



Recreation + Conservation Opportunities in Colorado

August 14, 2019

Objective:

Make outdoor recreation more sustainable in Colorado. Address the problems of crowding and trails overdevelopment to lessen impacts on wildlife, wildlands and user experiences.



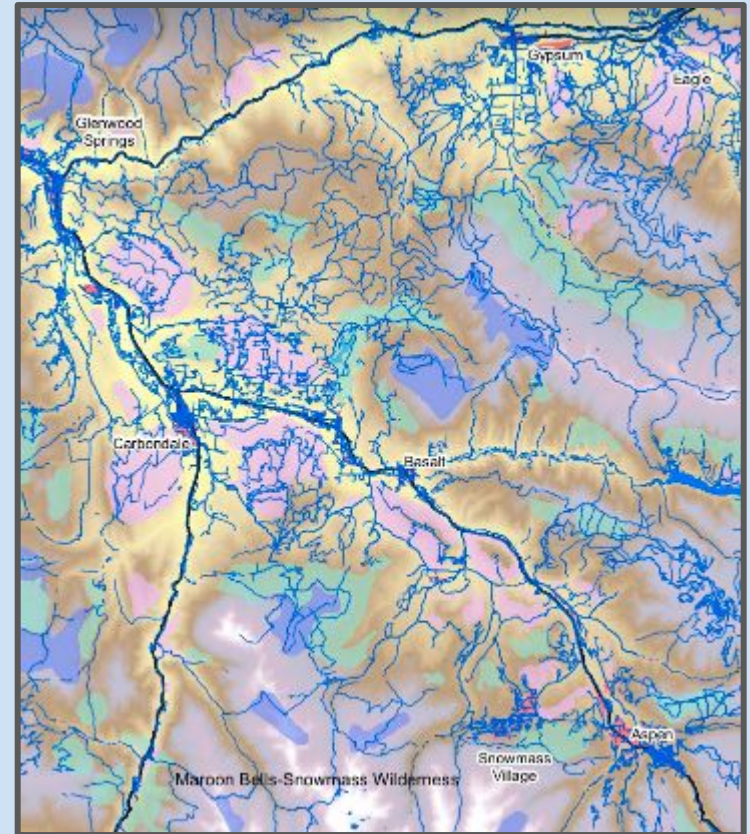
Outdoor Recreation in Colorado

Colorado has a rapidly growing population of 5.5 million people, projected to grow to 8.5 million by 2050. According to the Colorado SCORP, 92% of Coloradans recreate outdoors at least once every few weeks. The most popular outdoor recreation is hiking and walking. The outdoor recreation economy has grown to be one of the state's leading sectors, accounting in 2017 for \$62.5 billion in direct spending and providing over a half-million jobs. Colorado has about 40,000 miles of trails, with about 80% mileage on federal public lands, but less than 2% managed by CPW.



Problems with Outdoor Recreation in Colorado

1. Crowding/unlimited demand
2. Impacts on wildlife
3. Loss of wildlands
4. Lack of equity in access
5. Decentralized planning & management



Goal:

Make sustainable outdoor recreation a priority of this administration, and enact some combination of the following policy reforms:

1. Empower the state to play a central role in managing sustainable outdoor recreation by elevating and expanding the state trails program within CPW.
2. Increase revenue for non-motorized trails management and wildlife habitat improvement
3. Expanding state leadership of convening and cooperation with and among federal land managers, local and regional park managers, recreational user groups and conservation organizations.
4. Improve proactive planning at the county level and at CPW for a statewide level
5. Create an equity grant fund to create expanded access, education and stewardship opportunities for racial minorities and underserved communities.

Increase revenue for wildlife & recreation

- Mountain biker registration program
- Non-motorized boating registration program
- Colorado Outdoor Passport
- Vehicle registration parks pass



Rearrange and optimize existing revenue sources

- Redirect LWCF to habitat restoration & acquisition
- Increase GOCO non-motorized trail request
- Analyze how existing fees are utilized; increase share for management & mitigation



Elevate & expand State Trails Program

- Create Outdoor Recreation & Trails Director within CPW
- Update mission to include trails, equity in access, management & wildlife
- Reform State Trails Committee to be more representative of trail-using public



Ramp up proactive planning

- Develop a State Trails Master Vision as zoning for where trail development is suitable or not
- Create Envision Colorado program to help scale county-level recreation planning
- MOU with federal land managers expanding role for CPW



Increase sustainable access

- Create an Outdoor Equity Grant fund (could be GOCO funded, New Mexico created something similar)
- Improve river & streambank access



