

### 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.



Arkansas River