

**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): <i>(e.g., special district [parks and recreation; taxing; etc], wildlife consulting firm</i>	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.)*

<b>Response Options</b>	<b>%</b>
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): <i>(e.g., wildlife management/conflict mitigation; staffing ratios; health benefits; regional participation; fire mitigation; historic preservation; planning documents; Master/trail plans, etc.)</i>	

**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.)*

<b>Response Options</b>	<b>%</b>
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) <i>(e.g., historic sites; welcome centers; regional parks; sports fields [golf courses, baseball fields, etc.]; pools; fairgrounds)</i>	10.6

## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

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

## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

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) ( <i>e.g., sports activities/coaching</i> )		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

## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

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

## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

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

## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

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 <b>SKIP</b> to question 19) (n = 34)	7.1
Other please specify (n = 16) ( <i>e.g., Loans; Friends Groups; Partner organizations; Delayed capital improvement spending; etc.</i> )	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 <b>AND</b> also indicate the level of success): (n = 5) ( <i>e.g., loans; other excise taxes; alternative funding resources to the General Fund [GOCO/Conservation Trust Fund]</i> )					

**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)					



## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

### 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)

<b>Open-ended Response Category*</b>	<b>% of Comments</b>
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.

## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

### 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) ( <i>e.g., renovating, developing, or increasing community facilities for sports or wellness programs; preserving historic sites</i> )						

**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.)*

	<b>Not at all a priority</b>	<b>Low priority</b>	<b>Somewhat of a priority</b>	<b>Moderate priority</b>	<b>High priority</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
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 AND also indicate the level of priority): (n = 2) <i>(e.g., issues with public bathrooms)</i>						

## APPENDIX D2: LAND MANAGER SURVEY WITH SUMMARY STATISTICS

### 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!**