird Watching	USFWS (2016)	SCORP (2018)
Wildlife Watching (excluding birding)	USFWS (2016)	SCORP (2018)
<b>Other Outdoor</b>		
RV camping/cabins	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Tent camping	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Picnicking	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Target or skeet shooting	NSSF (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Rock climbing	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Team or individual sports (outdoors)	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Playground activities	OIA (2017)	SCORP (2018)
Golfing	N/A	TEconomy Partners, LLC. (2018)

<sup>10</sup> Since the SCORP survey did not include non-resident respondents, the spending profile data sources were also used for non-resident participation for all activities except hunting, fishing, and golfing.

Table 13. SCORP Survey Annual Participant estimates (thousands) incorporated in Equipment Spending Calculation

	Northwest	North Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	South Central	Southwest
<b>Trail/Road Activities</b>							
Walking	1,079.4	1,334.7	1,146.6	188.1	295.6	893.5	508.3
Hiking/Backpacking	929.4	900.2	774.8	58.2	118.7	718.9	331.4
Horseback riding	89.6	64.9	80.6	24.6	24.6	78.4	42.5
Road biking	201.5	421.0	297.8	53.7	44.8	118.7	47.0
Mountain biking	232.9	282.2	210.5	11.2	31.4	185.9	138.8
Off-highway vehicle (OHV) or 4-wheeling/motorcycling	398.6	232.9	76.1	31.4	67.2	248.6	237.4
<b>Water-based Activities</b>							
Swimming (outdoors)	210.5	385.2	219.5	38.1	89.6	174.7	129.9
Power boating	163.5	132.1	103.0	22.4	49.3	76.1	71.7
Water/Jet skiing	24.6	11.2	62.7	9.0	22.4	4.5	17.9
Sailing	49.3	9.0	67.2	2.2	2.2	4.5	4.5
Canoeing/Kayaking	134.4	241.9	132.1	2.2	29.1	78.4	58.2
Whitewater rafting	154.5	118.7	51.5	-	6.7	58.2	103.0
Stand up paddleboarding	159.0	150.0	112.0	-	15.7	17.9	82.9
<b>Winter Activities</b>							
Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding	797.2	230.7	73.9	2.2	6.7	179.2	181.4
Sledding/tubing	315.8	244.1	147.8	11.2	22.4	138.8	67.2
Snowmobiling	132.1	60.5	42.5	-	9.0	26.9	38.1
Snowshoeing/cross country skiing	288.9	230.7	71.7	2.2	9.0	73.9	107.5
<b>Other Outdoor Activities</b>							
RV camping/cabins	459.1	230.7	179.2	56.0	132.1	445.6	302.3
Tent camping	555.4	369.5	223.9	51.5	105.3	369.5	284.4
Picnicking	421.0	512.8	423.3	38.1	85.1	253.1	125.4
Team or individual sports (outdoors) (e.g., basketball, golf, tennis, etc.)	109.7	488.2	459.1	22.4	56.0	123.2	56.0
Target or skeet shooting	127.6	197.1	85.1	58.2	76.1	112.0	85.1
Rock climbing	89.6	127.6	58.2	22.4	2.2	76.1	31.4
Playground activities	159.0	546.4	405.3	35.8	47.0	168.0	64.9

Note: Regional participation is based on destination (not residence). For example, an estimated 900 million Colorado adults hiked in the Northwest region in 2017.



**Table 14.** SCORP Annual Days per Participant estimates for Trip Spending Calculation

	Northwest	North Central	Metro	Northeast	Southeast	South Central	Southwest
<b>Trail/Road Activities</b>							
Hiking/Backpacking	10.3	16.3	16	**	22.7	13.4	16.5
Horseback riding	3.4	**	**	**	**	13	11.1
Road biking	15.1	39.3	23.4	**	24.5	11.8	15.3
Mountain biking	21.5	12.7	14.5	**	28.1*	15.1	15.7
Off-highway vehicle (OHV)	9	3.4	10.8*	13.9*	10.7	8.7	8.9
<b>Water-based Activities</b>							
Power boating	4.3	4.5*	2.4*	**	16.1	6.2*	6.8
Water/Jet skiing	**	**	**	**	6.6*	**	6.6*
Sailing	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Canoeing/Kayaking	6	6.3	4.4*	**	10.3*	3*	8.9
Whitewater rafting	4.2	**	**	**	**	6.1*	5.3
Stand up paddleboarding	4.8	5*	2.6*	**	**	**	8.4
<b>Winter Activities</b>							
Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding	12.6	13.5	**	**	**	5.1	9.2
Sledding/tubing	6.5	6.8	4.6*	**	**	3	6.1
Snowmobiling	7.7	**	**	**	**	**	5.2*
Snowshoeing/cross country skiing	5.6	6.5	**	**	**	5.8	7.5
<b>Wildlife-related Activities</b>							
Bird Watching	14.1	20.6	25.2	25	54.7	18.6	29.3
Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)	15	15.2	19.6	14.4	40.2	9.6	31.5
<b>Other Outdoor Activities</b>							
RV camping/cabins	6.7	5.9	9.3	3.2	5.8	6.3	5.9
Tent camping	9.6	10	9.3*	**	7.4	11.9	6.4
Rock climbing	16.6*	**	**	**	**	16*	18.9*

\* Sample size is under 30, interpret with caution

\*\* Sample size is less than 10, not reported

Note: Regional participation is based on destination (not residence).

**Table 15.** Colorado Resident Spending Profiles per Activity (OIA, 2017)

	Trip-related spending (per day)	Annual Equipment spending (per participant)
<b>Other Outdoor</b>		
Tent camping	\$134	\$265
Rock climbing	\$150	\$264
RV camping/cabins	\$71	\$846
Picnicking	\$0	\$33
Playground activities	\$0	\$33
Team or individual sports (outdoors) (e.g., basketball, golf, tennis, etc.)	\$0	\$33
<b>Trail/Road</b>		
Mountain biking	\$46	\$213
Road biking	\$22	\$196
Hiking/Backpacking	\$47	\$134
Horseback riding	\$80	\$343
Off-highway vehicle (OHV) or 4-wheeling/motorcycling	\$45	\$328
Jogging/Running (outdoors)	\$16	\$219
Walking	\$0	\$33
<b>Water-based</b>		
Canoeing/Kayaking	\$71	\$15
Stand up paddleboarding	\$56	\$155
Powerboating	\$50	\$351
Whitewater rafting	\$118	\$264
Sailing	\$49	\$448
Water/Jet skiing	\$40	\$89
Swimming (outdoor)	\$0	\$33
<b>Winter</b>		
Skiing (alpine/tele)/Snowboarding	\$243	\$603
Snowshoeing/Cross country skiing	\$87	\$178
Snowmobiling	\$74	\$323
Sledding/Tubing	\$0	\$46

Note: Spending details for activities that don't use OIA-based estimates are included in Appendix C Spending Methodology



**Table 16.** Colorado Estimated Total Spending per Activity

Outdoor Activities	Nonresidents <sup>a</sup>	Residents	Total
Fishing	N/A	N/A	<b>\$1,384,660,430</b>
Shooting	\$0	\$490,053,759	<b>\$490,053,759</b>
Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)	\$481,513,459	\$1,013,666,594	<b>\$1,495,180,053</b>
Big game hunting	\$163,035,349	\$216,349,118	<b>\$379,384,466</b>
Small game hunting <sup>b</sup>	N/A	N/A	<b>\$63,861,420</b>
Waterfowl hunting <sup>b</sup>	N/A	N/A	<b>\$47,102,565</b>
Golfing	N/A	N/A	<b>\$817,168,577</b>
Skiing (alpine/tele)/Snowboarding	\$4,392,006,177	\$4,909,020,465	<b>\$9,301,026,642</b>
Mountain biking	\$105,480,964	\$1,001,721,450	<b>\$1,107,202,414</b>
Road biking	\$342,059,305	\$870,969,667	<b>\$1,213,028,972</b>
Tent camping	\$1,132,663,903	\$2,141,717,404	<b>\$3,274,381,307</b>
Canoeing/Kayaking	\$432,342,149	\$302,513,892	<b>\$734,856,041</b>
Rock climbing	\$361,858,405	\$660,847,172	<b>\$1,022,705,577</b>
Hiking/Backpacking	\$2,151,434,334	\$2,946,794,791	<b>\$5,098,229,125</b>
Horseback riding	\$383,109,812	\$792,537,568	<b>\$1,175,647,380</b>
Snowshoeing/Cross country skiing	\$639,224,084	\$542,601,911	<b>\$1,181,825,994</b>
Off-highway vehicle (OHV) or 4-wheeling/motorcycling	\$545,370,815	\$786,302,666	<b>\$1,331,673,481</b>
Stand up paddleboarding	\$79,792,687	\$219,337,851	<b>\$299,130,538</b>
Picnicking	\$0	\$45,610,306	<b>\$45,610,306</b>
Playground activities	\$0	\$40,997,191	<b>\$40,997,191</b>
Power boating	\$277,421,290	\$368,183,723	<b>\$645,605,012</b>
Whitewater rafting	\$98,060,849	\$365,210,964	<b>\$463,271,813</b>
Jogging/Running (outdoors)	\$808,814,397	\$856,563,077	<b>\$1,665,377,475</b>
RV camping/Cabins	\$574,494,535	\$1,896,612,753	<b>\$2,471,107,288</b>
Sailing	\$97,913,245	\$88,173,000	<b>\$186,086,245</b>
Sledding/Tubing	\$0	\$40,269,933	<b>\$40,269,933</b>
Snowmobiling	\$327,326,093	\$251,154,680	<b>\$578,480,773</b>
Swimming (outdoors)	\$0	\$34,003,115	<b>\$34,003,115</b>
Team or individual sports (outdoors)	\$0	\$35,193,596	<b>\$35,193,596</b>
Walking	\$0	\$104,836,738	<b>\$104,836,738</b>
Water/Jet skiing	\$26,425,219	\$48,093,087	<b>\$74,518,305</b>
<b>All Activities</b>			<b>\$36,802,476,533</b>

<sup>a</sup>Nonresident includes trip spending only

<sup>b</sup>Separate spending estimates based on residency were not produced for fishing, golfing, small game hunting, and waterfowl hunting.

**Appendix E CPW Hunter Days by County**

**Table 17.** Hunting Participation by County in Hunter Days (CPW, 2018; CPW, 2013)

County	Big Game	Small Game	Waterfowl
<b>Northwest Region</b>			
Eagle	62,791	7,730	1,603
Garfield	100,116	10,605	2,134
Grand	108,189	4,796	2,106
Jackson	61,277	3,296	976
Mesa	78,227	43,788	6,540
Moffat	97,687	25,868	1,790
Pitkin	22,788	1,448	51
Rio Blanco	92,870	2,897	799
Routt	111,277	8,264	548
Summit	25,015	4,494	154
<b>North Central Region</b>			
Adams	4,481	3,561	7,089
Arapahoe	4,322	4,468	728
Boulder	10,473	9,399	5,878
Clear Creek	7,433	4,769	-
Gilpin	4,978	1,222	-
Larimer	66,552	14,183	14,983
Weld	12,038	32,236	47,506
<b>Metro Region</b>			
Broomfield	483	-	-
Denver	1,578	46	142
Douglas	7,850	1,284	694
Jefferson	18,481	3,170	121
<b>Northeast Region</b>			
Cheyenne	3,247	700	-
Elbert	8,768	2,310	136
Kit Carson	4,096	10,260	194
Lincoln	7,863	4,161	113
Logan	5,641	21,592	8,781
Morgan	3,960	18,715	18,630
Phillips	480	9,429	105
Sedgwick	1,907	16,079	3,039
Washington	2,936	11,059	375
Yuma	4,942	28,930	1,468



(Continued) Hunting Participation by County in Hunter Days (CPW, 2018; CPW, 2013)

County	Big Game	Small Game	Waterfowl
<b>Southeast Region</b>			
Baca	4,913	4,355	134
Bent	4,419	7,781	3,006
Crowley	2,231	697	766
Huerfano	21,803	619	162
Kiowa	4,010	1,115	602
Las Animas	28,726	2,178	1,845
Otero	4,352	6,980	2,985
Prowers	3,125	5,109	1,402
Pueblo	12,417	10,439	4,925
<b>South Central Region</b>			
Alamosa	7,766	3,115	1,534
Chaffee	20,758	4,891	960
Conejos	25,244	3,086	142
Costilla	8,012	70	256
Custer	14,975	1,965	187
El Paso	17,046	4,653	592
Fremont	20,450	3,624	286
Lake	5,846	6,434	15
Mineral	11,696	404	41
Park	30,929	6,094	1,211
Rio Grande	17,725	5,762	1,454
Saguache	45,481	4,007	1,049
Teller	11,182	2,903	301
<b>Southwest Region</b>			
Archuleta	35,675	7,407	67
Delta	41,387	5,734	2,708
Dolores	25,665	1,724	-
Gunnison	75,169	5,096	650
Hinsdale	16,776	132	-
La Plata	34,073	5,695	481
Montezuma	21,619	2,924	128
Montrose	44,671	8,078	2,602
Ouray	14,979	278	21
San Juan	9,068	999	-
San Miguel	23,675	2,311	46

**Appendix G SCORP Survey**

A survey of Colorado resident participation was administered by Colorado Parks & Wildlife in collaboration with SSI in early 2018. The survey included 20 questions designed to characterize outdoor activity at the level of the 7 SCORP regions. Both email and mail-based surveys were employed.

**Sample Design:** by CPW, with collaboration from SSI

Target Population	Colorado residents aged 18 or older
Sampling Frame	Provided by SSI, from two data sources: 1. List of CO landline phone numbers (mailing addresses) 2. List of CO cellphone numbers (billing addresses)
Sampling Method	Stratification by 7 Colorado regions (random sampling within regions). For each region, 60% were drawn from the landline list & 40% from the cellphone list.
Survey Instrument	Questionnaire sent to selected addresses, including 2 survey response options: a. Online survey b. Paper mail-in

**Data Collection:** Response Statistics by Sampling Frame

	Listed Landline Address Sample	Cellphone Billing Address Sample	Uncertain (didn't report ID)	Total
# Surveys Sent	4200 (600 per region)	2800 (400 per region)	N/A	7000
# Survey Responses	976	810	125	1911
Response Rate	23% (+ 0 to 3.0%)	29% (+ 0 to 4.4%)	N/A	27.3%



Survey data were cleaned for consistency and accuracy. The per-questions specific details are included in the summary below.

**Data Cleaning Summary**

SCORP Question #	Question Summary	Outliers and Invalid values to set to Missing	Notes
Q3	Outdoor trips - % overnight	999	
Q5	# days by activity by region	Blank values were set to missing only if the respondent didn't fill in data for any of the activity-region options (i.e., they didn't answer the question). Otherwise blanks were set to zero	Online range responses were recoded to point values to match the point value coding of the mail survey: We use midpoints for all categories but the last (highest value) where we set to the lowest (e.g., recoding "51+" to 51)
Q6	# days by outdoor rec area		If days > 0 and activity = "No" (change "No" to "Yes" for activity)
Q9	minutes per week outdoors	> 1,000 minutes (16.6667 hours per week, 3.3333 hours each day/5 days – not uncommon for extremely active individuals)	If minutes > 0 and activity = "No" (change "No" to "Yes" for activity)
Q14	year of birth	remove cases < 18 years of age	
Q15	gender	"other", "prefer not to say"	
Q16	current zip code		Missing and out of state zip codes added from sampling frame when possible
Q17	how many years lived in CO	(years in CO) – (years lived) > 2	
Q18	race	those with no reasonable Census equivalent (e.g., rainbow, human, etc.)	Other (7) "White American" response was changed to White (1)
	Numeric variables		All numeric variables: If a numeric range was entered (instead of an exact number), it was replaced with the midpoint of the range. The same is true for items with ordinal numeric scales, but the lowest number was used to represent the highest range in the scale

**Survey Weighting**

Frequency weighting was applied to correct for differences in demographic distributions between the survey respondents and the target population. The target population consists of all Colorado residents aged 18 and over. The most recently available US Census data (2016 estimates) were utilized to estimate demographic distributions of the target population. Two data sources were used for this purpose:

Target Population Demographic	Data Source Used
Age, Sex, Race	SC-EST2016-ALLDATA6: Annual State Resident Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Age, Sex, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016.  <i>Accessed via direct download from the Census website in November 2017</i> <a href="https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/file-layouts/2010-2016/sc-est2016-alldata6.pdf">https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/file-layouts/2010-2016/sc-est2016-alldata6.pdf</a>
Region	American Community Survey (2016 estimates): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dataset: ACS5 (ACS 5-Year Detailed Tables)</li> <li>Table: B01001 (SEX BY AGE) broken out by county</li> </ul> <i>Accessed using the US Census data API through the R package "acs" in May 2018</i> (Glenn, 2018)

**Weighting Method**

The R package "anesrake" was used to perform the rake weighting operation (Pasek, 2018). A weighting cap was set to 15 to minimize extreme weights.<sup>11</sup>

**R Syntax:** Where "y" refers to the SCORP cleaned survey dataset (N=1910) and "census" refers to the population demographic distributions

```
# calculate weights
z <- anesrake(census, y, caseid = y$SortID, force1 = TRUE, cap = 15, verbose = FALSE)
```

<sup>11</sup> The weighting cap results in N=10 survey respondents with a weight of 15. Without the cap, these would have received weighting values between 15 and 32 (the highest weight value for a run without any cap).



Survey & Population Distributions

	Survey Count	Survey Percent	Survey Weighted Percent	Census Percent
<b>Region</b>				
1 Northwest	268	14.1%	6.9%	6.9%
2 North Central	256	13.5%	37.4%	37.4%
3 Metro	338	17.8%	30.2%	30.2%
4 Northeast	173	9.1%	2.1%	2.1%
5 Southeast	272	14.3%	4.3%	4.3%
6 South Central	315	16.6%	15.4%	15.4%
7 Southwest	278	14.6%	3.8%	3.8%
	1900	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Age</b>				
1 18 to 44	175	9.7%	49.5%	49.5%
2 45 to 64	796	43.9%	33.1%	33.1%
3 65 and over	841	46.4%	17.4%	17.4%
	1812	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Race</b>				
1 Other	221	12.4%	27.8%	27.8%
2 White (Non-Hispanic)	1567	87.6%	72.2%	72.2%
	1788	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Sex</b>				
1 Male	668	36.8%	50.0%	50.0%
2 Female	1147	63.2%	50.0%	50.0%
	1815	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

R Summary Output

```
[1] "Raking converged in 25 iterations"
$`convergence`
[1] "Complete convergence was achieved after 25 iterations"

$base.weights
[1] "No Base Weights Were Used"

$`raking.variables`
[1] "age" "sex" "region" "race"

$weight.summary
  Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
0.07315 0.15161 0.40895 1.00000 0.90959 15.00007

$selection.method
[1] "variable selection conducted using _pctlim_ - discrepancies selected using _total_."

$general.design.effect
[1] 4.871879

$age
  Target Unweighted N Unweighted %   Wtd N   Wtd % Change in %  Resid. Disc. Orig. Disc.
1  0.4951         175  0.09657837  890.4038 0.4951  0.3985216 -5.551115e-17  0.3985216
2  0.3311         796  0.43929360  595.4609 0.3311 -0.1081936  0.000000e+00 -0.1081936
3  0.1738         841  0.46412804  312.5675 0.1738 -0.2903280  0.000000e+00 -0.2903280
Total 1.0000         1812  1.00000000 1798.4323 1.0000  0.7970433  5.551115e-17  0.7970433

$sex
  Target Unweighted N Unweighted %   Wtd N   Wtd % Change in %  Resid. Disc. Orig. Disc.
1  0.5002         668  0.3680441  891.7531 0.5002  0.1321559 -1.110223e-16  0.1321559
2  0.4998        1147  0.6319559  891.0400 0.4998 -0.1321559  0.000000e+00 -0.1321559
Total 1.0000        1815  1.00000000 1782.7932 1.0000  0.2643118  1.110223e-16  0.2643118

$region
  Target Unweighted N Unweighted %   Wtd N   Wtd % Change in %  Resid. Disc. Orig. Disc.
1  0.0691         268  0.14105263  131.34743 0.0691 -0.07195263  1.387779e-17 -0.07195263
2  0.3739         256  0.13473684  710.72076 0.3739  0.23916316 -5.551115e-17  0.23916316
3  0.3016         338  0.17789474  573.29067 0.3016  0.12370526  0.000000e+00  0.12370526
4  0.0208         173  0.09105263  39.53729 0.0208 -0.07025263  0.000000e+00 -0.07025263
5  0.0433         272  0.14315789  82.30599 0.0433 -0.09985789  0.000000e+00 -0.09985789
6  0.1535         315  0.16578947  291.77758 0.1535 -0.01228947 -2.775558e-17 -0.01228947
7  0.0378         278  0.14631579  71.85142 0.0378 -0.10851579  0.000000e+00 -0.10851579
Total 1.0000        1900  1.00000000 1900.83114 1.0000  0.72573684  9.714451e-17  0.72573684

$race
  Target Unweighted N Unweighted %   Wtd N   Wtd % Change in %  Resid. Disc. Orig. Disc.
1  0.2783         221  0.1236018  493.5878 0.2783  0.1546982  0  0.1546982
2  0.7217        1567  0.8763982 1279.9938 0.7217 -0.1546982  0 -0.1546982
Total 1.0000        1788  1.00000000 1773.5816 1.0000  0.3093964  0  0.3093964
```



## CO SCORP Results Compare: 2012 vs. 2017

### The Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado

Dan Kary, Tom Allen (Southwick Associates)

#### Summary

Spending on SCORP-related outdoor recreation increased dramatically between 2012 and 2017 based on studies conducted by Southwick Associates. At the request of CPW, this report provides a detailed comparison of the 2012 and 2017 participation and spending estimates to better understand the sources of differences between the two. The 2012 and 2017 studies used the same general methodology to estimate spending in Colorado.

- Participation in outdoor recreation was estimated from a survey conducted by CPW with input from Southwick Associates.
- Average spending per participant in Colorado was provided with permission from the Outdoor Industry Association based on their 2011 and 2016 studies of the outdoor recreation economy.
- Total spending was estimated as the average spending per participant in each activity multiplied by the number of participants.

The drivers of increased total spending vary across the activities. For some activities, it is a combination of both high growth in the number of participants and increased spending per participant. In other cases, average spending per participant increased substantially with only modest growth in participation, or vice versa.

From a broader perspective, it is worth noting that Colorado had one of the fastest growing economies over the past five years and has been identified currently as having the best state-level economy in the nation (USA Today, 8/23/2018). During the five years between 2012 and 2017, disposable personal income of Colorado residents grew 24% (60% faster than the U.S.) based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The Colorado tourism industry in particular has reportedly enjoyed strong growth over this time period, with overnight trip expenditures by Colorado visitors increasing from \$9.6 billion in 2012 to \$15.3 billion in 2017<sup>1</sup>.

This strong economic growth in recent years likely contributed to the large increases in discretionary spending on outdoor recreation. Due in part to Colorado's reputation as a destination for outdoor recreation, the Outdoor Industry Association reports that spending on outdoor recreation in Colorado by residents and visitors grew by 112% (more than doubled) between 2011 and 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Tourism data accessed from the Colorado Tourism Office website.

#### Top-level Spending

Direct comparisons are examined at the activity group level. Although we observe a (mostly) across-the-board increase in spending, four activity groups stand out:

Activity Group	Change in Spending
Trail sports	+4.1 billion
Snow sports	+3.3 billion
RV camping	+2.1 billion
Running	+1.7 billion

#### Sources of Differences

In general, there are two primary data sources used to produce spending estimates:

- **Spending profiles** (spending per day or participant): mainly taken from OIA. This analysis compares the 2011 OIA spending per day to the 2016 OIA spending per day.
- **Total participation** (days and participants): mainly taken from the SCORP activity survey. We have focused on days for this comparison since it drives the largest spending category (trip spending). Our analysis compares the 2012 SCORP estimate of days to the 2017 SCORP estimate of days.

**Trail Sports:** This increase is driven both by a change in average spending (OIA spending per day up 96%), and a change in participation (SCORP total days up 44%).

**Snow Sports:** The increase is driven mostly by a change in average spending (OIA spending per day up 34%). This is a more modest percentage increase, but the total spending change is substantial since snow sports dominate outdoor recreation spending in Colorado (over 10 billion dollars in spending in 2017 by our estimates).

**RV Camping:** The percentage increase in this category is very large, driven by a large increase in average spending (OIA Spending per day up 274%) and a large increase in total days (SCORP total days up 98%). It is likely that this category was underestimated in 2012 since the spending profiles in 2017 seem more in line with our expectations (profile comparisons between activities are included in the results section below).

**Running:** The method for estimating this activity changed between the two time periods since only the most recent OIA survey included running as an outdoor recreation activity (restricted to runs of 3 miles or more in distance). The OIA-based estimates produce substantial expenditures for running (\$1.7 billion in Colorado in 2017). The 2012 report assumed that running spending was very small (on par with activities like walking and picnicking). Therefore, the 2017 report includes a more complete accounting of running-based expenditures.

### Comparison Level - Activity Groups

This comparison focuses on activity groups (rather than individual activities) to enable comparisons between the two reports. This was necessary since individual activity spending was not calculated as part of the 2012 study. The table below identifies which individual activities are included in each group.

activity_group	activity
bike	Mountain biking
bike	Road biking
boat	Power boating
boat	Water/Jet skiing
camp	Tent camping
fish	Fishing
horse	Horseback riding
hunt	Hunting
off_road	Off-highway vehicle (OHV) or 4-wheeling/motorcycling
run	Jogging/Running (outdoors)
rv	RV camping/cabins
shoot	Target or skeet shooting
snow	Skiing (alpine/tele)/snowboarding
snow	Sledding/tubing
snow	Snowshoeing/cross country skiing
snowmobile	Snowmobiling
trail <sup>2</sup>	Hiking/Backpacking
trail	Picnicking
trail	Playground activities
trail	Rock climbing
trail	Swimming (outdoors)
trail	Team or individual sports (outdoors) (e.g., basketball, golf, tennis, etc.)
trail	Walking
water	Canoeing/Kayaking
water	Sailing
water	Stand up paddleboarding
water	Whitewater rafting
wildlife_view	Wildlife viewing (excluding bird watching)

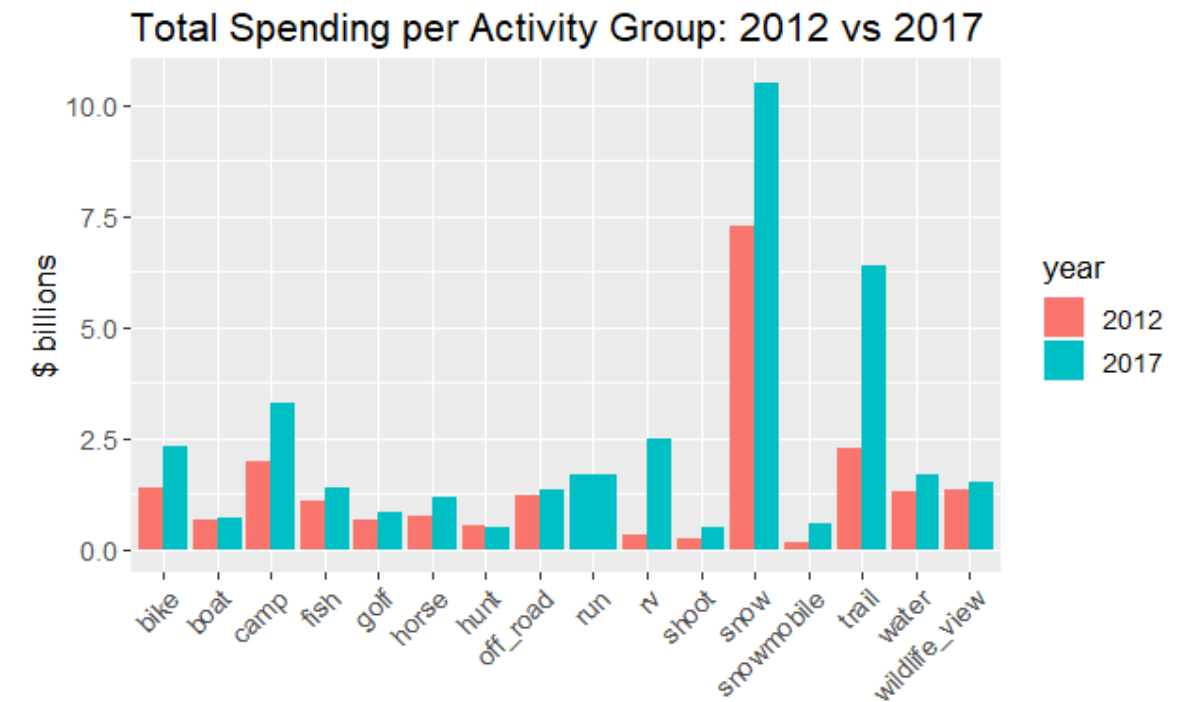
<sup>2</sup> Note: The “trail” group includes several miscellaneous activities (walking, picnicking, etc.) which make up a very small portion of trail sport spending in both 2012 and 2017. These are referred to as “apparel only” activities in Table 11 (page 22) of the CO SCORP Economic Contributions Report dated 2018-07-23.

### Results Comparison

Figures are included in this section to illustrate the sources of differences between the two time periods.

#### Total Spending

Spending generally increases across activities, but a handful constitute the lion’s share (snow sports, trail sports, running, rv’ing). Note that “running” is shown for only 2017. In 2012 running constituted a tiny part of the “trail” category of spending.

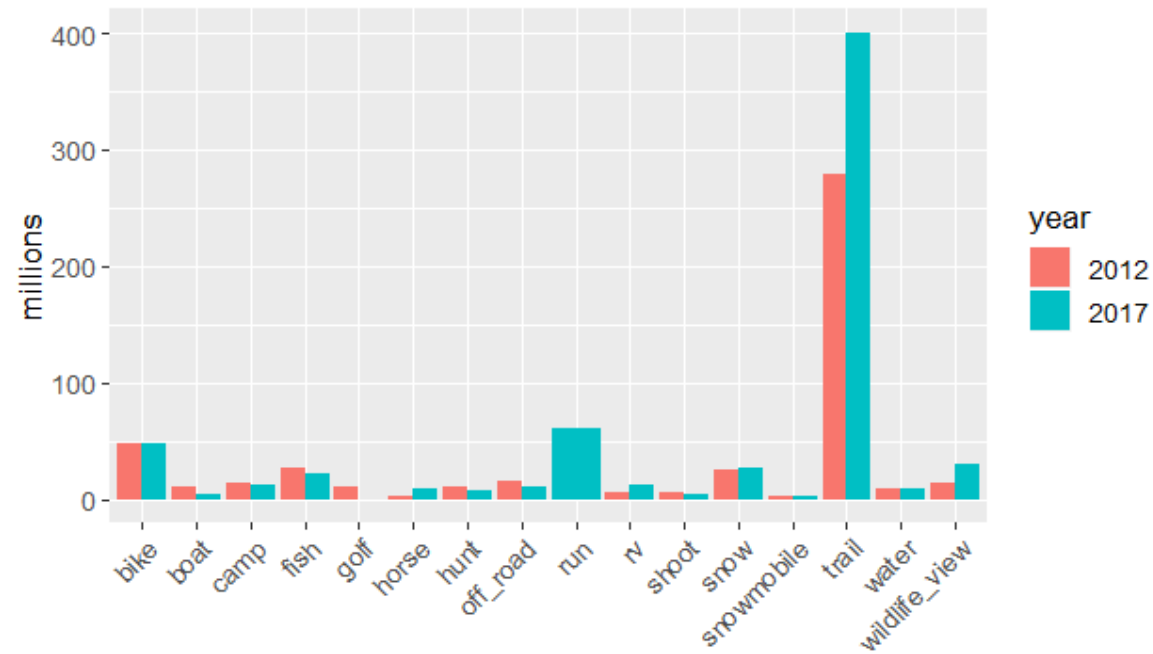




**Total Days**

The number of days for trail sports dominate in both time periods, and it also increased by a substantial amount between 2012 and 2017.

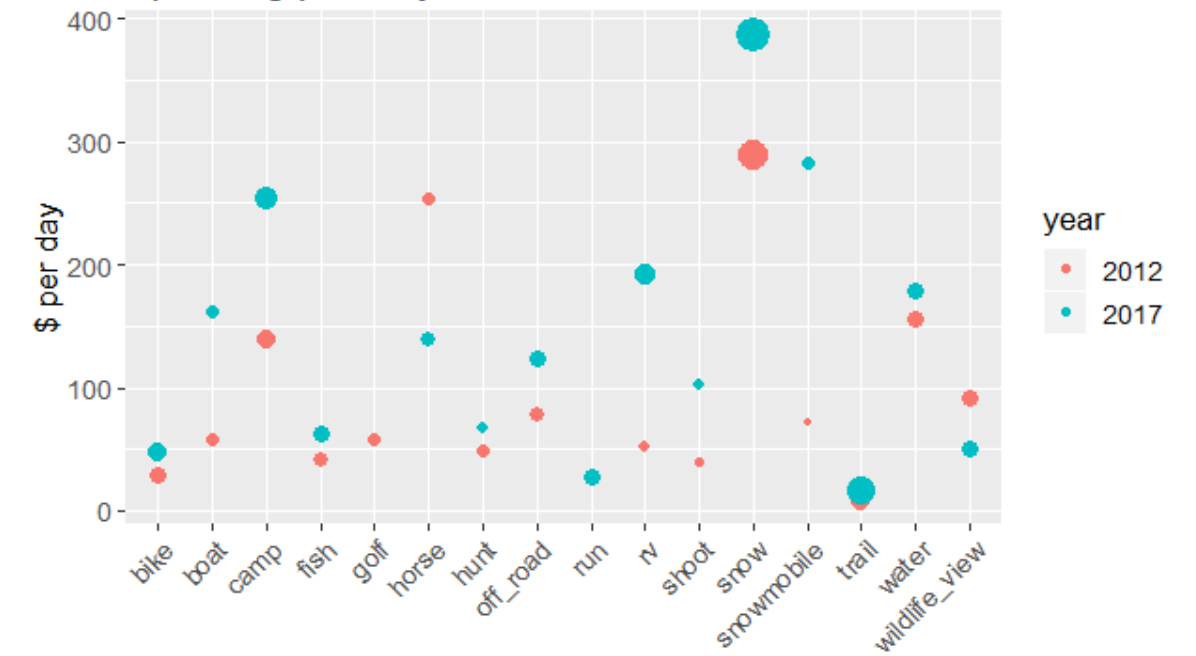
**Total Days per Activity Group: 2012 vs 2017**



**Spending per Day**

Spending profiles are generally larger in 2017. In certain cases, this change is very large. The figure below compares spending per day between the two time periods. The sizes of the dots are proportional to total spending, which provides context regarding the affect on total spending. For example, certain activities show large changes in spending profiles (e.g., boating) but produce small impacts on total outdoor recreation spending. Of note, the motorized activities (boat, off-road, rv, snowmobile) tend to have larger spending profile increases. The 2017 estimates may better reflect the higher per day (or person) expenditures for these capital-intensive activities.

**Spending per Day: 2012 vs 2017**



Results Tables

Spending (\$), Days, Spend (\$) per Day

year	activity_group	spend	days	spend_per_day
2012	bike	1,367,570,490	48,170,189	28.39
2012	boat	657,887,508	11,252,973	58.46
2012	camp	1,960,604,286	14,158,319	138.48
2012	fish	1,086,239,247	26,411,408	41.13
2012	golf	641,528,952	11,180,042	57.38
2012	horse	729,663,091	2,874,784	253.81
2012	hunt	517,979,010	10,476,442	49.44
2012	off_road	1,209,272,429	15,610,939	77.46
2012	rv	333,238,367	6,474,549	51.47
2012	shoot	248,881,823	6,368,714	39.08
2012	snow	7,272,507,134	25,158,745	289.06
2012	snowmobile	141,089,283	1,955,665	72.14
2012	trail	2,263,955,786	279,049,106	8.11
2012	water	1,306,908,005	8,412,174	155.36
2012	wildlife_view	1,322,968,136	14,456,827	91.51
2017	bike	2,320,231,386	48,328,713	48.01
2017	boat	720,123,317	4,424,642	162.75
2017	camp	3,274,381,307	12,914,061	253.55
2017	fish	1,384,660,430	21,871,283	63.31
2017	golf	817,168,577	NA	NA
2017	horse	1,175,647,380	8,470,486	138.79
2017	hunt	490,348,451	7,281,066	67.35
2017	off_road	1,331,673,481	10,761,337	123.75
2017	run	1,665,377,475	61,460,380	27.10
2017	rv	2,471,107,288	12,824,137	192.69
2017	shoot	490,053,759	4,807,695	101.93
2017	snow	10,523,122,569	27,144,857	387.67
2017	snowmobile	578,480,773	2,048,488	282.39
2017	trail	6,381,575,648	400,969,403	15.92
2017	water	1,683,344,637	9,424,521	178.61
2017	wildlife_view	1,495,180,053	29,600,697	50.51

Spending (\$): % Change

activity_group	year_2012	year_2017	diff	pct_change
bike	1,367,570,490	2,320,231,386	952,660,896	69.7%
boat	657,887,508	720,123,317	62,235,809	9.5%
camp	1,960,604,286	3,274,381,307	1,313,777,021	67%
fish	1,086,239,247	1,384,660,430	298,421,183	27.5%
golf	641,528,952	817,168,577	175,639,625	27.4%
horse	729,663,091	1,175,647,380	445,984,289	61.1%
hunt	517,979,010	490,348,451	-27,630,559	-5.3%
off_road	1,209,272,429	1,331,673,481	122,401,052	10.1%
run	NA	1,665,377,475	NA	NA%

rv	333,238,367	2,471,107,288	2,137,868,921	641.5%
shoot	248,881,823	490,053,759	241,171,936	96.9%
snow	7,272,507,134	10,523,122,569	3,250,615,435	44.7%
snowmobile	141,089,283	578,480,773	437,391,490	310%
trail	2,263,955,786	6,381,575,648	4,117,619,862	181.9%
water	1,306,908,005	1,683,344,637	376,436,632	28.8%
wildlife_view	1,322,968,136	1,495,180,053	172,211,917	13%

Days: % Change

activity_group	year_2012	year_2017	diff	pct_change
bike	48,170,189	48,328,713	158,524	0.3%
boat	11,252,973	4,424,642	-6,828,331	-60.7%
camp	14,158,319	12,914,061	-1,244,258	-8.8%
fish	26,411,408	21,871,283	-4,540,126	-17.2%
golf	11,180,042	NA	NA	NA%
horse	2,874,784	8,470,486	5,595,702	194.6%
hunt	10,476,442	7,281,066	-3,195,376	-30.5%
off_road	15,610,939	10,761,337	-4,849,603	-31.1%
run	NA	61,460,380	NA	NA%
rv	6,474,549	12,824,137	6,349,588	98.1%
shoot	6,368,714	4,807,695	-1,561,019	-24.5%
snow	25,158,745	27,144,857	1,986,111	7.9%
snowmobile	1,955,665	2,048,488	92,823	4.7%
trail	279,049,106	400,969,403	121,920,297	43.7%
water	8,412,174	9,424,521	1,012,347	12%
wildlife_view	14,456,827	29,600,697	15,143,871	104.8%

Spending (\$) per Day: % Change

activity_group	year_2012	year_2017	diff	pct_change
bike	28.39	48.01	20	70.4%
boat	58.46	162.75	104	177.9%
camp	138.48	253.55	115	83%
fish	41.13	63.31	22	53.5%
golf	57.38	NA	NA	NA%
horse	253.81	138.79	-115	-45.3%
hunt	49.44	67.35	18	36.4%
off_road	77.46	123.75	46	59.4%
run	NA	27.10	NA	NA%
rv	51.47	192.69	141	273.9%
shoot	39.08	101.93	63	161.2%
snow	289.06	387.67	99	34.2%
snowmobile	72.14	282.39	210	291.1%
trail	8.11	15.92	8	98.6%
water	155.36	178.61	23	14.8%
wildlife_view	91.51	50.51	-41	-44.8%



**Colorado's Wetlands**

In Colorado, wetland acreage is estimated to be 1.5% (approximately 1 million acres) of total surface land area. Wetlands (and other aquatic habitats) are an important outdoor recreation resource because they provide opportunities for wildlife-based recreation (e.g., hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing) and water-based recreation (e.g., boating and swimming). Wetlands are particularly significant to wildlife as they sustain a high level of biological diversity of plant and animal species, including habitat for waterfowl that are important for hunting recreation, as well as habitat for species that are imperiled and the focus of recovery efforts. In Colorado, 125 species (26% of our birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals) are wetland dependent. Of these, 42 species are categorized as rare and imperiled by the Colorado Natural History Program (CNHP). Many other species are not considered wetland-dependent but use wetlands for some portion of their life cycle. In addition, wetlands improve water quality, assist with flood control and contribute to groundwater recharge.

Since the state was first settled, over half of Colorado's wetlands have vanished with habitat loss and degradation continuing to be a concern. As identified by [Colorado's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan](#) revision, the threats to wetlands include: residential development; fragmentation from roads, trails and oil/gas development; altered native vegetation (i.e., grazing intensity and/or conversion to pasture grass); altered hydrological regime (flow and water temperatures); invasive plants; lack of water due to drought and exacerbated by climate change; agriculture/forestry effluents (i.e., fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide runoff); gravel mining; and channelization.

In Colorado, the Wetland Wildlife Conservation Program (WWCP), which is administered through Colorado Parks and

Wildlife (CPW), conserves wetland and riparian habitats and their ecological functions for the benefit of wildlife by planning and delivering conservation actions on a landscape scale.

WWCP facilitates voluntary, incentive-based conservation and management of priority wildlife species whose populations depend on wetlands or riparian areas in Colorado. This may be accomplished through protection of these habitats by easements or acquisition, or strategies that protect wetland functions and values such as habitat restoration, enhancement and creation actions including vegetation manipulation and water management.

In July 2011, the Terrestrial Habitat Conservation Program of CPW completed a wetlands priority plan for [Statewide Strategies for Wetland and Riparian Conservation](#) (The Wetland Strategic Plan). This plan includes information at length on the needs, premises, planning approach and strategies and priorities for wetland conservation in Colorado. The plan's Vision Statement is: "Through coordinated landscape-scale conservation actions, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and its partners will ensure that Colorado's wetland and riparian habitat is sufficient to support self-sustaining populations of desired wildlife species and to provide wildlife-associated recreation for future generations."

WWCP uses the following 10 major river basins as planning units for wetland and riparian conservation: South Platte, Republican, Upper Arkansas, North Platte, White-Yampa-Green, Colorado Headwaters, Gunnison, Dolores, Rio Grande Headwaters and San Juan. Planning units of this scale are large enough to represent landscapes, yet small enough to facilitate developing manageable wetland mapping and assessment projects for the entire basin (except for the two largest basins – South Platte and Upper Arkansas). Further, the basin boundaries are largely consistent with the spatial

Two Sandhill cranes fly over a wetlands near Great Sand Dunes National Park.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

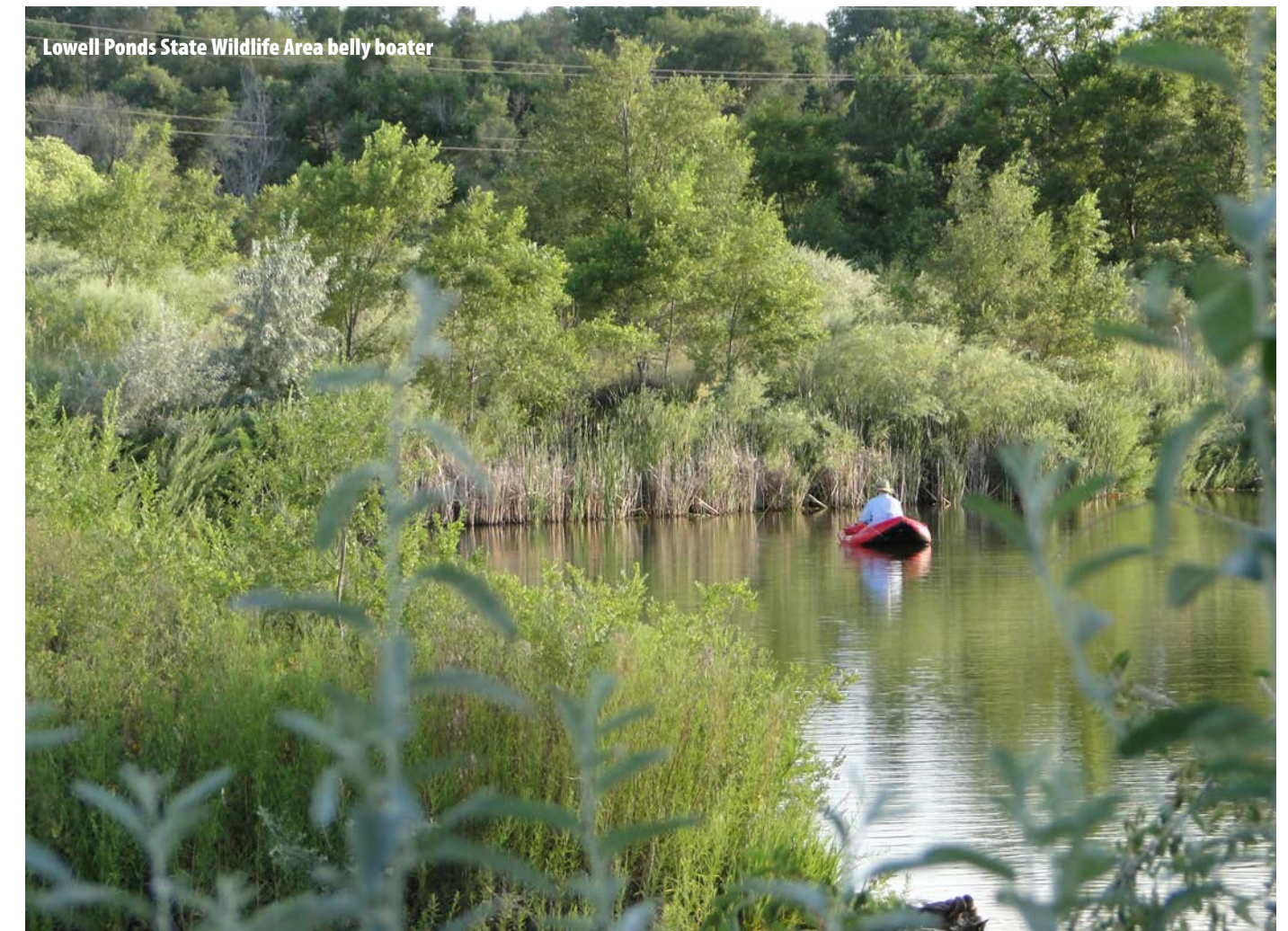
scale at which wetland conservation partnerships have coalesced into Focus Area Committees (FACs). FACs function independently from each other and have been valuable to WWCP in developing projects for funding consideration, leveraging WWCP funds to secure other funds for wetland conservation, serving as a local source for knowledge (on wetland quantity, quality, threats, opportunities for conservation, recreational significance), providing a forum for wetlands conservation discussion and implementation of on the ground projects.

Key WWCP partners include:

- **Bird Conservancy of the Rockies:** Bird Conservancy's private lands biologists have worked to revegetate riparian areas, remove invasive species, create marshes, direct Farm Bill funds for wetlands to Colorado, chair Wetland Focus Area Committees and co-chair with WWCP a state conservation partnership project through Intermountain West Joint Venture.
- **Colorado Natural Areas Program:** This statewide program recognizes and works to conserve locations that have one or more unique natural features including wetland and riparian habitats, important to Colorado. Natural areas are found on both public and private lands, and are officially designated through voluntary conserva-

tion agreements with landowners.

- **Colorado Natural Heritage Program:** Focusing on Colorado's rare and threatened species and plant communities, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program has taken a lead role in wetlands-related research. The program developed a Wetland Program Plan in 2010 to guide strategies related to building comprehensive wetland information including the types of wetlands that occur in Colorado, digital maps of wetland resources, assessment protocols and identifying and tracking wetlands of high biodiversity significance.
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE):** In most situations that involve potential impacts to wetlands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has legal authority under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act to issue permits and enforce regulations. The wetland permitting process typically requires an assessment to determine:
  - whether the area in question qualifies as a wetland under the Clean Water Act;
  - whether the proposed impact or activity requires a permit; and
  - if so, what type of permit is required, the extent of review, and the need for off-setting mitigation.



Lowell Ponds State Wildlife Area belly boater



- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** As part of its strategy to protect the nation's water resources, the EPA partners with other government agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizens to actively preserve, monitor and assess wetland resources. The EPA promotes a Watershed Protection Approach to wetland preservation by encouraging integrated planning and management at the watershed scale. EPA grants and programs have supported watershed improvement efforts throughout Colorado, including recent condition assessments and monitoring along the North Platte River and efforts to mitigate urban impacts on the South Platte River watershed.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):** The FWS is the principal federal agency providing public information on the status and extent of wetlands across the country. One of the primary programs of the FWS related to wetlands is the National Wetland Inventory (NWI), which provides data for wetland protection and management, climate change analyses, emergency planning and recovery, and wildlife management and conservation. The focus on the program has been on two fronts: 1) map or digital database preparation and delivery to the public,

and 2) projecting and reporting on national wetland trends using a probability-based sampling design. Since its inception in 1974, the NWI has produced digital data for approximately 81% of the country, 89 % for the continental US. The Colorado Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a FWS program that began in 1988. In addition to CPW, Great Outdoors Colorado (lottery proceeds), Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, local Water and Soil Conservation Districts, and approximately 1,400 landowners have combined to restore and protect wetland, upland and riparian habitat.

To determine priorities for wetland acquisition and other protection measures WWCP needs to advance science-based decision making for wetland protection. Over the past ten years, CNHP and CPW have partnered with NWI to increase the availability of digital spatial data for wetlands from less than 15% coverage of the state to 100% coverage. In 2015, NWI rolled out new requirements for wetland mapping to align with recent revisions to the NWI wetland mapping classification and made changes to wetland data across the country, including Colorado. CNHP analyzed the

Junco Lake Campground beaver dam, Fraser, CO



changes and identified additional modifications that would greatly improve the accuracy of NWI data in Colorado. This includes updating water regimes to match the NWI new standard, cleaning up old codes to be more consistent across the state, and reassigning codes for certain types that have been shown to be inaccurate through large scale accuracy assessment analyses.

CNHP is finalizing modifications to the existing NWI mapping data to produce the first "State of Colorado's Wetlands" report. The report will be available in early 2019 and contain written summaries of wetland mapping at the state, river basin and county level, along with maps, figures and tables to illustrate important results. The information will also be available as interactive data on CNHP's Colorado Wetland Information Center and as a PDF

on CPW's website. In 2019 CNHP will complete habitat quality summaries and fact sheets for parts of Colorado as well as a report of the current state of past wetland enhancement projects. CNHP is also updating their Colorado Wetland Information Center (CWIC) - <http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/cwic/>.

Lowell Ponds State Wildlife Area cattails





**Public Comment Analysis and Outcomes**

A draft of the 2019 SCORP was available for public comment October 1-22, 2018. The draft document was posted on Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s website with a link to a public comment form. The comment period was announced via a statewide press release, social media and with a notice sent to CPW Email lists for partner organizations and interested public (CPW eNews). Members of the SCORP Advisory Group also shared the notice with their networks and contacts.

The public comment period drew responses from a variety of stakeholder groups, outdoor professionals, recreationalists and other members of the public, with over 70 comments received. Most comments were submitted online through the public comment form. A summary of the overarching themes that were communicated in the comments and the responses are presented below.

**Overarching Themes**

**Ecosystem Health**

A common theme across the comments received addressed the importance of ecosystem health, unfragmented habitat, migration corridors and other topics related to wildlife and habitat conservation. The draft SCORP covered these issues broadly under Priority III (Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation) and within pop-out boxes in the document. In response to these comments, the draft plan was amended to include specific

language highlighting the importance of ecosystem health, unfragmented habitat and migration corridors.

**Climate Change**

Several comments suggested that the SCORP include language on climate change and its effect on outdoor recreation. A pop-out box on the recent impacts of Colorado’s droughts and fires on outdoor recreation was added to the SCORP.

**Recreation Impacts and Limits**

Another theme shared in the comments was concern about outdoor recreation impacts on natural resources. In general, respondents expressed that outdoor recreation should not supersede conservation efforts. However, some respondents favored more emphasis on recreation and highlighted the need to connect more people to the outdoors, especially those who may not have regular exposure to outdoor recreation opportunities. To accommodate both views, language was bolstered to confirm that all of the priorities work in conjunction as interdependent parts, including Conservation, Stewardship and Sustainable Opportunity and Access.

**User Group Representation**

A large portion of comments came from individuals/organizations advocating on behalf of greater recognition for a specific recreational activity. For example, multiple comments highlighted the need for greater recognition of equestrian trail users

and off-highway vehicle users, including their contribution to Colorado’s economy, participation numbers, and relevance among trail user types. The aim of the 2019 SCORP is to build a shared vision and strategies around all types of recreation without highlighting specific recreation types. Additions were made to the SCORP to address these interests while recognizing the importance of all the recreation activities that Coloradans enjoy. The revised SCORP includes a list of the top 15 activities with the highest consumer spending rates in Colorado in the economic section and a list of 30 activities in order of participation rate (Appendix D3). Photographs throughout the plan were also diversified to represent a broader range of recreational activities.

**More Users Pay**

Numerous comments expressed interest in having more recreationists (apart from hunters, anglers and OHV users) contribute financially to supporting conservation and outdoor recreation resources. This point is captured under the SCORP Funding Priority Area and identified as a strategy.

**Public Survey Methodology**

Questions arose regarding the Public Participation Survey and how different activities were captured. For example, one comment asked why bird watching was excluded from wildlife watching. A couple comments raised concern about survey respondents not representing Colorado demographics in terms

of age, gender and race. The revised SCORP clarifies that bird watching was separated from wildlife watching, not excluded from the survey, and includes more detailed lists of the activities featured in the survey. Survey methods, including response data weighting in order to better reflect a representative sample of Coloradans, are thoroughly explained in Appendix D.

**LWCF Redistribution**

A few stakeholder groups requested that the SCORP include steps to redistribute LWCF funding. Non-motorized trails remain a top priority and funding need for Colorado; however, the SCORP offers an opportunity for dialogue about how LWCF funds are distributed and CPW appreciates input from interested parties on this subject.

**CPW-Directed Comments**

Because this statewide plan is not specific to CPW, most of the comments regarding CPW’s operations were left unaddressed in the SCORP. Comments related to other CPW efforts were shared with the appropriate CPW staff.

**Implementation**

Comments included specific recommendations for implementation tactics and ideas. These are and will continue to be considered as CPW and partners work on plan implementation.



THOMAS KIMMEL/CPW



DUSTIN DOSKOGL/CPW





# THE 2019 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



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