



STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINING COLORADO'S OUTDOORS HERITAGE





2014 COLORADO STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-2471
Fax (303) 866-2003



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

April 10, 2014

Dear SCORP Advisory Group, Readers and Users:

We are writing to express our support for Colorado's *2014 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) and its framework for recreational planning and enhancement. Much great work went into it and we appreciate the effort by many who care about the future and quality of Colorado.

Colorado is blessed with unparalleled beauty and extensive recreational opportunities. That is why we believe Colorado is the best state to live, work and raise a family. To many Coloradans, our quality of life depends on getting outside to enjoy our beautiful state. Ninety percent of Coloradans participate in outdoor recreation to bike and hike endless trails, and fish in local lakes. These outdoor recreational opportunities are important, and their importance has resounding impacts for our state.

Colorado's economy is heavily dependent upon outdoor recreation. Hiking, fishing, snow sports, boating, bicycling and a variety of other activities support more than 300,000 jobs throughout the state and generate over \$34 billion each year for Colorado's economy. When we have asked CEOs why they locate their headquarters in Colorado, they resoundingly reply that outdoor recreation and Colorado's healthy quality of life were important to them and their employees. The connection between Colorado's outdoor recreation opportunities, healthy lifestyles and our economy is undeniable.

We are committed to promoting participation in outdoor recreation for all Coloradans and our visitors. By taking steps to strengthen and broaden Colorado's outdoor recreation community, Colorado can continue to attract businesses and investment, support a booming outdoor recreation economy and encourage healthier lifestyles. By launching such endeavors as the "Pedal the Plains" and "*The State of Health: Colorado's Commitment to Become the Healthiest State*", we have made strides to connect outdoor recreation to other priorities such as rural economic development and childhood health. But the work is just beginning.

While the importance of outdoor recreation in Colorado is clear, and opportunities continue to grow, there are looming challenges that must be addressed. Kids today have more options for their free time, and many are not aware of the benefits of outdoor recreation. Across Colorado, the incidence and severity of obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases is increasing. And, as outdoor recreation is promoted statewide, we must build an outdoor recreation strategy that balances our need for economic development and the preservation of special places.

Promoting Colorado's outdoor recreation resources and addressing these key recreation needs and issues are central themes in the 2014 SCORP. The SCORP is the collaborative product of the work of 44 Steering Committee members representing the private sector, state and federal agencies, local governments, non-profit partners and other stakeholders representing the transportation and health sectors. It sets the framework and seeks to establish the overall direction and tone for statewide outdoor recreation planning through 2018.

The 2014 SCORP highlights the wide array of recreation amenities across the state, and identifies a variety of innovative strategies that merit additional exploration as potential ways to address the many challenges and opportunities that affect outdoor recreation. We commend it to any and all who understand and appreciate the value of sustaining Colorado's outdoor recreation heritage for current and future generations.

Sincerely,



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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2014 SCORP ADVISORY GROUP

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Kathleen Staks, Great Outdoors Colorado

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Dean Winstanley, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

Jennifer Freeman, Colorado Youth Corps Association

Dan Gruing, Bicycle Colorado

Katie Navin, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

Tim Wolgenant, Trust for Public Land

Scott Jones, Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition

Jason Bertolacci, Colorado Mountain Biking Association/IMBA

David Costlow, Colorado River Outfitters Association

Jan Potterveld, Backcountry Horsemen of Colorado

Lloyd Athearn, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Timothy Brass, Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Suzanne O'Neill, Colorado Wildlife Federation

Stacie Gilmore, Environmental Learning for Kids

Stephanie Stephens, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association

Andy Karsian, Colorado Counties, Inc.

Kerri Rollins, Colorado Open Space Alliance/
Larimer County Open Space

Chantel Astler, Douglas County School District

Scott Gilmore, Denver Parks and Recreation

Glenn Haas, Colorado State University/Ackerman Haas Associates

Kent Clement, Colorado Mountain College

Anne Miller, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Betsy Jacobson, Colorado Department of Transportation

Ken Brink, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Tom Morrissey, Colorado State Trails Program

Al White, Colorado Tourism Office

Allison Kincaid, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Reed Rowley, governor's Office of Economic Development
and International Trade

Brian Kurznel, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Jason Robertson, US Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Land Management

Tara Piper, US Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Reclamation

Alan Ragins, National Park Service

Scott Fitzwilliams, USDA-Forest Service,
White River National Forest

Chris Spori, USDA, Forest Service

Chris Sprangers, Cabela's

Jerry Rogers, Bass Pro

Jon Frankel, REI

Tom Smith, Colorado Marine Manufacturers Association

Brendan McGuire, Vail Associates

David Mudd, Outdoor Industry Association

Lindsay Bourgoine, Outdoor Industry Association

Deborah Gosling, Kaiser Permanente

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| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary | 2 |
| Outdoor Recreation Providers and Participation Trends | 2 |
| Economic Impact | 3 |
| Priority areas | 3 |
| Key Recommendations | 4 |
| 1.0 Introduction | 5 |
| LWCF Background | 5 |
| Colorado LWCF Stateside Appropriations | 6 |
| Reauthorization | 7 |
| Planning Process | 8 |
| Public Involvement | 8 |
| Vision | 10 |
| Contents of the Plan | 10 |
| 2.0 Outdoor Recreation Partners and Providers | 11 |
| Overview | 11 |
| Recreation Provider Roles | 13 |
| Federal Agencies | 15 |
| U.S. Forest Service (USFS) | 15 |
| Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | 16 |
| National Park Service (NPS) | 16 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) | 17 |
| Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) | 17 |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) | 18 |
| State Agencies | 18 |
| Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) | 19 |
| Colorado State Land Board (SLB) | 19 |
| Colorado Parks and Wildlife | 20 |
| Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) | 20 |
| Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) | 20 |
| Division of Water Resources (DWR) | 21 |
| Local Government | 21 |
| Privately Protected Lands | 22 |
| Open Space Programs | 22 |
| Special Districts | 22 |
| Local Parks and Recreation Agencies | 23 |
| Tribal Lands | 23 |
| Key Outdoor Recreation Partners | 23 |
| Funding Partners | 23 |
| Colorado Lottery | 24 |
| Great Outdoors Colorado | 25 |
| Private Industry | 26 |
| Nonprofit Organizations | 27 |
| Land Trust and Open Space Organizations | 30 |
| 3.0 Outdoor Recreation Trends | 32 |
| Nationwide Participation Trends | 32 |
| Non-motorized Activities | 32 |
| Motorized Activities | 32 |
| Other Notable Trends | 32 |
| Colorado Participation Trends | 35 |
| Regional Analysis | 37 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Visitation Trends | 38 |
| Federal Public Land Sites | 38 |
| U.S. Forest Service | 39 |
| National Park Service | 40 |
| Relevant Tourism Trends | 42 |
| Population and Demographic Trends | 44 |
| Youth Participation | 51 |
| Barriers and Motivations to Participation in Outdoor Recreation | 57 |
| Conservation Corps | 59 |
| Volunteerism | 59 |
| 4.0 Economic Impacts of Outdoor Recreation | 60 |
| Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Study | 61 |
| Overview | 61 |
| Outdoor Recreation Expenditures | 62 |
| Economic Contribution of Outdoor Recreation | 63 |
| 5.0 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Priority Areas | 65 |
| Outdoor Education | 65 |
| Engaging Youth, Families and a More Diverse Population | 65 |
| SCORP Link to the Colorado Environmental Education Plan | 66 |
| Funding and Financial Sustainability | 66 |
| Funding Shortfalls | 66 |
| Marketing Outdoor Recreation and Tourism | 68 |
| New and Innovative Partnerships | 69 |
| Integration of Outdoor Recreation Interests | 69 |
| Adapting to a Changing Population | 69 |
| Uniting the efforts of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Stakeholders | 70 |
| Shared Interests in a Conservation Ethic | 71 |
| Healthy Lifestyles and Communities | 73 |
| Connecting Youth and Families to the Outdoors | 73 |
| Public Health Trends | 74 |
| Health Benefits of Recreation | 77 |
| Stewardship | 78 |
| Colorado Outdoor Stewardship Coalition | 78 |
| 6.0 SCORP Strategic Plan | 79 |
| Implementing the Strategic Plan | 79 |
| Goals and Objectives | 80 |
| Key Recommendations | 81 |
| Strategic Actions | 83 |
| Appendix A: Information Resources | 89 |
| Appendix B: Public Survey Summary Report | 100 |
| Appendix C: Local Government Survey Summary Report | 138 |
| Appendix D: Wetlands Component | 165 |
| Appendix E: Focus Group Sessions Report | 175 |
| Appendix F: Acronyms | 181 |

TABLES

| | | |
|------------|---|-------|
| Table 1.1 | Examples of Stateside LWCF Appropriations since 2008 | 6 |
| Table 1.2 | Total Colorado Stateside LWCF Apportionment | 7 |
| Table 2.1 | General Land Ownership in Colorado | 11 |
| Table 2.2 | Land Ownership in Colorado by Agency and Acreage | 14 |
| Table 2.3 | Major Private Outdoor Recreation Industry Associations in Colorado | 26 |
| Table 2.4 | Major Statewide Nonprofit Organizations Tied to Outdoor Recreation in Colorado | 28–29 |
| Table 2.5 | Major Land Trust and Open Space Organizations in Colorado | 31 |
| Table 3.1 | Top 25 Outdoor Recreation Activities Ranked by Number of Participants, 2012 | 33 |
| Table 3.2 | Comparison of Visitor Metrics by Agency | 34 |
| Table 3.3 | Top Ten Non-motorized Nationwide Activities Tracked by the Outdoor Foundation Experiencing Positive Demand, 2009–2012 | 34 |
| Table 3.4 | Top Ten Nonmotorized Nationwide Activities Tracked by the Outdoor Foundation Experiencing Negative Demand, 2009–2012 | 36 |
| Table 3.5 | Outdoor Activities in Colorado by Percent of Population | 39 |
| Table 3.6 | Top Ten Activities During National Forest Recreation Visits, FY2008–2012 | 45 |
| Table 3.7 | Top Ten Colorado Cities by Population, 2010 | 52 |
| Table 3.8 | Percentage of Youth Participating in Outdoor Activities by Activity and Age Group, 2007–2009 | 53 |
| Table 3.9 | What Motivates Youth to Participate in Outdoor Activities by Age, 2012 | 54 |
| Table 3.10 | Percentage of Youth Stating Reason for Non-Participation in Outdoor Activities by Age, 2007 to 2009 | 58 |
| Table 3.11 | Motivations for Participating in an Outdoor Activity for the First Time | 58 |
| Table 4.1 | Total Economic Contribution of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado, by Region | 60 |
| Table 4.2 | Spending by Region | 62 |
| Table 4.3 | Economic Contributions by Region | 63 |
| Table 5.1 | 2012 Colorado Health Report Card | 73 |
| Table 5.2 | Reported Volunteer Hours, 2010–2012 | 78 |

FIGURES

| | | |
|------------|---|----|
| Figure 2.1 | Recreation Setting Characteristics | 13 |
| Figure 2.2 | Relative Acreage by Provider and Recreation Setting | 13 |
| Figure 2.3 | Divisions of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources | 19 |
| Figure 3.1 | Nationwide Visitation at Federal Public Land Sites, 2003–2012 | 38 |
| Figure 3.2 | Comparison of Visitor Metrics by Agency | 38 |
| Figure 3.3 | Estimated Annual Visits to Colorado's National Forests | 40 |
| Figure 3.4 | Visitation to National Parks in Colorado by Year, 1912–2012 | 40 |

| | | |
|-------------|--|----|
| Figure 3.5 | Visits to State Park System Sites Across the U.S., 2002–2012 | 41 |
| Figure 3.6 | Annual Visits to Colorado State Parks, Fiscal Years 2002–2012 | 41 |
| Figure 3.7 | Percentage of Visitors in Each of Colorado's Key Marketable Overnight Travel Segments by Trip Type, 2011 | 42 |
| Figure 3.8 | Percent of Overnight Visitors Originating in Colorado, 1992–2011 | 44 |
| Figure 3.9 | Colorado Population by Age, 1990, 2010, and 2030 Forecast | 47 |
| Figure 3.10 | Exurban Development Along the Front Range | 59 |
| Figure 3.11 | Areas in which volunteers provide assistance to local governments | 59 |
| Figure 4.1 | Total Outdoor Recreation Spending by Region | 62 |
| Figure 4.2 | Jobs Supported by Outdoor Recreation in Colorado Regions | 64 |
| Figure 5.1 | National LWCF Appropriations, 2004–2012 | 67 |
| Figure 5.2 | Colorado LWCF Appropriations, 2004–2012 | 67 |
| Figure 5.3 | Body Mass Index Categories for Adults, 2004–2012 | 74 |
| Figure 5.4 | Body Mass Index Percentiles, Colorado children ages 2–14, 2004–2012 | 74 |
| Figure 5.5 | Significant Associations Between Regular Physical Activity and Substance Use, Mental Health, Other Physical Activity and Nutrition for High-School age Youth | 77 |

MAPS

| | | |
|---------|---|----|
| Map 1.1 | SCORP Regions | 3 |
| Map 2.1 | Land Management in Colorado by Agency Type | 12 |
| Map 2.2 | Lands Under Federal Management in Colorado | 15 |
| Map 2.3 | Lands Under State Management in Colorado | 18 |
| Map 2.4 | Lands Under Local Management and Conserved Private Lands | 21 |
| Map 2.5 | Distribution of Colorado Lottery Funds by County, 1983–2012 | 24 |
| Map 2.6 | Statewide GOCO Funding Distribution and Key GOCO Funded Lands | 25 |
| Map 3.1 | Where Coloradans Travel for Outdoor Recreation | 37 |
| Map 3.2 | Total Travel Spending by County, 2010 | 43 |
| Map 3.3 | Population Density by County, 2010 | 45 |
| Map 3.4 | Colorado Population Change by County, 2000–2010 | 46 |
| Map 3.5 | Forecasted Population Growth by County: 2010–2040 | 46 |
| Map 3.6 | Hispanic or Latino Population as a Percent of Total Population by County, Colorado 2010 | 48 |
| Map 3.7 | Colorado's Urban, Rural, and Frontier Counties | 49 |
| Map 5.1 | Colorado Obesity Rates by County, 2012 | 76 |
| Map 5.2 | Colorado Adult (Type 2) Diabetes Rate by County, 2012 | 76 |
| Map 5.3 | Colorado Physical Activity Rates by County, 2012 | 77 |

From the prairies of Eastern Colorado to the high peaks along the Continental Divide, Colorado provides a diverse landscape with abundant outdoor recreational opportunities. Miles of trails, national parks, family attractions and conserved landscapes span across Colorado's nearly 67 million acres. Colorado consists of nearly 30 million acres of public lands, or approximately 45% of the total state land area, providing vast amounts of recreation opportunities.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides strategies for sustaining Colorado's outdoors heritage for current and future generations. Millions of visitors and residents enjoy the wide array of outdoor recreation activities on the state's public lands every year. However, providing sustainable and quality outdoor recreation experiences continues to be a challenge. A growing and diversifying population, as well as recent natural disasters, has strained outdoor recreation resources. Outdoor recreation provides many social, physical and economic benefits; therefore, a strategic plan is critical to keep outdoor recreation providers and partners thriving in the changing recreational landscape.

Building on the 2008 SCORP, this SCORP aims to identify outdoor recreation trends and issues, to ascertain demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and to quantify economic impacts of outdoor recreation. The SCORP will guide state and local outdoor recreation providers, decision-makers, and stakeholders in recreation management and policy decisions over the next five years.

Led by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the 2014 SCORP is a collaborative product that incorporates input from the public and outdoor recreation stakeholders. CPW convened a diverse group of traditional and non-traditional outdoor recreation providers and advocates to guide the SCORP development. The 2014 SCORP Advisory Committee represented a variety of interests including trail user groups, retailers, funding partners, health and education advocates, outdoor recreation providers, local, state and federal agencies, tourism interests, and stewardship and conservation interests. As part of the SCORP process, data was collected on the needs and interests of the public, local government agencies who provide outdoor recreation opportunities, as well as urban youth in the Denver Metro Area.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PROVIDERS AND PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Federal, state and local agencies, as well as integral partners such as nonprofit groups, funding providers, open space and land trust organizations and private outdoor recreation providers play a major role in outdoor recreation in Colorado. Collectively, these entities play a unique and vital role in supporting diverse outdoor recreation experiences, and account for much of the recreation "supply" within our state. Of nearly 30 million acres of public lands in Colorado, 83 percent are open to outdoor recreation pursuits (approximately 36 percent of the entire state). These lands are managed by different agencies that supply a range of services and uses to create a vibrant and diverse outdoor recreation network in Colorado.

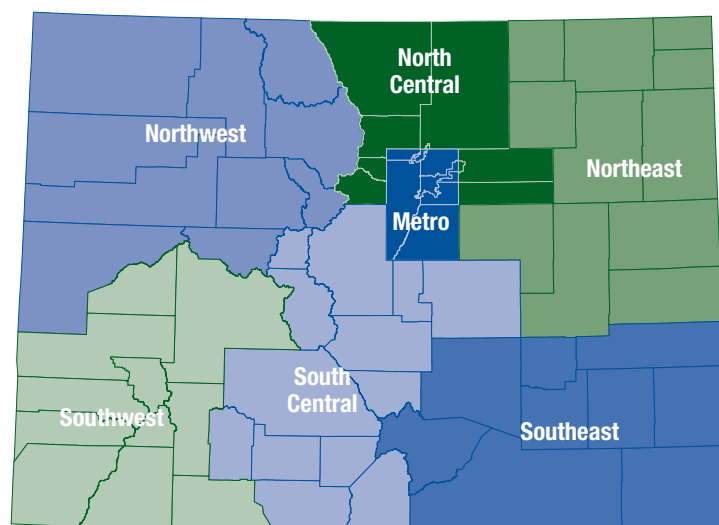
State agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations and land conservation organizations all rely on diverse funding sources to develop and maintain facilities, conserve significant tracts of land, and provide various visitor services. In Colorado, the Colorado Lottery and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) supply substantial dedicated funding for land conservation and outdoor recreation. In FY12-13, the Colorado Lottery returned \$135.6 million to park, open space, and recreation projects across the state.

Colorado offers a vast amount of recreational opportunities including hiking, boating, fishing, camping, horseback riding and motorized recreation. Based on a public survey that was part of this SCORP, about 66 percent of all Colorado residents recreate outdoors at least one day a week, and 60 percent of Coloradans are likely to increase their participation in outdoor recreation over the next five years. Walking, hiking/backpacking and picnicking make up the three most popular outdoor recreation activities, with fishing ranking a close fourth. Most (75 percent) of the outdoor recreation in the state takes place in the North Central, Metro and in the Northwest regions of the state. Residents from the Southwest Region are the least likely to travel to other regions for recreation.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

To many Coloradans, outdoor recreation is a lifestyle. Overwhelmingly, 90 percent of Coloradans participate in some form of outdoor recreation activity every year. These activities are also the backbone for many tourism trips taken by residents and out-of-state visitors. Statewide, outdoor recreation contributes over \$34.5 billion in annual economic activity and creates 313,000 jobs. Two-thirds of economic impact is generated by direct spending on food, fuel, lodging, and equipment. In addition, almost \$20 million is contributed to the states Gross Domestic Product (GDP) generating \$4.9 million in local, state and federal taxes.

For the 2014 SCORP, the state was divided into seven outdoor recreation planning regions that aligned with regions previously established by the Colorado Tourism Office (Map 1.1). Based on the activity days reported in the Public Participation Survey, economic impact on a regional level was calculated. At the regional scale, total economic output from outdoor recreation is greatest in the Northwest and North Central Regions. Over 91,000 jobs were created in the Northwest region from outdoor recreation, representing one third of the entire adult population in that region. Outdoor recreation generates significant consumer spending on both trip-related and equipment expenditures. Equipment spending was concentrated in the highest populated regions. In the Denver Metro Region, 48 percent of spending is on equipment versus in the Northwest region 95 percent of spending is trip related.



Map 1.1: SCORP Regions

PRIORITY AREAS

The SCORP Advisory Group worked to identify statewide outdoor recreation priority areas to focus attention and energy over the next five years. These priority areas are:

- Outdoor Education
- Funding and Financial Sustainability
- Integration of Outdoor Recreation Interests
- Healthy Lifestyles and Communities
- Stewardship

Outdoor Recreation providers should work to expand awareness of the outdoors and its importance to statewide and regional economies, its link to promoting public health, and its role in fostering a stewardship ethic across all user groups. As Colorado's population grows, it will be important to engage youth, families and more diverse populations regardless of age, location or ethnicity.

Much of the outdoor recreational use in Colorado occurs on publicly-owned and managed forests, parks, trails, open space and wildlife areas. Budget cuts and economic hardships have increased deferred maintenance and reduced staffing, resulting in an inability to provide sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities. Furthermore, nonprofits and funding sources are being stretched to their limits and receive more requests for funding than is available. LWCF funding administered through the National Park Service has also declined. For all of these reasons, understanding and addressing gaps in outdoor recreation funding takes on particular importance.

Another important issue is strengthening the outdoor recreation community through greater integration of outdoor recreation interests. This requires agencies and organizations to work together to strike a balance between one's own interest and that of others, and in turn, make the outdoor recreation community greater than the sum of its parts. Colorado's outdoor recreation community is a diverse but abundant group of people who have an interest in the state's natural and recreational resources. This community can be more effective if standing by a unified message and working with a broader set of partners. Conserving and enhancing Colorado's resources is vital to pursuing outdoor recreation experiences.

Although Colorado ranks as the leanest state, the health status of the state's residents is declining faster than the national average. Good mental and physical health could help save taxpayers and businesses hundreds of millions of dollars annually while helping to revive the economy. Colorado should strive to provide access and opportunities for recreation to residents of all races, ages, abilities and socioeconomic levels.

The quality of outdoor recreation in Colorado is closely tied to effective stewardship and management of natural resources. Public land agencies have grappled with myriad management issues that put demands on their limited human and financial resources. This includes significant budget cutbacks and shortfalls, and challenges managing changing habitats, especially in light of climatic and other environmental impacts (drought, fire, invasive species). As these issues have affected the general public's use of Colorado's outdoor resources, growth of volunteer stewardship organizations and formal volunteer programs have emerged as a means to address them.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2014 SCORP Strategic Plan outlines a five-year framework to maintain and improve Colorado's outdoor recreation resources for all walks of life. Implementation of this plan will also assure that outdoor recreation continues to be an essential piece of Colorado's economy and quality of life for current and future generations. The SCORP Advisory Group developed a strategic plan, provided in Section 6, to influence outdoor recreation and conservation planning. Executing the supporting actions is essential to meet the vision of outdoor recreation in Colorado. The first step in implementation of this strategic plan is to identify and focus in on key actions. The SCORP Advisory Group selected the key objectives from each goal area and recommends the following:

- Increase awareness and access to outdoor experiences and opportunities.
- Enhance knowledge and appreciation of the outdoors and outdoor skills.
- Maintain public funding at existing levels.
- Convene a "Statewide Outdoor Recreation Funding Coalition" representing a diverse, statewide cross-section of local, state and federal government; non-profit; and private outdoor recreation interests to generate and report on ideas related to additional outdoor recreation funding sources.
- Promote the connection between outdoor recreation and the economic and financial viability of communities and the state.
- Seek commonalities within outdoor recreation stakeholder groups and create a unified community built around these common interests.
- Build on shared interests among the outdoor recreation community to promote a conservation ethic that includes land and habitat conservation and sustainable multiple-use recreation opportunities.
- Increase information and awareness of close-to-home and readily-accessible outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Expand access and reduce barriers to outdoor recreation and trails for youth, low income and underserved populations through partnerships with schools, parks and transportation groups
- Coordinate natural resource stewardship at local, regional and state levels to increase collaboration, efficiency and focus on common priorities.
- Expand volunteer capacity and volunteerism among local, state and federal land managers.
- Support and expand opportunities to engage active stewardship partners.

Colorado's economy and quality of life are integrally connected to the abundant and diverse array of outdoor recreation opportunities found within our state. Outdoor recreation contributes more than \$34.5 billion statewide in annual economic activity and generates over \$4.9 million in annual federal, state and local tax revenue while creating 313,000 jobs. Equally important is the fact that outdoor recreation plays an important role in promoting public health, tourism, environmental stewardship and efforts to connect more Coloradans to the outdoors.

The 2014 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies outdoor recreation trends and issues, demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources, and is required to demonstrate ample public involvement. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the agency responsible for overseeing the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program in Colorado, took the lead role in updating the SCORP. The SCORP also helps direct a state's LWCF apportionment, which is appropriated annually by Congress. More important, the SCORP is an opportunity to reflect on the significance of outdoor recreation to our state, and to contemplate strategies for the future. In accordance with the LWCF requirements, Colorado updates its SCORP once every five years. The SCORP is submitted to the National Park Service, the administrator of the LWCF program, by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper.

The SCORP is a tool that:

- Provides background information on recreation for stakeholders and managers.
- Recommends strategies aimed at ensuring Colorado's outdoor recreation heritage is maintained and improved for future generations.
- Supports local and statewide initiatives guiding the long-term maintenance and enhancement of Colorado's outdoor recreation resources, which provide a basis for further improving the quality of lives of Coloradans for future generations.

LWCF BACKGROUND

In 1964, Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. Using revenues from offshore oil and gas receipts, its intent is to provide for the acquisition and development of public lands to meet the needs of Americans for outdoor recreation and open space.

Thus far, more than \$3.7 billion has been awarded to some 40,400 nationwide projects that support acquiring open space or developing parks and other outdoor recreation facilities. LWCF has helped protect nearly seven million acres of recreation lands across the U.S.¹ LWCF Federally Funded units in Colorado have received approximately \$157 million to protect and enhance many National Parks, National Monuments and National Forests.²

To ensure an integrated approach to conservation and recreation, LWCF has two components:

1. A **federal program** funds the purchase of federal agency land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes. These funds are appropriated annually by Congress directly to federal agencies (e.g., Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).
2. A **"stateside" matching-grants program** provides funds to states and local governments for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas, natural resource protection, and recreation enhancement. Congress appropriates these funds directly to the stateside program. The act stipulates that each state is required to complete a SCORP to be eligible for the annual LWCF allocations.

Reflecting the goals of the LWCF Act, the goals of the Stateside Assistance Program are to:

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

1. "Land and Water Conservation Fund." History of the Program. National Park Service. 19 May 2008 www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/lwcf/history.html.

2. Colorado LWCF Fact Sheet Fiscal Year 2013, LWCF Coalition, <http://lwcfcoalition.org/files/State/Colorado.pdf>

SECTION 1 — INTRODUCTION

Colorado LWCF Stateside Appropriations

Statute (CRS 33-10-108 (c)) designates the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) (formerly Colorado State Parks before the agencies merged in July 2011) as the agency to administer and serve as the liaison between the State of Colorado and the Secretary of the Interior for the LWCF. As such, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission is responsible for the receiving and spending LWCF monies. The director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife establishes procedures and requirements for all LWCF applications. Projects involving federal-aid funds are limited to planning, acquiring and developing recreation facilities or sites.

LWCF grants intend to increase recreational opportunities for Colorado citizens and its visitors through cooperation with local communities, nonprofit organizations, and various state agencies. Such projects acquired or developed through these grants are operated and maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use; CPW inspects them every five years.

In their role as the recipient and arbiter for LWCF monies, the Parks and Wildlife Commission historically divides Colorado's appropriation in two: half supporting state projects and half allocated to locally sponsored projects. Before Congress ended stateside LWCF appropriations in 1995, CPW used a comprehensive grant solicitation, application and award process for local government grants.

When reduced annual congressional appropriations resumed in 2000, CPW began working with local government parks and recreation leaders to use the existing Colorado State Trails Program grants process to award LWCF funds. Examples of projects that have recently been awarded LWCF funds are provided in Table 1.1. CPW will continue collaborating with local government leaders to determine the most effective way to grant LWCF funds, ensuring grants are consistent with federal program guidelines and that they meet the priorities of local government recreation providers.

Table 1.1: Examples of Stateside LWCF Appropriations since 2008

| Region | Project | County | Year | Amount |
|---------------|---|--------------------|------|-----------|
| Front Range | Trail Improvements at Summit Lake | Clear Creek County | 2008 | \$114,568 |
| Front Range | Poudre River Trail-Golden Spike | Weld County | 2008 | \$235,820 |
| South Central | Milk Run Trail | Chaffee County | 2009 | \$178,890 |
| South West | Durango 29th to 32nd St., Animas River | La Plata County | 2010 | \$211,703 |
| South Central | Cottonwood Creek Trail-Safe Passage | El Paso County | 2010 | \$222,713 |
| Metro | Dog Off Leash Area at Cherry Creek State Park | Arapahoe County | 2011 | \$547,565 |
| Front Range | Fossil Creek Trail at Trilby Road | Larimer County | 2012 | \$258,320 |
| North West | Rangely Trails Program | Rio Blanco County | 2012 | \$176,303 |
| Metro | Castle Rock-Hangmans Gulch Trail | Douglas County | 2012 | \$249,493 |
| North West | Side Door and Upper Flume Trails | Summit County | 2012 | \$20,948 |

Colorado receives annual congressional appropriations from LWCF, administered through Colorado Parks and Wildlife for state and local government sponsored recreation projects. As of 2013, Colorado has received approximately \$60.5 million for planning, acquiring and developing public outdoor recreation areas and facilities – securing in perpetuity almost 60,000 acres for recreation purposes.

LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million each year, with Colorado eligible for about \$7-8 million, if Congress chooses to fully fund the LWCF program. However, since the program's inception, Congress has chosen to allocate a significant portion of the fund for purposes other than conservation and recreation. For five years, starting in 1995, no stateside LWCF funds were allocated. In 2000 Congress resumed funding of \$40 million. Since then, funding has ranged from \$394,719 (in 2008) to \$2.4 million (in 2002). From 2008-2013, the average appropriations have been about \$600,000 (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2: Total Colorado Stateside LWCF Apportionment

| Fiscal Year | Amount | Fiscal Year | Amount |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1965 | \$139,657 | 1990 | \$257,975 |
| 1966 | \$1,125,356 | 1991 | \$477,330 |
| 1967 | \$766,850 | 1992 | \$316,330 |
| 1968 | \$833,601 | 1993 | \$398,497 |
| 1969 | \$609,952 | 1994 | \$390,608 |
| 1970 | \$846,674 | 1995 | \$393,027 |
| 1971 | \$1,940,920 | 1996 | \$0 |
| 1972 | \$3,578,925 | 1997 | \$0 |
| 1973 | \$2,533,383 | 1998 | \$0 |
| 1974 | \$1,308,016 | 1999 | \$0 |
| 1975 | \$2,508,300 | 2000 | \$635,074 |
| 1976 | \$3,062,913 | 2001 | \$1,485,321 |
| 1977 | \$2,586,895 | 2002 | \$2,369,012 |
| 1978 | \$4,430,013 | 2003 | \$1,590,503 |
| 1979 | \$5,368,486 | 2004 | \$1,568,336 |
| 1980 | \$4,401,518 | 2005 | \$1,540,396 |
| 1981 | \$2,607,843 | 2006 | \$478,347 |
| 1982 | \$0 | 2007 | \$478,347 |
| 1983 | \$1,734,371 | 2008 | \$394,719 |
| 1984 | \$1,143,260 | 2009 | \$463,860 |
| 1985 | \$1,164,973 | 2010 | \$651,856 |
| 1986 | \$730,881 | 2011 | \$651,599 |
| 1987 | \$519,664 | 2012 | \$736,226 |
| 1988 | \$263,481 | 2013 | \$697,750 |
| 1989 | \$273,606 | TOTAL | \$60,454,651 |

Reauthorization

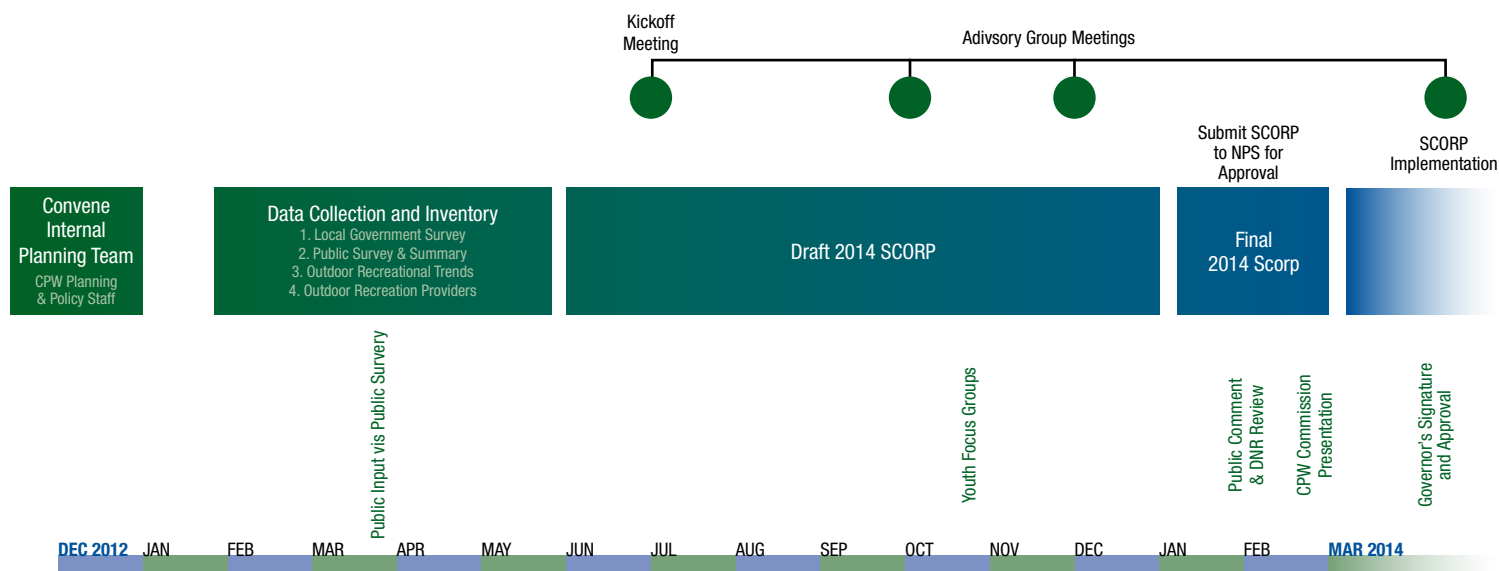
In 2015, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act will reach its 50th anniversary, thus expiring if not reauthorized. Efforts are under way by multiple states and outdoor recreation industry groups to encourage full funding for the 2015 LWCF Act. To reauthorize and fully dedicate LWCF funding, Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Richard Burr (R-NC) introduced Senate Bill 338 in February 2013. If passed, the bill will reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1965 (LWCF), continuing another 50 years of funding projects. The bill would provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize its effectiveness for future generations, and for other purposes.



SECTION 1 — INTRODUCTION

PLANNING PROCESS

The 2014 SCORP planning process spanned a little over a year and began with extensive data collection and inventory. Ample public involvement was incorporated throughout the process in the form of public surveys, a stakeholder advisory group and public comment periods. The SCORP planning process was led by staff from CPW's Policy and Planning Unit, including Scott Babcock, CPW Strategic Planning Manager. Additional staff support has been provided by Stacy Lischka, CPW Human Dimensions Researcher, and Kristina Kachur, CPW Seasonal Planning Assistant.



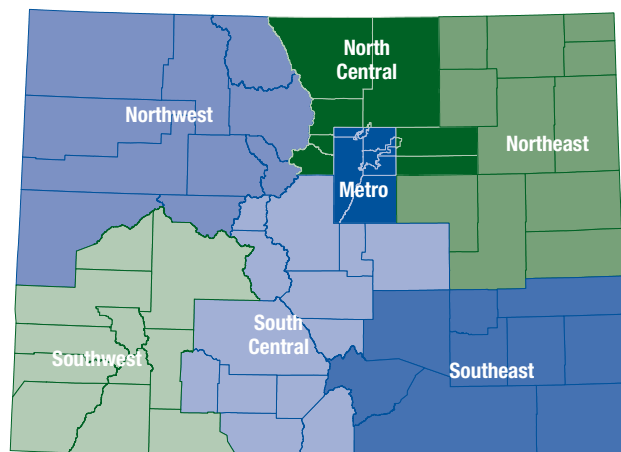
Public Involvement

Throughout the yearlong SCORP planning process, public input was solicited using many avenues. The data collection and inventory stage involved two surveys that garnered input from the statewide population and from parks, recreation and open space agencies at the local government level.

The survey results were shared with the Advisory Group that was convened to help develop the SCORP. Further, focus groups collected qualitative data on the outdoor recreational needs of underserved youth populations. Once a final draft was completed, it was shared with the public via a two-week open public comment period. The plan was also circulated through the Department of Natural Resources and with the Leadership Team and Commission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Surveys

Results from the 2013 Outdoor Recreation Participation Public Survey shed light on some of the public's outdoor recreation habits and desires for future outdoor recreation investments in Colorado. The Public Survey also highlights the importance of outdoor recreation to Coloradans; where and how often we participate in outdoor recreational activities; preferences for services and types of outdoor recreation facilities, and preferences for future investments and priorities for development. Seven thousand residents from across the state, 1,000 from each of the Colorado State Tourism Office regions, were randomly selected to participate in the survey. More than 1,400 responses were returned. The Public Survey had an adjusted response rate of 23 percent based on an adjusted sample size of 6,048. Once all the surveys had been collected, the data was weighted to ensure that it reflected the racial and gender makeup of the state and the regional distribution of populations.



The *2012 Local Government Survey* reached out to local governments (municipalities, counties, and recreation districts with outdoor recreation-related missions) to weigh in and respond to key questions to help better understand and quantify key issues related to outdoor recreation across the state. Surveying local governments is an important part of the SCORP and provides valuable data for reference and comparison among participating local government agencies. The survey asked about programming, volunteers, funding and investment sources, management issues and outdoor recreation needs. CPW reached out to 396 local government agencies; a total of 174 agencies responded to the online survey, representing a response rate of 44.6 percent.

Results of these surveys have been used to help guide the visioning and priorities of the SCORP and are referenced throughout the plan where appropriate. The full survey reports can be found at www.coloradoscorp.org and Appendix B and C.

Advisory Group

To help develop the SCORP, a group of key outdoor recreation stakeholders were brought together as an advisory group. Reflecting a wide spectrum of outdoor interests and perspectives across the state, the group's expertise and feedback were solicited throughout the SCORP planning process. Advisory Group members represented a variety of interests including trail user groups, retailers, funding partners, health and education advocates, and outdoor recreation providers as well as local, state and federal agencies, tourism interests, and stewardship and conservation interests.

The Advisory Group met three times between June 2013 and December 2013. About 45 people actively participated throughout the planning process. A full list of the Advisory Group members is listed on the Acknowledgements page.

Meeting #1: The goals of this meeting were to: 1) get the group up to speed on the SCORP process and LWCF; 2) share data on outdoor recreation trends and economic impacts; and 3) identify needs and priorities for the 2014 SCORP.

Meeting #2: The goals of this meeting were to: 1) give the advisory group an update on the progress of the plan; 2) finalize an approach for conducting focus groups to gather feedback on engaging youth and a more ethnically diverse cross-section of Colorado residents in outdoor recreation; 3) review a draft vision statement; and 4) begin to establish goals, objectives and supporting actions for the SCORP.

Meeting #3: The goals of this meeting were to: 1) review and further refine the goals, objectives and supporting actions of the strategic plan, 2) select the highest priority supporting actions for each goal area, and 3) create a plan for implementation and communication beyond the development of the SCORP document.

Youth Focus Groups

Through the process of updating the SCORP, the Advisory Group expressed a desire to capture some of the issues and needs of youth, particularly of underserved populations. The goal of the focus groups was to provide supplemental, qualitative information that would be relayed to individual SCORP workgroups tasked with developing the SCORP priority goals, objectives, and suggested actions. These focus groups attempted to qualify what outdoor recreation activities youth participate in, barriers to outdoor recreation among underserved populations, and what can be done to get more youth and families active in the outdoors. Focus group sessions were conducted with students from three different Denver based organizations: Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), a group from West Ascension High, and youth tied into Groundwork Denver efforts. The children were between the ages of 13 and 19 and African-American or Hispanic.

The full survey report can be found in Appendix E.

SECTION 1 — INTRODUCTION

Vision

The vision of the 2014 SCORP reflects the shifting characteristics of Colorado's population. A change in how and how many Coloradoans and its visitors recreate will impact the state's recreational, cultural and natural resources in unprecedented ways. Now more than ever, recreationalists are looked to as stewards of the land to ensure Colorado's statewide outdoor recreation reputation.

"Outdoor Recreation is a fundamental component of Colorado's economy and quality of life. Outdoor recreation is more than just an activity; it is a conduit for people of all walks of life to connect to the outdoors and enjoy healthy, active lifestyles. The 2014 SCORP, in collaboration with Colorado's varied outdoor recreation partners, establishes cohesive strategies to balance a variety of recreational needs and sustainably manage the state's outdoor heritage for current and future generations."

CONTENTS OF THE PLAN

After giving a background on why and how this plan was created; the SCORP focuses on inventorying and assessing Colorado's outdoor recreation resources, trends and needs. Drawing conclusions from the trends and economic impacts, the SCORP establishes priority goal areas and outlines strategies for implementation.

Section 2: Recreation Providers and Partners provides a comprehensive description and mapping of Colorado's outdoor recreation resources.

Section 3: Nationwide and statewide Outdoor Recreation Trends on adult and youth participation, visitation, demographic are explained.

Section 4: Regional Economic Impacts analyzes the economic benefits of various outdoor recreation activities.

Section 5: Outdoor Recreation Priority Areas outlines the most important aspects affecting outdoor recreation

- Outdoor Education
- Funding and Financial Sustainability
- Healthy Lifestyles and Communities
- Integration of Outdoor Recreation Interests
- Stewardship

Section 6: The Strategic Plan charts a path for implementation through measureable objectives and key strategic actions.





STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINING COLORADO'S OUTDOORS HERITAGE



Visit Coloradoscorp.org to download the complete SCORP document.

For more information on the SCORP, contact:
scorp@state.co.us 303.869.1350

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Policy and Planning Section**

6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216